

Japanese peacekeeper shot dead in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Apr 8: A Japanese UN electoral officer working in central Cambodia was shot dead today by unidentified assailants, UN officials said, reports APP.

The man was travelling by road from his district in Kompong Thom province with an interpreter towards the provincial capital when he was intercepted by unknown assailants about 8:30 am (0130 GMT), said the official, who could not be identified.

The interpreter was injured and taken to a nearby hospital, the officials said.

Sources in Phnom Penh said the attack was believed to have been carried out by the Khmer Rouge.

The man was the first Japanese to be killed in hostile action in Cambodia. Assaults by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas have claimed the lives of five other UN peacekeepers in the last 10 days.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on a two-day visit to Cambodia, cancelled his scheduled press conference.

After his arrival here Wednesday Boutros-Ghali told warring faction leaders to exchange their guns for ideas and participation in the May election that risks being the last and only chance for stability in Cambodia.

Lankan FM

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Asian Fund for Development (SAADF), an Agreement on Preferential Trade Arrangement among the SAARC Countries (SAPTA) and a convention on protection of child.

Herat said people of the region would be largely benefited with the successful handling of those issues by the leaders of the South Asian countries during the Dhaka summit.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister also expressed his optimism that the SAARC would continue to grow and take a better shape under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when the mantle of Chairmanship of the association falls on her with the holding of the Dhaka Summit.

Herat was received at the airport by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Sri Lankan high commissioner Dr A N Haniffa and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were also present.

Jameel

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the heads of government and state would contribute greatly to the welfare of the people of this region.

Replying to a question about Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's assumption as Chairperson of SAARC, the Maldives Foreign Minister said that she was not a stranger to this association as her late husband had initiated the idea of SAARC. "She is well placed for that leadership," he added.

Salah Shehab, Foreign Secretary of Maldives accompanied Jameel.

NATO no-fly zone

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He said one plane has violated the no-fly zone recently but most violations have been by helicopters.

US military chiefs told Congress earlier this year that enforcement of the no-fly zone would be useless because Serbian planes were no longer attacking Bosnians.

Meanwhile, The International Court of Justice ordered Serbia today to prevent acts of genocide in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports Reuter.

Bosnia immediately welcomed the unanimous judgement by the 14-judge court and said it would ask the United Nations Security Council to enforce it.

"It is an overwhelming victory for Bosnia-Herzegovina," Francis Boyle, Bosnia's chief legal counsel, told reporters.

"This order is being transmitted right now to New York for action by the members of the Security Council."

The International Court of Justice is the main judicial organ of the UN and settles disputes between states.

"Fifty years ago when the Jewish people were threatened with extermination, the world looked the other way and let it happen.

"We are asking the world not to look the other way," Boyle said.

In two days of highly-charged hearings last week, Bosnia accused Serbia of committing the worst atrocities since the Nazi holocaust and of deliberately targeting Muslim civilians during the year-long war in Bosnia.

It asked Montenegro to halt killings, rapes and forced removals of Muslim people from their homes as part of its policy of "ethnic cleansing."

Serbia denied any links with the Bosnian Serb forces on the ground and rejected the charge of genocide as groundless.

The court's judgement went further than many international law experts had expected. They had anticipated a neutrally-worded ruling which



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the VVIP Terminal of Zia International Airport yesterday to see the arrangements for receiving SAARC guests. —PID photo

Clash in Sylhet One Juba League leader, 2 BCL activists held

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 8: Sylhet Kotwali Thana police last night arrested a Pura Commissioner Chandan Roy, who is also a Juba League leader and two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists including its district secretary Shafiqul Ahmed Nadel on charge of their involvement in a clash between two rival groups of BCL on Wednesday night.

A Eid-reunion function of BCL was foiled Wednesday afternoon when rival group attacked the gathering and exploded at least 30 to 40 crackers.

They also opened several rounds of blank shots and looted a motor cycle and Tk 5,000 from a nearby restaurant.

Following the incident, the district president of BCL lodged a case against the rival group including the district secretary.

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Sheikh Hasina addressing a protest rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in city yesterday. —Star photo

Ekatturer Jeeshu refused film certificate

Star Report

The Bangladesh Film Sensor Board yesterday refused to allow screening of Ekatturer Jeeshu (Jesus-71), a short film depicting the nation's War of Independence in 1971, according to a source.

The film, directed by a well-known freedom fighter and leader of the village theatre movement Nasruddin Yousuf Bachechu, was submitted to the board for approval on March 14.

A 'full board' comprising two committees of the Film Censor Board met yesterday to decide the fate of the Jesus-71, English version of the Bangla film Ekatturer Jeeshu.

Majority of the 'full board' members present at the meeting suggested against the screening of the film on the ground that it would vitiate the country's existing friendly relations with Pakistan, sources said.

Fifteen out of a total of 28 members of the full board were present at the meeting. Nuruddin Al Masud, the Chairman of the Censor Board who is also the Secretary of the Information Ministry, however, was not available for comment.

Diarrhoea claims 3 more lives

Diarrhoea claimed three lives and 908 people were attacked by the disease in 24 hours till 9 am Thursday, reports UNB.

Of the latest deaths, one each in Noakhali, Patuakhali and Kishoreganj.

Koirala, Wangchuk to talk repatriation of Bhutanese

From Our Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Apr 8: Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala will hold talks in Dhaka this weekend with Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk on the possible repatriation of more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, reports AFP.

Highly placed Nepalese Foreign Ministry sources said here today that two leaders had scheduled a meeting on the subject for Friday night while attending the South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit.

The summit officials start Saturday and both leaders are scheduled to stay in the same hotel and reach the Bangladesh capital Friday, the sources added.

Some 102,600 Bhutanese of Nepalese origin, 20,878 of them students, are currently camped in Nepal's Jhapa district, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southeast of the capital city of Kathmandu.

Prime Minister Koirala wants to solve the Bhutanese refugee problem amicably and bilaterally through dialogue with the Bhutanese King before talking to the Indian

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao prior to his return for home on Monday, the source said.

"The exodus of over 102,600 Bhutanese has caused a grave social, economic and environmental problem in the Jhapa district, the source said.

"The Bhutanese refugees are creating a grave environmental problem by destroying the forest and polluting the river apart from causing social problems making it difficult to maintain law and order," he added.

The proposed talks between the Bhutanese King and Koirala will be the first since they discussed the refugee problem during the Colombo SAARC Summit in 1991.

In a brief statement in parliament Wednesday Koirala said, Nepal will put across her commitment to regional cooperation in clear terms in the seventh summit of the SAARC due to open this Saturday.

He also told the House he would set forth his opinions regarding the problem faced by Nepal due to the Bhutanese refugee influx.

On the government accusation that the opposition was destabilising the country, an angry Hasina alleged it was the government that was sponsoring terrorism, corrupting the administration and repressing the pro-Liberation democratic groups and individuals.

The country's development had been stalled and public life insecure due to the ineptness of the ruling party, she added.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Zillur Rahman, the AL General Secretary, Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Moynuddin Khan Badal, Abdullah Sarkar and Noyem Jahangir of the Five-party combine, Mohammad Afzal of Ganatantri Party, Nurul Islam, Ahmedur Rahman Azmi, Dilip Barua and Alhaj Abdus Samad of the four-party Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF).

Another resolution adopted at the meeting observed that the government had lost the moral right to rule the country after it violated the Constitution by not allowing the Samannaya Committee to hold public meetings.

The meeting, in the resolution, warned the government against curbing constitutional rights any more and extended its all-out support to the committee-planned sit-in demonstration in front of the Secretariat April 20.

Termed the BNP government a 'pledge-breaker' one, the AL leader demanded the fulfillment of all pledges made to different communities and members of the public by the ruling party.

In this context, she asked the government to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, ensure the trial of war criminals including Golan Azam, and fulfill the demands of various professional groups and labour bodies.

SAPTA

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Foreign Ministry's SAARC Desk, said that the Council of Ministers was again scheduled to meet today to finalise the draft declaration.

He said the foreign secretaries would attempt to resolve the differences on SAPTA ahead of the foreign ministers' meeting.

Earlier last year, the SAARC countries arrived at a broad consensus on SAPTA providing for 10 per cent tariff concessions to selected imports from member nations and a commitment that no new non-tariff barriers would be introduced for intra-SAARC trade.

Premadasa

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forward to a very interesting meeting because we have lined up very important programmes for SAARC.

"The programmes, that we have lined up are very beneficial for the people of the region," he said.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman received President Premadasa at the airport.

Shri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard K Tilakratne and Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr A N Haniffa were also present at the airport.

Asked what shape he expected SAARC to take with the launching of the new cycle of the summits President Premadasa said "we had been subject nations for long periods and the people are expecting a great deal from our cooperation."

"So we are looking forward to discussing the implementation of the programmes," the SAARC Chairman said.

"We will be discussing the programmes we have lined up," he said, adding, "already our foreign ministers and foreign secretaries have discussed the programmes in detail."

"We are very happy" was his reply when asked how did he feel that the summit was ultimately taking place after two postponements.

"It is our pleasure to be with you again," said the Sri Lankan leader.

Four leaders

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from Bangkok Saturday morning, an hour ahead of the inauguration of the summit, the Foreign Office official said.

Foreign Ministers of the six countries, who are ex-officio members of the SAARC Council of Ministers, are now in the capital.

The SAARC Council of Ministers held a meeting yesterday and are again scheduled to meet today to give the final touch to the summit agenda and endorse the Dhaka Declaration.

BSS adds: Three of the leaders will be accompanied by their wives while one with his daughter and a granddaughter.

The Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom will be accompanied by his wife Madam Nasrina Gayoom.

Begum Nawaz Sharif will accompany Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao will be accompanied by his daughter, Vani Devi, and an infant grand daughter.

PM : Science

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change views, would contribute in development of chemistry in the country.

The Prime Minister assured all-out cooperation of her government to the society in all its constructive activities.

The inaugural function of the conference was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, President of the Society Prof Mesbahuddin Af-Mod, BCIC Chairman Wasek Ali Azad and society secretary Fazlul Huq.

During the two-day conference which is being attended by chemists from all over the country will have technical session besides the society's annual general meeting.

Bid to push in 20 more

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 8: Bangladesh Rifles foiled another attempt of pushing 20 Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims into Bangladesh through Azmatpur border of Shibganj thana in the district Thursday, reports UNB.

BDR sources said Indian security forces (BSF) at Shashanti border of Malda district of India tried to push the people into Bangladesh.

The Midnight File

UN decides to continue sanctions on Libya

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 8: The Security Council decided today to continue the sanctions it imposed on Libya a year ago for failing to hand over for trial two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am Airliner over Scotland in 1988. The United States, in a separate statement said it would consider moves to add in oil embargo if this proved necessary to obtain Libyan compliance, reports Reuter.

Rabbani-Hekmatyar talks fail

PULI-1-CHARKHI (Afghanistan), Apr 8: Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar failed in talks today to break a month-long deadlock over key cabinet posts. The two left the four hours of face-to-face discussions with grim faces, testimony to their many differences, most important among which is the defence portfolio, reports APP.

3000-man security cell

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activities all over the South Asian region, they said.

"Maximum security has been ensured," Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said while briefing newsmen earlier in the week at the Foreign Office.

"Bangladesh will ensure that no guest is embarrassed."

"Bangladesh's responsibilities to security is absolute," he said while noting that security teams from the respective countries would accompany the leaders.

A 3000-man strong cell has been formed which would handle the overall security arrangements on the occasion, sources said.

Additional Inspector General of the Special Branch Atzul Huiq heads the cell, composed of members from the Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, Police, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI), Special Security Forces (SSF), and Special Branch.

The personal securitymen accompanying the summiteers would coordinate with their local counterparts, the sources said.

All sorts of processions, gatherings and demonstrations have also been prohibited in the capital during the period.

People have been advised to avoid using the roads leading to Hotel Sheraton from Kakrail Mosque crossing, Baily Road crossing, and Minto Road crossing, from Thursday until Sunday.

Traffic movement from Hotel Sheraton towards Hare Road has been stopped to the public.

Movement of heavy vehicles on the Mymensingh Road from Shahbagh crossing to the third gate of the cantonment has been restricted on Saturday and Sunday.

A motorcade rehearsal also took place Thursday morning in Dhaka causing traffic jams at several places of the capital.

Zia International Airport (ZIA), International Conference Centre in the Prime Minister's office premises, Hotel Sheraton, Bangabhaban, Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Meghna BIWTC Ghat and Sonargaon Hotel have been marked security zones.

Movement of people has been restricted in these areas while none without proper security pass would be allowed to enter them.

The Special Branch has issued more than 7000 security passes specifying areas in which the owners should be allowed.

Programmes

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the ICC premises.

The six leaders will leave ICC and will be seen off by Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 12:45 pm.

At 1:33 pm the Summit leaders will arrive at the Airforce Base Bashar from where they will be flown on a helicopter to Meghna Ghat for a cruise on the historic river vessel 'P S Ostrich'. They will have their lunch on board.

After more than three hours of river cruise the leaders will leave Meghna Ghat on an airforce chopper.

In case of bad weather alternative arrangements will be made in the city, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman earlier said at a press conference.

The leaders will attend a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Hotel Sonargaon.

The second day's (Sunday) programmes are as follows:

The morning hours has been set aside for bilateral talks between the SAARC leaders.

The leaders will be at the Bangabhaban at 12:24 pm to meet President Abdur Rahman Biswas and will attend a lunch hosted by the Bangladesh President.

Cultural show at the Bangabhaban in honour of the Summit leaders at 1:45 pm.

Concluding session of the Summit from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm on Sunday at the ICC.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, as the new chairperson of SAARC, will address a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon at 9:00 pm.

With one day remaining in the countdown to the SAARC summit, a tough security blanket has been thrown on Hotel Sheraton, where the leaders from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives will be staying.

Seven floors, including one for Bangladesh, readied for the summit guests, swarmed with trained commandos and plainclothes security personnel.

Temporary camps have been installed at all the important places of the SAARC summit while all the highways to the capital have been put under surveillance. All police stations in the city have been put on alert.

Sources said that on entrance into Bangladesh, air force jets would escort the summiteers to the ZIA from where they would be led to the capital in ceremonial motorcades.

The public, excluding passengers with air tickets, would not be allowed in the airport.

Biman will make special arrangements to ferry passengers arriving Dhaka.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police have advised the vehicle owners to carry necessary documents while moving in the capital.

The advice goes for modes of vehicles including rickshaws, DMP officials said.

\$2.33m for edn project

Bangladesh will receive Tk 89.94 million equivalent to US dollar 2.33 million from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the reform of Higher Secondary Education, reports BSS.

Businessman

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might have links with the murder, said a police press release quoting the family members.

A witness to the murder — a gatekeeper of the house — Hossain said that when Zahir entered the house by his car at around 8:15 am from Ananta Properties Limited, Hatirpool, two young men told him that they had an important letter with them for Zahir.

"I first requested the men not to enter the house and asked them to hand over the letter to me... but they forcibly entered the house," said the gatekeeper.

When Zahir got down from the car the men handed over an envelope to him, he opened the envelope to find a blank paper in it. At this stage one of the young men approached him and shot at the right side of his chest from a short range. Immediately Zahir tried to run for safety, but they again shot at his head from behind, said Hossain.

However, Zahir was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but attending doctors declared him dead, reports our DMCH Correspondent.

Meanwhile, a murder case was lodged with Dhanmondi Police Station and the charge of investigation was handed over to the Detective Branch of Police last night. Tomoy was taken to the Detective Branch Office at Minto Road for questioning, said police.

Zahir left behind wife, Kamrunnahar Jhorna, Vice Principal of Dhaka Mahila College and four children — Ria, a first year student of Sir Salimullah Medical College, Sonia, a second year student of Vikarunnessa Noon Girls' School and College, Sharif, a student of O-Level and Asif, a student of class four of Green Herald International School.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) held a condolence meeting yesterday with M Yunus, Chairman of the DCCI in the chair.

A press release said that the DCCI would remain closed for half day on Saturday and black flag would be hoisted on the chamber building on the day.

The DCCI leaders expressed their deep concern over the tragic death of Zahir and demanded impartial investigation into the incident and proper punishment to the persons responsible.

They also expressed their profound sympathy to the bereaved family of Zahir.

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