

No progress in Rao-Qian talks on border dispute

NEW DELHI, July 19: Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen wrapped up a visit to India today that failed to yield any progress in resolving the border dispute between the two Asian giants but may lead to increased trade, reports AFP.

Qian, who left for Nepal, held talks with Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and other Indian leaders during his three-day stay in Delhi.

But Indian and Chinese officials said the meetings had failed to break any new ground in resolving the long-running dispute over the demarcation of the 4,000-kilometer Sino-India border.

Qian, at a press conference Monday, indicated that he and Rao had basically "agreed to disagree" and that settlement of the dispute would remain in the hands of a group of experts who meet regularly to discuss the question.

"Two mature nations should not expect any overnight solution," he said.

India and China have conflicting claims to 128,000 square kilometers of desolate Himalayan territory and fought a brief but bloody border war in 1962, resulting in a 14-year freeze in diplomatic relations.

Qian, while dashing any slim hopes there may have been of a breakthrough on the thorny issue of demarcation.

held out hope that the experts talks on troop reductions "will soon yield concrete results". India has an estimated 60,000 troops along its frontier with China while the People's Liberation Army (PLA) deployment in the sparsely inhabited area is believed to be much larger.

The talks on demarcation and troops reductions have gained momentum following Rao's September 1993 visit to Beijing, where he signed an agreement on maintaining peace and tranquility along the border.

As a result of the improved climate between the two nations, Indian army chief Bipin Chandra Joshi was preparing today to leave for Beijing on Wednesday for the first ever visit to China by an Indian Army chief.

Defence Ministry sources said that general Joshi, during his weeklong visit, would attempt to establish high-level military communications channels aimed at averting hostilities along the frontier.

Joshi is visiting Beijing at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Xi Hui, who came to New Delhi in December and is the highest-ranking Chinese military official to visit India since the 1962 conflict.

The highlight of Qian's visit here was the signing on Monday of a pact on avoidance of double taxation.



Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen (R) is greeted by Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao Monday at Rao's office in New Delhi. — AFP photo



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a group of people who joined the party at her Minto Road residence yesterday. — Star photo

Abu Dhabi to give Tk 65cr for Teesta Barrage project

A loan agreement has been signed in Abu Dhabi Monday between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development for co-financing the Teesta Barrage project in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Ziaul Shams Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador in UAE, signed the agreement on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Khalifa Al-Muhammed, Director-General, Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, signed the agreement on behalf of government of the United Arab Emirates.

Under the agreement Abu Dhabi Fund will provide Bangladesh Water Development Board, the executing agency of the project 60 million Dirham equivalent to Taka 65 crore (approximately) for financing part of the Teesta Barrage project.

The fund made available from this loan will be utilised for excavation of 44.64 km Dinaipur main canal along with 208 km secondary and tertiary canals as well as constructions of hydraulic structures at different places.

This part of the project will irrigate 48,000 hectares and benefit a total of about 689,000 inhabitants. The construction period is estimated at three years.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) provided a loan of 10 million US dollar in 1984 and Saudi Fund for Development 30 million in 1985 for this project.

Iraqi ambassador leaves Dhaka tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Iraq's Ambassador to Bangladesh Zuhair Mohamed Al Omar is leaving Bangladesh tomorrow (Thursday), according to informed sources.

Al-Omar had been the longest serving Ambassador in Bangladesh. He presented his credentials on August 8, 1985.

The Iraqi Ambassador made his farewell calls on the President and the Prime Minister in the early part of the year.

The government of Iraq has not yet named any new envoy for Bangladesh.

Yemeni leaders to hold peace talks

PARIS, July 19: After two months of civil war, leaders of the northern and southern Yemen plan reconciliation talks in Paris before the end of July, the French Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, reports AP.

The meeting, mediated by UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, will examine "the mechanisms and the conditions for initiating a national dialogue in Yemen," a ministry spokesman said on anonymity.

Confirmation came from Sanaa, the Yemen capital, that the talks would take place before the end of July but no exact date was given.

Strike illegal

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Services rules.

Yet, the officials are on a strike for three days from last Monday. While, abstaining from work, they are holding rallies and bringing out processions in the audit office premises.

Moreover, they were threatening high officials and have damaged some office property. "Damaging the government property by employees is a very serious offence. The government will not tolerate such action," the press release said.

The government urged the agitating employees to join their duties immediately. Otherwise stern action will be taken against them, the press release added.

Leftists take umbrage

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posed the nation's war of Independence in 1971.

The convenor of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) Manjurul Ahsan Khan said, "It is the leftist political camp which, despite its limitations, had consistently been fighting against fundamentalism and religion-based politics since the days of British colonialism."

"Her ignorance about the political history of this region must have prompted Sheikh Hasina to make such an aspersions on the left-wing political activists," Khan said and added that the leftists were also in the forefront of all democratic struggles in the country.

Khan, referring to a meeting held at the residence of late politician Ataur Rahman Khan a few months after the brutal killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975, said, "I refused to sit with the politicians having sympathy for the people involved in the August coup when senior AL leaders were serving the Khandaker Mushatque regime and Hasina herself was abroad."

It is ironic that Sheikh Hasina was now blaming the leftists for the rehabilitation of fundamentalist Jamaat, Khan observed.

About the concern expressed by a large number of AL sympathizers over the present AL-Jamaat alliance, Khan requested Hasina to review her present tactics and get rid of the religion peddlers for the sake of her party and the nation.

Khalequzzaman of the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) said Hasina, because of her absence from the country during much of the Ziaur Rahman regime, was not supposed to know about the leftists' efforts to combat the rise of fundamentalist forces including the Jamaat-Shibir axis in independent Bangladesh.

Criticising the remarks of Hasina, the BSD leader said, "The AL Chief in order to divert the attention of the people from the unholy alliance between her party and the

Jamaat, is trying to shift the responsibility on the shoulders of the leftists."

The BSD leader said an alliance with the Jatiya Party in 1986 had contributed to the AL's failure to win the 1991 general elections and the present alliance with the Jamaat would seal its fate in the coming elections.

Khalequzzaman urged Sheikh Hasina to change her present political stand and join the democratic forces for fighting uncompromisingly against religion-based politics.

Haider Akbar Khan Rono of the Workers' Party (WP) said the universal ideology of the leftists is to fight ceaselessly against religion-based politics.

Contesting Hasina's statement that the leftists have kept quiet over the rehabilitation process of the Jamaat, Rono said, it was the AL which had frequently failed to struggle consistently against the fundamentalist forces in the country.

"We even opposed the idea of a simultaneous agitation with the Jamaat in the anti-Ershad struggle during the eighties," Rono asserted.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a press release yesterday, said Hasina's accusation that the leftists did not oppose the revival of the Jamaat was "completely untrue".

According to the press release, the leftists had protested Golam Azam's entry into the country in 1979, the sharing of parliamentary seats between the BNP and the Jamaat in the 1991 general elections and sharing of women seats between the party after the elections.

The CPB maintained that the AL's so-called tactical relations with the Jamaat would eventually benefit the reactionary forces and jeopardise the spirit of the Liberation War as well as democracy.

All these parties also protested Hasina's observation that the Left was opposing the concept of a caretaker government.

Brazil welcomes heroes

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launched them toward the World Cup finals.

Brazil soccer officials pledged then to repay the loyal support they had received from Recife fans.

Today tens of thousands of them, many waving national flags or wearing clothes or hats in the national colours of green and yellow, crowded the city streets to cheer the squad in an emotional 11-mile (18 km) victory parade.

The team was later due to fly on to Brasilia to be decorated with national medals by President Itamar Franco, another victory parade in Rio de Janeiro was scheduled later today.

The Brazilian players, some of whom waved small yellow and green parasols, rode through Recife aboard a fire engine topped with a giant national flag and escorted by a fleet of police cars.

As the air resounded with firecrackers and the beat of samba, white-helmeted police struggled to keep back the frenzied crowd, who screamed and waved to the players, chanting in Portuguese "Tetracampeao" (four-time champions).

Some carried posters of their favourite players, such as striker Romario, dubbed "the little saint" by the Brazilian press for his apparently miraculous goal scoring ability.

The players had arrived by plane from the United States neatly dressed in navy-blue blazers. But in the tropical heat they shed them quickly, waving to the crowd in shirt-sleeves. When the Varig DC-10, its fuselage painted green and yellow in the national colours, touched down at Recife's military airport with the players and delegation from Los

Biswas visits ailing Abdus Samad Azad.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday visited the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital, to see Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, reports UNB.

Azad was hospitalised on July 13.

President Biswas stayed there for sometime and enquired about the progress of treatment of Samad Azad from the attending doctors.

He also prayed for early recovery of the Awami League leader.

Later, President Biswas went to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital to see ailing Vice-Chairman of the Red Crescent Society and a former MP Alhaj Siddiqur Rahman, now under treatment there.

PM visits Gias Kamal at CMH

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night visited the ailing journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), reports BSS.

The attending physicians informed the Prime Minister of the latest condition of Gias Kamal. Chief Reporter of BSS and President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ).

Begum Zia prayed for the early recovery of Chowdhury.

An ISPR press release says the condition of Gias Kamal Chowdhury is now stable following a successful three-hour long operation at the Combined Military Hospital.

Chowdhury suffered intracranial haemorrhage, which needs further observation and evaluation. He is not yet out of danger, the bulletin added.

Israel-Jordan talks continue

ISRAEL-JORDAN ARMISTICE LINE, July 19: Jordanian negotiators brought maps of the disputed border to the second day of peace talks in the desert north of the Red Sea, correspondents reported, says AFP.

Three sub-committees were set up Monday at the negotiations straddling the armistice line 15 kilometres from Eilat and Aqaba, to tackle the issues of borders, security, environment and water.

Both sides admitted at the opening session that the border question needs a lot of work. Only four kilometres of the common border today are accepted as such by both countries.

Myanmar pays tribute to Gen Aung San

YANGON, July 19: Myanmar quietly paid tribute today to the memory of its independence architect, the late General Aung San and other leaders who were assassinated 47 years ago, reports AFP.

Aung San, the father of leading dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, was killed July 19, 1947, with six members of his executive council by uniformed men who burst into the conference chamber and sprayed them with bullets.

Today's commemorative ceremony at the martyrs' mausoleum at the foot of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda began with an official function in which government representatives paid their respects.

Gas for KAFCO

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government last year initiated two programmes to ensure gas supply to Kafco, the biggest project of the country with foreign equity participation.

One of the two is to extract 20 to 25 mcf of gas per day from the Pen-2 field while the other programme is to supply 30 mcf from the BGSL.

The BGSL actually started supplying gas through two pipelines to Kafco from April last using a temporary CMS.

The Kafco is presently consuming five to seven million cubic feet of gas daily to run its utilities. The consumption is expected to rise to 32 mcf per day by September.

The permanent CMS went through test runs successfully, a BGSL source said, adding that it would be formally inaugurated in the second week of the next month.

The actual commissioning will take place today in the presence of both BGSL and KAFCO officials at the station site in the KAFCO premises in Chittagong.

The 510-million dollar KAFCO is considered to be the country's biggest-ever multinational joint venture industrial enterprise aiming to generate Tk 400 crores of sales annually.

The government has funded 40 per cent of the export-oriented fertiliser factory's equity with the rest being subscribed by different Japanese, British and Dutch shareholders.

The Midnight File

6 killed in Sudanese mosque collapse

KHARTOUM, July 19: Six worshippers were killed and several injured when a mosque collapsed today in the Athawra suburb of Omdurman, twin town of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, state run radio reported. The radio said the incident took place during midday prayers. It did not say what caused the collapse of the roof of the mosque, reports AFP.

American found murdered in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, July 19: An American today was found murdered in Kashmir, where Muslim militants are fighting Indian rule, police said. They identified the dead man as Stephen Paul Ousterly and said he was from Utah but declined to give further details. Police said he was shot through the chest and his body found on the side of a road in Srinagar, reports Reuters.

Emotional farewell for Kim

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cries and sorrow are reaching all over the world. With you we enjoyed happiness and lived in paradise," said an emotional television commentator covering the funeral.

The whole country and the capital city of Pyongyang were enveloped in the bitterest grief ever in the history of the nation spanning 5,000 years," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo.

Before the street procession, Kim's eldest son and heir-apparent Kim Jong-Il, 52, presided over a solemn funeral at the presidential palace where the "great leader" enclosed in a crystal sarcophagus, has been lying in state.

A pale and drawn Kim junior, wearing a simple dark tunic, bowed before his father's bier, spotlighted at the centre of the palace's chandeliered, gilt-pillared Kumsusan Hall.

He was flanked by a delegation of senior party and state officials, a sign he is still on course to assume his father's mantle in the world's first communist dynastic succession.

Television commentary also indicated a smooth power transfer, exhorting the late Kim not to worry as the nation would respect his son.

"You are leaving us, with all our hearts we will follow General Kim Jong-Il's leadership," the commentary said.

The enormity of Kim Il-Sung's quasi-religious personality cult became fully apparent when his coffin emerged on to the streets after passing a military honour guard.

Lorries packed with floral tributes headed the cortege, followed by a massive portrait of a smiling, benign Kim, who ruled North Korea since the 1945 division of Korea.

A V-shaped phalanx of 27 motorcycle outriders preceded the hearse, with a long line of civilian and military vehicles following.

"It was a very, very emotional," O Ashiru, the Nigerian ambassador to North Korea, told Reuters by telephone from Pyongyang, "people were crying."

New Rwandan govt sworn in

NAIROBI, July 19: Rwanda's new government was sworn in today in a ceremony in the Rwandan capital Kigali, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) radio monitored here reported, reports AFP.

The radio carried a live broadcast of the investiture of the President, Pasteur Bizimungu, and the Prime Minister, Faustin Twagiramungu, both from the Hutu majority, and other members of the government, held in the national parliament building.

General Paul Kagame, the military leader of the mainly Tutsi RPF which now controls most of the country after ousting the interim government forces, exchanged greetings with RPF leader Alexis Kanyangwe.

Representatives from Uganda, including Prime Minister George Cosmas Agyebo, were among foreign guests at the ceremony, according to the radio monitored here by the BBC.

The RPF secured its military victory Saturday when it seized the town of Gisenyi in the northwest, the last bastion of the old interim administration in Rwanda.

Cairo conference

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tries and regions, representing governments and all sectors of society.

Convened by the United Nations, the planned conference seeks to forge a new international consensus that population concerns should be placed at the centre of all economic, social, political and environmental activities.

It will strive to agree on a firm plan of action on population for the next 20 years, in accordance with universally recognised principles of human rights and national sovereignty.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to attend the conference.

ing all over the streets."

Consistent with the secrecy surrounding the North Korean leader during his life, details of the funeral rites were sketchy. North Korean media gave no indication of where or when Kim would be buried. A memorial rally is slated for tomorrow.

At the tense North-South Korean cold war border, there was no indication of the emotional scenes in Pyongyang.

North Korean soldiers at the truce village of Panmunjom conducted their duties normally, witnesses said. A massive flag dominating the northern side of the frontier flew at half-mast with a black ribbon attached, the only apparent signal of the nation's deep grief.

South of the border, some 28,000 riot police were alerted to quash any expressions of support for Kim.

Police raided campuses on the lookout for radical students who had planned to raise mourning placards despite a government ban.

Thirty-nine students were detained at one university, and mourning material was found on five campuses, an official said. But there were no reports of confrontation.

In a funeral day propaganda coup, Seoul announced the defection of a lecturer at North Korea's top university.

The agency for national security planning said Cho Myong-Chol, 35, a professor at Pyongyang's Kim Il-Sung University, defected via an unidentified third country.

Cho's father is a member of Kim's rubber-stamp parliament as well as an alternate member of the Communist Party's Central Committee and a former construction minister, news reports said.

Comet

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"absolutely gigantic." During the night, astronomers at Sutherland, muffled in arctic gear against the freezing temperatures at the observatory, plan to manipulate the images of the blasts on their computer screens to improve the contrast and clarity of the pictures.

Lancey said, however, it would take weeks and possibly months to fully analyse the information received so far since Saturday when the first fragment hit.

Comet discoverer Eugene Shoemaker and fellow experts — his wife Carolyn and amateur astronomer David Levy — were thunderstruck by the size and force of the first collision on Saturday which they said was comparable to 10 million megatonnes of dynamite.

The expected collision of the 21 pieces of the Shoemaker-Levy with Jupiter will not affect life on earth. Any comparable impact on earth would be a major disaster, causing huge damage at the crash site and catastrophic climate changes, scientists say.

The Shoemakers and Levy discovered the comet in March 1993. Astronomers believe it fragmented in 1992 when it passed within Jupiter's gravitational pull.

Textile sector

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spinning and weaving industries and requested for similar provision in case of the import of dyeing, printing and finishing machinery.

Pointing at the future prospect of the textile sector, the delegation members said a policy should be adopted so that banks take more initiatives in encouraging investment in the textile sector. Banks should provide 80 per cent loan of export L/C value, they said.

The textile leaders requested the Prime Minister to exempt interests on all weaving loans and reactivate the country's handloom and powerloom factories. Nearly 60 per cent of the loan has been repaid, they said.

They also suggested BMRE of the present textile mills and setting up of new mills to meet the present and future demand.

Begum Zia assured them of necessary measures to create a healthy competition in the textile sector.

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Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA