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Talks with Ban Ki-Moon Hasina invites UN team to observe upcoming polls

Human Rights Report: Bangladesh has officially requested the United Nations to send its delegation to

observe the upcoming general election which is to be held in between October 25 to January 24



next. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina made the request to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon when she met him at the UN headquarters on Saturday.

"I've requested him (Ban Kimoon) to send a UN delegation to observe the next general election," Hasina said. Addressing a press briefing at Bangladesh's permanent mission at the UN in New York on Saturday afternoon, the Prime Minister said the UN Secretary General has highly praised the role of Bangladesh in women' s empowerment towards attaining MDGs as well as the country's performance in UN peacekeeping missions.

In this regard, the Prime Minister said that many other countries in the world have failed to achieve the success-

A

es in attaining t

MDGs the h a t Bangladesh did. "This success has been possible because

Banki Moon we've maindemocratic tained the process in the country and for our rapid economic progress," she added. Hasina

thanked the UN Secretary General for appointing a battalion of Bangladeshi peacekeepers to a new peacekeeping mission of the United Nations in Mali. The Prime Minister also called upon Ban Ki-moon to appoint the Bangladeshi peacekeepers to the higher posts of the UN. Hasina also said, she would gear up her government's initiatives to have Bangla as the official language of the United Nations if her party is voted to power again. Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Bangladesh Moni, Permanent representative to the UN AK Abdul Momen were, among others, present

Felani Killing Trial **Acquittal of BSF man** sparks strong protest

Human Rights Report: Government ministers, opposition leaders and rights bodies joined their voice in

strongly criticizing the verdict that plainly acquitted an Indian border guard charged with the sensational killing of teenage girl



Felani, as they termed it a 'mockery of trial'. They apprehended that it would encourage more bor-

at the press briefing.

der killings. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman on 7 September 2013

Istrongly criticized the Indian court verdict on Felani killing. He described it as a 'mockery of trial'. "Such a verdict is unacceptable. The judgment is nothing but a travesty of justice. The Indian authorities have failed to deliver justice. They have deceived our nation," he said. The NHRC chairman came up with the remarks while talking to journalists after taking part in a discussion held at the Liberation War Museum in the capital.

The Sector Commanders' Forum organised the discussion titled 'War Crimes Trials and Propaganda.' Dr Mizanur said that through diplomatic move so that Felani's family as well as Bangladesh as a nation gets fair justice.

Ser and a second **avbevna Kvi - 4**

On Friday, a special court in Indian state of West Bengal acquitted BSF member Amiya Ghosh of the charge of killing 15-year old Bangladeshi girl Felani.

Felani was shot dead by BSF personnel while she was returning home through Anantapur border point in Kurigram on January 7, 2011, triggering a massive protest at home and abroad. Meanwhile, home minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir said that the Indian court verdict on much-talked-about

about the details. He further said: "The justice what we had expected about Felani killing was not ensured in the verdict".

BNP acting secretary-general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said people of the country are dismayed at the Indian court verdict that acquitted BSF member of the charge of killing Felani.

"It's very regrettable that our government didn't take any strong measures against the sensation killing. Our government's subservient stance is failing to stop border killings," he said.



this verdict, the Indian authorities have not only cheated Felani's soul and her family, but also stunned the whole nation.

The NHRC boss also said that he with the help of the Indian Human Rights Commission will take part in the process of challenging the verdict on Felani killing. He alleged that the Indian authorities have violated international norms in ensuring justice for unarmed people, saying that Felani killing verdict shows disrespect to the international law.

Dr Mizanur also called on the foreign ministry to take

avbevna Kvi - 4

their demand for polls under a non-party administration. "We won't go to the election under Hasina and Awami League. Election under them [Hasina-led Awami League] will be resisted. We along with the people will resist it," she warned Sunday.

Khaleda sounded the note of caution at a public rally organised by the 18-party alliance on Khulna Circuit House ground in the divisional headquarters with BNP leader Nazrul Islam Monju in the chair.

"We want to wait till October 25 to see whether they [government] bring the non-party caretaker government bill in the current parliament session. I like to tell the administration not to do anything that harms democracy."

The opposition leader said, "I like to tell Hasina that time is still there to table in parliament the non-party government bill for passage. Otherwise, nobody will be able to escape the public wrath."

Khaleda called on the people to topple the government in a bid to protect the country and democracy, citing: "Hothao Hasina, Bachao Desh [Oust Hasina, Save Country]." "Today I'm saying bye, but will meet you again on the

Felani killing has stunned the people of the country.

The government will take measures against the verdict after knowing about the details of the judgement, he said after laying foundation stone of Nageshwari police station in Kurigram.

"The killing of Felani allegedly by BSF personnel is a shameful and tragic incident for both the countries. We demanded a fair trial from the Indian authorities." The home Minister said that the verdict has failed to deliver justice. The government will take measures in this regard after knowing

A **avbevna Kvi - 5**

No election under Hasina, Khaleda tells Khulna rally Human Rights Report: BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia threatened that the oppo-

sition alliance along with the people would resist the general election if held under the party in power, sidetracking

streets. You'll have to take to the streets. We'll wage a movement to save the country from the betrayer Awami League. We'll meet again on the streets in Dhaka or Khulna," she told the gathering.

Criticising AL leader Mohammad Nasim for his speech about government officials, she said, "I like to tell Nasim that your time is over. No one has power to send the government officials back home. I'll tell the government officials to work fearlessly as nobody can hurt you."

On Rampal thermal power plant, the BNP chief said the government will not be allowed to construct the power plant in Rampal to ruin the Sundarbans.

"I'll tell the countrymen not to allow the power plant in Rampal. We won't allow its construction. I want to urge those holding the long march to resist the plant. Continue your movement, we're also with you. We'll cooperate with you in whatever you want."

Bringing allegation about politicisation of civil administration, police administration and the army, she feared that the election would not be free and fair if AL stays in power as the administratio

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will fully go by its order. The former premier branded the Election Commission as "backboneless" and "nuisance", saying that election cannot be fair under the existing EC as the ruling party formed it with partisan persons.

She blamed the Awami League-led grand alliance government for various corruption scams, including Padma bridge project, forced disappearances, BDR mutiny, Sagar-Runi killing and destruction of garment industry.

She came down on the government like a ton of bricks for its combing operation on Hefazat leaders and activists during their Dhaka-siege programme.

Khaleda promised that if her party comes to power, it will take various development schemes such as construction of two Padma bridges, setting up an EPZ in Khulna and growth of agriculture and industry.

The BNP chairperson said, "If voted to power, we'll do politics of change along with others. We'll induct good personalities into the government. We'll give nomination for the candidates in time. You'll work for the candidates who get the party ticket."

Social Business Design Lab held at Yunus Centre

The 8th Social Business Design Lab took place at Yunus Centre on 14 September 2013.

Chaired by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Professor Yunus, the Social Business Design Lab is a platform for the presentation and launching of social

business ventures.

In this lab, six new social business plans were presented including Social Business Hospital Project

by Sajida Foundation, Social Business for Biomass Power Solution to convert rice husk into fuel by Sarkar Ardhendu Director of S D Tex Promoters Ltd and Solid Waste Management Social Business presented by Noor Mohammad Executive of Khulna based Director RUSTIC to convert solid waste from slums and rural households into compost. Three Nobin Uddokta projects, presented by children of Grameen Bank were also elaborated at the Lab. These are Biplob Poultry Farm by Biplob Kumar, Imran Livestock Farm by Md. Dalower Sarker and Sharfiul Fattening Cow Project by Shariful Islam. There was also a special presentation o f Doctor in a Box - Preventive Healthcare Social Business by Dr. Ashir



of

Ahmed

Kyushu

University Japan. These business plans were then intensively discussed in different groups which came up with necessary recommendations. Each project gave its time-line for implementation. Finally the participants selected one Project Bondhu (Project Buddy) for each project to act as a mentor to finalize the plan.

Two new social businesses were launched. Forhad Hossain of Attyo Unnayan Sangstha [AUS] Dairy Khammar Project made

avbe**vn** Kvi - 7

existing business into social business and Mr P K Saha of Rose Sweater Ltd another announced the launch of a social business to sell water pumps, fertilizers, and quality seed to farmers. Dr. Saiful I. Dildar Secretary General of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC), Professor Dr

announced conversion of his

Shafique Ahmed Siddique, Chairman, Board of Trustees of Bangladesh University of Business and

Technology (BUBT), Dr Muhammad Abdus Sabur, Board Member of Sajida Foundation and Kazi Zahedul

Hasan, Founder and Director Kazi Managing Farms Group, Among others, were present at the occasion. The program was divided in three parts - update of past social business projects, new project presentation and group discussion suggesting improvements on those projects. About 250 participants from different organizations including representatives from numerous national and international NGOs, business leaders, academics and specialists attended the yesterday's event.



Human Rights Report: In another major development on the diplomatic front, US Secretary of State John

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Kerry sent in separate letters to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia on a note of concern over the ongoing political crisis in Bangladesh and with a call for

them to engage in talks for a solution. Talking to daily sun, Shamsher Mobin

Chowdhury, opposition BNP's vice- chairman and also foreign affairs adviser to the BNP chairperson, said the US Secretary of State sent a letter to Khaleda Zia on Sunday calling for holding an urgent dialogue to resolve the crisis over election issue. "In his (John Kerry) letter, he called for the dialogue without wasting any time so that the next election could be held under an acceptable method," Shamsher added. He further said Kerry has

sent another letter to the Prime Minister. But the rul-

confirm receipt of the letter. Earlier on 23 August, UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon phoned Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia and urged



Sheikh Hasina



them to resolve the crisis through dialogue so that the coming national polls could be held in a free, fair and acceptable manner.

Ruling Awami League and opposition BNP are at loggerheads over the coming poll-time administration after the government scrapped the caretaker government provision through the 15th Constitution Amendment.

Awami League says the polltime administration would comprise elected representatives of all parties with Hasina as chief of government while BNP is demanding non-partisan caretaker administration that had ing Awami League is yet to supervised previous polls

As per the current constitu-

since the late 1990s.

tion, the next general election must be held within the period between October 27 and January 24 under the incumbent regime-and the ruling party is firm on its stance to hold the election as per the constitution.

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia on Sunday issued a fresh threat to enforce a non-stop hartal and rail-road blockade if the government does not concede to the

Khaleda Zia 18-party alliance's demand for arranging the next general election under a non-party government.

> Senior Awami League leader and minister-without-portfolio Suranjit Sengupta said advice of any foreigners is not needed as the problems can be solved through holding discussion under the existing constitution.

> The AL advisory council member, Suranjit, was addressing Nouka a Samarthak Gosthi, a pro-AL platform, arranged discussion at Diploma Engineers Institute in the city. Observing that Awami

> League surely wants to hold dialogue, the leader asked the opposition party to clear

what they want. "You will not be benefited by lobbying foreign barristers and advocates. We have to solve internal problems with our own efforts," he said, pointing at the opposition party.

The leader called upon the

opposition to join in the upcoming parliament session for placing their demands there. "Discussion can be held there

(in parliament)," he added. Acting secretary-general of BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "US Secretary

Syria chemical weapons **UN adopts binding** resolution

Human Rights Report: The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a binding resolution on ridding Syria of chemical weapons. At a session in New York, the 15-member body backed the draft document agreed earlier

by Russia and the US. The deal breaks a two-and-a-half year deadlock in the UN over Syria, where between fighting

government forces and rebels rages on. The vote came after the international chemical watchdog agreed on a plan to destroy Syria's stockpile by mid-2014. Speaking after the vote in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-

moon described the decision

as "historic". "Tonight the

international community has

Only a few weeks ago, this

delivered."

landmark vote would have seemed highly improbable, if not unimaginable: a Security Council deadlocked for twoand-half years on Syria agreeing, with every hand raised, to a binding resolution.

After the 21 August attack in



British Foreign Minister William Hague (L) and US Secretary of State John Kerry ® vote to approve a resolution that will require Syria to give up its chemical weapons during a meeting September 27, 2013 at UN headquarters in New York.

> the suburbs of Damascus, its members could not even agree on a press statement condemning the killings. The resolution has two key

qubeuna Kui - 9

of State John Kerry expressed his concern, by giving letter to the opposition leader on Sunday. United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also telephoned Prime the Minister and the opposition leader recently.

demands: that Syria abandon its chemical weapons stockpile and for weapons experts to be given unfettered access to make sure it is dismantled by the middle of next year. But the resolution doesn't authorise the automatic use of force if Syria is held in violation, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov determinedly pointed out. Punitive measures, like military action or sanctions, would require a second resolution, and then Moscow

> would likely wield its veto. Nor does the resolution attribute guilt for the 21 August attack, the massacre that ended up transforming the diplomatic dynamic. Despite the agreement reached in Geneva two weeks ago which this res-

olution enshrines, Russia and America remain at odds over who was to blame. For the first time, though, the Security Council has

endorsed a roadmap for a political transition in Syria and the UN has also set a target date for a new peace conference in mid-November. He urged the Syrian government to implement the resolution "faithfully and without delay", and also announced a tentative date of mid-November for a new peace conference in Geneva. US Secretary of State John Kerry said the UN demonstrated that "diplomacy can be so powerful that it can peacefully defuse the worst weapons of war". He said the resolution would for the first time seek to eliminate entirely a nation's chemical weapons capability. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also hailed the move, saying Moscow "was

ready to take part in all operations" in Syria. However, he stressed that the success of international efforts was "not only on Damascus' shoulders" and that Syrian opposition must co-operate. The UN resolution condemns the use of chemical weapons but does not attribute blame. The text has two legally binding demands: that Syria abandon its weapons stockpile and that the chemical weapons experts be given unfettered access. Although the draft refers to Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows the use of military force, a second resolution authorising such a move would be needed.

victory for the international community". Previous attempts at a resolution stumbled amid disagreements between Russia and the US on how to deal with the crisis in Syria. The US - backed by France and the UK - had pushed for a resolution carrying the threat of military action against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's armed forces. Russia had opposed this.

Reacting to the vote, Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Jaafari said the resolution covered most of Damascus' concerns. But he stressed that countries supporting Syrian rebels should also abide by the adopted document.

The UN vote came just hours after the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) adopted what it called "a historic decision on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons". UK Foreign Secretary William Hague: "It is a ground-breaking resolution" In a statement after a latenight meeting in The Hague, the watchdog said its executive council "agreed on an accelerated programme for achieving the complete elimination of Syria's chemical weapons by mid-2014. The decision requires inspections in Syria to commence from 1 October 2013". Damascus pushed for the investigation of the three post-21 August incidents, accusing "militants" of using chemical gas against the army in Bahhariya, Jobar and Ashrafieh Sahnaya.



The Hague where she was awarded 2013 the International Children's Peace Prize, Malala said last October's Taliban attack on her had made her more determined than ever to continue her campaign.

"I was just one target for their violence," Malala said in her acceptance speech, referring

US President Barack Obama earlier said agreement on the issue by council members would be a "potentially huge"

Sox **qubewaKui-10**

to her near-fatal shooting when a Taliban gunman's bullet grazed her brain. "There are many others for whom we must continue... so that children all over the world can have a right to go to school," she said to thunderous applause.

Malala, 16, received her prize from the 2011 Nobel Peace laureate, Yemeni journalist and activist Tawakkol Karman, who told a humbled Malala "you are my hero." "You cried: 'No one can stop me or any girl from learning'," Karman told Malala, speaking in Arabic in an address praising the Pakistani teen's achievement.

his year, 2013, h e International Day of Peace falls on Saturday, September 21st, and special activities and celebrations are taking

place across the world. At noon, global Peace Wave with moments of silence will be held

in many countries In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly, by a unanimous vote, adopted Resolution (36/67)) establishing the International Day of Peace . The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982 on the opening day of the General Assembly.

In 2002, the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent annual date for the International Day of Peace.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN encouraged all of humanity to work in cooperation to achieve this goal. This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to promote peace.

The International Day of Peace, or generally known as "Peace Day" provides an opportunity to ask ourselves what constitutes peace. Peace, like human health, is a covers conceptually a vast territory. What is peace?

The word "peace" has been defined in both positive and negative terms-The positive definition is "a state of harmony" and the negative is "a state



existing during the "absence of

war." Many questions arise on the negative definition of peace. Is peace the absence of war? If there are no guns and bombs, has peace been achieved? Some peace activists think that peace prevails in a situation when everyone in the world lives peacefully and every single person has an equal opportunity to have access to the world's resources and opportunities. Peace is a process, a way of attaining the dignity of all human beings through social, economic and humanitarian policies crafted by political leaders.

In my view world peace depends primarily on five elements:

o Existence of democracy o Absence of extreme poverty

o Absence of civil wars o Existence of effective mechanism of resolving civil wars

Combating the adverse 0 of Global effects Climate change Democracy means participatory

democracy. Democracy is not just what the majority wants. It is also what the minority wants. There is a saying that tyrannical majority and recalcitrant minority destroys democracy. If there is no participatory democracy, it may turn into authoritarian rule or dictatorship which may

avbe**vn** Kvi - 11

instability cause and disorder in the country. Democracy means

good governance and accountability, adherence to rule of law as distinct from rule by law, exis-

tence of independent judiciary, vibrant civil society and robust media. Furthermore respect for the views by and aspirations for younger must not be pushed aside. In recent months, Turkey and Brazil confronted a situation from younger generation of people which the governments could not even imagine.

In Turkey it all started with the proposed re- development of Gezi Park, one of Istanbul's few green spaces. In Brazil, it started from bus and subway fare hikes. In both cases, the heavyhanded police reaction helped stir things up the protests which became the symbol of wider discontent on the style of running the government, spreading all over the country.

If there is one thing that is common in both countries, it is unresponsiveness and insensitivity of governments refusing to listen and negotiate with protesters. The protesters want to be heard and respect from politicians.

Informed younger generation is a different kind of breed. They seek more accountability and responsiveness from their government leaders. In the past, the protests wouldn't have been

a problem for the government because information was being controlled assiduously by the government.

Water tourism involves travelling to locations specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some people who do not wish to partake in water related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes or seas. Water tourists are often independent travellers, although some travel firms do organise group trips. Water tourism in Bangladesh is very prospective. It demands a high class tourism policy to let water tourism happen in Bangladesh. Tourists in Bangladesh have huge scopes to play and act out in water. Tourism in water is entertaining but it needs pure water sustainability. Every day, water in Bangladesh is being wasted in all respects. Cox's Bazar has popularity in surfing, which is a fantastic part of water tourism, and so can be the main focus for water tourism in Bangladesh. Beach conditions in certain parts of Cox's Bazar are ideally suited to surfing and other types

of water sports. People from all over the globe go on water tourism trips to Hawaii, California, Australia and other destinations that are synonymous with surfing. Many of these tourists visit these locations in order to participate in surfing while others come to these places in order to watch professional surfers compete in major competitions. Some travel firms offer package deals to surfers that include hotel accommodation and

Water Tourism in Bangladesh

□ Mohammad Shahidul Islam □

meals. Local vendors rent out surfboards and other equipment that visitors can use if they want to try their hand at wakeboarding, waterskiing or other sports. The same ideas can be in practice or introduced for Cox's Bazar and its outskirts like Teknaf and Saint Martin. While water tourism often involves active pursuits, some water tourists visit islands and coastal regions in order to participate in more leisurely pursuits such as diving or snorkelling. Travel operators organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over expeditions on which travellers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and sunbathing rather than interacting with marine life. The sanctuary of different harmless sea creatures should be nourished for developing water tourism. Besides, water activities and its facilities, safe water route even for local or regional tourists or family visitors will bring prospect and basement for water tourism in Bangladesh. Water vacations sometimes involve inland destinations such as lakes and rivers. Tourists can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ide-



ally suited to white

water rafting. Some

If the flow of water travel goes high, water tourism may finds gear. But, water is a sensitive subject for life cycle. It keeps ordering land and environment. Hence, we need to spotlight sustainable water resources. Beyond, natural water resources, we can establish water parks, lakes, artificial beaches etc for developing water tourism. The attachment of water brings the awareness of its spiritual entertainment among people, that consciousness will also encourage people to protect water wastage along with ensuring drinkable water. This year 2013 World Tourism Day theme is "Tourism and Water: Protecting our Common Future". The world environment leaders find the theme time demanding and wakening people of preserving, conserving and protecting water before it goes hampered and an equal distribution of water according

to demand throughout the

world.

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