

Troops quell clashes in India

SikhMuseum.com

NEW DELHI (UPI) — Lawmen in three states were mobilized yesterday to quell Hindu-Muslim rioting, angry Sikh protesters and offset possible political violence, officials said.

Three companies of paramilitary police rushed to the southern city of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh state to quell Hindu-Muslim clashes in which five people were stabbed to death, officials said.

In northern Punjab state 10 suspected Sikh extremists killed two people and police arrested about 400 other Sikhs who held a peaceful protest to demand the withdrawal of the army from the Golden Temple.

In Kashmir state authorities braced for possible political violence when the legislature meets tomorrow for a crucial vote of confidence for chief minister, G. M. Shah.

The Shah government deployed police and paramilitary forces to avert violent demonstrations by supporters of former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, fired by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi July 2.

In Hyderabad, 1400 km (875 miles) south of New Delhi, three companies of the Central Reserve Police Force rushed to take up positions "as a precautionary measure" to stop further outbreaks of violence in the strife-torn sections of the city.

Police said five people were killed and five injured in Hindu-Muslim stabbing incidents during a two-hour relaxation of a curfew that has been in force most of the last week.

The religious strife began a week ago when Muslims stoned a procession of 10,000 people celebrating a local Hindu festival.

In the Punjabi city of Patiala, 200 km (125 miles) north of New Delhi, security forces arrested some 400 Sikhs who defied a ban on protest marches, the Press Trust of India news agency said.