

INS Tushil sets sail from Russia to India

KALININGRAD, Dec 20 (ANI)

INSTUSHIL, the latest multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, set sail from Kaliningrad, Russia for India, marking the beginning of her maiden operational deployment. The ship was built in Russia and commissioned on December 9 this year in the presence of Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

In a post on X, the spokesperson of the Indian Navy said, “#INSTushil set sail for India from Kaliningrad on #17Dec. The ship was recently commissioned on Dec 9, 24, in #Russia in the presence of Hon’ble #RakshaMantri. The multi-role Stealth guided missile frigate is a potent addition to the #IndianNavy’s arsenal. The ship’s passage to #India will also be her maiden operational deployment.”

Yunus, Sharif meet in Cairo, discuss settling 1971 issues 'once and for all'

DHAKA, Dec 20 (PTI)

BANGLADESH has asked Pakistan to settle the issues of 1971 to help Dhaka move forward with its relationship with Islamabad "once and for all for the future generations," state-run news agency has said.

Bangladesh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also discussed the revival of the SAARC and called for a strategic relationship between Dhaka and Islamabad.

Yunus and Sharif met on the margins of the D-8 Summit at Cairo on Friday when the two

leaders agreed to strengthen relations through increased trade, commerce, and exchange of sports and cultural delegations, state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said.

Yunus urged Sharif to settle the issues of 1971 to help Dhaka move forward with its relationship with Islamabad and said, "The issues have kept coming again and again. Let's settle those issues for us to move forward."



Sharif said the 1974 tripartite agreement involving Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India settled things, "but if there are other outstanding issues," he would be happy to look at them, according to the BSS.

Yunus said it would be nice to resolve things "once and for all for the future generations."

India, Bangladesh and Pakistan on April 9, 1974, signed the tripartite agreement in New Delhi after the 1971 Liberation

War. It dealt with the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war in Indian camps since December 1971 and the resettlement of stranded populations in the two countries.

Yunus and Sharif also discussed the revival of the SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Sharif urged Yunus to work on the possibility of holding a summit of the regional body. Calling for a strategic relationship between Dhaka and Islamabad, Sharif said: "We are really looking forward to strengthening our relationship with our brother-in-country Bangladesh."

Zelensky raises prospect of deploying European peacekeepers in Ukraine

Brussels: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that he had discussed with European leaders the possibility of sending European peacekeeping forces to Ukraine as part of a ceasefire or peace deal, as the country's allies consider options on how to help Kyiv end the fighting with Russia on favorable terms.

But the Ukrainian president added that deploying peacekeepers would not be enough to ensure the country's long-term security, and that only Nato membership could secure Ukraine against future Russian attacks. "As long as Ukraine is not in Nato, this aspect can be considered," Zelensky said of the peacekeeper idea, after a meeting with European counterparts in Brussels.

The notion of peacekeepers has been greeted with skepticism in several European capitals; Zelensky said no decision had yet been taken on sending them, and emphasised that any such move would require careful consideration.

"If we're talking about a contingent, we need to know specifically how many, what they will do and how they will respond if there's aggression from Russia," he said. "There's



A woman with her dog in front of a destroyed building in Kyiv on Friday

Russian missiles damage embassies

Kyiv: Russian missiles targeted Kyiv at sunrise Friday, killing at least one person and damaging embassies and a university in the centre of the Ukrainian capital. Later in the day, Russia officials said Kyiv had launched a deadly strike in its Kursk region, part of which is occupied by Ukrainian troops.

Moscow said its dawn attack on Kyiv was retaliation for a strike using Western missiles on a chemical plant in Russia earlier in the week.

a lot to consider. We are discussing this topic. It's important that we raise these issues."

His remarks came at a meeting of European leaders at a

The air force said it had downed all five Iskander missiles Russia launched at the capital, but that debris had damaged several districts. The strikes killed a 53-year-old man and wounded 13 people, most suffering from shrapnel injuries, city officials said. They also damaged a building housing the embassies of Argentina, Palestine, North Macedonia, Portugal and Montenegro, and Albania's diplomatic mission, the foreign ministry said. AFP

one-day summit. The question of how European countries could step up support for Ukraine in Russia's war dominated the discussions. NYT

Govt inks Rs 7,628 cr contract with L&T to procure Vajra guns

NEW DELHI, Dec 20 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Friday sealed a contract with Larsen & Toubro Ltd for procurement of K9 Vajra artillery guns for the Indian Army at a total cost of Rs 7,628 crore that is expected to significantly bolster the force's strike capability. The gun, equipped with cutting-edge technology, is capable of delivering long-range lethal fires with high accuracy.

It is learnt that the Ministry is procuring around 100 Vajra guns largely for deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The Defence Ministry signed



a contract with Larsen & Toubro Ltd for procurement of 155 mm/52 calibre K9VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for the Indian Army under Buy

(Indian) category at a total cost of Rs 7,628.70 crore," an official readout said. The procurement of K9 Vajra-T will catalyse the artillery modernisation and

enhance overall operational readiness of the Indian Army, it said. "This versatile artillery gun, with its cross-country mobility, will play a pivotal role in enhancing the firepower of the Indian Army, enabling deeper strike with precision and its lethal firepower will bolster the capability of artillery in all terrains," the Ministry said.

The gun being equipped with cutting-edge technology is capable of delivering long-range lethal fires with high accuracy and higher rate of fire and will be able to operate in sub-zero temperature in high-altitude areas to its full potential, it said.