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## Mujahideen chief urges Pakistan to send troops to Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Aug 12: The militant Muslim group that spearheaded a truce with India urged Pakistan today to send troops into the disputed Kashmir region, even if it means a war in South Asia, reports AP.

"Pakistan should physically involve itself in Kashmir. We want war because war will solve the issue," said Salahuddin, chief of Hezb-ul Mujahideen told The Associated Press.

"We prefer to die 100 times than to live like this," he said referring to attacks by Indian troops against civilians in India's violent Kashmir.

Since the start of the violent secessionist uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir in 1989, militant Kashmiris and Pakistan have accused Indian soldiers of widespread atrocities. Also Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have issued reports of widespread human rights abuses by Indian soldiers under siege by Muslim militants.

The silence of the international community to the horrors committed by Indian soldiers in Kashmir is criminal," said Salahuddin. "It is better to have a war than to have this kind of life."

"meaningful" meant peace talks that included Pakistan, India and the Kashmiri leadership.

For India it meant bilateral talks with the Kashmiris, which New Delhi quickly agreed to.

"But bilateral talks have not worked in the past. We have a history of talks between the Indians and the Kashmiris and between Pakistan and India and they have failed," he said.

He accused India of sending mixed signals vacillating between talks within the framework of the Indian constitution to statements from Indian politicians that the Kashmir dispute was an internal problem of India's.

Divided between India and Pakistan after British rule of South Asia ended in 1947, the former princely state of Kashmir has been the flashpoint of two previous wars between the uneasy neighbours.

Salahuddin warned of another one that could result in the use of nuclear weapons un-

less a settlement is reached.

Both India and Pakistan exploded nuclear devices in 1998 and declared themselves nuclear powers. They both say they have nuclear weapons in their arsenals.

He warned that Hezb-ul Mujahideen will step up attacks against Indian soldiers until New Delhi agrees to tripartite talks. The attacks will be more sophisticated and targeted aimed at Indian army facilities inside Indian ruled Kashmir as well as elsewhere in India.

His group took responsibility for last Thursday's car bombing that killed 10 people in Srinagar, the capital of Indian Kashmir.

Hezb-ul Mujahideen put its reputation and credibility at stake for the ceasefire and it was up to India to show its willingness," he said.

He said Hezb-ul Mujahideen gave India only a few days to respond to its demand for tripartite talks because they were concerned about their fighters on the ground in Kashmir.

The silence of the international community to the horrors

## Govt abusing detective agencies to spread false propaganda: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has accused the government of using different detective agencies as tools for spreading false propaganda to create grounds for intensifying repression on the opposition activists.

"It is not only immoral, but also dangerous," said the party's Secretary General, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP.

Addressing a press conference at 29 Minto Road in the city yesterday afternoon, Bhuiyan requested the official agencies not to feed the press any unfounded or misleading news.

The BNP leader referred to some recent newspaper reports as instances of "abusing the official agencies for nasty political purposes."

He said those papers quoted the detective agencies to report on the so-called secret plans allegedly, by some opposition leaders for destructive activities including attacks on the prime minister and members of her cabinet.

No BNP leader had any secret meeting with any other opposition party to plan such destructive activities. BNP does not believe in the politics of killing, sabotage or conspiracy, nor is it engaged in such practice," he said.

The BNP leader said that while using the agencies against the opposition, the government provided three newspapers with false and inconsistent information.

UNB adds: Bhuiyan said one of the newspapers mentioned that six leaders Khairul Kabir Khokon, Jahangir Alam, Abbar Ahmed Chowdhury of BNP, Quamruzzaman, Prof Mojibur Rahim and Engineer Nurul Huda held a secret meeting at

the residence of Khokon end of last month.

The report said the meeting was held for subversive acts at gas and power stations, embassies, Secretariat and government institutions.

He made it clear that BNP is a democratic party and it is continuing movement in democratic way. The opposition parties cannot be refrained from current movement by spreading false and unfounded propaganda.

The BNP secretary general said the information supplied to newspapers by intelligence agencies was "baseless, a figment of imagination of the concerned persons of the intelligence agencies as well as part of evil design for implementing government's conspiracy."

**Textile, RMG**

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agreement (MFAT) regulating garment business with quota, GSP etc. will be phased out and the WTO trade regime will come into force under which there will be no barriers to market access.

This will mean that the protection which our RMG industry enjoys today will not be there and all the fabric suppliers will overnight become our competitors as they would also prefer value addition to their export," the BTMA president said.

He mentioned that in India and Pakistan, textile industries are unable to utilise their yarn and fabric and they would be able to supply these at prices below the international market price.

## Rab's guard held

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programme, Chakra League and Juba League submitted a memorandum to the IGP.

They will lay a siege to the KMP headquarters tomorrow to press their demand for arrest of Rab's killers and removal of "inefficient" police officials from KMP.

Tension still runs high in the city. Sporadic incidences of violence were reported from different places despite deployment of BDR, Armed Police Battalion and riot police in the city.

The OC of Khulna thana, C B Majumdar, was manhandled and abused by angry BCL activists for his alleged corrupt practices and failure to contain crimes in the town.

Earlier on Friday night, Rab's eldest son Arifur Rahman Mithu filed a case with Sonadanga thana without naming any accused. In the FIR, he stated that his father was killed as a result of a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched up by vested quarters.

Leaders of Khulna city AL have blamed some KMP officials for "creating circumstances that ultimately resulted in the murder". Rab had reportedly sought security of his life several times from the police commissioner, they claimed in a statement on Friday night.

They alleged that a section of corrupt police officials are responsible for creating a law and order situation in the city. Inci-

dents of murder, dacoity and smuggling have become rampant. Khulna city has become a safe haven for murderers, terrorists and armed cadres of outlawed organisations due to police inaction, inefficiency and corruption, the statement said.

The statement, signed by among others, State Minister Talukdar Abdul Khaled, warned that no police official including the police commissioner would be allowed to leave Khulna without accounting for their failure to ensure Rab's security, contain terrorism and recover all illegal firearms.

They also sought intervention by the Prime Minister and the Home minister in these matters.

Meanwhile, Purbo Banglar Communist Party claimed responsibility of the murder. In a message faxed to some newspaper offices, the PBCP said Rab was murdered for being a scapegoat of the ruling party and one of the godfathers of the killers of journalist Shamsur Rahman.

The message, sent in the name of Zahir Hasan, Secretary of the Divisional Committee of outlawed PBCP, said that Rab was killed as he was the "most hated enemy of class struggle".

But some police officials said the fax message may be an attempt to obstruct the investigation and divert people's attention. "Authenticity of the fax message will be checked and rechecked," said a KMP official.

**BEA: Saifur**

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Chairman of Grameen Bank Dr Mohammad Yunus presided over the seminar.

Noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dr Abu Abdullah, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Prof Jamil Nazrul Islam of Physics Department of Chittagong University, Rashed Khan Menon of Bangladesh Workers Party and Husam Jilur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS spoke at the seminar.

The political system in the country is "rotten" and it will not be possible for any government in future to deliver good unless the system is changed, he said.

Only a qualitative change in leadership can stop the "degradation in politics".

Rehman Sobhan said, "In any civilised democratic society it is really rare that the prime minister and the opposition leader do not have any political discourse between them for 10 years."

He asked Saifur Rahman to take initiative with his counterparts in ruling Awami League to talk to both the ladies to change the situation.

Dr Yunus said a peaceful and acceptable election is the most important issue before the nation. "But the politicians are determined to do the opposite". He urged the civil society to take initiative so that "politicians and the public" can not jeopardise election".

"Although I am blaming politicians, all the politicians are not dishonest. But the honest politicians are very weak these days," he said. He urged honest politicians to come forward and said people will rally behind them.

Identifying Information Technology (IT) as one of the potential sectors where the country has a chance to prosper in the globalised world, Dr Yunus urged the government to open up all the avenues for proper growth of the sector.

Government should take initiative to lift all sorts of control of Bangladeshi Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) on IT and form an independent regulatory body to oversee growth of this sector," he said.

He also urged the government to leave the task of laying submarine optic fiber cable and all sorts of international telecommunication to the private sector.

Dr Yunus also suggested transforming BTTB into a commercial organisation and floating its share in the market.

Dr Yunus also said a common open market in SAARC region is a pre-requisite for the countries of this region in the context of globalisation. "An open market with India is beneficial for both the countries and we have to open all the doors of the border," he said.

Rashed Khan Menon said, "We are living in a country where we do not have any control on its wealth. Foreign powers decide the fate of our wealth".

He claimed that the decision to export natural gas through pipeline was finalised four years back.

Prof Jamil Nazrul Islam has been asked to patrol the skies in New Delhi on Tuesday during a planned speech by the prime minister at the historic Red Fort, the third such vigil since India gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Indian Air Force helicopters will maintain a strict vigil on the Red Fort area from where Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will address the nation on August 15. "Delhi's Commissioner of Police Ajai Raj Sharma was quoted as saying by the newspapers.

Traditionally the prime minister addresses the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in the old city to mark the day. Newspapers said the air force has been asked to shoot down planes flying over the national capital without permission.

A resolution proclaiming August 12 as the International Youth Day was adopted in the first session of World Conference of Ministers responsible for youth.

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**Taliban close public bath houses**

KABUL, Aug 12: The hardline Islamic Taliban closed public bath houses in the war-tattered Afghan capital, saying today that Islam forbids men to publicly display their bodies, reported AP.

The 30 bath houses, where men collectively washed, closed last week following an edict by the religious police.

"Islam doesn't allow even men to expose their bodies in public," Ahmedullah Sahafi, a spokesman for the Kabul municipal administration told The Associated Press.

Bearded men and young boys wore shorts or tied towels around their waist while bathing in giant tubs. The poorly lit rooms accommodated 80 to 100 men, mostly the city's poorest who do not have running water.

But not any more.

The Taliban, who have very little money to run their war-torn country, say they will build small single occupancy public bath houses.

Collective bathing is not just against Islam, but also a health hazard because people share water from pools," Sahafi said.

The Taliban, who espouse a harsh brand of Islam, closed public baths for women when they took control of Kabul in 1996.

The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam does not allow men to wear shorts or sleeveless shirts in public. They are forbidden to shave.

Women, who have been the target of many of their edicts, are required to wear the all-encompassing burqa and travel outside their home only accompanied by a male family member.

Islamic scholars in neighbouring Pakistan say the Taliban's laws reflect tribal traditions more than Islamic tenets.

**30 hurt in clash over mosque fund in Rajshahi**

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 12: At least 30 people were injured, 13 seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Durga Pariba village in Poba upazila this afternoon.

The clash ensued as a sequel to continued dispute over funds of a mosque.

A senior official said, "The VVIP flights now in the country, the Air Chief said the current



## শিক্ষক কর্মচারী এক্যুড়ে ৬ দফা প্রবন্ধে দাবীত

Teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges staged a demonstration in the city yesterday to press their six-point demand including 100 per cent salary from public exchequer.

— Star photo

## 600 'freed' foreign nationals still languishing in jails

By Razir Rahman

Nearly 600 foreign nationals including 14 women are in different jails in the country although they have completed their jail term or have been acquitted of the charges against them.

As soon as an expatriate detainee is acquitted of the charges against him or his jail term is over, the home ministry is informed of this.

Toll jail officials said lack of initiative by the foreign missions concerned in Dhaka for repatriation of these foreigners has led to this situation. These detainees are called 'released prisoners'.

Of the 600 expatriate released prisoners, 510 including seven women are from Myanmar with most of them in jails in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Comilla, the officials said.

The number of such detainees in Dhaka Central Jail is 30, six of them from Myanmar.

Seventy-six released prisoners including seven women are from India and six from Sri

Lanka. Besides, there are some from Thailand, China, Pakistan, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia.

As soon as an expatriate detainee is acquitted of the charges against him or his jail term is over, the home ministry is informed of this.

After getting permission from the ministry for repatriation of the released prisoner, jail authorities contact the foreign mission concerned to take the person from jail. If the mission wants to do so, jail authorities in the presence of Special Branch of Police hand over the person to mission officials, sources concerned said.

The mission concerned then sends the foreigner back to his country.