

Russia buries Gorbachev, with a shrug

REUTERS

Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader beloved of the West who lived long enough to see all the reforms he had championed in his homeland undone, was buried yesterday without state honours or the presence of the current Kremlin incumbent.

Gorbachev became a hero in the West for allowing eastern Europe to shake off more than four decades of Soviet communist control, letting East and West Germany reunite, and forging arms control treaties with the United States.

But when the 15 Soviet republics seized on the same freedoms to demand their independence, Gorbachev was powerless to prevent the collapse of the Union in 1991, six years after he had become its leader.

For that, and the economic chaos that his "perestroika" liberalisation programme unleashed, many Russians could not forgive him.

Gorbachev, who died on Tuesday aged 91, has been granted a public send-off. Muscovites yesterday allowed to view his coffin in the imposing Hall of Columns, within sight of the Kremlin, where previous Soviet leaders have been mourned.

But it was little surprise that Russian President Vladimir Putin, a long time KGB intelligence officer who called the Soviet Union's collapse a "geopolitical catastrophe", denied Gorbachev full state honours and said he was too busy to attend the funeral.

The many Western heads of state and government who would certainly have come will also be absent, kept away by the chasm in east-west relations that has been opened up by Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February.

Hundreds of mourners lined up to quietly file past Gorbachev's open casket as it was flanked by honour guards under the Russian flag.

Gorbachev was buried in Moscow's Novodevichy cemetery, alongside his adored wife Raisa, who predeceased him by a painful 23 years.



A woman reacts next to the body of her mother killed by recent shelling in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Friday. The more than six months old conflict grinds on despite killing thousands and causing devastations across Ukraine. PHOTO: REUTERS

US angers China with \$1.1b arms sale to Taiwan

REUTERS, Washington

The US State Department has approved a potential \$1.1 billion sale of military equipment to Taiwan, including 60 anti-air missiles and 100 air-to-air missiles, with China threatening to take counter measures.

The Pentagon announced the package on Friday in the wake of China's aggressive military drills around Taiwan following a visit to the island last month by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking US official to travel to Taipei in years.

The sale includes Sidewinder missiles, which can be used for air-to-air and surface attack missions, at a cost of some \$85.6 million, Harpoon anti-ship

missiles at an estimated \$355 million cost and support for Taiwan's surveillance radar program for an estimated \$665.4 million, the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said.

Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement the possible arms sale "severely jeopardizes China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

"China will resolutely take legitimate and necessary counter measures in light of the development of the situation," he said.

President Joe Biden's administration said the package has been under consideration for some time and was developed in consultation with Taiwan and US lawmakers.

"As the PRC continues to increase pressure on Taiwan - including through heightened military air and maritime presence around Taiwan - and engages in attempts to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, we're providing Taiwan with what it needs to maintain its self-defense capabilities," Laura Rosenberger, White House senior director for China and Taiwan, said in a statement.

The Pentagon said the equipment and support announced on Friday would not alter the basic military balance in the region. US officials said they did not reflect any change in policy toward Taiwan.

The sales must be reviewed by Congress, but both Democratic and Republican congressional aides said they do not expect opposition.

Pak flood toll rises with 57 more deaths

REUTERS, Karachi

The toll from cataclysmic floods in Pakistan continued to climb yesterday with 57 more deaths, 25 of them children, as the country grapples with a relief and rescue operation of near unprecedented scale. Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains brought floods that have affected 33 million people and killed at least 1,265 people, including 441 children. The inundation, blamed on climate change, is still spreading. The floods that have inundated a third of the country were preceded by heatwaves and multiple forest fires.

Myanmar junta chief to visit Russia

AFP, Yangon

The leader of Myanmar's military junta will travel to Russia next week for economic talks, state media in the Southeast Asian nation reported yesterday. Min Aung Hlaing will attend the Eastern Economic Forum in the far-eastern city of Vladivostok, The Global New Light of Myanmar said. Representatives from China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan and other countries will also attend. Min Aung Hlaing is unlikely to be invited to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders' summit in Phnom Penh in November, with the bloc frustrated over a lack of progress on resolving the country's political crisis.

Gotabaya returns amid arrest calls

AFP, Colombo

Deposed Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa faced calls for his arrest yesterday after returning home from self-imposed exile under the protection of the government that took charge when he fled. Rajapaksa arrived at the main international airport in Colombo and was driven in a security convoy to a new official residence in the capital provided to him by the new government. Leaders of the protest campaign that toppled his government said Rajapaksa, who lost his presidential immunity after leaving office, should now be brought to justice. "He can't live freely as if nothing has happened," said a protest leader named Stalin.



Myanmar

FROM PAGE 12 camp and Tumburu Right Camp in Bangladesh," he told The Daily Star.

On August 29, the foreign ministry summoned Myanmar Ambassador Aung Kyaw Moe to its office and lodged a protest over the firing of mortar shells into Bangladesh from Myanmar a day before.

Water sharing

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh in 2011.

However, due to the opposition of the chief minister of West Bengal, this draft agreement did not get signed.

Since then, India kept on assuring Bangladesh that the Teesta deal remains in their active consideration.

It rains diamonds

FROM PAGE 12 Now new research, published in Science Advances, inserted oxygen into the mix, finding that "diamond rain" could be more common than thought.

Icigants like Neptune and Uranus are thought to be the most common form of planet outside our Solar System, which means diamond rain could be occurring across the universe.

Dominik Kraus, a physicist at Germany's HZDR research lab and one of the study's authors, said that diamond precipitation was quite different to rain on Earth.

Nasa scrubs

FROM PAGE 12 Pre-flight operations were called off for the day about three hours before the targeted two-hour launch window was due to open at 2:17 pm EDT (1817 GMT).

There was no immediate word on a time frame for retrying to launch the mission, dubbed Artemis I. But Nasa could schedule another attempt for Monday or Tuesday.

After that, the next launch window will not be until September 19, due to the Moon's position.

100 hurt in Kishoreganj

FROM PAGE 12 about the attack.

In Thakurgaon, 10 people, including journalists, were injured as the BNP and the AL men clashed at Ruhia union.

The district BNP Joint General Secretary Ansuurul Islam was among the injured, said local BNP leaders. Some motorcycles and shops were also vandalised.

Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Ruhia Police Station, said the two

AL, BNP heade

protests till September 10, and then gradually extend the protests to other issues.

Some ruling party leaders fear these protests may in time turn into an anti-government movement.

BNP sources said it was high time the BNP and its allies tapped into the growing public discontent over cost of living crisis.

The BNP lost power to the AL in 2008. Its street programmes before the 2014 polls drew a huge flak locally and internationally for its violent nature. Before the last election in 2018, the party failed to wage any protest of significance.

This time, BNP leaders say they would stage protests centring on pro-people issues.

The party already held a meeting of its Standing Committee, its highest policy-making body, and decided to continue the ongoing programmes before the 2014 polls drew a huge flak locally and internationally for its violent nature. Before the last election in 2018, the party failed to wage any protest of significance.

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parties organised rallies at the same time.

In Netrakona, police filed two separate cases in connection with Thursday's clashes among the BNP, the Awami League, and police in the town and Madan upazila.

At least 800 people, 62 named, were made accused in the cases. Police arrested 18 accused in connection with these cases.

Earlier, over 4,000 BNP men were arrested in three days following Thursday's

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clashes with police in four districts - Narayanganj, Manikganj, Netrakona and Sirajganj.

Meanwhile, at a programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity, BNP Secretary General Fakhru Islam Alamgir said, "We will not be defeated in any way this time."

"Our goal is to force the anti-people, fascist, anti-humanity Awami League government to step down from power."

Afterwards, it plans to start protesting in divisional headquarters and then move into the capital.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir already called on the party leaders and activists to ready themselves for a movement to finally "oust the government."

"This is the final phase of our movement. We have to launch a do-or-die movement this time," he said.

Sources in the AL said it would not allow the BNP to launch a full-scale movement. In case the BNP employs full force to take to the streets, law enforcers will clamp down on them as already instructed by the government.

Law enforcers aside, different front bodies of the AL said they would counter the BNP on the streets.

On Friday, Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash said they would resist BNP's "anarchy, criminal acts and all sorts of conspiracies."

The police authorities did not directly respond as to whether they received any instructions from the government regarding BNP's programmes.

Md Haider Ali Khan, deputy inspector general of police (Operations, Media and Planning), said there was no bar on peaceful programmes. But police will take lawful actions if anyone tries to damage public property and attack police.

AL throwing

FROM PAGE 12

Moshi said Raushan, now under treatment in Bangkok, would go ahead with her plan to hold the party's council on November 26 and inject fresh blood into the organisation.

The feud between Raushan and Quader started over getting the top post of the party after JP founder HM Ershad became sick in early 2019.

The conflict reached its peak following the demise of Ershad in July 2019.

Since then, the two had made headlines several times over their public feud. Raushan is considered by many of being close to the prime minister.

Team effort

FROM PAGE 12

Afghanistan, who had crushed Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to move into the Super Four stage, managed just 37 runs in the last five overs and lost five wickets.

Dilshan Madushanka, a left-arm quick, took two wickets while fellow fast bowler Asitha Fernando and spinner Maheesh Theekshana claimed one each.

In reply, Sri Lankan openers Nissanka and Mendis started strongly in the powerplay.

Tea industry

FROM PAGE 2

due to the pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.

"We are trying to provide foods to the people at fair prices to help them survive with their earnings."

Later, the PM gave tea workers patient hearing. Hasina held the meeting with the workers a week after she fixed their new daily wages following their demand.

The tea estate owners also agreed to raise the workers' other benefits, including plucking bonus (benefit for plucking additional tea leaves) and festival bonus, proportionately.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
আইসিটি
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)
The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Rules-2008 ও ৩তম সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক ২০২২-০২৩ অর্থ সালে নিম্নবর্ণিত লট বিক্রির কাজের টেন্ডার নিয়োজিত লস্কের বাংলাদেশী প্রকৃত অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সিকান্দার/সরবরাহকারী'র নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।