

40 Timorese killed in clash with Indonesian troops

JAKARTA, Nov 12: Thousands of young people protesting Indonesia's annexation of East Timor clashed with troops in the East Timor capital Tuesday, and the Indonesian official said about 40 youths were killed, reports AP.

The Indonesian military in East Timor, however, said only four of the demonstrators and two security officials were injured in the clashes. There were no deaths, said Lt Colonel Tompondong.

He said the demonstrators used the current visit of a United Nations human rights delegation to stage a demonstration to embarrass Indonesia.

The clashes erupted after a church service to commemorate two other youths killed in a clash with police last month in East Timor's capital, Dili.

Thousands of East Timorese youths gathered at a cemetery and then marched through Dili's streets, carrying anti-Indonesia banners and shouting slogans against Indonesia's annexation of the Portuguese colony in 1976.

An Indonesian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they started to throw stones at a police station and attacked police and troops trying to break up their demonstration.

The youths attacked police and troops with stones, sticks and knives, injuring one soldier seriously, added the official, who is very close to both East Timor and military authorities.

The outnumbered police and soldiers fired in the air to stop the attack, he said. Troops continued to patrol the area after the clash, making arrests and questioning young people, the official said.

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Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters recently that Portugal wanted the visit and they postponed it, he said the two sides had agreed that each had the right to veto journalists wanting to accompany the mission.

Alatas said it was up to the United Nations to reschedule the visit on terms acceptable to both sides.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Jatiya Samabaya Award, 1989 distribution ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium Tuesday. —PID photo

Controversial Britons in city

Two Britons, known allegedly for their anti-Bangladesh activities in London arrived in Dhaka on Monday reportedly for distributing relief goods in Sylhet district.

Justin Murray Sillman, aged about 42, was convicted for two years for sex offences when he was 23 years old. Jeremy Shaw, who is member of liberal party from Tower Hamlet constituency of east London, recently launched a crusade against the homeless Bangladeshis in London saying that all of them should be put in a boat.

Bangladeshis staying in London have informed Bangladesh High Commission of the matter but the visa was issued despite objections.

The concerned department of the Foreign Ministry, when contacted, expressed its ignorance about the visit of the two Britons and their purpose.

The two Britons are now trying to meet the leaders of both the government and opposition, according to sources.

One-man hunger strike for campus peace

By Staff Correspondent

(JCD) and the Awami League-backed BCL (S-A) left four persons dead and many injured.

He said that the village people lost faith in and have strong apathy towards the political parties only because of their breaching promises and their students wings as armed cadres.

Yousufi who completed his schooling in 1977 worked for Khetmajur Samity for four years in his locality but severed relation with the party out of frustration.

He said that if the JCD, BCL (S-A), Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and other student organisation jointly convened a grand conference in Dhaka and swore publicly to stop violence and to restore peace in the educational institutions, then the problem could be solved.

He lauded the role of the now defunct All Party Students Unity (APSU) during the anti-Ershad movement and said that if the student organisations became united once again terrorism would be eliminated from the educational institutions.

The gunbattle in Jagannath University College in July which claimed two lives, first struck me and I pondered protesting it and finally decided to sacrifice my life for campus peace after the October 27 incident in the Dhaka University," he said adding that he hoped the Jatiya Sangsad would take effective measures to curb terrorism.

The October 27 clash between workers of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 7

erative societies into democratic institutions, said all sorts of corruption, irregularities and misuse of power must be eradicated from the cooperative management.

She also asked the cooperators to be vigilant against vested quarters opposing effectiveness and characters of the cooperative institutions.

The cooperators should put in their best endeavours in making their institutions into welfare and profitable concerns, she added.

Begum Zia also asked the leaders of the cooperative societies to encourage the cooperators in increasing their skills and expanding their activities to contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

She called for removing corruption, irregularities and mismanagement which infiltrated many cooperatives during the past few years.

DCC Mayor's 'tailer' on remand

By Staff Correspondent

The revolver-toting man arrested for suspiciously following the car of the Dhaka City Corporation Mayor on Monday was taken on remand by the Motijheel police Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Magistrate granted a five-day remand order to Motijheel thana to question the arrested person Milan.

He was arrested from the Motijheel area when he and his two companions were following the car of Mayor Mirza Abbas.

When the patrol police obstructed the motorcycle they were riding on near the Motijheel Colony, it collided with a private car during which Milan's companions escaped. Police arrested Milan from the spot and recovered a revolver with one bullet inside it from his possession.

Milan is suspected of being a member of an organised gang of hijackers who also has previous crime records, police sources said. Motijheel police were continuing their interrogation of the suspect.

Attempt condemned

BSS adds: Various organisations have condemned the attempt on Mirza Abbas and criticised the "distorted reporting" in a section of the Press.

State Minister for Forest, Fisheries and Livestock and Secretary General of Juba Dal Goyweswar Roy, Barkatullah Bulu, MP, A. Ali Mridha, MP, Alamgir Haider Khan, MP, all leaders of Juba Dal, and Shaiful Hasan Tripti, Assistant Office Secretary of BNP, the Dhaka city unit of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal and the leaders of Dhaka Mahanagar Hawkers' Market Federation condemned the attempt and described it as pre-planned.

Cent per cent price rise in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Nov 12: The prices of nearly 3,000 items in Yugoslavia have risen by between 15 per cent and 100 per cent or even more since the beginning of November. The Politika daily newspaper reported here on Monday, says AFP.

On Friday alone the prices of 264 items rose in shops in Belgrade. The prices of meat, coffee, flour and oil rose sharply, but the prices of furniture, cleaning products and household equipment also rose.

Prices of products bought by the poorest people have risen the most, the Manager of chain of shops in Belgrade said, acknowledging that the prices of 6,000 items in his shops had been increased during the last two months.

The rate of inflation might rise to 2,600 per cent next year, Yugoslav Trade Minister Branko Karisic said at the beginning of the month.

But he assured the population that they need not fear brutal shortages, at least during the next three months.

But "everything will depend on the duration and intensity of the war," he said.

US steel co abandons talks on JT venture with British Steel PLC

BETHLEHEM (Pennsylvania), Nov 12: Bethlehem Steel Corp and British Steel PLC have abandoned talks to launch a joint venture, Bethlehem Steel said on Monday, blaming the failure to reach a deal on the steel workers union, reports Reuter.

The two companies had been discussing joint production in the United States of structural and rail products.

It would have involved restructuring and modernising Bethlehem steel's structural steel and rail production facilities in Pennsylvania.

The Midnight File

Yeltsin bows to Parliament

MOSCOW, Nov 12: Boris Yeltsin accepted the Russian legislature's resolution calling for a political solution to the crisis in Chechen-Ingushetia instead of emergency rule, a spokesman for the Russian president said Tuesday. Pavel Voshchanov told the independent Interfax news agency that Yeltsin will do everything he can to implement the resolution in the secessionist Muslim enclave in southern Russia, reports AP.

48 Pakistanis held in India

BANGALORE, Nov 12: Indian police said today they had arrested 48 Pakistani fishermen for straying into the country's territorial waters off the southwest coast. The fishermen, in three boats, were caught by coast guards off the Indian port town of Mangalore, in Karnataka state the weekend and handed over to police in the state capital Bangalore, reports Reuter.

Mujahideen defeated again

KABUL, Nov 12: The government on Tuesday said its forces for a second time had defeated the Mujahideen in a battle for a key city. It said that more than 1,000 people, including dozens of civilians, had been killed in a month of fighting for the eastern city of Jalalabad, reports AP.

Dubrovnik pounded

ZAGREB, Nov 12: Serb-dominated federal forces pounded the medieval heart of Dubrovnik again Tuesday, and both the besieged port and another vital Croatian city appeared close to falling. The International Committee of the Red Cross called on federal, Serbian and Croatian authorities to send representatives to an urgent meeting in Geneva to discuss humanitarian matters. It appealed to the combatants to "spare innocent lives," reports AP.

UN, OIC urged to stop persecution 1.5 lakh Rohingyas yet to be repatriated

By Staff Correspondent

An estimated one and a half lakh Rohingyas Muslims are yet to be taken back by Burma as per 1978 agreement with Bangladesh.

Disclosing the figure the Chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF) Nurul Islam appealed to the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Conference and Islamic countries Tuesday to stop persecution of Muslims in Burma which forced 30,000 more to take refuge in Bangladesh recently.

According to ARIF, the latest influx results from Burma's ruthless implementation of its 1982 citizenship law, which made the Rohingyas 'stateless' within the state.

"The SLORC junta seems not satisfied with the outcome of the 'Operation Nagamin'. They are letting loose a reign of terror and tension in Arakan in a most savage manner with the sinister motive of expelling all Rohingyas from their ancestral homes," Islam said in the statement.

The statement claimed that Burmese persecution against Rohingyas began in 1942 resulting in the exodus of around 1.2 million Muslims.

The refugees in Bangladesh are suffering from lack of food, shelter and medicine, the statement said, asking the Dhaka government to provide them with camps and requesting international organisations to provide emergency aid and long-term assistance.

ARIF is the joint political wing of two militant groups known as the Rohingya Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO). Recent reports in the local press suggest the RSO have set up 13 military training camps along hilly and heavily forested Burma frontier and was preparing for an armed struggle.

"Our struggle is the continuation of past Rohingyas movement to live peacefully and honourably on their ancestral land and acquire right to self-determination at par with other national groups within the union of Burma," the ARIF statement said, indicating a rejection of suggestions that they were fighting for secession from Burma.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman is scheduled to visit Rangoon on November 21 to discuss the issue with the military junta and find a political solution to the problem, Rahman, who was Bangladesh's Minister of Home Affairs during the last Rohingya crisis in 1978, told Parliament recently that he was hopeful of finding a peaceful solution since Dhaka maintained 'a friendly and good neighbourly relationship' with Rangoon.

Women's quota in JS undemocratic, HC Div told

Supreme Court Correspondent

The Writ Petition questioning the legality of the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, which provides for 30 seats in the Parliament to be reserved for women and to be elected by the 300 members previously elected in the general election, came up for hearing before a Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Mr Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Mr Justice Naimuddin Ahmed on Tuesday.

Dr Ahmed Hussain, a senior Advocate of the Supreme Court challenged the Constitutional validity of this Amendment mainly on the ground that it has violated the principle of democracy to which the Constitution is pledged and is discordant with Article 122 (1) of the Constitution which enjoins for the elections to Parliament to be held on the basis of adult franchise. In support of his contention he extensively quoted passages from the Anwar Hossain Chowdhury's Case known as 8th Amendment Case, which declared Amendment to Article 100 ultra vires of the Constitution.

The petitioner, who appeared in person, was on leg when court rose for the day. The hearing resumes today at 2 pm.

Hartal today in Sarail to seek compensation for mishap victims

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 12: A half-day hartal has been called in Sarail upazila tomorrow to press the authorities to compensate the families of those who died in a bus accident at Shahbajpur ferry ghat recently, reports UNB.

Local people and kins of the affected families called the hartal.

They also demanded punishment to the police personnel who allegedly assaulted Abul Kashem Pathan at Shahbajpur ferry ghat this morning.

Witnesses said police posted at the ferry ghat picked up a quarrel with Pathan who has virtually become imbalanced after losing five members of his family in last Friday's bus mishap that killed 29 people.

The angry people today ransacked Sarail Upazila office and damaged several vehicles, including the car of Upazila Education Officer, protesting the alleged police assault of Pathan.

They also held a protest rally at the upazila headquarters in the afternoon.

The situation came under control when local MP Advocate Abdus Sattar assured the agitating people that action would be taken within 24 hours against the police for assaulting Pathan at Shahbajpur ferry ghat.

Disqualification of Indian MPs for crossing floor upheld

NEW DELHI, Nov 12: India's Supreme Court today held constitutionally valid a 1985 ruling which disqualifies members of federal parliament or state assemblies who defect from their parties, lawyers said, reports AFP.

But the 3-2 ruling also held that the anti-defection law, as it is known in India and which was challenged in court by a group of disqualified MPs, was subject to judicial review.

The law bars MPs from changing parties after they have been elected—but not from crossing the floor on a vote—if they constitute less than one-third of the members of the party they quit.

If the breakaways constitute more than one-third of their party, the breakaway is considered legal.

Dacoity at Uttara Bank branch: Tk 1.1 lakh looted

MANIKGANJ, Nov 12: An armed gang of dacoits stormed the Uttara Bank branch at Nabagram upazila in the early hours today and decamped with cash of about Tk 1,10,000, police said, reports UNB.

They also snatched away a rifle and several rounds of ammunition from the bank's guard.

Witnesses said, the gang numbering 7 to 8 people broke into the gate of the bank at about 1-30 am and held the guard inside a lavatory while committing the robbery.

The guard, Shajahan, was detained by police for interrogation.

Kenyan FM was slain for opposing corruption

KISUMU (Kenya), Nov 12: Foreign Minister Robert Ouko, whose burned body was found last year, was killed because of his opposition to government corruption and differences over the issue with a Cabinet colleague, a British investigator testified, reports UNB.

John Troon, a retired Scotland Yard investigator who led a probe of Ouko's killing, told an inquiry in the case that Kenya's chief of police cut short the case when it became clear Troon wanted to interview senior officials.

It was Troon's fourth day testifying before the three-judge panel investigating Ouko's Feb 13, 1990 death. The panel has heard testimony since last year in this western town, the late foreign minister's home district.

2 children shot dead by Shanti Bahini men

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: Two children were shot dead and another seriously injured when Shanti Bahini men opened fire in a village under Khagrachhari district Tuesday.

According to law enforcement officials, gunmen opened fire at around 7 am at four children when they took a herd of cattle for grazing in a field near the Babuchara village under Dighimala upazila of Khagrachhari district.

Chonchola (10) and Polash (11) died on the spot while Nurul Islam (12) sustained serious bullet injuries, security officials said. The other person managed to escape unhurt.

Security measures were reinforced in the area, district administration officials said.

Meanwhile, two more Shanti Bahini men surrendered along with arms in Rangamati on Monday, district administration officials said.

179 tolas gold seized: one held at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A 179 tola gold plate worth Taka 15 lakh was seized and one person was arrested by customs officials at Zia International Airport from a Chittagong-bound passenger arriving on a Biman flight from Dubai Tuesday afternoon.

Customs officials said the gold plate was found by the customs surveillance team on duty at the airport while electronically scanning the luggage of the incoming passengers of the Biman flight BO-026 coming from Dubai.

The gold plate was covered with black rexine and pasted along the inside frame of a suitcase, customs officials said. The gold plate weighed 179 tolas and is estimated to be worth around Taka 15 lakh, they added.

Green Panel sweeps RU Senate polls

RAJSHAHI, Nov 12: Green Panel of Rajshahi University teachers' representative to the Senate won the election receiving 28 seats out of 33, reports UNB.

The Yellow Panel bagged only 5 seats.

Dr Abdullah Al Haroon who contested the election for the one-member Finance Committee also won from the moderate Green Panel.

Dr Jihadul Karim, Prof of Sociology Department, bagged the highest number of votes with 262 votes.

Militants foil Jyoti's meeting

From Page 1 Col. 5

minutes and did not make any statement or comment there. He arrived at Tinbigha at 11-50 a.m.

About five thousand Indian nationals, organised by the opponents of the Tinbigha transfer plan, demonstrated against the visit of Jyoti Basu. The demonstrators, most of whom were armed with lethal weapons, raised slogans against transfer of the corridor.

Fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Forayad Block and Tinbigha Sangram Committee have been organising movement to stop the transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh.

Thousands of supporters of Jyoti Basu also gathered at the spot. However, no untoward incident took place.

Tight security measures were taken by the Indian authorities around Tinbigha and about 16 thousand police and BSF personnel were deployed there during Jyoti Basu's visit.

After the brief stay at Tinbigha, Jyoti Basu left for Mekhliganj, 12 km from the corridor, where he addressed a gathering. The West Bengal Chief Minister was accompanied by central government Minister of the State Mamata Banerjee and Paresh Adhikari,

Wangchuk

From Page 1 Col. 8

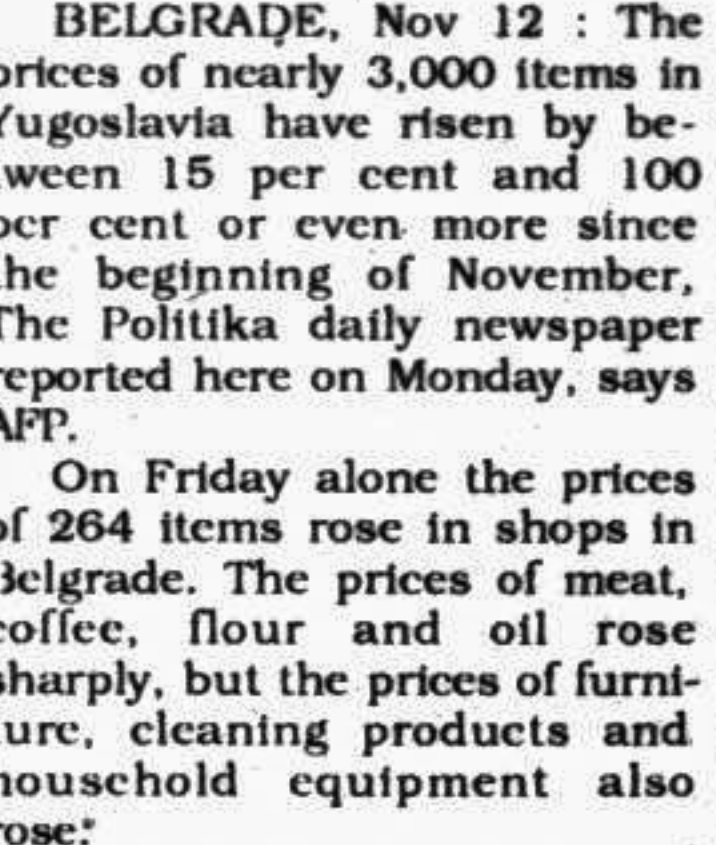
Bhutanese King accepted it through a written communication on October 17.

The Bhutanese King, he said, also mentioned in his regret letter that due to internal security considerations he would be unable to attend the summit.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner was speaking at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka yesterday.

Addressing the meeting as the chief guest, he said that India's varying attitudes in its relations with its neighbours over a regional security system have created growing bitterness and distrust among the SAARC nations.

Speaking on the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Alfred David said, "India on the one hand perceives its neighbours as being integral to its own security, while on the other, its neighbours perceive India itself as the entity against which security is required."



Arif Khan Yusufzai on hunger strike on Tuesday in quest of campus peace. —Star photo