



# Pakistan shoots down Indian jets

## Tension mounts on Kashmir front as New Delhi gets provoked

ISLAMABAD, May 27: Pakistan today shot down two Indian fighters over Kashmir, officials said, as tensions between the fledgling nuclear powers rose to dangerous new levels, reports AFP.

India acknowledged it had lost two planes, but said only one was shot down, the other crashing after suffering mechanical failure.

The planes came down on the second day of an unprecedented aerial bombardment by India of Muslim militants

holed up in the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Pakistan's vice chief of general staff, Major General Anis Bajwa, told a press briefing that a MiG-27 and a MiG-21 were shot down after they "intruded into our air space."

The wreckage of both planes fell six to seven kilometres inside Pakistan territory, south of Shyok river in Kashmir, he said.

One pilot was killed and the other captured in the first such incident between the bitter ri-

vals since they fought their last war in 1971. The captured man would be treated as a prisoner of war, Bajwa said.

Pakistan's foreign ministry Thursday summoned the Indian charge d'affaires here to protest over "violations" of its territory in Kashmir, state-run television reported.

The diplomat was told of Islamabad's serious concern over "repeated violations" of its air space along the Line of Control, which separates the Pakistani and Indian-controlled parts of

Kashmir, it said.

"We lost two aircraft in today's operation," Indian Air Marshal S.K. Malik confirmed to reporters in New Delhi, stressing the planes were both within Indian airspace although close to the dividing Line of Control.

He said a MiG-27 bomber was downed by a Pakistani surface-to-air missile while responding to a distress call from a MiG-21 fighter pilot who ejected after a mechanical failure.

"We consider this a provocative act. The other side has escalated the situation," Malik told reporters.

Waves of Indian jets have been attacking the mountains in Kashmir to dislodge the remnants of some 400 Muslim fighters who allegedly crossed into the Indian-controlled zone of Kashmir under the cover of Pakistani shelling that began May 9.

The loss of the planes upped the ante in the crisis, with the Indian cabinet meeting in

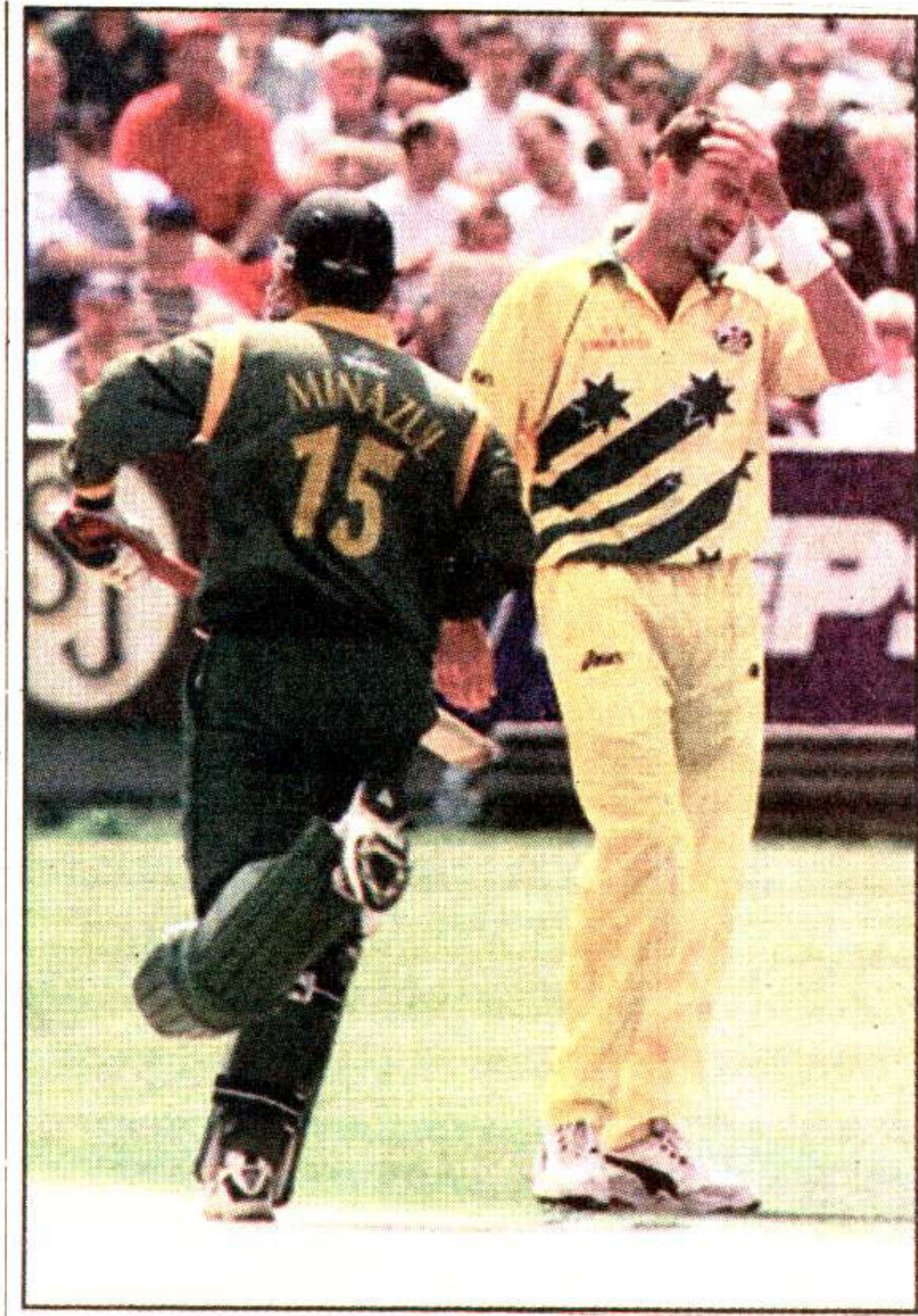
emergency session to discuss the situation. Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes said the cabinet had reached a collective decision on the question of possible retaliation.

"But I cannot tell you about it at this point of time," he told reporters.

"Nobody talks about war lightly," Fernandes added, asked if the incident could escalate into a full-blown military conflict.

India, which has accused

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Damien Fleming contemplates a near miss as Minhazul Abedin steals a run at Durham yesterday. — AFP photo

# Bangladesh bowling gets Aussie beating

From Nizamuddin Ahmed at Chester-le-Street

May 27: The Australian run-machine plundered the loose Bangladesh bowling to win by seven wickets. Except Brendan Julian, the top Aussie order scored with utmost ease to overtake the winning target of 179 in the 20th over.

Two quick wickets after the fall of Adam Gilchrist at the team total of 98 was the brief period of Bangladesh joy as Australia came to ensure a healthy run rate for posterity.

Mark Waugh shared a solid opening partnership with Gilchrist. The wicketkeeper-batsman was brilliantly stumped by Khaled Mashud as he went out to punish Minhazul Abedin again. Gilchrist hit 13 fours in his 39-ball 63.

Mark Waugh fell next with no addition to the total. The great man was caught outside his crease after being beaten hollow by Enamul Hoque. Mark hit three boundaries in the almost run-a-ball 33.

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**New beginning**  
CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma (with stick) walks with Shantu Larma, (on his left), chairman of the Regional Council, towards the installation ceremony of the interim body in Rangamati yesterday. — Star photo: AKM Mohsin

# Larma takes over

## RC chief wants full implementation of the deal, troops to return to barracks

By Shehab Ahmed back from Rangamati

Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma formally took over as Chairman of the interim Regional Council for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) yesterday, renewing his demands for full implementation of the CHT peace agreement including passage of all amendments to the three hill district council acts and withdrawal of army camps.

"It is desirable that the agreement is implemented properly. The Jumma people are looking forward to it. If it is not implemented properly, problems will remain," he told a colourful function at the Tribal Cultural Institute at Rangamati, making installation of the Regional Council.

Thousands including government leaders, parliament members, diplomats, tribal and Bengali representatives and former tribal guerrillas witnessed the event as the 22-member RC led by its Chairman Larma came to the dais in the backdrop of traditional tribal music.

In his speech, the former guerrilla chief did not hide his annoyance over "slow" implementation of the peace agreement that ended decades of insurgency in the CHT by Shanti Bahini.

The CHT peace agreement was signed between the Parbatya Chhatagram Jana Sanghati Samity led by JB Larma alias Shantu Larma and the government on December 2, 1997.

Larma sought co-operation from the administration, law keepers and all sections of people including settlers to begin a "new chapter" in the hills for the ten ethnic groups "who have their own language".

The RC will play a key role to make the CHT "a place without deprivation and exploitation by ultra nationalists and fundamentalists", he said.

"Let us leave the past behind" the former guerrilla chief said without referring to the Army. But he could not hold back his feelings against presence of Army in the CHT. They are seen everywhere despite provisions in the agreement to keep the CHT free from Sena Shasan (Army rule).

But he sought their 'constructive assistance and sympathy'. "Because of many unwanted situations, there had been acrimonious relations between the Army and the Jumma people who had contempt and anger against them (Army) and their 'bejatiya' (foreigner's) attitude. You (Army) too may have their own language".

# Ministries make financial mess

## Audit tells a thousand crore taka story

Comptroller and Auditor General M Hafiz Uddin Khan formally submitted 10 special audit reports, four annual audit reports and one appropriation accounts of the government to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The special audit reports were prepared on the financial irregularities of the Ministry of Education, Secondary and Higher

Secondary Education Boards, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, T and T and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

The Auditor General apprised the President of the irregularities mentioned in the audit reports and lack of initiative in taking corrective measures by the concerned departments and ministries.

He said that 10 special audit reports contain 225 audit observations on financial irregularities involving Tk 696.13 crore and four yearly audit reports contain 592 audit observations pointing out irregularities involving Tk 306.85 crore. Audit observations include embezzlement, theft, wastage and others.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin Ahmed directed Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a special audit

**A view from the Gully**

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga had his worst nightmare. The world champions were buried alive on the small square of a beautiful town in Somerset called Taunton on Wednesday. Azharuddin's men could very well be 'tried' for cruelty to the weak and incapable, at least that was what the

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# Oil chiefs meet Hasina as Unocal strengthens hold

The chiefs of US oil companies Occidental and Unocal yesterday met the Prime Minister, other top government leaders and high officials in the energy sector.

Sources said that the Unocal-Occidental deal was supposed to be signed yesterday. However, it could not be confirmed whether it was signed or not.

Unocal is taking over Occidental's operations in Bangladesh under the deal.

Insiders and Petrobangla sources said that the two companies must have been planning this deal for a long time. "Unocal's people have been gradually playing key role in exploration activities for the last six months," said a Petrobangla official.

Occidental sold its concerns in Indonesia and Malaysia last year. In India, it was awarded a block last year but it did not take the block. "It is clear that it was not interested in South Asia. It is now focusing more on the Gulf and South America," said another source.

Occidental's local employees were assured on Wednesday that their jobs would be properly taken care of if the deal with Unocal took place.

The 'change of operatorship' would create the same type of legal crisis now being faced by Cairn and Shell. As in the case of Cairn and Shell, information about Unocal-Occidental deal was not revealed to Petrobangla as yet. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) that binds Occidental with Petrobangla does not have any room for transfer of operatorship. However, the government may ultimately have to approve this change, sources mentioned.

Besides, the operatorship of another US company - Okland - which is undergoing financial crisis, was proposed to be transferred to Irish oil company Tullow oil. A Petrobangla high official is learnt to promote the cause of Tullow and Petrobangla cleared the transfer. The matter has been forwarded to the Law Ministry.

It is now speculated in the oil sector that Unocal would purchase more operatorship in Bangladesh.

One source said that another

# Oxy strikes gas at Kafna

By Sharier Khan

US oil company Occidental has struck gas at Kafna in Sylhet.

Sources concerned said that gas started flowing from Kafna-1 exploratory well in Block-13 near Petrobangla's Kailastila gasfield yesterday morning.

Occidental started drilling this well earlier this month. It has drilled up to a depth of 4000 metres and found gas structures from a depth of 1200 metres.

Whether the new finding would be commercially viable would be determined much later. The size of the gas reserve would be assessed after drilling an appraisal well, subject to Petrobangla's permission.

Petrobangla had earlier objected to Occidental's Kafna venture saying that it was 'highly risky and overlapped' Petrobangla's reserved Kailastila gasfield. It did not approve the exploratory well. But Occidental took the risk and started drilling. Sources indicated that there were chances of dispute between Occidental and Petrobangla in this regard.

"Occidental went on with this drilling in order to fulfil its minimum obligations under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to drill three wells by the end of this year," said one source.

It would soon drill another exploratory well at Ratna and Moulavibazar-2 well - both in Moulavibazar.

Occidental has completed drilling Bibiyana appraisal well. It struck a huge gas reserve at Bibiyana last year. Sources in the company earlier claimed the reserve to be as big as 3 to 5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) or nearly half the total proven gas reserve in the country. On the basis of outcome of the appraisal well, one source said that the minimum reserve would be at least three TCF.

# Four face murder charge

Decomposed body on rooftop watertank

By Staff Correspondent

Four people, including three Detective Branch (DB) personnel of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, were accused in the Jalal Ahmed Shaifi murder case yesterday. The fourth person was the DB office canteen manager.

The decomposed body of Shaifi, an informer of DB, was recovered from a roof-top watertank of DB office at Minto Road on March 25 morning, this year. It was identified six days later.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police, who investigated the case, also recommended departmental penalty against eight other DB personnel, including Assistant Commissioner (AC) Humayun Kabir and Sub-Inspector (SI) Shajahan.

The CID submitted the five page chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday evening accusing Inspector Ziaul Ahsan, Havildar Bellal, Constable Rob and Canteen Manager Anwar.

All the four accused are detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. Earlier, CID arrested five people, including the accused four, during the 62-day investigation. SI Shajahan — one of the arrested — was dropped from the chargesheet.

The investigating officer Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID Munsi Atiqur Rahman invoked Sections 364, 302, 201 and 34 of the Penal Code while bringing charges against the accused.

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WITH LONG LASTING MOUTHWASH & FLUORIDE

**CLOSE-UP**

SHINY WHITE TEETH - FRESHER BREATH

For Long Lasting Fresh Breath and Sparkling White Teeth

# Windies whack Scots

LEICESTER, England, May 27: West Indian veteran pace bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose teamed up here on Thursday with a clinical eight-wicket destruction of Scotland in their World Cup group B encounter - then went for a spot of lunch, reports AFP.

The Scots folded dramatically for 68 to record the second lowest total in the tournament's history. Their innings lasted only 31.3 overs.

The West Indies, keen to improve their run rate which could decide which teams qualify for the second round, then romped home in 10.1 overs, ending the match 20 minutes before lunch.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul made 30 not out and Brian Lara was unbeaten on 25 off 17 deliveries.

The real heroes, however, were Ambrose, aged 35, and Walsh, one year his senior. Ambrose took two for eight off 10 overs, while Walsh had three for seven off seven.

Wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs caught the first four batsmen.

Unbeaten Pakistan are certain to head group B with the West Indies. Australia and New Zealand fighting it out for the

two remaining places.

Net run rate - a team's scoring rate per over deducted from its opponents' run rate - is likely to prove decisive.

The West Indies play Australia on Sunday in their final game, while New Zealand take on Scotland on Monday.

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# Beyond the boundary

## Silence of the Lambs

By Shakil Kasem

It would take the rest of this century for Scotland to recover from its shock defeat against Bangladesh. The long term implications of this historic (Bangladesh version) slip betwixt the cup and the lip, was there for the world to see. Against the West Indies, Scotland were given the message, loud and clear. Their scotch and the bagpipers are indeed more impressive than their weekend cricketers. The West Indies, who are themselves on a rehab programme, acquitted themselves impeccably. They simply blew the Scots away.

That left Bangladesh to cope with Australian angst. Australia may be struggling in this

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we score... while others watch

Standard Chartered