

## International

# Kashmiris defy curfew for 6th day

Srinagar (India), Aug 6: Angry Kashmiri Muslims defied a curfew for the sixth day today and a general strike called to protest the killing of a family by the Indian security forces crippled the strife-torn northern state, reports AFP.

Three people were slightly injured here this morning when Indian troops used batons to break up a demonstration by several hundred Kashmiri Muslims shouting "we want freedom" and anti-Indian slogans, witnesses said.

Paramilitary forces were out in increased numbers to enforce a curfew imposed on Sunday following the deaths of a 10-year-old Muslim boy and his parents at the hands of Indian border guards.

"The curfew will be enforced with strength today," Police Chief Balwinder Singh Bedi told AFP. He said additional

## BRIFFLY

### Kurdish rebels free 2 tourists:

Kurdish rebels freed two western tourists Friday whom they kidnapped last month, Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu announced in Ankara, AFP reports from Ankara.

The minister did not give the tourists' names or nationalities, but said they were released in Van, an eastern city.

The Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) kidnapped a total of six tourists — four Frenchmen, a Briton and an Australian — in two separate abductions last month.

**War veteran dies from poisoning:** A pensioner died from carbon monoxide poisoning after a boy aged 9 stopped up his chimney for a lark, a court was told Thursday, AFP reports from London.

John Logan, a World War II veteran with only one arm was frequently teased by local children who threw stones at his windows and periodically blocked his chimney so he would come out to chase them over in soot.

One day in May, Logan drank too much and went to sleep by the hearth unaware that the boy had put a piece of wood down the chimney to block it. He was later found dead.

**Palestinian killed:** Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli army patrol on the occupied West Bank yesterday but one Palestinian died and one was wounded, Palestinian sources said, AFP reports from Jerusalem.

Three armed Palestinians attacked near Tulkarm, close to the "green line" dividing the West Bank from Israel. One was killed, one wounded and one fled, Palestinian sources said.

According to the sources there were also army casualties but the army released no details about the shooting.

**Forest fire kills 4 in Spain:** Four people were killed and one was seriously injured in a forest fire in northeastern Spain, Spanish National Radio reported on Thursday night, Reuter says from London.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said the fire in Tarragona province was believed to have started by lightnings.

Four hundred people have been evacuated from their homes as strong winds hampered efforts to put the fire out, it added.

**Kalmykov Russia's new minister:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday appointed Yuri Kalmykov as Russia's new justice minister, replacing Nikolai Fyodorov, the Itar-Tass news agency reported, AP says from Moscow.

Kalmykov has been acting justice minister since Fyodorov resigned in March after failing to give his support to Yeltsin at a crucial Cabinet meeting before a showdown with the parliament.

Born in 1934, Kalmykov graduated from the law department of Leningrad State University and taught law at the Kursky Law Institute in the southern Russian city of Saratov. He was a member of the old Soviet Parliament.

**Extremists kill one in Egypt:** Suspected Muslim extremists shot and killed a Coptic Christian pharmacist in southern Egypt, AP reports from Assiut.

Philip al-Kumma, 36, died instantly from a gunshot to the head Thursday in the village of Dairut el-Sherif near the town of Dairut, said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Militants have killed Christian pharmacists for selling contraceptives, which are considered offensive by some Muslims. Other victims have been accused of collaborating with authorities or were killed out of sectarian hatred.

**56 kg heroin seized in Malaysia:** Police said Friday they have seized 56 kilograms (123.45 pounds) of heroin from a house in Ipoh, 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur, AP reports from Kuala Lumpur.

State Criminal Investigation Director Mohamed Ali Yusof said in Ipoh a police party raided the house on Monday after a tip-off, the National News Agency Bernama reported.

Police arrested a 20-year-old man and found the heroin in packets and basins. A pistol and 66 rounds of ammunition were also recovered. Mohamed Ali said the raiding party also found cocaine powder and utensils used to process the heroin.

**None held in Thai school torching:** Police are searching for four suspects in the torching of 34 schools in the Muslim-dominated southern provinces, a government official said Friday, AP reports from Bangkok.

The Interior Ministry's permanent secretary, Anand Anantakool, would not give details on the suspects, saying the case was still under investigation.

No clear motive has been established for the apparently well-coordinated attacks, on 33 schools on Sunday and one on Monday. Various officials have blamed Muslim separatists, politicians scheming against opponents, and other groups. No one was hurt in the fires.

### Marcos body to be displayed in a glass coffin

MANILA, Aug 6: The body of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos will be displayed in a glass coffin at a mausoleum in his hometown until Philippine authorities permit his final burial in Manila, an aide said here Friday.

The exiled former president's embalmed remains are scheduled to be flown to the northern province of Ilocos Norte from Honolulu on September 7, and placed in an airconditioned mausoleum three days later in the town of Batac.

A close aide to his widow Imelda Marcos told AFP that a completely sealed glass coffin specially manufactured for Marcos' had been delivered to his family home.

TOKYO, Aug 6: Forty-eight years to the minute after hell rained down from the cool morning skies, Hiroshima, the first city ever to suffer an atomic bombing, fell silent Friday for a moment of prayer and remembrance, reports AP.

Trains came to a halt and 45,000 people gathered at ground zero, now Peace Memorial Park, bowed their heads for one minute in memory of those killed by the bombing at 8:15 am (2315 GMT) on August 6, 1945 that devastated the city and ushered in the age of nuclear weapons.

The 4-ton bomb that exploded over Hiroshima with the power of about 13 kilotons

troops had been brought in to ensure that people remained in their homes.

At least seven people have been killed and dozens injured here during the past five days as troops opened fire on stone-throwing crowds.

The Muslim-majority Kasimir valley was paralysed meanwhile following the strike called by the fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Islami (Muslim Brotherhood) separatist group, residents said.

Shops, markets and offices were closed and the roads were empty across the valley, where Muslim rebels have been waging a blood four-year-old campaign to break away from India.

Witnesses said police and troops stormed several mosques here Thursday night to arrest Muslims who had been using loudhailers to make calls for the spilling of blood for blood.

Three people were slightly injured here this morning when Indian troops used batons to break up a demonstration by several hundred Kashmiri Muslims shouting "we want freedom" and anti-Indian slogans, witnesses said.

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TOKOZA: South African police load the body of a slain Tokoza resident on Thursday thus bringing the total to 150 victims since Friday in the area during clashes between hostel dwellers and residents. — AFP photo

### Protest against Sarovar Dam on Narmada river

## Patkar, 350 others arrested

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: The leader of a movement protesting India's controversial dam projects was arrested Friday as she and 15 other people walked toward a river to drown themselves, reports AP.

Medha Patkar, 37, who has been praised by international environmental groups, recently said she would commit suicide that way and went underground, forcing police to search for her.

Her announcement also motivated hundreds of protesters to enter the area in western India where the Sardar Sarovar dam is being built on the Narmada River. Some of them have been flooded out of their homes in Manibeli village or evicted by authorities.

On Thursday, police from Maharashtra and Gujarat states reportedly arrested 350 protesters near the river.

For years, Ms Patkar's Save the Narmada Movement has been trying to stop a project to build 30 large dams and 3,000 smaller ones on the 500 mile long Narmada River in west and central India.

Although the project would generate electricity and irrigate farms in many drought-prone areas, it also could dislodge 1 million people from 600 villages, submerge 850,000 acres of forest, and obliterate the cultures of displaced tribespeople.

In February, the World Bank, a big financier of the project, bowed to pressure from environmentalists and said it might cancel loans because the Indian government had not rehabilitated thousands of villagers who had been evicted

from their homes. It also said trees on hundreds of hectares (acres) of land had been cut down and that could lead to environmental problems.

In April, India said it would forgo the remaining World Bank loans and continue with the dam building project itself.

On Friday, police detained Ms Patkar in the village of Dabshot as she was walking toward Manibeli village to drown herself in the Narmada River. Two news agencies reported.

Police had cordoned off most of the areas near Manibeli on Thursday to prevent Jali samarpan, or suicides in water.

Many Indian sages are known to have drowned themselves in rivers as a means of achieving final communion with God.

Ms Patkar and other anti-dam activists say the environ-

ment would be irreversibly damaged by the Sardar Sarovar dam and that up to 240,000 people will be displaced when it is completed.

In April 1992, the San Francisco-based Goldman Environmental Foundation awarded Ms Patkar a \$6,000 dollar prize for her fight against the Narmada project, but the Bombay-based activist refused to accept the prize since it was given in her name.

Ms Patkar also has not collected the \$24,000 dollar right Livelihood Award, a Swedish honour known as the alternative Nobel Prize. It was conferred on her organization in December 1991.

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### Mississippi floods may breach sandbag levees

STE GENEVIEVE, Missouri, Aug 6: Mississippi river flood waters began to take their toll on sandbag levees protecting this historic town as residents rode off yet another crest of the great flood of '93, reports AP.

The town — the oldest settlement west of the Mississippi — continued to battle the flood late on Thursday as trouble spots in the sandbag levees continued to develop.

It's been a rollercoaster the past two days and nerves are starting to get frayed, resident Ed Bauman said.

"Even if we get past the crest, the water won't be going down for some time and those levees are getting tired too," he said. The river was forecast to crest during Thursday night at 49 feet (14.9 metres), one foot (30 cm) below the tops of the levees.

A steady downpour fell across the region on Thursday afternoon, heightening fears that the floods could breach levees along the river.

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### Widnall first woman US Secretary of Air Force

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The Senate approved President Clinton's nomination of Sheila Widnall, as secretary of the Air Force, making her the first woman to head a branch of the US armed services, reports AP.

The 55-year-old aeronautical engineer and associate provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was confirmed by voice vote Thursday.

Widnall is President Clinton's second service secretary, joining Navy Secretary John Dalton. The administration, which has been faulted for its slow pace in filling top civilian jobs at the Pentagon, still has not nominated an Army secretary.

Widnall, a graduate and former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has served on advisory committees to the Military Airlift Command and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Widnall easily dealt with a minor controversy at her con-

fimation hearing July 29.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Widnall denied allegations that her husband's yacht club discriminates against Jews and other minorities.

Widnall said the Easter Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass., where her husband, William, has been a full member since 1984, does not have a discriminatory policy.

Members of the Anti-Defamation League in the Boston area have complained that the club does not allow Jews as members.

Widnall said the allegations, coming shortly after her selection for the job she always wanted, were upsetting.

Widnall is familiar with firsts, being the first MIT alumna appointed to the faculty in the School of Engineering and the first woman to serve as chair of the entire MIT faculty. She held that post in 1979-1980.

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