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**'No camps of insurgents in Bangladesh'**

The government yesterday refuted an allegation of providing shelter to insurgents from Tripura state of India and reiterated its stand not to allow its territory for insurgent activities against any foreign country, reports BSS.

When the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was drawn to a news report published in some local dailies quoting BBC on the alleged existence of camps of insurgents in Bangladesh, spokesman of the Ministry said 'Bangladesh remains committed not to allow its territory to be used for any insurgent activities against any foreign country.'

He added that in view of such a firm stand the 'question of the existence of any such camp in Bangladesh does not arise.'

BBC quoted Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar as saying that there were at least 25 camps of the different insurgents groups in Bangladesh.

**Khaleda condemns police attack on BNP men during hartal**

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has protested the police attack on her party leaders and workers in the city during January 26 hartal, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, she said police resorted to baton charge on BNP lawmakers Sadek Hossain Khoka, Amanullah Aman, Joynal Abedin Faruque, Nazimuddin Alam and JCD president Habibun Nabi Sohel on Topkhana Road and in Mirpur.

She demanded immediate punishment to the police officials.

The BNP chief said hartal has become the only alternative means to protest against the misdeeds and misrule of the government when other democratic ways are obstructed.

"We have been compelled to enforce hartal for realising public demands as Awami League government in a fascist manner has snatched all democratic rights," she said.

Begum Zia alleged that the government had let loose its armed cadres and branded criminals and used police for carrying out naked attack and repression on opposition activists in the name of resisting hartal. "It is unprecedented in a civilized society," she added.

**BNP's public rally in city on Thursday**

By Staff Correspondent

Main opposition BNP will hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm on Thursday to press for opposition 4-point demand and cancellation of municipal election schedule.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address the meeting, said a press release.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged all to make the public rally a success.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oliya Jote will also arrange separate meetings in the city on Thursday.

**JP jt meet tomorrow**

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency joint meeting of the Jatiya Party will be held tomorrow at party's central office at 6:30 pm, said a press release.

JP secretary general Nazirul Rahman Manju has asked the office bearers of the central committee, president and general secretary of Dhaka city unit, and presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations to attend the meeting in time.

**Rayerbazar canal**

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driven to remember the martyrs of our Liberation War," said Apu, a resident and a student of the Dhaka University.

Apu also points out that the truck terminal would bring with it a host of anti-social elements.

**Holzman**

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briefing her on the developments and assured Holzman of all cooperation regarding the energy sector in Bangladesh.

Another US team, scheduled to visit Bangladesh from February 12 to 14, would be headed by former US envoy to India, Frank Weisner. The 12-strong team would be comprised of US businessmen, entrepreneurs and executives. This visit is linked with a US-Bangladesh Trade Fair, an annual event.

BNP sources claimed that yesterday's Khaleda-Holzman meeting also reflected the 'general disappointment' over poor performance of the government in dealing with energy sector.

**Lewinsky back in Washington, closed testimony today**

WASHINGTON, Jan 31: Monica Lewinsky arrived back in Washington yesterday, in preparation for deposition testimony in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, while Clinton rescheduled a February trip to Central America so he would be home when the case ends, reports AP.

Subpoenaed by the Senate to testify tomorrow, Lewinsky was greeted at the Mayflower Hotel by several dozen tourists and anti-Clinton demonstrators, held behind red velvet ropes as she walked past wearing a black topcoat and baseball cap.

"God bless the dress," one protest sign read, referring to the stained clothing of Lewinsky which had evidence of a sex-



Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is escorted into the Mayflower Hotel by an unidentified man Saturday in Washington, DC. Lewinsky is due to give a videotaped deposition to Republican prosecutors today which will be used in Clinton's impeachment trial before the Senate.

—AFP photo

**Ghorasal power plant**

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By the year-end, another 200 MW power will be added by two private sector barge-mounted plants.

The government has taken steps to build more power plants in private and public sectors in the coming years. The private sector schemes will add 1200 MW of power and the public sector another 1000 MW.

"We have limited resources. But if we use it in a planned way, we may solve bigger problems," the Prime Minister said.

She urged power sector officials and employees to be more honest and sincere and the people to stop wastage of power to help the government solve the power crisis.

Besides, as an incentive to all the employees of the Ghorasal Power Plant, the Prime Minister announced Tk 1000 bonus for each employee (totalling Tk 10 lakh).

**Attempt on poet****Jamaat, IOJ demand judicial probe**

Jamaat-e-Islami has expressed concern over the 'motivated spread of confusion' by the government and a section of the press about Islam and its followers centring the attempt on the life of poet Shamsur Rahman, reports UNB.

In a resolution, a meeting of the party's working committee yesterday demanded judicial probe into the incident at the residence of Shamsur Rahman.

Islam Oliya Jote (IOJ) also demanded judicial inquiry commission to probe the incident of attempt on the life of poet Shamsur Rahman at his residence before the Eid day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also maintained that

rial relationship between the president and the former White House intern.

Lewinsky's closed testimony is scheduled to be conducted tomorrow in the stately hotel, where she will be questioned by House prosecutors and White House lawyers, with two senators serving as referees. The Senate would have to decide whether to release a videotape of her testimony or to call her as a live witness. Three House prosecutors interviewed her at the hotel last Sunday.

Impeachment prosecutors expect Lewinsky to support an obstruction of justice charge against Clinton with "almost total recall" of her conversations with him and her inter-

pretation of what he said, House officials familiar with the strategy contend.

The prosecution team believes that she "has a lot of information if you ask the right questions," said one House official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rep Ed Bryant, a Tennessee Republican and a soft-spoken former federal prosecutor, was assigned to question Lewinsky. He must skillfully use the former intern's interpretation of events to overcome Lewinsky's statement that "no one ever asked me to lie, and I was never promised a job for my silence."

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported in Sunday's editions that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has concluded he has the constitutional authority to seek a grand jury indictment of Clinton before the president leaves office.

Attributing its account to several unidentified associates of Starr, the newspaper said that despite concluding he has legal authority to seek a criminal indictment, Starr has not decided whether to do so.

Clinton rescheduled his long-planned Feb 10-15 trip after the Senate set a goal of voting on two articles of impeachment by Feb 12.

Instead, the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will make a day trip to Mexico on Feb 15 to meet with President Ernesto Zedillo.

Meanwhile, a Newsweek poll released yesterday said 65 per cent of Americans — and even 45 per cent of Republicans surveyed — believe that Clinton should not be indicted after leaving office for the actions that led to his impeachment.

Only 28 per cent responded that Clinton should be convicted in the impeachment trial and removed from office.

More than half of those surveyed, 54 per cent, said Republicans have been hurt by the impeachment proceedings, and 40 per cent of Republicans agreed with that assessment.

The poll interviewed 751 adults from Jan 28-29, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 31: Five fishermen drowned when a fish loaded trawler sank in the confluence of the Baleswar river and the Bay of Bengal near Chandeswar along the Sundarbans in the early hours of Saturday.

Three other fishermen were abducted by the pirates of Sundarbans.

According to Chowdhury Mostafa, president, Patharghat Trawler Owners' Association, the trawler that sank was overloaded.

The dead fishermen were identified as Ayub Ali, 27, Nurul Alam, 23, Zahir Hossain, 26, Kaosar, 20, and Kabir Kazi, 32. All hailed from Gyanpara of Patharghat of Barguna district. Bodies of Ayub and Kaosar were recovered from Charduni and Charkhali of Patharghat yesterday afternoon.

The abducted fishermen — Sagar, 26, Shaheed, 24, and Tipu, 27 — could not be rescued till filing of this report.

Meanwhile, the pirates demanded a ransom of Tk 10,000 for releasing each of them.

**Five fishermen drown, three abducted by pirates**

From Staff Correspondent

MEHRIPUR, Jan 31: Indian and American negotiators today ended the eighth round of talks aimed at nudging New Delhi into signing a nuclear weapons treaty without making any breakthrough, reports AP.

The two sides promised to meet before the middle of the year.

"We have had a very fruitful, productive and constructive three days of discussion," Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh told journalists in New Delhi after talks with US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

The talks began after New Delhi set off underground nuclear tests in the deserts of Rajasthan state in May, following which neighboring Pakistan retaliated with its own explosions.

Washington joined many other countries in imposing economic and military sanctions and opened talks to persuade India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

India refuses to sign the treaty, saying it needs a defense against the threat it sees from China and Pakistan.

A joint statement issued at the end of the talks said "both delegations are satisfied with the outcome of the talks. As

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member did not mean the blaze the fire brigadiers fight against. It's the political violence flaring up across the country," said the minister, making an appeal to all concerned to practise tolerance in politics.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid then commented, "I think he (Osman) meant the fire in the heart."

Meanwhile, the Islamic scholars and Tablig Jamaat leaders from home and abroad delivered important religious speeches yesterday, the second day of the Jitma highlighting the teachings of Islam.

They discussed the ways and means of preaching Islam throughout the world and urged all Muslims to participate in it.

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Golam Faruk Obhi spoke harshly about deposed President HM Ershad who expelled him from the Jatiya Party on Thursday.

Without naming Ershad, Obhi asked the home minister, "I would like to know how an MP who was jailed on charge of moral turpitude could be allowed to attend the parliament session keeping him in a sub-jail on the premises of the parliament complex?"

The minister appeared to be happy hearing the question, which he said, should have been asked much earlier. "It was done as per law of the land," he replied.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina was seen enjoying some lighter moments with her party lawmakers minutes before the sitting started.

As she entered the House at about 4:45 pm, she was surrounded by a group of AL lawmakers on the passage leading to her seat. The PM was seen talking to her party colleagues in a jubilant mood.

At that time, some 45 members were present in the Treasury Bench while the Opposition seats were totally empty. The House requires the presence of at least 60 members to start its business.

The members who will attend in time will be rewarded and the late-comers will be fined Tk 100 for every hour," a smiling Leader of the House was heard from the press gallery as saying.

But none asked if the penalty would also be applicable for Sheikh Hasina, who came 15 minutes behind schedule yesterday.

The JP lawmakers, clearly divided into two factions, behaved in their own ways. The group loyal to Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Monju entered the House first while the group enjoying the blessings of Ershad came later.

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