

Asian News

Indian troops crossed line of control - China

BEIJING, July 25 (Reuters) - China said on Friday Indian reports that a Chinese military patrol had crossed their disputed frontier were wrong and that, in fact, Indian troops had crossed onto the Chinese side.

"After investigation, the reality is that Indians crossed the eastern part of the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control (LAC)," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It said the Indians later retreated after a Chinese request.

On Thursday, India's Foreign Ministry said a Chinese patrol had crossed the LAC on June 26 and asked China for an explanation.

The Hindustan Times, an Indian newspaper that first reported the row, said a 21-member Chinese patrol stopped a team of Indian intelligence

officers about 14 km (nine miles) inside the Indian side of the border.

The newspaper said the Indians were detained, questioned and then freed.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was in China at the time, on the first visit by an Indian premier in a decade. The visit was aimed at building trust between the world's two most populous nations who went to war in 1962 over their unresolved line of their 3,500-km (2,200-mile) frontier.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said maintaining peace in the border region required the joint efforts of both sides.

"We hope the Indian side will strictly abide by the regulations of the agreements signed by the two coun-

tries, respect the Line of Actual Control between the two sides and avoid similar incidents happening again," it said.

Both nations, which claim vast swathes of each other's territory, appointed top-level envoys last month to help speed up a final settlement of their dispute. The border has largely remained peaceful.

India says China occupied 38,000 square km (14,700 square miles) of land in the remote Aksai Chin area and is also illegally holding 5,180 square km (3,235 square miles) of northern Kashmir, ceded to it by Pakistan.

China claims 90,000 square km (56,250 square miles) in the eastern sector of India's border region.

Arroyo on coup rumours: No cause for alarm

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is unperturbed by the coup rumors, but yesterday she saw fit to urge the public to "remain calm amid these rumours of destabilization."

In a speech before the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment (SRR) in San Miguel, Bulacan, the President said: "The [Armed Forces] chief of staff is on top of the situation and there is no cause for alarm. [The] representatives [of the restive young officers] assured me of their absolute fealty to the chain of command."

She acknowledged the "legitimate grievances" of the young officers and said these were being addressed. "I do not blame the young officers for pushing for internal reforms, and the expression of their grievances has been proper and lawful," she added.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon chided Malacañang and the Department of National Defense for supposedly "fanning the coup rumors" by their "actions and pronouncements." Biazon said the rumors were further aggravated by military movements all over the country. "Is this a very clear indication of the instability that is affecting the minds of the people, or is the President losing control of her men?" asked the opposition senator and vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security. The coup rumors were believed to have caused the peso to fall to a four-month low against the dollar on Wednesday, when it closed at 54.025 to the greenback.

It lost more ground in early trade yesterday, falling to 54.23 to the dollar. But it rallied to close at 53.95, its intraday high. The turnover of command of the 1st SRR from Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma to his deputy, Col. Danilo Lim, a former coup leader-was not part of the President's original schedule and was squeezed in yesterday morning before her flight to Isabela to visit the victims of typhoon "Harurot," a source said. Ms Macapagal had dinner in Malacañang Wednesday night with the grumbling members of Classes 1994 and 1995 of the Philippine Military Academy. But Malacañang was quick to downplay the significance of the meeting and dismissed insinuations that the coup rumors had spooked Ms Macapagal. "I don't think the President is alarmed," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing. "She is concerned about the plight of junior officers, as every commander in chief should know the situation of the men and women in the organization."

To prove that Ms Macapagal was not alarmed, Bunye said she started her day with a 9 a.m. meeting with some

senior Palace officials, where she put the finishing touches to her State of the Nation Address to be delivered Monday.

"If there is something serious, the President would probably be here and not go out of town and attend to the victims of the typhoon," he said. "We never talked about the



reported coup. The President read some parts of her draft to get comments from the

Cabinet members present during breakfast. There was no cause for alarm for any possible coups, whether today or the next few days."

The Philippine Daily Inquirer

... promotes general in Abu Lamitan escape

A GENERAL who was recommended by the Senate for court martial proceedings has been promoted by President

Macapagal-Arroyo along with five other generals to the next higher rank.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez had come under investigation for the escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages from a military dragnet in Lamitan, Basilan two years ago. Dominguez, currently the chief of the Northern Luzon Command based in

Tarlac and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class '71), was then commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He was one of three officers who were relieved and probed following the escape in June 2001. After a series of hearings, the Senate recommended court martial proceedings against Dominguez and the two

other junior officers last year. The three officers had flatly denied the charges. Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief and spokesperson, said

he saw nothing wrong with the promotion of Dominguez, saying "he has not been adjudged guilty" by the authorities. Also promoted with Dominguez to the rank of lieutenant general were Major Generals Roy Kyamko of the Southern Command, Alfonso Dagudag of the Southern Luzon Command, Jacinto Ligot of the Central Command, and Ruben Domingo of the Western Command.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer

Wife wins over ma-in-law in cremation case

VILLASIS, Pangasinan-Twenty-three days after he was killed in action in Compostela Valley, a court has ruled that the remains of Army Capt. Peter James Angeles should be cremated after it dismissed the petition of his mother to bury his body.

Judge Manuel Pastor Jr. of the Villasias RTC dismissed the petition of Josie Angeles and ruled that the "decision on the form of funeral for the late Peter James rests upon his surviving spouse-respondent Claudine Marie Angeles." The decision was promulgated Tuesday but was released only on Wednesday afternoon because of power failure in this town due to typhoon "Harurot."

But the cremation would have to wait as the court gave Josie 15 days to file an appeal. Lawyer Napoleon Arenas, Josie's counsel, said she had decided to file a motion for reconsideration. Arenas said he wrote the man-

agement of the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Dagupan City, where Angeles' body has been kept in a freezer since July 14, asking them not to undertake cremation until the court issued a final decision on the case. He said the management agreed to wait for the court's decision. Angeles was among the 13 government soldiers who were killed on June 30 during an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Compostela Valley. Angeles' wife Claudine wanted to have the body cremated to fulfill the wish of her husband.

On the other hand, Josie wanted her only son buried in accordance with his Roman Catholic beliefs and asked the court to rule in her favor. Claudine earlier stressed that Angeles had already converted to a denomination of Born

Again Christians when they were married in April. Claudine moved for

outright dismissal of her mother-in-law's petition on the ground of "lack of cause of action."

In the four-page order, Pastor noted that the court lacked the authority to make a judicial determination on the form of funeral rites. The authority rests on the surviving spouse, he said. "The law is explicit, that in case of doubt, the form of the funeral shall be decided upon by the person obliged to make arrangements for the same, subject only to the requirement of prior consultation with the family," Pastor said. Pastor's decision said Claudine took the witness stand on Monday and testified that on three occasions, her late husband told her of his desire to be cremated when he dies. Claudine, who is two months pregnant, said the decision relieved her of extreme anxiety.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer

Advt. Landscape

Qatar Airways to invest Us \$150 million in Doha International and launches Moscow services

Qatar Airways, one of the world's fastest-growing airlines which operates Doha International Airport, has announced it will invest US \$150 million in the second half of this year in the second phase of the airport expansion.

The news was revealed at Arabian Travel Market 2003 in Dubai where the Qatari flag carrier has a significant presence.

"This second phase expansion, which will take five months to complete, will include expanding the arrivals terminal to increase its capacity from 3.5 million to six million passengers, the construction of an additional five bays and two hangars, expanding the duty free by 25% to provide in total 1,250 square metres and the building of covered car parking to accommodate 2,000 cars," said Akbar AI Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Qatar Airways.

"This investment reflects the growth of our airline and of Doha as an expanding international tourism and business hub."

The third phase of the expansion of Doha International Airport will see Qatar Airways invest an additional US \$50 million. The third phase will provide an additional five bays - taking the total number of bays to 29 when the expansion is complete.

"Qatar Airways has an aggressive fleet development programme which will see our current fleet of 23 Airbus aircraft grow to 28 by the end of this year," said AI Baker.

Qatar Airways recently announced the delivery of a new

A330-200 and A320-200. It will shortly take delivery of a long-range A319 corporate jetliner and is one of the launch customers for the A380 'super jumbo' scheduled for delivery in 2007.

Meanwhile, the airline - one of the fastest-growing in the world - has announced that it will begin a thrice-weekly Doha-Moscow flight on August 13th, making the Russian Federation capital its 42nd destination.

Qatar Airways will fly to Moscow every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Qatar Airways has become the first airline to introduce 'Sky Newspapers' - an innovative service which delivers quality copies of the world's most respected newspapers to First and Business class passengers often before the actual papers hit the street stands.

Last year, Qatar Airways recorded sales revenue growth of 10% on its annual target. Cargo revenues also performed well, producing 12% growth on the previous year. The airline carried more than 2.5 million passengers from destinations across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Indian Sub-continent and the Far East.

Qatar Airways also operates a number of subsidiary companies, including: Qatar Aviation Services, Qatar Catering Company, Qatar Airways Holidays, Qatar Distribution, Qatar Airways Cargo and Qatar Duty Free.

Twenty-four hour emergency mobile service vehicle

United Motors Lanka Limited (UMLL), the official transport provider for the Board of Control of Cricket in Sri Lanka and Sole Distributors in the island for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Japan proudly announced that they had launched a 24 hour emergency mobile service vehicle operation which is a great success in June 2002 and said that they had responded to 128 emergency calls during the past 10 months of the last financial year.

The main aim of establishing this unit is to build customer confidence in Mitsubishi after sales and reassert its commitment and responsibility to customers who are in desperate need of help especially at night and during holidays. Mitsubishi has been in the forefront of the Japanese brand new vehicle market for a considerable period of time and it has captured nearly 65% of the truck market. Even in the jeep market, Mitsubishi has been dominating for a long time with their exclusive flagship model Montero product range. In the jeep market they have capitalized nearly 40% of the share since their closest rival Nissan Patrol was 19% in year 2002. Their

success story does not end with the above since they dominate the microbus market segment as well by capturing well over 60% with unmatched Mitsubishi L300 (P15WH) sporty van. From the automobile industry point of view, the total market size has shrunk by almost 17% and although economic conditions being at its worst, still United Motors has unbelievably won the Sri Lankan market. Strength in brand new Japanese vehicle market is only below 15% from the total number of vehicles imported from Japan during the last year. Although the country's economic condition has not fully recovered from the worst, UMLL has seen 300% growth in their operation.

Anyway now Daimler-Chrysler manages Mitsubishi since they captured 38% of shares in Mitsubishi Japan.

Emergency mobile unit operation is supported by a state of the art UMLL Workshop at Orugodawatte which is equipped with the latest equipment and MMC trained experts whilst, ample genuine spare parts are available in UMLL outlets including head office. UMLL branch network is spreading in the island extensively covering Nuwara Eliya, Kurunegala and

HNB Pathum Udanaya 2003 grand draw winners

Hatton National Bank the pioneer of banking boosted the biggest ever prize structure from private banks in the year 2002 when it awarded its customers with a special Exclusive bonanza. HNB has been able to convince the people that savings is invaluable particularly to realize their future aspirations.

The Pathum Udanaya Scheme endured for the past several years, the bank has seen more and more deposits and it is satisfied that people have been encouraged to save their money for the future.

The lucky winners for the year 2003 Grand Draw were Mr. V. Gomes of Moratuwa branch (1st prize) and Rev. Sunetta Thero Kataragama of HNB City Branch (2nd prize).

The picture shows Mr. Rienzle T. Wijetilleke, Managing Director of HNB presenting the cheque to a relation of the winner, Rev. Sunetta Thero, Kataragama who is presently in Japan.



Elephant House introduces diet ice cream

With local consumers becoming increasingly health conscious, Ceylon Cold Stores, manufacturers of the family favourite, the Elephant House range of ice creams, have now introduced Vanilla Diet ice cream. The new Vanilla Diet has been carefully manufactured to match the original Vanilla ice cream which is to date the number 1 seller in Sri Lanka.

Containing only 50% of the number of calories present in regular ice creams, Vanilla Diet is completely free of the common sugar sucrose, while it contains only 40% of the normal

quantity of vegetable fat that is present in regular ice creams.

According to Director Marketing of CCS, Billy Walpola, the other ingredients used in the manufacture of Vanilla Diet ice cream are Oligofructose and Insulin which act as dietary fibre. "In addition these two ingredients have been found to reduce serum cholesterol, while facilitating the absorption of calcium and are widely used by international ice cream manufacturers," said Walpola.

The Diabetes Association of Sri Lanka confirms the fact that Oligofructose and Insulin which are present in Vanilla Diet, and manufactured by Orafit Active Food Ingredients of Belgium can be used in the manufacture of diabetic food products and because of their specific properties are in fact eminently suitable for diabetics. In fact according to the last census report, the diabetes prevalence rates are as high as 13.5% for IGT and 7.7% for Type 2 diabetes amongst the rural populace while it is 14.4% for IGT and 12.1% for Type 2 diabetes amongst the urban populace.

The Elephant House Vanilla Diet ice cream which comes in 1 litre packs is available at all leading stores and supermarkets and could be enjoyed by the health conscious who albeit still have a sweet tooth.



Launch of Pizza Pooch Kiddies Club

Pizza Hut has launched its Pizza Pooch Kiddies Club with a grand welcome party held on 6th July 2003 at the Union Place restaurant. Many kids along with the parents were present at this party in order to celebrate this fun-filled event. It's an exclusive club for children aged between 5-12 which is mainly targeted to attract kids and to strengthen the relationship with kids.

Kids who join the club will enjoy many benefits throughout the year and Pizza Pooch has more kids events packed with fun, excitement and educational events organized throughout the year.



New DHL Unites Strengths of DHL, Danzas and Deutsche Post World Net

DHL, Danzas and Deutsche Post have relaunched its parcel, express and logistics business' visual identity under the new DHL brand. This announcement follows the earlier one made in late October, on the global consolidation of DHL, Danzas and Euro Express into the new DHL through the STAR Integration Programme. Deutsche Post Euro Express operates in Europe with its core business focus on parcel services for business customers and with deliveries based on ground transportation.

The integration of DHL, Danzas and Deutsche Post Euro Express under a single brand will create the world's biggest single logistics company. Its aim is to provide customers with one-stop access to the most comprehensive range of logistics products and services.

Under the new DHL in Asia Pacific, DHL will consist of three divisions: DHL Express, DHL Danzas Air & Ocean, and DHL Solutions. DHL Express will be the express delivery business, the present business of DHL Worldwide Express.

DHL Danzas Air & Ocean represents the former business of Danzas Intercontinental. DHL Solutions will combine the strengths of the solutions business of DHL and Danzas Solutions including contract logistics, warehousing and distribution.

The combination of DHL's and Danzas's strengths here in Asia Pacific will open new possibilities for customers of both companies to easily access a full range of integrated express and logistics solutions, primed to meet the ever-growing customer demands for more sophisticated express and logistics services in the region.

Hotel Sapphire wins at Culinary Art 2003

Hotel Sapphire won two awards at the 10th Culinary Art 2003 organized by the Chef's Guild. Two Bronze Medals were won by Hotel Sapphire for the Best Individual Ice Carving by R. A. Papalie and Sri Lankan Meal by S. Abeyratne and A. P. Nandana Adikari.