

China, DPRK display unity as Kim visits

BEIJING, Oct 4: China's leaders turned out en masse Friday to welcome North Korean President Kim Il Sung on a visit expected to focus on nuclear disarmament...

The official people's Daily newspaper (Renmin Ribao) said Kim's visit was of great significance and reflected the "intimate friendship" between the two hard-line communist countries.

This was underlined when Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng and several ministers all met Kim's special train from Pyongyang.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said the Chinese leaders embraced the 79-year-old Kim, revered at home as the "great leader," and reviewed an honour guard with him.

Foreign diplomats said, China clearly wanted to dramatise the two countries' solidarity at a time when communism is crumbling elsewhere, particularly the Soviet Union.

Kim was expected to ask for economic aid to compensate for the loss of Soviet aid and barter trade, but that it was not clear how generous China would be...

He and other diplomats said Kim's meetings with Chinese leaders were expected to focus on the implications of the collapse of Soviet communism and on US plans to cut its nuclear arsenal.

China's leaders are expected to lecture Kim on the successes of their market-style economic reforms, which they credit for keeping the party in power...

Bush reluctant to send troops to Haiti

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: President Bush said he was committed to the restoration of democracy in Haiti but said he was reluctant to send US troops to the island unless American lives were threatened...

We're committed to the restoration of a democratically-elected government in Haiti, Bush told reporters during a news conference.

Asked if he intended to back his pledge with American troops, Bush replied: "I am reluctant to use US forces." He said he would consider that option if needed to protect Americans on the island.

Bush made his comments shortly after a meeting at the White House with ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was

toppled in a military coup on Monday.

Calling for Aristide's return to power, Bush told reporters: "Let's hope that can be done without any kind of force."

A delegation from the Organisation of American States went to Haiti today to warn of diplomatic and economic repercussions unless democratic rule was restored.

Petition for eviction of US base rejected. MANILA, Oct 4: The Philippine Supreme Court today threw out a petition filed by an opposition lawyer asking it to order the eviction of US troops...

JP, JCD clash. From Page 1 Col. 5. party's district conference tomorrow morning at JM Sen Hall at Andarkilla.

The clash occurred when the JCD processionists chanting slogans campaigning for tomorrow's public meeting and demanding hanging of Ershad reached at a place near the JM Sen Hall where some JP workers were also campaigning for their public meeting...

Police rushed in and dispersed the clashing activists. All the injured persons were given first aid at nearby clinics and none was hospitalized.

Meanwhile tension has mounted further in the city after the clash and none appear to drop its tomorrow's meeting programme.

UNB adds: At least 50 people were injured as rival groups of rufing BNP's Sitakunda upazila unit clashed over election of its President at a conference at Kumira here Friday.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when councillors attending the conference got divided over the issue with some of them allegedly brandishing lethal weapons.



Transport workers held a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday.

Indian troops crack down on Kashmiri militants : 13 killed

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: Indian troops searching for Muslim rebels searching for Muslim rebels during search operations in several villages in Sopore district. The spokesman cannot be quoted under briefing rules.

The killings occurred in the village of Tarzoo near Sopore district - a region near India's frontier with Pakistan that has long been known as a haven for Kashmiri insurgents fighting for independence from mostly Hindu India.

Meanwhile, security forces shot and killed eight Kashmiri rebels in the Kupwara sector near India's northwestern frontier, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Srinagar.

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Open voting system

From Page 1 Col. 4. The scheduled hearing of the 'stay part' of the writs against the Election of President Act was described by a section of constitutional experts, as undesirable and unhealthy and not helpful to the cause of democracy.

They said that the open voting system in a parliament was nothing new, but the politicians who filed the writ petitions in the High Court challenging the Act passed earlier in parliament, did it just for publicity stunt centering the presidential election.

Justice T H Khan, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, who was also Law Minister during President Zia's regime, when contacted, told The Daily Star that the propaganda of the opposition, that the secrecy of ballot must be maintained, was a mere publicity stunt.

He said that the members of parliament generally perform business openly and they always vote for or against any bill openly. So, there is no harm to cast votes in the presidential election in an open ballot, he said.

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Justice Khan said, "The right to vote in any election, be it presidential, parliamentary or local body, is not a fundamental right. It is a legal right which is governed by a particular law in any democratic country."

Attorney General Aminul Haque, when contacted, said that the manner of voting in a parliament is regulated through an act throughout the world.

He said that in America, even the Congress members also cast their votes openly on a national issue.

Meanwhile, presidential candidate Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury has sent letters to all members of parliament seeking their votes in the October 8 election.

An informal meeting of MPs belonging to BNP was held at the Sugandha office of Prime Minister on Thursday night. MPs present at the meeting discussed presidential election and related matters, sources said.

Gordimer wants sanctions to continue

NEW YORK, Oct 4: Anti-apartheid writer Nadine Gordimer, basking in the joy of winning the Nobel Prize for literature, called on Thursday for economic sanctions to continue against South Africa until it becomes a multi-racial democracy, reports Reuter.

For 30 years in a series of strong, painful novels, the South African writer has held a harsh spotlight on apartheid and winning the 1991 literature prize gave her a chance to keep that light burning hard and bright.

She told a news conference that she would consider donating part of the one-million-dollar Nobel award to help black writers and would refuse any award offered by the South African government because it was still a white government despite the enormous changes

languages," Gordimer said. "Black writers are writing in English and many of them I know could come out more explicitly in their own languages but no one wants to publish them."

"Sanctions are needed to get the South African government to finish the job... I think nothing is going to stop the eventual arrival of a democratic, multi-racial, non-sexist South Africa."

She said she would consider donating a call for continuing sanctions in her Nobel acceptance speech but said she had an equally important task - to further opportunities for black South African writers.

"I really want to push the question of support for cultural organisations and the opportunity for publishing in African

Transport strike

From Page 1 Col. 4. government to take necessary steps for fulfillment of the demands.

Presided over by Wazuddin Khan, the rally was addressed by federation leaders Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Habibur Rahman Khan, Shahjahan Khan MP, Roy Ramesh Chandra, Md Ismail and others. The speakers declared that the transport workers would go for a countrywide indefinite strike from Sunday if the demands are not met.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded different streets.

EC has no right to summon JS sitting, says Suranjit. Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta MP, Friday questioned the authority of the Election Commission to summon the "sitting" of the members of parliament in its "chamber".

The Election Commission served letters on September 30 to the MPs for a sitting of the members in the parliament chamber on October 8 for the election of the President.

A prominent parliamentarian, Sengupta told UNB that the Election Commission has no constitutional right to call MPs to a "sitting of parliament" in the "chamber".

In support of his contention, he quoted Articles 72, 75, 78 and 152 of the Constitution and section 311 of the Rules of Procedure.

Sengupta said as per Article 72, only the President has the constitutional right to summon a session of the parliament.

Quoting Article 152, he explained that "session" means "sittings" of parliament and a "sitting" means a period during which parliament is sitting continuously without adjournment.

He referred to Articles 75 and 78 and said the proceedings of parliament shall be regulated by Rules of Procedure made by it and the validity of such proceedings shall not be questioned in any court.

So, the summoning a sitting of the MPs by the Election Commission is "undemocratic and unconstitutional", he argued.

Sengupta further said that section 311 of the Rules of Procedure clearly states, "the chamber of the House shall not be used for any purpose other than the sittings of the House."

He said the chamber is not used even for the election of 30 women members for the reserved seats.

Termining the Election Commission Act, 1991, as unconstitutional, Sengupta urged the Speaker to protect the sanctity of the House as its guardian.

He also requested the Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and all members of parliament irrespective of their party of affiliation to unite for upholding the dignity and sanctity of the House.

He hoped the Election Commission would withdraw the letter served September 30 within next 24 hours. "Otherwise, we will be forced to take action in the court of law."

Arrested students of Tejgaon College sent to court. By Staff Correspondent. The three students of Tejgaon College, arrested allegedly for collecting tolls from a supermarket on Thursday, have been sent to the court. The students include the general secretary of the college students union Muslehuddin and two of his fellow students Saiful Islam and Ferdous Alam.

The Midnight File

Belgian PM submits resignation

BRUSSELS, Oct 4: Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens submitted his government's resignation Friday after being unable to solve a dispute between Dutch-speaking and French-speaking members of his Cabinet. His resignation was submitted to King Baudouin but the royal palace said the King would not decide immediately whether to accept it. Disputes between Belgium's 5.5 million Dutch-speakers and 4.5 million Francophones have caused the fall of many Belgian governments since World War II, reports AP.

It's too early for ME talks: Bush

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: President Bush said Friday that US diplomatic efforts have not yet reached the point where Arab-Israeli peace talks can be staged this month. "A lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks," Bush said at a White House news conference, reports AP.

Jilted lover kills sweetheart

CALCUTTA, Oct 4: A jilted lover shot dead his sweetheart, her mother and another person in a fit of jealous rage, before taking his own life at Rampurhat colony in West Bengal's Birbhum district yesterday. The beau, a jawan of the Railway Protection Force, fired on the three from his service revolver after storming into their home as they sat talking, a delayed police report reaching here today said. The bodies were handed over to the government railway police for post mortem examination, reports PTI.

VHP hopes to start building Ram Temple in 80 days

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) will begin construction of the proposed Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya 'within 80 days' from October 18, when it intends to start a religious ceremony there, the VHP General Secretary, Ashok Singhal, said here today, reports PTI.

Singhal told a press conference that the construction would begin 'anytime within this period' from the spot where the VHP laid the foundation stone of the temple on November 9, 1989.

The VHP leader said volunteers of the 'Bajrang Dal' would be stationed in Ayodhya during the entire period and would participate in the 'kar seva' as and when the construction started.

Stating that almost all hurdles, particularly those related to handing over of the land, shops, buildings and temples to the VHP had been completed, Singhal said the VHP would begin construction after the U.P government ended its on-going discussions with senior Muslim leaders on the issue of relocation of the mosque from the disputed site.

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Gunshots on DU campus

By DU Correspondent. Several gunshots were fired from the Jagannath Hall and S M Hall compound of the Dhaka University on Friday.

Firing of such gunshots has become a regular phenomenon on the campus.

Campus sources said there were huge arms and ammunition at some of the halls and movement of armed outsiders there have also increased in recent days.

Sometimes the armed hoodlums are seen moving in the halls brandishing arms openly, general students said. They also interfere in matters of the hall life, the students said.

A large number of police were also deployed at all the strategic points on the campus.

With police outside the halls and armed outsiders inside, the general students feel themselves as captives, they say.

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From Page 1 Col. 5. brought about a great victory for the democracy loving people of the country.

He pointed out that his party had cooperated with the treasury bench in passing the 12th Amendment Bill to introduce parliamentary form of government.

And subsequently, he said, the Awami League wanted a non-partisan and neutral person acceptable to all to be elected to the office of the President.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Samad Azad and the Acting General Secretary Amir Hussain Amu condemned the Press Note issued Thursday, and said that the Press Note lacked the norms of political decency and etiquette.