

Delhi for joint effort to boost military ties with Dhaka

Indian defence minister meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Indian Defence Minister Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar yesterday stressed the need for joint efforts to strengthen military ties between Bangladesh and India.

The Indian minister expressed the view when he met President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban.

Manohar said terrorism is a global problem and India has been working to establish regional peace.

Welcoming the minister to the Bangabhaban, the president said Bangladesh follows "zero tolerance policy" in combating terrorism in all its forms.

He expressed condolences for the dastardly terrorist attacks on the Indian army base at Uri, Kashmir and on the Indian Air Force Base at Pathankot.

President's Press secretary Joynal Abedin briefed reporters after the meeting.

Bangladesh and India enjoy excellent bilateral relations, said Hamid,

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Indian Defence Minister Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar calls on President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Help establish rule of law

CJ asks lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday called upon the lawyers to assist in the Supreme Court's efforts to establish the rule of law in the country.

"We, the Supreme Court, are relentlessly trying to establish the rule of law in the country... It will not be possible if you [the lawyers] don't strengthen our hand," Justice Sinha said at a discussion at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the capital.

Bangladesh Jatiya Ainjibi Samity organised the discussion and a doa mahfil to commemorate M Abdul Rahim, one of the framers of the constitution. Rahim, also a former lawmaker, died on September 4.

The lawyers' role cannot be denied in establishing the rule of law and democracy in the country, noted the chief justice.

"We cannot imagine the rule of law without lawyers."

Young lawyers should not deviate from the ideology and principles upheld by veteran lawyers like Abdur Rahim.

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, a judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, said Rahim played a vital role in the Liberation War as an organiser and also in drafting our constitution as a member of the 1972 committee assigned to do the job.

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Comilla play spoilsport

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yesterday, they would have overtaken the Khulna Titans and moved to third place.

However, the defeat means that they are still in danger of not making it to the Playoffs. And that is because fifth-placed Rangpur Riders also have 10 points from 10 games but are placed below the Kings because of a poorer run-rate.

When the Rangpur Riders went down to the Dhaka Dynamites by 42 runs earlier in the day yesterday, they probably thought that their chances of making it to the last four got slimmer. However, Rajshahi's defeat has given them another chance to grab the fourth spot. Rangpur will now face the Barisal Bulls and the Comilla Victorians in their last two games of the group stage.

Their path seems a lot easier than Rajshahi's as the Kings have to play Barisal and the Chittagong Vikings in their last two fixtures.

As of now it seems as though the Dhaka Dynamites and the Chittagong Vikings will take the top two spots, while the Titans, the Kings and the Riders will compete for the last two.

In the evening match a 31-ball 44

run cameo from James Franklin, 23 off which came off the last over against Shohag Gazi, helped the Rajshahi Kings finish on 124 for seven after 20 overs.

Rajshahi's batsmen struggled against the Comilla Victorians, who put in a disciplined bowling performance. While Mohammad Saifuddin finished with figures of three for 12, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza scalped two wickets off his four overs. Spinners Nabil Samad and Rashid Khan grabbed one wicket apiece.

By over number 15 Rajshahi were struggling at 78 for seven and they did not seem like they had the potential to even cross the 100-run mark.

However, Franklin stepped up and smashed Gazi for three sixes and one four in the last over of the innings and gave the Kings some hope.

That hope lasted for the first four overs after the exchange when the Victorians were reduced to 16 for one with Mehedi Hasan Miraz removing Imrul Kayes. However, Ahmed Shehzad and Marlon Samuels joined hands and built a 90-run stand to ward away fears of any collapse.

While Shehzad scored a 45-ball 46

with one six and a four, Samuels posted an unbeaten 55 off 41 balls with two fours and four sixes.

The onslaught began in the sixth over when Shehzad hit spinner Nazmul Islam down the ground for two fours.

Samuels, who had scored only 14 off 15 balls until then and let Shehzad do most of the talking, hammered Miraz for three consecutive sixes in the 10th over to demolish any hopes that the Kings had. Those sixes were powerful and flat, typical of Samuels.

After 10 overs, they were poised at 81 for one and needed just 44 off 60 balls. A few more boundaries later that came down to 29 off 42 balls. The easy equation was made a bit difficult thanks to some good death bowling from Forhad Reza who dismissed Ahmed Shehzad and ended up with a neat one for 14 in four overs. The pressure built by Forhad meant that the Victorians needed nine runs from the last two overs.

However, Samuels delivered the last blow by smacking Nazmul Islam for a six down the ground. The remaining runs were taken in singles as Comilla reached home with eight wickets and eight balls remaining.

5 lakh people

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around 600,000 in the eastern neighbourhoods.

Abdelkarim al-Obeidi, the secretary general of the local civil society organisation Mosul People Gathering, warned of a "humanitarian disaster" in the making.

"The government as well as aid organisations must step up and offer assistance to the people, especially those families forced to drink water from the wells that is not fit for drinking," he said.

At a hospital in the village of Gogjali on the eastern outskirts of Mosul, a medical source said civilians were starting to arrive with "cases of diarrhoea and intestinal cramps, especially among children".

Abu Ali, a resident of eastern Mosul, said he hoped running water would return before an outbreak of disease.

Some residents "will take water from the Tigris", he said, referring to the river that divides the city.

While it was unclear what had caused the massive water shortage, some residents blamed the US-led coalition backing Iraqi forces in the assault, saying its warplanes had damaged the main pipeline bringing

water from the western side of the city.

But Basma Basseem, an official with the Mosul municipality, suggested that IS may have intentionally stopped the flow.

"There are efforts to bring water tankers to neighbourhoods that have been retaken," Basseem said.

Residents said that many were also running out of food supplies and relying on aid distributed by Iraqi forces.

"Some people had stocks of dried goods but food is starting to run out, and we have neither water, nor electricity, nor fuel for heating," said 54-year-old Natiq, who was receiving food aid at a distribution centre in the eastern neighbourhood of Khadraa.

Iraqi commanders say around 40 percent of the eastern half of Mosul has been retaken in the offensive.

The forces have told civilians to stay at home in order to avoid massive displacement from the city.

The progress of Iraqi forces -- who vastly outnumber the estimated 3,000 to 5,000 jihadists defending their last major bastion in Iraq -- has been slowed by the presence of a large civilian population often used by IS as human shields.

3 'criminals' killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged criminals were killed in a "gunfight" with members of the Rapid Action Battalion in Rampura in the capital early yesterday.

The Rab identified the dead as Probitra Samaddar, 28, son of Notohor Samaddar from Jhalakathi and Mohammad Ali Swapan, 30, son of Siraj Mia from Shariatpur.

At least three cases were filed against Probitra with Badda Police Station for various offenses including mugging and possessing firearms while Swapan had one case against him with Rampura Police Station, said ASM Shakhawat Hossain, operation officer of Rab-3.

The firefight took place around 2:00am when a team of Rab raided Balur Math area of Rampura with information that a gang of criminals would commit robbery at the spot, Lt Col Khandakar Golam Sarwar, commanding officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

The criminals, sensing Rab's presence,

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People through the tax office in the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday, the last day for paying taxes for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The photo was taken at 6:46pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt's lack of interest main barrier

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organisation of the indigenous communities in the CHT, and the then Awami League-led government signed the agreement on December 2, 1997.

Blaming the government for the uncertainty over the full implementation of the accord, the PCJSS chief, in a written speech, said the Jumma people would be compelled to find an "alternative way" to save their existence if the accord remained unimplemented, and it is the government who would have to take the responsibility for any untoward situation.

Asked about that alternative way, he said it could be anything like raising opinion of the public and the leftist politicians of the country in their favour.

Santu said his organisation would continue their non-cooperation movement declared in 2014 based on their 10-point programme.

Pointing to several unimplemented sections of the accord, he said those were obstructing the full implementa-

tion.

He said even though the agreement was signed 19 years ago, the Jumma people were yet to get the full charge of the CHT regional and three district councils.

The other barriers include the failure to close down the temporary camps in the CHT, solve land disputes, reform different laws relevant in the region and relocate settlers outside the hill tracts.

"In the last 19 years, six governments were in power, but none of them came forward with the political will to fulfil the basic issues of the accord," said Larma, who is also the chairman of the regional council.

Pointing to several development projects in the CHT, he alleged that in the name of such projects and reserve forests and rubber cultivation, a section of people are grabbing the land of indigenous people.

He said instead of the rule of the regional and district councils, an authoritarian rule has been prevailing in the hill tracts. In the face of this,

those councils have become useless, he said.

Replying to a question, Santu said although the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, 2001 has been amended, it is hard to be implemented as "the act has no regulations".

He said the land commission, established following the act, has received 15,969 applications for settlement of land disputes.

He also focused on setting up two separate offices of the commission in Rangamati and Bandarban and immediate appointment of required manpower there.

At the programme, Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said people make an accord when its implementation is possible. The accord signing was a great achievement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina but the agreement is yet to be implemented fully.

Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, and right activists Numan Ahmed Khan were also present.

Unesco lists

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that Mangal Shobhajatra, organised by teachers and students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts to celebrate the Bangla New Year, symbolises the pride of the people of Bangladesh in their living heritage as well as their strength and courage to fight sinister forces, and their vindication of truth and justice.

Mangal Shobhajatra is a vibrant and colourful procession in which thousands of people from all walks of life join freely and spontaneously as part of their celebration of the Bangla New Year.

In 1980s, when several incidents, including devastating floods and imposition of military rule, put the people of the country in great distress, the students decided to fight creatively against the undemocratic rule and bring to the common people hope for

a better future.

In 1989, the students organised a colourful procession entitled "Mangal Shobhajatra" -- literally meaning wellbeing procession -- on Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year. Since then, the students and teachers of the faculty have remained in the forefront for organising Mangal Shobhajatra every year.

The UN committee also recognised that the festival represents solidarity and shared value for democracy, uniting people irrespective of cast, creed, religion, gender or age, according to a press release from the Bangladesh embassy in Paris.

The initiative to inscribe the procession on the Unesco list began two years ago when a nomination file on the festival prepared by the Bangla Academy and approved by the cultural affairs ministry was submitted to Unesco.

Islam, ambassador of Bangladesh to Ethiopia and African Union, Prof Nisar Hossain, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, and Farhana Ahmed Chowdhury, first secretary of the Bangladesh embassy in Paris.

The inclusion of Mangal Shobhajatra in the list of cultural heritage of humanity is the result of the government's proactive cultural diplomacy. The enhanced visibility of Mangal Shobhajatra festival will help reinforce Bangladesh's image as a secular and inclusive society, added the release.

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Zakir Hossain, and technician Siddiqui Rahman.

The minister in the briefing said according to the Biman probe, the aircraft was forced to make the emergency landing due to "human failure factor".

After having the problem fixed, the aircraft, named "Ranga Pravhat", left Ashgabat Airport for Budapest.

Asked whether there was any sabotage attempt, the minister said it would be known only after the thorough investigation.

The minister said cockpit crew members detected the technical glitch when the aircraft was over Lahore in Pakistan and as per the standard operation procedure, the pilots made the emergency landing.

Three enquiry committees were formed following the incident, one by

the civil aviation ministry, one by Biman and the other by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The four-member Biman committee, led by Captain Fazal Mahmud, yesterday submitted its report to the civil aviation minister.

On November 27, the prime minister left for Budapest at the invitation of Hungarian President Janos Ader to attend the Budapest Water Summit 2016.

On her four-day visit, she was leading a 90-member delegation which includes three cabinet ministers -- LGRD, Water Resources and Foreign Affairs -- 12 senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, nine officials from the foreign ministry, four high officials from different ministries, eight security personnel, 15 member media team, and 39 businessmen.

120 silver coins

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Samad said there were 120 coins in the pot and each was weighing around 12.5 grams. Arabic letters were inscribed on both sides of the coins.

The 120 coins are 1.5kg in weight, he said.

Hearing the incident, curious people thronged the spot to have a glimpse of the coins and the pond.

"We heard such tales from our grandparents when we were small, but it's now reality when we heard about the incident," said Golam Rabbani, of Alakdih village in the upazila.

Locals said the coins had already been shared among the landowner and the labourers.

Contacted, Shajebur Rahman, Khansama upazila nirbahi officer, said the valuables beneath the earth are a property of government. So, nobody but the government can take those.

An expert said the coins could be of the Sultani era ((1210-1576).