

Russia blocking Paris Club debt relief for Iraq

AFP, Berlin

Russia is blocking a Paris Club agreement to wipe out 80 percent of Iraqi debt, a source said yesterday on the sidelines of a Group of 20 meeting of finance chiefs here.

High-level talks between Russia and the United States aimed at breaking the deadlock are under way, the source said on condition of anonymity.

"An agreement has been reached with most of the creditor nations, with the exception of Russia," the source said.

"Russia wasn't in a position to give an agreement... talks are under way at the highest level between the Americans and Russians because there must be unanimity."

The information could not be immediately confirmed. It was not clear whether the discussions were taking place in Berlin or elsewhere as Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin was not attending the G20 meeting.

Asia-Pacific leaders rally round Bush in war on terror, anti-nuke drive

AFP, Santiago

Asia-Pacific leaders yesterday wrap up an annual summit, falling in line behind US President George W. Bush's "war on terror" and backing his anti-nuclear drive against North Korea and Iran.

Murmurs of disquiet on the handling of the US-led anti-terrorist drive were almost drowned out at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, which all but ditched its usual agenda of trade and economics.

Weekend talks conclude Sunday with an informal "retreat" in the neoclassical La Moneda palace of Santiago, followed by a joint statement.

Nuclear fears injected a new scale of concern over global security.

After meeting Saturday with leaders of China, Japan, South Korea and Russia, Bush said they had a joint message for North Korea: "Get rid of your nuclear weapons programs."

A senior White House aide said North Korean officials had let China know in recent weeks that Pyongyang was prepared to return to talks aimed at ending a nuclear weapons crisis, but "when, or how, or who, they did not say."

Three rounds of multilateral talks have taken place since the stand-off began in October 2002, but Pyongyang boycotted a fourth round of talks scheduled for Beijing in September.

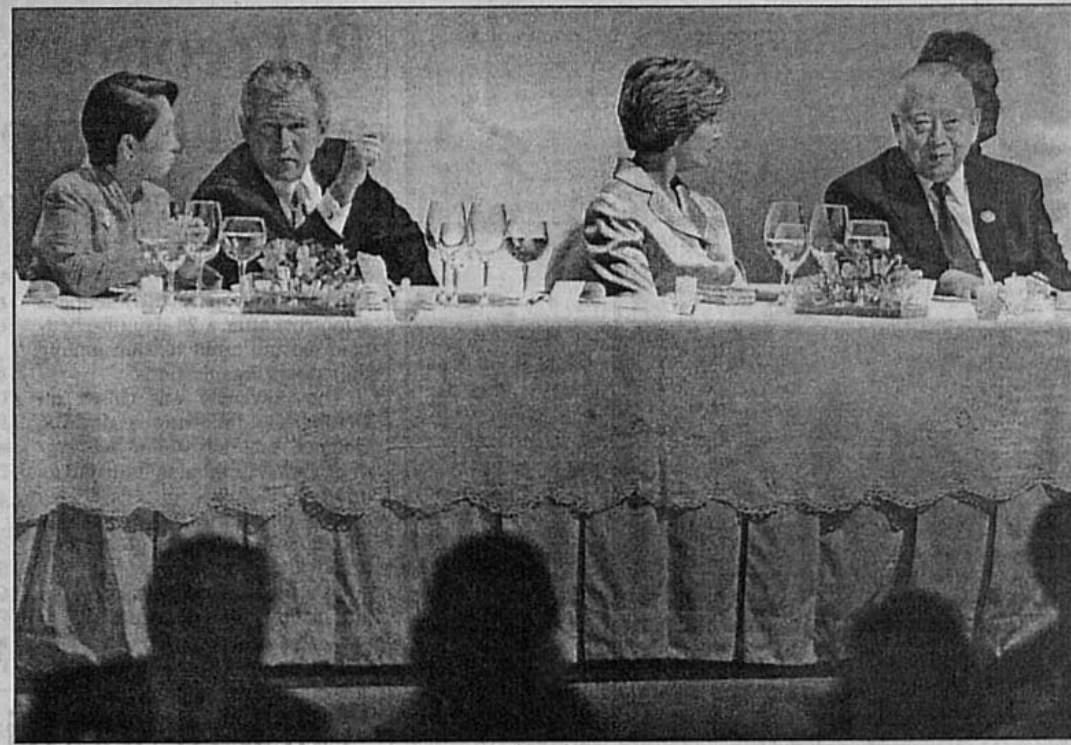
Bush meanwhile leveraged support at the summit to give Iran warning over reports that the Islamic republic has accelerated

production of uranium material that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

"This is a very serious matter, the world knows it's a serious matter, and we're working together to solve this matter," he said.

"It's very important for the Iranian government to hear that we are concerned about their desires, and we're concerned about reports that show that prior to a certain international meeting, they're willing to speed up processing of materials that could lead to a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

Diplomats told AFP on Friday that Iran is producing the uranium feedstuff that could be used to make nuclear weapons, only days before it is due to introduce a promised ban on all such enrichment activities.



United States President George W. Bush talks with Philippines President Gloria Arroyo (L) as his wife First Lady Laura Bush talks with Hong Kong Chief executive Tung Chee-hwa at the Estacion Mapocho Cultural Center where the Apec leaders are attending the official dinner on Saturday in Santiago.

Nasa launches black hole hunter

AP, Cape Canaveral

The fastest-swiveling space science observatory ever built rocketed into orbit Saturday to scan the universe for violent celestial explosions that astronomers believe represent the birth screams of black holes.

Nasa launched the observatory named Swift for its speedy pivoting and pointing following weeks of delays caused by hurricanes and a three-day postponement due to rocket trouble. The unmanned rocket climbed smoothly through a cloud-flecked midday sky, and delighted flight controllers wished the spacecraft a successful mission.

Swift, a \$250 million collaboration by Nasa, Italy and Britain, should begin its hunt for gamma ray bursts by January and erase some of the mystery surrounding these explosions and black holes.

9 dead, 57 still trapped after fire at Chinese iron ore mines

AFP, Beijing

At least nine miners were confirmed dead and rescue teams were battling to reach a further 57 trapped underground after a fire at five iron ore mines in northern China, officials and media said yesterday.

As of late Sunday, 40 miners had been rescued from the blaze at the mines in Baiba township in Hebei province, the state administration of work safety supervision said on its website.

"Everybody has gone to the scene of the accident," an official at the township told AFP by telephone.

The fire was initially reported at 10:30 am (0230 GMT) Saturday in a privately-run mine in the township and rapidly spread to four nearby iron ore mines, while 106 people were working underground, the state administration said.

Iran to go ahead with nuke act suspension

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday it was still committed to suspending its sensitive uranium enrichment activities as of today and that alarm over its nuclear activities was merely "propaganda".

"The suspension will begin tomorrow. We have said that we will suspend our enrichment activities and we will do it," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters.

Iran agreed a week ago in a deal with Britain, France and Germany to suspend as of Monday all its uranium enrichment activities, including making uranium gas, as a confidence-building measure in order to avoid being taken to the UN Security Council.

But diplomats have said that Iran was continuing to produce the uranium feedstuff that is the first step in the enrichment process, only

days before Monday's ban.

In addition, US President George W. Bush sharply warned Iran on Saturday about reports that the Islamic republic has accelerated production of UF6 and said it was a "very serious matter".

"The news about the production of UF6 ahead of the suspension is just a part of the propaganda to weaken relations between Iran and the (International Atomic Energy) Agency and the work on building trust with the Europeans," Asefi said.

"What we have been doing over the past few days conforms with the Paris accord and has been carried out under the supervision of the agency."

This week the IAEA will be verifying Iran's enrichment suspension. Diplomats in Vienna said adhering to the suspension will be a key test for Iran.

MAOIST BLOCKADE Thousands of tourists stranded in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Maoist rebels yesterday declared an immediate two-day traffic blockade in the Gandaki and Lumbini zones of western Nepal, leaving some 10,000 tourists stranded, officials said.

The blockade Sunday and Monday was called to protest killings by the security forces "of our local leaders and activists," said Dev Gurung, Maoist politburo member in charge of the Gandaki area.

"In Pokhara (west), Chitwan (south) and Lumbini (southwest) -- the birthplace of Lord Buddha -- about 10,000 tourists have been stranded due to the Maoist restriction," Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) president Narendra Bajracharya told AFP.

"After Kathmandu, Lumbini,

UK considering tough new anti-terror laws

AFP, London

Britain is considering a raft of sweeping new anti-terrorism laws including special courts to try terror suspects without a jury, Home Secretary David Blunkett said in an interview yesterday.

Other measures, to be introduced only if Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government wins a general election expected in mid-2005, would include allowing evidence gained from telephone tapping to be used in trials.

Also, Blunkett said, people who had not committed an offence but were suspected of planning terrorism acts could have their actions restricted by so-called "civil orders", similar to a system of anti-social behaviour orders introduced recently to target repeat criminals.

The proposals will most likely alarm civil liberties campaigners in Britain, some of whom view Blunkett as an authoritarian more concerned with pleasing right-wing tabloid newspapers than preserving individual freedoms.

Manmohan offers peace to northeast rebel groups

AFP, Guwahati

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday invited rebel groups in India's northeast for talks to resolve more than five decades of insurgency on the second day of his visit to the restive region.

"I am giving an open invitation to all young men and women who have taken to arms to come for talks with us so that we can usher in peace and prosperity in the northeast," Singh told reporters in Imphal, capital of Manipur state.

"Our government is willing to talk to anybody who shuns the path of violence," he said at the end of his visit to Manipur, one of the seven states that make up India's troubled northeast.

Around 30 rebel outfits are operating in the region, seeking secession, greater autonomy or independence. They say New Delhi exploits the area for oil, tea and timber.

Violence in the region has claimed some 50,000 lives since India's independence in 1947.

The prime minister's visit, which was broadcast on regional television, was to continue later Sunday in the main city of Assam state, Guwahati.

"We are very serious to work with the people of the northeast to solve their various problems like underdevelopment and unemployment, besides promoting peace and accelerating development," the premier said.

Singh said his government had received "positive overtures" from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), an influential separatist group fighting for an independent homeland in Assam, neighbouring Manipur.

And he said a special committee had been set up to review a controversial anti-terror law which gives sweeping powers to Indian troops fighting insurgents.



Rescuers search the wreckage in the Nanhai Park lake after China Eastern's flight MU-5210 bound for Shanghai plunged into the lake just seconds after leaving from Baotou city in Inner Mongolia region at 8:20 am yesterday. Fifty-five people were killed when the passenger plane crashed into the lake shortly after take-off in China's biggest aviation disaster in more than two years.

UN envoy calls for Israeli pullback from West Bank

Powell embarks on ME peace mission

AFP, Ramallah

Outgoing UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen urged Israel yesterday to pull back from West Bank towns ahead of a Palestinian leadership election set for January.

"What we need now is a stabilisation package and a stabilisation programme," with commitments from the Palestinians, Israel and the international community, the envoy said after meeting Palestinian premier Ahmed Qorei.

"From the international community, what is now important is to support in every possible way the Palestinian election, to provide the necessary resources and to monitor the election so that it can be free and fair."

"Even more important, is that Israel starts pulling back troops from

the cities of the West Bank in order to facilitate free and fair elections."

Roed-Larsen said "a way has to be found" for Palestinian residents of annexed east Jerusalem to take part in the election for a successor to Yasser Arafat.

In the only previous Palestinian elections in 1996, east Jerusalem residents were given a postal vote after Israel refused to allow polling stations to be set up in the territory, which it regards as an indivisible part of its own capital.

On Thursday, the UN envoy said Arafat's death in a French military hospital on November 11 presented an opportunity for both sides to make mutual concessions and return to the negotiating table.

Roed-Larsen, who steps down from his position next month, was

due to hold talks later Sunday with the Palestinian Authority's caretaker president, Rawhi Fattuh.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, on a fresh Middle East peace push, was due here Sunday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders ahead of January's election of a successor to Yasser Arafat.

Powell's meetings with the Palestinian caretaker leadership mark a new departure following Washington's long boycott of Arafat. The outgoing secretary of state has not visited since May last year.

For the Palestinians, the talks mark the start of a week of high-level diplomacy, with Powell due to be followed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Thursday.

'India is very serious about composite Kashmir dialogue'

PTI, AFP, Imphal

Reacting coolly to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's outburst on Kashmir, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday dismissed the General's remarks that India was not showing flexibility in resolving outstanding issues.

"On the basis of stray words, we cannot say that there is no flexibility. On both sides, we should move forward with sincerity," he told reporters, who sought his reaction on Musharraf's statement on Saturday that India should show flexibility in resolving problems and that troops reduction in Kashmir

was a cosmetic move.

The Prime Minister said India was very serious about the composite dialogue and wanted it to progress and "progress well."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaikat Aziz would be coming to Delhi shortly and "we will have fruitful discussions. I am confident that we can solve all outstanding issues and problems through purposeful negotiations," he said.

"We are very serious about the composite dialogue. We want it to progress and progress well," Singh told reporters in Imphal, capital of northeastern Manipur state.

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি
 ১/১ ইব্রাহিম সরণি, সেতুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০
 ফোন : ৯১৬০২১৩, ৯৫৬৫৭৬০
বিস্তৃষ্টি
আজীবন সদস্যদের 'মেম্বারশীপ কার্ড' প্রদান
 বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্যদের অবস্কার জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাডাস ন্যাশনাল কাউন্সিলের সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী বাডাস-এর সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্যদের হবিসহ 'মেম্বারশীপ কার্ড' প্রদানের উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয়েছে। সে লক্ষ্যে ২০ নভেম্বর ২০০৪-এর মধ্যে হবি ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা চেয়ে সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যের বাডাস রেকর্ডে সংরক্ষিত ঠিকানায় চিঠি পাঠানো হয়েছিল। তবে যারা এখানে 'মেম্বারশীপ কার্ড'-এর জন্য হবি ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা পাঠাতে পারেননি তাঁদেরকে আগামী ৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ওপরের ঠিকানায় তা পাঠানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
 উল্লেখ্য, এবার থেকে প্রতিবছর বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় বাডাস জাতীয় পরিষদের নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। তাই এবছর থেকে 'মেম্বারশীপ' কার্ডের মাধ্যমে সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্যদের পরিচয় নিশ্চিত করে জোট প্রদান করতে হবে।
 এমতাবস্থায় আগামী ডিসেম্বরে অনুষ্ঠিত বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ও নির্বাচনে সম্মানিত আজীবন সদস্যদের অংশগ্রহণ ও জোট প্রদান নিশ্চিত করার জন্য নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে হবি ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা বাডাস সচিবালয়ের ওপরের ঠিকানায় পাঠানোর জন্য সম্মানিত সদস্যদেরকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।
অধ্যাপক এ কে আজাদ খান
 মহাসচিব

LEGAL NOTICE
 In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, High Court Division (Original Civil Jurisdiction)
Company Matter No. 132 of 2004
In the Matter of
 An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994
-And-
In the Matter of
 Mrs. Nafisa Choudhury, Member /Secretary of Al-Hejal Printing & Publishing Company Ltd. 22, Toyenbee Circular Road, P.S. Motijheel, Dhaka. Petitioner
-Versus-
 Al-Hejal Printing & Publishing Company Ltd. 22, Toyenbee Circular Road, P.S. Motijheel, Dhaka and another. Respondents
 It is hereby notified that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994, being the above noted matter for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of the Al-Hejal Printing & Publishing Company Ltd. for the years 2002 and 2003 has been instituted and the same has been admitted and fixed for hearing on 6th December, 2004. Any person who is interested in the aforesaid matter may enter appearance either in person or through an Advocate and contest the same by filing an affidavit-in-opposition.
 A copy of the said application in the above matter may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of usual fees.
A.K.M. Nazrul Islam.
(A.K.M Nazrul Islam)
 Barrister-at-Law
 Senior Advocate
 262/1, Elephant Road, Dhaka-1205.
 Phone : 8625120, 8625122

Rebellious Republicans derail reform of spy agencies
 AP, Washington
 In a defeat for President Bush, rebellious House Republicans on Saturday derailed legislation to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies along lines recommended by the Sept. 11 commission.
 "It's hard to reform. It's hard to make changes," said Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who sought unsuccessfully to persuade critics among the GOP rank and file to swing behind the measure.
 Hastert's decision to send lawmakers home without a vote drew attacks from Democrats and capped an unpredictable day in which prospects for enactment of the measure seemed to grow, then diminish, almost by the hour. He left open the possibility of summoning lawmakers back in session early next month.
 The White House urged Congress to keep working on the legislation.
 "The president is committed that we do everything possible to build on the intelligence reforms that have already been made," White House deputy press secretary Claire Buchanan said.
 A compromise approved by key negotiators, the White House and the bipartisan 9/11 commission would have created a powerful position to oversee the CIA and several other nonmilitary spy agencies. A new national counterterrorism center would coordinate the fight against foreign terrorists.
 Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney both contacted congressional negotiators by phone in hopes of nailing down a compromise that could clear Congress in the final hours of a postelection session.
 But Reps. Duncan Hunter and Jim Sensenbrenner, chairmen of the Armed Services and Judiciary committees, raised objections. Hunter, R-Calif., worried that provisions of the bill could interfere with the military chain of command and endanger troops in the field.
 "In my judgment, this bill, without strongly reaffirming the chain of command, would render that area confused to the detriment of our Americans in combat so I will not support it," Hunters said.
 Hunter said he knew that the president and Hastert wanted this bill, but "what we have to do here is exercise our best judgment."
 Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., wanted additional provisions dealing with illegal immigration. "Unfortunately, the Senate has refused to consider many of the provisions, tagging them as extraneous or controversial," he said.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
 Applications are invited for the following posts for appointment in a renowned Eye Hospital located in Dhaka :

- Sr. Consultant/Consultant/Junior Consultant/ Sr. Medical Officer/Medical Officer :**
 The candidate must be a Medical graduate from the recognized university and registered with BMDC having D.O.or in the process of completion of F.C.P.S.and M.S. Candidates having D.O./M.S. / F.C.P.S. or any equivalent degree and also Sub-speciality Training in Retina, Glucoma, Paediatrics, Oculoplasty and Cornea will be given preference for the posts of Jr. Consultant and above. The candidates will be employed according to their eligibility.
- Anaesthetist :**
 The candidates must be a medical graduate from recognised university and registered with BMDC and post graduate training/ diploma/ degree/ experience in anaesthesia. The Candidates will be employed according to their eligibility.
- OT Nurse :**
 Young smart female candidates with SSC having diploma in Nursing from any Government recognised institute and having the working experience in OT (Ophthalmic Eye Operation Theatre). Those who have applied earlier need not to apply.
- Telephone Operator :**
 Young, smart and hard working lady fluent in spoken & written English having 2 years experience as telephone operator. Computer knowledge is to be considered as added quality.
- Ophthalmic Instrument Technician :**
 The candidates with HSC having working experience in maintenance of Ophthalmic instruments etc.
 Apply with Curriculum-Vitae mentioning Telephone number if any. Photocopy of certificates along with recent 2 copies photographs by 4th December to G.P.O. Box No. 2999.