

BRIEFLY

2 Egyptian militants to die: An Egyptian military court on Saturday sentenced two Muslim militants to death for a bomb attack in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada which killed four people. Reuter reports from Cairo.

Two Egyptians and a German tourist were killed in the attack, which took place in September. A second German wounded in the attack died after being flown back to Germany, the court was told.

Kuwait, allies begin wargames:

Kuwait and 10 Gulf war allies, sharing concerns about regional stability, began war games on Saturday to improve coordination in deterring threats in the oil-rich area. Reuter reports from Kuwait.

"As long as we have the Iraqi regime up north, we have to prepare to meet its threats," said Major General Joseph Hurd, US Central Command director of operations, at the start of the manoeuvres in Kuwait.

75 pc of Peruvians malnourished: Nearly three-fourths of Peru's 22 million inhabitants suffer from malnutrition as a result of poverty, health officials have said. AFP reports from Lima.

Guillermo Lopez, director of the Institute for Nutritional Research, said at a conference on Friday that nearly half of the country's five- and six-year-old children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Pope meets Agca's mother: Pope John Paul II has met again with the mother of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk convicted of trying to kill the pontiff in a 1981 shooting. Italian news reports said on Saturday, AP reports from Vatican City.

The AGI and ANSA news agencies reported that also in the private audience on Saturday was a brother of the attacker. Agca is serving a life sentence in Italian prison for the shooting which wounded the pope in St. Peter's Square.

6 hurt in Croatian blast: Six people were injured in an explosion and fire on Saturday at a Croatian military airfield outside Zagreb, emergency services and hospital officials said. Reuter reports from Zagreb.

The blast came a day after Bosnian-Serb leader Radovan Karadzic threatened to "target" Zagreb if it did not remove its forces from Bosnia, but a police officer at the scene said Saturday's incident "Was not an attack".

Egyptian police kill 3 rebels: Three suspected Islamic militants were killed on Saturday during a shootout with police in the southern Egyptian province of Minya, police said. AFP reports from Minya.

Militants opened fire on a police patrol near the town of Malawi, 240 kilometres (150 miles) south of Cairo, they said. Police retaliated and shot dead three of the assailants.

7 Palestinians held in Israel: Israeli police in Jerusalem have arrested seven young Palestinian Christians suspected of stockpiling weapons in order to fight with Muslims, police said on Saturday. AFP reports from Jerusalem.

A home-made pistol as well as knives and axes were discovered during police searches of the suspects' homes, they said.

6000kg of hashish seized: A squad from Pakistan's anti-narcotics force has seized 6,000 kilograms (13,200 pounds) of high-quality hashish in one of the country's largest drug hauls, officials said on Saturday. AFP reports from Islamabad.

The seizure came after a three-day round-the-clock vigil on a remote route in the northwest of the country following a tip-off from a source about the smuggling attempt, an official report said.

Hollywood AIDS activist dies: Elizabeth Glaser, the Hollywood wife who became a tireless AIDS activist after she and her two children were infected with HIV through a blood transfusion, died on Saturday. She was 47. AP reports from Santa Monica.

Mrs Glaser, wife of actor Paul Michael Glaser, died at her Santa Monica home of complications from AIDS, said Carol Pearlman, a close friend and associate at the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which Mrs Glaser co-founded.

6 die in Swiss plane crash: A light aircraft plunged into a forest just kilometres from Zurich airport on Saturday, killing six people. AP reports from Zurich.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but there was thick fog in the area. Police said the Piper Saratoga PA 32 was about 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the airport when it disappeared into the forest in the late afternoon.

Adhikari intends to visit India: Prime Minister of Nepal Manmohan Adhikari intends to visit India first after his assumption as the head of the minority government led by the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) on November 30. Xinhua reports from Kathmandu.

This was disclosed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal while making his inauguration speech at the 43rd annual convention of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAII) at the international conference centre in Kathmandu on Saturday.

Mexican bus mishap claims 9: A bus plunged into a river in the eastern state of Veracruz, killing at least nine people and leaving 11 others missing, a government spokesman said on Saturday. Reuter reports from Mexico City.

Rescue workers were attempting to find the missing in the rain-swollen waters of the Huxanapan river near the town of Las Choapas, a spokesman for the nearby city of Minatitlan told Reuters.

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Ferry Divn, Barisal

(RHD) Tender Notice

1. Tender Notice No. : 77 of RHD, Ferry Divn, Barisal/1994-95.
2. Name of work : As described below.
3. Eligibility of contractor : (RHD), General category contractor as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
4. Availability of tender schedule:
 - (1) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mech. Ferry Divn, Barisal.
 - (2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mech. Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal. (Only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of opening tender schedule).
5. Tender receiving officer:
 - (1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mech. Ferry Circle, Khulna.
 - (2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mech. Ferry Divn, Barisal.
6. Last date of selling tender schedule : 11-12-94 (only office hours).
7. Date and time of opening tender schedule : 12-12-94 at 1 P.M.

Group No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money
1.	Repairing of Fender, deck side and other damaged pontoon No. P.O.-002 at Charkhali Ferry Ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 2,99,718/-	5995/-
2.	Supplying and fitting fixing overhead dish line and installation of garden and gate lightening on Ferry Division and Sub-Divn, under RHD, Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 1,02,982/-	2060/-
3.	Supplying spare parts for 75 H.P. Hydromaster (Nelord) and 110 H.P. Daf engine of uniflite and Utility trolley of different ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 2,45,500/-	4910/-

Executive Engineer, RHD
Ferry Divn, Barisal

International

Moscow offers direct talks with Chechen rebels

MOSCOW, Dec 4: Admitting for the first time that its own troops had been involved in fighting to oust Chechen separatists, Russia offered direct talks with the rebels on Saturday while massing troops to intervene, officials said, reports AFP.

The talks would be conducted with both the separatists and their opponents by a newly-created 12-member Russian government committee, led by Russia's Deputy Minister for Nationalities and regional policy, Viacheslav Mikhalov.

The committee is tasked with getting both sides round the negotiating table, according to the provisional information centre Moscow has set up to report on the situation in the breakaway Russian republic in the Caucasus.

It immediately called on the Chechens to begin talks to normalise the situation in the restive Muslim region, ITAR-Tass reported, citing Russian officials dealing with the crisis.

Among the committee members are deputies from the lower and upper houses of the Russian parliament, the ITAR-Tass agency said.

ITAR-Tass did not reveal whether the team included members of a parliamentary delegation which returned earlier Saturday from the Chechen capital Grozny where

they had been negotiating the release of Russians taken prisoner in the recent fighting there.

They returned with two of the 21 Russians they had gone to free, the Interfax news agency said.

The deputies, who went to Grozny on Thursday, did not have an official mandate to mediate for peace while in Chechnya, but revealed that

they had made a direct appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to stop air-raids over Chechnya.

Meanwhile, Chechnya began preparations at the weekend for a guerrilla struggle against the invasion by Moscow it believes will come within days.

"We are expecting a large-scale bombing of the city before December 10," said Movladi Udgov, a former Chechen information minister still working in the breakaway region's government offices. "Then (Russian) paratroopers will be sent in."

Udgov said Chechen authorities were already setting up partisan bases around the wild mountain territory "with enough food, ammunition and weapons for a year."



People carrying pictures of the victims of violence in Algeria in Paris on Saturday. About 10,000 people participated in the demonstration for freedom and democracy in Algeria.

— AFP photo

UK, France seek Milosevic's support for new peace plan

BELGRADE, Dec 4: The French and British foreign ministers were seeking the support of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for a revised international peace plan aimed at ending the Bosnian war, reports AP.

Paramilitary border guards fanned out in wooded areas of Andhra Pradesh state in southern India to detect mines which have killed 20 police since November 26.

"We have ordered our men to fan out in the (rebel) strongholds" in the northern belt of Andhra Pradesh, including Rao's home district of Karimnagar, a federal official here said.

The plan, agreed to Friday by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, the so-called international Contact Group, is a variation of a peace plan the Bosnian Serbs repeatedly have rejected.

But there were no indications the Bosnian Serbs would accept this plan. And there are doubts that Milosevic, despite all his influence, can make them. Milosevic urged the Bosnian Serbs to accept the earlier plan, but they rejected

it anyway.

A US envoy turned to shuttle diplomacy Saturday in an effort to get the warring groups in Bosnia to accept the international peace plan.

US diplomat Charles E. Redman, who has long experience in dealing with the warring Bosnian factions, completed initial talks with the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

US officials said the Muslims appeared receptive and that, while the Serb position was more guarded, the job of selling the plan — which would begin with a cease-fire in war-ravaged northwestern Bosnia — was off to a good start.



Muslim women offer prayers at a public park on Saturday in Bhopal as they mourn relatives killed in the Union Carbide gas leak ten years ago.

— AFP photo

Farooq Abdullah asks Delhi to grant more powers to states

SRINAGAR, Dec 4: Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Farooq Abdullah has urged the centre to implement the Sarkaria Commission report to defeat the "nefarious designs of external and internal forces" who are bent upon disintegrating India, reports PTI.

The demand came in the course of an interview, the former chief minister and president of National Conference, gave to the local station of All India Radio, broadcast last evening.

He said the centre and Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao have to think about the implementation of the Sarkaria Commission report to grant more powers to the states in order to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Asked about his demand for grant of pre-53 position to Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq said that central government should fulfil the commitments made under "Delhi

Agreement" with the people of the state.

He said the National Conference has never challenged the state's accession with India which was final and irrevocable. "We had acceded to India on certain principles" which needed to be strengthened, Dr Farooq said.

Kashmiris will make progress only when they remain with the 90 crore people of India. "We will take them nowhere as they know they depend wholly on New Delhi. Whatever they want will be achieved through talks," the former chief minister said.

He said all the three regions of Jammu and Kashmir — Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, should be granted a sort of regional autonomy within the constitution of the state so that there will be no monopoly of a particular region over the others.

"We have already set the process in motion by initiating a dialogue in Jammu in this regard," he said.

Iraq urges UN to condemn 'US attack' on ships

BAGHDAD, Dec 4: Iraq on Saturday urged the UN Security Council to condemn an "American attack" against two Iraqi ships in Gulf waters, the official news agency INA reported, says AFP.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hammadi met with ambassadors from Security Council members on Saturday to inform them of Baghdad's demand, the agency said without specifying the nationalities of the diplomats.

Hammadi told them of the "attack carried out on Thursday by three American helicopters" on a water tanker and a tugboat off the southern Iraqi port city of Faw.

US troops attacked the two ships on Thursday and held their crews for questioning, in a move condemned by Baghdad as a violation of the 1991 Gulf War ceasefire agreement.

Hammadi described the incident as "provocation and a show of strength" aimed at "creating an escalation" in the region.

It damaged the good relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council, the minister said, urging the council to "condemn this American aggression and adopt the necessary measures to prevent a repeat."

An official Iraqi spokesman quoted by INA said earlier: "Ten soldiers landed on the two ships from three US helicopters and opened fire on the crews."

The pentagon confirmed on

Saturday that US troops had boarded two Iraqi vessels and questioned their crews but said no shots were fired in either incident.

US troops targeted water tanker Ath-Tharhar and tugboat Muhamer near the offshore terminal of Al-Amiq, 40 kilometres (24 miles) south of Faw in the Gulf, the Iraqi spokesman said.

He alleged that some Iraqi sailors were beaten when the boats were intercepted and their crews subjected to five hours of questioning.

Naguib Mahfouz released from hospital

CAIRO, Dec 4: Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the Nobel prize for literature in 1988, has gone back home after seven weeks in hospital recovering from a knife attack by suspected Muslim militants, reports Reuters.

Mahfouz, speaking from home in a weak voice told Reuters he was feeling better, was glad to be out of hospital and had regained partial use of his right hand.

His American biographer, Raymond Stock, said a doctor at the military hospital in the Cairo suburb of Agouza had invented a device to help Mahfouz hold a pen.

Off the Record

Boy's fight for right to wear ponytail

AUSTIN, Texas: Zachariah Tounate has spent a third of his life fighting for the right to wear a ponytail to school. About the only thing that's changed in those four years is the length of his hair, reports AP.

State District Judge Norman Lanford ruled this week that the Bastrop school district's above-the-bottom-of-the-collar hair rule for boys violates the Texas Constitution's Equal Rights Amendment. But he said the courts have given administrators broad authority in running schools, and refused to revoke the rule.

Though Zach won't be returning to school — and may appeal — the 12-year-old said he feels good about the ruling.

"The judge said it was unconstitutional, and he said that he thought that was wrong," said the boy, whose ponytail is now about 15 inches (38 centimeters) long.

Ray Long, president of the School Board, said there is no sentiment on the board to change the rule. "I think that hair dress and grooming standards are good," Long said.

The fight started in 1990 when Zach refused to cut his hair. He was separated from other third-graders and taught alone. He was prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities.

\$92000 for Lennon's letter to the McCartneys

LOS ANGELES: A handwritten letter by ex-Beatle John Lennon bitterly attacking the wife of former bandmate Paul McCartney sold at an auction for 92,000 dollars on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The six-page draft, in black felt tip pen on Lennon's Bag Productions letterhead, is addressed to the McCartneys and urges Linda to "get off your high horse." It comes complete with curse words and grammatical errors.

It appears to be in response to her criticism of remarks that Lennon made about the Fab Four in an interview.

"Do you really think most of today's art came about because of the Beatles? I don't think you're that insane — Paul told me you believe that? When you stop believing it you might wake up? Didn't we always say we were part of the movement — not all of it?" the letter read in part.

A spokeswoman