Hasina plans return to Bangladesh on Dec 16

Asks Desh Govt to arrange Biman flight from New Delhi

DHAKA, Nov 24 (PTI)

OUSTED Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plans to return home on December 16, the day the country celebrates its victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Liberation War, her spokesperson Syed Mozammel Ali said on Tuesday.

Hasina, has also asked the Bangladesh Government to arrange her air travel from New Delhi on the national carrier, 'Biman Airlines, her spokesperson said in a statement.

Dhaka says that she would be brought back "in handcuffs" and treated under the same laws applicable to any other convicted fugitive staying abroad

The statement has triggered strong reactions in Dhaka with the Government saying that she would be brought back "in handcuffs" and treated under the same laws applicable to any other convicted fugitive staying abroad.

Hasina, 79, has been living in India since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, following a student-led protest.

Hasina's spokesperson Ali said she had requested the necessary travel documents from the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi through communications sent by her lawyer on November 9 and 19.

"She has further indicated that her return will be on Bangladesh's Victory Day on December 16th, coinciding with the end of the Liberation War in 1971. Sheikh Hasina has insisted that she would return on the flag carrier

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India at UNSC highlights disproportionate impact of wars on Global South

■ By Yoshita Singh
UNITED NATIONS, Nov 24 (PTI)

INDIA has invoked the 1943 Bengal famine at the UN Security Council to highlight the disproportionate impact of conflicts on the Global South, calling for measures to prevent food insecurity amid the Ukraine war.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, told a high-level briefing of the Security Council on Monday that developing countries were bearing the brunt of food, fuel, fertiliser and energy shortages caused by global conflicts.

"India has consistently emphasised that the costs of conflict are not shared equally," he said.

"Global South countries are the most adversely affected by the food, fuel, and fertiliser crisis caused by today's global conflicts," he added.

Invoking the Bengal famine, which killed over three million people, Parvathaneni said it was a reminder of the "terrible human cost" of a distant conflict caused by unchecked wartime priorities and calculations.

Addressing the briefing on 'Protecting critical energy infrastructure and Black Sea lifelines of global food supply', Parvathaneni said that in an interconnected world, the implications of the Ukraine conflict, now in its fifth year, were being felt everywhere.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message that the world has to move from endless war to the end of war, he reiterated India's readiness to contribute to all efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

He also stressed that Modi was firmly on the side of the Global South when he said that "this is not an era of war."

"India has consistently emphasised that the costs of conflict are not shared equally," said India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni

India noted with concern that conflicts exacerbate food insecurity by disrupting agriculture, displacing communities, damaging infrastructure and hindering humanitarian access.

Their consequences extend globally through disruptions to energy, fertiliser supplies, transport and agricultural trade, disproportionately affecting the Global South.

"For the Global South, peace is not in the abstract. It is achieved when hungry mouths are fed, when a ship reaches a port, and when a seafarer returns home safe," Parvathaneni said.

India called on the Security Council to prioritise humanitarian access, protection of civilian infrastructure and freedom of navigation, ensuring that humanitarian supplies and legitimate trade remain unaffected.

"For India, this is why dialogue and diplomacy, safe commercial shipping and uninterrupted grain and energy flows are practical necessities," he said.

"This current situation is not different from the time of the Second World War, when peoples not responsible for the start of the conflict became their unintended collateral damage," he added.

PM Modi, Chancellor Merz review India-Germany STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday reviewed progress in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and expressed satisfaction at the sustained momentum in bilateral engagements.

During the telephonic conversation, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merz noted that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would unlock several new opportunities for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a telephone call from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich Merz, and the two leaders reviewed progress in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and expressed satisfaction at the sustained momentum in bilateral engagements, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

As India and Germany celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations this year, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation across key sectors, including defence and advanced technologies. "They noted that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement would unlock several new opportunities for expanding bilateral trade and investment," the statement said.

Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merz also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest and agreed to continue working closely together to promote global peace, stability and a rules-based international order.

In a social media post, Modi said he had a productive conversation with Merz and they reviewed the growing momentum in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and discussed ways to unlock new opportunities in trade and investment, defence and advanced technologies. "India and Germany will also continue to work closely together to address global challenges and promote peace, stability and a rules-based international order," he said.

GalaxEye to deploy Bellatrix's propulsion systems across its next 30 satellites

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (PTI)

BENGALURU-BASED space company GalaxEye on Tuesday awarded Bellatrix Aerospace a multi-year contract to supply in-space propulsion systems for its next 30 satellites.

Measured by satellite count, it is the largest business-to-business order one Indian private space company has placed with another since the sector opened to private players in 2020, GalaxEye said in a statement.

The development came at the ongoing India International Space Conclave 2026, organised by the Indian Space Association (ISpA) in collaboration with ISRO and the IN-SPACe.

Under the phased delivery schedule, Bellatrix will design, build, test and deliver propulsion systems for 30 GalaxEye OptoSAR Gen-II satellites.

The company's OptoSAR satellite has an integration of electro-optical (EO) and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform. While EO sensors capture high-resolution images during sunlight and clear skies, SAR sensors provide all-weather and all-time images, using radar pulses.

Space tech's economic impact must go beyond launches: Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (PTI)

THE economic contribution of space technology must be measured not only through rocket launches, satellite manufacturing, and commercial revenues but also through the savings, efficiencies, and improved outcomes it generates across sectors on the ground, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.

Singh made these comments during his address at the India International Space Conclave 2026 in New Delhi, organised by the Indian Space Association (ISpA) in collaboration with the ISRO and the IN-SPACe.

Space-based applications help improve infra planning.

India-Netherlands looking at boosting coop in clean energy, shipbuilding: MEA

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (PTI)

INDIA and the Netherlands have agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas of shipping, shipbuilding and green hydrogen, aligning with efforts to fully realise the potential of their strategic partnership.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Dutch counterpart Tom Berendsen explored ways to deepen the overall trajectory of the bilateral relations at a meeting on Sunday.

Berendsen was in New Delhi on a two-day trip to attend the inaugural meeting of the annual Foreign Ministers mechanism to review the Roadmap of the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership 2026-2030.

The roadmap was unveiled during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands in May.

Jaishankar and Berendsen reviewed ongoing engagements across key sectors, including trade and investment, technology, defence and security, mobility, culture and people-to-people ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

"They welcomed the recent initiatives to enhance collaboration in areas of semiconductors, renewable energy and green hydrogen, and reaffirmed their commitment to realising the full potential of the strategic partnership," it said in a statement.

The MEA said both sides underscored the importance of deepening cooperation in priority sectors of water, agriculture and health.

"They discussed deepening cooperation in maritime and shipping, particularly green shipping, port development and shipbuilding," it noted.

The Ministers also highlighted trade and economic ties as a key pillar of the partnership and emphasised the importance of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement in creating new opportunities. "Both sides agreed to endeavour to hold the Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) at the earliest to deepen cooperation, address trade facilitation issues and promote investment," the MEA said.

Jaishankar and Berendsen also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, it added.