55 Azeri troops killed in clashes

STEPANAKERT (Nagorno-Karabakh), Aug 15: Fifty-five Azerbaijani troops were killed in fierce clashes today around Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbatjan launched a fresh threepronged offensive. Armenian commanders said here, reports

Spokesmen for the general staff of the Karabakh self-defense forces said Azerbaijani 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 Azerbaijani fighters on the battlefield. The Armenian forces also captured an Azerbaijani

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 Azerbaijani 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.

48-km human chain for reunification of Koreas

FREEDOM BRIDGE, (South Koreal, Aug 15: As church bells rang and choirs sang, more than 55,000 South Koreans oined hands Sunday in a 48kilometre long human chain symbolising reunification with longtime rival North Korea, reports AP.

It was the largest unification event ever sponsored by civilians in South Korea.

South Korean organisers said North Korean church groups agreed to co-sponsor a human chain across the border but withdrew at the last minute, apparently on orders from North Korea's Communist government.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 radical students shouting unif ication defied the government by rallying on a Scoul campus, while thousands of combat-clad riot police stood by to deter violence.

August, 15, anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule over Korea in 1945, a day that annually brings an outpouring of emotion calling for peace and unity.

The events highlighted the

Old people, children in school uniforms, housewives, farmers and monks -Thousands of people who had never met - tied individually held rainbow-coloured ribbons together to form a single ribbon

Hekmatyar in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Aug 15: Afghanistan's Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar arrived in the northwest Pakistan town of Peshawar today on his first official trip abroad since becoming premier five months ago, reports Reuter.

Officials said Hekmatyar leader of the Hezb-i-Islami Mujahideen faction, was due to fly to the capital Islamabad on Monday morning for a two-day visit including talks with Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi.

running along Highway Route from Seoul to the border.

The throngs clasped hands, raised their arms together and swayed with ribbons in the air as they sang "My wish is unification, my dream is unification

The chain of hands and ribbon ran from Seoul's Independence Arch to the barbed wire barricades at Freedom Bridge, bordering the heavily armed Demilitarised Zone 48 kilometres to the north.

Mujib: Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5 like Golam Azam in politics will bring the BNP a fate similar to that of Ershad.

The meeting, presided over by the president of the women's wing of AL Begum Ivy Rahman, was also addressed among others by AL Vice President Abdus Samad Azad, GS Zillur Rahman, Zohora Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury Prof Momtazuddin Ahmed, Asaduzzaman Noor and Dr Nilima Ibrahim.

The speakers demanded repeal of the Indemnity Bill, trial of Mujib's killers, trial of Golam Azam and autonomy of BTV and Radio Bangladesh.

The speakers denounced Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda for his statements published in different newspapers yesterday.

"He said that the Awami League never went to the courts to sue the killers of Mujib," said Tofael Ahmed What sort of a lawyer is he to even say such a thing. The Indemnity Bill is the first thing that we should remove."

Sajeda Chowdhury, criticising Huda, said, "Huda claims to be the spokesman of the BNP. It is also evident that he is the spokesman of the Jamaat, the Freedom party and the Jubo Command — the anti-Liberation elements.

Abdus Samad Azad said, the government is afraid to repeal the Indemnity Bill because if it is repealed, all the killers and Zia's crimes will be ex-

Insurance companies

From Page 1 Col 4 from appointing directors to the

board from amongst the public shareholders. A separate regulation requiring the insurance companies to

provide a bank underwriting of the shares to ensure that the unsubscribed portion of the shares would be taken up by a bank or a financial institution is also an impediment. This has been the biggest

obstacle for insurance companies wanting to float public shares as the banks and other financial institutions are reluctant to provide such guarantee," the insurance executive pointed out. "If this requirement were not imposed then all companies would have probably floated shares by now.

Insurance industry experts identified the government's failure to formulate proper guidelines for implementing the insurance company regulations as the primary bottleneck to the smooth functioning of the in-

They noted that although the Insurance Act was amended by Parliament last April yet the already prepared accompanying rules remain pending with the Commerce Ministry

The proposed rules enable the SEC to extend the time-limit to float shares while it also deletes the requirement of undertaking by the sponsors for a commitment from the banks and financial institutions to buy the unsubscribed shares offered.

Industry experts urged for a pragmatic approach to solve the current problem and suggested that the insurance companies should be allowed to float public

shares in phases. "It is just not possible for the

insurance companies to meet the deadline," said one expert. "The best way to deal with the problem would be to stagger the floating of shares within a pe-

riod of two to three years by al-

lowing them an extension." Regarding the undertaking clause, being deleted from the proposed insurance rules, the industry expert noted that the absence of the rule would pose other problems.

He suggested a rule should he included which would allow the sponsors to underwrite the public offerings in the event the banks and financial institutions fail to do so.

However, on the other hand, he went on to question the need for equity expansion of the insurance companies at this stage when capital could be better used for industrialisation. He also feared that the insurance companies might become over-

He observed that the companies instead could be asked to off-load 50 per cent of their

burdened in the process.

equity as public shares. Meanwhile, another 35 new applications for opening insurance companies have been filed with the Controller of Insu-

Presently, there are 16 general and three life insurance companies operating in the country. In addition, there is a foreign-owned life insurance company and two governmentowned companies.

The minimum paid-up capital required for life insurance is Taka three crore and that for general insurance is Taka six crore. Of this 50 per cent is the sponsors' portion of equity while the remainder is to be floated in the form of public shares.



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 Bhaban in the city yesterday. - Star photo

AL observes 'national mourning day'

By Staff Correspondent The Bangladesh Awam League and its front organisa tions 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 halfmast at the crack of dawn at the Bangabandhu Bhavan in Dhanmondi, the AL central of fice 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

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 fatcha.

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 TUNGIPARA (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 Siddigi. 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 Bangalees 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 Khwani was offered at the mazar of Bangabandhu while a milad mahfil was also arranged. Mourners wore black badges and flags were flying at half-

Hartal observed

From Page 1 Col 5

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 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 mar-

ket places were closed for the

first half of the day Different units of the Awami League in Dhaka city organised Quran Khwani and distributed food among the destitutes in observance of the death an-

niversary 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

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

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

Meanwhile, police broke up a procession of the NDA which came out at Motifheel violating the ban.

The Dhaka city convenor of the Farakka Resistance Movement Mollah Abdur Rab was picked up by police at about

11.45 am. National Democratic Party leader Anwar Zahid, who was leading a procession near the Fakirerpool area adjoining Motifheel, was manhandled by a group of youngmen at about 5:25 pm. However, NDP workers

tormed a cordon around their leader and took him away, according to witnesses.

Our Chittagong Corresponadds: The countrywide hartal was observed here peacefully yesterday from 6 am to 12 noon. All activities here came to a halt during the hartal hours but no untoward incident was reported

Due to hartal the first flight of Biman from Chittagong to Dhaka was cancelled. However, railway sources said train service to and from Chittagong ran normally.

Chittagong Port sources said loading and unloading of cargo inside the port jetties were carried out as usual but transportation of goods to and from port was suspended.

The Awami League organised rallies and processions at different parts of the city demanding the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Our Khulna Correspondent says: Peaceful hartal was observed here yesterday. Shops, private offices, busi-

ness organisations, banks and

insurance companies remained closed during the hartal. However, government and semi-government offices were open with thin attendance. All

the educational institutions remained closed. Most of the mills and factories in the Khalishpur, Daulatpur, Atra and Rupsha Industrial Areas were open and functioned as usual. The operation at Mongla Port was not

hampered Our correspondent from Jamalpur reports at least seven policemen were injured when they came under attack of picketers at the local railway station during the hartal hours.

Police lathicharged the demonstrators who retaliated by brickbatting the policemen and damaging three jeeps and a railway engine at the station.

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 Satful 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

other.

jured.

were damaged.

From Page 1 Col 5 procession composed of Awami League, Jubo League and the

Rickshaw Sramik League activists at about 4:30 pm near the DIT crossing at Motifheel. The procession was marching towards the Daintk 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. At about 4:30 pm, police used batons to break up the crowed, which sparked off the

violence.

During the clashes, shots were fired by the mob while scores of crude handbombs were exploded. Police lobbed as many as

185 tear gas canisters and beat

up the processionists. The whole Motifheel area became panicky as clashes

spread all over the commercial nerve centre of the country. Men and women, bound for home after office hours, began running at all directions for

Forty-one people were picked

up by the police during the

clashes spreading from the

Golap Shah Mazar in the west

to the Shapla Square in the

policemen including the Deputy

Commissioner (South) were in-

According to the DMP, 15

The tear gas smokes, bellowing over Motifheel, could be seen from afar. People rushed to the nearest

source of water with their handkerchiefs to wash their eyes burning from the tear gas. Riot police and the political workers kept chasing each Many bystanders and the passersby were hurt in the baton charge while scores of cars

> was not monitoring the implementation, he said there was no system of regularly monitoring such matters. The BB official, however, was

against any fixed time for lunch and prayers because he felt this could be adjusted by the staff of individual branches.

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 Mushtaque 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 Juba 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 apprehend ing 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 re-

lease. The meeting called upon all to make the programme a suc-

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

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

lie was challenged by a selfstyled 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 an other man joined the fake CID and forcibly snatched the money from Piroz's possession

and fled by the same vehicle. Mohammadpur thana confirmed the incident but no ar rest was made

Five hurt in clash over land

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 15: Five per sons - four brothers and their cousin - received bullet injuries in an attack by rival group at village Tilak in Rupsha

thana of the district this morn-

Rahim Hawladar, 40 Mostafa Kamal, 30, Jalal, 25, Mian Hawlader, 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 owner-

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

Manila may declare Aquino national hero

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

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

Nationalised banks

From page 1 col 7 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 When asked, why the BB

Russia, Ukraine agree to

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

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 re-

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

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

Earlier, a provincial official

have survived by now," said rescue worker Saengyen Pulipokai, toiling atop a heap of shattered concrete and twisted

ments had paid lumpsum compensation to the original land owners, they had also made commitments to them to pro-

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

tributing 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

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 AFP.

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 addi-

tion to two existing ones, will be

dedicated to film-based enter-

tainment, sports, business

news and current affairs, music

and "enrichment," taken to

mean educational, patriotic and

spiritual programmes.

the passengers and killed 15 of them in Kishtwar town of Jammu region. About a dozen armed militias are fighting for the independence of Jammu-Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority

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



SOHAILS'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. 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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AL, NDA call rally at same venue Three Mice Mice Mice Mice Consignition

dismantle N-arms

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 Linkoping, central Sweden, at around 7:40 pm to offload the first of the injured who are being taking 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

venge violence, spokesman Andy Pieke said, reports Reuter.

'Children are

not animals

in a zoo'

medical airlift from Sarajevo

has turned into a public rela-

tions show, parading sick and

wounded children like

'animals in a zoo', an embit-

tered United Nations doctor

UN medical evacuation com-

mittee in the besieged Bosnian

capital, said the evacuation

had been hijacked by a British

team with orders to please

don't like it. Children are not

animals in a zoo," Pelliod said.

"For me it is a show and

Forget Kashmir

From Page 1 Col 5

would soon hold elections, and

urged the leadership emerging

from the polls to "forget

but they have to accept that

Kashmir is a part of India. I tell

them ... forget about separating

Kashmir from India and we can

be friends, we can build a

friendship that will be an ex-

ample to the rest of the world,

erations were mounted today at

the Red Fort. Police virtually

sealed the Red Fort and its sur-

roundings and the security

agencies remained on maximum

alert in the wake of recent bomb

blast at Madras and intelligence

reports of possible militant

attacks during the celebrations

in Kashmir valley, the center

Unprecedented security op-

He noted that Pakistan

"We can have good relations

by backing the militancy.

public opinion back home.

Patrick Petilod, head of the

said today, reports Reuter.

SARAJEVO, Aug 15: The

Thai hotel collapse toll rises to 100

found, reports AP.

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

Plots for victims

From page 1 col 7

vide residential plots as well. Past governments, however,

constituted a three-member departmental committee to finish homework with a view to dis-

of the insurgency, businesses closed down and traffic halted after rebels called for a boycott of independence day celebra-Chowdhury, executive engineer, of the Works Ministry. tions, as they have done in the past several years.

While government-sponsored functions were being held Sunday under heavy guard in Srinagar, militants attacked a paramilitary patrol party, near the airport, killing one policeman and injuring eight others. In the plains of Jammu to

Rao said.

in Delhi.

the South of Kashmir, suspected Muslim rebels exploded two bombs in Jammu city, killing two persons and injuring three others, police said. Details of the blasts were not immediately available. On Saturday, rebels had

hijacked a bus at gunpoint, separated the Hindus among

state. Some groups want the state to join Islamic Pakistan.