DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2010

WIKILEAKS EXPOSE

China 'orchestrated Google hack'

BBC ONLINE

Senior Chinese figures were behind the hacking of Google earlier this year, which forced the search engine to quit the country, leaked US cables suggest.

One cable, released by whistle-blowing site Wikileaks, cites a "wellplaced" contact as saying the action against Google was "100% political".

A politburo member is said to have been angered after Googling his name and finding critical comments online.

The cable says it is unclear whether China's top leaders were involved. Other cables show Beijing

has been "extremely concerned" about the use of highresolution satellite imagery on Google's mapping software, Google Earth. In January, Google said it had been subjected to a "so-

phisticated cyber attack originating from China" - it said the e-mail accounts of human rights activists were among those hacked. In the ensuing row over

Internet censorship, Google abandoned mainland China and moved its Chineselanguage operations to Hong

The company did not say who it thought was responsible but the cables, released by Wikileaks and published on the Guardian website, show the company had repeatedly raised concerns about the

The BBC's Nick Childs says the allegations contained in the cables will reinforce both the perception that the Chinese government is highly sensitive about the internet and suspicions that it was behind the hacking attacks on Google. One cable from the US

embassy in Beijing cites a "well-placed contact" as claiming "that the Chinese government coordinated the recent intrusions of Google systems". "According to our contact,

the closely held operations were directed at the Politburo Standing Committee level," it

The source, whose name is deleted from the text, told the US that the operations against Google were "100%" political in nature, not an attempt to reduce Google's influence in China in favour of domestic search engines, such as Baidu.

She said to take the HSC test

exam at college she had to go

Mohsin stopped them and

hurled expletives at her father;

he told him that he would

sharp weapon and gave her a

blow on the right arm. When

her father tried to save her,

Mohsin hit him on the head

using the blunt side of the

Suma ran for safety jumping

into a canal and when she

reached the other side of the

canal Mohsin caught up with

her and slashed her in the

muscle was severed.

A large chunk of her calf

Her injured father tried to

save her but could not. Locals

rescued her and sent her to

Suma was first taken to

Barguna Hospital and was later

moved to Barisal Sher-e-

Bangla Medical College

Hospital where she was oper-

ated on. She was shifted to the

Trauma Centre on Mirpur Road

in Shyamoli, Dhaka, yesterday.

Centre on condition of ano-

nymity said Suma needs plastic

surgery on her right arm. They

said they are hoping that her

leg could be saved since the

surgery in Barisal was success-

Begum told The Daily Star that

Mohsin over the telephone had

been threatening to kidnap

Suma. They had even asked the

principal of the college to issue

her a transfer certificate so that

they could move her to a differ-

ent college. But the principal

insisted on her doing the

Meanwhile, a police official

was closed, an investigation

committee was formed and

different organisation

observed protest programmes

Sunday in Barguna demanding

exemplary punishment of the

stalker and financial help to the

charge of Barguna Police

Babul Akhter, officer-in-

victims.

Suma's mother Aklima

Doctors at the Trauma

Mohsin then brandished a

On their way to college,

and her father escorted her.

cripple his daughter.

weapon.

nospital.

But the writer of the cable notes that it is "unclear whether President Hu Jintao

2008 for protecting and preand Premier Wen Jiabao were serving the fort. aware of these actions" before The petition was filed Google publicly announced following a newspaper report its concerns. in October saying that some The cable also reports on landlords are constructing alleged concern in the structures near the boundary Chinese government that, by of Mughal-built Lalbagh Fort,

challenging official censor-

ship of the internet, Google

had made itself seem more

appealing to Chinese net users

and given the impression that

the US and Google were work-

ing together "to undermine

Chinese government controls

XXXXXXXXXXX continued,

Baidu looked like a boring

state-owned enterprise while

Google "seems very attractive,

like the forbidden fruit," it

In cable dated 18 May 2009,

US diplomats quote a Chinese

source as saying that "the root

of the problem" was an

unnamed member of the

politburo standing committee

who wanted Google to stop

from its sanitised version,

have "recently discovered that

Google's worldwide site is

uncensored, and is capable of

Chinese language searches

and search results". He report-

edly carried out a search for

his own name and found sites

refused to remove the link,

citing its own anti-censorship

principles, and eventually left

the US can neither confirm

nor deny the allegations

against Beijing, "the potential

for continuing escalation by

the Chinese, assuming Google

sticks to its guns - and the

likelihood of loud US

Congressional and public

outcry if it caves - suggest a

high-level USG [US govern-

ment] response may be in

Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton urged China to fully

investigate the hacking allega-

that engage in cyber attacks

should face consequences

and international condemna-

Station, said Suma's father

Yunus Howlader lodged a case

against Mohsin and his two

cohorts Sohrab and Al-Amin,

who helped Mohsin to track

7 was not properly investi-

gated. Mahbub Hakim,

Barguna superintendent of

police, said Sub-Inspector

Mainul Hossain was closed in

connection with negligence in

investigating the GD and

probe committee headed by

Zakir Hossain Majumdar,

additional police superinten-

dent, was formed to investi-

gate the incident. He said they

sought help from the detective

deputy commissioner of

Barguna, said Tk 20,000 from

police welfare fund, Tk 5,000

from his own fund and Tk 3,500

collected by the Barguna Press

Club and Nazrul Smriti

Sangsad have already been

handed over to the victim's

ised a human chain and a rally,

with the participation of stu-

dents, teachers, members of

family, NGO activists, different

professionals, socio-cultural

organisations, in front of

Barguna DC office yesterday

morning to protest the inci-

On August 28, 2008, the HC

acquitted the six of the charge

of killing national leaders Syed

Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin

Ahmad, AHM Qamruzzaman

and Capt Mansur Ali in the

Dhaka Central Jail on

a Dhaka court sentenced three

persons to death, awarded life

imprisonment to 12 others

and acquitted five in the case.

Of the six army personnel

acquitted by the HC, two had

been facing death penalty and

four others life imprisonment

following the court verdict.

Earlier on October 20, 2004,

November 3, 1975.

FROM PAGE 1

Barguna Press Club organ-

Md Mojibur Rahman,

The SP said a five-member

arresting the accused.

branch of police.

The GD filed on November

her daughter's whereabouts.

tion," she said.

Stalker gone wild

"Countries or individuals

The following January, US

order".

The cable says that while

Google consistently

personally critical of him.

the Chinese mainland.

google.cn.

linking to its international site

The politician is said to

"All of a sudden,

of the internet".

defying law and rules. Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain stood for the government.

No construction

The bench came up with the order and rule hours after

Human Rights and Peace for

Bangladesh (HRPB) filed a

writ petition yesterday seek-

ing directions on the respon-

dents to implement

Antiquities Act 1968 and

Building Construction Rules

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier on October 10, the HC directed the government to take necessary steps to protect and preserve the historical edifice.

Hamid

FROM PAGE 1

They joined only 46 out of 170 sittings of the ninth parliament that began on January 25 last year. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia was present in five sittings. The seventh parliamentary

session will end on Thursday after five sittings, decided the **Business Advisory Committee** of the House led by the speaker prior to the beginning of session yesterday. This is the briefest session

until now. The first session had 39 sittings while second session 25, third session 22, fourth session 39, fifth session 33 and sixth session 11 sittings. Speaker Abdul Hamid

enth session would be an effective one with active participation of lawmakers in the House proceedings. Meanwhile, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta urged the opposition lawmakers to join

however, hoped that the sev

the session and protest in parliament against the government activities they disapprove of. "It is not possible to bring down the government by boycotting the House," said Suranjit, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry, at another

press briefing yesterday at the

parliament's media centre. The House yesterday passed a motion of condolence for the deaths of two members of the ninth parliament, Dewan Farid Gazi and Lutful Hai, some former MPs and distinguished personalities.

Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and a number of lawmakers participated in a brief discussion on the obituary motion and highlighted the contributions of the deceased to the nation.

After the passage of the condolence motion, the speaker adjourned the sitting until 3:00pm today.

800 unknown

the Saturdays' clash. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Ashulia PS Sirajul Islam told this correspondent Ashulia police filed the case with police station accusing the workers on charge of attacking police and obstructing them in discharging their duties.

On Saturday, at least 10 people, including two police personnel, were injured in a clash between the law enforcers and workers of Universe Knitwear Factory over the sudden closure of the factory at Jamgara in Ashulia.

Ashulia police said the situation remained quiet yesterday. There were no fresh arrests. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further clash.

Nearly 1,700 workers of the factory clashed with law enforcers while trying to put a barricade on the Dhaka-Tangail highway on Saturday after finding their factory closed without any prior notice.

Trust

FROM PAGE 1

Organisation deals with both transit and transhipment.

Mashiur said according to the WTO clause, transit is movement of goods from one country to another and transhipment is part of transit involving a change in the mode of transport.

Both Bangladesh and India should comply with the clause because it is an agreed principle of the WTO, to which both the countries are signatories, the adviser said.

Bangladesh has been allowing India to use designated river routes for which the neighbouring country pays a fixed revenue that rose to Tk 4.52 crore in 2009-10 from Tk 2 crore until 2008-09.

The amount is fixed irrespective of the use of river routes, he said.

Bangladeshi ship owners collect charges for carrying Indian cargos on the river routes. The charges are the same as those for the local cargos.

According to an agreement, the two countries split the cargos in halves. But Bangladeshi ships now carry

almost all of the Indian cargos.

Soya oil prices

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That means a per-litre price ceiling of Tk 99 in Dhaka and Tk97 in Chittagong.

The minister also set the mill gate rate of loose soybean oil at Tk 83 per litre in Dhaka and Tk 81 in Chittagong. The prices for other divi-

sions and districts may be set soon. Khan said he would also fix the price of palm oil in near future. The minister formed a seven-member committee

headed by Bangladesh Tariff Commission (BTC) Chairman Mojibur Rahman to check at least every month that the prices of edible oil remain stable.

The minister warned refiners and sellers who do not exceed the new prices that teams of the of the government's consumers-protection officials will fine them. Depending on the brand,

the retail price of five litres of packaged soybean oil varied from Tk 514 to Tk 560, up from Tk 494 or less earlier, traders said last week.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, the price of loose soybean oil

Scout jobs FROM PAGE 1

The government intends to send workers to new labour markets in Iraq, Romania, Australia, Canada, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Papua New Guinea, Congo, Liberia, Algeria, South Africa, Angola and Sudan, stated the minister. "Workers have been sent to some of these countries already."

The Malaysian government has recently pledged to resume appointment process for Bangladeshi workers very soon, said Mosharraf, adding a delegation led by the expatriates' welfare ministry secretary has recently visited Malaysia with this end in view.

The minister also mentioned that a process is underway to send more workers to Japan under an agreement with Japan International Training Co-operation Organisation. Mosharraf informed the

House about government's decision to set up labour wings in Bangladesh missions in Italy, Japan and Jordan to secure more employment for Bangladeshis.

About 7.99 lakh workers went to different countries between January 2009 and October this year.

rose 10 percent to Tk 98-102 a kilo, compared with a month

Since the start of November, the price of loose soybean rose ahead of Eid ul-Azha, when consumption of edible oil usually rises. The price of packaged soybean oil, however, remained stable prior to the festival.

After Eid, edible oil refiners hiked the prices of soybean oil, which is imported, justifying the hike as in line with rising international market prices. But the minister was not

persuaded. "The committee will first review the prices of the edible oils within next 15 days, and after the first meeting the committee will review the prices in one month intervals to fix the prices of the item," Khan said.

Khaleda

Sayeed Eskander, Shamim

Eskander's Gulshan house and Dhanmondi house of Tarique Rahman's father-in-law in the city.

Another official of the cantonment board said Khaleda Zia also claimed the house's door furniture. She can take it away only if it is proved to be her property. PMONTHEPROPERTY

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the army will decide how they will utilise the land.

She mentioned the army property was given to her [Khaleda Zia] to stay in a special circumstance under certain condition. "She went to the court. But

we did not go... We all have to obey the court decision." Hasina was addressing a

press conference. "The premier said belong

ings are being shifted for the past three days ... How many goods come from torn stringvest and broken suitcase? added the premier. Truck after truck and van

after van were carrying goods that are being stored in many places, she said adding there were many foreign luxury items among those. "I was even been told that she [Khaleda] wanted to carry

bathroom fittings and commode and I just told officials that she can take anything and everything whatever she wants," Hasina added. Khaleda lost the legal battle

for the house at the Supreme Court on November 29. She had been residing in the house since 1972.

Rail link

kilometres off the international border -- will be linked of Bangladesh Railway. through metre gauge line. But the option for a broad gauge line will also be there, says the report.

The team proposed doubling the 4.4-kilometre Akhaura-Gangasagar section to facilitate smooth movement of trains.

"Three additional loops at Gangasagar and two more at nearby Imambari station will also be required for smooth operation of trains," the report

adds. Meanwhile, the communications ministry endorsed the selected alignment. It decided to send a summary to the

prime minister for approval. The decisions came at a meeting presided over by Communications Minister

Sved Abul Hossain. "A memorandum of understanding will be signed between the two sides once the governments of India and

selected alignment," said TA Chowdhury, director general

The team was formed in

line with the joint communi-

qué signed by the prime min-

isters of the two countries in January. The six-member team visited different sites and sat several times in Tripura and Dhaka before preparing the report. According to railway offi-

cials, a survey was conducted in 1999 for connecting the train stations in Agartala and Akhaura. But the move could not make headway. India has been pressing

Bangladesh for the rail-link as it will reduce travel hours between Kolkata and Agartala The two countries now have a passenger train service between Kolkata and Dhaka.

In April 2008, the two nations resumed regular train service after 43 years through Darshana in Bangladesh and Gede in Nadia district of West Bangladesh approve the Bengal.

50,000 apartments

in Purbachal project and 10,000 in Jheelmil project are being examined at the housing and public works ministry, he added.

In line with the Strategic Transport Plan (STP), Rajuk will also build a five-kilometre flyover stretching from Scout Bhaban to Babu Bazar and Victoria Park via Golap Shah Mazar to ease traffic congestion and reap the benefits of the proposed Padma Bridge, he said. Rajuk has also undertaken

two road projects including one stretching from the Sonargaon Hotel to Mohakhali and an eightkilometre link road from Madani Avenue (Baridhara) to the Balu river on the eastern fringe of Dhaka city.

The projects are awaiting approval of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec).

The Kuril interchange flyover, now under construction, is expected to be completed in next two years, said

Meanwhile, Rajuk authorities have placed a proposal to the ministry to double its existing manpower and create four more zone offices in addition to existing four to reduce sufferings of the service seekers. The proposal to reorganise

Rajuk with a 2,742-strong workforce increasing the number from existing 1,087 is presently lying with the public works ministry and a summary of it will soon be placed before the prime minister. The increased manpower

will include planners, architects and graduate and diploma engineers. Four new zone offices will

Rajuk will fund the housing

scheme while the ministry will

fund the road and flyover

projects with government

money.

be set up in Savar, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Keraniganj Court-8. with a magistrate, authorised officer and law officer in each of them.

> A total of 74 people including 57 army officers were killed during the February 25-26 BDR mutiny last year.

Bangladesh among top 10 climate-risk nations

Germanwatch report says

BSS, Cancun

Bangladesh is one of the top 10 nations mostly vulnerable to climate change, said Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index (CRI)-2011 report.

Germanwatch, a German based non-profit research organisation, published its CRI-2011 report on Friday. The sixth CRI (Down 10) of

Germanwatch was published

on the sideline of the global climate conference on the basis of ten most affected countries in the last decade on the specific results in the four indicators. The indicators are - total

death tolls, number of events, loss of property each person and loss of gross domestic product. As in previous years, the CRI-2011 analysed-to what extent countries have been affected by weather extreme events like storms, floods, heat waves etc. said author of the CRI Sven Harmeling. The index was prepared

based on the most reliable available data on the impacts

of extreme weather events and associated socio-economic data, he said.

According to the Germanwatch analysis, Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia and Australia were surprisingly among the ten most affected countries in 2009.

The Germanwatch index took into account the climaterelated impacts and associated vulnerabilities, not important climate aspects such as sealevel rise, glacier melting or more acid and warmer seas, Harmeling said.

This year's analysis underlines that least developed countries are generally more affected than industrialised countries, he said.

In 2009, El Salvador, Chinese Taipeh, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Saudi Arabia ranked as the most affected countries. But, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Honduras were the countries mostly affected by extreme weather events from 1990 to 2009, the index report said.

During the period, as many

as 259 extreme natural events hit Bangladesh while the number was 270 in Philippines and 203 in Vietnam, it said. In total, more than 650,000 people died as a direct consequence of almost 14,000 extreme weather events, and losses of more than

2.1 trillion USD occurred from

1990 to 2009. All of the ten most affected countries during 1990-2009 were developing countries in the low-income or lowermiddle income country group, the index report said.

In Bangladesh more than 80 percent of the deaths occurred in 1991, the country is continuously hit by extreme events and the fact that no further peak catastrophe caused so much hardship.

A total of 140,000 people died in Bangladesh in 1991 and the number drastically fall in subsequent years which can be seen as a partial proof that it is possible to better prepare for climate risks and prevent larger-scale impacts from

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Canals

"Our project proposal for setting up a graveyard there is now with the Planning Commission," said Khoka. "It is very difficult to pro-

tect canals because of a huge demand for land in our country," he added. Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority built a landing station for boats on the Haikkar Khal in Mohammadpur near the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in 2000. Local traders, who use the

said they would suffer terribly if the canal is not protected. The canal must be brought back to its original shape, they

canal for transporting sand

and bricks to local markets,

"The way the canal is being encroached upon, nothing would be left of it in the coming year. It will be a big blow to thousands of people in the area," said Ramzan Ali, who trades in brick and sand. In 1997, the DCC aban-

truck terminal by filling up the Haikkar Khal after The Daily Star ran reports. Real estate developers have filled up most of the canal at

doned a project to set up a

the Turag end and incorporated them in their projects. Retired schoolteacher Mohammad Arefin, who owns a plot near the Khal, said he protested the filling-up of the

canal last year. "I became a target of the

land grabbers soon," he said. "I went to the Mohammadpur Police Station to file a complaint but the officers there told me to go home and mind my own business."

Pilkhana

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The court began its proceedings around 10:35am at Darbar Hall of Pilkhana. The Special Court-8 headed

by BDR Deputy Director General Brig Gen Obaidul Haque then read out individual charges against 50 accused present in the dock. Of the accused, 43 are

charged with leaving the Darbar Hall defying the orders of the then director general major general Shakil Ahmed, and 30 others with not controlling their juniors. Seventy-eight are indicted for not taking effective measures to thwart the mutiny. A total of 109 BDR jawans of

the signal sector took part in the mutiny with firearms, said the prosecutor, adding, firearms, bullets and a binocular were seized from three accused mutineers. "Seven accused were

detected from still photos and video footage. Medical reports confirmed that seven accused were carrying firearms during the mutiny," he told the court. Other charges include collecting firearms and ammuni-

The court was adjourned till 9:00am today.

tion from the armouries and

making statements before the

Earlier, the signal sector jawans were being tried under the Special Court-6. After formation of some new courts, the case was shifted to the Special

On May 8, Special Court-6 fixed December 5 for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

that this bank is solely owned by one person.

Boutique assault have decided to file a GD instead of a case," he added.

dispute over the rent of the

shop housed in the building of Makhbul Morshed, father-inlaw of Captain Badrul. Captain Badrul, with two of

his colleagues, rushed to the

spot after his (Badrul) wife

Camellia called him over phone and started beating the three, mentioned the GD. Camellia also filed a counter GD alleging that the shop owners were staying at her father's building by force and

they beat her as she went to

the spot along with her mother

Morsheda and aunt Maya. Army are carrying out a departmental investigation into the incident, source said, adding the personnel involved are now under military custody. Camellia was also taken to cantonment for grilling.

Locals and police said the three army officials went to the boutique around 10:30pm and allegedly beat up its owners Talha Bin Shams, Mohammad Faisal and his sister Sadia Afrin Disa following a dispute over the lease of the shop.

The assault on the three angered locals and they kept the officials confined to the house. Later police rescued and handed them over to army authorities around 1:40am vesterday, they added. Harun-ar-Rashid, addi-

tional deputy commissioner of metropolitan police (Tejgaon), told The Daily Star, "We saved the three army personnel from the wrath of locals and informed the army office. Later, we handed them over to an army team, led by Major Mahmud of Mirpur Cantonment."

that landlord's wife Morsheda Morshed, daughter Camellia and one Maya, asked them to vacate the shop and also threatened to kill them. "As an army official have

Talha told The Daily Star

assured us of exemplary departmental punishment of the officials if found guilty, we

Govt to unearth

FROM PAGE 1 of the poor people as guinea

pigs," she said.

The premier also said the poor hardly crossed the poverty line by taking loans from the micro financers. Rather, they (micro financers) nurture poverty to bring funds and

utilise those for their own

gains. Hasina recalled that in her previous term as prime minister, she was convinced initially when Grameenphone approached her for a licence in the name of empowering women.

"I was so charmed when

they told me that they will give cell phone to the rural poor women for doing business, and they will thus come out of extreme poverty. But I do not see any phones in the hands of the poor women, using which they are supposed to earn money," the PM said. She mentioned that her (previous) government pro-

when Grameen Bank was in a miserable condition. "We had given everything to this bank -- from business to money," she Replying to a question, Hasina said the government has a 25 percent stake in Grameen Bank, but it seems

vided Tk 400 crore in 1998

Seeking anonymity, a neighbour said she heard hue and cry at Bhola Villa for about

the army men beating the shop owners. Morsheda, however, denied the allegations against her son-in-law and two other

"It is totally a lie that my

son-in-law and his friends

one and a half hours and saw

beat them up. Rather, they assaulted and threatened us to stay here, " she told The Daily Star. "The lessees themselves ransacked their own shop to mislead the incident and

trapped us, my son-in-law and his colleagues," claimed Morsheda. Mohammadpur Police Station official Mahubur Rahman said some army investigators visited the spot

twice and talked to police and locals about the incident. Police was investigating the

incident since two GDs were

Israel hopes to have wildfire under control

AP, Jerusalem

spokesman said.

filed, he added.

Israeli fire-fighters could bring a deadly wildfire sweeping through northern woodlands since last week under control yesterday, a fire service

Two teenage brothers were arrested Saturday on suspicion they caused the blaze, which has killed 41 people, through negligence. The minors were brought before a court Sunday for an extension of their detention, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld

Rosenfeld said he could not confirm Israeli media reports that the boys inadvertently sparked the blaze with a bonfire and a water pipe. Their aunt, identified only as Abir in an Army Radio interview, denied they were responsible for the worst fire in Israel's

One shot

FROM PAGE 1

history.

in the chest, throat and right hand, died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital The victim's family mem-

bers said Johny, who used to

trade in brick and sand, was killed following a feud with local criminals, who had stabbed him three months ago on Basila Road.

The officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station said Johny was a listed criminal and an accused in two

Pirates hijack FROM PAGE 16

Somali pirates are making tens of millions of dollars in ran-

soms from seizing ships in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, though Sunday's hijack happened around 3,000 km (1,864 miles) east of Somalia.

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resolve the matter and bring the truth to the citizens of Bangladesh as soon as possi-

Prof Yunus

"I am confident that this will

ble."