

VIOLENCE OVER CAA

Curfew in Shillong after 1 killed

Delhi calm after days of clashes

THE STATESMAN/ANN

The Indian state of Meghalaya imposed curfew in capital Shillong and suspended mobile internet services in six districts after a person died in clashes over the controversial citizenship law, officials said today.

According to police, clashes between the Khasi Students Union members and non-tribals broke out during anti-CAA and pro-ILP (Inner Line Permit) meeting held in Ichamati area of East Khasi Hills district on Friday.

Mobile internet services ban started from Friday night for 48-hours, officials said. The districts are East Jaintia Hills, West Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi hills.

Curfew was imposed in Shillong and adjoining areas with effect from 10:00pm of February 28 to 8:00am of February 29, an official order said.

Since passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 in December 8, the northeast states of India have seen their worst violence in decades. Later the violence spread countrywide, killing dozens.

Meanwhile, the situation in northeast Delhi, after days of clashes over the CAA, was relatively peaceful yesterday. The ban on large gathering, however, is still on in neighbourhoods where mobs clashed. 42 people had died in the violence.

The Citizenship Act makes it easier for non-Muslims from three neighbouring Muslim-dominated countries to gain Indian citizenship.

The indigenous people of the northeastern states are worried that the entry of these people will endanger their identity and livelihood.

Inner Line Permit is an official travel document issued by the concerned state government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.

Turkey opens refugee floodgates

Says it will not stop refugees fleeing into Europe after troops killed in Syria

AGENCIES

Refugees in Turkey headed towards European frontiers after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the borders had been thrown open, a response to the escalating war in Syria where 34 Turkish soldiers were killed by Russian-backed Syrian government troops.

Turkey and Russia, which back opposing forces in the Syria conflict, held high-level talks to try to defuse tensions that have sparked fears of a broader war and a new migration crisis for Europe.

Erdogan may travel next week to Moscow for talks, according to the Kremlin.

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting to try to avert open conflict between Russia and Nato member Turkey.

US President Donald Trump, in a phone call with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, condemned the attack and reaffirmed Washington's support for Ankara's efforts to avert a humanitarian disaster in Syria, a White House spokesman said.

The two leaders also said Syria and Russia must halt their offensive

Greek police fire teargas on migrants at Turkish border

US to help Turkey in Syria via info-sharing, equipment

UN chief urges all sides to step back from escalation



in northwest Syria, spokesman Judd Deere said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described it as "one of the most alarming moments" of the nine-year-old Syrian war and urged all sides to step back from escalating crisis.

Greek police yesterday clashed with thousands of migrants who were already gathering on the border to try to enter Europe.

Erdogan today vowed to allow refugees to travel on to Europe from Turkey which he said can no longer handle new waves of people fleeing war-torn Syria. It already hosts 3.7 million Syrian refugees.

"What did we do yesterday (Friday)?"

We opened the doors," Erdogan said in Istanbul. "We will not close those doors ...Why? Because the European Union should keep its promises."

He was referring to a 2016 deal with the European Union to stop refugee flows in exchange for billions of euros in aid.

The Turkish leader said 18,000 migrants have amassed on the Turkish borders with Europe since Friday, adding that the number could reach as many as 30,000 today.

Turkey's neighbours Greece and Bulgaria, both European Union member states, vowed not to admit the migrants and reinforced their borders. It was closed under an accord between

Turkey and the European Union that halted the 2015-16 migration crisis when more than a million people crossed into Europe by foot.

At the Pazarkule border post with Greece, scores of migrants faced barbed wire fences and smoke grenades. Some stuck in the no-man's land between the two countries tried to return to the Turkish side, only to be turned back by Turkish authorities.

The EU said that Ankara had made no formal announcement of any change in policy at the border.

Inside Syria there was ample evidence of the renewed fighting that has caused perhaps the worst humanitarian crisis of the conflict. A million civilians have been displaced since December inside Syria near the Turkish border in desperate winter conditions.

Syria's civil war has worsened dramatically in recent months despite largely vanishing from Western countries' agendas. Government forces, backed by Russian air power, have launched a major assault to capture the northwest, the last remaining territory held by rebels backed by Turkey.



Trump taps ally as intel chief

US President Donald Trump announced Republican lawmaker John Ratcliffe as his intelligence chief Friday, sparking fresh controversy over a crucial position that has lacked a permanent office holder for months. The 53-year-old Trump loyalist was nominated as director of national intelligence after Dan Coats stepped down in July last year, but withdrew from consideration after strong criticism of his credentials from Democrats and a tepid response from key Republicans. Ratcliffe has been an outspoken Trump defender, frequently appearing on Fox News to spread conspiracy theories and deny the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia tried to boost the president's election effort in 2016.

Bombardment intensifies in Tripoli despite truce

Bombardment of the Libyan capital Tripoli intensified on Friday, residents said, as the United Nations envoy called for a return to a ceasefire agreed last month and eastern forces said they shot down several drones. Residents said the shelling was among the heaviest since the ceasefire was agreed on Jan 12, as artillery blasts echoed through the city centre and black smoke billowed near Mitiga airport held by the government. The fighting, between the Libyan National Army (LNA) of eastern-based leader Khalifa Haftar and the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli, came as the United Nations tried to hold peace talks in Geneva.

US postpones Asean meet amid coronavirus fears

The United States has decided to postpone a meeting with leaders of Southeast Asian countries it had planned to host on March 14 due to worries about the coronavirus outbreak, two US officials familiar with the matter said on Friday. President Donald Trump had invited leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to meet in Las Vegas after he did not attend a summit with the group in Bangkok in November.

Trump wins key court case on presidential powers

The White House won a key victory for presidential power Friday when an appeals court rejected a lawsuit over President Donald Trump blocking his former legal advisor from honoring a Congressional subpoena. The Washington appeals court ruled two-to-one that the US judicial branch has no power to decide whether Trump could prevent former White House counsel Don McGahn from testifying in an investigation of the president by the House Judiciary Committee. McGahn had been called last year to testify in the impeachment investigation of Trump, particularly on allegations that Trump illegally obstructed the Russia political interference probe. But McGahn refused to appear on Trump's instruction, with the White House citing Trump's executive privileges. SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Migrants clash with Greek police on the buffer zone Turkey-Greece border, at Pazarkule, in Edirne district, yesterday. Inset, A portion of the refugees gathered at the Turkey-Greece border.

PHOTO: AFP

Taliban deal faces numerous obstacles

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump's quest for a second term received a boost on Saturday from the deal with the Taliban for a troop pullout from Afghanistan but it could take time - possibly years - before all US forces come home from America's longest war.

The fruit of more than a year of on-and-off talks, the agreement lets Trump claim a major foreign policy success, a prize that has eluded him on North Korea, Venezuela, Iran and other priorities.

The accord, however, faces numerous potential obstacles, such as sabotage by spoilers like dissident Taliban commanders.

And while the Republican president or a successful Democratic challenger in the Nov 3 US election could order a total pullout before peace is secured, that would risk a Taliban takeover and a resurgence of al-Qaeda Islamist militants that could require a new US intervention.

The accord signed in Qatar calls for a long-planned initial drawdown to 8,600 US troops from some 13,000.

But it ties further decreases to the Taliban doing things they may find difficult, especially cutting decades-old ties with al-Qaeda and other militant groups so deep they include inter-marriages.

US officials stressed that the pace of the drawdown depends on progress in so-called intra-Afghan peace talks due to follow yesterday's signing.

Some experts warn that the peace negotiations - due to open in Oslo by March 10 - could drag on for years because of the Afghan parties' profound ideological and political differences.

The requirement that the Taliban cut ties with al-Qaeda may be one of the agreement's hardest provisions to implement and - for US intelligence - verify.

Al-Qaeda plotted the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people under the protection of Taliban rulers who were ousted by the subsequent US-led invasion.

Al-Qaeda members have married into Taliban families, trained their fighters and enjoy protection under Pashtun tribal code, experts say.

A United Nations report in January said al-Qaeda representatives have been shuttling between various factions of the Taliban and field commanders, urging them to reject negotiations with the Afghan government and promising to increase financial support.

"If a peace agreement is reached, al-Qaeda intends to develop a new narrative to justify continuing armed conflict in Afghanistan," said the report, which estimated there are up to 600 al-Qaeda fighters there.

The accord applies only to Taliban-held territory and not sanctuaries the insurgents have enjoyed for decades in neighboring Pakistan, where their leaders are believed to maintain ties with al-Qaeda and other militants.

A British government source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, doubted the Taliban would completely break with al-Qaeda. "The Taliban basically just want the US out and promise things that don't come to fruition to get that," the British source said. "I would be amazed if they disassociated themselves absolutely and honorably. I would be quite amazed."

Trump willing to meet world leaders on arms control

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump is willing to hold a summit with the leaders of Russia, China, Britain and France - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - to discuss arms control, a senior administration official said on Friday.

Trump wants to use the meeting to try to make progress on a three-way arms control deal with Russia and China, the official said. The timing for a summit was unclear.

"The United States will use this opportunity to bring both Russia and China into the international arms control framework and head off a costly arms race," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Trump has sought to persuade China to join the United States and Russia in talks on an arms control accord to replace the 2010 New START treaty between Washington and Moscow that expires next February. China has rejected Trump's proposal.

New START maintains the only remaining limits on US and Russian nuclear deployments. Some experts and lawmakers have called Trump's proposal to include Beijing in a new treaty a "poison pill" strategy aimed at killing New START and ending the restraints on US deployments.

It can be renewed for up to five years if both sides agree. Moscow has offered to immediately extend the treaty. Washington has yet to decide.

China is estimated to have about 300 nuclear weapons.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Bhola Government College
Bhola Sadar, Bhola

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.
3	Tender procuring entity name	Professor Md. Golam Zakaria, Principal, Bhola Govt. College, Bhola.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Refurbishment and Renovation of Lab & Classroom.
7	Invitation Ref No.	CEDP/BGCDP/2020/40
8	Date	01.03.2020.

KEY INFORMATION
9 Procurement method Open Tendering Method (National).

FUNDING INFORMATION
10 Budget and source of funds Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).
11 Development partners International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12	Project code 224017200.
13	Project name College Education Development Project (CEDP).
14	Tender package No. W-01.
15	Tender package name Refurbishment and Renovation of Lab & Classroom.
16	Tender publication date 01.03.2020.
17	Tender last selling date 16.03.2020.
18	Tender closing date and time 18.03.2020 and 2:00pm.
19	Tender opening date and time 18.03.2020 and 2:30pm.
20	Name & address of the office Selling tender document Bhola Government College, Bhola Sadar, Bhola. Receiving tender document Opening tender document
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional) N/A

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 25,00,000 (twenty-five lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 20,000,000 (two crore) only over the last 03 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be BDT 25,00,000 (twenty-five lac) only. 5. Other criteria mentioned in the TDS.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Refurbishment and Renovation of Lab & Classroom such as Wall Removing, Floor tiles, Window Thai, Glass Thai Partition, Window Glass Fitting, Plastic emulsion paint, dismember etc.		
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities.		
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,000.00 (one thousand).		
26	Tender name	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks
	Refurbishment and Renovation of Lab & Classroom	Bhola Government College, Bhola.	75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand)	08 (eight) weeks
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Md Golam Zakaria.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Bhola Govt. College, Bhola Sadar, Bhola.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 0491-61822	Tel:	Tel:
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Professor Md Golam Zakaria
Principal
Bhola Govt. College, Bhola

GD-392



US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar sign the US-Taliban peace agreement during a ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP