## Troops gun down six **Kashmir militants**

NEW DELHI, Mar 31: Security Forces in India's insurgency-wracked northern state of Kashmir shot and killed six militants in a continuing offensive against Muslim separatists, news reports said Wednesday, reports AP.

In a clash Tuesday with the militants, fighting an often violent campaign, troops killed five people in capital Srinagar and in the neighbouring Sopore town, Press Trust of India reported.

Two other were killed in a clash near a village on the India-Pakistan frontier.

AFP from Islamabad adds: A Kashmiri political party announced Wednesday plans to stage a march at the Pakistan-India border to protest what it

### Mahbub, Alam new SC Bar President, Secy

Kazi Golam Mahbub and Mahabubey Alam have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Supreme Court Bar Association for the year 1993-94, reports

Other office-bearers of the Bar Association are: Vice Presidents Fakrul Islam and Abdus Salam Khan, Treasurer Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed and Assistant Secretaries Zakia Ahmed and A K M Abdus Salam Khan Afric.

The members are: A K M Shahidul Haque, Giasuddin Ahmed, Ruhul Amin Shaib. Maleka Parveen, Md Golam Mostafa, Tabarak Hossain and Md Aftab Hossain.

A total 1118 voters out of 1305 cast their votes in the election.

Kazi Golam Mahabub polled 386 vote against his nearest rival Amirul Islam who polled 368 as president candidate.

The election of the associa tion was held on March 29 and called brutal human rights violations in Indian-controlled

Kashmir. The March, which was being promoted as a "journey to martyrdom" will take place on Sunday, the Azad Kashmir People's Party (AKPP) said.

"It will be a disciplined and peaceful protest by unarmed people," AKPP president Mumtaz Hussain Rathore said in a statement which also urged Pakistani authorities not to obstruct the March.

Three previous marches by other Kashmiri parties last year were stopped to prevent an escalation of tension between Pakistan and India.

### 8 killed

From page col 5 could not be identified.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound minibus (Dhaka Metro-ja-04-0425) collided with another (Dhaka Cha-1925) set for Meghna Ghat from Dhaka.

Seven passengers, injured seriously were admitted to the DMCH. They were Babul, 20, Shukha Ranjan, 30, Mojibur Rahman, 30, Alauddin, 28, Heron, 22, Tapan, 28 and another was a 25-year-old unidentified man. Other injured persons were admitted to the different medical centres and hospitals including Narayangani General Hospital.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: One Kabir, 16, was killed when a speeding minibus ran over him at Langalbandh, Sonargaon, yesterday evening.

In another accident at Perozepur, Sonargaon, a 40year-old unidentified women died on the spot when a speeding truck ran over her early in the morning Wednesday.

Another report says: Police brought the body of a 30-yearold man to the DMCH morgue from Jurain yesterday morning. Police said that he was killed in a road accident.

# Azam did not qualify

From Page 1 Col 4 was not retrospective it had decided a past issue, that Golam Azam was not a citizen on and from March 26, 1971, on April 18, 1973, he noted.

"A dark cloud that was floating over Bangladesh was detected on that date," he said, adding "thus the notification was done by retrospective law and it did not commit any illegality and does not suffer from irrelevant considera-

The court observed that "It is a very good innovative argument, you show us some of the concept of indemnity".

The Attorney General further argued that the petitioner was not stranded in Pakistan but remained there on a "politico-military mission"

The question of the petitioner's being stranded in Pakistan, he added, could not be decided by affidavit alone and had to be decided by evi-

dence. Earlier, during his closing argument Barrister Yusuf held that the petitioner was "condemned unheard" by not being issued a show cause notice by the government, as much the principles of natural

justice had been violated. "His (the petitioners') birth right, which is more important than the fundamental rights. was taken away without provid ing an opportunity to him to

explain his position," he said. Quoting Maxwell's Interpretation of Stauates, the counsel for the petitioner ar gued that it was the "implied duty (of the government) to act judicially".

The court enquired if the other judges had delved into this aspect of the argument.

Replying in the negative, he said that Justice Badrul Islam Choudhury went into the emergency factor, when show cause notice is not war ranted, and found that there was no emergency at the time the impugne notification was issued.

Terming the notification as "illegal and void", Barrister Yusuf said 'in fact it was can cellation of the citizenship in the guise or removal of doubt under Article 3' of the temporary order.

Noting that the petitioner was born here, was living here before going to Pakistan for visit and his family was also living here, Barrister Yusuf said that even if the petitioner had no vested right he had a legit imate expectation to be heard.

Citing Article 31 of the Constitution, he added that the petitioner had the right to enjoy protection of the law and to be treated in accordance with the law and only in

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accordance with the law is an inalienable right of every citi-

Barrister Yusuf argued that "a hope was generated" in the petitioner that his application was being given favourable consideration, by the actions of the government.

He noted that the petitioner was included in the final voters' list in 1986 and in ,1991 while the Prime Minister and the two presidential candidates also met the petitioner in 1991, as he put it,"not as a foreigner".

He also noted that even in January 1992 the Home Minister read a statement in Parliament saying that the petitioner could stay in Bangladesh until a decision on his application for the restoration of his citizenship was decided.

"Government by its conduct created a hope that the petitioner's case was being very favourably looked into," Barrister Yusuf said.

He asserted that there was no delay on the part of the petitioner in coming to court as he came to the court 14 days after the show cause notice was issued March 23, 1992 declaring the petitioner a for-

"The petitioner was very vigilant after a positive step was taken by the government to the petitioner's prejudice and he came to court without delay, before that if there was any delay it was because of the conduct of the government," he said.

Barrister Yusuf added that the reason for delay earlier was because the party in power before 1975 was "very inimical" to petitioner and went on to term the impugne notification as "malafide", which took 'irrelevant considerations" into

However, the court disagreed with the contention that the notification was issued with malafide intentions.

"It (the notification) was not actually malafide, maybe it was made out of historical necessity," Justice Choudhury said.

Saying that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a "very big hearted man", he noted that the government at the time was lenient, in issuing a clemency, so as not to create

another international problem. "We have to accept that it (the clemency) was a great benevolent part of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, otherwise there could have been a tremendous amount of blood-

shed," the court pointed out. The hearing which ended at 4.15 pm will resume again toDeputy Leader of Parliament Abdus Samad Azad addressing a protest meeting of Nirmul Samannaya Committee at Bangabandhu Avenue in city yesterday. - Star photo

#### Nirmul Body

From page col 5 Osman Choudhury, Syed Hasan Imam, Badruddin Omar, Prof Kabir Choudhury, Fayez Ahmed and Ahad Choudhury.

University teachers, poets, writers, lawvers and other professionals were also pre-

Samannaya Committee member-secretary Prof Mannan Choudhury read out five resolutions of the meeting condemning the March 26 and 28 incidents and calling to make a success the committee's April 20 sit-in in front of the Secretariat.

Sufia Kamal in her presidential speech said people overthrew the autocrats to restore rule of law in the country. Instead, she alleged, they were being tyrannized by the elected government. Abdus Samad Azad repeated

his earlier statement delivered in Parliament that there was another government within the government of the BNP and viewed the internal government was active to destroy the hard-earned democracy.

Azad, also Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, demanded convening of a Parliament session to discuss the March 26 and 28 incidents.

Abdur Razzak said, we wanted to hold our rallies peacefully, as we have done today. But, he regretted, we were obstructed, tortured and deprived of our constitutional

### Khmer Rouge denies killing Bangladeshi peacekeeper Cambodia.

PHNOM PENH, Mar 31: The Khmer Rouge rejected Wednesday a UN accusation that they killed a Bangladeshi peacekeeper in battle over the weekend, saying that people from the Third World are 'righteous', report AFP, AP.

The Khmer Rouge said in a statement they 'categorically and completely reject such an ill-will motivated accusation.' A Bangladeshi peace-

keeper-the first UN soldier to die in hostile action in Cambodia— was killed in a three-hour gun battle with what the UN spokesman said were suspected Khmer Rouge guerillas in northwestern

Meanwhile, Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk condemned today the weekend battle between UN peacekeepers and suspected Khmer Rouge guerillas that left one Bangladeshi dead.

'I condemn with the greatest severity this criminal act which nothing can justify,' he said in a statement issued by the Royal Palace here. He expressed condolences

for the family of the Bangladeshi peacekeeper who was killed, calling it an 'unpardonable crime committed by a group of my compa-

### 'Ashtami Snan' observed

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 31: Thousands of Hindu pilgrims from across the country as well as from India and Nepal converged on the banks of the Brahmaputra today (Wednesday) to take a sacred dip in its water on observance of the 'Ashtami Snan,' reports

Local administration sources at the river-port town said the ritual took place at 13 ghats along the river including Raighat, Annapurna, Shankar, Gandhighat, Kalighat, Akrighat Bardeshwari, Pashen and Charsreerampur ghat.

### Khulna CSD at Boyra closed for a week

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Mar 31: Khulna CSD at Boyra has been declared closed for seven days by the authority today following series of clashes between the rival groups of miscreants using bombs, cut rifles, pipe guns etc. in the last three days

over the possession of the area. The miscreants locked in clashes thrice today. Police opened blank fire to disperse the battling miscreants. Police arrested the persons from some slum area later.



Dr Kamal Hossain announcing a 62-member preparatory body for holding Democratic Forum grand conference at a press conference at Engineers Institution in city yesterday.

### WMO to help modernise cyclone preparedness programmes

The Secretary General of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Prof GOP Obasi has assured allout cooperation of his organisation to Bangladesh for modernising the country's meteorological set ups including cyclone preparedness programmes, re-

ports BSS. The WMO Secretary General's assurance came when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Obasi appreciated the government's efforts for implementing the decisions of Rio conference to protect the ccological balance.

The Prime Minister said her government would put in its efforts to implement the recommendations of Rio conference. She also expressed her concern over the global warning which would hit hard Bangladesh and sought cooperation of the world environmental organisations to implement the steps taken by her government to check this disas-

Begum Zia expressed her thanks for holding the WMO seminar in Dhaka and hoped that the outcome of the seminar would be of great help to people of the country.

# BDF preparatory body

From page 1 col 7 Hossain said, "two years after the establishment of a demo cratically elected government the society was still gripped by corruption, terrorism and

lawlessness.

The citizens of the country are also being denied of their basic rights enshrined in the constitution, Hossain added All these had happened due to the failure of the coun-

try's political forces. UNB adds: Dr Kamal also portrayed a dismal picture of economic situation, industrial production, foreign invest ment, red tapism, absence of rule of law and campus vio-

In reply to a question, he said, "Parliament members should act as the representa tives of 12 crore people and not as protectors of special interests. There should be a consen

sus between the government party and the opposition in an atmosphere of competitive politics to make the parlia ment meaningful, he said.

Dr Kamal said preparatory committee for the grand con ference will also be formed in each district and metropolitan city. He said a number subcommittees on different af fairs will also be formed before the conference. Prof Zillur Rahman

Siddiqui, Prof Fazlul Halim

Chowdhury and CPB leader

Satfuddin Ahmed Mantk were

present but they were not on the committee.

The committee members are: Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Matiur Rahman, Sree Manoranjan Dhar, Mafizul Islam Khan Kamal, Mostafa Mohsin Mantu, Major General (Retd) Khalilur Rahman, Barrister Amirul Islam, Shajahan Siraj, MP, Ziaul Haq, Fakruddin Ahmed, Zahirul Islam, Commander Abdur Rauf, Martuza Khan, Shahed Ali. Dr Mozaffar Ahmad, M Mantruzzaman, C M Morshed, Jamil Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Ali Zaker, Barrister Shafique Ahmed

Barrister M C Das, Eng Sham

sul Huda. Abu Mohammad

Yusuf, Advocate Tobarrak Hossain, Ahmad Rafiq, A S M Mesbah Uddin, Fazlul Haq Khandker, Enayet Pir, Shafigullah, Adv. Abu Mohammad Hashem, Nazrul Islam Dulu, Kazi Akram Hossain, Sagir Anwar, Abdul Baten, Abul Hossain, Nuh-ul Alam Lenin, Kamal Haider, Ranesh Moitra, Nazrul Islam, Rabea Strat, Alhaj Abdus Samad, Mokhlesur Rahman, Mazharul Haq Baki, Enayetur Rahman, Dr Abu Hena, Mahmud Hassan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M A Muhit, Nurjahan Murshed, Prof Firoza Begum, Mortuza Bashir, A U Ahmed, Abdul Hakim, Advocate Abdul Baset Majumdar, Adv. Fazlur Rahman Khan, Adv. Sarawar Hossain, En.g Abul Kashem, Soeb Ahmed Chow-

dhury and Moshtaq Ahmed.

### BTC pays Tk 657.8cr revenue

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Tobacco Com-

pany (BTC) Limited contributed a total of Taka 657.8 crore in revenue to government including excise duty of Tk 622.8 crore in 1992.

The increase in contribution was 17 per cent higher than that of the previous year. The contribution was Tk 573.9 crore in 1991 including excise duty of Tk 544.5 crore.

This was revealed at a press conference held Wednesday at the Hotel Sonargaon.

The contributions in 1992 other than the excise duty included, Tk 10.3 crore as corporate tax, Tk 3.0 crore as dividend to government and government agencies, Tk 0.6 crore as tax on dividend to Raleigh Investment, UK and Tk 20.6 crore as other government taxes and duties.

The press conference held one day after its 20th Annual General Meeting was addressed by its Chairman M Mujibul Huq and Managing Director Malcolm Fry while Directors ZU Ahmed, Golam Moinuddin, RA Majumder, Habib Sattar, Secretary DMA Islam, Raymond Acorda and Kazi Anwarul Islam were pre-

Total value added by the company in 1992 was Tk 6932 million against Tk 5816 million of the previous year's while it announced divident of Tk 90 million for the shareholders. The amount in dividends was Tk 33 million in 1990, Tk 30 million in 1990, Tk 75 million in 1989 and Tk 66 crore in 1988.

Malcolm Fry while addressing the press conference stressed the need for stable policies from the government for long-term planning and investment saying that the BTC had planned to invest a total of Tk 500 million during the next 18 months to expand its market internationally as well as to face competition in the local market following lifting of ban on the import of cigarettes.

Detailed Report on Page 6

#### Two snatchers arrested

Police arrested two youngmen while they were fleeing after snatching gold ornaments from a rickshaw passenger at the Circuit House road in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

## N-S gas pipeline

From Page 1 Col 3 Petrobangla Board was not taken into confidence by him for decision-making process of such important issue. It said by suppressing facts

the then Chairman misled the higher authorities in the government in decision-making. The report also suggested to black list Messrs Pencol

about Saipem's performance

the consultant of the project. "All consultants to such important large projects should preferably be appointed by the owner and not by the donor agencies', the report observed. The sources said the committee, which submitted its report with the government in

September last year, held a Director of Petrobangia (now OSD) and a former Project Director responsible for irregularities committed by them in awarding compensation to Saipem to the tune of 14 million US dollars without approval of appropriate authority of the government.

The lqbal report said the compensation to Saipem as agreed by Petrobangla amounting to 14 million dollars had been one-sided and in excess not covered by the contract The Finance Division of Petrobangla was not involved in estimation of the claim, the report observed.

The Saipem claimed compensation as the company had to stop the work due to public chaos in Golapganj in later part of 1991. But the committee held inefficiency and lapses on the part of Salpem as the reasons for the delay in achieving the stipulated rate of progress.

Earlier this month, the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain in a statement told the Jatiya Sangsad that a committee headed by Azimuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chairman of Jamuna Bridge Project, was instituted to decide the logic of the compensation claimed by Saipem. The Azimuddin Committee

report observed that the balance of convenience would be in favour of Bangladesh if the compensation claim was met, the minister said. The firm earlier claimed US

dollars 21.232 million as compensation for the stoppage of work but later reduced the amount to 14 million dollars following negotiations with Petrobangla. The internal audit depart-

ment of Petrobangla, however, recommended to pay 11.438 million dollars to Saipem of which 10 million dollars were paid.

# The Midnight File Gorbachev iterates call

for fresh polls in Russia OTTAWA, Mar 31: The last leader of the former Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, repeated Tuesday his call for new elections in Russia, warning the country faced disintegration without fresh faces in the legislature, reports AFP.

UN suspends evacuation of refugees from Srebrenica

SARAJEVO, Mar 31: The United Nations today suspended the evacuation of refugees from the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica after six people were killed in a stampede to board UN trucks. UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler told reporters in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo: "We are putting this evacuation on hold until we get sufficient UN presence on the ground in Srebrenica so we can have an evacuation in a dignified and organised manner," reports BSS.

### **Emergency in Tajik** province

MOSCOW, Mar 31: Tajikistan imposed a state of emergency in a southern province Wednesday and declared a day of mourning for two commanders whose deaths could reignite the Central Asian state's civil war, reports AP.

## Dhaka 'disappointed'

From Page 1 Col 4 not do so however acute might

be its relative needs. Asafuddaulah said he felt particularly shocked because, he had not noticed anything from the Indian delegation to "appreciate the extraordinary hardship of the vast population of Bangladesh caused by what they are doing at the upstream."

Replying to questions, he said that he could not be optimistic about any positive results even if there were more meetings with the Indian experts who may take the same attitudes of not at all "appreciating the stark reali-

"If we meet again under existing mental framework, the results, would be the same." he "A large neighbour must

have a large heart," Asafuddaulah said. He said that non-appreciation of the hardship caused in a neighbouring country by the

actions of another neighbour

was very disappointing. Bangladesh team sources said that there had to be new commitments for the talks to achieve results.

They said that there had to be understanding of the hardsihp and sufferings being caused to such a vast humanity in Bangladesh by the upstream actions of the international river Ganges. The Bangladesh team leader

said that there was nothing but sands to measure on the Bangladesh side of the river as there is neither an agreement for sharing of the Ganges wa-"I don't think I was success-

convey the hardship of the people of Bangladesh", he said replying to a question. "If it does not get across, there is nothing we could do,"

ful, as the leader of the

Bangladesh team of experts, to

Bangladesh tea sources said that the Indian side even did not agree to joint monitoring of the actual water availability

on the Ganges before any diversion and what was allowed to flow into Bangladesh. The Bangladesh team

sources said that for reviving the joint monitoring of the flows on the two sides of the Ganges there had to be sharing of the water of the river. They said that the Indian

The Bangladesh team

time is not consistent with the political will and determina tion to solve the water sharing problem as expressed by the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India in a joint communique issued in May last year at the end of the visit to India by the Bangladesh premier.

The Indian Prime Minister in May last year assured Bangladesh that every possible effort would be made to avoid hardships to Bangladesh by sharing the Ganges on an equitable basts.

The joint communique issued simultaneously from the two capitals on May 28 last year at the end of the visit to India by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh said, "the two prime ministers noted that due to growing need for wa M ters, the flows available in the Ganges and Teesta would fall short of requirements of the two countries particularly

during the lean season. They agreed that an equitable, long term and comprehensive arrangement for sharing the flows of these and other common rivers evolved through mutual discussions would serve the best interest

"They directed their ministers concerned to make renewed endeavours for achieving an acceptable settlement, including the interim arrangements for sharing the dry season flows on the Ganges in

# Poverty alleviation plan

From page 1 col 7 should go for investing 27 per cent of its national income annually to remove massive poverty and the lion's share of the investment should be collected from the domestic resources mobilisation, Ali said.

He said in the last ten years average annual growth in the region was only 3.1 per cent which led to social insecurity, increase of the people's dependence on the government and foreign assistance, helplessness of the poor people and disruption of the production system and productive capability of the workers.

The report said the annual growth in SAARC countries must be raised to 9 per cent from its present 3 per cent for the interests of democracy and social security. The commission examined

various poverty-alleviation programmes in SAARC countries including the activities of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Aga Khan Rural Assistance Programme and Korangi Kacchi Cultivation Programmes in Pakistan, Small Farmers Development Programmes in Nepal, Self-Employed Women Association and Working Women Forum in India and Jshebia activities in Shri

It observed that the poor people of the SAARC countries were lacking in capital only.

The commission said the poor people could be provided with capital through correct reforms of the banking system and they (poor people) have the ability and mentality of repaying the loan. The poor people have initia-

tives and can risk investment and they can play pioneering role in production process if they are given cooperation, the commission said. Dr Maksud Ali suggested

experiences of Comilla Model, Grameen Bank, BRDB, BRAC and Swanirbar Programmes in formulating a greater and integrated programmes for poverty alleviation.

Referring to different pro-

grammes taken up by the gov-

ernment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia he said a poverty alleviation programme could be easily formulated in Bangladesh. Dr Ali said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had already

declared her "Dal-Bhat" programme to ensure food for all poor people. The government has also

taken programmes for ensuring education and health for all by the year 2000 A D, he said. Dr Ali said the Dal-Bhat programme also earned appre-

ments and the heads of the state of the region. Dr Ali said in Bangladesh the urgency of formulating a poverty-alleviation programme is more felt than other SAARC

countries as the greater seg

ciation from all the govern-

ment of people here are poor. He said Bangladesh, which is going to take up the leadership of SAARC in the coming SAARC summit to be held to Dhaka, could play a pioneering role in making the poverty-al-

leviation programme a success.

people's inclination towards

Dr Ali said over population,

foreign goods and absence of market for domestic products are the main reasons for the increasing poverty in Bangladesh. He underlined the need for the implementation of differ-

ent poverty-alleviation programmes as mentioned by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in her various public meetings. Secretaries of different

ministries and high officials were also present at the brief-

that Bangladesh can utilise the

expert team's non appreciation of the hardship in Bangladesh led to their not agreeing to evolve an interim sharing

sources said that the stand of the Indian expert team this

of the peoples of the two coun-

the meanwhile".