



A demonstrator (C) speaks to follow protesters while being guarded by security officials during a demonstration in front of the Jakarta elections committee yesterday. Some 30 activists from the People Democratic Party (PRD), one of the 48 parties involved in the election, demanded the committee check the election results for evidence of fraud in several sub-districts. — AFP photo

Indo-Pak war to benefit US: Chinese paper

BEIJING, June 12: Fighting between India and Pakistan over Kashmir would benefit the United States regardless of the outcome, an editorial in a newspaper published by China's military said today, reports AFP.

The article in the Jiefang Jun Pao described the United States as "sitting on a hill watching the tigers fight," waiting to reap the benefits of their conflict.

"Where the United States is concerned, the present South Asia strategy is to control India and Pakistan, maintain the balance of power in South Asia and use India to contain China," writer Ding Zengyi said.

The Indo-Pakistan conflict was not just a territorial dispute but also one where the superpowers lurked in the background, he said in the article.

South Asia has been an important region in the global strategies of the United States and the former Soviet Union during the Cold War days, and a flashpoint when the United States and the Soviet Union competed with each other, it added.

"In the present India-Pakistan armed clash over Kashmir, it would be hard to avoid a scenario where both parties are losers again," it said.

"This would result in a weakened Pakistan and a limited India for the US," it added.

"As long as the exchange of fire between India and Pakistan does not turn into a nuclear war, it would benefit the United States' South Asia strategic scheme," Ding added.

As China shares its western borders with India and Pakistan, the conflict over Kashmir would affect China's security and the stability in the surrounding areas, he said.

On Friday, China's top legislator Li Peng at a meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz who was on a one-day visit, urged both countries to exercise restraint and resolve their conflict through peaceful means.

India's Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh is due to visit China from June 14 to 16. The Kashmir issue is expected to top the agenda.

BRIEFLY

Plane crash kills 4 Indian pilots: Four pilots, one of them a woman, were killed when their aircraft crashed near Karahia village in Ghazipur district following a technical snag on Friday afternoon, police said, PTI says from Varanasi.

Three of the pilots were trainees, police said adding, the aircraft belonging to Indra Gandhi Flying Academy in Fursatganj, Rae Bareilly was on its way to Patna when it developed technical snag.

11 boat people held in Australia: Authorities on Friday intercepted an Indonesian fishing boat carrying 11 illegal immigrants on the Australian territory of Christmas Island, police said, AP says from Brisbane.

Five of the people on board had evaded authorities by hiding in jungle on the remote Indian ocean island and were still free late Saturday. Six others had been arrested. Superintendent Phil Spence of the Australian Federal Police said five of the six were caught when the boat was boarded by police on Friday.

Star Trek actor Kelley dead: Actor DeForest Kelley, who as crusty Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy on "Star Trek" brought a country flavor to outer space, died Friday. He was 79, AP says from Los Angeles.

Kelley died after an extended illness, said Carol Pfannkuche, spokeswoman for the Motion Picture and Television Country Home and Hospital, a retirement facility, in suburban Woodland Hills. The conflict between McCoy's all-too-human character and Spock's cold logic provided grist for many of the series' lighthearted moments.

Gunman kills two in US: A gunman opened fire on his psychiatrist Friday, killing the doctor and another person before fatally shooting himself, authorities said, AP reports from Michigan.

Four other people were wounded in the shooting at the office of Dr. Reuben Bar-Levav, who died at his office on the 12th floor of an office building in this Detroit suburb. The name of the gunman — and the third victim slain, a woman from the Detroit area — was being withheld.

Computer hackers at US Senate Web site again

WASHINGTON, June 12: Computer hackers have successfully attacked the US Senate's main Web site the second such electronic assault on the high-profile Internet page in just over two weeks, reports AP.

The hackers hijacked visitors to the site, www.senate.gov, and subtly misdirected them to another computer on the Internet with a defaced version of the Senate's Web page, said Tom Meenan of the Senate's Sergeant at Arms Office, which operates the Senate site.

"We are trying to identify exactly what the loophole was" that let the hackers redirect visitors to the other computer, Meenan said late Friday night.

The Associated Press traced the computer hosting the false Senate site to a real estate company in Jacksonville, Florida.

Meenan said the FBI was investigating but noted it was possible that the hackers took control of the Florida company's computers without its knowledge.

They also left messages supporting infamous hacker Kevin Mitnick, who will be sentenced Monday in Los Angeles to 46 months in prison for computer fraud, and for Eric Burns, 19, who was indicted last month in northern Virginia on three counts of computer intrusion.

Meenan said the Senate's computers were fixed about one hour after the attack, but the repaired address information for the Senate could take days to propagate through the thousands of Internet providers.

US to deport five Iraqi detainees

LOS ANGELES, June 12: Five Iraqis held for more than two years in a US jail on suspicion of being double agents secretly working for Baghdad, have agreed to be deported to a third, friendly, country, their lawyer said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Attorney Niels Frenzen of Public Counsel Law Centre, a nonprofit legal agency, said the five, whose plight drew national attention, would be released as part of an agreement reached with the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

The five claim they are part of a CIA-backed opposition group that attempted to overthrow Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein several years ago. The five have repeatedly denied being double agents.

They were among 7,000 Iraqi dissidents brought to the United States after the CIA had spent \$20 million in an unsuccessful effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein after the Gulf War.

A sixth Iraqi being held in California as a suspected double agent, Kurdish physician Ali Yasin Mohammed Karim, is still considering the agreement, after being accused by the US of separate but related cases, Frenzen said.

3 dissidents missing in China

BEIJING, June 12: Three dissidents in the central Chinese province of Hunan are missing after being escorted by a group of men claiming to be police, the New York-based Human Rights in China (HRIC) said today, reports AFP.

The three — Li Jinghong, Liu Shili and Chen Guojing — had gone to the square fronting a railway station in Chenzhou city Friday afternoon, when a group of people barged towards them, said HRIC in a fax.

Without showing any identification or explaining why they were detained, the group, who claimed to be policemen, took away the three dissidents, the group said.

The whereabouts of the three men are now unknown, the rights organisation added.

Li 36, was a former accountant at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in Xizhi city in Hunan. He had participated in the June 4 movement of 1989 and has sentenced to four years' jail for counter-revolutionary crimes in 1990.

At dawn, Chinook and Puma helicopters entered Yugoslav air space, carrying equipment and British paratroopers tasked with clearing mines on the other side of the frontier.

They were followed by dozens of military jeeps and transport trucks which crossed the border from Macedonia shortly before 6:00 a.m. (0400 GMT), accompanied by hundreds of troops, including Nepalese Gurkhas, on foot.

Between 5,000 and 7,000

British troops were expected to enter Kosovo during Saturday and officers said the first contingent was due to arrive in Pristina later in the day.

The force, part of the British army's Fourth Brigade, had to clear a route from Macedonia, including securing a narrow pass with two tunnels and two bridges just inside Kosovo which were feared mined.

Under the terms of a peace agreement, the troops are to liaise with Yugoslav army officers over the position of minefields, but British General Adrian Freer complained to reporters Saturday that he had been unable to speak with his counterpart in Yugoslavia's 243rd Brigade, only with his deputy.

Meanwhile, a contingent of French NATO troops began fanning out into Kosovo from Dumanovo on the Macedonia border Saturday, moving in two lines several kilometres apart and preceded by Foreign Legion

mine-clearing experts aboard armoured vehicles.

Military sources said part of the advance had been held up when a minefield was detected a few hundred metres on the other side of the frontier.

Dozens of trucks, armoured vehicles and tanks waited under cover of trees while the mine-clearing experts went about their task.

One of the French columns comprised 200 vehicles and 900 troops, the other 80 vehicles and 350 soldiers.

In Bonn, the defence ministry said 1,000 German troops, including mine-clearing experts, were about to enter Kosovo as part of a NATO contingent.

As the troop build-up continued late Friday, one man was seriously injured when a British military transport plane crashed and exploded in northern Albania, narrowly missing crowded refugee camps.

NATO spokesman Lieu-

tenant Colonel Helge Erikson said there were 12 servicemen aboard the C-130 Hercules. No one was killed.

Meanwhile, 70 refugees returned to Kosovo on Friday night, taking advantage of the imminent beginning of the NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo, Macedonian police said here today.

The refugees, mostly men, crossed the Macedonian border in the direction of Kosovo near Tabanovce, in the northwest, they said.

They went back on their own initiative, the police said, noting that the High Commissioner for Refugees had recommended the quarter of a million Albanian Kosovian refugees be patient.

A police spokesman said traffic was very heavy around the main border post at Blace, north of Skopje, where the bulk of the NATO peacekeepers had been entering Kosovo since dawn.

The chief minister said that he had already viewed such opinion during a meet the press in London last month.

"It is most unfortunate that the country was facing a war-like situation following violation of LOC by the Pakistani infiltrators and regulars at Kargil, Drass, Kakar and Batalik sectors when a caretaker government was in power," he said.

The accident happened at the Vatican embassy in Warsaw, where the 79-year-old Pope was staying, but did not prevent him flying to the southern town of Sandomerz to say mass before an audience of 350,000.

A sticking plaster was clearly visible on the right side of the Pope's forehead, just below the line of his skullcap.

A Vatican source said the accident happened in the Pope's private bathroom in the embassy, where the Pontiff is spending four nights of a grueling 13-day trip on his native Poland.

Navarro-Valls said there would be no changes to the schedule the Pope has set himself for the visit, which is in its eighth day.

Basu said that it was difficult for a country to counter such a situation with a caretaker government. He was speaking after moving a non-official resolution on Kargil issue in the West Bengal assembly here.

There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE to the latest military claims.

Last month, the army backed by ground attack aircraft and artillery won control over dozen villages after two days of heavy fighting that killed 42 rebels and 17 soldiers.

Another 29 soldiers were wounded in fighting that involved long-range artillery and mortar bomb attacks, officials said.

Military sources said casualties on both sides were closer to a combined total of 100.

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