

International

Gowda opens 12th meet of NAM FMs in Delhi
Several NAM members back India's claim for UNSC seat

NEW DELHI, Apr 7: Several NAM countries have supported India's claim for a seat in the proposed expansion of the UN Security Council, reports PTI.

Foreign Minister of Cuba, Roberto Bobaina Gonzalez, the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, the Foreign Minister of Algeria, Ahmed Attaf, the Foreign Minister of Columbia, Maticena Mejia, He also met the Foreign Minister of Ukraine.

Opening the 12th meeting of NAM foreign ministers, Gowda said the 113-member Non-Aligned Movement must lend dedicated and unwavering support for achieving the nuclear weapons convention in a time-bound manner.



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadii Udovenko (L) confers with Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial conference Sunday at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.



Bangladesh Ambassador to France Tufail K. Haider (L) recently presented his credentials to Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, as the new concurrently accredited Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to Paris based UNESCO.

BRIEFLY

Road mishap claims 14 in India: At least 14 people were killed and 13 injured after a bus collided with a truck on a highway in India's Northeastern state of Assam, police said yesterday.

Mine blast kills 3 in Bosnia: Three children were killed and a fourth was wounded when landmines exploded Sunday at Ilifas, Northwest of Sarajevo, a NATO spokesman said.

Prisoners hold 9 hostages in Brazil: Rebellious prisoners held nine hostages Sunday at the Vitoria de Conquista jail in the northeastern state of Bahia and were demanding weapons and vehicles to flee, police said.

2 strong quakes rock China: Two powerful earthquakes struck Xinjiang in northwest China on Sunday, injuring 23 people and bringing heavy destruction to a county hit by repeated strong quakes this year.

William Cohen arrives in Japan: US Defence Secretary William Cohen arrived in Tokyo yesterday amid plans by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto for a special law to allow US forces to stay in Okinawa despite protests from landowners.

Fiji bans turtle killing: Fiji on Monday banned the killing and molesting of sea turtles for three years except for traditional ceremonial purposes.

Cargo ferry launched to repair Mir: Russia launched a cargo ship loaded with crucial oxygen generators and carbon-dioxide removal canisters Sunday to the troubled Russian space station Mir.

2 held with explosives in Vietnam: A man and woman were arrested in northern Vietnam after police discovered more than 1,000 kilograms (220 pound) of explosives hidden in their boat.

Bomb blast in Myanmar army chief's house, daughter killed

YANGON, Apr 7: A bomb exploded in the house of one of Myanmar's top officials, Lieutenant-General Tin Oo, killing his daughter, sources close to the family said today.

and citizens to "annihilate" anyone who opposes the government and anyone seen trying to undermine the stability of the nation.

and unrest during the upcoming New Year's festival, while officials have been told to maintain a high security alert.

Taliban attack Dostam's Bagdhis province

ISLAMABAD, Apr 7: About 2,500 troops from Afghanistan's Taliban militia launched an attack today in north-western Bagdhis province against rival forces of Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam.

Sharma appears to be in favour of averting snap polls in India

NEW DELHI, Apr 7: Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma wants the ruling coalition and an estranged ally to patch up their differences to avoid fresh parliamentary elections, a newspaper said today.

India will see a second election within one year. No single party in the 545-seat Indian parliament has the strength to form a government without outside backing.



Prime Minister John Major (2nd left) and Tory Party Chairman Dr Brian Mawhinney (left) greet Baroness Thatcher and her husband Denis, as they arrive at Conservative Central Office in London Sunday.

Tory suffers new blow to re-election hope

LONDON, April 7: Britain's Conservatives suffered a new blow to their re-election hopes when a veteran BBC reporter stepped forward to stand as an 'anti-sleaze' candidate against a former government minister accused of corruption.

'US policy of arming Israel contradictory to its role as key sponsor of ME peace'

CAIRO, Apr 7: The Arab League yesterday charged that the US policy of arming Israel with sophisticated weapons was counter-productive to its role as key sponsor of the peace process.

Israel receives annual military aid from the United States of 1.8 billion dollars for the purchase of US military equipment.

France vetoes jt stance on China's HR record EU FMs fail to resolve differences on reforms

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands. Apr 7: European Union foreign ministers made little headway yesterday on key reform issues to be finalised at a mid-June Amsterdam summit, reports Reuters.

Blizzard shuts down much of northern Plains in US

BISMARCK, North Dakota. Apr 7: A blizzard shut down much of the midwestern, northern Plains with blinding wind-blown snow and drifts up to 20 feet (6 meters) high.

Sunday. Temperatures were in the 20s (-7C) and the wind-chill was below zero (-18 C).

winds in Wisconsin and Michigan cut power to thousands and ripped part of the roof off Milwaukee Country Stadium.

China, US hold talks on Korea

BEIJING, Apr 7: A senior US State Department official met with Chinese officials' last week to figure out how to get North Korea to join peace talks.

Off the Record

Habitual claim COLOMBO: Garbage collectors asked to clear fallen branches at a house in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo had demanded money to do the work.

Misuse indeed! NEW DELHI: A retired Indian police officer has been caught feeding free food provided by the government for the rural poor to his cows.