

Violent protests erupt in Kashmir after 2 killed

Kashmiri leader calls for peaceful protest

AP, BBC ONLINE, Srinagar

The death toll from civil unrest in Indian-controlled Kashmir rose to 48 yesterday after two more people were killed when paramilitary forces opened fire on demonstrators angry about decades of Indian rule over the Himalayan region.

Kashmir has been rocked by violent protests for nearly two months with demonstrators hurling rocks at paramilitary soldiers and setting government buildings and vehicles ablaze. In response, security forces have fired live rounds and tear gas into large crowds.

A 25-year-old man was killed and another critically wounded by gunfire in Srinagar late Wednesday, said Abdul Rashid, a local resident. The men were not involved in a protest at the time but shouted at passing paramilitary soldiers who opened fire, said a police officer on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

A prominent separatist leader in Indian-administered Kashmir has urged young Kashmiris not to throw stones or use violence in their protests against India.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani's comments came as India's home affairs minister in Delhi said he deeply regretted the recent violence and that it must stop.

A 50-year-old man, Ghulam Nabi Badyari, was seriously wounded when he was hit by a stray bullet inside his home in downtown Srinagar after soldiers fired at protesters who destroyed their post and threw rocks at them, said the officer. Badyari died in a hospital early Thursday.

Forty-eight people have been killed in the violence over the past two months.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader L K Advani led a delegation of party legislators from Jammu and Kashmir met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday to discuss the disturbing situation in the Valley and demanded that the Centre intervene to restore normalcy.



Pakistani onlooker watch the rescue operation after a passenger bus plunged into a river in Garhi Dupatta village, 22 km (14 miles) east of regional capital Muzaffarabad yesterday. At least 52 people were killed when the bus plunged into the river in Pakistani-administered Kashmir, officials said.

39 Afghan civilians died in Nato attack

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghanistan's government said a new investigation shows 39 civilians, all women or children, were killed in a Nato rocket attack last month, fewer than first reported but dozens more than foreign forces have conceded.

The Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said it has been checking reports of civilian deaths since the government first said nearly two weeks ago that over 50 people had been killed by a rocket strike in southern Helmand province.

Yesterday, an ISAF spokesman, Lt. Raymond Jeffery, said he had no information about the result or progress of any probe and could not comment on the 39 deaths reported by President Hamid Karzai's office late on Wednesday.

ISAF previously said an initial assessment showed six people died in an incident in the area and at the time in question, and that a "majority" were insurgents.

Those killed in the rocket were civilians who had crammed in a house after fleeing a clash between the Taliban and joint Afghan and foreign forces, the Afghan presidential office said in its statement.

Flood-hit Pakistan to evacuate 500,000 in south

Flooding spreads in Punjab and Sindh

AP, BBC ONLINE, Karachi

Pakistani authorities began evacuating half a million people living along the swollen Indus River in the country's south yesterday, as floods caused by the worst monsoon rains in decades threatened new destruction.

The floods have already killed an estimated 1,500 people over the past week, most of them in the northwest, the centre of Pakistan's fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. An estimated 4.2 million Pakistanis have been affected, including many in eastern Punjab province, which has seen numerous villages swallowed by rising water in recent days.

The UN says four million people have now been affected by the country's worst floods in nearly a century.

Ongoing monsoon rains and the swollen Indus river have caused thousands more to flee homes in its most populous province, Punjab.

In neighbouring Sindh province 350,000 people have been moved, officials say.

As fresh rains fell Thursday, bloated rivers gushed toward southern Sindh province, where hundreds of thousands of the most impoverished Pakistanis live along the water because of its fertility and because it is cheaper than safer ground.

ABSENT PRESIDENT

In some affected areas, there were protests at the government's perceived inaction. The Pakistani army has defended its rescue operation.

The government's overall response has been faulted, especially because Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari left for a visit to Europe as the crises piled up.

President Zardari is pressing ahead with his schedule of diplomatic visits to European nations, despite demands for him to return to home.

The United Nations estimates 980,000 people have lost their homes in floodwaters or have been forced to flee, while the UN World Food Programme said some 1.8m needed food aid.

The UK government is sending 2,000 all-weather tents to affected districts in Pakistan, Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell has said.

British charities are launching a radio and TV campaign to raise funds for victims of the devastating floods in north-western Pakistan.

An appeal from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) - an umbrella organisation of 13 UK humanitarian aid agencies - will be broadcast later.

5 top BB men sued

FROM PAGE 16 Abidin encashed them and withdrew the money along with interest through Sonali Bank.

But without noting down particulars of the savings instruments, BB Barisal branch opened a false account in the name of one Alauddin (OD-331) with Shilpa Bank Barisal branch where the money was transferred.

On September 21, 24 and 30 of 2003, three cheques bearing Tk 12.06 lakh were issued from the false account in the name of Chowdhury Mohibul Haque, the then general manager of BB Barisal branch.

Mohibul withdrew the money by cheques bearing his own signature. This time also it was not written whether the savings instruments were cancelled or paid.

Later assistant manager Abul Kalam Azad withdrew the same amount of money from the same BB branch.

Azad was suspended in connection with the incident.

BB Barisal filed a case with Kotwali police station on July 2, 2005 accusing Azad of the incident.

Police pressed charge sheet in the court against Azad in 2006. The judge sent back the charge sheet to ACC for a thorough investigation.

After enquiry, ACC Assistant Director MH Rahmatullah submitted charge sheet against the then GM of BB Barisal branch Chowdhury Mohibul Haque, now executive director in Dhaka, assistant manager Moyezuddin, now deputy manager (Cash) in Dhaka, Assistant Manager (Cash) Abdul Motleb, assistant manager Abul Kalam Azad (suspended), Md Mofizullah, deputy manager (retired) and former senior officer of Shilpa Bank Harun-or-Rashid (retired) for embezzling Tk 24,11,612.

No interference in government formation Indian envoy

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, Kathmandu

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's special envoy to Nepal Shyam Saran yesterday assured the Maoist leadership that India was not interfering in formation of next government in the Himalayan nation.

In a meeting with Maoist leaders at Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda's' residence, Saran stated that India was interested in peace, stability and consensus among parties to draft the next constitution.

After failing in three rounds of voting, Nepal's Constituent Assembly will again attempt to elect a new prime minister on Friday.

Saran's visit ahead of the fourth round of voting is being witnessed as a crucial development that might end the political deadlock among parties. "We discussed the current political situation in Nepal."

Speech by Bhutto's son fuels talk of political career

AFP, London

The son of Benazir Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan is expected to make his first speech Saturday since leaving university in Britain, fuelling talk he is stepping up his political career.

Bilawal Zardari Bhutto, 21, is heir apparent to a dynasty whose most famous figure was his mother, Pakistan's former prime minister and the world's first Muslim female premier, who was assassinated in 2007.

His grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, founded the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 1967 and became Pakistan's president before being overthrown in a military coup and hanged in 1979.

Bhutto was studying at Oxford University when his mother was killed and, at the time, those close to him said he should be left to finish his education before moving into politics in earnest.

But now he has finished his history degree at Christ Church, seen as one of the most aristocratic of Oxford's colleges, speculation is growing about what steps he will now take towards his political destiny.

Bhutto, who is already chairman of the PPP, is expected to speak before several thousand of his supporters at an event in Birmingham, central England, alongside his father who is visiting Britain.

The PPP has played down its significance, perhaps wary of criticism Zardari is facing that he should return to Pakistan in the wake of catastrophic floods, which have killed up to 1,500 people and affected some four million.



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Manager, HRD

Tagore's

FROM PAGE 16 literature in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with his astounding talent, died on Sraban 22 in Bangla calendar at the age of 80.

Different social and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Tagore, popularly known as Biswakobi, dominated the Bangla literary scene with copiousness of works: over 10,000 poems, nearly two dozen plays and play-lets, 12 novels, over 100 short stories, more than 6,000 songs and a mass of prose works on literary, social, religious, political, and other topics.

His English translations, travels and lecture-tours in Asia, America, and Europe; and his activities as an educationist, as a social and religious reformer, and as a politician made him the most widely regarded literary figure in the subcontinent.

After having won world fame with the mystical-devotional poetry of the Gitanjali, he dug over much along that particular seam - a one-sided impression of his works. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913.

Born to a wealthy land-owning family of Bengal, Rabindranath was initiated into art fairly late in his life and had close to 2,500 paintings to his credit.

In 1930, through a series of exhibitions in Paris, London, Berlin, Moscow and New York, the world discovered the poet as an important modern painter.

Politically active in India, he was a supporter of Gandhi, but warned of the dangers of nationalistic thought.

Unable to gain ideological support to his views, he retired into relative solitude.

Between 1916 and 1934, he travelled widely, attempting to spread the ideal of uniting the East and the West.

Only hours before his death in 1941, the poet dictated his last poem.

Bangla Academy organises a solo speech and a cultural programme on the occasion at its seminar room at 4:00pm today.

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নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি
১। নিলামকৃত মালের বিবরণ
২। মালামালের অবস্থান
৩। নিলামকৃত মালের আইটেম সংখ্যা
৪। বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ
৫। দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি এবং জমাদানের স্থান
৬। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য
৭। ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা
৮। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
৯। দরপত্র দলিল জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১০। দরপত্র দলিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১১। ডেলিভারী সম্পাদনের সময়
১২। মালামাল পরিদর্শন

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