

# Afghan exit leaves Nato with identity crisis

REUTERS, Chicago

Nato put on a brave face at its Chicago summit but the reality is that the alliance has been weakened by the euro zone crisis and faces an identity crisis about what its role will be once it ends its intervention in Afghanistan in 2014.

Nato leaders sealed a landmark agreement to hand control of Afghanistan over to its own security forces by the middle of next year, putting the Western alliance on an "irreversible" path out of the unpopular, decade-long war.

The big question mark hanging over the summit was how will Nato, a 28-nation grouping originally designed for the Cold War, adapt to the world beyond 2014?

In an era where governments are slashing defense spending to cut budget deficits, the United States is increasingly tilting towards defense challenges in Asia while many of Nato's other members, preoccupied by economic problems, have little appetite

for foreign adventures.

That raises the question of whether the United States, which accounts for three-quarters of Nato defense spending, will remain committed to the 63-year-old organisation.

Nato's answer to the money shortage is "smart defense," saving money by sharing equipment and facilities between allies and having countries

## NEWS ANALYSIS

specialise in different areas of defense.

"I think this summit sent a very clear message," Nato Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told Reuters.

"We won't get more money for defense in the very near future - let's face it... I think multinational cooperation is the way forward," he said.

Nato has reinvented itself several times before. Originally a mutual defense pact that bound North America and Western Europe together

during the Cold War, the alliance survived the collapse of the Soviet Union and intervened in wars in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s.

Afghanistan was Nato's first mission outside its traditional area of operations and its most ambitious.

Jamie Shea, Nato's deputy assistant secretary general for emerging security challenges, wrote recently that Nato could soon be an alliance without a major operation under way.

Despite the doubts, few see the United States walking away from Nato or the alliance breaking up because Washington knows it can generally count on its European allies in time of crisis.

"Afghanistan will end, some day, it's not going to be tomorrow, but there's going to be something else - I can't predict where, when - and the West is going to need a tool to act and until we find a better one, I'd like to keep the alliance around for a while," Leo Michel of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the US National Defense University said in London recently.

# Babar saved NSI official

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with the haul of 10-truckloads of arms and explosives.

The deposition of Sabbir, the 11th prosecution witness in the cases, also implicated several National Security Intelligence (NSI) officials, including its former director general Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim and deputy director Maj (ret'd) Liakat Hossain in the smuggling of weapons and ammunition.

Sabbir told Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 that the then deputy commissioner of CMP (port zone) Abdullah Hel Baki had informed him

over the phone around 12:45am about the unloading of illegal goods at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL).

"Baki told me that he reached the spot around 3:00am and found illegal guns and ammunition after opening a box. He [Baki] also detained five persons at the scene," said Sabbir, adding that he was apprised of the obstruction from NSI DD Maj Liakat in the seizure of the arms cache.

"Liakat gave his cell phone to Baki to talk to NSI DG Abdur Rahim, but Baki refused to talk," stated Sabbir quoting Baki.

The former CMP commissioner maintained that he had tried to contact the inspector general of police (IGP) and additional IG of Special Branch over the phone, but failed.

He then contacted Babar, who told him that DIG (SB) Shamsul Islam had already informed him (Babar) about the incident.

"The minister asked me to seize the guns and ammunition without arresting any NSI man," mentioned Sabbir.

Earlier, the defence lawyers completed cross-examination of Abdullah Hel Baki, former deputy com-

missioner of CMP. He was the 10th prosecution witness in the cases.

Lawyers of the accused, among whom are Babar, Maj (ret'd) Liakat, Brig Gen Abdur Rahim, CUFL managing director Mohsin Uddin Talukder and its general manager KM Enamur Rahman, cross-examined Baki during the last two days.

Sabbir retired in 2007 as additional IG of police, while Baki is now serving as additional commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

# Pro-BNP lawyers boycott city courts

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Leaders and members of the forum, a platform of pro-BNP lawyers, also wore black badges, hoisted black flags at the courts and brought out a procession on the premises of the courts.

The demonstrators broke two windowpanes at the district judge's court and metropolitan sessions judge's court. They also pressurised several courts to stop proceedings, and used abusive words about judges and magistrates who were conducting hearings during the court boycott programme.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station last night accusing 29 people, including President of Dhaka

Bar Borhanuddin and its former president Sanaullah Mia, and 70 other unnamed people, of involvement in the incidents.

On Monday, a Dhaka court accepted charges against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 44 other opposition leaders and activists in a case filed for torching a vehicle near the Prime Minister's Office on April 29 during hartal hours. Mahub Uddin Khokon is among the accused in the case.

Yesterday, an official of the Dhaka District Judge's Court filed the case against pro-BNP lawyers with Kotwali Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said the lawyers

brought a procession on the court premises at 10:30am, and chanted slogans demanding unconditional release of BNP leaders including its acting secretary general.

The demonstrators came to the District Judge's Court on the second floor of the court building and broke a window pane, creating panic among lawyers, litigants and other people there.

Later, they went to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on the first floor of the building and broke a window pane.

**KHOKAN REMANDED**  
BNP central leader Khairul Kabir Khokon was placed on a four-day remand yesterday in a case filed for setting a vehicle ablaze at Nayapaltan

in the capital on April 19 as the party staged demonstrations on the day.

He was produced in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shabriar Mahmud Adnan yesterday with police praying for a seven-day remand.

Defence lawyers submitted petitions seeking bail for Khokon and cancellation of the remand prayer but the court rejected both the petitions.

On May 17, Khokon was arrested in front of the BNP central office at Nayapaltan during hartal.

Khokon, Narsingdi district BNP president, was shown arrested in the arson case filed with Paltan Police Station and was sent to jail.

# Sri Lanka must face war probe: Ex-army chief

BBC ONLINE

Sri Lanka must co-operate with any international investigation into alleged war crimes, ex-army chief Sarath Fonseka told the BBC yesterday, a day after his release from jail.

He said some Sri Lankan leaders were "hiding their faces" over the conduct of the war, as if they were guilty.

But Fonseka, who led the army to its 2009 victory over Tamil rebels, denied thousands of civilians had been killed.

"The large figures of 30,000, 40,000, [who are said to have] died - it was not practicable. The way we conducted the war, the type of weapons systems we used, the manuals we made, we were always concerned about the security of the civilians," Fonseka said.

There have been repeated calls for an



Sarath Fonseka

international probe into the war.

Human rights groups estimate that up to 40,000 civilians were killed in the final months of the war. The government recently released its own estimate, concluding that about 9,000 people perished during that period.

In a BBC interview, his first on a one-to-one basis since being freed on Monday, Fonseka said that the attitude of some Sri Lankan leaders gave the world the impression that they were guilty of something.

He added that he is "ready to answer for any allegations about the war crimes in relation to the military operations".

But he agreed that the focus on human rights violations and reconciliation urged by the UN was important.

# GDP now 6.32pc

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contribution to the GDP is about 19 percent, and the sluggish growth in the sector slowed down overall GDP growth.

Zahid Hussain, senior economist at the World Bank, said, "Following successive bumper harvests, agricultural growth is likely to be slower because of base effects as well as marginally lower Boro output due to slightly lower acreage".

According to data of the food and agriculture ministries, rice and wheat production this fiscal year will be 3.48 crore tonnes, which was 3.45 crore tonnes last year.

BBS statistics show that growth in the service sector this fiscal year fell to 6.06

percent from 6.22 percent last year.

The industries sector grew by 1.27 percentage points to 9.47 percent. However, large and medium scale industries saw a fall in growth by 0.16 percentage point to 10.78 percent.

Electricity, gas and water supply made a huge jump. Electricity supply rose to 14.11 percent from 6.63 percent.

In the service sector, the wholesale and retail trade sub-sector saw a decline in growth by 0.49 percentage points. But the construction, transport and real estate sub-sector witnessed a rise.

Hussain said weaknesses in Bangladesh's export markets, especially in the euro zone, absence of ideal envi-

ronment for private investment, limits on capacity utilisation for energy constraints, macro policy tightening, and financial sector restraints likely to have contributed to the growth deceleration this fiscal year.

He said the service sector, particularly retail and wholesale trade, may have grown slower for weaker sales. "A recovery in remittance inflows, however, may have helped Bangladesh maintain its recent average growth performance."

Both Rahman and Hussain said deceleration in growth this year is not unique to Bangladesh. They said Bangladesh's growth rate was good, considering the global and domestic constraints.

# Indigenous

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grandparents' house in Bishpara village on Saturday evening with the pretence that he was taking her to her aunt's house in the neighbouring Mahmudpur village. On the way, he violated and killed the minor girl and dumped the body in the banana grove.

On information, Badalgachi police recovered the body and sent it to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Later they filed a case in this connection.

Belalur Rahman, superintendent of police in Naogaon, said Nannu's parents and a cousin had been arrested, but Nannu was still at large.

Originally from Dinajpur, Sagory's father Sibur Tarki had moved to his in-laws' house in Bishpara last month in search of work.

Nannu, who hails from Mahmudpur, soon built a rapport with the family and became a frequent visitor to the house.

Mazezul Islam Rony, who works at Setubandhan project of Brotee, an NGO, arranged for Sagory's body to be brought home from the morgue on Sunday afternoon.

He said, "It was a heart-rending sight when the child's body arrived at her grandfather's house. People irrespective of religion and caste gathered there to demand punishment to the culprit."

# Deaf ears to court orders

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Mohammad Salimullah) is a very old man," said Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq.

"Prosecution, you tend to jump up at every question. Don't do that. There is a system to draw the court's attention. Follow that," he told the prosecution.

The tribunal chairman asked defence counsel Ahsanul Haq Hena to keep his voice low, and be respectful while quizzing the witness. The justice told the witness to listen to each question carefully, enquire if there was any confusion and not to answer without fully understanding the question.

Earlier proceedings against the BNP lawmaker were marked with frequent interruptions, verbal spats and heated exchanges between the prosecution and the defence and the outspoken accused. Salauddin on Monday last week was given the "last warning". He was told that if he continued such behaviour, the tribunal would go ahead with his trial in his absence.

Despite yesterday's instructions, the two-and-a-half-hour-long cross-examination of the prosecution witness was marked by several heated exchanges between defence and prosecution.

At one point, a defence lawyer and several prosecu-

tors were up on their feet and the defence claimed that the prosecution had "threatened" them.

Tribunal chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq had to intervene to keep the situation under control. "Should we dictate that you keep quiet, or should we ask all of you except for Mr Hena [defence counsel Ahsanul Haq Hena] to go out of the court room," he said with a certain edge to his voice.

The three-member Tribunal-1 yesterday recorded the cross-examination of Mohammad Salimullah, the second prosecution witness against Salauddin Quader, who is facing 23 counts of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

Defence counsel Hena began the cross-examination by asking questions about the witness' neighbourhood in Chittagong. The questions include which road led where, intersections, alleys and residents on those streets.

The witness and the defence counsel, both from Chittagong, went through the names so fast that the tribunal found it difficult to follow. "You two understand very well, but we can't seem to understand a thing," said AKM Zaheer Ahmed, a judge of the tribunal.

As the defence counsel continued with his line of questioning, at one point

Salimullah said, "What would you do by having these [answers]? The truth will always remain the truth".

"Just answer what you are asked, nothing else," said Hena. "My temper is really hot, I lose it quite easily."

"Mine is cool," was the answer from the witness.

As the defence counsel asked more questions about the streets of Chittagong, he told the witness, "Let's walk together on the streets."

To this Justice Nizamul said, "When will this walk of yours end?" He reminded the defence counsel to keep the cross-examination short.

Later, the counsel even asked the witness if there were beautiful women in a Christian-dominated neighbourhood near his house in Chittagong.

Salimullah also faced questions about the area of Salauddin Quader's Goods Hill home in Chittagong and about the garage he was confined to.

The witness on Monday narrated how he was abducted on September 2, 1971, taken to that house, tortured and kept hostage in a garage where he almost died.

Yesterday, the witness said the garage he was tortured in was on the ground floor of a two-storey building at Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's Goods Hill home in Chittagong.

The garage was located at

the north-western side of the house, and had wooden stairs leading upstairs, which accommodated Sindh police men, he said.

Answering other questions, the witness said he saw around 15 to 16 Sindh policemen, and they wore three different types of badges possibly reflecting their ranks.

The soldiers spoke Urdu with an accent, he said.

Later, the defence counsel told the witness that he was pretending to be sick before the tribunal.

"It is not true," said the witness. "Learned advocate, I don't pretend to be sick like you to take leave from the court."

As the proceedings drew closer to lunch break at 2:00pm, the tribunal chairman told Hena that he needed to conclude the cross-examination within that day.

The defence counsel said he had just begun the cross-examination. "My lord, give him some time. He has to save his client after all," remarked the witness.

The tribunal then adjourned the proceedings against Salauddin Quader until today.

The legislator from Chittagong was produced before the court yesterday. He is among four Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity before the tribunal.

## Vacancy Announcement

### Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following positions for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year.

**Programme Officer-Health - 1 position**  
**Programme Officer-Multilingual Education (MLE) - 1 position**

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copy of the TOR can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than **June 07, 2012**.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"  
"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### Vacancy Announcement

Issued on: 23 May 2012  
Deadline for Application: 12 June 2012

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified candidates to the following vacant positions for its project "TCP/BGD/3303: Improving Surface Water Irrigation in Coastal Areas and Sylhet Division in Bangladesh" to be filled as soon as possible:

- National Irrigation Expert
- National Agricultural Economists
- National Water User Association Expert

(UN Salary scale and benefits for similar positions apply).

Interested qualified candidates will find the post descriptions, the link to the Personal History Form (PH-Form) and the information on how to apply in the following web link: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/bangladesh>. Hard copies of the completed PH-Form must reach the FAO Representation in Bangladesh, House # 37, Road # 8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 in a sealed envelope by close of business on **12 June 2012**.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) is leading the British Government's fight against world poverty. DFID's Bangladesh Office, based in Dhaka, is seeking talented individuals with relevant experience and who are committed to DFID's values for the posts below. If you are successful, you will play a key part in delivering on the ambitious results in DFID's Operational Plan for Bangladesh 2011-15, working with a wide range of partners across the country (see [www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/)).

DFID Bangladesh in Dhaka announces the following vacancies within its programme teams:

<b>Team Leader - Growth Team</b>	<b>- 1 post at DFID Grade A1</b>
<b>Climate Change and Environment Adviser</b>	<b>- 1 post at DFID Grade A2</b>
<b>Health Adviser</b>	<b>- 1 post at DFID Grade A2</b>
<b>Programme Management Adviser</b>	<b>- 1 post at DFID Grade A2L</b>
<b>Programme Managers</b>	<b>- 3 posts at DFID Grade B1</b>

**These are full-time positions.** For further information on required competencies, job descriptions and application forms, please visit our website: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Work-with-us/Working-for-DFID/Jobs/>. Instructions for submitting your completed application are included within the application form. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday, 12 June 2012**.

DFID Bangladesh is an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from suitably qualified individuals regardless of race, social background, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted