

Pakistan kills 70 militants during Negroponte trip

AFP, Miranshah

Pakistani troops backed by gunships have killed up to 70 militants in two days of heavy fighting during a visit by US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, officials said Thursday.

The latest clashes claimed the lives of up to 30 insurgents in the North Waziristan tribal area bordering Afghanistan, where US officials say the al-Qaeda network and the Taliban have regrouped since 9/11.

The fighting in the rugged frontier region, which also left nine troops wounded and is still ongoing, came a day after the military said it had killed another 40 rebels nearby.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, a key US ally, has come under increasing pressure from Washington to crush extremist fighters who fled to the tribal zone after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

Musharraf held nearly two hours of talks with Negroponte on Thursday, officials said. The US diplomat arrived here from Kabul a day earlier for discussions focusing on counter-terrorism.

Negroponte, on Wednesday reiterated Washington's full backing for military ruler Musharraf and played down indications that the United States could launch unilateral strikes against militants on Pakistani soil.

In Pakistan's latest confrontation with the insurgents, troops fought back militants who attacked an army checkpoint in North Waziristan's Nawaz Kot district overnight, top military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad said.

"The security forces retaliated using gunship helicopters. Local sources are reporting 25 to 30 militants are killed but the toll could go higher," Arshad told AFP.

He did not confirm local reports that 10 soldiers also died.

Tight security

FROM PAGE 20

will patrol their designated areas by vehicles. There will also be 100 motorcycle teams for patrolling the city areas.

Besides, Rab will deploy 100 motorcycle teams in addition to 100 mobile teams who will patrol the city by vehicles.

After Ramadan 10, the additional forces will be posted to different shopping malls, markets, shops and places where there will be public gatherings.

"We will decide later how much additional forces will be deployed with the increasing rush in Eid shopping," DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"The step has been taken to check crimes, like mugging, that occur more with the increase in shopping," Abdul Jalil, joint commissioner of detective branch of police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Special forces will be posted in different areas so that criminals cannot rob off the Eid shoppers, he added.

The police officials also said that alongside the uniformed policemen, 24 plainclothes police detective teams will be deployed at the marketplaces after Ramadan 10, to keep round the clock vigil and thwart crime.

In addition, block raids will be conducted at the city slums to nab criminals, they added.

NEW TRAFFIC PLANS FOR RAMADAN MULLED

At an inter-ministerial committee meeting yesterday, the idea of a drastic cut in the bus routes through the capital was considered to ease traffic congestion during the Ramadan.

If approved, the plan will trim down the city bus routes to around 50 from the existing 138.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim chaired the meeting, held at the home ministry.

The committee is also considering to make the road through Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters in Pilkhana available to people for four hours during office commuting hours, two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

"A scientific redistribution of the bus routes may help ease congestion, though we need an overall city plan to address the problem," said Md. Rakibul Karim, deputy commissioner of South Traffic Zone, said after the meeting.

The meeting also directed the authorities concerned to repair 12 digital traffic signals at key city points including Manik Mia Avenue, Malibagh intersection, Mouchak, Kakrail, Kalabagan and Science Laboratory.

The meeting asked the traffic authorities to work on whether the vehicle stoppage time at traffic signals, now two and half minutes on an average, can be reduced to one or one and half minutes.

A proposal of rescheduling the goods trains to night, which pass

Ex-BNP MP Shamsuzzoha arrested

UNB, Naogaon

Former BNP lawmaker Shamsuzzoha Khan was arrested yesterday under Emergency Power Rules.

The law enforcers picked up Khan from the court premises at the district headquarters at 5:30pm.

Police Superintendent Sarder Nurul Amin said Anti-Crime Regional Committee of Bogra and local law enforcers jointly arrested Khan, former MP from Naogaon-2 constituency. He was wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Both BNP groups

FROM PAGE 1 telephone or through messengers, sources said.

Several meetings were also held between the mediator of Badruddoza and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the sources added.

Discussions are also going on inside Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) about Badruddoza's return to BNP. Executive Committee of LDP-Badruddoza faction is to sit on Sunday and discuss the issue, LDP sources said.

AHM Mofazzal Karim, an adviser to the BNP chairperson but a pro-Mannan Bhuiyan faction leader, yesterday told reporters that Badruddoza sought time to make up his mind.

Asked about dialogue with the Election Commission, he said, "We want to have dialogues with the Election Commission unconditionally."

He accused new Secretary General of BNP Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah of creating confusion in the party by making misleading statements.

The Khandaker Delwar Hossain faction also sent a messenger to Badruddoza to talk about his returning to BNP. They also conveyed to Badruddoza detained BNP chief Khaleda Zia's wish and blessings in this regard, sources said.

A number of leaders of LDP want Badruddoza to return to BNP while some are against it, an LDP leader told The Daily Star Wednesday wishing to remain anonymous. "We will discuss the issue in our executive committee meeting on Sunday and will make a decision," said the LDP leader.

Badruddoza had to make an unceremonious exit from the presidency during the last BNP-led four-party alliance government's tenure. On October 27, 2006 Badruddoza along with Col (retd) Oli Ahmed floated a new political party protesting against "corruption" and "dynastic rule" in BNP.

On May 8, 2004 former president Badruddoza formed Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and soon afterwards the then BNP lawmakers Major (retd) Abdul Mannan and Badruddoza's son Mahi B Chowdhury joined him.

Badruddoza on different occasions raised his voice against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman saying their "family" is involved with corruption and meddled with the affairs of the state and the party.

AL to probe

FROM PAGE 1 guilty, we will certainly take organisational actions against them for breaking party discipline," acting AL President Zillur Rahman told reporters at his Gulshan residence.

Echoing Zillur's views, acting General Secretary of the party Mukti Bose, who was among the leaders abused on that day, said when Zillur recovers from illness, they would take action against persons responsible for the incident.

Mukul, Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan, AKM Jahangir Hossain and Prof Abu Sayeed faced abuses with one of them assaulted while going to attend Wednesday's AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting and also when returning.

Chanting anti-reform slogans, the agitating AL workers also kicked cars of two of the four leaders known to be loyal to senior presidium member of the party Amir Hossain Amu. AL workers believe that Amu has taken a firm stand against Hasina.

Replying to this question, Zillur said, "I condemn the incident (on Wednesday)."

It was intended to divide the party, he asserted.

He however said a few unidentified people abused their party leaders.

Zillur urged party leaders and workers to maintain unity at any cost and in the face of any conspiracy against the party.

"There are no differences of opinion in the party over the leadership of Sheikh Hasina and getting her released," he said.

The acting AL president instructed party workers to remain calm and avoid recurrence of such incidents. The party would initiate a massive campaign to ensure this, he added.

Party leaders Shahara Khatun and Dr Dipu Moni were present at Zillur's press briefing.

At another press briefing at party leader Abu Sayeed's Dhamondi residence, Mukul Bose said a conspiracy might have been hatched in a planned way.

Mukul said those who do not want the AL to remain united and are opposed to Hasina's release were behind Wednesday's incident. It was orchestrated to divide the AL and to keep its office locked like that of BNP.

Abu Sayeed said conspirators raised against senior AL leaders to destroy the image of the party.

Arrest warrant

FROM PAGE 1 also issued against 14 students of DU.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday requested the Army Chief of General Staff Maj Gen Sinha Ibn Jamali to show leniency to the arrested DU and Rajshahi University teachers and charged DU students.

The law enforcers picked up Khan from the court premises at the district headquarters at 5:30pm.

Police Superintendent Sarder Nurul Amin said Anti-Crime Regional Committee of Bogra and local law enforcers jointly arrested Khan, former MP from Naogaon-2 constituency. He was wanted in a number of criminal cases.

The court cleared detained Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Azizul Barree Halal of the two cases following the investigators' prayer.

The students against whom the arrest warrants were issued are -- DU unit JCD President Hasan Mamun and General Secretary Saiful Islam Firoz, Sir Af Rahman Hall JCD leader Kamrul Hasan Kochi, Shamsunnahar Hall unit JCD Acting President Tanjeen Chowdhury Lili, Rokeya Hall unit JCD President Shahinoor Nargis, central BCL Vice President Aparna Rani Pal, Rifat Hossain Jiku, Nazrul Islam Russel, Shamsul Kabir Rahat, Mitul, Aziz Hasan, Rokonuzzaman, Kamruzzaman and Anwar Hossain.

Two other teachers, Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Shahid and one of the charge-sheeted students Moniruzzaman are now in jail custody.

DU delegation meets army chief of general staff

A DU delegation of about 20 members led by Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz held a meeting with Maj Gen Jamali at a city restaurant yesterday. DGFI director general and seven army high officials were also present.

Two teachers, who were present at the meeting quoting Maj Gen Jamali said that he told the DU delegation that none is above the law. Next course of actions will be taken against the detained teachers and charge-sheeted students according to law after investigation, he told the teachers.

Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, former Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former Duta general secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, DU Syndicate members Prof Sadeka Halim, Dr Rahmatullah, Deans of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign

Meantime, two ACC officials stepped down from the commission on personal reasons, bringing the number of different faculties, representatives of the Syndicate and the Duta

also own electronic equipment worth Tk 3 lakh, furniture estimated at Tk 63 thousand, Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposits, Tk 2 lakh in security savings certificate. The couple have a computer in their daughter's name, read the statement.

The ACC has served notices on 218 corruption suspects to turn in their wealth information. Among them about 200 have so far submitted their statements.

The watchdog filed cases against six persons for non-compliance with its notices. Among them, four have been sentenced.

ACC officials resign