



SECOND TERM: People watch the swearing in ceremony of Slovakian President Ivan Gasparovic on a screen mounted on the national theater in Bratislava on June 15. SAMUEL KUBANI/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Slovak President Gives Inauguration Speech, Hears Protest

By PETER SEDIK
Epoch Times Staff

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia—Incumbent Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic swore an oath before Constitutional Court chair Ivetta Macejkova, officially starting his second term of presidency. The official ceremony was held in the historic building of the Slovak National Theatre on Monday, June 15.

Gasparovic, 68, became the first head of Slovakia to serve two terms. One of the guests at the inauguration was the former opposition MP Iveta Radicova, his main opponent

in the elections. Gasparovic won by getting 55.5 percent of votes in the April runoff.

Before the welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace, a handful of human rights activists mixed with the Gasparovic supporters. Soon after the President began his speech from the Palace balcony, they showed letters above their heads forming a slogan saying "Human rights in China."

"We wanted to point out that on Thursday and Friday of this week, a Chinese President is to visit Slovakia, so we wanted to appeal to our democratically elected head of state to open the issue of human

rights at this meeting," said Ondrej Dostal from the Civic Conservative Party and representative of the activists.

The situation became tense after the President supporters started to verbally attack the activists and tried to tear apart their banners.

"People who just lift paper signs above their head and do nothing, those might not interest us," Gasparovic told the activists, dismissing their appeal.

"We would do more if we could!" one of the protester shouted back.

The activists plan to hold another protest during the Chinese President Hu's visit.

Malaysian Ex-Serviceman Concerned About Communism

By PETER SEDIK
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Mr. Nik Mohd Zaaba Bin Nik Daud, Secretary General for Ex-Services Associations of Malaysia. THE EPOCH TIMES

Indian, Pakistani Leaders to Meet

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (Reuters)—The leaders of India and Pakistan will hold talks in Russia on Tuesday, raising expectations their first meeting since last November's Mumbai attacks will ease tensions between the two countries.

Russian officials said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari would meet on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the Ural city of Yekaterinburg.

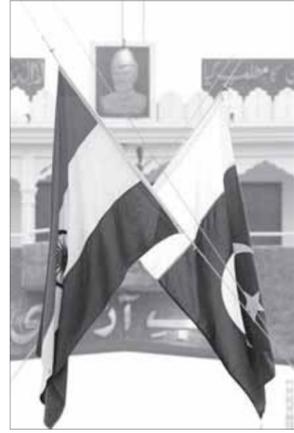
But it was unclear whether the two would make any real breakthrough in improving relations, which Washington hopes will ease tensions across the region, including in Afghanistan.

"According to our information a bilateral Indian-Pakistani meeting is tentatively planned for tomorrow," a Russian official involved in organizing the summit said.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said the two men would have a one-on-one meeting, but gave few details.

"Let the meeting take place and then we can talk after it is over," he was quoted as saying by the Associated Press of Pakistan. "We can't pre-judge the outcome of the meeting."

Pakistan is keen to resume a peace process broken off by India after last November's attacks on Mumbai, blamed by New Delhi on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant



EASING TENSIONS: The Indian (L) and Pakistani flags cross one another during the daily retreat ceremony on the India-Pakistan border at Wagah. NARINDER NANU/AP/GETTY IMAGES

dian Kashmir and on Indian targets elsewhere.

It was incensed when a Pakistani court this month ordered the release from house arrest of Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

And while Singh—who is in a stronger position to manage ties with Islamabad after winning re-election last month—has said he is ready to meet Pakistan "more than half way," he has also insisted it take tough action against militant groups.

It is not yet clear exactly how he plans to take talks forward with Pakistan, nor whether he would give any indication of this after meeting Zardari in Yekaterinburg.

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have fought three full-scale wars since independence, two of them over Kashmir.

The United States would like Pakistan to move troops from its eastern border with India in order to intensify an offensive on its western border against Taliban militants using Pakistan's tribal areas as a base for launching attacks in Afghanistan.

The two countries are also rivals for influence in Afghanistan, complicating U.S. efforts to improve conditions there and end a military stalemate.

India and Pakistan have observer status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which groups Russia, China and the former Soviet Central Asian republics.

N. Korea Nuclear Test Yields Few Kilotons

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—The United States has determined that the nuclear test conducted by North Korea last month yielded an explosion of a few kilotons, the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence said on Monday.

"The U.S. intelligence community assesses that North Korea probably conducted an underground nuclear explosion in the vicinity of Punggye on May 25, 2009," the office said in a statement. "The explosion yield was approximately a few kilotons."

North Korea's first nuclear test, in 2006, was about one kiloton. Shortly after this year's blast,

Russia said it estimated the explosion at about 20 kilotons, or about equal to the U.S. atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki in Japan in World War Two.

The Vienna-based Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization then assessed the strength of the test to be much smaller, saying it was just slightly larger than the 2006 test.

U.S. intelligence officials are still analyzing the nuclear explosion, the statement said.

North Korea has raised tensions in the past month by test-firing missiles, restarting a plant to produce arms grade plutonium

and holding the May nuclear test, which put it closer to having a working nuclear bomb.

Its latest announcement on Saturday to restart a uranium enrichment program and weaponize its plutonium came in response to new U.N. sanctions agreed on Friday.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said North Korea's "continuing provocative actions are deeply regrettable."

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said on Monday North Korea should abandon all its nuclear programs in a "complete, verifiable and irreversible manner."

Protest Against Universal Jurisdiction Changes

By ZULEMA NUÑEZ
Epoch Times Staff

MADRID—Representatives of human rights organizations held rallies outside major media networks in Madrid in early June, protesting changes in the law that regulates the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch (HRW), judges, lawyers, journalists, academics, and a dozens of associations have united in defense of universal jurisdiction, and against the limits that the Spanish government has attempted to apply against the principle.

The principle of universal jurisdiction allows the Spanish legal system to take up cases against people who committed crimes outside of Spain, or where there were no Spanish citizens involved, on the basis that the crimes committed were sufficiently heinous. Such crimes are considered crimes against all, and as such may be prosecuted anywhere, according to the principle.

Two weeks ago Spanish media sent a notice informing them that the two main political parties in the country, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, and the People's Party, have agreed to establish a limit to universal jurisdiction. With the change, only cases in which the alleged criminal is in Spain, or where there are Spanish citizens involved, could be prosecuted.

If this modification of the law is successful, it would mean that Spanish courts would be unable to continue judging cases regarding issues like the occupation of Tibet, the bombardment of Gaza, or the persecution of Falun Gong in China, which will have its tenth anniversary on July 20. Ten years of persecution has seen countless thousands of forced labor sentences handed down, brutal torture, and organ harvesting, at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party against millions of innocent people for their beliefs.

The barrister taking on cases for alleged crimes committed in Gaza and Guantanamo Bay, Gonzalo

Boye, was disappointed with the news: "A legislature and a half ago, Spain was a country of 'no-to-war', and now it's turned into a country of 'yes-to-war-crimes'."

Carlos Iglesias, barrister who is in charge of the case against various Chinese Communist Party leaders for their role in the genocide of Falun Gong, commented that in his case, the victims would have no recourse to the International Criminal Court, because China has not ratified that statute.

Members of the press have criticized the accord between the two parties, arguing that it was due to political and diplomatic pressure by countries who have cases leveled against them in Spanish courts. They give the reminder that international law obliges all states to pursue crimes against humanity wherever they are committed.

Reed Brody, representative of Human Rights Watch, emphasized as much. "The law belongs to all victims in the world who search for justice and do not find it in their own countries."



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