

Britain may send troops to Kosovo, warns Blair

LONDON, June 7: Prime Minister Tony Blair has warned that British troops may have to be sent into Kosovo. Downing Street sources and media reports said Saturday, reports AFP.

The sources quoted Blair as telling his closest Cabinet ministers on Thursday: "Reports indicate a level of butchery that risks escalating into another Bosnia."

With more than 250 people reported to have been killed in clashes with Serb forces in the majority Albanian province in the past three months, Blair's message to Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic has been increasingly tough.

Blair believed the lessons of Bosnia meant it was better to decide "whether and when to intervene rather than be dragged in, the Downing Street sources said."

"The only question that matters is whether you are prepared to use force, and we have to be," Blair said.

Blair has been studying reports of the worsening situation in the province.

**Ethiopian PM ready to declare truce
Hundreds of foreigners trying to scramble out of Eritrea**

ASMARA, Eritrea, June 7: With a border dispute escalating into bombing raids, hundreds of foreigners were trying to scramble out of Eritrea on Sunday, fearing it will be engulfed in war with Ethiopia. One of their main escape routes came under attack for a second straight day, reports AP.

Ethiopian jets again bombed a military-civilian airport not far from Asmara on Saturday, forcing embassies to step up their exit plans.

American, Italian, German and British planes ferried foreigners out of harm's way late Saturday after Ethiopia agreed to temporarily halt bombing.

Wary expatriates crowded the airport past the lot, waiting for evacuation flights. Angered and confused by the sudden violence in this capital of broad boulevards and modern buildings, no one wanted to talk about his decision to go.

"In principle, this is the last of the evacuations, but in practice, if someone wants to leave we'll try to help," said French Ambassador Louis Le Vert.

Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993, and Eritrean rebels later were instrumental in helping the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front overthrow a 17-year military regime in July 1991.

But the two countries dispute at least six areas along their common border, which was drawn by Italy after it conquered Eritrea in 1895.

Relations between the one-time allies soured when Eritrea introduced its own currency in November in an effort to reassert its independence, triggering a trade war. Eritreans began streaming to the common border to take up the fight.

Late Saturday, foreign diplomats met with Ethiopian

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in Addis Ababa and received a pledge that Ethiopian warplanes would suspend their bombing of the airport from Saturday evening until Sunday morning so evacuations could take place. Italian Ambassador Marcello Ricoveri said.

Afterward, German military aircraft carrying 210 Europeans took off for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the German Defense Ministry said. And a British air force plane picked up the remaining 40 Britons and about 60 Australian, Canadian and South African nationals and took off for Jeddah, the British Defense Ministry said.

Le Vert said two US and two Italian planes also carried foreigners from Asmara to neighboring Djibouti, but he didn't know how many people were aboard.

When the US planes arrived,

Marines jumped out and deployed into combat position, startling Eritreans working at the airport, which was under a cease-fire.

AFP adds: Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is ready to declare a ceasefire in fighting with Eritrea if the Asmara authorities accept a US-Rwandan peace plan, an Ethiopian official said Saturday.

The Ethiopian position has always been to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict even during repeated attacks from Eritrea, he said.

The US-Rwandan peace plan calls for the withdrawal of Eritrean troops from a disputed area, a negotiated demilitarization of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea and negotiations on defining the frontier.

Ethiopia accepted the plan on Thursday but it was rejected by Eritrea Friday.



Indian soldiers aim their rifles during a firing exercises in Uri sector of northern Kashmir Saturday. Following the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan, the situation has been tense along the line of Actual Control, which divides two parts of troubled Kashmir, with the opposing troops exchanging fire at many places early this week. The soldiers on both sides are in full readiness to face any eventuality. — AFP photo

BRIEFLY

Kurds march for peace, freedom: About 50,000 Kurds demonstrated peacefully on Saturday in Dortmund for "peace freedom and justice in Kurdistan" and for the lifting of a ban imposed by Germany on the PKK, an extreme left Kurdish separatist group in Turkey, AFP reports from Dortmund, Germany.

Speakers at the demonstration included the president of the Kurdish Parliament in exile, Yasar Kaya and the former prime minister Anker Joergensen.

Mahathir's daughter gets married: Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad's eldest daughter Marina Mahathir yesterday married Tara Sosrowardoyo, an Indonesian professional photographer, report said, AFP says from Kuala Lumpur.

Bernama News Agency said the marriage was solemnised at "Sri Perdana," the prime minister's official residence, with family members present. Marina, the chairwoman of the Malaysian AIDS Council, is a columnist and publicist.

Malaysia to get Japanese loan: Japan will likely agree to a request from Malaysia to resume economic assistance, four years after the Southeast Asian nation accepted what was to be its last Japanese aid loan package, a local newspaper said Sunday, AP reports from Tokyo.

Malaysia has requested the aid, which is expected to total several billion yen in loans, because his country has been hit hard by a region-wide economic crisis, the Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing unnamed government sources.

Danish princess ties the knot: Princess Alexandra, niece of Danish Queen Margrethe, on Saturday married German Count Jefferson-Friedrich Von Pfeil and Klein-Elguth, in the chapel of Graasten Castle in southwestern Denmark, AFP reports from Graasten, Denmark.

Count Jefferson, 30, waited almost half an hour for the 27-year-old bride to arrive on the arm of her father, Prince Richard Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, husband of Princess Benedikte, the queen's sister.

20 hurt as bridge collapses in Moscow: Twenty people were injured when an old wooden bridge at a railway station collapsed, throwing them on to the tracks below, officials said Sunday, AP reports from Moscow.

All of the injured were hospitalised with 10 of them in serious condition, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Dozens of local people donated blood after an appeal by local officials, it said.

Body of DPRK diplomat's son found: Police said the body of a child found in a stream was believed to be the missing son of a North Korean diplomat, according to a news report Sunday, AP says from Moscow.

Police said they were still conducting tests, but initial evidence indicated it was the body of the two-year-old child who went missing May 30 while on an outing with his father and other diplomats from the North Korean Embassy.

রপ্তানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো
EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU
রপ্তানী বৃদ্ধি জাতির সমৃদ্ধি

Appointment of Audit-cum-Consulting Firms

Sealed Technical and Financial Offers (6 sets each) are hereby invited in two envelope system from the eligible Audit-cum-Consulting Chartered Accountant Firms/Consortium of Firms (in which case the lead firm has to be identified) with extensive experience and reputation to conduct a thorough audit and in-depth study/evaluation of the activities of the Textile Cell of the EPB for the years from 1994 to 1997 in respect of allocation and transfer of quotas in apparel products, issuance of various certificates including GSP certificates, Visas and related export documents and to study/evaluate the existing system and procedures of EPB in the allocation and transfer of quotas, and all certifications. The audit-cum-consultancy is meant for detection of mistakes, errors, lapses, fraud, and forgeries that might have taken place during the periods under audit and to get recommendations for avoiding and preventing irregularities, frauds and forgeries.

2. Bidding documents containing the Terms of Reference (TOR) relating to the responsibilities of the Firm in respect of offers as well as terms and conditions of the offers may be obtained during office hours on all working days up to 15.06.98 on payment of Tk. 500.00 (Taka Five hundred) only non-refundable from the Deputy Director (Finance), Export Promotion Bureau, 122-124, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Bidding documents shall not be supplied on the expiry of the given date and time-limit.

3. The Technical and Financial offers in two-envelope system shall be received by the Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau up to 12 Noon of 09.07.98. The Technical offers will be opened at 12-15 PM of the same day in presence of the bidding firms (if any). The Evaluation Committee will appraise the Technical offers in the light of the evaluation criteria laid down in the 'Bidding Documents'. After evaluation of the Technical offers, the Evaluation Committee will appraise the Financial offers of only those firms whose Technical offers will be found responsive. The authority will take final decision on the acceptance or the rejection of offers on the basis of evaluation reports.

4. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Quazi Hamid Uddin
Secretary
Export Promotion Bureau
Phone-9560787

DFP-12386-2/6/98
G-1296

**News analysis
Analysts sceptical of Indo-Pak peace talks**

Mahesh Uniyal writes from New Delhi

After the war of words backed by their newly acquired nuclear muscle, India and Pakistan are now talking the language of peace, with some prodding by the world.

Foreign policy analysts said the offer and counter offer by New Delhi and Islamabad to resume bilateral talks were a step in the right direction, but they did not expect much to come out of these.

With Islamabad and New Delhi appearing rigid over their respective stands on the Kashmir issue, especially with world attention focused on the thorny dispute, the chances of forward movement were considered dim.

The pressure on India and Pakistan to find a compromise solution (to the Kashmir dispute) is greater because of the prodding by the P5 (five permanent U N Security Council members) and the new situation created by the nuclear tests, said Pran Chopra of the prestigious Centre for Policy Studies.

"But this does not mean that the answer to the Kashmir problem has become any easier," he told India Abroad News Service. Former Foreign Secretary JN Dixit, who participated in the Foreign Secretary-level talks till January 1994, emphasised the need for a "practical" approach by both sides.

"Is it reasonable for Pakistan to expect that we will give up Kashmir? Is it reasonable for India to expect Pakistan to give up the portion of Kashmir it occupies? We have to take ground and political realities into account," he said.

Responding to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's reiteration of New Delhi's willingness to discuss all issues including Kashmir,

his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif was quoted as saying in news reports today from Islamabad that Pakistan was ready for a "purposeful and meaningful dialogue."

But Sharif also spoke of the need for India to give up its "control over Kashmir." Vajpayee had earlier told Parliament that New Delhi was awaiting Islamabad's answer to the offer by his predecessor Iqbal Qajal to South Africa.

Three rounds of Foreign Secretary-level talks have been held alternatively in the two capitals since then, but the last round in New Delhi in September 1997 was bogged down by differences over the modalities of discussing the Kashmir issue.

The second round in Islamabad had broken new ground with an agreement to discuss eight "outstanding issues" in specially set up "working groups."

Besides Kashmir, these include peace and security and confidence building measures; cross border terrorism and drug trafficking; a dispute over the Siachen glacier; disputes over the sharing of the waters of the Himalayan Jhelum river and fixing the maritime boundary in the shifting waters of Sir Creek in western coastal Gujarat state.

— *India Abroad News Service*

Sharif seeks Japan's help to resolve Kashmir issue

TOKYO, June 7: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is seeking Japanese mediation in the dispute with India over the divided state of Kashmir, a report here said today, AFP from Tokyo.

Sharif told the Nihon Keizai Shimbun in Islamabad on Saturday that Tokyo could play an important role in resolving the Kashmir row, which has sparked two wars between India and Pakistan since 1947.

Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi offered last week to host an international conference involving India and Pakistan to defuse tensions heightened since the two countries detonated a series of nuclear devices.

Pakistan welcomed the offer but has declined to comment on a Japanese proposal for a disarmament conference, while accusing the west of failing to prevent the nuclear crisis on the subcontinent.

any positive response from Pakistan on this. We hope that we will get a reply and both nations will sit down to find a solution to the problems," Vajpayee said.

"There is peace in our region. Where is the tension and between whom? We carried out nuclear tests, Pakistan also carried out its nuclear tests. There should be no tension," he asserted. Vajpayee and Sharif are due to meet on the sidelines of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit scheduled to be held in Colombo in July.

Indo-Pakistan talks, which broke off in January 1994 when Islamabad set conditions unacceptable to India, were resumed in March 1997 following a change of political rulers in the two capitals who emphasised the need for putting aside past differences and making a fresh start.

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— *India Abroad News Service*

India rejects UNSC resolution

UNITED NATIONS, June 7: India on Saturday rejected a resolution by the UN Security Council calling on New Delhi and Islamabad to take concrete disarmament steps to avert a nuclear arms race, reports AFP.

In a statement issued by the foreign ministry and issued here, New Delhi said: "We regret that the Security Council has acted in the way it has and produced a resolution which is coercive and unhelpful in respect of the objectives it seeks to address."

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the 15 members condemned recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and urged them to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and sign the comprehensive test ban treaty.

**Militants ready for excavation
Move to build new Jewish settlement**

JERUSALEM, June 7: Jewish militants began preparations today for archaeological excavation of a site in the Muslim quarter of East Jerusalem's old city where they hope to build a new Jewish settlement, police said, reports AFP.

Israeli police were deployed around the site just inside the 16th century wall surrounding the old city to prevent eventual protests by Palestinians, but there were no incidents Sunday morning.

The right-wing religious group Ateret Cohanim is financing and carrying out the archaeological work under the supervision of the state antiquities department as a preliminary step towards building a new Jewish enclave in the Arab quarter.

The Israeli-controlled city government is due to begin demolitions Monday on a request by Ateret Cohanim to build 12 apartments and housing for 400 religious students at the site.

Ateret Cohanim built nine shelters on the plot without formal permission two weeks ago.

Authorities demolished the structures, but only after reaching a compromise deal which

permitted the militants to carry out the archaeological work required prior to any building in the old city to protect historic artifacts.

This morning about a half-dozen activists from Ateret Cohanim set up fencing around the 2,000 square metre plot and began laying water pipes and electricity cables.

A spokesman said digging work would begin on Monday.

Palestinians, who protested violently two weeks ago against the attempt to build a new Jewish settlement on the land, have warned they will try to prevent any permanent presence by settlers at the site.

The Israeli peace group IR Shalem also lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court on Thursday against the municipality and the settlers over the site.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
Krishi Bhaban
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000
(Purchase Division)

Local Tender Notice

- Tender No & date : 1-SM F(P) 138/98
Dated: 28-5-98.
- Description of store : Jeep — 5 Nos.
- Scheme Head : Production of improved cereal seed through SM Farm.
- Sale value of tender document (Non-refundable) : Tk 200.00 (two hundred) only.
- Last date of sale of tender document : 15-6-98 up to 1.00 PM.
- Date and time for submission of tender : 16.6.98 at 12.00 Noon.
- Date & time for opening of tender : 16.6.98 at 12.15 PM.
- Place of submission & opening of tender : Office of the General Manager (Purchase), Purchase Division (3rd floor), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
: Local Currency.

Special Instructions:

- Tender document may be procured from the Cashier, Accounts Division, Cash Section, Krishi Bhaban, BADC, 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of tender.
- No tender or part of tender will be accepted after closing of tender.

ADC-425
DFP-12461-2/6/98
G-1296

Abdul Gafur Khan
Manager (Purchase)
BADC, Dhaka



Miss Hong Kong '98 Anne Heung Hoi-Lan(C) poses with runner-up Jessie Chiu Chui-Yi (L) and Natalie Ng Man-Yan (3rd place). The final was held at Chek Lap Kok, Hong Kong's new airport due to open at the beginning of next month. — AFP photo.

Special UNGA session on drugs begins today

UNITED NATIONS, June 7: Leaders of the world's major drug-producing and drug-consuming nations open a three-day conference tomorrow to endorse ways to combat trafficking, curb demand and strengthen global cooperation in the fight against drugs, reports AP.

The goal of the UN General Assembly "special session on drugs" is to accept target dates for governments to enact legislation on issues such as money-laundering, judicial cooperation, reducing demand and stamping out cultivation of illicit crops.

"Around the world, there is a growing consensus that more needs to be done to understand and reduce the rising demand for drugs," the United Nations said in a report.

President Clinton, who delivers the opening address Monday, has pledged to cut drug use by half in the United States

— the world's leading drug consumer — by the year 2007.

Latin American officials say their own efforts to curtail drug production and trafficking will fail unless the Americans curb their appetite for narcotics.

That message is expected to be delivered forcefully by Latin American presidents expected at the conference. They include Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, Bolivian President Hugo Banzer and President Ernesto Samper of Colombia.

The conference is expected to approve a plan of action prepared at a meeting of representatives of 130 countries in Vienna, Austria last March. The plan sets a target date of 2003 countries to pass laws to control money laundering and increase judicial cooperation.

It also sets 2008 as the target for significantly reducing illicit cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium poppies and for controlling the spread of amphetamines.

But critics fear the United Nations is placing too much emphasis on legal measures, following a path which has largely failed in the United States.

The belief then United Nations should consider drugs as a health problem and use the resources of the World Health Organisation to develop effective treatment programme.

**Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Lakshmpur**

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

Tenders are hereby invited in BD Form No 2911 in sealed cover.

- Tender Notice No : E/L/115 of 1997-98.
- Name of work : As per list attached.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be available : Executive Engineer, RHD, Lakshmpur Road Division/Feni/Noakhali/P&D Division, Comilla/P&D Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Lakshmpur/Ramganj Road Sub-Division.
- Name of office where tender documents will be received in sealed cover : The Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Noakhali Road Circle/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring and Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Lakshmpur Road Division.
- Last date & time of selling tender : 15.06.98 up to 05-00 PM.
- Date & time of receipt of tender in sealed cover : 16.06.98 up to 12-30 PM.
- Date & time for opening of tender from tender box in sealed cover : 16.06.98 up to 12-45 PM.
- Date & time for opening of tender by the E. E. RHD, Lakshmpur Road Division : 18.06.98 up to 12-45 PM.
- Date & time of lottery (if nocy) : 21.06.98 at 11-00 AM in office of the E.E. RHD, Lakshmpur Road Division.
- Chargeable to : 168-R.B.F.
- Description of work:

Tender Notice No	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Tk)	Earnest money (in Tk)	Time allowed for issue date of work order	Eligibility of contractor
	Construction of 2 (two) Unit 3 (three) storied residential building (1st floor) i.e. staff quarter at Laharkandi RHD compound under Lakshmpur Road Division during the year 1997-98.	Tk. 958708/=	Tk. 19174/=	70 (seventy) days	'A' to 'D' general category of RHD enlisted contractor

N.B. Tender receiving authorities are hereby requested to kindly send the tender documents in sealed cover to the office of the undersigned.

DFP-12433-2/6/98
G-1297

Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Lakshmpur