

Beware of Khaleda

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cunleashed a reign of terror across the country soon after coming to power.

Referring to a recent article titled "Beware of Bangladesh" published in the Far Eastern Economic Review, the opposition leader said it was the outcome of this government's misdeeds. She said this government and the prime minister must come up with the reply as to why the image of the country has been tarnished.

She said the Awami League government had depicted the country's image as a moderate one, but "this government has portrayed the country as a terrorist one and tarnished its image abroad."

Pointing to the new law passed by parliament to curb terrorism, Hasina said this law has been enacted to repress the political opponents.

About retrenchment of government officials and employees, the former prime minister said all would be reinstated when the Awami League will be in power.

At one such meeting near Mawa, Hasina said the government is conspiring to shift the site of the Padma Bridge from this place and called upon all to resist the move.

Alleging widespread corruption by the people in power, Hasina said Khaleda Zia's family has become the richest one by gobbling up public wealth and said people will take account of everything in the future.

The Awami League president criticised the government for not taking any resolution in parliament condemning the atrocities on Palestinians.

On her way to the town, hundreds of people stopped the motorcade of the opposition leader in various places to listen to her. She along with party leaders Abdur Razzak, Motia Chowdhury, opposition chief whip Abdus Shahid and

8 terrorists arrested in Chittagong

BSS, Ctg

The task force in different police stations of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested eight terrorists from different parts of the city yesterday.

Six terrorists were caught red-handed by Chandgaon thana task force from Kalurghat Industrial Estate at about 1:30 pm when they stopped a truck and started beating its driver and helper as they refused to give them money.

Police also recovered a light gun (LG) from their possession. The miscreants were identified as Md Abdur Rahim, 23, Md. Harun-or-Rashid, 21, Md. Ridwan, 22, Md Manik, 20, Tajul Islam, 22, and Mofiz, 27, a CMP press release said.

Task force of Halishar thana arrested Sabuj Kumar Nath, 26, a notorious terrorist of the area. He is wanted in a number of cases pending with Halishar thana.

Task force of Panchlish thana arrested Md. Yousuf, 30, from Sulkobhar for his involvement in illegal toll collection.

Besides, a team of police arrested Nurul Islam alias Nur Mohammad, 30, from hilly area near a police camp under Bayezed Bostami thana in the city for an attempt to violate a girl yesterday morning, the release added.

Separate cases were registered with the police stations concerned.

Sharon: Cold water

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the campaign two weeks ago after a wave of Palestinian attacks which killed more than 100 Israelis in March alone.

"We didn't have any other alternative," Peres said on US television. He said he was "aware of public opinion" against the incursion and said it would be concluded within two or three weeks.

"I don't like wallowing with pessimists," Powell said before leaving Madrid, where he won backing from the United Nations, the European Union and Russia for his difficult diplomatic visit. "My mission is still on."

Powell arrived in Jordan yesterday evening for talks with King Abdullah II on ways of halting Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territories, officials said.

Powell flew in from Madrid on the third leg of a tour of Arab countries that has already taken him to Morocco and Egypt, ahead of a daunting peace mission in Israel that is to begin later in the evening.

During the three-hour visit, including a dinner with Abdullah, the king is expected to tell Powell that Washington has the biggest responsibility to put pressure on Israel to end its military escalation.

On the ground, the Israeli army said it had pulled out 24 villages overnight, a claim denied by the Palestinians. Israel has closed off most of the West Bank, making claims impossible to verify independently.

Reports of wide destruction, civilian deaths and a looming humanitarian catastrophe on land handed to the Palestinians under interim peace deals in the 1990s have exposed Israel to international

Jubo Dal leader murder: Hartal observed in Dumuria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed in Dumuria upazila yesterday protesting the murder of Molla Sirajul Islam, general secretary of Khulna district unit of Jubo Dal.

BNP has directly blamed Awami League and CPB for the killing.

The body of Molla Sirajul was brought to party office after autopsy at the KMCH morgue at noon and then taken to Dumuria for burial.

Police have so far taken four persons to custody for interrogation.

The Jubo Dal leader was gunned down by a gang of 15 armed men at Dumuria Bazar about 9:15 pm on Wednesday.

Torture in custody Eminent citizens voice concern

UNB, Dhaka

Some 150 eminent citizens of the country have expressed deep concern at the reports of physical torture on some accused persons in the custody.

In a joint-statement yesterday, they drew attention to the allegations made by the accused or their family members and said this kind of attitude is in total violation of human rights and fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

They also urged the government to take appropriate steps in this regard to check repetition of such acts in future.

The signatories included: Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Barrister Amir Ul Islam, Adv Abdul Matin Khasru, Kamal Lohani, M Ozair Faruk, Prof Mesdhan Uddin Ahmed, Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, Prof Khondoker Ashraf Hossain and Prof AAM S Arefin Siddiqui.

Gas

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age would go up to 1536 mmcfd. The present gas production capacity is 1207 mmcfd while the highest demand is 1170 mmcfd.

"We can meet this future demand from our existing source," said Prof Osmani, director (Finance) of Petrobangla. "If there is no new significant gas discovery, the need to buy gas from Bibiyana will arise within the next three years," he added.

He noted that the demand projection was set at a growth rate of 8 to 10 per cent.

Unocal's export proposal, if accepted even now, would require more than three years to materialise before the US oil company can begin to earn from its gas sale. On the other hand, the domestic demand within that same period would grow to the projected level such that the domestic market option should become as lucrative for Unocal as the export market.

Unocal, however, believes that Bangladesh's gas demand situation would remain saturated for the next 20 years, implying that there is no domestic demand for its Bibiyana gas.

But yesterday's view of Petrobangla contradicts this projection.

The Unocal proposal styled 'Bangladesh Natural Gas Pipeline Project' outlines a total project financing requirement of US\$1.2 billion including US\$310 million for the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline project and US\$881 million for the Indian portion.

DCC polls

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Road in Rahmatganj area on Wednesday.

The BNP legislator went to the area to seek vote for party nominee from ward 65 Haji Shahidul Islam Babul. He along with his men was confined by a large number party activists, now siding with the three ward commissioner candidates contesting as independents, failing to get party ticket. The three are Jalaluddin Jalal, Masud Alam and Shafiu. The incident followed heated altercations between the two sides and branding of fire and attack on an activist by lawmaker's bodyguard.

At their press conference, the three independent ward commissioner candidates alleged that Pintu and his armed cadres had attacked them and sought security of their life.

"We want exemplary punishment of the attackers so that the forthcoming DCC polls could be held in a congenial atmosphere," said Jalaluddin. He warned that the independent candidates would boycott the election if Pintu again unleashes such attack on them.

He alleged that they had to file general diary with Lalbagh thana as police refused to accept their case.

Babul demanded at their press conference immediate arrest of the accused in the case filed by them on Wednesday. He alleged that Awami League leader Haji Selim and some others were backing those involved in Wednesday's incident.

About the independent commissioner candidates, he said they are not from BNP.

Talaat al-Bitar was hit by three bullets in the head in the Martyrs Cemetery in Khan Yunis, they said.

NCTB won't revise textbooks

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'Political prescriptions' influenced projection of the role of heroes of the country's independence struggle, they noted.

During the rule of BNP in the past, its founder late president Ziaur Rahman's role was highlighted while during the tenure of Awami League government, the role of war heroes belonging to that party was focussed.

Some sources said that during the tenure of the previous BNP government from 1991, changes were made in textbooks but history was not destroyed.

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In the Bangla textbook "Sahitya Konika" for class VIII, it has been mentioned that Ziaur Rahman declared independence of Bangladesh on March 26, 1971 as president and supreme commander of armed forces.

In an essay in Bangla titled "Bir Shrestha Mosto Kama" in a book for class V, a sentence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh in the early hours of March 26 prior to his arrest was replaced by the sentence on the night of March 25, 1971 (Pakistan's occupation forces) attacked and started mass killing.

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