The Baily Star **DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2011**

China seeks better military ties with India

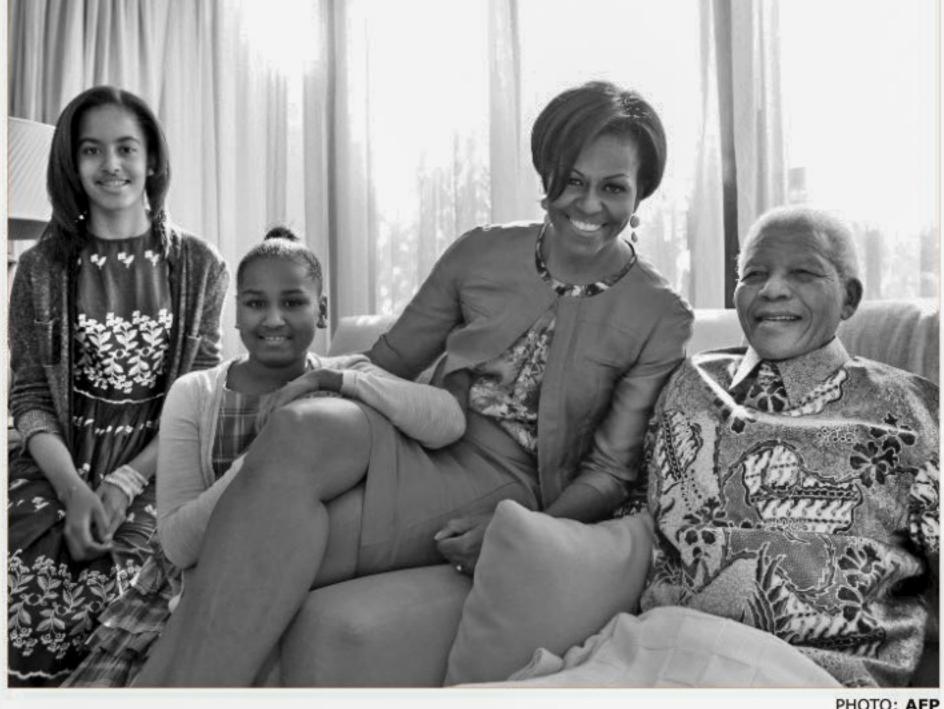
AFP, Beijing

China said yesterday it hopes to boost military cooperation with India as the two Asian powerhouses resume defence ties that were frozen for a year over a visa dispute.

"The military exchange is an important part of China-India relations," foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regular briefing.

"China would like to make considerable effort with the Indian side to enhance exchange and cooperation between the two militaries."

Suspicion pervades relations between the two Asian giants amid border disputes over Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.



A photo shows former South African President Nelson Mandela (R) posing with US First Lady Michelle Obama and her daughters at his home in Johannesburg yesterday.

Syria's Assad orders new general amnesty

France pressures UN on action, Russia warns of 'interference'

AFP, Damascus

President Bashar al-Assad yesterday ordered a new general amnesty, a day after an offer of "national dialogue" to end Syria's unrest, even as activists said four people were killed in antigovernment protests.

Two people were killed in the central city of Homs and another two in the northeastern province of Deir Ezzor, the activists said, citing residents, as both the pro- and anti-Assad camps took to the streets.

On the humanitarian front, International Committee of the Red Cross president Jakob Kellenberger said after talks with Syrian authorities that the ICRC has been granted access to areas and people affected by the unrest.

France stepped up pressure Monday on the United Nations to speak out against Syria's deadly crackdown on protests, but Russia again said it opposed "interference" in the coun-

try's internal affairs. At the forefront of criticism of the Syrian authorities, France called for UN Security Council intervention.

"The UN Security Council cannot remain silent for much longer," French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said at a joint press conference in Paris with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

But Putin said: "We believe that interference in the sovereign matters of independent states shows little promise."

Western governments have been circulating a draft Security Council resolution that would condemn Assad's crackdown but Russia has warned it would veto any such move.

Following up on a keynote speech he delivered on Monday, the state news agency SANA said Assad had "issued a decree granting a general amnesty for crimes committed before the date of June 20, 2011."

The president had already ordered a general amnesty on May 31 for all political prisoners, including Muslim Brotherhood members. Hundreds of detainees were released, according to human rights groups.

Greece govt faces key vote on reform

AFP, Athens

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou faced a vote of confidence in his new government yesterday in a fight vital to avert bankruptcy and stave off chaos across the eurozone and global markets. The prime minister was

widely expected to win, and a victory would almost certainly mean he would then get backing for vital austerity cuts in a separate vote next week. The ruling party also

expressed confidence that his fellow Socialists would back the new government.

A Greek default would hit European banks hard, but would also likely damage investor sentiment towards Ireland and Portugal, already being rescued.

Suu Kyi to address US Congress today

City

AFP, Washington

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi will deliver her first-ever remarks to a US congressional committee to raise awareness of human rights concerns, a lawmaker said Monday. Suu Kyi has sent a recorded

video message to be broadcast at a hearing today at the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on East Asia, said the US Campaign for Burma advocacy group.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, has spent most of the

past two decades under house arrest but was freed in November. Today's hearing is due to discuss last year's widely criticized election in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The hearing "will highlight these sham elections and Burma's difficult road ahead," a Republican Senator who heads the House subcommittee, said in a statement.

The military-backed regime has announced a political transition amid talks with the United States on improving relations. But Washington and opposition groups say the changes are little more than cosmetic.

Scarlet fever hits Hong Kong

BBC ONLINE

Officials in Hong Kong warned of an outbreak of scarlet fever among children yesterday as some feared the fever may take form of an outbreak in the region.

There have been more than 400 cases of the disease this year in Hong Kong, including the death of a sixyear-old last month.

year-old boy may have died from the bacterial infection, which is spread by coughing and sneezing. Scientists in Hong Kong

Initial tests suggest a five-

believe the germ may be spreading more quickly than usual due to agenetic mutation.

Cases have also been seen in mainland China and Macua.

Blasts kill 26 at Iraqi governor's house

AFP, Diwaniyah

Two suicide car bombs ripped through a guard post killing 26 people outside the provincial governor's home in Diwaniyah city yesterday, officials said, as violence surged across Iraq.

Most of the dead were policemen, a medic said, while a defence ministry official said 29 people were wounded in the powerful twin blasts.

A police colonel said Diwaniyah provincial governor Salam Hussein Alwan was the target of the attack but was late in

leaving home and thus escaped unharmed, as did his family. Defence ministry spokesman Mohammad al-Askari said "26 people were killed and 29 were wounded."

"Two suicide bombers exploded their car bombs targeting the governor's home," he told AFP. "The first bomber detonated the bomb at the entrance of the compound, and

three minutes later the second bomber did the same at the same spot," he added. Abdullah Abdul Hussein, a 45-year-old labourer said he

was also on his way to work when the explosions occurred. "First one car exploded, and then another. There were bodies everywhere, and cars burning," he told AFP.

The car bombs were part of a string of blasts yesterday in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq that killed at least another four people and wounded 16.

MILITANT LINKS

Pakistan

DILL

France set to extradite Noriega to his homeland

AFP, Paris

France is set to launch extradition proceedings to send ex-dictator Manuel Noriega back home to Panama to face justice, the French foreign ministry said Monday. A Paris court jailed Noriega, 77, last July after he was

extradited from the United States. Panamanian authorities yesterday promised to

respect the rights of ex-strongman Manuel Noriega if he is extradited to his home country and said US, whose permission is needed for the move as per treaty,

France backs Russia WTO entry

AFP, Paris

France is pushing for Russia to join the World Trade Organisation by the end of the year, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said during a visit by his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

"On European questions, I've reiterated my support for Russia to join the WTO before the end of 2011,"

Mubarak health getting worse

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's former president Hosni Mubarak, whose trial on charges of ordering the killing of anti-regime protesters is due in August, has stomach cancer, his lawyer Farid al-Dib told AFP on Monday.

"He has a stomach cancer and the tumours are growing," the lawyer said.

The former president is currently being held in custody at a hospital in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh where he has been since suffering heart prob-

French ex-president Chirac to face graft trial

AFP, Paris

France's former leader Jacques Chirac is to be tried for corruption relating to his time as Paris mayor in the 1990s in September, a judge said Monday, the first ever trial of a French ex-president. Presiding judge Dominique Pauthe said the long-

delayed trial of the popular politician, now aged 78, would take place in Paris from September 5 to 23.

Chirac, who is accused of embezzling public funds while mayor, avoided the dock in March when lawyers for one of his co-defendants won a postponement

Bangladesh improves

states. Pakistan was ranked 12, Myanmar 18, Bangladesh 25, Nepal 27, Sri Lanka 29 and Bhutan 50 in the list of 60 countries.

FROM PAGE 1

On Bangladesh, the report said two of five Bangladeshis live under the poverty line. Any improvement will also be fighting the environmental clock. If sea levels rise just by 1 metre, scientists warn, 17 per cent of the country could be submerged.

The countries in the top 10 are Chad, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan Central African Republic and Iraq, reports UNB.

BANGLADESH AMONG 9 STAR PERFORMERS' Meanwhile, according to

a report of a leading British think-tank, Bangladesh has been ranked as one of nine "star performers" out of 24 developing countries receiv-

ing British aid to fund various development projects.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) released the report entitled "Mapping Progress" last week, where the progress made in Bangladesh's health sector in particular is cited as one of the developing world's most significant success stories from the last two decades.

The report attributes the remarkable success in the health sector to the role played by government, role of NGOs, effective collaboration between government and NGOs, innovative propoor health interventions like oral rehydration therapy, and increasing empowerment of women.

The eight other countries to have specific successes highlighted in the "star' category are Bhutan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ghana, Mauritius, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam.

Ban set for a new term as UN leader

AFP, United Nations

The UN General Assembly was set to elect South Korean Ban Ki-moon to a second term as UN leader after he was backed by all major powers.

Outspoken in faulting the leaders of Arab countries facing protests, but criticized himself by some human rights groups, the former South Korean foreign minister has been certain to win reelection for several months.

Ban, 67, declared his candidacy two weeks ago and was given formal backing by the UN Security Council on Friday. With no challenger to force a contest, the 192-member General Assembly will confirm the new term by consensus.

SAHR worried FROM PAGE 20

investigation.

Sixteen-year-old Limon was shot in the left leg by a Rab team on March 23 at his Chhaturia village of Jhalakathi. The leg had to be amputated later.

"Though often imaginary excuses and stories are introduced to justify the murders and shooting, we believe it has become imperative for stop such extrajudicial killing for sustaining its reputation as a nation that believes in rule of law, human rights and democracy, and is a party to international human rights

regime." Based in Sri Lankan capital Colombo, SAHR was established in 2000 and is committed to addressing human rights issues at both national and regional levels. It has members from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India,

Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The rights body is worried

over the ways Limon and his family members are being subjected to continued harassment, threat and insecurity. It hopes that he will obtain every legal aid and assistance from the government, and also a fair trial from the court.

The Bangladesh govern-Bangladesh to immediately ment needs to realise that the impunity with which the elite force has carried out extrajudicial killings since its inception in 2004 may have become well-entrenched after more than half a decade of near nonaccountability, it said.

"If the government is truly committed to bringing an end to extrajudicial killing by the law enforcement agencies, it needs to translate its talk into decisive and demonstrable action."

Ministry/Division

detains army official AFP, Islamabad Pakistan yesterday

announced the arrest of an army brigadier accused of having contacts with a banned militant group. The information was

released seven weeks after US Navy SEALs found and killed Osama bin Laden in the military town of Abbottabad, reviving disturbing questions about ignorance or complicity within Pakistan's powerful military.

"One of the brigadiers who we found having contacts with one of the defunct organisations is under detention," Army spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

: | Ministry of Commerce

Spinners thrown in a spin FROM PAGE 1 the price at about \$1.7 to The spinners suddenly fabric and then into apparel.

When this was the system, garment exporters found that use of local yarn was better as they could then get duty-free export facility. With the offer of single-

step GSP, garment exporters are importing cheap yarn from India and China. It makes sense for them. Because why should they bother about costly local yarn, exposing once again the frail planning and the status of competitiveness of our spinning industry that has grown to a Tk 40,000 crore investment today with the help of 25 percent cash incentive on exports, and two-step GSP facility.

And so the spinning industry has grown to a stage when it can fully support "general category" exportable knitwear's requirement for about 2 lakh metric ton of yarn. The woe of the spinners

began at the end of 2010 when the international cotton market suddenly started heating up. While a pound of cotton sold for 60-70 cents in October-November, it hit \$1.75 a pound in January 2011 and pushed further up to \$2.5 in March.

found all their projections going haywire. The loans they were allowed by their financiers to buy cotton before the price hike, could now buy them even less than half their requirement.

Another parallel development started taking place around that time. India slapped an export restriction on cotton in November-December, allowing exports on limited quota only. This helped India stabilise its internal cotton market but not at the cost of farmers. It offered a 300 rupee higher support price for every quintal of cotton to farmers. Thus with its clever policy, India satisfied both the farmers and the industry.

export, Bangladeshi importers who had opened letters of credit with Indian exporters worth 10 lakh bales (300 pounds equivalent to one bale) could not get most of their orders. This is a significant volume as Bangladesh's total requirement is 60 lakh bales (US measurement where 500 pounds make one bale). Whatever little quantity they

received it came at double

As India restricted its

\$1.8 a pound. Right now, no new cotton

harvest is expected until November-December in northern hemisphere except in Australia. Only Pakistan will harvest some small quantity in South Asia. This situation demands that yarn should be costly. But contrarily, India has now the advantage of producing cheap yarn, because it stocked cotton when prices were low. It is currently selling yarn at a significantly lower price of \$3.9 a kg while Bangladeshi yarn manufacturers find that because of their costly cotton procurement, their breakeven price of yarn

Because of one-step GSP facility, readymade garment exporters are not interested in such costly local yarn.

Besides India, China -cotton -- has also secured its supply by taking position in the future and spot markets. It had the added advantage of low internal interest rate to keep its purchase price low. Now it can sell yarn at a

The whole situation has

comes to \$5 a kg.

the largest consumer of

lower price.

The spinners have worked out that if cash incentive for garment exporters is increased from 5 percent to 15 percent in case of local yarn use, and if spinning loans are put on a moratorium for a year or so as it was done during the global depression, they might find

But then they might not,

become so precarious for the local spinners that many of them fear to go bust if the situation continues for a few more months. And with them the banks will be in

trouble. a way out of this situation.

as they also need a structural change to their operation on the international market. They need to operate like others do, with the help of commodity tools like hedging and take price advantage. The central bank allows hedging on a limited scale on a case to case basis, which actually does not serve any purpose as one cannot wait for permission while hedging. Hedging decisions need to be taken swiftly. And unless modern deci-

sion-making process is incorporated in business, subsidies could be a way of life for them.

15.

GD-2803

Export Promotion Bureau

TCB Building (1st Floor), 01 # Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Tender

- 1.	Will liou y/Division		Willistry of Confinerce.
2.	Procuring entity name & district	:	Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka.
3.	Invitation for	:	Printing/Supplying of EU Compliant GSP Form-A
4.	Invitation Ref No. & date	:	EPB/Info/Publication/1(68)/09, Date: 06-05-2009
5.	Procurement method	:	Open tendering method.
6.	Budget and source of funds	:	Own source of fund.
7.	Tender publication date	:	21-06-2011
8.	Last date of selling tender	:	10-07-2011
9.	Tender closing date and time	:	11-07-2011 at 12:00 hours.
10.	Tender opening date and time		11-07-2011 at 12:15 hours.
11.	Receiving tender document		Information Division (Publication Section) of Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Building, 1st Floor, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
12.	Selling & opening tender document		Deputy Director (Finance), Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Building (4th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
13.	Eligibility of tenderer		This invitation of tender is open to all eligible tenderers having the following qualifications: a) The tenderer should have experience in executing similar nature of work & have other qualifications as per tender document. b) Valid trade licence. c) The tenderer must have up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate,

Printing/supplying 4,00,000 (four lac) set (each set consist of three pages) EU Compliant GSP Form-A. Brief description of goods Size: 310 mm x 210 mm: Upper side of the GSP Form will be di-perforation. After perforation size of the Form will be 297 mm x 210 mm (as per sample). Paper to be used: High class carbonized writing paper (not less than 20 GSM). Essential requirements: Length, breadth, number of box, size, margin design color will be Greenish

Guilloche pattern as per sample of the purchaser. Color: Each set of the Form will consists of 3 (three) pages. Front page will be two color (Greenish Guilloche pattern) & back page & other two pages will be mono color (Black) as per sample.

experience certificate, bank solvency certificate and other documents as per tender schedule.

Printing process: High class modern offset printing machine to be used. Serial No. binding: Upper side of the Form six digit Alfa numeric serial number to be printed by the auto machine galley process.

Packing: One packet consists printing of 20 pads (each pad contain 100 sets of Form). Pad number will have to insert on the respective packet. Perforation: Upper side of the Form to be perforated. After perforation height of the lower side will be 297 mm as per sample.

Sample of the Form (prepared by the tenderer) to be submitted along with tender schedule. Tender document price Taka 2,000 (two thousand) only. Md. Yousuf Ali, Director Information, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Building (1st Floor), 1, Kawran Name & designation of official Bazar, Dhaka-1215. inviting tender