

## Arafat warns richest nations

## ME peace process will collapse without funds

NAPLES, Italy, July 9: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today warned the world's richest nations the Middle East peace process would collapse unless they provided financial help for his people, reports Reuters.

"Without their support, no doubt we can give some promises to our people, but they (the Palestinians) also want to live and without real support the peace process will be collapsing," Arafat told Italian radio in message for the G7 summit.

Arafat said he had sent his warning last week to US President Bill Clinton and the other leaders of the world's biggest industrialised democracies through their embassies in Tunis, just before his triumphant return to the Gaza Strip.

"We have to speak frankly, without help for the Palestinians to bypass these very critical circumstances, these circumstances will give more

opportunity for extremists on the two sides to spoil the peace process," Arafat said. "I hope that the Group of Seven countries and the leaders of the seven countries will not forget the holy land and Palestine, the people of the holy land and the Palestinians," Arafat said.

Without their support it would be very difficult to continue the peace process, he said.

Arafat said the Palestinians needed a harbour, an airport, communications and television. "The water which we are drinking in the Gaza Strip is unhealthy because the drainage has been spoiled," he said.

The Naples summit has brought together the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Canada, Britain and Italy, Russia, although not a G7 member, is taking part in the political part of the summit on Sunday.

## Brazil reach semifinals

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just wide off the far post.

The Brazilians came out of the break looking dangerous with Bebeto and Romario at the end of two threatening moves into the Dutch areas.

They put Brazil ahead in the 52nd minute on a slick move down the field, set off by a misdirected pass from Dutch veteran Frank Rijkaard in Brazil's half. Bebeto's cross to the penalty spot found Romario, who knocked it in right-footed off a hop.

Bebeto made it two in the 62nd on solo surge, beating Jan Wouters and skirting De Goey before rolling the ball into the net while the Dutch claimed off-side.

Dennis Bergkamp did well to pull one back within two minutes, muscling in at a tight angle to smack home a throw-in that sailed into the Brazilian area.

Brazil's defenders and goalkeeper Taffarel seemed hardly there when the Dutch levelled

## Brazil reach semifinals

at 2-2 in the 76th. Aron Winter powering a Marc Overmars corner kick into the roof of the net with a textbook header.

Branco himself forced the 81st-minute free kick that proved decisive. He took it himself from 25 metres out — a perfect spinning shot that zoomed around the Dutch defensive wall and smacked off the foot of the far post into the net beyond De Goey's fingertips.

## TEAMS

**Netherlands:** Ed de Goey, Stan Valckx, Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard (Ronald de Boer, 65th), Rob Witschge, Jan Wouters, Wim Jonk, Aron Winter, Peter van Vossen (Bryan Roy, 56th), Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars.

**Brazil:** Taffarel, Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Branco (Cafu, 91st), Mauro Silva, Dunga, Mazinho (Rafael, 81st), Zinho, Bebeto, Romario.

**Referee:** Rodrigo Badilla, Costa Rica.

## Italians in semis

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home from an angle as Abelardo raced back to try to clear.

Italy play defending champions Germany or Bulgaria for a place in the final.

Spanish second half substitute Julio Salinas made the miss of the match in the 82nd minute. Caminero's chip put him clean through but he shot against Italian goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca's legs.

Pagliuca then tipped a dipping 25-metre shot from Fernando Hierro, who had surprisingly not started the match, over the bar as Spain's mounting pressure began to tell.

Italy had been two minutes away from being knocked out by Nigeria in the second round when Roberto Baggio equalised in the 89th minute and then scored a penalty winner in extra-time.

Temper flared at the end of the match and Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl could have sent off one or two players.

Spain had looked far the better side in the second half and thoroughly deserved their equaliser.

Luis Enrique started the move 40 metres out and exchanged passes with Sergi before Ferrer stepped over the winger's low cross for Caminero to send a lopping shot over Pagliuca.

The shot took a deflection off Paolo Maldini and gave the Italian goalkeeper no chance.

Jon Andoni Goikoetxea had chances to increase the lead but Pagliuca made a good save from one shot and then the Spanish forward's weak header from a Ferrer cross left Italy off.

Italy brought on Signori, a striker, for midfielder Demetrio Albertini at the start of the second half and replaced Antonio Conte with Nicola Berti midway through the half.

Conte appeared to pull a hamstring as he stretched to tackle Luis Enrique from behind three metres out. The Spaniard appealed unsuccessfully for a penalty.

Spain brought on Salinas and Hierro as they went looking for a winner in the second half but were saved by a one-handed save from Zubizarreta in a rare Italian attack.

Berti's volley from a Mauro Tassotti cross bounced awkwardly and the Spanish goalkeeper had to be quick to tip over.

Dino Baggio, who saved Italy in a vital group game against

Norway when they were down to 10 men, opened the score in the 25th minute with a 25-metre shot which swerved beyond Zubizarreta's reach.

It was the first time Spain had fallen behind in the tournament.

Roberto Donadoni passed across the face of the penalty area and Baggio hit a superb right-footed drive.

Dino Baggio is fast turning into a new version of Marco Tardelli, the midfield driving force in Italy's 1982 triumph.

Spain went close to equalising from the re-start but Italian goalkeeper Pagliuca plunged on Caminero's downward header from Ferrer's corner.

And Italy scored from their one real attack of the second half to reach the semi-finals for the seventh time, three times in the last four tournaments.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente said: "It was a very even game. Very unfortunately a mistake by my defence led to the deciding goal since we were pressing for a goal ourselves."

"In our effort to win the game, we lost it."

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said: "The team was very tired towards the end of the match and we suffered greatly until the 87th minute."

Pagliuca, back after a two-game suspension, said: "This was my chance for revenge and I feel now I've got my satisfaction."

Roberto Baggio said Spain played well and he was not concerned about who their next opponents might be.

"It doesn't matter. We will see what happens next," he said.

## TEAMS

**ITALY:** 1-Gianluca Pagliuca, 9-Mauro Tassotti, 4-Alessandro Costacurta, 5-Paolo Maldini, 3-Antonio Benarrivo, 15-Antonio Conte (14-Nicola Berti 66), 11-Demetrio Albertini (20-Giuseppe Signori 46), 13-Dino Baggio, 16-Roberto Donadoni, 10-Roberto Baggio, 19-Daniele Massaro.

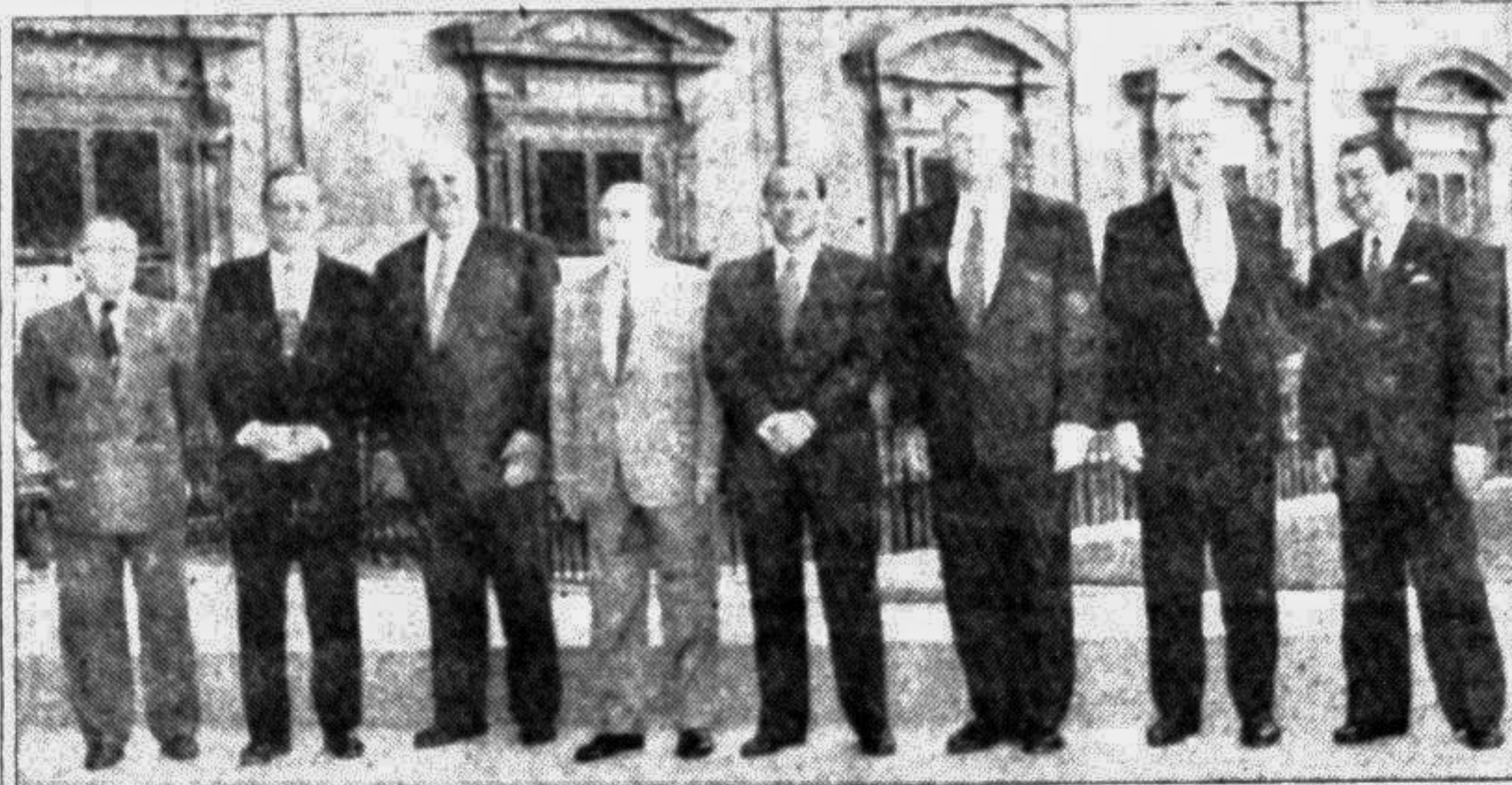
**SPAIN:** 1-Andoni Zubizarreta, 2-Albert Ferrer, 5-Abelardo, 3-Jorge Otero, 18-Rafael Alkorta, 20-Miguel Angel Nadal, 12-Sergi (19-Julio Salinas 61), 15-Jose Caminero, 21-Luis Enrique, 7-Juan Goikoetxea, 10-Jose Maria Bakero (6-Fernando Hierro 65).

Attendance: 53,644

Referee: Sandor Puhl (Hungary)

Yellow cards:

Spain — Abelardo (4), Jose Caminero (20).



The leaders of the top industrialised nations participating in the G-7 Summit in Naples, Italy yesterday pose for a group picture outside the Palazzo Reale prior to their first session this morning. (L-R) EU Commission President Jacques Delors, Jean Chretien (Canada), Helmut Kohl (Germany), Francois Mitterrand (France), Silvio Berlusconi (Italy), Bill Clinton (USA), John Major (Great Britain) and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono who replaced Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama after he was taken to hospital last night.

## 9 student bodies observe 'religion peddling resistance day' today

By Staff Correspondent

The Ganatantrik Jhhatra Otkya, an alliance of nine left-leaning student organisations, observes a 'religion peddling resistance day' in the country today.

The alliance, in a press release yesterday, said that its district and thana units would hold rallies and bring out processions in their respective areas to protest religion peddlers' tendency of issuing 'fatwa' (religious decrees).

Another press release said an emergency meeting of the combine's central steering committee would be held at 2:00 this afternoon at the central office of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

## Tension mounts Sylhet JP, JCD convene meet at same venue

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 9: Tension has gripped the town as both the district units of the Jatiya Party and the ruling party backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) have convened meetings at the same venue tomorrow (Sunday).

The district unit of the Jatiya Party (JP) announced holding its conference at the Sarada Hall prior to the JCD announcement of a workers' rally at the same venue.

## US proposal rebuffed

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The G-7 pledged to help Yeltsin's Russia join GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) so as to integrate its stricken economy with the global market place.

A Clinton plan for new G-7 tariff-cutting talks, however, found no favour. Nor did the summit take new measures to retrieve the dollar from 50-year loss against Japan's yen.

Clinton written to the six other G-7 leaders urging a follow-up to last year's GATT free trade pact to cover intractable items that were left out like telecommunications and airline landing rights.

With no consensus after the Germans and French objected, the US withdrew it for the time being.

Speculators had renewed selling dollars on Friday when

Clinton confirmed to reporters that the G-7 had no quick fix. He said the solution was economic expansion and cut in Japan's dollar 130 billion trade surplus.

A working session of G-7 finance ministers on Saturday said a new dollar drop would be "neither desirable nor justified."

Inflation fears are blamed for the flow of hot money out of the dollar. Economists further cite yawning US deficits and add that money is being syphoned off by the emerging economies of Asia and eastern Europe.

The G-7 strategy for unemployment also reflects a new era of competition by these vibrant, low-wage economies.

## Top BCCI official pleads guilty

WASHINGTON, July 9: After weeks of plea bargaining, a Pakistani banker pleaded guilty Friday to federal bank fraud charges in the BCCI scandal that brought downfall of the international bank accused of serving drug dealers, dictators and money launderers, reports AP.

Swaleh Naqvi, former chief executive of Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is the highest ranking BCCI executive to plead guilty in this country's prosecution of the global bank fraud case.

International bank regulators seized BCCI, headquartered in Luxembourg, London and the Cayman Islands, three years ago.

## SAARC countries should cut defence spendings, says Manmohan Singh

Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh yesterday said the SAARC countries should cut their military expenditures to maximum extent and strive for speedy economic growth reports UNB.

His suggestion came while facing questions from newsmen, on his arrival at the airport from New Delhi in the afternoon, on rising military budget of India and Pakistan that has severely been squeezing spendings on the people.

"Speedy growth so as to poverty alleviation should be the top priority," said Singh who came to Dhaka to attend a two-day conference of the SAARC finance and planning ministers, beginning today to plan concrete programmes for poverty alleviation, a core objective of the seven-nation forum.

He, however, said military expenditure of a country is linked to its security situation. "An environment should immediately be created in the SAARC region that could help reduce military budget."

The SAARC leaders should recognise poverty alleviation through speedy economic growth as the topmost national agenda, the Indian Finance Minister told reporters.

Saifur Rahman, Singh's counterpart in Bangladesh, received him at the airport.

## Mistrust hinders regional economic dev: Zafarey

Adviser to Pakistan Prime Minister on Economic Affairs V A Zafarey who arrived in Dhaka yesterday stressed the need for removing mistrust in SAARC countries for ensuring a rapid economic growth in the region, reports UNB.

"Mistrust and bilateral issues obstruct the process of cooperation, but in the long run we will reach the goal," Zafarey told newsmen in an obvious reference to India's relationship with her neighbours.

Zafarey who will lead his country's delegation at the SAARC Finance Ministers conference beginning today was received by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at the airport. He was accompanied by his wife.

India and Pakistan, the 2 major partners of the 7-nation South Asian Forum, are building military might over dispute on Kashmir.

The meeting took a number of important decisions regarding expedition of repatriation of the tribal refugees from Indian state of Tripura.

## Decisions to help repatriate Chakmas

CHITTAGONG, July 9: A meeting of the tribal refugee repatriation committee was held today with Chairman of the committee Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, MP, in the chair.

Held at the Khagrachhari Circuit House the meeting was also attended by Mohammad Shahjahan, MP, Shahjahan Chowdhury, MP, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Yar Mohammad and other officials concerned.

The meeting took a number of important decisions regarding expedition of repatriation of the tribal refugees from Indian state of Tripura.

Deputy Commissioner Yar Mohammad told BSS over telephone here tonight that decisions were taken to facilitate smooth second phase of repatriation of the tribal refugees which is scheduled to be resumed on July 21.

The decisions taken in the meeting are: Unemployed persons who would be voluntarily repatriated to their homestead would be employed on priority basis at government and non-government levels, three representatives including one woman from the refugees would be included into the repatriation committee, all facilities announced by the government would be provided to the persons who would voluntarily return to their homeland.

If the repatriated persons are certified by their respective headmen that they had their own ancestral land they would be given Taka eight thousand for buying bullock.

From now on two times feeding would be provided to the repatriated persons immediately after their repatriation and the committee would do its best to resolve any problems of the repatriated persons.

Leaders of the different delegations reached the capital yesterday.

Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for finance and economic affairs V A Zafarey, Nepalese State Minister for Commerce and Civil Supplies Surendra Prasad Chaudhury and Bhutanese Planning Minister Lyonpo C Dorji are already in the city to lead the delegations of their respective countries at the meeting.

Saifur Rahman will head the home side.

The Sri Lankan delegation will be headed by Finance Secretary N V K K Weragoda in the absence of the Finance Minister who is preoccupied with the country's general election in August.

Maldives Deputy Minister for Planning, Human Resources and Environment Dr Abdul Sattar Yousuf, will lead his country's delegation at the moot.

## The Midnight File

## S Yemeni army officers land in Djibouti

ATHENS, July 9: Two hundred and twenty four Aden refugees, mostly Southern army officers and their families, have landed in Djibouti aboard a commandeered Greek cargo ship, the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry said today. The refugees, many of whom were armed, seized the cargo ship Trader Ambassador on Thursday, reports AFP.

## Kim Il-Sung dead

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North Koreans wept in the streets of the capital Pyongyang, shocked by the announcement that their ruler for four decades had died, witnesses said.

"Immediately, there was a spontaneous outburst of emotions, people were crying," S. Kippen, India's ambassador to North Korea, said by telephone from Pyongyang.

"Children were crying as if they had lost their father or mother," Kippen said.

A state funeral would be held in Pyongyang July 17, it said, and urged every North Korean to observe three minutes' prayer on the day of the funeral, when all trains and ships in the nation would sound their horns.

No high-level foreigners would be invited to the funeral, it said.

The body of the man known to North Koreans as "The Great Leader," who had ruled his country of 22 million with an iron hand since 1948, was lying in state in the Presidential Palace, it said.

The nation had gone into full mourning until the date of the funeral, radio Pyongyang added.

The ageing Stalinist leader was last seen July 1 when he met with a foreign dignitary, and recent visitors, including former US president Jimmy Carter, who talked with him last month, had described him as being in robust health.

In Seoul Kim Young-Sam called an emergency security meeting to discuss the situation, and the military was placed on special alert, state television said.

Lee Yang Ho, the south's Joint Chief of Staff, appeared

## Kim Jong-Il poised to take over

SEOUL, July 9: North Korean President Kim Il-Sung's eldest son, Kim Jong-Il, 52, appears poised to take over the isolated Stalinist state

from his father, whose death was announced today, South Korean officials and analysts here said, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, AP from Beijing reports, China's leaders, including Deng Xiaoping, expressed grief Saturday at the death of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, and appeared to endorse his son as successor, according to state-run television.

The endorsement given to Kim's son, Kim Jong-Il, was significant because it had been unclear whether the traditionally close Chinese and North Korean friendship would survive the elder Kim's death.

China and North Korea fought together against United Nations forces in the 1950-1953 Korean War. They share common borders and a common ideology, and Kim Il-Sung and Deng Xiaoping were close friends.

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on state-run television, instructing all soldiers on leave to immediately return to their barracks.

All liberty and vacations for officers and men and women in uniform shall be suspended," the commander said.

There was no immediate announcement on the alert status of the 37,000 US troops based in tripwire positions south of the demilitarised zone, and telephone calls remained unanswered.

In Italy, US President Bill Clinton, meeting with Group of Seven (G-7) heads of state in Naples, expressed his "sincere condolences to the people of North Korea" and hailed Kim Il-Sung's leadership.

"I appreciate his leadership in resuming the talks between our governments. We hope they will continue," Clinton said in a statement, referring to the talks opened in Geneva on Friday between Washington and Pyongyang.

However, a statement by a spokesman for the North Korean delegation in Geneva today said a decision had been made to postpone the talks.

"The talks are postponed," he said. "When it will be resumed, we don't know. We will have to wait."

In Tokyo, Japanese leaders expressed regret over Kim's death, while Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, also at the G-7 Summit, said he hoped Kim's death would not affect efforts on the Korean Peninsula or peace and stability.

China expressed deep sorrow today at the death of North Korean president while calling for the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

"We feel deep sorrow at the death of Chairman Kim," the Foreign Ministry said in a faxed statement.

A two paragraph condolence, distributed by Yeltsin's press office, said he hoped that Kim's death would not affect recent attempts to defuse tension over North Korea's nuclear programme.

"I hope that appropriate efforts will be made in the near future towards defusing tension in the Korean Peninsula, solving North Korean nuclear problem, improving relations between South and North (Koreas)," the statement said.

## Oil, gas exploration

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lian companies have so far contacted the authorities regarding private power plants.

The authorities are, however, yet to give the foreign companies any clear cut guidelines in this regard.

A committee is still to be formed, as per a cabinet decision last month, to set guidelines for privatising the gas fields of Chhatak, Kamta, Belabo, Meghna, Begumganj and Sunamganj.

As regards gas and oil exploration negotiations, a French oil company cancelled its memorandum of understanding (MOU) in June following months of talks.

Besides, no progress has been made in gas and oil exploration in the Bay by two foreign companies — Holland Sea Search and Cairn Plc.

The two companies signed contracts with the government to explore oil and gas in Cox's Bazar offshore region but has now proposed to explore those in Chittagong region.

A meeting between the government and the companies on this proposal may take place in the last week of this month, sources said.

An American company, ARCO, has also shown interest in exploration in the Chittagong region.

British Gas Company, perhaps the biggest of its kind in the world, has shown interest in exploration in Comilla-Noakhali region. Sources said a contract might be initiated soon.

British company Steller Oil, which signed an MOU in September '92, was asked by the government to produce a solvency certificate a few months ago. Steller, which is interested in Tangail and Mymensingh region, is yet to respond.

Petrobangla asked American company Mckenzie, interested in Bogra-Rangpur region, to revise its PSC submitted in May.

Similarly, Petrobangla also asked Rexwood Oakland of the USA to revise its PSC for offshore exploration.

Other companies like Empire Oil of Australia and Amoco of the USA have also contacted the government. But no tangible progress has been made as yet, sources said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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