

International

Violent clashes erupt after Israeli raids in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Nov 21 : Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians and injured at least 15 today during violent confrontations in the Gaza Strip after Israel's heavy bombardment of the area the night before, reports AFP.

The Israeli army said it shot dead one Palestinian in an exchange of fire after spotting armed "commandos" planting a bomb at the Kissufim crossing point into Israel.

A Palestinian security official, however, accused Israel of assassinating the man, Hamad Othman al-Simiri, who lives near Kissufim, close to the Kfar Darom settlement where a school bus was bombed Monday, killing two passengers and triggering the retaliatory Israeli raids.

The Palestinian official denied al-Simiri, whose body is to be handed over to the Palestinians later Tuesday, was trying to plant a bomb.

The army said a second Palestinian was killed in an exchange of gunfire when another Israeli army unit intercepted four Palestinians approaching the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim.

However, this could not be verified by the Palestinians.

The latest deaths bring the toll from more than seven weeks of violence across the Palestinian territories to 253, most of them Palestinian.

Militants attack security posts despite Kashmir truce offer

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 21 : Suspected Muslim militants attacked three security positions in the Kashmir valley Tuesday, following India's offer of a ceasefire during the holy month of Ramadan, police officials said today, reports AFP.

One police officer was seriously injured when suspected militants attacked a police station at Kella village, around 35 km south of Srinagar.

Reinforcements were sent to the area and a combing operation launched to nab the gunmen.

Meanwhile a rocket was fired at an outpost of the Border Security Forces (BSF) in Sopore, also south of Srinagar.

BSF personnel returned fire, forcing the attackers to retreat.

Suspected militants also hurled a grenade at a security bunker in downtown Srinagar.

Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Several militant organisations have threatened to intensify attacks on the security forces after rejecting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's ceasefire offer made Sunday.

"We have stepped up vigilance across the valley," said BSF Deputy Inspector R.P. Singh.

Suu Kyi fails to answer brother's property suit

YANGON, Nov 21 : Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi failed to appear in court today to answer a suit filed by her US-based brother Aung San Oo who is claiming half ownership of her Yangon home, reports AFP.

In other violence Tuesday, medical workers said Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 15 Palestinians with live rounds during a protest in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis involving hundreds of students.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers also fired at an ambulance in Khan Yunis as it was trying to recover wounded.

Clashes also erupted near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim and at the Karni crossing point into Israel, leaving a total of four injured, hospital officials said.

Many Palestinian schools were closed on Tuesday as residents were cleaning up after Monday's devastating attacks by helicopter gunships and naval vessels off the coast.

In Rafah near the border with Egypt, witnesses said a gunfight between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunman also broke out.

Palestinian political and militant groups called for Palestinians Tuesday to "respond" to Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip by continuing their seven-week uprising with marches in the West Bank.

Shooting incidents were also reported in several flashpoint areas of the West Bank, the army said, without reporting any injuries.



Italian firefighters work on removing rubble from a house after a landslide damaged two houses on Monday at Ponte Moriano, near Lucca, in Tuscany, northern Italy. Five people were thought to be trapped under the heavy mud and emergency workers remained unsure if they were still alive. As fresh landslides and rains hit northern Italy on Monday, hundreds of people were forced to evacuate their homes. —AFP photo

US awaits Florida SC ruling on outcome of stalled polls

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Nov 21 : Millions of US voters held their breath today as seven Florida Supreme Court justices pondered decisions that could determine the outcome of the stalled US presidential election, reports AFP.

At the heart of the case is whether manual recounts of ballots currently under way in three Florida counties should be included in the state's final official results of the November 7 election.

Since the counties where the recounts are underway are heavily Democratic, a decision to favour Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore while a refusal would likely boost the chances of Republican George W. Bush.

The Texas governor is leading Gore in the official.

Strike paralyzes Tripura

GUWAHATI, India, Nov 21 : A 24-hour general strike to protest against a series of ethnic clashes that claimed 19 lives paralysed normal life today in India's north-eastern state of Tripura, reports AFP.

The strike was supported by the state's ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) as well as opposition parties.

A police spokesman in Tripura's state capital Agartala said shops, businesses, financial and educational institutions remained closed while there was no traffic on the roads.

At least 19 people were killed in separate incidents in the past three days when tribal and non-tribal rebel groups attacked each other in northern Tripura.

Although Tuesday's strike had cross-party support, the main opposition groups took the opportunity to criticise the ruling Communists' failure to prevent the violence.

46 nations submit films for Oscar nomination

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Nov 21 : A record 46 countries have submitted films for the Oscar for best foreign language film of 2000, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday, reports AFP.

The number in contention for the 73rd edition of the Academy Awards beats the earlier record of 45, set in 1994 and equalled last year, the Academy said.

Leading the list is "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," by Taiwanese director Ang Lee.

Starring Chow Yun Fat, Zhang Zhi-Yi and Michelle Yeoh, the film tells the story of two women whose fates intertwine during the Ching Dynasty.

Congress defers impeachment action against Philippines VP

MANILA, Nov 21 : Congress today deferred action on a motion to unseat Philippines Vice President Gloria Arroyo, a day after it ordered President Joseph Estrada to stand trial for bribery and corruption, officials said, reports AFP.

The House of Representatives justice committee adjourned and agreed to meet again in seven days after becoming bogged down on whether to disqualify him from the hearings a number of legislators who would serve as prosecutors in the Estrada trial next month.

Acting committee chairman Oscar Rodriguez reset the public hearing on Arroyo's case for next week, officials said.

Teacher's wrath on student's ear

SHANGHAI, Nov 21 : An enraged teacher ripped open the ear of a pupil because the child did not empty a trash can, the Shanghai Morning Post said Tuesday, the latest in a string of reports of violence in China's classrooms, reports AFP.

Mori survives no-confidence, but trouble seems far from over

TOKYO, Nov 21 : Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori survived a no-confidence vote early today but his days ahead will be anything but easy with the latest polls showing public support falling to a new low, reports AFP.

A nation-wide survey by the Yomiuri Shimbun found the approval rate for the Mori government in November nosedived from 30.2 percent in October to 18.4 percent, the lowest level recorded by the Yomiuri since he took office in April.

The disapproval rate soared to 70.5 percent from 56.4 percent, the survey showed. Among the disapproving voters, 48.5 percent said they could not trust Mori while 37.1 percent disapproved of his political stance.

The poll was carried out over the weekend before Monday's no-confidence motion was tabled.

Another poll by the Asahi Shimbun found the approval rate for the Mori cabinet fell from 23 percent in October to 18 percent in November, the lowest Asahi poll finding since the formation of the cabinet in April.

The disapproval rate jumped to

64 percent from 56 percent, according to the Asahi survey.

"It is clear from opinion polls that the disapproval rate for his cabinet keeps rising," the Mainichi Shimbun said in an editorial.

"Voters continue drifting away from the prime minister because of a series of his gaffes and lack of leadership," the daily said.

"What lies ahead for Mori will be full of difficulties."

In a miraculous political return from the dead, Mori overturned an opposition motion of no confidence early Tuesday after the Liberal Democratic Party closed ranks around him.

Backed by its coalition partners in government, the ruling party defeated the move by 237 votes to 190 in the 480 seat lower house.

The opposition motion founded in near farcical conditions after the collapse of a leadership bid by LDP rebel, Koichi Kato, who withdrew his threat to vote in favour of it along with 63 of his LDP supporters.

"I would like to continue administering state affairs steadily," Mori told reporters after

the motion submitted by four opposition parties was rejected.

Tetsuro Kato, professor of Japanese politics at Hitotsubashi University, said it would only be a matter of time before senior lawmakers in the LDP decide to let Mori go.

"Many people in the LDP are keenly aware that the party cannot win in upper house elections in July," said Kato. "They are not going to keep Mori for that long."

"Once senior lawmakers in the LDP decide to get rid of Mori, the premier will go," the professor said.

"Mori is not up to the job in the first place, intellectually or politically," he added.

"Underneath the unified voices from the ruling coalition supporting Mr. Mori today, there is a deep divide in the Liberal Democratic Party," said Kaoru Okano, professor emeritus of Japanese politics at Meiji University.

"There are many LDP members who want Mr. Mori out as soon as the parliament is ready to pass the supplementary budget," he said.

PML in crisis as Sharif opponents plan strategy

ISLAMABAD, Nov 21 : Dissident leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) were bunched down in meetings today after supporters of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif suspended them from the party, reports AFP.

Party officials said the discussions were being led by PML stalwart Mian Mohammad Azhar, the former governor of Punjab province and one-time ally of the ousted prime minister.

He was one of four PML leaders

representing the core of an anti-Sharif faction whose membership was suspended Monday after wild scenes at a party meeting here.

More than 100 stick-wielding PML members from the eastern city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab, stormed the party's headquarters shouting anti-Sharif slogans and disrupted a key meeting of the central working committee (CWC).

The committee, which met later at a different venue, was due

to agree to a plan to join the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) of opposition parties to present a unified front against military ruler General Pervez Musharraf.

The GDA includes the PML's political enemy, the Pakistan Peoples Party led by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Ejaz said the suspension of the four dissenting leaders was illegal.

"We reject the decision as the CWC meeting was unconstitutional," Ejaz told AFP.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
No 64.39.33.05.30.08.2000 Date: 14-11-2000

Tender Notice

Tenders in envelopes with sealed cover in the prescribed schedule are invited from supplier establishments enlisted with this office and bonafide traders for purchasing 19 (nineteen) items miscellaneous for maintenance of vehicles of Prime Minister's transport pool and other works. Those who are interested can procure tender schedule containing requisite terms and conditions till 26-11-2000 on all working days from the office of the undersigned on payment of Taka 120/- (one hundred and twenty) in cash against the acknowledgement receipt. Tenders will be received on 27-11-2000 till 12.00 Noon in the tender box kept at the main gate of this office and the tender/tenders will be opened the same day at 12.30 PM before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present).

DFP-27980-19/11
G-2044

Director (Transport)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Supply and Inspection

Invitation of Tender

The following tenderers invited by the Department of Supply and Inspection. All the registered firms of this Department in the relevant group and other well established firm subject to submission of application well in advance and if considered fit by the authority.

Sl No	Tender No & nature	Short description of stores	Value of tender set (non-refundable)	Last date & time for submission of tender
1.	S-15/Jute/Local/33/2000-2001	V Belt, Hose Cover, Soap, Drinking Glass, Ball Bearing, Hipo, Cotton Thread	Tk 450/=	On 30-11-2000 At 11:00 AM

Date 14-11-2000

NB No Tender will be sold on the date of submission of tender. Tenders obtainable from:

- Department of Supply & Inspection, 48, Motijheel C/A (4th fl), Dhaka.
- Department of Supply & Inspection (Shipping), CGO Building, Agrabad, Chittagong.
- Department of Supply & Inspection (Shipping), 51, Farazipara Road, Khulna.
- Place for submission of tender: Department of Supply & Inspection (4th Floor), 48, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

DFP-28032-19/11
G-2045

Feroz Ahmed Khan
Asstt Director (CD)

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

SGFL Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান

বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাসের চুল্লা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা অপচয় অপর্যায়কারী শয়তানের ভাই*

Invitation for International Bid (IFB) For Supply of Chemicals Re-Tender Notice

Tender No SGFL/FP-13/2000 Date: 19th November, 2000

I. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, a company of Petrobangla invites sealed offers in the form of bid under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures for supply of Chemicals (Mole-Sieve & Ceramic Balls).

II. The details of the scope of supply, terms of supply and information required to be furnished by the bidders, etc are included in the tender document.

III. Tender document will be available from 26-11-99 to 19-12-2000 between 1000 hrs and 1700 hrs on all working days on payment of Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) (non refundable) from the following address:

1. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited P.O. Chiknagool Sylhet, Bangladesh	2. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Dhaka Liaison Office House No 85, Road No 11/A Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd Dhaka Liaison Office Plot No 3, Road No 2/A, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh	4. Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd Dhaka Liaison Office 47 Bijoy Nagar Dhaka, Bangladesh.
5. Titas Gas T&D Company Ltd Titas Bhaban 11, Kawran Bazar Dhaka, Bangladesh	6. Bangladesh Petroleum & Exploration Co Ltd HBFC Building 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
7. Gas Transmission Company Ltd, House-1, Road-12, Section-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh	8. Petrobangla, Petroceniter, 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

IV. No tender document will be sold on the day of bid opening.
V. Bids will be received in SGFL's Head Office at Sylhet and its Liaison Office at Dhaka up to 1200 hrs (BST) on 20-12-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1230 hrs in presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any. Bids received after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened.
VI. No extension in the closing date and time will be allowed by SGFL on any account and bid (s) received after the deadline for submission of bids will be returned unopened. In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, government declared holiday etc bids will be received and opened on the following working day at the same place and time.
VII. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason.

General Manager (Administration)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.

GD-1075

Peru seeks stability after Fujimori's resignation

LIMA, Nov 21 : Peru plunged deeper into political turmoil late Monday after Second Vice President Ricardo Marquez followed in the footsteps of President Alberto Fujimori and resigned his post, reports AFP.

Given the fact that Peru's first vice president, Francisco Tudela, quit last month, the move appeared to clear the way for Parliament Speaker Valentín Paniagua to assume power today as the country's interim president.

Under the Peruvian constitution, if the president and the first and second vice presidents are all unavailable or unfit to govern, the presidency passes to the head of the legislature.

The interim president would be in charge of organising general elections scheduled for April 8, 2001.

Since Paniagua is a member of the opposition, his rise to power could dramatically alter Peru's political landscape.

But the roiled world of Peruvian politics left the door open for other scenarios Tuesday, after some legal experts argued that Tudela's departure was not quite final.

The first vice president turned in his resignation last month following the return to the country of former intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos, who fled to Panama in September seeking asylum in the aftermath of a high-profile bribery scandal.

LTTE marks 'heroes week' with troops on red alert

COLOMBO, Nov 21 : Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels today began a week-long commemoration of their war dead as security forces went on red alert fearing fresh violence, officials said, reports AFP.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) officially mark their "Heroes Week" with religious observances and cultural events in areas under their control in the island's northeast.

However, the military authorities have taken tight measures to guard against any trademark suicide bombings by the rebels to coincide with the anniversary.

The commemoration of rebels who have died in the Tamil separatist conflict also coincides with the birthday of the LTTE supreme Vellupillai Prabhakaran who turns 46 on Sunday.

The rebel leader is expected to round off Heroes' Week celebrations with a speech that is expected to underline the policies of his movement.

BRIEFLY

4 executed in China for murder: At least four criminals were executed in the Chinese capital Beijing after being convicted of murder, rape and robbery, state press reported yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing.

The executions, which took place on Monday, included Tian Jinhao, a native of Sichuan province, who was convicted of a series of car jackings in Beijing in late 1997 resulting in the murder of one victim and the rape of two women, the Beijing Morning Post said.

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Invitation for International Bid (IFB) for Supply of Chemicals Re-Tender Notice

Tender No SGFL/FP-14/2000 Date: 20th November, 2000

I. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, a Company of Petrobangla invites sealed offers in the form of bid under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures for supply of Chemicals (Methanol).

II. The details of the scope of supply, terms of supply and information required to be furnished by the bidders, etc are included in the tender document.

III. Tender document will be available from 26-11-99 to 20-12-2000 between 1000 hrs and 1700 hrs on all working days on payment of Taka 500.00 (five hundred) from the following address:

1. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited P.O. Chiknagool Sylhet, Bangladesh	2. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Dhaka Liaison Office House No 85, Road No 11/A Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh
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General Manager (Administration)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.

GD-1076