



Indian law minister due tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Law Minister Salman Khurshid will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow (Thursday) on a four-day visit to join the joint celebrations by Bangladesh and India of the 113th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and to mark the 90th anniversary of the publication of "Bidrohi".

He will lead a delegation, which will include Dr. Bholu Singh and Chongshen Mongkosungkum Chang, members of parliament of the Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the two-day celebration on Friday morning at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre where the Indian Minister for Law and Justice and Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid will be present as the guest of honour.

Similar celebrations would be held at Kolkata and Burdwan in India later this year, said a press release of Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

The joint celebrations are in pursuance of the decision taken by the prime ministers of India and Bangladesh on September 6-7, 2011 in Dhaka.

The joint celebrations in Dhaka will include participation of eminent Indian artists and Nazrul literary experts including Dr Badhon Chandra Sengupta, Prodip Ghosh (Poetry Recitation), Sushmita Goswami and Nabaroon Bhattacharjee (Nazrul Geeti).

During the visit, Salman Khurshid is expected to call on the Bangladesh leadership, the press release added.



TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman consoles late Prof Muzaffer Ahmad's daughter Prof Sohela Nazneen and wife Prof Rowshan Jahan at Birdem Hospital in the capital early today. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Proshika body formed after Faruque's removal still valid

CEO tells journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The governing body of Proshika, formed following the removal of the then chairman Qazi Faruque Ahmed, at a press conference claimed itself as the present legitimate authority of the NGO as per the judgment of the highest court.

Mahbub-ul-Karim, chief executive officer of Proshika, read out a written statement at the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday on behalf of the governing body, the highest policymaking council of Proshika.

Faruque, the ousted chairman of Proshika, took control of the organisation's head office early Sunday, three years after he was forced out of it, thus violating a judgement of the court. Faruque continued for the third day yesterday in office without any trouble.

"We have been running the organisation legally for the last three years after the removal of Qazi Faruque by the then governing body," said Mahbub.

Prof AM Muazzam Hussein was elected chairman of the governing body at a 2011 annual general meeting, and the chief executive has been working under the full-fledged governing body, claimed Mahbub.

He said Faruque's "illegal recapture" of Proshika and "propaganda" against the present governing body and management

would lead the organisation to destruction.

Replying to a query about Faruque's allegation of misappropriation of Tk 250 crore, Mahbub termed it "baseless" and clarified that they spent around Tk 37 crore on record to continue micro-credit programmes and other expenses of the organisation.

Governing body members of Proshika JK Baral, Sirajul Islam, Sirajul Haque and Abdur Rab, among others, were present at the press conference.

The governing body of Proshika removed Faruque in May 2009 on charges of massive financial and administrative irregularities, manipulating organisational strength for political gain and nepotism.

Faruque challenged the governing body decision at the courts of assistant judge and district judge but both the courts turned down his pleas.

He then moved the High Court that in a judgement ordered status quo at the organisation saying Faruque could enter the Proshika office alone as a former chairman without any rally or procession that may spoil the peaceful atmosphere.

Though he pleaded with the Appellate Division for deletion of the word "former," the highest court in its judgement did not delete it but clarified that the trial court was independent in dealing with the case without considering Faruque's being former.

INT'L PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Bangladeshi girl becomes semi-finalist

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladeshi youth Sarah Iqbal appeared as a semi-finalist in an International Public Speaking Competition hosted by US-based English Speaking Union (ESU) in London, an ESU statement said.

The ESU statement said Sarah, who completed this year her A level from Dhaka's Cephalon School, was one of the 58 competitors who were selected for the final round from among hundreds of youths from around 60 member countries of the London-based organisation.

The participants from across the globe took part in the competition from May 14-18.

The ESU Bangladesh chapter earlier selected her as the best speaker of Bangladesh by a jury board for the final round of the competition in London while 30 students aged between 16 and 20 from six institutes took part.

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 taken

MoU signed with Netherlands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has embarked on preparing a fifty to hundred years' long "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" to deal with issues like climate change, water resources management, river dredging and construction of embankment in a coordinated manner.

"The very mega plan will be like the one of the Netherlands' Delta Plan as characteristics of both the countries resemble", Planning Minister AK Khandker told reporters during a press briefing at National Economic Council (NEC) in the capital.

With the assistance of the Dutch government, a Delta Commission will be formed to implement the mega plan.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this end yesterday, which would focus on strategic partnership in the fields of sustainable delta management, integrated water resources management, disaster management, and adaptation to climate change.

The planning minister and visiting Dutch Minister for Development Dr Ben Knapen signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the signing ceremony.

The minister said earlier the government

had taken various plans like national water management plan, integrated costal management plan, haor master plan, national water resources management plan, but they failed to bring desired development in the country.

"Moreover, we have wasted many resources to implement those single-unit plans", he added. "That's why the government has taken the holistic approach, encompassing different sectors like agriculture, fisheries, industry, forestation, water management, and sanitation".

The main theme of "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" will be water resources management in consideration of climate change effects, he said.

The Bangladesh government will formulate and implement the plan.

Earlier, the Dutch minister called on the prime minister at the PMO, when Hasina sought Dutch assistance in river dredging, reclaiming of land, construction of embankment, creating greenbelt in coastal region, and other climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.

She also sought the Dutch government's technical and financial assistance regarding Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 aimed at sustainable delta management, integrated water resources management, and disaster management.

The Dutch minister assured her of continued support to various sectors in Bangladesh.



Planning Minister AK Khandker and Dutch Minister for Development Dr Ben Knapen exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

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