

US wants AL-BNP dialogue

Says Mozena after meeting with Khaleda
UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena last night said the US wants a dialogue between Bangladesh's two major political parties to resolve the country's crisis centring the next parliamentary polls.

"I know efforts have been made in that regard and I'll do everything I can to support those efforts," he told journalists after a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital.

"And it's critical to keep trying to get that dialogue underway so that the parties can find a mutually-agreed way forward. Only the Bangladeshis themselves can do this...to hold free, fair and credible elections..."

"and then America and Bangladesh and many friends all over the world will support Bangladesh in implementing that agreement," he added.

Mozena said Khaleda shared with him details of her vision for Bangladesh should she form the government.

He said the leader of the opposition in parliament shared with him her determination that Bangladesh would continue to counter violent extremism and fight terrorism and cooperate with its neighbours in this regard.

When Mozena raised the question of minorities, Khaleda said all Bangladeshis were Bangladeshis.

On hartals, Mozena said, "I shared with her, and she already knows that I don't like hartals because hartals penalise ordinary people. What I like is a political process taking place in parliament. That is what democracy is and I applauded her decision to have BNP in parliament."

On whether Khaleda agreed with his views over hartal, Mozena said, "Everyone has the right to express his or her views peacefully, but not violently and not forcing other people to agree. Those are my views."

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Holidaymakers are returning to the capital after celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr with near and dear ones. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

ZUBAIR MURDER Case transferred to speedy trial tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy trial tribunal will deal with the case filed for the killing of Zubair Ahmed, an honours final year student of English department at Jahangirnagar University, in January last year.

The case was sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka from the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka yesterday as per a home ministry decision.

On July 4, the district court completed the charge framing hearing against 13 activists of Jahangirnagar University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The 13 accused obtained bail from the High Court on different dates.

On January 8 last year, Zubair was allegedly tortured and stabbed by the accused and some others. He succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in the capital the next day.

Following the incident, police arrested Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik, Mahabub Akram, Najmus Sakib Topu and Zahid Hasan.

Of them, Mahub, Topu and Zahid gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

Three 'muggers' held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatrabari police arrested three alleged muggers in the capital's Shonir Akhra yesterday.

Around eight youths with daggers in their hands were preparing to mug people in the area around 11:30am when police noticed them and opened fire on them, said police.

One of them, Masud, with bullet injuries in the leg was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said police. However, the others managed to escape.

One of the other two arrestees was identified as Shakil.

DEATH OF PRITI DAS BY THROWN STONE Murder case filed One detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Railway police in Chittagong yesterday filed a murder case in connection with the death of Priti Das, a passenger onboard a train who died after she was hit by a stone hurled from outside on Sunday.

Police also picked up a local youth -- Mohammed Rubel, 20, -- for interrogation regarding the incident, which took place in Bridge Bhanga area of Bhatiyari at Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong.

Jasim Uddin, assistant sub-inspector of Government Railway Police (GRP) of Chittagong Railway Station, filed the case.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the matter and submit a report within seven working days, said Md Tafazzal Hossain, general manager of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone).

The committee members are Wahidur Rahman, assistant mechanical engineer in charge of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone), Abdur Razzak, assistant transport official, and Golam Kuddus, assistant commandant of Railway Nirapotta Bahini.

Priti Das, a resident of Chittagong city and an engineering student of Southern University, was travelling to the capital city with her husband for the Eid holidays on Turna Nishita Express. A piece of stone hurled from outside hit Priti on her head leaving her unconscious.

She was rushed to the nearby Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex. She was then transferred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Allegations of police harassment rife in Sylhet city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Allegations of police harassment in Sylhet city have come up in recent times.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nure Alam of Detective Branch (DB) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) said they had received such complaints. "Steps are being taken on the basis of investigations," he added.

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI), Alamgir, of Shiberbazar Police Camp under Jalalabad Police Station was suspended on July 25 after a departmental inquiry found that a motorcycle, seized from his possession, had been earlier hijacked from a person.

Another ASI, Abul Kalam, of Lamabazar Police Camp, was closed to the SMP headquarters on July 18 based on complaints that he had tried to extort Tk 50,000 from a pharmacist, SMP ADC Mohammad Ayub told The Daily Star recently.

Abdul Kadir, owner of Friends Pharmacy at Subidbazar, alleged that Kalam at first accused him of keeping Phensedyl bottles and wanted to search his pharmacy that day.

Kalam then offered to refrain from conducting the search if he was paid the amount. Neighbouring shopkeepers then demanded that Kalam conduct the search before them, prompting the latter to withdraw, he added.

In another incident, Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Ward 9 Councillor Mokhlisur Rahman Kamran claimed that police had arrested a mason, Rafiqul Islam, on July 15 and "wrongfully" implicated him in an arms case.

SMP DB ADC Nure Alam stated that an alleged criminal, Shamim, arrested in Bagbari with a locally made gun on July 15, had confessed that Rafiqul had helped him get the firearm.

Another extortion allegation came from one Abul Hossain, chauffeur of SCC Ward 16 Councillor Abdur Rahman Mihad.

He claimed that, though he had all the necessary documents, SMP DB personnel had seized his vehicle on July 13 and released it only after he had paid them Tk 3,000.

ADC Nure Alam said he did not receive any specific complaint in this regard but assured to look into the matter.

In the last incident, SMP had arrested two youths in Dakshin Surma on June 15 in connection with a death threat sent through SMS to the finance minister and six lawmakers on June 13.

Though police initially claimed that a revolver and four bullets had been seized from their possession, the case statement stated that a toy gun had been seized while there was no mention of the threat.

SMP Additional Commissioner SM Rokon Uddin said, "We cannot take action on vague complaints."

But, on specific allegations, none was spared, he said, adding that steps have been taken against a good number of policemen over different complaints in recent weeks.

Chinese hospital ship to arrive on Aug 19

Peace Ark to provide free medical services to Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Peace Ark, a hospital ship of China's People's Liberation Army Navy, arrives in Bangladesh on August 19 for a week to provide free medical services to local people and conduct academic exchanges with Bangladesh's military hospitals.

Apart from providing treatment to 300 servicemen and civilians every day onboard the ship, medical teams will be sent to Navy Hospital in North Patenga, Ashar Alo and Bangladesh Navy Primary School to provide medical service.

The ship has 300 beds, a burn ward, an intensive care unit, CT scanner, Doppler ultrasound and dental rooms and eight operating rooms where 40 surgeries can be conducted a day.

The ship has 102 medical crew, including 46 doctors, 15 of whom have PhD degrees and above specialising in surgery, internal medicine, gynaecology, ear, nose and throat and traditional Chinese medicine.

The visit is part of "Mission Harmony-2013" undertaken by People's Liberation Army to advocate China's philosophy, "harmonious world" and "harmonious ocean," Military Attaché Senior Colonel Zhang Wei told journalists at a press conference at the Chinese embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh is one of the eight Asian nations that Peace Ark will visit on its four month long trip, which started on June 10 and will continue till October 6, he said.

In the past two months, Peace Ark visited Brunei, the Gulf of Aden, the Maldives, Pakistan and India, he said.

After Bangladesh, the ship will sail for Indonesia and Cambodia before wrapping up its visits, he added.

It is the second time that Peace Ark is visiting Bangladesh. During its first visit in November 2010, it treated 3,213 patients, provided health checkup to 173 people and conducted 23 operations.

Citing a successful operation on November 12, 2010, Zhang Wei said a Chinese medical team saved a dying pregnant woman with congenital heart disease.

After the emergency operation, the woman safely gave birth to a baby girl. Sergeant Hossain, the girl's father, named his baby "Chin", who is now three years old.

The doctors will meet the girl and the family this time and provide the baby a follow up medical checkup.

Deputy Military Attaché at the Chinese embassy in Dhaka Lt Col Liu Miao and Political Section Attaché Ye Wei were present at the press conference.



Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) staff park their cars and motorcycles on the footpath and road in front of the BRTC office in the capital ignoring the no parking sign. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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