

Former CIA director warns

Americans should expect future attacks at home or abroad

WASHINGTON, Aug 22: In explaining the US missile strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan, Clinton administration officials were careful to caution against thinking this was the final salvo in the war against global terrorism, reports AP.

If, as Joint Chiefs Chairman Hugh Shelton said, this is a new kind of warfare, can the US military win? Can it stop terrorists from hitting Americans at home?

If US forces are prepared, as Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering said Friday, to use any means at their disposal in this intensified war against terrorism, what means — chemical, biological or other — might the terrorists groups be ready to use?

Such questions cannot be answered with certainty. But what does seem likely is that the war on terror will take a further toll on Americans somewhere.

"We should expect future attacks against Americans, whether at home or abroad," Robert Gates, a former CIA director, said Friday. "This is a protracted conflict."

President Bill Clinton said when he announced Thursday's missile attacks that Americans must realize "this will be a long, ongoing struggle between free-

dom and fanaticism."

The United States and its interests abroad have been a target of terrorists for years. What has changed now is the nature of the terrorist threat. Instead of relying on individual states such as Iran or Syria for financial support, terrorists now use "transnational" networks not tied to any specific nation, either for the resources or for ideology.

"You're talking about a privatization of international terrorism," said Vincent Cannistraro, a former National Security Council intelligence director and terrorism expert.

As the nature of terrorism has changed, the US national security establishment has been slow to adapt. With the Cold War over, ending the threat of a huge land war in Europe, US military forces have been reshaped. But the closer coordination needed between the military, intelligence and law enforcement agencies to prevent and defeat terrorism has sometimes been lacking, experts generally agree.

Roy Godson, a terrorism expert and president of the National Strategy Information Center in Washington, applauds Clinton's decision to use force. But he urges a broader ap-



Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, seen leading a rally on the university campus yesterday to mark the National Education Week '98.

Ministers continue relief operations

Speaker, ministers, state ministers and representatives of various other organisations yesterday continued their relief operations across the country, providing succour to the flood affected people, reports BSS.

During their visits to different flood-hit areas of the country, they distributed relief goods among the flood victims and urged them to face the calamity with courage.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury visited the flood affected areas of Kamrangirchar and Nawabganj in the city yesterday and distributed relief materials among the flood victims.

The Speaker said the government has been making all-out efforts with sincerity to provide necessary helps to the flood victims and rehabilitate them.

Local MP Haji Selim accompanied the Speaker.

Minister for Food and Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury yesterday visited the flood affected Ramchandrakura, Mayabil, Bagber and Gogania unions under Nalitabari thana in Sherpur district.

She advised the local peasants about the cultivation of the coming Aman crop. She also distributed relief goods among the affected people of the areas.

Minister for Forest and Environment Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday visited city's flood-hit areas in Badda and distributed rice and dried food among the affected people.

During her visit to the area, the minister assured the flood victims of continuing the relief operation till the improvement of the flood situation.

Local MP AKM Rahmatullah was present on the occasion.

State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleq visited the flood-hit areas under sadar, Banga and Sadarpur thanas under Faridpur district yesterday and distributed rice, lungi and saree

among the distressed people.

While talking to the flood victims, the state minister said not a single person will die of starvation. He said the distressed families are being provided with VGF cards.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday toured the flood affected areas of Companyganj, Begumganj, Chakhal and sadar thana in Noakhali district. He distributed relief goods and money among the affected people.

State Minister for Land Alhaj Rasheed Musherref visited the flooded areas of Fulakandi, Belgacha, Ghutail and Bahadurabad in Islampur thana under Jamalpur district yesterday.

During the visit, he distributed rice, pulse, sugar, oral saline, water purifying tablets and candles among the flood victims.

Musherref urged the affluent section of society to come forward in aid of the flood affected people.

State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq yesterday visited the affected areas of Aralchar, Jagadiabazar, Shantirbazar, Khakazi, Nayapara, Janapara and Demgurkandi under Narayanganj district. He distributed relief materials and cooked food among the flood victims.

The members of Old Rajshahi Cadets Association yesterday distributed relief materials among the flood victims in Manikganj sadar and in the villages under Shibhalaya and Savar.

Facilities Dept completes new bldg construction

RANGAMATI, Aug 22: The Facilities Department has completed the construction of a new building of Rani Doyamaye High School at Kalindipur here at a cost of Taka 11 lakh, officials said, reports BSS.

On completion of the new building another shift is being introduced in this high school where 500-odd students could be enrolled.

Above 5,000 students are now studying in the seven secondary schools in the hilly town of Rangamati.

Participatory pisciculture programme undertaken

RANGAMATI, Aug 22: Rangamati unit of Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) has undertaken a participatory pisciculture programme at five different places in Rangamati and Khagrachhari local districts involving the local people.

The programme is being sponsored by Kaptai Lake Fisheries Development and Production Enhancement Project, a unit of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Mohammad Alamgir, senior scientific officer of FRI told BSS yesterday.

The participating people will get 49 per cent share of the production in view of the production-sharing basis while the sponsoring agency, KIFDPEP, will provide all necessary supports, including making and development of fish culture bed, fingerlings, food for fish and consultancy.

One killed in road mishap in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Aug 22: One person was killed and five others were injured in a road mishap this evening at Jouthokhamar in Kauhali thana of the district when a passenger loaded improvised jeep fell into a roadside ditch, police sources said, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Sekandar Ali, 45, of Hosnabad in Rangunia thana of Chittagong district. The injured were released after first aid from Kauhali Sadar Hospital, sources added.

The driver and the helper of the jeep, locally known as 'Chander-garhee' bearing the number Ranga BA 1614, managed to escape immediately after the accident, police quoted the eye-witnesses as saying.

The body of the victim was sent to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case was lodged Kuakhali thana in this connection.

Bangabandhu Hospital opens in Rangpur 'Govt has taken up special dev programmes for N-W region'

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday called upon the people irrespective of political affiliations to come forward in implementing the development programmes of the country, reports BSS.

"The government has taken up special programmes for the development of the North-Western region of the country," he said while inaugurating the newly built Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital in Rangpur.

Presided over by the chairman of Rangpur Pourashava Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, the function was addressed, among others, by Ahsan Ahmed, MP, former MP and local Awami League leader Shah Abdur Razak, patron of the hospital Tipu Munshi, Ganotantri Party leader Afzal Hossain, Jatiya Party leader Abdul Latif Khan and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shamsul Azam Khan.

Anwar Hossain said the government has taken up different measures for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the country's North-Western region.

The Communications Minister said the construction of Bangabandhu Bridge during the last three governments has proved that the people of this country are united for the development of the country.

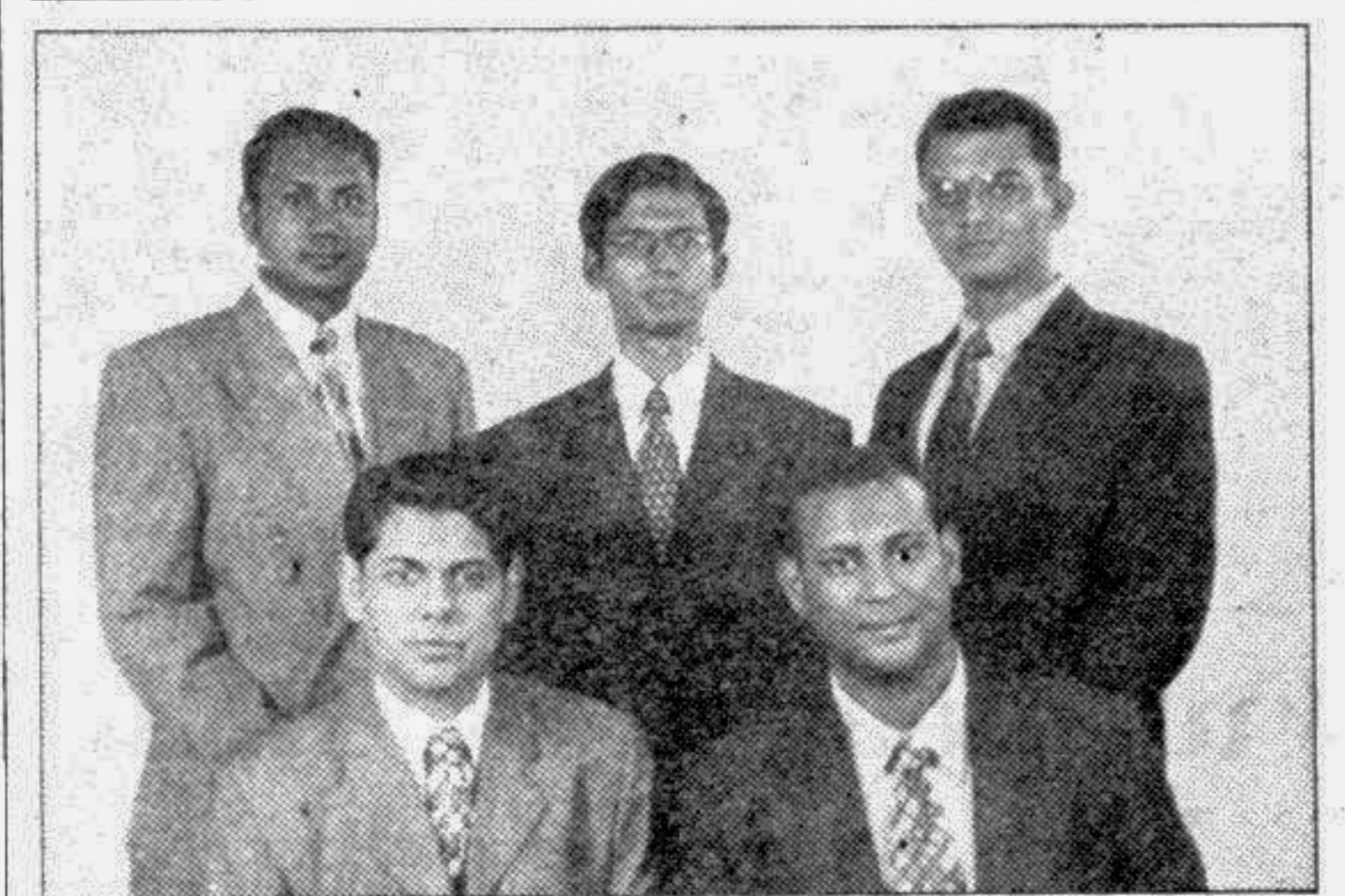
The minister said the politics of today is for the welfare of the people. The people will throw out the government if they failed to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the nation, he added.

Anwar Hossain said political stability is a must for the development of any country. But a vested quarter is trying to create instability by hatching conspiracy.

The 30-bed Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital was constructed under the supervision of Rangpur Pourashava at a cost of Taka 43 lakh. Renowned freedom fighter and local Awami League leader Tipu Munshi donated the money.

The people of Rangpur sadar, Peergacha, Kawmia and Sundarganj thana will be benefited by the hospital.

The hospital will render medicare service to the poor patients through modern equipment and facilities. Rangpur Pourashava has taken up the responsibilities to run the hospital.



A five-member delegation of the Bangladesh chapter of AIESEC International — AIESEC Bangladesh will leave Dhaka today for attending the International Congress '98 and the 50th anniversary of AIESEC being held in Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden, between August 27 and September 5. This conference will be attended by 2000 participants from a hundred countries. The members (from left to right) are: Standing: Muntasir Rashid, Tanveer Elahi and Akhtar H Choudhury and sitting: Fahad M Karim (Team leader) and Nafid Nabi.

HR activists visit more mass grave sites in Indonesia

MEDAN, Aug 22: After digging up eight sets of bones, human rights workers headed Saturday to more sites in northern Indonesia believed to contain the remains of people killed by the military, reports AP.

Indonesian troops are accused of committing atrocities, including arbitrary killings and torture, during the late 1980s and 1990s in Aceh province on Sumatra island.

The soldiers were trying to put down separatist guerrillas who were fighting for an Islamic state. The number of insurgents dwindled under the crackdown, but resentment toward the Indonesian military runs deep among many Acehnese.

On Friday, grieving widows and other victims looked on as investigators dug up bones from remote grave sites. Two skeletons found at one spot had holes in their skulls, probably bullet wounds, forensic doctors said.

Local residents said some of the victims were Muslim teachers.

A four-man team from Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission and a group of volunteers with shovels were led to several alleged mass graves by villagers.

The team said it was only taking samples of human remains from several grave sites, which locals allege contain dozens of skeletons.

"We need evidence," the Kompas newspaper quoted chief investigator Baharuddin Lopa as saying.

Fire breaks out at Narsingdi



Stench from rotten dirt, and filth due to accumulation of flood waters for long in city's Sukrabad Masjid Lane area has turned life extremely unbearable for the local residents. — Star photo



An impromptu speech competition was held at Bangladesh International School (BIS), Dhaka Cantonment recently. The participants of the competition are seen with the Principal in charge of BIS A K M Sufur Rahman and the judges of the competition A F M Mohiuddin and Mrs Nooshen Laila respectively.

UNSC may take tougher stand on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 22: The Security Council hears Monday from the UN chief's special representatives to Iraq on his failed attempts to persuade Iraq to rescind its decision to cooperate with arms inspectors, reports AP.

The council wasn't scheduled to take any formal action following the briefing by Prakash Shah of India. But some diplomats have suggested the council could consider measures to punish Baghdad after hearing from Shah personally that his mission had failed.

Since his mission, French and Russian officials have been intervening to try to break the impasse, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The council has so far only called Baghdad's Aug 5 announcement that it was suspending cooperation with inspectors "totally unacceptable." On Thursday, council members decided to extend sanctions against Iraq for at least another two months.

But some diplomats have said the next logical step in punishing Iraq was suspending future sanctions review if Iraq doesn't rescind its decision.

Such a move would scuttle a critical six-month review scheduled for October, when Iraq and its council supporters were expected to push for the measures to be eased.

Iraq announced it was breaking off cooperation with the United Nations because the chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, refused to certify that Baghdad had destroyed its banned weapons.

The Security Council will continue the sanctions, imposed in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait, until it is convinced that Iraq no longer has long-range missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Thursday's decision to maintain sanctions at a regular review was a setback for Iraq, which has pushed to have its sanctions lifted, claiming it has complied with UN resolutions.

Shah told reporters from Baghdad that after two meetings, he had been unable to persuade Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to back down from the cut in relations with the inspectors.

Nasim brushes aside

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tor past two years," he said.

About his party's election promises, the minister said as per its commitment, Awami League had resolved the Ganges water sharing problem and restored peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Besides, the government has completed the Bangabandhu Bridge within a record time, ensured supply and distribution of agricultural inputs at fair prices and attracted huge investment in the gas, petroleum and telephone sectors, Nasim said.

The environment has also been created for local and foreign investment in the industrial sector, he claimed.

Nasim said the government's tackling of two natural calamities in the past and the flood situation that is currently sweeping the country has been lauded abroad.

Moreover, many other pro-people steps like the old-age allowance and the employment generation bank were initiated to bolster the government's campaign against poverty and unemployment, he added.

Nasim said the question of granting autonomy to radio and television, which is an AL election commitment is now at final stage.

He revealed that bids have been invited for setting up of a private channel.

The government, he said, is also committed to separate the judiciary from the executive.

"Those who were in power several times for a longer period failed to do what AL has done in only two years," the minister said.

He said the previous governments had failed not only to

Tolstoy's letters return to Russia after 90-yr journey

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Three letters, whose 90-year journey could be the stuff of an epic novel, have made their way back to a museum dedicated to the man who wrote them: Leo Tolstoy, reports AP.

The letters were written to a young Ukrainian follower of Tolstoy between 1906 and 1909, and carried by his descendants as they were tossed by the political currents of the century.

The Sheerman family was persecuted by the Soviet Union and emigrated to Nazi Germany to serve as labourers during World War II. After the war, the descendants of Vladimir Sheerman emigrated to Argentina, where they live today.

"And for all this time and through all these troubles and misfortunes, members of my family carried these papers. For a time I couldn't understand why they bothered," said Vladimir's granddaughter, 75-year-old Maria Sheerman.

She spoke Friday at a ceremony to turn over the letters to the Leo Tolstoy State Museum, the Moscow Times reported Saturday. She and her husband, Constantino Jendrejievsky, came from Buenos Aires at the invitation of the Russian Culture Ministry.

Vladimir Sheerman was a young landowner who, captivated by Tolstoy's theories of communal property, decided to give away his land to his peasants and establish a commune.

Flood affected people of Bogra district seen receiving relief materials under the supervision of Hossain Basaedd Mohammad, Director of the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society-Kuwait, recently.

JS Whip visits flood-hit areas in Shariatpur

Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and general secretary of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League Prof Khaleda Khanom paid a three-day visit to the flood-affected areas of sadar thana under Shariatpur district from Thursday, a press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Prof Khanom visited different flood shelter centres of Rudrokar, Aangaria, Palong, Chikondi, Binodpur, Chiltala, Mahmudpur and Chandrapur unions and enquired about the condition of the flood victims.

She distributed relief materials among them which included 375 pieces of sarees, 200 pieces of lungi, rice and money.

Speaking on the occasions, Prof Khanom called upon all to come forward with helping hands to stand beside the flood victims.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Kaniz Batul, wife of late Md Mahmud, will be held today after Asr prayer at the residence of her eldest son Mushtaque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of Pioneer Insurance, at 19, Sidheswari Road, says a press release.

Kaniz Batul died of old age complications in the early hours on Friday leaving behind four sons, four daughters and a host of grand children and well-wishers.

US should prepare for worst in dealing with 'Millennium bug'

DENVER, Aug 22: Experts say the United States is ahead of the rest of the world in dealing with the "millennium bug," but should prepare for the worst: Possible power outages, hospital closures and shutdown of the airline industry, reports AP.

Jim Lord, author of a book on the problem the nation's computer-driven society will encounter at the end of the millennium, said, "Europe is six to nine months behind us. Asia is nine to 12 months back. Japanese banks in particular seem to be deluding themselves."

He said in a telephone interview that the problem likely will further depress Asia's already stagnant economy.

Lord, and other experts on the problem, are meeting through the weekend at a national conference in Boulder on the problem, created by the failure of software programmers to account for the change of date to 2000.

Most computer software was designed to recognise years by just the final two digits. Come 2000, systems not reprogrammed will interpret double zero to mean 1900 and many could stop functioning.

Last month, President Bill Clinton said he planned legislation on the problem. He said it is "clearly one of the most complex management challenges in history."

Some have responded to the problem with a survivalist attitude, vowing to store foods and other necessities.

Lord, a retired US Navy electronics specialist, said, "We could throw the entire staff of Microsoft at the problem and it wouldn't make a dent. There already is a shortage of programmers. It is a trivial problem that has an overwhelming magnitude."

He compared belated efforts to solve the problem to trying to "deliver a child by having nine women each pregnant for one month."

Lord said he doubts there will be a safety problem in the nation's skies "because there won't be any airplanes in the air at least for a several-week period. I think the government will decide we have to have a flight holiday."

Paul Takemoto of the Federal Aviation Administration said, "Nothing could be further from the truth. All of our systems will be renovated by September 30... All navigation systems will be ready."

But Lord said people should be skeptical about any claims from the government or anyone else that the problem has been resolved. He said attempts to fix the problem may cause their own problems.

"The bottom line is that we have organisations at risk and people at risk," said Joel Ackerman, founder of a non-profit organisation working with the healthcare industry on the problem.

He said it has already been shown that some high-tech medical equipment will fail, and hospitals are under such pressure to cut costs that it could force some to close.

Steve Davis, a Maryland government official who has studied possible impacts on state and local governments, said, "In the Northern hemisphere it is going to be very cold (on January 1, 2000) and emergency planners should be prepared to shelter a lot of people who are freezing if power fails."

Paloma O'Riley, cofounder of The Cassandra Project, an organisation set up to assist in providing information on the problem, said it could have the same impact as a national power outage.

"We shouldn't assume the worst, but we should plan for the worst," said Davis.

Cathy Moyer, president of Profiles in Data Inc., a Denver-based technology firm, said the most important thing is for everyone to begin talking about the problem. "You increase the risk of panic the longer you wait."