

South Korea won't pay for North's reactors

SEOUL, Aug 29: South Korea will not take part in an international deal to finance upgrading North Korea's nuclear reactors unless Pyongyang accepts a safer model of reactor used in the South, a presidential spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam earlier this month offered money and modern nuclear technology to the Stalinist state if it showed it was not trying to develop nuclear weapons.

But North Korea, which is still technically at war with the South, said at the weekend Pyongyang had never considered accepting nuclear reactors from South Korea.

Under an agreement with North Korea, the United States must put together a consortium of nations to meet the estimated 4 billion dollars, cost of replacing the north's graphite nuclear reactors with the safer light-water system.

"It is a firm government position that any participation in the consortium is on the premise that North Korea accepts South Korea — model light-water reactors," the spokesman said.

The West suspects North Korea's graphite nuclear pro-

gramme is being used to make bombs, a charge Pyongyang denies. The light-water system is less capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium.

Western diplomats said a pullout by South Korea in the consortium would make the US-North Korean deal very difficult as no other nation was willing to pay the bulk of the cost.

The United States and North Korea announced earlier this month after week-long talks in Geneva that Pyongyang would freeze its graphite-moderated nuclear power programme in return for a light-water system.

The Geneva accord did not specify which country would supply the new reactors but North Korea's chief delegate to Geneva talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju, did not rule out the possibility of the South becoming a main supplier.

The North's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said on Saturday the provision of the light-water system was "a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue."

"But no heed was paid to the South Korean LWR (light-water reactor) at all," the agency said.

Veteran Indian journalist Tushar Kanti Ghosh dead

CALCUTTA, Aug 29: Tushar Kanti Ghosh, India's senior most editor and journalist of international repute, passed away today at the age of 96 at the Kothari Medical Centre here, reports PTI.

The end came at 09:10 hours after earlier attempts to stimulate his heart with a pace maker failed. He had been in coma for the last ten days.

A legend in his lifetime, Ghosh was the editor of Calcutta's leading English daily 'Amrita Bazar Patrika' and Bengali daily 'Jugantar' for decades. He had been ailing for quite sometime and was admitted to the hospital on August 5 with respiratory, heart and kidney problems.

He is survived by his son Tarun Kanti Ghosh, a former West Bengal Minister and Congress-I MP and daughter Srilekha Bose. His wife predeceased him.

With the passing away of the doyen of Indian journalism, Tushar Kanti Ghosh, a golden era of editing and editors from the pre-independence era came to an end.

Son of Mahatma Sisir Kumar Ghosh, the chief architect of Indian journalism during the British Raj, Tushar Kanti Ghosh was heir to a glorious tradition in newspaper editing and newspaper organisation.

Born on September 21, 1898, Tushar Kanti Ghosh took over as editor of the Amrita Bazar Patrika at the youthful age of thirty. By his sheer talent, the fledgling newspaper gradually grew into a great institution, one of the oldest and finest newspaper publishing groups of the country. Besides the time-tested legends of the Amrita Bazar Patrika and Jugantar, Tushar Kanti Ghosh also edited two other dailies, the Northern Indian Patrika and a Hindi daily, both published from Allahabad and Lucknow.

Tushar Kanti Ghosh turned all his energies and genius in establishing the Amrita Bazar Patrika as a prestigious newspaper of the country in an age when British-run dailies reigned supreme.

By the gift of his genius, he held the prime position when it came to leading many a press agency, newspaper management groups and journalist delegations abroad.

He was elected president of the Indian Press Association, India and Eastern Indian Newspaper Society, Indian Newspaper Editors Guild, Audit Bureau of Circulation and for varying lengths of time, was the chairman of the Press Trust of India and the United News of India.



A traditional Janmastami procession marking the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna was brought out by the Hindu Community in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Janmastami celebrated

Country's Hindu community yesterday celebrated Janmastami with religious fervour, marking the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna who preached universal love and humanity, and sought to establish virtue, piety and honest, reports UNB.

The day was public holiday. President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages on the occasion conveyed their good wishes to the country's Hindu community.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. The national dailies published special articles on the life and works of Lord Krishna. To observe the day, International Society for Krishna Consciousness organised a function at the Engineers' Institute that included discussion, Bhajan-Kirtan and Monipuri dance.

Speakers at the discussion underscored the need for communal harmony to ensure social peace and national progress. They also emphasised on upholding secular ideals for cementing fraternity and brotherhood among people of all faiths.

Janmastami was also celebrated at Bholananda Giri Ashram in the city under the auspices of "Sree Sree Gita Sangha" with due religious fervour.

The Sangha's elaborate programme for the day included Mangalacharan, recitation from Gita, Aroti, distribution of prasad, competition of recitation from Gita and discussion.

President of the Sangha Badal Kanti Bhattacharjee chaired the discussion meeting. Sreemath Priyabrata Brahmachari, Sreemath Kanti Brahmachari, Sreemath Swami Chandranathananda, Sreemath Swami Digbijayanandajee Maharaj, Prof Mukulika Saha, Sree Nepal Mukherjee, B N Chowdhury, Madhusudan Dashtidar and Nitya Nandan Chakravorty took part in the discussion.

The speakers called for establishing a welfare state without which, they maintained, religious rights of different communities could not be ensured.

The Sangha also published a souvenir 'Janmastami-1401' on the occasion.

In Chittagong, Janmastami Ujjayan Parishad brought out a grand religious procession yesterday morning, displaying different sporting events of Lord Krishna on mobile trucks and lorries.

5 suspended for misappropriating Tk 20 lakh from Sylhet post office

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 29: Two assistant post masters and three other employees of Sylhet Head Post Office have been put under suspension following detection of misappropriation of more than Taka twenty lakh.

A high-level enquiry team headed by the post-master general reached Sylhet this night to enquire into the matter.

The misappropriation was detected by an audit team recently. A section of postal employees in connivance with some officials of BRTA and others embezzled the amount collected as motor vehicle tax during the period from 1989 to 1992.

Initially, two assistant post masters and three office assistants have been put under suspension. The high-level enquiry team would begin its work tomorrow, said an official tonight.

Transport strike in Sirajganj continues

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 29: The indefinite transport strike to and from Sirajganj enforced by the Sirajganj District Motor Workers' Union passed its third day today amid continuing hardship to the travelling public, reports UNB.

The strike from Saturday was called by the Union demanding arrest of seven students of the Kaziur Mansur Ali Government College, who have been sued for allegedly beating up the transport workers on August 17.

Bus communications remained suspended on the routes towards the northern districts of Jessore, Khulna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Pabna, Bogra and Gaibandha.

Some 500 passengers, who wanted to avail the buses on these routes from Sirajganj today, returned home disappointed as no buses operated.

The union leaders said they would continue the strike until their demands, including security of the transport workers, were met.

LTTE

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Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, which won control of Parliament on August 19 after national elections.

Her socialist coalition promised to hold the first unconditional peace talks with the rebels since they began fighting for independence.

Peace talks would be a major breakthrough in Sri Lanka, where the party that was in power for 17 years before the election refused to hold talks unless the rebels laid down their arms.

The guerillas, from the Hindu Tamil minority, accuse the nation's majority of Buddhist Sinhalese of discrimination, and more than 34,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Kumaratunga plans to meet Thursday with military leaders and Defence Ministry officials to discuss ways of ending the war.

She reportedly wants to talk about the possibility of lifting the embargo and declaring a ceasefire. For nearly 11 years, a nationwide state of emergency has allowed police and soldiers to arrest and detain people without charges. And Kumaratunga also wants to discuss the possibility of lifting the emergency everywhere except rebel-held areas in the North and East.

To prepare for the meeting, the army commander, Lt. Gen. Gerry de Silva, will discuss these proposals Wednesday with senior officers who work in the North and East, said military officials in Colombo, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Cairo confice

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however urged Islamic countries to participate in the population conference so they can amend the resolutions.

The UN said Sunday that Saudi Arabia was not going to attend, although there has been no confirmation from Riyadh.

Iranian Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi said on Sunday that Iran would take part in the conference, to be held in Cairo from September 5 to 13, to make its position known and make suggestions for correcting parts of the draft plan.

He said parts of the action plan on population control were "completely vague and contained double-meanings" and had to be rectified.

The authors of the document were "mainly westerners and western-educated people whose moral ideas differed" with those held in Islamic Iran, he said.

Iranian media and many Shi'ite Muslim clergymen here have criticised the conference, saying it was a western plot to liberalise abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex in the Islamic world.

The Midnight File

31 killed in South African violence

DURBAN, Aug 29: At least 31 people were killed in South Africa's battle-scarred KwaZulu-Natal province over the weekend, one of the bloodiest since the April all-race elections, police said today. Police did not know how many of the killings were politically motivated, reports Reuters.

Fire kills 6 in Poland

WARSAW, Aug 29: At least six people, including a five-year-old child, died in a fire in the central Polish city of Lodz today because bars on their apartment windows meant they could not jump to safety, state television reported. Some of the tenement building's other residents saved themselves by jumping on to a fire brigade air cushion, the television quoted brigade spokesman Marek Frol as saying. Six people suffered smoke inhalation, reports Reuters.

US to seek Indian support for N-pact

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Two senior US officials were expected in India this week to seek New Delhi's support for a regional nuclear arms control pact involving Pakistan, the Hindu newspaper reported today, says Reuters.

The newspaper said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Einhorn and Michael Lemon, Director of regional affairs in the State Department's South Asia Bureau, were expected.

India has held several rounds of nuclear talks with the United States since 1992.

But New Delhi has frowned on Washington's efforts to arrange a regional nuclear pact with Pakistan, saying atomic weapons have a global reach and could not be discussed locally.

India and Pakistan officially deny having nuclear weapons, but western diplomats say they are capable of quickly building an atomic bomb and possess the necessary delivery systems.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the detailed newspaper report was inaccurate but declined to confirm or deny the US officials' visit. US embassy officials could not be reached for comment.

Secret talks between US diplomats led by Einhorn and Indian officials were aborted earlier this year in London after an Indian newspaper disclosed the meeting.

The Hindu said Einhorn's visit to New Delhi was significant.

DCC employee

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Siddiq turned up to help his teenage son, three brothers — Mobarrah, Mubammel and Mosharrar — who had engaged the labourer reportedly beat the elderly man to death, said police.

Demra police later visited the spot, arrested Mobarrah from the area and detained him in the police station. The two other accused fled, said police.

Rabitat team

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the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 94 begins starts in Cairo September 5.

The ICPD draft document has evoked criticism from both the Catholic Christians and the Muslims in a number of countries as it allegedly deals with "immoral subjects."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia cancelled her trip to the Egyptian capital, ostensibly for security reasons, and mounting criticism by some Islamic parties inside the country.

A communiqué of the government, however, cited the reasons as "pressing pre-occupation at home."

The reason for the Health Minister not going to Cairo, as earlier planned, was not made public.

Violence escalated at many places of Egypt this week ahead of the nine-day conference and Muslim extremists there had threatened to attack the participants in the ICPD.

A delegation from Bangladesh will, however, take part in the conference, with the Health Secretary leading the team.

The conference is expected to chart broad policy guidelines to combat the global population growth.

The conference will have far-reaching impact on the developing countries as it plans to discuss issues like reproductive rights, women's empowerment, global consumption and resource allocation for the population programmes.

The conference is expected to cite Bangladesh's national population programme as a success story.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has decided to observe September 2 as "Cairo Conference Boycott Day."

The party will organise meetings on the day in different parts of the country and a rally near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the city.

On Sept 1, the Jamaat will also bring out a procession which will march towards the UN office in Dhaka.

600 killed as rival Kurds clash in northern Iraq

NICOSIA, Aug 29: Iran's state-run radio said today that about 600 people had been killed in recent fighting between rival Iraqi Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, reports Reuters.

Tehran radio said that in the past 10 days about 600 people had died in clashes between groups opposed to President Saddam Hussein's government and damage amounting to millions of dollars had been inflicted on Iraq's impoverished Kurdish region.

The radio did not give a source for its figures.

"The area is facing chaos and social disorder... This human tragedy may become even more painful and affect the surrounding region," it said.

Turkey's Anatolian news agency said five Kurdish guerrillas and three civilians were killed in "recent" clashes in the town of Qala Dizeh between rival Kurdish groups.

AsiaSat-2

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Besides, private companies and entrepreneurs can use this channel for commercial purpose by buying slots from the BTv.

Authorities believe BTv's revenue earnings can be increased through the satellite channel.

"The cost for satellite transmission can be met by such additional earnings from international ads," one source said.

The Information Ministry's proposed to telecast BTv programmes via satellite was approved by the Cabinet on August 1.

Where spirit triumphs

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usual movement. Bacchu recalls, "I could not even move my hand. Death was better than this."

Amazingly, after two and a half years of constant medication at the CRP, Bacchu can now walk, at least can take a few unsteady steps. "These few steps are all that I still live for," he says sitting in a wheelchair on the long stretched veranda of the CRP.

"With the help of the centre's therapists, I might one day be able to walk like a normal man."

Selim's dream of becoming a famous sports reporter ended on his way home from a newspaper office in Chittagong. The three wheeled auto tempo he boarded hit a car and Selim broke his neck. "I thought it was the end of my existence," says Selim. "I had no control over my bowels, I could not eat on my own. Without someone's help I could not live a minute. The frustration was sometimes so overwhelming that at one point I thought of suicide."

He said, "I was then admitted to this centre." Selim tells his story, "the doctors and nurses treated me and gave me all the encouragement." Selim now looks quite normal except that he moves in a wheelchair. He has found a new lease of life as he has taken over the charge of the CRP's press and publication department.

"In the first few months, the paraplegics have to get control over their body," says

Valerie Taylor, the British Physiotherapist whose relentless efforts were behind the success of the CRP. "They do not even have control over their bladder and bowel movement. They have no coordination of the body system. They have to be shifted every few minutes to avoid bed sores. With the help of the centre's therapists, they slowly learn to cope with life of a paraplegic."

"Once they achieve this, we try to rehabilitate them into their professions." Taylor went on with a smile. "We see if they can go back to their former professions. If they cannot, we teach them new trades such as woodwork, metalwork, weaving, sewing and rearing of livestock."

"I am taking training on how to run a shop," says Ambi, a Khasia tribal boy of Sylhet. "I am learning how to maintain accounts."

Ambi, who was an illiterate before, worked as a labourer in a beetle farm. The service of the CRP is gaining recognition from all over the country as patients are pouring in from all corners. From its tin shade a few years back, it has now expanded to a concrete structure with 72 beds.

As it gains recognition, funds are coming in to help the relentless Taylor make better arrangements for her patients. Even the Bengalee expatriates are now funding the organisation to help the paraplegics and tetraplegics who need the care so badly.

Noor Uddin pays farewell visits to 4 more cantts

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan paid farewell visits to Rangpur, Bogra, Quadiabad and Jessore cantonments today, reports BSS.

General Noor Uddin addressed officers and troops of these areas at central 'darbars' arranged on the occasion. He also inaugurated an officers' mess and a mosque at the Quadiabad cantonment and offered munajat, the Inter Services Public Relations said yesterday.

Bogra Area Commander Major General Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Jessore Area Commander Major General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman and Rangpur Area Commander Major General Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury received the chief of Army Staff during his visits to their respective areas.

During the visits, the Chief of Army Staff was accompanied by the Adjutant General Major General Amir Ahmed Chowdhury, Bir Bikram and the Quarter Master General Major General Sardar Muhammad Ali Hasan.

JS goes into session

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held with the party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim told newsmen "there has not been any qualitative changes in the political scenario. We shall not enter the House unless the government take an initiative for moving a bill for elections under a caretaker administration."

On the question of a formal dialogue, Nasim said that the Opposition was not against discussion, but no specific agenda including the caretaker administration issue had yet come from the ruling party. The AL leader criticised the government for its 'silence' over the present deadlock.

The parliamentary wing of the JP also had a meeting yesterday. It resolved that party MPs would not attend the session. JP leader Moudud Ahmed, after the meeting, told newsmen that his party was ready to return to Parliament, but the government's indifference to the demand for a caretaker govern-

ment compelled them to stay outside the House.

Jamaat leader Sheikh Anser Ali, talking to The Daily Star last night, also echoed the position of the AL and the JP. Replying to a question, he said, "We have submitted questions to the Parliament Secretariat because we expect the ruling party to pave the way for return of the Opposition to the House."

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) said, "We cannot attend the session with the political scenario remaining unchanged."

The Gana Forum, which advocates resolving the crisis through dialogue, is yet to take a decision about returning to the House.

The lone Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) MP — Maulana Obaidul Huq — who entered the House on the concluding day of the last session, is again undecided about attending this session.

The Opposition leaders are likely to meet this afternoon to review the latest situation, sources said.

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