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# The Daily Star

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Be cautious while you drive your car. The man you are likely to kill by rash driving may be you!

## Inside today

### International



Elvegia R Mendoza was recently promoted to become the first woman general in the Philippines. Page 5

### Weekend Magazine

'Up the Brahmaputra with a Pair of Paddles' By P.J. English Page 9

### Article

#### Convicts paint a better future

"We are not the write-offs that society thinks we are", says one convict. He is among the many who take up art painting in India's first art school for convicts. Page 4

### Tomorrow



M. SYEDUZZAMAN

ON

#### Economic Objectives And Targets For The New Government

A former Finance Minister of Bangladesh and an internationally-known expert on economic development M. Syeduzzaman has joined the ranks of regular contributors to The Daily Star.

The first article of his two-part series on the current economic scene in the country, which identifies the challenges and options for the new administration appears in tomorrow's issue of The Daily Star.

THE TWO ARTICLES ARE INFORMATIVE, RELIABLE AND THOUGHT PROVOKING, A MUST READING FOR ALL WHO ASK FOR CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES, FOR A NEW ERA IN DEVELOPMENT.

It is all in The Daily Star tomorrow. Do not miss it.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CU teacher hurt in attack

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: Dr Mukhdum-e-Mulk, Associate Professor, Political Science Department of Chittagong University, was attacked and badly injured early this morning at his campus residence by some miscreants, reports BBS.

### US to cut aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON, March 21: The Senate voted yesterday to cut off US military and economic aid to Jordan because of the anti-US stance the Middle Eastern nation took during the Gulf War, reports Xinhua.

### Sehri and Ifar Timings

Romman Day	Last time for Sehri	Ifar
05 Friday	4.41 am	6.17 pm
06 Saturday	4.40 am	6.18 pm

## Sahabuddin briefs Council of Ministers on economic situation

# Quick preparation of budget emphasised

By Staff Correspondent

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed briefed the new Council of Ministers Thursday night on the economic situation and the tasks lying ahead.

In his first meeting with the new Council of Ministers at Bangabhaban after Ifar, the Acting President outlined the problems faced by different sectors, and explained the food situation.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed told the Prime Minister, Ministers and State Ministers that the new national budget has to be prepared very quickly, and at the same time

preparations would have to be made to seek foreign aid at the Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting scheduled to be held in Paris in the first week of June.

A cabinet source said that the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally thanked the Acting President for holding a free and fair election.

Briefly narrating the nine-year movement, Begum Zia urged the Acting President to look after the families of those who were killed at different stages of the movement. Meanwhile, the newly-ap-

pointed ministers have started attending their offices.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia went to Sylhet to offer fatcha at the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA).

It was not decided till Thursday where her office will be located, a reliable source said.

On their first day in office the Ministers and State Ministers held series of meetings with senior officials to get acquainted with their activities.

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar who is the Minister for Local Government, Rural

Development and Cooperatives told The Daily Star that he had a meeting with the senior officials of all the divisions of the ministry.

During the meeting he let the officials know about the commitments made by the BNP to the people and discussed ways of implementing them. He is also the Secretary General of the BNP.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Labour and Manpower said he tried to acquaint himself to the activities of his ministry by having meetings with senior officials. See Page 12 Col. 1



Acting President Justice Shahabuddin presiding over the first meeting of the Council of Ministers Thursday. —PID photo

## Task Force reports

# Industries in dire straits

Star Economic Report

About 50 per cent of the industrial units in the country are sick. The credit squeeze by Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) is hurting genuine industrialists while loans from the DFIs remain unpaid by many. Resources in private sector continue to shift from manufacturing to trading, smuggling and other activities.

The 14-member Task Force on Industrial Policy noted this in its report to the government.

With S. M. Al-Hussein, Chairman, Bangladesh Public Service Commission as its convener, the Task Force has reviewed the industrial activities in the economy over the past two decades.

It was one of the 29 Task Forces, set up in early January by the government to examine the socio-economic situation, prevailing in different sectors, and to suggest measures to rejuvenate the economy.

The Task Force on Industrial Policy has reported that private investments in industries declined in the eighties. Investments in trade and services were twice as high as in manufacturing in the latter half of the eighties. About 50 per cent of private investment target in industries remained unattained in the Third Five Year Plan period (1985-90).

The overall growth of industrial production was significantly lower in the 1980s (about 2.5 per cent a year since 1980-81) than in the 1970s (4.3 per cent during 1975-76 through 1979-80), according to the Task Force.

It reported that shifting of resources from manufacturing to trading and other activities in the eighties has rendered the hope of a long-term industrialisation an elusive one. The expected foreign investment has also not trickled in.

On the export sector, it noted that limited success was achieved through enhancement of nontraditional exports. But these successes are less spectacular when one looks at the value and content of such

exports. Overall, exports constituted a meagre seven per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the late eighties as against six per cent in the late sixties. See Page 12 Col. 2

## APSU rally for repeal of black laws

By DU Correspondent

The leaders of All-Party Students Unity (APSU) in a rally Thursday demanded repeal of all black laws and undemocratic articles from the Constitution.

The leaders said students would continue movement till their ten-point demand was realised.

They also demanded immediate arrest of armed hoodlums who created terrorism in the Dhaka University campus in last few days.

The rally held at the foot of Aparajeya Bangla monument was addressed by Nazimuddin Alam, Shahe Alam, S.M. Kamal Hossain, Abdus Sattar Khan and Moshrefa Mishu.

Nazimuddin Alam, Assistant General Secretary of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) demanded publication of white paper on misappropriation of public money and property by the autocratic regime looted.

Shahe Alam, President of Awami League-backed Chhatra League said if armed hoodlums were not arrested immediately to stop the politics of murder, the students would remove them from the campus as was done with Niru and Avee.

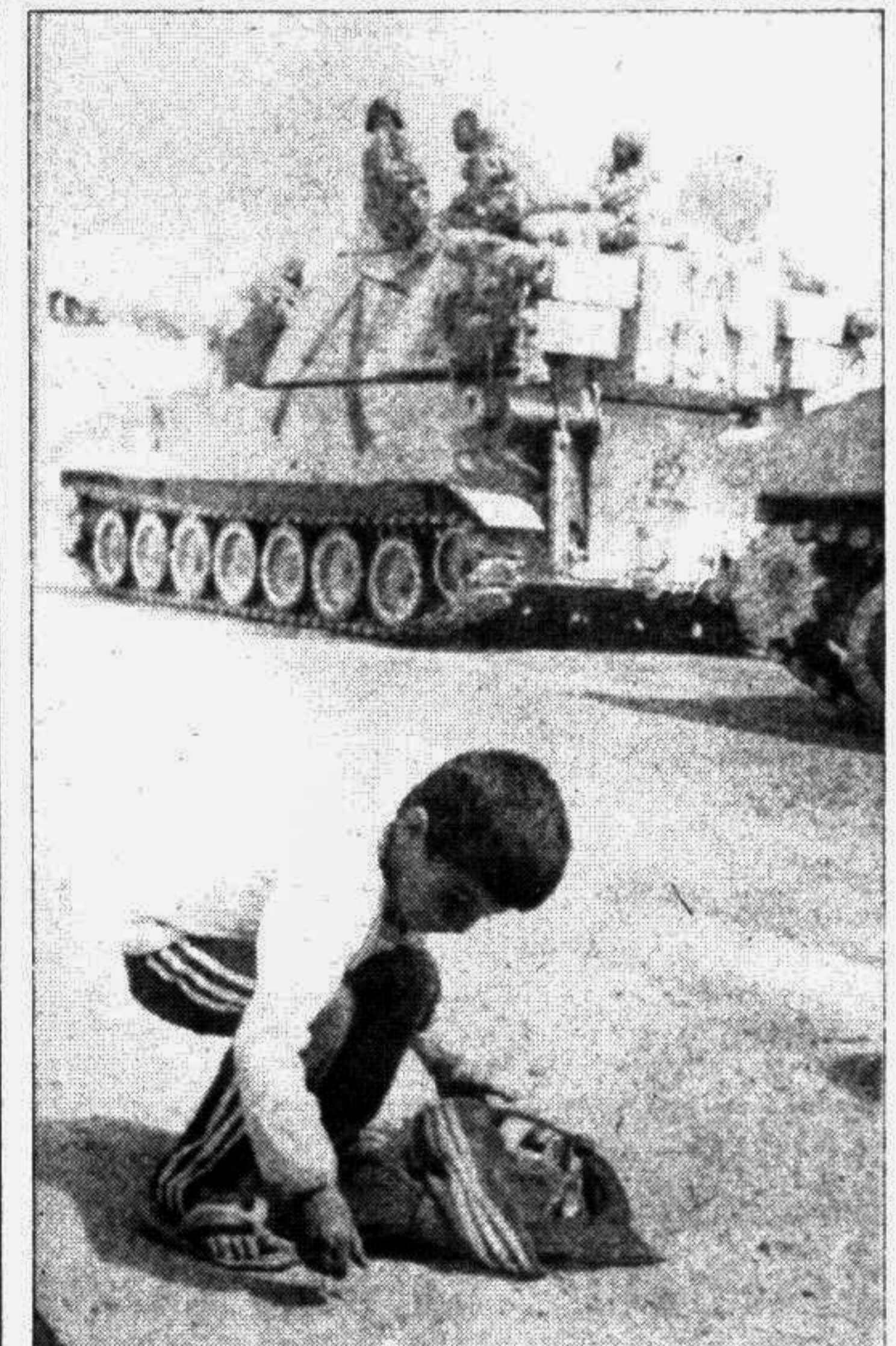
He also demanded cancellation of all amendments in the Constitution including the

See Page 12 Col. 8

## Sheikh Hasina Leader of Opposition

Sheikh Hasina, Leader of Bangladesh Awami League Parliamentary Party, was on Thursday officially recognised as the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BBS.

According to a notification See Page 12 Col. 1



An Iraqi boy gathers food thrown by passing troops in US-occupied Iraqi territory Thursday. Acute food shortage prevails in the southern region of Iraq. — AFP photo

## Mustafiz sets tone of foreign policy

# Closeness with Muslim states, good relations with neighbours

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman on Thursday pledged to reactivate late President Ziaur Rahman's foreign policy of 'close friendship with Muslim countries' and 'good neighbourly relation with countries in the region', reports UNB.

"The pattern of our foreign policy will be completely identical with the policy adopted by Ziaur Rahman to ensure maximum welfare of the people", the new Foreign Minister told newsmen.

In his maiden press interview immediately after assuming his office Thursday morning, Mustafiz expressed concern over the omission of the "Guarantee Clause" from Bangladesh-India Water Sharing and Agreement. "This will have to be restored to obtain our legitimate share", he said.

Bangladesh, under the agreement signed in Dhaka in 1977 along with the guarantee clause, was allowed to use 60 per cent of the total flows of the common river Ganges in lean period.

Bangladesh, got 34,000 cusec of water and India 23,000 cusec under the provision of the pact with the clause.

But the clause was dropped in an agreement initiated by ousted President Ershad and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India on October 7, 1982 in New Delhi, resulting in the prevailing water problems.

The newly appointed Foreign Minister, also a senior BNP leader, however, said "Bangladesh is always in favour of resolving bilateral issues See Page 12 Col. 1

## Khaleda Zia warns against smuggling

SYLHET, Mar 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today offered Fatcha at the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) here, reports BBS.

She also prayed seeking divine blessings for the nation and the Muslim Ummah as well.

The Prime Minister also visited the mazar of Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) and offered Fatcha.

From the Osmani Airport, the Prime Minister was taken to the Circuit House in a ceremonial motorcade. She was presented with a guard of honour there.

After a brief stay, Begum Khaleda Zia and her entourage went to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal to offer Fatcha. She and other members also said their Johr prayer at the mazar mosque.

The Prime Minister and her entourage members then went to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Paran, six miles away from Sylhet town.

Thousands of people — men

and women, old and young — stood in line on both the sides of the road and greeted the Prime Minister with different slogans. Begum Zia reciprocated the sentiment by waving her hands at the jubilant crowd.

From the mazar of Shah Paran, the Prime Minister came back to the Circuit House.

At 4 pm, the Prime Minister met with the local administration at the Circuit House and discussed with them matters relating to various problems in the districts. Begum Zia asked the district administration including the Police Administration to gear up the measures against smuggling and hoarding so that the general mass did not suffer, particularly in this holy month of Ramadan.

Begum Zia also asked the district administration to encourage production at all levels, particularly in agriculture and mills, to reduce de-

See Page 12 Col. 2

## 4 shot dead by BSF in Chhagalnaiya

FENI, Mar 21: Four Bangladeshis were shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a frontier village in Chhagalnaiya upazila here today, officials said, reports UNB.

Another villager was also wounded with bullet as the Indian border guards opened fire at village south Jashpur at about 4 pm. BDR officials said.

Injured Jasmuddin (35) was rushed to hospital in a critical condition.

The dead were named Rahimullah (38), Sahabuddin (32), Joyntal (24) and another unidentified person, all from the same village.

Sources said BSF went on shooting on a group of Bangladesh nationals while they were quarrelling with neighbouring villagers of India over the use of a common river water.

BSF men took away the bodies of Joyntal and the unidentified victim.

Later, in a flag meeting at about 10 tonight, the BSF assured the BDR officials of returning the bodies.

Two other bodies were sent to Feni hospital for post-mortem.

## Mixed reaction to allocation of portfolios

By Staff Correspondent

The formation of the Council of Ministers and the allocation of portfolios have created a mixed reaction inside Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and among the members of the public.

BNP insiders feel that a good number of leaders of the party who had been in the forefront of the movement for nine years have not received due attention.

According to them, some newcomers in the party have got prominence at the expense of those who had been active in waging movement and keeping the party intact against repeated assault from the Ershad regime.

It is gathered that even some cabinet ministers and See Page 12 Col. 6

## AL won't put candidates for women's seats

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will not put any candidate in the April 4 elections to 30 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament), party sources said.

Meanwhile, BNP which emerged as the single largest party in the February 27 parliamentary polls, has decided to contest in all the 30 reserved seats. The party will select 30 candidates tomorrow and the day after among over 300 women seeking nominations from the party to contest the polls. Jamaat-e-Islami which supported BNP to form government with its 18 MPs-elect is likely to share two seats with BNP.

## Kamal Hossain off to Canada

Awami League Presidium member Dr. Kamal Hossain Thursday left for Calgary, Canada, to attend a United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) petroleum law experts meeting scheduled for March 25-26, reports UNB.

He will also address the inaugural session of a seminar on "right to development" in Calcutta organised by International Law Association (ILA), as Chairman of one of its international committees.

## Wife of former adviser commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

Syeda Aklima Khanam, 49 wife of former Health and Family Planning Adviser Dr. A Majed Khan allegedly committed suicide at her Banani residence Wednesday night.

Police said she hanged herself from a ceiling fan of her bed room.

Gulshan police rushed to the residence brought the body down and sent it Dhaka Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

The motive was not known. A case of unnatural death has been lodged with Gulshan police station by Dr. Majed.

# US regards Kashmir as disputed territory

ISLAMABAD, Mar 21: The United States regards Kashmir as a disputed territory and wants India to take into account the views of Kashmiris on the future of the Himalayan state US Ambassador to Pakistan Robert Oakley said, reports Agencies.

"The United States does not accept India's contention that the United Nations resolutions no longer apply, and that Kashmir is an integral part of India," Oakley said in a letter to a Washington-based Kashmiri organisation, reproduced

Thursday by Pakistani newspapers.

He was responding to a letter from Kashmir-American Council Executive Director Ghulam Nabi Fai, who criticised the Ambassador's earlier remarks that Washington "no longer urges a plebiscite on Kashmir as contained in United Nations resolutions of 1948 and 1949."

"Our policy is that any resolution of the problem must take into consideration the needs of all affected parties, including India, Pakistan, Muslim Kashmiris and non-Muslim

Kashmiris," Oakley said.

"We have urged India and Pakistan many times to resolve their differences over Kashmir bilaterally and peacefully in the spirit of the 1972 Simla agreement which calls on them to discuss Kashmir with a view to resolving their dispute over it," he said.

"We have also urged the government of India to make every effort to establish a dialogue with Kashmiri leaders to regenerate a democratic process by which Kashmiris can express their will in free and fair elections, and to take into

account their views on the future of Kashmir."

Oakley said his country remained "seriously concerned" about the excessive use of force and alleged human rights violations in Kashmir.

"We reject the use of indiscriminate violence by both militants and security forces, and we deplore the loss of life in Kashmir," he said. "We also continue to urge the Indian government to permit international human rights advocacy groups to visit India to examine the human rights situation," he added.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman confirmed the existence of the letter but said Washington's policy was unchanged.

Pakistan wants a plebiscite in Kashmir — the only Muslim-majority state in India — as explicitly mentioned in the 1949 U.N. resolution.

Three persons, including a woman were killed in Kashmir valley since last night, while business activity resumed today after a day's strike.

Security personnel, carrying out search operations, were attacked by militants in Shahgud village of Sumbal in

Baramulla district yesterday. One person was killed in the encounter, official sources said. It was not clear whether the killed person was a militant or a civilian.

In an encounter between Boarder Security Force (BSF) personnel and militants, a woman was killed and another person was injured at Sogam under Lalpora police station in Kupwara district yesterday, official reports received from the district town said.

Meanwhile, shops and business establishments opened today.