

Hasina nudges US

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Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, was replying to a question about a recent media report on possible "cold relations" between Dhaka and Washington following AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's critical remarks about a US diplomat.

"A problem may arise between two countries but I don't think that the diplomatic relations will come to an end or get worsen. Diplomatic relations will be maintained diplomatically. If any problem arises, that will be accordingly dealt with.

"...Many say that Bangladesh will be finished if America did not stand beside us. But this is not a fact. During our Liberation War, the US government did not give us any support," the PM said.

Referring to her government's foreign policy, Hasina said she did not believe in any East-West policy. "For the economic development of the country, we will deepen our relations with whoever we need and as much as we need. I think about improving the lives of the people first. This I consider my diplomatic success."

She also stressed the need for maintaining friendly relations with all nations.

The PM called the press conference to brief the media about the outcomes of her recent Malaysia visit and the Saarc Summit in Nepal.

Asked about the various problems between Bangladesh and Pakistan, the premier said the government would resolve the issues through dialogues. It is not wise to break diplomatic rela-

tions with any country.

Touching on her visit to Malaysia, she said around 12,000 workers would go to the country under an agreement between the two governments.

Hasina said due to the failure of the 2001-2007 BNP-Jamaat government, about 2.7 lakh workers had become illegal in Malaysia. As a result, the Malaysian government had stopped hiring people from Bangladesh.

After the AL-led government came to power in 2009, it started to work on the matter. So far, the AL government has been able to send 7,000 workers to that country, the PM said.

She called on the people not to enter Malaysia illegally through sea.

Replying to a query on the latest TIB report that said corruption was increasing in Bangladesh, Hasina said her government would verify the report.

However, she added the source of income of those who speak about corruption and how they spend the money would also be investigated. "Accountability is applicable to all."

This year, Bangladesh ranked the 14th most corrupt country, according to the TIB report. Last year, Bangladesh's position was 16th on the graft index.

The PM said military dictators, including late president Ziaur Rahman, brought about corruption in the country.

She also advised that the TIB disclose the names of the sector where corruption was taking place.

Mentioning that "petty corruptions" are commonplace everywhere in the world, Hasina called on the TIB:

"We are in the government. If we have indulged in any corruption, tell us."

PM DEFENDS BIMAN CHAIRMAN
Hasina defended Biman Chairman Air Marshal (ret'd) Jamal Uddin Ahmed, who recently came under fire following the arrests of five people, including three top Biman officials and his alleged godson, in a gold smuggling case.

The premier said the media ran fabricated reports about the Biman boss.

Referring to news reports about Mahbubur Rahman Palash, the alleged godson of Jamal Uddin, she said, "Those reports were rubbish. Where is the truth of the allegations? No truth was found."

Biman insiders recently alleged that Palash, despite holding no post in Biman, used to identify himself as the godson of Jamal Uddin. Also, using the Biman chairman's influence he used to play roles in leasing of Biman and transfer and posting of officials and staff of the national carrier.

But the Biman chairman told The Daily Star that he knew Palash as he was from his home district Comilla, and visited him several times for jobs.

The PM added, "Often, the print media report in such a way that those who are not actually responsible seem guilty."

Those who had link with gold smuggling have been arrested. "Neither the Biman chairman nor anybody else from Biman went to have them released. They have been arrested and all necessary steps are being taken against them -- then why such reports?" she said.

Death toll from Chechnya clashes rises to 24

AFP, Moscow

A total of 14 security officers were killed in clashes earlier this week with Islamist militants in Chechnya's Grozny, the Russian interior ministry said yesterday, bringing the toll from the violence to 24.

"Fourteen policemen died during the counter-terrorism operation in Grozny," Russian agencies quoted a ministry spokesman as saying of the violence on Thursday.

Previously Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee said that 10 police and 10 Islamist rebels were killed as heavily armed gunmen stormed buildings including a school and exchanged fire with security officers.

Twenty-eight policemen were injured, with 12 airlifted for emergency treatment in Moscow. The interior ministry gave no new details on the injured policemen yesterday.

The Thursday attack came on the day President Vladimir Putin gave his state of the nation address, and was seen by analysts as a demonstrative show of force by the insurgency which the Kremlin has spent years attempting to eradicate.

Authorities declared the counter-terrorism operation yesterday after closing off the city centre on Thursday and deploying armed personnel carriers. A local market, a high-rise building housing media and a school were heavily damaged by fire and shooting.

Robber killed

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of "Sabuj Bahini", said Captain Abul Bashar of Barisal Rapid Action Battalion-8.

Sabuj stood accused in several cases including one for murder. He was a listed criminal, police said.

Captain Bashar claimed the gunfight started around 7:00pm near Kawkhali College when a team of Barisal Rab-8 challenged the members of Sabuj Bahini preparing for robbery.

DAD Ruhul Amin of the crime-busting force was injured in the shootout.

The Rab personnel found Sabuj's body lying near the college field. They also recovered a rifle, a revolver, a sharp weapon and five handmade bombs from the spot.

Living for

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three ECG machines," Mushfikur explained.

"We will take action against the doctor following submission of the investigation team's report," he added.

The woman, who was undergoing treatment on the seventh floor of the hospital's new building, had no attendants and was not provided with proper treatment other than an intravenous saline drip and some injections, patients in her ward alleged.

After she moved her limbs, generating quite a buss in and around the hospital, she was hurriedly shifted to a bed at Ward No-802.

"She did not receive any lab test because of her not having an attendant who usually arranges a test. We suggested some tests on her on that night," doctors at the ward told The Daily Star.

DMCH sources said the woman, who was suffering from Malnutrition, was found lying on the footpath when a drive was being carried out on Tuesday to evict illegal, roadside shops adjacent to the emergency unit of the hospital.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Assistant sub-inspector Haider Ali of DMCH police camp said no one came to claim the body till 7:00pm yesterday.

Truck kills

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She died on the spot, Rosul said.

Enraged, locals barricaded the road for around an hour, disrupting the traffic.

The body was handed over to the victim's family after an autopsy, said Hedayet Hossain, sub-inspector of Satkhira Sadar Police Station.

An unnatural death case has been filed.

Fresh protests erupt

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of activists massed in New York's Foley Square, near the city police headquarters shouting "Shut it down" and carrying placards saying "Black Lives Matter" and "Racism Kills."

"We cannot tolerate police impunity. The government has to do something. They have a video showing what happened," said a 40-year-old demonstrator who gave his name only as Jonathan.

Police sealed off the Holland Tunnel, the key road link into New Jersey as US media reported that thousands streamed up the west side of Manhattan, clogging streets in downtown Manhattan and shutting traffic on the Manhattan Bridge heading to Brooklyn.

Another group marched across the Brooklyn Bridge, with a black banner that said "this stops today" and 10 black coffins inscribed with names of people killed by police in different city boroughs.

Hundreds then continued the march through Brooklyn, followed by police but an AFP reporter saw no incidents of unrest.

National controversy over Garner's death and a series of other incidents were fanned further Thursday by a damning US federal investigation which concluded that police in Cleveland routinely employ "excessive force."

Protests in New York have been overwhelmingly peaceful but police arrested 83 people following Wednesday's decision not to press charges in Garner's death.

"We have determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the Cleveland Division of Police engages in a pattern or practice of using excessive force," US Attorney General Eric Holders said.

He blamed this on "systemic deficiencies, including insufficient accountability, inadequate training and equipment, ineffective policies and inadequate engagement with the community."

Holder has said federal civil rights investigations were being held both the death of Brown in Ferguson and Garner in New York.

"In recent days, millions of people throughout the nation have come together -- bound by grief and anguish - in response to the tragic deaths of Michael Brown... and Eric Garner," Holder said.

"And as President Obama and I have indicated, the time has come to do even more."

Obama, America's first black president, briefly addressed the inherent mistrust many black Americans have of police.

"We recognise this is an American problem and not just a black problem or a brown problem," Obama said.

Deadly air raid hits Libya militia on Tunisia border

AFP, Tripoli

An air strike hit a Libyan militia post on the border with Tunisia yesterday, killing one person, as the United Nations warned a spate of bombing raids was damaging peace efforts.

The Libya Shield militia accused forces loyal to the internationally recognised government of carrying out the attack close to the RasJedir border crossing.

"One Libya Shield member was killed and between three and five were wounded," spokesman Hafedh Muammar told AFP.

Libya Shield forms part of the Islamist-backed militia alliance which seized the capital and much of the west in August, forcing the internationally backed government to take refuge in the remote east.

Tunisian defence ministry spokesman Belhassen Oueslati told AFP that the country's air space had not been

violated in the raid but that air force patrols had been stepped up in the border region.

Forces loyal to the government have carried out a series of air strikes in western Libya in recent days, drawing condemnation from the UN mission to the North African country, which said it was undermining its efforts to broker an end to the unrest.

"The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemns in the strongest terms the recent air raids and the escalation in violence in Libya," it said.

"UNSMIL also expresses deep concern at the negative effects the military escalation is having on the process of political dialogue."

The UN mission announced on Wednesday that Special Representative Bernardino Leon will lead a new round of negotiations between the warring parties on December 9.

March plan was on agenda

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Minister for Public Administration Ismat Ara.

As per the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1985, public servants cannot hold meetings with political leaders.

Over 50 public servants attended the meeting at Khaleda's Gulshan office on Thursday, sources said.

They included a joint secretary, three deputy secretaries and a senior assistant secretary -- all officers on special duty (OSD) -- and some personal officers (PO) and administrative

officers (AO).

Secretariat sources said a few former secretaries, including an ex-cabinet secretary, who are under the government's watch, led the group.

The Daily Star got nearly a dozen names, but it refrains from publishing those without verification.

BNP Chairperson's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan told The Daily Star on Thursday night that some 150 serving and former officials were present at the meeting.

Sources said senior BNP leaders, including Fakhru Islam Alamgir,

Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, Sabih Uddin Ahmed, and Maj Gen (ret'd) Fazle Elahi Akbar, defence adviser to the BNP chief, were at the Gulshan office at the time.

Fakhru, acting secretary general of BNP, denies reports of any such meeting.

Back in 2006, some 15 serving public officials who were known to be close to the BNP attended a secret meeting at an office of former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman on the night of November 24, triggering a huge uproar.

Love for maths stands tall

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fitted with multimedia equipment. There are also five computer labs, two libraries and a room each for seminar, hall, and teachers' conference.

Prof Dr Amulya Chandra Mandal, chairman of mathematics department, said the students will be greatly benefited from the new building.

Rezaur Rahman, founding partner of Rahman Rahman Huq, a leading chartered accountancy firm in Dhaka, had set up the AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation in 1985. The organisation supports a wide range of charitable activities. It has been awarding gold medals to DU students for their excellence in maths for the last 17 years.

It also gave away prizes to the students of mathematics department at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi universities in the last few years. The charity also collaborates with Bangladesh Mathematical Society in sponsoring the National Undergraduate Maths Olympiad.

The charity will hold the 18th gold medal awards ceremony today.

THE EARLY DAYS
The story behind the *ganit bhaban* dates

back to 2007 when Rezaur Rahman, chairman of the foundation and elder son of late AF Mujibur Rahman, was moved by a newspaper report that exposed the lack of infrastructure hampering academic activities at the country's premier public university.

"Seeing the news, he [Rezaur] decided to do something. He met the then vice chancellor of the university with the proposal of building the structure. And things then got rolling," said Sayyada R Ghuznavi, acting chairman of the foundation and sister of Rezaur Rahman.

It was Rezaur's forward-looking vision which has made the initiative a reality, she told The Daily Star. He has donated all his properties to the charity which has already spent Tk 20 crore for the *ganit bhaban*.

The reason for picking the mathematics department was Rezaur's late father Abul Faiz Mujibur Rahman.

Born in Gedra of Faridpur, Mujibur was placed first in First Class in his masters exams in pure mathematics at Kolkata University in 1920. He had improved the previous record marks obtained by Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee,

then VC of the university.

Mujibur then joined the Indian Civil Service (ICS) following recommendations from Sir Ashutosh to the ICS selection board.

Sayyada said his brother, now in the UK, planned to get his colleagues and friends involved in charitable activities to improve facilities at other DU departments.

"I think this initiative will inspire other people, particularly the alumni of Dhaka University. Many organisations may also be encouraged to contribute to the university," she added.

Everybody, said the acting chief of the foundation, does not necessarily need to build an eight-storey building. Even supporting an individual could be of big help to a hard-up student.

"We don't like to take individual initiatives thinking that the problem is so grave and therefore, the move would not bring much benefit," she observed.

The troubles, of course, are intimidating, but if we all can do a little at personal level, 25 percent of the problems would be solved, said Sayyada.

Journey through the life

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freely available to the public on the internet.

The archive ranges from charming letters to his future wife Mileva Marić after the birth of their first child to his battle to come to terms with fame and his stance as a pacifist in the wake of the First World War.

But it also highlights his prolific output as a physicist as well as lecture notes, extensive workings and a telegram informing him he had won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1921 for the photoelectric effect.

It includes documents about his most famous equation E=mc2, which said that the energy "stored" in objects is equal to their mass multiplied by the speed of light squared.

The transcribed and translated Digital Einstein Papers take readers on a journey through the life of the genius from 1879 to 1923, when he turned 44 - and anyone with an internet connection can now browse through the archive.

It includes letters from a 22-year-old Einstein to his former classmate Marić, sent to her from Berne in Switzerland, in February 1902.

It reveals his joy at learning of the birth of his daughter.

Writing to his "beloved sweetheart", he asks of baby Lieserl: "Is she healthy and does she already cry properly? What kind of little eyes does she have? Whom of us two does she resemble more? Who is giving her milk? Is she hungry? And so she is completely bald.

I love her so much and I don't even know her yet!

"Couldn't she be photographed once you are totally healthy again? Will she soon be able to turn her eyes toward something?"

In 1903, he wrote to his friend Michele Besso that he was living a "very pleasant, cozy life with my wife".

"She takes excellent care of everything, cooks well, and is always cheerful," he wrote.

The pair would go on to have two sons but Einstein later began an affair with his cousin, Elsa Löwenthal.

In one letter to her on May 7 1912, he writes: "Both of us are poor devils, each shackled to his unrelenting duties. I cannot tell you how sorry I am for you, and how much I would like to be something to you.

"But if we give in to our affection for each other, only confusion and misfortune will result. You know this only too well.

He continues: "I love you. I would be happy if I were allowed to walk a few steps at your side even if only from time to time, or if I could otherwise rejoice in being close to you."

He later married Löwenthal, who had children of her own, after Marić granted a divorce.

In other letters he describes how fame was affecting his personal life, writing that "The postman is my arch-enemy, I cannot shake myself loose from his slavery."

And the scientist, who died at the age of 76, sets out his pacifist stance



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- Toner details and other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

Deputy General Manager
ICT Division



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- Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at the the ICT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban-5th floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited on or before December 18, 2014 by 4:00 P.M., and the tenders will be opened at 4:05 P.M. on the same day in presence of bidders, if any.
- Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

Deputy General Manager
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