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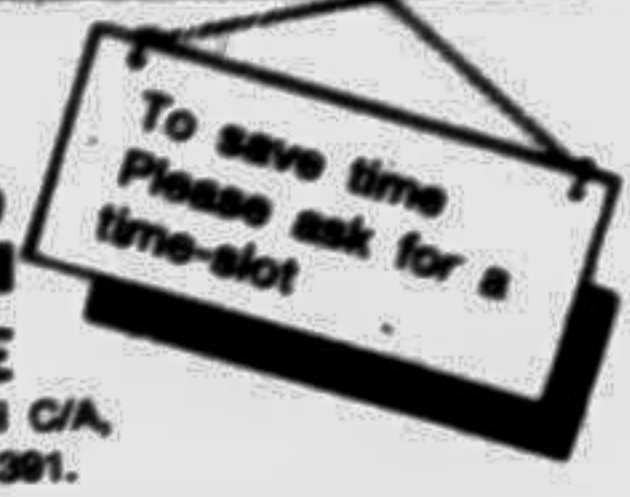
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Khmers ask ex-allies to stop attacking

PHNOM PENH, Aug 21: The Khmer Rouge appealed to its former battlefield allies Saturday to stop attacking, urging them to remember the "joint struggles" of the past, reports AP.

The plea came the day after the new national armed forces seized one of the Khmer Rouge's main bases after pounding it with more than 600 rounds of artillery and mortar.

Thal officers drove the 400 guerrillas posted there and their 1,000 relatives across the border to seek sanctuary in Thailand. They took all their arms and ammunition with them.

The offensive was carried out by all three factions in the newly elected government — the two rebel groups that fought with the Khmer Rouge during the 13-year civil war and the previous administration they tried in vain to topple.

Those factions and the Khmer Rouge signed a 1991 peace accord to end the war with UN-organised elections

this past May. But the Khmer Rouge violated most of the accord's provisions and they boycotted the poll, expecting the previous, Vietnamese-installed administration would win.

When the Khmer Rouge's former allies of FUNCINPEC and KPNLF won the first and third-biggest number of seats, however, the guerrillas group quickly offered to turn over its fighters and land if made advisers to the administration.

At the same time, however, the group has attacked targets controlled by the new government, meeting little resistance until this latest offensive, the biggest attack on the Khmer Rouge since the UN mission began 17 months ago.

On Wednesday, the government pounded the strategic Khmer Rouge base of Phum Chat in the northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey. By Friday the government's flag was flying in what had been considered the guerrillas group's second headquarters.



Relatives attending a patient at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the nurses continued their strike for the fourth successive day yesterday. — Star photo

Nurses' strike

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or intra-venous saline. The situation in the Mitford Hospital has become critical because in addition to the nurses' strike, the internecine doctors have also struck work in protest against alleged forceful occupation of a doctor's room by some nurses, a couple of days ago.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses' Association (BDNA), which is leading the strike, handed over a memorandum to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at yesterday afternoon.

A leader of BDNA central committee told The Daily Star that the memorandum urged the Prime Minister to take initiatives to rescind order transferring the Nursing Directorate to the Health Directorate.

The BDNA leaders fear the government decision may adversely affect the nurses' interests.

The BDNA has organised rallies and processions at eight different hospital premises across the country where at least 4,000 patients are admitted.

So far there have been no negotiations between the BDNA and the authorities since the strike which began Wednesday.

At DMCH, the country's biggest hospital where all schedule operations had been suspended for the last four days, a dozen emergency operations were carried out yesterday with the help of a small number of nurses who were allowed by the BDNA to serve as an "emergency squad."

However, witnesses said the so-called 'emergency squad' of nurses at the Mitford Hospital hardly functioned yesterday.

Only two surgical operations were carried out during the day.

Hardliners demand Yeltsin's ouster

MOSCOW, Aug 21: Several thousand hard-liners demonstrated Saturday outside the Russian parliament building to mark the second anniversary of the August 1991 coup and demand the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin, reports AP.

Participants in the rally, held by a coalition of opposition movements called the National Salvation Front, waved red Soviet and Czarist flags as speakers accused Yeltsin and his administration of destroying the former Soviet Union and Russia.

They later marched to the Lubyanka Square, mourning the failure of the putsch outside the headquarters of the former Soviet KGB security service, now the Security Ministry of Russia.

An estimated 4,000 people took part in the demonstration, the hard-liners' second in two days.

On Friday, several thousand Yeltsin supporters confronted an about equal crowd of hard-liners outside the parliament building, from where Yeltsin led resistance to the 1991 putsch. The sides were separated by barricades and mounted police and no violence was reported.

Supporters of Yeltsin and government officials also gathered on Saturday at Moscow's Vaganokovo cemetery, bringing wreaths and placing candles at the graves of three young men killed during the putsch.

UAE to evacuate 50 Bosnians

DUBAI, Aug 21: The United Arab Emirates will evacuate 50 wounded Bosnian Muslims to its hospitals, the third Gulf Arab country to join an international effort to evacuate and treat wounded Bosnian patients, reports Reuter.

The official Emirates news agency Wam said on Friday that UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan has issued orders to evacuate 50 Bosnians at his personal expense.

Saudi Arabia said on Thursday that a medical Saudi C-130 transport plane will evacuate 50 Bosnian Muslims for treatment in the kingdom.

Kuwait this week also said it would transport and treat an undisclosed number of Bosnian Muslims.

Redha Malek new Algerian PM

ALGIERS, Aug 21: Redha Malek was today named the new Prime Minister of Algeria, the ruling High State Council (Collegiate Presidency) announced here, reports AFP.

Malek, a member of the Collegiate Presidency formed early in 1991, had been the Foreign Minister since February. He will replace Belaid Abdesslam as the head of the government.

Malek is the fifth person named to head the government after bloody riots over food shortages and economic hardship in October 1988 led to the beginnings of multi-party politics, before an army crackdown.

Clinton to address UNGA opening session

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 21: President Bill Clinton is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly for the first time on September 27, according to a provisional list of speakers for the annual session opening next month, reports Reuter.

Other heads of state or government due to speak the same day include Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and the Presidents of Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Mozambique and Albania, and the Norwegian Prime Minister.

The General Assembly formally opens its three-month session on September 21 but spends the rest of that week organising its work.

September 27 marks the start of its three-month debate during which leaders deliver major policy addresses.

Most of the United Nations' 184 members will, as usual, be represented by their foreign ministers but about 30 presidents and more than a dozen prime ministers are already scheduled to attend.

16-pt programme

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Despite a huge demand, textiles and its sub-sectors have not developed to the optimum extent, he noted, and put forward a proposal for providing bonded warehouse facilities to the sub-sectors.

The State Minister for Textiles said the 16-point programme, if implemented, would create huge employment opportunities, accelerate the GDP growth and raise the per capita income of the people.

During the briefing, Mannan pointed out that the country's deficit in textiles during 1992-93 was 146 crore metres which would further increase to 192 crore metres in the current fiscal year.

Of the 45 per cent share of industrial production in the country's GDP, the textile sector contributes only five per cent. This, the minister said, is because the raw materials have to be imported.

It was noted in the proposal that textile exports in the last fiscal fetched about Tk 6800 crore, which can be raised to Tk 30,000 crore in 1995-96 and Tk 160,416 crore in the year 2002.

Textiles Secretary Mufazzal Karim and textiles expert Dr Moqbul Ahmed Khan also spoke.

The Prime Minister gave a patient hearing and assured that the proposals would be discussed soon.

Mostar

From page 1 col 7
about 50 beds jammed into its hallways and entrance, were much worse than in the modern facility he had visited in the Croat part of Mostar on Thursday.

Muslim residents waved and cheered as the convoy of eight armoured personnel carriers entered Mostar from nearby Medjugorje, after crossing the Neretva River south of the city by a bridge just north of Zitnoslic.

Asked about conditions in the Muslim quarter after more than a year of fighting, Thornberry said, "I've seen enough to realize much of it is as bad as Vukovar. Virtually every building is destroyed."

"We're going to have to get humanitarian aid in here and break the siege that way."

"Did you bring food or medicine?" asked one woman as the convoy passed along a narrow street, its elegant buildings pockmarked by shell and sniper fire.

"We have nothing, we have nothing," she said, turning away crestfallen when she was told the convoy had brought food.

Scuffles broke out as the Spanish soldiers threw the contents of their ration boxes to the desperately hungry local children and old people.

Croat forces, which control the access routes into the city, relented on Friday evening after saying earlier that conditions were too dangerous for the convoy to enter the Muslim sector.

Unprofor had rejected the Croat argument that the convoy would be under threat from a planned offensive by Muslim-led government troops as 'unverifiable'.

The convoy made a small delivery to a hospital in Croat-controlled central Mostar on Thursday to sweeten the negotiations to get into the Muslim east side.

The UN halted aid deliveries to central Mostar on June 15 because Croat forces were refusing to allow convoys into the Muslim quarter.

The Midnight File

Massive security for Jackson

BANGKOK, Aug 21: Officials are preparing to welcome pop superstar Michael Jackson with security befitting a foreign potentate. About 2,000 police and soldiers with guard dogs and metal detectors are making ready for Jackson's two concerts this week, the Bangkok Post reported Saturday. Jackson kicks off his "Dangerous" world tour with concerts at the National Stadium Tuesday and Wednesday. He was to arrive this weekend, reports AP.

Majlis al-Shura in S Arabia

RIYADH, Aug 21: King Fahd has appointed 60 citizens to a consultative council, which has no real power but offers an unprecedented forum for public debate in the oil-rich kingdom. The council, known as the Majlis al-Shura, is seen as an important step toward broadening the government's base by giving the country's 12 million people a formal role in the political process for the first time, reports AP.

Russian minister resigns

MOSCOW, Aug 21: Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergei Glaznev, whose ministry is under investigation for corruption, offered his resignation today, an aide said. "Yes, he tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, but there is no reaction yet from Chernomyrdin or from anyone else," adviser Tatyana Aristarkhova said by telephone, reports Reuter.

US Justice Deptt, court battle over Demjanjuk

WASHINGTON, Aug 21: The Justice Department and a US court of appeals are locked in a battle over the fate of John Demjanjuk, a retired Cleveland autoworker found by two US judges to have worked at Nazi death camps, reports AP.

The department has been reduced to begging the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals in almost daily letters to block a three-judge panel's August 6 order that would allow Demjanjuk — if he is freed by Israel — to return to the United States to help with the appeal of his 1986 extradition.

But the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, has refused to act even when it appeared last week that Demjanjuk might leave Israel in a matter of hours.

The Israeli Supreme Court gave the department a breather Friday by giving Demjanjuk's opponents almost two weeks to make their case that he should be retried. The Israeli court earlier overturned his April 1988 conviction and death penalty, citing reasonable doubt

Zakiganj killing

Enquiry body concludes investigation

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 21: The Judicial Commission formed to enquire into the killing of five villagers by BDR firing at Telkhal of Zakiganj thana has completed its investigation yesterday.

The commission was formed immediately after the incident that took place July 26 last.

The Commission headed by Md Anwarul Haque District and Sessions Judge of Kishoreganj began enquiry from August 9. It took testimony of a total of 214 persons at the Sylhet Circuit House and Zakiganj Dak Bunglow during the 12 days till Friday. The Commission also visited the place of occurrence and other places at Zakiganj, Beanibazar and Sylhet.

The Commission is expected to submit its report to the government shortly.

STOL service

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airlines in India and Pakistan. There are two private airlines — Vayudut and East West — in India, and three in Pakistan whose names were not readily available.

Meanwhile, aviation experts said at least 10 types of STOL aircraft are being used for short-distance services across the world.

These are the Canadian-made Twin Otter, the US-manufactured Piper and Cessna, the Kasa of Spain, IPTN of Indonesia, the Dornier-218 of Germany, the Chinese-made Y-12, the Russian AN-28 and the Czechoslovak LET-410.

The expert, who is looking after the technical side for a private travel agency keen to go into this new business, said an aircraft would cost between one and three million US dollars each. He also said most STOL aircraft are fit to fly in Bangladesh conditions.

He also dismissed speculation that World War-II vintage aircraft may be used by our private operators. He said in a business where customer confidence is the key, no operator would be foolish enough to rely on such obsolete planes.

JP leader protests expulsion order

By Staff Correspondent
Joint organising secretary of the Jatiya Party Shujad Hossain, who was expelled from the party Thursday, protested the expulsion order and said, "It is a gross violation of the party constitution and also in defiance of a court order."

In a statement yesterday, he said under the party constitution the central working committee had no right to expel anybody. Only the party chairperson has such powers, but a court order a few months ago imposed restrictions on the activities of the acting party chief because there is no such post under the party constitution, Hossain asserted.

He claimed that he was still an active member of the Jatiya Party and would attend the next extended meeting in September

Chittagong floods

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severely flooded, rendering several thousands of people homeless. However, full details were yet to reach the administration officials.

Besides, the rain-triggered floods damaged about 3000 kutcha houses and affected farmlands, including seedbeds and shrimp projects, in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts, reports said.

In Chittagong district, the other badly affected thanas include Raozan, Hathazari, Fatikchhari, Rangunia, Pattiya, Lohagara, Satkania, Anwara and Banskhali.

In Chittagong city, flash floods gripped most of the low lying areas including Chandgao, Bakalia, Chaktai, Chowkbazar, Sholakbar, the Nastrabad residential area, Katalganj and the Agrabad Commercial area. Thousands of residents in those areas are facing hardship because of rain water entering their dwellings due to serious water-logging.

The continuous torrential rainfall virtually paralysed normal life here.

The movement of ships and handling of cargo at Chittagong port was badly affected due to the rains, port sources said.

Cox's Bazar

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent adds: Torrential rains over the last seven days have inundated vast tracts of land in Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and Chokoria thanas. About 30,000 people have been stranded.

A day-labourer of Kalarmar Chara Union of Moheshkhali thana drowned in the flood waters this morning.

The floods have also washed away shrimps worth Taka five crore from different shrimp farms in Cox's Bazar.

Qureshi vows to put economy on track

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: Pakistan Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi today vowed to put the country's economy on right track so that the future government could find a sound basis to run the country, reports Xinhua.

Talking to the press in Karachi, Moeen said he has adopted the difficult path only to salvage the economy of Pakistan.

Referring to the package of socio-economic reforms he announced earlier this week, he said the measures he has initiated were timely and the need of the hour and cannot be delayed any longer.

In this connection, he said, he has already discussed with former prime ministers of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif.

Replying a question, Moeen Qureshi said stringent measures have to be taken for checking tax-evasion as it has become rampant in our society.

He said he is going to pick some big tax evaders.

The government will initiate legal proceedings against such persons, he said.

AP adds: Pakistan on Friday outlawed character assassination and criticism of the military and judiciary as part of a code of ethics for the October elections.

The code, announced in a nationwide TV address by chief election commissioner Naemuddin, limits campaign attacks to politicians' public life, policies and programmes.

The code also demands that parties 'maintain decency and ethics during their election campaign.'

Ovi, Guddu sentenced

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popularity for his calm and collected manners and was elected the International Affairs Secretary of the JCD central committee in 1986.

As the most daring member of the then JCD leadership he also became notorious for his derring-dos, especially with the gun, during the anti-Ershad student agitation in the early and mid-80s. His cool under pressure and cold-blooded approach marked him out as a ruthless operator and earned the respect of his fellow activists.

The Dhaka University authorities expelled Ovi, along with nine other JCD activists and three JSD (Inu) workers, on charges of violence on the campus during the Ershad regime.

However, at a later stage the Dhaka University unit of the JCD split — in December 1988 — giving rise to a bitter armed conflict between the supporters of Ovi and Ilias Ali, another JCD leader.

Eventually Ovi, along with 11 of his supporters, was expelled from the JCD in November 1990 because of their anti-party activities and for siding with Ershad's government.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5
jured when the "armed terrorists of the BNP" launched attacks with bombs and bullets on Awami League processions proceeding towards the meeting venue from different parts of the city.

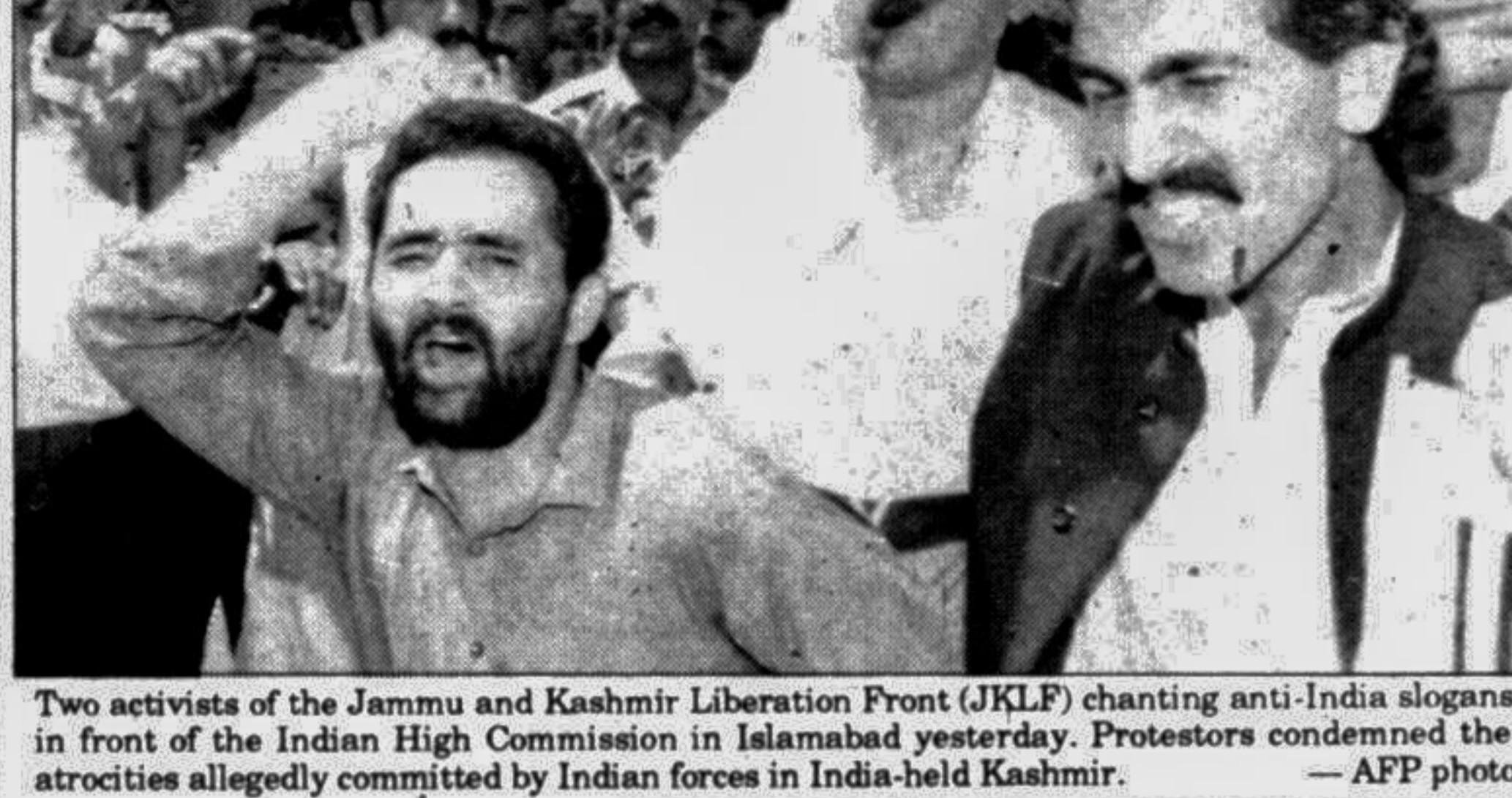
"People in the country are oppressed and suppressed by the misuse of the BNP government for last two and a half year," she said.

The Awami League chief further alleged that the national economy has been crippled due to "corruption by the head of the government, the members of her family, ministers, and leaders and workers of the ruling party."

Hasina said her party is determined to build a poverty-free Bangladesh by ensuring basic rights of the people.

She called for observing "Save Farmers, Save Nation" on September 8 and countrywide demonstration on September 18 to force the government to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance, remove "corrupt" ministers, try Golam Azam as "war criminal" as per four-point accord signed in Parliament.

The Awami League president also called on the people to observe all out hartal throughout the country on October 10.



Two activists of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chanting anti-India slogans in front of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad yesterday. Protestors condemned the atrocities allegedly committed by Indian forces in India-held Kashmir. — AFP photo

Sandinistas hold Vice President

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and more shots were heard around the headquarters.

After the shots subsided, dozens of police were seen blocking off surrounding streets but kept at least 300 yards distant, as the gunmen ordered.

The seizure of the UNO leaders came hours after Radio Ya announced that Contras had taken five more military officers hostage in northern Nicaragua.

The Contra hostage-takers want presidential aide Antonio Lucayo and army chief Gen Humberto Ortega to resign, accusing the two powerful men of leading a Sandinista effort to co-govern with President Violeta Chamorro.

The officers and 33 other hostages, including prominent officials, seized in the north on Thursday had come to the Contra stronghold to offer the rebels amnesty for past attacks against the government. The government had approved the amnesty on Tuesday.

Hundreds of government troops towing artillery converged Friday on northern Nicaragua after the hostage-taking but stopped short of Qullali, the mountain hamlet where some 400 Contras were holding those captives.

Separately, Radio va reported that about 20 masked, armed men entered Radio Corporacion, a station in Managua known for its opposition to the former ruling Sandinistas, damaged equip-

ment and forced the station off the air.

At the UNO building, the radio said, pro-Sandinista gunmen were armed with grenades, had planted dynamite and placed hostages in windows and doorways, presumably as human shields.

Hostage Reynaldo Hernandez, in a telephone conversation with Radio Ya, said kidnappers urged authorities to stay calm. "These men are armed. There must be a peaceful solution," Hernandez declared.

Amid the bursts of sporadic gunfire, a man identifying himself only as a member of 'Commando 40,' went on the radio earlier Friday evening to announce the hostage-taking.