

Fierce gunbattle in Kashmir: 7 killed

JAMMU, June 1: Indian security forces and Muslim militants fought a series of fierce gunbattles in Kashmir, leaving at least seven dead, as a strike hit the state's Hindu-majority winter capital here Saturday, reports AFP.

Seven shootouts were reported since Friday night from the tense Kashmir valley, where army and paramilitary troops pursued massive house-to-house searches for members of Muslim separatist groups, officials in Jammu said.

Five militants and two troopers from the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in the gunbattles, the officials said. Eight militants, four CRPF men and a civilian were injured in the incidents.

Thirty-six suspected Muslim militants were arrested Saturday during searches in

several parts of the troubled valley, including the summer capital Srinagar, the urban hub of the militant campaign.

The house-to-house sweep was launched Friday by paramilitary and army troops, who were called out in the valley after a series of hit-and-run attacks on security pickets by militant gunmen.

In Jammu, normal activity was paralysed by a strike sponsored by Hindu organisations to protest what they called the "complete failure" of the government to combat Muslim militancy in the state. The strike was called a day after a bomb exploded outside the office here of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The strike closed shops and businesses, schools and colleges and even cinemas, hotels and restaurants.



Salam protests statement on Zia's role

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder on Saturday protested the joint statement by 16 intellectuals on the role of late President Ziaur Rahman in the liberation war.

He also condemned the attack on the residence of Suranjit Sengupta, MP.

The BNP leader in a statement said those who raised question about Ziaur Rahman's patriotism, sincerity and honesty, could never be patriots and they had no link with the people. He added that those who did not find Ziaur Rahman among the organisers of liberation war, "were denying our existence and national entity."

Salam Talukder said that the people would not forgive those who deny the true history of the war of independence.

Condemning the attack on the house of Suranjit Sengupta, the BNP Secretary General said that the persons involved in the act only exposed their fascist character. He said that those who wanted to snatch the right of expressing independent opinion were enemies of democracy.

He said that by participating in the discussion on Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of his anniversary, Mr Suranjit Sengupta earned much appreciation from the people. "We have no language to condemn the attack", the BNP leader said.

He mentioned that Ziaur Rahman had not only declared the independence, but also fought the war.

In the statement he also condemned what he called the acts of terror created by 'Awami-Bakshi axis' at different educational institutions including agricultural university and said that the people would give a befitting reply to it.

Implementation of Wage Board Award demanded

Leaders of different federations and unions of newspaper and news agencies Saturday demanded immediate implementation of Wage Board Award in their respective organisations all over the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a joint rally of the journalists, press workers and general employees at the National Press Club, they expressed the hope that good sense would prevail and the newspaper owners would come forward to implement the award.

Referring to the rejection by the High Court of the writ petition of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad challenging the implementation of the Wage Board Award, the leaders hope that the owners henceforth would shun the path of conspiracy against the legitimate rights of the working people of the industry.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Bangladesh Press Sramik Federation (BPSF) and Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Karmachari Federation (BSKF), the rally was presided over by BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed.

BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President and General Secretary Zahirul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, BPSF Acting President Faez Imam, Secretary General Bazlur Rahman Milan, BSKF President Jahangir Kabir and Secretary General Mir Mozammel Hossain, Mymensingh Union of Journalists President Kazi Yasin Ahmed and Rajshahi Union of Journalists General Secretary Golam Rahman addressed the rally.

In his presidential speech, Reazuddin Ahmed said the owners would be responsible for any undesirable situation in the industry if the legitimate dues of the working people were denied by them (owners).

Sajeda blames Government for campus unrest

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of the Awami League has expressed deep concern at the deterioration of law and order situation in different educational institutions including universities.

She alleged that terrorist activities on the campus were on the rise due to provocation from the government.

In a statement issued Saturday, Sajeda Chowdhury condemned Friday's incident at the Agricultural University in Mymensingh and said that a student organisation supported by the government attacked Chhatra League workers and other students with firearms.

She said that the attack was well planned and that identified criminals of Mymensingh and a terrorist group expelled from the Dhaka University were engaged to carry it out.

Sajeda Chowdhury demanded action against the terrorist group in the Agricultural University. She also demanded reopening of the university.

4 student bodies to agitate for expulsion of Golam Azam

By DU Correspondent

Different student organisations have called for country-wide demonstration on June 5 demanding expulsion of Jamaat leader Golam Azam.

The identical programme was announced on Saturday after the student organisations brought out separate processions and held rallies in the Dhaka University campus protesting what they called Jamaat-Shibir terrorism.

Saturday's programme of the campus was part of a country-wide protest day, organised by Chhatra League (S-A), Chhatra League (N-S), Jatiya Chhatra League (JCL) and Chhatra Union.

The day's rallies held separately were addressed by BCL (S-A) President Shahe Alam and General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil, BCL (N-S) leader Rokunuzzaman Rokon, JCL President Jahangir Sattar Tinku and General Secretary S M Kamal Hossain and Chhatra Union leaders Abdullal Kafi Ratan and Sunil Das.

Speakers at these rallies demanded withdrawal of false cases against some student leaders filed by the Jamaat-e-Islami and release of seven students arrested in connection with the attack on Matur Rahman Nizami May 27 on the university campus.

They also demanded immediate arrest of killers of Dr. Milon and ban on politics of communalism.

Meanwhile tension feared in the campus following spread of the news of clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League in Mymensingh Agriculture University and the closure of the university. BCL brought out a procession on the campus protesting closure of the university.

Witnesses said three gunshots were heard from Jagannath Hall and Shahidullah Hall last night Friday.

The Midnight File

Rajiv's sacrifice won't go waste: Rao

NEW DELHI, June 1: India's dominant Congress Party, orphaned by the assassination of its leader Rajiv Gandhi, vowed Saturday to fulfil his dreams of a modern and stable India. "We are clear in our perception. We will walk together and will never allow the sacrifice of Gandhi to go waste," PV Narasimha Rao, who succeeded Gandhi as party president, told a public rally, reports AP.

New law restricts criticism of King

KATHMANDU, June 1: King Birendra gave royal assent to a new law restricting public criticism of Nepal's King and his family on Saturday. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's government took over late last month from an interim government which came to power following pro-democracy riots in the kingdom, reports Reuter.

Surplus US wheat for relief

WEST POINT (New York), June 1: President George Bush on Saturday ordered 300,000 metric tons of surplus US wheat to be put aside for international relief efforts. "The wheat will be used to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the peoples in the Middle East, Africa and Asia who are suffering widespread hunger and malnutrition," Bush said in a statement, reports AP.

Zhao's allies rehabilitated

BEIJING, June 1: Three former allies of purged Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang Hu Qili, Yan Mingfu and Rui Xingwen were given vice ministerial posts, the government announced Saturday. The action represented a partial rehabilitation of the officials. There was no announcement of any comeback for Zhao himself, who has been under virtual house arrest since he opposed using the army to crush the 1989 student-led democracy movement, reports AP.

Space shuttle launch put off

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), June 1: Failed navigation equipment on space shuttle Columbia postponed until at least Wednesday a biomedical research mission involving seven astronauts, 30 rats and a crowded nursery of jellyfish. Less than an hour before the scheduled 8 am (noon GMT) liftoff Saturday, one of the shuttle's three navigational units failed the third in a series of last-minute tests, reports AP.

Tension mounts

Referring to the assault on Nizami, he said terrorism in the name of protest was not expected in a democratic atmosphere.

A top-level leader of BCL (S-A) said that his organisation now believed in "controlled armed politics" to repulse attack by its rival JCD. He however said, preferring anonymity, that his organisation would never take the offensive role. Talking to this correspondent BCL (S-A) General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil alleged that JCD armed activists were attacking the BCL (S-A) activists at various places.

Said BCL (N-S) General Secretary Shafi Ahmed commenting on the prevailing situation said, the university halls had turned into "mini cantonments." He blamed both JCD and BCL for this.

Meanwhile, a new polarisation among the leading student organisations began following Monday's incident. At the Vice-Chancellor's office in which Jamaat leader Maulana Nizami was assaulted.

JSD (INU)-backed BCL (N-S), BKSAL-backed Jatiya Chhatra League and CPB-supported Chhatra Union are increasing their support to BCL (S-A) on the question of communal politics. All those four organisations were reportedly involved in the assault on Nizami protesting the presence of 'rajakar' on the DU campus.

Teachers, student leaders and general students expressed their apprehension that the campus situation may turn violent at any moment.

Talking to The Daily Star, General Secretary of the DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) Prof Shahadat Ali suggested that the Chancellor of the universities should immediately call a meeting of all the political leaders to bring back academic atmosphere in the campus. The DUTA leader accused the government saying that it has failed to tackle the problem. Prof Shahadat also complained that the Vice-Chancellor did not have any talk with the DUTA regarding the campus situation. About the assault on Maulana Mottur Rahman Nizami, MP (Jamaat) he said the DUTA would not bear any responsibility of the untoward event since he had called the meeting of his own.

DUCSU Assistant General Secretary and JCD leader Najimuddin Alam claimed that the associates of the previous autocratic government, were trying to disturb congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions and to foil the nation's struggle to institutionalise democracy.

DU teachers

From Page 1 Col. 6

leader Matur Rahman Nizami to the May 27 meeting of political leaders in the campus.

The meeting in a resolution said that the Vice Chancellor neither sought prior opinion from the Teachers Association about the meeting of the political leaders, nor the association was informed about the meeting after the decision was taken.

The teachers association resolved that the teachers of the University were in no way involved in the incident.

The meeting further resolved that the Vice Chancellor would have to bear responsibility of the untoward incident which happened centering the presence of the Pakistani collaborator Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami. They said that the university authority had trampled down the sacrifice of the martyr teachers by inviting the Jamaat leader to the university campus.

The meeting also demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases lodged against several students of the university in connection with the incident and restore normalcy in the university campus.

The meeting in another resolution condemned the reports published in the daily Sangram on May 30 and June 1 which criticised the role of Professor AKM Saaduddin, Professor Mohammed Moshihuzzaman, Dr. Harunur Rashid, Ferdous Hossen, Vice Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah and others and demanded of the newspaper management unconditional apology for publication of the news.

The meeting also resolved that the government should ban the politics of Jamaat in the country and should expel Golam Azam from the country immediately.

The meeting also condemned the harassment of Proctor Quamrul Ahsan Chowdhury on May 27 and took a decision to expel Dr SM Lutfur Rahman of Bengali department from the teachers association.

Students' memo for arrest of Dr. Milon's killers

By DU Correspondent

Chhatra League (N-S) has handed over a memorandum at the Ministry of Home Affairs demanding immediate arrest of the murderers of Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon.

In its memorandum on Saturday the BCL (N-S) also urged the government to take rigorous action against the persons involved in the Dhaka University campus violence.

Meanwhile, demonstrations by some other student organisations scheduled to be held Saturday near the Ministry of Home Affairs were postponed because of the heavy rainfall in the city.

Later the organisations called for countrywide demonstrations on June 5 on the same issue.

DU student receives bullet injury

By DU Correspondent

A Dhaka University student received bullet injury in his leg in the small hours of Saturday at Surjansen Hall.

He was admitted to the Pangu Hospital.

The victim, identified as Manik, is a second year student of Political Science and resident of Surjansen Hall.

Manik, popularly known as "Booster Manik" is an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

JCD accused Awami League-backed Chhatra League of the incident and brought out a procession at Surjansen Hall.

But BCL sources claimed that was an accident and Manik was injured by the shot of his own fire arm.

Form of govt

From Page 1 Col. 4

ponents of a parliamentary system said that the country would have to go for another referendum anyway if the Constitutional Clause 48 related to the election of the President was amended.

As per Constitution Amendment Clause 142, Clause 48 is a protected article and any change in this provision will require a referendum before the amendment is assented to by the President.

But this was not stated in the inaugural speech of the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, they added.

As per Article 142 of the Constitution the Acting President will have to send the amended bill (if it is passed by the parliament) to the Election Commission within one week of the amendment for holding a referendum.

Constitutional experts who did not want to be named said that before holding a referendum on the amendment to the presidential election that can't be put into effect. In any way the government will have to spend money either on hold-

ing a referendum or the presidential election.

The provision of Article 142 is also applicable in case of any amendment enacting the provision of election of the president through parliament members as it was proposed by a section of BNP leaders.

Meanwhile the parliamentary committee is scrutinising the private member's bill will sit in a meeting today (Sunday) to scrutinise the bill which was notified by the Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad.

BNP MP Ziaur Rahman, one of the members of the committee told The Daily Star that they will scrutinise the technicalities of the bill which may be placed on any private member's day during the ensuing budget session.

Abdus Samad Azad of the Awami League told The Daily Star that the BNP would have to agree on the proposal of the Awami League.

He said that the BNP had no alternative but to go for parliamentary democracy as it was a popular demand of the people.

Education Week

From Page 1 Col. 8

democracy and development and said the devotion of both students and teachers must be increased in acquiring and spreading knowledge.

The Acting President said despite resource constraints the country is spending more than Taka eleven hundred crore in the education sector each year. Satisfactory returns from this huge expenses will only be derived when the standard of education and number of literate people are increased, he added.

provide education for all.

Begum Zia stressed the need for building a congenial atmosphere on the educational arena and said the role of teachers and guardians in this regard is vital.

The first Haj flight carrying 301 pilgrims left Dhaka for Jeddah on Saturday, reports BSS.

The gigantic white-bodied DC 10-30 aircraft of Bangladesh Biman took off from Zia International Airport just at 7-10 pm, carrying 246 male and 55 female ballottee Hajjis.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism (Abdul Mannan saw the pilgrims off at the gateway.

Earlier, addressing the pilgrims briefly at the departure lounge, Prof M A Mannan said all arrangements have been made for the comfort of the pilgrims during the haj period at Makkah and Medina.

The State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism called upon them to solicit the blessings of the Almighty for country's progress.

Task Force

From Page 1 Col. 2

the members of the Task Force for carrying out relief operations in the areas devastated by the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge, the Prime Minister told the US Task Force chief.

She expressed the hope that relations with the US will be strengthened further.

She said the service given by the Task Force in Bangladesh shortly after the Gulf war was praiseworthy.

General Stackpole gave a brief resume of the relief and rehabilitation activities of the Task Force to Begum Zia. The Task Force chief thanked the Prime Minister for the cooperation they received from the Bangladesh side while carrying out relief operations.

Stackpole said he was deeply moved to see that the ministers, MPs, professionals, government servants, members of the Armed Forces and NGOs had worked in a coordinated way with the international community to redress the suffering of the cyclone-affected people.

He also lauded the role of the local people who rendered support to the Task Force members.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was also present.

First Haj flight leaves for Jeddah

The meeting presided over by State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan took the following decisions which included issuance of directive to the local administrations in the coastal areas to evacuate the people to safer places, opening of a control room in the Relief Ministry for working round the clock and issuance of directive to the concerned authorities to take precautionary steps.

In Khulna, the cyclone preparedness programme was put into operation on emergency basis by the district administration along with the Bangladesh Navy in the evening following the forecast of cyclonic storm.

DC Khulna told UNB that evacuation of people from the coastal belts to cyclone shelters were going on in full swing while all fishing boats and trawlers turned back to safe places.

Ershad's case

From Page 1 Col. 5

Advocate Yusuf Humayun made the petition on behalf of the accused Ershad, who was produced before the Tribunal yesterday morning.

Attorney General Aminul Haque also informed the Tribunal about the pending of the case in the Appellate Division and suggested adjourning the Tribunal till June 3.

But after some time Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque appeared before the Tribunal and demanded adjournment till June 6.

At this stage the Attorney General intervened and said you always demand unnecessary adjournment of the Tribunal.

The Defence Lawyer also taunted the Attorney General saying that he was not a briefcase-less lawyer like Aminul Haque.

Aminul Haque replied that everyone knew whether he was a briefcase-less lawyer or not.

Sirajul Haque appeared before the Tribunal for the first time yesterday after it was adjourned on May 14 when the Defence made a Writ petition in the High Court for transfer of the case.

US Gulf veterans honoured

CHICAGO, June 1:

Thousands of people Friday solemnly remembered American servicemen killed in the Gulf war during a brief interlude from a festive parade honoring returning troops, reports AFP.

Villager Jamila Bibi said she saw many people lying injured as she fled the explosions. "It was like doomsday," she said.

"People were saying 'Run, run, get out.' I left all my be-

Sabotage, says Beg

From Page 1 Col. 5

it, nothing was happening, it just blows off, (it) means some device or arrangement was made."

Beg declined to speculate as to possible saboteurs. Sporadic explosions lasted through the early hours of today and firefighters tackled blaze at the sprawling arsenal up till 10 hours after the main explosion.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who visited the injured in hospital and the arsenal with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Beg, said he doubted that it was deliberate because the arms depot was well guarded.

He praised the army for controlling the blasts that were potentially much more devastating than the Ofri camp explosion that killed 100 people and injured more than 1,000 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi in 1988.

Unexploded ammunition littered streets and roads around the dump. A number of shops and houses were damaged and window panes shattered in several districts.

The explosions disrupted telephones, electricity and water supplies, cutting off Nowshera from the rest of the country. Train service from Islamabad to Peshawar was suspended and traffic jams blocked the highway.

The city appeared deserted after thousands of people fled in panic, with some leaving their homes unlocked. Secondary explosion and flames raging from the dump delayed relief operations for several hours.

Thick smoke was still billowing from the depot as scores of people gathered around to find out about family member believed still trapped in the burning dump. They rushed toward an emerging army truck but it sped away, witnesses said.

Villager Jamila Bibi said she saw many people lying injured as she fled the explosions. "It was like doomsday," she said.

"People were saying 'Run, run, get out.' I left all my be-

JCD factions

From Page 1 Col. 5

the expulsion on eight of its workers for their alleged activities in the JCD clash.

However the JCD will withdraw its Masters examinees from the forthcoming JUCSU polls. This was one of the main issues of the clash.

The JCD has taken the decision to bring back normalcy in the campus and to make the election possible shortly.

Provosts of halls, Deans of the faculties, Proctor, the Election Commission along with the Vice-Chancellor will meet tomorrow (Sunday) to discuss the election situation.

The Chief Election Commissioner Dr Enamul Haq said that he is in favour of a referendum to decide a probable date for the JUCSU polls.

Meanwhile, the JCD, JU unit brought out a procession today (Saturday) protesting the violence at the Agricultural University Mymensingh.

Chhatra Front JU Unit brought out another procession demanding release of the DU students held for their alleged attack on Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami.

Inquiry report

From Page 1 Col. 8

commission for the hard work done by them for completing the enquiry.

Other member of the commission, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, was present.

A Court of Enquiry had earlier enquired into the same matter and it had submitted its report on May 10, but as that report was found incomplete, the Acting President constituted the commission to conduct a complete enquiry.

The reports of the Court of Enquiry and the Commission of Enquiry would be considered together by the Acting President.