

# Bangladesh

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Mitigation", according to a GEF release.

"The project has a strong community-based adaptation component, and benefited a total of 18,269 households by involving them in afforestation, agriculture, livestock, and fishery-based livelihood adaptation," the statement said.

One of the significant adaptation response measures used in this project is development of FFF (Forest-Fish-Fruit) model that comprises short and long-term resource and income generation, as well as livelihood diversification.

Moreover, the model is being used in barren lands, located behind coastal man-

grove forests. By using a combination of protective and productive vegetation, mound and ditch land structures, the FFF model has prevented land encroachment and ensured water security through rainwater harvesting in ditches.

The project offers multiple livelihood opportunities such as fish cultivation, irrigation for crops, and conversion of barren land into productive land. This model accommodates families in the community with at least \$1,000 additional income a year, according to the statement.

Naoko Ishii, CEO and chairperson of the GEF, says the LDCF is implementing many on-ground projects in over 42 least developed

countries to address the urgent needs of climate change adaptation.

However, in the case of Bangladesh, she said it has engaged governments and communities to realise the expected adaptation benefits from the projects financed under climate change adaptation programmes.

This award honours Bangladesh's commitment and substantiates the LDCF's decade-long efforts towards fulfilling adaptation needs, she said.

This innovative project also received "Knowledge Competition" award of the Fifth International Conference on Community Based Adaptation (CBA5) held in Dhaka last year.

# Govt moves

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"The High Court did not issue any rule in disposing of the petition challenging the Speaker's ruling. The observation made by the court in the verdict does not have a binding effect."

He also said, "If there is any misunderstanding or conflict between parliament and the judiciary, of course we will take an initiative (to resolve it) in line with the constitution."

Shafique said they want to resolve the problem before parliament goes into session on September 4.

Later, Shafique met the Speaker at his (Hamid) office at the parliament building.

Asked, if he requested the Speaker not to allow any discussion in the House on the HC verdict, the minister said, "We discussed the business of the upcoming session (of parliament)."

Meanwhile, some senior lawmakers from the Awami League-led ruling alliance are preparing to raise the issue (HC verdict) in the House.

Asked, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said yesterday there are some options to overcome the "growing crisis".

He said the HC may review its observations in the verdict or an appeal can be filed with the Supreme Court challenging the verdict. And the other

option is the Speaker should go back to the House, which will decide what it should do, he added.

Suranjit said he would speak about it in parliament.

Contacted, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, who had earlier spoken in parliament on Justice Manik's remarks, said, "I am honour bound to speak on the issue."

Officials at the attorney general's office said they are preparing to file the appeal early next week.

They will first seek a stay order from the apex court on the HC verdict, and then move to get its observations on the issue.

# Strengthen Nam

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Nam leaders need to work with a reformed UN and other financial institutions for fair, democratic and balanced decisions at different levels of the world bodies, she noted.

Nam needs to focus on justice in all spheres within and among its member states as injustice is the basic cause of global conflicts. Only justice can ensure peace and development, and "it can be achieved only through democracy and people's empowerment", she said.

Calling for resolving the Palestine and other similar burning issues through justice and democratic and socio-economic rights, she said blatant injustice, murder, torture and humiliation were being perpetuated by Israel on the Palestinian people.

She also condemned Israel for preventing the five-member Nam Committee on Palestine from holding a scheduled ministerial meeting in Ramallah this month, and said it was a violation of international law by Israel.

Hasina warmly congratulated Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his assumption of the chair for the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

these vital issues," she noted.

The premier said Bangladesh stood firm on Nam's demand for a sovereign, viable Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, living in peace with its neighbours.

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She also thanked Egypt for its leadership as past chair of this movement.

She called upon Nam to work jointly for a global agreement on limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities, climate funding, among other things, for adaptation and mitigation, transfer of green technologies.

She said though Bangladesh had achieved near self-sufficiency in food, despite a growing population and climate change challenges, reports of drought, food shortage and rising food prices "elsewhere has been very disturbing".

She said migration with development was one of the largest inter-state economic activities of this century. "The majority of the world's labour migrants are from the Nam countries and their remittances alleviate poverty and contribute to development in both the sending

and the receiving states."

The prime minister said though there was a relatively free flow of capital, there was no free flow of labour. So, Nam must raise a strong voice for the implementation of the Mode IV of the Gats and adopt initiatives for safe migration and protection of the rights of migrants, especially women and children.

Hasina said her government was making relentless efforts for strengthening democracy and justice in Bangladesh through eradicating poverty, hunger, inequality, deprivation and ensuring sustained growth, human development, and rooting out terrorism.

To achieve the global goal, she said, Bangladesh had placed a "People's Empowerment and Development" model before the last UN General Assembly. The model might be an important pillar for the 120-nation Nam's new vision, she hoped.

"I believe the model can deliver justice, equality, strengthen democracy leading to development, progress, political stability and sustainable peace, within nations, and all across the world," she added.

Reiterating Bangladesh's zero tolerance to terrorism, Hasina said: "We support Nam's position against terrorism and pledge to extend all cooperation to eliminate it." In this regard she mentioned the incident of August 15, 1975, and attempt on her life in 2004 and said usurpation of state power through terrorism should be eliminated.

Hasina highlighted her government's striving to establish affinity and connectivity with neighbouring countries to ensure sustained prosperity, and said connectivity would mean greater trade and economic cooperation benefiting all and leading to a prosperous and a stable region.

# Ershad next PM?

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At that point, he added, he would propose the AL or the BNP to fulfil his desire.

"This may happen as they [Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia] cannot stand each other and there is no possibility of a consensus between them."

The former military strongman spoke of another possibility: if an election is held without the BNP then his party might win the polls to be held under the AL since he believes his party will bag the BNP's and anti-AL votes. It will also prove that elections can be held in a free and fair manner under an elected government.

Keeping this possibility in mind, Ershad said, the JP would walk out of the AL-led grand alliance and take part in the next election independently. "I will be the real game changer at the next election," said the JP chairman.

He observed that the AL and the BNP each had a bloc of more than 30 percent voters and swing voters constituted the remaining 40 percent. "Now my target is to grab those 40 percent votes."

The JP boss firmly said his party would not join the BNP-led alliance ahead of the election, as his party would be harmed badly. "I will only take a decision after the elections."

Asked if he had the

strength to get 60 seats, he said he had already finalised a list of 200 prospective candidates for the next election and updated his party's grassroots committees to get the desired number of seats. There will be 100 more seats where many important people like former secretaries and high-level civil and military officials who have already indicated their interest will be given nominations on behalf of the JP and he believes those people will have the capacity to come out victorious in the election.

The former president said people wanted a change in the two-party government system, which has been operative for the last 22 years. "Everybody says they had a good time during Ershad's regime. At the next election something will happen in my favour," he said.

Speaking at his Baridhara residence, Ershad said after becoming the premier, he would institute a federal government system, which his party has long been demanding.

About the federal government system, the former president, who ruled the country from 1982 to 1990, said Dhaka would be made the federal capital and there would be seven federal governments in each division. Asked whether it would be viable under the present constitutional framework or whether the constitution

would have to be changed in this regard, he said other parties might lend support to his concept in parliament and that would help implementation.

He continued that people with expertise and competent leaders of all parties would be made ministers in the central government to ensure quick development in the country. "It will be a government of national unity comprising all parties represented in parliament."

Asked about his India visit, the JP chairman, who met Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon, among others, said the visit was very fruitful. "I spoke on many bilateral issues and also political situation and the next election of Bangladesh."

He said India wanted to see a peaceful transition of power through election. They want to see a peaceful neighbour and a continuation of democracy.

Asked whether India had any apprehension on continuation of democracy, the former president said definitely it had. If an election is not held or election can't be held in Bangladesh due to movements or boycotts by the main opposition then democracy might be hampered here and undemocratic forces might step in, posing a serious threat to the

religious minority.

Ershad said he had assured the Indian president and the prime minister that his party would take part in the election for the continuity of democracy. He believes the main opposition BNP will also join the election.

About bilateral issues, the JP chief said he had demanded that the Indian government conduct a joint study with Bangladesh to assess the environmental and socio-economic impact of the proposed Tipaimukh dam, sign the Teesta water sharing treaty and exchange enclaves immediately. He said India had assured him that it would not do anything that might harm Bangladesh.

Asked if there was any discussion on the issue centring around the Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, HM Ershad said answered in the positive. India said it was not necessary for the government to get involved in the Yunus issue, he said, adding that it had also opined that the government should not speak against the World Bank regarding the cancellation of its loan for Padma bridge project.

Asked whether his party would take part in the election under the present administration, the JP chairman said his party wanted a level playing field to be created by dissolving parliament. "If the prime minister requests the president, he

can dissolve parliament and the prime minister can form a small cabinet with people nominated by the Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party."

If parliament is not dissolved, he apprehends that a level playing field will not be created and the BNP might not take part in the election.

Asked how he evaluated the present government, the former military ruler said although there were many successes of the present government there were failures too. "The main thing is that the perception of the people regarding the government is negative and it will be tough for the Awami League to come to power again unless the perception is not changed."

He said some ministers were performing below expectation and were tarnishing the image of the government. The prime minister should undertake a major reshuffle in the cabinet to change the perception of the people in favour of her party.

Asked whether the failures were equally those of his party as a coalition partner, he said they also were borne by the JP as a partner of the government and that was why the JP wanted to take part in the parliamentary election alone.

JP Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu was present during the interview.

# UN chief warns

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thoroughly cooperating with the IAEA."

Otherwise, he warned, "a war of words can quickly spiral into a war of violence."

Ban also reprimanded Iran for "outrageous" comments denying the Holocaust and Israel's right to exist, and called on the two arch-nemeses to drop threats against each other.

"I strongly reject any threat by any (UN) member state to destroy another, or outrageous comments to deny historical facts such as the Holocaust," Ban said in a speech before a Non-Aligned summit in Tehran.

"Claiming another UN member state does not have the right to exist or describe it in racist terms is not only utterly wrong but undermines the very principles we have all promised to

uphold," he added.

Ban spoke as Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday slammed the "overt dictatorship" of the UN Security Council in a speech opening the Tehran summit that included Ban himself in the audience.

"The UN Security Council has an irrational, unjust and utterly undemocratic structure, and this is an overt dictatorship," Khamenei told the 120-member NAM summit.

Iran is in a showdown with the Security Council over its disputed nuclear programme, which has resulted in four sets of Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on it for pursuing uranium enrichment.

Khamenei charged that "the control room of the world (the Security Council)

is under the control of the dictatorship of some Western countries" -- implying permanent council members the United States, France and Britain.

State television showed Ban looking nonplussed as Khamenei delivered his speech.

The NAM, which represents much of the developing world, has long championed a reform of the United Nations to take power away from the UN Security Council and bolster the say of the UN General Assembly, where its members are better represented.

Khamenei's criticism of the UN's top table followed a meeting he had with Ban on Wednesday in which the UN leader bluntly told Iran to take "concrete" steps to ease the showdown over the nuclear issue.

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1. **ICT Specialist - One position** (Service Contract, SB-4 Level)
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*The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.*

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above positions, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than on **Sunday, 16 September, 2012.**

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.**

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**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.**