

Heavy fighting in central Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Sept 6: Fighting surged on two fronts in central Bosnia on Monday between Croat troops holding key supply routes and Muslim-led government forces apparently trying to wrest them away, reports AP.

The people in Jablanica, a town near the fighting, were reported to be destitute and hungry.

A UN official who visited the town confirmed earlier reports that it was crowded with between 7,000 and 10,000 refugees, most of them Muslims, expelled from Croat-held territory over the past two weeks.

A spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force, Lt Col Bill Aikman, reported heavy fighting around Fojnica and Vitez between Croat troops and forces of Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

He said government troops apparently were trying to gain control of a road near Vitez and a road linking Fojnica with Tarcin to the southeast for movement of troops and supplies.

Absconder held in city

By Staff Correspondent

An absconder of a criminal case was caught by his accuser from near the secretariat gate in the city and was handed over to the Ramna police yesterday morning.

A 35-year-old supervisor of a private transport company, Shamsur Rahman Moslem, told Ramna police that the accused Abdul Hai, 37, gouged out his left eye in Nazirpur, Pirojpur, on January 7 this year.

Moslem said, he found Abdul Hai roaming around near Gate No-5 of the Secretariat when he was entering the building at 11 am. He caught hold of Hai and handed him over to the police on duty.

Ramna police arrested Hai on suspicion under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr P C), said police.

Families of martyred intellectuals demand houses

By DU Correspondent

Children of the martyred intellectuals of the Dhaka University yesterday demanded permanent allotment of houses for their families.

In a press conference at the University Staff Quarters yesterday afternoon, they also demanded monthly allowances for their families.

The conference was addressed by A M Mohammed Masuduzzaman, son of Shaheed Professor A N M Muniruzzaman.

Masuduzzaman said that they had applied to the concerned authorities through the DU for permanent houses.

Three out of six such families who had applied received government approval, Masuduzzaman said. But the families of Shaheed Professor A N M Muniruzzaman, Md Sadeque and Madhusudan Dey are yet to receive the approval.

The DU authorities sent a letter to the Prime Minister's office for a meeting with the children of the martyred intellectuals last month, Masuduzzaman said adding: 'We have not yet received any answer to that letter.'

Arafat fails to win

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stressed 'Syria's support for the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, who, together with their institutions, have the right to decide what they see suitable.'

Syria, a key partner in the peace process, had been irked by Arafat's failure to consult with any Arab leader during eight months of secret negotiations with the Israelis that led up to the proposed accord.

Therefore, Assad's half-hearted endorsement was the best Arafat could expect. Also, the fact that Assad received the PLO chairman with whom relations have been turbulent for more than two decades indicated that he at least has no plans to try to scuttle the accord.

Syria's support is crucial because it influences hard-line Palestinians such as Habash and Hawatmeh. However, Assad is not expected to rein in Palestinian radicals and other opposition groups until after he has secured his own accord.

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US Ambassador William B Milam addressing a discussion meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association premises yesterday. Bar president Kazi Golam Mahbub (eyes closed), Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed are also seen among the strong supporters of the Bosnian Muslims.

— Star photo

Saddam foils coup bid ?

AMMAN, Sept 6: President Saddam Hussein foiled a coup by members of his Takriti Clan at the end of July and ordered a wave of executions and arrests, Iraqi sources said here today. reports AFP.

They said "Dozens of executions and arrests" were carried out, but the exact number was unknown.

All those put to death were members of the Takriti Clan, from Saddam's home region of Takrit, while those arrested belonged to other families.

The report came as Saddam sacked Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza al-Zubaidi in a government shake-up.

He appointed Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein al-Khodair on Sunday to head the third government since the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq gave no official reason for the nine changes to the government which came against a background of deepening economic and social problems caused by UN sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi national congress, an exiled opposition movement based in London, said on August 29 that Saddam had executed five members of the regime including two from the Takriti Clan.

The entrepreneurs of export-oriented industries were encouraged by the announcement of the previous decisions, he said, and added that the new decision, which came through a notification of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) had, however, struck at the very roots of the wishes and aspirations of the entrepreneurs.

Among the conditions required to be fulfilled to obtain rebate of duty and tax, two of the conditions in particular run absolutely contradictory to the spirit and intention of the previous announcement and will tarnish the image of the government at home and abroad," he added.

"...The objective for which the above facilities were to be provided have in reality become meaningless and will not be achieved," he maintained.

Redwan Ahmed also said that if the notification remained in force the domestic and overseas entrepreneurs will be greatly discouraged and the investment climate as a whole would not receive any impetus.

The BGMEA president, however, felt that the notification of the NBR should be cancelled and a revised one should be issued in conformity with the declared policy of the government for the greater interest of the country.

Li, Rao

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to ease tensions along the mountainous border in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

At the start of Monday's meeting, Li said, "I believe that this very important visit of yours will strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation in every sphere between our two largest developing countries in the world."

Rao said he believed that "India and China cannot but come closer and closer and closer."

Dixit indicated that India will not allow the border dispute to jeopardize improving relations with China, which is viewed by New Delhi as a vast potential market.

But India may convey its anger over military cooperation between China and Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars. The United States has accused China of selling M-11 missile technology to Pakistan in violation of an international arms control pact. Beijing denies the charge.

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