

# Army opens fire on 'infiltrators' along LoC

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

**Jammu:** Army troops opened fire after noticing movements of suspected infiltrators along Pakistan border in Akhnoor and Sunderbani sectors of Jammu on Monday amid heightened alert due to the fifth anniversary of Article 370's abrogation, official sources said.

Firings in the two locations occurred past midnight. The first was in Akhnoor's Battalion and second in Sunderbani sector in Rajouri, sources said. "The firings, however, drew no retaliation in both places," officials said.

Extensive searches were launched in both the areas at the first light of day to ensure that no one had sneaked in across the border, sources added.

Meanwhile, as a precau-

## 3 terror associates held in Anantnag

A team of security forces arrested 3 terror associates in Kashmir's Anantnag on Monday, reports **Saleem Pandit**. The trio was intercepted during a checking operation at Hassanpora Tulkhan Road by the team of Army's 1RR, CRPF's 90Bn & Anantnag Police. A pistol, 1 pistol magazine, 8 pistol rounds, a grenade and an IED were recovered from the suspects, police said.

tionary measure in view of the anniversary, no fresh batches of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims were allowed to depart from Jammu during the day. "No fresh yatra batch was allowed through Baltal or Pahalgam routes. Security was beefed up," an official said.

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# Protests, celebrations mark fifth anniv of Article 370 abrogation

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Aug 5 (PTI)

PROTESTS by Congress and PDP in Jammu and celebrations by BJP in Srinagar marked the fifth anniversary of the reading down of Article 370 of the Constitution that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir even as former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and several other regional party leaders claimed that they were put under house arrest.

The Congress and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) observed the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 as a 'black day' by holding separate protest rallies in Jammu to demand the restoration of statehood and Special Status for Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani criticised the BJP-led Centre for failing to curb the rise in terror attacks in the region following the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union territories.

Chanting slogans against the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and in favour of state-



BJP members during a march to celebrate fifth anniversary of abrogation of Article 370, in Srinagar, on Monday. (PTI)

hood restoration, the protesters sat on a dharna after being stopped by police from proceeding further. Flanked by senior leaders and former ministers Choudhary Lal Singh and Raman Bhalla, and former legislator Ravinder Sharma, Wani said August 5 has become the darkest day in Jammu and Kashmir's history.

"It is a day when our prosperous, happy state was downgraded into a Union territory, its historic statehood and spe-

cial status snatched, and bifurcated into two UTs. We are marking it as a black day, wearing black clothes and badges to protest against this injustice," Wani told reporters.

The Pradesh Congress Committee chief held the BJP and its Government responsible for the decision, which he called a "draconian measure".

"For this symbol of injustice to the people of J-K, they are celebrating this day as UT Divas," he added.



# India will need to monitor China's role in Bangladesh

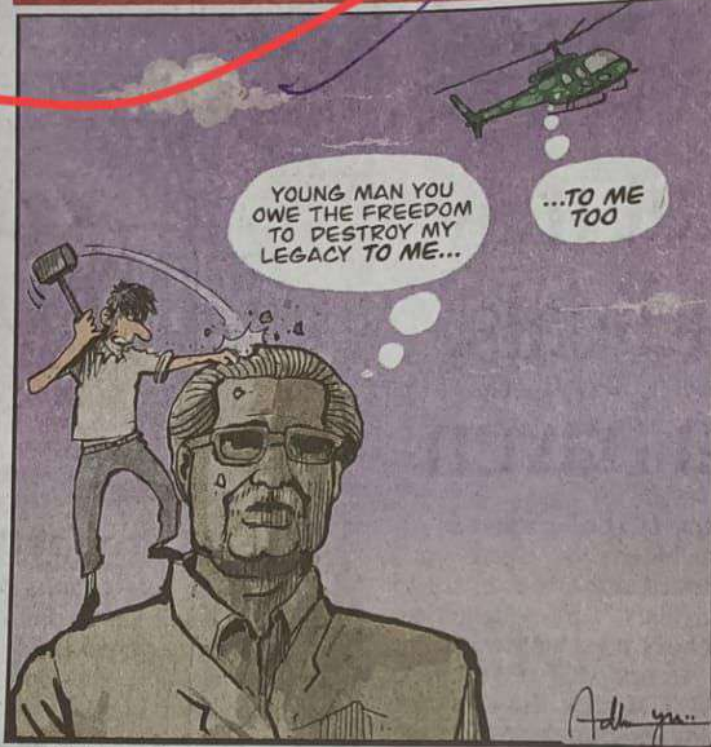
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While Jamaat is known for its links with Pakistan, BNP, which didn't contest the election earlier this year because it wasn't held under a caretaker govt, has never lost an opportunity to stoke anti-India sentiments. Together, they fanned what started out as a genuine student movement in early July into a violent countrywide agitation for regime change.

While India will hope that the army will have a moderating influence on the new govt, there's still a lot it will be concerned about. Political stability in Bangladesh under Hasina allowed India to focus on economic development in the country which is seen by the govt also as an indispensable partner in the development of its own northeastern region. The partnership with focus on energy and connectivity flourished. It allowed India to have cooperative and peaceful management mechanisms along the 4,000km border with Bangladesh, and address issues related to drug and human trafficking and counterfeit currency. India will be concerned about how such initiatives are impacted as the new govt in Dhaka takes over.

Second, India will need to guard against any effort to fan regional unrest, including anti-India activities on Bangladesh's soil by foreign elements who have waited long to see the back of Hasina. India was faced with a similar situation in Afghanistan, with the return of Taliban in 2021 and although the regime in Kabul has been receptive to India's concerns so far, Delhi continues to follow reports about activities of Pakistan-based terror groups in Afghanistan.

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Third, India will be worried about how counter-terrorism and defence cooperation with Dhaka might be affected. In his meetings with Hasina, PM Modi had been stressing on joint efforts to counter radicalisation and in their last summit in June, the two sides had agreed to explore defence industrial cooperation for modernisation of Bangladesh's armed forces.

Fourth, the role of China in the dramatically altered political situation in Bangladesh will have to be followed. While maintaining strong economic ties with China, which earned her Beijing's endorsement after the farcical polls in Jan, Hasina had ensured Chinese investments did not impinge on India's security interests. Despite China's interest in Teesta project, Hasina was keen that India execute the project

and her last meeting with Modi saw Indian side agreeing to send a team to Bangladesh to examine a proposal for management and conservation of the river waters. With Hasina's exit, India will be worried about how the new govt will handle what both sides saw till now as shared strategic concerns and interests.

Successive Indian govts had an "all-encompassing" relationship with Hasina govt that was based on goodwill and respect for sovereignty, with MEA hailing it a model for bilateral ties in the region.

Indian govt has worked hard to address Bangladesh's development needs and acted as Hasina's principal backer in the international community. In turn, Hasina took care of India's security interests, resolving the boundary issue and not allowing restive Islamist elements to target India.

## With Hasina, all members of Mujib family have left B'desh

New Delhi: Sheikh Hasina's flight from Dhaka means no member of her family remains in the country. Her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, who is usually with her, accompanied her from Dhaka to Hindon air base near Delhi, reports **Mohua Chatterjee**.

Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed (Putul) has been stationed in New Delhi since she was elected regional director of WHO last year. Her son Sajeeb Wazed (Joy) lived abroad even as he was an official adviser to the Prime Minister.

For Hasina and Rehana, Monday's flight from Dhaka was a repeat of history as Delhi had provided her with shelter, while the rest of her 18-member family — Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, his wife, sons and daughters-in-law — were gunned down at their Dhanmondi House in a midnight coup by the Bangladesh Army in 1975. Hasina and Rehana escaped as they were in Germany at the time.

Indian authorities reached Germany and brought Hasina, her husband, two children and Rehana to India. They lived in Pandara Road under an assumed identity for six years, from 1975 to 1981.

India has been a safe refuge for the Awami League leadership since the uprising against Pakistan that started in the late 1960s and turned into the liberation struggle that saw the birth of Bangladesh in December of 1971.



# Protesters oust B'Desh Govt

## Hasina resigns, flees country, reaches India

By Anisur Rahman  
DHAKA, Aug 5 (PTI)

AS VIOLENCE gripped Bangladesh amid ongoing student protests, Sheikh Hasina resigned as country's Prime Minister and left the country in a military helicopter and landed at the Hindon

into Hasina's residence, vandalising and looting the interiors, providing dramatic expression to the anti-Government protests that have killed more than a dozen people in the last two days. At the centre of people anger is the Hasina Government's controversial quota system reserv-

Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue and smashing them with hammers in a last-minute outrage underscoring the fickleness of history -- Army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that the 76-year-old Prime Minister has resigned. After hours of uncertainty



Protesters climb a public monument as they celebrate after getting the news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Monday. (AP/PTI)

airbase in India. Several reports cited that Hasina will be leaving for London soon. Later, Bangladesh Army stepped in to fill the power vacuum, ending one uncertain chapter and opening another in the nation's restive history. As news of Hasina's departure spread, hundreds broke

ing 30 per cent jobs for families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

Read Editorial  
**BANGLA-DASH**  
on page 8

With volatile crowds taking to the streets -- some clambering on Hasina's father and

in a day of sudden developments, Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad near New Delhi on her way to London, diplomatic sources in the Indian capital said. She arrived in India in a C-130 military transport aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force.

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### Interim Govt is taking over: Bangladesh Army chief



General Waqar-uz-Zaman

DHAKA, Aug 5 (PTI)

**BANGLADESH** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned and an interim Government is taking over, Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced here on Monday, in a dramatic development amid massive protests against her Government that claimed more than 100 lives in the last two days.

"I'm taking all responsibility. Please cooperate," he said in a televised address.

Zaman also urged restraint and asked protesters to end the violence. He vowed "justice" for all the people.



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves the country in a helicopter as protesters stormed PM's palace. (PTI)

### Hasina will not make a political comeback, says son Joy

LONDON, Aug 5 (PTI)

**BANGLADESH'S** ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will not make a political comeback, her son and former official adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy said on Monday, asserting that she left the country for her own safety on her family's insistence.

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## BSF issues 'high alert' along 4,096-km Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, Aug 5 (PTI)

**THE** Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country, officials said. BSF Director General (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders toured the front in West Bengal to review the security situation. The DG landed in Kolkata around 10.30 am on a flight from Delhi.

Chawdhary along with senior officers toured the remote North 24 Parganas district



BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary during visit to Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district and Sunderbans area of West Bengal on Monday. (ANI)

and the Sunderbans riverine area to review preparations, a spokesperson for the South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata said. The force has directed all its field commanders to be "on ground" and "deploy all personnel on border duty immediately as part of the high alert," a senior officer told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The South Bengal frontier spokesperson said, "In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert all along Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has been increased."

### PM chairs crucial CCS meet after briefing from EAM

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (ANI)

**THE** Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met on Monday at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence at Lok Kalyan Marg. In the meeting, PM Modi was briefed about the situation in Bangladesh.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were present in the meeting. Senior officials were also present.

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# CDS Chauhan chairs meet on cohesion in Armed Forces



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan chairs the apex level Tri-Services Financial Conference in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (ANI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan chaired the apex level Tri-Services Financial Conference for Armed Forces at Manekshaw Centre in Delhi on Monday. The conference was aimed to enhance cohesion and synergy in the financial issues of the Armed Forces and saw the participation of senior officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), MoD (Finance), Controller General of Defence Accounts, Integrated Financial Advisers of Services, Government e-Marketplace, Service Headquarters, and Indian Coast Guard Headquarters.

Speaking to ANI after the conference, Air Vice Marshal, Anil Sabharwal said, "Today's conference topic was to 'To Enhance Financial Cohesion and Synergy.' All the Armed Forces should have cutting-edge equipment to beat the challenges. But to have all this cutting-edge equipment is very expensive, we have to depend on foreign expenses."

"The need is to be self-reliant and all these things require a lot of money. The money is tax-payers' money and the Government, also the Armed Forces is very considerate about where to use that. If we understand all the financial nuances very well, we will be able to use it in the right way," he added.

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Krishna Swaminathan said that the Armed Forces need to develop capabilities to face all those challenges. He further said that these capabilities come at a huge cost that must be balanced with other expenditures.