

Factional fighting takes 1,800 lives in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: At least 1,800 people have been killed, many of them women and children, in two weeks of bloody factional fighting in Kabul, the United Nations said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Several thousand have been injured since the renegade Hezb-I-Islami Mujahideen and forces loyal to the Islamic coalition government joined battle two weeks ago, a senior UN official said.

An estimated 126,000 of the 1.5 million residents of the battered Afghan capital have fled, Sotrios Mousouris, personal representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in a statement.

UN agencies working in Afghanistan have prepared an emergency package of 10 million US dollars to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the country arising from the current hostilities, he added.

More than 1,800 civilians have been killed, with a high death toll among women and children, he said.

Among the 17 hospitals in Kabul, only eight are minimally functioning with 2,403 beds, he said, adding that all had been hit by rocket fire.

The remaining doctors are unable to provide medical and surgical services due to lack of electricity, water and essential medicines such as anaesthetics, intravenous fluids and bandages.

Food is becoming scarce and prices have soared. The price of one kg (2.2 lbs) of wheat has more than doubled in two weeks and most shops and markets are closed.

More than 100 families are arriving daily at the Pakistan border.

Reuters from Kabul adds: French and Italian diplomats and the injured Bulgarian ambassador drove out of Kabul before dawn today just hours before a new hail of rocket and artillery fire rocked the shat-

tered Afghan capital. The diplomats decided not to wait for the warring dissident Hezb-I-Islami party and troops loyal to the Mujahideen government to agree a temporary ceasefire and braved a night of intense exchanges of fire to leave.

The group included the staff of the Bulgarian embassy and the ambassador, wounded in the arm by shrapnel on Saturday.

They were believed to have headed east in a bus and a truck on the main eastern road to Pakistan, the route where Afghan warriors slaughtered 16,000 British troops retreating from Kabul in 1841 leaving one survivor.

UP elections Candidates asked to submit nominations Sept 1

The Election Commission yesterday urged all Union Parishad election candidates to submit their nomination papers to the concerned Returning Officers on September 1 along with the cheque of security money, reports UNB.

The commission advised the UP chairman candidates to enclose with the nomination papers a check of Tk 1,000 and member candidates Tk 500, either from government treasury, sub-treasury or Sonali Bank as security money.

The cheque should be sent in the name of '88 departmental and judiciary department deposit (I)' or civilian deposit, said an Election Commission press release.

It said the candidates can also deposit the security money directly to the Returning Officer and enclose the deposit receipt with the nomination paper.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman receiving his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, on his arrival at Zia International Airport on Sunday. — PID photo

7 killed as Shi'ites, Sunnis clash in Gilgit

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: Seven people were killed and 21 injured today in violence between rival Muslim sects in the northern Pakistani town of Gilgit, a government minister said, reports Reuters.

Troops were called into the remote town in the Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir to prevent further violence between the majority Sunni and the minority Shi'ite sects, police in Gilgit said.

Kashmir affairs and northern areas minister Mehtab Ahmed Khan told parliament that Sunnis and Shi'ites fought gunbattles resulting in six people killed and 20 wounded.

Industrial loans

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M B A Zaman, transport owners' leader Ashraf Khan and Managing Directors and chief executives of different nationalised and private banks attended the meeting.

The meeting decided that from now on, banks would prepare the lists of defaulting debtors from whom the debt-money would be realised with the assistance of B R T A, Bangladesh Road Transport Association and Bangladesh Bus-truck Owners' Association.

The meeting also decided that defaulting debtors would not be allowed to renew their route-permit and comprehensive insurance, covering the risk of both transport owners and users, will be a must in case of granting loans for buying transports.

In the evening, she addressed a workers' meeting organised by Tungipara Thana Awami League. The meeting was also addressed by Mohammad Ali Khan Abu Mia, Kazi Abdur Rashid MP and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Somali refugees

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my rifle," the constable said declining to be named.

The UNHCR Representative in Dhaka Bayandon and his deputy Pat Dougan were not in the office during the incident, they said.

After the first attack the two refugees made a phone call from a nearby clinic and four more Somalis rushed to the scene and launched a second one.

Witnesses said that they tried to storm the room of the Programme Co-ordinator Anwar Kazi who locked his office from the inside.

The office is mainly dealing with relief and some 110 Somalis draw relief and remunerations from the office every month.

During the incident the security guards phoned the Dhanmandi thana for additional forces who reached the scene a few minutes later and arrested five of the six attackers. One attacker evaded arrest.

When contacted over telephone Anwar Kazi declined to comment on the incident saying "I am not entitled to talk to the press." Other UNHCR officials were unavailable for comment.

Thana sources said that they had similar complaints against the Somali refugees in the years 1990 and 1991. But the sources did not elaborate.

When contacted, the Somalis detained at the Dhanmandi police station hajjat (cell) reacted angrily saying "That is our office but the security guards obstructed our entry there." Another in the thana cell said "Who told you that we ransacked the office".

They declined to say anything more covering their faces to avoid being photographed.

Jatiyatobadi Muktijoddha Dal floated

A new body of freedom fighters styled 'Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Muktijoddha Dal' was floated in Dhaka yesterday with the objective of uniting the grassroots level to strengthen the hands of the present democratic government in its efforts to establish democracy and carry out development activities, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad has been made the Chief Adviser while State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and Wing Commander (Retd) S R Mirza have been chosen as Chief Coordinator and Convener respectively of the 59-member central convening committee.

The Dal will have four divisional convenors, namely Kazi Azizul Huq (Lebu Kazi) for Dhaka division, Advocate Sayed Mottul Islam Montu for Chittagong division, Dr Aminul Huq for Rajshahi division and Nasiruddin Ahmad Babu for Khulna division.

Pilot Officer (Retd) Azizur Rahman will head the Dhaka city convening committee of the Dal.

The function was presided over by adviser of the Dal and journalist Sayed Mesbahuddin Ahmad.

Committee on CHT

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Matin Khasru (AL), after protests by opposition MPs against the formation of the government committee instead of the constitution of a parliamentary committee and also against the non-inclusion of three MPs elected from the hill districts.

The body on the CHTs was asked to submit its report to the government within two months citing the present position of the crisis in the CHTs and recommending ways out of the same.

Committee sources said that the time limit to prepare the report might be extended for at least two reasons — delayed start of the committee's functioning and its boycott by the opposition members.

Even after the inclusion of a CHT MP in the committee, all the three opposition MPs — Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Kolparanjan Shakha of the AL and Shajahan Chowdhury of the Jamaat — continued rejecting it protesting that it was formed without prior consent of the opposition and ignoring parliament where the formation of a parliamentary special body in this regard was raised on several occasions.

According to BNP sources, formation of the committee also caused dissatisfaction in a section of the BNP leadership who had not even been consulted about the issue.

Sources said that the Environment Minister Abdullah-Al-Noman and Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam had met twice with four MPs (including the CHT MP from

the women's reserved quota) of the CHT districts and discussed formation of a committee on the CHT issue.

They preliminarily decided to meet the Prime Minister in this connection after identifying the main causes of the CHT problems and reaching a consensus on a probable solution.

But the sudden announcement of the Oli Ahmed-led committee surprised them.

As debate on the government-formed committee continued, parleys between the government and the opposition were held on its reconstitution.

However, those resulted in a deadlock between the two sides as the opposition repeatedly termed the committee unacceptable and reiterated its demand to replace it with a parliamentary one having representation of all the parties in the House and with the inclusion of the three CHT MPs.

Disagreeing with the opposition, the government argued that the present committee had been empowered to co-opt anybody as its members and that it would also invite two other CHT MPs for opinions.

But the opposition viewed that no solution to the CHT crisis would be possible unless an all-party committee acceptable to all was formed.

A committee member of the BNP told The Daily Star that members belonging to opposition parties were informed about the CHT trip and had been requested to join the programme. However, no response to the request had been received as yet.

CID given charge

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given charge of the case.

Five persons, including a former MP of Jatiya Party, were so far arrested in connection with the incident.

DB police, however, failed to make any significant headway into the case till yesterday, according to a police source.

At a directive from high level police authority, the charge of investigation was handed over to the CID yesterday.

An ASP of the CID, Golam Mostafa, was entrusted as the investigating officer (IO) of the case.

Meanwhile, Shah Nawaz, reportedly an Indian national, who was arrested from Jessore in connection with the attempt on the life of the WP leader and taken on a four-day remand, was still being interrogated at the Detective Branch office at Minto Road till yesterday, according to police.

Arafat to attend UN meeting

GENEVA, Aug 24: The President of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat will attend a United Nations meeting Wednesday on Palestine, Arab sources in Geneva said today, reports AFP.

Israel cancels expulsion orders against Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Aug 24: Israel's Labour government cancelled expulsion orders against 11 Palestinians issued by the previous Likud administration as Middle East peace talks resumed in Washington today, the Defence Ministry said, reports Reuters.

The move came a day after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the release of about 800 Arab prisoners and the easing of restrictions of Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation in an attempt to improve the atmosphere at the talks.

Rabin vowed to speed up negotiations with Israel's Arab neighbours after topping the right-wing Likud government in June elections.

Israel has expelled 66 Palestinians since an uprising erupted in the occupied Arab lands in 1967. The deportations have been widely condemned as a violation of international law.

The 11 Palestinians, accused of inciting a Palestinian uprising against Israel, were ordered to be expelled in January after a spate of attacks on Jewish settlers.

India denies accord on Siachen

NEW DELHI, Aug 24: India today denied that any understanding was reached at during the recent Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan on mutual withdrawal of troops from Siachen glacier, reports PTI.

The denial by an External Affairs Ministry spokesman came when asked to comment on press reports suggesting that the two countries had agreed during the talks to pull back from the world's highest battlefield.

Hartal observed in Jessore to protest arrest of JP leaders

JESSORE, Aug 24: A half-day hartal from morning to noon was observed here today to protest the arrest of Jessore District President of Jatiya Party and ex-state minister Khaleedur Rahman Tito. All shops and business centres remained closed during hartal hours. Vehicles were off the roads while banks and offices remained closed.

At about 7:30 am, a BRIC night coach (Dhaka Metro-Cha 5038) bound for Khulna from Dhaka was attacked by pickets at Paulbari. They damaged its windshield, injuring mechanic Abdus Sattar.

Tito was arrested day before yesterday in Dhaka. The Jessore unit of Jatiya Party also brought out a procession to protest the arrest yesterday.

The Midnight File

Hurricane Andrew kills two in Florida

MIAMI, Aug 24: Hurricane Andrew, the killer storm Miami long dreaded, smashed ashore before dawn Monday with howling 160-mph (257-kph) winds, ripped across the Florida peninsula, and then took aim at the Gulf Coast's underbelly. The storm killed at least two people in Florida, and four were reported dead in the Bahamas, reports AP.

Gunmen execute family of 6 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 24: Gunmen dressed in police uniforms executed a tribal headman, his wife and four children, including a 4-year-old boy, police said Monday. The deaths were part of at least 20 killings around South Africa during the weekend in some of the worst political violence in recent months, reports AP.

Shukla may propose

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minister. Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Majid-ul-Huq's team comprises Asafuddin, Secretary in the Ministry of Irrigation, Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali, High Commissioner Faruq Sobhan, and senior JRC and WDB officials.

They will talk for four hours in two sessions at the Irrigation Ministry conference room.

Since 1988, there has not been an accord on sharing of the Ganges flow at the Farakka, leading to unilateral withdrawal of waters by India. As a result, Bangladesh's northern districts experienced four difficult dry seasons.

The 1974 joint declaration between Prime Ministers envisaged that any withdrawal would be subject to an agreement. Subsequent arrangements, the five-year 1977 agreement and the 1982 Memorandum of Understanding that had been in effect for two three-year terms, were the consequences of that accord.

'Govt trying to divert attention from actual Menon-assailants'

By Staff Correspondent
The Workers Party Monday slated the government's attempt to divert the people's attention from the actual assailants of party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon by propagating 'misleading' information.

Party President Amal Sen and acting General Secretary Haider Akbar Khan Rono in a statement said that the fabricated information provided by different investigating agencies of the Home Ministry were an eyewash to divert people's attention from the actual course of investigation and the identity of the assailants.

They said that Jamaat-Shibir-Jubo Command activists were now engaged in the politics of "killing and terrorism" and they were very much involved with the killing of Ratan Sen and Abdus Salam.

The WP leaders said that they wanted the immediate arrest of those who attacked Menon and cautioned against "fishing in troubled water" with the assassination attempt on their leader.

In the statement, they also reiterated their demand for the removal of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and wanted an independent probe into the incident.

SAARC parliament
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participated by Secretary General of Indian Lok Sabha CK Jain, Director of Citizens Majlis of Maldives Adam Haleem, Secretary General of Parliament of Nepal JI Satyal, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Pakistan Khan Ahmed Goraya, Secretary General of Parliament of Sri Lanka SN Senviratne and Secretary of Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh Abul Hashem

Bhutan is represented by its ambassador to Dhaka Karma Dorjee as the Secretary General of the national assembly of Bhutan could not come due to his preoccupations in connection with the elections there.

Secretary of Jatiya Sangsad of host Bangladesh Abul Hashem was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting.

In his opening remarks Hashem welcomed the Secretaries-General of the SAARC countries and expressed the hope that the deliberations of the meeting would be fruitful in preparing a draft charter for the proposed Association of the Speakers and Parliamentarians of SAARC countries.



Municipal Corporation authorities demolished roadside shops at Kawran Bazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Dhaka WASA Notice

It is hereby notified for information of all the valued consumers of Dhaka WASA that as per approval of the Government, existing water/sewer rates have been refixed as follows with effect from 30th September, 1992.

Sl No	Nature of holding	Non-metered Connections	Metered Connection	
			Per 1000 Gallons	Per 1000 Litres
1.	Residential and Community type holdings	20.56% per annum of annual valuation of the holding	Tk 14.40	Tk 3.17
2.	Industrial Organisation	20.56% per annum of annual valuation of the holding	Tk 46.80	Tk 10.32
3.	Commercial Firms including office buildings	20.56% per annum of annual valuation of the holding	Tk 46.80	Tk 10.32
4.	Buildings under construction (non-metered)	Domestic/Community type holdings	Commercial/Industrial/Office	
		a) 1/4" φ water connection	Tk 402.50 PM	Tk 1150.00 PM
		b) 1" φ water connection	Tk 690.00 PM	Tk 2070.00 PM
		c) 1 1/2" φ water connection	Tk 1380.00 PM	Tk 4140.00 PM
	d) 2 water connection	Tk 2875.00 PM	Tk 8625.00 PM	
5.	Minimum rate for metered and non-metered holdings Tk 16.45 per month.			
6.	a) Sewer rate is equal to water rate for holdings having both water and sewer connections.			
	b) For holdings having only sewer connection sewer rates will be charged annually 20.56% of the annual valuation of the holdings.			
7.	Holdings having no sewer connection but falling within 100 ft. of commissioned sewer mains 7.41% of annual valuation will be charged annually.			