

## International

# Barak, Arafat agree to attend Middle East summit

JERUSALEM, Oct 14: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed today to attend a Mideast peace summit in Egypt, opening the way for an end to the violence of the past two weeks, reports AFP.

UN spokesman Ahmed Fouzi told AFP that Arafat was the first to tell UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who is in Jerusalem, that he would attend.

Barak agreed shortly afterwards.

Another UN spokesperson, Marisa Kemper, told AFP that the summit would be held in Egypt within the next 48 hours with the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh the "probable" venue. In Biarritz, France, where an infor-

mal European Union summit is taking place, a spokeswoman for French President Jacques Chirac said the summit would most likely take place in Sharm el-Sheikh on Sunday.

Before the confirmation Saturday that Barak and Arafat would attend a summit, Annan said no preconditions had been lodged by either side, although he added there had been "suggestions" of "certain demands."

"It is not unusual in a situation like this you have a ceasefire, a cessation of hostilities for the period leading to the summit and during the summit and then trying to make it a permanent ceasefire," Annan added.

"I have asked both sides to stop firing into the summit, and at the summit, one of the tasks we'll try to concretise would be a ceasefire."

Barak had been insisting that there should be no preconditions from the Palestinians and that a summit would end the violence that has rocked the Palestinians territories for more than two weeks.

Mubarak said Saturday that Annan, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and European Union foreign affairs and security chief Javier Solana, as well as officials from France and Spain, all said they wanted to take part in the summit.

An Israeli army spokesman said that on the ground the situation in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip was calm Saturday where more than 100 people have been killed in two weeks of violence.

US President Bill Clinton, who has been leading a frantic White House international diplomatic initiative to get the Middle East peace process back on track, told a political fund-raising gathering in Little Rock, Arkansas, by phone on Friday that he had been "on the phone all day... and have some more work to do late tonight" to try to restore calm to the Middle East.

In Biarritz, EU leaders had thrown their weight behind an emergency summit, warning that a return to the negotiating table was the only option for both Israel and the Palestinians.



Pro-Palestinian protesters shout as they march down 47th Street in New York City on Friday. Protesters demanded an end to violence towards Palestinian citizens by Israel.

--AFP photo

## Izetbegovic steps down

SARAJEVO, Oct 14: Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic stepped down today from the country's tripartite presidency, two years before his mandate was to expire, at an official ceremony here, reports AFP.

"As I announced earlier, I have decided to step down from the presidency before my mandate expires. The reasons for which I undertook this step are known to the people," Izetbegovic said in his farewell speech.

Izetbegovic, 75, the key figure in the 1992-95 Bosnian war, announced his retirement earlier this year due to his failing health and advanced age.

"With handing over the chairmanship today, I am ending my membership with the presidency too," he said.

At the ceremony, he handed over the Muslim seat in the three-way presidency on an interim basis to Halid Genjac, current speaker of Bosnia's house of representatives, until the parliament elects his successor.

He also left the presidency's rotating chairmanship to Serb member Zivko Radisic.

The Muslim, Croat and Serb members of the Bosnian presidency rotate as chairman every eight months, within a four-year term.

## 11 shot dead in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: At least 11 people were shot dead in an overnight attack in the lawless Indian state of Bihar, the United News of India (UNI) reported today, reports AFP.

The news agency said unidentified gunmen stormed into the town of Siwan in the eastern Indian state and mowed down 11 people late Friday night.

UNI quoted Bihar state police chief K A Jacob as saying the toll was likely to rise as an unspecified number of others were also injured in the latest massacre.

More details of the attack were not immediately known but UNI said the killings were part of a war between two rival groups in the region.

Friday's massacre came a month after nine people, including six Muslim landowners, were backed to death by Maoist insurgents in Bihar's southern city of Ranchi.



Two Pakistani policemen stand alert in front of the US consulate in Karachi yesterday. Security has been tightened after the United States on Friday ordered embassies in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia to close until next week. The US fears anti-American violence after a suspected terrorist attack in Yemen.

--AFP photo

## China calls for closer ties with Japan for Asian stability

TOKYO, Oct 14: Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji vowed today to join forces with Tokyo to boost stability in northeast Asia, including the Korean peninsula, by building new Sino-Japanese relations, reports AFP.

In his meeting with ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) secretary general Hiromu Nonaka, Zhu called for stronger bilateral relations with Tokyo.

In response to Nonaka's remarks stressing the need for regional peace and stability, Zhu responded: "That is true. And to do so, ties between Japan and China are what is most important," the Jiji Press news agency

reported.

"There are small conflicts between Japan and China. But we need an honest dialogue," the premier told Nonaka.

"Exchanges of people's friendships will largely contribute to building friendly ties between the two nations."

While advocating peace, however, Zhu was less upbeat about China's thorny relations with Taiwan, which considers itself independent from Beijing's control.

"I would like to resolve it (the issue of Taiwan) peacefully with maximum prudence."

"But we cannot prolong the

issue indefinitely," the premier said during a separate meeting with Yukio Hatoyama, head of largest opposition group, the Democratic Party.

Taiwan and China have been technically at war since they split in 1949 at the end of a civil war.

Beijing has since considered Taiwan part of its territory awaiting reunification and has threatened an invasion if the island tries to become independent.

The Chinese premier also hailed South President Kim Dae-Jung's receipt of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, praising the president's contributions to the budding détente on the peninsula.

## Nobel Peace Prize World leaders greet Kim but N Korea silent

SEOUL, Oct 14: President Bill Clinton today led world leaders in hailing South Korea's President Kim Dae-Jung as a fitting winner of this year's Nobel peace prize as North Korea stayed silent over the award, reports AFP.

Clinton phoned Kim Dae-Jung to congratulate him on winning the Nobel Peace Prize, lauding his efforts to bring peace to the Korean peninsula and promote reconciliation with communist North Korea.

"I can think of few leaders who deserves the prize more than President Kim," Clinton told Kim during the 10-minute phone conversation, officials of the presidential Blue House said.

"It is very difficult to move the minds on the Korean peninsula but Mr. President, you did it," Clinton said.

Kim Dae-Jung thanked Clinton for his strong support, without which, he said, the thaw in inter-Korean ties would have been impossible.

Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian and International Olympic Committee Chief Juan Antonio Samaranch on Saturday joined other world leaders in paying their tribute to Kim Dae-Jung.

China maintained a stony

silence over Kim Dae-Jung's award for forging closer ties with the North, Beijing's traditional ally.

Chinese media largely ignored the news, although a brief factual report from the state news agency Xinhua did appear in three Beijing dailies.

Kim Dae-Jung held a landmark summit with North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Il in June in Pyongyang, which resulted in an inter-Korean declaration to end decades of enmity and move toward peace.

But North Korea remained silent on the award. Defectors from North Korea living in Seoul said the North usually gives little press coverage to announcements of Nobel awards.

Instead, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim Jong-Il saw a military music performance together with the commanding officers of the columns of the military parade held to mark the 55th anniversary of the communist Korean Workers' Party on Tuesday.

Kim Dae-Jung, a 75-year-old former dissident was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for efforts toward peace on the Korean peninsula.

## Foreign-born adoption made easy in US

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: The US Congress has passed legislation that makes it easier for foreign-born children adopted by US families to receive American citizenship, reports Reuters.

The bill, which cleared the Senate late on Thursday by unanimous consent, would provide automatic US citizenship for children born overseas who are adopted by at least one parent who is a US citizen.

The child's citizenship would become automatic once he or she is residing in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence.

Backers of the bill said it would ease the paperwork burden on American families who adopt more than 15,000 foreign-born children each year.

"They shouldn't be buried under a mountain of a red tape just because they've opened their homes and lives to these children," said Sen. Don Nickles, an Oklahoma Republican, who was one of the bill's sponsors.

## Coal mine blast kills 25 in China

BEIJING, Oct 14: Twenty-five miners were killed after a gas explosion swept through a coal mine in China's northwest region, a report said on Saturday, reports AFP.

The miners were killed in the early hours of Wednesday after an explosion ripped through a tunnel in the Zhangzhou mine, near the city of Lanzhou in Gansu province, the Yangcheng Evening News reported.

Twenty-one miners evacuated the mine two hours earlier after hearing a first explosion, but 25 others who were unaware of the danger kept on working.

## Kate Winslet gives birth to baby girl

LONDON, Oct 14: British actress Kate Winslet has given birth to a baby girl, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported today, says Reuters.

The 25-year-old, who starred alongside US actor Leonardo DiCaprio in the hit movie "Titanic", gave birth to a daughter on Thursday, the paper said.

Both mother and daughter are doing well, the paper added. In August the actress and husband Jim Threapleton, 26, moved into a 800,000 pound (\$1.17 million) riverside home in southern England.

Winslet now plans to take a break from her acting career to bring up her daughter, the Daily Mail reported.

In March Winslet said she had no fears about motherhood disrupting her movie career.

"I've never been one for changing what is real in order to make my career buzz," she said.

"My career comes second. There are some actors who do back-to-back jobs and are anxious when others are in the limelight. That's not me," she added.

Winslet met her film director husband on the set of the movie "Hideous Kinky" in 1997. The couple were married in November 1998.

## Americans dominate Nobel Prizes

STOCKHOLM, Oct 14: This year's Nobel Prize season wrapped up Friday with the most coveted award, the Peace Prize, awarded to South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung, but as usual, Americans dominated the list of laureates honoured in 2000, reports AFP.

Seven of the 13 Nobel Prize winners this year were from the United States, with five of them in the fields of applied science.

With well-funded research institutes and universities and a reputation as the world leader in scientific research, the United States is able to attract the top minds and thereby take home the lion's share of Nobel Prizes.

For the third year in a row, all of the Nobel laureates were men -- no woman has won a Nobel Prize since Jody Williams was given the 1997 Peace Prize for her work as coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Despite the US dominance, the Asian continent made a strong showing this year, snatching the two most prestigious prizes, for peace and literature, and a share in the chemistry prize.

Kim Dae-Jung was bestowed the Peace Prize for his human rights campaigning and efforts to reconcile North and South Korea, while elderly Chinese playwright and author Gao Xiangjing was honoured with the Literature Prize.

Earlier in the week, two US neurobiologists and a Swedish pharmacologist were awarded the Nobel Medicine Prize for work which yielded breakthroughs in treating Parkinson's disease and other

brain disorders.

The Physics Prize went to Jack Kilby of the United States, Zhores Alferov of Russia and Herbert Kroemer of Germany for groundbreaking research that laid the foundations for IT technology.

And two Americans, Alan Heeger and Alan MacDiarmid, shared the Chemistry Prize with Japan's Hideki Shirakawa for their discovery that plastic can be a conductor of electricity.

But the US dominance did not stop there. A pair of US professors, Daniel McFadden and James Heckman, were honoured with the Nobel Economics Prize for their achievements in developing "microeconomic" theories with broad social implications.

The US hold on the Nobel Prizes is a trend evident over the past 15 years.

During that time, the prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine and economics have gone to a total of 122 people, of whom 85 were either American or conducted their prize-winning research in the US.

Only three women were among those 122. Indeed, the correlation between research funds and a Nobel Prize has not gone unnoticed.

Physicist Zhores Alferov, who became Russia's first Nobel laureate in a decade when he was awarded the Physics Prize this week, appealed to the Russian parliament for extra funds for cash-starved Russian scientists.

In an impassioned speech, he told deputies that reports of the death of Russian science were exaggerated, but only just.

## BRIEFLY

**Vietnam flood toll rises:** Another 20 people were confirmed dead overnight as the death toll from flooding in south and central Vietnam rose remorselessly, relief officials said today, reports AFP from Hanoi.

A total of 360 people, 260 of them children, have now been confirmed dead in the Mekong Delta in the worst floods to hit the region in nearly 40 years, the regional disaster unit said. In central Vietnam the death toll has reached 21 after torrential rains lashed the region earlier in the week, officials said.

**Japan, ROK, China to hold talks:** Leaders of Japan, South Korea and China will meet next week to discuss the emerging détente on the Korean peninsula, the Sankei Shimbun daily reported today, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung will meet in Seoul on Thursday, on the eve of a summit of Asian and European leaders there, the paper said. The summit talks by the three leaders will focus on Pyongyang's recent rapprochement drive, including a historic visit to the United States this week by a top North Korean envoy, the newspaper said.

**Jaswant to visit S Arabia:** External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh will pay a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning October 17 to revive ties with Kingdom. BSS reports from New Delhi.

This will be the first visit of an Indian foreign minister to Saudi Arabia in the last five decades and also the first high-level contact between the two sides in the past two decades. "The minister's visit to Saudi Arabia is a major international and political signal," an external affairs ministry official said adding "bilateral relations till now have been conducted through the prism of Pakistan but now there seems to be a clear indication that India and Saudi Arabia want to build ties on a bilateral basis."

## BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polish, Narsingdi invites sealed quotation for High Pressure Ammonia Pump & Primary Carbanate Pump Cylinder Block Casting & Machining against Tender No PUFF/COM-18.137/99-2000. Tender will be received up to 11:00 am on 05-11-2000 and will be opened immediately thereafter in the same day in presence of tenderers (if any). Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk. 50/- (fifty) only per set (non-refundable) from the Office of (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (iii) Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polish, Narsingdi. No tender documents will be sold on the date of its opening.

BCIC-899-5/10/2000  
DFP-24463-10/10 G-1792



## BPDB's International Tender Notice

1. Sealed local tenders are invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned international manufacturers/suppliers for the procurement of 6 Nos 33/6.36KV, 1.667MVA Single Phase Transformer as stated below:

Sl No	Tender No. & date	Description of equipment/materials	Qty	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving date
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	Pur-208/00/2001 dt: 10.9.2000	33/6.36KV, 1.667MVA Single Phase Transformer	6 Nos.	Tk 1000/-	14.11.2000

- A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of taka as mentioned in column-5 each as above against this tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director, Purchase, Power Development Board, Dhaka.
- A bid bond equivalent to 2% (two per cent) of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.
- Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM and will be opened at 11:30 AM in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. Tender shall neither be sent by Post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer sent by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.
- The expenditure will be booked against (O&M) Revenue Budget (2000-2001).

Biddut/Jana-666(4)/2000-2001  
DFP-24399-10/10  
G-1790

Director, Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka



## BPDB's Local Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Tender No. & date	Description of materials/equipment of different ratings
1.	Pur-213/2000 dated: 2.10.2000	Procurement of 110 volt battery charger with battery-25 sets for operation maintenance of different BPDB's 33/11KV Sub-Station.
2.	Financing	Central O&M (Revenue) budget 2000-2001.
3.	Qualification of tender	Renowned manufacturers/suppliers.
4.	Bid bond	Irrevocable/un-conditional bid bond of equivalent to 2.5% of quoted amount in the currency of bid in favour of Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
5.	Place of receipt of tender	Office of Director, Purchase, PDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
6.	Date & time of receipt of tender	24.10.2000 up to 11:00 AM (BST)
7.	Date & time of opening of bids	24.10.2000 at 11:30 AM
8.	Name of office where tender document available	From the office of the undersigned on submission of written application Pay Order/Bank Draft for amount of Tk 2,000/- (two thousand) only (non-refundable) in favour of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka-1000.

Tender document will neither be sold on the day of opening nor it will be received through Telex/Fax/Post/Courier etc. Bangladesh Power Development Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Biddut/Jana-669(5)/2000-2001  
DFP-24402-10/10  
G-1791

Director, Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka.