

MYANMAR CONFLICT Junta airstrikes on border hospital kill 10

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar military airstrikes hit a hospital in a city controlled by an ethnic minority armed group close to the China border killing 10 people, local media reported yesterday.

Military planes carried out at least two air strikes on Laukkai city, normally home to some 25,000 people, late on Thursday night, a resident told AFP, requesting anonymity for security reasons.

Local media quoted one resident as saying 10 civilians were killed in the strike.

Myanmar's northern Shan state has been rocked by fighting since late June when an alliance of ethnic minority armed groups renewed an offensive against the military along a major trade highway to China.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) group have held Laukkai since January after more than 2,000 junta troops surrendered there in one of the military's biggest defeats in decades.

MNDAA spokesman Li Jiawen told AFP a military airstrike had hit a hospital in Laukkai, but he had no information yet on casualties.



Protesters take out a procession from the Jatiya Press Club area yesterday afternoon. The "Droho Jatra" procession was organised seeking justice for those killed during the recent violence. Top right, demonstrators gather near New Market intersection in the afternoon after bringing out a procession from Anderkilla in Chattogram city. Bottom right, a protester being beaten up allegedly by an Awami League activist near upazila intersection in Narsingdi town around 2:20pm when the quota reform protesters were going towards the district press club to hold a sit-in there.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RAJIB RAIHAN, JAHDUL ISLAM

Protesters take to the streets across country

FROM PAGE 1

ended in front of BRAC University after parading through different streets near the Rampura bridge.

A group of performance artists, singers, poets, authors, researchers, and photographers demonstrated in front of the Abahani playground in Dhanmondi. Holding placards and red cards, they condemned the killing of protesters and repression of the young demonstrators.

The protest started with artists painting pictures of demonstrations on red canvas. The performance artists staged a street drama depicting how the protesting students, including children, were shot by the law enforcers.

A group of urban planners formed a human chain at Banglamotor protesting the recent killings while medical students and doctors demonstrated at the Central Shaheed Minar around 10:00am.

Authors, poets, and publishers formed a human chain in front of the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro under the banner of "Poets and Writers against Countrywide Arrests and Oppression".

Authors Shahidullah Farazi, Mohammad Nazimuddin, and Shudipto Salam, Dhaka University professor and researcher Mohammad Asaduzzaman, poets Tokon Thakur, Bokul Ashraf, and Kajol Shahnewaz, among many others, took part in the protest.

Speaking at the programme, Tokon Thakur said, "We are speechless

seeing what has happened centring the quota reform protests. We express our solidarity with the students. We must speak out now. We condemn the brutal killings."

Some teachers and rights activists under the banner of "Pratibad Mancha" formed a human chain in front of the press club.

Addressing the programme, Dhaka University professor Robaet Ferdous and rights activist Nur Khan held the government responsible for the recent killings.

Meanwhile, 626 faculty members of BRAC University yesterday expressed solidarity with the ongoing protest.

In a statement, they said they were deeply shocked by the recent violence that led to the loss of lives and serious injuries. The teachers demanded those responsible be held accountable.

"As educators committed to fostering a just, democratic and inclusive society, we stand by the rights of students to peaceful and legitimate protest. We are deeply concerned that this right has not been respected, and profoundly disturbed by the ongoing harassment that many students continue to face."

DEMO OUTSIDE DHAKA
In Chattogram, protesters took out a procession from Anderkilla area after Juma prayers. The procession marched different roads, including in the New Market area.

In Khulna, students held a protest in front of Khulna University. Protesters also gathered in Shonadanga bus

terminal area. They took out a procession that marched towards Gollamari.

In Pabna, students demonstrated on the Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the Pabna University of Science and Technology in the afternoon. They chanted slogans protesting the killings, torture and arrests of the demonstrators.

In Bogura, several thousand protesters held a demonstration in the district town's Satmatha around 3:00pm, halting traffic on the road for about two hours.

In Tangail, protesters, mostly students, blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail Town Bypass area for about an hour from 4:00pm.

In Barishal, demonstrators from Government Brojomohun (BM) College took out a procession after Juma prayers. The procession paraded through some streets in Nathullabad Central Bus Terminal area.

In Sylhet, demonstrations were held in front of the Mount Adora Hospital in the city's Akhalia area and near the entrance to Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

In Habiganj, hundreds of protesters took out a procession from Jorapuruk area of the district town after Juma prayers.

Students staged a demonstration in front of the Narsingdi Press Club. Protesters also blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi's Bhelanagar area for about an hour from 4:30pm.

Turkey arrests 99 suspected IS members

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey's interior minister said yesterday that 99 suspected members of the Islamic State jihadist group had been detained in recent raids across the country.

The arrests were made mainly in Ankara and in Izmir in the west, as well as in the centre, east and south, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya posted on X.

"99 suspects have been arrested in the GURZ-4 operations over the past three days," Yerlikaya said.

"We will not tolerate any terrorist," he added.

Turkish authorities have made several mass arrests of alleged IS members in recent years, most recently a roundup of 147 people announced in March.

After those arrests, Yerlikaya said police had detained a total of 2,919 people suspected of links to the jihadist group.

Two of the assailants who massacred 145 people at the Crocus City Hall in Moscow last March, an attack for which IS claimed responsibility, had spent several weeks in Turkey before heading to Russia, according to local authorities.

Two killed in fresh violence

FROM PAGE 1

Witnesses said students began demonstrating in front of the Board Masjid in Habiganj after Juma prayers while Chhatra League activists took position in Town Hall area.

At one point, locals and activists of different political parties joined the students and started marching. Chhatra League members intercepted the procession and a clash began. Police then used firearms and teargas, leaving at least 50 wounded.

The agitators also threw bricks and stones at the residence of Habiganj 3 lawmaker Abu Zahir.

In the capital's Uttara-II, at least three people were injured by rubber bullets in a clash between protesters, police and ruling party activists in front of Zamzam Tower around 4:15pm.

The clash broke out when ruling party supporters attacked marching students.

Police fired rubber bullets, threw stun grenades, and used tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, according to sources.

A witness said, "Some people in helmets shot at the students... Coming under attack, the students ran to different alleyways."

Another witness told this newspaper that a student named Tahmid Huzaifa had taken treatment at an Uttara hospital after being hit by rubber bullets.

A nurse at Uttara Adhunik Hospital, requesting anonymity, said they treated two students, who suffered rubber bullet wounds.

Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Uttara) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the protesters set fire to a training school of Special Branch in Uttara.

"We brought the situation under control by 5:30pm by using teargas and sound grenades," he added.

In Khulna, police fired rubber bullets, used teargas, and charged batons as students marched in front of Khulna University around 3:00pm. At least 50 protesters were injured.

Students later gathered near the Sonadanga bus terminal and marched towards Gollamari.

As police swooped on them, they took positions near the local Met office and Zero Point areas.

Mozammel Haque, commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that police were tolerant. But they had to fire teargas shells to save themselves from bricks hurled by the students.

Sumon Roy, resident medical officer at Khulna Medical College and Hospital, said that as of 7:30pm yesterday, one student with rubber bullet wounds and nine others sick from teargas were admitted to the hospital.

In Sylhet, Mithu Das Joy, bureau chief of Daily Kalbela, a child, seven policemen and 25 others were injured in clashes.

Around 4:00pm, law enforcers attacked protesters in front of Mount Adora Hospital in Sylhet's Akhalia area, resulting in clashes that lasted for over four hours.

In Chattogram, a police box was torched at Wasa intersection as protesters marched after Juma prayers. They demonstrated on Laldighi Rifles Club road.

Meanwhile, several thousand protesters, mostly students, blocked Dhaka-Tangail Highway in Tangail Town Bypass area around 4:00pm.

As the BGB and police tried to clear the highway, the demonstrators threw bricks and other items. Then the BGB and police retreated.

The protesters left the area around 4:45pm.

In Narsingdi, Chhatra League, Jubo League and Mahila League members attacked a procession in the Court Road area around 2:30pm.

At least 12 people were injured in the attack.

In Noakhali, 10 people were injured as students and Jubo League and Chhatra League activists clashed near Chawkbazar Masjid around 2:00pm.

At least eight protesters and two BCL activists were injured, said locals.

Yasin Faruk Majumder, officer-in-charge of Lakshmipur Model Police Station, said police brought the situation under control.

Thousands join march for justice

FROM PAGE 1

members, demanding an end to mass arrests, justice for the "July massacre", release of arrested students, withdrawal of curfew, reopening of educational institutions, and the resignation of the government.

Earlier around noon, people started thronging the press club area with banners and posters. By 2:00pm, the street was filled to the brim with demonstrators.

Protesters held placards with slogans such as "Step Down Hasina," "Chhatro Hottar Bichar Chai [We demand justice for the killings of students]," and "Bullets May Hit, But

We Won't Quit".

Members of cultural organisations, including Udichi Shilpi Goshiti and Charon Sangskritik Kendra, and several cultural personalities recited poems, sang songs, and staged street dramas expressing solidarity with the protest.

After offering Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, several hundred people joined "Droho Jatra". Before that, they paraded through different streets.

The protesters then marched towards the Central Shaheed Minar.

Around 3:40pm near the Kodom Foara, a group of protesters painted

the windshield of an armoured police vehicle red. They also wrote "Khuni [killer]" on the vehicle.

At 3:42pm, a group of protesters staged a sit-in on the street and showed police posters with slogans like "Khuni [killer] Police", and "Dalal [subservient] Police".

At Shaheed Minar, more people joined the protesters.

Twelve-year-old Probha Mitra came with her brother and parents.

"I am here to express my solidarity, we don't want any more discrimination," Probha told The Daily Star.

Trader Abu Taleb and his tenth-

grader daughter, Nowshin Tabassum, came all the way from Keraniganj to join the protests.

Abu Taleb said, "More than 200 people, including students, were killed. We want justice for them. My daughter could have been killed. I joined the protest so that no such incidents [killings] take place in future. The government must take responsibility for the killings and resign immediately."

At the end of the programme, Rageeb Nayeem, president of a section of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, announced tomorrow's mass procession.

Tunisia women jailed for buying candidate endorsements

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia has sentenced four women to jail after convicting them of buying signatures of endorsement for a would-be challenger to President Kais Saied in upcoming elections, a court spokesman said yesterday.

Candidate registration for the October 6 presidential election began on Monday and closes at 5:00 pm (1600 GMT) next Tuesday.

Saied critics from across the political spectrum have complained that new, tougher endorsement requirements are making it nearly impossible to get on the ballot paper.

To be listed, candidates are required to provide signatures from 10,000 registered voters, with at least 500 voter signatures per constituency.

"The court sentenced three women to two-year sentences, which they began serving immediately, and another, who was tried in absentia, to four years," said Alaeddine Aouadi, spokesman for the court in the northwestern town of Jendouba.



Protesters, mainly Houthi supporters, hold posters of Hezbollah senior commander Fuad Shukr, who was killed in an Israeli strike, and assassinated Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, at a rally to show solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, in Sanaa, Yemen yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Protesters call for non-cooperation movement

FROM PAGE 1

As they did not make any corrections, a correspondent of this newspaper contacted him around 11:50pm. Mahin responded by saying that the statement stands as it is and that they will not make any corrections.

Asif Mahmud, one of six coordinators of the quota reform protests who was in the custody of Detective Branch, also shared a message identical to Mahin's.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hannan, another coordinator, said in a live stream on Facebook, that, on behalf of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, they are announcing countrywide demonstrations for today.

"An all-out non-cooperation movement will be observed from Sunday. No taxes will be paid to this government. No utility bills will be paid. The secretariat and all government and private offices

will be closed, no vehicle will be allowed to enter Gono Bhaban or Bangabhaban."

"No one will cooperate with this government."

He urged all to participate in these programmes so that the government could no longer function.

Contacted, Hannan also confirmed their programmes for today and tomorrow.

Their nine-point demand includes an apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the resignations of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Law Minister Anisul Huq, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat, and State Minister for Post, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak.