

Fiji army refuses to step aside

SUVA, Fiji, June 10: Fiji's military government has rejected the latest call to step aside to allow for civilian rule, an army spokesman said today.

Talks between military commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama and western area chiefs who are pressing for re-establishment of a civilian government collapsed on Friday with no further meetings scheduled, Colonel Filipo Tarakinkini told Reuters.

"Nothing has changed and there are no more talks on the agenda," Tarakinkini told Reuters. The two sides had initially planned to meet again this morning.

Failure to reach an accord also shackles efforts by the army to negotiate the release of around 30 political hostages including Fiji's first ethnic Indian prime minister Mahendra Chaudhury.

They were taken hostage May 19 at the parliamentary complex in Suva by nationalist rebels, prompting the military to declare martial law in the racially split country.

The Labour Ministry says more than 2,000 jobs, mostly held by indigenous Fijians in the low-paying manufacturing sector, have been lost since the start of the crisis due to a trade ban imposed by unions in Australia, Fiji's largest trading partner.

From his stronghold at the parliament, rebel leader George Speight has called on Fijians to accept economic hardships during his campaign to strip ethnic Indians of any role in government.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Commonwealth ministers will meet with Fiji's recently-installed military government on June 16, a military spokesman said today.

The delegation, expected to include foreign ministers from Australia and New Zealand, postponed a visit earlier this week at the request of Fijian commodore Frank Bainimarama.

Bainimarama is attempting to negotiate the release of around 30 political hostages.

The delegation will arrive next Friday and meet with Commodore Bainimarama," the spokesman, Captain Eroni Volavola, told Reuters.

Abortive attempt on lives of 2 Indian leaders

SRINAGAR, June 10: In stepped up violence, militants made an abortive attempt on lives of a CPI (M) and a National Conference (NC) leaders and fired grenades at an army camp in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, reports PTI.

Eighteen people, including 12 militants and three security personnel were killed in the state since Thursday evening in militancy related violence.

Militants fired six grenades at an army installation at toto ground in Srinagar city, but there was no report of casualty or damage as the missiles missed the target, an official spokesman here said.

Militants opened heavy fire on the house of CPI (M) leader Aloka Kukar at Bugam in Kulgam area of Anantnag district of South Kashmir Thursday night.

Kuka and his family members escaped unhurt as police guards posted at the house fired back, forcing the militants to flee.

Militants attacked the house of Mohammad Shafi, National Conference leader and member of Legislative Council, at Yarood village of Doda district on Wednesday. Police guards posted at the house repulsed the attack.

Shafi and his family escaped unhurt in the attack.

Tigers call for temporary truce

Lanka goes on red alert for funeral

COLOMBO, June 10: Tamil Tiger rebels today called for a temporary truce in Sri Lanka, as fresh fighting killed 27 people and the country was placed on red alert for the funeral of an assassinated senior minister, reports AFP.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement that they were calling for the ceasefire to allow a large number of civilians trapped in the Thenmarachchi sector of the Jaffna peninsula to move to safety.

There was no immediate re-action from the government, which placed its police and troops on maximum alert amid fears of violence during Saturday's funeral in Colombo of Industry Minister C.V. Gooneratne.

Policemen armed with automatic assault rifles were deployed along the funeral route in Colombo while army sol-

diers reinforced check points and took up positions in the capital as part of tight security, police officials said.

Extraordinary security measures were also in place at the national parliament where Gooneratne's remains were taken for legislators and diplomats to pay their last respects.

Minister Gooneratne and his wife were killed as they took part in a parade in the Colombo suburb of Ratmalana on Wednesday to raise money for the welfare of thousands of government soldiers battling Tamil Tigers in the Jaffna peninsula.

The EU fully supports the government of Sri Lanka in preventing those committing terrorist crimes from deriving any benefit whatsoever from their acts," the EU said in a statement sent on Saturday.

The EU said it was supportive of efforts by Norway, a non-

EU member, to bring the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government to the negotiating table. The Tigers were asked to immediately enter the talks process.

Kumaratunga was a victim of a suicide bombing at a rally in December last year, losing her right eye and narrowly escaping assassination. Twenty six people at the rally were killed.

The European Union on Saturday joined international condemnation of Gooneratne's assassination and appealed to the LTTE to end indiscriminate acts of violence and agree to hold peace talks with the Sri Lankan government.

Another 23 people were killed Wednesday's bombing, carried out by a suicide squad from the LTTE, police said, adding that 15 suspects were in custody.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga flew by helicopter to

Colombo to pay her respects to Gooneratne at the tightly-guarded building, located on an island in the middle of a lake near Colombo.

The statement came as the LTTE said it had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to visit the battle zones and arrange the temporary truce.

The ICRC confirmed it received the request from the LTTE, but said it was unable to secure an agreement between the two warring sides on a "point of entry" to assess the situation in the Thenmarachchi sector of Jaffna.

Heavy fighting erupted in the region after a two-week lull when government forces mounted a fresh offensive against suspected rebel positions in the area on Friday, officials said.

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Women still subjected to untold sufferings across the world

UNITED NATIONS, June 10: Even though few women engage in combat, many are targeted in war. They are raped, abducted, forced to become pregnant and used as slaves to cook and clean for fighters across the world, the statement said.

The rebels attack women "to fragment the community," said Isla Dianan of the women's International League for Peace and Justice.

Although recent research shows that some women have actively supported violent organisations and uprisings, women and children make up 80 per cent of refugees and displaced people.

On the last day of a UN conference to accelerate progress toward women's equality, activists denounced the lack of concrete action to help innocent women caught in armed conflicts — even though a landmark gathering in Beijing five years ago identified women in conflicts as one of the main areas of concern.

The woman's body has become the battlefield," said Sam Anderlini of the British-based group International Alert, which tries to focus world attention on the effects of war.

"You rape them, you force them into pregnancy, you totally dishonor them ... you are breaking up the fabric of a family, so you are going right to the heart and soul of a community," Anderlini said, citing the use of rape in the Bosnian war and in Sierra Leone.

Any Smythe, former minister of gender and women's affairs in Sierra Leone, said Friday that women in the west African country wracked by civil war are often "abducted as sex slaves, or as cooks or carriers of luggage."

During eight years of fighting, rebel forces led by Foday Sankoh have killed tens of thousands of civilians and sys-

tematically maimed many more, including women and children.

The rebels attack women "to fragment the community," said Isla Dianan of the women's International League for Peace and Justice.

Nearly 100,000 people of Nepalese origin were evicted or encouraged to emigrate from Bhutan in the early 1990s when the kingdom's ethnic Drupkas cracked down on what they called illegal immigrants.

Women also are at the mercy of whichever side takes over their territory, as is the case in Afghanistan.

Under the strict Islamic rule of the Taliban militia that controls 90 per cent of the country, women are not allowed to work, girls older than 8 may not attend school and women in public must wear a burqa, or a head-to-toe shroud that covers their body. State officials roam the streets looking for women violating the edicts and they are publicly beaten.

The US-based Feminist Majority Foundation urged world leaders — in particular US and UN officials — to put more pressure on the Taliban and nations supporting them to abolish the restrictions imposed on women. The foundation also called on the United States and other countries to increase their asylum quotas for women from Afghanistan.

The rebels attack women "to fragment the community," said Isla Dianan of the women's International League for Peace and Justice.

Women-based violence also is used to terrorise the general population, grass-roots groups said.

Bhutanese women who fled to Nepal said they were raped in Bhutan in front of their families "to create fear" and force

the population to flee, said Anjana Shakya, a member of the South Asia Beijing Plus Five Committee.

Nearly 100,000 people of Nepalese origin were evicted or encouraged to emigrate from Bhutan in the early 1990s when the kingdom's ethnic Drupkas cracked down on what they called illegal immigrants.

The team, led by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, touched down at the airport in the capital Honiara early Saturday as both sides continued to observe the truce agreed for the duration of the visit.

Honiara's international airport has been the frontline of hostilities for the last week, but it was peaceful on Saturday with militiamen of both factions reportedly dug in on either side of the runways.

Lawyer Andrew Nori, leader of the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF) that seized control of the capital on Monday, taking Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alau hostage, met the delegation.

MEF militia were still very much in control of the capital on Saturday, patrolling the city in government trucks, but journalists said there was no trouble nor any apparent attempt at harassment.

Leaders of the rival Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) were also due to meet the delegation, which includes New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff and representatives of Botswana and Malaysia.

The delegation is seen as a first step towards the introduction of peacekeepers, or peace-monitoring officials, which Australia as the major power in the South Pacific region would be expected to lead.

Jowers had not made any public statements about his role in the killing since a 1993 interview with ABC television, in which he said he was paid by a Memphis grocery store owner with Mafia connections to hire a Memphis policeman to kill King. He also said a man named Raoul was also involved in the murder.

Those twelve policemen killed included inspector Nava Raj Paudyal, seven civilians and five children," a senior police official told AFP.

Eleven other police officers were also seriously injured in Tuesday's clash. The police source said the Maoists threw two powerful grenades at two houses, killing seven civilians inside.

Then a group of rebels attacked a police post manned by 52 policemen at Thame village in Jajarkot district, 358 kilometers (224 miles) northwest of Kathmandu, the source said.

"Because of bad weather conditions and also the failure of communications, the exact number of casualties could not be substantiated until Friday," the source said.

Wilson also claims he hid these papers for 30 years, but someone from the White House stole them, including one with a Federal Bureau of Investigation phone number.

The Memphis jury ruled in the King civil case that Loyd Jowers, a Memphis tavern owner, had participated in the murder with others "including government agencies."

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The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, at the request of the King family, began to investigate in August 1998 this new evidence. US officials investigated allegations made by Jowers and Donald Wilson, a former FBI agent, who claimed as an agent he took papers from Ray's car at the time that contained references to "Raoul."

Wilson also claims he hid these papers for 30 years, but someone from the White House stole them, including one with a Federal Bureau of Investigation phone number.

The tremor, registering 2.8 on the Richter Scale, struck at 1:03 am local time (2330 BST), according to an official of the Department of Meteorology. The epicentre was located in the northern part of Yangon. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

6 killed in Brazil jail riot: Brazilian police on Friday restored order to an overcrowded jail in the northern state of Ceara where 1,200 inmates rioted after six inmates were shot and killed during an escape, prison officials said. Reuters reports from Sao Paulo.

The riot erupted in the prison built for 900 inmates after the foiled breakout attempt on Thursday. Armed prisoners exchanged gunfire with police early on Friday in the 15-hour standoff at the Paulo Sarasate prison near Fortaleza. Inmates returned to their cells by Friday afternoon after several hundred heavily armed military police surrounded the complex and took control of an administrative building.

Annan to visit ME states: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is soon expected to visit seven Middle Eastern countries with a close interest in Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon, diplomats said on Friday. AFP reports from United Nations.

The diplomats said Annan was expected to travel to Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria, but not necessarily in that order. Annan's spokesman said "the secretary general has received a number of invitations to visit the Middle East, but a final decision will not be made until we can confirm the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon."

Artist Jacob Lawrence dead: Jacob Lawrence, whose use of bright colours and bold images to capture the struggles of American blacks made him one of the country's most celebrated painters, died on Friday. He was 82. Reuters reports from Seattle.

Lawrence passed away in his sleep at his Seattle home early on Friday, according to a statement from the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation that was founded by the artist and his wife to promote American art.

The mill authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or fully without showing any reason.

Tenders will be received on 17.7.2000 up to 11:00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in presence of tenderers (if any). Detailed information and terms & conditions will be had in the tender list. Tender may be purchased from the office of the (1) Controller of Finance, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Adamjee Court, Motijheel, Dhaka (2) Additional General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Chittagong Zone, Sattar Chamber, 99, Agrabad, Chittagong (3) Deputy General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Khulna Zone, Hafizuddin Road, Town Khalishpur, Khulna (4) Manager, (A&F), Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd, Rajghat, Jessor on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) only (non-refundable) during office hours except opening date.

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