

BRIEFLY**3 Indian warships arrive at Iranian port of Bandar**

Three Indian warships arrived at the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas yesterday what is being described here as a 'friendly' visit, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported. AFP says from Tehran.

The personnel aboard the ships are to visit naval facilities in the area during their four-day visit, it said. IRNA said earlier the ships were manned by 'educational, scientific and military personnel' and that visit was requested by the Indian navy as part of the effort to 'expand friendly ties and cooperation.'

Landsbergis sweeps Lithuanian polls

The party of Lithuania's independence leader Vytautas Landsbergis, was the clear winner of a second round of elections, winning 35 of the 65 seats in contention, official preliminary results showed yesterday. Reuter reports from Vilnius.

But Landsbergis, who led the Baltic state's struggle to split from the former Soviet Union, was just one seat short of an overall majority in the 141-seat parliament, having also won 35 seats in the first round.

Russian minister murdered

A government minister in the Russian Republic of Ingushetia was murdered outside his home over the weekend, the ITAR Tass news agency reported yesterday. AFP reports from Moscow.

Yuri Gorev, the Civil Protection Minister in the Caucasus Republic, was found outside his home on Sunday in a village near the capital Nazran. He had been shot in the head, the agency said, quoting the Ingush Ministry for Emergency Situations. The motive of the killing was not immediately known.

Trial of 2 Chinese dissidents suspended

A court in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen suspended a trial of two dissidents soon after it opened yesterday, citing the presence of a large number of Hong Kong-based journalists, an international human rights group said. AFP reports from Beijing.

Liwenming and Guo Baosheng who have been detained since May 1994 were only formally charged last week with plotting to overthrow the government and 'counter-revolutionary crimes.'

Drnovsek wins Slovenia polls

Center-left Premier Janez Drnovsek, who has pushed hard to take Slovenia into the European Union and NATO, won parliamentary elections Sunday, a partial vote count indicated. AP reports from Slovenia.

But with voters apparently shifting support to right-wing opposition parties, Drnovsek will find it hard to build a new coalition government.

With about 75 per cent of votes counted, Drnovsek's Liberal Democrats had 27.1 per cent, which would translate into 25 seats in Slovenia's 90-seat parliament, the state election commission said.

30 foreign newsmen expelled from Goma

Some 30 foreign correspondents were expelled Sunday from Goma by rebel fighters who have held the town in eastern Zaire for a week. AFP reports from Goma.

Security reasons was the only motive cited by one 'Commander Joseph' who came to a local hotel with a half dozen armed men to put the journalists onto waiting military trucks.

They were then driven to the border with Rwanda, arriving at around 10:30 pm (2030 GMT).

Dengue claims 156 in Central Java

Dengue fever, a cholera-like disease, which has spread since January in Indonesia's Central Java and worsened by this year's rainy season, has killed 156 people, an official said. reports Xinhua.

Regional Health Affairs Head Slamet Haryanto said in Jakarta on Sunday that since early this year 7,371 people have suffered from dengue fever, most of them living in the northern coastal areas of Central Java.

Israeli PM fails to achieve breakthrough in talks

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed in a phone call to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to achieve a breakthrough in talks stuck on a Hebron troop redeployment, a Palestinian negotiator said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"Netanyahu called Arafat last night and he reiterated his commitment to implementing the deals, but as far as we are concerned this is only a verbal commitment," Palestinian peace negotiator Hassan Asfour said.

"It is not translated in the talks and they do not give it to us on paper," Asfour told Reuter.

Israeli concern for the security of Jews in the West Bank city of Jerusalem has held up his handing over to Palestinian self-rule.

International

Rabbani in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials

50,000 Afghans flee homes to escape fighting in north

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11: Pervious fighting between the radical Islamic Taliban militia and its opponents has forced 40,000 to 50,000 Afghans to flee their homes in northwestern Afghanistan, the UN refugee agency said today, reports Reuter.

"Around 45,000 people from small towns and villages in front-line areas in Badghis province have fled southwards to the town of Qala-i-Nau," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement. "Another 2,000 to 3,000 people have already proceeded further south to Herat."

"More people are arriving in Herat every day, some after walking for several days and nights," the statement said. "A camp set up in Herat last Wednesday is already full."

The UNHCR said it had agreed with the Taliban, who

have controlled the western city of Herat since September 1995, to let the newly-displaced people use another camp, normally used by Afghan refugees returning from neighbouring Iran.

The statement said many of the displaced people were Nomadic Koochis. It quoted those arriving in Herat as speaking of heavy shelling and aerial bombardments and said many had left their homes in such haste that they could not bring any belongings.

The Taliban have been locked in see-saw battles in Badghis with the combined forces of northern Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum and ousted government commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

Meanwhile, ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived in Iran today for a one-day visit, the official Iranian news agency IRNA re-

ported.

It said Rabbani, who is supported by Iran, will hold talks with senior officials including first Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Iran brands the Islamic Taliban which in September overran Kabul as rebels giving Islam a bad name and says the only solution to the Afghan crisis is dialogue among all the factions.

Iran is friendly to and still recognises the Rabbani government which was toppled by the Taliban, Islamic militia spokesman said Sunday.

Rabbani, who has allied himself with several other Afghan factions to retake lost territory, held talks on Sunday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeeddin Boroujerdi in northern Afghanistan.

The former president

thanked neighbouring Iran for its efforts to restore peace in the war-torn country, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

Boroujerdi for his part stressed his country's wish to ensure Afghanistan's "territorial integrity" and for a broad-based future Afghan government.

AFP adds: A total of 29 Taliban Muslim militia corps have now been transferred to Kabul from the battlefields north of the capital, a Red Cross spokesman said Sunday.

Fourteen more bodies were brought to Kabul today from the Charikar area, said Joerg Stoecklin, press officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This first transfer is a result of negotiations held, at the ICRC initiative, between beligerent parties.

UN aid mission likely to begin today**Ghali for world intervention to save refugees in Zaire**

PARIS, Nov 11: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali made a new appeal on Sunday for immediate world intervention to save starving refugees in Zaire, saying thousands were dying with every hour that passed, reports Reuter.

"I make a new appeal to the members of the United Nations, to men and women of good will, to non-governmental organisations, to intervene today," Boutros-Ghali said during a stopover in Paris on his way to the World Food Summit in Rome.

The international community must act immediately and every hour that passes leads to thousands of dead, 1.2 million Hutu refugees with scant food or

water after a Tufts rebellion in eastern Zaire.

On Saturday the UN Security Council called on UN members to lay the ground work for a multinational force to help end the crisis in eastern Zaire but postponed a resolution setting up a force.

Boutros-Ghali, at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, said this week's World Food Summit takes on a special meaning when thousands of Africans are dying in the region of Kivu, in eastern Zaire.

France, which has led calls for a multinational force of between 4,000 and 5,000 troops to open relief lines to refugees in Zaire, linked any French participation to an agreement by a reluctant Washington to take part.

An American presence in this operation seems absolutely essential, foreign minister Herve de Charette told France Info Radio. We will only do it with the participation of Europe, or Africa and of the United States.

AP adds: An operation to deliver badly needed food and medicine to eastern Zaire where hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees and Zairians have been displaced by war, could begin Tuesday, a UN official said Sunday.

Omar Bakhiet, the senior UN official in Rwanda, said preparations for the mission began when rebel leader Laurent Kabila gave permission Saturday during a meeting with UN officials in no-man's land between Rwanda and Zaire.

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