

Army deployed, curfew extended in Manipur

GUWAHATI, India, May 5: India's Manipur state government deployed the army and extended curfews today as heavy rain helped restore calm after unprecedented Hindu-Muslim riots that left 115 people dead, officials said, reports AFP.

Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh said in the capital Imphal that army soldiers had fanned out to reinforce police and paramilitary troops patrolling 'sensitive areas,' the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

No new violence had been reported today from anywhere in Manipur, he was quoted as saying.

State Police Chief A V Liddle said the riots had abated but the situation was still 'tense' in the tiny north-eastern province of 1.8 million people bordering Burma.

Curfews clamped on Imphal and the riot-hit district of Thoubal were extended to four more towns in the Manipur valley as 'precautionary measures,' Liddle said from Imphal.

Security forces were enforcing strict curfew orders and braving torrential rains.

Liddle said when reached by telephone from Guwahati, the Assam state capital and the principal northeastern city.

Other officials in Imphal said the heavy downpour had helped staunch street violence and kept residents indoors but also hampered search operations and prevented police from reaching tense areas elsewhere in Manipur.

A curfew-break to allow residents to shop for food this morning was withdrawn after clashes overnight left at least seven people dead, according to doctors in hospitals.

Doctors at two Imphal hospitals where the dead and wounded were brought put the death toll in the violence which erupted Monday afternoon at 115. More than 300 others were injured.

PTI said 130 people had been arrested. More than 2,000 people have taken shelter in relief camps opened by the state government, controlled by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party.

The Hindu-Muslim violence was unprecedented in Manipur, where Hindus form an overwhelming majority.

AL, JP undecided

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"I won't comment on our support to the programme. We will discuss the matter and then decide on it," Rahman said.

He, however, said the government should implement its agreements with the labour bodies. "It's an act of injustice not to execute any accord after signing it," the AL leader commented.

Replying to a query, Rahman revealed that the AL was ready to listen to the strike callers and support their justified demands.

Asked what his party would do if the labour leaders sought the AL's support to their strike, Zillur Rahman replied: "We will discuss it among ourselves and then decide."

Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed, talking to this paper, informed that his party would discuss the labour strike in its parliamentary party meeting next Saturday.

Like Zillur Rahman, Barrister Moudud also declined to commit his party's support to the programme right now.

"It won't be wise to make any comment on the matter until the party leadership decides on it," he remarked.

A central leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Advocate Mujibur Rahman, commenting on the issue, said, "Our party does not accept in principle any programme that causes sufferings of the people."

When his attention was drawn to the 72-hour proposed SKOP strike, the Jamaat leader made it clear that his party did not support programmes like hartals, strikes, etc.

Replying to the question if his party opposed the programme, Mujibur Rahman said, "We are always opposed to such programmes. But our party will discuss the matter in its central working committee meeting to register its formal opposition."

Advocate Rahman termed the Employers' Association statement as "objective" and agreed with it, saying the strike would result in a big loss to the national economy.

Reacting to the BEA statement, 5-party leader and convenor of the BSD Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan said the employers' version proved they did not want the country's industry killed, 12 hurt

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gunshots and exploded crackers when they confronted each other.

Our DMCH correspondent says that of the injured, two — Bashir and Mohammad Ali — were admitted to the hospital. A bullet hit Bashir on his left leg while Ali sustained shrapnel wounds from exploding crackers.

Both the victims said that they were passing by the spot when the armed goons clashed.

Witnesses said that police failed to reach the place of occurrence during the clash. They came to the spot only after the culprits had fled, they complained.

Lalbagh police said they had gone to the spot but no arrests have yet been made.

A murder case was lodged with Lalbagh police station by Dabrudin, an uncle of the deceased hawker Abdul Mannan, Mannan, son of one Hamid Ali, was a resident of Shaheednagar.



Members of the World Muslim Council brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding an end to the war in Bosnia. — Star photo

Ghali recommends war crimes tribunal for former Y'slavia

UNITED NATIONS, May 5: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Tuesday recommended setting up an 11-judge international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the Hague, Netherlands.

The judges would only be authorized to sentence those convicted of war crimes to prison terms. The UN chief ruled out the death penalty as a sentencing option for the court, which would be established by the Security Council, according to a report obtained by AFP.

The war crimes court would be authorized to prosecute anyone responsible for "serious violations of international human rights law" committed inside the territory of the former Yugoslavia after January 1, 1991, according to the document, which is to be sent to the Security Council.

The tribunal would operate with two trial courts, a court of appeals, a prosecutor and a records office. A total of 11 independent judges, with none sharing the same nationality, would be seated —

three for each of the trial courts, and five for the appeals court.

The justice would be chosen by the UN General Assembly for four-year terms, possibly renewable, based on a list submitted by the Security Council.

The prosecutor would be appointed by the Security Council upon nomination by the Secretary General.

The international tribunal's authority would take precedence over that of national courts. Nonetheless, Boutros-Ghali said, sentences should be able to be applied outside the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Several western reports based on hundreds of witnesses' accounts have spoken of serious violations of international human rights law and of the Geneva conventions since war broke out in the former Yugoslavia two years ago.

All of the ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia have been blamed for committing atrocities but the most serious accusations have been made against the Serbs.

The crimes against humanity detailed by Boutros-Ghali include murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, torture, rape and persecution on political, racial and religious grounds.

The UN chief's recommendations mark the first time since the Second World War that an international initiative ultimately could create a war crimes court.

Meanwhile, Ghali proposed Tuesday sending a 70,000-strong force to enforce the peace plan for Bosnia.

The UN chief said in a preliminary report addressed to the Security Council that the command for the military component of the operation would be entrusted to a group of countries, "preferably NATO members."

Earlier Tuesday, the New York Times reported that NATO was planning to send more than 50,000 peacekeeping troops to Bosnia, half of them American, to enforce a peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic.

PM's call to explore new markets

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Textile Abdul Mannan, Commerce Secretary Nazim Ahmed Chowdhury, BGMEA President Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain and BGMEA vice president Fazlul Azim.

The Prime Minister said her government, which has declared export as the main instrument for promoting economic growth, had been providing all policy supports to strengthen the private sector, building infrastructure of a free market economy and creating favourable investment climate to attract foreign investors.

The Prime Minister said, in the meantime, had started producing positive results. The Prime Minister said new industries were being set up in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone and two more export processing zones were being built.

"We have great potentials in the field of exports," Begum Zia said adding "what we require now are drive and initiative." She also assured all sorts of cooperation and support in this regard.

The Prime Minister said that the amazing growth of the country's garments industries was praise worthy and stressed the need for reducing dependence on imported fabrics.

She urged those engaged in the textile industry to produce quality fabrics which could be utilised in the country's garments industry.

All necessary assistance and support, Begum Zia assured, would be provided to them for producing quality fabrics.

The Prime Minister said her government had identified

the textiles industry as a 'thrust sector' and added that increased use of local fabrics in our garments exports would develop the textile sector as well as save foreign exchange.

The Bangladesh textile industry had a world-wide reputation, Begum Zia said, adding "We want to regain our lost heritage."

The Prime Minister said that the lion's share of the country's export earnings comes from the garments sub-sector, which has achieved a spectacular growth despite some adverse factors.

She said the garments industry had created employment for a large number of people of whom 85 per cent are women.

The employment of hundreds of thousands of female workers has provided them economic security and self-confidence.

She said our women had provided their skill and ability to work and added that her government wanted that contribution of the women should increase in different development activities.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) to control the garments trade in the global market and different regulations are applied to this trade from time to time.

Meanwhile some countries, she said, had imposed restrictions on their import which affected the market for Bangladesh's garments to some extent.

The Prime Minister urged the developed countries to protect the interests of the developing nations while taking decisions within the greater context of world trade.

Organisers said, Bangladesh has now emerged as the seventh largest supplier of apparel to the United States, ninth largest to Canada and the largest supplier of shirts and T-shirts to the European Community.

They expressed optimism that the earnings from the export of readymade garments would reach the target of three billion US dollar by the end of 1995.

The export of garments has increased 40 per cent from one billion dollar at the end of 1991 to 1.4 billion at the end of 1992, they said.

There are now 1500 garment manufacturers and exporters in the country.

Our correspondent adds: More than 200 buyers from across the world have flocked to the capital to visit BATEXPO-93.

Manufacturers and service industries from India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh have set up stalls in the exposition organised by the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). There are 57 stalls in the four-day fair.

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US scholar

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However, he pointed out that South Asia ranks rather low in US foreign policy priorities.

M Glen Johnson is a Professor at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is now heading the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad, India, on a Fulbright scholarship.

Dispelling the general notion of the US becoming the preponderant single super power in a unipolar world, Prof Johnson said that America still had weaknesses in its economy and US foreign policy would be determined by its domestic economic priorities.

"President Clinton's personal attention will be less on foreign policy than on more pressing domestic issues."

Turning to Indo-Pak relations, Professor Johnson said more and more people including scholars in the United States are coming around to the realistic conclusion that it would be wiser for the US policy planners to accept India and Pakistan as nuclear powers and, therefore, act to defuse or remove the threat of a nuclear war among the hostile neighbours by turning the focus of policy towards management of the situation rather than coercing the two nations to give up their weapons development programmes.

It is more realistic to assist these countries to develop better nuclear control mechanisms and better communication to avert any nuclear catastrophe through misunderstanding, Prof Johnson added.

Discussing with The Daily Star staffers the US response to the Bosnian situation, he said that America had initially wanted its European allies to resolve the conflict. He, however, pointed out that it was still not clear if Clinton's policy had succeeded since it was not known yet if the ceasefire designed to stop the on-going massacre was holding.

Responding to a question, Prof Johnson said that the Clinton administration might continue the Republican "supply side" policy on the drugs issue since a programme to reduce the demand for drugs would be so much more expensive.

College teachers put off strike

Bangladesh Government College Professors and Lecturers Associations have suspended their programme of abstaining from work scheduled from May 21 to June 7, reports BSS.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the leaders of the associations led by their presidents with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Strar held at the conference room of the Ministry of Education yesterday.

ME peace talks to continue till May 13

WASHINGTON, May 5: Arab and Israeli negotiators have agreed to extend Middle East peace talks in Washington another week, until May 13, delegates said today, reports AFP.

Buddha Purnima

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Chittagong, three districts of erstwhile Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cox's Bazar, Comilla, Noakhali and Patuakhali will celebrate the festival through day-long programmes beginning with 'prabhat fer', the barefoot march in the dawn. Prayers, Buddha Puja, Panchashil, offering to monks, religious meetings and illumination in the evening are the other highlights of the day.

In Dhaka, the festival will be celebrated at Drammarajika Vihara at Kamalapur, International Monastery at Merul Badda and Shakyamuni Vihar at Mirpur.

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation has arranged a discussion at the International Monastery at 4 pm in addition to other traditional functions. Eminent Buddhist monk Buddhakarshita Mahather and Buddhist scholar Dr Rashtrapal Mahather from India will attend the discussion as the chief and special guests respectively. Sangharan Shilalankar Mahather will be in the chair.

A 'shanti shobhajatra' (peace procession) will also be brought out in the morning under the auspices of the federation.

Dhammarajika Buddhist Monastery has organised separate functions at its centre at Kamalapur. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury will attend its afternoon phase as the chief guest. Vishuddhananda Mahathero will chair the function.

Parbatya Bouddha Sangha and Bangladesh Bouddha Krishiti Prochar Sangha have also chalked out elaborate programme.

Prayers will be offered to Lord Buddha in all Buddhist homes after which birds and pet animals will be given a share of food from the sacred platter.

The court had ordered dismissal of 68 cases.

89 persons jailed under Anti-terrorism Act so far

The court has awarded 89 persons to imprisonment on different terms in 44 cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act during the last eight and a half months, Home Ministry sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The sources said the court had awarded two persons to life imprisonment on charges of murder under the Anti-Terrorism Act while 24 persons received punishments on different terms on charges of hijacking during the period. Of the 24 hijackers, one person received ten years of imprisonment, six seven years, six six years, seven five years, three three years and another person one year of imprisonment.

The Home Ministry sources said 24 persons received punishment on various terms on charges of toll collection, of them three persons received ten years imprisonment, one seven years and sixteen five years of imprisonment.

Twenty four persons have been awarded imprisonment on charges of terrorism and robbing people during the same period. Of them one got 14 years of imprisonment, fifteen ten years and eight five years of imprisonment.

One was put into jail for five years on charges of obstruction of traffic.

Teasing girls costs two persons to six years of imprisonment and another two to five years.

The sources said four persons were awarded six years of imprisonment and one seven years on charges of setting fire and damaging public properties.

Three persons received fifteen years of imprisonment, six ten years and two of eight months on charges of indulging in street fights.

The law enforcing agencies have arrested a total of 1248 persons on 483 different charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act between September 15, 1992 and May 1, 1993, the Home Ministry sources said.

The Midnight File

Kabul comes under rocket attack

ISLAMABAD, May 5: The Afghan capital Kabul came under rocket attack Wednesday, the state-run Kabul Radio said late Wednesday. The broadcast, which could not be monitored fully because of poor reception, said the rockets were fired from the south of the capital. It was not clear how many rockets were fired or whether the attack caused any casualties. Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Premier-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and other Afghan leaders are currently in the Afghan city of Jalalabad for talks aimed at firming a consensus government under the March 7 Islamabad peace accord, reports AFP.

Hiroshi Nakajima reelected as WHO DG

GENEVA, May 5: Hiroshi Nakajima was re-elected as Director General of the World Health Organisation today despite persistent charges of financial irregularities involving senior members of the UN body. He was given a new five-year mandate by a vote of 93 to 57. Nakajima was the only candidate for the post in a closed door vote after the body's executive council in January recommended his mandate be reviewed, reports AFP.

Premadasa's funeral

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chance. All dignitaries will be provided maximum security. We have deployed heavily-armed soldiers and commandos for their protection," a Defence official said.

"There is a sinister campaign being launched by interested parties to create panic in the city... there will be attempts to provoke innocent people to violence," Minister of Housing Sirisena Cooray said in a statement.

Cooray did not say who was orchestrating the unrest, but police have warned of possible further Tiger suicide attacks.

"World leaders will be with us in this hour of grief. It is our duty to conduct ourselves in a manner appropriate to the occasion," Cooray said urging residents not to heed 'scare stories.'

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Pakistan's premier Mir Balakh Sher Mazari will top the list of foreign dignitaries, while US President Bill Clinton will be represented by his Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who visited Sri Lanka in May 1990, will also attend.

Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), will attend the funeral with his compatriot Ahmed Zaki, the Speaker of Maldives parliament.

Indian vice-president K R Narayanan is also expected. Foreign Ministry officials said senior politicians and officials from Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, PLO, South Korea and Thailand have also confirmed their participation.

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PM inaugurates programme at Shilpakala Academy Saturday

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a four-day programme at Shilpakala Academy in the capital on May 8 (Saturday) at 7:30 pm, on the occasion of Tagore's birth anniversary, said an official announcement Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Radio Bangladesh Dhaka will broadcast the inaugural function from Shilpakala Academy. The regional stations including Comilla and Thakurgaon will relay the programme simultaneously.

Food deficit

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South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa by the time if immediate steps were not taken to raise food production in those regions.

Developing countries produce three to four times as much food now as they did in 1950, Andersen said, adding that the population growth had, however, outstripped production in two-thirds of 116 developing countries.

Massive hunger could be averted if fertiliser and pesticide were made available to farmers in developing countries at prices they can afford, a press release issued by the United States Information Service (USIS) in Dhaka said yesterday, quoting Pinstrup-Andersen.

He, however, suggested that a short-term plan should include building roads from farm areas to market towns and cities for allowing farmers to earn a better price for their crops.

He also suggested for promoting new investments in agricultural research in the developing countries.

Transit link

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India hoped, he said, that during the tenure of the Bangladesh Prime Minister as the chairperson of SAARC, the regional forum would be able to achieve a lot.

On economic relations, Bhatia said that withdrawal of quota and tariff restrictions on the import of Jhandani sarees showed his country's desire to be 'helpful.'

The Indian minister said that there were some other ideas which could be discussed by the Joint Economic Commission. He suggested that the members of the chambers of commerce and businessmen in the two countries should more frequently exchange visits and that increased interaction should be encouraged.

Describing the signing of the SAPTA as a big achievement for further strengthening relations between the SAARC countries he said that compared to the ASEAN countries, the South Asian region was lagging behind.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Farooq Sobhan and the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K Raghunath, along with the members of the Bangladesh minister's delegation were present.

Heavy police contingents were present at 15 stations en route. Plain-clothed security personnel were seen snatching placards and stopping people from coming close to Sharif appeared at his compartment window to address them.

Prayers will be offered to Lord Buddha in all Buddhist homes after which birds and pet animals will be given a share of food from the sacred platter.

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