

Fresh arson attacks feared Protesters clash with police in Germany

SOLINGEN (Germany), June 5: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets across Germany on Saturday, showing their anger and sorrow over the neo-Nazi slayings of four Turkish girls and a woman a week ago, reports AP.

Police fought running battles with rock-throwing troublemakers at the rally in Solingen.

New arson attacks against a Turkish home and a Turkish restaurant revived fears that neo-Nazi violence will spread further.

Federal police rushed to investigate the fire at a house in the western German city of Hattingen. A separate investigation was underway at a heavily damaged Turkish restaurant in the southern city of Konstanz.

German politicians, seemingly at a loss for answers, are scrambling to contain the unrest at home and the damage to the country's image abroad.

Earlier Saturday, chief federal prosecutor Alexander von Stahl announced charges against three young men in the killings of the five Turks in Solingen. The May 29 crime is reunited Germany's most deadly neo-Nazi violence to date.

Von Stahl said charges of murder, attempted murder and arson were filed against a teenager and two men in their early 20s.

Those killings sparked a week of riots and protests, and led to the nationwide demonstrations on Saturday.

In Solingen, more than 6,000 demonstrators began marching into the city center shortly before noon. Several thousand more joined them as the day drew on.

Shortly after 3 pm riot-equipped police clashed with hard-core German leftists and young Turkish protesters, leaving the rally in chaos. Many of the protesters hurled bottles and rocks at the police.

Germans and Turks had joined in the protest marches. Several demonstrators carried two mock coffins draped in black cloths inscribed with the word "Asylum," a protest against Germany's decision to restrict its asylum policy for refugees.

Most store fronts were boarded up to protect windows that had not yet been broken. Signs on the boarded up windows read "No Hate - No Violence," in German and Turkish.

Demonstrations also took place in other German cities.

Malaria claims 66 in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, June 5: Malaria epidemic in three unions of Taherpur thana claimed 66 lives and attacked more than 20,000 people during the last six weeks, officials said, reports UNB.

Of them, 34 people died in last two weeks of the killer disease that spread in 23 villages of Uttar Sreepur, Uttar Bordial and Badaghat unions, they said without giving any details.

Unofficial sources said the death figure would be much higher as many cases were yet to be reported from far-flung areas. The three unions have a population of about 73,000.

The affected villages are: Lakma, Taragon, Rangachra, Birendranagar Pahartalballa, Indrapur, Vinodhupur, Kalagson, Banshtala, Jangalbari, Ratanpur, Lalghat, Majerhati Rajal, Rojoni, Digholbag, Shantipur, Korigara, Baragup, Puranghat, Mohora, Cahrepar and Brahmangan.

Some 54 medical staff including a dozen doctors, are working in 14 groups in the affected areas. Two temporary medical camps have also been set up.

Officials said that more than 94,000 chloroquine tablets and 320 bottles syrup and 25,200 premarquine tablets have been distributed nearly among 10,500 affected people.

Black Sea fleet issue Russia-Ukraine talks deadlocked

KIEV, June 5: Talks between Ukraine and Russia on the future of the Black Sea Fleet broke up in deadlock on Friday, leaving unresolved one of the key questions bedeviling relations between the two former Soviet republics, reports Reuters.

In Ukraine's parliament, deputies appeared to be leaning towards proclaiming Ukraine a temporary nuclear power, buoyed up by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's call for Kiev to retain some of the former Soviet missiles on its territory.

Deputies put off further debate until later in the month. Ukraine's President, Leonid Kravchuk, pledged the former Soviet republic would ratify the Start-1 and Non-Proliferation Treaties (NPT) as promised. The United States, France and Britain urged Ukraine to uphold its international obligations.

The Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers, meeting in Kiev and the fleet's headquarters of Sevastopol in Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, were unable to agree how to divide the 300-vessel fleet or terms for a possible Russian lease of the 200-year-old naval shore base.

"The talks went nowhere," Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Yuri Sergeyev said of the meeting between Andrei Kozirev and Anatoly Zlenko.

The Russian and Ukrainian sides were preparing completely different final statements on their computers.

Negotiators were locked for most of the afternoon in talks in Sevastopol and the Russian delegation delayed its departure for a further 2 and half hours at Kiev airport to allow the talks to continue.

Ukrainian diplomats said Russia was insisting on a 99-year lease on the naval base and payment over time. Ukraine was seeking payment in advance, a short lease and price concessions on imports of Russian oil and gas. It also wanted a quick division of the fleet's ships and equipment.

The two sides were given unable to agree on a time and location for Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk to meet to tackle outstanding issues.

3 held as transport workers, local boys clash at Postagola

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested three youngsters from Postagola in the city following a clash between transport workers and local boys Saturday noon.

The clash triggered off when a truck driver refused to provide lift to some local boys in his vehicle near Postagola Truck Stand.

Police intervened when the local boys were locked in a hour long clash with the transport workers.

Police also nabbed Mohammad Ali, Sohel and Mukhtar from the spot and brought the situation under control.

The Midnight File Syria invited to take part in Mideast peace talks

DAMASCUS, June 5: Syria has been officially invited by the Middle East peace process co-sponsors, the United States and Russia, to take part in the next round of talks in Washington on June 15, officials here said today. The Charges D'Affaires of the US and Russian embassies extended the invitation to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shara. Syria's official Sana news agency reported, reports AFP.

Afghan ministers' meeting cancelled

KABUL, June 5: A meeting of cabinet ministers representing nine Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan's coalition government was cancelled Saturday in a new blow to efforts aimed at ending the year-long fratricidal civil war. The meeting was called by Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar at his military headquarters in Charasiab, 15 kilometers south of Kabul. "We could not hold the meeting because all our brothers could not be present," said a spokesman of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party, reports AP.

3 Pak troops, 13 Somalis killed in clashes

MOGADISHU, June 5: At least three Pakistani UN troops and 13 Somalis were killed in clashes Saturday in Mogadishu, UN sources said, reports AFP.

More than 100 Somalis were wounded by gunfire, hospital officials said, in what may have been the bloodiest single day in Somalia's war-devastated capital since US led multinational forces landed here on December 9 to protect famine relief supplies from marauding gunmen.

Somali gunmen exchanged fire with UN troops in sporadic clashes marking the first major challenge to the UN since it took command of peacekeeping in Somalia from the United States on May 4.

Ayodhya

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the night of December 6.

"Anything can happen tomorrow," said Khan, as some 500 Hindu holy men arrived here for Chandraswami's two-day prayer meeting for world peace and religious harmony in India.

The hawkish Vishwa Hindu Parisad (VHP, World Hindu Forum) has accused Chandraswami of trying to drive a wedge between the Hindu clergy.

The VHP, which was at the forefront of the drive to destroy the mosque, warned Friday that it would oppose Chandraswami's "exorcism" plans, widely seen here as a project backed by the ruling Congress (I) Party.

"Thousands of our men will reach Ayodhya if someone tries to reach the temple site," warned a local VHP spokesman.

The VHP, two other fundamentalist organisations and India's main Hindu revivalist opposition party believe that the meeting is part of a Congress (I) plot to hijack their campaign in overwhelmingly Hindu India.

After the sacrilege, Prime Minister Rao, a devotee of Chandraswami, had promised to re-build the Babri Mosque as well as a temple but the plan never materialised because of the growing opposition from the Hindu parties.

The millionaire Indian guru, who claims to be close to kings and presidents, has invited 1,001 Hindu priests to the meeting with promises of gold and silver gifts.

Chakma

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Families which returned earlier had been given Taka 1,500 as housebuilding and agricultural grant and Taka 100 as travelling cost.

The assistance has been increased three fold under special arrangement in view of the inconveniences faced by the refugees.

Repatriated families would be taken to their houses with necessary security and their rehabilitation in their own land would be ensured.

Necessary steps would be taken for involving the tribal refugees in all uplift projects.

Steps have also been taken so that refugees on their return do not face any difficulty in getting back their houses and legal property.

The repatriated persons or community may contact the Thana Nirbahi Officer, Deputy Commissioner, Chairman of the Local Government Parisahad if necessary.

Dhaka, Bangkok to expand trade

Bangladesh and Thailand have agreed to expand trade in a balanced way within the framework of a broader bilateral cooperation, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached at the fourth session of the Bangladesh-Thailand Joint Commission held recently in Bangkok, officials said in Dhaka yesterday.

Dhaka and Bangkok, under an agreed minutes signed at the conclusion of the session, decided to enhance transparency between the business communities of the two countries for increased interactions.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the meeting, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry said the two governments would act as "facilitators" in the new business drive.

The official appreciated the rapid development of Thailand's industrial sector. "Thailand has achieved an impressive and steady economic growth over the past few years, and that industry is now poised to graduate to higher technology," he said.

"There is now ample scope for relocation of their industries at mid-technology level to Bangladesh."

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman led the Bangladesh delegation at the meeting. The team included Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General (economic affairs) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Dhaka next year at a mutually convenient time.

During his stay in Bangkok, Reaz Rahman called on Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri and his Thai counterpart Dr Paracha Guna-Kasem.

They discussed expansion of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of joint investment, maritime and civil aviation, tourism, fisheries and livestock and cultural affairs.

Members of the Bangladesh delegation also met senior members of the Federation of Thai Industry and visited some industrial plants.

The official observed that the cooperation between Thailand, a member of ASEAN, and Bangladesh, current chairman of the SAARC, could help forge and important linkage between the two Asian sub-regions.

Plot to kill Bush in Kuwait: Trial of 14 begins

KUWAIT, June 5: Two Iraqis, accused of plotting to murder former US President George Bush, pleaded guilty to charges that carry the death penalty Saturday, the first day of a trial which human rights activists are watching with skepticism, reports AP.

Twelve other Iraqi and Kuwaiti defendants pleaded not guilty as a three-judge panel opened the non-jury trial in the heavily guarded State Security Court.

US officials say the plot was hatched by the Iraqi government. Baghdad denies the charge.

The two Iraqis, Wali al-Ghazali and Raad-al-Asadi, sat quietly with the other suspects in a black metal cage during the session.

The defendants were all bearded and dressed in light gray shirts and dark gray trousers. They looked rested and there were no visible signs of torture.

Seven defense lawyers sat facing the judges, who took turn reading the charges brought against the group.

The men on trial were arrested by Kuwaiti authorities April 13, a day before Bush and his entourage arrived for a three-day visit to receive the thanks of a grateful nation.

Twelve of the suspects face death by hanging. Two Kuwaitis who hid the alleged would-be assassins, who posed as whisky smugglers, could get five years in prison.



Two of the 95 Bosnian Muslims fleeing strife-torn Germany who arrived at Sarajevo in two buses Friday after surviving intensive Serb mortar attacks in which two refugees died and 16 others were wounded. — Star TV photo

Gorazde still under Serb attack

SARAJEVO, June 5: For the eighth straight day, Gorazde was reportedly under attack Saturday by Bosnian Serbs with heavy artillery. Serbs also blocked UN observers from reaching the embattled Muslim enclave, reports AP.

"While the UN Security Council adopted empty resolutions, civilians were dying in Gorazde," Mustafa Kurtovic, a local Ham radio operator, said Saturday.

He was referring the UN Security Council decision Friday to send 10,000 more peacekeepers to guard six Bosnian cities. Critics say the plan will only create Muslim ghettos and do little to stop Serb aggression.

Kurtovic said Serb forces were stepping up their offensive on the enclave, launching an artillery attack on villages southwest of Gorazde.

Renewed fighting around Gorazde and in the embattled region of Brcko in northern Bosnia came a day after Bosnian Serbs rebuffed international mediators who are trying to revive a dormant peace plan. One mediator said Serb leader Radovan Karadzic wasn't ready for serious negotiations.

"He still thinks he can do what he likes at the moment," European Community mediator Lord Owen said Friday. "This isn't the time for serious negotiations with Dr. Karadzic."

Kurtovic reported many killed and wounded around Gorazde, one of six enclaves the Security Council said will receive United Nations protection as "safe areas." He also cited a desperate lack of food, medication and other vital hospital supplies, including oxygen.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb military authorities, quoted by Belgrade radio, Saturday accused Bosnian Muslim forces of starting an all-out rocket and infantry attack on Serb positions in the Gorazde region on Saturday.

Sarajevo radio reported that a large-scale offensive by Serb forces on areas held by Bosnian government troops around Brcko had continued through the night and into Saturday.

Advani new BJP chief

NEW DELHI, June 5: Veteran politician Lal Krishna Advani was elected president today of India's main opposition party, the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP, Indian people's party), reports AFP.

The 67-year-old Advani, touted by the party as a future prime minister, was elected unopposed for a two-year term, BJP officials said. He takes over as BJP president from Murlidhar Manohar Joshi.

Advani led the BJP from 1986-90, during which time the party boosted its strength in parliament from two seats to 89. The BJP now holds 119 seats in parliament, second only to the ruling Congress (I).

Advani also spearheaded the BJP's campaign to build a Hindu temple on the site of the 16th century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. The mosque was demolished by Hindu extremists in December, triggering a wave of Hindu-Muslim violence.

Party source told the Press Trust of India news agency that following his election, Advani was likely to give up his post of leader of the opposition in parliament.

Budget on June 10

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tween the eighth and ninth sessions — were moved in the House by the treasury bench in the five-day long last session. The ordinances were duly laid before the House on the first day of the ninth session May 9 last.

On June 8, the parliament members will have two separate general discussions on issues of national import — problems emerging out of the Farakka barrage in India and the crisis in the country's jute sector. On June 9 they will have another general discussion on ways and means of alleviating poverty.

The budget would be placed, along with the supplementary one, in the afternoon of June 10.

The first week of the session will see two sittings a day, sources in the advisory committee said. Besides these issues, 10 fresh bills are also expected to be introduced during session.

The House is likely to vote on the budget on June 30.

Meanwhile, some MPs, including Monirul Hoque Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party, have submitted a resolution to the Parliament Secretariat seeking discussion in the House about who was acting as the President in the absence of President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who is out of the country.

The President went to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj last month.

According to the constitution, the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad is supposed to function in the absence of the President. But Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali was not functioning as the Acting President following Abdur Rahman Biswas' departure for Saudi Arabia on May 26.

According to convention, Parliament today will elect a panel of chairmen to conduct business of the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The order of the day also includes adoption of obituary references. The budget session, according to t

Environment Day

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part of the day's programme.

Minister for Forests and Environment Abdullah Al-Noman led the procession also attended by State Minister Goyeswar Chandra Roy and other ministry officials.

The procession was organised by the Directorate of Environment.

Prime Minister Begum Khalida Zia attended a seminar as chief guest at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium where she called upon the political parties to include environment as an issue in their party agenda.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in cooperation with the UN Information Centre (UNIC), organised separate discussion meetings at the UNIC auditorium. The UNIC also organised a poster exhibition.

The Bangladesh Society for Conservation of the Environment and the Environment Journalists' Forum brought out separate processions in the city.

Pak Gen Akbar dead

ISLAMABAD, June 5: A former Major General who allegedly masterminded a conspiracy to topple Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan in 1951 died here today at the age of 81, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, reports AFP.

Mohammad Akbar Khan was arrested along with several other officers after the conspiracy was uncovered in the making.

The late Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Pakistan's famous leftist poet and winner of the Lenin-prize, was also arrested for his involvement in the plot.

Akbar Khan and the other accused were held in jail for three years before a trial ended inconclusively.

PM: Environment

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the framework of the SAARC.

Begum Zia hoped that national, international and regional initiatives would add a new dimension to the efforts of maintaining the ecological balance.

She said "We did not contribute to the degradation of the environment but we were one of the worst victims of this global scourge."

The Prime Minister said that the desertification process in the northern region of the country was gradually getting worse and the sea level was also rising.

According to an international survey, rise of the sea level by one metre may inundate 16 per cent of our coastal region, she pointed out.

She said that about 8.5 crore saplings would be planted this year as part of a green belt being created along the coasts.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that her government has taken up the challenge to protect the environment by breaking the more than 100-year old poverty circle.

"We have taken up the issue of the environment as part of our development programme and we have adopted policies for alleviation of poverty," she said.

Begum Zia mentioned the establishment of the International Centre of Science, Technology and Environment for Densely Populated Regions (ICSTED) in Dhaka with cooperation from Nobel laureate Abdus Salam's Italy-based Third World Academy of Science.

Forests and Environment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, State Minister for Forests and Environment Goyeswar Chandra Roy, Secretary of the Ministry Abdus Selim and Director General of the Environment Directorate Resalat Ahmed also spoke at the seminar attended by ministers, MPs and diplomats.

Noman, in his address, pointed out the different adverse effects being faced by the country due to global environmental degradation.

More than 2.5 million pilgrims from around the world including those from Bangladesh performed Hajj this year.

About 12,000 pilgrims from Bangladesh this year performed Hajj. Of them, 8060 are ballottee hajjis and the rest non-ballottees.

তাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অনুরোধে এককালীন সমুদয় বকেয়া পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে সারচার্জ ব্যতীত পানি/পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ১৫ই জুন '৯৩ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে।

ঢাকা ওয়াসার ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট-এর নেতৃত্বে ত্র্যামান আদালত খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা ছাড়াও পিডিআর এ্যাট্টার অধীন আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করছে। বিশেষ স্কেয়াড গ্রাহকের বাড়ী বাড়ী তল্লাশি চালিয়ে খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করছে।

বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে আজই সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিস অথবা ওয়াসা ভবনে বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) বা সদস্য (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯)-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নি ও আইনানুগ কঠোর ব্যবস্থা এড়াবার জন্য এবং সারচার্জ ব্যতীত বিল পরিশোধের সুযোগ গ্রহণের নিমিত্তে আজই বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি/পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধ করুন।

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত
।। ঢাকা ওয়াসা ।।

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