

BRIEFLY



Vietnamese Communist Party chief Do Muoi (L) and Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin (R) stand at attention as the national anthems are played during the welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People Monday. Muoi arrived November 26 on a visit to cement ties between two of the world's few surviving communist governments. — AFP/UNB photo

ROK students clash with cops: Rock throwing radical students demanding the immediate arrest of former president Chun Doo-Hwan clashed violently with tear-gas shooting riot police outside Seoul's Yonsei University yesterday, witnesses said, AFP reports from Seoul.

The witnesses said some 500 students poured out of a main gate of the campus trying to march on the suburban residence of Chun, whom they blame as one of the ringleaders of the 1980 Kwangju civilian uprising, several students were seen bleeding.

Three executed in China: Three people were executed in South China's Guangdong Province for killing and dismembering a Hong Kong trader and a woman after extorting HK dollar 800,000 (US dollar 103,000) from them, the China News Service said yesterday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

A court in Dongguan city sentenced Qiao Lifu, his lover Zhao Miaomiao, and Rong Fengbo, a 26-year-old woman, to death on Friday and they were executed soon after, it said.

Yeltsin leaves hospital: President Boris Yeltsin has left hospital after completing treatments for a heart condition and has moved to a sanatorium near Moscow. ITAR-Tass news agency yesterday quoted presidential spokesman Sergei Medvedev as saying, Reuter reports from Moscow.

Medvedev said Yeltsin would remain under medical supervision after leaving the Central Clinical Hospital. Interfax news agency had earlier said that Yeltsin would move to Barvikha Sanatorium, in a wooded area to the west of the Russian capital.

DPRK minister dies: North Korea's Electronics Industry Minister Kim Chang-Ho died on Sunday of illness aged 60, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported yesterday. Reuter reports from Tokyo.

KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, did not give the specific cause of Kim's death. There was also no word on who will replace him.

Ecuadorans vote to reject reforms: Ecuadorans voted Sunday to reject President Sixto Duran-Ballen's proposed constitutional reforms according to preliminary unofficial results, AFP reports from Quito, Ecuador.

The early returns in the referendum showed more than 50 per cent of voters said "no" to the 11 proposals including one that would allow the president to dissolve the legislature at will.

Liamine Zeroual sworn-in: Algeria's President Liamine Zeroual took his oath of office yesterday in an official ceremony in Algiers attended by more than 500 dignitaries and broadcast on state-run radio and television, Reuter reports from Paris.

Zeroual, an ex-general who has been unelected head of state since January 1994, was elected in polls on November 16 to a five-year term.

Wanted hit man held in Turkey: Turkish police have arrested an Islamic fundamentalist hit man wanted for the killings of high-profile secularists and Iranian dissidents, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported on Sunday, Reuter says from Ankara.

Tamer Arslan, a member of the radical group Islamic Movement, was one of four people detained after a shootout with police in Istanbul on Saturday, it said. He was wounded in the clash.

Shevardnadze takes oath: Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was sworn in as Georgia's President on Sunday and promised to bring peace and prosperity to the hot trans-Caucasus state, Reuter reports from Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze, 67, looked confident as he addressed about 3,000 people gathered outside the parliament building in Central Tbilisi - scene of many violent riots which have rocked the nation of five million people in the last eight years.

Beijing warns against Dalai Lama's sabotage

BEIJING, Nov 27: China has warned against sabotage by Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and called for vigilance in an intensifying row over the reincarnation of the Himalayan region's second holiest Lama, reports Reuter.

"The Dalai Lama has staked everything on a single throw on the soul boy reincarnation of the Panchen Lama and failed," said the November 18 edition of the Tibet Daily, which was seen in Beijing today.

The newspaper was quoting Jiangcunluobu, a Tibetan and chairman of the Tibet autonomous region.

definitely use various means to engage in sabotage and create disturbances," Jiangcunluobu was quoted as telling a meeting of senior communist party members in Lhasa on November 17.

"The struggle will become fiercer," the newspaper quoted Jiangcunluobu as saying.

China is expected to announce its choice of a new Panchen Lama soon. Chinese sources said supporters of the Dalai Lama may try to smuggle his choice, the young Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, to India, where the Dalai Lama fled into exile after an abortive uprising in 1959.

3 MQM activists killed in Karachi

KARACHI, Nov 27: Three opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) activists were killed in a gun battle with police here today, police said, reports AFP.

A police official said the three were wanted in connection with several cases of murder and arson in the city.

He said the clash occurred in the industrial area of Korangi when the activists opened fire on police who were trying to arrest them.

MQM denied the police claim and said its activists were shot dead in cold blood.

The party, which represents Urdu-speaking immigrants from India who arrived after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent, has been at loggerheads with the government over its political and other grievances, most people in Sindh Province, where Karachi is located, speak Sindhi.

Arab traced as main suspect in Nov 16 blast

ISLAMABAD, Nov 27: Pakistani authorities said on Sunday they had traced an Arab from an unidentified country as a prime suspect in last week's suicide bombing at the Egyptian Embassy in which 16 people were killed, reports Reuter.

A government statement quoted Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar as calling the development a breakthrough in the investigation into the blast on November 19, which wounded more than 60 people.

"The investigators have traced and identified an Arab national who is believed to have been one of the ring leaders of the terrorist attack on the embassy," it said.

Saro-Wiwa calls for boycotting Nigerian oil

LONDON, Nov 27: Ognos Saro-Wiwa, who fled to Britain after the execution of his Nigerian political activist brother Ken Saro-Wiwa, called today for an international oil boycott of the West African state, reports Reuter.

A global oil embargo was the best way of bringing change in the military-ruled country, he said.

Saro-Wiwa, who left via Ghana, said he was determined to continue his brother's campaign against oil production as a cause of pollution in their Ogoni homeland of Nigeria.

"I will do as much as I can to see that my brother's ideas are pursued non-violently and that he did not die in vain," Saro-Wiwa told BBC radio in an interview.

"I believe that the only non-violent method which will lead to a change of government to a democratic government in Nigeria is through the boycott of oil from Nigeria," he added.

US, allies plan to extend presence in Haiti

WASHINGTON, Nov 27: With three months until UN forces are to withdraw from Haiti, the United States and its allies have begun planning for an extended international military and police presence there, the Washington Post reported Sunday, says AFP.

The arrangement will likely require teams of US military engineers, to remain in the Caribbean country, the newspaper said citing a programme launched in June under which US active duty and reserve personnel has been assigned projects such as repairing roads and roofs.

Under draft plans not yet approved by senior officials' groups of 200 engineers would keep rotating through Haiti on tours of duty lasting up to six months on a continuous basis to show the flag and 'be visible', a senior US official was quoted as saying.

Barcelona confce, a plot to divide Arabs: Gaddafi

TRIPOLI, Nov 27: Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi on Sunday dismissed a Euro-Mediterranean conference starting this week in Barcelona as a plot to divide Arab countries, reports AFP.

State-run television said Gaddafi told the Arabic service of the BBC that the conference starting on Monday was an international plot designed to carve up the Arab nation.

"Libya has not been invited to attend the two day conference but even if we received an invitation today we would not participate", Gaddafi said. He cited the participation of Israel, which we will not recognise until the last judgement.

Heavy fighting claims 55 rebels, 12 soldiers Tigers pledge to defend Jaffna Town with suicide squads

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, Nov 27: Rebel Tamil Tigers, observing heroes day today, pledged to defend Jaffna Town with suicide squads to ensure the Sri Lankan army pays a heavy price for the capture of their spiritual capital.

"We are defending it strongly, our suicide squads are standing by," Sivagnanam Karikalani, deputy political leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), told Reuters in an interview at his headquarters in the east.

Karikalani said the army had met heavy resistance from the rebels over the past few days. "They can capture it but we will make them pay dearly," he warned from his base, across a lagoon from Batticaloa Town.

He said the rebel suicide squads would be pressed into service to defend Jaffna

Town, regarded by the LTTE as the heart of a homeland they want to establish in Sri Lanka's north and the east for minority Tamils.

"But we are confident of taking it back again if it falls," Karikalani said. His base can be reached only through government defence lines and by ferry across the 1.5 km-wide (one mile) lagoon.

Elite army commandos and airborne troops spearheading the last leg of an army offensive are trying to push through the town, moving carefully through amaze of mines and booby-traps.

Another Reuter reports from Colombo says, at least 55 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and 12 government soldiers were killed in heavy fighting in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna on Sunday, a military spokesman said today.

The army used concentrated fire from tanks to destroy Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel fortifications in the path of troops advancing into the centre of Jaffna Town, the spokesman said.

Rebels trapped inside the town were calling for medical help and reinforcements and were also short of ammunition, according to guerilla radio traffic monitored by the army, he said.

Elite commandos and airborne troops are spearheading the last thrust to capture Jaffna, moving carefully through a maze of mines and traps laid by the rebels.

The LTTE are waging a 12-year war for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war.



US President Bill Clinton (R) arrives with his family, Chelsea (C), Hillary (L) and stepfather Dick Kelly at the White House Sunday. The Clintons spent the Thanksgiving holiday at Camp David. — AFP/UNB photo

US rejects Karadzic's demand to renegotiate Balkan accord

SARAJEVO, Nov 27: The United States has warned headline Bosnian Serbs they cannot renegotiate a peace treaty initiated last week and risk scuppering the whole package if they refuse to honour it, reports Reuter.

In the latest in a series of attacks on the agreement, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said on Sunday its stipulation Serb suburbs of Sarajevo be returned to government control would turn the capital into "the Beirut of Europe".

Karadzic, whose authority appears to be coming under a growing challenge from Serbs in northern Bosnia, said the accord initiated in Dayton, Ohio, last Tuesday

would have to be reworked to change the status of Sarajevo. "Bosnian Serbs in the city of Sarajevo... will require special status," Karadzic told British television.

"What is wrong with the Dayton agreement is that it has created a new Beirut in Europe. It is going to bleed for decades," he said.

US chief negotiator Richard Holbrooke quickly ruled out any renegotiation of the agreement, due to be signed in Paris in early December.

"Dayton was an initialling, Paris will be a signing. There will be no change between Dayton and Paris," Holbrooke told NBC television.

William Perry said he fully expected all parties to comply with the agreement but added: "If one of the major parties, in this case the Bosnian Serbs, decides it is not going to honour that agreement then, no, we will not honour the agreement."

The United States has pledged to contribute 20,000 troops to a 60,000-strong NATO force that will police the accord once it is signed.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has made it clear US participation is crucial and some other countries have said they will not send troops if the United States pulls out.



Akos Honfi (L) and Szilard Pataki, two 17-year old youth researchers from Hungary, blow against their invention, which won the 1st prize in the competition "Europe's youth researches for the environment" and which was shown during a presentation of the various ideas in Munich, Sunday. Their windmill construction works without any kinetic loss due to changing wind directions, and is able to transfer between 20 to 33 per cent of the wind's maximum energy (current wind generators transfer around 10 per cent). The competition was initialised and sponsored by the Foundation 'Jugend forscht' (Youth researches) and the German Bank. — AFP/UNB photo

Call to create int'l criminal court based on Nuremberg

NUREMBERG, Germany, Nov 27: The head of Germany's Supreme Court, halting the prosecution of Nazi war criminals 50 years ago as a beacon of justice, has called for the creation of an international criminal court based on Nuremberg, reports Reuter.

"I think one day we will have an international criminal court and international criminal law," Jutta Limbach, Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, said recently at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials.

Nuremberg "was the first big attempt to use the law to address the most serious human rights crimes, and this example is reason enough to base the international criminal court here, assuming the international community has the strength to finally create it," she told reporters.

Peter Schoenlein, Mayor of the Bavarian City that once was home to some of Nazi Germany's most virulent anti-Semitism, also suggested Nuremberg could host such a court, for which political momentum is growing.

place where the international court could find a home that has meaning," he said.

Limbach and other guests at a podium discussion, held in the same wood-paneled courtroom as proceedings five decades ago, said war criminals must be prosecuted, adding that the end of the Cold War brought new opportunities to bring the worst abusers to book.

Efforts by the United Nations to punish ethnic slaughter in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda show the principles highlighted half a century ago have lost none of their validity, they said.

Exiles reject Myanmar junta's nat'l convention

BANGKOK, Nov 27: Anti-Yangon exiles on Monday rejected the national constitutional convention, set to resume in Brumaon on Tuesday, and said the country's problem could only be resolved through direct negotiations, reports AFP.

In statements received here, the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Karen National Union (KNU) said that Myanmar's military rulers should agree to talks with pro-democracy forces and ethnic nationalities.

Both backed a November 22 statement in Yangon by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi who said she wanted dialogue with the junta but that the national convention was "totally unacceptable" to the people in its present form.

Their positions echoed a statement last week by another opposition group, the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), which demanded a halt to the conven-

tion, a nationwide cease-fire and general amnesty followed by talks.

The convention, last held in April and comprising delegates hand picked by the Junta, ethnic minorities and political parties, is to frame a new constitution for Myanmar after which power is to be handed over to a civilian government.

The KNU statement said: "Through this convention the country's basic political problems can never be resolved."

According to the NDF, the junta has to decide between civil war and peace.

"As for NDF, it shall stand shoulder to shoulder with ethnic nationalities and democratic forces and every organisation that oppose SLORC (the Ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council) to make a synchronized struggle and urge all parties concerned to strike against this shame national convention in various means."

Off the Record

Dictatorial utterance of a deposed dictator

SANTIAGO, Chile: Former military ruler Gen. Augusto Pinochet said over the weekend he felt sorrow for Chileans killed under his regime but he would do nothing differently if history repeated itself, reports Reuter.

Celebrating his 80th birthday on Saturday with 2,000 friends at a sumptuous party, Pinochet said he was proud of averting an "imminent civil war" when he overthrew Marxist President Salvador Allende in a violent coup in 1973.

But he admitted mistakes and, setting aside his usual blistering military rhetoric, took a reflective tone to refer to the convulsive early 1970s when he came to power.

"I can't affirm that all my decisions and conducts have been perfect, but I can say that... if history repeated itself, I would do what I have done again, and with the same intentions," he said.

He said he felt pain for the "Adversaries" who died under his 17-year rule — the first year of which brought brutal repression as thousand of leftists were rounded up, jailed, exiled or killed.

"Like a good military man, I am also pained by the loss of life among our adversaries in those years," he said.

"These episodes... are the great misfortunes of these grave and usually incomprehensible acts of human thoughtlessness," he said, looking alert and steady on his feet and dressed in a white gala army uniform.

Though conciliatory, he gave nothing resembling the expressions of contrition issued by the military in neighbouring Argentina this year.

Strange assurance

BEIJING, China's university students are assured of having "correct philosophical view of the world" now that the thoughts of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping have been made compulsory reading, reports Reuter.

The State Education Commission has made Deng's theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics mandatory in college and university curricula and ordered teachers to master Deng's ideas, Xinhua news agency said today.

Reading Deng's Dogma should "help students form a correct philosophical view of the world, life and values," Xinhua said.

Deng, 91, who has officially retired and has not been seen in public for more than a year, remains influential and is widely viewed as the final arbiter of key policies.

Multiple volumes of Deng's theories have been published and his works are available on CD-ROM for computers.

FIS considering truce

PARIS, Nov 27: A leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was reported today as saying the group was considering a unilateral cease-fire in its four-year struggle against the Algerian government, reports Reuter.

The Algerian newspaper Tribune quoted FIS official Youcef Boubrak as saying: "The FIS's executive bureau is getting ready to announce in the next few days a unilateral truce if the good faith of president Liamine Zeroual's statements is not contradicted."

The newspaper, published in Algiers, said Boubrak spoke to one of its reporters by telephone. By his side as he spoke to the newspaper was Abderrazak Rajam, former head of the office of jailed FIS leader Abbasi Madani.

FIS launched the struggle by Muslim militants against Algeria's army-backed author-

ities in 1992 after the authorities cancelled parliamentary elections which they were poised to win.

But the armed Islamic group has since become more prominent in the conflict and FIS itself has recently appeared split into different factions taking different positions. Analysts question whether FIS leaders have enough control to stop all militant groups now fighting the government.

Exiled FIS leaders Rabbah Kebir and Anouar Haddam have argued over whether to be more conciliatory to the government since Zeroual won presidential elections on November 16.

Political sources in Algeria say they expect Zeroual to stress dialogue with the militants when he makes a swearing-in speech today. The four-year conflict in the North African country has cost some 50,000 lives.

Chechens mark anniversary of big attack on Grozny

MOSCOW, Nov 27: Chechen rebel supporters marked the anniversary of big Moscow-backed attack on their capital Grozny on Sunday with wailing, singing and demands that Russian forces still fighting separatists a year later be withdrawn, reports Reuter.

Television pictures showed about 1,000 supporters of Dzhokhar Dudaev gathered on Friendship Square in Grozny, scene of some of Chechnya's worst fighting.

Adopting a traditional Muslim pose, they held their hands out at chest height and sang mournful songs. Others frantically beat hand-held circular drums and danced

from side to side.

An old man wept as he remembered some of the thousands of people who have been killed since the conflict in the mostly Muslim Caucasus region began a year ago.

Chechnya is due to take part in Russia-wide parliamentary elections on December 17 and a parallel poll for regional leader, but rebels have vowed to disrupt the polls and punish them Moscow-installed administration if it organises them.

November 26 marked the first big tank and artillery attack on Grozny in a Russian campaign against what was then the centre of rebel resistance.