

International

US will search for every 'fallen hero' of Vietnam War: Clinton

TIEN CHAU, Vietnam, Nov 18: President Bill Clinton today vowed the United States would search for every 'fallen hero' of the Vietnam War, delivering a eulogy to peace in a rice paddy where a US pilot was shot down in 1967, reports AFP.

Before flying to the former Saigon, from where US forces staged their humiliating final retreat from Vietnam, Clinton toured the crash site northwest of Hanoi, seeking to lay to rest the ghosts of a conflict which still haunts America.

Watched by Daniel and David Evert, sons of the dead pilot Captain Lawrence Evert, Clinton pledged to bring 'every possible fallen hero home'.

'We believe we owe them, and all Americans like them, what they came here for -- a chance, finally, to take their father home.'

Clinton, the first-ever American president to visit unified Vietnam, was later due to preside over a repatriation ceremony of suspected remains of American war dead at Hanoi's Noi Bai airport.

The search for soldiers still missing in action, or MIAs, is the cornerstone of Clinton's strategy of engaging Vietnam, as he seeks to reconcile the sensitivities of widows and families with key foreign policy goals.

The president thanked the American-Vietnamese excavation team at the site 26 km northwest of the capital, who stand in the mud to 'try to find answers that are common to our humanity and go far beyond our differences'.

'Whether we are American or Vietnamese, we all want to know where our loved ones are buried.'

This common endeavour we make as friends is unprecedented in all human history. Once we met here as adversaries, today we work as partners.

'By working together to recover those who were lost in a long-ago war we reduce the chances that any of our children will know war.'

In return for the 'kindness' shown by the Vietnamese in helping trace MIAs, he said Washington was aiding the communist authorities' search to find their 300,000 lost soldiers by releasing US military documents on the war.

Captain Evert was shot down as he attacked a railroad bridge and was hit by anti-aircraft fire.

His last recorded words before his plane crashed in a paddy field near the small village of Phuk Yen were: 'I'm hit hard.'

Because Evert went down so deep in enemy territory and did not appear to have ejected, a search and rescue was never attempted.

'No parachute was seen, the area was totally defended and there was no chance for a search,' said Clinton.

Three million Vietnamese, one million of them civilians, and 58,000 US soldiers died in the Vietnam War, which ended with America's ignominious embassy-roof exodus from Saigon, now renamed Ho Chi Minh City and reborn as the country's economic capital.

Washington has gone to extraordinary lengths to recover MIAs from conflicts from Vietnam to Korea and World War II, spending more than 100 million dollars on the effort.

In Vietnam, search teams have accounted for 591 American dead since 1988.

Clinton's opposition to the war which threatened to tear America apart has made him a hero to young Vietnamese who make up the 60 percent of the population born after the last US bomb fell on Hanoi.

He and his wife Hillary received rapturous welcomes from crowds of thousands as they took separate walkabouts in Hanoi on the last scheduled foreign trip of Clinton's term of office.

The spontaneous outpouring of crowd enthusiasm, scenes never seen before in the capital, has taken communist authorities, who imposed an information blackout on the Clintons' arrival, totally by surprise.

On Friday, Clinton called for a new era of reconciliation after the 'shared suffering' of the Vietnam War, in an unprecedented live address to the nation.

But he took also the chance to raise human rights and religious tolerance issues and made an impassioned plea for freedom of information as an integral part of economic development.

Clinton's foreign policy team believes they have got the balance right between sensitivity and engagement of the former enemy on the three-day visit.

The president's National Security Advisor Sandy Berger told reporters: 'We said at the very beginning that we would do this in a way that was true to the families and true to the missing, and that the accounting for the past would be the bridge to the future.'



US President Bill Clinton (C) is briefed by Dan Evert (R) and David Evert (L), sons of a pilot shot down in 1967 during the Vietnam War, at an excavation site for Missing In Action (MIA), in Huk Yen yesterday. Clinton is in Vietnam on the second day of a three-day visit, the first by a US president since 1969. --AFP photo

4 NATO states restore ties with Y'slavia

BELGRADE, Nov 18: Yugoslavia on Friday restored diplomatic relations with the United States, Britain, Germany and France, some 20 months after ties were broken at the start of NATO's 11-week air war against the country last March, reports Reuters.

The restoration of links followed last month's ousting of former president Slobodan Milosevic and the democratic election of President Vojislav Kostunica.

Today marks the formal end to a very difficult period between our two countries and the beginning of a new era,' said William Montgomery, head of the US Office of Yugoslav Affairs and the man seen as likely new US ambassador to Belgrade.

He was speaking at a news conference held in the Yugoslav foreign ministry to announce the renewal of diplomatic ties.

Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic told reporters: 'We can understand well what great happiness it is to no longer be at war with any of the NATO countries and see that our decision... to restore diplomatic relations with all these countries as soon as possible is normal.'

Svilanovic said that while it was impossible to return the lives that were lost, peace would make it possible for all relatives of those who died to have a better future.

'With this act we want to enable the brothers and sisters of the children that have died to live in a better country which has the respect and the support of all our neighbours and all the countries members of the European Union and the United States,' he said.

Yugoslavia severed relations with the four countries at the beginning of the NATO bombing campaign to halt Belgrade's repression of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

French envoy Dominique Lasserre called for Yugoslavia to remember the close ties the two countries had had and 'not to forget but to forgive' the past.

Svilanovic stressed Yugoslavia's wish to live in peace with the four countries and with its neighbours.

'That is a debt to an entire generation which has left its country, to those who stayed in it, suffered in it and to those who with their courage defended their votes... and succeeded in bringing changes to our country,' he said.

Svilanovic was referring to a popular revolt on October 5 which forced Milosevic to recognise election defeat, clearing the way for democratic change in the Balkan country, shunned by the West during the Milosevic era.

14 Chinese jailed for trafficking migrants out

BEIJING, Nov 18: A court in China's southeastern coastal province of Fujian sentenced 14 'snakeheads' to prison terms of two to 10 years for trafficking migrants out of the country, state media reported today, says AFP.

The 14 people, known in Chinese as 'snakeheads,' were sentenced in Changde city on Thursday at a public sentencing rally in front of some 3,000 people, the China News Service said.

The group had been convicted of organising the illegal transportation of 'large numbers of people' out of China.

Male beauty queen!

BANGKOK, Nov 18: Kesaraporn Duangsuwan captured the hearts of the judges and walked away with 6,000 baht (\$138) as first runner-up in a Thai beauty contest this month until organisers discovered the beauty queen was a man, reports Reuters.

A police officer told reporters some of the contestants had complained of unfair competition saying Kesaraporn was actually male.

House receives impeachment complaint against VP Estrada hits back at opposition

MANILA, Nov 18: The head of the House of Representatives said today he has received an impeachment motion against Philippine Vice President Gloria Arroyo but warned they may not have time to complete deliberations on the issue this year, reports AFP.

House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella said in a government radio show he had received papers for the impeachment case which Arroyo has said is merely harassment by forces loyal to President Joseph Estrada.

Fuentebella said the motion would have to be studied first by the House committee of justice which would then have to give the respondent time to reply.

He warned that he had no power to influence the scheduling of the committee.

'I think that... we are not going to complete it (this year) unless the committee on justice finds some way of rushing this,' he said.

The House is due to go into recess from December 17 to January 14.

He said it was not Estrada's ally but a member of Arroyo's own party who raised the impeachment complaint into a motion.

Lawyer Oliver Lozano filed the original impeachment complaint against Arroyo for violating the constitution by calling for Estrada's resignation.

This came after Arroyo resigned from the cabinet and assumed the leadership of an opposition coalition seeking to oust Estrada over an illegal gambling scandal.

The scandal has already resulted in Estrada being impeached by the House which in turn has called on the Philippine Senate to begin a trial next month on whether Estrada should be removed from office.

Arroyo, who remains the constitutional successor to Estrada, has said the impeachment complaint against her is harassment by the Estrada camp but government officials have denied this.

Meanwhile, Philippine President Joseph Estrada today hit back at opposition efforts to discredit him and declared himself eager to face trial by the Senate over allegations of corruption.

But at the same time, a key ally of the embattled president hinted that lawyers could mount a Supreme Court challenge over the House of Representatives adoption of a motion to impeach him.

Flash floods kill 7 in KSA

RIYADH, Nov 18: Flash floods in Saudi Arabia swept away 10 people, killing seven, after heavy rains, a newspaper reported today, says AFP.

Storm waters three metres deep flashed through Wadi Setarah drowning a husband and wife, her mother, a brother and the couple's three children, the daily said.

The family were caught in a valley bottom 150 km north of Jeddah as they battled to reach their homes in a pickup truck on Wednesday night, the Saudi Gazette reported.

A driver and two other relatives were rescued by civil defence workers.

Rescue work was going on around the clock to help hundreds of marooned people.

The eastern port city of Jeddah and the holy city of Mecca have been hit by flooding in the last three days from the rare rain storms.

On Thursday night, hundreds of people were stranded inside several Jeddah shopping malls as a torrential downpour left several feet of water running through the central streets.

An AFP correspondent reported traffic chaos with large areas of the city isolated, traffic lights out and dozens of cars abandoned.

Mori threatens to dissolve parliament, call polls

TOKYO, Nov 18: Japan's embattled Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori has threatened to dissolve parliament and call a general election if a vote of no confidence is pushed through parliament next week, reports AFP.

'Dissolution is one of the premier's options,' Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told reporters late Friday.

'It is possible that he will exercise that right, depending on the situation,' the premier's right-hand man said, according to media reports.

After a week of speculation, opposition parties on Friday finally threw down the gauntlet by announcing they would move a no-confidence motion on Monday. A vote is expected on Monday evening.

Whether Mori survives hangs on the extent of a rebellion within his own Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by his rival Koichi Kato.

The opposition Democratic Party of Japan, Liberal Party, Japan Communist Party and Social Democratic Party have gained crucial backing from Kato who could swing the vote against Mori.

The ruling coalition -- the LDP, New Komeito Party and the Conservative Party -- holds 272 of the 480 seats in the lower house while

the opposition camp jointly holds 190.

In the LDP, the Kato faction has 45 seats, and the faction of his close ally Taku Yamasaki, 19.

Amid growing uncertainty over his fate, Mori has cancelled plans for a two-day visit to Malaysia from November 25 following the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, the Kyodo news agency reported.

If the motion is passed, the premier has 10 days to either step down or dissolve parliament, which would be followed by a general election.

Mori's threat to take the latter option appears to be aimed at bringing his own party rebels to heel.

Kato acknowledged that the LDP would likely be punished by the electors in an election.

'What would happen if we have an election when the support rate for LDP is sharply falling?' Kato said.

'It's useless to speak of such an unrealistic thing. They should not do it now,' he added, according to Jiji Press news agency.

An analyst agreed there were little merits for LDP's old guard to kick start fresh elections now, just five months after lower house elections in late June.

UNSC asks Annan to consult with Israel, PA on observers

Rocket attacks on WB, Gaza continue as Palestinian, Israeli soldier killed

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 18: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said on Friday that he would consult with Israel and Palestinians about sending observers to halt the bloodshed that has claimed more than 240 lives, reports AFP.

Annan had earlier met members of the Security Council, who asked him -- in the words of the British representative, Jeremy Greenstock -- 'to start the process of breaking the stalemate between the two sides.'

Diplomats said the French ambassador to the United Nations, Jean-David Levitte, suggested that the council ask Annan to 'consult the parties with a view to defining mutually acceptable modalities for a UN observer force.'

Diplomats said he had agreed to act as a go-between only if he

had 'sufficient flexibility.'

They interpreted this as meaning that he would not be obliged to sell any particular proposals to either side.

Israel has repeatedly objected to any international force, insisting, despite the recent violence, that it deal with the Palestinians in direct bilateral talks, as it has done since the 1993 Oslo agreement.

Diplomats quoted him as telling the council 'we should find a creative way to get the fact-finding mission to help.'

Annan is due to meet in New York this weekend with the chairman of the five-person commission, the former US senator George Mitchell, a UN source said.

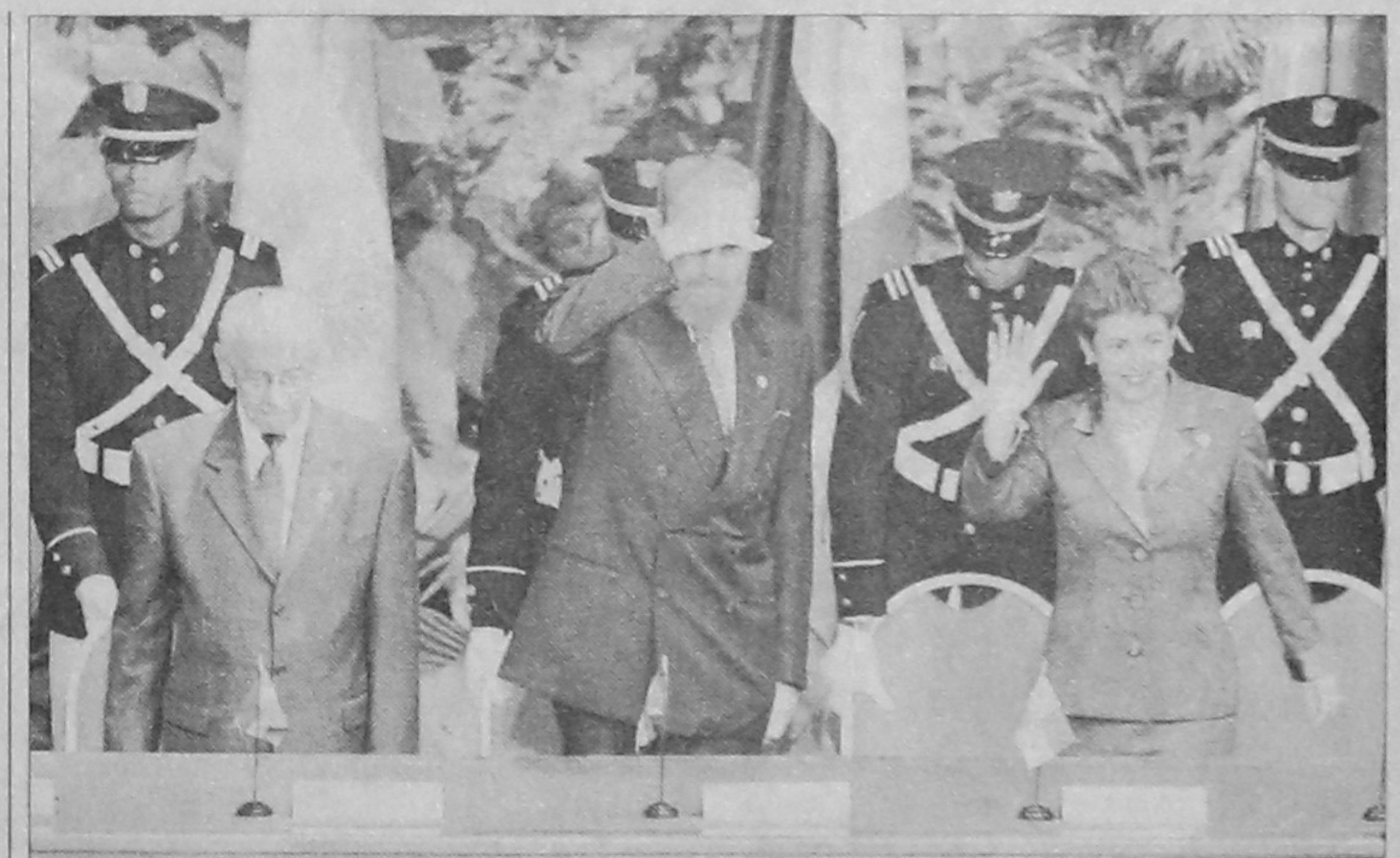
Appending observers to the commission could avoid the need for a vote in the council, which

would have to approve a UN observer force.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian gunman killed an Israeli soldier today and injured two others, one critically, before being shot dead at an Israeli military compound at Kfar Darom in the southern Gaza Strip, the army said in a statement.

The Israeli victim, 21-year-old Baruch Plum from Tel Aviv, was killed after a 'lone terrorist' penetrated the compound and fired in the soldiers' direction, hitting one of them, the statement said.

They also said that shortly after the incident, Israeli helicopters fired rockets on an installation of Force 17, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's elite private guard near the Gush Katif Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip, injuring four Palestinians, one of them seriously.



Cuban President Fidel Castro (C) stands with Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso (R) and Bolivian President Hugo Banzer (L) at the beginning of the X Ibero-American Summit on Friday in Panama City. Panamanian authorities increased security around Castro after he revealed an alleged assassination plot against him. --AFP photo



Naisi (L), the fiancée, and other family members of slain 18-year-old Palestinian Samer al-Ahdar mourn before his funeral in the West Bank town of Hebron on Friday. Al-Ahdar who was killed on Thursday during clashes with Israeli forces in Hebron was to marry Naisi yesterday. --AFP photo



Chittagong Port Authority
Marine Division

Tender Notice

Separate tenders in two sets are invited from firms experienced in respective work for supply of some spare parts for the Dredger Khanak of Chittagong Port Authority. Tender schedule can be collected at Tk 500/= (non-refundable) through Challan from the office of the undersigned or Liaison Office of the Port Authority at Dhaka, House No-49/C, Road No-4/A, Dhanmondi Residential Area during office hours on all working days. No tender will be sold on the date of opening tender. Tender should be dropped in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned within 12:00 Noon of 13 December, 2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any). The Port Authority reserves the right to accept/reject tender in part or full. Interested tenderers may contact the undersigned for detailed information. DFP-27635-14/11 Deputy Conservator Chittagong Port Authority G-2020

BRIEFLY

4 Filipinos beheaded in KSA: Four Filipinos who killed an Indian guard during an armed robbery in the Red Sea city of Jeddah have been executed, a newspaper reported Saturday, AFP says from Riyadh. The gang broke into the house of a Saudi family, killed the guard and made off with money and jewels after breaking into a safe, the Saudi Gazette said, quoting the Interior Ministry.

Another quake hits PNG: An earthquake of preliminary magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Papua New Guinea Saturday in the same area rocked by massive earthquakes two days ago, the US Geological Survey reported, AFP says from Auckland.

It said the quake at 7:01 am (20:01 BST) was around 150 km south of Rabaul in New Britain province. It said it was located in the same area as a magnitude 8.0 and a magnitude 7.7 event on Thursday. No reports of damage have been received.

12 killed in SA factory fire: Twelve people were believed killed when a Johannesburg chemical factory burned down on Friday night, police said Saturday, reporting that they were investigating an allegation the dead had been locked in, AFP reports from Johannesburg.

Superintendent Richard Luvengho said six bodies had been recovered by 9:00 am (13:00 BST) on Saturday. Five of the bodies had been burnt beyond recognition.

KMT lawmaker jailed: A Taiwanese parliamentarian was sentenced to 12 years in jail Saturday for embezzling 2.3 billion Taiwan dollars (71.3 million US) from a credit cooperative, AFP reports from Taipei.

Judge Pan Cheng-ping said that Kuo Ting-tsai was found guilty of breaching trust and forging documents which enabled him to steal funds from the Tungshang Credit Cooperative between 1996 and 1997.

Former Kashmiri rebels call for 6 months' truce

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 18: Former Kashmiri separatist militants, who have formed a new political party, urged rebels and Indian troops today to launch a ceasefire for the next six months, reports AFP.

'Starting from holy month of Ramadan (the Muslim month of fasting) both parties fighting each other should announce a ceasefire to bring peace,' said Shibban Tiekoo, spokesman of the newly launched Jammu and Kashmir Awami (People's) Conference.

The Awami Conference is a splinter group of the Awami League party, headed by Kuka Parrey, a surrendered militant leader who joined forces with the Indian government.

'Let us give ceasefire a try... all international issues have been solved across the table and we urge India and Pakistan to start talks,' Tiekoo said.

India and Pakistan, which administer parts of the disputed Himalayan territory, have fought two wars and a border conflict over Kashmir.

UNHCR opens new camp for Chechen refugees

MOSCOW, Nov 18: A new tent camp for Chechen refugees was opened Friday in the Russian republic of Ingushetia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees told AFP.

The camp, which can accommodate some four thousand people, is the first section of a larger planned tent city, which will provide shelter for some 12,000 refugees from war-torn Chechnya, the UNHCR office said.

The first camp consists of 260 winterised tents which can accommodate 150-200 persons each and have water, gas and electricity supplies, the statement said.

Refugees from the existing Severny train camp and other makeshift settlements were offered shelter in the new camp, and the first 820 people have already occupied the 120 erected tents.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা এর জন্য ৪ (চার) দরজা বিশিষ্ট সর্বোচ্চ ১৭০০-২০০০ সিসি পেট্রোলচালিত ১২ (বার) আসনের সরকারি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মানের সম্পূর্ণ নতুন একটি মাইক্রোবাস ও সর্বোচ্চ ১৭০০-২০০০ সিসি পেট্রোলচালিত সিংগেল কেবিন, সরকারি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মানের সম্পূর্ণ নতুন একটি পিক-আপ ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত আমদানিকারক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণ সোনালী ব্যাংকের ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে বোর্ডের সচিবের অনুকূল ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফিসের ব্যয়) জমাদান করতঃ যে কোন কার্য দিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট হতে আগামী ২৯-১১-২০০০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত গাড়ি সরবরাহের শর্তাবলীসমতে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

সংগৃহীত সিডিউলের ভিত্তিতে দরপত্র কেবলমাত্র ডাকযোগে/কুরিয়ারে সার্ভিস-এর মাধ্যমে আগামী ৩০-১১-২০০০ তারিখ বিপ্রহর ১২.০০ টার মধ্যে অবশ্যই নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ঠিকানায় পৌঁছাতে হবে। হাতে হাতে/ব্যক্তিগতভাবে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

দরপত্রের খামের উপরে 'গাড়ি ক্রয়ের দরপত্র' কথাটি লিখতে হবে। এ দিনই বেলা ১২.৩০ (বারটা মিনিট) টায় উপস্থিত হবে। দরদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রফেসর মোঃ মোহাম্মদ রহমান

সচিব

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড ঢাকা।

জিডি-১০৬৫