

German tourist feared killed in India's Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, July 26: A German tourist who was abducted by Muslim militants in the troubled Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir earlier this month is believed to have been killed, a local government official said today, reports Reuters.

"We have intelligence reports that the German tourist was killed on the higher reaches of a mountainous range between Kargil and Doda," said a state government official who declined to be identified.

"We said the body of the tourist had not been found."

The Asian Age newspaper, quoting unidentified sources, said the German had been shot dead by the ringleader of the militants the day after his abduction.

Officials at the German embassy in New Delhi were not immediately available for comments.

'India not against dialogue with Pakistan'

'NEW DELHI, July 26: India yesterday said it was not against having a dialogue with Pakistan but made it clear that Islamabad had to create the right and conducive atmosphere for any meaningful talks, reports FTI.

"We are not against dialogue, a foreign office spokesman told reporters adding Pakistan has to create the right atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue."

He was responding to questions on how New Delhi viewed the G-8 nations asking India and Pakistan to resume their stalled dialogue as soon as possible. The G-8 had also noted at their meeting in Nagoya, Japan, that prolonged tension between the two remained a cause of international concern.

They also appealed to the two countries to join international efforts to strengthen non-proliferation and disarmament, regime and sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Kashmiri militants unitedly reject ceasefire offer

Hezb-ul Mujahideen expelled from United Jihad Council

ISLAMABAD, July 26: An umbrella organisation, representing 14 guerrilla groups fighting in Indian Kashmir, today rejected a unilateral ceasefire offer made by a fellow rebel group, reports AP.

The United Jihad Council issued a statement at a news conference in the Pakistani capital calling a unilateral ceasefire offer by Hezb-ul Mujahideen a sellout and promising to fight on.

The council also suspended Hezb-ul Mujahideen's membership in the organisation and dismissed its chief, who had been council chairman.

"We will continue our jihad (holy war). We cannot support a ceasefire that will strengthen India and push Kashmiris closer toward slavery," said the statement. Representatives of the 13 groups attended the news conference, but they refused to field questions.

Successful guerrilla groups have spoken out against the

ceasefire offer since Monday when it was made by Hezb-ul Mujahideen.

The Indian government has welcomed the offer and said it is ready to talk with the guerrilla group. However, the ceasefire offer by Hezb-ul Mujahideen comes with a stipulation that India end its crackdown on militants and cease human rights violations.

The guerrilla group has given India one week to comply. It's not clear how the organisation will decide whether these conditions have been met.

Militant Muslim groups have been battling Indian soldiers in Indian-ruled Kashmir for more than one decade demanding either outright independence or union with Islamic Pakistan.

A former princely state, Kashmir was divided between India and Pakistan after British rule of the Asian subcontinent ended in 1947. Both Pakistan and India lay claim to a united Kashmir.

The two uneasy neighbours have fought two previous wars over Kashmir. Since 1998, when the two countries declared themselves nuclear power, there has been increased international pressure for a solution to the lingering dispute.

The United Jihad Council called the ceasefire offer and negotiations with India a trick by New Delhi to divide the guerrilla groups.

"India has always played a very treacherous role and has broken agreements and that is why we cannot trust them," said the statement. "India's main effort has been to create divisions among the Kashmiri organisations and their military leadership."

Pakistan, accused by India of supporting the groups, said Tuesday that a ceasefire or negotiations with India is a decision that should be left to the Kashmiris.

2 Indians share Magsaysay Award

MANILA, July 26: Indian activists Aruna Roy and Jackin Arputham have won this year's Ramon Magsaysay award along with a former Philippine Town Mayor, a Chinese environmentalist and a former Indonesian journalist, the award body said, reports AFP.

Roy and Arputham won the award for community leadership and international understanding, respectively. Roy heads a peasant workers' group while Arputham founded a slum dwellers' association.

The award for government service went to Jesse Robredo, a former mayor of Naga City in the Philippines for his effective city management while yielding power to the people.

Liang Conglie, who founded China's first environmental group Friends of Nature, won the Prize for public service for pioneering his country's environmental movement.

China for Afghan coalition govt

ISLAMABAD, July 26: Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan yesterday called for "coolheaded" dialogue between the warring parties in Afghanistan to create a coalition government and end more than 20 years of war, reports AFP.

Speaking after talks with Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf at the end of his four-day visit to India and Pakistan, Tang also said the festering Kashmir dispute could only be resolved through dialogue, he said.

All parties to the Afghan conflict including the Taliban should sit together and explore in a cool-headed fashion, ways to arrive at consensus through dialogue and negotiation, he said.

The negotiations should aim at the "formation of a new coalition government acceptable to all parties and endorsed by the international community," he said.



Palestinian protesters wave their guns during an anti-Israel demonstration held in the West Bank town of Nablus on Tuesday, after the failure of the Israeli Palestinian peace summit in Camp David. --AFP photo

DPRK's meeting on Asian security lauded

BANGKOK, July 26: North Korea's foray into the intricate waters of international diplomacy at an Asian security forum here is a crucial first step towards easing tensions on the Korean peninsula, analysts say, reports AFP.

North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Nam Sun Wednesday embarked on a series of meetings with more than 10 of his counterparts on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) security working group.

Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said after meeting with Pak that "breakthroughs" could be expected in his historic talks with the United States, Japan and South Korea this week.

"This is the first time in any place, anywhere, that all protagonists, all players of tensions, of

problems, of lack of confidence, of lack of security and stability, in Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula will be here together," Surin said.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula and concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons development have been high on the agenda of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) since it began its annual dialogue in 1994.

ARF covers ASEAN members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and their dialogue partners Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States.

Australian PM Howard hints at retirement

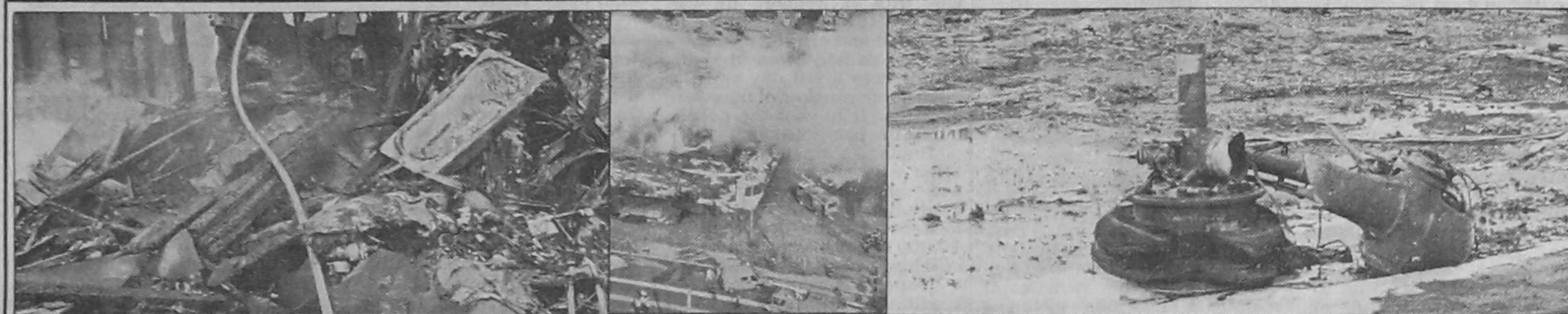
SYDNEY, July 26: Australian Prime Minister John Howard said today he could retire from politics after the next election, due late next year, reports AFP.

Speaking on his 61st birthday, Howard confessed he was not indispensable to the ruling Liberal Party and waxed philosophical about life, family and the future.

"I don't have the view that I am so indispensable and so important and so vital that the Liberal Party will be bereft without me, that is an arrogant view," he told ABC radio.

However he said he was in good health, "and I'm applying myself to the job very effectively and I'm enjoying it."

"If the party wants me to lead it to another election, which would be at the end of next year, I'd be happy to do so," he said. "After that, then one has to recognise that I'll then be in my 63rd or 64th year and nothing is forever."



Firemen work amid debris at the site of the crash of the Air France Concorde on Tuesday near the Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. An engine of the supersonic passenger jet burst into flame on takeoff and the craft veered into a fatal dive, killing all 109 passengers and crew aboard and four people on the ground. The picture in the middle (left view) show the flames engulfing the site just after the plane crashed

'Dream trip' that turned into death trap Inquiry opens into Concorde crash

GONESSE, France, July 26: As dawn broke today over the wheat-fields that border northern Paris, firemen and volunteer workers began the grim task of collecting the remains of 109 passengers killed when an Air France Concorde crashed after take-off Tuesday, reports AFP.

Picking their way through charred debris strewn over a circular area about 50 metres wide, emergency teams placed orange-and-white cones to mark the bodies, and others carried them to a fleet of waiting ambulances.

The victims were being taken to a chapel of rest in the Legal-Medical Institute in central Paris, and family-members flown in from Germany were to visit it later in the day.

President Jacques Chirac, who by chance was in an aeroplane landing at Charles de Gaulle airport when the Concorde crashed, was also

expected to pay his respects.

The two black boxes of the Concorde that crashed into a hotel near Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport shortly after take-off have been recovered and handed to investigating officials, the head of the French civil aviation authority said.

Pierre Graf said both the flight recorder and the cockpit voice recorder were found around 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT), some five hours after the doomed supersonic airliner plunged to the ground. An investigation has opened into Tuesday's crash of an Air France Concorde north of Paris, French officials said, as pledges of international assistance poured in.

The inquiry has only just started, and the investigators are still leaving the emergency services to do their work," said a spokesman for the Office of Accident Enquiries (BEA).

Witnesses have reported

seeing one of the plane's engines on fire before it smashed into the ground.

But Rolls Royce, which, along with the French company SNECMA, make the Olympus 593 engines that power Concorde, warned it was premature to speculate on the cause of the crash.

Aviation experts said that eye-witness evidence, and a dramatic photograph showing flames spurring from the rear, indicated that an engine blow-out had ignited the Concorde's full fuel-tanks, and the pilot had lost control as he tried to return for an emergency landing. The first relatives of German victims of the Concorde air disaster also arrived at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport on Wednesday at 9:00 am (13:00 BST), Air France announced.

The company said they arrived on scheduled flights. Not all the families came

from Germany, with some coming from their vacations in southern France, the airline added.

French, German and British investigators arrived at the scene Tuesday night as technical and judicial inquests got underway, and later began examining the aircraft's black box flight recorders.

Flight F-4590 was carrying 100 passengers -- 96 Germans, one American, one Austrian and two Danish -- as well as a French crew of nine when it took off just before 4:45 p.m. local time (1445 GMT).

It had been chartered by German tour company Peter Dellman Reeder to take holiday-makers to New York for a 15-day luxury cruise to Ecuador on board the MS Deutschland.

Germany was in a state of mourning Wednesday, and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and other ministers attended a religious service in memory of the

victims at the international exhibition site in Hanover.

"A dream trip into death," headlined Berlin's biggest newspaper, the Tagesspiegel, reflecting Wednesday's sombre mood in the country after the Concorde crash that claimed the lives of 96 Germans.

The Concorde also killed four people on the ground, according to the French Interior Ministry, all of them in the Hotelissimo hotel outside Gonesse which was destroyed in the crash.

British student originally reported as killed in the Concorde disaster near Paris actually survived by jumping from the window of a devastated nearby hotel, Britain's Foreign Office said Wednesday.

Alice Brookling, 21, was slightly injured as she jumped from a first-floor window in the Hotelissimo hotel, which was struck by the burning jet, she told London's Evening Standard.

BRIEFLY

One jailed for spying in China : A

member of China's army reserves force has been jailed for five years for trying to sell Taiwan plans for a military exercise, a court official said Wednesday, AP reports from Shanghai.

Xiao Zhongxin was sentenced in April by the Supreme People's Court of the southeastern coastal province of Fujian, said the official, who would give only his surname, Chen.

Taliban arrest 2 for bombing :

Taliban troops arrested two men in connection with a series of bombings in the war-weary capital in recent weeks, officials said Wednesday, AP reports from Kabul.

Residents of Parwan province, an area north of Kabul that is under the control of the anti-Taliban alliance, the two men were arrested earlier this week from a home on the outskirts of the city, said Mulla Jamal, a Taliban security official.

11 killed in Rajasthan road mishap :

Eleven people were killed on the spot and three injured Tuesday evening in a head-on collision between a jeep and a truck at a village in Chittorgarh District in Rajasthan, an official release said in Jaipur Rajasthan, India, PTI reports from Jaipur.

The district administration has sanctioned a cash relief of Rs 10,000 each to families of those killed and Rs 5,000 each to the injured, District Collector said.

One dead in blast in Philippines :

A man died and 20 people were wounded in an early morning grenade attack on a crowded coffee shop in the Philippine town of Jolo in the southwestern Sulu archipelago yesterday governor Abdusakur Tan said, Reuters reports from Manila.



Bangladesh Railway

No. MECH/WB/138/DELUXE-EXPRESS

Dated: 24-7-2000

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Railway carriage repair/construction firms or firms having the work experience of similar nature for Licensing commercial activities of a new set of Deluxe Express train to be operated between Dhaka and Chittagong.

1. Tender schedule will be available from Chief Mechanical Engineer/East's Office/CRB on and from 01-08-2000. The last date of sale of the tender document is 09-09-2000.
2. The tender documents must be dropped in the tender box placed in the office of Chief Mechanical Engineer/East at Central Railway Building, Chittagong OR Joint Director General/Mechanical, Bangladesh Railway, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka by 12:00 hrs of 10-09-2000. Tender documents sent by post or any other means must reach the above office by the date and time specified above. Postal and any other delays shall not be considered under any circumstances. The tender will be opened on 10-09-2000 at 12:30 hrs in presence of the tenderers, if any.
3. Tender documents should be submitted in 5 (five) copies addressed to the Chief Mechanical Engineer/East/CRB in a sealed cover superscribing "Licensing commercial activities of a new set of Deluxe Express train to be operated between Dhaka and Chittagong" against Tender Notice No.
4. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender as a whole or part without assigning any reason.

Chief Mechanical Engineer/East
Bangladesh Railway
Chittagong.

Joypurhat Pourashava

Project Implementation Unit
Municipal Services Project
District: Joypurhat

Invitation for Bid (IFB)

Memo No: LGED/XEN/Joypur/MSP/1889

Dated: 17-07-2000

IFB No. 1/2000-2001, Date: 17-07-2000

IDA Credit No: 3177-BD Credit Name: Municipal Services Project (MSP)

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Municipal Services Project (MSP) and intends to apply part of the Credit proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract(s) mentioned in paragraph 2 below.
2. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Joypurhat Pourashava, Dist. Joypurhat invites sealed bids for construction/reconstruction and completion of the works listed below. This Invitation for Bids is open to all bidders enlisted with LGED and Joypurhat Pourashava. In addition, foreign bidders are eligible to bid without this enlistment but if awarded contract, would be required to enlist with LGED, furthermore, when enlistment is done at district level, Bangladesh contractors enlisted with LGED in other districts are also eligible to bid. Procurement is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the IDA's procurement guidelines. However, countries not eligible under the project also include: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates.

Contract Package No	Name of the Works	Bid Security (Tk)	Cost of the Bidding Documents (Tk)	Time for Completion of Work (Days)	Category of Contractors
JOY WRC 01	a) Construction/reconstruction of road from Dr Amin to Jaubari road. b) Reconstruction of Polibari to Paharpur Link road.	88,000.00	750	120	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C&B class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava
JOY WRC 02	a) Reconstruction of Bhulupara-Magnipara Fakirpara road. b) Reconstruction of Bamun Kunda road.	62,000.00	750	90	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava
JOY WRC 03	a) Construction/reconstruction of road from Dr. Enamul House to Bulupara road. b) Reconstruction of Sohri Mistry road.	48,000.00	750	90	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava
JOY WRC 04	a) Reconstruction of Bangabandhu road. b) Reconstruction of Hawkers Market road. c) Reconstruction of Internal road at Shantiganar.	43,000.00	750	90	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava
JOY WRC 05	a) Reconstruction of Chitta road from Sadar road to Jamalgonj road. b) Reconstruction of New Hat Internal Road from Chittira road to Jamalgonj road.	92,000.00	1000	120	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C & B class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava
JOY WRC 06	a) Reconstruction of Station road from Sadar road to Degree College. b) Reconstruction of Furkania road from Jamalgonj to Sadar road.	79,000.00	1000	120	Pre-qualified under project & normal enlisted of LGED's contractors except C & B class & all 1st class contractors under Joypurhat Pourashava

3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at the office of the (i) Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, Dist. Joypurhat, and (ii) Chairman, Joypurhat Pourashava, District Joypurhat, on non-refundable fees of Tk as mentioned in the above table, for each set during normal office hours on all working days up to 4-9-2000. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address during office hours up to 4-9-2000.
4. The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the standard bidding documents: procurement of works (SBD), national competitive bidding (trial additional-January 2000), issued by the World Bank Office, Dhaka.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 63 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned under para No. 2 above. Bids must be delivered to the office of the (i) Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, District Joypurhat and (ii) Chairman, Joypurhat Pourashava, District Joypurhat on or before 5-9-2000 by 2:00 PM.
6. Bidders may deliver their bids by either in person or by courier service or mail which must reach the above offices before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 3:00 PM on 5-9-2000 at the office of the Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, Dist. Joypurhat. A pre-bid conference will be held on 28-08-2000 in the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Joypurhat, at 11:00 AM. All bidders are requested to attend the conference in time.

Chairman
Joypurhat Pourashava
District: Joypurhat