

Am "anti-jihad" in Kashmir Artist front

by Islamabad as the sole representative of the people of Kashmir, the divided Himalayan state rocked by an anti-Indian Muslim revolt.

Pakistan is awaiting an APHC delegation from Indian-administered Kashmir to visit Islamabad this month for talks following recent peace moves by the two countries.

The Jama'atul Mujahideen delivered a stern warning to "anti-jihad elements" in the APHC.

"They must bear in mind that the people who are shedding blood in the battlefield will not let this happen. Their attempts will be foiled."

"By the blessing of Allah, the Almighty, the hands holding the guns will continue targeting Indian soldiers unless New Delhi pulls its troops out of

What's on today

Sales conference: Eskayef Bangladesh Limited will hold its Annual Marketing and Sales Conference. Venue: Ball Room of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:00am.

Reception: Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will accord a reception to US Senator Paul Simon. Venue: IUB Campus No 6 at Bashundhara. Time: 10:30 am.

DUJ meeting: Dhaka Union of Journalists will hold a meeting of its executive committee. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

Rally: The Civil Society for Women's Empowerment will hold a rally in support for its demand for immediate arrest of all fatwajab. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion meeting: Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on "Razakarmukta Parliament Chai" (A Razakar free parliament wanted). Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Opinion exchange meet: Sammilita Muktijoddha Front (SMF) will hold an opinion exchange meeting with leaders of different professions. Venue: TSC cafeteria on DU campus. Time: 3:00 pm.

and tomorrow

Discussion: A discussion in observance of Homecoming Day of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Engineer Institution. Time: 3 pm.

Rally: Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally in observance of Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day. Venue: From Ramna Park Gate to National Press Club. Time: 11:30am.

FEMA: A meeting of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) national committee will be held. Venue: FEMA National Secretariat, House No 9, Rd No 17, Block C Banani. Time: 4:00 pm. Sales conference: Eskayef Bangladesh Limited will hold its Annual Marketing and Sales Conference. Venue: Ball Room of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:00am.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather may remain dry over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Mild cold wave may continue over northern and central parts of the country and the regions of Satkhira and Rangamati during the period, Met Office said.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country, it added.

Little rise in night temperature is expected over the country, Met Office predicted.

The country's highest temperature 26.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar, Sitakunda and Mongla and the lowest 06.1 degree at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29 pm and rises on Wednesday at 6:43 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	23.4	11.3	66	52
Chittagong	25.5	10.3	85	65
Rajshahi	23.2	08.5	82	69
Khulna	25.0	09.6	87	74
Barisal	25.0	08.6	97	79
Sylhet	24.5	10.4	66	69

Land deed or death

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rangpur Mozammel Hossain said he was not aware of what had happened in Panea.

"If there was a murder, the police must have taken punitive measures," he said. "The problem between the landless and the influential landowners always existed in the country."

He cited several similar cases where local landowners drove away the landless farmers even after he had handed over the khas land to them.

Superintendent of Police Naim Ahmed said he had visited Panea following the incident and his forces were doing their best to apprehend the culprits. He added that the police were waiting for the autopsy report.

Case

The prosecution side opposed it and prayed for cancellation of bail of the accused.

After hearing both the sides, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Kashem granted bail to two accused and ordered to send the complainant to the Dhaka Central Jail.

BDR, Nasaka trade fire

forces also proposed a battalion-level meeting. Nasaka turned it down, too. On Sunday, both had agreed to hold a company-level meeting. Meanwhile, work on the embankment continued.

An agreement was signed in 1966 when both sides agreed to refrain from construction on or infringements to the Naf, which separates the two countries. Bangladesh and Myanmar (formerly Burma) share a border of around 500 kilometres.

Fatwa

The moulvis and a section of village leaders prevailed and threatened to isolate the couple from the society.

Some of the village leaders who are uttering the word talak.

"We want to have a border-line of peace and tranquillity with our neighbours including Bangladesh," he, however, added.

Some of the village leaders who are



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took part in the Akheri Munajat at Biswaha Jitema yesterday. Lakhs of devotees attended the final prayers yesterday at Tongi. --PID photo

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and senior presidium member of Jatiya Party Begum Roushan Ershad participating in the Akheri Munajat at Bishwa Jitema. --Starphoto

10 Maoist rebels shot dead in Jharkhand

RANCHI (India), Jan 8: Indian paramilitary police have shot dead 10 left-wing guerillas, while losing one of their own men, in a fierce gunbattle in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, police said today, reports AFP.

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrol raided Semry Banjary village in the Garhwa district of Jharkhand on Sunday after a tip-off that Maoist rebels belonging to the People's War Group (PWG) were hiding in the village.

"There was an encounter and the security forces recovered four bodies from the scene of the gunbattle. But the rebels escaped with the other dead bodies," said Jharkhand director general of police TP Sinha.

"Four civilians, including two women were injured in the shoot-out."

One CRPF member was also killed.

The state of Jharkhand was created in November carved out of 18 of neighbouring Bihar state's 51 districts.

Reza Emdad

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inquiry is investigating the crash. Mohsin's body has been kept at the mortuary of CMH. He would be laid to rest after the return of his elder brother from Germany.

He is left behind his wife and a daughter.

Nepalese FM

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ter of Sri Lanka recently visited New Delhi on this issue of SAARC and he informed Kathmandu of India's position about the summit.

The Nepalese Foreign Minister, however, stress should be given on activities of SAARC and holding meetings at official, secretary and ministerial levels before the summit.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Cyril Sikdar, Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka Madhu Raman Acharya and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were present at the airport.

DB office murder

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thana on March 26, 1999.

All the accused inspector Ziaul Ahsan, Havildar Billal, constable Abdur Rouf and canteen manager Anwar Hossain were present at the court yesterday.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahbub Ahmed for the accused.

Vested Bill

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presided over the Cabinet meeting that also approved a proposal of the Home Ministry based on the Public Administration Reform Committee recommendation for simplification of issuing passports.

Forced retirement

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Sattar".

Another member, expelled BNP leader Maj (Retd) Akhteruzzaman said the then army chief had taken advantage of the situation following the killing of Ziaur Rahman and out of vengeance, sacked freedom-fighter officers.

The officers given forced retirement are Brig Abu Sayed Matul Hannan Shah, Brig A K M Azizul Islam, Brig Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury Bir Bikram, Brig Abu Jaffar Md Aminul Haque Bir Uttam, Col Md Bazul Gani Bir, Pratik Lt Col

Call to help protect intellectual property rights

A three-day national workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights: Science and Technology Perspectives' began in the city yesterday with a call to amend and develop the country's existing Patents and Designs Act (PDC), copyright and trademark laws to ensure protection of patents of the intellectual properties, reports BSS.

The minister said the scientists and technologists would get inspiration if their patents are registered and they would feel encouraged to invent new ideas. He said the patents of the agricultural invention should be registered as intellectual rights.

Laying emphasis on enactment of copyright law, he said the law should be introduced for the protection of software in the IT-based modern world. A copyright law, which is being framed, would help check piracy in the country's software industry.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam spoke at the function as special guest.

Presided over by Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman, the inaugural function was also addressed by Joint Secretary of the Science and Technology Ministry Yusuf Jahangir Shikder.

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Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan inaugurated the workshop in the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) auditorium as the chief guest.

for increasing allocation for the Science and Technology Ministry to promote scientific activities in the country.

Placing emphasis on creating awareness among the scientists, and inventors about the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman lamented that a lack of awareness the full credit of invention of radio went to Marconi as he had registered the patent of his work before scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose.

Four technical papers were presented at the workshop yesterday. At least 90 participants from different universities and business organisations, including information technology, journalists and four experts of Delhi-based NAM Science and Technology Centre have been participating in the workshop.

Anam also emphasised the need

Women must participate

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activists and others concerned to come forward and do their best to empower women.

Saima Serazi placed another keynote paper at another session chaired by Tasmina Hossain, MP. Ayesha Khanam and Prof. Shawkat Ara Hussain also addressed this session.

Presided over by Dr Hameeda Hossain, the session on Violence against Women, Violation of Human Rights was addressed by Samia Jamal and Safia Azim.

Another session on 'Building Bases for Economic Empowerment of Women' was held in the afternoon.

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not permit women in the congregation, over 5,000 women from the adjoining areas took part in the Akheri Munajat from various residential houses, mills and factories and roads.

All roads leading to the bank of the Turag River were teeming with countless people from all strata just before the Akheri Munajat.

A jimarad of foreign devotees, Maulana MA Hannan, said 4,028 foreigners from 62 countries took part in the Jitema this year. The highest number of foreign devotees came from neighbouring India.

Apart from severe cold, the devotees faced problems like toll collection, pickpocket and unhygienic environment and food in the Jitema ground. However, the hurdles could not stop the devotees from joining the Jitema.

As in the previous years, 90 couples got married without dowry at a mass wedding on the occasion. Maulana Jobayer delivered ser-

Protest against beauty pageant in Kolkata

KOLKATA, Jan 8: Growing protests against beauty pageants in India have spread to the eastern city of Kolkata in West Bengal, reports AFP.

Around 500 activists belonging to the cultural wing of the state's ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) protested Sunday evening outside the venue of the 'Kolkata Queen-2001 Contest'.

The group shouted slogans against the commercialisation of women and burnt a Miss World effigy. "Pageants like this concentrate on physical beauty alone and treat women as a commodity. We are against it," a spokesman for the demonstrators, Emanuel Haque said.

Last month, authorities in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the home state of the reigning Miss World Priyanka Chopra, officially banned all beauty pageants and contests.

The Calcutta demonstrators attracted a large crowd by staging a 15-minute street-play, which attacked not only beauty pageants but also 'condom ads and alcohol companies.'

Organisers of Sunday's beauty pageant and fashion show reacted with surprise at the demonstration.

Dense fog in Delhi: Flights cancelled

NEW DELHI, Jan 8: International and domestic flights to and from New Delhi were cancelled today as dense fog covered the Indian capital, reports AFP.

"The visibility fell below 100 metres at about 3:26 am (2:56 GMT Sunday) in the morning. We are still waiting for the fog to clear," a spokesman of the Airports Authority of India told the news agency.

No planes had been able to take off or land at the airport since the fog descended.

Meanwhile, six more people died of hypothermia in Bihar on Sunday as a biting cold wave tightened its grip across large parts of the country.

All the six people died in Bihar's Vaishali district, where 14 more have perished in the past 10 days.

The cold-related death toll across Bihar has reached 72 so far, the UNI news agency said, adding temperatures in parts of the impoverished state were just above freezing.

Officials from Punjab state on Sunday reported the first cold-related death in the food-rich northern province.

In the adjoining state of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, a total of 39 such deaths have been reported since the onset of the cold weather late last month.

Temperatures have dropped to freezing in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan in the coldest conditions to hit the region in several years.

Most of the victims were homeless people, officials said, adding all schools and colleges in Uttar Pradesh have been shut until Tuesday.

Humayun Zahir

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Earlier, the case was transferred to two courts for disposal. But one of the courts felt embarrassed to give the judgement.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman, was murdered by a group of assailants on the premises of his Dhanmondi residence on April 8, 1993.

Zahirul Haq Khan, father-in-law of Humayun Zahir filed a murder case with Dhanmondi thana against one Fazlur Rahman Tammoj the same day.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a chargesheet to the CMM's Court Dhaka against seven people including Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu.

Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and Abdul Matin are now on bail. They were granted ad-interim bail by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court in 1997.

Fazlur Rahman Tammoj, Kaiser and Alam are now in the custody while Headayatul Islam Bulu and Tawhidul Islam are at large.

Bangladeshi to head Amnesty

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covered a wide range of functions and operations at UNHCR Headquarters and in the field. Her work at the UNHCR has focused on the protection of the rights of

was Chief of Mission for the UNHCR office in India where she was responsible for ensuring international protection to 200,000 refugees, while promot-

Save Lalou

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sation and development.

"If the bauls are ousted from the shrine area and replaced by such a project, it would be like cutting the roots of a tree and then watering it," he said.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, the other convener of the committee, said that throughout the world Lalou's works are becoming popular.

"Our movement is totally cultural, not political at all. We love our culture and we do not want to destroy it," he said. "But unfortunately we have been informed that during the last Lalou festival a section of people were playing Hindi film songs at the shrine."

"Despite assurances from the authorities," Rahman added, "I was told that the Secretary of Ministry of Works and Housing has continued the construction work of the buildings."

Farida Parvin, a popular singer of Lalou songs, said that traditionally Lalou followers preferred to perform under the shade of trees, not inside luxurious buildings.

Coup bid

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GMT) today, state radio, which had earlier gone off the air, began playing the national anthem and a man who did not identify himself read a brief statement.