

Arafat seeks Saudi help to end closure of WB, Gaza

RIYADH, Apr 7: Yasser Arafat asked Saudi Arabia for help today in ending Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, reports AP.

"We need the support of our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to lift this Israeli siege," he said upon arrival at Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

He did not say what kind of help he needed from the Saudis, who have for decades been Arafat's main financial backers. Saudi Arabia has no formal relations with Israel but supports what it terms as a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peaceful settlement.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip for security reasons following a series of suicide bomb attacks in a nine-day period starting February 25.

A total of 62 people, including four bombers, were killed.

Arafat's visit to Saudi Arabia underlines the recent rapprochement in his relations with Gulf Arab states which had ostracized him and his Palestine Liberation Organization because of his sympathy

63 held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 7: Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested 63 persons and recovered two lightguns, one pipe gun, one single barrel gun and 35 cartridges during raids in different parts of the city today, reports BSS.

SSC exams

Jessore board and 1,30,000 under Comilla and Chittagong boards.

The SSC examinations are being held at 750 centers at home and five centres abroad. In the capital, there are 60 centres for SSC examinations and two for Dakhil examination.

According to Dhaka board control room sources, 113 SSC examinees were expected from different centres in 13 districts under the board.

Jessore board control room sources said 33 SSC examinees were expelled from different centres in 16 districts.

Expulsion of 49 examinees was reported from different districts under Comilla board.

Three hundred twenty-three examinees were expelled in eight districts under Rajshahi board.

When contacted, the Madrasa Education Board control room sources said that they had received information from only three districts.

The SSC examinations were scheduled to begin on March 27 but later was shifted to April 7 due to political unrest in the country.

UNB adds: Adviser in charge of the ministries of Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports and Youths Prof M Shamsul Hoque visited some SSC and Dakhil examination centres in the capital yesterday.

The centres included Government Laboratory High School, West Dhanmondi Yousuf High School, Kaderiya Talya-biyya Aliya Madrasa and Mohammadpur Government High School.

During the visit, the Adviser talked to the officials and others concerned and enquired about the law and order at the centres.

He expressed satisfaction at the preparations for holding the examinations in a peaceful atmosphere, said an official handout.

Business leaders

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week to look into problems of trade and industry, and decide immediate remedies.

The Adviser suggested that a core committee should simultaneously be set up at the FBCCI for "effective coordination" between the proposed government committee and the private sector.

At the meeting, members of the business community urged the caretaker government to urgently restore law and order to allow the trade and industry to resume normal activities.

Clearance of port congestions and some interim fiscal benefits were also demanded, particularly by representatives of the export sector.

FBCCI President Salman F Rahman said law and order is the foremost issue affecting the business community. "Rule of law is a must for confidence building in the trade and industry."

The caretaker government is enjoying "a tremendous amount of goodwill" from all in the society, he said, and it should exploit the "advantage" to the fullest in restoring law and order. The government should go in a bigger way for the recovery of illegal arms, Rahman added.

ADP funds

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tative implementation of projects rather than increasing the number or size of the ADP, he stressed.

The adviser called for serious consideration of the issues like poverty alleviation, socio-economic development of rural areas and income generation while making revision of the ADP. He also called for ensuring necessary allocation for the implementation of the approved projects.

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A 'citizens' rally' in Narayanganj against terrorism yesterday

— Star photo

'Citizens' rally' in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 7: A number of professional organizations organised a citizens rally demanding action for curbing terrorism here this morning.

The rally was held in front of the Grindlays' Bank on Bangabandhu Road.

The rally, presided over by pourasava chairman Nazimuddin Mahmud was addressed also by Md Glasuddin, Vice president of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Advocate Surul Al, president of the Narayanganj District Bar Association, Mohammad Ayub, President of the Narayanganj Press Club, and by leaders of various other professional bodies.

Later, the participants handed over a memorandum to the deputy commissioner welcoming the initiatives of the caretaker government to restore law and order.

8 shot as BNP, AL clash in Daudkandi

BY DMCH Correspondent

At least eight people sustained bullet injuries in an armed clash between the supporters of BNP and Awami League in Daudkandi, Comilla, yesterday morning.

The two groups clashed at Goalami Bazar at around 8 am to take control of the bazar.

The injured persons were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They are Abdul Barez, 40, Bakul, 21, Shamsul Miah, 60, Montu, 35, Alamgir, 30, Billal Hossain, 12, Shaquail Islam, 20, and Munir Hossain, 30, hospital sources said.

Of the seriously injured, Jasim, 21 and Mizan, 20 have been admitted to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital and another, Habib, 22 was transferred to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital here.

Meanwhile, a leader of the outlawed Sarbaha Party was arrested by Uzirpur police last night.

Alam Rari, 25 was picked up from his residence at Mirakathi Village under Uzirpur around midnight last night. Police recovered three country-made pipe guns, two bullets and a toy revolver from his house.

Indian polls

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"Show me one politician who is honest and I will vote for him," said Sadarshan Chawla, a shopkeeper here. "Everyone is out to make money... who has the moral right to even talk about it?"

George Fernandes, a veteran socialist, wholeheartedly agrees. "In India anyone who has the opportunity to make money makes it with both hands," he said in an interview. "From the Prime Minister to the bus conductor, everyone is engaged in making money."

"Yes, few politicians will be able to talk about it," he added. All Indian general elections in the past 25 years have been dominated by one key theme which has overshadowed all others.

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7 senior LTTE cadres killed in fresh violence

COLOMBO, Apr 7: Tamil Tiger guerrillas today admitted losing seven of senior cadres in ferocious battles with security forces across Sri Lanka's embattled northern and eastern regions in a fresh wave of violence, reports AFP.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said over its clandestine radio that the group lost four men, including a self-styled major during a confrontation with the police Special Task Force (STF) commandos on Friday.

The LTTE's Voice of Tigers Radio did not say how many security personnel were killed in the confrontation in the eastern district of Ampara but an earlier Tiger statement from its London office said 16 STF men were killed.

However, the defence ministry said 18 STF commandos were killed and claimed killing 84 Tigers in two days of fighting in the north of the country on Thursday and Friday alone.

The Voice of Tigers Radio also said that the LTTE lost three lieutenants at Elephant Pass, located at the entrance of the northern Peninsula of Jaffna which once served as a de facto state of the separatists.

In another statement from its London office, the group said that the military kept up an artillery barrage against three villages in the Vadamarchchi sector of the Jaffna peninsula and claimed that a Tamil Civilian was injured.

Military officials denied shelling civilian targets and said even helicopter gunships were being deployed to take on identified LTTE targets in the peninsula.

Defence sources said that 95 automatic assault rifles were recovered from nearly 150 LTTE men and women killed in the Walkamam sector in the past eight days by infantry troops.

BCL-Shibir clash in Comilla: 7 hurt

COMILLA, Apr 7: Seven people were injured in a clash today between activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Choura Sadar in Sadar thana, some 12 miles from here, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued at about 11 am when ICS activists chased a BCL activist for brandishing a pipe-gun and attacked the house of one Sekander Ali, where he took shelter.

The inhabitants of the locality counter-attacked the Shibir activists, leaving seven of them seriously injured. Of the injured, Moslem, Jahangir, Swapan, Momin and Monir were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital and Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested seven people. Three of them claimed to be Shibir activists.



Sarawak natives perform a native dance during a demonstration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday as green activists continue to keep up the pressure to stop the construction of the Bakun dam.

— AFP/UNB photo

50,000 additional troops to be deployed India warns against any Pak bid to disrupt polls in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 7: In a clear reference to Pakistan, India today warned it would deal firmly with "our hostile neighbour" if it tried to disrupt elections next month in Kashmir, reports AFP.

As thousands of troops were deployed in the northern state, army chief Shankar Roy Chowdhury, said troops would thwart any attempt by the "hostile neighbour" to disrupt the balloting.

"Our hostile neighbour will certainly make efforts to disrupt elections, but we will handle and cope with it, the press chief of India quoted the chief of India's million-plus army as saying in Bombay in a clear reference to Pakistan, with which India fought two wars over Kashmir.

The general asserted that Muslim militants were on the run in Kashmir, but warned "foreign mercenaries" could carry out terror attacks during

the polls in the state. "Armed forces are in control of the security situation in Kashmir," Chowdhury said and added reinforcements would be sent before the first elections in six years in the Himalayan region bordering Pakistan.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of arming and training Muslim separatists, a charge Islamabad has denied saying it only provides diplomatic support to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination in the province which is divided between the two countries.

The army chief's warning to Pakistan came as India today planned to deploy tens of thousands of troops in Kashmir to try and prevent possible sabotage of the elections by Muslim separatists.

Some 50,000 additional troops would be deployed in Kashmir to reinforce 250,000 police, army and paramilitary

personnel already stationed in the frontier region, they said. "Availability of extra troops and their deployment in the state would not be a problem since soldiers from all over India will be free ahead of the second phase of the polls in Kashmir," an official said.

India's election commission has staggered polls in three phases to ensure troops re-deployment from other parts of the country to Kashmir, where an anti-Indian rebellion has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

India is to have parliamentary elections in April-May. Voters will go to the polls on May 7, 23 and 30 to elect six MPs from Kashmir.

Hasina goes to Khulna tomorrow

KHULNA, Apr 7: Preparations are afoot to accord a reception to Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina on her proposed visit to Khulna on April 9, reports BSS.

The Awami League chief is scheduled to address a public meeting at Khulna circuit house ground the same day.

Khulna city committee and Khulna district committee held separate meetings at the local Awami League office on Friday.

Presided over by Advocate Manzurul Imam the AL city committee was addressed by Mostafa Rashid Suja, Kazi Azhar Ali, Begum Mannujun Sultan Talukdar Abdul Khalek, Sheikh Monirul Islam Monir, Khan Ebne Zaman, Kazi Enayeh Hossain, Advocate Tarafdar Lutfar Rahman, Professor Hosne Ara Runu and Saiful Islam.

A meeting of district committee was held at the AL office. It was presided over by President of Khulna district Awami League and former whip of opposition parliament party in the Jatiya Sangshad, Shaikh Harunor Rashid.

US Navy aircraft arrives in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 7: A maritime patrol aircraft of the US Navy arrived here this morning on a six-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

There are 21 crew members in the aircraft, p-3 Orion. Officials of the US Embassy in Dhaka and local Naval Officers received the visiting team.

During its stay, the aircraft will take part in joint exercises with some of the Bangladesh Navy (BN) ships in the Bay of Bengal on maritime surveillance.

The crew members will visit some of naval training establishments here and at Kaptai and will take part in a friendly basketball match with BN team.

The aircraft will leave the country on April 12, said an ISPR press release today.

JP urges govt Release Ershad to maintain neutrality

Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday said people have doubts about the neutrality of the caretaker government as former President Ershad has not been released despite the fall of the BNP government, reports BSS.

He was addressing a function marking the joining of about five hundred ulama-makram headed by eminent Islamic thinker Alhaj Moulana Habibullah Belal.

Demanding the release of Ershad, Mizan Chowdhury said he (Ershad) should be released in the interest of the caretaker government to maintain its neutrality.

He was critical of the BNP government and said during the last five years the BNP government had destroyed the Islamic ideals and values from the state principles. He said the country's economy was mortgaged to foreign traders and the national economy was destroyed.

Dr Kamal urges students to resist politics of arms

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon students to contribute positively to stop campus terrorism and violence and boycott those political parties which patronise armed miscreants, reports BSS.

Addressing a group of students of Jagannath University at the party central office, Dr Kamal said that the educational arena should be made free of arms to make independence meaningful through establishment of sound politics and development of the national economy.

He said that an opportunity had been created for holding free and fair polls following establishment of a non-party caretaker government. He stressed the need for creating a congenial atmosphere free from influence of black money and illegal arms.

Dr Kamal said since its inception, Gano Forum had been relentlessly carrying out movement against terrorism. He urged the students to resist unitedly the politics of arms.

Reconstitute EC: Jamaat

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh yesterday called for immediate announcement of election schedule after reconstituting the Election Commission (EC) with persons including the chief election commissioner having confidence of the people, reports BSS.

The Jamaat in its central working committee meeting with Prof Golam Azam in the chair, also urged the caretaker government to take necessary steps for announcing the schedule, a party press release said.

The meeting observed that peace and tranquility has returned gradually in society following laking over power by the caretaker government. "Now the people will be election-oriented soon as the election schedule is announced," it said.

The Midnight File

30 killed in Zairean train accident

KINSHASA, Apr 7: Thirty people were killed in a railway accident at Mwaka, 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of the Zairean capital Kinshasa, voice of Zaire radio said today. The disaster occurred Saturday and left about 30 other people injured, the radio said, reports AFP.

World Health Day observed

World Health Day was observed in the country yesterday, report agencies.

Different organisations brought out colourful processions and held seminars and symposia to mark the day.

In observance of the day, the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organised a symposium at UNAB office in the city.

Noted physician Dr. Makhduma Nargis Ratna was the main speaker on this year's health day theme, "healthy cities for better life."

Alex Redekopp, chief of the WHO healthy city/town projects in Dhaka spoke on the occasion. Senior journalists Santosh Gupta and Fazlul Kacim, National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, Afzal Hossain, Professor Raisuddin and Dr. Syed Mohammad Shahed took part in the discussion.

Senior scientist Professor Md Abu Bakr presided over the meeting, a UNAB press release said.

The speakers pointed out that rapid urban growth was at the root of most problems of city life, they further opined that millions of people living in the cities of developing countries were being threatened by lack of food, clean water and shelter. The speakers emphasised eradication of poverty as a pre-condition for attaining healthy life for all.

The meeting prayed for the early recovery of Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary-General, United Nations Association of Bangladesh who is now under treatment at a clinic, following a left leg-finger injury.

CCHRB forms polls monitoring council

Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) formed a 15-member CCHRB Election Monitoring Council-1996 for observing the forthcoming national parliamentary election, reports UNB.

Jeffrey S. Perefira, Vice President of CCHRB and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, and Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Secretary General of CCHRB, will act as Convenor and Member Secretary of the Council respectively.

The Election Monitoring Council was formed at a CCHRB executive committee meeting here Wednesday, said a press release.

Other members of the Council are Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan, AHM Noman, Mohammad Khurshid Alam, Abu Nayeem, Anisur Rahman, Adv Nazrul Islam and ANM Aminul Islam.

Rivals clash near Fulbaria bus terminal: 3 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least three persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups near Fulbaria bus terminal in the city yesterday evening.

Three cocktails were hurled near the terminal during chase and counter-chase creating panic in the area at around 7:30 pm, locals said. Police lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control, police sources said.

The injured two persons, taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) were identified as Murtaza and Mustafa.

No SSF seen

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hoisted on her private car for two days after she resigned on March 30. The national flag was not seen hoisted on her car for the last couple of days.

However, there was no official announcement whether the SSF was withdrawn from her security. Begum Zia was enjoying SSF security after her resignation.

Sixth JS

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phone bills.

As the sixth JS functioned for a very short period, the MPs would be given their monthly remuneration only, besides the daily allowance of Tk 200 and conveyance allowance of Tk 50 per day for the period when the House was in session.

The MPs also could not avail the facility of procuring duty free car. They were entitled to as the sixth JS was very short-lived, the sources noted.

Manzur murder

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The judge also rejected another bail prayer filed on behalf of Ershad in the Jatiya Party office case. He said since the case was in the final stage, there is no use to grant bail now.

Besides Ershad, other accused in the Manzur Murder Case, are Maj Gen (retd) MA Latif, Lt Col (retd) Shamsur Rahman alias Shams, Lt Col (retd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan and Maj (retd) Kazi Emdadul Haq.

Jayasuriya's first wicket partnership with Romesh Kaluwitharana for 70 runs was hardly a partnership. Jayasuriya made 67 of the runs and three were extras. Kaluwitharana was bowled by Aaqub without scoring.

Jayasuriya whacked Pakistan's first over by Waqar for 14 runs with two boundaries. A chastened Pakistani captain, Amir Sohail, took Yousuf off and be bought in Aatur for the third over. Jayasuriya began by lifting him for a six at the midwicket boundary. After a no-score ball came another six from a pull to the long leg then a four to the point boundary and another six at mid-wicket.

The next over he pulled and cut Aaqub Javed for a six and a four.

Sohail tried another bowling change in the fifth over, bringing in Saqlain. His over yielded 6, 4, 4, 4, 1.

Details on page 11

Singer Cup

From Page 1

around the field. His 53 came off 17 balls, surpassing Australian Simon O'Donnell's 50 in 18 balls against New Zealand in 1990.

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Details on page 11

Pele

From Page 1

He is appealing a court decision that he is also the father of a 31-year-old woman with whose mother Pele had an affair during his playing days.

Pele is now Brazil's minister for sports. One of his sons from first marriage is goal-keeper for the Santos Club.