

# Hasina takes

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She also disclosed a voluminous list of Khaleda's household items kept in the controversial house, which Khaleda left on November 13.

Khaleda claimed she was forced out of the house illegally while the army said she left the house on her own.

Hasina mentioned the items Khaleda had already moved out of the house and the list of remaining things she wants back. Hasina then questioned the sources of the money with which those luxurious items were bought.

"Where did she [Khaleda] get the money to buy these valuables? Did she give income tax duly? I urge the finance minister to examine her income tax file," Leader of the House Hasina said.

"Even, many of the household belongings were purchased from abroad. Did she give tax while bringing in those costly items," Hasina said, adding that Khaleda must answer these questions.

The premier said she and Khaleda Zia submitted their wealth statements during the last caretaker government's rule. "Now the finance minister should examine the wealth statement whether there is similarity between the wealth mentioned in the statement and the costly household belongings," Hasina said.

She said Khaleda Zia lived a luxurious life in that house while the poor suffered.

Hasina said people were told that Ziaur Rahman had nothing but a broken suitcase and a torn T-shirt when he was assassinated in 1981. Considering the situation, the then army chief HM Ershad allocated the cantonment house to Khaleda Zia, she said.

"How did she [Khaleda] earn so much money to live this luxurious life with the costly household items," Hasina said.

Hasina said Khaleda was also allocated another house of her choice in the posh Gulshan area on 32 kathas of land and she was supposed to move into that house. But she never left the cantonment house, the prime minister said.

Hasina said opposition BNP called hartal over the cantonment house issue causing sufferings to people.

Hasina said Ziaur Rahman lived in the house as the deputy chief of army staff and also as the country's president. Khaleda Zia also lived there while she was prime minister during her two terms and also as the opposition leader.

She said during these periods the house was renovated and decorated and many valuable items were installed with state money. Even the army authorities had to spend money to decorate the house with various valuables, Hasina said.

"Now question has been raised whether she is the owner of all those valuables and whether she bought those with her own money. If she had bought those, then where did she get the money," the premier said.

She said Khaleda already took some of her household items on 29 vehicles, including 14 large lorries in three days. She said Khaleda sent a list of items, which she had to leave behind but wishes have back.

"Certainly, these are very costly items. That's why she wants to have them back," she added.

The premier gave a brief description of the cantonment house. She said the house has 45 rooms, a dozen bathrooms and four kitchens.

She said Khaleda has already taken 45 air conditioning units out of 64, 12 televisions sets, including LCD panels, out of 20, eight refrigerators, including deep freezers, out of 17, 17 sofa sets out of 71, 10 geezers, tube lights, fans, show piece items and 7,200 square feet of carpet.

Hasina said, "I don't want to mention all those items she already taken to avoid wasting of time."

She said in the list of items Khaleda wants back, Khaleda

## Opposition notices

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Rehana Akhtar Ranu, Nilufar Chowdhury Moni, AM Mahubuddin Khokon, Nazim Uddin Ahmed, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee and independent member Fazlul Azim filed the notices.

They urged holding discussions on the issues, adjourning the other scheduled business of the sitting.

The main opposition BNP did not join the seventh session, which was prorogued yesterday.

The session in three consecutive sittings held general discussions on the national educational policy, a thanksgiving motion for Sheikh Hasina's honorary doctorate degree from St Petersburg State University and nuclear power plant.

mentioned things like sliding doors, Thai-aluminum glasses, iron-made grills, mosquito nets, commode, mirrors, wall racks, bookshelf, wooden doors, wood panels, basins, iron doorframes, showers, bathtubs, towel racks, wall closets, kitchen cabinets, water tanks, staircase guard rails, sliding doors etc.

"You will faint if you know the number of the items," Hasina said.

In her over-an-hour-long speech, Hasina described her government's various measures for the welfare of the people. She also spoke for decentralisation of power but opposed Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad's idea of splitting the country into seven provinces.

She said creation of provinces would cause additional expenditure but fail to achieve desired results. "Therefore, we want to strengthen the local government system..." she added.

## SESSION PROROGUED

The seventh session, which began Sunday, was prorogued amid boycott of the BNP-led opposition lawmakers. In his winding up speech, Speaker Abdul Hamid urged opposition lawmakers to join the House in next session.

In a brief speech, Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad lauded the government's different activities. He, however, criticised the commerce minister for his failure to contain high price of edible oil.

## Liu's prize based on "universal values"

### Nobel panel says

REUTERS, Oslo/Beijing

The Nobel Peace Prize panel yesterday defended its award to jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo as based on "universal values," rejecting Beijing's accusation that it is trying force Western ideas on China.

China maintained its combative tone on the eve of the prize ceremony in Oslo, and announced the award of its own "Confucius Peace Prize" to former Taiwan vice-president Lien Chan, though his office said he was unaware of the award.

China jailed Liu last Christmas Day for 11 years for subversion of state power and for being the lead author of Charter 08, a manifesto calling for democratic reform in the one-party state.

Nobel committee chairman Thorbjørn Jagland told a news conference the award of the prize to Liu was not a protest.

"It is a signal to China that it would be very important for China's future to combine economic development with political reforms and support for those in China fighting for basic human rights," he said.

## Back to school for India's communist leaders

AFP, New Delhi

India's communist party leaders are to be sent back to school to brush up on their Marxist ideology, a party spokesman told AFP yesterday, as the revolutionary movement struggles to retain popular support.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), the world's most electorally successful communist party, organises classes regularly for beginners but now veterans will be again refresh courses in the theories of Karl Marx.

"Everyone needs to be educated and re-educated. This is not a one-time affair, our understanding of Marxist ideology needs to be updated regularly," CPM general secretary Prakash Karat told AFP.

"We decided that the leadership needs to renew its own understanding of Marxist ideology before it offers guidance to the cadre."

The two five-day sessions, which begin this month and also cover politics, history and science, come as the CPM faces internal strife over its ideological direction after losing 27 seats in the 2009 general election.

They still lead the ruling alliance in West Bengal state -- the party's long-time bastion of power -- and also in the southern state of Kerala, which is one of India's most advanced regions.

Leaders of the CPM "are seen as theoreticians, out of sync with reality and the people", said Rasheed Kidwai, a biographer of Sonia Gandhi and the head of the national ruling Congress party.

## Jubo League man shot dead

UNB, Jessore

A Jubo League activist was shot dead by unknown assailants near airport in the town last night.

Witnesses and police said Zafar Sheikh, 38, was returning home on foot at about 8:00pm when the assailants riding a motorbike intercepted him.

The miscreants fired at his chest and fled the scene. Locals rushed Zafar to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Kotwali thana officer Moazzem Hossain said Zafar was accused in a case of attempt to murder of local Jubo League leader Dhole.

Zafar was an extortionist and his murder might be a sequel to a dispute over share of the extortion money, locals alleged.

## Woman says

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when she rented the house.

Achhia told The Daily Star at DMCH that Fazar Ali set her on fire on the ground floor of the building around 3:30am.

"Around 3:00am he knocked my door saying he had an urgent talk."

After she opened the door, Ali proposed her to maintain an illicit relation with him in exchange of food and shelter for her and her two daughters. Refused, he suddenly poured fuel on her and set fire to her, she added.

Hearing her scream, her two minor daughters and other tenants got up and rushed to the scene. Ali had already gone to his room upstairs.

When the tenants and her daughters were trying to douse the fire, Ali and his wife came down and started blaming Achhia for setting the fire, her daughters said.

Achhia rented the house on December 1 after leaving her husband's Arambagh residence following a feud, her sister said.

Police arrested Ali for interrogation. Mozammel Huq, deputy commissioner (Wari Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Ali might have set the fire.

Victim's son Akhter, who used to live separately, was making preparation to file a case with Kadamtoli Police Station in this regard.

## Minister

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over the ship Sunday afternoon.

The vessel has 25 crew on board and the wife of the ship's chief engineer.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday declined to make any statement in parliament on the hijacked Bangladeshi ship in response to the deputy speaker's call.

Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, who was presiding over the sitting, called upon the shipping minister on his own to issue a statement on the hijacked ship as, according to him, the parliament and entire nation is concerned.

In response, the shipping minister said such an incident is a new experience for Bangladesh.

"We are fresher. I don't know the consequence of the incident. Therefore, I have decided not to say anything about it. I will be able to inform the House in future if any discussion is held on it," the shipping minister said.

However, Shahjahan Khan on Wednesday held a meeting at his ministry where the ship's Chairman Md Shahjahan, Shipping Department Director General (DG) Rear Admiral Bazlur Rahman and foreign ministry officials were present.

The minister at the meeting assured them of all kinds of support on behalf of the government, said Meherul Karim, general manger of Brave Royal Shipping Ltd, the operating company of the ship.

Earlier yesterday, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal MP Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal and Workers Party lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha raised the issue in parliament and demanded the shipping minister's statement.

Meanwhile, sailors living in Dhaka yesterday held a human chain in front of the press club demanding that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina take steps to rescue the sailors of the hijacked ship.

Captain Rafiqul Islam, Chief Officer Monzur Islam, Second Officer Sakhaowat Hossain, Electrical Engineer Kazal Guha and Cadet Mahmud were among the demonstrators.

# BSF routinely kills

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HRW found no evidence in any death it documented that the person was engaged in any activity that would justify such an extreme response.

The rights body said the Bangladesh government should vigorously protect the right to life of its citizens, even those who may be involved in illegal trade, and should call upon the Indian government to exercise restraint.

The Indian government should prosecute BSF soldiers responsible for serious human rights abuses, the rights group said.

The 81-page report, "Trigger Happy: Excessive Use of Force by Indian Troops at the Bangladesh Border," documents the situation on the border region, where both Bangladesh and India have deployed border guards to prevent infiltration, trafficking, and smuggling.

It said the BSF -- responsible for guarding against extremists, drug and weapons smugglers and human traffickers -- is instead using its muscle to detain, torture and kill with impunity, according to HRW, the New York-based rights group.

HRW found numerous cases of indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary detention, torture, and killings by the security force, without adequate investigation or punishment.

The report is based on over

# Train driver guilty

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Express entered the loop line (the line closer to the platform) violating the signal. It was not supposed to get on that track," the DRM told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the train was to wait at the outer signal -- 500 yards from the station -- as the red light was on. Instead of halting there, the train ran on the loop line at a high speed.

On the speed factor, he said even if a train enters the loop line a loco master must bring the speed of his train under 16 kilometres per hour, but in this case, Chattola was going at 68 kmph.

"The question is, why the driver was going so fast," he said, adding that the mystery would be unravelled when the two loco masters of the trains gave their own account.

However, talking to The Daily Star loco master of Chattola Express Rafiquddin and assistant loco master Mainuddin denied the allegation and said they followed the signals.

"If there were any mistake that was the station master's. We only followed his signal," said Mainuddin.

Rafiquddin and Mainuddin are undergoing treatment at DMCH along with assistant loco master of Mohanagar Godhuli Arifur Rahman. Gopal Krishna Ghosh, loco master of Godhuli, is also receiving treatment at Railway Hospital, Dhaka.

Asked, DRM Habibur Rahman ruled out the chances of mistake in signalling saying the signal lights were on and working.

Meanwhile, the rescue operation has been called off yesterday around 11:30am. Maj Motiur Rahman, Dhaka division chief of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said no more bodies or injured persons were trapped in the wreckage.

It took 20 hours for two salvage trains to clear the wreckage off the tracks. Inclement weather and huge gathering of onlookers, however, disrupted the rescue.

Train communications on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes partially resumed six hours after the accident but it still has not gained the usual thrust due to the time it took for clearing the wreckage and mangled railines.

Habibur Rahman said all the trains operating on the routes after the accident are being delayed by a few hours as they are running on a single track.

Station Master Maran Chandra Das and other employees of Narsingdi Railway Station left the station right after the accident occurred. Maran reported to his office yesterday and blamed the loco master of Chattola Express for the accident.

Four probe bodies have been formed since the accident to find out the reason behind the train crash. The communications ministry formed a four-member committee Wednesday night while Bangladesh Railway formed two separate four-member bodies. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Narsingdi formed the

100 interviews with victims, witnesses, human rights defenders, journalists, law-enforcement officials, and BSF and Bangladesh Rifles' (BDR) members, said a press release of the HRW.

The report said border officials are required to exercise restraint and "act in proportion to the seriousness of the offence." It suggested India and Bangladesh should take immediate steps to end the killing of hundreds of their citizens at the West Bengal-Bangladesh border by BSF.

"The border force seems to be out of control, with orders to shoot any suspect," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director at HRW. "The border operations ignore the most basic rule of law, the presumption of innocence."

HRW said since both Indians and Bangladeshis have fallen prey to this excessive use of force, both governments need to open a joint independent investigation to turn the situation around.

"Human Rights Watch has repeatedly called upon the Indian government to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations instead of letting its security forces get away with murder," Ganguly said. "The BSF insists that there are internal investigations, but why then is it so unwilling to reveal whether anyone has been punished for these killings."

other one-member committee.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday termed the accident "unusual" in the parliament saying it is difficult to say whether the incident was an accident or an act of sabotage.

Referring to casualty figures in the media, the minister said seven people were killed and 29 other injured in Wednesday's train collision. Of the injured, 23 were brought to Dhaka for better treatment while the rest are at local hospitals in Narsingdi.

The Narsingdi district administration yesterday admitted at least 10 deaths -- eight on the spot and two in hospitals. Locals however put the number at 14.

Narsingdi DC Amrita Baroi said they have handed seven of the bodies over to their relatives. Body of a 12-year-old boy is still at Narsingdi sadar hospital morgue as his identity could not be ascertained.

The seven deceased identified by their relatives are Jahurul Haque, a loco master who was on his way to join duty in another station by Chattala Express; Shakhawat Hossain; Mafizul Islam, 30, a railway guard; Hafiz Uddin, 50, of Baduar Char in Narsingdi; Farid Sarkar of Akhaura in Brahmanbaria; and Selim Uddin, 44, storekeeper of Akhaura Railway station and security staff Shofitul Alam, 55.

Besides, Narsingdi Police Super Akkasuddin Bhuiyan confirmed death of an unidentified woman of approximately 40 years at DMCH while another man died late in Wednesday night in the capital's Orthopaedic Hospital.

Locals and railway officials claimed deceased Jahurul Haque to be a freedom fighter.

Abdur Rashid, civil surgeon of Narsingdi, said 16 injured are receiving treatment at Narsingdi sadar hospital and 27 at the district hospital.

Many people were seen looking for their missing family members at Narsingdi station. Jahanara Begum was one of them. She was looking for her son Yunus Miah, 23, who was travelling on Chattala Express.

She herself saw her son off at Brahmanbaria station. Yunus was coming to Dhaka to meet his elder brother. Jahanara Begum went to DMCH, Pangu hospital and the two hospitals in Narsingdi looking for her son. She is still scouting for her son's body.

One Delwar Hossain of Narsingdi was found looking for his father-in-law Abdul Kadir at the station.

"I talked to my father-in-law over mobile phone when he got on Mahanagar Godhuli from Dhaka around 3:30pm. Since the accident I cannot reach him," he said.

**LOSSES IN THE CRASH**  
The railway authorities claimed that the estimated loss from the accident is around Tk 8 to 9 crore.

"It will take around Tk 60 crore if we want to replace the primitive engines of the two trains," said DRM Habibur Rahman, adding that the engines are still repairable.

## 2010 sees

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including the latest head-on collision between two trains in Narsingdi on Wednesday.

The recent train accident is considered the biggest head-on collision in ten years, BR officials said.

They said this year the number of derailments is significantly high, but the majority of the deaths occurred at unguarded and unauthorised level crossings.

As many as 53 accidents occurred this year at level crossings around the country, killing about 22 persons. Mostly, collision between road traffic and train caused the accidents. In a few incidents, pedestrians were run over by trains while they were crossing the rail track at level crossings.

The rail officials also suspect that many train accidents at level crossings especially the minor ones went unreported.

"Accident at level crossing is our major concern since we don't have any control over it," said Mohammad Shahjahan, additional director general (operations) of BR.

The ADG said, "Level crossings sprung up without any authorisation from the railway and it is very difficult to guard them. We protested this practice many times but no one listened."

At many level crossings, the railway has not been able to provide approach warning signals and road signals, he added. At present, the country's 2855 km rail network has some 1,403 level crossings whereas only 250 level crossing gates are operated by gatemen round the clock.

In Dhaka, negligent drivers and pedestrians are making the situation even worse.

He mentioned that the railway considers activities within 50 yards of rail tracks illegal but no one listens to this warning.

Moreover, the poor condition of tracks often causes derailments.

Yesterday in Kishoreganj, a Chittagong-bound mail train derailed while coming from Bahadurabad of Mymensingh.

Railway and local sources said four compartments of the train came off the track around 3:30pm, leaving 20 people injured.

They said faults in the rail track inadequate stone support and weak sleeper -- caused the accident.

The derailments most of the time happened on branch lines because the condition of those is worse. There were 489 derailments this year.

Though the derailments did not cause any deaths, properties of BR were damaged in the accidents, Shahjahan noted.

"Restoration of tracks is going on at many points currently," the ADG said.

About human failure, he said shortage of manpower increased workload on technical hands like locomotive masters and stationmasters and this is the reason behind human failure.

BR record shows there were eight incidents of disregarding signal this year.

In 2009, 60 people died in train accidents. Of them 51 died in collisions between train and road traffic at the level crossings. The death toll was 53 in 2008 in 893 train accidents.

On April 16, 2008, 17 people were killed and 25 others injured in a fatal accident when a Dhaka-bound intercity train rammmed a passenger bus at a level crossing in Kalihati upazila of Tangail.

According to the Bangladesh Railway, around 5050 train accidents occurred in the country between 2000 and 2009.

## Summon

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summons against them.

The bill was tabled in parliament on January 11 this year.

The parliamentary standing committee on the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry scrutinised the bill at five meetings. And it came up with a report containing its commendations yesterday.

Committee chief Suranjit Sengupta placed the report in the House.

In its report, the parliamentary body said the Cr PC was introduced during the British era.

A provision was included in it for issuing direct arrest warrant against anybody, journalist, writer and publisher of any book or newspaper if s/he wrote or said anything defamatory.

The report said the information minister told the committee at its meetings that the government would take steps to amend the press council act to stop 'yellow journalism'.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker placed two bills in the House seeking to amend the National Sports Council Act, 1972, and to make a new law to set up a foundation named after Bangabandhu for the welfare of sports persons and their family members.

Both the bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the youth and sports ministry for scrutiny.

# 'Cyber war'

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Anonymous said that it has hit several targets, including the website of the prosecutors who are acting in a legal case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

Meanwhile, the UN's human rights chief expressed concern about pressure on private companies to stop providing financial or Internet services for WikiLeaks.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin voiced support for WikiLeaks' boss Julian Assange, describing his detention in Britain as "undemocratic".

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva expressed "solidarity" with Assange, blasting the Australian activist's arrest as a blow against "freedom of expression."

In an online chat with AFP, organisers said they had started with only around 50 users taking part in the distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks that bombard websites to take them offline, but now had around 4,000.

"We recruit through the Internet, that means, everywhere: imageboards, forums, Facebook, Twitter... you name it, we're using it," they said.

Twitter and Facebook later removed accounts for the Anonymous group's "Operation Payback" campaign on the grounds that it was targeting individuals.

As well as Mastercard, Visa and PayPal, hackers have also shut the website of the Swiss Post Office bank for severing ties to WikiLeaks and the website of the Swedish prosecutor's office for pursuing Assange.

They also threatened to knock Amazon.com offline but their initial cyber attack appeared to have failed.

The latest apparent victim was the Swedish government, according to a report in the country's top-selling daily newspaper.

Aftonbladet said the official government website, <http://www.regeringen.se/>, was offline for a few hours overnight yesterday, publishing a screen shot which showed the server could not be reached.

The paper also reported that WikiLeaks supporters had created a website bearing Swedish Justice Minister Beatrice Ask's name which then redirected users to WikiLeaks own site.

Members of Anonymous

also took aim on Wednesday at the websites of US conservative standard bearer Sarah Palin and US Senator Joe Lieberman, who called for US companies to withdraw technical support for WikiLeaks.

Palin has described Assange as "an anti-American operative with blood on his hands" and called for him to be hunted down like al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Paul Mutton at the security firm Netcraft, who is monitoring the attacks, said Visa is considered a more difficult target and the attack on it required a much larger number of hackers, 2,000 compared with 400 for Mastercard.

Earlier the BBC was contacted by a payment firm linked to Mastercard that said its customers had "a complete loss of service".

In particular, it said that an authentication service for online payments known as Mastercard's SecureCode had been disrupted.

Other readers have also said that they have had problems with online payments. The scale of the problems is still unclear.

Mastercard acknowledged there had been "a service disruption" involving its SecureCode system, but it added