

International

Belarus president fires top election official

MINSK, Belarus, Nov 15: President Alexander Lukashenko on Thursday fired a top election official who dismissed as invalid a referendum on expanding Lukashenko's powers because of widespread violations in preliminary voting, reports AP.

Probe into mid-air collision in India begins

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: The investigation into a mid-air collision over India that killed 349 people was in the hands of a judge Friday, while the civil aviation authority promised to look into delays in upgrading radar at New Delhi's airport, reports AP.

WB firm to spend more to tackle rural poverty

ROME, Nov 15: The World Bank acknowledged on Thursday it made mistakes in reducing support for Third World agriculture and pledged to spend more to tackle rural poverty, reports Reuters.

BRIEFLY



Some 10 pro-democracy activists of the Coalition to Oppose the Provisional Legislature at the start of an indefinite hunger strike and sit-in protest outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on Thursday.

'Nigeria slow in response to democracy'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 15: Nigeria has been slow to respond to Commonwealth calls for democratization, a member of the Commonwealth's human rights watchdog committee said Friday, reports AP.

Israeli court for interrogation of Jihad member

JERUSALEM, Nov 15: Israeli Supreme Court Thursday gave the internal security service Shin Bet permission to use "heightened physical pressure" to interrogate a Palestinian prisoner suspected of planning terrorist attack, reports AFP.

Anti-drug campaign Manila nets 44 foreigners in 10 months

MANILA, Nov 15: At least 44 foreigners have been arrested or killed in an anti-drug campaign in the first 10 months of this year, more than triple the number arrested in all of last year, a senator said Friday, reports AP.

900 still missing in Andhra

CHANDRABABU NAIDU, Andhra Pradesh state's Chief Minister told reporters that 847 had been killed by the cyclone and 925 were still missing. He also accused the New Delhi government of failing to release enough resources quickly to help Andhra Pradesh overcome the calamity.

Sudanese protest UN resolution

SOME 10,000 Sudanese held demonstrations in Khartoum on Thursday to protest against the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1070, Xinhua reports from Khartoum.

Blast claims 3 in Nigeria

THREE occupants of a Nigerian government car were killed when a bomb planted in the vehicle exploded, local newspapers reported yesterday, Reuters says from Lagos.

Lord to leave Clinton Admn

SECRETARY OF STATE WINSTON LORD, the top Asia hand in President Bill Clinton's administration, said Thursday he will leave the State Department in January to return to private life, AFP reports from Washington.

Palestinians celebrate declaration of independence

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Nov 15: Fireworks lit up the skies in the West Bank town of Ramallah, and scouts paraded through streets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Thursday to mark the eight anniversary of the PLO's declaration of Palestinian statehood, reports AP.

Onassis Foundation acquitted of embezzlement charges

ATHENS, Nov 15: A charitable foundation established by the late Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis has been acquitted of charges that it mismanaged and embezzled millions of dollars, reports AP.

Preparations for multinational force for Zaire accelerated

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 15: The Canadian general tapped to lead a proposed international force to Zaire said his troops would protect aid shipments but would not try to disarm Hutu extremists, preventing the refugees from returning home, reports AP.

20 missing, 65 hurt in Egypt

CAIRO, Nov 15: Twenty people were missing, including 14 foreign tourists, and 65 were injured after a cruise ship ran aground in the Nile in southern Egypt late Thursday, according to the latest toll given early today by police, reports AFP.

Clinton to meet Chinese president during 12-day Asian trip

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: President Clinton will meet with China's president during a 12-day trip to Asia, seeking increased stability in the two countries' often stormy and turbulent relationship, reports AP.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had 45-minute talks with Indonesian President Soeharto

JAKARTA, An Indonesian man, 67, has been living in a tree for the past seven years on Sulawesi Island, Antara news agency reported, says Xinhua.

Off the Record

JERUSALEM: The popular image of Albert Einstein in that of a benign, benevolent, white-haired genius. A genius who gave the world the Theory of Relativity, who helped little children with their math homework and who was a pacifist, even as his research helped lead to the building of the atom bomb, reports AP.

Tree becomes home sweet home for him

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Peep into darker side of Einstein

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Mladic accuses politicians of conducting purge of army

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Nov 15: Bosnian Serbs fired military brass accused civilian leaders on Thursday of conducting a political purge of the army, reports AP.

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Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, smiles as she holds a copy of her new book at a New York City book store on Thursday. Ferguson is in New York promoting and signing copies of the new book "My Story".