

India, Myanmar discuss bilateral ties, boundary issues

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 8

The entire gamut of bilateral ties, including issues related to boundary, security and defence, were discussed in the 17th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Myanmar, the External Affairs Ministry has said.

In the meeting held yesterday, the Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, while U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary, Myanmar Ministry of Foreign

Affairs led the other side. "During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the complete range of bilateral relations, including high-level visits, security and defence related issues, boundary matters and border management, trade and commerce, development cooperation, connectivity, cultural and consular matters. They also exchanged views on sub-regional, regional and global issues of mutual interest," a statement from the External Affairs Ministry said. Last month, External Affairs

Minister Sushma Swaraj had paid a two-day visit to Myanmar, during which she met the country's president U Win Myint and, State Counsellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. During her visit, boundary and border related issues, peace and security matters, developments in the Rakhine State, including return of displaced Rohingyas, India's development assistance to Myanmar, ongoing projects, and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Delhi Dynamos sign striker Lahlimpuia

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Indian Super League side Delhi Dynamos have bolstered their attack with the signing of young Daniel Lahlimpuia for a two-year tenure.

The 20-year-old forward, who was plying his trade with Bengaluru FC for the last three years, started his career with

the Chandigarh Football Academy back in 2007, before moving to the AIFF Elite Academy in 2013 where he spent two years. The striker from Mizoram was also part of the Chennaiyin FC squad back in ISL Season 3. I am delighted to sign for Delhi Dynamos. The club's ethos is based on giving young players a chance and I feel at this stage of my career it is the

ideal step for me. I want to contribute to the success of the club in the coming years, Lahlimpuia said. Lahlimpuia played a pivotal role in Bengaluru FC's AFC Cup campaign over the years helping them reach the finals, while also leading the side to the next round this year. The striker has been rewarded for his consistent performances by the national

team as well, making his debut in September 2016 against Puerto Rico. Lahlimpuia has represented the country in the age group categories as well and has also captained the U-19 side. My aim is to give my 100 per cent in every game that I play and make the most of this opportunity. I want the fans to go home happy after they see our side play, the striker said.

Jawan injured in militant attack succumbs to injuries

Agency
Srinagar, Jun 8

An Army jawan, injured in a militant attack on an Army patrol near the Line of Control in Keran Sector of Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, has succumbed to injuries, the Army said today. Sepoy Sukhwinder Singh (26) and another jawan sustained bullet injuries during a standoff attack by militants along the LoC in Keran while they were patrolling forward areas ahead of the fence. While the injured were provided immediate first aid,

Singh was later evacuated to Army's 92 Base Hospital here, where he succumbed to injuries late last night, an Army official said. A Srinagar-based defence spokesman said the Army paid befitting tribute to Singh in a solemn ceremony at Badambagh cantonment here. Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, along with Chinार Corps Commander Lt Gen AK Bhatt and all ranks paid homage to the jawan on behalf of a proud nation, the spokesman said. He said representatives from other security agencies also

joined in paying their last respects to Singh. Singh had joined the Army in 2012 and belonged to village Hakamsingwala of Bhagta Bhaika Tehsil in Bathinda district of Punjab. He is survived by his parents and two brothers. His mortal remains would be flown for last rites to his native place, where he would be laid to rest with full military honours, the spokesman said, adding in this hour of grief, the Army stands in solidarity with the bereaved family of the jawan and remains committed to their dignity and well being.

Anti-Pak protests held in Jammu over security situation

Agency
Srinagar, Jun 8

Protests were held by some organisations here over security situation in Jammu and Kashmir during which they demanded handing over of Kashmir to the Army. Carrying banner "crush Pakistan", the protests, led by Jammu West Assembly movement President Sunil Dimple, held anti-Pakistan slogan for resorting to shelling on border and killing 47 people and injuring 130 others this year. "Kashmir should be handed over to the Army as situation is worsening in the region", Dimple said. Union Home Minister Rajnath

Singh will be visiting the border areas to reach out to the people and meet some local delegations at Jammu on the second day of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir today. Talking to reporters, Dimple said that the protests were held against Pakistan for creating terror on border. They will also hold dharna to convey the message to the Union Home Minister that it was not the time to celebrate Iftar parties, but to take hard steps in J-K. Dimple appealed to Singh to stay on the International Border (IB) for a night in Arnia, RS Pura sectors with the people and know their hardships. He said Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Singh

are enjoying the Iftar parties when our security jawans are sacrificing their lives on the borders and people in the Line of Control (LoC) are dying due to Pakistan shelling. Another organisation, Kashmiri Migrant Relief Holders and Overaged Youth held protests in support of the demand of increase in relief money and rehabilitation of overaged youth of the community. They raised anti-government slogans and alleged that the prime minister and he home minister are reaching out to anti-India forces of separatists, stone-pelters and Hurriyat conference in Kashmir during their visit, but forget the displaced Kashmiri migrants.

Ahead of G7 summit, trump attacks European Union and Canada on trade

Agency
Ottawa, June 8

Leaders of the Group of Seven rich nations headed for a summit in Canada on Thursday more divided than at any time in the group's 42-year history, as U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policies risk causing a global trade war and deep diplomatic schisms. In a bid to rebuild America's industry, Trump has imposed hefty tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, including those from key G7 allies like Canada, Japan and the European Union.

Trump has threatened to use national security laws to do the same for car imports and has walked back on environmental agreements and an international deal to prevent Iran from building a nuclear bomb. French President Emmanuel Macron, who has invested in a warm personal relationship with Trump, said the other G7 nations - Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan, as well as France - should remain "polite" and productive but warned that "no leader is forever," a sign that Europe would not surrender meekly to the U.S. president.

"Maybe the American president doesn't care about being isolated today, but we don't mind being six, if needs be," Macron told reporters. "Because these six represent values, represent an economic market, and more than anything, represent a real force at the international level today." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau predicted "robust discussions" on trade, but other G7 members like Japan and Italy seemed less likely to want to challenge the U.S. president.

Trump fired back soon after on Twitter, addressing both leaders directly, saying they were charging "massive tariffs" on U.S. goods and had erected other trade barriers. "I look forward to seeing them tomorrow," Trump wrote about Friday's start of the two-day summit. The G7 leaders will meet in a luxury cliff-top hotel in the town of La Malbaie, about two hours' drive from Quebec City. The site has been sealed off by police, making demonstrations impossible. Several hundred protesters - some wearing red flags and red masks - walked noisily through the streets of Quebec City on Thursday evening, heading for the Congress Centre where the media are based. Some in the crowd, closely watched by riot police, carried banners with slogans such as "The G7 does not represent us." Others carried posters with defaced photos of Trump.

The U.S. president will come face-to-face at the gathering with world leaders whose views do not chime with his on a range of issues from trade to the environment as well as Iran and the construction of a new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem. Trump signalled that he was in no mood to compromise as he met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has tried to cultivate a friendly relationship with the American president. Trump raised the issue of U.S. car imports with Abe at their meeting in Washington and said he wanted more investment in plants in the American industrial heartland of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. **Ex-Best Friends** Abe is not the only world

leader to have tried charming Trump and failed to come away with concessions from the U.S. leader. Macron, who appeared to have built a warm relationship, said the "G6" leaders would not spark a fight at the summit. "In this environment, above all we always have to stay polite, stay productive and try to convince (them) to keep the United States on board because they are our historical ally and we need them," Macron told a news conference with Trudeau in Ottawa. The U.S. president also has frosty relations with Trudeau, the summit host. Pleas by the other member countries for exemptions from the U.S. steel and aluminium tariffs, which went into effect on June 1, have fallen on deaf ears. The Canadian leader is also embroiled in a row with Washington over negotiations to revamp the almost 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

But Macron stressed that the United States was no longer the world's sole economic superpower and urged other industrialized countries to stick together. His plea for unity may fail, even within the European Union. Germany has suggested making accommodations over trade with the United States for fear of triggering a ratcheting up of tensions over cars that would embroil companies like BMW and Mercedes. Europe faces renewed domestic economic and political challenges in addition to those posed by Trump's unilateralism. One source with knowledge of the matter said Italy wanted to "create as much space as possible to continue the dialogue with

the U.S.," noting that new Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, a political novice, would be treading carefully in Canada because he "needs to see the dynamics of the group." Japan is also expected to take a less confrontational approach, while quietly pressing its case on trade. British Prime Minister Theresa May urged the EU to stick to World Trade Organization rules and to ensure that any response to the tariffs was proportionate. Despite the lobbying and pleas, Trump has pressed ahead with tariffs as well as pulling out of the Paris climate accord. Intense diplomacy from Europe to save an international nuclear agreement with Iran also failed.

Trump has also told China, the world's second largest economy, to cut its massive trade surplus with the United States. Washington has threatened tariffs on imports of Chinese goods unless Beijing stops stealing American companies' intellectual property. Economically, Europe may have more to fear if Trump does go for auto tariffs. Its recovery from the 2008-9 financial crisis has been far slower than that of the United States where the Federal Reserve is on the cusp of another interest rate rise while the European Central Bank is still using crisis-era measures. Financial markets around the world were battered by Trump's trade threats. They have recovered somewhat, but are still vulnerable and Italy's new government is also a risk. Trump may have less to fear than slow-growing Europe and Japan from a trade war in terms of economic losses if the "G6" pushes back on tariffs.

Life gradually limping back to normal in Shillong

Agency
Shillong, Jun 8

The situation was returning to normal in trouble-torn Shillong and curfew relaxed for nine hours today, a week after assault of local boys and subsequent clashes between protesters and security forces shattered peace in the hill station. Curfew was relaxed for nine hours today in the 14 affected areas of the state capital from 7 am to 4 pm with no incident of violence reported during the curfew hours for the fourth day today, East Khasi Hills deputy commissioner PS Dkhar said. "The situation has returned to normal. Life and business is back as you can see around. Markets and taxis are plying normally," he said.

In rest of the city, curfew will be in force from 8 pm to 5 am as a preventive measure, he said. The Meghalaya capital had been in the grip of violence since last week following clashes between local tribals and Punjabi residents. The curfew at Punjabi Lane and in 13 other affected areas will be resumed at 4 pm as a precautionary measure, he said. "We do not want the situation to relapse," he said, adding that heavy security forces have been deployed in vulnerable areas. Messaging services had been restored briefly yesterday and authorities would decide whether mobile telephone services would be allowed, he said. The state capital had been in the grip of violence following

the assault of a bus handyman and his two friends by Sikh residents in Punjabi Lane area of the city. The district authorities had ordered a magisterial inquiry headed by I Majaw to probe the incident and to identify rumour mongers inciting violence. A high-level committee was also formed by the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government to find a permanent solution to the issue of relocation of the Sweeper Colony, inhabited by Punjabis. Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, who heads the committee, said yesterday that the panel would recommend a feasible and permanent solution to the state government for relocation of the colony, which has been a long pending issue.

Suspected narcotics smuggler arrested in Kashmir

Agency
Jammu, Jun 8

A suspected narcotics smuggler was arrested in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir and six grams of heroin was recovered from his possession, police said today. Rifaqat was intercepted at Devika bridge last night after police received a tip off, they said. He was arrested on the spot and a case was registered against him, they added.

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