

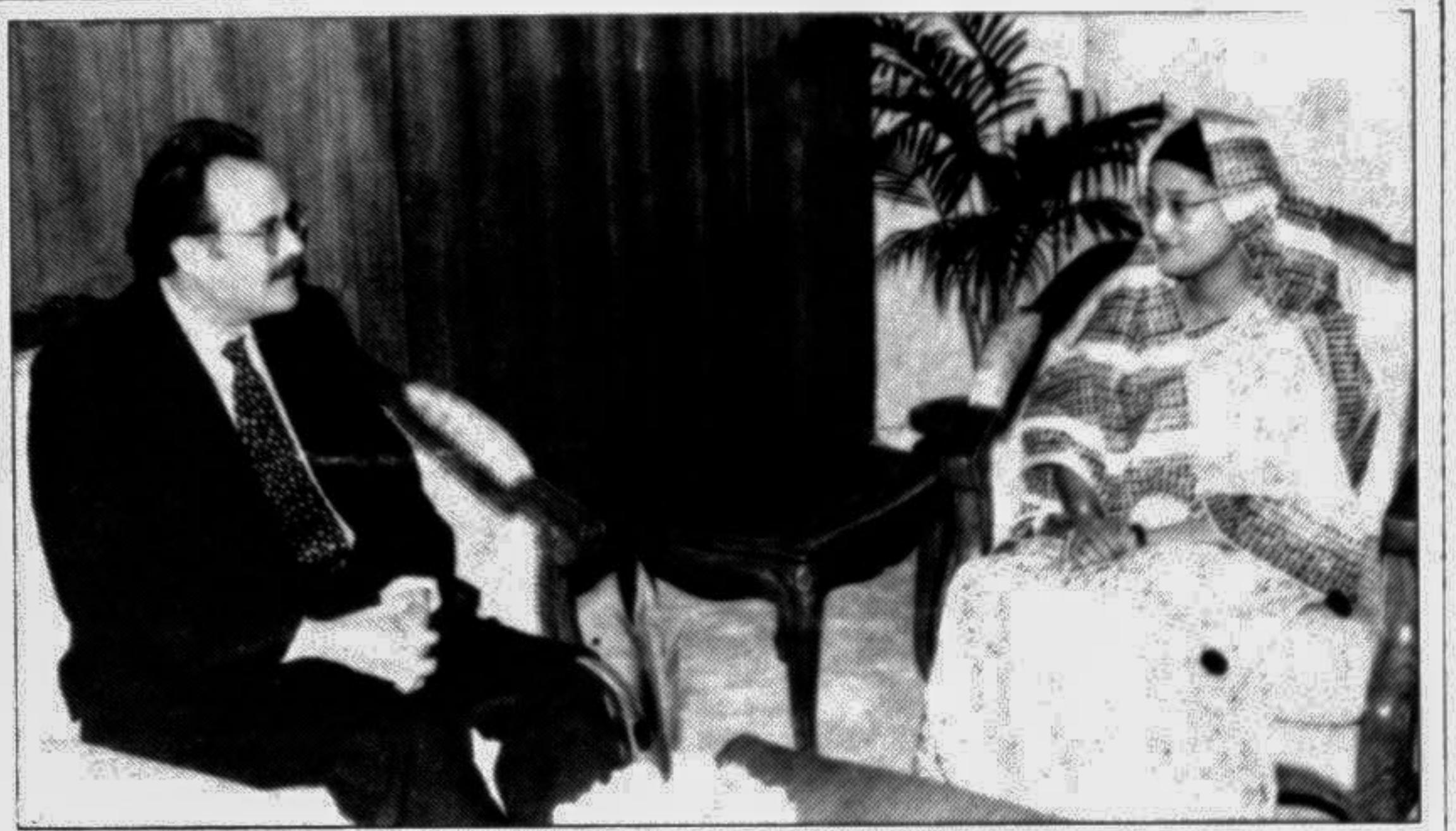


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Outgoing Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh John J. Scot called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

CTBT: India won't bow to int'l pressure

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has vowed not to give in to international pressure to agree to a global nuclear test ban treaty that New Delhi finds discriminatory, a government spokesman said today. reports Reuter.

"Attempts are being made to put pressure on us to agree to this discrimination despite its obvious negative implications for our national security. We have made it clear that we shall not allow such efforts to succeed," the spokesman quoted Deve Gowda as saying late on Friday.

"The reluctance of the nuclear weapons powers to give up their arsenals is fresh proof of their discriminatory attitude on this issue of vital global importance," he said.

India has vetoed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) being negotiated in Geneva and has sworn to oppose further any attempts to send the draft treaty to the United National General Assembly.

New Delhi says the treaty is discriminatory because it fails to commit existing nuclear powers to disarm within a specified time frame and allows them to refine arsenals through computerised testing while barring other nations

KMC students protest transfer of principal

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 17: The Students of the Khulna Medical College (KMC) abstained from classes today to protest the transfer of principal Dr. Zubair Hossain.

Later at a rally, they threatened to start an indefinite strike if the transfer order was not withdrawn immediately.

UNB adds: The government, in a notification issued on August 12, ordered the principal to hand over charges to a senior professor and then join the Dinajpur Medical College as a professor of Gynaecology today.

Otherwise, the notification said his services would stand terminated automatically.

BOI

From page 1 other incentives that might attract investment, rather, it is an 'industrial' base which will help get foreign investment in this country," he said, adding 'Bangladesh is building this base.'

But foreign investors yet feel uncomfortable to come here, one source pointed out. "Your paper work is a very lengthy procedure," said a foreign investor in his office at Sena Kalyan Bhawan in the city on Monday. Requesting anonymity, the investor, who has invested huge amount of money in European and Asian countries to produce construction materials, said he had been trying for the last four years to get lands for his setup.

The investor said, the bureaucratic red tapism was the main obstacle to foreign direct investment in this country. "I have been contacting officials for buying some lands but one official is sending me to another and none is doing the business," he said.

Another textile sector investor at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone told this correspondent that his work was slowing down due to bureaucratic tangles. "The services of utilities are bad," he said, adding it was increasing the cost of production in his factory excessively.

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Bangla-Pak foreign Secy level talks begin

The second round of foreign secretary level talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan began at the foreign office in Dhaka yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and his Pakistani counterpart Nazmuddin Sheikh were leading their respective sides at the talks.

The meeting was continuing till writing of this report at 10 pm.

Earlier, the two sides held nearly three hours of talks in the first round. Emerging from the first round of talks Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said: "We had very useful talks which covered a lot of grounds." He, however, did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Nazmuddin Sheikh called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister of the same ministry Abul Hasan Chowdhury at the foreign office yesterday.

The two ministers raised the issue of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh on serious humanitarian ground, he said adding that they called for early resumption of the repatriation process.

They recalled the visit of Sheikh Hasina to Pakistan as the Bangladesh's Opposition Leader to attend a conference of SAARC opposition leaders and the warm and enthusiastic reception accorded to her.

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka, Karam Elahi and senior officials of the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry were present.

AL body

From page 1 office of ALCESC at Dhannondi in the city, was also attended by its Co-chairman Gazil Haq and other leaders Mustafa Sarwar, Sayed Ahmed and Monam Sarker.

Menon said acts of terrorism continued as before though the government has changed. "It will not be possible to curb terrorism by anyone who will give protection to the terrorists."

The rally, organised by the Workers Party to mark the 4th anniversary of the 'attempt on Menon's life,' adopted a five-point resolution for curbing terrorism.

Party president Amal Sen chaired the rally while politician member Saiful Huq read out the resolutions which included demand for effective steps against armed terrorists of the south-western districts.

Russia, India discuss defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Russia and India today discussed defence cooperation and matters of mutual interest, reports PTI.

A Russian delegation led by Boris N Kuzik, assistant to Russian president called on Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav here and discussed these matters.

A Defence Ministry statement said that both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest with special reference to defence cooperation.

Yadav recalled the age-old friendship and cooperation between the two countries and hoped that it would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Kuzik showed keen interest in India's development in different sectors, the statement added.

Germany

From page 1 Engineering Department in the infrastructural development of feeder roads and markets in the district, which has a population of 3.1 million on 4,414 square km area.

Until the middle of 1996, in phase 1 of the project, about 65 km of feeder roads including roadside tree plantation and six markets have been developed with German assistance.

Five of the twenty injured passengers were admitted to the Rangpur Medical College hospital. According to hospital, the condition of the admitted persons are stated to be critical.

The police said, a case has been registered in this connection. The driver is absconding.

The Indian foreign secretary had agreed to the request of his Bangladeshi counterpart to provide at the earliest data showing the total availability of the Ganges water at Farakka for the last six years.

Samad Azad said the Bangladeshi had handed over to India a list of 50 exportable

The Daily Star

FM starts Kuwait, Iran tour today

Foreign Minister Samad Azad leaves Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber.

Azad will also visit Iran from August 21-25 at the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

This will be the first foreign visit by Azad after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government took over last June. The Foreign Minister's visit was officially announced at a press conference at the Foreign Office in the city yesterday evening.

Asked why he preferred to visit two Muslim countries first, the Foreign Minister said he had just accepted the invitation from those countries.

He said Bangladesh has traditionally close links with the Gulf countries in view of historical, religious and cultural affinities.

Azad recalled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman, as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, had laid the foundation of our relations with Kuwait during his state visit to that country in 1974.

Kuwait had undertaken a special mission at that time to negotiate between Bangladesh and Pakistan which ultimately led to mutual recognition paving the way for Bangladesh's participation in the 1974 Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore.

"Kuwait is our friend in need and development partner," Azad said adding that Bangladesh had been consistently by the side of Kuwait when it became a victim of aggression and illegal occupation in 1990.

Bangladesh has contributed

to the defence of Kuwait both under bilateral arrangement and under the UNIKOM.

During the visit to Kuwait

Azad will pay courtesy calls on Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

He will also hold formal talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah.

During his visit to Iran, Azad will call on Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and have official talks with his counterpart Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

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