

# Clinton seeks to allay fears of missile defence system

## Historic address to Russian parliament

MOSCOW, June 5: President Bill Clinton sought to allay Russian fears about US plans to build a missile defence shield today when he became the first Western head of state to address Russian lawmakers, reports AFP.

In a wide-ranging 43-minute speech Clinton said he wanted to see a strong and prosperous Russia, urged Moscow to join the World Trade Organisation and touched on Chechnya, terrorism, the economy and social issues.

Only President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus has previously been accorded the honour of addressing both houses of parliament.

Clinton later wrapped up his three-day stay in Moscow with a final meeting with President Vladimir Putin, with whom he held a weekend summit that failed to narrow a wide differences on missile defence and arms control issues.

Speaking to parliament, Clinton urged an honest and open debate on the impact of the 60-billion-dollar defence shield on which he is due to take a decision this summer, insisting it would not hurt Russia's nuclear deterrent.

Nuclear missile defence (NMD) would confront the growing danger that weapons of mass destruction could fall into hands that will threaten us both -- rogue states, terrorists, organised criminal groups," Clinton said.

"The system we are contemplating will not undermine Russia's deterrence, or the principles of mutually assured destruction and strategic stability."

"I believe we ought to be able to reach an agreement about how we should proceed at each step along the way here that preserves mutual deterrence, preserves strategic stability and

preserves the ABM treaty. "That is my goal," said Clinton, adding, "I think we have made some progress" during the summit with Putin.

Russia opposes NMD, saying it will hurt Russia's deterrence and spark a new arms race Moscow can ill afford.

The missile shield will breach the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the cornerstone of arms control agreements for almost 30 years, unless Russia agrees changes to allow a limited US system.

However, the two sides have so far failed to agree related deep cuts in nuclear arsenals that Moscow is demanding in exchange, leaving Clinton with the dilemma of heeding Russian concerns or pushing ahead regardless.

Putin has vowed to tear up all arms control accords with the United States if Washington unilaterally decides to deploy NMD.

The Russian parliament, only three-quarters full, listened in silence to Clinton and offered polite but brief applause at the end of his address.

However, outspoken ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy shouted "shame" at the end of the Clinton speech, claiming the authorities had packed the chamber with security service and foreign ministry personnel to mask an embarrassing mass boycott.

"It's a profanation," he stormed. "(Clinton) gave us a honeyed speech about 'let's be friends,' but read the (US) Congress resolution on the Russia-Belarus Union and you'll find other terms."

Many lawmakers displayed the open hostility towards the United States that Clinton regretted in his speech. "I was not in the chamber where Satan spoke," snapped Communist deputy Vasily Shandybin.



US President Bill Clinton gestures during his speech before the Russian State Duma in Moscow yesterday. Clinton sought to allay Russian fears about US plans to build a missile defense shield in a historic address to Russian lawmakers. — AFP photo

# Blair back to work after paternity leave

LONDON, June 5: British Prime Minister Tony Blair returned to work today after two weeks on paternity leave to face accusations from a trusted former lieutenant that he was in danger of "losing touch" with voters, reports AFP.

Tom Sawyer, a former general secretary of the ruling Labour party and one of the modernisers who helped propel the party to power, said voters no longer saw Blair as "their man."

He also said there was widespread disillusionment with the prime minister within the party.

Sawyer's comments, made on BBC radio Sunday, were replayed prominently in Monday's press and reflect a growing sense in political circles that, while Blair is very good at his job, he is too distant and a control freak.

# Lanka lifts censorship on foreign media

COLOMBO, June 5: Sri Lanka today announced the lifting of tight censorship regulations on the Colombo-based foreign media, but continued the restrictions on the local media, reports AFP.

Chief censor Ariya Rubasinghe said that the government decided to ease the restrictions on the foreign press with immediate effect.

"Foreign correspondents are no longer required to submit their reports to me," Rubasinghe said.

The government imposed the censorship as part of tight emergency regulations imposed on May 3 when Tamil Tiger guerrillas stepped up attacks in the northern peninsula of Jaffna.

# 'Separation of China, Taiwan temporary'

BEIJING, June 5: The separation of the Chinese mainland and Taiwan is "abnormal and temporary" and "cannot last indefinitely," the People's Daily, the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, said in an editorial today, reports AFP.

The editorial argued that the principle of One-China, encompassing Taiwan, is firmly based in international law, as China was given sovereignty over the island at the end of World War II.

The current situation is the result of the Chinese civil war at the end of the 1940s, which forced the defeated Nationalist forces to flee to the island, and the solution is China's internal affair, the editorial said.

It argued that Taiwan should never be turned into a sovereign state under the name "Republic of China," the official name adopted by the Taiwan government.

# Palestinians clash with Israeli police

JERUSALEM, June 5: Twelve people were hurt today when Palestinians clashed with Israeli security forces over the demolition of a house in the suburbs of Jerusalem, witnesses said, reports AFP.

A bulldozer protected by Israeli border guards destroyed the house in the village of Wala-jah on the edge of the Jerusalem municipal boundaries, despite angry protests by the owners and other villagers.

In the violence which erupted, two Palestinians inside the house were hurt when they were beaten with clubs, the witnesses said.

Three others outside the house were injured when the border guards fired rubber coated metal bullets after being attacked with stones.

The police said seven of its men were also hurt, one suffering a broken arm, before calm was restored.

# Coup in Solomon Islands

## Armed rebels hold PM hostage

SYDNEY, June 5: Rebel gunmen demanded the resignation of Solomon Islands Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu today after taking him hostage in the Solomon's capital Honiara in a copy-cat South Pacific coup, reports AFP.

Ulufa'alu and Solomons governor-general Father John Lapli were kidnapped by six gunmen led by Honiara lawyer Andrew Nori while other rebel units combined with elements of the police in seizing key installations.

Ulufa'alu, who is understood to have been seized at a police station, and Lapli were unharmed Monday but held in what Nori, leader of a group known as the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF), said was "protective care."

The police armoury and a government telecommunications centre were in rebel hands

and, while shops stayed open, police and militia patrolled to prevent looting. A curfew was due to begin at 8:00 p.m. (16:00 BST).

Communications from the tiny, impoverished nation were cut and flights suspended after the coup, which comes 18 days after the democratically elected government in neighbouring Fiji was taken hostage.

Solomons Minister of State Alfred Sasako, who last week expressed "grave concern" about the coverage by the Solomon Star of the situation in Fiji, blamed the media Monday for inciting a copy-cat coup.

A report quoting New Zealand government sources as saying Ulufa'alu had agreed to resign could not be confirmed, but he had offered to resign last week because of worsening ethnic violence.

His ruling caucus of 33 MPs

from five separate parties, which formed a coalition to give him power three years ago on a platform of promised economic reform, was meeting in Honiara on Monday to discuss the crisis.

The Honiara-based Forum Fisheries Agency said a combined force of Malaita Eagle Force gunmen, prison guards and the Police Special Field Forces had taken over the armoury and the administration of the country.

The coup followed months of ethnic tension and racial clashes in which at least 55 people were known to have died or disappeared.

The Eagles and the rival Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) have been fighting for 18 months over landrights on the Solomons' main island, Guadalcanal, of which Honiara is the capital.

# Colombo to press ahead with devolution plan to end war

## Tigers reject peace talks

COLOMBO, June 5: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have rejected peace talks but the government will press ahead with a radical devolution plan aimed at ending ethnic bloodshed, President Chandrika Kumaratunga said today, reports AFP.

In a BBC interview, Kumaratunga said she did not believe that fighting in the northern peninsula of Jaffna would deter talks, but the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were against negotiations.

"For six years we have tried to talk to them and for six years they have lied," she told the BBC. Kumaratunga said future talks with the LTTE must be subject to conditions but did not spell them out.

"They (the LTTE) have de-

ceived foreign countries and governments on the pretext they are going to talk and up to date they have refused to talk and now there is no question of talking unless certain conditions are fulfilled."

"Previously there were no conditions except we should finish talks in a limited timeframe because the LTTE is known to drag on until they can get better prepared to come back and assassinate and kill and chop villagers and kill soldiers and all kinds of things."

Asked whether the lull in fighting in the northern peninsula of Jaffna was a sign that there were moves to get peace talks moving, Kumaratunga said: "They have refused all talks, they are refusing all talks."

Kumaratunga said the gov-

ernment had direct contacts with the LTTE through the Norwegian government which is acting as a facilitator to bring both parties to the peace negotiating table.

The president said she will press ahead with her new constitution aimed at ending the Tamil separatist war with or without the participation of the Tamil Tigers who have been leading a campaign for an homeland called Eelam.

There has been no reaction from the LTTE to president's remarks.

The president who is also the commander-in-chief of armed forces said the fighting in the Jaffna peninsula did not cause problems for civilians as battles were in sparsely populated areas.



Sri Lankan troops on patrol in Vavuniya, some eight km south of the frontlines, on Sunday. The area is claimed by Tamil Tigers and is a hotspot for guerrilla attacks as the Tigers escalate Sri Lanka's civil war and their push for an independent homeland. — AFP photo

# 'Pakistan, Greece not cooperating fully in fighting terrorism'

## US should get tough against offenders

WASHINGTON, June 5: Officials should consider designating Pakistan and Greece as countries "not cooperating fully" in the battle against terrorism and strengthen the category by banning those countries' citizens from travelling here without visas, a blue-ribbon commission says, reports AP.

Pakistan provides "safe haven, transit and moral, political and diplomatic support to several groups engaged in terrorism" and Greece — a NATO ally — "has been disturbingly passive in response to terrorist activities," according to the National Commission on Terrorism, a panel of private experts and former government officials.

The commission was created by the US Congress two years ago after bombings of American embassies in Africa. It was due

to report to lawmakers today.

Currently, America allows certain countries' citizens to visit the United States for three months without a visa. But Congress should ban countries in the "not cooperating fully" category from the visa-waiver programme, the commission said.

Right now, only Afghanistan is the only country in the "not cooperating fully" category and Pakistan currently is not in the visa-waiver programme.

Greece was just approved for the programme, however. US officials said in February they would continue excluding the country until it tightens its passport procedures against fraud, though.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she hadn't seen the report but said the government was looking at "what the appropriate means

are to deal with this."

"As far as Greece and Pakistan are concerned, it is a subject of discussion with them and was raised both when President Clinton and I were in Pakistan and in Greece recently," Albright said. "And we are pressing them on it but we are not considering sanctions."

Other suggestions from the commission include:

— Tracking foreign students in America. The government should keep tabs on such things as changes in students' study plans — a switch from an English literature major to nuclear physics might arouse suspicion, for example.

— Allowing the military to lead the response to any major terrorist attack on US soil, as opposed to the FBI or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# Court rejects fresh move to call Mahathir as witness

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5: An appeals court today rejected a bid by jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim to strike down a ruling that barred the defence from calling Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as a witness in his sodomy trial, reports AP.

After about one hour of hearing, a three-judge bench upheld an objection by Attorney General Mokhtar Abdullah that the decision by the trial judge not to call Mahathir was "unappealable."

# Tony awards 'Copenhagen', 'Contact' honoured

NEW YORK, June 5: The musical "Contact" and the dramatic play "Copenhagen" were honoured as the best on Broadway, in a star-studded Tony awards ceremony late Sunday, reports AFP.

"Copenhagen", a drama dealing with the meeting of two atomic scientists during World War II, and which tackles the relationship between science and ethics, received the Tony award for best play.

The drama beat out competitors "True West", "Dirty Blonde" and "The Ride down Mt. Morgan", by American playwright Arthur Miller.

"Contact" consisting of three choreographed mini-plays, snagged the best musical award, beating out "The Wild Party", "Swing" and "The Dead" — a piece based on the masterpiece by Irish novelist James Joyce.

The musical "Kiss me, Kate" loosely based on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" won the award for best musical revival.

# Fiji coup leader threatens to shoot hostages

## Military chief rejects rebels' demands

SŪVA, June 5: Fiji coup leader George Speight warned today he will shoot his 31 hostages, including Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry, if the military attempts to force their way into the parliamentary complex where they are being held, reports AFP.

All talks with the military have been suspended, Speight told a press conference.

"I will wait here for as long as I have to," he said.

Meanwhile, Fiji's martial law chief today delivered a blunt warning to coup plotters holding the prime minister and other members of the government hostage, telling them their demands were "impossible."

Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama told a news conference

the talks with coup leader George Speight had reached a stalemate.

His remarks followed a day of talks with Speight Sunday and indicated that the Fiji Military Forces were increasing the pressure.

Earlier, military spokesman Filipo Tarakinikini told AFP the army had given plotters an ultimatum to lay down their arms and surrender their hostages.

"There is a line we cannot cross," he said. "We cannot surrender this country to them."

On May 19, Speight, a bankrupt businessman, and a small military squad seized parliament and took 31 hostages, including Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry.

Fiji's first ethnic Indian leader. Speight claimed to be acting in the name of indigenous Fijians, who make up around 51 percent of the 800,000 population. Ethnic Indians account for around 43 percent of the population.

Bainimarama said his military council was firm in its stand, demanding a release of hostages and a surrender of arms.

"In return we will grant them amnesty," he said.

The ethnic and land concerns of the plotters would be reflected in a new constitution, which would be drawn up after consultations with others.

The military mandate was to return life to normal.

# Wahid refuses to recognise West Papua independence

JAKARTA, June 5: Indonesia's president today flatly rejected a declaration of independence by activists in West Papua and warned that security forces would take action to maintain order in the restive province, reports AP.

President Abdurrahman Wahid also asked foreign nations not to recognise any West Papuan claim of sovereignty, saying he would safeguard Indonesia's territorial integrity.

On Sunday a landmark congress of about 3,000 pro-independence delegates unanimously called on the outside world to recognise West Papua as a sovereign state.

It also claimed that territory, which covers the western half of New Guinea island, had never been legally integrated into Indonesia.

At a news conference, Wahid said the weekend meeting in the provincial capital, Jayapura, had been one-sided and did not represent the all the views of the province's 2 million people.

He said pro-Indonesian groups and representatives had been unfairly barred from taking part and did not have their voice heard.

"We do not recognise the congress of Papua because they have rejected the presence of

Papuan people who are pro-Indonesian," Wahid said.

He also criticised the organisers of the congress for inviting groups of foreigners to attend.

Wahid, who came to office promising democratic reform last October, said the Indonesia government would guarantee human rights in the region, also known as Irian Jaya.

"But besides that, we will also maintain order in the sense that the police, if necessary, assisted by the military, will take action to secure the security of the area and the province," he said.

# BRIEFLY

### Riot in Hong Kong prison:

 A 10-hour riot involving about 400 inmates at a Hong Kong drug prison left 33 people injured including a Vietnamese inmate who was trapped in a blazing cell and seriously burned, officials said Monday, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

### One Vietnamese, who was among the 13 Vietnamese inmates injured, is in a critical condition," said a spokesman for the Correctional Services Department (CSD). The spokesman said a total 22 inmates and 13 wardens and police were injured in the rioting, which broke out at a drug treatment centre on Hei Ling Chau island at about 7:00 p.m. Sunday.

### Factory fire kills 8 in China:

 Eight women workers died on suffocation when a large fire broke out at a Japanese-owned electronics factory in southern China's Fujian province early Sunday, state-run media reported Monday, AP reports from Beijing.

### Authorities were investigating the cause of the fire morning at the Xiamen Fujii Electrochemical Co in an industrial park in Xiamen, a port city in Fujian, the Workers Daily and other newspapers reported. The reports said 244 factory workers managed to escape but that heavy smoke hampered fire fighting and rescue work and asphyxiated the eight who died. It took 15 fire engines and 120 firefighters more than an hour to extinguish the blaze.

### Hunt for Chechen fighters:

 Russian forces launched a major hunt today for Chechen fighters who have carried out a string of attacks on checkpoints in the rebel Chechen capital Grozny, officials said, AFP reports from Grozny.

### "There have been numerous attacks on our positions in Grozny," an interior ministry officer told an AFP correspondent. "Access to the city has been almost completely blocked so we can better control the situation," he said.

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গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিল পরিশোধ করুন

**International Tender Notice**

ICB Tender No. BGS/FP/CFE-03/2000

Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
Insulating Joint	US\$30.00 or Tk. 1,500.00	17.07.2000 at 11.00 hrs	17.07.2000 at 11.15 hrs

01. The procurement will be financed under Cash Foreign Exchange.  
02. Eligibility: Manufacturers/suppliers having proven experience of similar works/supply.  
03. Availability of tender documents: BGS/FP/CFE-03/2000  
BGS/FP/CFE-03/2000  
a) Head Office Complex, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.  
b) Liaison Office, House No-3, Road No-2/A, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
c) Sales Department, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholasahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh.  
04. Selling time of tender documents: 56:2000 to 16:7:2000.  
05. Place of tender receiving: BGS/FP/CFE-03/2000, House No-3, Road No 2/A, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh.  
06. Bid Bond amount: 2.5% of the total quoted amount.  
07. For further information & clarification please contact: Dy. General Manager (Purchase), BGS/FP/CFE-03/2000, Bangladesh. Fax No. 880-2-8826317, 880-81-77199.

BG-135/May '00  
DFP-13667-31/5

G-1081

**টেন্ডার নোটিশ**  
দ্বিতীয় আবেদন  
**ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত পুনঃ টেন্ডার আবেদন করা যাবে। ঠিকাদারগণকে বামের উপর কাজের নাম ও তাহানের ফর্মের নাম স্পষ্টাক্ষরে লিখতে হবে। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন টেন্ডার অথবা সকল টেন্ডারসমূহ গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। কাজের পূর্ব বিবরণ নিম্নে দেয়া হলো।

ক্র.সং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকলিখিত বায়	বায়নার তারিখ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	কাজ সম্পন্ন সময়সীমা	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ
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২	ঠিকাদারদের ৪-৪ শ্রেণীতে আর্থিক সীমা অনুযায়ী কাজের জন্য।					
৩	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহ হতে সিডিউল সজ্ঞাহ করা যাবে।					ক) কোম্পানির অফিস, ঢাকা। খ) রেজিস্ট্রারের অফিস, ঢাকা। গ) সর্বশেষ জেনারেল নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস।
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৫	টেন্ডার সিডিউল ইস্যু করার শেষ সময়					১৩ই জুন ২০০০।
৬	টেন্ডার খোলার সময়					১৪ই জুন ২০০০ দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত।
৭	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়					১৪ই জুন ২০০০ দুপুর ১২টা ১৫ মিনিট।

স্বাক্ষরিত  
অধ্যক্ষ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ)  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

চিত্র-৫৩২