

Koreas to reopen liaison offices, peace talks

SEOUL, July 31 : North and South Korea took another step on the long road towards reconciliation today by agreeing to reopen liaison offices in noman's land dividing the peninsula and to hold a new round of peace talks, reports AFP.

The two sides announced the measures on Monday, together with plans to hold a national reconciliation week, in a joint statement following ministerial level talks in Seoul over the weekend.

The talks -- the first time a North Korean delegation has visited the South since 1992 -- were organised to follow up on the joint declaration agreed at the June 13-15 inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang.

On the occasion of the 15th of August, 2000, the South and North shall resume the

operations of the South-North liaison office at Panmunjom," said the statement.

The liaison offices were set up in 1992 after the last major peace initiative on the peninsula, which has been divided into Communist North and pro-Western South since 1945, but the North withdrew in 1996 and since then the only contact has been through Red Cross societies.

The truce village of Panmunjom is the only meeting point between the two Koreas and is controlled by US-led United Nations troops.

The statement said the two sides agreed to hold new talks from August 29-31 in Pyongyang, and to hold reconciliation events to coincide with the August 15 Liberation Day marking the end of Japanese colonial rule.

But in general the North Korean visit was long on ceremony and symbolism but short on substance.

While there was much handshaking and smiling, a host of substantial issues such as Seoul's request for a military hotline linking the two sides were not even discussed.

The North Korean delegation reconfirmed their leader Kim Jong-il's intention to pay a reciprocal visit to Seoul, but no dates were given.

Chon Hyun-Joon, an expert from the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, said the measures showed this peace effort was moving more rapidly than the 1992 process.

"There is a very good chance for both sides to move at an even faster pace from now on," he told AFP.

South Korea has been swept by a wave of optimism over the rapprochement, but both the United States and Japan cautioned Monday against getting carried away.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori during talks in Tokyo that Japan and South Korea should continue to raise Pyongyang's missile threat and suspected nuclear programme.

"Despite positive developments, concerns still remained," Albright was quoted as saying by a Japanese official.

The North Korean delegation paid a call on President Kim Dae-jung on Monday during which chief North Korean negotiator Jon Kum-Jin struck a positive note.

Ex-Indian envoys on goodwill visit to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, July 31 : A group of five former Indian envoys will leave for Pakistan today on a six-day visit aimed at improving strained relations between the two neighbours, the Press Trust of India said, reports AFP.

The news agency reported the team included M.K. Rasgotra, Salman Haider, Alan Lazarus, C.V. Ranganathan and Manorama Dhalia.

The Pakistan India Forum for Peace and Democracy, a voluntary organisation devoted to promoting people-to-people contacts, invited the former envoys.

The group will visit Islamabad and Lahore.

Radical ROK group planning to kidnap US servicemen

SEOUL, July 31 : A radical South Korean student group is planning to kidnap US servicemen amid rising anti-American sentiment fuelled by a spate of controversial incidents and the warming of ties with Stalinist North Korea, reports AFP.

A spokesman for US Forces Korea (USFK) confirmed reports that South Korean authorities had warned them about the kidnapping threat from the illegal pro-North Korean Hanchongyon movement last week.

9 Hindu pilgrims killed in landslide

NEW DELHI, July 31 : At least nine Hindu devotees died and 10 were injured in a landslide in the northern pilgrimage town of Haridwar, the Press Trust of India reported today, says AFP.

Police said the pilgrims were walking to a local temple late Sunday when they were crushed in the landslide, which followed heavy monsoon rains.

Kashmir CM insists Talks with militants to be unconditional

BARAMULLA, India July 31 : Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah insisted today that proposed talks between the Indian government and a top militant group would be open and unconditional, reports AFP.

"How can talks start if conditions are imposed," Abdullah told reporters in Baramulla, some 55 kilometres north of Srinagar.

"Talks are going to be open, completely open. The government of India has made that very clear," Abdullah said, while refusing to provide details of his meeting with the Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi on Saturday.

The possibility of talks arose after the largest Kashmiri militant outfit, Hizbul Mujahideen announced a surprise unilateral ceasefire on week ago.

India responded by suspending military operations against the group and offering formal peace talks if the Hizbul leadership was willing to "come overground and establish contact."

However, there is still some doubt as to whether the Indian offer is conditional on the talks being held "within the framework of the Indian constitution -- a formula that precludes any discussion of Kashmir's secession."

The Hizbul leadership has also indicated that the talks should be "tripartite" - involving Pakistan, as well as Indian and Kashmiri representatives.

Security officials in Kashmir have said that they are already "in contact" with the Hizbul leadership to formalise the "modalities" of the ceasefire.

Abdullah, who had been attending a police passing out ceremony in Baramulla, said the Hizbul ceasefire had opened a window of opportunity that other militant groups should also pass through.

"There has been a visible change. A group that has been killing people and advocating violence has now realised that the gun cannot resolve the problem."

"When the other groups realise that they have been marginalised, they will also come to the table," Abdullah said.

The chief minister also warned of attempts by hardline militant groups, who have termed the Hizbul ceasefire a betrayal to prevent the talks taking place.

"They will do their best to sabotage the peace process," he said.

Maskhadov seriously wounded

MOSCOW, July 31 : Separatist Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov and his top field commander Shamil Basayev were both seriously wounded several months ago, Interfax cited top paratrooper General Georgy Shpak as saying, reports AFP.

"Soon after" by Russian forces that attacked the separatist leaders.

A spokesman for the Chechen president, Arbi Saidov, contacted by telephone from an undisclosed location in Chechnya flatly denied the claim.

The Kremlin meanwhile said was not immediately issue any comment on the report, saying that it was checking into the information.

Maskhadov had been previously reported injured by Russian General Gennady Troshchov on June 6.

Lankan general locked up again over murders

COLOMBO, July 31 : A Sri Lankan court today ordered the remand of a retired army general for two more weeks pending police investigations into allegations that he ordered the slaughter of left-wing rebels, officials said, reports AFP.

The magistrates courts in the north central town of Anuradhapura asked retired major general Ananda Weerasekera and two soldiers to be kept in custody for two weeks, court officials said after Monday's hearing.

Delhi, Nagaland rebels agree to truce, political solution

BANGKOK, July 31 : Indian government officials and exiled tribal rebel leaders meeting here have agreed to extend the ceasefire in the northeastern state of Nagaland and "bring about a lasting political solution" to the 50-year insurgency in the region, rebel sources said today, reports AFP.

At peace talks in Bangkok between July 29 and 31, the two sides "mutually agreed to further extend the cease-fire for a period of one year, with effect from 1 August 2000," the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) said in a statement.

It added that "The government of India and the NSCN have

decided to move forward with the peace process to bring about a lasting political solution to the Indo-Naga issue."

"It is felt there is a need for mutual trust" between the rebels and India, it said.

Before the peace talks, Indian officials told AFP that the existing ceasefire had become a total farce, with the (NSCN) militants violating the truce and indulging in killings, kidnapping, and extortion.

Former home secretary K. Padmanabhaiah led the Indian side at the talks in the Thai capital, while the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) was represented by RH Raisin, a

senior members of the rebels steering committee.

It was the first round of talks since NSCN general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah was arrested by Thai immigration officials in January at Bangkok airport.

The Naga separatist leader was sentenced to a one-year jail term for trying to jump bail and attempting to enter Thailand with forged travel documents.

Muivah's status reportedly was not discussed during the India-NSCN talks in Bangkok.

The rebel group has been fighting for an independent Naga homeland since India's independence in 1947.

Militants attack army camp in Kashmir: 6 troops killed

SRINAGAR, India, July 31 : Muslim militants in Kashmir have shot and killed six Indian soldiers and injured seven others in an attack on an army camp, police officials said today, reports AFP.

The attack took place overnight Sunday on a transit camp near the town of Bandipur, some 50 km north of the Kashmiri capital Srinagar.

It was the first major militant operation against a military compound since the top Kashmiri militant group Hizbul Mujahideen declared a unilateral

ceasefire one week ago, prompting an offer of peace talks from the Indian government.

The gunmen came down from the surrounding hills a little after midnight and strafed the camp with rockets and automatic weapons fire, a local police official told AFP by phone.

He said the attackers fled in the dark and added that a massive manhunt had been launched to find the rebels.

The camp belonged to one of the army's elite counter-insurgency outfits, the 15th Rashtriya Rifles.

Meanwhile, suspected Muslim militants carried out separate attacks against the security forces in Srinagar on Monday.

One policeman was killed and two injured in a shooting incident in a congested market area in central Srinagar. Police reinforcements rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area before launching a search operation for the gunmen.

In downtown Srinagar, three policemen and one civilian were injured when suspected militants lobbed a grenade into a security bunker.

Time Extension Notice

University of Dhaka: Due to unavoidable circumstances the offer for investment for the construction of Medical College and Hospital/Super Market/Residential flat/office blocks/Five Star Hotel on the university land at Green Road, Dhaka University will be received on 8.8.2000 instead of 6.8.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM. The tender documents purchased earlier by the contractors will remain valid. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Md Ameer Hossain
Superintending Engineer
University of Dhaka

GD-734

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8914730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BJ

Stores & Purchase Directorate

REF: DACPF/INTL TENDER/003/2000 DT. 27-7-2000

International Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supply of following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines:

S/NO	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTI ON	QTY	COST OF SCHEDULE
1.	DACPF/INTL TENDER/003/20 00 DT 27-7-2000	BLANKET, BRICK RED	2,500 EA	BDT 2,500.00 OR, USD 50.00 PER SET

Tender schedule with details specification, terms & conditions will be available at the cost of USD 50.00 or BDT 2,500.00 per set (non-refundable) from Accounts Officer Cash & Banking, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Asst. Manager Accounts Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka & Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12-storied Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Hongkong, Singapore, Tokyo, Dubai, London, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels & New York on cash payment on all working days up to 26-08-2000. A formal application in company's letter head pad mentioning tender number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender documents.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the DY GENERAL MANAGER, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka, Main Entrance, Biman Medical Centre, Security Counter (ground floor), Farmgate, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12-storied Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 11:00 hrs Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 29-08-2000. In case of direct offer Foreign Manufacturer/Principal must submit their offer as per terms mentioned in the tender schedule. Tender Box will be opened on the same day at 14:00 hrs (BST) at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender, increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-735

Dy General Manager Purchase

Fiji rebels surrender

LABASA, Fiji, July 31 : Rebels occupying a military barracks here have given up and returned the base to the military, the Fiji Military Forces said in a statement, reports AFP.

The statement said rebels had left the Sukanaivalu VC Barracks Monday afternoon following successful talks.

The Military and the police will now work together "in resolving the various criminal activities that continue around Vanua Levu (island)," it said.

The Fijian military initially imposed a deadline of midnight

Sunday (18:00 Sunday BST) to rebels sympathetic to coup leader George Speight who had occupied the barracks for three weeks.

The deadline was then extended by 48 hours.

An FMF spokesman in the capital Suva said they were "hopeful" the occupation would be resolved before then. "I can assure you that talks are going on and we are very hopeful," he said.

Meanwhile, the first of 360 arrested coup supporters appeared in Suva court and were all granted 50 Fijian dollars (25 US dollars) bail.

Republicans gather to nominate Bush

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, July 31 : Republicans open the first presidential convention of the millennium here today, hoping to position George W. Bush to capture the White House, eight years after Bill Clinton evicted his father, reports AFP.

Party managers are styling the Texas governor, son of former president George Bush, as the man to restore dignity to the US presidency, which they claim has been deeply tainted by a succession of scandals surrounding Clinton.

More than 40,000 Republicans, including 4,132 delegates,

have converged on Philadelphia to rally behind Bush's brand of "compassionate conservatism," in the hope a show of party unity will propel him towards victory in November's election.

But as delegates arrived in their thousands here Sunday, a loose coalition of pressure groups and anti-globalisation protesters launched the first of a promised sequence of demonstrations highly critical of Republican policies.

Knots of officers gathered on street corners in the downtown area, and security helicopters buzzed overhead

BRIEFLY

Malaysia to buy submarine: The Malaysian government has decided in principle to buy the country's first submarine, Malaysia's Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak has said, AP reports from Kuala Lumpur.

A proposal for a submarine was made a few years ago, but the purchase was put off because of financial difficulties, Najib was quoted as saying Sunday by Bernama news agency. The government had not decided whether it would commission a new submarine or buy a used one from another navy.

2 geologists killed in Jakarta: Two geologists were killed and six others, including two Americans and two Israelis, were injured by an eruption of lava while they were on the rim of the Semeru volcano on the Indonesian island of Java, police said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

"The accident actually happened on Thursday but we have only been able to retrieve the two bodies from the crater yesterday (Sunday)," said First Sergeant Nurfianto (eds: one name) of the district police in Lumajang, East Java.

Chavez wins easy reelection, strong mandate for change

Supporters celebrate victory

CARACAS, July 31 : President Hugo Chavez today pledged to rebuild Venezuela after winning reelection and a strong mandate for the social reforms he says will transform the crisis-ridden country, but which are viewed with marked skepticism by the private sector, reports AFP.

Celebrating his triumph, Chavez called on Venezuelans to unite behind his "economic and social revolution."

"In the name of national hope I call for national unity... to work for the recovery and salvation of the nation," he said in a powerful speech delivered to thousands of cheering supporters from the balcony of the downtown presidential building.

"Let us launch a new revolutionary economic model for Venezuela," the left-leaning leader said, sporting his trademark red paratrooper's beret.

A former colonel who draws much of his support from the millions of impoverished Venezuelans, Chavez took almost 2.9 million votes, to 1.8 million for his former comrade-in-arms Francisco Arias, according to results announced after 77 percent of the vote was counted.

That result gave Chavez 59.5 percent of the vote, and a 22 percent lead over Arias. Ex-Caracas mayor Claudio Fermín got about 2.6 percent.

Arias did not immediately

concede victory however.

"The figures that have been presented so far do not tally with our own," he told a news conference early Monday.

Chavez, who has only held office for 18 months, had been widely expected to win the presidential election called under a new constitution he pushed through last year to support his program of peaceful change.

He said his triumph would give a strong impetus to his ambitious reform plans.

"A new, legitimate republic is being born... the most important in history because it did not arise from a coup d'etat; no one's throat was cut," he said.

Russia, India haggle over price of 22 MiGs

MOSCOW, July 31 : Russia looks set to sign a defence contract worth at least 1.8 billion dollars during Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to India, ITAR-TASS reported from New Delhi Sunday, says AFP.

According to unnamed Indian military sources, India would buy at least 22 MiG-29K fighters worth 1.8 billion dollars and was also willing to purchase 20 other planes of a similar type, the report said.

However, on Monday, an Indian military spokesman in New Delhi told AFP on condition of anonymity that while several defence deals were expected to be signed during Putin's October visit, there was a broad disagreement on pricing.

Jakarta replaces head of strategic command in army reshuffle

JAKARTA, July 31 : Indonesian military authorities today announced a reorganisation of eight army postings, including a change in the command of the influential strategic reserve (Kostrad) after just four months, reports AFP.

Lieutenant General Agus Wirahadikusumah's military reformist who assumed the leadership of Kostrad on March 29, was replaced by Jakarta garrison commander Major General Ryamizard Ryacud, military spokesman Air Rear Marshall Graito Usodo said.

Chinese leader to die

BEIJING, July 31 : Cheng Kejie, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) today became the highest ranking Communist Party (CP) official to be sentenced to death for corruption, reports AFP.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director General
Sheikh Hasina Jatiya Jubo Kendra
Youth Development Directorate
Savar, Dhaka

Memo No-YDD/NYC/Administration-2/Works Work/2000-120

Dated: 9.4.1407 Bangla/24.7.2000

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh 2911 Form are invited for completing the construction work of VIP hostel (up to 2nd floor) of a project titled Sheikh Hasina Jatiya Jubo Kendra setting up at Savar of Youth Development Directorate from the prequalified 'A' category contractors of this directorate renewed during 1999-2000 fiscal year. Tenders will be received on 10.08.2000 i.e. 26.04.1407 Bangla till 12:00 Noon in the office of the undersigned, Project Director, Youth Training Centre Setting Up Project, Youth Development Directorate, Dhaka, Senior Assistant Secretary (Youth-2), Youth and Sports Ministry, Bhaban No-7, Room No-724, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12-storied government building, Segunbagicha, Co-ordinator, Youth Training Centre, Savar (close to dairy farm), Dhaka and Consulting Establishment Engineers Consortium Ltd, 64/B Green Road, Dhaka and tenders received will be opened the same day at 12-15 pm before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present). Earnest money at the rate of 2% of the estimated expenditure in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Project Director, Project for Setting Up Sheikh Hasina Jubo Kendra, Youth Development Directorate will have to be deposited with tender. Otherwise tenders will be treated as rejected outright. The time limit for work is 150 (one hundred and fifty) days. Terms and conditions of tender and schedule can be purchased by depositing Taka 1450/- (one thousand four hundred and fifty) in the form of Bangladesh Bank/Treasury Chalan in '1/3640/5050/2681 No Code' and by depositing the original copy of chalan in the office of the undersigned, Project Director, Project for Setting Up Youth Training Centre, Youth Development Directorate, Dhaka, Senior Assistant Secretary (Youth-2), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bhaban No-7, Room No-724, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12-storied government building, Segunbagicha, Co-ordinator, Youth Training Centre, Savar (close to dairy farm), Dhaka and consulting firm Engineers Consortium Ltd, 64/B, Green Road, Dhaka and by producing the book of pre-qualification tender forms can be purchased during office hours. No tender forms will be sold on the day of opening tender. Attested copy of trade licence of pre-qualification renewed during 1999-2000 fiscal year will have to be submitted alongwith the tender. Otherwise tenders will be treated as outright rejected. The authority reserves the power to accept or reject any tender or accept or reject partially or fully without assigning any reason and the authority is not obliged to accept the lowest rate the volume of work and amount of money may be more or less.

On behalf of the Director General
Md Al-Amin Chowdhury
Project Director

Project for Setting Up Sheikh
Hasina Jatiya Jubo Kendra

DFP-18342-26/7
G-1374

Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation

Head Office, 22, Purana Paltan
Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Sealed rate offers in 'two-envelope system' are invited from interested bonafide suppliers/manufacturing establishments for purchasing computer hardware and customised software for Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC). Rate offer for each group as mentioned in tender schedule will have to be submitted separately in cover/envelope in sealed condition. The two sealed envelopes will have to be filled in a bigger sealed envelope and the full name of the establishment, address will have to be written and then it will have to be dropped in the tender box.

- Hardware and customised software to be supplied will have to be installed/replaced in the following offices:
 - Specific division/department and sub-division at head office and
 - Fair zonal offices situated at head office building in Dhaka and zonal offices at Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal.
- Schedule of tender can be procured from the office of the undersigned at head office of BHBFC on payment of non-refundable Tk 1000/- (one thousand) (Pay-Order/Bank Draft in favour of the corporation) from 08.08.2000 to 27.08.2000 on all working days from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. 2.50% (two and a half per cent) of the total cost as mentioned in rate offer as the earnest money in the forms of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of the country in favour of "Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation" must be submitted.
- Tenders can be submitted in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned on 28.08.2000 till 12:00 noon. Tender/tenders (only technical offers) will be opened the same day at 12:30 pm in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).
- BHBFC authority reserves the power to accept or reject any/all tenders (partially/fully) without assigning any reason.

Deputy General Manager
(Administration)

DFP-18338-26/7
G-1372

Administration Division (1st floor)