

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 army chiefs who are pressing for re-establishment of a civilian government collapsed on Friday with no further meetings scheduled, Colonel Filippo Tarakinikini told Reuters.

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

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

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 Fiji's commander 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 Aloek Kuka 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 Yardoo village of Doda district on Wednesday. Police guards posted at the house repulsed the attack.

Shafi and his family escaped unhurt in the attack.

International Tender Notice

Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd, Raighat, Jessore, Bangladesh invites sealed tender under 22nd Japani Debt Relief Grant for import of following spares and accessories on C & F (C) Dhaka Airport/Mongla/ Benapole/Chittagong basis:

1. Tender No CAJM/PDI/22nd JDRG/01/99-2000 dt 30.5.2000 different kinds of Ball & Roller Bearings.
2. Tender No CAJM/PDI/22nd JDRG/02/99-2000 dt 30.5.2000 Electrical spares, Meter, Spares for Kokran Boiler, Steam Rottery Joint for Dressing M/c (Febrie Zell) etc.

Tenderers will have to submit their tenders along with earnest money @1% of the quoted price but not below Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) in Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd, Jessore. No cheque or bank guarantee will be accepted as security money/earnest money.

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, Motiheel, 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, Raighat, Jessore on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) only (non-refundable) during office hours except opening date.

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

BJMC: 298 Date 1.6.00

DFP-14179-6/6

G-1117

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 reaction 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 soldiers 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.

Another 23 people were killed in 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

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

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.

"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.

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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Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga (R) and parliamentary speaker K. B. Ratnayaka (C) pay last respect yesterday to Industry Minister C.V. Gooneratne who was assassinated by a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber. — AFP photo

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, reports AP.

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

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.

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 Isia Diafan of the women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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.

With ethnic, religious and tribal identities playing a key role in many of today's conflicts, activists say women have become strategic targets. "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.

Gender-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 Shakyia, 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 Drukpas 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.

C'wealth team meets leaders in Solomon Islands

SYDNEY, June 10: A Commonwealth delegation met government and militia leaders in the Solomon Islands today to try to end the ethnic unrest which has taken the Pacific nation to the brink of civil war, reports AFP.

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 Ulufalu as hostage, met the delegation for talks.

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.

21 killed in clashes with Maoists in Nepal

KATHMANDU, June 10: Twelve policemen, seven civilians and two rebels have been killed in a fierce firefight between security forces and Maoist insurgents in Nepal, authorities said today.

The 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 Theme village in Jajarkot district, 358 kilometres (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.

Moscow frees Chechen representative

MOSCOW, June 10: The Chechen president's envoy to Moscow, Mairbek Vachagiev, was released late Friday after spending over seven months in jail for the illegal possession of a weapon, Russian media reported, says AFP.

Vachagiev was arrested October 25 in Moscow, shortly after the Kremlin sent ground troops into the separatist republic to wipe out "terrorists" it claimed killed 292 people in deadly apartment blasts last year.

The envoy has always proclaimed his innocence, saying his arrest was "politically motivated" and that the weapon was planted in his car.

A court on Friday sentenced Vachagiev to three years in jail and then immediately set him free under Russia's recent amnesty bill, private television channel NTV said.

Upon his release, Vachagiev warned Russians to "beware of legal bodies who even in broad daylight can plant illegal weapons on peaceful citizens," NTV showed.

Vachagiev is still Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov's special representative in Moscow, despite the fact that the Kremlin no longer recognises Maskhadov as president.

N Korea gives security guarantee for first inter-Korean summit

SEOUL, June 10: North Korea has guaranteed the safety of the South Korean delegation which will attend next week's historic summit in the north-east capital Pyongyang, the south's Unification Ministry said today, reports Reuters.

It said North Korea had sent a memorandum, signed by the North's Prime Minister Hong Sung-nam, guaranteeing the personal security and safe return of the 180-member delegation, including 50 journalists, who will accompany President Kim Dae-jung.

"We can't tell further details as both sides agreed not to reveal specifics," said a ministry official.

President Kim will fly to Pyongyang on Monday to meet the North's reclusive leader Kim Jong-il in the first inter-Korean summit.

The two Koreas remain technically at war as the 1950-53 war ended in an armed truce, which has yet to be replaced by a peace pact.

During his three-day stay in the North's capital, the South Korean president is expected to hold at least three rounds of talks with the North Korean leader.

Topics for the summit have

been set only in general terms such as national reconciliation, cooperation, exchanges, peace and reunification.

Amid signs of tightened security along the de-militarised zone splitting Korea, Kim Dae-jung spent the weekend finalising the key speeches and statements he will make in front of Kim Jong-il, the North Korean leader.

South Korean officials said President Kim expects the summit talks would result in further rounds of dialogue between the two Koreas in the future.

"It is an important change that the two Koreas are beginning to hold dialogue in earnest," Kim told a cabinet meeting on Friday.

Kim tried to contain high South Korean expectations for the summit, noting that many similar events in the past were not necessarily successful, referring to the first summit talks between the then leaders of East and West Germany.

The summit is drawing intense international attention, with the United States, China and Russia concerned to see their strategic interests defended.

Eritrea accepts peace plan

ADDIS ABABA, June 10: Ethiopia said it had launched a "counter-offensive" against Eritrean forces along their western front today, just hours after Eritrea said it accepted an internationally-brokered peace plan, reports Reuters.

Ethiopian government spokeswoman Selome Tadesse said in a statement the Ethiopians had attacked at 4 am (0700 BST) today near the Eritrean towns of Guluf and Tesseney "in line with the instructions to deal vigorously and decisively with provocative attacks made by the Eritrean army."

Eritrea said late on Friday it had accepted ceasefire proposals to end the two-year border war, drawn up by the Organisation of African Unity after peace talks in the Algerian capital Algiers.

An estimated 750,000 Eritreans have been displaced by the fighting, according to UN estimates, while hundreds of thousands of other people in both countries have been faced with drought and war-related famine.

In Asmara, Eritrean presidential adviser Yemane Gebremeskel said: "We have agreed to the plan in its entirety, now it is up to Ethiopia to respond."

“পরিদৃষ্টব্য গ্রাম উন্নয়নের সোপান”

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

BID PACKAGE NO. NOR-5 UNDER NORAD FUND (BHOLA PBS UNDER ACRE, PHASE V-A)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Rural Electrification Board (REB) from interested suppliers in the following descriptions:

1. Bid Package No.	Description of Materials/Equipment
NOR-5	Conductors, Single Phase & Three Phase Meters and Meter Test Bench.

2. Schedule of Selling of Tender documents and receiving / opening of Tender :

Bid Package No.	Tender Document Sale Date	Tender Receiving	Tender Opening		
	From	To	Date	Time	
NOR-5	7 th June, 2000	24 th July, 2000	25 th July, 2000	upto 12:00 O'Clock	25 th July, 2000 12:15 P.M.

(Sale will be on and during working days and office hours only; time mentioned will be Bangladesh Standard Time indicated by time-signals on Bangladesh Betar).

3. Tender Document will be available at :

Directorate of Procurement (7th Floor), Rural Electrification Board, Head Office Bldg. Nikunza-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

4. Place of Tender receiving and opening :

Auditorium (1st Floor), Rural Electrification Board Head Office Bldg, Nikunza-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

Tender will be opened in presence of the bidders or their representative (if any).

5. Price of Tender :

Tender document will be available for sale at the address mentioned in para-3 above through an application and on payment of appropriate price as detailed below in the form of pay-Order/Demand Draft in favour of "Rural Electrification Board": issued by any scheduled Bank (except Al-Arafah Islami Bank).

a) Bid Package No.-NOR-5: Tk. 2,000.00 for each copy.

6. One bid package cannot be used for submission of Bid proposal (s) by more than ONE BIDDER. One bidder may, however, submit any number of bids included in the bid package by purchasing only one copy of the bid package.

7. Bid Bond : At least equal to 2% (Two percent) of the quoted price.

8. Mode of Payment : Through Letter of Credit.

9. Source & Origin of Materials/Equipment:

Materials & equipment to be furnished under tender must have their "Source" and "Origin" in countries who are eligible to trade with the People's Republic of Bangladesh

10. No Document will be sent by REB to any purchaser by post or courier Service.

11. Offer must be submitted as per terms and conditions set forth in the Bid document (s) Enquires, if any must reach the undersigned at least one month prior to the opening date of tenders as mentioned in para-2.

রural electrification board

পরিদৃষ্টব্য গ্রাম উন্নয়নের সোপান

Director (Procurement)
Rural Electrification Board
Head office Bldg. (7th floor),
Nikunza-2, Khilkhet,
Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
Tel : 8916420 & 8917577
Fax : 880-2-8916400.

BRIEFLY

Tremor rocks Yangon:

A tremor rattled the Myanmar capital early Saturday, waking residents but apparently causing no serious damage or injuries, AP reports from Yangon.

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.