

Albright meets Arafat, Barak to try to end ME violence

PARIS, Oct 4: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held crisis talks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright today, but said a planned summit later with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak depended on agreement on a commission of enquiry into the latest upsurge of violence, reports AFP.

Albright, who convened the talks in a bid to end the worst bloodshed in the Palestinian territories in at least four years, held separate meetings with Arafat and Barak, but there was growing uncertainty about her plan for a face-to-face between the two leaders.

Speaking after an early morning session with French President Jacques Chirac, Arafat said a meeting with Barak was conditional on the outcome of his talks with Albright, and repeated his

call for an international commission of enquiry.

The Palestinian representative in Paris Leila Shahid then confirmed that Arafat had set three conditions for a Barak summit: a ceasefire by Israeli forces, the withdrawal of troops from around Palestinian towns and the international commission.

The idea of an enquiry was first proposed by the US administration and has the support of the European Union. However a senior figure travelling with Prime Minister Barak said, "there is no room for a commission of enquiry. Each side should conduct its own investigation."

Albright called the urgent talks on Monday, at the request of US President Bill Clinton, in order to stop an eruption of violence that has brought the Middle East peace process to the brink of

collapse.

It was triggered by Thursday's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque compound in central Jerusalem by Israeli hard-liner Ariel Sharon, and has been fed by an accumulation of Palestinian national and economic frustrations and religious fervour.

Despite a ceasefire announced overnight Monday, the violence has continued and two Palestinian policemen were killed in a gunbattle with Israeli forces near the West Bank town of Ramallah early Wednesday, bringing the overall death toll since last Friday to 65.

Elsewhere in the Palestinian territories there was a wary calm, as both sides waited for the results of the Paris meetings.

Diplomats in Paris said they hoped Wednesday's talks would at least restore a level of mutual

confidence which could translate to an easing of tensions on the ground.

The larger issues which brought the peace process onto the buffers after July's failed summit at Camp David in the United States -- notably the permanent status of Jerusalem -- were unlikely to be discussed.

However Arafat and Barak have been invited to continue talks Thursday at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt by President Hosni Mubarak, and the State Department indicated that Albright would also attend.

In New York the United Nations Security Council debated the violence, with most speakers condemning Israel for disproportionate use of force, but US ambassador Richard Holbrooke said "now is not the time to apportion blame."



French President Jacques Chirac (L) bids farewell to Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat yesterday at the Elysee Presidential Palace at the end of their talks aimed at halting the cycle of violence on the West Bank and Gaza Strip which has claimed more than 60 lives and is threatening the fragile Middle East peace process. --AFP photo

Pakistan aiding Taliban offensive: Masood

ISLAMABAD, Oct 4: Afghan opposition military chief Ahmad Shah Masood vowed to fight on despite setbacks and accused Pakistan of backing the Taliban's offensive in an interview published here today, reports AFP.

"The Taliban with the support of Pakistan and troops of Osama bin Laden have launched the heaviest offensive yet," Masood told The Nation daily.

Masood, interviewed in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, also called on the international community to step up efforts for peace in war-torn Afghanistan.

The Taliban Islamic militia's attacks are centred on the north-east of Afghanistan, close to the Tajikistan border. Bin Laden is wanted by the United States for the bombings of two of its embassies in East Africa in 1998, in which 224 people were killed.

"The current resistance in Afghanistan needs the support of the international community to stop the Pakistani intervention," Masood said.

"Once the intervention stops I strongly believe the ground will be restored for the restoration of peace."

Pakistan has always denied giving military support to the Taliban militia, saying it backs the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan representing all segments of society.

Masood said he would not retreat into Tajikistan and would hold the present frontline, on the border separating Takhar and Badkhash provinces.

His aides told The Nation they would counter-attack in the winter when the Islamic militia "are more vulnerable."

Masood urged the Pakistani people to oppose the policy being pursued by the regime of military ruler General Pervez Musharraf in Afghanistan.

"The policy ... is neither in the interest of Pakistan, nor Afghanistan, nor the interests of Islam," he said, warning it would have "bad consequences" for the region.

The Taliban militia has made significant advances since fighting erupted once more in July, capturing several key areas, including Taloqan, a strategic opposition base and capital of Takhar on September 6.

Putin urges India, Pakistan to resolve Kashmir row

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: Russian President Vladimir Putin today called on both India and Pakistan to bend a little in resolving their lingering dispute over Kashmir, while backing New Delhi's insistence that any deal must be bilateral, reports AFP.

Addressing a special session of the Indian parliament, Putin said Moscow backed New Delhi's stand against foreign interference in Kashmir, which has fuelled two wars and a bitter border conflict last year between arch-foes India and Pakistan.

"We share your concerns about the regular outbreaks of violence there (Kashmir)," Putin said to applause.

"The fact that the Kashmir issue has remained unresolved for five decades has led to tensions between India and Pakistan."

Putin said the issue "can only be resolved on a bilateral basis through compromise with absolute respect for the Line of Control (LoC) and preventing any foreign interference."

"The disputed LoC is the de facto border dividing Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of cementing the Muslim secession-



Vladimir Putin greets members of the Indian Parliament with a 'namaste', the traditional Indian welcoming gesture, during a special session of the parliament in New Delhi in honour of the visiting President yesterday.

terrorist attacks worldwide on an unspecified "international terrorist community."

"I would like to share absolutely trustworthy information with you. The same people are organising terrorist attacks from the Philippines to Kosovo, including Kashmir, Afghanistan and Russia's north Caucasus."

"An international terrorist community has already been established. We fully support the Indian proposals to create a joint front to combat terrorism," he said.

Speaking after Putin, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said India sought Russia's help in "fighting terrorism, drug-running, and drug-related militancy which ... had affected many countries of the world."

"I believe Indo-Russian friendship can help create a new world order where there will be peace, security and stability," he said.

Putin also touched briefly upon nuclear non-proliferation issues. Russia has been encouraging New Delhi to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty since India's nuclear tests in 1998.

Di was 'almost reckless' on safety

LONDON, Oct 4: Britain's Princess Diana was "almost reckless" about her safety, which may have contributed to her death in 1997, the author of a new book about her said in an interview for US television, reports Reuters.

Her former private secretary Patrick Jephson, promoting "Shadows of a Princess," told presenter Barbara Walters the car crash in Paris probably would not have happened if Diana had kept the Scotland Yard bodyguards she shed three years earlier.

"By that stage she had become almost reckless in her disregard for herself," Britain's Daily Mail newspaper today quoted Jephson as saying in the programme to be aired in the United States on Friday.

"There was a desire for victimhood sometimes, or at least a desire for sympathy."

In the interview with Walters in London last month, Jephson said Diana's police bodyguards would never have let her get into the car driven by Henri Paul.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles issued a rare public statement deploring the planned publication of Jephson's book.

Wahid won't pardon Suharto's son

JAKARTA, Oct 4: Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid said today he will refuse to pardon the youngest son of former president Suharto sentenced to an 18-month jail term for corruption, reports AFP.

"No, no," Wahid told journalists who had asked him whether he would grant the pardon for Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra who is seeking to escape jail.

The president was talking to journalists at the Halim Perdanakusumah airport here, shortly after arriving home from a trip overseas.

"It will be difficult to give him clemency. Let the law decide (on his fate)," Wahid said when pressed further.

But he also said, without elaborating, that whether Tommy will immediately go to jail "will depend on the attorney general."

State Secretary Johan Efendi said any decision on the pardon "would have to be contained in a presidential decree and should also take into consideration inputs from the Supreme Court, the attorney general, and the justice minister."

"This is a long process, it will take time," Efendi said, adding so far there had been no move towards seeking such inputs.

Tommy was still at liberty on Wednesday, despite the 18-month jail sentence imposed on him by the Supreme Court last month for causing 10.7 million dollars in losses to the state.

Tommy's lawyer Bob Nasution said Tuesday his client had admitted his guilt in the case and sought a presidential pardon as well as a delay to the enforcement of the sentence.

Tommy is the first member of the Suharto family to admit guilt in a corruption case and to be sentenced.

The president, at his discretion, can grant a pardon that would exempt a convict from serving all or part of his sentence but does not exonerate him or her from the crime.

Nasution has said that Tommy, 38, was also asking for a ruling that he pay 30 billion rupiah (3.5 million dollars) in compensation to the state, to be dropped.

Wahid's comment came almost two weeks after the Supreme Court overruled a verdict by lower courts and handed Tommy and business partner Ricardo Gelael sentences of 18 months behind bars for a 10.7 million dollar land fraud.



Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush (R) and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore shake hands at the end of their first debate on Tuesday at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. This is the first of three debates prior to the November 7 election. --AFP photo

Bush, Gore differ on Russian mediation in Yugoslav election

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: George W. Bush called upon Russia to help convince Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to concede defeat in the country's presidential election, but debate adversary Al Gore cautioned that Russia might not seek the result America wants, reports AP.

Responding to a round of foreign policy questions in their first debate Tuesday night, both Gore and Bush declared they would not use military force if Milosevic clings to power. But they disagreed sharply on US military readiness and offered contrasting criteria for future intervention.

Bush and Gore also outlined differences over freeing America of its dependency on foreign oil in a 90-minute debate at the University of Massachusetts in Boston that focused heavily on domestic issues.

Gore criticised Bush's proposal to drill for oil in the environmentally valuable Arctic National Wildlife Area in Alaska. Bush said domestic oil exploration was preferable to continuing to import oil from Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Both candidates sidestepped one broad issue that could have led to a foreign affairs debate when Gore was asked about past statements that Bush lacks the experience for the presidency. Rather than stress his broader experience abroad, Gore downplayed the importance of experience and turned the focus on domestic policy differences, including plans for tax cuts, health care and medical insurance reforms.

Bush said he takes Gore at his word that experience is not the issue, also highlighting domestic policy differences through most of the debate.

Both Democrat Gore and Republican Bush declared that Milosevic lost the election.

"The people of Serbia have acted very bravely in kicking this guy out of office," Gore said.

"Now, we've made it clear, along with our allies, that when Milosevic leaves, then Serbia will be able to have a more normal relationship with the rest of the world."

That is a very strong incentive that we have given them to do the right thing."

But he said Milosevic's removal should be accomplished with "measured steps" and without US military intervention.

Bush said he was pleased with the results of the election. "It means the man should go," he said, calling for a "strong diplomatic hand with our allies in NATO."

Bush said Russia also should "step into the Balkans and convince Mr. Milosevic it's in his best interest and his country's best interest to leave office."

Bush added, "I wouldn't use force" because it wouldn't be in the US national interest. "It's up to the people of this region to figure out how to take control of their country."

Gore said Bush's idea of involving Russia might be good under some circumstances but since Russia has not recognized the victory of opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica, "we might not like the result that comes out of that."

Bush countered: "Well, obviously we wouldn't use the Russians if they didn't agree with our answer, Mr. Vice President."

Later in the debate, Gore cited his own initiative in enlisting the Russians to help intervene with Serbia to end the fighting over Kosovo.

National Broadcasting Authority (Betar)
Maintenance Section
Administrative Building, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in triplicate are invited in two envelope systems (technical offer and financial offer) by National Broadcasting Authority, Maintenance Section, Bangladesh Betar, Dhaka from foreign manufacturers/authorised foreign suppliers through their authorised local agents in Bangladesh for supply of one new and modern 10k WMW Solid State Modular Transmitter and other stores including Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Local Training and Handing over as a good functional unit to Bangladesh Betar, Rangpur Station as per terms and conditions of the tender schedule on the following conditions:-

1.	Tender No	MES/3/2280/A/99.
2.	Last date and place of receiving tenders	09.11.2000 (up to 11-00 AM) in the office of the undersigned.
3.	(a) Time & date of opening of technical offer.	At 11-15 AM on 09.11.2000 in presence of tenderers (if any).
	(b) Opening of financial offer	The financial offers of those tenderers whose technical offers are found technically and commercially qualified will be opened later on which will be informed in due time.
4.	Terms of delivery	Part 'A': C&F Dhaka by Air. Part 'B': On free delivery basis.
5.	Source of finance	Part 'A': By cash foreign exchange. Part 'B': By local Taka.
6.	Earnest money	As indicated in the tender schedule.
7.	Cost of tender documents	Tk 3,000/- (Taka three thousand only) non-refundable.
8.	Country of origin	As per tender schedule.

Tender documents may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days on production of "Treasury Challan" (in original) depositing Tk 3,000/- (Taka three thousand) only as cost of tender schedule under the head of "1/3351/0001/2366 receipt 2000-2001".

No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

No tender documents will be sold by post and no tender will be accepted by post.

This authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or its parts or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DFP-23742-01/10
G-1732

Abdul Latif
Senior Engineer (Maintenance)
For Director General

DESA Local Re-Tender Notice

নিয়মিত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন
সদ্য বেলায় বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার হ্রাস করুন

Memo No PS-1 Pro-2/411 Dated: 27.9.2000

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority invites bids for different electrical materials against the following tender. Reputed manufacturers/their representatives are eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl No	Tender enquiry number	Materials	Last date for buying tender document	Tender submission/opening date	Cost of tender document
1.	411/O&M/Accessories	Conductor Accessories	7.11.2000	9.11.2000	Tk 2000/-

Tender documents will be available for inspection and purchase (through application) during normal office hours in any of the following offices:

- a) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12 storied govt building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
- b) General Manager, Consumer's Services (North), Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, House No 73, Road No 5/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
- c) General Manager, Consumer's Services (South), Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 12/1/A, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
- d) Project Director, Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project, House No 47, Road No 135, Gulshan, Dhaka.
- e) Director, Procurement & Store Management Dte., Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 1, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000
- f) Secretary, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 1, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka.

The cost of tender documents (non-refundable) shall be paid through Pay Order/Demand Draft issued by any scheduled local bank favouring Director, Finance & Accounts, DESA. Tender document shall be obtained personally and DESA will not take any responsibility for sending tender documents to any body.

Tender shall be received in the abovementioned offices on the specified date up to 11.30 hrs (BST) and tenders received will be opened publicly on the same day at 2.30 hrs (BST) in the office of the undersigned. Late tenders, if any, shall summarily be rejected.

DESA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

DFP-23733-01/10
G-1733

Director,
Procurement & Stores, DESA.

BRIEFLY

VHP demands ban on Jamaat:

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad yesterday demanded immediate ban on the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and fundamentalist Muslim outfit Jamaat-e-Islami accusing them of being involved in spreading Pakistan's ISI activities in the country, PTI reports from Kanpur.

VHP national General Secretary Praveen Bhai Togaria told reporters here if the government failed to deal effectively with the fundamentalist forces, there could be a danger of civil war in the country. He said the VHP's 'Dharm Sansad' would meet at Allahabad during 'Mahakumbha' in January next to discuss the proposed construction of Rama Mandir at Ayodhya, adding the 'Rama Yatra' from Jaipur in Rajasthan would start shortly.

New Taiwanese PM named:

Taiwan's president named veteran politician Chang Chun-hsiung as new Prime Minister on Wednesday, replacing Tang Fei whose sudden resignation sparked a political storm and raised questions over the stability of the government, Reuters reports from Taipei.

"We shall pursue political stability and economic growth as our highest priority," Chang told a news conference minutes after his appointment was announced. Chang, 62, a veteran of the ruling pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and outgoing vice premier, faces a hostile parliament dominated by the main opposition Nationalist Party. The Nationalists, ousted by President Chen Shui-bian in presidential elections in March, have been blocking attempts to introduce economic reforms and are determined to make the DPP look incompetent, analysts said.

26 hurt in Turkish quake:

A moderate quake rocked western Turkey on Wednesday. At least 26 people were injured when they jumped out of buildings in panic, state television reported, reports AP from Ankara.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 4.7, was centered near the city of Denizli, 480 kilometers (300 miles) southwest of the capital, Ankara. Istanbul's Kandilli Observatory said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Gov Yusuf Ziya Goksu said. "We are trying to reach villages around" the area, Goksu said.

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Ferry Division, Barisal

(RHD), Tender Notice

1.	Tender Notice No	14 of RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal/1999-2000.
2.	Name of work	As described below.
3.	Eligibility of contractor	"A to E" general category contractor of RHD as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
4.	Availability of tender schedule	1. Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna. 2. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mechl, Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal (only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule).
5.	Tender receiving officer	1. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl, Ferry Circle, Khulna. 2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl, Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna.
6.	Last date of selling tender documents	10-10-2000/25-6-1407 (only office hours).
7.	Last date of receiving tender in sealed cover	11-10-2000/26-06-1407 at 12:00 Noon.
8.	Date and time of opening tender	15-10-2000/30-06-1407 at 1-00 PM.
9.	Date and time of lottery (if applicable)	15-10-2000/30-06-1407 at 3-00 PM.

Gr No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money
1.	Supplying of spare parts for 190 kilowatt man engine (Model-D-2866 T) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 3,07,000/=	Tk 6,140/=
2.	Supplying of spare parts for 150/190 kilowatt man engine (Model-D-2666 E/D-2866 T) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 3,01,000/=	Tk 6,020/=
3.	Supplying of spare parts for 190 kilowatt man engine (Model-D-2866 T) under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 4,97,000/=	Tk 9,940/=
4.	Repair with painting of utility type-2 (Imp) Ferry No 024/96 of Dapdabia Ferry Ghat under Ferry Sub-Division during the year 2000-2001.	Tk 4,80,395/=	Tk 9,608/=

DFP-23345-26/9
G-1734

Executive Engineer (RHD)
(Mechl) Ferry Division
Barisal