

## 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 Middle East 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 of 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 Radic.

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

reported.

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

"Exchanges of people's friend-slips 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 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 building of a denuclearized peninsula.

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.

## 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 Zhangerou 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 lime-light. 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.

## Lankan coalition partner demands constitutional reforms

Muslim Congress sets 100-day deadline

COLOMBO, Oct 14: Sri Lanka's main Muslim party today

demanded military campaign against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

I am totally opposed to what the PM has said," Hakeem said.

"We have not spoken to the other Tamil parties as yet, but there is a need to leave a door open to have talks with the LTTE."

The Tigers have been fighting a decades-old war for an independent state in the country's north-eastern Jaffna peninsula.

On Saturday, the SLMC's joint-leader Rauf Hakeem reiterated the party wanted to be "firmly independent" and warned Kumaratunga their support was based on "irrevocable conditions" and that they would not hesitate to pull out if their demands were not met.

The SLMC would use its newly-won leverage to usher in a new democratic political culture in this majority Sinhala Buddhist nation, he added.

President Kumaratunga said before Tuesday's election that a Norwegian-backed peace bid with the Tamil Tigers had been put on hold because she was convinced the guerrillas were not interested in peace negotiations.

Hakeem said he was giving President Kumaratunga's administration 100 days to press ahead with a draft constitution bill which envisages turning the country into a de facto federal state.

The bill, which failed to win approval in the previous parliament in August for want of a two-thirds majority, also sought to establish independent commissions to manage the police, elections, the judiciary and the civil service.

## Philippine govt to pull out of gambling operations

MANILA, Oct 14: Philippine President Joseph Estrada, in an attempt to quell a raging controversy over alleged illegal betting pay-offs, said today the government would withdraw from all forms of gambling, and also promised further reforms, reports AFP.

Opposition congressman Heherson Alvarez, who plans to file an impeachment motion against Estrada next week over the scandal, said he welcomed Estrada's move but stressed he would nonetheless continue with the impeachment effort.

In a statement aired on radio and television, Estrada again

denied he received bribes from bosses of illegal gambling rackets, saying "my conscience is clear."

"I am ready to face those who are attacking me. Let them bring their evidence to Congress. I am certain the truth will come out."

He added he was abolishing government-approved online gambling as well as a planned town lottery system, and promised to privatize government-run casinos.

"The people do not want the government to be involved in gambling. The message is clear," Estrada said. "We will stop all

forms of gambling under the government."

Estrada said the measure was the first in a series of reforms he was announcing to put an end to a week over allegations by a former friend the president received huge pay-offs from organizers of illegal numbers games.

"We are taking steps to end this scandal and we are determined to pursue them," Estrada said.

"I was wrong in thinking we could change the culture of gambling and the role of the government. I was also wrong in choosing my friends."

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

2. 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.

3. A bid bond equivalent to 2% (two per cent) of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.

4. 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.

5. The expenditure will be booked against (O&M) Revenue Budget (2000-2001).

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

Director, Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

## BPDB's Local Tender Notice

Si. No. Tender No. & date Description of materials/equipment of different ratings

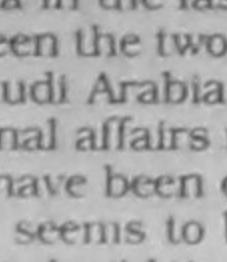
1.	Pur-213/2000 dated: 2.10.2000	Procurement of 110 volt battery charger with battery-25 sets for operation maintenance of different BPDB's 33/11KV Sub-Station.
2.	Financing	Central O&M (Revenue) budget 2000-2001.
3.	Qualification of tender	Renowned manufacturers/suppliers.
4.	Bid bond	Irrevocable/un-conditioned 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 (9th 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.

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

Director, Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka



## BCIC Tender