



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un plant a commemorative tree at the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

'No more war'

FROM PAGE 1
stopped short of spelling out how that might come about.

The Trump administration defines "denuclearisation" as Kim giving up his nuclear arsenal, something he has been unwilling to do. North Korea has historically demanded the United States withdraw its troops and remove its "nuclear umbrella" of support for the South.

Moon agreed to visit the North Korean capital of Pyongyang this year, the leaders said.

Earlier, Kim became the first North Korean leader since the 1950-53 Korean War to set foot in South Korea after shaking hands with his counterpart over a concrete curb marking the border.

Scenes of Moon and Kim joking and walking together marked a striking contrast to last year's barrage of North Korean missile tests and its largest ever nuclear test that led to sweeping international sanctions and fears of war.

Their meeting was meant in part to lay some of the groundwork for Trump's meeting with Kim, which would be the first encounter between sitting leaders of the two countries.

Trump, who has exchanged nuclear threats and personal insults with Kim in the past year, welcomed the Korean talks while injecting a small note of caution.

"After a furious year of missile launches and Nuclear testing, a historic meeting between North and South Korea is now taking place. Good things are happening, but only time will tell!" he said on Twitter.

He later added: "KOREAN WAR TO END! The United States, and all of its GREAT people, should be very proud of what is now taking place in Korea!"

China, North Korea's main ally, welcomed the leaders' statement and said it was willing to keep playing a proactive role in promoting political solutions. China is wary of being sidelined by a thaw between the two

Koreas and by the upcoming summit between Trump and Kim.

Russia said it was ready to facilitate cooperation between North and South Korea, including in the fields of railway transport and energy.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also welcomed the summit and said he expected North Korea to take concrete steps to carry out its promises.

Global markets were lifted by hopes the summit would pave the way for the end of conflict on the Korean peninsula. Shares in Seoul briefly rose more than 1 percent to a one-month high and Japan's Nikkei share average also gained.

As part of efforts to reduce tension, the two sides agreed to open a liaison office, stop propaganda broadcasts and leaflet drops along the border and allow Korean families divided by the border to meet.

Days before the summit, Kim said North Korea would suspend nuclear and long-range missile tests and dismantle its only known nuclear test site.

But there has been widespread scepticism about whether Kim is ready to abandon the nuclear arsenal his country has developed for decades, justifying it as a necessary deterrent against US invasion.

And the North-South summit did little to answer questions about Kim's intentions.

Daniel Russel, until recently the most senior US diplomat for Asia, said the declaration "falls short of the explicit commitments to denuclearisation."

"We have seen promises from North Korea many times in the past," said Jonathan Schanzer, an expert at Washington's Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank. "The question now is whether Kim Jong Un is ready to deliver, or if this is a prelude to yet another deliberate effort to spurn the West."

Kim Young-hee, a North Korean

defector-turned-economist at the Korea Development Bank, said there were no quick solutions. "Everything will not be resolved in the blink of an eye," she said.

"Kim Jong Un has put the ball in the U.S. court. He declared denuclearisation, and promised to halt nuclear tests," she said. "That tells us he wants the United States to guarantee the safety of his regime ... in return for denuclearisation."

It is not the first time leaders of North and South Korea have declared hopes for peace. Two earlier summits, in Pyongyang in 2000 and 2007, failed to halt the North's weapons programmes or improve relations in a lasting way.

Moon greeted Kim at the military demarcation line where the men smiled and shook hands. In an unplanned move, Kim invited Moon to step briefly across into North Korea, before the two leaders crossed back into South Korea holding hands.

"I was excited to meet at this historic place and it is really moving that you came all the way to the demarcation line to greet me in person," Kim said, wearing his customary black Mao suit.

"A new history starts now. An age of peace, from the starting point of history," Kim wrote in Korean in a guest book in the South's Peace House before talks began.

During a private meeting in the morning, Kim told Moon he came to the summit to end the history of conflict and joked he was sorry for waking Moon up with his early morning missile tests, a senior presidential official said.

Moon and Kim released their joint declaration before a dinner banquet.

Later, with their wives, they watched a music performance and held hands as they watched a montage of photos from their summit set to a K-pop song that included the words "be a family again".

After warm farewells, Kim was driven back to North Korea.

It was meant

FROM PAGE 16
Important Person (CIP). The law enforcement agency filed a case later that day with Ramna Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act, accusing the businessman of accumulating the money to carry out subversive activities.

Asked, Sub-inspector Mofizur Rahman of Ramna Police Station, who is investigating the case, said the investigation had just started and he would not comment until the claims were verified.

Mosharaf is now admitted at a hospital in the capital where these correspondents talked to the employee.

During Wednesday's raid, Mosharaf was not home. Two of his employees told reporters the next day that he went abroad a week ago, while one of his friends claimed that Mosharaf was taken in custody of an intelligence agency.

A guard at Mosharaf's house said the flat had been empty since Wednesday.

On March 8, a fire in a warehouse of Mosharaf Composite Textile Mills in Gazipur gutted a large portion of the cotton stored there.

The employee at the hospital said the mills were in an urgent need of raw materials.

"If we import cotton, we have to wait at least three months for the delivery. So we decided to buy cotton from local sources."

After the warehouse fire Mosharaf handed an intelligence agency the papers related to his business after the agency asked for them twice, according to the employee.

The man could not say why the agency wanted the papers.

Mosharaf was admitted to a hospital on April 6 after he suddenly fell sick due to kidney problems, he added.

However, after the private bank's chairman was replaced, Mosharaf called a branch manager of the bank from his phone and requested that the money be handed over to his employees because the cash was needed for a "special purpose", said the employee.

"We have an account with the bank. We rushed to withdraw the money as we feared that there would be a crisis after the bank's chairman was replaced and there would be no disbursement.

"How would we run the business where 6,000 workers are employed if we didn't have cash?"

When employees of Mosharaf's company went to the bank on April 18 to withdraw the money, the bank manager became suspicious and informed law enforcers about the transaction, he said.

"After the money was withdrawn, law enforcers went to Mosharaf's home the next morning and wanted to see the cash. They left after seeing the money.

The cash seized by the Rab days later was handed over to the Bangladesh Bank on Thursday.

According to sources in the apparel industry, Mosharaf owns three spinning mills and a dyeing and weaving factory and other businesses.

He has an investment of over Tk 1,000 crore in the sector and got status as a CIP three times consecutively for his export earnings.

He was elected chairman of Rampal Union in Munshiganj twice as a BNP-backed candidate. But he lost in the 2016 election.

His employee said they were in panic after the recent turn of events.

Gazette after

FROM PAGE 16
Talking to The Daily Star, Platform's Joint Convener Bin Yamin said Nanak invited them to discuss the issue.

"As the prime minister has made all the decisions regarding the protest, she has to be present for the publication of the gazette," said Yamin, quoting Nanak.

"We will wait till her return and would not wage any protest till May 7," said Nurul Haque Nur, another joint convener.

Earlier on April 26, the quota movement leaders warned that they would resume agitation if a gazette notification was not published by April.

In the face of mass protests by students of public and private university students across the country, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced scrapping the quota systems in parliament on April 11.

However, a parliamentary committee which later discussed the issue spoke in favour of logical reformation instead of abolishing the system altogether.

One held

FROM PAGE 16
Locals found Labib lying unconscious around 500-600 yards away from his house around 1:30am. He was rushed to Jamalpur General Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead, said the inspector.

The police yesterday tracked the number, from which Laboni received the call, and detained Faisal Khandakar, 24, son of Abdur Rahman of the same village.

Police also detained two others in this connection.

The detainees confessed to abducting the boy for ransom, Ansar said, adding that the trio made the boy take fruit juice mixed with sedative that eventually led to his death.

Save us from destruction

FROM PAGE 2
She said the Rohingyas have been facing extreme violence since the enactment of a 1982 law that deprived them of their citizenship. Eventually, they were denied government jobs and higher education opportunities.

"The Rohingyas were not allowed to choose subjects to study. If anyone from the Rohingya community wanted to study engineering or medicine, they were told that they could not do that," Razia said, referring to the 90s.

After 1990, the Rohingyas were not permitted to study at universities. After 2012, the Rohingyas have been totally deprived of university education. They can study only up to class-X in Akyab and up to class-VIII in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, she said.

Even at schools, the girls have to face various restrictions and discrimination from the Buddhists. The Rohingya boys are being often beaten up by the Buddhist students under a policy of segregation by the Myanmar authorities, said Razia.

"There are almost no healthcare services for the Rohingyas in Rakhine. They often take passes to get into Bangladesh [from the authorities concerned of Myanmar] for treatment."

And, there are two types of cards -- one is national verification card (NVC) that allows the Rohingyas to move within one para (small neighbourhood) and the other one is Tajikkaya, which is used for movement from one para to another.

One has to spend money equivalent to Tk 3,000 to get an NVC card and Tk 10,000 for a Tajikkaya card. Those who want to go to towns from villages will need to pay hefty sums and they are given a limited time, she said.

Since 1990s, Myanmar armed forces have a regular presence in the Rohingya-dominant regions. They have taken possession of much of the land of Rohingyas.

"We are treated as illegal people there. It is not less than a prison," Razia said, adding that such treatment to the Rohingya community in the early years was known as "slow genocide", which has now become "endless genocide".

Bogra's aloe vera pioneer

FROM PAGE 16
It was 2010 before Zahidul's persistence started to pay off. "I managed to sell around three kilograms that year," he says. "It wasn't much but since then sales have improved."

Last year Zahidul made around Tk 2 lakh from his plot. He has 20 local juice vendors as regular customers. They seek out his garden daily to buy leaves for around Tk 20 per kilogram.

"I buy 50 kg aloe leaves every few days," says one juice vendor, Md Abdul Kudus from Bogra town. "I sell aloe vera extracts and jelly with juice to city commuters. From every Tk 1,000 I spend I can make three times that. Schoolgirls in particular like the leaves which they use for facials. Demand is increasing day by day."

Zahidul's innovation brought changes, even to his own name. "It feels so good when people call me 'Alo Vera Zahidul'," he says. He's been approached by several journalists and many locals to tell his story; and with last year's profits he bought a brand new motorcycle.

As early as 2011 another farmer, Zabed Ali, followed Zahidul's lead. He

It is only the UN Security Council that can save the Rohingya community from the "endless genocide", she said.

"There are 135 ethnic communities in Myanmar. Myanmar should declare us as an ethnic community, Rohingyas. We don't want to get into Myanmar as illegal migrants from Bangladesh. We want full citizenship in Rakhine where we can enjoy all rights just like the citizens of Myanmar," Razia said.

3 arrested

FROM PAGE 16
officer-in-charge (investigation) of the police station, told The Daily Star.

The other two were arrested late based on information gleaned from Bappy, he said.

A friend of the girl said, "The victim is a class-XII student at a girls' college."

She gave me her practical notebook as I was helping her with some drawings for a lab class.

"She came to the mess where I live around 10:50am today [yesterday] to collect the copy back but I was not there. She called me on my mobile phone and by the time I arrived, Bappy and two other men went there and picked her up. I informed police about it immediately.

SI Tipu Sultan said the three arrestees allegedly took the girl to nearby Sikdar Villa, and doped her before "gangraping" her.

He said the girl told them that she was "tortured".

Police sent her to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College hospital for tests and treatment, he added.

PRESS CONFERENCE

SM Ruhul Amin, police commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police, confirmed the incident and arrest of the three suspects.

He was speaking at a press briefing at Kotwali Model Police Station last night.

"Bappy and Manik have already confessed their involvement in the crime," he added.

The commissioner said there were at least seven cases against Bappy and that he has criminal records.

A case would be filed, he said.

Ex-Jubo League

FROM PAGE 16
Faridul used to do cable TV business with Emdadul in DC Road area, he added.

Prasun alleged that MA Musa, secretary of Bakalia ward unit Awami League, also a cable TV businessman, had been trying to grab their cable TV business in the area for the last three months.

Around 100 to 120 men of Musa gathered in the DC Road area to set up their cable lines yesterday noon, said KTCN staffer Kutub, alleging that they were also snapping the cable connections belonging to Emdadul.

Hearing the news around 2:30pm, Emdadul, Faridul and their men rushed to the spot and tried to stop the rivals at Mia Baper Mosque, triggering the clash, said Kutub.

Witnesses and police said both groups exchanged fire during the clash.

Inspector Jahirul Islam of CMCH police outpost said the bullet pierced through the left side of Faridul's chest. He was declared dead at the CMCH.

Faridul's daughter Zara said her father returned to house after Juma prayers and sat for his lunch. He came out of house after getting a phone call and they later found him dead at the CMCH.

Police were trying to collect the CCTV footage and arrest the killers, said DC Mostain.

Locals said there are around 2,000 cable connections under the KTCN.

The Daily Star could not reach Musa for his comments.

Xi, Modi meet

FROM PAGE 1
make them rush forward without pause like the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers, eternally moving forward," Xi said.

Modi thanked Xi for meeting him twice outside Beijing, telling the Chinese leader: "This in itself shows love and affection towards India."

Later Modi invited Xi to an informal summit next year, reported Reuters.

"I hope such informal summits becomes a tradition between both the countries. I'll be happy, if in 2019 we can have such an informal summit in India," Modi said, in comments broadcast in a media centre for reporters in Wuhan.

"Looking ahead, we see a fast pace and bright future for China-India cooperation," Xi said.

With 40 percent of the world's population, India and China have a responsibility to fix the world's many problems, Modi said, adding that the meeting was a "great opportunity" to do so.

Invoking Xi's political slogan and his own, Modi said: "Together your 'new era' dream and our 'new India' effort will be the right step for the benefit of the world."

But neither leader directly mentioned the border row or other sources of tension in their remarks.

DISPUTED BORDER

The summit "is New Delhi's well-intentioned attempt to reach out to Beijing to see if the past can be put behind and if the relationship can be reset," Harsh Pant, a professor of international relations at King's College in London, told AFP.

Both nations say they are committed to solving long-standing border disagreements through dialogue, but progress has been glacial.

India and China went to war in 1962 over Arunachal Pradesh, with Chinese troops temporarily capturing part of the Himalayan territory.

The dispute remains unresolved:

India considers Arunachal Pradesh one of its northeastern states, while China stakes claim to about 90,000 square kilometres (35,000 square miles) of the area.

In February, Beijing lodged an angry protest with New Delhi over a trip by Modi to the state.

Last year, Indian and Chinese troops faced off on the Doklam plateau, an area high in the Himalayas claimed both by China and by India's ally Bhutan.

The dispute began in June when Chinese troops started building a road on the plateau and India deployed troops to stop the project.

A crisis was averted in August when the two nuclear-armed nations pulled back.

"We have to step out of the shadows of the 1962 war," said Wang Dehua, a South and Central Asia expert at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

"The meeting will focus on avoiding the unhappy events we saw in Doklam last year," Wang said.

Modi is expected to return to China in June for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a security bloc led by Beijing and Moscow.

Indian analysts point to a pragmatic reason for Modi to want better relations with China: he faces national elections next year, and he would be better off with stable ties with the world's second-largest economy.

"I don't think he would like to go into an election with the kind of relationship, the low point it had reached over the last year," Pant said.

With China facing a potential tariff war with the United States, Beijing and New Delhi could find common ground on international trade, Pant added.

"It is one of the issues where India and China have worked together on the global stage in the past," he said.