

Bangladesh: Police foil left alliance's march for fair election

Siam Sarower Jamil, Dhaka, Sep 20,

At least 20 left leaders and activists were injured on Thursday as police foiled an attempt of Left Democratic Alliance to lay siege to the Election Commission with a view to holding a free and fair national election. Leaders and activists of the left parties brought out a procession from in front of the National Press Club around 12:00pm to step up their demands, including next



general election under a caretaker government, with a view to holding a free and fair national election. The police obstructed the march when it reached at Karwan Bazar around 12:30pm. Among the injured are Chhatra Union President GM Zilani Shuvo and Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh general secretary Saiful Haque, said Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) leader Ruhin Hossain Prince.

Imran Khan writes to PM Modi: Only way forward is 'constructive engagement', resolving Kashmir dispute

Agency New Delhi Sept 20,



In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday, Pakistan PM Imran Khan has said the only way forward for the two countries is through "constructive engagement". He added the countries owe it to the people to find a peaceful solution to outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. PM Modi had written to Khan on August 18 after he was sworn in as Prime Minister.

"Pakistan and India have an undeniably challenging relationship. We, however, owe it to our people, especially the future generations, to peacefully resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, to bridge differences and achieve a mutually beneficial outcome," his letter, dated September 14, reads, according to news agency PTI. Khan has also suggested a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York. "Building on the mutual desire for peace between our two countries, I wish to propose a meeting between Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, before the informal meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers at the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York," Khan wrote. The Pakistan government, meanwhile, confirmed that its Prime Minister has responded to PM Modi. Foreign Affairs spokesperson Dr Mohammad Faisal, in a tweet, said that Khan was awaiting a formal response from India.

State Govt. fetes governor

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It was because of the confidence building activities done by the Government, she observed. She keeps on writing to the Prime Minister about every single happening of the State. He informed him that she along with the Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers have been travelling to the nook and corner of the State to look into people's needs. Speaking at the occasion, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh said that many Governors had come and gone during his political career spanning around 15 years. However, no Governor was so concerned about Manipur like the current Governor.

Dr. Najma Heptulla has been guiding the State Government as a guardian in all spheres whether it may be in the development front or in the issues besieging the State. The Chief Minister said that no matter Smt. Heptulla's association with Manipur was just a little more than 2 years old, her understanding and love for the State was immense, and it was reflected in her action. Soon after she assumed the office of Governor of Manipur, she took the initiative of introducing Flying Doctors in the State, the Chief Minister said

while adding that the noble project is ready to launch with the blessings of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Moreover, the Governor is so concerned about the present condition of Loktak Lake, he said. Stating that Smt. Heptulla has been putting in constant efforts and sharing valuable thoughts and suggestions to protect the largest freshwater lake in North East India, the Chief Minister said that the Governor was also a great admirer of Sangai and Shirui Lily as well. N. Biren also said that the Governor has a great desire to promote Manipuri culture and other potentials not only

to the rest of India but also to the world. Maintaining that Manipur is so lucky to have Smt. Heptulla as its Governor, the Chief Minister said that she had requested the Prime Minister to include Imphal in the list of iconic cities of the country as well. Her contribution towards solving some key issues besieging the State was really commendable, he said while adding that the Governor is ready to extend her full cooperation and support to the State Government when the need arises. N. Biren said that the people of Manipur feel extremely proud and happy for her on receiving the prestigious award. He said that Smt. Heptulla is a parliamentarian par excellence, a versatile personality, gifted orator and an accomplished scholar. Earlier, Chief Secretary Dr. Suresh Babu read out the citation of award. Ministers Th. Biswajit, L. Jayantakumar, Karam Shyam, Th. Shyamkumar, Shri L. Dikho, V. Hangkhanlian, Nemcha Kipgen, Th. Radheshyam, MP K. Bhabananda and Chief Secretary Dr. J Suresh Babu were seated on the dais. MLAs and high ranking civil and police officials were also present at the occasion.

India contributes \$1 million to UN's ambitious solar project

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India has contributed a whopping \$1 million for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body's headquarters here. The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said in a tweet. He said that India is the "first responder" to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action. "India funds solar project @UN Hqrs to reduce carbon footprint & promote sustainable energy," Akbaruddin said, referring to India's contribution of USD 1 million to the UN Headquarters' Solar Project, in which solar panels will be installed on the roof of the imposing UN headquarters. "I thank Ambassador @AkbaruddinIndia @IndiaUNNewYork for

India's generous contribution for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the @UN conference building. A strong message promoting #Innovation for action on #climatechange #efficiency." Under-Secretary-General for Management Jan Beagle said in a tweet expressing gratitude to Akbaruddin and the Permanent Mission of India to the UN. In June, Akbaruddin said during a session on World Environment Day that India intends to partner with the UN Secretariat to use renewable solar energy at the UN premises. He had expressed hope that by the next World Environment Day, solar energy would be part of the energy mix used in the UN building.

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Sushma Swaraj likely to attend SAARC council of ministers' meeting in New York

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External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is likely to attend an informal meeting of SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York later this month, official sources said Wednesday. Asked about the possibility of a meeting between Swaraj and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in New York, they, however, said her schedule is being worked out. The SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation) foreign ministers' informal meeting has been taking place for last few years on the margins of the UNGA. In Islamabad, Pakistan Foreign Office (FO)

spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said it is "engaged" with India to facilitate a bilateral meeting between Qureshi and Swaraj in New York. Both Swaraj and Qureshi will be in New York next week to attend the UNGA. The India-Pakistan ties nosedived in recent years following a spate of terror attacks in India by Pakistan-based terror groups. India has not been holding official talks with Pakistan following the attacks. Asked about possibility of India participating in SAARC summit if it is organised, the sources said it will not change its position unless Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism. The last SAARC Summit in 2014 was held in Kathmandu, which was attended by Modi. The 2016 SAARC



Summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances" and stepped up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.