

55 Azeri troops killed in clashes

STEPANAKERT (Nagorno-Karabakh), Aug 15: Fifty-five Azeri troops were killed in fierce clashes today around Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijan launched a fresh three-pronged offensive, Armenian commanders said here, reports AFP.

Spokesmen for the general staff of the Karabakh self-defence forces said Azerbaijan troops briefly seized the strategic Kyzylkaya heights near the eastern Karabakh city of Martuni before the attack was repelled.

One Armenian fighter was killed and Armenian commanders said they left the bodies of 30 Azeri fighters on the battlefield. The Armenian forces also captured an Azeri tank.

At dawn today, Azerbaijani forces in Fizuli south of Karabakh also attack Armenian positions at Gadrut where

heavy fighting was continuing. According to the Armenian commanders, 25 Azeri soldiers were killed with no Armenian losses. The Armenian forces were using four battle tanks and three armoured vehicles to rebuff the attack.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry in Baku issued a statement accusing Armenian forces of initiating the latest fighting around Fizuli, Interfax reported.

Further west, Azerbaijani forces at Dzhebrail shelled Armenian positions in Karabakh, according to Armenian commanders. There were no casualty reports in this fighting.

Combat was continuing in all three areas and Armenian commanders said Azerbaijan had launched the offensive to protect a strategic road linking Dzhebrail, Fizuli and regions near Martuni.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, along with some senior leaders of her party, placed wreaths before a portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 18th death anniversary at the Dhanmondi Bangabandhu Bhavan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

AL observes 'national mourning day'

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations observed 'national mourning day' on the occasion of the 18th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday.

The national flag and the AL party flag were hoisted at half-mast at the crack of dawn at the Bangabandhu Bhavan in Dhanmondi, the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and at the official residence of the party chief Sheikh Hasina at 29 Minto Road.

As part of the day's programme, the Awami League called a six-hour long hartal throughout the country.

At noon, a milad was held at the Bangabandhu Bhavan for the peace and salvation of the departed soul of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This was followed by garlanding of Sheikh Mujib's portrait by streams of people.

At 1:30 pm ranking leaders of the Awami League visited the Banani graveyard to pray for the family members of Sheikh Mujib and others buried there. Sheikh Hasina, along with some family members and her son Joy, visited the graveyard at 3 pm and offered فاتحہ.

A discussion meeting on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was held at the Bangabandhu Bhavan at 6 pm where prominent Awami League leaders and intellectuals took part.

Hasina thanks people

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has expressed her sincere gratitude to the people for observing countrywide hartal yesterday peacefully and spontaneously, reports UNB.

In a statement, she said people from all walks of life joined the hartal demanding trial of the brutal killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family, and official declaration of August 15 as the National Mourning Day.

The spontaneous and peaceful hartal once again proved that there was no room for the killers of the father of the nation on the soil of Bangladesh, the Awami League chief said.

Terrorists can't be revolutionaries: Kemaluddin

From Our Correspondent

‘GUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 15: Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, at a meeting here today, demanded repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance for the sake of the nation's prestige.

He was addressing a huge rally at the GT High School premises with the Awami League leader Nurul Haq in the chair. It was attended, among others, by poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, Abdul Kader Siddiqi and Abdul Ali Siddiqi.

‘Terrorism begets terrorism,’ Justice Kemaluddin said, adding, ‘Terrorists can not be revolutionaries.’

He urged all to help curb terrorism and racism for the sake of national unity and prestige.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, recalling the memories of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said, ‘The Bangladeshis still mourn for the great leader because they know his contributions to the nation.’

The 18th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was observed here with due rituals. Quran Khwan was offered at the mazar of Bangabandhu while a milad mahfil was also arranged. Mourners wore black badges and flags were flying at half-mast.

Hartal observed

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Indemnity Ordinance, trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, officially announcing August 15 as a 'national mourning day, broadcasting highlights of the life and works of Mujib in the national media and resisting the rise of communal forces in the country.

The hartal coincided with the 18th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this day, Mujib along with some of his family members were killed in a military putsch in 1975.

Strict security measures were taken in Dhaka as riot police and ansars patrolled the streets.

All modes of vehicles, barring a few rickshaws, went off the streets in downtown Dhaka.

All educational institutions including the volatile Dhaka University remained closed during the hartal while banks and government offices operated with poor attendance.

Business establishments, private offices, shops and market places were closed for the first half of the day.

Different units of the Awami League in Dhaka city organised Quran Khwan and distributed food among the destitutes in observance of the death anniversary of Mujib.

The historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu and patriotic songs on the Liberation War of the country were played through loudspeakers.

The pro-hartal activists damaged a number of rickshaws which tried to defy the hartal.

Several crackers were exploded in the Purana Paltan, Motijheel and Farmgate areas.

The Farakka Resistance Movement, sponsored by the Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA), also called a half-day hartal with a similar time-schedule to drum up support for raising the Ganges water sharing issue in the international forum.

UNB reports: At least 20 people, including a policeman, were injured in a clash between pro and anti-hartal student groups at Magura Government College yesterday.

Of the injured, Chhatra League activists Kamruzzaman, 18, and Saiful Islam, 15 and ASI of police Abdur Rab were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Meanwhile, reports received from our correspondents from across the country say a peaceful half-day hartal was observed and no major untoward incident occurred.

Post-hartal clashes

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procession composed of Awami League, Jubo League and the Rickshaw Samik League activists at about 4:30 pm near the DIT crossing at Motijheel.

The procession was marching towards the Dainik Bangla crossing where a meeting was planned by the Jubo League, the youth front of the Awami League.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities on Saturday banned all rallies, meetings and processions at the Dainik Bangla crossing, the Suhrawardy Uddyan and its adjoining areas for 24 hours.

Several thousand Awami League workers thronged the Bangabandhu Avenue in front of the AL central office since 3 in the afternoon.

A militant procession began marching around the Golap Shah Mazar at about 4 pm. It proceeded towards the DIT Avenue breaking through a police cordon.

A second line of cordon halted the procession near the RAJUK building where the processionists staged a sit-in.

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AL, NDA call rally at same venue on Aug 20

The Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) yesterday called a public meeting at 5 pm on August 20 at Manik Miah Avenue where the Awami League is scheduled to stage a rally the same afternoon, reports UNB.

The NDA, headed by Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed who became President after the August 15 political changeover in 1975, could not hold its scheduled meeting yesterday at the Dainik Bangla crossing because of counter-rallies called by the Awami League and some other organisations supporting the AL at the same venue at the same time.

The authorities Saturday night prohibited rallies and processions in the area apprehending trouble.

The decision to hold the meeting at Manik Miah Avenue on August 20 was taken at a meeting of the NDA Mohammadpur unit yesterday with its president Nurul Islam in the chair, says a press release.

The meeting called upon all to make the programme a success.

Fake CID men rob Tk 41,500 from college teacher

By Staff Correspondent

Impostors, identifying themselves as CID inspectors, robbed a reported amount of Tk 41,500 from a college teacher on Mirpur Road in the city Sunday.

The victim, G M Firoz, came to Dhaka from Ohorasaal early yesterday and hired an autorickshaw from the Gabtali Bus Terminal, according to a press release issued by the victim.

He was challenged by a self-styled plain-dressed CID official at the Old Airport Road for his alleged suspicious movement.

Firoz, who teaches in a college at Puthia, Rajshahi, told the man to take him to the Ramna Police Station. But another man joined the fake CID and forcibly snatched the money from Firoz's possession and fled by the same vehicle.

Mohammadpur thana confirmed the incident but no arrest was made.

Five hurt in clash over land

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 15: Five persons — four brothers and their cousin — received bullet injuries in an attack by rival group at village Tlak in Rupsha thana of the district this morning.

Rahim Hawladar, 40, Mostafa Kamal, 30, Jalal, 25, Mian Hawladar, 45, and their cousin Israil, 26, were admitted to the sadar hospital with bullet injuries.

According to police, a group of about 50 persons, led by one Khokon, attacked them allegedly with pipeguns and other weapons when they went to plough a piece of disputed land. Both the groups claimed ownership of the land.

A case was lodged with the Rupsha thana police. Police officials visited the spot. None was arrested till filing of this report.

Manila may declare Aquino national hero

MANILA, Aug 15: Former President Corason Aquino has backed moves in the Philippine Congress to declare her assassinated husband a national hero, reports Reuter.

Aquino said in a radio interview on Saturday she hoped a resolution proclaiming her husband a hero would be approved by the legislature before August 21.

Nationalised banks

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ment planned to computerise all the busy branches within a short time.

The official hailed the government decision of extending the banking hours and said the reservations of a section of staff about the new timings can be removed through discussions.

He, however, opposed any time allocation for lunch and Zohr prayers because he felt individual banks or branches could manage the matters by introducing a rotation system.

An official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), when contacted, said they hadn't received any complaints from anybody about violation of the directive regarding banking hours. The BB was ready to send inquiry teams as soon as it received specific complaints on the matter, he said.

When asked, why the BB was not monitoring the implementation, he said there was no system of regularly monitoring such matters.

The Midnight File

Russia, Ukraine agree to dismantle N-arms

HARPSUND, Sweden, Aug 15: Russia and Ukraine have reached an agreement on dismantling Soviet nuclear weapons still deployed in Ukraine, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Sunday, reports AP.

18 Bosnians arrive in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Aug 15: Eighteen sick and wounded adults and children from Sarajevo arrived in Sweden today aboard an emergency relief flight. Television showed the Swedish Hercules plane touching down at an airport in Linköping, central Sweden, at around 7:40 pm to offload the first of the injured who are being taken to various hospitals. The plane is to continue to airports in the capital city of Stockholm and Satenas in western Sweden, reports Reuter.

7 burnt to death in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 15: Seven people were found shot and burned to death in townships east of Johannesburg, a police spokesman said today. Security forces were bracing for revenge violence, spokesman Andy Picke said, reports Reuter.

Thai hotel collapse toll rises to 100

KORAT (Thailand), Aug 15: Rescue workers were pulling an injured man from the wreckage of a collapsed six-story hotel, but hope faded Sunday that many more survivors would be found, reports AP.

A television station reported that the death toll had reached 100, including at least three foreigners.

Earlier, a provincial official near the site said 80 people had died. Figures for the number of injured ranged from 225 to 350.

'We think there are many more people down there but only a small percentage could have survived by now,' said rescue worker Saengyen Pulpakat, toiling atop a heap of shattered concrete and twisted steel.

Plots for victims

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ments had paid lumpsum compensation to the original land owners, they had also made commitments to them to provide residential plots as well.

Past governments, however, distributed 15 hundred plots to the victims of the acquisitions during the last three decades.

According to sources, the present Works Minister decided five months ago to put an end to the decade-long problem and constituted a three-member departmental committee to finish homework with a view to distributing the rest of the plots as quickly as possible.

The three man body, headed by a Joint Secretary of the ministry A W Chowdhury, completed its job last week. The other members of the committee are Nurul Islam, Deputy Collector (Settlement) and B R Chowdhury, executive engineer, of the Works Ministry.

Doordarshan opens five new channels

NEW DELHI, Aug 15: India's state-run television, battling an 'invasion from the skies' by foreign networks, launched five new channels today to lure back entertainment-hungry viewers, reports AP.


Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao declared the channels open on the independence day, crediting the broadcasting milestone to Indian scientists who designed and put in orbit in July the Insat-2B satellite which will beam the programmes.

All channels debuted with Rao's Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort — which some saw as ironic, given the network's effort to shed its image as a government propaganda machine.

The new channels, in addition to two existing ones, will be dedicated to film-based entertainment, sports, business news and current affairs, music and 'enrichment,' taken to mean educational, patriotic and spiritual programmes.

Islamabad denies India's accusations that it is training and arming Kashmiri rebels in Pakistani territory and sending them back to Kashmir across the mountainous border to fight Indian security forces.

NAMAZ-E-JANAZA & QUL-KHANI OF SOHAIL



SOHAIL'S DEAD BODY WILL ARRIVE TODAY

BY BRITISH AIRWAYS AT 4 P.M. HIS JANAZA WILL BE HELD AFTER ESHA PRAYERS (TIME 8:45 P.M.) AT GULSHAN CENTRAL MOSQUE & LATER HE WILL BE BURIED AT BANANI GRAVEYARD. ALL FRIENDS, WELL WISHERS & RELATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

THE QUL-KHANI OF SOHAIL WILL BE HELD ON NEXT FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, AT HOUSE NO-46, UNITED NATIONS ROAD, BARIDHARA, DHAKA. TEL : 881221

Again all friends, relatives, well wishers are requested to join.

FRIEND'S OF SOHAIL

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