

Mahathir to announce new cabinet today

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who won an unprecedented fifth mandate in polls last month, will announce his new cabinet on Friday, the official Bernama news agency said, reports Reuters.

Mahathir will meet the King to present the proposed cabinet and hold a news conference to reveal the members of his new government, it said.

Ministers will be sworn in on Tuesday.

Mahathir's 14-party Barisan Nasional coalition won a three-quarters majority in the lower house of parliament in the early general elections, held on November 29.

But his United Malays National Organisation, the coalition's main party, lost ground to the Islamic fundamentalist Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) in parts of the Malay heartland in the north and east of Peninsular Malaysia.

Mahathir was not expected to make major changes in his cabinet.

## China backs Russia's campaign against Chechnya

BEIJING, Dec 9: Russian President Boris Yeltsin, just out of hospital after a bout of pneumonia, met Chinese President Jiang Zemin today and won immediate and powerful backing for the military campaign in Chechnya, report agencies.

Jiang, who greeted the 68-year-old Yeltsin in Russian, asking "How are you old friend?" before embracing him in a bear hug, said he fully supported the Chechnya campaign, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said.

"Jiang Zemin completely understands and fully supports Russia's actions in combating terrorism and extremism in Chechnya and in the northern caucasus," Ivanov told reporters.

He was speaking after a ceremony in which he and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan signed two border demarcation agreements on the east and western borders, as Russian

President Boris Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin looked on.

Yeltsin and his entourage, including his wife Naina and daughter Tatjana Dyachenko, arrived in Beijing earlier Thursday for an informal summit aimed at clinching China's support for the Russian offensive in Chechnya.

Yeltsin, who greeted the 68-year-old Yeltsin in Russian, asking "How are you old friend?" before embracing him in a bear hug, said he fully supported the Chechnya campaign, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said.

"Jiang Zemin completely understands and fully supports Russia's actions in combating terrorism and extremism in Chechnya and in the northern caucasus," Ivanov told reporters.

He was speaking after a ceremony in which he and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan signed two border demarcation agreements on the east and western borders, as Russian

"I want to tell President Clinton that he alone cannot dictate how the world should live, work and play. It is us who will dictate."

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

International outrage at the Russian offensive on Grozny reached a peak this week after Moscow issued an ultimatum to some 40,000 inhabitants to flee the capital or face annihilation.

But, China, a consistent supporter of Russia on matters concerning territorial integrity, said earlier this week the Chechnya war was Russia's internal affair.

Yeltsin is also scheduled to meet with Premier Zhu Rongji and National People's Congress chairman Li Peng later Thursday.

The leaders are expected to discuss international terrorism, attempts to provoke ethnic conflicts, and the international community's participation in such conflicts.

The two sides also signed Thursday an agreement on common economic usage of the islands on the Amur River (Heilongjiang in Chinese) on the two countries' eastern border.

"From this moment onward, there is no more problems on the border issues. This is a new step in our strategic partnership," Ivanov said.

He said the agreements should not be seen as anything directed against the United States or Europe.

Russia and China also agreed in principle to join hands in fighting separatism and religious extremism, Ivanov said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (L) and Chinese President Jiang Zemin toast each other after the signing of border agreements between the two countries in Beijing yesterday. China and Russia signed agreements on demarcations of their eastern and western borders, as to end all border disputes between the two countries.

— AFP photo

### Yeltsin warns Clinton

BEIJING, Dec 9: Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned US President Bill Clinton on Thursday not to interfere over Chechnya, pointing out that Russia still possessed nuclear weapons, reports AFP.

"It seems Mr. Clinton has forgotten Russia is a great power that possesses a nuclear arsenal. We aren't afraid at all of Clinton's anti-Russian position," Yeltsin said after an informal summit with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.

Clinton has warned Russia that it will pay a high price for the way it is waging war in Chechnya, in particular its disregard for civilian casualties.