



Indian police break the windows of a van carrying Shia Muslims attempting to stage a Muharram procession in Srinagar yesterday. Dozens of Shia Muslims were injured when police used teargas and batons to disperse a procession in Kashmir's main city to mark the death of Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (SM)'s grandson.

# Lanka moves to flush out Tigers from Jaffna

AFP, PTI, Colombo

Sri Lankan troops were battling yesterday to flush out Tamil Tigers from the Jaffna peninsula after taking the rebels' political headquarters in the northern mainland, the military said.

Security forces were pushing into remaining rebel-held territory in the Jaffna area after taking a part of the Elephant Pass, a causeway linking the peninsula with the rest of the mainland, the defence ministry said.

"Security forces are determined to flush out the remaining LTTE fortifications in the Elephant Pass, Kilaly, Muhamalai and Nagarkovil areas," the ministry said, referring to the Tiger positions on the peninsula.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) had held Elephant Pass since April 2000.

Sri Lankan army liberated the sensitive Iranamadu, known for LTTE airstrips, recently, which is located a few kilometres away from its defacto capital Kilinochchi. But apparently the Tigers had moved their Czech-made fighters.

And the government forces are also within striking distance of two more Air Tiger air strips located just outside the LTTE's last bastion of Mullaitivu and hope to obliterate the Tiger's fledgling Air arm.

A select team of media persons were taken around the run down Iranamadu town, where grenade shells and some material left by the retreating LTTE fighters were found.

"As per our estimates as many as 4073

LTTE fighters have been killed in the past 14 months, while the LTTE intercepts admit they have lost 3,447 cadres with injuries to another 2197 of their fighters", Major Gen NAJC Dias, the General Officer Commanding of the 57 division told reporters.

LTTE created a sensation when it sent its air craft in May last year to bomb Colombo and the planes took off from the Iranamadu air strip. One was reportedly shot down by the Sri Lankan security forces.

Defence officials said the capture of Iranamadu will definitely deal a blow to the "air power" aspirations of the LTTE.

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers, who have seen their northern fiefdom crumble in the face of a massive government onslaught.

## BNP ready to help

FROM PAGE 1

to the new Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet. "We will extend our cooperation if they want it. But if they breach their commitments, then we will try to realise those pledges with people's support."

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury said, "We want implementation of the (AL's) commitments like one member of each family will get a job, no person of this country will die without food and prices of essentials will be brought down to affordable levels of commoners."

Earlier in a press briefing at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, BNP Secretary General Khanakder Delwar Hossain also hoped that the new cabinet would work to keep all its pre-election promises and welcome BNP's cooperation in running the government.

Delwar said, "We hope that the new cabinet will take charge of the government after taking oath and work to keep their promises."

Asked when his party's MPs-elect will take oath, Delwar said, "Our MPs-elect will sit tomorrow [today] with our chief Khaleda Zia and fix the date."

Delwar welcomed AL chief Sheikh Hasina's proposal for picking the deputy speaker of parliament from the opposition. "It's a good initiative...like other countries have done...it might make the parliament more effective," he said.

"Earlier we said we have no objection in cooperating with the government but the Awami League will have to change its attitude...only talking about change will not bring any results unless the party changes its character," he said.

"We wanted to cooperate with this government and we still want to do so," Delwar asserted, adding, "We believe that unity between the government and the opposition is important in running the country."

On the December 29 elections, he said cases should be filed against the "biased and controversial" Election Commission (EC) as ballot papers were brought outside polling stations.

He claimed "gross irregularities" took place during the elections as ballot papers are being recovered at many places.

Reiterating his allegation against AL activists, the BNP leader said they (AL activists) are still continuing attacks on BNP leaders and activists across the country.

"We are receiving reports of fresh attacks, arson, looting from all over the country," he said.

## AL's road to power

FROM PAGE 1

The AL has just swept to power with an overwhelming majority but not before the country went through a two-year delay and saw off two caretaker governments on the trot for the ninth parliamentary elections of December 29.

The AL got little public support in 2005 when it first opposed any polls under ex-chief justice KM Hasan citing multi-layered blueprint by BNP-led ruling alliance to stay in power. But the AL fear suddenly got a face as disturbing events started to unfold during the last few months of the coalition regime and when BNP-loyal President Iajuddin Ahmed staged a caretaker govt coup on October 29, 2006.

Iajuddin, with the combined authority as president and chief adviser to caretaker government, took no time to vindicate the rigging fear, forcing AL-led grand alliance to boycott the January 22 elections in 2007. People heaved a sigh of relief when Iajuddin was compelled to declare emergency on January 11 to avert anarchy, thanks to a timely intervention by many quarters.

Fakrudin Ahmed took over charge from Iajuddin as chief adviser and the country experienced a series of institutional reforms that was required to ensure a level-playing field for all parties and an accurate voter list for holding acceptable elections.

But, for that to happen, the country had to wait nearly two years, during which period battling Apa and Madam -- Hasina and Khaleda -- landed in jails and faced forced exile from politics.

The game of electoral manipulation took an artistic turn when the BNP was in power in 1996: the party held a farcical February 15 election, a poll boycotted by all major parties including Awami League. Even the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, the present

alliance partner of the BNP, joined the boycott bandwagon.

Sensing plot to rig elections by the BNP, Awami League and other opposition parties had been agitating them for introduction of a neutral caretaker government provision to ensure free and fair election.

But the BNP snubbed the demand saying no-one was 'neutral' and went ahead to hold the embarrassing election, forcing the AL to wage a mass movement. BNP had to quit power eventually, dissolving the sixth parliament on March 30, 1996, just 11 days after its start.

The 13th amendment to the constitution ensured the provision of a caretaker system and the first interim government of former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman had arranged seventh parliamentary elections in June 2006. The AL won the race and Sheikh Hasina formed first AL government led by her.

AL's road to power was always strewn with thorns. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inspired the AL to a landslide win in the election of 1970, but the then Pakistani military ruler Yahia Khan and defeated leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of the Pakistan People's Party declined to hand over power.

And that historic betrayal and subsequent atrocities gave liberation movement a decisive momentum and Bangladesh was born after a bloody war of nine months in 1971.

During the war, in April 1971, Bangladesh formed its exile government at Meherpur. Sheikh Mujib was made president of the government though he was in Pakistan jail.

In Mujib's absence, Syed Nazrul Islam as acting president and Iajuddin Ahmed as prime minister ran the exile government. War-ravaged Bangladesh could hold its first parliamentary elections in 1973 after partially rebuilding the country and the AL cruised to a landslide victory.

## Global meltdown puts govt

FROM PAGE 16

president of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies.

Rabab Fatima, Regional Representative for South Asia for the International Organisation for Migration says that as the global crisis persists, there is no alternative to searching for and exploring new job markets and develop the competitiveness of the workers.

Meanwhile a government official has said that the government should also focus on strengthening banking facilities for expatriates, to increase the remittance for the country, as an estimated 40 percent of remittances sent home come through hundi.

"The expatriates' welfare ministry should get a full cabinet minister with the efficiency to negotiate strongly with foreign counterparts," Abdul Alim, a recruiting agent, thinks.

TOPSY-TURVY YEAR

Early last year, Saudi Arabia reduced the recruitment quota for Bangladeshi workers following a series of 'media propaganda' against workers from Bangladesh, Bahrain, meanwhile, has stopped issuing new work permits to labourers though they are still employing professionals.

Malaysia has also stopped hiring workers following malpractices in labour recruitment process, while Kuwait last year arrested and then sent back around 900 workers on charges of staging strikes.

On the other hand, South Korea and Romania, two lucrative job markets, have recently begun hiring workers from Bangladesh.

An official however pointed out that some Romanian employers are annoyed that a number of Bangladeshis fled the workplaces after joining their duties.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and Libya has signed a memorandum of understanding (Mou) on labour. Also, in recent times, demand for labourers has been growing in countries like Sudan, Lebanon and Syria.

Some recruiting agents however think that the govern-

ment is not responding properly to these possibilities.

"The new government must strengthen relations with the traditional job markets and create a strong market research cell to expand new overseas job markets," said Abdul Alim, a recruiting agent.

## Mumbai attacks

FROM PAGE 16

Singh said the November 26-29 attacks were "clearly carried out" by the banned Pakistan-based outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"Unfortunately, we cannot choose our neighbours, and some countries like Pakistan have in the past encouraged and given sanctuary to terrorists and other forces who are antagonistic to India."

Speaking at a conference of chief ministers of Indian states on internal security, the prime minister also said that cross-border infiltrations from Pakistan in the disputed Kashmir region had not stopped.

"The governments in some of our neighbouring countries are very fragile in nature. The more fragile a government, the more it tends to act in an irresponsible fashion," Singh said.

The prime minister said the Mumbai attacks, which killed 172 people including nine gunmen, were designed to strike India's economic and security interests.

Westerners were particularly targeted during the attacks to "convey an impression that India was unsafe as a destination for the West and Western investments," Singh told the chief ministers.

Singh called for increased vigilance along sea routes, greater intelligence sharing and strengthened security to prevent further attacks.

"There is need to review the effectiveness of our set-up for the collection of technical signalling and human intelligence," the premier said.

## Hasina emerges with a change

FROM PAGE 1

Her charter for change, which includes building of a "digital Bangladesh", drew public attention, particularly of the young generation, which was finally reflected in the battle of ballots, observed political analysts. Her promise of change also reflected in the formation of the cabinet as she appointed young and fresh people.

The restraint in her speech attacks on her political rivals won her popularity in the run up to the election. Her call upon all political parties to shun politics of confrontation, and to develop a healthy political culture for building a prosperous country, also earned her publickudos.

Born on September 28, 1947 and graduated from Dhaka University in 1973, Hasina became the prime minister of Bangladesh for the second time yesterday.

However, her reinstatement as the head of government did not come easy as her political career was never a cakewalk.

A little over six months into the just dissolved military backed caretaker government's ascension to power two years ago, Hasina was arrested on July 16, 2007 following her scathing criticism of the interim administration's activities.

A failed attempt was also hatched to minus her from politics, but she survived as the undisputed leader of AL once again since she had been elected the president of the party in 1980.

While the caretaker government was putting pressure on her to retire from politics, she was also facing pressure within the party from some senior

leaders who had started criticising her 'autocratic ways', offering party reforms.

Hasina was freed from a special jail on June 11, 2008, and the following day she left for the US for treatment of hearing and eyesight problems she has been suffering from since a grenade attack on her on August 21, 2004.

Even in her absence, the 'reformists' in the party were weakened by the wholehearted support the loyal and grassroots level leaders had for her.

She had been interned many times before too including in the form of house arrest, between 1983 and 1990, for her role in the fight for restoring democracy and for her vociferous opposition to the erstwhile military ruler HM Ershad, who currently is her grand alliance partner.

Hasina, who was first elected the president of AL in absentia in 1980 in a bid to reunite the party, returned home from exile in 1981 and took charge.

She proved her ability to lead by strengthening an already congealing movement against the erstwhile military regime until it reached the zenith and forced the autocratic ruler to step down, paving the way for restoration of democracy in 1990.

But her leadership in AL faced another challenge after its debacle in 1991 election, as she was blamed for the defeat. The party was facing a split, but she finally managed to keep it united back then as well.

After the 1991 parliamentary election, Hasina was made the leader of the opposition in the fifth parliament.

She successfully kept AL united

and led the party to power in 1996 after its 21-year stint in the opposition since 1975.

Her party faced a huge election defeat yet again in 2001, returning to the opposition bench with herself as leader.

In a span of seven years, she and her party again made a comeback with a landslide victory in the December 29, 2008 election.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana escaped a bloody coup on August 15, 1975, which assassinated her father also the supreme leader of the country's liberation war Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of their family members, as they were abroad at the time.

The erstwhile military backed usurpers of state power forced them to remain in exile until 1981.

Since then, Hasina survived over a dozen assassination attempts with the latest and the most dreaded one being the grenade attack on an AL rally on August 21, 2004 on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital, while she was addressing the rally protesting the rise of Islamist militancy under the patronisation of the then four-party alliance government led by BNP.

Several dedicated party leaders and activists managed to save their leader by forming a human shield, but the attack left 22 AL leaders and activists killed and over two hundred injured, many of whom were maimed for life. Hasina herself suffered an ear injury.

Some of the other attempts on her life were also made while she was leading street agitations.

## INVITATION FOR TENDER (WORKS)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2	Agency	ICDDR,B
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B
4	Procuring Entity District	Mohakhali, Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Works
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/Mohakhali/Service Building/08/14 Date: 01.09.2008
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
8	Budget and Source of Funds	IDA through RPA (GoB)
9	Development Partners	IDA
10	Project / Program Name	Construction of 12-Storey Service Building including one Basement Floor of ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
11	Tender Package No.	Package No. 14
12	Tender Package Name	Construction of 12-Storey Service Building including one Basement Floor of ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
13	Tender Publication Date	January 07, 2009.
14	Tender Last Selling Date	February 05, 2009.
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	February 09, 2009. Time: 11:30 Hours
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	February 09, 2009. Time: 12:00 Hours
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling Tender Document	Cash Counter, Treasury Unit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hospital Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
	- Receiving Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
	- Opening Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
18	Eligibility of Tenderer	Reputed construction firms enlisted in Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous organization having requirements are : (i) Minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience on building construction works including civil, sanitary, electrical & electro-mechanical works. (ii) Tenderers having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number minimum 7 (seven) storied high-rise building work of Tk. 14.00 (fourteen) crore in single work order comprising of civil, sanitary, electrical & electro-mechanical works in the last 5 (five) years. (iii) Minimum tender capacity Tk. 14.00 (fourteen) crore. (iv) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual turn over during last 5 (five) years at least Tk. 20.00 (twenty) crore. (v) The tenderer shall have sanctioned credit line facilities/liquid asset at least Tk. 4.00 (four) crore. Qualified & Experienced Technical Personnel Civil, Electrical & Mechanical. Other required eligibility and condition of the tenderers as stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet and Tender Documents.
19	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only
	Lot No	Identification of Lot
20	1	Construction of 12-Storey Service Building including one Basement Floor of ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
		Location
		ICDDR,B, 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
		Tender Security Amount (Tk)
		Tk. 30 (thirty) lacs in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of ICDDR,B, Dhaka from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
		Completion Time in Months
		24 twenty four Months
21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abu Masum
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Manager, Procurement
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Gyanaloy Project, Finance Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 8860523-32, Ext: 3735 Fax: 9860620 e.mail: masum@icddr.org
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Abu Masum  
Manager, Procurement  
Gyanaloy Project.

icddr,b  
KNOWLEDGE FOR  
GLOBAL LIFESAVING SOLUTIONS

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