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UN air raid on Mogadishu continues 20 killed as Pak peacekeepers open fire on demonstrators



Pakistani UN soldiers escort a Somali prisoner who was allegedly caught with a hand grenade near their headquarters in Mogadishu on Saturday. UN forces detained 200 Somalis during Saturday's strike on the Mogadishu arms depots and radio station of Warid Mohamed Farah Aided according to UN force commander Lieutenant-General Bir. —AFP/UNB photo

MOGADISHU, June 13: Pakistani UN peacekeepers killed at least 20 people and injured upto 50 today when they opened fire without warning on demonstrators in the Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses and hospital sources said, reports Reuter, AFP.

Reporters said they counted 20 bodies in visits to the city's two main hospitals after Pakistani troops shot into a crowd of several thousands people protesting a UN military strike against armed gunmen in the country.

The toll was expected to be higher as demonstrators were believed to have dragged some bodies into neighbouring houses.

It was the second time in two days that UN troops had killed demonstrators who were protesting raids carried out hours earlier by US aircraft.

US AC-130 flying gunships Sunday blitzed an ammunition dump close to the Mogadishu

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JS debate on suppl budget Opposition flays govt for spending on unproductive sectors

Opposition members flayed the government for squandering money in some unproductive sectors in the current fiscal year when a general discussion on the supplementary budget for 1992-93 began in the house yesterday, reports UNB.

They charged the government with inefficiency and failure in full utilisation of the allocated funds in vital sectors like agriculture, education and industry while excess expenditure was made in unproductive sectors, including defence.

The ruling party MPs, however, refuted the allegations made by their opponents and claimed that the increased spendings in different sectors were aimed at welfare of the people.

After two days of recess following the budget presentation, 37 members from both treasury and opposition benches took part in the discussion lasting eight hours in two sittings. Of the participants, 18 were from

the BNP, 12 from the Awami League, four from the Jamaat, two from the Jatiya Party and one from the Ganatantri Party.

In all, 14 members from opposition and treasury benches took part in the discussion during the day.

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JP walks out in protest

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (JP) MPs staged a walkout in Parliament last night protesting a few comments of the Home Minister on the JP chief former President H M Ershad.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury remarked that Ershad was both "a terrorist and a thief".

The minister was making a statement on the police action against JP activists in the city on June 7.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali

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Strong narcotics control policy needed to combat drug abuse

By Masud Hasan Khan

Law enforcement agency officials fear that the international drug traffickers may try to ship a large portion of heroin, processed from opium, through the "porous borders" of Bangladesh.

Officials engaged in the drug war said, at the moment, there was no national narcotics control board to oversee the drug control programme.

The actual number of drug abusers in the country was yet to be known in the absence of any nation-wide survey, they said.

No major programme could be taken up to rehabilitate the drug addicts over the years, the officials said.

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) is severely understaffed, and short of fund and logistic support.

Of the total 1274 sanctioned strength of the DNC, 468 positions across the country were

still lying vacant.

DNC officials said that they had to spend more time disposing of pending cases than chasing traffickers and drug peddlers.

The department, between 1990 and November 1992, had filed 6190 narcotics cases against 6213 people.

A total of 2093 cases have been disposed off while 4085 more are under review of the courts.

According to the available statistics from the DNC, 14 kg of heroin was recovered last year.

The DNC also recovered 1.5 kg of cocaine and more than four kg of hashish during the period.

In 1991, the heroin haul was 14 kg 481 grams.

Most of the heroin recovered were "brown sugar" — a crude

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PM seeks Tokyo's help for speedy industrialisation

Bangladesh Sunday sought Japanese assistance for speedy industrialisation of the country which now offers a good incentive package for investment, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia pointed out the incentives provided to create a favourable investment climate when the newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador, Shigeo Takenaka, called on her at the PM's office.

Referring to the Japanese projects at the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), Begum Zia said similar zones would be set up at Savar and Khulna, where the investors of Japan can take part in joint venture.

She pointed at the incentives provided to private sector and said there were wide scopes for foreign private investment in coal mining, gas exploration, power generation and other important sectors.

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Climatologists predict Destructive floods, heavy monsoon rains in future

By Staff Correspondent

The region comprising the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins would experience more destructive flooding while monsoon rainfall over Bangladesh would increase in future, climatological scientists predicted at an international workshop in the capital.

Speaking at a post-workshop press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) chairman Dr. Qazi Kholiquzaman Ahmad said that climate model studies indicate that the country will become warmer and a possible rise in monsoon rains may increase the inflow of fresh water and sediments to the coastal areas resulting in natural prevention against permanent inundation of land owing to sea level rise.

The two-day workshop on the 'Greenhouse Effect and

Climate Change: An Assessment of the Effects on Bangladesh', organised by the BUP, ended in the capital on Friday.

More than 60 climatological experts and other resource persons from India, Pakistan, Nepal, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Austria, Vietnam, New Zealand and Bangladesh took part in the workshop.

BSS adds: Scientific studies reviewed at the workshop found that increased rainfall would increase soil moisture and reduce irrigation demand.

The studies also found that higher atmospheric carbon dioxide content could increase crop yield, but higher winter temperatures could reduce wheat yield.

The workshop recommended that Bangladesh should not

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World Human Rights Confce begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A World Conference on Human Rights begins today in the Austrian capital Vienna organised by the United Nations. The conference is expected to be attended by delegates from 180 countries.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman is leading the Bangladesh delegation in the conference.

The World Human Rights Conference was preceded by a

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Hasina pleads for women's rights

Staff Correspondent

The NGO Forum on Human Rights, attended by more than 1300 NGOs from five continents, was inaugurated in Vienna, Austria on June 11, according to a report reaching The Daily Star from Bangladesh NGO representatives attending the conference.

Sheikh Hasina, in her speech, reiterated that Bangladesh had won political freedom, but the much bigger war against poverty and backwardness has just begun. She added, "Human rights, of which the right of development is an integral part, is still a distant goal in Bangladesh." She said "Each human being, regardless of his or her race, religion, culture, language, ethnic origin or geographical location must benefit from the same effective protection of human rights by the UN." She urged speedy ratification of the CEDAW document.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Libya's envoy to Congo shot dead

BRAZZAVILLE, June 13: Libya's ambassador to Congo was shot dead during the night when he failed to stop at a check point, the head of Congo's diplomatic corps said today. The ambassador, Mahmoud Mohamed Saad was killed by security forces at around 3 am. The Cameroonian ambassador to Congo, Jean-Hilare Mbea-Mbea said, reports Reuter.

Malaysian trade team in city

A Malaysian delegation led by the General Manager of Prot Klang Authority arrived here yesterday on a five-day visit aimed at promoting trade between the two countries. The delegation will meet Bangladesh business community in the city today and in Chittagong on June 16, reports UNB.

Tansu Ciller to become Turkey's PM

ANKARA, June 13: Economist Tansu Ciller will become Turkey's first woman Prime Minister after winning an overall majority in the second round of a leadership vote by members of the ruling True Path Party. Ciller, 47, was elected party leader — and therefore Prime Minister — by 933 of 1,169 delegates at a party congress here. Tradition dictates she will now be asked to form a government, reports AFP.

Father, son killed in road mishap

MYMENSINGH, June 13: Two people, identified as father and son, were killed at Bhatti-savar bus stand in Nandail thana on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway today (Sunday). Police said Ali Hossain (52) and his son Abdul Kader (3) were hit by a speeding bus when they were waiting at the bus stand at about 11 am. Ali Hossain died on the spot and his son succumbed to injuries at Nandail Health complex soon after admission, reports UNB.



A woman, an ex-detainee from a Serbian detention camp, has a piece of paper attached to her forehead saying "Bosnia: 200,000 dead" while participating in an open air conference held by the "Society for Endangered People" in Vienna yesterday. The rally was held to mark the World Conference on Human Rights beginning there today. —AFP photo

50 killed as Serb rockets hit hospital

SARAJEVO, June 13: Rockets fired by Serb forces killed 50 people in a makeshift hospital in the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia today, Sarajevo radio reported, said Reuter.

There was no independent confirmation of the toll but the Muslim controlled radio, which monitors Amateur radio transmissions from the town, said there were no survivors in the shattered building.

"Pieces of human bodies are mixed with cement, broken boards, bricks and mortar," the radio said.

It said more than 600 of Gorazde's population of around 60,000 had been killed in a 17-day offensive Serb forces defying its designation as a UN "safe area."

Earlier, Serb forces pushed closer to Gorazde today, breaking through several defence lines on the right bank of the river Drina, the radio reported.

The Bosnian capital of Sarajevo came under sporadic artillery and mortar fire throughout the night. At daybreak, the city's old town quarter was rocked by heavy machineguns.

Small arms fire crackled around Muslim defence lines near Vogosca as ground fighting erupted.

Pak govt, PDA begin talks

ISLAMABAD, June 13: Pakistan's government and the main opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) began talks here today to explore possibilities for mutual cooperation, political sources said, reports AFP.

A four member team appointed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and six representatives of former Premier Benazir Bhutto's PDA met two weeks after the political rivals agreed to discuss ways to resolve the country's political crisis.

A face-to-face meeting between Sharif and Bhutto may be possible this month depending on how the talks proceed, the sources said.

Rafsanjani wins second term

TEHRAN, June 13: Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani won a second four-year term as president of Iran today with a reduced vote that underlined the waning popularity of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution, reports Reuter.

Diplomats described the result and the low turnout as a near-humiliation which could severely limit the president's authority.

Final results of Friday's poll, announced early today gave the 58-year-old leader 63.2 per cent of the vote compared with 94.5 per cent in the 1989 election.

Sylhet flood situation unchanged

The flood situation in Sylhet district has worsened further with the rise of water in Sadar, Balaganj and Fenchuganj thana of the district while the overall situation in the greater Sylhet areas remained unchanged, according to reports received from different district control rooms, reports BSS.

At least two persons died and four were reported missing while few hundreds head of cattle died in the monsoon flood, caused by torrential rains for the last few days. The report of the death of two persons was received from Kulaura and Kamalganj thanas under Maulvibazar district. The four persons were reported missing from Kanaighat and Goanghat thanas of the Sylhet district.

The train communication between greater Sylhet and Dhaka has remained snapped as rail tracks were damaged by the erosion of the river Khowai, which also caused damage to embankments near Laskarpur stations. The road communications, suspended due to inundation of Korangi bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, was restored this afternoon following recession of water.

When contacted, Sylhet district control room told BSS over phone that the flood situation in Baniarchang and Golapganj remained unchanged while that in Kanaighat, Goanghat, Joyan-

tipur and Jakiganj improved slightly.

Over 75,000 acres of land with standing crops went under water. Several kilometre of embankment was damaged, 569 km of inter-district road links destroyed and 176 educational institutions were damaged, they said.

The overall flood situation in Maulvibazar was improving with the recession of flood waters which badly affected 21 unions and partially 39 unions in the six thanas of the district.

According to Hobiganj district control room, the overall flood situation remained unchanged today. However, rain water started receding from various low-lying areas of the district.

The sources said the badly affected thanas of the district are Chunarughat, Hobiganj sadar, Bahubal and Nabinaganj while the less-affected thanas are Baniarchang, Ajmiriganj and Lagat.

In Sunamganj district, 10 thanas were hit by the flood and the inter-district road communications were disrupted because of damage of roads, bridges and culverts by flash flood. The situation in the district, however, improved substantially.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman visited flood

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Professionals thank PM for sacking Huda

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Coordination Council of the Engineers, Agriculturists, Physicians and the Civil Servants yesterday thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for dismissing State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda Saturday.

The professionals' council, in a meeting at the Krishbid Institution, observed that the former Establishment Minister had promoted high government officials violating all rules and regulations of public service. It also charged Huda with concealing facts from the Prime Minister, a press release of the council said.

The sacked minister, the meeting further observed, had obstructed the Premier's commitment of fair investigation into the promotions of 19 Joint Secretaries to the rank of Additional Secretaries.

The council also accused Huda of awarding promotions instead of punishing those who threatened to cripple the civil administration of the democratic government.

The meeting demanded that all the promotions, made during April 91 - June 93, be cancelled for the sake of establishing transparency and to establish justice in the administration.

Senior BIDS staff join movement against DG

By Staff Correspondent

The senior fellows of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), at a meeting Sunday with the researchers of the Institute, expressed solidarity with their movement against the 'controversial' appointment of Dr S A Latifur Reza as its Director General.

They also decided to issue a statement today resenting what they called, the high-handed-

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Royalist forces ready to 'liberate' Cambodian provinces

PHNOM PENH, June 13: The Royalist party which won UN-run elections last month said today it was ready to mobilize its forces to liberate a part of Cambodia that was declared autonomous by hardliners of the losing party, reports AFP.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of nominal head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said we are ready to set our own forces to fight and liberate that part of Cambodia where his half brother, Prince Norodom Chakrapong, has set up a self-styled autonomous region.

Ranariddh heads FUNCINPEC, a Royalist party, while Chakrapong is deputy premier of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) which rules in Phnom Penh after being installed there by invading Vietnamese troops in early 1979.

"I have instructed a few days ago our members to take measures, including taking arms, to protect themselves," Ranariddh said at a news conference.

Earlier, Prince Ranariddh, offered in a communique Saturday to share power with the rival CPP in a "joint interim administration."

The Prince criticised the tactics of the CPP and called on it to accept the election results.

Prince Ranariddh condemned what he described as "the unacceptable blackmail measures" of the CPP, notably its threat to separate seven eastern provinces from the rest of the country and the "summary executions" of FUNCINPEC supporters.

"In view of the current crisis in Cambodia," the French-language statement said, "FUNCINPEC asks only that the CPP recognise on one hand the election results and accept on the other the principle of sharing responsibilities and duties in the framework of a joint interim administration."

Prince Chakrapong, said earlier Saturday that the CPP would not accept the election results and announced the secession of the seven provinces.

Observers said the move was apparently being orchestrated by hardliners in the Phnom Penh government, and CPP supporters have staged several violent demonstrations in three provinces that have forced the United Nations to withdraw its personnel.

Prince Ranariddh's communique also called on outside governments, and "especially those which signed the Paris Peace Accords" on Cambodia in October 1991, to recognise and endorse the election results "and make them respected by all parties," within Cambodia.

The Prince had opposed the June 3 decision of his father to form a FUNCINPEC-CPP coalition government, with he and Phnom Penh government Prime Minister Hun Sen as vice ministers and Prince Sihanouk as the Prime Minister.