

China, Russia pledge not to target missile on each other

MOSCOW, Sept 3: China and Russia pledged on Saturday not to target nuclear missiles on each other, formally cementing their recent rapprochement after decades of hostility, reports AP.

The joint statement on missiles was signed at the end of Kremlin talks between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The two presidents also signed a declaration of long-term development of bilateral ties, and Russian and Chinese foreign ministers signed an accord resolving the two nations' territorial disputes along the Western section of the Russian-Chinese border.

Earlier Saturday, Jiang met Yeltsin for talks aimed at smoothing the remaining frictions between the two countries and expanding their trade and economic cooperation.

They met privately at the St. Catherine Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace, and the talks continued later in an expanded form, with the participation of top Russian and Chinese officials.

Greeting Jiang, Yeltsin said he was pleased to congratulate the Chinese leader "on the occasion of his first official visit to Russia."

Yeltsin said that his own visit to China in December

1992 has created a favourable climate for the development of bilateral relations, according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

"Since the visit of the Russian President was short, allow me to use this opportunity to invite you to China again at any time convenient," responded Jiang.

"A Chinese proverb says that during their first meeting, people remain alien to each other, and during their second one they become old friends. I'm very glad to meet my old friend Boris Yeltsin," he said in remarks carried by Itar-Tass.

Jiang arrived in Moscow Friday for the four-day summit, and that same day, Russian and Chinese officials signed a trade accord. Additional agreements on trade and economic cooperation are to be signed during the summit.

Under Friday's agreement, Russia will provide China with equipment for three hydro-electric power stations, a paper plant and a methanol plant, and China will supply consumer goods and food to Russia.

China has become Russia's second-biggest trading partner after Germany. Trade between the two nations has almost doubled in the past three years, to last year's peak of 7.68 billion dollars, according to Chinese statistics.



Visiting South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Lee calls on Khaleda

Visiting South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug said Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea can co-operate with each other for the prosperity and security in the Asian region, reports UNB.

Lee was talking with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when he made a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's office just before the bilateral talks yesterday morning.

On arrival at the PM office, Begum Zia greeted Lee on behalf of the people and the government of Bangladesh.

Welcoming Lee, Begum Zia hoped that his visit will help further strengthen the existing excellent relationship between Bangladesh and the Republic of South Korea.

The South Korean leader said the two countries have similar experiences of establishing democratic process.

Lauding the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Zia, Lee said, "you have not only established the democratic process but also brought economic reforms."

Explaining the unification process of the Korean peninsula, Lee expressed the hope that it will be done in a peaceful manner.

He appreciated the effort and support of Bangladesh in peaceful unification process of the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean Prime Minister invited Begum Zia to visit his country at her convenience.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, South Korean Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Park Kun Woo, Secretary General to the PM Lee Heung Joo, South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Byun Jong Kyoo, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary M R Osman and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister A N M Yusuf were also present during the meeting.

Describing the economic progress achieved by South Korea as "admirable", Begum Zia told her guest, "Your economic success inspires much confidence among the developing countries."

"We in Bangladesh believe," Begum Zia said, "that there is much to be learnt from your economic experience and achievements."

Turning to the international scenario Begum Zia said that as members of the United Nations both Bangladesh and the ROK have an abiding interest in global peace and security and added "Our two peoples share the common dream of humanity for peace, security and progress."

"We have worked together in the past to advance this cherished goal," she said. "We will continue to cooperate with your great country in this noble effort."

Prime Minister Lee said close collaboration between his country and Bangladesh in the international arena demonstrates that "We share the goal of peace based on respect for human dignity and the rule of law. The participation by both countries in peace-keeping operations under the UN is a good example, he added."

Commending Bangladesh for its "significant role" in promoting stability and prosperity in South Asia, the ROK Prime Minister said, as the initiator of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Bangladesh has striven for the development of the regional forum and he expressed the hope that these efforts would bear "much fruit and greatly contribute to enhancing the well-being of the people of South Asia, who constitute a fifth of the world's population."

The South Korean Prime Minister said that the people of his country valued the support of Bangladesh to the cause of enhancement of peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Cabinet ministers, MPs, diplomats, senior civil and military officials attended the banquet.

ROK offers all support

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The PM's office Lee Heung Joo and Ambassador to Bangladesh Byun Jong Kyoo.

At the talks, held in a cordial atmosphere, Begum Zia apprised the Korean leader of Bangladesh's present democratisation process, economic activities and reforms programmes of her government.

Prime Minister Lee appreciated Bangladesh's investment policy, particularly the opportunities for foreign investors, and hoped his country's entrepreneurs would be encouraged to come in a big way to invest in Bangladesh.

The Korean side, Yusuf said, had agreed to reduce tariffs to help import of larger volume of jute, jute products, carpets and other items to narrow the existing trade gap between the two countries. They also agreed to recruit more Bangladeshi workers in Korea.

Seoul has also decided to increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshis.

Reviewing the regional and international issues, the two sides reiterated their commitment to keep Asia a nuclear-free zone and agreed to work together for global peace and stability.

The South Korean leader explained his country's stand on a dialogue between Seoul and Pyongyang and hoped the two sides would shortly hold a summit towards a reunification of the two parts of the Korean peninsula through a peaceful means.

Lee outlined Seoul's latest stand on the nuclear issue with North Korea and sought international cooperation for a peaceful solution of the problem.

He also sought the support of Bangladesh for his country's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for 1996-97 and for the post of the Director

General of the World Trade Organisation.

The Bangladesh side assured that the Korean candidature would be considered. Sri Lanka is another candidate for the Asian seat in the Security Council.

The talks also covered Bangladesh's problem of sharing the Ganges water with India and the Korean leader hoped a bilateral solution to the issue would be found.

Earlier in the morning Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug was given a ceremonial reception at the State Guest House Karatua.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia received him at the Karatua parade ground.

On arrival at the ground, Lee was introduced with the chiefs of the three services.

A smart contingent of the three services presented an honour guard while the national anthems were played.

The South Korean Prime Minister took salute and reviewed the parade.

Later, Begum Zia introduced him to her cabinet colleagues, members of the diplomatic corps and senior government officials.

Madame Chung Hawk-Sil, wife of the Korean premier, was also present.

Lee Yung-Dug introduced senior members of his entourage to Prime Minister Begum Zia.

Prime Minister Lee then flew in a helicopter to the Savar national memorial where he placed a wreath at the monument. He stood there in silence for some time to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Lee was received there by Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia and GOC of the 9th Division Major General Abdul Matin.

The South Korean premier signed the visitors' book and planted a sapling.

90 pc agreement on Cairo draft, officials claim

CAIRO (Egypt), Sept 3: Officials at the UN population conference say delegates from more than 150 nations already have agreed on 90 per cent of the draft Programme of Action. But the rest has caused a furor, especially from the Vatican and Muslim fundamentalists, reports AP.

Following are some major areas of agreement and disagreement in the draft, which will be discussed at the conference starting Monday:

Agreed: The conference goal is to fully integrate population concerns in all development programme to eradicate poverty through sustained economic growth.

Empowerment of women — by improving their political, social, economic and health status — is critical to effective population and development programmes.

Special efforts should be made to involve men in responsible parenthood, maternal and child care, and prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Governments and private agencies should help prevent the spread of AIDS by making high-quality condoms available through health care services.

Countries should strive to ensure access to primary school education for all girls and boys as soon as possible, but no later than the year 2015. It noted that 75 per cent of the illiterate people in the world are women.

Special attention should be paid to the needs of the elderly, indigenous people, refugees, economic migrants and the handicapped.

Close to agreement: Infant mortality must be reduced from the current rate of 62 per 1,000 live births. But agreement has not been reached on a target date to halve the rate. It noted that in sub-Saharan Africa and some Asian countries, one in 10 children die before their first birthday.

Maternal deaths must be reduced from the estimated 500,000 women who die each year of pregnancy-related causes, almost all in developing countries. But agreement has not been reached on a target date to halve maternal mortality.

Not agreed: Should women have universal access to reproductive health care and family planning services. There is disagreement over the definition of reproductive health care, especially whether it should include adolescent counseling and abortion.

Health Minister

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improvement in family planning won't be possible.

As an example, he noted that experiences of other countries like Indonesia show that the contraceptive prevalence rate hits a plateau after reaching a certain height. "We will need to evolve a new multi-sectoral strategy to increase our contraceptive prevalence rate from the current 45 per cent to 70 per cent before the turn of the century."

Identifying the weaknesses of the family planning programme, the Health Minister said "The level of the family planning services have to be improved both quantitatively and qualitatively to meet the huge unmet demand, and this gap has to be reduced."

Young married couples have to be encouraged into the programme at a much earlier stage while mother and child-care should also be included in it and special efforts have to be made to improve the lack of acceptability in some regions of Chittagong and Sylhet, he said.

The existing dependency on donor funding for the family planning programmes also has to be reduced in the near future, the minister added. Currently, nearly 70 per cent of the programme's budget comes from external sources.

Allocations for the programme stand at Tk 567 crore in the 1994-95 budget, up by 12 per cent from that of the last fiscal year.

The government has already formulated a future strategy incorporating a multi-sectoral approach in family planning and it would be soon placed before the National Steering Committee on Population Control, Kamal Yusuf added.

"As part of our future strategy, we are going to involve all sections of people in the family planning programmes, including political leaders, teachers, imams of mosques, journalists, business people and women's groups."

The minister also lauded the role of the non-government organisations in supplementing the government's effort to deliver family planning services in the country. "It's impossible for the government alone to deliver the family planning services. So, the role of the genuine NGOs are very vital in this area," he said.

The Midnight File

46 killed in Algeria

TUNIS, Sept 3: Forty-six people including a magistrate were killed in clashes in Algeria since Thursday, the Algerian official news agency APS said today. Troops killed 41 Muslim militants in operations in seven provinces, APS reported quoting an official statement, reports Reuter.

Iraq boycotts Cairo confce

NICOSIA, Sept 3: Iraq on Saturday said it has decided to boycott the UN population conference beginning Monday in Cairo while its neighbour Iran argued that all Muslim countries have a "historic duty" to attend. Iraq became the fourth predominantly Muslim country in the Middle East to refuse to take part in the gathering for reasons of "principle, along with Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Sudan, reports AP.

UN condemns Bosnian Serbs

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 3: The UN Security Council on Friday condemned continuing ethnic cleansing by Bosnian Serbs and expressed concern over reports of military actions and buildups by Bosnia's Muslim-led government. In an apparent move to mollify Russia, a longtime ally of the Serbs, the council issued two statements: one read aloud in the meeting specifically identifying the Bosnian Serbs and another read outside the council chamber indicating, but not naming, the Bosnian government, reports AP.

Militants, troops clash in Kashmir: 12 killed

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Twelve people were killed in clashes between militants and Indian security forces in the disputed region of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said today, reports Reuter.

It said that, after a gun battle near the northern border with Pakistan on Friday, troops seized a large quantity of arms including nine 57-MM rockets.

Security forces arrested 15 militants in several sweeps through the region, PTI said.

Rao to visit Singapore

SINGAPORE, Sept 3: Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will make an official three-day visit to Singapore beginning next Wednesday, it was announced here today, reports AFP.

The visit is at the invitation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who visited India earlier this year at Rao's invitation and was a special guest at the Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi.

33 killed as troops, fundamentalists clash in Aden

ADEN (Yemen), Sept 3: At least 33 people have been killed in two days of street battles in Aden between rampaging Muslim fundamentalists and troops backed by armed residents, security sources reported Saturday, says AP.

They said more than 20 people were slain Saturday when troops moved into the heavily populated Crater district at dawn to crush the fundamentalists armed with bazookas, automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

Salam Talukder

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group discussion and under such circumstances, it would not be fair if the Opposition now backed out, he added.

He said the key negotiator of the ruling party Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury was busy with a family function on Saturday while a number of other leaders were also out of the city. "So, I don't know exactly why the Opposition leader reacted so sharply," the BNP secretary general said.

The matter may be discussed today, he added.

"We were sincere about the dialogue earlier and we are still sincere," Salam Talukder said.

When contacted over telephone, Chief Whip of Parliament Khondaker Delwar Hossain declined to comment.

No classes at DU

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Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) to protest Thursday's violence went off peacefully. All the administrative offices, departments and libraries remained closed yesterday.

In the afternoon, a meeting of the hall provosts with the Vice Chancellor agreed on the need for adequate measure to check further violence.

The meeting, held at the official residence of the VC, also urged the law enforcing agencies to take immediate and effective steps against the terrorists.

Meanwhile, the feuding BCL (M-I) and JSD-backed BCL (B-K) avoided the Madhu's canten, the hub of DU student politics, yesterday.

According to sources, the BCL (B-K) has suspended its political activities on the campus until September 7.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) were continuing talks with the feuding Chhatra Leagues to resolve their conflict and restore peace on the campus.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will hold a general emergency meeting at 10:30 am today to discuss the overall situation.

Meanwhile, newspapers failed to appear in the Kashmir valley today as journalists staged a one-day strike to protest the killing of a local reporter and his son, allegedly by Indian troops.

Kashmiri Muslim journalist Ghulam Mohammad Lone, 45, and his son were gunned down Monday evening at their home in Kangan, on the outskirts of Srinagar.

The Indian military has denied charges that it was responsible for their deaths and blamed the murders on unidentified Kashmir Muslim militants.

The local journalists' association called a one-day strike on Friday and no newspapers were published or distributed today in the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley.

Mugger

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the muggers near the Gulbagh second lane, killing him instantly.

The other muggers, however, managed to escape.

The injured policemen were admitted to the Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

Police recovered two machetes and a toy revolver from the victim's person.

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Three cases were filed with the Sabujbagh and Motijheel police stations in this connection.

No arrest was made till writing the report.

Smaller parties

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port negotiations to end the present deadlock," Chowdhury asserted.

Replying to a question, the NDP leader also observed it was hardly surprising that the opposing camps would be asserting their original positions on a debatable issue until they actually sit across the table.

Left Democratic Front convener Bimal Biswas told The Star that his alliance also favoured a dialogue with the ruling party to evolve ways and means for ensuring free and fair elections.

"Once the process of dialogue is jeopardised, both sides would be at a dead end," he said.

The solitary Left Front MP Rashed Khan Menon could not be contacted for his comments because of his indisposition.

Islamic Oikya Jote MP Maulana Obaidul Haq was out of the city yesterday.

Samad Azad

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foil the Dhaka siege programme and was not meant to be taken seriously.

The opposition leader termed his comments to newsmen a reaction to the ruling party statements. He was joined by Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party who mostly replied to questions.

Begum Matia Chowdhury was present. Opposition leaders from no other party were present.

Samad Azad said that the Opposition would consider fresh offer for a dialogue if it is made at any other level. Sengupta replied, "It is a hypothetical questions at this stage."

Asked if the views of Samad Azad represented the views of the entire Opposition, it was Sengupta who again replied, "Samad Azad, as acting Leader of the Opposition parties, represents the entire Opposition."

Khaleda hosts banquet

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part to make our ties more substantial and durable."

The Bangladesh market is now open to the world, Begum Zia said. Consequently, exports from the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh have grown much faster than Bangladesh exports to Korea, she added.

The serious trade imbalance needs to be reduced on a priority basis, Begum Zia said and added that Bangladesh expects the Republic of Korea will create better opportunities for market access to Bangladesh for its exports. The Uruguay Round and the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), among other things, enable the Republic of Korea to do so, she said.

Begum Zia requested the ROK leader that his government could consider offering Bangladesh special and differential opportunities.

"Both our countries are committed to democracy and free market economy", Bangladesh Prime Minister said.

"There is much commonality in our experiences with democratic governance."

"Further consolidation and strengthening of democratic values and institutions is the common challenge faced by our two countries", Begum Zia said. "In this regard, we could benefit through greater ex-

change of information and better mutual awareness about relevant problem and prospects," she added.

Prime Minister Lee said, "In the face of economic difficulties in the wake of independence in 1971, Bangladesh has made steadfast efforts to become self-reliant and democratic. Your remarkable achievements have profoundly impressed the Korean people. The firm determination of the Bangladesh people to achieve self-reliance combined with your rapid economic progress points to the great potential of your country and promises a bright future."

"I firmly believe," Prime Minister Lee said, "That the 'land of the Golden Fibre' will emerge as the 'land of golden opportunities' in the near future."

Prime Minister Lee said that he felt very honoured to be the first South Korean Prime Minister to visit Bangladesh since diplomatic ties were established between the two countries in 1973 and he wished eternal prosperity of Bangladesh and lasting friendship between the two countries.

Describing the economic progress achieved by South Korea as "admirable", Begum Zia told her guest, "Your economic success inspires much confidence among the developing countries."

"We in Bangladesh believe," Begum Zia said, "that there is much to be learnt from your economic experience and achievements."

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The South Korean Prime Minister said that the people of his country valued the support of Bangladesh to the cause of enhancement of peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Cabinet ministers, MPs, diplomats, senior civil and military officials attended the banquet.

A new short term programme is now being formulated by the government to provide *maskkalai dal* seeds to the affected farmers. The *maskkalai dal* seeds will be sown between the aman and *rabi* crop seasons.

Agriculturists now expect a huge demand for TSP and potash fertiliser and *rabi* crop seeds since farmers will now go for *rabi* crop because of the aman crop failure. Because of the scanty rainfall, the fields are also likely to have the right condition for *rabi* cultivation just on time.

If the required seeds and fertiliser could be provided in time, the aman crop failure might be offset to some extent, agriculture experts said.

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'ORT reduces 50 pc deaths'

By Staff Correspondent

The use of Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) can alone reduce deaths from diarrhoeal diseases by 50 per cent while another 50 per cent of the patients can be cured through medical treatment.

This was stated by Prof Nurun Nabi, Director General of the Directorate of Health, at a press briefing at the Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

The government was implementing various programme for social mobilisation to promote the use of ORT, Prof Nabi said. "We are confident of raising the ORT use to 80 per cent from the present level of 60 per cent by the end of 1995."

The DG, along with other government and UNICEF officials was addressing the news briefing after a five-day "ORT Social Mobilisation and Media Conference" that concluded at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Stressing the need for involving the mass media in the

promotion of ORT Prof Nabi said, elected public representatives like chairmen and members of the Union Parishads, members of VDP and ansar, teachers and students of schools, opinion leaders, members of boys' scout and girls' guide and activists of NGOs like Grameen Bank and BRAC were being involved in the process at the grassroots level.

"We've identified the primary schools as our depots for educating people on the use of ORT," he said adding the students would carry the message to their respective families and neighbours.

Prof Nabi told the journalists that currently diarrhoea training centres had been set up at nine medical colleges and the IPGMR. Doctors, nurses, medical students and other health workers are trained and severe patients are treated at these centres, he added.

Besides, at the thana level,