

Sporadic clashes continue

Algeria's Islamic Front splits

ALGIERS, June 30: Algeria's main fundamentalist opposition, which has plunged the country into violence, was hit by a fresh split when a senior official attacked the leadership of Abassi Madani, reports Reuters.

Sheikh Mohammad Iman, a member of the policy-making body of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), accused Madani on Algerian television yesterday of creating a "personality cult" and ignoring his top advisers.

Iman urged FIS members not to follow personality cult and he criticised a threat by Madani, made to 20,000 hard-line supporters on Friday, to call a Jihad (holy war) if they did not leave the streets and the state of siege lifted.

Such a Jihad, Madani said, would be foisted by those who seek "fratricide and war".

He said he had opposed last month's political strike called by Madani because he knew it would bring out the army.

The strike hardened into violent protests calling for an Islamic state. Officials say 42 people have been killed in the violence this month. Diplomats put the figure at nearer 70.

On June 5, President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege, replaced the government and cancelled general elections due to be held last Thursday.

The new government is due to present its programme committed to preparing fair general elections later this year, to Parliament tomorrow.

Three other members of FIS's policy-making body -- the Madjilis Echourra -- have also criticised Madani. One of

them, Fakir Bachir, said on television yesterday that Madani was "a danger to Islam."

The FIS expelled two of the trio but pardoned the most influential, Hachemi Sahnouni, saying he had been misled.

In the latest violence, three people were killed in Algiers when militants defied the 11 pm to 3.30 am curfew on Friday night.

The traditional protest of saucepan-banging could be heard from the FIS bastion, El-Biar, on Saturday night, along with occasional gunfire. The rest of the city appeared quiet.

Heavy shooting erupted early today in curfew-bound Algiers where Islamic militants are defying the army enforcing a state of siege.

Tracer bullets lit the night in the Mediterranean capital and the sound of sustained gunfire could be heard.

Automatic weapons fire echoed through the streets the disturbances were apparently focused in the Belcourt district, a stronghold of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Dull red tracer flares ripped across the sea front and near the martyrs monument a memorial to the dead in the 1954-62 war of independence against France.

Three people were killed in clashes in Friday night curfew violations.

The outbreak of shooting early today appeared much more serious.

Ershad's trial resumes today

By Staff Correspondent

The trial of Ershad in the second case on amassing wealth and property from beyond has known sources of income resumes today at 10 am at the old jail warden barracks at the Nazimuddin Road.

Earlier the Prosecution made a plea to the Special District Judge, Mohammad Ali Khan to shift the venue of the court from Gulshan to Nazimuddin Road.

The Defence Counsel opposed the shifting of the venue on the plea that the place was not suitable for holding the trial as the place was difficult to reach by any means of transportation.

Indemnity Act

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Instructions of the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and in consultation with all other opposition parties including the Jatiya Party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Workers Party, the CPB, Ganotantri Party, the JSD, and the IOJ.

Nasim said that there has been a qualitative change in the country's political arena with the installation of the democratically elected government.

He said that the Awami League would also seek cooperation of the ruling BNP to pass the bill. He, however, made it clear that the bill was not notified as a supplementary to the bill for changing the form of government.

He also said that if time does not permit the introduction of the bill in the current session then it may be introduced during the next session.

Mid Nasim said that in no way would the newly notified bill create any sort of impediment to the passage of the bill for introducing a parliamentary form of government in the country.

Nasim said that all other opposition parties who met Saturday evening had given their support to the bill seeking a repeal of the Indemnity Act.

Replying to another question Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad claimed that the repeal of the Indemnity Act would not require two-thirds votes of the total Parliament members. Rather it can be passed by a simple majority.

But NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, when asked, said that whether the bill would require a two-thirds support of the House could only be decided if and when the bill is introduced in Parliament.

When contacted, Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party Secretary Munirul Haque Chowdhury said that it was a question whether the Awami League itself sincerely wants to pass the bill. He said that if the Awami League had played an honest role, the bill could have been passed much earlier.



A soldiers of the Slovenian Defence Forces flashes a V-sign as he guards a Yugoslav army tank hit Saturday by an anti-tank missile. The Slovenian flag flutters atop the tank. — AFP photo

Police to be posted at DU hall gates

By Staff Correspondent

Police will be deployed at all the hall gates of the Dhaka University from July 5, the day of the reopening of halls.

Resident students vacated the halls on June 20 as directed by the authorities.

The decision on the deployment of police was taken at a joint meeting of the hall authorities with the Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah Sunday afternoon.

The VC convened the meeting to discuss the campus situation and take steps to ensure peace on the campus after a 15-day Eid vacation.

Classes at the University will resume on July 6.

The meeting also took several other decisions to maintain normal law and order situation on the campus after reopening of the institution.

Resident students would be allowed to enter the halls amid tight police guard after having their identity cards checked so that no non-residents, outsiders or armed men could enter the campus.

Among other decisions, the hall authorities would keep vigilance on the entrance and stay of outsiders or troublemakers.

The meeting was also unanimously of the opinion that the members of the law enforcing agencies must take action against terrorists on the campus and carry out their duties there sincerely.

Chaired by the VC the meeting was attended by the Provosts, House Tutors, and Assistant House Tutors of all the 14 halls of the University. Offices of the University will reopen today.

According to DU sources, the VC would soon meet the leaders of the student organization.

Hasina

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tion said that tax proposals on items like paper and ball point-pen, ink would lead to price hike of educational inputs when the government claimed that the education sector received the priority attention under the budgetary allocation.

She criticised tax cuts on air-conditioners, white cement, and some other luxury items. This, she added, reflected tilt towards the wealthy.

She said, the poor would become poorer and the rich richer under the impact of the new budget. The people, she added, expected a much better deal under the new budget from the government which came to power after an arduous struggle against autocracy and which "also claims itself to be democratic."

Sheikh Hasina recalled that the Awami League government did not impose any new tax burden in 1972-73 when the needs for mobilisation of domestic resources were much more pressing in a war devastated economy.

She termed the budget for 1991-92 as "directionless." The dependence on external assistance will increase following its implementation, she added.

By Staff Correspondent

sations, members of the University Syndicate and members of the DU Education Atmosphere Council (DUEAC) to discuss the reopening of the institution and to check possible violence on campus.

Meanwhile, the DU unit leaders of the student organizations Saturday afternoon called on Prof Moniruzzaman Miah and urged him to take all-out measures to ensure peace on the campus and by no means shift the reopening date.

The date was earlier shifted from June 29 to July 5.

The student leaders included Pankaj Nath of Jatiya

Indian swoop on Kashmir militants: 15 killed

NEW DELHI, June 30: Indian troops have shot dead 15 Muslim militants in the northern state of Kashmir, were security forces launched a massive crackdown after a gunbattle between Israeli tourists and the rebels, reports AFP.

An Indian government spokesman in New Delhi said the 15 secessionists were gunned down in the frontier state's Uri sector when they tried to cross the border and escape into the Pakistan-administered area of Kashmir.

The shooting occurred late Friday, a few hours after the Indian army joined the unprecedented security operation in the troubled state where Muslim militants are spear-heading a secessionist drive, he said.

Eight others were arrested after the incident, which occurred when 80 suspected Muslim rebels tried to leave India through a heavily-patrolled border point, the spokesman said.

The securitymen also seized eight AK-56 rifles, machine-guns and other weapons from the guerrillas.

The spokesman said the guerrillas belonged to the Hizbul Mujahideen group, the

parent organisation of a rebel group which fought a gunbattle with seven Israeli tourists Wednesday night after abducting them from a houseboat.

One tourist died and three others were injured in the firefight when the foreigners snatched three of their captors' rifles and fought back to avoid an apparent street execution.

Two militants were killed and two others were injured in the shootout, another Israeli, who escaped the site, was captured and taken hostage by another militant group opposed to the kidnapper's organisation.

India, which criticised the attack on the Israelis, has assured Tel Aviv of total cooperation in tracking down those responsible.

It has deployed army and paramilitary troops, crack commandos and helicopters to back the police hunt for the missing Israeli in Srinagar, the urban hub of Muslim secessionism which so far has left more than 2,500 dead since January 1990.

India accuses Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir's ownership and holds the northern third of the territory, of fuelling secessionist campaign. Pakistan denies the charge.

Universities have been asked to open more shifts

Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury Sunday said the universities have been asked to open more than one shift at a time to get rid of the session jam, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Sardar Sahawat Hossain Bakul (BNP-Narsingdi), in the Jatiya Sangsad this morning, the minister said the government has also given additional financial grants for the purpose.

In reply to a supplementary, Dr Chowdhury said violence on the university campus, which was also a cause for session jam, would have to be faced nationally. He said efforts have been made to quell campus violence which is also linked with political aspects.

He said none of our efforts and endeavours will succeed unless concerted attempts are made to end violence in the campus.

The Education Minister informed the House that a committee comprising the members of Parliament and eminent educationists has been formed. He said he will be able to speak in detail on the matter after the committee submits its report.

Dr Chowdhury said care would be taken so that Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, does not get involved in violence. He called upon the political parties having student wings to take similar care so that they also do not get entangled with campus violence.

Replying to another supplementary for a full-dress discussion on the matter, he assured the House that such discussion would be held after the submission of the committee reports.

Finance Bill

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The Finance Minister said the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was committed to institutionalise democracy and constitutional transfer of power and did not consider itself in terms of perpetual power.

Elaborating on the basic economic issues, he said corruption, system loss, inefficiency and loss-making enterprises were the major challenges on the economic front. The challenges would be there irrespective of who would be in power, and the nation could not afford to ignore such issues any further, he observed.

He particularly mentioned about the problems of Bangladesh Railway, Power Development Board, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, and public sector jute mills. If there was no national consensus on the basic issues, the stated goals of

self-reliance would continue to elude "us all for all time", he maintained.

While welcoming the criticism of the opposition about the budget, he said that constructive and factual criticism would ensure democracy and accountability and curb corruption. He however maintained that the hard realities of the country's economic life were reflected in the national budget for 1991-92. Those who were in the opposition would certainly not be able to present a better budget, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, than what he had presented, he claimed.

The Finance Minister made a stout defence of the new fiscal measures proposed in the budget for 1991-92.

Replying to the opposition criticism, he said that no fresh tax proposals on items like soyabean oil, fertilizer and some other items

Slovenia defies ultimatum

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one hour and 17 minutes. People who live near the Vrhnik federal army barracks (12 kilometers (seven miles) outside Ljubljana were told to stay indoors after TV said the army had switched on the engines of its tanks there.

The streets of Ljubljana were barricaded by buses and trucks. Slovenian militias maintained heavy security, stopping and searching cars and randomly frisking pedestrians.

Kacin asserted on Slovenian radio that "enormous" numbers of Yugoslav soldiers were deserting. "It is clear that the army is losing its nerve," he said, adding that there were reports of shootings inside barracks as officers tried to stop their troops from leaving.

He repeated a call for all members of the Yugoslav armed forces in Slovenia to refuse to obey orders. An appeal to soldiers to desert later was broadcast by Slovenian media in several Yugoslav languages.

The Slovenian parliament said the republic was willing to gain sovereignty in "a gradual manner" if the federal army respects a ceasefire agreed to in a European peace plan early Saturday and returns to barracks.

Yugoslav army fighter jets screamed over the capital

while the statement was being read on the radio.

The military demanded that Slovenia relinquish control of border posts and restore power and water to federal military bases in the republic.

At one garrison in Ljubljana, federal soldiers said they felt isolated and vulnerable. "We are practically surrounded," said Lt Col Mihaljic Terzic.

The State Department Saturday urged all US citizens and non-essential diplomatic personnel to leave the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia as soon as possible.

"US citizens in Slovenia and Croatia should consider departure from those republics at the earliest opportunity," the department said in a travel advisory.

"All US government dependents and non-essential employees have been authorised to depart the Zagreb Consulate General", it added.

Americans in other parts of Yugoslavia were directed by the State Department to remain in contact with the US embassy in Belgrade.

The State Department advised against all travel to the country because of "heightened political tensions, violent clashes between authorities and demonstrators, and travel disruptions affecting roads and railways."

The Midnight File

Nepali parliament opens today

KATMANDU, June 30: The world's newest Parliament opens Monday when Nepal's first democratic government in 32 years meets to consider ways to resolve problems ranging from widespread malnutrition to pollution. King Birendra, who gave up his rights as absolute ruler after a popular uprising last year, is to address the joint session of Parliament as a constitutional monarch, reports AP.

32 killed in Soviet coal mine fire

MOSCOW, June 30: Thirty-two miners were killed when a fire at a coal mine in the Donbass region of the Ukraine released toxic gas, a Soviet journalist said Sunday. There was no immediate confirmation from officials. Dmitry Dobrovolsky, of the Komsomolskoye Znamya newspaper, said the fire started Saturday afternoon at the Yuzhnaya Donbasskaya 1 coal mine as shifts were changing, reports AP.

Landslides near Mount Pinatubo

MANILA, June 30: A thundering mound of earth and boulders roared down a river near Mount Pinatubo on Sunday, burying homes under tons to mud as residents watched helplessly. Authorities warned residents to be on alert for deadly mudflows — huge earthen walls of volcanic ash, boulders and debris — which move rapidly, burying whole towns and villages in their path, reports AP.

Import policy

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on commercial basis have been withdrawn for accelerating industrialisation of the country. For proper utilisation of the earnings of expatriate Bangladeshis in industrial sector, facilities have been extended to them for importing raw materials and wrapping materials in addition to capital goods and machinery to be used in registered industrial enterprises on the basis of direct payment abroad.

The minister mentioned that import policy had also made provisions for the development of the export-oriented industries.

The facilities include waiving of import restrictions on spare parts for export-oriented automatic umbrella industry.

Under the new import policy registration and renewal fee have been waived keeping the interest of the newcomers and the small importers in place of the existing flat charge of Taka 2000 as preliminary registration fee and an equal amount for renewal.

Referring to some steps taken in the policy for the protection of public health and preservation of environment, the new policy directs that all containers of pesticide must bear all information and warning in clear language. Cream powdered milk could be imported only in tinned container.

The total import of old cloths has been kept at Taka 15 crore and that each importer will have a quota of Taka 50 thousand. The import of coal has been made open to facilitate brick burning and preservation of environment.

The government has fixed

import target of maximum of 2.75 lakh metric tons of non-refined edible oil. The ceiling has been imposed to stop smuggling of soyabean oil in past years. Implementation of the new ceiling of edible oil will be ensured through monthly review meeting of the import monitoring committee.

Similarly, to restrict unabated import of pea (matar), customs duty on pulse has been refixed. It is hoped that the new measure would contain smuggling and encourage import of masur (lentils).

The minister proposed that a portion of duty imposed on powdered milk will be given to a fund for the promotion of local dairy. Part of the investment of Krishi Bank and Grameen Bank will be made to this fund for dairy promotion. He said government would ask for free powdered milk from EEC and other countries and the sale proceeds will go to the dairy fund. He said quality milching cow will be procured from that fund (dairy fund) and will be given to the farmers without interest and at easy terms. This, the minister hoped, would help the country attain self-sufficiency in milk.

Under the new import policy, of the 16 lakh tons of cement would be imported annually. The private sector and TCB will share the amount equally.

The government has decided to restrict indiscriminate import of unnecessary and undesirable books and periodicals with the twin goal of preserving national culture and heritage and promoting local publishing industry.

The minister said that bi-annual export and tea policy for fiscal 1991-92 and 1992-93 will be announced soon.

Fairfax

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tered into a secret contract with Fairfax to investigate into reported transfer of wealth abroad by leaders of the previous administration. The investigating agency has already been paid two and a half lakh US dollars.

He wondered why the huge amount paid to Fairfax has not been mentioned in the budget.

The member from Chittagong in his usual style of humour and satire said the contract was signed in New York and that too without floating any tender.

People have the right to know under what circumstances and perspective the contract was signed, Chowdhury said.

He referred to India's much publicised Bofors scandal and said Fairfax company was given seven lakh dollars to unearth the misdeeds but without any result.

Tax burden on the people cannot be reduced unless and until accountability of government expenditure is established, Chowdhury said.

He demanded that a parliamentary committee be set up to probe into the government contract with Fairfax and its outcome.

Indian national

From Page 1 Col. 8

sonnel for "suspicious movements" inside the Dhaka Cantonment area late last year. He was sent to the Central Jail in November, charged under the Article 54, of criminal procedure Code, sources said.

His body was preserved at the Diabetic Hospital morgue and was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for post mortem on Sunday morning.

When contacted over telephone, the Information officer of the Indian High Commission, A.K. Nag, said that the government informed the High Commission about the death as per international convention. He said the cause of death was a heart attack. He said that a representative of the High Commission was present during the cremation.

He, however, assured the House that any adverse impact of VAT on cottage industries or any other sectors could be assessed when it would become operational. Such an assessment can be made by the parliamentary committees or any other bodies, he said while noting that adjustments under VAT could be made any time.

Admitting that the introduction of VAT would involve some implementation problems at its initial stage, the Finance Minister said similar problems were faced when decimal or metric system was introduced.

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