

Imran Khan

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 their interlocutors in the government's team on our behalf and put forth our point of view," Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Shahidullah Shahid told AFP.
 Khan is joined by the chief cleric of Islamabad's Red Mosque, Maulana Abdul Aziz, and three senior religious party leaders: Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, Mufti Kifayatullah and Professor Ibrahim Khan.
 Khan, leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) party, has been a vocal supporter of negotiating with insurgents.
 Commenting on reports that the outlawed TTP has nominated him for negotiations, Imran Khan has said the militant group should select its own representatives for the peace talks.
 He said in a statement issued on Saturday that the PTI had full faith in the four-member committee formed by the government for the talks.
 However, PTI's information secretary Dr Shireen Mazari said the party hadn't been contacted by the Taliban to ask its chairman to become a member of its committee for peace talks with the government.
 "I will continue to be part of the committee if the government shows sincerity in looking into (Taliban) demands -- and of course the major demand is enforcement of Sharia law in the country," Mazari added.
 Sharif came to power last year pledging to reach out to the Taliban and engage in talks to end their seven-year insurgency.
 But he has been criticised for failing to

set a strategy to respond to a surge in militant violence which has resulted in 114 deaths since the start of the year, according to an AFP tally.
 On Wednesday, he named a four-man committee under his special assistant Irfan Siddiqui to assist in dialogue efforts with the Taliban.
 In his address to parliament Sharif called on militants to stop attacks, "because terrorism and talks cannot go side by side".

Rangamati AL leader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified gunmen shot dead an Awami League leader at Kakrachhari village in Rajsthalhi upazila of Rangamati last night.
 The deceased Monkya Marma, 51, was a senior vice-president of Rajsthalhi upazila unit of AL.
 Amena Begum, superintendent of police of Rangamati, told The Daily Star that unknown miscreants shot Monkay when he was walking in front of his house in the village around 8:30pm.
 Criminals pumped two bullets into Monkay's body and he died on the spot, said the SP.
 He was taking preparation to contest the chairman post in the upcoming upazila parishad polls, she added.

Al-Badr killed

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 tortured him in presence of Quasem.
 The accused even interrogated him to glean information about the pro-liberation forces, Nasiruddin, the third prosecution witness in Quasem's case, said.
 The 60-year-old journalist from Patia told the tribunal that there were three torture centres of Al-Badr in Chittagong and Quasem was responsible for organising Chittagong's Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army in 1971.
 "Pro-liberation people were brought to these camps and tortured to death following his [Quasem] instructions," said Nasiruddin, who identified Quasem in the dock.
 Earlier, Syed Mohammad Amran, the first prosecution witness in the case, testified that four to five detainees were killed at Quasem-controlled Al-Badr torture camp set up at Dalim Hotel in Chittagong city.
 During his 56-minute testimony, Nasiruddin said he took part in several operations in Chittagong after his training in India in 1971.
 In the later part of November, 1971, Al-Badr men blindfolded him and took him to Dalim Hotel, the Al-Badr headquarters of the port city.
 "Failing to get anything [information] from me, Al-Badr men left the room," he said, adding that his blindfold was taken off.
 "After sometime, Mir Quasem Ali along with other Al-Badr men entered the room. 'You are yet to gain any information from him; beat him,' Quasem Ali ordered the Al-Badr men referring to me," said Nasiruddin.
 "Then the Al-Badr men started beating me with sticks, iron rods and electric wires mercilessly."

At one stage, Quasem himself interrogated him to know about his co-fighters, shelter houses and arms while the other Al-Badr men continued to beat him, said Nasiruddin.
 "I used to hear groans coming from my room (in the hotel) as people were tortured there," he said, adding that the torture was intensified after Quasem was injured in a bomb attack on December 6, 1971.
 "From the other detainees, I had learnt that captives were eventually tortured to death in presence and on order of Mir Quasem Ali.
 "Later, their bodies were dumped into the Kamaphuli," he told the court.
 From a servant, whose name was probably Pankaj or Swapan, he had learnt that Tuntu Sen, Ranjit Das and freedom fighter Jasim were tortured to death on the roof of the camp.
 "I also heard from other detainees that Mir Quasem Ali ordered the killing and was present at the time of the killing," he said.
 Nasiruddin was released from the camp on December 16, 1971 when the nation achieved victory.
 After his testimony, Quasem's lawyer Mizanul Islam started cross-examining him.
 Mizanul asked only three questions before the three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan.
 The tribunal adjourned the case proceeding until today, when Nasiruddin will face further cross-examination.
 Quasem, a member of Jamaat's central executive council, is facing 14 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed in Chittagong during the nine-month-long war.

Padma bridge by 2018

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 supervision of the Fast Track Project Monitoring Committee headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
 Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday told The Daily Star that the government would implement the project with its own resources, and there would be no problem in funding the project.
 The fund required for the bridge project is like a "chicken feed" to the government, said Muhith.
 In support of his claim, the minister said the country's foreign currency reserve now stood at \$18 billion, while the size of the national budget was over Tk 2 lakh crore.
 The finance ministry would disburse money whenever required, he added.
 The bridge project is the first in the country, which will require more than \$2 billion in foreign currency. The government decided to fund the project on its own after the World Bank cancelled its 1.2 billion loan for the project in 2012 on grounds of a corruption conspiracy over the appointment of supervisory consultant.
 The Bridges Division said three firms -- Samsung C&T Corporation of South Korea, China Major Bridge Engineering Co Ltd, and Daelim-Bam-VCI (a joint venture entity of South Korea) -- have submitted financial and technical proposals for constructing the main bridge. Evaluation of the proposals will be completed by May.
 Five companies from the USA, France and India are vying for the job of river training.
 The Division has also issued Request for Proposal (RFP) to five short-listed firms for appointing Construction Supervision

Tender evaluation for \$1.32 b bridge construction bid completes in May

Tender opens for \$0.78 b river training project on Feb 20

Tender opens for \$50 million supervisory consultant on Mar 18

Consultant.
 It has written to the finance ministry to know how foreign currency would be paid to contractors, as the project is being financed by the state, not by any international development partner.
 The Division recommended holding an inter-ministerial meeting to be chaired by the finance minister to determine the modality of payment in foreign currency.
 According to the Division's current estimates, the total cost of the bridge project is Tk 20,507 crore or \$2.9 billion, of which \$2.03 billion would be needed in foreign currency.
 About 15 percent of the required foreign currency has to be paid in advance at the time of awarding a contract, said a Division official.
 The project cost would increase due to the delay, and the revised costs could be determined after the contractors submit final proposals, added the official.
 The government would spend on the project the \$200 million it received as grant from India. Besides, it plans to raise \$500 million to \$1 billion by floating sovereign bonds on the international market by October, said a finance ministry official preferring anonymity.
 Moreover, the government considers setting aside a part of the country's foreign currency reserve for the project. And the central bank has already given its primary consent to the plan.
 The project's other works, including two approach roads, are going on, and around Tk 2,100 crore has been spent on those as of December 31 last year, added the official.

Thailand votes

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 later filed complaints with police about the blockade.
 The disruption means that even if Yingluck wins she will remain in a caretaker role with limited power over government policy until elections are held in the troubled areas, because there will not be enough MPs to convene parliament.
 "Normally even if one polling station is blocked we cannot announce the result," said Election Commission member Somchai Srisutthiyakorn.
 "As long as there are protests and no negotiation, then parliament cannot open."
 Experts say a protracted period of political uncertainty and possible street violence could set the scene for a military or judicial coup. The army chief has repeatedly refused to rule out seizing power, while Yingluck is under investigation by an anti-corruption panel.
 At least 10 people have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes, grenade attacks and drive-by shootings since the opposition rallies began, with victims on both sides.
 Tensions were running high after a dramatic gun battle between rival protesters on the streets of the capital on the eve of the election that left at least seven

people wounded, but there were no reports of serious violence on election day by the time polls closed.
 The demonstrators want Yingluck to step down and make way for an unelected "people's council" to oversee reforms to tackle corruption and alleged vote-buying.
 In many parts of the south, a stronghold of the anti-government movement, protesters stopped post offices from distributing ballot sheets and boxes.
 Sunai Phasuk, a senior researcher with New York-based Human Rights Watch, accused the demonstrators of "thuggery and intimidation".
 But in the government's heartland in north and northeast Thailand, as well as some areas of the capital, voting went ahead without major disruption in a boost to Yingluck's hopes of re-election.
 Authorities said roughly 130,000 police were deployed around the country for the vote, but with tens of thousands of polling stations, many had only a light security presence.
 The backdrop to the unrest is a long-running political struggle pitting Thailand's royalist establishment -- backed by the courts and the military -- against Thaksin.

Nation headed

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 election arrangements.
 In the opinion poll, 55 percent respondents said the January 5 election was a farce while 41 percent said the election was necessary because it was in line with the constitution.
 Of the respondents, 77 percent did not cast votes in the January 5 election. The top reason was no election was held in their areas or there were uncontested candidates.
 On the other hand, 40.7 percent of those interviewed in areas, where election was held, said they cast their vote. This corresponds with the official numbers released by the Election Commission, said a DI press release.
 Asked whether the Election Commission proved itself neutral in this election, 34 percent replied in the positive while 45 percent said no. Also, 48 percent said fraud occurred everywhere during the election.
 Had the election been fully participatory, 42.7 percent would have voted for Awami League while 35.1pc for BNP.
 While releasing the survey, David Dettman, chief of party for DI's democratic participation and reform in Bangladesh programme, said, "We sincerely hope to continue to offer objective data that clarifies the political situation."

Surrendered Central African rebels flee

AFP, Bangui

Around 200 rebel fighters in the Central African Republic who surrendered to African Union troops at the weekend in the key town of Sibut fled overnight, a military source said yesterday.
 "Unfortunately they fled in the night. They've gone to Kaga Bandoro," an officer in the African Union force (MISCA) told AFP.
 Kaga Bandoro is some 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Sibut, the town which had been held for several days by former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebellion -- causing terrified residents to flee -- before it was recaptured by MISCA troops on Saturday.
 It is thought the rebels fled because of fear of revenge attacks by members of the anti-balaka Christian militia. They had initially agreed to be held by peacekeepers.

Legal Notice

This is to notify all concerned that our client Muscat Thread (BD) Limited, Dhaka is going to enter into an agreement to purchase the scheduled property from 1. Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan and 2. Md. Abdus Sobhan, both sons of Late Ahmed Miah, of 493 Green Valley Apartment, 8/C Bepari Goli, Bara Moghbazar, P.S. – Ramna, District – Dhaka. If any person has any claim or objection in respect of the scheduled property, he is requested to contact the undersigned within 7 days of publishing the instant notice. Any subsequent objection or claim by any person shall not be considered in law.

Schedule of the property

District- formerly Dhaka, at present Gazipur, P.S. – Tongi, Upazila – Gazipur Sadar, Mouja – 128 Kathaldiya. C.S. Khatian No. 6 and 77B, S.A. Khatian No. 9, 11 and 12, R.S. Khatian No. 12, 25 and 31, City Jarip Khatian No. 165, C.S. and S.A Plot Nos. 49, 50, 51 and 52, R.S. Plot Nos. 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 76, 77 and 78, City Jarip Plot Nos. 94, 95 and 98, Total area of land 58.52 Decimals out of 70 Decimals, which is butted and bounded by: On the North: Habibullah Gosu, South: 60 feet wide road, East: Billal Garments and Main Uddin and On the West: National Polimar Industries Ltd.

Thanking you,

Saifur Rashid,
 Barrister-at-Law,
 Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh,
 Chamber : 166/1 Mirpur Road Kalabagan, Dhaka, Bangladesh



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Swisscontact is exclusively involved in international development cooperation since 1961 and is active in 25 countries with a workforce of around 800 people. The Foundation's head office is in Zurich. The Swisscontact South Asia Regional Office (SARO), based in Dhaka, Bangladesh has the mandate to develop and maintain the Foundation's portfolio of development projects in South Asia. In order to meet growing needs of SARO, the organisation seeks applications from motivated and capable individuals for Portfolio Development & Communications as per details below.

Position | Associate, Portfolio & Communications
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- Assist in developing concept notes and proposals
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- Assist in updating pipeline matrix

 B. Communications

- Act as the vice coordinator in the Communications Working Group
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Application Details
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