

ME peace process in tatters as Israel threatens to suspend all negotiations

UNGA condemns excessive use of force by Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM, Oct 21 : The Middle East peace process was in tatters today after one of the bloodiest days since violence erupted three weeks ago prompted Israel to threaten to suspend all negotiations, reports AFP.

While the Palestinians and Israelis traded gunfire and accusations, Jerusalem also suffered a heavy diplomatic blow.

The UN General Assembly in New York voted by a large majority late Friday to condemn what it called Israel's excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians.

The resolution was adopted by 92 votes to six, but 46 countries abstained. Israel, the United States and four small Pacific Ocean states voted against.

The motion split EU nations, with nine voting in favour and six abstaining.

The non-binding resolution condemned "acts of violence, especially the excessive use by the Israeli forces of force against Palestinian civilians."

It expressed support for the understandings reached at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit and urged "all parties concerned to implement these understandings honestly and without delay."

There was little sign of any understanding on the ground Friday as nine Palestinians were killed in fierce clashes.

Four were killed in intense clashes with Israeli troops in the flashpoint West Bank town of Nablus, following a funeral for a Palestinian killed the previous day.

Four teenagers were among the five other Palestinian victims in clashes elsewhere.

Friday's violence, in which more than 200 were injured, brought the death toll to 123 since the fighting broke out three weeks ago. The overwhelming majority of casualties have been Palestinians.

Israel, insisting that it had stuck to a truce that was due to take effect Friday, warned that it would take a "time-out" in the peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said the time-out would last "as long as necessary".

"We can't ignore what has happened over the past three weeks and say nothing has happened," he told Israeli television.

Barak complained that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "doesn't want to give up anything" for the cause of peace.

The Palestinians, meanwhile, appealed for a halt to "this killing rampage," as Arab heads of state gathered in Egypt for a summit to discuss the violence.

Arafat, in Cairo for the Arab summit, dismissed Barak's remarks, saying: "The children of the Arab nation are stronger than any statement."

The Arab leaders meeting in Cairo aim to make Israel pay a diplomatic price for its deadly crackdown on the Palestinians.

By reversing steps toward normalisation with Israel, the Arabs hope to send a message that the Jewish state will only win their acceptance by negotiating a "real peace" rather than by imposing one by force.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara, whose country wants the summit to take a hard line against Israel, urged Arab states to scrap all ties and dealings with Israel.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat alleged that Barak's "time-out" was a condition set by hawkish right-wing leader Ariel Sharon, with whom Barak restarted negotiations Friday to form an emergency national-unity government.

Amid the new tension, key international players stepped up their diplomacy, with the United States -- which brokered the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement -- playing down Barak's time-out.

However the fighting extended alarmingly into southern Lebanon late Friday, according to police there.

Israeli helicopters and artillery pounded a border region from where guerrillas fired machine guns and hand grenades, Lebanese police said.

Three unidentified guerrillas fired machine guns and hand grenades across the border fence in the direction of an Israeli post facing the gate of Abbassiyeh in the western sector of southern Lebanon, security sources said.

An Israeli military source said guerrillas were trying to enter Israeli territory from Lebanon near the Israeli village of Rajjah. There were no casualties on the Israeli side, the source said.

The Lebanese sources could not confirm whether shots were fired from southern Lebanon against northern Israel.

An Israeli military source confirmed only that shots were fired on the ceasefire line between Israel and Lebanon.

Friday's clashes literally exploded the ceasefire deadline which expired during the day.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Noam Katz called the deadline "flexible."



Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat (L) walks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz in Cairo late Friday on the eve of an Arab summit to discuss the violence that has rocked the Palestinian territories since September 28 leaving more than 120 people dead. This is the first Arab summit since 1996. --AFP photo

Pakistan worried at arms induction by India

ISLAMABAD, Oct 21: Pakistan has expressed its concern over the induction of large quantities of arms and military equipment by India, reports PFI.

The concern was expressed by a spokesman of the Foreign Office here on Friday in Islamabad when he was asked to comment on a report in the Washington based weekly "Defence News" that India was buying military equipment worth 25 billion dollars from different sources.

The spokesman emphasised that Pakistan wants to avoid arms race either nuclear or conventional. However he said whatever happens in our region we cannot be oblivious of that and we will take all measures so that our security remains impregnable and any aggressive design in deterred.

Asked the signing of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

the spokesman said in principle Pakistan has no problem as it voted for the treaty in 1996.

He explained that Pakistan was forced to carry out the 1998 nuclear tests to restore the strategic balance in the interest of its security and peace and stability in the region.

He said regrettably some countries imposed sanctions and Pakistan resents those sanctions and always maintained that these must be removed.

He said Pakistan would like to have a broad public consensus and withdrawal of sanctions before any decision on the signing of CTBT is taken.

He said that Pakistan's decision on the issue is not linked to India signing the CTBT and emphasized that decisions are taken on the basis of country's own interests and assessment of the situation.

Vajpayee to be discharged from hospital today

NEW DELHI, Oct 21 : Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will be discharged on Sunday from a Bombay hospital, 13 days after undergoing knee surgery, officials from his office said here today, reports AFP.

There are no restrictions on him at all, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan was quoted as saying on television.

He added the prime minister has been advised not to tax his left leg, which was operated upon.

A previous report said the prime minister had been discharged from the Breach Candy hospital.

Officials in New Delhi said following his discharge the premier will not rest in Bombay as planned at first, and instead will fly directly to the Indian capital on Sunday.

A kilometre-long (0.6-mile) banner put up outside the barricaded hospital carried 2,000 get-well messages scribbled by children and actors and actresses of India's Bollywood in Bombay, witnesses said.

The prime minister has invited the hospital nurses who attended him to visit the Indian capital, a television network added.

Vajpayee went into orthopaedic surgery on October 10 in a 65-minute operation to have a joint in his arthritic left knee replaced.

The premier's office functioned during Vajpayee's hospitalisation from the seventh floor of the hospital.

Siamese twins to be separated next month

LONDON, Oct 21 : Jodie and Mary, the Siamese twins at the centre of an ethical and legal row in Britain, are to undergo surgery to separate them in the second week of November, a British newspaper reported today, says AFP.

One of the twins is expected to die if she is separated from her sister, but doctors fear that if they do not operate, both the twins could perish.

The twin's parents, from the Maltese island of Gozo, went to court to get an injunction preventing the operation, but the House of Lords, Britain's highest court, said the surgery could go ahead.

According to the Guardian newspaper, doctors at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester, northern England, where the three-month-old girls are being treated, have now set a date for the complex surgery.

However, this could be brought forward if the condition of Jodie and Mary -- not their real names -- deteriorates any further.

Mary is the weaker of the two and depends on Jodie to keep her alive, but this dependence is weakening her sister, doctors believe.

Clinton denies rift with Gore

BOSTON, Massachusetts, Oct 21 : US President Bill Clinton strongly denied reports Friday that a rift has developed between him and Vice President Al Gore, reports AFP.

"It's not true," Clinton said. "I can categorically say it's not true."

His statement came in response to a lengthy article in Friday's New York Times reporting that relations between the two men had deteriorated in recent weeks.

Questioned on the state of relations with his top lieutenant and would-be successor, Clinton asserted that he was prepared to do everything in his power to see Gore elected president.

"I want to do the best I can, but it's too early to know" how best to aid the Gore campaign, Clinton said in Missouri Friday after attending a memorial service for the late Governor Mel Carnahan.

Carnahan died earlier this week when his private plane crashed.

Clinton's spokesman Jake Siewert underscored the US president's commitment to providing unqualified support for Gore's presidential campaign.

"We've done rallies in the past and (Clinton) will be out there to help him out," he said.

Meanwhile, US President Bill Clinton will enhance his efforts to rally voters behind Al Gore in a potentially key strategic shift with under three weeks left before the November 7 election, officials said Friday.

But aides to the vice president said the two were not scheduled to campaign together, and the candidate himself declared: "This is a campaign that I am running on my own."

"I'm running in my own right with my own vision about the future of our country. We face new challenges in a new time," said Gore, who made a similar bid for independence in his August party nomination acceptance speech.

The vice president has largely kept his mentor at arms' length, worried that the more charismatic and popular president might overshadow him or worse -- remind voters of the scandals that have plagued the administration.

Clinton -- legally prohibited from running again -- enjoys sky-high job approval ratings, but many Americans take a dim view of his character, in large part a holdover from his tawdry affair with ex-White House intern Monica Lewinsky and subsequent impeachment.

Colombia launches offensive to beat back leftist rebels

BOGOTA, Oct 21 : The Colombian government ordered a large-scale military operation Friday to beat back leftist rebels who have launched a series of attacks in the northwest of the country, reports AFP.

The operation was ordered by President Andres Pastrana in response to attacks by units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on the town of Dabeiba, located near the border with Panama.

The government's counter-attack, expected to last several weeks, is being led personally by armed forces commander General Jorge Mora, and involves 1,600 soldiers brought together from various counter-insurgency and special forces units.

More than 100 people have

been killed in recent days in clashes between Colombian government forces and the rebels in the country's northwest, Radio RCN reported here Friday.

Citing military sources, the radio said 54 soldiers and police officers died since Wednesday in violent fighting that also claimed the lives of 50 rebels.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports. At least 32 bodies have been transferred from Dabeiba to Medellin, army spokesman Mayor Oscar Anzola said.

The military and police victims are believed to number more than 50, Radio Caracol said, quoting a reporter on the scene at the Medellin airport as the bodies were flown in.

Rwandan reconciliation meet ends with call for reforms

KIGALI, Oct 21 : Rwanda's first reconciliation conference, aimed at fostering harmony in the wake of widespread ethnic bloodshed, ended here late Friday with a call for political reforms, reports AFP.

Rwanda still lives very much under the shadow of the 1994 genocide during which Hutu extremists planned and carried out the slaughter of between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

And in 1996, Rwandan Tutsi soldiers backing a rebellion in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) were accused of mass killings of Rwandan Hutus living as refugees in Zaire.

South African President Thabo Mbeki joined a cross-section of Rwandans from home and abroad for the three days of reconciliation talks here.



Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters Administrative Directorate, Cue & Ord Sector Peelkhana, Dhaka Re-Tender Notice

Number 401/17/X/Cue

Dated: 15th October 2000, 30 Ashwin 1407

Sealed tenders are invited by this organisation from enlisted only with this section for goods of serial No 'Ka' and 'Kha' and enlisted/non-enlisted contractors for goods of serial No 'Ga' for purchasing at the quantity as mentioned against the undermentioned goods.

Serial number	Name of goods	Number	Cost of schedule
Ka	Nylon net mosquito curtain	7,838 pieces	750/=
Kha	Polyester drill cloth navy blue (mufti)	2,605 meters	400/=
Ga	Mosquito killing oil (syclyfing)	1,400 litres	400/=

2. Schedule of tender can be purchased from RP on duty at the gates number 3 and 4 at Peelkhana, BDR Headquarters at the specific cost till 30-10-2000 Monday, 1400 hours from the date of publication of advertisement. The undersigned can be contacted to see the preserved sample or for any other information during office hours that is from 0830 hours to 1400 hours excepting government holiday. Tenderers participating in the tender can submit tender on 31-10-2000, Tuesday till 1200 hours in the tender box kept at the No 4 gate at Peelkhana, BDR and tender box will be opened on the same day at 1230 hours in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).

3. The authority reserves the power to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-25035-16/10

DAQMG
On behalf of the
Director General

Asian-European leaders claim summit success

ASEM pledges respect for HR

SEOUL, Oct 21 : Asian and European leaders ended a two-day summit today by claiming major progress in bringing the two continents together despite differences over getting closer to North Korea, reports AFP.

President Kim Dae-Jung of host South Korea hailed the third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) as a "major step forward" for the two regions.

"Over the past two days, Asia and Europe have made a major step forward in their march to forge a genuine partnership for prosperity and stability in the new millennium," he told assembled leaders.

The summit was dominated by North Korea, but even as the 25 ASEM nations and the European Commission released a unanimous declaration to work for peace on the Korean peninsula, differences remained.

During the summit, Britain, Germany and Spain declared their intention to seek diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

But French President Jacques Chirac said that while his country fully supported reconciliation, it would not join the rush to establish formal links.

"France will establish a diplo-

matic relationship only if North Korea makes gestures in its desire to answer our expectations on non-proliferation and human rights," he told an end-of-summit press conference.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori had earlier stressed his country -- still concerned by the communist state's missile program among other issues -- would "take time" before seeking ties.

Nonetheless the ASEM summit unanimously adopted the Seoul Declaration for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, a commitment to further reduce tensions along the divided frontier.

This too revealed further divides, with a reference to the North's suspected weapons of mass destruction left out at the insistence of China.

However compromise seemed to have been reached on the often contentious issue of human rights, with references to it in official statements tempered by pledges not to interfere in members' internal matters.

The Chairman's Statement, by President Kim Dae-Jung, included for the first time human rights as a common value for the four-year-old organisation.

"Leaders committed themselves to promote and protect all human rights including the right to development and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind their universal indivisible and interdependent character," the statement issued at the end of the two-day ASEM meeting said.

However a document on ASEM's future said political discussion should take place only on the basis of "non-intervention, whether direct or indirect, in each other's internal affairs."

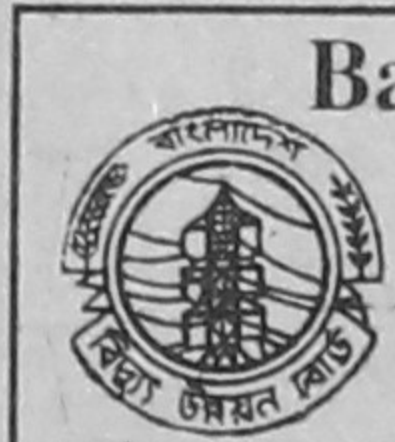
The summit, which brought together more than 20 heads of government and state from 10 Asian and 15 European countries, adopted a series of other measures Saturday.

These included a major information technology initiative, the "Trans-Eurasia Information Network," and policies concerning fighting trans-national crimes such as money laundering and people trafficking.

But with 16 separate measures passed and seven more "noted", diplomats said future summits would take a more focused approach to meet concerns that ASEM's work was being too thinly spread.



Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen (C) speaks as South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung (seated right of podium) listens during the closing ceremony of the third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Seoul yesterday. Leaders from Europe and Asia held final talks on the final day of their summit, with their agenda focussed again on trying to catch up with overnight developments over North Korea. Denmark will host the next ASEM summit in 2002. --AFP photo



Bangladesh Power Development Board BPDB's Local Tender Notice

সময় মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ করুন

1. Local sealed tenders are invited by Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned local manufacturers/suppliers for the procurement of Conductor, Insulator and 11KV Dropout Cutout Fuse as stated below:

Sl No	Tender enquiry No & date	Description of equipment/ materials	Qty	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving date
1.	Pur-EQ-17/2000 Dated-9.10.2000	ACSR Rabit	50 MT	2000 Tk	16.11.2000
2.	Pur-EQ-18/2000 Dated-9.10.2000	AAC Ant Insulated	300 KM	4000 Tk	16.11.2000
3.	Pur-EQ-19/2000 Dated-9.10.2000	PVC Cable 1x70 RM	50 KM	2000 Tk	16.11.2000
4.	Pur-EQ-20/2000 Dated- 9.10.2000	Group-A 33 KV Pin Insulator with Pin Group-B Shackle Insulator 3"x3.5" Group-C 11 KV Dropout Fuse Cutout (25 Amps Fuse Link)	3000 Nos 20,000 4,000 Nos	2000 Tk 2,000 Tk 2,000 Tk	16.11.2000 16.11.2000 16.11.2000
5.	Pur-EQ-21/2000 Dated-9.10.2000	11 KV Lighting Arrestor	4,000 Nos	2,000 Tk	16.11.2000

3. A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% 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 the preserved dated as mentioned in column-6 each as above 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 send by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.
5. The expenditure will be booked against the project under ADP of 2000-2001 of BPDB for the Procurement of Materials/Equipment and spares on emergency basis for Rehabilitation and Replacement of Transmission and Distribution System.

Project Director

Procurement of Materials/Equipment and Spares on Emergency basis of Rehabilitation and Replacement of Transmission and Distribution System of BPDB

&
Director

Electrical Equipment PDB, Dhaka.

Biddut/Jana-732(4)/2000-2001
DFP-25097-17/10
G-1833

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সালনা, গাজীপুর-১৭০৩, বাংলাদেশ
টেলিফোন: পিএকএস (০৬৮১) ৫২০২০, ৫২৫৬৬, ৫২৫৭২
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University
Salna, Gazipur-1703, Bangladesh
Telephone: PABX (0681) 52020, 52566, 52572
মারক নং: বঙ্গবন্ধু/একা(ই-০৬)/০০/ তাই: ১৯.১০.২০০০
সমাবর্তন স্থগিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রথম সমাবর্তন যা আগামী ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০০০ মোতাবেক ১৫ কার্তিক ১৪০৭ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবার কথা ছিল, তা অনিবার্য কারণবশত স্থগিত করা হয়েছে।
সমাবর্তনের পরবর্তী তারিখ নির্ধারণ করা হলে তা দৈনিক পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে প্রকাশ করা হবে।
ইয়েদন জহুরুল আমিন
উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার (পরীক্ষা)
জিডি-৯৭৬

Atomic Energy Research Establishment
Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1344
(GPO Box No 3787, Dhaka-1000)
Tel: 7701250, 7701285 Fax: 88-02-8613051
E-mail: inst@bangla.net

Tender Notice

Ref: TROMD, 1-(59)-99 Dated: 11-10-2000

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the enlisted "A" and "B" category contractors of AERE, Savar, having experience of doing similar work in the Commission, for the Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and other related works of Decay Tank Re-installation Project at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka. The contractors should have ABC license or associate with ABC license. Tender documents will be available during working days until 30-10-2000 either from the offices of the Account Officer (Works), Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka or from the Accounts Officer (Cash), AERE on written permission from the concerned Principal Engineer (Civil), Engineering Division, BAEC. Tender documents may be purchased on cash payment of Tk 800/= (eight hundred), non-refundable. No documents will be sold on the day of dropping and opening of the tender.

Tender with 2.5% (two and a half per cent) earnest money of the quoted amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept in the Engineering Division, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka or in the Central Engineering Facilities Building, AERE up to 13-00 hours of 31-10-2000. All the tenders received from both the places will be opened at 15-00 hours on 31-10-2000 in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their representatives who may wish to be present. While purchasing the tender schedule, purchasers have to produce originals of experience certificates, valid up to date Trade License, Income Tax Certificate, VAT Registration, Bank Solvency Certificates, etc and enclose photocopies (attested by 1st class gazetted officer) of the said documents with the applications/request for purchase.

For unavoidable circumstances, if the office remains closed on the day of dropping and opening of the tenders the same will be dropped and opened on the next working day as usual.

The authority reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BAEC/SID-1(2)/94-611

DFP-25161-17/10

G-1834

Project Director

Triga Reactor Decay Tank Re-installation Project.