

Chinese PLA team meets FM

The visiting seven-member Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) delegation called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the state guest house Padma in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Hasina greets Mandela

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated South African President Nelson Mandela on the victory of South African cricket team at the Wills International Cup tournament, reports UNB.

More donations to PM's Relief Fund

More organisations and individuals yesterday donated Tk 34.26 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund, reports UNB.

Refreshers' course for teachers begins Nov 20

A refreshers' course for higher secondary level teachers will begin in the city on November 20, says a press release.

Watermill Theatre to perform in city Nov 5-7

The British Council in collaboration with Kafco and Shell Companies is hosting a theatre production in Dhaka with Watermill Theatre Company from the UK, says a press release.

Committee of Council of Principals formed

A 91-member committee of Bangladesh Council of Principals has been formed with Ali Ahmed, Principal of Ahsanullah College in Khulna, and SM Abu Saed of Daulatpur College as president and general secretary respectively, says a press release.

Noorul Quader memorial body formed

The Muktijoddha Noorul Quader Swarn Committee has been formed in a meeting held recently at House No 1/B, Road No 84, Gulshan-2 in the city, says a press release.

Condolence meet on Anisuzzaman

Journalists and other employees of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at a condolence meeting yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of M Anisuzzaman, Managing Director and Chief Editor of the national news agency, Anisuzzaman died in the city on Sunday, reports BSS.

ASB to award Dr Akbar Ali Khan

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) has decided to award Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Gold Medal to Dr Akbar Ali Khan for the first time for his book 'Discovery of Bangladesh', reports UNB.

Private sector participation in road management
Creation of road fund, road board suggested

Communications experts and policymakers adopted a plan of action asking for laws allowing private sector's participation in road management in the country, reports APB.

The plan of action, along with other recommendations, was adopted in a two-day international seminar on private sector participation in road upkeep under a toll-road system, which ended in the city yesterday.

As per the plan, which seeks necessary laws within a year, the Communications Ministry would form a task force this month to carry out a comprehensive study with outlines for private participation in management and maintenance of roads.

The task force would be given its terms of reference by December while funding for the study would be made available by March next year.

The report and proposals should be submitted to the government by April 30, 1999 for their approval in two months thereafter.

The government would incorporate new legislation to the proposals and submit it before the parliament by July 15.



A function to distribute prizes among the brilliant students of SSC examinations, 1998 and Junior Scholarship Examination of Velayet Hossain Bahumukhi Uchcha Bidyalay was held recently at its premises.

Critics reiterate call for Yeltsin's resignation

MOSCOW, Nov 2: While Boris Yeltsin rested at a Black Sea resort, his critics launched a new round of attacks against the president Monday and again called for his resignation, reports AP.

The president is not governing. He is not responding to the citizens. He has degraded and is drinking so much that he is unable to fulfill his duties," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

The opposition mustn't forget that it owes its very existence to the democratic reforms carried out by Boris Yeltsin," Yakushkin said, according to the Interfax.

Yeltsin began a two-week stay in southern resort of Sochi on Friday, where he's recovering from what's been described as fatigue and high blood pressure.

The president had been working only sporadically in recent weeks due to a variety of ailments.

Yeltsin had no meetings planned Monday, but was scheduled to hold talks with Defense Minister Igor Sergeev on Tuesday, Yakushkin said. There was no word on the agenda.

The president's most recent illnesses have renewed concerns about Yeltsin's ability to serve out his term, which runs until the middle of the year 2000. The president insists he has no serious health problems.

No margin of error was given, but the results were in line with other recent surveys, which also have put Yeltsin's approval rating in the low single digits.

NTV television, which cited the poll Sunday evening, said it was carried out by the independent Public Opinion Foundation. A total of 1,500 people were surveyed.

private sector. The proposed 11-member Board would have six members from the private sector while the rest from the government.

The private members would represent FBCCI, transport owners, transport workers, Institute of Engineers, road users and road-construction industry. The public sector officials would come from the ministries of Communications, Finance and LGRRD, Roads and Highways Department and Planning Commission.

While giving support to the initiative, the finance minister hinted that his ministry would clear the proposals only after reviewing those from both legal and operational points of view.

He said the Finance Ministry would need "sufficient time" for the review and evaluation of the proposals by the task force. He also called for taking the local conditions into account while formulating the proposals.

FBCCI President Abdul Awal Minto, speaking in the concluding session, hoped that the government should allow the private sector in road maintenance as soon as possible to ensure better roads.

Establishment Secretary Shah Muhammad Farid presided over the session.

Global congress on immunology opens in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: The Global Congress on Immunology opened here on Sunday with a call by Indian President Koccheril Raman Narayanan to free mankind from the scourge of diseases, reports Xinhua.

Narayanan urged scientists of all countries in the world to work together and share their knowledge and experience to achieve this goal.

Over 2,600 scientists from 67 countries are attending the week-long conference which is held once every three years.

Narayanan lamented that neither antibiotics nor the new vaccines reach the poorest sections of the society who need them most and asked scientists, industrialists and the government to join hands so that fruits of research can be made available to the common man with minimal delay at affordable cost."

This is the last global conference of immunologists in this century and the millennium and also the first held in a developing country.

The conference is organised by the International Union of Immunological Societies with the Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia and Oceanian and the Indian Immunological Society as sponsors.

The nine earlier meetings had been held in the developed world, the last one at San Francisco of the United States in 1995.

Discovery ejects Spartan into orbit

HOUSTON, Texas, Nov 2: The crew of the space shuttle Discovery on Sunday released a sun-orbiting satellite on the third day of a mission that has seen Senator John Glenn's return to space after 36 years, reports AP.

Dubbed Spartan, the satellite is to spend about two days orbiting some 65 kilometres from the shuttle before being retrieved and brought back to earth on November 7.

The satellite has instruments to measure the heat of the sun's corona and the speed of solar winds, electrically charged particles. The corona and wind affect satellites, weather on earth and telecommunications.

UP member arrested in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, Nov 2: Police have arrested a union parishad member of charges of irregularities in distribution of food grains under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, reports APB.

The member, Bachchu Khan of Bhairabpasha Union Parishad under Nalchhiti thana was nabbed from village Shatpaka Saturday following a case filed in this regard against the chairman, three members and a secretary of the UP, and a villager.

Sources said under the programme, food was distributed among 500 destitute families of the union on October 10 against the VGF cards.

Indo-Pak army commanders to meet soon to halt border clash

BANGALORE, India, Nov 2: Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said on Sunday the army commanders of India and neighbouring Pakistan would meet soon to discuss steps to stop exchange of fire along their border, reports Reuters.

"We have asked for a meeting of the local (army) commanders and the meeting will be held shortly," Vajpayee told a news conference in the southern Indian city of Bangalore. "We hope the firing will stop."

Indian and Pakistani troops regularly exchange fire along the international border in the disputed northern state of Jammu and Kashmir. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest.

Vajpayee said relations between India and China had also improved in the recent past.

"Now the air has been cleared. We expect that our desire to develop friendly relations with China will materialise."

Turkish police foil attack of Islamic group

ISTANBUL, Nov 2: Istanbul authorities on Monday claimed police foiled a plan by a radical Islamic group to launch a kamikaze-style attack on the mausoleum of the founder of secular Turkey during festivities attended by thousands of people, reports AP.

Twenty-three alleged members of a Germany-based radical Islamic group were detained Wednesday, a day before the alleged aerial attack was to take place during the country's 75th anniversary celebrations last week, said Istanbul Gov. Erol Cakir.

Thousands of people, including Turkish leaders and foreign dignitaries, were at the mausoleum on October 29 to pay respects before Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's tomb.

But Cakir said the group confessed that they had delayed the plan until November 10 - when the country holds a solemn ceremony to mark Atatürk's death because bad weather prevented them from flying a plane from Bursa, a city south of Istanbul.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
Office of the Managing Director
WASA Bhaban
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka
Dhaka WASA Tender Notice
Sealed tenders under prescribed terms and conditions and menu are invited from efficient traders in running canteen/restaurant for running a canteen in Dhaka WASA Bhaban.

Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Faridpur PWD Division
Notice Inviting Tenders
No 21 of 1998-99
Memo No. 1996 Dated: 22.10.98/7.1405 Bang
Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from the approved class-I/E/M contractors of PWD and class-II E/M contractors of PWD Khulna Zone, Khulna holding ABC/BC licence from Licensing Board for "Construction of 3-storied 200 Nos Prisoners Barrack Building in the existing Barrack Building in the Dist Jail at Faridpur (SH- Providing internal electrical installation work)" and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari in their respective offices up to 12:00 Noon of 12.11.98.

Japanese grant to Thalassaemia Society

Japan will provide a grant of over 84 thousand US dollars (about Tk 40.32 lakh) to Thalassaemia Society of Bangladesh under an agreement signed between them in the city yesterday, said a Japanese embassy press release.

The grant will be utilised by the society for the treatment of the thalassaemia patients who suffer from anaemia as the body cannot produce normal haemoglobin.

According to the World Health Organisation, about seven to eight per cent of population in Bangladesh are likely to be carriers of the disease.

Iran concludes war games on Afghan border

TEHRAN, Nov 2: Iran on Monday concluded major military exercises on its border with Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported, says AP.

Some 200,000 troops took part in the manoeuvres, which began on Saturday.

In the last stage of the manoeuvres, held on Iran's eastern border, fighter bombers and infantry and armoured units attacked mock enemy positions while suspended bridges were installed for the passage of tanks, the agency quoted Maj Gen Ali Shahbazi, commander of the army, as saying.

Iran concludes war games on Afghan border

The exercises - called Zol-faqar-2 after the sword of Imam Ali, the son-in-law of Islam's Prophet Mohammed - took place against a background of tension with Afghanistan.

Iranian-Afghan relations deteriorated sharply in September after the Taliban militia, which controls most of Afghanistan, admitted that its forces had killed eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

But the situation improved in early October after the intervention of UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahmi, who shuttled between Tehran and Kabul.

Military in crisis 'Russia's nuclear forces declining'

MOSCOW, Nov 2: The Russian military is in a major crisis, its nuclear capability has fallen far behind that of the United States and it is nearing the point of no longer being effective, a top lawmaker said Monday, reports AP.

Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the security committee of the Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, said the effectiveness of existing Russian nuclear forces was equal to about 40 per cent of current US capability, according to the Interfax news agency.

"It would be true to say that the armed forces are in the deepest thinkable crisis, effectively full-scale disintegration, and unable, as their experts say, to carry out strategic operations," he said.

Ilyukhin, a member of the Communist Party, made the remarks to a Duma commission drawing up impeachment charges against President Boris Yeltsin. The possible charges include the destruction of the Soviet Union and the subsequent decline of Russian military power.

Ilyukhin said that by 2007 Russia's stockpile of nuclear warheads will be one-seventh of the US stockpile. He added that Russia now has just 67 strategic bombers, compared to hundreds during the Soviet era.

The Russian military is in a major crisis, unable to pay troops or buy new weapons because of the country's constant economic problems.

BCIC International Tender Notice
Managing Director, Zia Fertiliser Co Ltd (ZFCL), Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403 invites sealed quotation in two envelope system for supply of the following items on C&F(C) Dhaka/Chittagong basis:
Table with 5 columns: Sl No, Tender enquiry no, Item, Date & time of closing/opening, Doc value (Taka)
1. ZFCL/OS-1925- Re-tender Intake Nozzle for PG Cooler
Country of Origin: USA/UK/Canada/ Italy/France/ Japan/Sweden/Germany.
2. ZFCL/OS-2059 Aluminium Sheet
Tender documents with detailed terms & conditions will be available from (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) ZFCL on cash payment. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date. Quotations will be opened immediately after closing.