

International

US, N Korea resume talks on MIAs

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13: US and North Korean negotiators began a new round of talks in the Malaysian capital today about recovering the remains of thousands of American servicemen missing since the Korean War, reports AFP.

The previously unannounced round of talks is scheduled to last until Friday or Saturday, a US embassy statement said.

The discussions follow a "successful" meeting between the two sides in Kuala Lumpur in June on the US servicemen listed as MIA (missing in action), the statement said.

Negotiators from the US Defence Department's Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office met the North Koreans in the Shangri-La hotel to establish a schedule for recovery operations in the Stalint state next year.

The statement said agreements reached during the June talks "led to the most successful year yet in the five years that US teams have been operating in North Korea."

During five separate operations this year the teams recovered remains believed to be those of 65 American soldiers. This compared with 42 sets of remains found between 1996-99.

Of the 107 sets of remains, only five have been positively identified and another 10 are "nearing the final stages of the forensic identification process."

More than 8,100 US servicemen are listed as missing in action from the 1950-53 war in which 34,000 Americans were killed.

The remains have been recovered in an area about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, many from the scene of fierce battles along the Chong Chon river.

Flights disrupted at Heathrow Airport

LONDON, Dec 13: Flights out of London's Heathrow Airport were disrupted today after a runway had to be closed when a British Airways Boeing 747 airliner got stuck on a grass verge as it taxied to a stand, reports AFP.

The northern runway, normally handling more than 600 flights a day, was shut as a security measure following the incident involving the aircraft which arrived from Boston in the United States at 7:40 pm (0140 BST).

A spokeswoman said significant delays were expected.

Despite concerted efforts throughout the night by airport staff to remove the BA aircraft the plane remains lodged on a grass area adjacent to the northern runway.

As a safety precaution the northern runway remains closed and departures and landings are taking place on the southern runway.

She said staff had been working in gale force winds and rain to try to move the plane.

Emergency services disembarked the 130 passengers from Boston.

4 Palestinians shot dead in Gaza Strip clashes

GAZA CITY, Dec 13: Four Palestinians were shot dead and dozens more wounded in bloody confrontations with the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip early today, hospital sources said, reports AFP.

The violence exploded before dawn when two Palestinian policemen were killed and 40 wounded by Israeli artillery and tanks, which entered a Palestinian-controlled zone near the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip.

The killings brought to 326 the number of people who have died in nearly 11 weeks of violence, most of them Palestinians, and erupted only two days after a US-led committee began its probe into the unrest.

The Israeli assault followed several shooting attacks directed at Jewish settlers living in the Gaza Strip, the army said.

The two dead were identified as 35-year-old Mahdi Akelah and Mohammed Abu Alula, 25, both members of Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian police and security services fired back at the Israelis, who penetrated 100 metres (yards) inside a zone which is under full control of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, witnesses said.

The Israeli troops destroyed three houses and Palestinian police positions outside Khan Yunis with bulldozers, witnesses said. The tanks withdrew

under Palestinian fire, but the artillery continued shooting.

Two Palestinians, one of them a policeman, were shot dead during ensuing gunfights with the army at Khan Yunis, where up to 1,000 angry Palestinians gathered, many throwing stones at nearby army posts.

Policeman Jaber al-Sabha, 30, was shot in the head with a live bullet. The fourth casualty was identified as Ahmed Matar, aged about 20.

The Israeli assault followed an automatic weapon attack by Palestinians the day before at the nearby Jewish settlement of Morag, which injured two Israelis travelling in a car.

The Israeli army also reported that shots were fired Wednesday at a schoolbus travelling between the Neve Dekalim and Morag settlements, followed by an exchange of fire between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers.

"These attacks show that the Palestinians have opted for blind terror and want to kill as many Jews as possible, even women and children," said army spokesman Yarden Vatikay.

He said that on Tuesday afternoon Palestinians had also opened fire with heavy machineguns against a school at Neve Dekalim, but there were no injuries.

Clinton makes final push for peace in N Ireland

BELFAST, Dec 13: Bill Clinton, imploring Northern Ireland's political leaders to stay the course, makes a final push today for peace in the troubled British province before he steps down as US President, reports Reuters.

After challenging Irish republican extremists yesterday to lay down their arms, Clinton went to Northern Ireland to try to persuade the Protestant majority and Roman Catholic minority to end centuries of deep-rooted mistrust and build a future together.

Clinton, passionately committed to reconciling the feuding communities, had a heartfelt message to deliver after 30 years of conflict and more than 3,600 deaths: "You cannot win by making your neighbours lose."

Yesterday, he swept through the Irish Republic on a tide of adulation after devoting a great deal of his presidency to the cause of peace in Northern Ireland, the stage for one of the most intractable guerrilla conflicts in recent decades.

His last stop was the border town of Dundalk, renowned as a hotbed for dissident republicans who spurn Northern Ireland's 1998 Good Friday peace agreement and fight on for Irish unity with the gun and bomb.

There he told a cheering crowd of 60,000 people: "Redouble your efforts for peace."

Estrada built casino with bribe money: Witness

MANILA, Dec 13: Philippine President Joseph Estrada and his cronies built a casino with bribes from illegal gambling bosses, a witness testified today at the president's corruption trial, reports AFP.

The 65-million-peso (1.12 million dollar) casino was "funded" by protection money to the president from a hugely popular, but illegal lottery called "jueteng," said Maria Carmencita Ilichon, an accountant with the casino.

The Fontainebleau casino was built on land leased from a resort north of Manila, she added, as the trial ran into its fifth day.

She said the money was paid by provincial governor Luis Singson, who in early October triggered the current political crisis with allegations that he handled more than eight million dollars in jueteng bribes for Estrada.

Ilichon told the 21 senators acting as jurors in the trial, that if the builders needed supplies, she would ask Singson for the money.

The House of Representatives impeached Estrada last month for bribery, corruption, culpable violation of the constitution and betrayal of public trust.

He is now on trial and if found guilty, will lose the presidency.

Singson was scheduled to take the stand after Ilichon.

Ilichon said Estrada's "partners" in the casino included his businessman friend Jaime Dichaves and Yolanda Ricaforte, a woman described by the witness as Estrada's "auditor" for "jueteng" collections held by Singson.

Ilichon said she knew illegal gambling bribes funded the project because it had used money supplied by Singson, who told her it came from jueteng collections.

Earlier Wednesday another witness called by the prosecution, said he had fled the Philippines with his family in fear of being murdered.

Ethiopia, Eritrea sign peace treaty

ALGIERS, Dec 13: Ethiopia and Eritrea have formally ended their two-year war, signing a peace agreement that halts a conflict over a barren patch of land that left tens of thousands dead, reports AFP.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki signed the accord Tuesday before a crowd of applauding diplomats, many of whom participated in the peace process.

The signing, held at a government-owned resort outside the Algerian capital of Algiers, was attended by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

US President Bill Clinton, traveling in Ireland, sent his congratulations. "My relief and happiness on this occasion mirrors the sadness I felt when I witnessed two allies and friends embroiled in a tragic conflict," he said.

"To the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea, I say the hope and promise of this day is yours," Albright told the gathering, adding, "May today's peace last long in your children's future."

The peace agreement establishes commissions to mark the 620-mile (1,000-kilometer) border, exchange prisoners, return displaced people and hear claims on compensation for war damages. About 4,200 UN peacekeepers will monitor the cease-fire.

No timetable has been set for the peace process and demarcation of the border, but Annan has said he did not expect UN troops to be stationed in the Horn of Africa for more than a year.

Outcry over US chemical shipment to India

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: Reports that a large amount of mercury will be shipped from the United States to India are raising the ire of environmentalists and some regional officials who argue that the toxic metal should be safely stored here and not exported, reports IFS.

In September, a chemical plant in Maine owned by Holtra Chem closed down, leaving behind 118 metric tons of mercury, one of the largest stockpiles of the toxic metal in the United States.

Several federal and state government officials say the neuro-toxic chemical, which has now been bought by another chemical company, DF Goldsmith, will be shipped to India.

"This would amount to nothing less than environmental racism if what Maine recognizes as a hazardous waste is dumped onto poorer countries with less regulatory infrastructure who use obsolete technology," says Richard Stander with the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, a non-governmental organisation.

News of the transfer of the mercury to India is resurrecting memories one of the largest chemical disasters in history, say activists. In 1984 a poisonous gas leak at a union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India killed 2,500 people and injured more than 50,000.

Environmentalists argue that US companies are again taking advantage of lax safety regulations in the Asian country.

Mercury has been linked to a host of neurological problems. Mercury affects the human brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. Long-term exposure can result in symptoms that get progressively worse and lead to personality changes and even a coma.

In Lewis Carroll's famous children's story, Alice in Wonderland, the strange and unpredictable character of the "mad Hatter" was a reference to mid 19th century hat makers who used mercury during the wool felting process.

Mercury is particularly dangerous to foetuses, women of childbearing years, pregnant women, and young children.

A recent study by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences warned that at least 60,000 babies per year in the United States could be at risk for lower IQ and learning disabilities because their mothers have eaten mercury-contaminated fish and seafood.

The metal is considered a global pollutant because it travels around the world carried by wind and rain. Mercury does not break down; it accumulates in the fat of animals concentrating as it moves up the food chain.

Lanka rejects truce, ready to open talks with Tigers

COLOMBO, Dec 13: Sri Lanka announced Tuesday it was ready to immediately open Norwegian-backed peace talks with Tamil separatists in a bid to end decades of ethnic bloodshed, but categorically rejected a ceasefire, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said political talks with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) "can and should begin forthwith," but gave no timetable for the negotiations to start.

"There is no reason why the talks can't start immediately," Kadirgamar said. "The war will go on with full force as even as the talks go on. There will be no de-escalation at the outset of talks."

The government also ruled out agreeing to "conditions of normalcy" insisted upon by the LTTE before any dialogue could resume and made it clear that there cannot be any withdrawal of troops from the embattled north-east.

Kadirgamar said they were not imposing conditions on the LTTE which is fighting for an independent homeland in the island's north-east, but wanted to ensure that talks on "core issues" were concluded within a specified period.

"The core issues as the government has consistently maintained are the stoppage of war, the stoppage of all terrorist killings, the resolution of the Tamil people's problems through negotiated political settlement," he said.

He said the LTTE were "not babies conducting a war by accident" and knew that they could talk peace while continuing their military campaign.

"We also have to put up with civilians getting killed in terrorist attacks and the threat of political assassinations," Kadirgamar said, rejecting an LTTE statement that they cannot talk peace while fighting rages.

The minister said Colombo was also keeping up pressure on the international community to brand the LTTE as a terrorist organisation and cut off foreign funding.



Pakistani women police carry an injured woman refugee at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Islamabad on Tuesday. Police used teargas to disperse a group of refugees, mostly from Iran, seeking asylum in a third country who forced their way into the UNHCR offices and occupied several rooms and ransacked the office record. Dozen of refugees including men and children were injured and around 100 were taken into custody by police. --AFP photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Films & Publications
112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka
No: 1-11/96-97(F)

Local Tender Notice
No 9 (DFP)/2000-2001 (Third time)

Sealed tenders are invited from importer/supplier firms for purchase of the undermentioned raw films.

Sl No	Description	Quantity
1.	16 mm colour raw picture positive	1,80,100 feet
2.	16 mm colour raw picture negative	12,500 feet
3.	16 mm magnetic film	10,000 feet

Tender schedule will be available at Tk 400/- per set from Accounts Section of this Directorate during office hours from 05.12.2000 to 19.12.2000. Tenders will be opened on 20.12.2000 at 12-30 pm.

B M Salauddin
Director (Films) &
Member-Secretary,
Tender Committee

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সভার, ঢাকা
"বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবস" এবং "দ্বিতীয় সমাবর্তন" অনুষ্ঠানে রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সময় বৃদ্ধির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পূর্ব ঘোষণা অনুযায়ী আগামী ১২-১-২০০১ তারিখ শুক্রবার "বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবস" এবং ১০-২-২০০১ তারিখ শনিবার "দ্বিতীয় সমাবর্তন" অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

"বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবস" এবং "দ্বিতীয় সমাবর্তন" অনুষ্ঠানে রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সময় আগামী ০৪-০১-২০০১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে। উল্লিখিত দুটি অনুষ্ঠানে রেজিস্ট্রেশনের পদ্ধতি এবং ফি পূর্ব ঘোষণা অনুযায়ী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

মোহাম্মদ আলী
রেজিস্ট্রার
জিডি-১১৫৪

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue
Dhaka
File No-3(2) ও ৩৪ ৩২/2000/705 Dated: 11.12.2000/27.08 1407 Bang

Tender Notice for Rent of House

A house of approximately 14000 (fourteen thousand) square feet area in Segunbagicha, Ramna, Motijheel C/A, New DOHS and Banani areas of individual ownership/ corporation/private establishment is needed for hiring from 1st January 2001 for the newly formed Board Commissionerate office under National Board of Revenue. Lift facility is needed if the house is on the 2nd floor or above. There should be a covered garage for parking of at least 08 (eight) vehicles of various types. Sealed tenders from interested owners of the house/establishments will be received with detailed description by mentioning the rent for per square foot will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned (Room No-403, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka) on 20.12.2000 from 11.00 hours in the morning till 12.00 Noon. The authority reserves the power to accept or reject any tenders.

Md Wazuliah
Second Secretary
(Duty Administration)
Phone: 8318120-28, Ext-290.
DFP-30204-11/12/00
G-2188



US President Bill Clinton (L) talks with Sinn Finn Leader Gerry Adams (R) as the Irish Taoiseach, the Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern (R) looks on during a reception at the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Ireland, on Tuesday. President Clinton is visiting Ireland for the third time and hopes to further the peace process in the region. --AFP photo

US presidential election

Recount ruling exposes Supreme Court's ideological rifts

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: By barring vote recounts in Florida and virtually ensuring George W. Bush's election victory, the US Supreme Court has once again exposed its deep ideological rifts and may have caused long-term damage to its reputation, experts said today, reports AFP.

In an unsigned opinion, the court ruled late Tuesday that recount procedures mandated by the Florida Supreme Court violated an amendment to the US constitution guaranteeing equal protection to every vote.

The move was seen by many as departing from the court's traditional role as a beacon of impartiality. Bush's Democratic rival Al Gore had pinned his hopes on a recount of the disputed Florida ballots to overturn the Texas governor's 537-vote margin of victory in the decisive southeastern state.

Whoever wins Florida and its 25 crucial electoral votes will succeed Bill Clinton in the White House. In written opinions, seven of the court's nine justices expressed constitutional concerns about the Florida Supreme Court's actions in ordering a recount. But only five wanted recounts stopped.

As happened Saturday when it voted by a 5-4 split decision to stay the manual recounts of more than 40,000 disputed Florida ballots pending a hearing on the issue Monday, the country's highest court split along ideological lines.

The court's conservative wing consists of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, joined by Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor, who are seen as swing votes on some issues.

The liberal wing groups the two newest justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, along with David Souter and John Paul Stevens.

In a scathing dissenting opinion, Stevens, the

court's most senior justice, said Tuesday's momentous ruling would tarnish the court's reputation.

"It is confidence in the men and women who administer the judicial system that is the true backbone of the rule of law. Time will one day heal the wound to that confidence that will be inflicted by today's decision," he noted.

"Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law," Stevens added.

Dissenting opinions also came from the other three liberals on the court, including Breyer who commented: "The Court was wrong to take this case. It was wrong to grant a stay. It should now vacate that stay and permit the Florida Supreme Court to decide whether the recount should resume."

Mark Petracca, a political scientist at the University of California in Irvine, also foresaw long-term damage to the court's reputation as a result of what he saw as a highly partisan ruling.

"A lot of people are going to question the political motivations of these five people who made the decision," he said. "This really has enormous long-term implications for the court and its reputation."

Petracca attributed the current situation to what he sees as the low calibre of the justices most recently appointed to the court, compared with their more illustrious predecessors such as Lewis Powell and Earl Warren.

He said the turning point came in 1987 when the nomination of Robert Bork, a conservative advocate of judicial restraint, to the US Supreme Court was derailed.

Landslides kill 14 in Java

JAKARTA, Dec 13: Seven people were killed and seven others buried and feared dead in two separate landslides in a densely-populated area of central Java island, disaster relief officials said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Six of the dead were buried in mud in the village of Banjarasari late Monday, said Edi Dwi Janarko of the Yogyakarta disaster relief agency, adding a seventh person was still missing.

A second landslide which followed heavy rains struck four houses in the nearby village of Banjaroyo, killing one person and burying six others, he said.

Meghna Petroleum Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
58, Agrabad C/A
Chittagong
Procurement of Cars
Corrigendum Notice
Our press tender No. PUR: 254 for procurement of 5 Nos New Cars scheduled for opening on 12-12-2000 has been postponed for certain amendments. Fresh timings will again be communicated thru press tender shortly.
GD-1151

ঢেভার নোটিশ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ক্রমিক নং	প্রাঙ্গণিত ব্যয়	বায়নার টাকা	দরপত্রের দাম	কাজ সমাপ্তির তারিখ
১।	হাজী মুহাম্মদ মুহসিন হলের বাগানে মোরামত।	টা ৪০,০০০/=	টা ৩০/=	২১ দিন।
২।	ত্রিকাদারদের ঘোণাতা			ত্রিকাদারদের স্ব-স্ব শ্রেণীতে আর্থিক সীমা অনুযায়ী কাজের জন্য।
৩।	যে সমস্ত অফিস হইতে ঢেভার সিভিল সন্থা করা যাইবে			ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস খ) রেজিস্ট্রারের অফিস গ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস ঘ) সর্গনিষ্ঠ জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস
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৫।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ			ঘ) সর্গনিষ্ঠ জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস
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৭।	দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়			১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত
				১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২:১৫ মিঃ

জিডি-১১৪৮

ঢেভার নোটিশ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নিচে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত ত্রিকাদারদের (সিভিল) নিকট হইতে স্বল্প সময়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত ঢেভার আহ্বান করা যাইবে। ত্রিকাদারগণকে ঘামের উপর কাজের নাম ও আহ্বানের ঘামের নাম স্পষ্টভাবে লিখিতে হইবে। কাজের পূর্ণ বিবরণ নিম্নে দেওয়া হইল।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাঙ্গণিত ব্যয়	বায়নার টাকা	সিভিলের মূল্য	কাজ সম্পাদনের তারিখ	ঢেভার খোলার তারিখ
১।	ক) কমান্ডার লিফট মেশিন কম নির্মাণ ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক প্রয়োজনীয় কাজ	৬২,৮৬,৯৫৫/-	৬২৭৫০/-	৬১০০/-	৪০ দিন	১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং
২।	ত্রিকাদারদের ঘোণাতা					১ম ও ২য় শ্রেণীর ত্রিকাদারদের (সিভিল) নিকট হইতে লিখিত আহ্বানের মাধ্যমে নিম্নবর্ণিতকারীর অনুমতি সাপেক্ষে ঢেভার সিভিল ইস্যু করা হইবে।
৩।	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহ হইতে ঢেভার সিভিল সন্থা করা যাইবে					ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস, ঢাকা বিঃ। খ) রেজিস্ট্রারের অফিস, ঢাকা বিঃ। গ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস, ঢাকা বিঃ। ঘ) সর্গনিষ্ঠ জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস।
৪।	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহে রক্ষিত বাসে ঢেভার ফেলা যাইবে					ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস, ঢাকা বিঃ। খ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস, ঢাকা বিঃ। গ) সর্গনিষ্ঠ জোনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর অফিস।
৫।	ঢেভার সিভিল ইস্যু করার শেষ তারিখ					১৭ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং।
৬।	ঢেভার দাখিল করার তারিখ ও সময়					১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২:০০টা পর্যন্ত।
৭।	ঢেভার ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়					১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০০ইং দুপুর ১২:১৫ মিঃ।

জিডি-১১৪৮