

# Boost cooperation

PM urges at the opening of meeting on South-South summit

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has laid importance on close network to share information, knowledge, experience and technology among countries for achieving the post-2015 development goals through effective south-south cooperation.

Hasina yesterday said this while inaugurating a high-level meeting on "South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer".

As the current president of the United Nations General Assembly High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, she said Bangladesh was strongly committed to the critical and innovative mode of development cooperation.

The Economic Relations Division, the Ministry of Finance in partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the UNDP organised the two-day meeting at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

The event brought together ministers, senior officials and practitioners both from the south and the north for discussions on how South-South and triangular cooperation could be better

oriented towards the attainment of internationally agreed upon post-2015 development goals.

Hasina said the post-2015 development agenda would be adopted this year as the guiding global policy to ensure the sustainable development of all nations in the world.

South-South Cooperation is ever expanding, and with the passage of time, it encompasses new areas of cooperation, she said hoping that Dhaka meeting would contribute to shaping the post-2015 development agenda through which both the south and the north would come together for their mutual benefit.

With Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN and President of UNGA High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation AK Abdul Momen. Envoy of the Ambassador in UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation Yiping Zhou also spoke on the occasion. Economic Relations Division Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin gave the welcome address.

Messages from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and President of UN General Assembly Sam Kutesa were read out in the meeting.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall at the two-day international summit titled "South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer" at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

## HILARIOUS!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of ruling Awami League and its front organisations held a protest rally against popular writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal for his remarks on Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy at the Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet on Saturday.

Dubbing Iqbal a "blogger", they demanded he be declared persona non grata in Sylhet. While calling for his punishment, they also hurled invectives at the writer who is a professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Interestingly enough, when journalists talked with activists, who were tearing into Iqbal, many of them were found to have had no idea about what the professor had actually said and in which context.

When a local online newspaper, Sylhet Today 24, approached one such activist, he started declaiming, terming him "a black sheep" and went on to bash him for his remark.

But when asked about what Iqbal had actually said, he started again in the same dramatic tone but soon paused with a wide grin to admit, "That I don't know."

The video footage of the activist went viral and social media was flooded with criticism from various quarters.

In a recent Reuters report on Avijit killing, Joy was quoted as saying, "We don't want to be seen as atheists. It doesn't change our

core beliefs. We believe in secularism. But given that our opposition party plays that religion card against us relentlessly, we can't come out strongly for him. It's about perception, not about reality."

On Wednesday, Prof Zafar Iqbal said the country's fundamentalists would be encouraged to commit more murders following Joy's comments.

His comment came at a human chain at SUST a day after suspected Islamist militants hacked to death blogger Ananta Bijoy Das in Sylhet.

Earlier on May 9, local lawmaker Mahmud Us Salamad Chowdhury had come down heavily on him.

During a meeting at Fenchuganj, Mahmud had called him "one lakh percent idiot" and said Iqbal did not want the people of Sylhet to get enrolled in SUST.

"The people of Sylhet worship him [Prof Iqbal] every day with nice flowers and sandalwood. If I were in a higher position, I would have whipped him," he said.

His comment stirred negative reaction on social media. Even Ananta in his last Facebook post criticised the lawmaker for his comment on Prof Iqbal.

Although held under the banner of "Sylhetbashi", Saturday's protest rally was allegedly organised by Mahmud's supporters to launch a smear campaign against the professor, party sources wishing anonymity said.

## KL presses Myanmar

FROM PAGE 1

Nearly 3,000 such migrants have swum to shore or been rescued off Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand over the past week.

All three nations along with Myanmar are among the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Along with criticism of recipient nations, attention is increasingly being focused on Myanmar's much-criticised treatment of its Muslim ethnic Rohingya minority -- which is blamed for fuelling the mass migration.

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday pointed the finger squarely at Myanmar.

"We want their [Rohingya] influx to be brought under control before it becomes a big burden to [Malaysia]," he said, according to Bernama.

He also took a swipe at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) which earlier criticised the boat push-backs, saying the agency "is not that effective".

Anifah will host Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and their Thai counterpart Tanasak Patimapragorn for talks in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday in response to the migrant crisis, a foreign ministry official said.

Recently arrived migrants have recounted grim stories of people dying at sea of starvation, sickness or drowning when rickety boats sank.

Migrants rescued from a sinking boat off Indonesia have told the BBC that about 100 people died after a fight broke out over the last remaining food.

Survivors told of horrific conditions. Three men separately said people were stabbed, hanged or thrown overboard.

The 700 rescued migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh are being processed by the Indonesian authorities.

Thousands of migrants are estimated to be adrift in South East Asian waters, denied permission to land.

The BBC's Martin Patience, who spoke to some of the survivors in the Indonesian port of Langsa, cautions

that their accounts cannot be verified.

However, three migrants made similar statements in separate conversations.

If true, the claims will add to the growing international pressure on Asian countries to find a solution to this crisis, our correspondent says.

The migrants had wanted to land in Malaysia but say they were driven away by the Malaysian navy.

The boat had reportedly been at sea for two months and had been recently deserted by its crew when it was rescued by Indonesian fishermen on Friday.

The survivors are now being sheltered in warehouses on the shore in Langsa. Many are suffering from malnutrition and dehydration.

On Saturday, the Myanmar government said it was not responsible for the migrant boat crisis and said it might not attend a forthcoming summit on the issue.

Myanmar has previously steadfastly refused to discuss the issue in regional forums. It considers Rohingya to be illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, denying them citizenship, and disavows responsibility for them.

It has already said it may snub an invitation from Thailand to attend the May 29 meeting there to address the crisis.

Rohingya Muslims have been fleeing Buddhist-majority Myanmar - also known as Burma - because they are not recognised as citizens and face persecution.

Many of the Bangladeshis at sea are thought to be economic migrants.

Early yesterday, there were reported to be at least five people-smuggling boats, carrying up to 1,000 migrants, moored just off the northern coast of Myanmar.

Because Thailand and Malaysia are stopping the boats landing, the smugglers are now reluctant to make the journey but are refusing to release those on board unless ransoms are paid, says the BBC's Jonah Fisher in Myanmar's main city, Yangon (Rangoon).

## Kadar gets justice

FROM PAGE 1

Laxmipur Government Mahila College, told this correspondent, "I have got justice, finally."

Before delivering the judgment, the court cancelled Helal's bail, declared him a fugitive, and issued a conviction warrant against him.

The sentence will take effect from the day of the convict's arrest or surrender.

In the judgment, the magistrate said the charge against the accused for voluntarily causing injuries by dangerous weapons was "proved beyond doubt", and he was given "the maximum punishment" for committing the offence.

In the early hours of July 16, 2011, some plainclothes policemen from Khilgaon Police Station stopped Kadar at Segunbagicha while he was returning to his dormitory, Fazlul Huq Hall, from a relative's house in the capital's Eskaton area.

They beat Kadar, then a DU student of biochemistry and molecular biology, with sticks, according to the statement of the case filed by Kadar in January 2012.

"When I asked them the reason for beating me even though I introduced myself as a DU student, they became furious and took me to Khilgaon Police Station."

"Around 10:00am, OC Helal Uddin took me to his office room and forced me to admit to various crimes I had not committed," read the statement.

The OC then beat Kadar, leaving him injured in the back, legs and other parts of his body. At one stage, the police officer stabbed him in the left leg with a knife.

Later, two cases were filed against him -- one for robbery and the other for possession of an illegal firearm -- with the police station. He was shown arrested in another false case filed with Mohammadpur Police Station for carjacking.

As the facts gradually came to light through media reports, there was a huge public outcry for bringing the culprits to justice.

Taking into cognisance a report of The Daily Star, the High Court directed the government and the police authorities to launch special probes into the matter.

Following the directive, OC Helal, sub-inspector Alam Badsha and assistant sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman were suspended in July 2011.

Kadar was released on bail on August 3 the same year. Later, three courts acquitted him in all three false cases.

On January 23, 2012, Kadar filed the case with Khilgaon Police Station against Helal for torturing him in custody and implicating him falsely in three criminal cases.

Kadar mentioned that he had filed the case on the suggestions of the probe committee formed by the law ministry and an HC order on December 11, 2011.

After the filing of the case, Helal surrendered before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that sent him to jail.

Police carried out an investigation into the matter, and pressed charges against him on March 26, 2012. The court framed charges against him on October 1 the same year.

Helal secured bail from the HC, and appeared before the magistrate's court regularly. He, however, didn't show up at the court yesterday.

**KADAR'S REACTION**  
"I am very satisfied with the verdict as it has proved that OC Helal did injustice to me," Kadar told The Daily Star over the phone.

He said some policemen like Helal is tarnishing the image of the police force.

"I believe the bad cops will take lessons from the judgment that if they do injustice, they will be punished," he said.

Kadar, who once dreamt of becoming a police officer, said he is quite comfortable with the teaching profession.

He expressed gratitude to the media for unearthing the truth.



Hasina Begum, a rescued migrant Rohingya woman, grieves for her brother at a shelter in Indonesia's Aceh province Saturday. Hasina's brother Abdullah was thrown in the sea after he was killed by some other migrants during a bloody struggle for survival on their boat. PHOTO: AFP

## Two Habiganj war crimes accused face 4 charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday pressed four charges against two "Habiganj Razakars" for their alleged involvement in crimes committed in the district during the Liberation War in 1971.

The charges against Muhibur Rahman Boromian, 65, and Mujibur Rahman Angur Mian, 60, include murder, rape and abduction. The accused are siblings.

According to the prosecution, Muhibur is the former and Mujibur is the incumbent chairman of Khagaura union parishad of Baniachang upazila.

After prosecutors Sultan Mahmud Simon and Tapos Kanti Baul submitted the formal charges through the tribunal's registrar office, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed May 25 for further order in the case.

Meanwhile, the tribunal issued an arrest warrant for one Abdur Razzak of the same district after the prosecution filed a petition seeking the warrant last

week. Sultan Mahmud claimed that the investigation agency found the involvement of Razzak, a cousin of the two siblings, in wartime offences when it was probing the case against the two.

**FORKAN CASE**

The ICT-2 yesterday fixed May 28 for beginning the closing arguments, the last stage before verdict delivery, in the war crimes case against Forkan Mallik, an alleged Razakar from Patuakhali's Mirzaganj's upazila.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed the date on completion of recording the testimony and cross-examination of Mozammel Haque, the fourth defence witness.

Forkan faces five charges of crime, including killing and rape, committed in the district in 1971. However, he has pleaded not guilty.

**ICT-1**

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday granted a prosecution petition for allowing the investigation agency to interrogate three war crimes

suspects from Jessore at the "Safe Home" in Dhaka's Dhanmondi.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim passed the order following the petition moved by Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman.

The suspects are Billal Hossain, Akram Hossain and Ozehar Moral of Keshabpur upazila of Jessore.

Police arrested the trio on Tuesday, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrants for 11 suspects from Jessore following another prosecution petition.

The prosecution said the 11 suspects' involvement in crimes came to their knowledge when the investigation agency was probing the allegations against former lawmaker Sakhawat Hossain.

The prosecution yesterday also submitted a progress report on the investigation in the case against Sakhawat and following a time petition, the tribunal asked the prosecution to submit the formal charges or report again on June 21.