

LeT chief warns Kashmir violence could turn 'ugly'

REUTERS, Islamabad

Hafez Saeed, the Pakistani Islamist leader accused of masterminding the 2008 Mumbai massacre, said India was trying to destabilise Pakistan and predicted violence in the disputed region of Kashmir could get "ugly".



Hafez Saeed

"We do not want any force to be used or any military operation for this. But the Indians are opting for the other alternative," Hafez Saeed told Reuters in a telephone interview yesterday.

Saeed founded Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the militant group which India blames for the rampage in Mumbai, where gunmen killed 166 people over three days. He denies any wrongdoing and links to militants.

Saeed also denied allegations by Indian officials that he had recently visited Kashmir, potentially to incite action against India, just before the recent outbreak of the worst violence in the territory since the nuclear-armed neighbours agreed to a ceasefire nearly a decade ago.

Saeed accused India of trying to disrupt the peace process with Pakistan and dragging its feet on the long-standing issue of Kashmir.

"This is their usual practice. Betraying

the international community and destabilising Pakistan," said Saeed. "And that's what they are doing this time."

"Whenever the peace process starts between the two nations, something comes up from the Indian side to disrupt the process," said Saeed.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since becoming independent from Britain in 1947, two of them over the Himalayan region of Kashmir. India considers the entire region of snow-capped mountains and fertile valleys an integral part of its territory.

Both governments have expressed anger over the latest Kashmir attacks even as senior officials sought to calm fears that right-wing groups could seize the opportunity to derail years of diplomatic rapprochement.

Tensions over Kashmir are a cause for concern in Washington, which has been pushing for an improvement in ties between the rival nations so that Pakistan can focus on helping the United States promote peace in Afghanistan.

India has repeatedly called on Pakistan to bring Saeed to justice, an issue that has stood in the way of rebuilding relations between the two sides since the carnage in Mumbai.

Pakistan summons Indian envoy

Protests violations in Kashmir

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday summoned the Indian ambassador to protest against "unacceptable and unprovoked" attacks by the Indian army that killed two Pakistani soldiers in five days in Kashmir.

Pakistan said its soldiers were killed on Sunday and Thursday.

On Tuesday, India said two of its soldiers were killed by Pakistani troops and that one of them was beheaded in the disputed Himalayan region, which is claimed in full by both India and Pakistan but ruled in part by each.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said it had summoned India's high commissioner to Islamabad to lodge a "strong protest on the repeated, unacceptable and unprovoked attacks on Pakistani soldiers by the Indian army".

India said its troops opened fire in response to Pakistani fire on both occasions. Pakistan has denied any responsibility for the Indian soldiers' deaths.

On Friday, Pakistan called on the Indian government to investigate the "repeated" violations of the ceasefire, which has held along the Line of Control (LoC) -- the de facto border in divided Kashmir -- since 2003 and to take steps to prevent them from happening again.

Both countries have appeared determined to prevent the recent killings from wrecking a fragile peace process, which resumed in 2011.

Islamabad repeated an offer to hold an independent inquiry through the United Nations and reiterated its commitment to peace talks with India, saying the attacks "create unnecessary and avoidable distractions" to peace efforts.

The United States has urged the nuclear-armed rivals to cool tensions along the heavily militarised LoC.

'Girls should not use mobiles'

PTI, Udaipur

A panchayat in Udaipur district has asked families of the minority community not to allow girls to carry cellphones and prohibit them from dancing at wedding processions in public view.

Anjuman Muslim Panchayat in Salumbur town, 70 km from Udaipur, issued the diktat at a meeting held a few days ago after cases of intercaste love marriages were reported.

"We have asked the community families to not allow their girls to carry mobile phones outside homes. They can use it in front of their parents but not in schools or colleges so that they do not get involved with boys," Habiburrehman, Secretary of the community panchayat, said on Friday.

"We are also against objectifying women. Hence, we have decided to ban their dance in wedding procession which is taken out in open on roads.

S Lanka parliament votes to impeach CJ

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday voted to impeach Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake after a process criticised by international rights groups as an assault on judicial independence.

The assembly voted 155 to 49 to dismiss Bandaranayake whose most recent rulings had gone against the government of President Mahinda Rajapakse who is widely expected to ratify the sacking and name a replacement within days.

"The motion (to impeach) was carried with 155 voting for and 49 against," Speaker Chamal Rajapakse said at the end of a two-day debate on a controversial parliamentary panel report which found Bandaranayake guilty of misconduct.

Bandaranayake, 54, the country's first woman in the highest judicial office, has already challenged the parliamentary process.

Three leftist members of Rajapakse's United People's Freedom Alliance coalition, who stayed away when the vote was taken, said they failed to "avert a constitutional crisis" with the first ever sacking of a top judge in Sri Lanka.

They said the impeachment had been politicised and damaged the image of the country.

Ruling party supporters celebrated the parliamentary vote by bursting fire crackers around the tightly-guarded parliament building.

The government brought charges against Bandaranayake after she turned down a controversial bill that sought to grant greater financial and political power to Rajapakse's youngest brother Basil, the economic development minister.



Reactions mixed

FROM PAGE 1
over the caretaker government issue.

"It seems she is rigid on her stance on the caretaker government issue."

He rejected Hasina's claim that the Election Commission had been made more powerful. He claimed the commission was working as per government directives.

He said the premier avoided her government's failures and glorified the achievements in her speech.

Mahbubur Rahman also trashed Hasina's comment that the BNP was trying to save the war criminals and that the government was handling corruption strictly.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said there was no alternative to dialogues between the ruling Awami League and the BNP for reaching a consensus on the next elections.

Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju said the premier tried to send two clear messages to the people: Firstly, people who were behind the January 11, 2007, changeover were still active and needed to be thwarted. And secondly, a "dark force" was trying to

disrupt the country's democratic process.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim claimed that the prime minister's speech was self-contradictory.

Instead of talking about an acceptable way to hold the polls, Hasina talked about a conspiracy to restage the 1/11 changeover, but she claimed that the next elections would be free and fair.

Jatiya Party Presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said, "Like many others, we also thought the prime minister would give a clear guideline on how the next elections would be held in line with the constitution, but she didn't."

Bablu, the political adviser to the party Chairman HM Ershad, said the prime minister only mentioned the successes of the government but did not mention the failures.

Meanwhile, noted columnist Syed Abul Moksud termed Hasina's speech routine and self-praising.

"We expected that the prime minister would give some way outs of the present political crisis over the caretaker government system... So I am a little frustrated," he said.

'Images of a dead bin Laden still dangerous'

REUTERS, Washington

Twenty months after US special forces killed Osama bin Laden, the United States told a court on Thursday it is not ready to release images taken after the al Qaeda leader's death because they still might lead to violence.

A federal appeals court heard arguments in a lawsuit over whether the government must release the images under the Freedom of Information Act, a 1966 law that guarantees public access to some government records.

President Barack Obama's administration points to an exception in the law that covers documents classified in the interest of national defence.

"They'll be used to inflame tensions. They'll be used to inspire retaliatory attacks," Justice Department lawyer Robert Loeb told the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Riots or other forms of violence could threaten American soldiers as well as civilians in Afghanistan, Loeb said.

The government has 52 photographs or videos - the medium has not been revealed - from the May 2011 raid in which US special forces killed bin Laden after more than a decade of searching. The images show a dead bin Laden at his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, the transportation of his body to a US ship and his burial at sea, the government has said.

Some of the photographs were taken so the CIA could conduct facial recognition analysis to confirm the body's identity, according to court papers.



Paris killings internal Kurd feud

Says Turkey PM

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said the execution-style slaying of three Kurdish activists in Paris bore the marks of an internal feud, Anatolia news agency reported.

But the Turkish leader also upheld his earlier suggestion that the slayings could be aimed at derailing peace talks between Ankara and the PKK's jailed leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

Correction

In our yesterday's story headlined "The dark episode of 2007" we mentioned the name of former adviser to caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan as Hafizuddin Ahmed. We regret the inadvertent error.

India rape accused hunted victim, aimed to kill: Police

REUTERS, New Delhi

The gang of men charged with the rape and murder of an Indian physiotherapy student deliberately tried to find a woman to rape and kill and ended the night with blood on their clothes, a police report seen by Reuters said.

Five men, along with a teenager who says he is under 18, gathered for dinner at a dwelling in a south Delhi slum on the evening of December 16 and there hatched the plot to find a target, according to the dossier given to court by the prosecution.

The accused "decided ahead of time" they would look for a woman and "intended to kill her", the police report claims.

The file, which runs to more than 600 pages contains the prosecution's evidence in the case, which it describes as including forensic evidence against the men, along with confessions, witness statements and medical reports.

However, defence lawyers assigned by the court on Thursday said the prosecu-

tion's case is marred by lapses in the investigation, not least the long period during which their clients were without legal representation. The defence has not yet filed its reply to the prosecution's dossier.

The court hearing the case took cognizance of the police document, known as a charge sheet, on Saturday. Under Indian law once a court takes cognizance of a charge sheet it becomes public record.



The gang boarded a bus that the alleged gang leader, Ram Singh, drove by day to ferry children to school and went out in search of a victim. They found the student accompanied by a male friend who were looking for transport home after watching the movie "Life of Pi" at a South Delhi shopping mall, according to the report submitted to the court.

Police arrested Singh the next day after tracing the bus using security camera footage from a hotel. He was still wearing a T-shirt stained with the victim's blood and "on sustained interrogation" confessed and led the police to his accomplices, the police report said.

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প কর্পোরেশন
চিনিশিল্প ভবন, ৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০
Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation
Chinishilpa Bhavan, 3, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
Fax: 880-2-9555780, 9550481, Tel: 9560412
No. SF/Sales/Molasses Export/2012-13/(Part-1)/07 Dated: 06/01/2013

International Re-Tender for Export of Molasses

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide exporters for export of 20,000 M.Tons (±10%) of Steel Tank Molasses in 4 (four) lots each for 5,000 M.Tons (±10%) from different sugar mills of this Corporation on ex-mill delivery basis. Foreign buyers may take part in the tender through their local agents in Bangladesh. Tender schedule with detailed terms & conditions may be purchased on cash payment of Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) only (non-refundable) per set from the Accounts Division of the Corporation, Chinishilpa Bhavan', 3, Dilkusha C/A (7th Floor), Dhaka and Room No. 513 (4th Floor), Ministry of Industries, 91, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 on any working day during office hours on or before 27-01-2013.

Tenders will be received in the tender box to be kept in BSFIC, Secretary Division, Chinishilpa Bhavan, 3, Dilkusha C/A (5th Floor), Dhaka and Room No. 513 (4th Floor), Ministry of Industries, 91, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 on 28-01-2013 up to 12:00 noon and will be opened on the same day in the office of Secretary, BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhavan at 12:30pm in presence of the tenderers (if any). The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders or part thereof without assigning any reason whatsoever.

S.F 213 **Mohammad Habibur Rahman**
GD-134 Chief (Marketing)

First phase of Ijtema

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a few hours during the prayers, creating a long queue of vehicles.

Many people offered their Juma prayers on the roof of vehicles while a number of devotees were seen offering prayers from rooftops of nearby buildings.

Tablig Jamaat has been organising the Biswa Ijtema, also called the World Muslims' Congregation, every year since 1946.

People from 32 districts of the country and 8,000 devotees from 85 countries including Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, USA, Bahrain are participating in the first phase, Tablig Jamaat sources said.

Devotees from the rest of the districts will participate in the second phase of Ijtema.

The three-day congregation includes delivery of sermons on fundamental matters of Tablig, prayer for spiritual adulation, exaltation and welfare of the Muslim Ummah and recitation from the Quran and Hadith.

At the Ijtema ground, Ulema and Islamic scholars from around the world have been delivering lectures which are instantly

being interpreted in Bangla, English, Arabic and a few other languages.

Like the earlier years, the dowry free marriage ceremony will be held on the second day of Ijtema today.

Three devotees were reported to have died due to old age complications.

Fazlur Rahman, 65, of Koyradanga village in Alamdanga of Chuadanga, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday night while Abdul Motaleb, 60, of Hathazari in Chittagong and Abdul Hamid, 75, of Nikli in Kishoreganj, died on Wednesday.

A multi-layer security system by 12,000 uniformed and plainclothes members of police, Rab and intelligence agencies was in place at the Ijtema ground to ward off any trouble.

Thousands of volunteers are also serving the devotees round the clock.

Though there are restrictions on women's participation in the religious congregation, several hundred women from different districts rented houses adjacent to the Ijtema ground to listen to the sermons.

Rahela Begam of Chhatak in Sunamganj

rented a space for Tk 100 at a room of a shrine near the Ijtema ground.

Like Rahela, seven to eight more women rented areas in the room while many others were seen sharing the shrine premises under open sky.

Free medical camps were set up at the northern part of the Ijtema field to provide immediate medical assistance to the ailing devotees.

Street vendors were seen selling polythene sheet and newspapers to devotees who had to offer prayers on the road.

Two school students -- Maizul Islam and Rasel Sikdar -- have set up a makeshift cell phone charger booth to earn cash. "We take Tk 10 for charging a mobile phone" Ashraf said, adding that they earned Tk 2,500 from this business last year.

A mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Md Saiful Islam filed nine cases against the owners of different restaurants set up at the Ijtema ground for selling adulterated foods.

Tongi police arrested 17 persons on Thursday and yesterday on different charges including pick-pocketing and theft.

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation
Chinishilpa Bhavan, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
Ref No. SF/Sales/Sugar export-2013/(1)/12 Date: 09-01-2013

Invitation of International Tender for Sale to Export of 50,000 M Tons (±10%) of Plantation Cane Sugar on Ex-Works Delivery Basis

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), Dhaka from the bonafide buyers/importer having membership of the Refined Sugar Association (RSA), London for export of 50,000 (fifty thousand) M Tons (±10%) of Plantation Cane Sugar to EU countries under EBA quota on **EX-WORKS** delivery basis as per terms and conditions stated below. Tender particulars:

Quantity in M Ton	Last date & time for selling of tender documents	Last date & time for submission of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
50,000 M Tons (±10%) in 4 (four) Groups each for 12,500 M Tons (±10%)	31-01-2013 at 1600 hrs	02-02-2013 at 1100 hrs	02-02-2013 at 1130 hrs
2.	Name and address of the office for selling tender document	:	Manager (Cash), BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhavan (7 th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
3.	Name and address of the office for receiving tender	:	(a) Secretariat Division, BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhavan (5 th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. (b) Deputy Secretary (BSFIC), Room No. 513 (4 th Floor), Ministry of Industries, 91, Motijheel Com. Area, Dhaka-1000.
4.	Name and address of the office for opening tender	:	Secretariat Division, BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhavan (5 th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
5.	Cost of tender document	:	Tk 10,000/- (ten thousand) only per set (non-refundable).
6.	Amount of tender security	:	US\$ 500,000 (US dollar five hundred thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order/DD/Bank Guarantee.
7.	Special instruction	:	(a) Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. (b) All other terms and conditions shall be applicable as per tender documents.

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Mohammad Habibur Rahman
Chief (Marketing)