

ROK, DPRK begin PM level talks to narrow differences

SEOUL, May 6: The Prime Ministers of South and North Korea opened their seventh round of talks here today in a bid to narrow differences over implementation of a reconciliation pact and a nuclear weapons ban, reports AFP.

Both prime ministers were scheduled to make key note addresses on the first day of talks before holding closed door sessions Thursday.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik told the visiting North Korean delegation late Tuesday that the two sides should reach agreement this week on setting up

Bihar poorest, Punjab richest

NEW DELHI, May 6: Bihar was identified as the poorest state in the country during 1970-71, 1980-81, 1987-88 and 1990-91, and Punjab the richest on the basis on available data with the Planning Commission, reports PTI.

The ratio of per capita net state domestic product (NSDP) was 2.66 : 1.00 in 1970-71, 3.58 : 1.00 in 1980-81, 3.36 : 1.00 in 1987-88 and 2.28 : 1.00 in 1990-91, according to Planning Commission sources.

liaison offices and joint commissions by an agreed May 18 deadline, in order to begin the reconciliation process.

In its arrival statement, the North Korean delegation, led by Prime Minister Yong Hyong-Muk, had said it hoped the seventh round of Prime Ministerial talks would establish a strong framework for carrying out the reconciliation agreement launched at the sixth round of talks in February.

Under a separate February nuclear ban accord, the two sides had also agreed to draw up nuclear inspection guidelines by May 18 and implement mutual inspections of suspected nuclear sites within 20 days.

But little progress had been expected on the inter-Korean nuclear agreement despite North Korea's presentation Monday of inventory of its nuclear facilities and materials to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The move paves the way for IAEA inspections of the north's nuclear facilities to take place by June.

Suchinda has no choice but to resign, press says

'Political chaos intensifies fears of coup in Thailand'

BANGKOK, May 6: Thailand risked being plunged into political chaos and yet another military coup as the shaky government of Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon struggled to remain in power, analysts warned here today, reports AFP.

Tension and uncertainty continued to grow in the capital, which has been the scene of several mass protests, as the opposition parties stepped up their attempt to force Suchinda to resign and bring down the pro-military coalition government.

"The situation is very nasty," said one analyst who follows developments closely. "And what is so worrying is that there is no obvious solution to the problem."

The lack of an apparent way to break the deadlock between the government and the opposition has intensified fears of military intervention.

"Fear of a repressive reaction from the military is growing," said another seasoned analyst.

The opposition increased the pressure today in Parliament when Opposition Leader Chaowalit

Yongchaiyudh accused Suchinda of being nothing more than a front man for a military junta.

The attack came minutes after Suchinda delivered his government's first policy statement which boycotted, filing into the chamber after the Prime Minister had finished.

Outside parliament thousands of anti-government protesters gathered to show their support for Chamlong Srimuang, an influential and popular MP who announced at an anti-government rally on Monday night that he would fast until he dies or Suchinda resigns.

A story — faced Suchinda showed no reaction as Chaowalit, himself a former military chief, berated him for going back on his word and agreeing to take over the premiership.

The opposition claims the government is simply an extension of the junta that seized power in a coup early last year from elected Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

Suchinda, who masterminded that coup, vowed at the time that under no cir-

cumstances would he become Thailand's next Prime Minister.

Opposition MPs are also angered by the interim constitution, announced earlier this year by the junta, which gave sweeping powers to the military-appointed Senate, making it virtually impossible for Parliament to topple the government without Senate approval.

Suchinda further upset the opposition when he agreed to include several ministers in his cabinet who had been accused of corruption in the Chatichai administration.

But Suchinda has ruled out the possibility of his resignation.

"If I am to resign under these conditions then there will be a Prime Minister resigning in our country every day," he said on Tuesday night.

The country's jittery stock exchange plunged more than 40 points Wednesday morning, taking its fall over the past month to more than 100 points. Turnover has also plummeted to a six-month low.

"The political situation has everyone on edge. No one knows what is going to happen

and many Thai investors are getting rid of their shares, wanting to hold cash instead," said one broker.

The influential English language newspaper The Nation carried a powerful front page editorial, insisting that for the sake of the country Suchinda had no choice but to resign.

"The situation could explode any moment now. Suchinda must either resign or dissolve the House," said the paper.

The Bangkok Post, another English-language daily, quoted an unnamed senior military officer close to Suchinda as saying that the Premier might be forced to dissolve parliament to break the impasse.

"General Suchinda might do this to avoid political chaos in the country," the officer, who also holds a cabinet post, was quoted as saying.

But many analysts refuse to rule out the possibility of another coup, the 17th in the past 60 years.

"Whenever Thai politics get into a mess the military immediately consider staging a coup. It has almost become a Thai tradition," said one analyst.

Off the Record



MOSCOW: A worker cleans the monument of Karl Marx, the founder of Communism, in the center of Moscow Tuesday. This monument is among the few monuments to revolutionaries in Moscow that for some reasons were not taken down in August of last year after the unsuccessful coup. The sign on the monument read: "Proletarians of the world unite." — AFP/UNB photo.

Kohl refers Germans to psychiatrist

UNITED NATIONS: Chancellor Helmut Kohl suggested on Tuesday that Germans who supported extreme nationalism were in need of psychiatrists, reports Reuters.

He also said he wished his countrymen had the ability to rejoice over German unification rather than emphasise its difficulties.

"Germans have talents but they don't have the talent to rejoice," he said, adding that he envied the talent of the French and the Italians for being "able to do that."

"The Germans prefer to be morose Germans and they like to spend their time thinking of what else can happen and what other problems may develop," he said.

The chancellor was responding to a questions after his speech to the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) held in the UN General Assembly hall.

Asked about the emergence of German nationalism, he said, "there is no true risk, not even the trace of a risk."

"I think we deeply remember what happened, we remember what nationalism really meant for Germany and other countries."

But he said there were always unreasonable individuals.

"Psychiatrists say that up to 4 per cent of population really should receive psychiatric treatment, may be that includes the psychiatrists themselves," he said.

Homosexuals, lesbians to be allowed to marry

OSLO: Norwegian homosexuals and lesbians will soon be allowed to marry, obtaining nearly the same rights as ordinary married couples the Labour Minister for Family Affairs said here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The opposition Christiana, People's Party has promised to fight the bill in parliament, but observers said it was likely to be adopted in the autumn bringing Norwegian family law in line with that of Denmark.

The proposal was adopted at a Labour Party conference two years ago, but due to its controversial content the social democrat government waited until now to put it to parliament.

Homosexuals and lesbians will however not be allowed to marry in church, neither will they have the right to adopt children. Otherwise, they will be guaranteed the same civil and legal rights as ordinary married couples.

Be mean, get well sooner

WASHINGTON: Mean people have a better chance of recovering from heart attacks than those kinder and gentler, a medical researcher said Tuesday, reports AP.

Dr. Richard Milani said his research found that people with symptoms of hostility were more likely to succeed in an exercise programme for rehabilitation after a heart attack or some other major cardiac event.

The problem with these hostile people aside from the obvious one, is that their inner meanness may have helped cause their heart problems to begin with.

"The presence of hostility isn't a good thing," said Milani, who is director of the cardiovascular health center of the Ochsner Medical Institutions in New Orleans. "This is not something that we would promote."

Milani and his colleagues surveyed 160 people who had some major heart problem. Most of them were heart attack victims, but there also were people who had undergone bypass surgery or angioplasty.

Rehabilitation depends on exercise training and Milani wanted to find out if hostility or depression is a way of predicting how well patients respond to it.

Milani said based on what he's uncovered thus far, he's beginning a more refined research project to examine people who have been diagnosed as hostile or depressed. The people who responded to the earlier survey were just those who exhibited symptoms but had not been diagnosed.

LA riots show hypocrisy of democracy: China

BEIJING, May 6: In one of its harshest condemnations of the United States human rights record, China said the Los Angeles riots showed the "Hypocrisy of democracy," reports Reuters.

"The angry fire in Los Angeles and other US cities demanding equality and justice and protesting against the gap between the races illuminates the dark side of American society," the Legal daily said on Wednesday in a signed commentary.

"It exposes to the world the hypocrisy of democracy and the morbid state of (US) society," said the newspaper, the official legal organ of the communist party.

China, which was internationally condemned for ordering its army to suppress pro-democracy demonstrations with heavy loss of life in 1989, has not used the opportunity presented by the Los Angeles riots to point out the failings of the US system.

BRIEFLY

Turkey for expansion of OIC: Turkish Economy Minister Tansu Ciller said on Tuesday that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) should be expanded to include the newly-independent former Soviet Muslim republics, Reuters reports from Istanbul.

"These republics must become part of our economic region. We must create a wider economic union for the Islamic world," she told the OIC standing committee for economic cooperation which was in Istanbul for a three-day session.

Osmen Othman, Deputy Secretary General of the OIC, said the central Asian republics were welcome to join the OIC. "The more members we have for Islamic union, the better," he said.

Former Soviet Union's 60 million Muslims are concentrated in the central Asian republics and the Caucasus regions absorbed by the Russian Tsarist empire late in the 19th century.

Arab League team to visit CIS: A 4-member Arab League committee is to visit the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) within two weeks to check the migration of Jews from the former Soviet republics to the occupied Palestine, IRNA reports from Athens.

According to a report in Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat, the league committee, comprising Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Syria, will also hold talks, with high-ranking CIS officials to boost ties with the Arab world.

The Secretary-General of the Cairo-based Arab League, Esmat Abdul Maguid, is to chair the first meeting of the committee before it leaves for the CIS.

Pentagon declassifying records: The US Defence department said Tuesday it is beginning to declassify some of its records about 2,266 Americans still listed as missing in action from the Indochina conflict, AP reports from Washington.

The first records to be made available will be the 5,000 so-called "live sighting" reports, which are first hand or hearsay reports of Americans believed to be held prisoner of living freely in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the Pentagon said in a statement.

About 100 such reports are still under active investigation and will not be released, but the declassified reports will be available in the Library of Congress in early 1993, the Pentagon said.

Congress passed legislation last year requiring the declassification of the reports.

US won't send troops to Bosnia: The United States will not send any military forces to help put an end to ethnic fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina but would consider supporting a UN peacekeeping force, officials said here Tuesday, reports AFP from Washington.

"We should not commit American forces to the conflict," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler when asked about Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's call for international military help.

A State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity described the current situation in Bosnia as serious and blamed the Serb-Dominated Yugoslav army and Serbian militia for the renewed fighting.

Gold biscuits seized in Punjab: Seven hundred twenty-eight gold biscuits of foreign origin and valued at about four crore Indian rupees were seized from a vehicle on the Pathankot-Jalandhar highway near Mukerian in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab on Monday, BSF said Tuesday, PTI reports from Amritsar.

The gold biscuits, weighing about 85 kgs, were concealed in a specially made cavities in the vehicle.

The gold biscuits, smuggled from Pakistan through Jammu border, were on its way to Delhi.

On a specific information, the BSF men and directorate of revenue intelligence officials laid ambushes near Mukerian on the national highway and seized the jeep carrying gold biscuits.

Kuwaiti diplomat escapes unhurt:

A Kuwaiti diplomat escaped unhurt after two unidentified gunmen riding a motorbike fired on his car in the Indian capital Tuesday, police said, AFP reports from New Delhi.

Miteb Othman Al-Rumaih, counsellor at the Kuwaiti embassy, was returning to his mission after attending a meeting of Arab diplomats at the Arab League office in south Delhi when the attack took place.

The gunmen fled and there were no immediate arrests, police said.

Al-Rumaih confirmed the attack took place but when asked who he thought his assailants were, he would only say that they may have been "foreigners."

Nigerian police kill 2 rioters: Police said Tuesday they shot and killed two protesters in self-defence against rioters who stoned, looted and set ablaze buildings and buses to protest increased transport costs and fuel shortages, AP reports from Lagos.

Nigeria, an oil-producing nation, has been short of gasoline for months because refineries have broken down. The government has started importing fuel, but not enough to stop long queues at petrol stations snarling up traffic and transporters increasing fares by 300-400 per cent.

Riot police moved in after hundreds of protesters went on a rampage Monday on the northern outskirts of Lagos and blocked roads into the city.

Rioting was also reported in the southern Ogun state, where police said they arrested 35 people after protesters burned four vehicles and attempted to set fire to a government building and a hotel.



KABUL: Commander Abdul Haq (R), chief of police under the interim Afghan government, confers with a field commander of Khaled Hezb-I-Islami Tuesday. Haq, also of the Khaled Hezb Muzahideen group discussed security measures with the commander whilst distributing wheat to residents of areas severely hit by rockets. —AFP/UNB photo.

Shelling rends Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia, May 6: Rival factions agreed to a truce in Bosnia-Herzegovina, signing the pact at U.N. headquarters hours after the building came under mortar fire. But the truce failed to stop the fighting, reports AP.

Heavy shelling hit the capital, Sarajevo, throughout the day and UN Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding was among those who had to duck for cover.

Two hours into the ceasefire, only sporadic explosions and machine-gun bursts could be heard. But the mortar fire resumed later in the center of town, Sarajevo radio said in a

late broadcast.

"The agreement that was signed has had no effect whatsoever this evening," said Avdo Panjata, commander of the city's Public Security Center.

The Yugoslav presidency, heavily criticized for its role in the fighting, announced earlier it was giving up command of federal troops in Bosnia in an apparent effort to distance itself from the army's actions.

But 80 per cent of the 100,000-plus federal soldiers in Bosnia are ethnic Serbs from Bosnia, and those left behind probably will continue to side with Serb irregulars, whom they have armed heavily.

The Serbian forces have been fighting Muslim and Croat Bosnia.

The agreement to end the fighting was reached at the UN office in the presence of European Community envoy Colm Doyle and Antonio Dos Santos, chief of the EC mission.

Previous truces have not held for long in the two months of fighting.

Before the signing, two shells landed 50 yards (metres) and 200 yards (metres) from the UN headquarters building as Goulding arrived.

Ghali urges UN members to pay dues

UNITED NATIONS, May 6: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Tuesday urged all UN members to pay their dues promptly to the cash-poor world body, AP reports from United Nations.

He made the appeal in a speech to publishers from the United States, which pays a fourth of the regular budget and 31 per cent of peacekeeping costs. It is the deepest in arrears, owing almost \$1 billion in both areas.

Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations is cutting costs and studying methods of "preventative diplomacy" to try to defuse conflicts.

CPI (M) firm to restore Marxism, Leninism

CALCUTTA, May 6: The CPI(M) politburo member, Sitaram Yachuri, has expressed concern over the emergence of an unipolar world and its effects on developing countries like India after the fall of the Soviet Union, and said that his party had accepted the challenge of restoring the revolutionary ideals of Marx and Lenin, reports PTI.

Participating in a round-table conference here last night on 'Marxism and Leninism' its application in socialist countries and problems, Yachuri said that it was the task of the Marxists to re-

store such ideals based on scientific approach.

Yachuri said that his party felt that the reverses suffered by socialism in the erstwhile Soviet Union did not negate Marxism-Leninism and its relevance in the present-day world. Socialism, born out of the womb of capitalism, cannot go back to it despite the temporary setback of socialism, he said.

Noted journalist, Nikhil Chakraborty, said that it was wrong to think that socialism would be uprooted and the spirit of the great October Revolution wiped out.

Fresh racial riots shake Toronto

TORONTO, May 6: New disturbances and looting broke out Tuesday night in the same area of downtown Toronto where a six-hour riot shook the provincial capital the night before, reports AFP.

Youths to seed at least two firebombs and looted a jewelry shop on Yonge Street. Police made two arrests but no injuries were reported.

The Eaton Centre, an upscale shopping complex, closed early as hundreds of black and white youths faced off with riot police, some on horseback, on the shopping strip along Toronto's main north-south artery.

Officials blamed Monday's riot on hoodlums who hijacked a peaceful anti-racism protest, but black leaders said the outbreak sprang from deep frustrations.

Monday's protest was organised in reaction to last week's acquittal of four white police officers accused of beating a black motorist in Los Angeles. The rally took on added significance when a Toronto undercover police officer shot and killed a black man early Saturday.

More than 30 people faced charges stemming from Monday's violence ranging from theft to possession of

stolen goods, assault and resisting arrest.

Earlier Tuesday, federal Prime Minister Brian Mulroney rejected suggestions that the Toronto riot was a sign of things to come here.

Mulroney, pressed by opposition members of Parliament in Commons, denied his government's economic policies created the social problems behind the riot or that racism is a serious problem in Canada.

He stressed that "by and large there is a general agreement that Canada has been free from much of this."

But Dudley Laws, leader of

the Black Action Defence Council, said, "What happened yesterday was the frustration and hunger coming out. We have waited for the justice system to deal justly with our community and they have failed."

The rampage was likely to force Canadians to adjust their self-image as more civilized and law-abiding than their violent neighbours to the south.

Police say the man killed here was a drug dealer who threatened the officer with a knife after a long chase. Raymond Lawrence, 22, was the eighth black person shot by Toronto police since 1988.