

Bangladeshis in Maldives to protest killings of fellow expats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriates in the Maldives have called for a peaceful agitation in front of the Bangladesh high commission today to protest the killings of two Bangladeshis and attacks on two others.

Of the deceased, Shahin Mia, 25, was stabbed to death in a Malé café on Sunday, while another, identified as Bilal, was found dead at a house in Alif Alif Atoll Thoddoo Island the next day.

Bilal's employer found the body at the house where he had been living with three others.

Maldive police said they had not yet found out the motive behind the killings or make any arrest, reports Channel News Maldives.

Besides, in separate incidents, two other Bangladeshis were attacked by unknown criminals in the Haverree Hingun area on Tuesday.

Faisal Ahmed, a Bangladeshi driver in Malé, told BBC Bangla Service that they had been going through turmoil following the recent political violence.

While talking to Channel News Maldives, another Bangladeshi claimed that Maldivians treat Bangladeshis inhumanely and on top of that, attacks on foreigners have seen a sudden rise.

Meanwhile, the country's Department of Immigration and Emigration has warned migrant workers against participating in protests and threatened to cancel their visas, reported Minivan News based in Malé.

But the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives and human rights group Transparency Maldives described the Immigration Department's protest ban as unconstitutional and called on the government to listen to worker's concerns.

Issuing a press release yesterday, the foreign ministry of Bangladesh said Bangladesh High Commissioner in the Maldives Rear Admiral Kazi Sarwar Hossain had a meeting with Maldives President Abdulla Yameen on Wednesday over the issue.

The high commissioner had urged the Bangladeshis to stay calm and cautious, the release added.

According to unofficial figures, around 50,000 to 60,000 Bangladeshis currently live in the country.

Jail killing convict Kismat dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Captain (relieved) Kismat Hashem, who was awarded a life term imprisonment in the historic jail killing case, died in Canada yesterday.

Kismat, 65, died from a cardiac arrest in his house in Montreal city around 6:00am (Bangladesh time), his younger brother Shawkat Hashem, a BNP leader of Narayanganj city, told The Daily Star.

Kismat will be buried in Montreal after Juma prayers today. He left Bangladesh shortly after the brutal jail killing of Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmad, prime minister, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The four leaders had been sent to jail soon after the August 15 bloodbath.

Police headquarters in Dhaka issued an arrest warrant for Kismat through Interpol. Bangladesh foreign ministry also made efforts to bring him back to Dhaka but failed.



A claimant of a 10-katha piece of land in the Gulshan-Niketan Lake in the city's Gulshan had filled this portion of the water body near the Gulshan-Niketan bridge. The claimant had also planted some banana trees there. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha yesterday morning demolished the structures and removed some of the earth. The photo was taken near Niketon Gate yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Standoff hurts economic progress

Nisha Biswal on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States has said the violent political impasse in Bangladesh impedes the economic progress that will be needed to lift more than 60 million people out of extreme poverty.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Deshai Biswal said this on Tuesday in Washington DC while making her statement on the US Rebalance in South Asia: Foreign Aid and Development Priorities before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Asia and the Pacific.

Nisha said the International Monetary Fund last week blamed the political disruptions in its reduced growth projection for Bangladesh.

The US diplomat said Bangladesh had the potential to become a model of a modern, prosperous, strong, and inclusive country that connects the economies of South and Southeast Asia.

But to seize the potential to be the model, it will require a reversal of negative governance trends, as well as political leadership that eschews violence, she added.

Cornered BNP vs upbeat AL

FROM PAGE 1

commissioner had raised these issues, but did not get any positive response from the CEC, a delegation member told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The city polls will be a respite for our leaders and workers who have been staging agitations for long. If we can win the polls, it will inspire our leaders and workers to intensify the anti-government agitation," said Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, a BNP standing committee member.

"But we are in trouble because of the cases filed against our leaders. Many leaders facing cases may not be able to work freely for the party-backed mayoral candidates. We may even face difficulties finding polling agents due to the cases," he said.

Zafrullah Chowdhury, who was in the delegation, said the BNP must overcome these challenges. "The BNP should put pressure on the Election Commission so it prevents law enforcement agencies from harassing party leaders and workers during the election."

He said they requested the CEC to take steps to ensure the release of BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who has been behind bars since January 6.

"Fakhrul's release will give BNP leaders and activists a sense of security," Zafrullah added.

Mahbubur Rahman said: "We must bargain with the Election Commission on ensuring a level playing field and free movement of our leaders."

Khandker Mahbub Hossain, an adviser to the BNP chief, however, hopes the BNP men who are on the run will appear in public once the campaign starts.

"If police harass our candidates and supporters during the election, we will get public sympathy for it," he said.

He added the BNP would keep putting pressure on the EC so that the police refrained from harassing BNP men during the city polls.

Meanwhile, Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said they would take legal action

against the fugitive accused if they participated in the polls process without securing bails.

AL UPBEAT
The AL camp is all smiles. The party is in power; its leaders have no worries about any cases. They are focusing on electioneering for their mayoral candidates.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL president, is personally monitoring the party's polls-related activities, sources said.

On Wednesday night, she held a meeting with Dhaka city AL leaders and instructed them to work for the party-backed mayor contenders in the April 28 city election. She is likely to sit with thana and ward-level AL leaders at Gono Bhaban today to boost the grassroots' morale.

Intelligence agencies have already prepared reports on the party's probable councillor candidates while the Dhaka city AL and its other front organisations submitted their own lists of aspirants to the party high command. The AL election coordinating committees would finalise names

from the lists, added the sources.

Party insiders said Hasina may announce today the names of councillor candidates to be backed by her party in the 93 wards of the two Dhaka city corporations.

Besides, Chhatra League, AL's student wing, has moved to form committees for each of the 12,098 polling stations in the capital for campaigning for the AL-sponsored mayor aspirants.

Faruk Khan, international affairs secretary of the AL, said they were finalising the councillor candidates through discussions and considering their popularity and acceptability.

The party will pick one candidate from each ward, said Faruk, also chief of an election coordinating committee in the city.

Abul Basher, president of Ramna thana AL, said initially several councillor hopefuls had started campaigning, thinking the BNP would not run.

"Now the scenario has changed and the Awami League is serious about the polls and has made all-out efforts to select single candidates," he said.

Golam Ashraf Talukder, president of Motijheel thana AL, said, "The party's main problem is fighting with city leaders. But if we all work together for the party-backed candidates, we can easily pull off victory."

In Chittagong, AL leaders are redesigning their polls strategies to take on incumbent Mayor M Manjur Alam Manju, who has been endorsed by local BNP as their mayor candidate.

Contacted, Ishak Miah, convener of the 501-member committee formed for running the AL-backed mayor contender AZM Nasir Uddin's election campaign, said, "We are united to work for the win of our candidate no matter who the BNP-backed candidate is."

Meanwhile, Mahi B Chowdhury, joint secretary general of Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh, yesterday collected nomination paper to run for mayor in Dhaka North City Corporation.

Sarwar Morshed, a supporter of Mahi, bought the form on his behalf.

As of yesterday, 50 mayor and 1,885 councillor aspirants bought nomination forms.

Homage to martyrs

FROM PAGE 1

The Pakistan occupation forces began a brutal crackdown on the Bangalees on the Black Night of March 25, 1971, killing thousands of unarmed civilians and forcing the Bangalees to take up arms against them.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence before the Pakistani army arrested him in the early hours of March 26.

After a nine-month bloody war, Bangladesh won victory on December 16 the same year at a cost of three million lives.

Yesterday was a public holiday. The Independence Day's programmes began with gun salutes at the National Parade Ground at dawn.

President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation in commemorating the day by placing wreaths on the altar of the National Memorial in Savar around

6:00am, reports UNB.

They stood there in solemn silence for some time as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs, while a contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Navy and the Air Force presented state salute.

The chief justice, speaker, deputy speaker, deputy leader of parliament, ministers, advisers to the prime minister, state ministers, the chiefs of the three services, diplomats, high civil and military officials, and freedom fighters were also present.

Leaders and activists of the Awami League, BNP and other political parties also placed wreaths there.

President Abdul Hamid signed the visitor's book.

The premier, also chief of the AL, placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi.

Hasina attended a children's rally

at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the morning. She also released a commemorative postage stamp at the Gono Bhaban.

President Hamid and Prime Minister Hasina issued separate messages greeting the people.

In his message, the president said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of transforming Bangladesh into Sonar Bangla and the present government has taken up Vision-2021 to materialise the dream.

"It is my expectation that people from all strata would contribute to building an IT-based happy and prosperous Bangladesh through implementing the vision by the golden jubilee celebration of our independence," he added.

Hasina said independence is the greatest achievement of the Bangalee nation, and all have to know the true history of the Liberation War and

retain the spirit of the independence.

The national flag was hoisted atop government and private buildings while the government and semi-government buildings and other public places were illuminated on the occasion.

Various socio-political and cultural organisations held discussions, rallies, cultural events in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Gonojagoron Mancha arranged a Swadhinata Concert in front of the National Museum. Films on the Liberation War were screened at the museum; a book fair was arranged on the Public Library premises. The cultural affairs ministry also organised a programme at Swadhinata Stambha in Suhrawardy Udyan.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote arranged a cultural event at Rabindra Sarobar and at Central Shaheed Minar.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi wished Bangladesh on the occasion. A Bangla message from him termed Bangladesh an "enduring and important friend" of India.

The most popular search engine, Google, outlaid its cover page with green and red, depicting the essence of the country's independence.

In a joint initiative, Information and Communication Technology Division, Bangladesh Computer Council, and Google Developer Group Bangla, added more than 400,000 new Bangla words to Google Translate.

At the memorial, eminent jurist D Kamal Hossain said their dream in 1971 was to establish a liberal, corruption-free, democratic society, which is yet to be done.

"No individual or a family is owner of the country, but the people own it. We dream of a country for the people and ruled by the people," he observed.

Cup to go down under

FROM PAGE 1

India were bowled out for 233 in reply despite an opening stand of 76 between openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan and a typically defiant run-a-ball 65 from captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

James Faulkner finished with three for 59, while left-arm fast bowlers Mitchell Johnson and Mitchell Starc claimed two wickets each.

Australia will take on tournament co-hosts New Zealand in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

The four-time champions, who last won the title in 2007, have now won all seven World Cup semifinals they have contested since the inaugural edition in 1975.

India will rue a missed opportunity after an impressive campaign earlier in the tournament when they won all seven matches, piling up 300 or more runs each time they batted first and bowled out their rivals in every game.

But they failed to dismiss Australia as in-form seamer Mohammed Shami went for 68 runs in 10 wicketless overs and Umesh Yadav conceded 72 runs in nine overs for his four wickets.

"I feel really excited. Smithy was exceptional once again, and I was really proud of the execution of our bowlers," said Australia cap-

tain Michael Clarke.

Dhoni admitted the lower-order batting had let the side down.

"Overall Australia played very good cricket. Over 300 is a very big score to chase, but I thought it was just over par," said Dhoni.

"Our lower order really needs to work hard on their batting."

A sell-out crowd of some 42,000 at the SCG were treated to good cricket on a grassless, even-paced wicket that enabled batsmen to play shots freely.

Smith and Finch shared a second-wicket stand of 182 before India hit back with quick wickets as the hosts stumbled from 191 for one in the 35th over to 248 for five in the 43rd.

But Shane Watson (28), James Faulkner (21 off 12 balls) and Mitchell Johnson (27 not out off nine) helped Australia plunder 57 runs in the last five overs to ensure they went past the 300-run mark.

Teams batting second had won nine of the last 12 one-day internationals at the SCG and a 10th victory appeared on the cards after Dhawan and Sharma gave India a sound start.

Dhawan was reprieved by Brad Haddin in the fourth over when the wicketkeeper dived to his left to hold the edge off Josh Hazlewood, but the ball spilled out of his glove.

Sharma celebrated his partner's luck by

hooking Johnson for a six and Dhawan welcomed Faulkner to the attack in the 10th over with two boundaries and a glorious six over mid-wicket.

The entertaining stand ended in the 13th over when Dhawan stepped out to loft Hazlewood and skied a catch to Glenn Maxwell fielding at deep cover.

Dhawan's 45 off 41 balls contained six boundaries and a six.

India were hit by a second blow two overs later when star batsman Virat Kohli miscued a pull off a Johnson bouncer and was easily snapped up by Haddin for just one run.

The dismissal continued the Indian vice-captain's lean run in the tournament where 46 against South Africa was his best effort after a match-winning century against Pakistan.

India were reduced to 108 for four in the 23rd over as Johnson bowled Sharma off the pads for 34 and Suresh Raina was caught behind by Haddin off Faulkner for seven.

Dhoni and Ajinkya Rahane added 70 for the fifth wicket but the skipper saw his partner edging Starc for 44 before Ravindra Jadeja was run out for 16 by a direct throw from Smith.

India's fate was sealed when Dhoni himself was run out in the 45th over as Maxwell broke the stumps with a smart throw from mid-wicket.

সঠিক রেজিস্ট্রেশন ব্যতীত মোবাইল সংযোগ-এর ব্যবহার

গুরুতর অন্যায্য

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* SMS চার্জ নশ্বরুটি
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