

UN chief's call to Hasina was with urge for political congeniality

Ban Ki-moon's spokesperson explains to media in New York

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday to urge her to find a political way forward between all the parties in Bangladesh, the UN chief's spokesperson has said.

Addressing the daily press briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday, Stephane Dujarric said, "The Secretary-General, I think, expressed his opinion in the way we've been expressing it here, which is to call to find a political way forward between all the parties in Bangladesh."

He made the remarks following a query what the UN chief had exactly told Hasina after the recent city polls in Bangladesh.

"You know, we do not have a readout to share," he added.

During Friday's phone conversation, the UN chief said BNP's participation in the recently held Dhaka and Chittagong city polls was relieving, but expressed concern over the party's withdrawal from the election midway through the polls, reported news agencies.

In response, Hasina told Ban that there was no scope to raise any question over the credibility of elections, as an average of "44 percent of the votes were cast".

Norway world's best place to be a mother

AFP, United Nations

Norway ranks as the world's best place to be a mother, well ahead of the United States which dropped to the 33rd spot in the annual scorecard released by Save the Children.

Somalia is the worst place, just below the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

Cities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe have the highest gap for child survival, with poor children three to five times more likely to die than their affluent peers.

Save the Children released its 16th annual Mothers' Index, which rates 179 countries based on five indicators related to maternal health, education, income levels and the status of women.

BPDB makes new record of daily power generation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) broke its previous record by producing the highest volume of electricity in a single day by generating 7,658 megawatt at 9:00pm (peak hour) on Monday.

The previous record was made on April 16 by generating 7,571 megawatt, said a press release.

Khaleda

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during yesterday's hearing. The judge came up with the orders after Talukder submitted four petitions to the court in the two corruption cases.

Among those, two were non-appearance pleas that claimed Khaleda could not appear in the court due to "security reasons". The other two sought adjournment of complainant's statement recording. The first two pleas were granted. However, the court did not pass any order on the others.

According to the statements of the cases, Khaleda appeared before the court on only eight out of total 65 hearing dates.

Counsels for two other accused -- Kazi Saleemul Haque Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed -- yesterday completed cross-examining the plaintiff of the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case. The court also recorded statement of the complainant of the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

On April 5, the court granted bail to Khaleda on condition that she will be present during each of the next hearings in the cases.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the cases in 2008 and 2011. According to the charge sheet in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on papers.

The statement of the other case said Khaleda and three others abused their power during the 1991-1996 tenure of the then BNP-led government to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust.

BURDWAN BLAST PROBE NIA, Bangladesh police share info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of India's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) met top police officials in Dhaka yesterday and shared information on absconding JMB men charge-sheeted in the sensational Burdwan blast case.

"We also shared evidence of the three fugitive Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh operatives' involvement in the blast," said one of the Bangladeshi police officials after the meeting at the police headquarters. He wished anonymity as he was not allowed to talk to the media about the outcome of the meeting.

Earlier, India's home and external affairs ministries had made formal requests to Bangladesh for handing over the information and evidence to them.

The official at the police headquarters said the evidence was important for the NIA to prove the charges, pressed against the accused, in the court which would conduct the Burdwan blast trial "soon".

The three-member NIA team, led by Inspector General Sanjib Kumar Sinha, may meet the Rapid Action Battalion high-ups today, said a high official of the Rab, the elite force that leads the counter-terrorism operations in the country.

Relief effort intensifies

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The quake also killed more than 100 people in India and China.

The Nepalese government has warned that the final toll is likely to be much higher as rescue teams are only now beginning to access remote areas in the Himalayan nation which were among the worst affected.

US military helicopters began reconnaissance trips on Monday to assess the damage in remote areas and are expected to shortly begin delivering relief supplies and airlift casualties. Dhakal said relief operations could carry on for weeks, if not months.

"There are so many people who have been displaced and so many people who have lost their homes and barely living under thin sheets and tent structures," he said.

While the government has set aside 20 billion rupees (around \$196 million) for a reconstruction and rehabilitation fund, it is also looking for large-scale financial assistance from the international community.

Meanwhile, the number of EU citizens missing in the massive Nepal earthquake has fallen dramatically to around 60 from about 1,000 last week, European sources said Monday.

Thirteen Europeans are confirmed dead, the source said.

The EU's ambassador to Kathmandu had given the earlier figure of 1,000 missing citizens during a briefing on Friday in Nepal.

Fund collection

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Jasim was arrested from a relative's house around 3:00am yesterday. When he was paraded before the media around 2:45pm, he was walking with crutches.

The additional DIG claimed Jasim was shot in the leg by his cohorts while escaping after the heist and also sustained splinter injuries from the blasts they had carried out.

When journalists asked Jasim why he had participated in the robbery, he said: "I did this for the sake of religion."

It was he who stabbed the manager inside the bank and an elderly outside while locals were chasing the robbers, he said.

He fled on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and went to his in-law's house in Savar's Ashulia. After a couple of days there, Jasim, who hails from

Death or life term

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Repression Prevention (Special) Act] 1995 was amended in 2000 under the title Prevention of Oppression against Women and Children Act 2000.

Section 34(2) of the 2000 act, which had allowed trial and punishment of the offenders under the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Special) Act 1995, has been cancelled following the apex court judgment, they said.

Sections 6(3) and 6(4) of the 1995 law were also declared unconstitutional by the top court.

The provision of section 6(3) said if multiple people in group rape a child or woman, they will be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

Section 6(4) said if multiple people in group cause death of a child or woman after committing rape, they will be sentenced to death.

Asked about the consequences of the cases and sentences given to the accused under the scrapped provisions of 1995 law, the attorney general said it would be known after the SC releases the full verdict.

not release the full judgment.

Following a writ petition, the HC on March 2, 2010, declared section 6(2) of the 1995 law illegal and unconstitutional, saying that death penalty could not be the only punishment for any crime as per the constitutional provision.

The writ petition was filed with the HC jointly by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a rights organisation, and Sukur Ali of Manikganj, a condemned convict, challenging legality of the act.

The HC on March 2, 2010, also stayed the execution of death sentence of Sukur Ali, son of Hashem Mondal of Manikganj. He was given capital punishment under the section in a rape and murder case filed in 1999. Sukur was 12-year-old then.

On July 12, 2001, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Special Tribunal of Manikganj awarded capital punishment to Sukur Ali, now in Dhaka Central Jail.

Later, Sukur filed an appeal with the HC against the trial court verdict. But the HC on February 25, 2004, upheld the judgment of the trial court and the Appellate Division also upheld the HC verdict on February 23, 2005.

In 2010, BLAST and Sukur Ali filed two separate appeals with the SC seeking cancellation of his detention and death sentence.

Later on, 10 similar convicts filed separate appeals with the SC challenging the HC verdicts that upheld their death sentences.

Nazneen Nahar, a lawyer for BLAST, told The Daily Star that her client would be released from jail as their appeal had been allowed by the apex court.

Annisul gets

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The mayors-elect of Dhaka north, south and Chittagong city corporations are expected to take oath of office soon.

Under the project, roads, footpaths and sewers in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara will be reconstructed and revamped.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said there had been no construction and reconstruction of roads, sewers and footpaths in the three neighbourhoods under development projects.

"The area remains waterlogged as most of the roads, sewers and footpaths are dilapidated. Foreign diplomats also live there. That's why the government has taken up the project," he said.

"Annisul Huq is a dynamic individual. This project would be a test case for him. If he can implement it properly, more such developments initiatives would be taken up for the area in future," added the minister.

The Ecnc approved Khan Jahan Ali Airport project in Rampal of Bagerhat to be implemented at a cost of Tk 544 crore.

Construction of Mahipal flyover along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at a cost of Tk 158 crore and construction of a 478.171-metre-long PC girder bridge over the Small Feni River along the Sonagazi-Olamabazar-Chardarbeshpur-Companiganj road at a cost of Tk 73 crore got the nod from the committee.

Six more projects worth Tk 1,910 crore were endorsed by the Ecnc yesterday.

2 'robbers'

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according to police. As soon as the law enforcers reached the spot, the criminals started firing on them. The law enforcers retaliated, triggering a "gunfight", said Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi Police Station.

After the "gunfight", police found two bodies on the spot and those were sent to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy. Police claimed that a pistol, rifle and three bullets were recovered from the scene.

EC to probe

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instances of assault had been reported, and identify the perpetrators of the offences.

Besides, the committees will make recommendations on how to prevent such incidents in future, the document said.

"We have formed the committees today (Tuesday). We will send letters to the officials, who will work in it (committees), tomorrow," EC Secretary Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

The probe bodies have been asked to submit their reports to the EC within one month, he added.

The commission has taken the initiative to probe assaults on journalists following news reports in different media.

On Monday, a senior assistant secretary of the EC was seen compiling news reports on journalists' harassments. The compilation was later placed before senior officials of the EC.

At least 10 journalists were assaulted by the ruling party men during polling hours on April 28, according to news reports.

Some reporters were robbed of their mobile phones, handbags and cash. Polling officers, law enforcers and the ruling party men allegedly prevented reporters from entering polling centres.

Alien sounds

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That helped get the first infrasound recordings ever taken at such altitudes, according to Daniel Bowman, the University of North Carolina student who captured the sounds.

Bowman described the sounds as "like the X-Files", and scientists aren't sure where they came from.

Current guesses include sound from a wind farm, the ocean, wind or vibrations from cables on the balloon, according to Live Science.

The scientists will be sending more devices up as part of the 2015 run of the project, and hope that they can learn more then.

"I was surprised by the sheer complexity of the signal," Bowman told Live Science. "I expected to see a few little stripes."

Bowman hopes that the recordings will be able to revive interest in infrasound recordings, which haven't been made in the stratosphere for 50 years.

Land deal now on track

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by at least half of the members of the state legislatures of West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya before it comes into effect.

The clearing of the bill by the cabinet came a day after the top leadership of the BJP and the RSS discussed the issue with their Assam leaders on Monday night. They decided to include Assam, sensing if the bill excludes the state, it would have no chance of passage in Rajya Sabha, where the BJP lacks majority.

The bill's approval indicates the BJP government's resolve to get it cleared in parliament, bringing all parties on board, say analysts.

According to diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi, if the bill is passed, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi might visit Bangladesh sometime next month.

Modi had earlier indicated that he would visit Dhaka when one of the two pending issues --- Teesta water sharing agreement and the LBA -- would be deliverable.

After the cabinet cleared the bill yesterday morning, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met Rajya Sabha Chairman Md Hamid Ansari to inform him that the government wants to take up the bill in Rajya Sabha today, said sources.

Swaraj later told Ghulam Nabi Azad, leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, and Anand Sharma, deputy leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha, that the bill would include Assam along with West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Azad and Sharma then talked to Congress President Sonia Gandhi about it, after which the party decided to support the bill.

Contacted, Sharma said, "It is our bill. We supported it only when Assam was included. We had made it clear that we will oppose the exclusion of Assam from the bill tooth and nail. With Assam now included, we have no problem with the bill. We will support it."

In her reaction, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said her government supported the LBA with Bangladesh as people wanted it.

She sought a package from the Centre for rehabilitation of those to be affected in exchange of adversely-held enclaves.

"With [rehabilitation] package, we are supporting it [agreement]," Mamata told reporters in Jalpaiguri.

Meanwhile, the Assam government said it is going ahead with the LBA with full support of the residents of Karimganj and Dhubri districts where the protocol will be implemented.

"If we do not have support of the local people, we cannot get anything forcefully. But we have full backing of the people of Karimganj and Dhubri districts," Assam's Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Subhash Chandra Das told reporters in Guwahati.

The passage of the LBA will correct the haphazard drawing of the Radcliffe Line that separated West Bengal and then East Pakistan in 1947.

Following Bangladesh's independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi signed the

agreement on May 16, 1974. But its ratification has been due for more than 41 years.

Once ratified, it will bring an end to the miseries of the people living in the landlocked enclaves without citizenship over decades.

According to the LBA protocol signed during then Indian PM Manmohan Singh's Dhaka visit in September 2011, people living in border areas will not be dislocated and all areas of economic activity relevant to homestead will be preserved.

Recently, there was confusion and uncertainty after the BJP moved to exclude Assam from the LBA amid Assam BJP's strong opposition to the state's inclusion in it. The Assam BJP apprehended that the state's inclusion could ruin its chances in the next Assembly elections.

But the Congress Party opposed the move, and warned it would resist tabling the bill in Rajya Sabha if Assam is not included in the LBA bill. Congress is in power in Assam and has majority in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian parliament.

FACTS ABOUT LBA

The LBA has three components. One is un-demarcated land boundary of approximately 6.1 km in three sectors in Bangladesh's Nilphamari and India's West Bengal, Muhuri River in Bangladesh's Feni and Belonia in India's Tripura, and Lathitila-Dumabari in Bangladesh's Moulvibazar and India's Assam.

The other two are exchange of 162 enclaves and over 5,000 acres of adversely possessed land.

India will transfer 111 enclaves with 17,158 acres of land and a population of 37,369. The enclaves are spread across four districts in Bangladesh -- 12 in Kurigram, 59 in Lalmonirhat, four in Nilphamari and 36 in Panchagarh.

The 51 Bangladeshi enclaves, all located in Cooch Behar of West Bengal, have 7,110 acres of land and population of 14,215.

Once the exchange is done, Bangladesh will have a net gain of around 10,000 acres of land.

The exchange of enclaves will fulfil a major humanitarian need to mitigate the hardships that the enclaves' inhabitants had to endure for over six decades for lack of basic amenities and facilities.

In respect of adversely possessed land, India will get 2,777,038 acres and transfer 2,267,682 acres to Bangladesh.

Le Pen suspended from own far-right party

AFP, Nanterre

France's National Front founder Jean-Marie Le Pen was suspended from the far-right party his daughter Marine now leads after a disciplinary hearing Monday.

Patience with the 86-year-old rabble-rouser has run thin within the party in recent weeks after he reiterated his view that the Nazi gas chambers were merely a "detail of history" and made comments about defending the "white world".

About time for a Shakib

FROM PAGE 16

first Test and they were quite successful as the left-arm spinner conceded 146 runs for one wicket in 37 overs in the first innings and most importantly struggled with his line and length.

Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur however, was still looking forward to his best bowler ahead of the last Test, which he dubbed as a 'final' for them.

"Yes there is a little bit of a concern [with Shakib's poor bowling in the first Test]. He is the best bowler in the team, so we may not be happy to see him getting one or two wickets because we always expect that he will get five or six wickets. Shakib has a very good record in Mirpur. I am eagerly waiting to see him at his best and it will be our Test if

he can do well in both batting and bowling," said Mushfiqur.

Shakib knows better than most about how to come back from a dip in form and he can also take inspiration from his impressive bowling record at this venue. Shakib is the highest wicket-taker here with 43 scalps from 12 Tests and the left hander is also the highest run-getter in Mirpur with 956.

This "Team Bangladesh" may not depend on any individual as everybody looks hungry for success and the brand of cricket this team has been playing only raises the expectations, but still some 'Shakib magic' can add more flavour to the success and make sure Pakistan leave empty-handed.

Islami Bank

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NOTICE FOR PROFIT DISTRIBUTION OF MUDARABA PERPETUAL BOND (IBBLPBOND) FOR 2014

This is for kind information of the valued Mudaraba Perpetual Bond (IBBLPBOND) holders of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited that the Record Date for entitlement of profit for the year 2014 was 16th April, 2015 and profit will be distributed within 30 days from the date of AGM of the Bank which is scheduled to be held on 13th June, 2015. Profit will be distributed on the basis of written option provided by the bondholders in the following manner:

1. By remitting profit into the bondholder's account through banking channel.
- or
2. By issuing Profit Warrant in the name, address and bank details of the bondholders as provided in the BO account.

Mudaraba Perpetual Bondholders are requested to provide their written option to the Bond Department on the above issue within 17th May, 2015.

Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) bondholders are also requested to provide their Local Currency Bank Account Number (with Bank Certificate, copy of BO Setup and attested copy of Power of Attorney) to the Bond Department within 17th May, 2015 to get Profit Warrant mentioning that Bank Account.

Date: Dhaka, 6th May, 2015

Abu Reza Md. Yeahia
Company Secretary

Contact Center

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