

Violence takes 22 more lives in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 4: Another day and night of violence in black townships east of here has claimed 22 lives, police said today, bringing the death toll from five days of fighting to 141, reports AFP.

In two of the main flash-points, Kaitheong and Tokosa, petrol bombs and burning barricades lit up night sky Tuesday, according to residents. People were avoiding minibuses, taxis this morning after reports that snipers had taken potshots at commuters on their way to work.

Police said today that 16 bodies had been retrieved from Kaitheong and Tokosa throughout Tuesday and into this morning, with another six found at Daveyton and Tembisa, where a 200-strong Zulu mob massacred 33 people during a four-hour rampage Saturday night.

The townships had calmed down today, police said, after a virtual war between patrolling African National Congress (ANC) supporters and Zulu migrants in the townships' single sex hostels, bastions of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Ghali asks for fund to save peacekeepers

LONDON, Aug 4: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked world leaders today for instant funds to save peacekeeping missions threatened by the world organisation's worst cash crisis, the Guardian newspaper said, reports Reuters.

No new missions would be possible and even those under way now were in danger, Boutros-Ghali said.

The British daily said Boutros-Ghali personally appealed to US President Bill Clinton and other leaders of the United Nations Security Council in a letter reaching them today.

He told them the UN's grave cash crisis, with record arrears just when the organisation's commitments had mushroomed, jeopardised operations in Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Cambodia and elsewhere. Boutros-Ghali has repeatedly warned about the financial crisis but the Guardian said this was the first time he had made personal appeals to world leaders.

UN, Lebanese experts to map troop deployment

BEIRUT, Aug 4: UN and Lebanese military experts will work out how, when and where Lebanese troops will be deployed alongside peacekeepers in south Lebanon, reports AP.

The officers assigned to the task by the United Nations and the Lebanese army will also determine who will be in command in situations involving both forces, military sources said Wednesday.

Officials hope the move will avert a repetition of Israel's air, sea and artillery blitz against south Lebanon's guerrillas last week, which left 147 people dead and 496 wounded, and forced 500,000 from their homes.

The deployment of the Lebanese army in the south is

Marcos' son gets diplomatic passport

MANILA, Aug 4: The Philippines has issued a diplomatic passport to the son of late President Ferdinand Marcos so that he can fetch the remains of his father in Hawaii for a planned burial next month, an official said today, reports Reuters.

The passport is needed to protect Congressman Ferdinand Marcos Jr from possible detention in the United States for case filed against his family's estate, Press Secretary Jesus Sison told reporters.

The former president's estate has been found liable for damages in a case filed in Hawaii in behalf of 10,000 victims of human rights abuses in The Philippines.

The US has shown itself to be hostile to the Marcoses in the past. The diplomatic passport should entitle me to immunity," Ferdinand Jr told reporters.

He said he hoped President Fidel Ramos, a second cousin of Marcos, would attend the funeral. "We never desired to have an antagonistic relationship with them."

Mandela, who arrived back today from a week-long tour to Taiwan and Malaysia, phoned President Frederik De Klerk late Tuesday before his departure from Kuala Lumpur to discuss the violence.

Speaking to reporters before leaving, Mandela said he had told De Klerk his information was that security forces were implicated in the violence.

A man who claimed on television here Sunday he saw police escorting thugs into Tembisa on Saturday night has gone into hiding after neighbours told him police were looking for him, the black-oriented daily The Sowetan reported today.

Mandela said De Klerk had responded that a notorious criminal gang, the toasters, had sparked the violence in Tembisa for no political motive.

Violence was expected to dominate debate in the weekly cabinet meeting today.

De Klerk told a news conference Tuesday after an all-day caucus of the ruling National Party that cabinet would be "looking at ways of restoring law and order," on the basis of a detailed police briefing.

It said the letter used blunt language to make plain that unless member states paid up much of the contribution arrears they owed within the next month, the UN would have to freeze any new financial commitments.

On Monday he said he had finally recruited an extra 7,600 peacekeepers to help protect "safe areas" in Bosnia but the newspaper said the money first had to be found to pay for them. Boutros-Ghali said the UN's cash reserves were virtually exhausted, amounting to only 380 million dollars, barely enough to pay this month's running costs of the UN secretariat.

Britain is one of the few UN members to have paid its dues in full and the Secretary-General's letter thanked Prime Minister John Major for this.

Other countries owe a total of 848 million dollars for the regular UN budget and 1.2 billion for peacekeeping with the United States and Russia among the worst debtors, the letter said.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the biennial conference of the Dhaka District BNP at the auditorium of the institution of Engineers in the city yesterday. Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan are on her right while State Minister for Environment and Forest Goyeswar Chandra Roy and DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman are seen on the left.

Death of Baudouin Hasina signs condolence book

AWAMI League chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina yesterday signed the condolence book kept at the Belgian Embassy here in connection with the death of King Baudouin, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina wrote in the condolence book, "We are deeply shocked at the death of King Baudouin. We recall with deep respect the contribution made by the late King to the development pursuit of Belgium. I convey my heartfelt sympathy to the members of the deceased and pray for the peace of the departed soul."

On her arrival at the Belgian Embassy, Sheikh Hasina stood in silence for some time before the portrait of the late King to show her respect to his memory.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP and Belgian Charge d'Affaires Benoit L A Brique were present on the occasion.

Wild picnic!

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 4: A group of youths enjoyed a picnic at Bahirgola in the town by eating up a roasted lizard (guishap) on Tuesday creating sensation among the people, reports UNB.

Local people said the youths numbering 10 hunted a lizard weighing about 15 kg in the morning and asked a local doctor about any side-effect if they ate the lizard.

When the doctor assured them of no side-effect, they arranged a picnic and ate it up with much enthusiasm, witnesses said.

Hare Rd bldg

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The meeting was attended by MPs ATM Alamgir, Keramat Ali Talukder and Dr Serajul Hoq of the BNP. Kazi Abdur Rashid and Prof Abdul Qudus of the Awami League and Shahjahan Chowdhury of the Jamaat-Islami and senior officials of the ministry.

One held for selling fake SSC results

SATKHIRA, Aug 4: Police today arrested one person from the town allegedly for selling fake results of the SSC examinations of the Jessore Board, reports UNB.

He was identified as Jalaluddin who confessed that he had the result book and was selling results to the candidates who secured first division, second division and third division, at Tk 30 to 20, and Tk 15 respectively.

3 brigadiers promoted

By Staff Correspondent

Three Brigadiers have been promoted to the rank of Major General, a source in the Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday. Those promoted have also been assigned new postings.

Brig. Abdur Rab who was Director, Weapons Equipment and Standardisation on being promoted to the rank of Major General has been appointed Master General of Ordnance (MGO).

Brig. Mostafa Kamaluddin, PSC, Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) on being promoted to the rank of Major General has been appointed Commandant of the Defence Staff College.

Brig. Ezaz Ahmed Chowdhury, has been promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed G.O.C 19 Division. The services of Major General Amsa Amin, PSC, NDC has been placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for being posted as ambassador, Major General Mahbubur Rahman has been appointed G.O.C of 66 Infantry Division.

New constitution Yeltsin convenes special assembly Aug 13-14

MOSCOW, Aug 4: Russian President Boris Yeltsin today announced the convening of an assembly of territorial leaders later this month to discuss the new Constitution now before regional parliaments, reports AFP.

The special assembly will be held on August 13 and 14 in Petrozavodsk in Karelia, near the Finnish border.

Republican leaders and delegates from eight associations representing other regional entities are to consider the "contradictions" of the current draft Constitution, Interfax news agency quoted the president as saying.

Yeltsin, without giving details, said he had a recipe for reconciling the republics which are part of the Russian federation.

The constitutional conference, which ended its work on July 12, was to convene again in September, Itar-Tass news agency and Interfax reported.

"Russia's constitutional process is gathering speed" as "the regions, territories, republics are actively examining the draft" text put forward by the constitutional conference, Yeltsin said.

The president has been striving for several months to reform the constitution, replacing that of the deceased Soviet

Ukraine to grant temporary visa to Demjanjuk

LONDON, Aug 4: Ukraine said Tuesday it would grant a temporary visa to the Ukrainian-born former Nazi concentration guard John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian news agency Ukrinform said in a report monitored here by the BBC, says AFP.

The report quoted a statement by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel Yuriy Shcherbak saying Demjanjuk could return to his homeland on a private invitation for one month. The ambassador said this did not amount to granting him asylum.

Bangabandhu Award for 9 writers

The Bangabandhu Gobeshona Sangstha has decided to give Bangabandhu Award to nine writers for their contributions to writing books on Liberation War and contemporary history, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the selection committee of the Sangstha held yesterday, a press release said.

The recipients are: Shawkat Osman, Kabir Chowdhury, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, Mazharul Islam, M R Akhtar Mukul, Major Rafiqul Islam PSC, Abir Ahmed, Abdul Matin and Dr Mohammad Hannan.

Mannan denies use of child labour in garments sector

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday categorically denied the allegation of the use of child labour in garments industries, reports UNB.

"It's a conspiracy... we have no child labourers in the garments industries. We don't have 'slave labourers' as used in carpet industries in the neighbouring countries," he said.

The labour minister was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at its office in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The country which is going to enforce the Harkin Bill (The Child Labour Deterrence Act of 1993) has reached its present state of development by using slave labourers as evidenced in history and portrayed in the novel the "Roots."

Mannan said the present government is trying to divert child labourers to schools under the food for education programme.

Lauding the role of garments industries in creating job opportunities, particularly for women, he urged the entrepreneurs to set up more garments factories and linkage industries like textiles.

"There is a vast scope for expansion of textile industries... we can use our own fabrics in the garments industries," he said, adding that the government will provide all-out assistance for setting up more textile mills.

Pak-US talks on F-16 planes begin

ISLAMABAD, Aug 4: A US team began talks with Pakistan's Defence Production Ministry today about 60 F-16 fighter planes which Islamabad has been paying for but so far not received, a senior government official said, reports Reuters.

Pakistan agreed in 1989 to buy the fighters from the United States and was due to take delivery of the first six aircraft last March. But the agreement was suspended in 1990 when Washington cut off all military and new economic aid to Pakistan, suspecting it of making nuclear weapons, a charge Pakistan denies.

"The talks between the two sides started this morning and we are hopeful that the issue will be resolved," said the official of the Ministry of Defence Production, who declined to be named.

Pakistan which has paid 658 million dollars of the 1.4 billion dollar bill on the deal, asked Washington last month to supply the fighters or refund all payments already made.

Khaleida

From Page 1 Col 4 and undertake political training and to project the development programmes of the government and the negative politics of a section of opposition parties.

Referring to the Awami League MPs, throwing of shoes and files in the Jatiya Sangsad during its session and its frequent threats not to allow BNP to remain in power, the Deputy Leader said the Awami League was a restless party with no programmes and policy.

He also criticised the actions of the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Barrister Nazmul Huda said a section of opposition parties had launched false allegation of 'corruption' against the government as a strategy of hiding their past corruption and misdeeds.

Izetbegovic

From Page 1 Col 5 United Nations. The UN has already taken a bit of it and has its flag flying there," he told television reporters.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton said yesterday NATO's approval of a US plan for air strikes against Bosnian Serbs will lead to a "fair peace."

"I appreciate the support of the allies for the United States' position," Clinton said after the Alliance agreed to make immediate plans for air strikes if the Serbs continued their "strangulation" of Sarajevo.

Answering questions from reporters during a White House ceremony Clinton said the NATO decision shows that "the allies are determined to protect the United Nations forces there, determined to secure the humanitarian relief programme."

He said he hoped the move would help lead to a "fair peace agreement that can then be enforced" in the former Yugoslavia.

"We'd like to see an end to the fighting. There should be an end to the shelling of Sarajevo, an end to the misery before we go through another winter with grave, grave difficulties ahead, and I hope the message will be there," Clinton said.

Sugar price

From page 1 col 7 that the price of imported sugar should be fixed at such a rate that would not cause the BSFC any losses. In view of this, the ministry suggested raising of the ex-mill price for keeping the retail price of both imported and local sugar at a similar level.

However, a reduction of the tariff value and duty on the imported sugar was also suggested as an alternative measure.

Only a few months ago, the import of sugar was free, but restrictions were imposed later. However, since there was a deficit in supply, import of one lakh metric tons through the BSFC was arranged.

The 16 sugar mills under the BSFC produced 1,87,483 tonnes during the season in 1992-93 fiscal year, while the country's annual requirement has been estimated at some 300,000 tonnes.

The retail price of sugar now varies between Taka 28 and 30 per kg. This is likely to increase by at least two taka per kg if the proposed price hike is given effect.

BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed MP, Engineer MA Taher, SM Fazul Haq and Ali Eskandar Ahmed also spoke at the function.

The Midnight File

Kurds gun down 25 in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Aug 4: Kurdish guerrillas intercepted four minibuses travelling in the southeast of Turkey and gunned down 25 civilians and wounded 50 others, officials said. Gunmen of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) stopped the minibuses travelling to Ciziloy, a village near the southeastern town of Bitlis, the sources said. No other details were immediately available. Officials reported earlier that rebel Kurds killed eight soldiers and two state-paid village guards in a raid on a military post in southeast Turkey, reports Reuters.

ME peace process salvaged, says Christopher

ZAHLE, (Lebanon), Aug 4: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today he believed the Middle East peace process had been salvaged after last week's violence in southern Lebanon and Arab-Israeli negotiations would resume. Speaking after two hours of talks with Lebanese leaders in the eastern town of Zahle, Christopher said the Lebanese appeared prepared to continue the 21-month-old peace talks with Israel despite a seven-day Israeli blitz of the south last week. "I want to once again not to over-build expectations but I think we have salvaged the peace process and I think we will be able to resume the discussions, hopefully energised by these events," he told a news conference, reports Reuters.

36 hurt as troops fire on protesters in Srinagar

Srinagar (India), Aug 4: At least 36 Kashmiri Muslims were injured as Indian troops opened fire on demonstrators here today and used tear gas to break up protests sparked by the killing of a Muslim family, police said, reports AFP.

Despite the presence of army reinforcements rushed in to enforce a curfew, thousands of people took to the streets for a fourth day to protest Sunday's killing by border guards of a 10-year-old boy and his parents, witnesses said.

In several areas of the city, troops used tear gas and gunfire to disperse the protestors shouting "hand over the killers to us" and anti-Indian slogans, they said.

Hospital sources said at least four of the injured were in serious condition.

Seven people were shot dead and more than 30 wounded as up to 30,000 people took to the streets of Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir on Tuesday.

Shops and businesses were shut throughout the Muslim-majority valley today and demonstrations erupted in other Kashmir towns.

About 15,000 people held a protest today in Baramulla, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Srinagar, witnesses said, and at least 14 were injured by tear gas and gunfire from the security forces.

Ajmar Singh, a Sub-

Inspector in the Border Security Force (BSF), has been arrested for the killing of the Muslim family he has been suspended and a murder charge is to be filed against him, according to a BSF spokesman.

Indian security forces battling Muslim separatists have been accused of killing civilians and suspected rebels in cold blood, often after arresting them for questioning. The government denies most of the accusations.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants waging the four-year-old campaign for separation from India.

Islamabad denies the charge, but supports the separatist campaign, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir government ordered a judicial probe into the BSF killing of the Muslim family, an official said. "Action whenever warranted, has been taken against troops when it was found that they had indulged in excesses," he added.

Hartal observed at Pabna

PABNA, Aug 4: A half-day hartal paralysed normal activities in the town today at the call of the district unit of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League demanding arrest of the killers of one of its leaders, reports UNB.

Rashedul Haq Ranju, President of the Edward College unit of the BCL, was killed in a fierce gunbattle with the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal activists on May 16. Police charged and shot 39 people on June 27 in connection with the murder but none has been arrested so far.

The picketers damaged three buses in front of the Edward College during hartal hours. Schools, colleges and shops were closed. Transport were off the roads during hartal hours.

Import Policy

From page 1 col 7

The policy announcements to lower protection and to further liberalise imports were to come through the IPO of the Ministry of Commerce. The new IPO will need to include specific provisions for narrowing the items for which there are import control measures in existence.

At present, there are about 200 items which are subject to import control and are placed in the so-called "Control List".

In addition, there are over a hundred items outside the Control List which are subject to import restrictions, depending upon import volume, user and import financing method.

According to various chamber sources, import liberalisation on the lines announced by Saifur Rahman last June would require shortening of the Control List and making the other kind of restrictions transparent and smaller in number. This would need changes in the import passbook system and make the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCI&E) more or less redundant, according to experts.

The Ministry of Commerce is not as enthusiastic as the Ministry of Finance about import liberalisation, some leading businessmen, requesting anonymity, observed.

According to sources, the Ministry of Finance held scores of meetings with the Commerce Ministry to come into an agreement about liberalisation measures in the forthcoming IPO but without much success.

The Ministry of Commerce is learnt to have made an official recommendation that further import liberalisation be held in abeyance until a thorough study established that import liberalisation of the past has done Bangladesh's industries some good, sources added.

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