Ghauri missile

Pakistan begins

serial production

istan has started serial produc-

tion of its ghauri missile, which can hit targets up to

1,500 kilometres away, the country's leading nuclear scientist reportedly said today, re-

Abdul Qadeer Khan, head of

Pakistan's Premier Defence Re-

search Laboratories said the

ghauri's range could be extended

by reducing the payload, the

"Serial production of ghauri has started and Pakistan has a

good stock of these missiles the

newspaper the quoted him as

A successful flight test of the

surface-to-surface missile,

which can carry a payload of 700 kilograms, was made about

two months before the nuclear

tests by Pakistan in May.

ports AFP.

news reported.

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25: Pak-



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. - AP/UNB photo

BUILFIF

Iran-Russia sign MOU: Iran and Russia on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) to promote nuclear cooperation between the two

sian Minister of Atomic Energy Yevgeny Adamov who arrived

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

story "A Kindness Gone Awry". The competition, funded by

Commonwealth Foundation, was contested by two thousand

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 Cotapato,

Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, the army's area commander,

said a woman visiting a nearby ranch was killed Tuesday after

being hit by a stray bullet near the town of Datu Piang in

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

from Jaycee Beach in an area not monitored by a lifeguard, said

The attack occurred Saturday afternoon about 20 metres out

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

During his three-day trip, Bush will meet with Mubarak and

Netanyahu cancels Swiss visit:

Citing political needs at home, Netanyahu delayed a planned

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

European trip by several hours, dropping Switzerland from his

itinerary and saying he would fly straight to Britain later in the

Nigeria, Cameroon exchange POWs:

Nigeria and Cameroon on Tuesday exchange 211 prisoners of

war captured since 1996 in a dispute over the Bakassi

peninsula, a top International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)

mediated the exchange said Nigeria returned 86 Cameroonian

soldiers and one civilian while Cameroon released 86 Nigerian

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

vehicle which exploded was among those killed, an interior

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

"Our intentions is for these people to leave the country pro-

gressively." Jospin said, but he ruled out a systematic hunt for

A three-year-old child sitting in a car parked near the

capital Sanaa, officials said, AFP reports from Sanaa.

The ICRC's regional delegate in Nigeria, Walter Stocker, who

day. He was still due to travel to Spain later in the week.

coast, local police reported Tuesday, AFP says from Miami.

Hareem Zafar, just 22 years old, won the award on her short

Saturday, the Iranian official news agency IRNA reported.

winner of the competition, PPI reports from Islamabad.

five hundred persons from all Commonwealth countries.

The agreement was inked at the end of a visit to Iran by Rus-

countries, Xinhua reports from Tehran.

Philippines.

Maguindanao province.

police chief Jim Gabbard.

says from Jerusalem.

Hosni Mubarak, Xinhua says from Cairo.

official said, AFP says from Enugu.

soldiers and 38 civilians.

ministry statement said.

Paris.

illegals.

attend a charity party for low-income Egyptians.

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 after Russia blocked a statement calling for Baghdad's compliance, reports

Reuters. "We have not reached any definitive conclusions this evening," British ambassador Jeremy Greenstock told reporters. "So these discussions will continue but this is not a very encouraging start."

Council president Peter Burleigh of the United States said that members had expressed full support for the UN Commission (UNSCOM), in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"Council members expressed their continued full support for UNSCOM in fulfilment of its mandate," he said. The nearly four-hour closed door meeting had been described as far more tranquil than previous debates on Iraq. But shortly after a majority of members expressed support for the British statement, 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, the en-voys attending the council

meeting said. But Greenstock said it was dangerous for the council to ignore what he called a clear example of Iraq's failure to cooperate, the envoys added.

The council met to review three letters Iraq has sent to the United Nations since Friday. Baghdad said that 10 of the 12 categories of documents requested by UNSCOM chairman Richard Butler were either unavailable, irrelevant or dealt with maters of national secu-

A report from Baghdad says: Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, has been replaced as part of a sweep-ing diplomatic reshuffle, an Iraqi official said Tuesday.

Barzan Tikriti, president Saddam Hussein's half-brother who was recalled as representa-

tive 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

Hamdoon's job will go to Said Al-Moussawi, a diplomat accredited to the United Nations, said the official, who requested anonymity. Hamdoon had said previously that he expected to leave before the end of

Tikriti's post will be taken up by Mohammed Al-Duri, a former dean of law at Baghdad University, while Sultan Al-Shawi, former chair of the Iraqi parliament's legal committee will take over Nejm's

Saddam's half-brother had been granted a "courtesy extension" to stay in Switzerland until the end of November. His wife died there recently, according to death notices published last week in Jordanian news-

Tikriti, who had served in Geneva since February 1989. has strained relations with

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).

Ghazi Al-Faisal has been named Charge d'Affaires to Paris, with the rank of ambassador, and Al-Jumhuriay newspaper Chief Editor Salah Al-Mukhtar will be the new ambassador to India.

The former director general for radio and television, Sabah Yassin, was appointed ambassador to Amman, replacing Nuri Al-Wais who was recalled to Baghdad.

The new ambassadors are expected to begin their new jobs within one and a half months. the Iraqi official said.

A total of 25 Iraqi diplomats posted abroad were affected by the most sweeping reshuffle of Iraqi diplomats since the 1991

Suharto hands over charity foundations

to govt

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

Suharto, accused by critics of siphoning off state wealth to benefit his family's business empires, faces a fresh corruption inquiry ordered by his successor and one time portage, President BJ Habibie.

A previous investigation by government prosecutors turned up little evidence of wrongdoing and was dismissed by student protesters as a whitewash. Students occupied the attorney general's office Tuesday to demand a trial of Suharto on corruption charges.

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.

According to police, the 30year-old milk vendor poured petrol on his children aged three, five and seven, and set them on fire before ending his life in a similar fashion in Chithanoor village.

All the four were charred to death, police said adding that the wife was away when the incident occurred.

Police said the man had borrowed heavy, loans to buy a house and as he could not pay the dues, he took the extreme

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

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), a Parkway Group healthcare in-

stitution. Heart patients should always avoid hostile situations aggressive attitude and worrying, it was said suggesting that a sense of future prospect for their life should be generated in them. All patients like to know the truth about their disease but the truth should be conveyed to them in such a way which will psychologically inject a

specialists observed. The Session were co-chaired by Dr Charles Toh and Dr Tah King Twok, consultant cardiologist and Cardia-thoracic surgeons of MEH.

moral boost in them, the

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-16s fighten aircraft for which Pak-istan 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

aggregately made progress as

well as on the economic situa-He recalled that the Prime Minister met the US President in New York last September and discussed all aspects of relations between the two countries. The meeting between them in Washington on December 2,1998 too is in continuity of that, during which efforts would be made to further im-

prove relations. He said there are no prospects of talks on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) during Nawaz Sharif's visit to the US. "We intend to sign CTBT before September 1999 on the condition that the

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 out total stance that until we see the nuclear policy in the context of security, the whole thing does not come forward. On one hand

Zardari granted

KARACHI, Nov 25: The jailed husband of Pakistani former premier Benazir Bhutto under investigation in a murder case was granted bail Tuesday on medical grounds, court sources said, reports AFP.

District and sessions judge Yasmin Abbasi granted bail to 44-year-old Zardari on two bonds of one million rupees (21,740 dollars) each, they said. Zardari has been charged with complicity in the killing of Benazir estranged brother Mir Murtaza, who died in a po-

lice shootout in Karachi in

September 1996. The former chief of the intelligence bureau, Massood Sharif. and 17 police officials are also on trial in the case, in which all accused face the death penalty.

the other there are ties with india. It is clear that it should be viewed in this context".

there is Afghan problem and on

He said there is no principled difference with US on its apprehensions about export of nuclear technology. "We have neither ever exported nuclear technology nor we intend to do so. In the light of recent talks with US officials, we are reviewing the rules and laws that to which extent there is need to tighten them and Insha Allah in the next few weeks, we would adopt all the necessary measures which are needed," he added.

Sartaj Aziz said the US has a four-point agenda on the nuclear issue and Pakistan has made known its stand on these several times. "We have made some positive progress on these and this is the reason that the US lifted economic sanctions."

He said Pakistan neither provided military assistance to Taliban nor they are in need of weapons as they have enough We only provide food and similar necessities as they do not have sufficient food. We have talks with them to remove world's apprehensions and fulfill demands about women's rights, human rights and protection of minorities. We simultaneously continued to brief the US in this regard," he stated.



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

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 archrival who deposed him as coprime minister last year, Hun Sen, reports AP.

The prince was invested at the first meeting of the assembly since legislative elections in July. After months of disputing the victory by Hun Sen's party and blocking formation of a new government, Ranariddh struck a deal with Hun Sen two weeks ago.

Under the agreement, Hun Sen will be Cambodia's sole prime minister and an upper chamber of Parliament, a Senate, will be formed, somewhat

diluting the assembly's powers. The prince was formally named assembly president by a 105-7 vote with support from Huns Sen's Cambodian People's Party. One lawmaker abstained, seven were absent and

two votes were declared invalid. The opening of the assembly marked a symbolic end to the political limbo that Cambodia has suffered since Hun Sen deposed the prince in a violent coup in July 1997. But it remains to be seen if the longtime rivals can bring much-needed stability and development to the desperately poor country.

Speaking to reporters as he arrived, with the assembly ringed by armed police and other security forces, Ranariddh expressed optimism that the pair have learned from their bloody conflicts and would now work together.

"I feel confident and hope for a brighter future of our country, Cambodia," Ranariddh said. "We have learned the lessons from the past.

The opening session also marked the return of former finance minister Sam Rainsy to parliament since he was expelled from Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party and the

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.

"It is a great day today," Sam Rainsy said at the gates of the legislature. "I remember very well the day when I was expelled from this place, the National Assembly, three years ago. Now I am happy to return, not only alone, but with 14 other MPs." Sam Rainsy laid a wreath

outside at the site of a March 1997 grenade attack against a protest he was leading that killed at least 16 people and injured more than 100. He had been barred by police from making the gesture Tuesday upon his return to Cambodia.

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. In a joint press communique

on their informal meeting, the two leaders pointed out that the Chinese-Russian ties is enjoying a stable development along the mutual-trust path of strategic partnership of cooperation oriented toward the 21st century, which is established in

They confirmed that the two countries had finished all field delimitation work on the west section of their border, which had for the first time delimitated the east and west sections of borders with on-the-spot-

They also announced the two neighbours have set up a new model for border security in Asian continent, which not

only includes border delimita tion, but also the troop-cut in border regions, the creation of confidence-building measures and the improvement of military transparency.

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.

The two countries also reached a series of important agreements on the details of bilateral relations. Jiang is here paying a four

day visit at the invitation of Yeltsin from November 22 to

Formation of political parties

Sudanese parliament

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 formal-

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 associa-

Some parliament members have pressed hard to replace such vague phrases with a clearcut reference to "political parties." But Turabi, the Islamic leader thought to be the real power behind the government. has opposed such a change.

Sudanese opposition leaders in exile, in their last meeting in Egypt in August, rejected the

new constitution which is based on Islamic law. They vowed to keep up their struggle for democracy.

The president last week said the door was open for the oppo-sition figures to come back and form their political parties. But the presence of Turabi at

the head of parliament cast doubts on the seriousness of the government's openness to the opposition. The government has taken a series of steps to encourage the

opposition, even as it has sought to make peace with southern rebels fighting for more autonomy Turabi earlier this year expressed readiness to leave the

parliament, and the daily Al-Anbaa said Tuesday it had confirmed he will leave his post to give more time to the National Congress, essentially a political party through which the coun-

Turabi or government officials were not immediately available for comment on the

His resignation is expected to be announced before the new bill on political openness takes effect January 1.

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."

Boucher said it was unclear how many of the panel's 16 democrats would support a censure motion, but he admitted it would not be unanimous. Committee Republicans, led

by chairman Henry Hyde of Illinois, have made it clear they do not favour censure, which they have argued may be unconstitutional and would not be sufficient punishment for Clinton over his actions in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

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

The Washington Post today quoted senior Republican sources as saying that a preliminary survey of House republi-cans 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. Should an impeachment

vote fail on the House floor, republicans told the paper it was increasingly likely that the party leadership would allow a vote on censure. Democratic proponents of

censure said they believed there were not enough votes in the House, and certainly not in the senate, to remove the President from office. They said republicans and democrats who do not want to

see the president escape unpun-

ished might support censure once the issue reached the House floor. Clearly, many republicans are showing less interest in im-

peachment in light of their election losses earlier this month and Clinton's persistently high poll numbers. Regardless, Boucher and a few other House Democrats said they hoped a censure motion

way out of the inquiry while punishing Clinton. "It's in the best interests of the country that we put together a censure resolution and try to put this behind us," said representative Tom Barrett, a Wis-

Representative Paul Mchale. a Pennsylvania democrat and Clinton critic who called for the President's resignation shortly after his grand jury testimony in August, sent a letter and a draft censure resolution to House leaders and to Hyde on Tuesday.

"I am now convinced censure is the better alternative", Mchale said.

member.



British Parliamentarian Lord Eric Avebury, center, greets the relatives of Kashmiri youths who are missing with the traditional Indian greeting of namaste, in Srinagar on Tuesday. Avebury, a well-known human rights activist and vice chairman of British Parliamentary Human Rights Group, is on three day tour to the northern Indian state of Kashmir. Since 1989, Kashmir, the only Muslim majority Indian state has witnessed - AP/UNB photo violent separatist movements.