

Chain of command in armed forces established: Hasina

COMILLA, Jan 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government has created an atmosphere where nobody could use the armed forces for political ambitions, reports UNB.

"Armed forces have been completely freed from politics and chain of command has been established," she said addressing a Darbar of army after witnessing a joint training and demonstration.

The demonstration of the 33rd infantry division was held at Lalmai in the district with members of the armed forces using paratroopers, fighter jets, tanks and cannons.

During the one-hour mock fight, they demonstrated attack and counter-attack amid sounds of firing and smoke creating a war-like situation.

The Prime Minister, wearing combat jacket and cap of the army, witnessed the mock war "death trap" conducted under the leadership of Brigadier General Iqbal Karim and Brig Gen Fakruddin Haider.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff Lt

Gen Harunur Rashid and Comilla Area Commander Maj Gen Alauddin Mohammad Wadud received the Prime Minister at the demonstration area. Local MPs, chief of naval staff and chief of air staff and senior defence officials were also present.

Addressing the soldiers and officers of the area, Hasina said Bangladeshi Army is now much more organised and stronger than any time in the past following the sincere efforts of her government.

She said members of the armed forces have brightened the image of the country by discharging their duties in the UN peacekeeping missions with utmost sincerity and efficiency.

Hasina said the army is also engaged in various nation-building activities at home, like Ashrayan. "As a result, the gap between people and army has been reduced greatly."

She said the success of army largely depends on people's support and cooperation. Without people's support, she said, the army cannot win any war.

Jail Killing Case

From Page 1 days. But the court fixed January 29 for further hearing on the basis of time prayer by the state.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam did not oppose the petition for treatment of the accused but prayed for recording deposition of the complainant of the case.

After hearing both sides, the judge adjourned the proceedings for non-appearance of Nurul Islam Manzoor in the court and filing a criminal revision pending with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

However, Nesar Alam, the Deputy Jailor submitted the custody warrant of Nurul Islam Manzoor, mentioning that the accused was under treatment at the jail hospital. All attempts were made to produce him (accused) before the court but he showed up only to appear before the court.

Seven of the accused

Taheruddin Thakur, Shah

Moazzem Hossain, KM Obaidur Rahman, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Sharif Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazlul Huda and Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced in the court during the hearing.

Four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali were brutally killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Special PP Sirajul Haq and Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, Abdul Majid Munshi, Hazi Nazrul Islam, ABD Sharifuddin Khan Mukul and SM Rafiqul Islam for the accused.

'Mosquitoes are of 11 categories'

By Staff Correspondent

A ruling party lawmaker has categorised mosquitoes into 11 different types such as rural, urban, local, alien, national, tribal and parliamentary mosquitoes.

"As their types are many, so are the results of their bites. A mosquito bite may make a person ill or even leave a person battling for life. A mosquito-bitten person may suffer from convulsion or be panicked," Haji Mohammad Selim said in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In his notice on the urgent issues of public importance, Selim termed the mosquito species as a tiny flying insect in his words has "stood the test of time."

"Mosquitoes are ubiquitous and have found their place in prose and poetry, in the story of Namrood and even in the holy Quran. Cartoons are scripted on the use of cannons against mosquitoes. Aeroplanes were used to kill mosquitoes in the British-ruled India and the Zia-ruled Bangladesh. In recent times, mosquitoes have also made fogger machines roar to frighten people."

It is said that Africa is the source of Aedes mosquito now available in the jungles of Indian state of Assam. This kind of mosquito cannot see and does not bite at night. But the type now swarming in the parliament can see by day as well as at night that has resulted in a round-the-clock battle."

The ruling party MP also blamed the officials of the health ministry and of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for shirking their responsibilities.

Truck kills 4 in Comilla

COMILLA, Jan 24 (UNB): A road accident in Debidar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway left four people killed and two others injured today, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Idris Ali of Faridpur district, Khurshed Alam, 32, and his brother Amir Hossain Monu, 17, and Shahidul Islam, 25.

Police said the accident took place when a truck knocked them down in front of Sadat Jute Mill at 7:30 am. Idris, a van puller, was repairing his van while the other victims were standing beside him when the truck hit them.

The injured Nurul Alam and Shahidul were hospitalised.

Angry workers and local people barricaded the road after the accident, disrupting traffic for over three hours. A case was filed.

Hill students

From Page 12 They said that army had 13 PCP workers arrested including its vice president Milton Chakma from a peaceful rally at the Manikchhari on December 3, 2000.

They demanded immediate release of all the arrested leaders and workers and withdrawal of false cases lodged against them by police and army.

They threatened to paralyse the administration through a greater agitation programme in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area if the arrested are not released immediately.

Among others, Champanan Chakma, Benjin Chakma, Meky Khisha and Dipankar Tripura addressed the rally.

Earlier, they brought out a procession from Madhu's canTeen in Dhaka University and paraded through the campus.

Bring radical changes: Temple

From Page 1 more to attract foreign investment than tax concessions or other incentives," he said.

He said many critics here complain that the private sector doesn't perform well. "If this is true, perhaps it is because of the poor environment in which the private sector functions."

Earlier in his speech, Temple said that the level of corruption in the country is high and that the quality of the civil administration is low in Bangladesh. And as a consequence, private firms may concentrate on obtaining special favours,

protection, subsidies and cheap credit from the government as a way of compensating for a lack of competitiveness.

He said that environment of

business needs to be improved by modernising the civil service and increasing the public sector accountability, which would reduce corruption. "The judicial system needs to be strengthened to administer justice more efficiently. The deterioration of law and order situation needs to be reversed so that businesses are not subject to extortion and can operate free of harassment."

He also called for continuation of liberalising the trade regime, which has been stalled and been modestly reversed.

Temple concluded by saying that it is an important time in Bangladesh's political history. He said election campaigns are about to be launched in the country, which is increasingly open to vigorous public debate.

Thousands homeless

From Page 1 gangs, equipped with firearms, crackers and sharp weapons, were locked in a clash near the slum.

The gangs exchanged gunshots, blasted crackers and damaged a number of roadside shops, creating panic in the area and disrupting traffic on Tongi Diversion Road for about two hours.

Kuddus, 35, a rickshawpuller and a resident of the slum, was injured critically in the clash. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury in the abdomen.

The clash ended as police intervened. But none was arrested. Additional police force was deployed in the area after the clash.

When asked how crackers could be exploded at the slum in presence of police, a DMP official

said they did not get any such complaint. He, however, said police are investigating whether there is any link between the clash and the fire incident.

Eight fire fighting units extinguished the fire in about an hour.

Traffic movement on Tongi Diversion Road was disrupted again for about an hour as hundreds of people gathered there during the fire. At one stage, police charged batons to disperse the crowd.

Local people alleged that police were very much aware of illegal phenyl trade at the slum but did not take any step to stop it for monetary gains.

Yesterday's clash followed abduction of two teenaged relatives of Sobhan by Kiran's men from the slum on Monday. Tejgaon police rescued them the same day.

Former air chief

From Page 12 fulfil his political ambition.

Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, officer of the Bureau of Anti-corruption, filed the case with Cantonment thana against Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on October 15, 1998.

In the second case, the accused was charged with misappropriating Tk 1,27,570 from non-public funds, for providing televisions and dish antenna to the people of his own village in 1994.

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M Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan, officer of the Bureau of Anti-corruption filed the second case with Cantonment thana on October 15, 1998 against the former air chief.

Assistant PP Faridul Alam Talukdar appeared for the state while Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukdar for the accused.

FEMA officials Ataur Rahman, Munira Khan, Dr Shaqwaqat Ara Hossain, Dr Nasir Uddin and Advocate Salma Ali were also present.

PM hints at Khaleda's involvement

From Page 1 killing four people on the spot and injuring many others in the worst terrorist attack on political function in recent times. In another explosion nearby two people were killed on the day and another died later.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Barura Shaheed Smriti Government College ground in the afternoon, Prime Minister Hasina pointed out that the bomb went off at the CPB rally at 5:15 pm and Khaleda Zia gave interview with BBC at 6 pm.

She alleged that Khaleda Zia knew everything. BNP is accustomed to doing politics of killing and is now trying to shift their responsibility to Awami League, she said.

"Now you are accusing Awami League, but Awami League does not believe in the politics of violence and killing," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said BNP had destroyed the environment

of polls by killing Chhatra League leader Basunia. They had also killed Chunni and many other student leaders, she said.

She said that in a planned way, BNP and its allies are trying to spread terrorism in the country to disturb law-and-order situation. She alleged that Jamaat is unleashing terrorism and committing rape and violence in different parts of the country.

The alliance of "votethieves, razakars and autocrats" are trying to capture power, letting loose anarchy in the country, she said.

The Prime Minister cautioned Khaleda against trying to destroy democracy by hatching conspiracy in league with razakars and autocrats. She warned Khaleda not to incite anarchy in the country.

She urged the people to remain alert against all conspiracies of the opposition alliance, saying: "If we can foil their con-

spiracy, we will be able to achieve economic emancipation of the people."

She said Khaleda's husband introduced the politics of coup, killing and conspiracy in the country and now she (Khaleda) is following in her husband's footsteps.

"General Zia used the army to capture power and later killed a large number of army personnel to consolidate the ill-gotten power," she told her audience.

Hasina said general Zia had rehabilitated in national politics the killers and collaborators of liberation war and initiated electoral fraud in the country.

The Prime Minister said that the government is only busy with development activities to ensure a better life for the people and mentioned that the country is getting good results of excellent performance under her administration.

She said the government has taken a number of projects, including housing and micro-

Split in CPI-M likely

Subhash Chakrabarty may declare new party in Kolkata today

By Sakya Sen Mitra

Chief Minister of the state Jyoti Basu is himself leading the efforts.

Basu, today conducted a couple of meetings with the CPI-M state secretary Anil Biswas to solve the present crisis. Tomorrow, he will meet all the members of the district committee of the North 24-Parganas to attend his own rally at the Brigade Parade ground here. A few other top leaders of the party are also expected to quit CPI-M to join his new party. Amongst them is Samir Patutundu, the man, who has been always clamouring for democracy.

The CPI-M state secretariat

knows that tomorrow it will probably face its greatest crisis since leading the left revolution in West Bengal 25 years ago. The unity that they had been displaying for so long has every possibility of vanishing into thin air tomorrow.

Last ditch efforts are on to prevent the split. The former

meeting of all the members of the district committee of North 24-Parganas and Chakrabarty, however, one is not sure whether the latter will attend the meeting. Chakrabarty is scheduled to attend his own rally at the Brigade Parade Ground at the time.

When asked him about his decision on quitting the party Chakrabarty, today did not directly reply whether he would actually quit. But he reiterated his claim of not contesting the elections.

"I have repeatedly said that I will not contest the polls again. The party has the rule of not allowing a candidate to contest more than three times and I have already won on five successive occasions. So I should step down following the guideline that has been set up by the party," he said.

Basu has also called for a



Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) held a discussion meeting on "Free and Fair Election, 2001" at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

High security alert in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Police declared a high security alert in the capital today following intelligence agency reports that terrorist suicide squads could launch an attack before or during the country's Republic Day on Friday, reports AP.

The government says its security agencies have gathered specific information that India's Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani and Defense Minister George Fernandes, key members of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyi's Cabinet, could be the likely targets of attack by Muslim militants.

Security forces have also issued a warning about a woman suicide bomber, who they fear would use the occasion of a Republic Day parade for a high-profile terrorist mission.

India's top government and military officials, diplomats and foreign guests, attend the parade, which showcases military hardware such as the Agni-II ballistic missile and is punctuated by Air Force flyovers.

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 12 judges in a split verdict on the death reference by a Division Bench of the High Court on December 14. The other judge upheld the death sentence of all 15.

The Chief Justice sent the split verdict on the five to a third judge and he has fixed February 14 for the hearing.

Khan Saifur Rahman said he has been instructed by his client to file a writ petition under Article 102 of the Constitution if the respondents fail to act within 15 days of receipt of the notice given on Tuesday.

The respondents are Home Secretary, Law Secretary, complainants in the case Mohibul Islam and the Sessions Judge of Dhaka.

Saifur Rahman cited the now repealed Indemnity Ordinance and Clause 6 of paragraph 3A of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, incorporated by the fifth amendment, indemnifying all actions on August 15, 1975 and afterwards under martial law, in force till April 6, 1979.

The Indemnity Ordinance was repealed by parliament on November 12, 1996, lifting immunity of the 15 accused against

The current session of the Sangsad began on January 11.

Textbook

From Page 1
Addressing the rally, SCF leaders said, the textbooks, printed using low quality paper, are full of errors.

Books printed for free distribution are being sold in shops, they alleged. The Pustakas have sold out allotment letters to five note book printers in the city to make profit, violating terms and conditions of the NCTB tender for the job, they alleged.