Karzai orders US forces out of Afghan province

AFP, Kabul

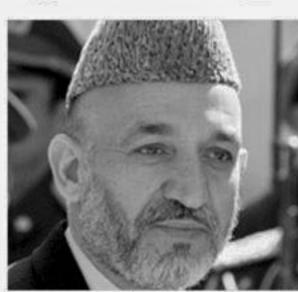
Afghanistan's president has ordered US special forces to leave a strategic province as he seeks tighter control over Afghan militia, exacerbating tensions before the 2014 withdrawal of Nato troops.

Hamid Karzai on Sunday gave American special

forces two weeks to pull out of Wardak, a hotbed of Taliban activity on the doorstep of Kabul, accusing Afghans they work with of torture and murder that has incited local "hatred".

Nato and the US military has said it will discuss the issue with Afghan officials and takes seriously all allegations of miscon-

"We're looking at those allegations, we didn't find any evidence and we will talk to our colleagues and Afghan partners to find a solution," Brigadier General Gunter Katz, spokesman for the US-led Nato mission, told a news conference.



Hamid Karzai

where a Chinook helicopter was shot down by the Taliban in August 2011, killing eight Afghans and 30 Americans, in the deadliest single incident for American troops in the entire war.

Analysts said the order underscored Kabul's growing distrust of international troops and their

desire to control local militia, trained by the Americans but which operate without their knowledge in the war against the Taliban. Relations between Karzai and

Washington have long been troubled, and with the bulk of Nato's 100,000 combat soldiers due to leave and the Afghan president to step down next year, there is huge uncertainty about the future.

"It appears to be an on-the-spot, emotional decision, based on a long-standing frustration that there are forces... Afghan and international, that are uncontrollable," said Martine van Bijlert of the Wardak is a deeply troubled flashpoint Afghanistan Analysts Network.

DELHI GANG-RAPE CASE

Singapore physician testifies via video link

AFP, New Delhi

A Singapore doctor who performed the autopsy on an Indian gang-rape victim testified via videolink yesterday in the trial of five men accused of her murder, a defence lawyer said.

The 23-year-old student who was raped and attacked with an iron bar in December died of massive internal injuries after the Indian government airlifted her to a top Singapore hospital in a last-ditch bid to save her life.

"The doctor who conducted the post-mortem on the woman at the Singapore hospital has deposed before the trial court judge," lawyer V.K. Anand told AFP without commenting further.

Despite huge public interest in the case, the judge has barred reporting of the proceedings of the trial.

Anand said two other doctors from Mount Elizabeth Hospital would also testify in the trial which is being held in a new "fast-track" New Delhi court established to hear the case.

Post-mortem testimony in murder trials is vital to establish the cause of death, as well as help to determine whether the death was intentional, lawyers say.

The physiotherapy student was attacked on a New Delhi bus while returning home after watching a film at a mall, in a brutal assault which outraged the nation and triggered angry protests.

Hackers air Sri Lanka war crimes video

AFP, Colombo

Hackers have attacked Sri Lanka's media ministry by placing a documentary about alleged war crimes during the island's ethnic conflict on its website, an official said yesterday. The hackers identifying

themselves as "H4x0r HuSsY" uploaded a link to an Australian **Broadcasting Corp report** on atrocities during the final stages of Sri Lanka's

Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009. "Stop Killing Innocent Tamil Ppl! Or Get prepared 4 Attacks From Us!' read a message left on the

battle against separatist

website, media.gov.lk. An official in the Mass Media and Information Ministry said the website had been "reclaimed" on Monday morning.

Pak Taliban mock Malik as comedian

PTI, Islamabad

The Pakistani Taliban have mocked Interior Minister Rehman Malik by describing him as a "comedian", with a militant spokesman saying a "serious person" should replace him for any dialogue between the two sides.



Rehman Malik

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan spokesman Ihsanullah Ihsan compared Malik to Pashto comedian Ismail Shahid and said the group did not take the minister's statements seriously.

"Our central shura (consultative council) believes that if Rehman Malik keeps on churning out statements about our offer (of talks), it'll indicate the government is not serious in pursuing peace talks," Ihsan told The Express Tribune.

"If the government replaces Rehman Malik with a serious person to deal with the dialogue issue, we will come up with an immediate, positive and civilised response in the best interests of Pakistan and its people,' Ihsan said over phone from an undisclosed location.

Over the past few days, Malik has repeatedly ridiculed the Taliban's offer of peace talks, saying a dialogue can be held only if the banned group lays down arms and declares a month-long ceasefire.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1

wide protest was called and organized by 12 likeminded Islamic Organizations. Jamaat did not call the protest nor did Jamaat organise it. But the Daily Star reported, without taking the trouble of citing a single source, that the country wide protest was in fact organized by Bangladesh Jamaat-E-Islami.

The report claims that Bangladesh Jamaat-E-Islami "attacked law enforcers and journalists, burned the national flag and vandalised Shaheed Minars to counter the mass demand for capital punishment to 1971 war criminals." The reporter(s) failed to appreciate their obligations and duties as journalists to back up this claim with evidence.

The report further states that "Jamaat and its student body Islami Chhatra Shibir carried out the attacks under the banner of 12 Islamist parties." If Bangladesh Jamaat-E-Islami did not call for this protest, which it did not, then it is reasonable to ask why a reputed newspaper like the Daily Star should report that

Jamaat and Shibir carried out the protest without even attempting to demonstrate why it believes that to be the case.

The news article went onto accuse Jamaat throughout the whole report. "Jamaat activists took position inside the Baitul Mukarram...", "Jamaat and like-minded parties snatched the microphone...", "Jamaat activists beat up camerapersons...". However no evidence was referred to in the report to substantiate such state-

Not only Jamaat was NOT involved in these activities but we strongly condemn the reprehensible attacks on Shaheed Minars, burning the national flag, and the shameful attacks on the journalists.

The ethics of journalism dictates that when an event is reported it is supported by verifiable references. It appears to us that the reporters of your newspaper have forgotten the and spreading someone's own prejudiced views. In a critical time like this a vastly circulated newspaper like the Daily Star has

to decide if it will take side or it will staunchly hold onto journalistic ethics. If it decides the latter then it should report events as they are and trust the people to make up their own minds.

OUR REPLY

We do appreciate Jamaat for condemning, though belatedly, the attacks on Shaheed Minars, national flags and journalists.

The shocking events of February 22 (published on February 23) did not happen all of a sudden. Rather, it was the culmination of a cleverly orchestrated smear campaign with fictitious allegations against Shahbagh youths. In our lead story on February 20 (Out with a new trick? Youths, lawenforcers find Jamaat turning religious sentiment against Shahbagh demonstration), we exposed a plot that aimed to neutralise the Shahbagh movement by branding its organisers distinction between neu- as atheists and antitrally reporting an event Islamic. We followed it up for two consecutive days on February 21 (Target Friday: Govt takes steps to thwart Jamaat's bid for anarchy) and on February

22 (Prayers, no propaganda: Govt moves not to let any radical groups exploit religion). In our stories, we duly substantiated the covert link of Jamaat with attributions from intelligence, police and other sources. No rejoinder was sent in to contradict those reports.

We deployed half a dozen reporters in the capital alone to cover the February 22 events, and our report was based mostly on their findings from the spots.

A number of agitators admitted to our reporters on condition of anonymity that they were Islami Chhatra Shibir men.

A number of leaders involved in Friday movement also told The Daily Star that Jamaat was backing some religious parties that are component in the recently formed eight Islamic parties as well as component in the BNPled 18-party alliance in which Jamaat is a key

On the same day, the deputy commissioner of Motijheel division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police categorically said that Jamaat-Shibir men disguised as

members of Islamist parties took part in the Friday anarchy in front of the Baitul

Mukarram mosque. The cases filed by the police for the violence also accused several top leaders of city and central Jamaat.

We, however, stand corrected for not mentioning the sources who claimed Jamaat orchestrated the attacks.

We thank Jamaat for reminding us about the ethics of journalism, which we assure it that we will continue to maintain. But we want to clearly state that we stand by our report.

Censor board blocks anti-Mamata film

PTI, Kolkata

The censor board has refused to clear a Bengali film for taking potshots at the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and the Singur movement that forced the Tatas to exit the state.

Starring rebel Trinamool Congress MP Kabir Suman, 'Kangal Malsat' (War Cry of Poor) is directed by Suman Mukhopadhyay. It is based on a book written by eminent litterateur Mahasweta Devi's son Nabarun Bhattacharya.

"The way the honourable CM's oath taking ceremony has been shown seems distortion of history and may hurt many common people of West Bengal and create sensation (violence)," the letter issued by the Central Board of Film Certification to the film's producers says.

The film shows a person watching the swearing-in ceremony with disdain. It also has a controversial shot of Kabir Suman saying in Bengali, "The Tatas have cut a sorry figure. Now there are so many committees. They are making Kolkata into London..."

Pakistan hit by nationwide blackout

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan was hit by a nationwide blackout for more than two hours after the breakdown of a major plant caused power stations to stop working across the country, officials said yester-

The blackout occurred when the HUBCO plant in southwestern Baluchistan province, which generates 1,200 megawatts a day of electricity, developed a technical fault, said official Rai Sikandar.

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For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs. Applications should be submitted no later than Tuesday, 12th March 2013.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

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বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল ২০১৩-বি অফিসার ক্যাডেট ব্যাচ (২য় গ্রুপ)

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনীতে ২০১৩-বি অফিসার ক্যাডেট ব্যাচ ২য় গ্রুপের গত ০১ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৩ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, খুলনা ও বগুড়া কেন্দ্রের উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল নিমুরূপঃ

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