



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attends a meeting during the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in Shima of Japan yesterday. Right, Hasina talks to David Cameron as world leaders wait for the "Outreach Session" family photo at the G7 Summit. Obama arrives last for the session.



PHOTO: PID/ AFP

Be generous to poorer nations

FROM PAGE 1

a very crucial time.

According to the foreign secretary, Hasina pointed out her government's stride to provide quality health service at grassroots level saying that investment in health sector has a long term impact on development.

"Bangladesh's community health centres can be a role model at rural level across the globe," she said.

The premier called for giving priority on women's participation and empowerment at national level, their financial emancipation and their

rights and dignity in the society.

The foreign secretary said the PM had a good interaction with world leaders including US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the UN secretary general and IFM head after the meeting.

The PM's principal secretary said the G7 leaders took poverty eradication as a big agenda since the Bangladesh premier raised the issue at the G7 outreach meeting in 2001.

DHAKA, LONDON TO WORK TOGETHER British Prime Minister David

Cameron yesterday expressed his country's willingness to be part of Bangladesh's success stories.

He was in a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of G7 outreach meeting in Nagoya.

"The British premier told our prime minister that the UK wants to be part of Bangladesh's success stories," Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque told a news briefing after the two premiers met at hotel Shima Kanko.

He said the two leaders discussed

various bilateral and global issues and agreed to work together.

The issues of bilateral trade and investment largely dominated their meeting. The British premier highly lauded the development model of Bangladesh.

"On the very outset of the meeting, Sheikh Hasina narrated successive achievements of Bangladesh and background history of achieving 7.05 percent economic growth rate," the foreign secretary added.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Press

Secretary Ihsanul Karim and Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rabab Fatima were present at the meeting.

The British PM expressed satisfaction over the progress in cooperation between Bangladesh and Britain in aviation security.

Shahidul said Cameron was curious to know about Bangladesh leader's viewpoint on Britain's prospective exit from the European Union.

"In reply, our prime minister said she favours Britain's stay with the EU

in the present era of integration and globalisation. She said Britain should rethink the matter seriously as fate of many people is linked to the issue," the secretary told journalists.

Hasina told the British premier that she believed the UK's membership in EU would benefit his country's economy. She also pointed out that three Bangladesh origin British parliament members and the Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK also want Britain to stay in the EU.

Britain is one of the largest destinations of Bangladeshi goods.

Leaders of other parties involved in anti-govt plot

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury, several leaders of other political parties are also involved in a conspiracy against the government, according to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

"They had an attempt to hatch a plot to destabilise the country [Bangladesh] and make the government face a challenge," he said while talking to reporters at his house in Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

"We have got many things [information] that perhaps would surprise many."

Replying to a query, he said, "You see, money is exchanged in such cases." "Now we will do our investigations and inform you later."

On Thursday, police filed a sedition case with Gulshan Police Station against Aslam for allegedly hatching a conspiracy with Israel's Likud Party

and Mossad to oust the government.

Later, AKM Shahidul Hoque, inspector general of police, said Aslam had a financial contract with Likud Party politician Mendi N Safadi for trying to topple the government. Police had information on Aslam's link with the plot.

Known to be a trusted lieutenant of BNP's Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, Chittagong-based businessman Aslam came under severe criticism both in and outside the party after several photographs, showing him with Safadi, also chief of Israel's International Diplomacy and Public Relations, went viral on social media.

The two had met in India. Aslam, also BNP joint secretary general, was picked up by detectives from the capital's Khilkhet on May 15, hours after a travel ban was imposed on him.

He was taken on remand after being

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Six Bangladeshis charged with terror financing

FROM PAGE 1

A pre-trial conference for Mamun has been set for June 9.

The six were the first to be prosecuted under the Act, said a police spokesman in a statement yesterday, reports The Strait Times, adding that the Commercial Affairs Department had started its investigations into the six on April 8.

A prosecutor who declined to be identified said the other two were still facing detention orders but had not been charged, Reuters reported. The two are Shariful Islam, 27, and Sohag Ibrahim, 27.

Security was tight at the state court as three armoured trucks carrying the suspects entered the premises, under heavy armed escort.

With Rahman Mizanur as the group's ringleader, authorities said, the eight met in parks and other open spaces to share radical propaganda and videos, calling themselves members of Islamic State in Bangladesh.

The detentions brought Singapore's 150,000 or more Bangladeshi migrant community into the spotlight for being one of the most marginalised Muslim communities in the wealthy city-state, according to rights groups and community leaders, reports Reuters.



Mizanur



Miah Rubel



Jabath Kysar



Mamun Leakot



Zaman Daulat



Sohel Hawlader

INVESTIGATION IN BANGLADESH

Another five Bangladeshi workers detained in Singapore during a crackdown between late March and early April were deported on April 29 for suspected militancy link. They were later arrested by police from Banasree area in Dhaka.

Singapore's home ministry in a statement had said involvement of the five in ISB was not found in investigation carried out as part of a crackdown on the so-called ISB.

"They possessed and/or proliferated jihadi-related materials, or supported the use of armed violence in pursuit of a religious cause," the statement, however, said.

A top official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit in Bangladesh, who is investigating the case filed against the five following their arrest, said they were radicalised in Singapore.

During interrogation, they named some of the eight Bangladeshis who were arrested in Singapore.

The five said those Bangladeshis, particularly Rahman Mizanur, used to motivate them to join militancy.

"So, we need to either interrogate them or get statements of those named by the five arrested in Bangladesh," said another top official wishing anonymity.

He also said through the foreign ministry the government was trying to get the statements which are required for preparing a charge sheet against the five.

The five are Mizanur Rahman alias Ghalib Hasan, 38, Md Rana Mia Pilot, 29, Md Alamgir Hossain, 31, Md Tanjimul Islam, 24, and Masud Rana alias Sontu Khan, 31.

"Some of the five arrestees were found in possession of Mufti Jasim Uddin Rahmani's books that are known for preaching militancy, but we

have yet not found their involvement with any local militant organisation," said the official.

According to investigators, Rahmani is the spiritual leader of banned local militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

Earlier, Singapore authorities arrested 27 Bangladeshi construction workers between November 16 and December 1 last year for "supporting armed jihad ideology of terrorist groups such as Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda".

Of them, 26 were deported to Bangladesh and local police arrested 14 of them on December 21 after police found their link with militancy. Police are yet to submit charge sheet against them.

DB officials then said the 26 deportees had no links to Islamic State or al-Qaeda. But the 14 had links with banned local outfit ABT and Rahmani.



Rescue operation continues after a bus plunges into a canal in Samaddar area of Madaripur yesterday. The accident left nine passengers killed and 33 injured.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mamata invites Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

She thanked the people of Bangladesh and conveyed her best wishes to the Bangladesh prime minister during the five-minute talks with Amu, Mofakkarul Islam, press secretary of Bangladesh's Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, told our correspondent over phone.

During the meeting with Amu, Mamata said she would accord a reception to Sheikh Hasina at the latter's favourable time.

According to NDTV, Mamata was sworn in at the biggest oath-taking ceremony Bengal has ever seen. Forty-one ministers also took oath after her in batches of four and some touched her feet to seek her blessings.

Cheering from the front row seats were political heavyweights like Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

Massive cut-outs, more the style of Tamil Nadu's J Jayalalitha than of Mamata Banerjee, lined Kolkata's Red Road. An entire stretch of the arterial road -- which links important places in Kolkata like the state secretariat and the High Court -- was cordoned off for the Trinamool Congress' celebration of a massive victory in the state elections last week.

"It is like the coronation of the Queen of Bengal. This cannot be the coronation of the chief minister. The kind of money that is being spent... I think the Queen of England would be

put to shame," said Chandra Bose of the state BJP, which also boycotted the oath ceremony.

They were not missed as workers of Mamata's Trinamool Congress thronged the venue chanting slogans and smearing the party green on their faces.

Also present were Bihar's Lalu Yadav and Farooq Abdullah of the National Conference.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and the BJP's minister from Bengal Babul Supriyo represented the Centre.

Mamata yesterday morning tweeted about a "new beginning" for the people of Bengal and thanked all ministers and chief ministers for attending the ceremony.

The presence of leaders like Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal and Akhilesh Yadav is being seen as a new beginning of a third front of regional powerhouses to challenge the BJP and the Congress in the 2019 national polls.

Over 20,000 people attended Mamata's swearing-in, the biggest oath ceremony Bengal has ever seen.

After her win last week, Mamata hinted at future political realignments at the national level when she talked about "friends I can work with," listing among them the leaders attending her oath ceremony, others like J Jayalalitha and Mayawati, and also BJP allies like Chandrababu Naidu.

"No third front, second front. If at all this is a first front," said Derek O'Brien of her party.