

## Hasina for political plan to fight global terrorism

UNB, Bangladesh

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for a comprehensive political plan to stamp out terrorism and crimes from respective countries alongside their fight against global terrorism.

"International terrorism is an abhorrent idea and a wrong strategy and we must stamp it out..."

But while annihilating international terrorism, every efforts should be made to remove the root cause of discontent of a nation or an ethnic group," she said.

Hasina was addressing the 2nd International Conference of Asian Political Parties at Shangri-La Hotel here.

She said Bangladesh and her Awami League firmly believe that there is no substitute for multilateralism in this interdependent world.

More than 200 leaders including former heads of government from 72 Asian countries are taking part in the conference.

Thai Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra inaugurated the conference while former Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the plenary session.

Analysing the state of democracy that is under trial for nearly three decades in Bangladesh, Hasina said, with the BNP-Jamaat government in office for a year now, it appears to have ended up with "no

governance at all. "There is total lawlessness in the country and terrorists have a free ride, corruption is all time high, victimisation of political opponents is frightening, rule of law is non-existent, freedom of press is severely threatened."

Besides, she said, economy is in desperate shape with little investment and spiralling prices. Awami League is under strains because of the wrath of the rulers, she said.

On the deployment of army in the country, Hasina said the government has called out the army "in aid of the civil authority" clearly admitting its failure in controlling terrorism and law and order.

She however noted that the legal basis, the mandate, the duration, the modus operandi and the future steps relating to army deployment have not yet been clarified.

The army has arrested about 6,000 people, only a few being notorious and seized very few illegal arms, Hasina said, adding, "a matter of concern is the death of some 24 detainees in military custody."

The opposition leader said questions have been raised about "violation of human rights, neutrality of law-enforcing operations, targeting of opposition leaders and excessive zeal of some units resulting in unnecessary harassment of innocent people."

Hasina said she does not see any way out without a "comprehensive political plan" for suppression of terrorism and crimes.

## Sajal murder

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general diary (GD) alleging that a gang of gunmen led by Muckbul Hossain killed his son.

The then IO of the case submitted final report of the case on December 25, 1999 as there was no witness of the case.

The case was revived on November 27 last year. Two of the accused, including Muckbul Hossain, are now on bail while 10 others still at large.

Earlier, the case was transferred to the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka for disposal. But the judge felt embarrassed and later sent the case to the Sessions Judge's Court.

## Patriotism test

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supposed to train a "patriotic cadship."

The proposal has however met with resistance from the Public Service Association, a workers' body, the Herald said.

"Every worker has right (s) and these should not be infringed," the association's president Givemore Masongore told the paper.

## Criminal crossover

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went there for treatment and later, let them go after a brief verification of their credentials.

"These sorts of things are bound to happen when a massive operation against criminals is taking place on the other side of the border. Moreover, some of those arrestees are also sending us on a goose chase. Once we realised our mistake with the seven, we apologised to them and let them go."

In another development, police yesterday picked up another army man in connection with the case of ISI agent Ziauddin who was arrested in Murshidabad. Imadul Mondol has been charged with passing on secret information and documents pertaining to the Indian Navy to the ISI through contacts in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, at the meeting at New Delhi, the West Bengal chief minister made it very clear to Advani that his state was all for maintaining a cordial relationship with the Bangladesh. He was learnt to have said at the meeting that the Bangladesh government was responsible for the increase of terrorist activities in West Bengal.

On the other hand, the CPI-M, a key component in the Left Front government in West Bengal, feels that it is the Indian government that is responsible for the increase of acts of terrorism in both West Bengal and Tripura.

Sources said Bhattacharya told Advani that in spite of repeated warnings to New Delhi by both West Bengal and Tripura governments, the former had delayed in deploying sufficient forces along the border on the eastern side of India.

"Now everybody is worried. But we have been warning you for the last two years that proper steps have to be taken along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border to prevent insurgency," Buddhadev was quoted as saying.

Indian Border Security Forces have increased patrol along the Haridaspur-Petrapole-Benapole border as a large number of criminals use the border to slip in.

Meanwhile, the Indian government will send a detailed report to Bangladesh regarding activities of

Al-Qaida terrorists in the Chittagong in February. According to the report, more than 400 Al-Qaida terrorists are now hiding in Bangladesh.

It says on April 12, 2002, nearly 100 Al-Qaida terrorists entered Bangladesh from Afghanistan through the coastal area of Chittagong. It also mentions that Ayman-e-Jawahin, one of the closest aides of Osama bin Laden, had entered Bangladesh with the help of insurgent groups in Myanmar.

A spokesman of the Central Ministry yesterday said over the phone, "Its not that we are blaming the Bangladesh government for what is happening. You cannot just prevent terrorists from entering various countries. But we would like to see what precautionary measures they take once they get the report."

## Miss World

FROM PAGE 12  
On Thursday the fighting became more general, as rival Muslim and Christian groups roamed the religiously mixed city, burning homes and murdering in the street.

Troops and police responded with lethal force, and by Friday morning the Red Cross was already reporting a conservative estimate of 105 dead. That figure must now be much higher.

Red Cross spokesman Patrick Bawa said Friday that as the fighting had spread from the mainly Muslim north of the city to the mixed, poorer south, it became impossible to track casualties.

Similar clashes that broke out in 2000 claimed at least 2,000 lives. Meanwhile, Miss World contest organisers on Saturday abandoned plans to hold the event in Nigeria.

The Miss World Organisation and Nigerian producers Silverbird productions said that the grand finale of the pageant would still take place on December 7, as planned, but would be in London.

"The decision was taken after careful consideration of all the issues involved and in the overall interest of Nigeria and the contestants participating in this year's edition," they said.

## Alleged incest Charges framed against cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Special Court for Women and Children Repression Prevention here yesterday framed charges against police constable Abdus Samad for allegedly raping his teen-aged daughter.

Judge Abu Hanif also rejected the bail prayer of Samad, a constable (No 113) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP).

The victim, a 16 year-old girl and student of class eight (her name not disclosed), in the case filed with Rajpara thana on August 20 alleged that her father Abdus Samad raped her on August 19 and on some earlier occasions also.

She could not inform any body of the incident as his father used to keep her in their house under lock and key while going out. She managed to escape on the night of August 19.

Abdus Samad was suspended and arrested after filing of the case. The case was handed over to detective branch (DB) of police. DB police seized her clothes as evidence. Her medical test also proves her allegation.

After a month long investigation, DB Inspector Wazed Ali of RMP submitted charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on September 19.

Accused Abdus Samad in his confessional statement said that the victim was the daughter of his first wife Rahima whom he married in 1970. He joined police service in 1974. Abdus Samad has two sons and three daughters.

He married Moslema Khatun, sister-in-law of another police constable, after his first wife fled with one Abu Hossain.

He divorced Moslema after knowing her affair with the police constable, Samad said.

While posted in Kalitola police outpost in Naogaon, he married Baby Khatun. Two sons were born to Baby. He divorced Baby in 1999 for her alleged affair with his first wife's son Rezaul, he said. Abdus Salam said that being "cheated" by his three wives, he got attracted to his daughter while they were living together at a rented house.

Public Prosecutor Ershad Ali Esa appeared for the state while advocate Abdul Kader appeared for the accused.

## ISPR

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Narayanganj was not based on fact. It reiterated appeal to "all concerned to refrain from harming the image of the army through publishing false and baseless news on the pretext of freedom of the press."

Elaborating the incident, an ISPR official said police recovered two young men after they were beaten by a mob for stealing spare parts of vehicles at Narayanganj and admitted them to hospital. While under treatment, one of them died on Thursday.

The young men were never taken to army custody and the news story on army interrogation is fabricated and baseless.

The ISPR said, "The army is not engaged in dissemination of concocted stories."

It requested the journalists concerned to check the FIR (first information report) kept at the thana.

## M-16 seized

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In Rajshahi, the joint forces arrested three people including a former ward commissioner and vice-president of the Rajshahi district unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), our correspondent said.

BNP leader Akhtruzzaman Bablu and Sultan Ahmed, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist of Puthia, were also picked up.

Our Feni correspondent says the army arrested a top criminal, Abu Taher alias Kala Taher, 34, at Charkandia village of Sonagazi. He is wanted in at least five criminal cases.

In another raid the joint forces arrested Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist Musbequr Rahman from his residence in the town.

The arrested is accused in 19 criminal cases including murder.

The army till last night was interrogating him, sources said.

In Narayanganj, army arrested four people including a drug trader and recovered 388 bottles of phensidyl, reports our correspondent.

Our Pabna correspondent writes the joint forces seven people and seized a revolver.

Hasan Ali, brother of Gayeshpur union parishad chairman Shahidul Islam, was picked up from his village and a revolver was found in his possession.

Our Rangamati correspondent says the army picked up three people and recovered a gun along with ammunition. The arrested are Shumoti Chakma, Swapan Chakma and Nirud Bikash.

In Rajbari, the joint forces arrested a notorious criminal, Shaful Islam alias Bablu, and seized a gun.

In Habiganj, the joint forces arrested 12 activists of notorious "Zohad" group from a forest area in Kalatia of Nabiganj upazila. The arrested are Aminul Islam, Junayed Ahmed, Ramizuddin, Millat Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Abdul Hamid, Mojkur Ali, Lohit Mia, Bahatul Islam, Oliur Rahman, Nurul Alam and Shahjahan.



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian men carry the body of twelve-year-old Mohammed Bilalu (L), as Palestinian boys carry the mock coffin draped in the United Nations flag representing the body of killed British UNWRA (UN agency for Palestinian refugees) engineer Iain Hook, during a funeral procession in the West Bank town of Jenin yesterday. Bilalu was throwing stones at Israeli tanks when he was hit in the head by tank fire and Hook was shot in the stomach by Israeli gun fire. Both were killed yesterday.

## Two silk factories shut

FROM PAGE 1  
Meanwhile, police have been deployed on the BSB premises in fear of a movement by its staff, as monthly salaries and festival allowances lie pending for the last ten months.

The board has on its payroll 10 officials, 40 employees and 222 labourers at the Rajshahi Silk Factory and three officials, 20 employees and 69 employees at the Thakurgaon Silk Factory.

It needs more than Tk 8.22 crore to pay out the outstanding bills whereas it does not have enough fund for the golden handshake.

Dr Rahman admitted to the cash crunch, saying about 50 per cent of the unpaid bills, as of June, would be paid off in phases.

The payment would be as per the gratuity commission, he informed, adding the BSB has already been given Tk 4.15 crore to pay off half the arrears.

The rest will be paid after the government does an audit to work out the actual outstanding bills, Dr Rahman said.

The closure will render jobless 364 factory staff and some 10,000 families involved in cultivating mulberry trees that host cocoons.

BSB sources put closure of the factories down to mismanagement, unbridled corruption at every tier of the administration, unruly trade unionism, a steep fall in quality of silk and unnecessary expenditure for years together.

The machines at the factories rusted within two years of balancing, modernising, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE) that had cost Tk 8 crore, they said.

The state-owned factories have failed to sell off last year's production and silk fabrics worth about Tk 1.5 crore are wearing out in the warehouses, they added.

Also, the authorities have shut down all but one silk-marketing outlet.

By contrast, most of the 36 private silk factories are making good profits from yarns and fabrics, the source informed.

The Rajshahi Silk Factory was set up in 1959-60 with 471 staff with an annual production capacity of 461,700 metres.

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) handed the factory over to the BSB when it came into being in 1978.

The Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS), a non-government organisation, meanwhile, established the Thakurgaon Silk Factory to rehabilitate war-desitute women through income generation through silk production.

The factory, which was also handed over to the BSB, started with 111 staff and an annual production capacity of 100,000 metres.

Its closure will leave jobless some 100 destitute women, mostly victims of the War of Liberation in 1971.

Although, the factories have a combine production capacity of 550,000 metres of silk a year, only 87,000 metres were produced last fiscal. The poor performance, interestingly, followed a year after completion of the BMRE.

"The decision to close down the mills was taken as they have been

incurring losses for years together," a top BSB official told The Daily Star. "Now the government plans to hand them over to the Privatisation Commission for divestment."

When asked about the pleas of the workers for not divesting the factories, he said, "It has already been decided. What we can do now is consider if the staff themselves are interested to own and operate the factories."

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque and Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu requested the textiles ministry not to close down the silk factories, he said.

The official blamed wrong policies and termed the BMRE carried out in 1999 flawed but said the government could still make the factories financially viable without divesting.

Meanwhile, with the BSB in doldrums, an independent body styled the Bangladesh Silk Foundation (BSF) was founded over two years ago with financial assistance from the World Bank.

The foundation, with help from the textiles ministry, the private sector and the NGOs, has been promoting cultivation of mulberry trees, silkworms and cocoons.

Over the years, three dozen silk factories have been set up in the country, mostly in Rajshahi, on private initiatives, producing over one million metres of silks and yarns every year, sources said.

## PM: Politicisation

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up all the vacant posts, we will only fill up the posts which are needed for smooth functioning of the administration and the welfare

About adoption and implementation of projects, she asked the secretaries to be very selective while taking up project and not to take too many projects for effective implementation and considering the necessity and benefit of the people.

Khaleda observed that there are many buildings, offices and establishments across the country, which are laying empty and those even does not need by the people.

"From now the projects must be logical and must consider whether those will bring benefit for the people and be used by the people. Don't take any unnecessary project and never go for construction of buildings and establishments, which will never be used by the people," she added.

Regarding implementation of projects, she asked the secretaries to take effective steps and strictly check sluggishness, misuse of fund and corruption while implementing a project, and give maximum emphasis on completion of project timely.

The PM instructed them to monitor allocation of fund and progress of projects regularly and ensure maximum utilisation government money for the interest of the benefit of the people. "You must give importance on people's interest and necessity while selecting a project."

Khaleda termed the secretaries principal accounting officers and said they should take care and monitor of a project from selection to implementation and till completion.

She asked them to take special care of the priority projects like education, tree plantation, pisciculture, poultry and dairy farming and increase monitor, supervision and inspection in the remote and hilly areas projects.

In this context, the Secretaries informed that there are some 52 remote upazilas in the country, which are highly difficult to reach and communication network is so bad and recommended to introduce special allowances for the officials and employees at those areas.

The PM, according to the cabinet secretary took it very positively but she said that the officials and employees, who would be appointed at those remote areas, must have to ensure their presence at the offices.

She said that the government has already increased manifolds travel allowance for the secretaries so that they are encouraged to visit remote areas and the travel allowance of other officials would be increased in phases.

The secretaries put forward various suggestions while the PM asked them to submit those recommendations in writing and her government would consider those and take immediate action.

Khaleda asked the secretaries to talk to concerned ministers about problems and if necessary to discuss it with her principal secretary. "You can also talk to me if you feel it is so urgent."

A preliminary independent report says use of about 11,000 already built CCs is pretty low and policy makers think that most of them would not be in use in the next 10 years. So, UHFWCs would be a better choice.

Experts however strongly oppose spending money on fresh constructions, terming it a total wastage of money.

Seeking anonymity, a senior official said, "Construction of the CCs was a wastage of money. But since we already have them, policy makers should decide how to make best use of them, instead of making fresh allocations and ignoring the CCs."

An opposition lawmaker said, "We should rather plan to make the existing healthcare facilities more meaningful and ensure satisfactory delivery."

Construction of each UHFWC will cost Tk 38 lakh and the total cost of the remaining 429 already approved and another 275 planned would be around Tk 267 crore.

There are 3,276 UHFWCs already constructed long ago and all those would be strengthened to deliver primary healthcare services in the rural areas.

Explaining why the government thinks UHFWCs would be a better choice and not CCs, Health Secretary M Fazlur Rahman said, "We have visited several CCs and found them non-functional as they have not been constructed on suitable land. Since they are on donated land or 'dumping ground,' their utility is very low. We found many CCs constructed on sites by cleaning bamboo groves or beside bamboo groves."

On the other hand, the ministry concerned ordered construction of 200 more UHFWCs. Of those, 80 have already been completed and 50 per cent of those handed over to the authorities.

In addition, tender has been floated for construction of 309 more UHFWCs by the CMMU and work will start soon, CMMU sources said.

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She said that her government has emphasised on training, computer literacy and skills in English language of the officials and advised all to take the advantage of modern technology and learn how to use modern equipment.

Termining the top officials as "government's internal think tank", she asked the secretaries to help the government through giving new ideas, recommendation, suggestions, innovative idea and creativity side by side maintaining existing rules and provisions in the service.

She reminded the secretaries that a large number of people are passing days under very hapless condition and urged them to work together with the elected representatives for ensuring the welfare of the helpless and distressed people.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction that her government achieved a tremendous success through combined and tireless efforts in different sectors, discipline in administration greatly restored and thanked them for their contribution.

"We the elected people's representatives and you are the officials of the administration. Together, we are the government. Both our commitment and accountability to the people are equal," she observed.

over Bangladesh's soil being used for anti-India activities" was not being properly addressed.

On the other hand, Dhaka too complained that Indian authorities were not handing over Bangla-deshis, who had crossed over to West Bengal in the wake of the countrywide army crackdown against crime.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner to India Touhid Hussain said in Kolkata two days back a large number of criminals had taken shelter in West Bengal following the army drive and urged India to hand them over to Dhaka.

Asked about the arrest of two Bangladeshi nationals Liaquat Hossain and Arman Khan in Kolkata recently, he said they belonged to a "major political party" in his country and were "hardcore criminals wanted in several cases".

Observers here note hardening of India's stance towards Bangladesh in the latest face-off on terrorism.

Analysts here will be watching with keenness what reaction Hasina's visit at this juncture of India-Bangladesh relations sets off in official circles in Dhaka, given the intense political rivalry between the Awami League and the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

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