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Clinton, Jiang set to agree on key N-issues

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: US President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin were set to agree on key nuclear issues today at the first US-Sino summit in eight years, talks both sides hope will lead to a new cooperative spirit, reports Reuters.

In a late-night prelude to the state visit that begins with an elaborate military arrival ceremony this morning, Clinton met less formally with Jiang at the second-floor private residence of the White House on Tuesday evening — giving his guest a brief tour of the historic mansion.

White House spokeswoman Anne Luzzatto described the talks as "very direct, personal and substantive," she said the two leaders discussed human rights, Tibet and Taiwan, but declined to elaborate about subjects that have sparked protests in the United States over the summit.

She said Clinton and Jiang discussed installing a telephone hotline to link the two leaders "which in fact they will do." The telephone connection would be styled after the one that linked Washington and Moscow in the days of the cold war in a bid to decrease tensions.

Several hundred supporters of Tibet marched in a peaceful protest outside the Chinese Em-

bassy in Washington late Tuesday, chanting "free Tibet now."

They accused the Chinese government of human rights abuses and demanded independence for the territory.

At the White House on Wednesday, Jiang was to be greeted with a 21-gun salute during an elaborate south lawn arrival ceremony featuring units from each of the military services and a fire-and-drum corps.

He will have the traditional private Oval Office meeting with Clinton, then they will be joined by aides for an expanded discussion.

After a lunch hosted at the state department by Vice President Al Gore, Jiang returns to the White House at night for a state dinner.

1 killed, 16 hurt

From Page 1

The arrested truck driver, Masud, 26, told police that he drove the vehicle towards the rail tracks as he did not find the level crossing open.

Most of the labourers on the truck sustained fracture and cut injuries as the truck overturned when it was hit by the engine of the speeding train.

The injured people were identified as Shahana, 45, Milon, 7, Molna, 13, Jahangir, 14, Jamal, 15, Maya Rani, 14, Manik, 13, Jahangir, 16, Argina, 22, Masud, 18, Farid, 26, Nurul Islam, 45, Idris, 26, Abedul, 50, and Sundar Ali, 52. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

DMCH sources said the baby girl, Shirin, died soon after admission in the hospital. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Train movement on the track was disrupted for about four hours following the accident.

A news agency report quoting a Bangladesh Railway press release said the authorities suspended the on-duty gateman.

A case was lodged with GRP thana in connection with the incident.

Degree exams

From Page 1

diately after completion of the theoretical examinations. The examinations will continue till December 18.

Section 144 will be enforced within 200 yards of the examination centres to conduct the exams peacefully.

A press release of the National University said the local administration will take up all measures in their respective areas to check unwanted gathering and maintain peace and discipline.


The Education Ministry sent letters to the Deputy Commissioners and officers in charge to strengthen steps to ensure smooth holding of the examinations.

Authorities have already formed 500 vigilance teams comprising teachers of different educational institutions to check unfair means in the examinations.

Besides, officials of the National University will visit the examination centres during the examinations.

Two control rooms have been set up at the office of Controller of Examinations of National University. It will remain opened from 8 am to 8:30 pm during the examination.

The phone number of the control room are 412508, 9800655, 9800656/209, 210.



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Pak SC suspends law empowering parties to unseat dissenting MP

ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: Pakistan's Supreme Court today suspended a law empowering leaders of political parties to unseat a dissenting MP, amid a row between the government and judiciary, court officials said, reports AFP.

Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, who has been locked in a tussle with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the issue of the appointment of judges, placed an interim order on a challenge to the law.

UP chairman

From Page 1

deploy police in Natore town and at Belghana union to maintain peace.

The district BNP has blamed local Awami League leaders and workers for the killing and called a half-day hartal and planned a rally in the town tomorrow to protest the killing.

BNP and Juba Dal workers brought out a mourning procession in the town with the body of Mukul.

He was buried at his village home at Banurbag under Belghana union after Janaza, first at the NS Government College field and then on the premises of the union parishad office.

A murder case was lodged with Natore Sadar thana in this connection. But none was arrested yet.

Three BNP MPs, Advocate Kabir Hossain, Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and Quazi Golam Morshed in a joint statement later expressed deep concern at the killing while the Home Minister was present in Rajshahi.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the persons responsible for the killing.

General Secretary of Natore district AL Advocate Hanif Ali Sheikh at a press conference at the party office in the evening claimed that the killing was a sequel to intra-party rivalry of BNP centring the upcoming district council of the party.

He said that Mukul had no personal or political enmity with AL man.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

dence. He was killed and three others were injured when an artillery shell blasted near the house on early August 15 morning, Selim said.

Many witnesses earlier told the court that several cannon shells had been exploded from Kalabagan during the August 15 bloody operation at the order of Major Muihuddin, then Battery Commander of 2 Field Artillery and now facing trial.

The PW-33 denied another suggestion that shots were fired from first and second floors of Bangabandhu's house. "Not a single shot was fired from the house," he said.

The retired artillery havildar declined to speak of the range of an artillery shell for state secrecy. "Will it be wise to disclose the range of country's artillery guns," he said replying to a question from defence counsel advocate T M Akbar.

Selim, a Naik of 1 Field Artillery stationed at Comilla, was in a 105-member contingent, led by Captain Abul Bashar, that came to Dhaka in July 1975 for the security of the then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Present among the prosecution lawyers in the courtroom were Serajul Haq, Ramjan Ali Khan, Syed Rezaul Rahman, Altaf Hossain, Mosharrar Hossain, Sahara Khatun, Kamrul Islam, and M Towhidul Islam Bahar.

The PW-33 will be further cross-examined by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer for Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman, when the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul resumes today.

PM: Coup possibility

From Page 1

debates are televised and there is enormous demand from people in general to observe each and every session."

She, however, regretted that the principal opposition party BNP and its leader have decided to make mockery through frequent walk-outs and ignoring or flouting parliamentary procedure and etiquette.

The Prime Minister also highlighted her government of consensus, saying, "Some parties responded positively to this offer of ours but the BNP chose not only to turn down this effort but to follow a path of open confrontation."

She expressed her satisfaction over the prospect of oil and gas, and power generation in Bangladesh, and said Bangladesh would attract several billion US dollars worth of investments within two years.

Hasina said she hopes to build a charismatic Bangladesh by ensuring free and fair elections, an effective parliament and upholding the rule of law.

She conveyed gratitude to the London School of Economics and Political Science in extending support to Bangladesh in 1971 during the War of Liberation. "Subsequently in our long and painful struggle to restore democracy in Bangladesh, your support was a constant source of encouragement to us."

On August 15, 1975, she said, father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated along with his family members.

The brutal killings by the majors unleashed a reign of terror in the country and opened the way for authoritarian rule in Bangladesh, she said.

The Constitution of the country was manipulated and abused by a small coterie of people, she said, adding a perversion of democracy was foisted on the people and rigged elections became the order of the day.

DSE

From Page 1

strong interest of buyers on the floor.

Some market players and DSE members said that the market was recovering from the serious panic which had gripped the investors and share traders and pushed major market indicators down on the previous day.

A DSE member said that clients registered with his brokerage firm gave a lot of purchase orders yesterday because they thought it was "high time" for buying.

Khaleda

From Page 1

a "tradition in Bangladesh politics."

"Country's independence, sovereignty and integrity are very much important to us. There will be no future for Bangladesh if CHT goes to India's hands," he said.

The Jamaat Ameer said both the parties laid utmost importance on protecting the integrity of the country and expressed their determination to protect the CHT, an integral part of Bangladesh, "at any cost."

However, BNP chief Begum Zia was not available for comment.

The meeting began at 7:40 pm and continued till 8:50 pm. It was attended from BNP side by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, M Shamsul Islam MP and Anwar Zahid while Jamaat side was represented by Mohammad Karmaruzzaman, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam.

Later briefing the newsmen, the Press Advisor to BNP Chairperson, Anwar Zahid, said both the parties observed that country's independence, sovereignty, national entity and economy were at stake due to the 'subversive' activities of the government.

"The hallmark of the rule of both General Zia and General Ershad was their ability to manipulate the democratic process through rigged elections. The Election Commission was a tool in their hands as was the district administration."

The stuffing of ballot boxes, intimidation of voters by hoodlums of the then ruling party, casting of false votes were just some of the techniques. These became common in all elections from 1975 onwards until the 1991 election, which was held under a non-party caretaker government."

AL: CHT treaty

From Page 1

meeting held at Awami Foundation.

Party presidium members Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Principal Quamruzzaman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Shamsur Rahman Khan, Shahabuddin, Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Abdul Mannan and A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury were present.

For the first time, the meeting said, Bangladesh is going to host donors' consortium meeting in Dhaka in November as well as meetings of International Invest Forum, Three-nation Economic and Commerce Summit.

"But a vested quarter became desperate to destroy political stability for foiling ongoing development process and investment chances in the country."

The meeting in a resolution pledged to protect investment climate, ongoing development process, democracy and democratic institutions.

It also pledged to maintain the effectiveness of democratic institutions, consolidate sovereignty and integrity, resolve the CHT problem politically on the basis of Constitution.

The government party presidium also expressed its determination to give democracy an institutional shape making the parliament a centre for all activities and urged all concerned to solve all problems through discussion on the floor of the House.

Mongla Port

From Page 1

at the Bagerhat DC's office on October 27. All parties excepting the stevedore association were present.

The situation aggravated after the Mongla Port Authority issued showcause notice on the stevedore association following the October 27 meeting.

Meanwhile, Mongla Port Users Coordination Committee at a press conference at the local press club today threatened that Internal Water Transport Owners Group and Khulna Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association would express solidarity with the stevedores' strike if their four-point demand was not met within 48 hours.

Speaker

From Page 1

autumn session of parliament on August 30, alleging that they were not allowed to speak in the House.

Later, Deputy Leader of Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury put forward a 14-point charter of demands as precondition to their return.

Shortly after the opposition had begun its abstention from the House, Speaker Chowdhury took a peace initiative on September 2 by inviting five front-ranking leaders from ruling Awami League and opposition BNP to the negotiating table.

Despite cordial discussion between the two sides, BNP did not come back to the brief session of only six working days.

Zero tariff access

From Page 1

their 23 main export markets stand at an average 10.6 per cent, with rich countries levying average tariffs of 1.8 per cent.

Although 70 per cent of LDC exports enter industrialised countries on a duty free basis, high tariffs are still widespread, according to a study by the WTO and UN conference on trade and development, which is co-sponsoring the meeting.

Most peak tariffs range from 12 to 30 per cent, particularly on food exports including meat, sugar and milk.

Norway, which has abolished duties on all but two LDC products, said all textile restrictions would go by 1998, trade sources said.

In Japan, some 80 per cent of 112 products of interest to poor countries are tariff-free and Tokyo is considering extending its preference scheme to further improve poor country access to its market.

Switzerland levies no tariffs on 98 per cent of LDC imports.

The United States told the meeting it had widened its General System of Preferences (GSP) — Washington's version of the Lome Convention — to include a further 1,743 tariff lines on products shipped by LDCs.

Imports under the GSP programme last year were valued at

CHT hartal

From Page 1

Shantibahini.

During the hartal period, all types of vehicles stayed off the roads in the three hill districts while most of the shops and bazars remained closed, police and local people said.

Most of the government offices could not function due to thin attendance of officials and employees.

A tense situation prevailed during hartal period in hill districts.

Buriganga

From Page 1

The meeting emphasised that the "Save Buriganga" campaign should be strengthened to create public awareness, said an official handout.

The minister asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps so that the industries on the river banks, which are polluting water by dumping wastes, set up waste treatment plants.

She said the problem of Buriganga is the problem of the rivers of Bangladesh. She called for creating mass awareness to save Buriganga and laid emphasis on removal of unauthorised structures by formulating strict law, if necessary.

Forest and Environment Secretary, DG of Department of Environment, Chief Conservator of Forest, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, and representatives of different Ministries and Dhaka City Corporation were present.

BRTA fails to limit

From Page 1

tempos and 3,000 mishuks in the capital. It decided to issue registrations for 3,500 new autorickshaws, 200 new tempos and 300 new mishuks a year, subject to strict maintenance of the ceiling.

"We were determined to keep the number of these polluting three and four wheelers under control and were having good results during the implementation period," said a source in the BRTA.

BRTA had also suspended renewal of route permits, in the cities, of all these vehicles above nine years old and also the ones polluting the air above the environmental standard.

Although BRTA maintained statistics on registered autorickshaws in the country, sources said the actual number of these vehicles were "surely many times that." Its documents showed that in 1996,

17 billion dollars, Assistant US Trade Representative for Trade and Development Jon Rosenbaum said.

Under Washington's so-called "Africa Initiative," announced by President Bill Clinton in June, countries pursuing "aggressive" market liberalisation policies would be eligible first for further trade sweeteners, followed by greater US bilateral technical assistance and debt reduction, Rosenbaum said.

Other countries announcing concessions to all or some LDCs, according to trade officials, include Morocco, Thailand, Singapore, India and Mauritius.

Earlier, at the concluding session, the LDCs called upon the developed and developing countries to notify details of their initiatives to improve market access for the LDCs.

The meeting encouraged all WTO members to keep under active review all options for improving market access for LDCs presented in the integrated WTO plan of action for the LDCs and to monitor the implementation of the commitments made in this regard.

It endorsed two reports on the two thematic roundtable discussions: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, as the chairman of the session, presented the recommendations of a roundtable titled Building the Capacity to Trade in LDCs.

Tofael called upon the IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank and WTO to continue and intensify their cooperation in supporting LDCs in their efforts to integrate more effectively in the international economy.

Supplementing the minister's plea, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury called upon the multilateral financial organisations to support the private sector by giving investment loan and ODA for social development.

However, six inter-governmental organisations which participated in the meeting agreed that a trade related technical assistance programme will be provided to LDCs before March 15 next.

Clash in Khulna

From Page 1

who succumbed to fatal head injury on Tuesday evening in a road accident.

Police said the road barricade came under attack when some students damaged an autorickshaw and beat up its driver.

Road communication remained disrupted for over two hours. All modes of vehicles went off the road till this afternoon apprehending further clash.

Tension is prevailing at Daulatpur and also on the college campus. Tight security measures have been taken around the campus for ensuring peaceful holding of degree examination from tomorrow.

However, with the taking over of power by Awami League (AL) headed by Sheikh Hasina, the NCCHT was reconstituted.

The Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad and AL leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah replaced Oli Ahmed as convener of the NCCHT.

The reconstituted NCCHT initiated fresh dialogue with PCJSS in December last year and has so far held six round of talks. Around seven thousand refugees returned home from Tripura in two batches between March and April this year. A peace agreement is expected to be signed between the two sides during the next round of talks, now scheduled for November 16.

Asked to comment on the draft agreement to be signed between the government and the PCJSS, the former NCCHT chief said: "I have not seen the draft. The government should not sign any agreement sidetracking the Bengalis living in the CHT."

While signing the accord, the government should not miss the point that half of the present population of the CHT is Bengalis.

Golam Azam condemns killing of intellectuals

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Prof Golam Azam has strongly condemned the killing of intellectuals on December 14, 1971 and demanded judicial enquiry.

Commenting on the Bangabandhu Murder Case, he said all killings are due for trial. "However, no trial should be motivated," he said in an interview with UNB and news magazine Dhaka Courier.

The Jamaat chief, however, parried a question on whether the Al-Badr and Al-Shams were involved in the killings of December 14, just 48 hours before the victory over Pakistan army.

He said, "It's a great surprise to me why the Awami League government in its four-year rule after 1971 didn't investigate the killing of intellectuals."

The Jamaat leader alleged that the then government did not take the minimum initiative to punish the persons responsible for the killing of intellectuals.

BNP gheraoes Tangail DC's office

TANGAIL, Oct 29: BNP activists gheraoed the DC's office today demanding compensation for the victims of the October 14 road accident on Tangail-Mymensingh route and reconstruction of the road from Elenga to Ghatal cantonment, reports UNB.

Kalihati thana BNP organised the demonstration. It held a rally in front of the office and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press their demands.

It was signed by Habibur Rahman, president of SKSP, Zafar Ahmed, member of the presidium and Araul Ali, acting secretary general. The statement, however, did not disclose the identity of the government representatives with whom they held talks.

Oli: CHT peace treaty

From Page 1

PCJSS? An agreement with India on this issue could rather prove to be more effective."

The NCCHT headed by Oli Ahmed had held 13 rounds of talks with the PCJSS, the political apex body of the armed Shantibahini that claimed to have been fighting for the cause of "minorities" living in the CHT.

Following negotiations, a cease-fire was announced and more than four thousands hill people, out of about 40 thousand who took refuge in the neighbouring Tripura state of India, returned home in two batches till July 1994. The negotiations reached a deadlock the same year as, according to Oli Ahmed, the "PCJSS leaders developed the tendency of coming up with fresh demands every time."

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Oli: CHT peace treaty

From Page 1

Oli Ahmed, at this point, accused the government of maintaining "extraordinary secrecy" in dealing with the PCJSS which, according to him, is "really mysterious." He also demanded that the draft agreement be made public before signing of the accord.

Replying to a question, Oli Ahmed said the NCCHT led by him was very transparent. "We talked with both tribal people and Bengalis, civil and military officials, refugees and those who provided them shelter, experts, human rights activists and journalists. After every meeting with the PCJSS, we used to report the developments to a high-level National Council headed by the then prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia and then disclose those to the nation through journalists."

Asked whether it was correct for the BNP not to work with the reconstituted NCCHT, Oli Ahmed said: "May be, we have not done the right thing in this case, not to mention the fact that the ruling party has failed to create a congenial atmosphere for the Opposition to work with them on any committee. But let me tell you that the governing party should have been more serious, even for the sake of its own political interest, about BNP's participation on the issue."

Replying to a query, the BNP leader said a member of the reconstituted NCCHT had ever consulted him. "A bureaucrat of the 'technical committee,' working with the political body, sought my views in a few areas and I gave my views. I do not, however, know whether my views were taken seriously by Mr Abdullah and his colleagues on the NCCHT."

Asked about his views about the PCJSS demand for withdrawing the Bengali settlers from the hill people, Ahmed said, "If the Shantibahini surrenders illegal arms, the armed forces would not need to conduct any operation."

Presence of the army is necessary for both the communities, Bengalis and the tribals, Ahmed said arguing that only three to five thousand tribals were creating troubles for around one million peace loving people — Bengalis and tribals combined — living in the region.

Asked about allegation of frequent military operation against the hill people, Ahmed said, "If the Shantibahini surrenders illegal arms, the armed forces would not need to conduct any operation."

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