



French President Jacques Chirac accompanies Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the Elysee Palace on Wednesday after talks on ending the violence in the West Bank and Gaza. --AFP photo

# Israelis, Palestinians agree to halt violence

Paris talks end without agreement

JERUSALEM, Oct 5: The Israeli army announced today it had agreed with the Palestinian security forces on a halt to violence after a week of bloodshed that has left more than 70 dead, reports AFP.

The army said it followed a meeting between central region commander General Yitzhak Eitan with his Palestinian counterparts overnight.

"During the meeting it was agreed that there would be a halt to the violence, the disturbances to public order and the shooting in the zones of friction between the two sides," it said in a statement.

"It was agreed that in the West Bank, the army would keep its fixed positions established before the outbreak of the violence and will not occupy new positions," it added.

"For their part, the Palestinians have committed to respect a ceasefire and avoid violence," it said.

A total of 73 people, mainly Palestinians have been killed in bloody clashes throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip that spilled also into Israeli proper and continued despite ceasefire agreements.

But army spokesman Yarden Vatikay warned: "If they don't fulfil their promise we have to respond."

The army announcement came after the failure of marathon talks between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to reach a comprehensive ceasefire accord, apparently breaking down over Palestinian demands for an international inquiry into the clashes.

AP adds: US-sponsored talks between Israel and the Palestinians aimed at ending a week of bloodshed closed Thursday with no agreement finalized and much uncertainty about how the violence will be stopped.

According to an Israeli official who spoke on condition of an-

onymity, Arafat left the Paris talks before the agreement was inked apparently angered over the refusal of Israel and the United States to agree to an international investigation into the violence that has killed almost exclusively Arabs.

But officials from all sides involved said negotiators were still trying to work out some deal with or without a signed agreement that would halt recent violence which has at many times looked a lot like war.

They focused on Barak's offer Wednesday to pull back tanks and armored personnel carriers from forward positions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Arafat also gave his people in the field the order to stop the violence, said Israeli Transportation Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, a negotiator who spoke Thursday from Paris on Army radio in Israel.



Harsh Vardhan Nawathe, 24, flashes a victory sign at a press conference on Wednesday in Bombay. --AFP photo

Koun Banega Crorepati

Jackpot winner to take dad's advice on spending money

BOMBAY, Oct 5: India's first TV quiz millionaire will be letting daddy decide how he spends the cash, reports AFP.

"I will take dad's advice before doing anything with the money," said 24-year-old Harshavardhan Nawathe, who is the first winner of the 10-million rupee (220,000-dollar) Jackpot in India's most popular television show, 'Koun Banega Crorepati.'

Nawathe, who is still studying for India's Civil Service exams, displayed none of the "spend, spend, spend" mentality normally associated with big cash prize winners.

"Most probably, I will make a safe investment with the amount," Nawathe said.

Nawathe became KBC's first "crorepati" during a shoe tap last week when he answered all 15 questions posed by the show's host, Indian film legend Amitabh Bachchan.

Although the episode is not due for broadcast until October 19, news of Nawathe's win soon leaked out, and the press conference was called to prevent further press harassment of the young winner and his family in Bombay.

The euphoria of winning set in only when a pandemic broke out among the jubilant crowd on the sets, "Nawathe said.

"I had the entire audience descend on me, hugging me and asking me for autographs, in fact, on the set after the episode I signed 300 autographs. This was something I never imagined."

The first people Nawathe called after his jackpot performance were his parents.

"My mom immediately started crying."

## Constitutional court annuls Y'slav election results

Opposition warns of 'trap'

### State of emergency in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Oct 5: The military rulers of Ivory Coast have imposed a state of emergency following a bomb explosion in the main city of Abidjan that killed four people and caused numerous casualties, state radio reported today, reports DPA.

The state of emergency was designed to "maintain public order" ahead of the announcement Saturday of the candidates approved by the Supreme Court to stand in presidential elections later this month.

A curfew was also imposed.

Last month, rebellious soldiers had attacked the home of the Ivorian military leader, General Robert Guei.

Observers say Guei, who came to power in a military coup last December stands no chance of winning the election. He is standing in the October 22 presidential poll as an independent.

The general wants the courts to bar his main challenger, popular former prime minister Alassane Ouattara, from running in the election, claiming that his parents are not from Ivory Coast.

BELGRADE, Oct 5: Yugoslav opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica warned of a "trap" laid by President Slobodan Milosevic after the constitutional court annulled part of the presidential election results, reports AFP.

The unexpected court ruling, made in a confusing court statement reported by the state news agency Tanjug, came as reports said 300,000 people had protested on Wednesday in a bid to force Milosevic to accept defeat in the elections and stand down.

Despite the ruling, the opposition has maintained calls for a giant rally in Belgrade today.

The full text of the court ruling was to be released later today, but the opposition fears it could be an attempt by Milosevic to buy time for his under pressure regime.

Of the ruling, Kostunica told the independent Beta news agency: "At first sight, it could appear to be a concession by Slobodan Milosevic, but I fear that it could be a big trap and so

we must guard against any euphoria.

"I think Slobodan Milosevic is today weaker than ever which is proved by the fact that he has to resort to various tactics to buy time," he added.

The ruling followed a complaint by the opposition that the results of the election on September 24 had been rigged in favour of Milosevic, but the ruling was not the recognition of the outright victory that the opposition believes Kostunica won.

Zoran Djindjic, a senior official of the 18-party coalition Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), denounced the ruling as a cynical abuse of the court's power and called on the DOS to reject it.

Opposition supporters have repeatedly said they believe the court is packed with Milosevic loyalists. Djindjic had no doubt late Wednesday what was behind the court's decision.

Meanwhile, in a potentially significant development Wednesday

day, riot police were sent in to the giant Kolubara coal mine, 70 kilometers southwest of Belgrade, where miners have been on strike since Friday, but did not move to break up the protest.

More than 10,000 protesters converged on the mine to back the miners.

When opposition leader Kostunica addressed the crowd, some of the officers took off their protective helmets and chatted with demonstrators.

The protests around Serbia came on the third day of a mass campaign of civil disobedience called by the opposition.

Around 50,000 people gathered in Nis, Serbia's third-largest city, for the biggest demonstration of the day, Beta reported.

The city's mayor, Zoran Zivkovic, called on the crowd to attend the rally in Belgrade.

In Belgrade, two separate demonstrations estimated to contain 10,000 people each snaked through the streets to demand Milosevic stand down.



Serbian presidential candidate Vojislav Kostunica (R) addresses a crowd of miners from the "Kolubara" coal mine near Belgrade after he managed to get to the mining village of Tamnava on Wednesday. More than 10,000 protesters gathered in the giant coal mine to back striking miners. About 7,500 workers are playing a leading role in the opposition campaign to topple Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, as the strike has cut fuel for power stations, causing blackouts. --AFP photo

## BRIEFLY

**Kashmiri militant held in Delhi:** Indian police on Thursday said they had arrested an alleged senior Kashmiri militant commander in New Delhi, AFP reports from New Delhi.

A police spokesman said the arrested man, identified as Mohammad Latif, belonged to the powerful Hizbul Mujahideen militant group and was their area commander in Pulwama district, 40 kilometers south of the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar. The spokesman said Latif had been picked up with 5.4 kilograms of RDX plastic explosive, which he was allegedly planning to use to disrupt festivities during a Hindu religious festival on Saturday. The police also alleged that Latif had been trained by the Pakistani ISI intelligence agency.

**Lohardaga police chief shot dead:** Police Superintendent of Bihar's extremist-hit Lohardaga A K Singh was shot dead yesterday afternoon by suspected Naxalites at Chandwa in an encounter, Chief Minister Rabri Devi said, PTI reports from Patna.

The police chief was gunned down when he was leading a police to a Naxalite hideout, where the Ultras were planning an operation, Rabri Devi said. When the SP challenged them he was shot in the head and died on the spot.

**Taiwanese cabinet reshuffled:** Taiwan's premier announced a Cabinet reshuffle on Thursday that brings in a new finance minister, vice premier and government spokesman, AP reports from Taipei.

The changes came a day after Premier Chang Chun-hsiung took over as the island's third most powerful leader. He replaced Tang Fei, who stepped down amid a bitter debate about a nuclear plant and growing concerns about the slumping stock market. On Thursday, Chang said that the new finance minister would be Yen Ching-chang, who has served as vice finance minister. Yen replaces Sheu Jia-dong, whom many investors blamed for the market's recent slide.

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Air Force.

Sl. No	Name of items & qty	Date of selling From	Date of opening To	Currency	Tender No
a.	HF Transceiver along with accessories Qty-10 set	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7898/AP-4
b.	Ni-Cad Battery, Qty-100 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7899/AP-4
c.	Multichannel Voice Recorder, Qty-02 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7900/AP-4
d.	Spares for Walkie Talkie R/T GP-88/300, Qty-23 L/1	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7901/AP-4
e.	Spares for HF R/T SG-2000, Qty-66 L/1	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7902/AP-4
f.	Spares for VHF AM R/T FSG-6/71 MPC & FSG-4, Qty-32+4 L/1	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7903/AP-4
g.	Air Band Transceiver along with accessories, Qty-10 set	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7904/AP-4
h.	IC Tester, Qty-05 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7905/AP-4
i.	Pulse Signal Generator, Qty-01 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7906/AP-4
j.	Frequency Counter, Qty-01 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7907/AP-4
k.	Digital Multimeter, Qty-06 Ea	12-10-2000 to 22-11-2000	23-11-2000	Foreign	7908/AP-4
l.	Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment in respective value (Non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on the specified date at 1000 hours in presence of the bidders (if present).				

Squadron Leader  
for Director General

ISPR/Misc/2000/803  
DFP-23798-2/10  
G-1745



Passers-by walk in front of a huge poster at the world's first John Lennon Museum in Yono, in suburban Tokyo, yesterday. The 3,600-square-metre museum contains about 130 items associated with the life and career of the music legend. --AFP photo

Singapore to test students for creative thinking

SINGAPORE, Oct 5: Singapore will overhaul its pre-university exams to emphasise creative thinking and computer skills in order to produce students who can compete in an information-driven world economy, reports AFP.

The Straits Times reported Wednesday that in two years' time, A-level tests that determine which students can go to university will be changed to reflect the new educational requirements.

The wealthy city-state's students excel in science and mathematics but officials admit that current learning methods stifle the creativity and critical thinking needed in the so-called new economy.

Education Minister Teo Chee Hean was quoted as saying that the curriculum had been revised at junior colleges in order to promote thinking skills, independent learning and creativity.

"It does not make sense if the students are then not tested on these skills, which we consider important," he said.

Teo cited as an example the history test, in which students will no longer be asked merely to recall facts.

They may be given several accounts of the same event and asked questions that require them to distinguish between fact and value judgement.

Some students and parents expressed concern about the latest changes in an already competitive educational environment where grade-schoolers have to spend their weekends studying or taking tutorials.

"It's going to be difficult. We're not used to the thinking questions," said a 16-year-old who feared her future would be jeopardised if she cannot adapt to the new system.

Countering a suggestion by the interviewer that India is a country of the future and of Present as China, Inderfurth said India is increasing the country of the present.

China is getting more investment because it began its reforms in 1978 and India in the early 1990s. India is moving in the right direction and beginning to realise its potential, he said.

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"It's going to be difficult. We're not used to the thinking questions," said a 16-year-old who feared her future would be jeopardised if she cannot adapt to the new system.

The owner has to write a brief essay outlining the pet's merits and intelligence to support the "application."

There is also the small matter of payment -- between 40 to 60 dollars, depending on whether the owner wants the diploma to be in Latin, French or English and whether the animal's picture should be posted on the web site, www.petsylvaniauniversity.com.

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