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## That were in Hasina-Khaleda telephone conversation

Prime Minister Opposition Hasina and Leader Khaleda Zia had a 37minute telephone conversa-

tion on Saturday evening to initiate dialogue to resolve the current politi-

cal crisis over the arrangement of how the next parliamentary elections should be held. Countrymen have a huge curiosity to know the phone-conversation. A private television broadcast the video- tape of the conversation that is mentioned below. Sheikh Hasina: Sister, how are you? I phoned you at noon.

Khaleda Zia: I did not get any phone.

Sheikh Hasina: I phoned but you didn't receive. Khaleda Zia: My red phone is out of service for a longtime. The phone was not repaired although a letter was sent from my office.

Sheikh Hasina: I heard ringing. Did you hear the ringing?

Khaleda Zia: No, No, there was no ringing. I was at

Sheikh home. It cannot ring as the phone is out of service for two years.

Sheikh Hasina: The phone was not out of service. Y 0 remained it out of service.

Khaleda Zia: Why are you talking such way? You can ask your people (T&T staff). A T&T official was informed formally and he told us the phone was right but it was untruth.

Sheikh Hasina: But, I heard ringing. The phone was not received. You are telling a lie. There is a problem in your hearing.

Khaleda Zia: I have no habit to tell lies rather you have the habit to tell lies.

Sheikh Hasina: OK. I will see the matter. The phone will be repaired within 11.00 am of tomorrow if it is damaged. I am inviting you to discuss the next elections at Gano Bhaban in the evening of 28 October. You are known that I have already begun discussion with others. I am inviting you to have dinner with me. Khaleda Zia: Are you calling me to discuss the non-party government? If you call me to discuss the issue I will go. Sheikh Hasina: I have pro-

posed all-party government. If you have any suggestion about this we will hear. Khaleda Zia: It is your pro-

posal but the people do not agree this. Meet the demand of the non-party government. Sheikh Hasina: Your party

persons will be included in my proposed government. Politicians will form the government. Why you have no confidence on politicians. Did you see non-party government?

Khaleda Zia: It was another subject. Non-party government is not only demand of us but also demand of all countrymen.

Sheikh Hasina: You can come with as many people. But send a list before coming and you will have to withdraw hartal.

Khaleda Zia: I have no bar to going to your house but it is now not possible to withdraw hartal. If you told me before I would try. It is a matter of 18party. It is now possible to gather 18-party leaders to discuss the matter as they are now absconding. Hasina: Sheikh Ι

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**avbevna Kvi - 4** 

Pphoned cordially you although you tried to kill me through grenade attack.

Khaleda Zia: You, I and countrymen know who have done what. If you raise issues from the past, it will create bitterness ... Let us look ahead and take the country forward together. You killed eight of my people toady. Sheikh Hasina: You celebrate

birthday on August 15. It is not your real birthday. You visited our house and saw my younger brother Russell many times. How you cut cake and celebrate birthday on the killing day of little Russell.

Khaleda Zia: August 15 can be death anniversary of one

#### required.

Sheikh Hasina: Sister, come. Come after withdrawing hartal.

Khaleda Zia: We have a program till 29 October. If you invite me I will come after any day of October 29.

Sheikh Hasina: Come after withdrawing hartal. If we sit, the problem will be solved. Khaleda Zia: No, No. Declare this first. Then, I will

have no problem to sit with you. Sheikh Hasina: Send the names of elected persons of your party. Why are you pro-

posing out people? We will run the country, why they will come? Why you have no confidence on us? Khaleda Zia: You didn't keep confidence on us. So, they needed. Countrymen are want non-party government. The problem will be solved if you meet the demand. If you don't like non-party government why you waged movement with Jamaat? Why you attended the oath taking ceremony in 2007? You said, it is the outcome of movement. Then you participated in the election under the government. But, today you are saying another talk. Sheikh Hasina: Sister, I have also experience like you. We want to form an interim-government with participation of  $\mathbb{T}$ your people. You can think about the matter.

Khaleda Zia: There is nothing to thinking. Meet the people' demand and keep the people in living peace. The country is not property of you and my own. It is the country of 16 crore people. Consider their peace and interest. I met you demand at that time. I don't want the government of my party men and my own. I want a nonparty government that will be accepted by all. I don't understand what is barrier to meet the demand.



and also can be birthday of many people. If one's birth day is August 15 then will he/she not celebrate the day? I will celebrate my birthday, it is my personal matter. I did not raise any person matter against you.

Sheikh Hasina: I have phone you as I am cordial to you. Come to discuss.

Khaleda Zia: If you were cordial to me, you would phone me before. If you agree the proposal of the non-party government morally we will stop all programs including hartal. If the problem is solved, programs are not

-Sector avbe**vna K**vi - 5

#### Foods for a good night's sleep

Insomnia or lack of sleep can have a terrible effect on your body besides a rough morning. We list out certain food that can help you get sound sleep.

Bananas: Researchers have found that having a banana before going to bed can help people suffering from sleep

apnea by keeping their throats open and therefore reduce the risk of choking. Bananas are also excellent source of magnesium and potassium, minerals that help prevent muscle spasms or cramps during the night, making them a good bedtime snack as well especially after a heavy exercise session.

Cherries: A natural source of melatonin, researchers in the Journal of Sleep and Sleep Disorders indicate that consuming cherries before bed helped people sleep faster and easier. The fruit is a natural sleep aid.

Flax seeds: These are ideal for increasing levels of sleep regulating serotonin in the body due to high levels of omega-3 fatty acids. Furthermore, omega-3 fatty acids have been proven to help reduce anxiety, depression and stress which are leading causes of insomnia. Dairy products: Some research suggests that a deficiency of calcium in the diet can cause disturbed sleep

patterns and a lack of deep sleep. Dairy products come to our rescue. Oats: It is a good source of tryptophan. Try eating a

small bowl of porridge before bed to help you get some deep sleep.

### The current 68th **Session of the UNGA** and Bangladesh Barrister Harun ur Rashid

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquar-

ters in New York September 27, 2013. (courtesy) The General

Assembly is the main

deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, comprising all 193 member-nations. The latest member is the South Sudan. Bangladesh was the 136th membernation when it was admitted on 27th September 1974, a proud moment for the people of Bangladesh.

The General Assembly provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international and regional issues covered by the UN Charter. Often it is called "World's Parliament". However the Security Council with 15-member nations is the "Cabinet" of

questions, such as those on peace and security, admis-

sion of new members are adopted. After clearance from the

the UN where important

Security Council, the issues come to General Assembly for voting. While the Security

Council does not make equal permanent members and non-permanent members because only permanent members have "veto" powers, in the UN General Assembly each country has one vote. Therefore the mighty US and a weak state, such as Haiti are equal in vot-

ing Seating arrangement is carried out by lottery. Croatia was drawn from all Member States to occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall 68th at the Session. Consequently, the delegation of Croatia will sit at the first desk at the right of the President, and the other countries will follow in the

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English alphabetical order. The same order will be Main observed in the Committees.

Ambassador John William Ashe from Antigua and Barbuda's was chosen as the President of the United Nations General Assembly on a rotation geographical basis.

The General Debate

The General Debate - as the opening speeches are called presents a chance for countries large and small to stand on equal footing and declare their countries beliefs and goals for the coming year.

It's a high-level event, too, meaning that rather than just your usual collection of dignitaries, the event gathers heads of state and government into one place, something that never happens in such a large number any other time of the year. Several issues are dominat-

ing the debate o Armed Conflict in Syria

o Israel-Palestinian Issue

o Iran's nuclear programme o Global Climate Change

o DG-Post 2015 There's also the possibility

for meetings on the sidelines that couldn't happen elsewhere. Some truly are spontaneous, as you would imagine with this many heads of state running around the

same area, but many are carefully choreographed. One such runs-in that occurred on the sidelines was between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan and the US President and Prime Minister of India.

The General Assembly is known for the, at times, flamboyant speeches given by dictators, tyrants, and strongmen. While many of the more colourful speakers have been removed from office in recent years, there's still the chance of entertaining year's moments at this debate, particularly from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which almost always speaks towards the end of the event. Bangladesh & the UN

Bangladesh has always played an important role in the UN bodies above its weight. Bangladesh has been elected in the governing bodies of 21 inter-governmental organizations including the UN System reflecting its good standing at the World Forum.

Bangladesh is the chair of Peace Building Commission, has been elected to the UN Human Rights Council, UN Commission on Status of Women, Member of Committee of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),

of Committee Executive UNESCO, UN Economic and Social Council, and a member of the International Maritime Organisation and the new entity-UN Women. A few memberships are due

to expire in 2013. Bangladesh is a leading contributor to the UN peacekeeping missions. As of May 2013, it is reported over 8,000 Bangladeshi uniformed personnel are deployed in peacekeeping missions in 13 countries. Besides male keepers, Bangladesh sent women peacekeepers from air force and police.

Bangladesh provided to the UN until May 2012, three Bell-22 helicopters, one MI-17 helicopter, one C-130 transport aircraft, a Frigate and an Off-shore Patrol Vessel to the UN for peacekeeping purpose.

Bangladesh is widely known for its micro-credit of Professor Yunus and spread of informal education and primary health care by BRAC globally. Many countries have replicated these programmes. BRAC is active in many countries in Africa and in Afghanistan. Recently Yunus Centre on Social business and micro-credit is being set up in many countries including in Japan, Scotland and Thailand.



## Suu Kyi receives Sakharov Prize after 18 yrs

**Human Rights Report:** Twenty-three years after being awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, Myanmar militant and parliamentary opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi collected it 22 October

2013 from the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, but said she still has more work to do.

"We have made progress since 1990, but we have sufficient not made progress," said the former

longtime political prisoner, who was freed in 2010 after vears of house arrest.

From Burma to Myanmar: The land of rising expectations Suu Kyi's award comes Myanmar, sometimes as referred to as Burma, is emerging from decades of authoritarian military rule that resulted in internal oppression and international isolation.

President Thein Sein, a former military official, has overseen the introduction of greater political freedoms,

peace talks with ethnic rebels and the successful participation of Suu Kyi and her party in legislative elections. "Our people are just begin-

ning to learn that freedom of

thought is possible, but we want to make sure that the right to think freely and to live in accordance with a conscience has to be preserved," she told the international body, which gave her a standing ovation that lasted more than a minute.

"This right is not yet guaranteed 100%. We still have to work very hard before the basic law of the land, which is the constitution, will guarantee us the right to live in accordance with our conscience. That is why we

**avbevna Kvi - 8** 

insist that the present constitution must be changed to be a truly democratic one."

The changes the 68-year-old politician is seeking include one that would let her run for president.

She is ineligible to contest the presidency because of a clause that bans anyone with a foreign spouse or child.

Suu Kyi's late husband, Michael Aris, was English and her two sons have British passports.

Suu Kyi praised Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet nuclear physicist and human rights activist after whom the prize is named. Sakharov, who died in 1989, was "a great champion of human rights and freedom

of thought," she said. She cited the latter as essential to human progress. "Freedom of thought begins with the right to ask questions," she said. "Many of our people were arrested almost on a daily basis, and we had to teach them to ask those who came to arrest them-Why? We had to teach them their basic rights and we had to say to them, if somebody comes to arrest you in the middle of the night, you have the right to

ask: Do you have a warrant? Even that, many of our people did not know."

Suu Kyi's father, Gen. Aung San, was a hero of Burmese independence who went on to found Burma's military before his death in 1947; his daughter spent much of her early life abroad, going to school in India and at Oxford University in England.

Leadership was bestowed upon her when she returned home in 1988 after her mother suffered a stroke.

During her visit, a student uprising erupted and spotlighted her as a symbol of freedom. When Suu Kyi's mother died the next year, Suu Kyi vowed that just as her parents had served the people of Burma, so, too, would she.

In her first public speech, she stood before a crowd of several hundred thousand people with her husband and her two sons and called for a democratic government.

She won over the Burmese people, but not the military regime, which threw her in jail in 1989.

But even with Suu Kyi behind bars, her National League for Democracy party won the country's first democratic elections in more than two decades the following year by a landslide, gaining 82% of the contested seats in parliament. The regime ignored the results of the vote and Senior Gen. Than Shwe continued to impose numerous terms of house arrest on her. Suu Kyi, who last March won re-election as Myanmar's leader of the National League for Democracy, noted that the year she won the prize was the year when Myanmar had held its first democratic elections in more than two decades. "But we were never allowed to take office, we were never allowed to even call parliament," she recalled Tuesday. "Instead, our party was oppressed, our people were persecuted and we had to struggle on for a couple more decades before we have come to this stage."

### Malala eyes politics to 'change the future' of Pakistan

**Human Rights Report:** Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot by the Taliban last year for campaigning for girls' education, said on Monday

hoped she to become a politician to "change the future of my country".

The 16-year-old, whose continued fight for all children to go to school has made

her a favourite for the Nobel Peace Prize this week, also backed dialogue with the Taliban, although she said this was an issue for the gov-



ernment. "I will be a politician in my future. I want to change the future of my country and I want to make education com-

> pulsory," Malala said in a BBC interview. She added: "The best way to solve problem and to fight against war

is through dialogue, and is through peaceful way. "But for me the best way to fight against terrorism and extremism is a simple thing -

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educate the next generation." She added that issues of terrorism are "not an issue for me, that's the job of the government... and that's also the job of America". Malala dismissed the continued threats against her life and repeated her desire to return to Pakistan from Britain, where she was flown

for treatment after the attack in there is no electricity, there is October and where she now goes to school.

"The bad thing in our society and in our country is that you

always wait for someone else to come," Malala said. "If I'm saying that there is no-one who is doing anything for education, if I say



"I believe that I will achieve this goal because Allah is with me, God is with me and he saved my life."

The United Nation

doms;

goals.



Chowdhury

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World

War by 51 countries committed to main-



To be a centre for har-

monizing the actions of

nations to achieve these

Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peace building, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many the United other ways Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programs) affect our lives and make the world a better The Organization place. works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social developinternational ment and health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for

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taining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

The UN has 4 main purposes To keep peace throughout the world; To develop friendly

relations among nations; To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and free-



vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, General through the Security Assembly, the Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and comities. The work of the United

A Contract avbevna Kvi - 10

#### **Sustainable Development and Environmental Issues** 🗖 by S M Rayhanul Islam 🗖

this and future generations. The expression 'sustainable development' has been using by economists, environmentalists, development professionals and academics who are concerned about the problems when caused efforts to promote development ignored the environmental dimensions of development. In the 1980s, the term 'sustainable development' began to be used to describe development which takes account of environmental consequences. So, when we talk about 'sustainable development' we are talking about using our intelligence and scientific knowledge to satisfy our needs while maintaining the physical environment. The module 'Sustainable Development and Environmental Issues' explores the need for the world to bring about sustainable development, that is a balance between development and environmental prothe 'Rio tection, as Declaration on Environment 1992' and Development, states: "In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection should constitute an integral part of the development

process and cannot be in isolation from it". The module also stresses that youth have an important role to play in bringing about environmental protection and sustainable development for ensuring a better future for all. The module is divided into four units. The first unit aims to enhance our awareness of key concepts related to the natural environment and the major environmental problems facing the world today. Unfortunately, most of our developmental activities have simply exploited the earth's raw materials and released large quantities of waste energy and toxic materials back into the system. We are faced with many threats to our environment: the greenhouse effect, global warming, acid rain, ozone destruction, soil erosion and so on. This unit also aims to provide us with materials that we can use to start an education programme for young people to raise their awareness of the environment. A basic programme in environmental awareness provides a sound foundation for young people to participate in projects that address environmental problems.

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Finally, the unit looks at the more complex concepts that are important for understanding sustainable development: inter-connectivity, sacredness, and renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Unit-2 discusses the social environment and its relationship to the natural or physical environment. It examines different aspects of social environment that can affect the physical environment: value systems, legislation, and global economics. This unit also examines some of the issues that were raised at a world youth environmental Juventud meeting, (Youth)'92, held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Young people from all over the world discussed their concerns about the environment and raised the following issues at that meeting: poverty and the environment, external debt, population growth, and natural resource degradation. 'How can young people bring change?' about a Considering this question, this unit explores some of these complex and interrelated issues. The third unit of the module examines the major events that have caused the world to focus the need for environmental protection, in particular the 1992 Earth Summit. The Earth Summit conference, held in Rio de Janeiro, was an important milestone in history. It helped awaken the

world to the need for a development process that does not endanger future generations. This unit also discusses about the role and opportunities for young people to participate in sustainable development activities. Unit-4 further examines the

sustainable meaning of development in its application to planning and evaluating projects. It starts by examining the elements of a sustainable development project, and then looks at how these are reflected in the general objectives laid out in World Resources the Institute's model. The World Resources Institute sets out a model containing the general objectives of a sustainable development plan for the earth. These objectives have been grouped into four categories-economic, human (social), environmental and technological. This unit also reflects on how the World Bank model evaluates sustainable development projects. The World Bank, one of the foremost financial organisations in the world today, now assesses the impact of programmes and applications for loans using two methods: the sustainability matrix, and sustainability as opportunity. Finally, this last unit concludes with some examples (case studies) of the practical approaches to sustainable development adopted by youth organisations in the

# The nightmare that still haunts Bangladesh

Muhammad Rakibul Islam

Commonwealth. Bangladesh is a low-lying, riverine country formed by Ganges-Brahmaputra the delta and located in South Asia. Due to the presence of rivers all around the country, its soils are very fertile. But unfortunately straddling the Tropic of Cancer, Bangladesh has a tropical monsoon climate characterized by heavy seasonal rainfall, high temperatures, and high humidity. Most parts of Bangladesh are less than 12 m (39.4 ft) above the sea level, and it is believed that about 10% of the land would be flooded if the sea level were to rise by 1 m (3.28 ft). Moreover natural calamities, such as floods, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, and tidal bores occur almost every year, combined with the effects of deforestation, soil degradation and erosion. The cyclones of 1970 and 1991 were particularly devastating. The cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1991 killed some 140,000 people. Bangladesh is now widely known to be one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Natural hazards that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall, rising sea levels, and tropical cyclones are

ture, water and food security, human health and shelter. Bangladesh is among the countries most prone to natural floods, tornados and cyclones. In the recent past Bangladesh has faced some of the worst natural disasters in its history and the frequency of such disasters are alarmingly increasing. Recently Bangladesh experienced two SUPER CYCLONES viz. Sidr (2007) and Aila (2009) claiming the lives of many thousands of people in a space of three years. On the night of 10th October, two of my friends Afi, Rafiuddin and I, along with

expected to increase in fre-

quency and intensity with

climate changes, unfolding

seriously affecting agricul-

our families went to Khulna on the request of Mostofa Nuruzzaman, Director of Sushilan, an NGO mainly working on disaster management. We stayed there for 3 days and visited the areas of Khulna, Sathkhira and the which Sunderbans were badly hit by the cyclone Aila. We and the members of the NGO Sushilan sat for a focused group discussion (FGD) with about a hundred people from different areas destroyed by the cyclone.