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PM's life gets riskier

Alert foreign intelligences over war crimes trial; 'high alert' ordered; 2 AL lawmakers dropped from prosecution team

HASAN JAHI TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed her cabinet colleagues and government agencies concerned to be on 'high alert' for thwarting any sabotage attempt in any sector, in the wake of the move to try the war criminals of 1971.

The direction came at a cabinet meeting as intelligence agencies of some foreign countries, including neighbouring India, had warned Bangladesh about possible subversive acts to foil the trial initiative, highly placed government sources told The Daily Star.

The agencies also warned the prime minister about possible attempts on her life, the sources said.

Sharing the information with the participants of the cabinet meeting, the prime minister especially emphasised on putting security forces on high alert at power, gas, and water supply plants, radio and television stations, important government buildings and installations, and at the courts across the country, cabinet sources said.

"I have information that war criminals might try to carry out attacks on me, or carry out other subversive acts to foil the trial. But I am not scared, since only the Almighty Allah preserves the right to give or take a life," the premier was quoted to a group of reporters by a cabinet member after the meeting.

Different intelligence agencies and

Dhaka Metropolitan Police are already gearing up to thwart possible subversive acts ahead of the trial. DMP issued letters to its departments concerned to increase security of important personalities and establishments.

Expressing her firm determination to hold the trial of war criminals no matter what threat comes her way, the premier said Jamaat-e-Islami which had been involved in carrying out crimes against humanity during the country's liberation war in 1971, will certainly try to foil the trial, as its members will not allow anything to go unchallenged.

The premier asked the ministers, state ministers, secretaries and security forces

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It's internal matter of Bangladesh

US Congressman Price says on war crime trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting US Congressional delegation leader David Price said yesterday that the trial of war criminals from the Liberation War of 1971 is an "internal matter" for Bangladesh.

During a press conference at the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) held on the last day of his visit, he said, "It is not our role to take a position on an internal matter of another country."

Congressman Price met with the prime minister, opposition leader and other senior

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Agitation soon to overthrow govt

Khaleda tells Ctg rally; alleges threat to send her abroad by injecting sedatives during emergency

UNB, Ctg

Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia said she would soon announce an agitation programme to overthrow the government for what she said was failure to tackle power, gas and water crises.

"I will wage a movement and oust the government. I have done it in the past and am ready to take to the street again," she told a huge public rally at Laldighi Maidan yesterday.

Khaleda began her anti-government cam-



aign from this historic city as part of her programme to address rallies at all divisional headquarters.

Terming the government adept in filing cases and making deals as well as corrupt and liar, the BNP chief said, "Given undertaking, Moeen-Fakhruddin government installed you in power but in the future people will choose their government."

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MORE STORY, PHOTO ON PAGE 2, 3

Troops to help ease water crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will deploy army personnel soon to help ease water crisis in the capital.

The decision came at a regular cabinet meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Highly placed sources told The Daily Star that the prime minister decided to deploy the army to ensure the smooth supply of water in crisis areas of the capital.

On Sunday, some senior Awami League leaders suggested deploying army men to tackle the problem.

Taqsem A Khan, managing director of Wasa, said troops are expected to be engaged on April 1 to help Wasa in water management and maintaining

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Sale of Hilsa fry, locally known as *Jatka*, goes on unabated in the city even though catching of the fry is prohibited. The photo was taken at Dhupkhola kitchen market yesterday.

ILLEGAL VOIP OPERATORS Penalise, but let companies run

PM asks telecoms regulator

HASAN JAHI TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to fine telephone operators involved in 'illegal' VoIP business instead of shutting them down.

"Penalise those instead of shutting them down so that people get the services," the premier was quoted by a minister as saying.

The directive came at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat with Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Sources said one of the ministers brought to the premier's attention that revenue increased due to the shutdown of illegal VoIP operators, including some land phone companies.

In response, Hasina asked him why those operators had not been closed earlier.

Another minister then drew her attention to penalising illegal VoIP operators during the last caretaker government's tenure. He mentioned that Tk 800-crore fine was realised from mobile

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15 militant outfits active

Country used mainly for transit to neighbouring countries till 2005, say detained foreign militants

SHARIFUL ISLAM

At least 15 foreign militant organisations were active or are still operating in Bangladesh since 1991 using the country as a safe shelter or transit to infiltrate neighbouring countries.

The organisations are Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Tehrik-e-Jehad-e-Islami-Kashmiri (TJI), Harkat-ul Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehadul Islami, Hizb-ul Mujahideen

(HuM), Hezbe Islami, Jamiatul Mujahideen, Harkatul Ansar, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), India-based Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF), Myanmar-based militant groups Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO) and National United Party of Arakan (NUPA).

This was revealed from the state-

ments of several detained foreign and local militants and insiders of different intelligence and law-enforcement agencies dealing with militancy.

Operatives of different foreign militant groups started visiting Bangladesh and spreading their tentacles with the help of banned local militant group Huji after the end of the Afghan war against Russian forces.

The militant organisations operated almost undisturbed from 1991 to

1998 and then between 2001 and 2005 under the nose of the local administration.

"During the BNP-Jamaat rule activities of the foreign militants marked a serious rise under the nose of the administration. Some of them were held and later given a safe passage," says a law enforcer requesting anonymity.

Operatives of several groups used to

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RTI in place, not delivering fully

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inadequate publicity for the Right to Information Act, inability of the information commission and slow pace in making necessary rules and regulations have delayed implementation of the act, observed speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They were very critical of the government for not providing the three-member commission, responsible for implementing the act, with necessary manpower, logistic support and offices.

The government is taking too much time to prepare rules and regulations, which are necessary for effective implementation of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Zamir to be made chief information commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ambassador and secretary Muhammad Zamir is set to be appointed as chief information commissioner (CIC).

Information Minister Abdul Kalam Azad yesterday

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Suicide blasts in Moscow metro kill 38

AFP, Moscow

Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up on packed metro trains in Moscow's morning rush hour yesterday, killing at least 38 people at stations close to the ex-KGB headquarters and Gorky Park.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin vowed those behind attacks would be "destroyed", as the authorities pointed the finger at Islamist militants from the Northern Caucasus for the deadliest attack in Moscow for half a decade.

The first explosion shortly before 8:00 am (0400 GMT) ripped through a train that had stopped in the Lubyanka station just below the headquarters of Russia's FSB security service, the former KGB.

About half an hour later, a second explosion went off in a carriage of a train on the platform at the Park Kultury metro station, also in central Moscow and named after the iconic Gorky Park that lies over the river.

Rescuers grimly hauled out body bags from the ornate stations in the depths of one of the world's biggest underground systems, amid calls for bloody revenge from victims' relatives.

Witness footage broadcast on state television showed dazed passengers in the metro station holding their heads in despair and corpses strewn on the ground as dust and smoke swirled through the tunnel.

Security services kept a tight cordon around the Lubyanka metro station, as crowds of people sought to call loved ones despite an overloaded mobile phone network.

Officials said the attacks were carried out by female suicide bombers wearing belts packed with explosives, in a return of the so-called "Black Widows" who spread fear across Moscow a decade ago with a string of attacks.

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A man lives for as long as we carry him inside us, for as long as we carry the harvest of his dreams, for as long as we ourselves live, holding memories in common, a man lives.



Nil Jørgen Philip-Sørensen CBE MA
Founder Chairman & President Emeritus G4S plc UK
23 September 1938 - 18 January 2010

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