

Clinton's absence, Sabbath slow Camp David talks

THURMONT, Maryland, July 22 : The Camp David peace talks remained on hold today, as negotiators paused for the Jewish Sabbath and awaited the return from Japan of US President Bill Clinton, reports AFP.

Tensions were still high over US proposals for Jerusalem, the most divisive issue between the two sides.

Any hope of reaching an eventual accord appeared to hinge on both sides accepting options presented by Clinton before leaving for the summit of leading industrial powers in Okinawa Japan early Thursday.

The earliest day Clinton can return to the talks is Sunday, US officials said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said even in the US president's absence, the two sides remained committed to reaching a peace pact.

"Serious efforts are under way

by the negotiators," he said, adding that "nonetheless, it remains very hard going."

And although the summit has moved toward suspended animation, Palestinian and Israeli surrogates are jousting behind the scenes over US power-sharing proposals for Jerusalem.

One scenario would postpone a decision on the status of the Old City, where most holy sites are located. One source told AFP that the length of the delay had been defined only as "a few years."

"The Americans have proposed ideas just short of sovereignty," a source close to the Israeli delegation said.

Details of the plan were sketchy, but it appeared to call for dividing east Jerusalem into three sectors. Under the plan, one sector would be under full Israeli control, another would be under Palestinian control but without sovereignty, and in a third the

Palestinians would have civilian authority but not security control.

"We are speaking of administrative powers 'plus' with signs of sovereignty, a type of joint sovereignty over these districts but excluding the Old City," Michael Melchior, Israeli minister without portfolio, told Israel public radio.

A source close to the Israeli delegation here at Camp David however, said that "joint sovereignty" had not been proposed.

A source confirmed Barak had agreed to a plan in which "some Arab neighbourhoods in east Jerusalem would revert to full Palestinian control in exchange for the annexation of Jewish neighbourhoods currently outside the municipal boundaries."

According to Palestinian sources, it also called for putting the al-Aqsa mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam, under the custody of the United Nations and

certain Arab and Islamic nations, and allowing the Palestinians to raise their flag there.

As negotiators haggled over the details at Camp David, polls by two Israeli media organisations found a majority of Israelis opposed to a peace deal that involved handing any part of east Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

Arafat is demanding a return to the 1967 borders and has refused to accept anything less than full sovereignty over east Jerusalem, which he wants as the capital of an independent Palestinian state. He has vowed to declare independence by September 13, the deadline for a final peace deal.

After Arafat's rejection of the proposal, which included joint administration of holy places, US mediators offered the idea of freezing a decision on sovereignty over the Old City, according to sources close to the talks.



Indian Minister for External Affairs Jaswant Singh (R) gestures towards his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan as they address reporters during a break in talks at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. Tang is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit India since India's 1998 nuclear tests. —AFP photo

Chinese FM holds talks with Jaswant

NEW DELHI, July 22 : Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan today met his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh at the start of the highest-ranking visit by a Beijing official since India's 1998 nuclear tests, reports AFP.

Tang, who arrived here late Friday, met Singh for closed door talks, officials said.

The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, they said.

Tang was scheduled to meet Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee later Saturday, the officials said.

Some 100 Tibetan activists held a brief demonstration in central New Delhi on Saturday before being arrested by police who prevented them from holding a protest march.

The marchers, all members of the Tibetan Freedom Movement, urged Chinese President Jiang Zemin to stop human rights abuses in their homeland and end what they termed Beijing's occupation of Tibet.

4 Russians, 1 Latvian jailed for Purulia arms drop freed

Moscow hails release of jailed pilots

CALCUTTA, July 22 : India today released four Russians and a Latvian, sentenced to life imprisonment for a sensational 1995 Purulia arms drop case, ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India later this year, officials said, reports AFP.

Alexander Kommissarov, a diplomat at the Russian consulate in the eastern city of Calcutta, told AFP: "The five men were freed at around 10:30 a.m. (11:00 BST) and handed over to the Russian consulate."

"They will be flown to New Delhi later in the day from where they will be sent to Russia," Kommissarov said.

The five men — Alexander Kluchin, Igor Moskvitin, Igor Timmerman, Yevgeny Antimenko and Oleg Gaidach — were convicted of making an arms drop in West Bengal's remote Purulia district in the eastern India in 1995.

The cache of arms, dropped at

night by parachute over a remote village, included several AK-47 assault rifles, thousands of rounds of ammunition, rocket launchers and anti-tank grenades.

The five men and a Briton named Peter Bleach were sentenced to life imprisonment by the high court in Calcutta, capital of West Bengal state, on February 2 this year.

Passing the sentence, Judge P.K. Biswas, had said: "They are a threat to national security."

"I find that the convicts were involved in an international conspiracy for procurement of a huge cache of arms and ammunition for various insurgent groups of India to overthrow and overwhelm the elected government of West Bengal," he had said.

Biswas stressed that the "convicts do not deserve sympathy or leniency."

Kommissarov said the release followed a treaty, called the trans-

fer of prisoners' pact, forged between the two countries during Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh's visit to Moscow in June.

"The appeal for their release from Indian prison was partly due to health reasons. One of the men was suffering from tuberculosis and the weather in Calcutta was not suiting them."

A Russian source said the men could serve the rest of their term in a Russian prison.

"Under the treaty, prisoners are transferred to their country of origin but would have to serve their prison terms in their native country," he said.

Meanwhile, Moscow today warmly welcomed India's decision to release five pilots, four Russians and a Latvian jailed for life in a sensational arms drop case, Interfax news agency reported quoting diplomatic sources.

Malaysian PM denies paying ransom to Abu Sayyaf

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 : Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad today said no ransom was paid for the release of Malaysian hostages held by Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines, reports AFP.

But Mahathir said Malaysia was willing to help develop the poverty-stricken southern Philippines, adding that it was already creating employment by investing in oil palm plantations in the affected region.

"I don't know whether that is a commitment or not. I have to look into it."

"Maybe somebody else made the commitment, but we are always keen to develop the southern Philippines," he was quoted as saying by the official Bernama news agency when asked if Malaysia had pledged to develop the southern Philippines in exchange for the release of the hostages.

Thousands of Pakistanis call for holy war against India

Indian army chief warns against raids in Kashmir

KARACHI, July 22 : Thousands of Pakistanis called for holy war against India here Friday as extremist leader Maulana Masood Azhar dramatically ended months of silence after his release from an Indian jail, reports AFP.

"Ten thousand have joined us and are ready to give their lives in the name of Islam," said Azhar in a speech at a mosque in this southern port city.

Police were deployed around the mosque as Azhar whipped thousands of people attending Friday prayers into a fury against India, blamed here for gross human rights abuses against Muslims in its zone of Kashmir.

"India is killing thousands of innocent Muslims in Kashmir but they cannot stop the Jihad (holy war). Tomorrow I may be killed but the struggle will continue," said Azhar, who was released from an Indian jail late last year as part of a deal with hijackers of

an Indian Airlines plane.

Pakistani authorities, wary of the country's growing reputation as a haven for Islamic extremists, have tried to muzzle the fiery orator since his release in late December after almost six years in Indian prisons.

Mosque administrators said police had tried to prevent his speech Friday but were flatly told that "Muslim leaders cannot be stopped in an Islamic country."

Azhar is the leader of the militant fundamentalist group Jaish-e-Mohammad, which he created in April after quitting the Harkatul Mujahadeen, an organisation blamed for several terrorist attacks and kidnappings.

His brother was allegedly one of five armed Muslim hijackers who seized the Indian Airlines plane on Christmas Eve last year and forced it on a terrifying journey across South Asia and the Gulf to Afghanistan.

One of the hostages was killed

but another 160 were freed after almost a week at an Afghan airport, when India agreed to release Azhar and two other Muslim militants.

The five hijackers were allowed to escape and are widely believed to be in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, India's army chief on Friday warned Pakistan against raids in Kashmir and said such cross-border attacks had increased in intensity in the disputed region in recent days.

Pakistan has stepped up the "proxy-war," General V.P. Malik said without mentioning the Muslim secessionist campaign in the Himalayan state, which India blames on Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge.

"The Indian army is ready to face any challenge," Gen. Malik told frontier troops in the Thar desert and added a modernisation drive has given the military an advantage over its neighbour's forces.

Ivory Coast declares state of emergency

ABIDJAN, July 22 : Tension mounted in Ivory Coast late Friday after the country's military ruler General Robert Guei declared a state of emergency ahead of Sunday's referendum and warned his opponents not to undermine the vote on a draft constitution, reports AFP.

Without giving details of the new measures, the ruling junta said "a declaration of a state of emergency" would be in force across most of the country until 6:00 p.m. (24:00 BST) Tuesday.

The Ivorian military leader also delivered a stern warning to those who he said were "plotting in the shadows" to boycott the controversial vote.

Unrest claims 19 in Algeria

ALGIERS, July 22 : Nineteen people, mostly civilians, were killed and four others wounded in two days of unrest in Algeria, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

Four people, including a newly married couple, were killed and three others wounded on Thursday night at a fake roadblock near Larbaa, just south of Algiers, several newspapers reported.

An armed group wearing military uniforms stopped three cars and killed the passengers in the first two.

The people in the third car realised it was a fake roadblock because the "soldiers" were wearing non-regulatory red socks and managed to escape.

Meanwhile, a family of five was killed near Medea, some 90 km south of Algiers by an armed group early on Thursday.

The parents and their three children, aged between four and 11, had their throats slit and were then burnt as the group set fire to their house.

Kuwait to buy US arms worth \$150m

KUWAIT CITY, July 22 : Kuwait has ordered ammunition from the United States in a deal worth 150 million dollars, Defence Minister Sheikh Salem al-Sabah said today, reports AFP.

Sheikh Sabah, quoted in Al-Anba newspaper, said the deal would strengthen Kuwait's defences and capability.

The ammunition was needed for US arms purchased by the emirate after its liberation in 1991 from seven months of Iraqi occupation, the minister said, without giving details.

Annan suggests sanctions for crimes against children

UNITED NATIONS, July 22 : UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Friday asked the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against states or armed groups that commit serious crimes against children, reports AFP.

In a report to the council, Annan also asked the member states to adopt legislative measures to dissuade businesses from working commercially with those who violate children's rights.

Annan stressed that "children have increasingly been victimised as both the targets and the perpetrators of violence."

There are some 300,000 child-soldiers under the age of 18 and,

according to UNICEF.

Annan made a series of recommendations, saying "the international community must do much more to move from words to deeds, from the drafting of norms to an era of application."

"The Security Council should demand that parties involved in armed conflict not commit egregious crimes against children, or face the possibility of targeted sanctions if they fail to comply," Annan said.

The secretary general said that during peace negotiations "egregious crimes perpetrated against children," should be treated the same as crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

Abu Sayyaf rebels may free 6 more hostages

JOLO, Philippines, July 22 : Philippine negotiators were focusing today their efforts at freeing three Malaysian men and three Western women held on this southern island by Abu Sayyaf rebels, an official said, reports AFP.

The Muslim gunmen have released in swift succession eight among dozens of hostages.

The three Malaysians "may be freed in the next few days," chief government negotiator Roberto Avenalado said in an interview on local radio.

Sources close to the negotia-

tions said one gunman held on to Fong Yin Ken, Basilios Jim and Kua Yu Loong in a quarrel over the ransom the Abu Sayyaf received for four other Malaysians they released early Friday.

The sources said the self-styled Muslim independence fighters have pocketed four million dollars for the six Malaysians and a German woman released from among a group of 21 people kidnapped in the Malaysian resort of Sipadan on April 23.

German teacher Renate Wallert was freed last Monday.

Tribal power behind Fiji's racial coup emerges

SUVA, July 22 : A diplomat and grand-daughter of Fiji's 19th century "king" emerged today as a key player behind the coup in Fiji, which is aimed at setting up an apartheid-like state, reports AFP.

As Britain became the latest country to announce sanctions against the Pacific nation, local media reported the country's high commissioner to Malaysia, Samarunu Cakobau, was coup leader George Speight's candidate for prime minister.

Her siding with Speight has sharpened divisions in the country with her Bau tribe at odds with other provinces.

Several observers have warned of the Pacific nation disintegrat-

ing into civil war.

Speight told the Fiji Sun Saturday he wanted interim Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase to step down and Cakobau to take over.

Caretaker deputy Prime Minister Epeli Nailatikau told Saturday's Daily Post newspaper the emergence of Cakobau's role showed the coup was really a naked grab for power by one tribal group.

"Now the truth has come out," he said.

Fiji has been in chaos since May 19 when Speight and a handful of special forces soldiers seized and deposed the elected government of prime minister Mahendra Chaudhry.

Speight said he was acting in the name of indigenous Fijians and demanded government by reserved for ethnic Pacific islanders.

After most of his demands were met and plans set out for a state based on racial exclusion, Speight released Chaudhry and his ministers after 56 days in captivity in the parliament building in the capital Suva.

Meanwhile, Britain announced Friday that it was imposing new sanctions against Fiji following the deal which ended its hostage crisis but denied its ethnic Indian minority a significant role in government.

Lankan talks run into trouble

COLOMBO, July 22 : Sri Lanka's crucial talks aimed at ending two decades of ethnic bloodshed has run into more trouble with a key negotiating partner walking out as a deadline neared, political sources said today, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's main opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his withdrawal Friday after accusing the government of a campaign to tarnish him. The sudden pullout came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga battled against time to push her

controversial constitutional reforms through parliament before the term of the present assembly expires on August 24.

Asian diplomats expressed concern over the latest turn of events which could bode badly for the bipartisan talks, part of an initiative supported by Norway to bring the Tamil Tigers to the negotiating table.

The setback came even as Kumaratunga made some progress with minority Tamil parties and agreed to a 10-year period for a "temporary merger" of the em-

battled northern and eastern provinces as a single administrative unit.


The merger of the two provinces has been an emotional and a controversial issue.

"The President said she agrees to a 10-year temporary merger of the north-east," Tamil legislator, Dharmalingam Sidhathan, said after talks with Kumaratunga Friday.

He said the President appeared keen to press ahead with the reform package which seeks to turn the country into a de facto federal state in all but name.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (2ndL) shovels some soil as Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori (L) and US President Bill Clinton (R) shaking hands with Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine (2nd R) look on during a memorial tree planting ceremony at the Bankokushinryo Kan in Nago for the Group of Eight summit yesterday. —AFP photo



Bangladesh Railway
Project Management Organisation

Tender Notice

No. ENC/E/DABB/W/11/2000(14) Dated: 11-7-2000

Sealed tenders are invited from Bangladesh Railway enlisted 'C' class contractors & other departments' 1st class contractors having experience of pre-cast pile construction & driving work, for the undermentioned work:

Serial No	Description of work	Approximate cost	Earnest money
1	Construction & installation at site of 450 nos. 7"x7" size, each 20'-0" long, piles under the project upgrading Dhaka Airport Station from 'A' class to 'B' class (as per specification & design).	Tk. 30.00 lakh	2% (two per cent) of quoted amount.

2. Price of tender document is Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable). Tender document can be purchased from Executive Engineer/Project / Sylhet at Dhaka & Engineer Chief/Project/Chittagong during office hours on all working days up to 1-8-2000. Tender should be submitted in tender box kept at the said offices by 12:00 Noon of 2-8-2000, which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of contractors/their representatives. Specification, design & drawing of tender will be available in the tender document.

3. 1st class contractors of other departments experienced in similar work can participate in the tender subject to permission of Engineer Chief/Project/Chittagong on deposit of Tk 3000/- (three thousand) only (non-refundable) as enlistment fee for this work.

4. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject tender in part or full without assigning any reason.

Rail/B/120
DFP-17762-18/7
G-1337

Engineer Chief/Project
Bangladesh Railway
Chittagong.

'Parliament-Wahid dispute has gone far enough'

JAKARTA, July 22 : Indonesia's National Assembly Speaker Amien Rais has demanded an end to tense confrontations between parliament and the president, reports AFP.

"It's gone far enough and should not be brought up in the MPR (the People's Consultative

Assembly) session," next month said Rais, who chairs the MPR, according to the Satunet online news service.

President Abdurrahman Wahid is scheduled to deliver a speech during the August 7-14 session to account for his 10 months in office.

Lebanese peasant hurt:

A Lebanese peasant was severely injured Saturday after stepping on a landmine left from the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, security sources said, AFP reports from Rashaya.

Mahmud al-Hajj, 40, was working in field in the village of Qelya, in the Western Bekaa region of southeast Lebanon, when the device went off, they said. He suffered severe injuries and was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, they added.

Fire at amusement park in UK:

Seven thousand people were evacuated Friday after fire broke out at a packed amusement park in southern England, AFP reports from London.

More than 100 firefighters tackled the flames which destroyed a boat ride and spread to another ride, shops, an amusement arcade and restaurant at the Thorpe Park centre south of London. The park was packed with families due to the hot weather and the start of school holidays.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Health Directorate
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No: Health Directo/ME/M Admission/99/178 Dated: 13-7-2000

Notice

59 candidates have been selected from the waiting merit list of 250 (two hundred fifty) published earlier through automation in 2nd phase as the seats fell vacant for admission into 1st year MBBS course in different government medical colleges in Bangladesh during 1999-2000 academic session. Colleges have been distributed among them on the basis of merit and their option and in the context of vacancy of seats. Students who have got the chance are directed to complete the formalities of getting themselves admitted by communicating the principals of the colleges concerned by 3-8-2000. Other terms and conditions for admission published through the Memo No H: Direc/ME/Admission/99/209 dated: 23-12-99 will remain unchanged. Mentionable detailed information regarding automation can be learnt from the respective colleges of students where they have applied.

Admission to Medical Colleges, 1999-2000.

Candidates selected from waiting list after 2nd automation.

Khulna Medical College
KM0168 CO0112 DM0500 DM0525 DM3861 DM4359 DM4430 KM0213 MM0953 RM0461 SS0009 SS3208 SS3295

Faridpur Medical College
DM4323 DM4497 SS0480 SS0876 SS0889 SS3846

Bogra Medical College
BM0318 BM0528 CM0628 DM1009 DM1039 DM4353 DM4499 MM0339 RM0796 RM0838 RP0381 SS2266 SS3602

Dinajpur Medical College
CM0510 CO0221 CO0276 DJ0147 DM0112 DM0326 DM0647 DM1429 DM2830 DM3761 DM3985 DM4171 DM4641 DM4759 DM4826 DM5029 DM5103 KM0584 MM0116 MM0505 RM0355 SM0278 SS0598 SS1026 SS3750 SS4155 SS4376

Professor Shah Monir Hossain
Director
Medical Education and Health Manpower
Development
Health Directorate
Mohakhali, Dhaka.

DFP-17712-18/7
G-1341