

Syrian forces launch deadly raid on hotbed city

Opposition proposes election, US warns of more steps

AFP, Damascus

Syrian forces raided the hotbed city of Banias yesterday and killed at least three protesters, activists said as President Bashar al-Assad's opponents proposed he offer elections to end the crisis.

Activists spoke of dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles entering Banias, on the northwestern Mediterranean coast, from three directions as electricity and communications were cut. Tanks also encircled the nearby town of Baida.

Six people were killed yesterday as Syrian army troops raided the northern port of Banias, including four women protesters demanding the release of people who had been arrested, activists said.

Another two people were killed and

several others wounded in Banias, where the army has been carrying out a military operation since dawn, a spokesman for the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told AFP by phone.

The rights activists said residents of Banias formed human chains in a desperate bid to halt the military operation when it began around dawn.

Heavy gunfire was heard in Banias's south, a seaside sector of the city where most of the protesters live, while navy boats patrolled offshore, the activists said, reached by telephone from Nicosia.

The military confirmed it conducted an operation in Banias.

An Internet-based Syrian opposition group, meanwhile, proposed that Syria's embattled president offer to hold elections in six months in order to bring to an

end the crisis that has engulfed his country for more than seven weeks.

In a statement posted online, it told Assad he could be the "pride of contemporary Syria" if he transformed Syria "from a dictatorship to a democracy."

"The Syrians will be grateful and it is possible to do."

Rights groups said 26 protesters were shot dead by security forces on Friday while the military said 10 soldiers and policemen were killed in Homs by "armed terrorist groups."

The United States warned it would take "additional steps" against Syria if it continues its brutal crackdown on protesters, a week after imposing tough sanctions on the Arab nation.

It also welcomed the European Union's decision to impose sanctions on Syrian officials "responsible for human rights abuses."

Ministry oblivious, okays import

FROM PAGE 20
farm in Tripura, reported Associated Press on February 20.

A country can be declared "free of bird flu" only if it remains free of the disease for three consecutive months, according to regulations of Food and Agriculture Organisation and WOAH.

Since India suffered a bird flu outbreak in February, it is still not safe to import poultry products from there, said a virologist of World Health

organisation.

On April 26, Nabin Traders and Faria Enterprise Ltd obtained permissions to import one crore pieces of hatching eggs and day-old chicks respectively from India and other countries.

Their permissions will remain valid till August 31, say the documents signed by Abu Siddique Sarder, deputy secretary of the food ministry.

The permissions were given on condition that the products will have to be imported from a bird-flu-

free country. So there is nothing to be afraid of, Joint Secretary Shawkat Ali Waresi of the commerce ministry told The Daily Star.

An importer would not be able to import those from India if the Indian government does not certify their exporters. Moreover, if the Bangladesh customs is not convinced with that certificate, they would not allow those into the country, he added.

The official noted they do not have any information

about any recent bird flu outbreak in India.

The ministry cannot permit the importers without clearance from livestock department, claimed sources in the department adding it did not authorise any import from India in the last one year.

According to a gazette notification of 2010, the livestock department is the authority to give permission for importing hatching eggs and chicks, said Saidur Rahman Babu, general secretary of Breeders' Association of Bangladesh.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdul Latif Biswas did not know anything about the permission, mentioned the leader quoting the minister.

Leaders of the association met the livestock minister and published advertisements in different newspapers urging the government not to allow import of eggs and chicks from India.

A recent FAO report titled "Approaches to Controlling, Preventing and Eliminating H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Endemic Countries" said eliminating the H5N1 avian influenza virus from poultry in six countries will take ten or more years.

The virus remains firmly entrenched in Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Vietnam, stated the report.

Despite repeated efforts to reach the two importers Faria Enterprise Ltd and Nabin Traders over the phone, The Daily Star failed to know their stand on the matter.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 86 OF 2011

An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF :

Lieutenant Colonel Md. Mostafizur Rahman Chowdhury, Engineer Member Secretary, Army Welfare Trust having its registered office at Army Headquarters Adjutant General's Branch Welfare & Rehabilitation Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.

- VERSUS -

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka T.C.B Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. Respondent.

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies ACT, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condonation of delay of holding Annual General Meeting for the calendar year 1999 to 2010 of the Army Welfare Trust. Honorable Company Judge has admitted the said application on 28.04.2011 and fixed for hearing on 29.05.2011. Any person interested in the said application may appear on the date fixed for hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(Jasimuddin Ahmed)

Advocate

Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Ga-165/1, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212

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Tagore bonds all together

FROM PAGE 1

[during the Liberation War] from the government and the people of India can never be forgotten by the people of Bangladesh.

"The courage, the spirit of sacrifice, the spirit of the people of India particularly the visionary leadership of Indira Gandhi who announced her recognition of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign nation even before the war ended can perhaps never be fully reciprocated by the people of Bangladesh," he said.

Referring to Tagore's message of peace and harmony, he said Bangladesh firmly believes that the subcontinent must get free from the scourge of terrorism and extremism to develop and achieve peace, prosperity and stability.

In this regard, the government of Sheikh Hasina

has launched an uncompromising fight against terrorism, extremism and militancy.

Khandker said the joint

towards the promotion of international brotherhood and fraternity," he said while inaugurating the function.

A jury headed by the prime minister will select each year from across the globe a citizen of outstanding public eminence whose work "epitomises the high universal ideals that Tagore stood for."

The first award, he hoped, would be presented by the end of the commemoration period.

Singh said a wide range of projects are being undertaken as part of the anniversary celebration to make Tagore's work more accessible to a wider audience and to preserve those for posterity.

"I can think of no more important task than the revival of Visva Bharati. As a chancellor of the university, I am personally committed to

this important task."

The Indian prime minister said a special grant of Rs 95 crore would be given to the university "which stands as a living symbol of the poet's enduring faith in the learning ability and creative power of the young mind and free spirit."

Congress President Sonia Gandhi, who released a volume of Tagore's paintings at the function, said the Nobel laureate's message of unity through diversity is all the more pertinent today while some forces mistake uniformity for unity and find themselves uncomfortable with the diversity of our country.

She said India and Bangladesh celebrating Tagore's birth anniversary together signifies the everlasting bond that the poet has created across the nations' boundaries.

Our paean to the Bard

FROM PAGE 1

India as it used to be . . . or perhaps as it always has been in time.

For Bangladesh, the struggle for Rabindranath, in defence of the ethos he represents, has always meant a battle against the forces of untruth and anti-culture. It was the Pakistani establishment that sought to de-emphasise his place in Bangla literature in the hundredth year of his birth.

The attack occurred at around 12:40 pm (0940 GMT) in the centre of the city, 60 kilometres (40 miles) north of Baghdad, a security official in the provincial security command said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The gunmen shot dead three people in each currency exchange store before stealing an unspecified amount of money and fleeing the scene.

When police arrived at the looted shops, a car bomb exploded nearby, wounding four civilians and five policemen, including Colonel Mudhafar al-Mujamaa.

Iraqi officials have accused insurgent groups like Al-Qaeda of robbing banks, currency exchange shops and jewellery stores in a bid to fund their activities.

quarters uncomfortable with him, we have held on to him. Our minds have been without fear, our heads have been held high, our knowledge has flowed in the happiness of freedom.

Rabindranath's songs have underpinned our collective societal being, encompassing as they do the purely romantic, the essentially religious, the patently political and the cheerfully humanistic. His invocations to the Creator have served as potent reminders of the cultural heritage this nation is heir to; and in the songs of love have come that old message of the bonding between man and woman.

Rabindranath speaks of the land, of the fecundity of life and ideas its rivers and fields and skies have consistently put forth as metaphors with the likes of Victoria Ocampo and WB Yeats and Romain Rolland. His fascination with science came alive in his interaction with Albert Einstein. He sought to delineate the frontiers of nationalistic politics through his conversations with Gandhi.

A hundred and fifty years after his birth, Rabindranath Tagore goes on lighting our path through the dense woods. He sang for us once. We sing in homage to him this morning.

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≥ 1.0/3rd	≥ 1.0/3rd	≥ 1.0	≥ 1.0	1

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