



South Korean Prime Minister Lee Soo-sung, left, and his Turkish counterpart Mesut Yilmaz listen to their national anthems during a welcoming ceremony for the Korean premier in Ankara Thursday. Turkish State Minister Ali Talip Ozdemir is at right in the background. AP-Yonhap

Seoul Ankara Seeking to Open Direct Air Route This Year

ANKARA (Yonhap) — Prime Minister Lee Soo-sung conferred with his Turkish counterpart M. Yilmaz Thursday afternoon and solicited Ankara's support for the proposed four-way talks for a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

Yilmaz fully understood the contents and background of the peace overture and committed Turkey's support for the offer, Song Tae-ho, Lee's chief secretary, said.

Lee is visiting Turkey from Thursday through Monday on the first leg of a 16-day four-country tour that will take him to Poland, Hungary and Romania as well.

The two prime ministers are scheduled to hold an expanded meeting Friday morning, which, according to officials accompanying the prime minister, will discuss opening direct Seoul-Ankara flights, the conclusion of an atomic power cooperation agreement, and joint advances by private

businesses into Black Sea Coastal and Central Asian countries.

The meeting is reportedly expected to produce an accord to launch up to four direct weekly flights between Seoul and Ankara within the year.

With South Korea's participation in the construction of atomic power plants in Turkey in mind, the two countries are also expected to agree on expediting the conclusion of an accord on cooperation in the nuclear power sector, Cho Chang-bum, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Bureau, said.

Turkey plays a key role in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation setup and has influence among some ethnically similar central Asian countries.

The two governments are likely to agree to actively support their enterprises' bid to make joint inroads into countries in the Black Sea and Central Asian regions, the sources said.

Whitewater Testimony Ends After Clinton Denies Allegation

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Reuters) — Testimony in the Whitewater trial came to a dramatic end on Thursday after President Bill Clinton denied allegations he used his political weight to win an illegal loan for a business partner.

Defense attorneys stunned the courtroom by deciding to close their case immediately after Clinton's videotaped testimony was played before the jury in a trial the White House fears could damage the president's reelection bid. Closing arguments were set for Monday meaning the case that has dogged Clinton since he took over the White House is now close to an end.

In resting their case after calling just two witnesses, defense lawyers for Clinton's Whitewater business partners, James and Susan McDougal, said they hoped the president had won over the jury of eight women and four men.

Defense attorney Sam Heuer said he felt Clinton had proved defense arguments that the prosecution's star witness had lied about the loan.

"You've got the President of the United States saying this didn't happen ... You can't ask for a better witness than that, you can't ask for better credibility than that," he said.

EU Takes South Korea to WTO Over Telecom

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Commission said on Friday it was resorting to the World Trade Organization in an attempt to open up the telecommunications procurement market in South Korea, saying EU exporters lose about \$900 million annually by being excluded from the market.

"The Commission has therefore requested formal consultations in the WTO because the EU's own highly competitive companies are being denied access to the Korea telecommunications equipment market..." the Commission said in a statement.

According to the Commission, Korean law requires the main national operator, Korea Telecom, to buy from the country's manufacturers whenever possible.

It said it had clear indications that the second operator, Dacom, applied a similar purchasing policy.

US, NK Strike Accord on MIA Remains

— \$2 Mil Payment Agreed as Recovering Costs —

WASHINGTON (AP) — Breaking a months-long impasse, the United States agreed on Thursday to pay \$2 million to North Korea for the cost of recovering 162 sets of remains of U.S. servicemen lost during the Korean War.

The agreement over remains found in 1993 and 1994 came after five days of talks in New York, the second major attempt to resolve the issue that prompted North Korea to halt recovery efforts last January.

During the talks, the two sides also started planning for joint recovery operations in the future to find the remains of up to 8,100 American military personnel unaccounted for in the 1950-53 conflict.

"We regard this as a positive step forward on this humanitarian issue," Alan Liotta, deputy director of the Defense Department's POW-MIA office, said in a telephone interview after the talks had concluded.

Liotta said the United States and North Korea planned to meet again in June to develop the idea of joint recovery, which should eliminate compensation problems since Americans could keep track of costs.

The two sides issued a dry, one-page statement, noting the \$2 million "will not serve as a precedent for any future compensation."

At the same time, resolution of the money issue buoyed negotiators.

"Both sides express their belief that

this agreement will contribute to the improvement of US-DPRK relations," the agreement said, referring to the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The agreement was announced on the same day Senate Majority Leader and Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole accused the Clinton administration of "appeasing" North Korea.

In a speech belittling President Clinton's foreign policy, Dole said "the greatest immediate security threat in Asia is the Stalinist regime in North Korea, armed to the teeth, determined to develop weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them."

In January, North Korea dissolved an excavation team assigned to search for

the remains of missing Americans, contending that U.S. compensation for that effort had been inadequate.

At the time, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense James Wold, who led the New York talks, said Washington offered \$1 million for the 162 sets of remains returned in 1993-94, but North Korea demanded \$4 million.

The two sides met in January in Hawaii without resolving the issue, prompting a North Korean foreign ministry official to say the impasse meant a "rupture in the long run" between the two countries.

Previously, the United States had paid \$897,000 to North Korea to cover costs associated with the recovery of 46 sets of remains in 1993.

Dole Calls for Asia Defense System. Backs China's MFN

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Republican presidential hopeful Bob Dole called for a ballistic missile defense system in Asia to defend Pacific Rim countries from North Korea and China but backed the extension of Beijing's U.S. trade benefits.

"With American leadership and American know-how we can create a Pacific Democracy Defense network that provides protection for people and territory from the Aleutians to Australia," the Senate leader said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

In his first election-year foreign policy address, Dole stressed that Asia was the region most critical to U.S. interests and outlined his plans to preserve stability there should he win the November election.

"It is time for the U.S. to work with Japan and to work with Korea as well as other Asian allies on the development, testing and deployment of ballistic missile defenses," said Dole.

He warned of North Korea's mighty military capabilities and China's aggression toward Taiwan and said that Taipei should receive U.S. arms and military assistance for its protection.

But Dole also backed his rival President Bill Clinton's expected decision to renew China's most favored nation (MFN) trade status. He argued that continued commerce with the communist nation is the best tool for influencing the regime.

India's Rao to Resign Soon After Election Rout

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao went to see President Shankar Dayal Sharma on Friday to submit the resignation of his Congress party government, party spokeswoman Margaret Alva told reporters.

"He has now gone to the president to submit his resignation," she said after a brief meeting of the council of ministers following a humiliating defeat for Congress in general elections.

Alva said what had been expected to be an acrimonious meeting following the election debacle had simply thanked Rao for his efforts.

The meeting had been expected to see the first formal emergence of a challenge to Rao's leadership of Congress. Alva said the subject had not arisen.

"We placed on record our appreciation for all that Mr Rao has done. We thanked him and he has now gone to the president to submit his resignation," she said.

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NEW DELHI, India (AP) — For the first time, India's lower castes and other traditionally deprived groups appear to have a chance to play a major role in ruling the country.

On Friday, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was expected to resign after his Congress Party, which has ruled India for most of its 48 years of independence, lost a parliamentary election.

As counting of the ballots continued, there was no clear victor in the world's largest democracy. But trends suggested that none of the parties would win a majority to form a government.

Computer projections said the Congress Party would finish third behind the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and the National Front, an alliance of low-caste and regional parties.

ties.

Rao was scheduled to submit his resignation to President Shankar Dayal Sharma and stay on as a caretaker. Sharma will then invite a party to try to form a coalition government.

Congress and the National Front have both said they won't join a government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party — which advocates nuclear armament, tighter control of foreign investment in India, and a reduction of special rights enjoyed by the Muslim minority.

That could put the National Front in a groundbreaking position in the coalition building that takes place, according to V.B. Singh of the Center for the Study of Developing Societies.

"The marginal groups, the have-nots, have begun to stake their claim to power in politics across India," he said.

(Related Stories on Pages 5,6)



Hindu nationalist candidate for parliament K.L. Sharma celebrates in New Delhi as his party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, takes a lead in national voting results Thursday. The BJP is expected to finish far ahead of the ruling Congress Party. AP-Yonhap

Global Weather Today's Forecast

| Cities | Temp. (°C) | |
|----------------|------------|--------|
| Anchorage | 60- 38 | Sunny |
| Bangkok | 31- 24 | Shower |
| Beijing | 19- 12 | P.Cldy |
| Berlin | 18- 7 | Cloudy |
| Buenos Aires | 19- 7 | P.Cldy |
| Chicago | 56- 40 | P.Cldy |
| Geneva | 18- 7 | P.Cldy |
| Hong Kong | 29- 24 | P.Cldy |
| Honolulu | 87- 72 | Sunny |
| Jerusalem | 32- 14 | Sunny |
| London | 15- 6 | Cloudy |
| Los Angeles | 83- 65 | Sunny |
| Manila | 33- 24 | Sunny |
| Moscow | 21- 8 | Cloudy |
| New York | 70- 51 | P.Cldy |
| Paris | 16- 8 | Cloudy |
| Rio De Janeiro | 24- 20 | Shower |
| Rome | 23- 13 | Shower |
| Seattle | 65- 46 | Sunny |
| Singapore | 33- 24 | P.Cldy |
| Sydney | 24- 16 | Cloudy |
| Taipei | 29- 19 | Cloudy |
| Tokyo | 19- 13 | P.Cldy |
| Toronto | 17- 1 | Shower |
| Vienna | 19- 9 | P.Cldy |
| Washington | 71- 55 | Shower |
| Zurich | 18- 7 | P.Cldy |

*Temperatures in all U.S. cities are in Fahrenheit.

Traditional Fermented Soybean Paste Fights Cancer

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

Several years of research at the Korea Food Research Institute (KFRI) has indicated that "toenjang" (Korean soybean paste) "chonggugjang" (Korean soybean paste fermented with Bacillus spp.) both have a pronounced anti-cancer effect.

The two considerably curb the proliferation of human stomach cancer cells, and human hepatic cancer and human colon cancer cell lines, according to Dr. Hong Sok-sun and other researchers of the food biotechnology department at KFRI, a state-run institute under the Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries Ministry.

They extracted the soybean products with water, methanol and hexane and tested their abilities to kill cancer cells.

Toenjang extractions with a density of 125 micrograms per milliliter showed an anti-ulcer cancer

effect inhibiting 18.2 percent of cells and extraction samples with a density of 2,000 microgram per milliliter inhibiting 93.2 percent.

The cancer cells slightly increased in the density of 250 to 500 mg/ml due to the activities of a particular chemical structure in that density, but took a downturn above the density of 100 mg/ml.

Chonggugjang extraction samples with a density of 125 mg/ml were found to cut ulcer cancer cells by a factor of 8.2 percent whereas samples with a density of 2,000 mg/ml inhibited 95.7 percent.

In the experiments on liver cancer lines, an anti-liver cancer figure of 93.3 percent was recorded with toenjang samples in the density of 1,000 mg/ml. chonggugjang extractions inhibited 91.2 percent at concentrations of 2,000 mg/ml.

As for colon cancer, the toenjang samples were 97.2 percent efficacious at a maximum and the chonggugjang samples were 95.4 percent.

"Study over the past several years has confirmed

the cancer-curbing effect of bean paste products, and we hope with further research at KFRI to identify the active agent killing cancer. Then, the findings will be published in journals overseas," said Yoon Ki-do, a food biotechnologist at the institute.

Japan is far ahead of Korea in research into the anti-cancer effects of bean paste products. While Japanese traditional products are fermented with chemicals, chonggugjang is naturally fermented with Bacillus spp. which grows at a particular humidity and temperature.

In addition to its anti-cancer effect, Korean bean paste products also inhibit toxic substances causing mutations to genes, the researchers said.

"When we succeed in separating and identifying the chemical composition of anti-cancer and anti-mutation agents in soybean paste, we will be able to develop new products with concentrated effects which will have a high potential for export," Dr. Hong said.

To Internet Visitors

A considerable number of Korea Times readers complain that whenever they try to connect KT Web site in the Korea Link (<http://www.KoreaLink.co.kr>) with their home personal computers, the only thing they can see is the KoreaLink home page and they fail to see the electronic Korea Times.

The reason for this is that their web browsers are probably not the Netscape Navigator.

For some technical reasons, those using other web browsers like Explorer of the Microsoft have to stop one step before the KT Web site.

But if you are now using MS Explorer, don't worry because you can download the latest version of Netscape Navigator at the KoreaLink home page.

At the bottom of the home page, you can see an icon saying Netscape Now! 2.0. Click here and follow the instructions as shown, and you will install Netscape Navigator.

It may take some time but if you successfully install the browser, you can enjoy the electronic Korea Times full of Korea and world news with no problem.

New Media Division
The Korea Times

Special Report

The Korea Times issues a four-page special report on the 7th annual Corporate Conference of the Asia Society. — ED.