

The World

Take steps in 4 areas, Benazir asks Clinton

ISLAMABAD, Mar 9: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chief Benazir Bhutto has urged the US President Bill Clinton to take active steps in four key areas, including restoration of democracy in Pakistan and Kashmir issue, during his stopover here later this month, reports PTI.

Eradication of poverty in South Asia and non-proliferation were the other two issues she highlighted in her letter to the US President to be taken up during his visit to Islamabad on his way back home after a trip to India.

Benazir said the unresolved dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir threatens to spill into conflict. Both countries needed encouragement to move on to the path of peace.

India and Pakistan with their weapons of mass destruction can be persuaded by your leadership to move onto the path of non-proliferation to make our world a safer place. Again support for non-proliferation steps in terms of debt relief would enable the people to understand that old notions of security were being replaced with modern ones in keeping with the new world order, the latter sent yesterday, said.

9 killed in plane crash in Moscow

MOSCOW, Mar 9: All nine people were killed when a small jet crashed only moments after takeoff from Moscow's main Sheremetyevo-1 airport, reports AFP.

A spokesman for the emergency ministry said the YAK-40 jet appeared to belong to LUKoil, Russia's largest oil company, but added that the ministry was checking further into the incident.

Initial reports said the jet was chartered by a company called Aerotex, while ITAR-TASS gave the plane's airline as Volgodskoye Avialini.

The jet crashed at around 8:40 am (11:40 BST) as it was taking off on a flight to Kiev. It then burst into flames, NTV television said.

Israel, Palestinians agree to revive peace talks

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Mar 9: After weeks of acrimonious deadlock, Israel and the Palestinians agreed Wednesday to resume intensive peace talks in Washington later this month aimed at reaching a final settlement in six months, reports AFP.

US Middle East trouble-shooter Dennis Ross made the announcement after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak held a breakthrough summit in this West Bank town, their second in less than 24 hours.

"The parties made good progress in addressing and resolving many of the interim issues and agreed to intensify their negotiations," Ross said.

"Towards this end they agreed that negotiations would resume after the Eid in Washington," he told reporters.

"The objective is to achieve a

framework agreement as soon as possible so that all the permanent status issues can be resolved by September 13."

Israeli radio said the negotiations would be led by Oded Eran and Yasser Abed Rabbo, who have headed the respective Israeli and Palestinian sides in earlier talks.

The breakthrough came amid continued stalemate in talks with Syria, which said Wednesday that Israel's announcement it will withdraw occupation troops from Lebanon by July was not in itself enough for peace and insisted on a return of the occupied Golan Heights.

It also followed a firm pledge by Arafat on Tuesday to declare an independent state after the September target date even if there is no peace deal, and warnings from both Palestinian and Israeli officials of an explosion of violence if there

is no progress.

Barak, who was elected on a pledge of forging peace with Israel's Arab neighbours this year, has been struggling for months to keep the two sides aloft.

A Palestinian official had told AFP they had agreed on a new peace deal and set dates for further Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank, with the timetables accompanied by US guarantees.

A summit between Arafat, Barak and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is due to take place on Thursday afternoon in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where a key interim peace deal was signed in September.

The two sides failed to sign a framework peace accord in mid-February to outline solutions to the most sensitive issues in the decades old conflict,

including the borders of a Palestinian state and control over Jerusalem.

Negotiations broke down after a previous Arafat-Barak summit in early February failed to resolve the dispute over a 6.1 percent handover of West Bank land which was due to take place in January under the terms of last year's Sharm accord.

The Palestinians had demanded to be consulted about which land was handed over, but Israel refused, saying it was not obliged to discuss the transfer and had no intention of including areas near Jerusalem as Arafat demanded.

"The main issue that was discussed today was the 6.1 percent," another Palestinian official said, adding that Israel had agreed to redeploy from areas outside Ramallah and Bir Zeit and an area southeast of Jerusalem.



Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar (2nd L) and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (C) look on as Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (R) speaks to journalists during a joint press conference at the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday. Mahathir arrived in Indonesia on a two-day state visit. — AFP photo

Chewing helps prevent memory loss

LONDON, Mar 9: Elderly people wanting to retain their memory and fend off dementia should chew, reports Reuters.

"That's the message from Japanese researchers, who say that chewing helps prevent memory loss as we grow old," New Scientist magazine said on Wednesday.

Minoru Onozuka and scientists at the Gifu University School of Medicine in Japan believe chewing stimulates the brain and helps it retain memory but they aren't sure exactly how.

"We don't touch on the mechanism, Onozuka told the weekly magazine.

But the scientists did show that mice genetically altered to develop the signs of human ageing and whose teeth were extracted to prevent chewing did not perform as well on memory tests as similar mice with teeth.

Onozuka and his team also used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study the brain activity of humans while they were chewing. They found that the jaw movements increased signals in the hippocampus area of the brain, which is critical for learning.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (R) gestures during a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday, their second meeting in 24 hours to attempt to regenerate the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. — AFP photo

Clinton's stopover in Pakistan Indian media term it a defeat for Delhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: With speculation now ended over President Bill Clinton's intentions of visiting Pakistan, India's media today advised the government to drop the issue and concentrate on the president's visit here, reports AFP.

The White House announced Tuesday that Clinton would stop off for several hours in Pakistan on March 25 after concluding his five-day full state visit to India.

While India voiced concern that Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf would promote the visit as legitimising his regime, there was also a sense that it was time to move on to other issues arising from the US president's South Asia tour.

Several newspaper editorials criticised the government for lobbying so hard to prevent Clinton going to Islamabad, arguing that it had been a fruitless exercise which finally saw New Delhi shoot itself in the foot.

"The government turned on the diplomatic taps to score what it hoped would be a major victory," said the Asian Age.

"The hype generated had been of such a level, that now the decision by president Clinton to stop in Islamabad comes almost as a defeat for Delhi," the Age said, adding that Musharraf would definitely advertise the visit as "recognition of the military dispensation and a victory for Pakistan."

The president's original plan to visit Pakistan had been on hold since the military coup that brought Musharraf to power in October.

"India should now turn its attention to strengthening bilateral relations with the US, and not continue with its short-sighted diplomatic manoeuvres that are having a negative impact on the world image of the nation," the Age concluded.

The India Express followed a similar theme, bemoaning the fact that the government had expended an "inordinate

amount of energy" on the implications of a Clinton stopover in Pakistan.

"This is unfortunate and self-defeating," the Express said in an editorial.

"Now that Clinton's date with Musharraf has been confirmed, it's time to banish the fanciful for the pragmatic.

"For all the talk of Islamabad rendezvous was inevitable."

The Times of India, while agreeing that there had never really been any doubt over whether the US president would go to Islamabad, took exception to statements from the White House that the visit could not be construed as showing de facto approval for Musharraf's regime.

"Whatever dissimulation US officials may indulge in to justify President Clinton meeting the general, extremist circles in Pakistan are bound to hold it out as a great victory for the Pakistan military," the newspaper said.

The Times said the US hand was forced by geopolitical realities in the region.

"The US is helpless in countering the Chinese-Pakistan nuclear and missile axis and the threats this poses to proliferation in West Asia," it said.

"It is, therefore, no surprise that the US president does not dare displease the military rulers of Pakistan."

Karmapa may be allowed to stay in India

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: The Dalai Lama has said that the Indian government has informally, unofficially indicated to him that Karmapa Lama, who recently fled from Tibet to India, would most probably be allowed to remain in this country, reports PTI.

The formal response has not yet come but informally, unofficially, some of my old friends in the ministry of external affairs have indicated that the Karmapa will most probably be allowed to remain in this country, he said when asked about the response from the government to Karmapa Lama's request to stay and study in India.

BRIEFLY

Rabri now opposition leader: Former Chief Minister of Bihar Rabri Devi was recognised as Leader of the Opposition in the state legislative council on Wednesday, PTI reports from Patna.

According to an official release, Rabri was recognised as opposition leader as RJD was the largest opposition party in the council. Rabri Devi was elected as leader of the RJD legislature party early this month.

Makuzo new Rwandan PM: Rwanda's president on Wednesday named a new prime minister to succeed Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema, who resigned amid corruption charges, AP reports from Kigali.

Bertrand Makuzo was expected to name a new Cabinet when he returns this weekend from Germany, where he has been serving as Rwanda's ambassador. Makuzo is a member of the main Hutu political party, the Republican Democratic Movement, or MDR.

Lankan govt, opposition meet to discuss peace

COLOMBO, Mar 9: Sri Lanka's ruling party and its main opposition held groundbreaking talks here today to launch a radical political bid aimed at ending decades of ethnic bloodshed, officials said, reports AFP.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga and her main rival and opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe held two hours of talks to hammer out a bipartisan approach to end the Tamil separatist conflict in the north-east.

"The most positive aspect is that we agreed on the need to build a consensus to bring the northeast conflict to an end," Wickremesinghe said shortly after the meeting.

"Both sides survived the meeting and we all agreed to meet again sometime this month."

The talks held at the president's tightly-guarded Temple Trees residence was the first meeting between Wickremesinghe and Kumaratunga since she won the December 21 presidential election.

Wickremesinghe said the meeting was cordial and that representatives from both sides had observed religious rites before starting their talks on preparing an agenda for future talks.

Thursday's meeting was seen by many analysts as a historic occasion given the bitter rivalry between them.

Russians claim key section of Argun Gorge

MOSCOW, Mar 9: Russian forces said today they had seized control of a key segment of the strategic Argun Gorge after weeks of bitter battles with Chechen guerrillas, news agencies reported, says AFP.

But government soldiers had so far failed to take the town of Komsomolskoye, nestling at the foot of the southern mountains, despite a claim by a top general Wednesday that rebels resistance would be crushed within hours.

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka
Tender Notice

No D-1988 (2) Dated: 9/3/2000

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supply of different kinds of stationery articles etc. Details terms and conditions may be available from the Stationery Section. Tenders must be submitted on or before 11-30 AM of 22-3-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 11-35 AM before the tenderers present. The University authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-232 Registrar

Sharif's brother was asleep when army seized power

Anti-terrorism court told

KARACHI, Mar 9: The brother of deposed Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif told a Karachi anti-terrorism court today he was asleep when the army seized power in their October coup, reports AFP.

Shahbaz Sharif, the former powerful chief minister of Punjab province, insisted he had not met the prime minister on the day of the coup last year.

Shahbaz, together with his brother Nawaz and five former senior government officials, has been charged with hijacking, abduction, attempted murder and terrorism in a case based on the night of the coup.

All the accused have pleaded not guilty but face the death penalty if convicted.

"As luck would have it I did not have the opportunity to

meet the prime minister throughout that fateful day of October 12," Shahbaz Sharif told the court in a brief statement.

"I was in Islamabad on that day to hold a meeting with the Japanese ambassador and the interior minister. In the prime minister's house I had been allocated a bedroom and an office so I retired for rest," he said.

"I was woken up in the evening when the army entered the prime minister's house."

Prosecutors say the former prime minister sacked his army chief General Pervez Musharraf and then tried to stop a commercial jet carrying the general from landing in Pakistan, risking the lives of the 198 people on board.

Musharraf only landed after

the army seized the airport and within hours he had taken over the country.

"The prosecution witnesses have not said anything against me. There is no case against me," Shahbaz Sharif said.

His brother Nawaz has accused the military of plotting the coup for some time and then inventing the charges against him.

"This case has been framed against me at the behest of General retired Pervez Musharraf," the former prime minister said yesterday.

All seven defendants have now given evidence, denying the charges.

"We are not going to produce witnesses from the defence side," defence lawyer Mansoor Malik told reporters.

যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

যমুনা ভবন, আব্রাহাদ, চট্টগ্রাম

"গ্লাস সীমলেস, গ্লাসের পরিচয়ী কনসেপ্ট এবং পরিবেশ বান্দা"—প্রধানমন্ত্রী

সীমলেস (Seamless) পাইপ ফ্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: ৮/২০০০

প্রকৃত সীমলেস (Seamless) পাইপ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্থানীয় এজেন্ট/আমদানিকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিমিত্ত হইতে বিভিন্ন সাইজ এবং পুরুত্বের সীমলেস (Seamless) পাইপ ফ্রয়ের জন্য স্থানীয় মুদ্রায় "এক কৌর সরবরাহ বিজ্ঞপ্তি" এর উল্লেখপূর্বক সীমলেস পাইপ ফ্রয়ের দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাইতে পারে। দরপত্র ২ (দুই) এনোন্সামেন্ট পত্রিকার (সিআইটি) এর অধীনে পৌঁছেতে হইবে।

(১) বিভিন্ন সাইজ ও পুরুত্বের সীমলেস পাইপের ০১০০ হাউট (কম বেশি)।

(Seamless) পাইপ

মাসামাল এর বিবরণ, পরিমাণ ও স্পেসিফিকেশন সম্বন্ধিত দরপত্র তফসিল নাম ২০০.০০ (দুইশত) টাকার (অনুগ্রহযোগ্য) বিলম্বিত (ক) চীফ কার্গিয়ার, যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, যমুনা ভবন, আব্রাহাদ, চট্টগ্রাম (খ) যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, বিলেইসি ভবন (গ) যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা হইতে সপ্তাহ করা যাইবে। আদানতরপ উক্ত মুদ্রায় ২% হারে। "যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, চট্টগ্রাম" এর অনুগ্রহ বাজারের ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম-এ ক্রিয়াকর্মী আওতাধীন যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংকের উপর ড্র-কৃত চেক-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি থাকিলে অবশ্যই জমা দিতে হইবে। আদানত ছাড়া কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে। মাসামালের দুই স্থানীয় মুদ্রায় "এক কৌর সরবরাহ বিজ্ঞপ্তি" উক্ত করিতে হইবে।

সকল দরপত্র মাসামালের পরেই, যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আব্রাহাদ, চট্টগ্রামের অফিসে রিভিউ করার মতাবে সর্বশেষ ০৯/৩/২০০০ হইতে ০৩-০৩ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গৃহীত হইবে এবং একই দিনে ০৩-০৩ ঘটিকা পরেই সর্বশেষ হইতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) কোপা হইবে। দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক করা হইবে না। দরপত্র ঘোষণার পর কোন প্রকার আপত্তি/অভিযোগ বা সংশোধনী গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না। যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সপ্তাহ দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্দিষ্ট দিনে দরপত্র ঘোষণা সপ্তাহ বা হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে কাহা গ্রহণ ও কোপা হইবে।

ক্রমিক/সিটি/০৯/২০০০

Send more women to UN peacekeeping missions

Annan urges member states

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: Emphasising the special role of women in preventing and resolving conflict, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan asked member states on Wednesday to send more women to UN peacekeeping missions, reports AFP.

"Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also often better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it," he said in a message marking International Women's Day.

"When society collapses, women play a crucial role in ensuring that life goes on," Annan said.

"When ethnic tensions cause or exacerbate conflict, women tend to build bridges rather than walls."

Annan said the UN was making "special efforts to recruit more women for our own peacekeeping and peacemaking

missions, and to make all our operations more aware of gender issues."

Missions in Afghanistan, East Timor and Kosovo now include civilian gender affairs units, he said.

"I appeal to member states to include qualified women in the contingents they send us, and to nominate qualified women candidates for United Nations posts at all levels."

The UN's department of peacekeeping operations said that fewer than five per cent of troops on UN missions were women; but it pointed out that in some troop-contributing countries, women were not allowed to join the armed forces.

Women-held 26 per cent of non-military professional posts in peacekeeping missions, the department said. They include political advisers and administrators above secretar-

ial level.

Annan recently reported that at the end of November, 36.1 per cent of the 4,381 professional and higher-level staff at UN headquarters were women, compared with 35.5 per cent a year earlier.

But there were only five women to 50 men at the level of under secretary general or assistant secretary general; less than 26 per cent of positions at the next two levels in the UN hierarchy were held by women.

Annan was speaking at a meeting also attended by the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, who said, "merely having women in positions of power is not enough."

Robinson went on: "Women's participation in all levels of government is crucial and must become an unremarkable feature of public life."

6 new lawsuits filed against Pinochet

SANTIAGO, Mar 9: Legal problems for Gen Augusto Pinochet have begun to mount at home amid a flurry of new lawsuits stemming from alleged human rights abuses during his dictatorship, reports AP.

With six new lawsuits filed Tuesday, Pinochet faces a total of 72 cases in Chile. He returned to Chile on Friday from his 16-month detention in Britain, escaping attempts by a Spanish judge who wanted to bring him to trial on charges of torture and torture conspiracy.

The most prominent lawsuit Tuesday was filed by Miria Contreras, a former secretary to Marxist President Salvador Allende, who was killed when Pinochet took power in a 1973 coup.

Ref No: 23.02/53 Dated: 08.03.2000

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a) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from reputed suppliers for supply of Solvent Neutral (SN) & Solvent Bright Stock (SBS) Grades of Lubricating Base Oil in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereinafter:

Grade	Quantity in BBL	Delivery at Chittagong	Price to be quoted
SN-150	3,500	12-13 April, 2000.	C&F Chittagong.
SN-500	35,000		
SBS-150	31,500		
	70,000		

b) Quantities mentioned against each grade will be subject to an operational tolerance of (+/-) (five) per cent.

c) The supply of product to be made in one and/or two shipments.

Intending bidders and/or their local agent may collect re-tender documents on payment of Taka 2000 or US\$ 40 (non-refundable) on all working days during office hours from (a) The Commercial & Operations Division of the Corporation at its Head Office, HBFC Building, 4th Floor, 1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, (b) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Dhaka Liaison Office, 1 Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha, Dhaka and (c) Bangladesh Mission in Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Qatar. No tender document will be available on the tender opening date.

Offers will be received up to 1200 hours (BST) on March 21, 2000 and be opened at 1205 hours BST on the same day at the Corporation's Head Office at Chittagong in presence of the bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.

Offers must be valid up to 1800 hrs BST on March 30, 2000.

Amount of bid bond amounting to Tk. two million and other terms and conditions will be as per BPC's re-tender document for supply of Lubricating Base Oil (Ref. No: 23.02/53 dated March 08, 2000). Successful bidder shall submit a performance guarantee with validity up to June 21, 2000 as per re-tender document.

No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person or person by virtue of having obtained the tender document nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

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HBFC Building, 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong. GD-233