

# 'India, Pakistan try to put nascent bilateral talks back on track'

NEW DELHI, Sept 14: Arch-foes India and Pakistan try to put nascent bilateral talks back on track this week after cross-border firing and diplomatic manoeuvring almost marred the search for peace, analysts and diplomats said today, reports Reuters.

Senior diplomats from the two neighbours begin four days of talks on Monday in the Indian capital to nudge the peace process forward and tackle the thorniest issue, Kashmir.

A breakfast meeting in New York on September 24 between Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, will cap this month's burst of diplomacy.

"I expect some forward movement in terms of setting up working groups to discuss all outstanding issues," said SD Muni, South Asia expert at New

Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In June, at the second round of talks that resumed in March after a three-year hiatus, India and Pakistan said they would set up working groups to tackle a military stand-off on the Siachen Glacier, examine trade and identify confidence-building measures.

But a recent outbreak of unusually heavy artillery fire across the disputed border in Kashmir put a chill on relations.

Pakistani diplomats have insisted that the "core issue" of Kashmir be locked into a separate working group.

But New Delhi, keen to avoid giving the impression that it is willing to cede an inch of territory that it considers integral part to the Indian Union, wants the issue conferred to the foreign secretaries — the countries'

highest ranking diplomats.

The perception of the dispute on Kashmir is so different on each side. What are you going to discuss?" said Jasjit Singh, director of the government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Pakistan controls one third of Kashmir and wants Kashmiris to vote in a plebiscite to determine its future.

The two nuclear-capable neighbours have gone to war twice over the picturesque Kashmir Valley.

The lesson of the past few weeks is that those pushing for peace on both sides of the border will have to tread very cautiously this week," said Muni.

India on Friday issued a terse statement saying that at the invitation of its Foreign Secretary, K Raghunath, his Pakistani counterpart Shamshad Ahmed would be vis-

iting New Delhi for the next round of talks.

A senior Indian official, who asked not to be identified, said: "Indian diplomacy is committed to peace talks, but cannot be mortgaged to them."

They (Pakistan) are carrying a bigger burden on Kashmir. They want to change the status quo and we want to maintain it. "New Delhi is similarly low-key on the Gujral-Sharif summit in New York on the edges of the UN General Assembly session, with local newspapers sensing subtle US pressure on both countries to start real bargaining. But leaders are also slated to meet President Bill Clinton in New York.

Analysts said the talks may have been rescued partly because both nations wanted to avoid sending signals that the United States was playing match-maker.

## Britons want Queen to abdicate in favour of William

LONDON, Sept 14: More than one Briton in two believes that Queen Elizabeth II should abdicate in favour of her grandson Prince William, according to a poll published in the Sunday Times, reports AFP.

The survey, conducted by NOP since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, on August 31, showed that 72 per cent of those questioned considered that the Queen was out of touch with modern society.

Of those who thought she should step down, 23 per cent said she should abdicate "immediately" and 30 per cent said she should do so when she reached 75 in 2001.

Six out of 10 Britons questioned said the throne should go to Prince William, 15, in preference to his father Prince Charles.

A total of 58 per cent believed the monarchy would not exist in its present form in 30 years but only 13 per cent called for its abolition, according to the poll carried out Friday.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreaths at the foot of the white casket where the body of Mother Teresa was rested at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta on Saturday.

# Air Force seeks help from civilian airlines

## Tigers keep up ferocious resistance against army

COLOMBO, Sept 14: Sri Lanka's biggest anti-separatist offensive aimed at opening a highway through Tamil rebel territory entered its fifth month today having left thousands of dead on both sides, reports AFP.

Intense long-range artillery and mortar bomb attacks raged near the northern town of Pullyankulam as the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) kept up ferocious resistance, officials said.

The government launched operation "sure victory" on May 13th with the deployment of two divisions, or 20,000 soldiers, making it the country's

largest single military campaign.

Casualties have been heavy for the military and the Tiger guerrillas who are leading a drawn-out campaign for an independent homeland called Eelam in the island's north-east.

Official figures showed nearly 700 soldiers were killed and more than 3,500 wounded in the battle to capture a 75-kilometre (45 mile) stretch of road to the northern Peninsula of Jaffna.

Troops have so far covered only about 17 kilometres.

Troops are finding it difficult to overcome resistance be-

cause of the heavy mortar attacks," a defence source said.

Xinhua adds: Sri Lanka's Air Force is seeking help from a civilian airline company in transporting troops and supplies to and from Jaffna Peninsula and other war areas in the north and east of the country, local press reports said today.

The air force finds it difficult to meet the transportation needs on its own, the reports said.

The reports quoted reliable sources as saying that there were only four aircraft for the military to airlift troops

## 19 die as plane crashes in Congo

KINSHASA, Sept 14: Nineteen people died when a domestic airliner crashed into a mountain at Minembwe, near Fizi in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, state television reported Saturday, says AFP.

All passengers and crew on the NTC Airlines flight between Bukavu and Uvira died in the accident, the television said.

Based at Goma, in north Kivu state, NTC runs domestic flights between north Kivu and south Kivu, in the east of the vast country formerly called Zaire.

Most of the crash victims were worshippers travelling to Minembwe, in south Kivu, to participate in a Christian convention, the television said.

The nationalities of those who died were not disclosed.

'Myanmar army shoot down missing Thai helicopter'

# Media says adieu to Mother Teresa, questions future of her order

NEW DELHI, Sept 14: Indian media said adieu to Mother Teresa on Sunday and questioned the future of the order founded by the diminutive nun, reports AFP.

Newspapers front-paged the final journey of the Roman Catholic nun, who was buried at her Missionaries of Charity headquarters on Saturday, with photographs and glowing tributes.

The Pioneer newspaper in its front-page headlined "Adieu, Dear Mother" and said she was "leaving behind a tearful world she overpowered with sheer service and compassion."

"Saint of the dying and destitute laid to rest," said the Hindustan Times while the Indian Express said "Mother leaved poor and the powerful united in prayer."

Financial dailies departed from their protocol to front-page the last journey of Mother Teresa.

The Economic Times headlined: "Mother Teresa: From here to eternity." It said the only lasting tribute to Mother Teresa can be her work which her followers pledged to continue.

Almost a million mourners including world leaders bade farewell to Mother Teresa Saturday as India held a state funeral for the missionary.

Sister Nirmala, who took over as superior-general in March, pledged that the Missionaries of Charity would continue to serve "the poorest of the poor."

Nirmala said the order will follow in the footsteps of the

nun who died on September 5.

"Please pray for us that we may be faithful to the spirit the lord has given us through our beloved Mother that we remain steadfast in our determination of becoming saints," Nirmala said Saturday.

The Pioneer said the Missionaries of Charity may find continuing the legacy of Mother Teresa "A tall order."

"Her torchbearer, Sister Nirmala is increasingly finding it difficult to fit into her rather oversized shoes, although she insisted she was under no pressure."

It said Mother Teresa was a "deft administrator" and extremely "media-savvy" — the two faculties that Sister Nirmala will have to really work hard at.

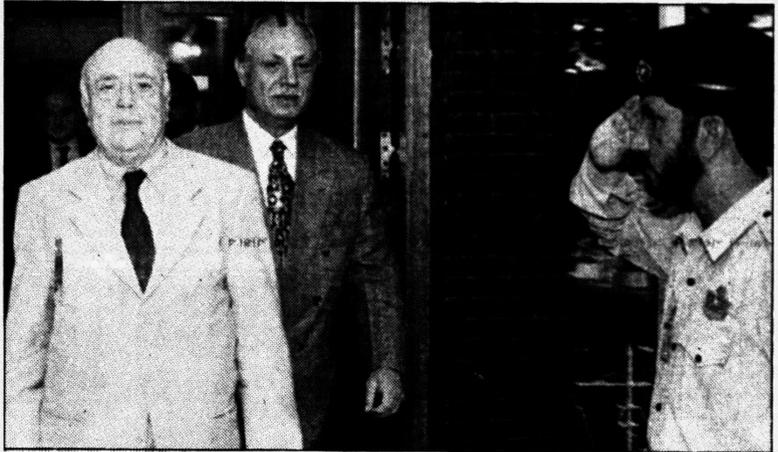
"Sister Nirmala does not

have the administrative skills to run the charity empire, neither does she have the charisma.

"Before becoming the superior-general, she was the head of the contemplative wing and oversaw only prayers and meditation. Major administrative matters like money and donations was never part of her domain."

The Pioneer added: "But it will take a miracle of sorts to have the same amount of money pouring in from various parts of the world."

Mother Teresa was born to Albanian parents on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. Her Missionaries of Charity Order has around 600 centres in 126 countries.



An airport security force officer (R) salutes the visiting Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Azeddin Laraki (L) and Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub (C), in Islamabad. Laraki arrived in Islamabad from Karachi to hold talks with Pakistani official on international issues specially on disputed Kashmir and war-torn Afghanistan.

## Mother Teresa buried

CALCUTTA, Sept 14: Mother Teresa has been laid to rest in a simple grey cement grave bathed in light on the ground floor of the house where she ministered to the poor. It is inscribed with the words: "Love one another as I have loved you," reports AFP.

The message — from the gospel of St. John 15:12 and the cross engraved above it — can be seen through 21 windows on the street side of the long, bare hall in the Missionaries of Charity Mother House in Calcutta side alley.

Below the first inscription, and also carved in black letters into a marble slab atop the tomb, are the words: Mother Teresa 26.8.1910 to the 5.9.1997. "Our dearly beloved Mother Teresa foundress of the Missionaries of Charity."

Today, a day after Mother Teresa was buried privately here following a massive state funeral attended by heads of state from the world over and a personal emissary from Pope John Paul, the long, light filled

## 18 more killed in Algeria violence

PARIS, Sept 14: Algerian security forces killed 11 Muslim rebels in a man-hunt in Algiers during the past 24 hours, an Algerian police source said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Algerian security forces who besieged the capital's Gharba area, succeeded to eliminate four terrorists and killed seven others in the neighbouring district over the past 24 hours, the source said but gave no other details.

The term 'terrorist' is usually used by officials to describe armed Muslim rebels.

AP adds: Six people had their throats slit in northwestern Algeria and a seventh was killed in a bomb attack near Algiers, hospital workers said Sunday, the latest carnage in this violence-stricken country.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the six murders Friday night in the northwest city of Tlemcen or the bombing in Blida, near the capital. But suspicion fell on Islamic militants, whose 5 and half years insurgency has torn the country apart.

## Queen to change interior of Kensington Palace

### 'Di didn't suffer at all before she died'

LONDON, Sept 14: Princess Diana "did not suffer at all" before she died after a car crash on August 31 in Paris, her mother Frances Shand Kydd said in an interview published in the newspaper Scotland today, reports AFP.

Shand Kydd denied reports that her daughter had spoken to medical staff after her accident. "I know the extent and nature of Diana's injuries and I know and promise everyone that she knew nothing," Shand Kydd said.

"Believe me, my knowledge comes first hand from the people who cared for Diana in Paris ... she did not suffer at all."

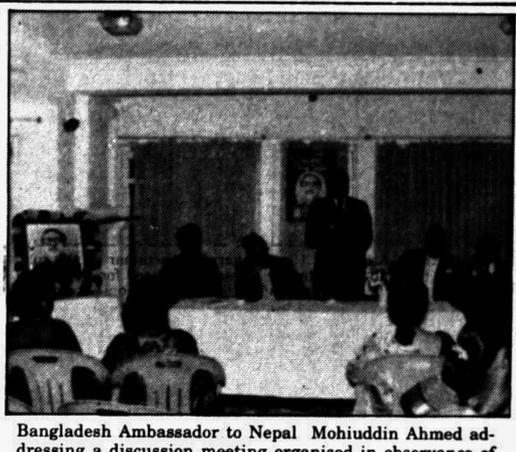
Shand Kydd said she did not feel bitter against the driver, Henri Paul, who was found to be three times over the legal alcohol limit in tests conducted after his own death in the crash.

"My heart aches for the family of Henri Paul," said Shand Kydd, who lives on a remote island in Scotland.

Meanwhile, seen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, Diana's ex-husband, have decided to modify the interior of Kensington Palace, the former residence of the princess, to avoid awakening painful memories for Diana's two sons, Princes William and Harry, the Mail on Sunday reported.

The 25-room house is to be divided into several apartments and the present furniture, carpets and Diana's personal objects will be removed.

The Sunday Mirror, quoting a source close to the royal family said that shortly before her death, the Princess of Wales had told some of her staff that she was going to marry her Egyptian friend Dodi Al-Fayed and move to California for part of the time.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Mohiuddin Ahmed addressing a discussion meeting organised in observance of National Mourning Day at the embassy premises in Kathmandu recently. Beri Bahadur Karki, Chairman of the upper house of the Nepalese parliament, was the chief guest at the meeting, which was also attended by local dignitaries and Bangladeshi expatriates.

## 14 electrocuted in India

At least 14 people were electrocuted in Sheorajpur area, about 45 km from Kanpur, in Uttar Pradesh late Saturday night, police said yesterday, PTI reports from Kanpur.

Police said the mishap occurred when a live electric wire fell on a gathering of people who had assembled for a fair. Senior police and district administration officials have rushed to the spot. Three persons have been admitted to hospital with serious burns while the 14 bodies have been sent for post mortem examination, police said adding further details were awaited.

## Libyan ex-FM dies in mishap

A former Libyan foreign minister, Ibrahim Mohammed al-Bishari, died Saturday in an accident in Tripoli, Egypt's official news agency and the Libyan Embassy here said, AP reports from Cairo.

A Libyan diplomat in Cairo refused to elaborate on the accident, which occurred as Al-Bishari, 55, was on his way to work in the capital, where he was head of the foreign ministry's African desk. "We have no details," the diplomat said. Al-Bishari was Libya's foreign minister from 1990 until 1993.

Egypt's official Middle East News Agency quoted its Libyan counterpart, Jamhuriya News Agency, as describing Al-Bishari as "one of the best men to dedicate his life to the causes and principles of the Libyan revolution."

## Chopper crash claims 3 in US

Three people were killed and five others injured when a helicopter carrying eight people crashed on Friday near Olympic National Park, northwestern Washington state, Xinhua reports from Washington.

The bell 205-AL chopper, carrying a pilot and seven passengers, was on a search mission for an elderly hiker who disappeared a week ago near Mount Baldy. It crashed at a site about 85 kilometers west of Seattle at about 4 pm Local Time Friday.

## Iran releases US citizen

Iran has released a US national arrested earlier this year for illegally entering the country. The official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday, AFP says from Tehran.

Joseph Morris whose arrest was announced in June had been sentenced to two years in prison. IRNA said citing judicial officials. He is soon to be deported, it added.

## Speaker at 15th Party Congress says

### 'Following Deng blindly may repeat wrongs of dogmatism'

BEIJING, Sept 14: The chief of a Chinese showcase city blessed by Deng Xiaoping warned his Communist colleagues today against blindly following the late paramount leader's teachings, reports Reuters.

"It is not possible for us to find, from what Deng Xiaoping said before, ready-made answers to all our questions," Li Youwei, party chief of the southern Boomtown of Shenzhen, told a group of delegates to the 15th Party Congress.

Communist Party chief and state President Jiang Zemin opened the week-long Congress on Friday with a speech canonising Deng alongside Mao Zedong, invoking his name 60 times in the 2-1 and half hour policy document.

Li warned that following Deng blindly "would repeat the wrongs of dogmatism."

# Albright urges Arabs to stop aid to enemies of peace

ABHA, Saudi Arabia, Sept 14: Striving to get Arab-Israeli peace talks back on track, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appealed Sunday to wealthy Arab countries to do everything possible to deny financial aid to Hamas and other radical Islamic groups, reports AP.

Arab states have a responsibility to support the peace process and to work against "the enemies of peace," she told foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council in this Saudi Arabian mountain resort near the Yemen border.

Albright also urged the ministers to attend a summit, scheduled for Qatar in mid-November, designed to promote Israeli-Arab economic cooperation.

Among the Gulf states, only Oman has said it would attend

the Middle East and north Africa Economic Conference in Qatar. The council states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Albright also assured the rich oil nations that "the United States will oppose any effort from source to coerce or intimidate our regional friends."

The message seemed aimed at Iran and Iraq, although Albright said the election of Mohammad Khatami as Iran's new president "is an intriguing and possibly hopeful development."

In the past, Iran has fostered instability and supported terrorism, tried to acquire weapons of mass destruction and sought to destabilise friendly countries, Albright said.

But even some conservative Arab regimes are believed to have provided financial support for some militant groups.

Albright urged the foreign ministers "to do your utmost to ensure that no assistance of any kind reaches the practitioners of extremist violence, such as Hamas."

Reuters adds: Thousand of Israelis rallied against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday, the fourth anniversary of the landmark Israel-PLO peace accord, saying his policies were leading to war.

"Netanyahu's policies are leading us on the path of Bosnia and Belfast ... just beyond the door a dangerous war awaits us," said opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak, a former army chief of staff and Israel's most decorated soldier.

## Russia-Chechnya talks begin

MOSCOW, Sept 14: Talks on a treaty between Moscow and the breakaway republic of Chechnya began today in Dagomys, just outside Sochi on the Black Sea coast, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency, reports Xinhua.

Russian security chief Ivan Rubkin during the talks once again demanded that Chechnya correct the statement issued by Vice-President Vakhla Arsanov against Russian leadership before the beginning of the talks.

He noted that "whenever a high official in Moscow permits himself a roughly-worded statement on Chechnya, he is immediately corrected by the president of Russia, judging from all appearances, there is no one in Chechnya to correct Vice-President Vakhla Arsanov."

On the issue of the transit of early Caspian oil via Chechen territory, Rubkin said, this question had been fully solved.

## Iran releases US citizen

Iran has released a US national arrested earlier this year for illegally entering the country. The official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday, AFP says from Tehran.

Joseph Morris whose arrest was announced in June had been sentenced to two years in prison. IRNA said citing judicial officials. He is soon to be deported, it added.

## New cabinet in Congo

A new government offering a share of power to the opposition, was announced late Saturday in the Congo on the eve of an African Summit aimed at putting an end to three months of political clashes in Brazzaville, AFP reports from Kinshasa.

Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas, who took up his duties on Friday, issued a list of 41 portfolios including five reserved for supporters of former strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso whose militia has been fighting the army of President Pascal Lissouba since early June.

## 4 killed in Belgium car crash

Four people were killed and more than a dozen injured when a car crashed into a group of pilgrims in western Belgium yesterday, police said, Reuters reports from Brussels.

The group of some 24 people, all from the surrounding area, had been making a pilgrimage to a nearby Catholic Church when the accident happened.

## Int'l peace mediators say

### Balloting in Bosnia peaceful

SARAJEVO, Sept 14: Ethnic Serb voters spent the night in tents and around campfires outside a town in Croat-controlled western Bosnia so they could cast their ballots on Sunday, the final day of the weekend local elections, reports AP.

"We don't need anything — neither food nor drink — only to vote," said Nada Ceko, a Serb refugee from the Croat-controlled western town of Drvar. Ceko currently lives in Serb-controlled Bijeljina in the far northeastern tip of the country.

Muslim refugees hoping to return to their prewar homes for good filled polling stations Saturday, while the main Croat party sought to maintain its dominance in central Bosnia by calling on voters to stay home.

Some polling stations opened late Saturday, others not at all. In some regions, international officials had to scramble to negotiate an end to

## Balloting in Bosnia peaceful

But at the end of the first day of voting, international peace mediators said they were pleased with the balloting. Not a single violent incident was reported in the first local elections to be held nationwide since Bosnia's 3 and half year war ended in December 1995.

"Instead of people shooting each other with bullets, what they're doing is depositing ballots," said US envoy Robert Gelbard, who visited several polling stations.

The polls reopened at 7 am (0500 GMT) Sunday. Final results were not expected before September 20.

Many refugees hope to elect municipal officials from their own ethnic groups, thus reversing losses of their towns to rivals from another ethnic group during fighting.

Some 35,000 of Bosnia's 2.5 million registered voters were expected to cross the line be-

tween the Serb and Muslim-Croat halves of Bosnia on Saturday and Sunday to cast their ballots.

Many refugees, fearing ethnic confrontations if they try to return to their prewar hometowns, were voting by absentee ballot. Some 400,000 have voted abroad.

Stations in Croat-controlled Drvar and Serb-controlled Zvornik remained open, to permit a crush of refugees from other ethnic groups to vote until midnight (2200 GMT).

In Drvar, which had a 97 per cent Serb population before the war, more than 1,000 Bosnian Serb refugees were lined up to vote Saturday.

David Foley, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe — the election organisers — said the Serb refugees were being delayed by "attempts by Croat staff to process voters as slowly as possible."