

NEWS IN
brief12 drown in India in
religious ceremony

AFP, New Delhi

Twelve people drowned in a lake in central India yesterday morning when their boats capsized during a religious ceremony, authorities said. The boats carrying 20-25 people tipped over in the early hours in Bhopal as they were about to immerse an idol of the Hindu elephant god Ganesha. "Twelve bodies have been retrieved so far and (the) search is on for one more person," the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said in a statement.

Philippine capital
jolted by quake

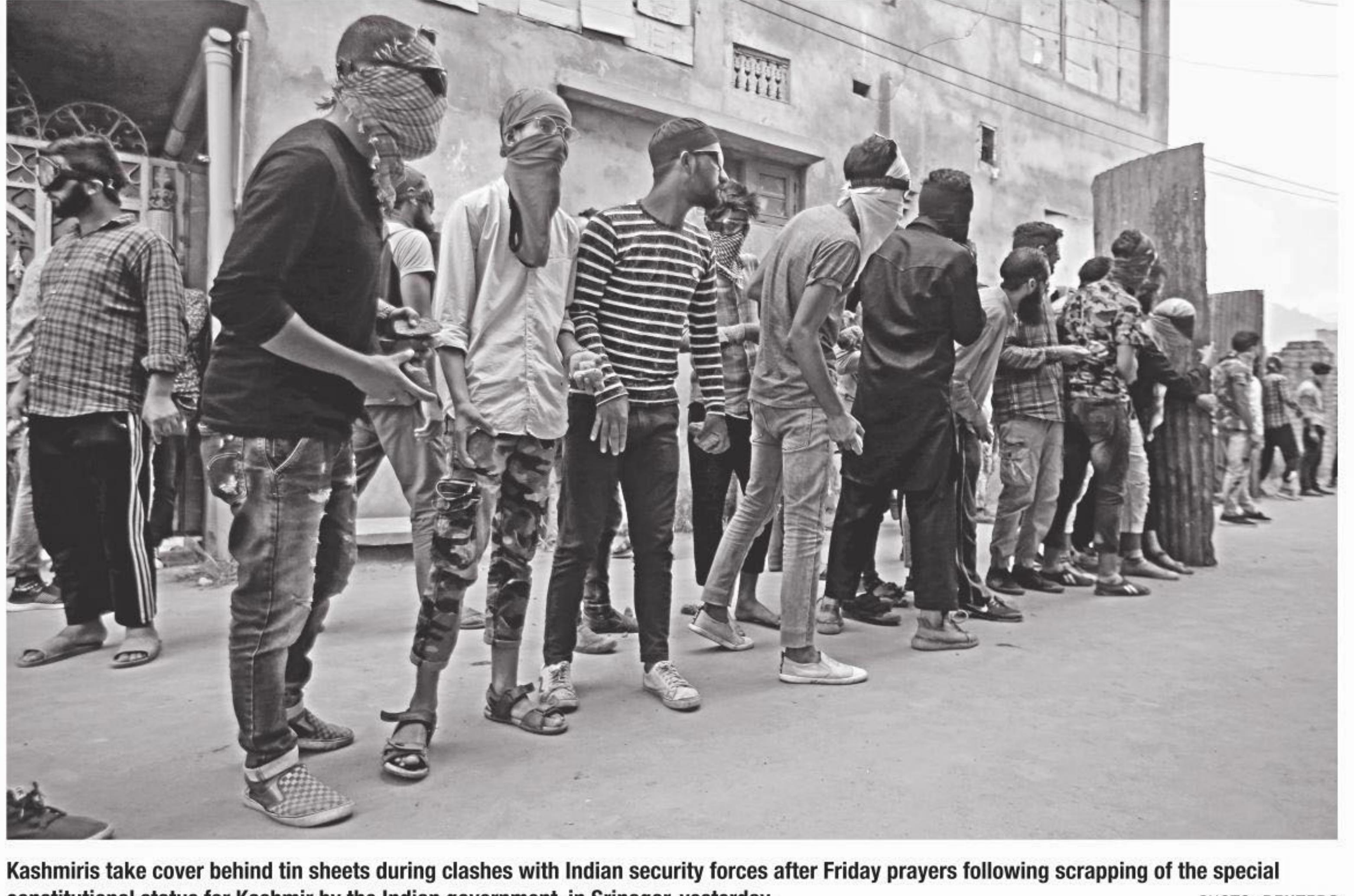
AFP, Manila

An earthquake that struck east of the Philippine capital Manila yesterday set buildings swaying and sent scores into the streets, but authorities said they did not expect any damage. The 5.2-magnitude jolt hit offshore from a sparsely populated Polillo Island, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Manila, according to the US Geological Survey. Buildings in the capital were briefly evacuated as several smaller aftershocks rumbled through the ground.

Pope to visit Thailand,
Japan in November

AFP, Bangkok

Pope Francis will travel to Thailand in November, the Vatican said yesterday, in a visit to Asia that will sweep in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which were both decimated by atomic bombs in 1945. It has been nearly four decades since a pontiff visited Thailand and Japan, both Buddhist-majority countries. The late Pope John Paul II went to Japan in 1981, and he travelled to Thailand three years later.



Kashmiris take cover behind tin sheets during clashes with Indian security forces after Friday prayers following scrapping of the special constitutional status for Kashmir by the Indian government, in Srinagar, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

HK chief to focus on job,
housing to woo protesters

Event cancellations mount amid protests

AGENCIES

Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters took to the hills to form flashlight-carrying human chains yesterday, using the Mid-Autumn Festival as a backdrop for the latest in more than three months of demonstrations that have sometimes flared into violence.

The peaceful protests, on a day when families traditionally gather to gaze at the moon and eat mooncakes while children swing colourful lanterns from the end of sticks, came after Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam promised to focus on housing and jobs to try to end the unrest.

Lam, who said she caused "unforgivable havoc" by igniting the crisis and would quit if she had the choice, said in a Facebook post her government would increase the supply of housing in the Chinese-ruled city.

"Housing and people's livelihoods are the main priorities," Lam said. "The



reported AFP.

Organisers of the WTA Hong Kong Open women's tennis tournament said they were postponing next month's competition because of the "present situation" after months of sometimes violent pro-democracy protests.

reported AFP.

The

people

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government will add to housing supply measures which will be continuously put in place and not missed."

As darkness fell last night, protesters armed with flashlights, mobile phones and flashing lanterns, gathered at Victoria Peak, overlooking the city's harbour, and

Lion Rock, separating the New Territories from the Kowloon peninsula.

They were also climbing to the top of Tai Tung Shan on the offshore island of Lantau, reported Reuters.

Meanwhile, one of Hong Kong's most prestigious sporting tournaments yesterday became the latest victim of the huge protests,

reported AFP.

Organisers of the WTA Hong Kong Open women's tennis tournament said they were postponing next month's competition because of the "present situation" after months of sometimes violent pro-democracy protests.

"When atrocities get to their peak, people would prefer that death is better than this insulting life," Khan said at a rally of several thousand people in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir.

India's crackdown will spur
global extremism: Pak PM

REUTERS, DAWN ONLINE

India's crackdown on protests and dissent in Kashmir will drive more of the world's Muslims into extremism, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said during a fiery speech yesterday, in the part of the disputed territory administered by Pakistan.

India revoked the special status of its portion of Kashmir, known as Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5 and moved to quell unrest by clamping down on communications and freedom of movement. Authorities in Indian Kashmir have arrested nearly 4,000 people since then, government data seen by Reuters showed.

"When atrocities get to their peak, people would prefer that death is better than this insulting life," Khan said at a rally of several thousand people in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir.

"I want to tell India that, by detaining thousands of people, you are pushing

people into extremism," he said.

"People will rise against India, and it is not just about Indian Muslims, there are 1.25 billion Muslims around the world. They all are watching this."

Khan said he would attend the United Nations General Assembly

KASHMIR TENSIONS



in New York next week to defend Kashmiris' cause.

He urged people in Azad Kashmir not to approach the Line of Control that separates it from Indian-controlled Kashmir, but to wait for him to press their case in New York.

Addressing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said: "Only a coward man can commit such cruelty against human beings; today 900,000 Indian soldiers are committing atrocities against the people of occupied Kashmir. A brave man can never do this. No matter how much injustice you commit, you will never succeed."

"Because the people of Kashmir, be it women, children or the elderly, are not scared of death anymore."

On Tuesday, Pakistan's foreign minister told the United Nations human rights forum that India's military presence in Kashmir raised the spectre of genocide.

The Delhi government has said its abolition of Kashmir's special status, which had allowed it to write many of its own laws, is meant to help to combat terrorism and to boost the region's economic development.

About two-thirds of the population of Jammu and Kashmir is Muslim, while India has an overall Hindu majority.

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NZ tightens gun laws again
after mosque massacre

New bill aims to maintain registry of arms owners

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand yesterday unveiled new legislation aimed at ensuring only "fit and proper" people can own guns in the wake of the Christchurch mosque attacks that killed 51 Muslim worshippers.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern had immediately banned military-style semi-automatic rifles after the shootings in March but said further restrictions were needed to target the black market.

"Owning a firearm is a privilege not a right," she told reporters in Christchurch yesterday.

"That means we need to do all we can to ensure that only honest, law-abiding citizens are able to obtain firearms licences and use firearms."

Under the new legislation, a registry will be set up that is designed to track ownership of every legally owned firearm in the country.

The measure also increases the jail term for supplying firearms to an unlicensed person from three months to two years, as

well as tightening gun importation and sales.

Police will determine if someone is "fit and proper" to hold a licence, with power to exclude anyone promoting extremism, convicted of violent crime or with mental health issues, including attempted suicide.

The register, expected to take five years to complete, will contain details of the estimated 1.2 million firearms in New Zealand, for a population of around five million.

Police Minister Stuart Nash said the existing gun legislation was introduced in 1983 and needed updating.

The alleged Christchurch gunman Brenton Tarrant legally obtained an arsenal of rifles before embarking on the worst mass shooting in New Zealand's modern history.

The self-avowed white supremacist is accused of opening fire at two mosques while livestreaming his actions on social media.

He has pleaded not guilty to 51 counts of murder, 40 of attempted murder and engaging in a terrorist act.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Barishal Sadar, Barishal
www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গৃহস্থান
শেখ হাসিনার মূল্য

Date: 12/9/19

Memo No. 46.02.0694.0000.18.24.19-565

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