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# **1/11 proponents** active again: PM

**Human Rights Report:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Sunday came down on civil-society patrons like a ton of bricks for their Saturday's suggestions for stopping the process of the January 5 parliamentary

polls. She raised a question whether the 'noted' personalities would want an unconstitutional system

to take an unfair advantage out of the current political situation, as was done through the 1/11 changeover. "The election process has reached a stage but they [civil society] are calling to stop it. If so, then we have to go for an unconstitutional way. Do they want such a system?" queried Hasina after taking the results of JSC and JDC exams from the education minister at her official residence Ganobhaban.

She said the noted personalities were very active after the

1/11 episode. "They became very vocal during the state of emergency in 2008."

On Saturday, personalities, including barrister Rafiq-Ul Hug, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, former caretaker advisers

> S Μ A Shahjahan, Hossain Zillur Rahman and Rokiya Afzal Rahman, at a roundtable proposed that the govern-

ment stop the election to

avert the crisis. They unanimously opined that the election would not yield any result amid the boycott of main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The premier also raised a question over their delayed realisation. "Why did they wake up so late? Where was their spirit when they [opposition alliance] stopped exams for enforcing blockade and killing people through arson?"



**avbevna Kvi -**4

stage protests after miscreants chopped thousands of trees in the name of movement, she alleged.

"Where was their spirit when the opposition chief refrained from responding my proposal for dialogue and Hefazat men ran mayhem?" questioned Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League.

'Noted' personalities would become famous if an unconstitutional system prevails, she said. "They could settle their unfinished task and use the national flag in their cars. They're hopeful of getting calls if an unconstitutional system prevails in the country."

Hinting at the last armybacked caretaker regime, the PM said the countrymen experienced the government that comprised noted personalities. "That government failed to carry out their routine jobs."Comparing the activities with the caretaker regime, Hasina said her government could carry out development activities as pledged earlier, adding: "We are accountable to the people."The main opposition took to the streets after the government had amended the constitution, scrapping the caretaker provision.

# <sup>®</sup>March for democracy to continue: Khaleda

Human Rights Report: Confined by police to her Bangladesh house, the Nationalist Party chairperson, Khaleda Zia, on 29 December branded the gov-

ernment illegal and undemocratic asking it to step down and announced that the 'march for democracy' would 'continue'. 'This government is ille-

gal and unde-



Gulshan in the afternoon. A visibly angry Khaleda asked the government to withdraw the security measures taken to deter the opposition activists. 'If you have

courage, pull out the forces and see how people many take to the streets,' she said.

'I have been kept confined and not being allowed to go

responsibility of all to save the country and the people. 'Our programme is peaceful, why it is being obstructed? People are being killed... We have all statistics. Officers of BDR were killed, ulema were killed, newsmen are being tortured. Will all this go in vain? Tears of the families of slain ulema and BDR officers will not go in vain. The country cannot run in such way. Things will be settled one day. Those who are torturing and oppressing people, will have to repent one day...,' she said.

Khaleda said Sheikh Hasina did not sent forces to save the 57 officers killed in the BDR mutiny as she was 'involved' in the killing.

mocratic. It should leave office if it has any sense of dignity,' she told a few newsmen who managed to enter the lawn scaling the boundary walls as nine platoons of police kept the house cordoned off allowing no one in. Khaleda Zia said the opposition's 'march for democracy' would continue. 'Our programme will continue into tomorrow, even the day after tomorrow ... We will see how far you [government] can go, how many people you [government] can kill,' she said after trying in vain to go out of her house at out. Parliament is still in place and I am still the leader of the opposition. Why such behaviour with me. You cannot keep me confined,' she said and asked the police to take action against the 'Awami goons who are oppressing the people'. She waited for more than half

an hour in her Nissan Patrol SUV carrying a miniature national flag but police did not allow it to move from the porch. She then talked to the media people who managed to enter her house.

The opposition leader told newsmen that it was the

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whom want -- and deserve --

a peaceful and inclusive elec-

'You [Awami League] do not want democracy and do not want to protect the country. Do you want to serve your masters or act as their collaborators? Read the history of Kazi Lhendup Dorjee [the first chief minister of Sikkim]. He could not stay in office for long and they said him goodbye,' she said addressing the prime minister. Referring to the prime minister's previous call on her to take to the streets, Khaleda said, 'Did not she ask me to take to the streets? I want to go out, why I am being barred?'

### **Political brinkmanship 'driving** Bangladesh to the edge,' UN rights chief says

**Human Rights Report:** Deeply worried by rising levviolence els of Bangladesh, United Nations

High Commissioner Human Rights Navi Pillay recently urged the country's political leaders to set their differences aside, immedi-

ately halt "destructive brinkmanship" and use their influence to ease the unrest.

According to a press release issued by Ms. Pillay's Office, in recent weeks, as the major parties in Bangladesh have failed to resolve their differences over the conduct of elections, supporters of both parties have been clashing with each other and with the security forces. Scores of people have been killed, hundreds injured, and there has been extensive destruction of property. "In the past week, we have seen acts as extreme as protestors throwing molotov cocktails onto public buses without allowing the occupants to escape, leaving women and children with horrific burns," the High Commissioner said. "Such levels of violence are deeply shocking for the Bangladeshi people, the vast majority of



law enforcement "This agencies. can further inflame the situation and rule out any possibility for engagement and dialogue between the main political parties,"

she said. "Whatever their differences, political leaders on both sides must halt their destructive brinkmanship, which is pushing Bangladesh dangerously close to a major crisis. Instead, they must fulfil their responsibility and use their influence to bring this violence to an immediate halt and seek a solution to this crisis through dialogue," said. Pillay The High Commissioner pointed out that Bangladesh is a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. "In other situations, we have seen cases of political or election related violence where the perpetrators of such acts - including political leadership - have faced prosecution," she said.

> A **qubeuna Kui-6**



From the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The gourd-and-twine device, created 1,200 to 1,400 years ago, remains tantalizingly functional-and too fragile to test out. Those two disparate worlds somehow collided unexpectedly on a recent afternoon in the hushed, temperature-controlled precincts of the National Museum of the American Indian storage facility in Suitland, Maryland. There, staffers pushing a rolling cart ushered one of the museum's greatest treasures into the high-ceilinged room. Nestled in an acid-free corrugated cardboard container was the earliest known example of telephone technology in the Western Hemisphere, evoking a lost civilization-and the anonymous ancient techie who dreamed it up.

# New Delhi's response shocks Washington

Human Rights Report: India's unusual tough stand on the arrest of its diplomat Devyani Khobragade has

forced the US to initiate an "inter-agency review" to look into the lapses that happened in the high-profile case that triggered an uproar in India and strained bilateral ties.

The US departments involved in review the include the National Security Council of the White House, the State Department and the Justice Department.

"An inter-agency review is going on right now to look into the lapses that happened in the case," sources said. Devyani, India's Deputy Consul General in New York, was arrested on charges of making false declarations in a visa application for her maid Sangeeta Richard. She was released on a USD 250,000 bond.

The 39-year-old diplomat was strip searched and held with criminals, triggering a row between the two sides with India retaliating by

downgrading privileges of certain category of US diplomats among other steps. In a tacit acknowledgement of the fact that there was a "judgemental error" handling in this case,

sources said the inter-agency team led by the State "working Department is 24X7" to get it resolved as

quickly as possible. Now that the matter has landed up in the judiciary, a lot depends on the judges too for which the Department of Justice and the Southern District of New York is being actively engaged.

It is believed that the Department of Defense has expressed its displeasure over the manner in which the entire issue was handled.

At a time, when the Pentagon is busy reviewing its policy towards Asia Pacific region wherein India fits as a major player in its scheme of things and is eyeing to have a large pie in the modernisation programme of the Indian armed forces, the last thing it would like to see is any strain in its ties with New Delhi, officials said.

### A galvanizer of Human Rights $\Box$ Tarek Chowdhury $\Box$

Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist, and leader in Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. King has become a national icon in the history progresof American sivism.[1] Born Michael

> Salar avbevna Kvi - 7



struggle against segregation in Albany, Georgia, in 1962, and organized nonviolent protests in Birmingham, Alabama, that attracted national attention following television news coverage of the brutal police response. King also helped to organize 1963 the March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. There, he established his reputation as one of the greatest orators in American history. He also established his reputation as a radical, and became an object of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's COINTEL-PRO for the rest of his life. FBI agents investigated him for possible communist ties, recorded his extramarital liaisons and reported on them to government officials, and on one occasion, mailed King a threatening anonymous letter that he interpreted as an attempt to make him commit suicide. On October 14, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence. In 1965, he and the SCLC helped to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches and the following year, he took the movement north to Chicago. In the final years of his life, King expanded his focus to include poverty and

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the Vietnam War, alienating many of his liberal allies with a 1967 speech titled "Beyond Vietnam". King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., called the Poor People's Campaign. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. Allegations that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King, had been framed or acted in concert with government agents persisted for decades after the shooting, and the jury of a 1999 civil trial found Loyd Jowers to be complicit in a conspiracy against King. King was awarded the of Presidential Medal Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. federal holiday in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor. A memorial statue on the National Mall was opened to the public in 2011. The "greatest demonstration in history"

On Aug. 28, 1963, a quarter of a million people peaceably gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Attendant celebrities lent their Hollywood credentials. The media coverage

was international. More than 22,000 police officers, guards, soldiers, and paratroopers were placed on alert. Yet all this has been submerged into the backdrop to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words in "I Have a Dream." The speech was an afterthought, one that King crafted in the final hours before the momentous convocation, working its rhythms like a poem. It is one of the finest speeches delivered on American soil - the distillation of Old Testament wisdom, Shakespearean drama, the Founding Fathers' vision, and King's own sermons and his emergent understanding of what it meant to be free, equal, and American.

#### **Type 2 Diabetes Might Raise Risk** of Liver Cancer

People with type 2 diabetes might be at somewhat higher risk of developing liver cancer, according to a large, The long-term study. research suggests that those with type 2 diabetes have about two to three times greater risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) -- the most common type of liver cancer -- compared to those without diabetes.

Still, the risk of developing liver cancer remains low, experts said. Race and ethnicity might also play a role in increasing the odds of liver cancer, the researchers said. New research shows that

many people world wide who are at risk for type 2 diabetes don't believe they are, and their doctors may not be giving them a clear message about their risk. Researchers surveyed more than 1,500 people aged 40 and older and more than 600 health care providers to come to this conclusion. The investigators found that 40 percent of at-

World Human Rights Day

has been observed on 10th

December. It was on this day

the

Rights-the modern day the

Charter of Human Rights-

was adopted by the UN

General Assembly. All UN

member States observe this

Day to commit to themselves

to preserve and protect

human rights for all persons.

Human Rights belong to

individuals simply because

of

1948

Declaration

in

**UN Human Rights Day:** 

**10th December** 

**Barrister Harun ur Rashid** 

Human

Universal

Human

risk people thought they had no risk for diabetes or prediabetes, and only 30 percent of patients with modifiable risk factors for diabetes believed they had some increased risk for diabetes. Less than half of at-risk patients said they'd had regular discussions with their health care provider about blood pressure, blood sugar levels and cholesterol, and didn't recall being tested as often as health care providers reported actually testing them. Only 25 percent of atrisk patients are very or extremely knowledgeable about their increased risk for

they are human beings.

Foremost among these is that

rights are by nature inherent,

universal and inalienable.

Rights

emerge suddenly and have

long historical, political and

philosophical components.

History and politics provide

the contextual dimension of

human rights, philosophy

gives them meaning and the

law deals with the mechanics

**avbeura Kvi - 9** 

of their application.

did

not

Origin of Human Rights

type 2 diabetes or heart disease, according to health care providers. While patients do know what helps lower diabetes and heart disease risk, such as a healthier diet and more exercise, many of those who are at-risk are overweight or obese (about 70 percent) and/or sedentary (37 percent).

Health care providers said the greatest barrier to treating at-risk patients is noncompliance with recommended lifestyle changes. This could be because nearly 75 percent of at-risk patients think they are in excellent or good health.

#### The concept of Human Rights goes back to philosophy of Greek Stoics. It was later revived and developed during 16th century by Dutch jurist Grotius in natural law jurisprudence. The modern version of human rights is to be found in the English, American and French experiences of the17th and18th centuries.

In the American Declaration of Independence of 1776 drafted by Thomas Jefferson, it stated "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator, with certain

inalienable rights, that Life, among those are

Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Similar sentiments were reflected in the slogan of

French Revolution in 1779 of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity". President Roosevelt who

conceived the idea of United Nations after the Second World War in 1941 stated four freedoms of individuals-Freedom of speech and expression, Freedom of religion, Freedom of want and

Freedom from fear. The three main pillars on which the UN Charter is based are maintenance of international peace and security, cooperation in economic development and promotion of human rights. The language used in Articles 1, 55 and 56 of the UN Charter presuppose the existence of human rights before the advent of the UN and the Declaration of 1948 is a manifestation of the commitment of the UN Charter to human rights.

who was a champion in pursuing human rights for all human beings.

The Declaration has 30 Articles, setting forth the human rights and fundamental freedoms (liberties) and Article 1 lays down the philosophy of the Declaration: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

There are six rights in the **Declaration**:

o Personal Security Rights o Due Process Rights

o Liberty Rights

- o Political Rights
- o Equality Rights o Welfare Rights

Although it is a Declaration, not a Treaty or a Convention, it is argued that the rights described in the Declaration have become a part of customary international law because of general acceptance by all states, and even some of the states have incorporated many of the human rights in their Constitutions. . This means that all states are legally bound to provide to individuals the human rights set forth in the Declaration. After the Declaration, there has been a gap of 18 years due to difference of views during the Cold War between the West and the Soviet Union, before two notable human rights instruments were adopted. They are: the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The other important international instruments are the 1979 Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against 1989 Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Bangladesh became parties to all the above UN Covenants. There seems to be differences of opinion between developed and developing countries on emphasis of human rights. Developed countries underscore political rights while developing

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted under the chair of Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of the President Roosevelt,



countries economic rights.

Mechanics of Implementation of Human Rights in a country: Rule of law is one of the foundations of human rights because it is clear in domestic areas efforts have always been made to secure legal protection for individuals against arbitrary excesses of state power. More recently, the rule of law has been considered as one of the key dimensions that determines the observance of human rights through good governance.

### **British High Commissioner** meets Khaleda

**Human Rights Report:** British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson visited BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence on 30 December evening.

The British envoy entered Khaleda's residence around 5:30pm went and out at 6:30pm.

"The British High Commissioner went to Khaleda Zia's residence to meet her," Shairul Kabir Khan. an official of the BNP

chairperson's press wing told the Dhaka Tribune. However, he did not say anything about the meeting agenda.

Earlier, BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and advisers to the party chairperson Riaz Rahman and Sabihuddin Ahmed entered Khaleda's residence around 5pm. The leader of the opposition,

Khaleda Zia, has remained "confined" inside her Gulshan residence since 28 December, a day before her party's "March for

Democracy" programme. Obstructed by the police from coming out of her residence to join the programme on Sunday, Khaleda extended the march till Monday. But, she did not come outside



Khaleda Zia **BNP** Chairperson

the march.

Robert Gibson Monday to join The authorities said she is

being obstructed from stepping outside for security reasons. Walk More & Fiber-Rich Foods May Cut Your **Risk of Heart Disease** 

Walking more is simply reduce the risk of heart disease, a new study suggests. Researchers analyzed data from more than 9,300 adults with 40 countries. All of the study participants were enrolled in programs meant to increase their physical activity, excess pounds and

avbe**vna K**vi - 1

cut fatty foods from their diets. The participants' average number of steps taken per day was recorded at the start of the programs and again 12 months later. Amounts of walking at the start of the programs and changes in amounts of walking over 12 months affected the participants' risk of heart

> disease. For every 2,000 steps more per day a person took at the start of the study, they had a 10 percent lower risk for heart disease in subsequent years.

Boosting the amount of fiber in your diet may British High Commissioner lower your risk for heart

disease, a new study finds. Fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are best sources with so much controversy causing many to avoid carbohydrates and grains; this trial reassures us of the importance of fiber in the prevention of cardiovascular disease States, Australia, Europe and Japan to assess different kinds of fiber intake. Total fiber; insoluble fiber (such as that found in whole grains, potato skins) & soluble fiber may found in legumes, nuts, oats, barley, cereal; fruits and vegetables and other sources.

## **Ban Ki-moon's concern** over violence

**Human Rights Report:** Voicing deep concern over

widespread violence Bangladesh that has left dozens of people dead since last month, UN Secretary -General Ban Ki-moon also spoke to President Abdul Hamid the day when he called on

Minister Prime Sheikh Hasina to resolve differences over upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for

January through dialogue. He spoke with the Prime Minister and President over phone as a senior UN political official, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, wrapped up a five-day visit to Bangladesh with a warning that the current political crisis is exacting a heavy, human, social and economic toll, seriously threatening the hard-earned economic and progress social that Bangladesh has achieved, according to a news release



of UN News Centre.

"The leaders have shown

statesmanship," told a news conference in Dhaka of his meetings with government and opposition leaders and election officials. "It remains critical to reduce ten-

engage in constructive dialogue so as to create a congenial atmosphere.

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There are measures that would contribute immensely: a call by all sides to end the violence, the release of opposition political leaders, and a mutually satisfactory solution to concerns regarding

the election schedule." The major parties have so far failed to resolve their differences over the conduct of elections and supporters of both parties have been clashing with each other and with the security forces. Scores of people have been killed, hundreds injured, and there has been extensive destruction of property.

**qubeuna Kui-12** 

"At this moment the world is remembering Nelson Mandela's legacy," Mr. said. Fernandez-Taranco referring to the South Africa's first black President who died last week. "Please allow me to quote his words from the visit he made to Bangladesh in March 1997: 'a nation united in pursuit of shared goals can overcome the most difficult problems."

#### **Men's Brains Are** Wired Differently **Than Women's**

Men aren't from Mars and women aren't from Venus, but their brains really are wired differently, a new study suggests. The research, which involved imaging the brains of nearly 1,000 adolescents, found that male brains had more connections within hemispheres, whereas female brains were more connected between hemispheres. The results, which apply to the population as a whole and not individuals, suggest that male brains may be optimized for motor skills, and female brains may be optimized for combining analytical and intuitive thinking. On average, men connect front to back [parts of the brain] more strongly than women, whereas women have stronger connections left to right.