

International

Handover of arms documents to inspectors

UNSC fails to reach decision on Iraq's refusal

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25: The UN Security Council late on Tuesday failed to reach a decision on Iraq's refusal to surrender arms documents to weapons inspectors...

ment, Russia objected, diplomats said. Before agreeing to any statement, Moscow's ambassador Sergei Lavrov wanted a full discussion first of whether the documents Butler was seeking really existed...

to the United Nations in Geneva in July, has also been replaced along with Iraq's representative to the Arab League. Nabil Nejm, the official told AFP.

Saddam's eldest son Uday and has not been back to Iraq since 1990 fearing for his life, according to Iraqi sources. In other changes, former information ministry advisor Neji Al-Hadithi was appointed ambassador to Vienna and Iraq's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



Congress Party president Sonia Gandhi has her hand marked with ink during assembly elections in New Delhi on Wednesday. Millions of Indian voters lined up outside more than 100,000 balloting stations on Wednesday to vote in crucial provincial elections that could cast shadows on the fortunes of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's wobbly coalition. The Congress Party represents the main opposition to the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Ghauri missile Pakistan begins serial production

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25: Pakistan has started serial production of its Ghauri missile, which can hit targets up to 1,500 kilometres away. The country's leading nuclear scientist reportedly said today, reports AFP.

Suharto hands over charity foundations to govt

JAKARTA, Nov 25: Former President Suharto has handed over seven charitable foundations worth dirr 530 million that he established during his three decades in power, the government said Wednesday, reports UNB.

Tragic!

SALEM, Nov 25: Faced with mounting financial commitments, a father allegedly killed his three young children by setting them ablaze and committee self-immolation in Salem district of Tamil Nadu yesterday, police said, reports PTI.

Heart specialists say Sexual contacts not detrimental to health

SINGAPORE, Nov 25: For heart patients who underwent operations including open heart surgery, regular sexual contacts are not detrimental to their health, his rather beneficial for long survival, reports BSS. This was viewed by famous cardiac specialists and surgeons at a seminar on Heart Attacks: what you need to know held here from November 20 to 22 under the auspices of Mount Elizabeth Hospital (MEH), Parkway Group healthcare institution.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II making her speech in the House of Lords in London on Tuesday prior to the State Opening of Parliament. Signalling an end to six centuries of tradition the Queen opened Parliament by announcing a Labour Party government bill to strip hereditary peers of their right to vote. — AP/UNB Photo

Sharif-Clinton meeting next week Pak foreign minister hopeful of 'positive outcome'

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25: Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz has expressed the hope there would be "positive outcome" of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to the United States next week at the invitation of President Bill Clinton, reports PPI.

He said the US has lifted economic sanctions but curbs are still on military purchases. Talks between US President and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would be held on this issue as well as on the F-16 fighter aircraft for which Pakistan had made payment several years ago but these were not delivered by the US. Talks would also be held on various issues on which both sides have agreed to make progress as well as on the economic situation.

prevailing atmosphere improves and all the sanctions are lifted," he said in an interview with VOA Tuesday. Answering a question the Foreign Minister said "It is our total stance that until we see the nuclear policy in the context of security, the whole thing does not come forward. On one hand there is Afghan problem and on the other there are ties with India. It is clear that it should be viewed in this context."

Cambodian parliament session begins ending political limbo

PHNOM PENH, Nov 25: With the parliament building ringed by heavy security, Prince Norodom Ranariddh was elected National Assembly speaker Wednesday in a new bid at power-sharing with the arch-rival who deposed him as co-prime minister last year. Hun Sen, reports AP.

legislature in 1995 after clashing with the prince and Hun Sen over government corruption. Sam Rainsy formed his own party and placed a distant third to FUNCINPEC and the CPP in the election. After being excluded from the coalition negotiations, the firebrand politician is now opposition leader in parliament, controlling 15 of 122 seats.

Jiang, Yeltsin satisfied at bilateral ties

MOSCOW, Nov 25: Visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday expressed the satisfaction over the stable development of bilateral relations, reports Xinhua.

Both sides agreed to take significant steps to strengthen the organisation and management for the bilateral trade and economic cooperations and improve monetary and legal conditions for such cooperation the two leaders also instructed relevant committees to discuss the cooperation problems in all field and to submit the outcome and joint suggestions to the fourth regular meeting between the two premiers scheduled in the spring of 1999.

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Iran-Russia sign MOU: Iran and Russia on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote nuclear cooperation between the two countries. Xinhua reports from Tehran.

Pak woman wins C'wealth Award: Hareem Zafar, a compere of Radio Pakistan, won second position in Asia-Pacific region in Commonwealth Short Story Competition 1998 organised by Commonwealth Broadcasting Association. Sujata Sankranti of India remained the overall winner of the competition, PPI reports from Islamabad.

Civilian killed in Philippines: Soldiers and Muslim rebels exchanged mortar and automatic weapons fire in sporadic fighting in the southern Philippines, leaving at least one civilian dead and nine combatants wounded, the military said yesterday, AP says from Cotabato, Philippines.

Shark kills boy in Florida: A nine-year-old boy was attacked and killed by a shark while swimming with friends near Vero Beach, on Florida's east coast, local police reported Tuesday, AFP says from Miami.

Bush on visit to Egypt: Former president of the United States George Bush arrived in Cairo on Tuesday for a private visit as a guest of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Xinhua says from Cairo.

Netanyahu cancels Swiss visit: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled a one-day trip to Switzerland yesterday that was meant to patch up a dispute over Holocaust-era restitution by Swiss Banks, Reuters says from Jerusalem.

Nigeria, Cameroon exchange POWs: Nigeria and Cameroon on Tuesday exchanged 211 prisoners of war captured since 1996 in a dispute over the Bakassi peninsula, a top International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) official said, AFP says from Enugu.

Bomb blast kills 3 in Yemen: Three people were killed and four injured when a car bomb exploded Tuesday near the German embassy in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, officials said, AFP reports from Sanaa.

France to expel illegal immigrants: France will progressively expel 60,000 illegal immigrants, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said Tuesday, in comments that triggered a political storm, AFP says from Paris.

Formation of political parties Sudanese parliament approves bill

KHARTOUM, Nov 25: The Sudanese parliament has approved a bill that allows the formation of "political associations" that can compete in elections, according to state-owned television, reports AP. The television reported the bill was adopted Monday night. It quoted Parliament speaker Hassan Turabi as saying it was adopted with one dissenting vote in the 400-seat parliament. The vote needs to be ratified by President Omar el-Bashir, but that is considered a formality. Sudan's constitution, which was approved in June, does not clearly mention the right to form political parties, which were banned after a 1989 coup, but it does speak about the right to organise political associations.

Action against Clinton on Lewinsky affair Several democrats prefer censure to impeachment

WASHINGTON, Nov 25: Several democrats on the House judiciary committee said on Tuesday they intend to offer a resolution to censure US President Bill Clinton rather than impeach him, giving Congress an option short of removing the President from office, reports Reuters. "A resolution of censure will be offered in committee by the democratic side," said representative Rick Boucher, a Virginia democrat and a member of the Republican-controlled panel. "This would be the most dignified and responsible way to end the congressional impeachment inquiry."

Hyde has said censure, if considered at all, would be best left for the full House or possibly the senate. Incoming Speaker Bob Livingston of Louisiana has expressed reservations about considering censure, but has not ruled out the idea. The Washington Post today quoted senior Republican sources as saying that a preliminary survey of House republicans found that a single article charging Clinton with perjury would come close to passing in a floor vote, while a possible second count of obstruction of justice would fail.

British Parliamentary Lord Eric Avebury, center, greets the relatives of Kashmiri youths who are missing with the traditional Indian greeting of namaste, in Srinagar on Tuesday.

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