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Delhi needs to address Dhaka's concerns

Foreign adviser says ties between two countries may improve if India does so

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday said Bangladesh-India relations could have improved if New Delhi had addressed Dhaka's concerns.

"Bangladesh's previous government tried its best to address the concerns of India... But India did not take measures to address those of Bangladesh," he said.

The adviser was speaking at a roundtable on India-Bangladesh relationship, co-hosted by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and North South University's political science and sociology department, at the university.

Touhid said Bangladesh is not a threat to anyone. Some major concerns for Bangladesh include the signing of the Teesta water-sharing treaty and ending border killings. Such killings, he noted, only occur during wartime.

"India has to address this issue. If anyone commits a crime, they can be tried in court. Why should they



Touhid Hossain

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Bangladesh opener Fargana Haque plays a shot during her 50-run innings off 89 balls against Ireland in the second Women's ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. Her anchoring knock helped the hosts comfortably chase a 194-run target, leading a five-wicket victory and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Joty and Co seal Ireland ODI series

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A half-century from Fargana Haque and useful contributions from Sharmin Akter Sultana and skipper Nigar Sultana Joty helped Bangladesh women complete a series-clinching five-wicket win over Ireland in the second and penultimate ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

Chasing 194 runs, opener Fargana made 50 off 89 balls, in-form Supta registered 43, while skipper Joty hit a brisk 40 off 39 balls to take Bangladesh to 197 for five in 43.5 overs.

This is the Tigresses' highest run chase in home WODIs, surpassing 167 against Pakistan in Mirpur in November 2023.

In the chase, after Bangladesh lost opener Murshida Khatun for six in the fifth over, Fargana and Supta compiled an 85-run second-wicket stand to

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Noor assaulted at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former minister Asaduzzaman Noor was assaulted at BSMMU yesterday by injured patients of the recent student-led mass uprising when he was taken there for physiotherapy.

Tanvir Imam, son of HT Imam, former political adviser of the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was also attacked at that time, eyewitnesses said.

The incident happened around noon at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Ward of the hospital, where several injured patients were already undergoing physiotherapy, hospital sources said.

"They recognised the two AL leaders when they were taken to the ward for physiotherapy from the prison cell of the hospital. Some of them got angry and punched them," a prison official told The Daily Star.

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Two cases filed over killing of Ctg lawyer

His father sues 31 for murder; brother files case against 115 including 70 lawyers, 2 journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Father of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif, who was hacked to death during Tuesday's violence on the Chattogram court premises, yesterday filed a murder case against 31 named and 10 to 15 unidentified others.

Jamal Uddin lodged the case with Kotwali Police Station, Kazi Tarek Aziz, ADC (public relations) of the Chattogram Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

Most of the accused are the dwellers of Sebak Colony in the Bundle Road area of the port city, the ADC said. So far, nine people were arrested in connection with the killing after scrutinising CCTV footage, he added.

According to the case statement, the attackers -- some named in the FIR -- armed with weapons such as machetes, tridents, and cleavers -- carried out a premeditated attack on Saiful while chanting slogans in favour of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, who was arrested in a sedition case. Saiful was attacked on his way home.

The statement claimed that individuals affiliated with political organisations, including Chhatra League,

Saiful Islam Alif

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Power sector's indemnity act repealed at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday repealed the long-debated "indemnity act" of the power sector, bringing to an end the 15-year-long practice of awarding contracts under opaque circumstances.

The ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs issued an ordinance titled "Ordinance to Repeal the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) 2010 Act" on behalf of the president.

The ordinance was issued as there is no parliament and the matter warrants immediate action.

On November 14, the High Court declared two sections of the act unconstitutional as those protected the decisions of the government from legal challenges and gave the energy minister the sole authority to approve all sorts of plans for the sector.

Section 9 of the act states that no question about any action done or deemed to be done, and any order or direction given under this law, cannot be raised before any court.

Section 6 (2) says that any planning or proposal related to the buying or investment decisions has to be approved by the energy minister and sent to the cabinet committee for approval after

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'Giving support, time to govt our moral obligation'

Dr Kamal calls for nat'l dialogue among pro-democracy parties, individuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the moral responsibility of all political parties and citizens to give the interim government reasonable time and full support, said Dr Kamal Hossain, emeritus president of the Gono Forum.

"The national consensus achieved on this issue must be preserved. To ensure this, a national dialogue involving all pro-democracy political parties, citizens and civil society is crucial," he said yesterday.

He was speaking at the Gono Forum's 7th national conference, held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Presiding over the event, he expressed hope that the leaders and activists of the party would set aside internal disputes and unite to embark on a new journey through the national council.

"The people, especially the youth, have once again proven that this country does not belong to any autocratic ruler. It belongs to the people," Dr Kamal remarked.

Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, a member of the BNP's National Standing Committee, attended the Gono Forum council as a special guest. "There is no need to worry about reforms. We will bring about the necessary changes."

He said that collaborators of the deposed autocratic government have resumed their activities to destabilise Bangladesh through various means.

"From Ansar protests to issues involving minorities and even battery-run auto-rickshaws -- attempts are on to create unrest in the country," he said.

Khashru called for collective efforts to restore democratic governance.

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Cops release Munni Saha on condition

People had handed her over to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Munni Saha, who is accused in a July mass uprising case, was released conditionally in the wee hours after being taken to

Tejgaon Police Station last night for security reasons, police have said.

"Police did not detain her. People detained her and then handed her over to the police," Rezaul Karim Mallick, additional commissioner (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

"The Tejgaon police first took her to the police station. She was moved to the DB police compound for security reasons," he said.

"Munni Saha had a panic attack and fell ill. SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A farmer husking paddy with a chaluni (sieve) after the Aman paddy is harvested and threshed by a combine harvester on a field in Bohor village of Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila. Farmers are upbeat as the yield is very good this year. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

SECTARIAN FIGHTING 13 more killed in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Sectarian feuding in northwest Pakistan killed 13 more people, a local government official said yesterday, as warring Sunnis and Shias defied repeated ceasefire orders in recent conflict claiming 124 lives.

Pakistan is a Sunni-majority country, but Kurram district -- in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan -- has a large Shiite population and the communities have clashed for decades.

Fresh fighting broke out last Thursday when two separate convoys of Shia Muslims travelling under police escort were ambushed, killing more than 40.

Since then 10 days of fighting with light and heavy weapons has brought the region to a standstill, with major roads closed and mobile phone services cut as the death toll surged.

A Kurram local government official put the death toll at 124 yesterday after 13 more people were killed in the past two days. Two were Sunni and 11 Shia, he said, whilst more than 50 people have been wounded in fresh fighting which continued yesterday morning.

"There is a severe lack of trust between the two sides, and neither tribe is willing to comply with government orders to cease hostilities," he told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Police report that many people want to flee the area due to the violence, but the deteriorating security situation makes it impossible," he added.

A seven-day ceasefire deal was announced by the provincial government last weekend but failed to hold. Another 10-day truce was brokered Wednesday but it also failed to stymie the fighting.