

Nuke weapons are for strategic purposes

Says Indian Army chief

PTI, New Delhi

Stressing that nuclear weapons are not for fighting wars, Army Chief General VK Singh yesterday said these weapons must be used for strategic purposes only.

"Nuclear weapons are not for war fighting, let's be quite clear on it. They have got a strategic capability and that is where it should end. My Army and I are not bothered about who has nuclear weapons. We have our task cut out and we will progress along that," he told reporters here.

On reports that Pakistan may deploy its forces along its borders with India as a defensive measure in case of any terror strike here, he said, "It does not affect our option in anyway. Those are their options;



V K Singh

what they want to do, they are most welcome to do."

Gen. Singh parried a question on whether the Finance Ministry has put a stop on some of the procurement plans of the Army.

"I don't know. Every Ministry has its own procedure. I am quite sure they are following their own procedure and the country's leadership is quite alive to what the needs of the armed forces are," he said and hoped that things will be accordingly put into motion.

On the Gujarat High Court's recent order to release a list of Indian Prisoners of War (PoWs) held in Pakistan, he said, "Discussion is going on this issue since 1965 and 1977. Government is trying its best for this. The court's decision will be added to it."



PHOTO: AFP

People vote at home during parliamentary elections in the village of Karasu, some 240 km from Almaty, yesterday. A shaken Kazakhstan elects a new parliament just a month after deadly riots challenged the resource-rich but authoritarian nation's status as the beacon of Central Asian growth.

Libyan parties reject draft election law

REUTERS, Tripoli

Twelve moderate Islamist parties in Libya have rejected a proposed election law because it encourages voting along tribal lines and gives undue influence to the wealthy, they said late on Saturday.

The draft law, published by the National Transitional Council (NTC) on January 2, will set the rules of a vote for the national assembly in June. The body will be charged with writing a constitution and forming a second caretaker government.

"The proposed electoral system does not lead to true representation of all sectors of society, instead it would produce a representation overwhelmed by tribal consideration and the influence of the rich," the Forum of National Parties said in the joint statement.

Eight murders in SQ Chy's

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At one point of the hearing, Salaudhin Quader had a heated exchange of words with the tribunal. The tribunal chief even cautioned him.

Salaudhin Quader immediately apologised to the court.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum narrated before the tribunal how Salaudhin had committed crimes against humanity in several areas in greater Chittagong during the Liberation War.

The crimes include murdering civilians, collaborating with the Pakistani occupation army to kill and torture unarmed people, loot valuables, torch houses and other properties, persecute people on religious and political grounds, and com-

mit atrocities on Hindus.

Narrating one of the incidents, Malum said the Pakistani army at around 9:00am on April 13, 1971, dragged Naton Chandra Singha, founder of herbal medicine brand Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya, out of a temple at Madhya Bahira village in Raozan in the presence of Salaudhin Quader. Naton was then busy in prayers.

Pakistani soldiers later gunned him down in his own yard. For good measure, Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury fired the last shot.

According to the prosecutor, Salaudhin killed Naton Chandra Singha to root out the Hindus as Naton was "a symbol of hope and expecta-

tion" for the Hindu community there.

Salaudhin Quader along with the Pakistan occupation forces also abducted Arobindu Sarkar, Motilal Chowdhury, Arun Chowdhury, Shanti Kusum Chowdhury, Jogesh Chandra Dey and Paritosh Dash from Adharmanik village in Chittagong on April 4 or April 5, 1971, said Malum.

They were taken to the "torture cell" of Salaudhin Quader's Goods Hill home in Raozan, then brutally tortured and killed, he claimed.

Zead Al Malum said Salaudhin Quader in the afternoon of April 13, 1971, conducted an armed operation in Uasatturpara village in Raozan of Chittagong with his followers and

Pakistani soldiers. Some 60 to 70 people of the Hindu dominated area were killed in his presence.

On the morning of April 20, 1971, Salaudhin's followers conducted an armed operation in Shapura village of Boalkhali in Chittagong, said Malum during yesterday's hearing. A total of 76 people, including Foyez Ahmed, Jalal Ahmed, Habilder Sekandar Ali, Amir Hamza and Abdul Hashim of that area were later killed on Salaudhin's orders, the prosecutor claimed.

"There are numerous such incidents," said Zead Al Malum, adding, "We framed the charges based on 25 incidents."

He read out a list of names, including Shantidev, Satish Chandra, Ekhlal

Miah, Nizam Uddin, M Salimullah, and said they were either murdered or brutally tortured by Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury.

Yesterday's proceedings started at 10:38am with commotion in the courtroom. Salaudhin and his newly appointed counsel AHM Ahsanul Huq Hena were having a row inside the courtroom.

Salaudhin appointed Hena his defence counsel, replacing M Badiuzzaman, who had been appointed by the tribunal to defend Salaudhin on December 12 after he refused to appoint a lawyer. The tribunal yesterday recalled the appointment of M Badiuzzaman as Salaudhin's lawyer since he had appointed a lawyer on

his own.

When Hena stood before the court to make a submission at the beginning of the proceedings yesterday, the tribunal asked him to wait until it finished hearing the prosecution's submission.

Salaudhin began shouting, "Why are you not listening to my lawyer?"

The court again said it would listen to Hena afterwards but Salaudhin kept on arguing. He even told the tribunal chief, "You have appointed your junior as my counsel. I did not appoint him!"

The arguments kept going back and forth and eventually the tribunal chief reminded Salaudhin and his counsel that they were standing before a tribunal and they should be careful

about their manners. He then issued a warning against Salaudhin, saying that his behaviour inside the courtroom was "unwarranted and cannot be tolerated".

The tribunal chairman said Ratko Mladic, the Serbian military general who faced war crimes charges at The Hague, was ejected from the court because of his improper behaviour, and his trial was conducted in his absence.

The justice said the tribunal would initiate legal proceedings against Salaudhin if he continued to shout.

"What action, my lord?" was the reply from the MP from Chittagong. "I'm already in jail."

Salaudhin then apologised to the tribunal.

The hearing on the charge framing went on for so long yesterday that the tribunal's next business of the day, recording the deposition of the 13th prosecution witness in the Sayedee trial, could not go ahead.

Witness Gouranga Saha was scheduled have his deposition recorded in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee filed in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The tribunal is scheduled to record the deposition today.

Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury is one of two BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal.

25 dead in Yemen clash

AFP, Sanaa

Twenty-five gunmen have been killed in three days of fighting between tribesmen and rebels in Yemen's north, an official said yesterday, as the toll of foreigners including Westerners killed in sectarian clashes soared.

The clashes flared on Friday in Hajja province, a day after 20 other gunmen were killed in fighting between Sunni Salafists and Zaidi Shiite rebels in a separate northern town, the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Tribes involved in the latest fighting, in Hajja's Wadi Misyar region, are allied with Sunni fundamentalists who have for months been battling Shiites in the north, the official added.

Ghulam Azam stays

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crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, was referred to a specialist at BSMU yesterday after a small gallstone was found.

On Saturday, a three-member medical board formed on Friday by the BSMU authorities was of the opinion that the physical condition of Ghulam Azam was stable and his treatment could be done keeping him anywhere. The BSMU authorities even notified the jail authorities of the board's recommendation.

However, Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Ashrafur Islam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday that they received the opinion of the medical board but there was no discharge letter of the doctors under whom Ghulam Azam is undergoing treatment.

He said, "...until the doc-

tors discharge him, we cannot move him from there."

Chief of the three-member medical board ABM Abdullah under whom Ghulam is undergoing treatment told The Daily Star, "After a small gallstone was detected, he was referred to Prof Julfiqar Rahman who is expected to give his opinion tomorrow [Monday]."

"When the specialist's opinion is received, we shall decide whether Ghulam Azam would be discharged."

He added, "Ghulam Azam could be kept at the prison cell if the specialist recommends it."

Ghulam Azam was moved to the BSMU's prisons cell three hours after he was sent to Dhaka Central Jail on Wednesday by International Crimes Tribunal in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

JU functions partially

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death of Zubair Ahmed, student of English department, at the hands of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on January 9.

Angry students and the teachers opposing the VC demonstrated on the campus to protest the killing. They demanded the proctor's removal saying he failed to ensure security on the campus.

The anti-VC teachers started boycotting classes on January 14 and gave an ultimatum to the administration for removing the proctor by 12:00noon today.

Several teachers loyal to the group said they would not conduct any classes until their demands are met.

"We will hold a rally on the campus and also stage a sit-in in front of the vice chancellor's office if our demands are not met

within the deadline," said Dr Sharif Uddin, general secretary of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association.

Agitating students said they would attend classes but also continue their demonstration demanding punishment to Jubair's killers, and the removal of the proctor.

They brought out a torch procession on the campus yesterday to press home their demands.

The anti-VC teachers under the banner of "Shikkhak Samaj" refrained from staging demonstrations yesterday for Akheri Munajat, the concluding part of the first phase of Biswa Jitema.

Meanwhile, the English Department placed a three-point demand before the administration. The demands include permanent expulsion of the students accused of Zubair murder, transfer of the case to a speedy trial court, and strict measures to avoid the recurrence of such incidents and ensure congenial atmosphere on the campus.

17 war crimes proof found

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charges against Alim on the basis of the investigation report.

Alim, who is now on conditional bail granted earlier by the tribunal, was active in greater Bogra district during the war. The crimes include genocide, murder, rape, looting, arson, forcing people to leave the country and abduction, said Hannan.

The investigator, however, refused to elaborate on the offences.

But another investigator said Alim had been involved in the killing of 486 people and raping three women.

Alim is supposed to appear before the tribunal today as per its earlier order, Hannan said.

Arrested on March 27 last year in Joypurhat, Alim was granted conditional bail on March 31.

The probe body has so far handed over investigation reports on eight persons, including former Jamaat Ameer Ghulam Azam, to the prosecution in connection with crimes against humanity.

The prosecution has sub-

mitted formal charges against Ghulam Azam, Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Naye-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee, Assistant Secretaries General M u h a m m a d Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla, and BNP leader Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury on the basis of the investigation reports. All of them are now in jail.

CHARGES AGAINST KAMARUZZAMAN

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday pressed nine counts of crime, including conspiracy of genocide and crimes against humanity, against Kamaruzzaman after a revision.

Prosecutors Saiful Islam and Nurjahan Begum Mukta jointly submitted the formal charges to the tribunal through its registrar in the first part of the day.

The tribunal is yet to fix a date for its decision on whether it will take the charges into cognisance. Registrar M Shahinur Islam told The Daily Star that the tribunal would fix

the date in this regard today.

Kamaruzzaman's areas of operation were Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail and Sherpur, according to prosecutor Zead Al Malum. He also said Kamaruzzaman was the chief coordinator of Al Badr.

The three-judge tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq on January 12 refused to receive the formal charges against Kamaruzzaman as the prosecution had failed to submit them before 3:00pm. The prosecution not only missed the deadline, but also failed to submit the charges before the registrar's office closed for the weekend.

On December 28 last year, the tribunal sent the formal charges against Kamaruzzaman and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed back as they had not been classified and organised properly, and asked the prosecution to resubmit the formal charges against Kamaruzzaman by January 12.

Yahya hinted at attacking

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drinks with Bob Sharpley, a correspondent of New Yorker magazine, Yahya told him that he would be "at the front within 10 days", according to the documents declassified recently.

Yahya's word, apparently made unwittingly, came true when Pakistan launched air attacks on military targets in northwest India in the evening of December 3, 1971.

Shortly afterwards, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said the air strikes were declaration of war on the country. At midnight the same day, India launched an integrated ground, sea and air strike of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Attacks were also launched against West Pakistan.

The then American Ambassador to India Kenneth Barnard Keating called on Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul in New Delhi the next day to discuss the situation. During the meeting he mentioned how Yahya Khan had told Bob

Shapley that Pakistan would be at war with India within the next 10 days, the MEA documents showed.

"They (Shapley and Khan) were returning from a party and the President had taken a few drinks when Bob asked him that he would like to see him again. President Yahya Khan said that he would be happy to see him, to which the correspondent replied that he would ring him up within 10 days. To this President Yahya Khan said that he may be at the front by that time so he had better make it very soon," Keating told Kaul.

On December 6, 1971 India recognised Bangladesh as an independent state.

Ten days later, on December 16, the Pakistani forces in the East surrendered unconditionally to the Indian army that led Indira Gandhi to announce a unilateral ceasefire on December 17 and cherish the military victory.

No rights violation

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came up with the claims when British Minister for International Development Andrew Mitchell called on her at Gono Bhaban in the evening.

Hasina urged Mitchell to consider recruitment of skilled workers from Bangladesh for British curry industry since, she said, the second and the third generations of Bangladeshi-Britons are not interested in taking up this business.

Briefing reporters, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam said issues related to education, health, climate change and environment came up during the meeting.

Referring to the president's initiatives of political dialogue to constitute an acceptable Election Commission, Hasina said this is the first time the president took the initiative for such a dialogue. In the past, the governments used to appoint the EC without consultations with political parties.

The prime minister claimed all elections under

the present government were free, fair and acceptable. Even the opposition could not raise any objection to the results of recent elections.


About Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), she informed the British minister that it would be used in future elections to check vote rigging.

The prime minister said the government is planning to introduce locally-managed school feeding program at all schools to check dropouts. She said ratio of male and female students is now equal.

Mitchell praised the progress in girls' education in Bangladesh and said despite economic constraints Britain would continue its support for the development of Bangladesh.

Ambassador-at-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary Sheikh Wahid Uz Zaman and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Gibson were present.

Earlier, Commander of Sri Lankan army Lt Gen Jagath Jayasuriya called on the prime minister at Gono Bhaban.



ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

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ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি) গ্রাহক সেবার মান বৃদ্ধি ও গ্রাহকের সর্বোচ্চ সমৃদ্ধি অর্জনে বদ্ধপরিকর। এ উদ্দেশ্যে গ্রাহক এবং কোম্পানির মধ্যে সম্পর্ক আরো নিবিড়তর করার লক্ষ্যে আগামী ১৮/০১/২০১২ তারিখ, বুধবার এনওসিএস সার্কেল খিলগাঁও-এর আওতাধীন এনওসিএস বাসাবো ও খিলগাঁও দপ্তরের অধীন গ্রাহকগণের গণশুনানি (Public Hearing) ধার্য করা হয়েছে। এদিন বেলা ১১:০০ টায় এনওসিএস সার্কেল, খিলগাঁও-এর উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক গ্রাহকদের সমস্যা ও অভিযোগ গ্রাহকদের কাছ থেকে সরাসরি শুনবেন। ডিপিডিসি'র সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের বিদ্যুৎ সংক্রান্ত কোনো সমস্যা/অভিযোগ থাকলে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে ডিপিডিসি'র ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (টেকনিক্যাল), এনওসিএস সার্কেল, খিলগাঁও (তালতলা ৩৩/১১ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র কমপ্লেক্স, ঝিলপাড়, খিলগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৯) কার্যালয় প্রাপ্ত উপস্থিত থেকে গণশুনানিতে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

ডিপিডিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ।