

# 8 killed in Gaza ambush as Palestinian fighting spirals

AFP, Gaza City

Eight Palestinians were killed yesterday in an ambush on a presidential guard camp that was blamed on Hamas, as deadly factional fighting threatened to spiral out of control in the Gaza Strip.

The attack near the main Karni goods terminal between the densely packed and violent Palestinian territory and Israel brought to 17 the number of Palestinians killed in the deadliest bout of violence in months.

The fighting, on top of Monday's resignation of interior minister Hani al-Qawasmeh, is the first major crisis facing a new unity government set up by Abbas's Fatah party and the Islamic move-

ment Hamas to quell factional feuding.

Eight security officers in the Abbas-controlled and Fatah-dominated security services were killed in the fighting near Karni, a medical source said, in the deadliest single such attack in Gaza since the latest troubles flared.

The national security force, which lost officers in the ambush, formally accused a controversial Hamas paramilitary force and the Islamist faction's military wing, Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, of trying to stage a coup.

"Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades and members of Hamas have not stop firing against the security force headquarters, which proves its clear intention for a coup d'etat

against the legal organs of the Palestinian Authority," it said.

"The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades and members of Hamas are using heavy arms to bombard the security service headquarters," it added in a statement.

Colonel Ali Qayssi said dozens of supporters of Hamas, Fatah's bitter rival and the senior partner in the two-month-old unity government, fired grenades and anti-tank fire on the camp of 200 guardsmen near Karni.

But a spokesman for the Hamas paramilitary, the Executive Force which is controlled by the interior ministry, denied its members were involved.

Earlier yesterday, a fighter from Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades was

shot dead and another Hamas supporter wounded in Gaza City, medics and witnesses said.

Ibrahim Mounia, 40, who belonged to the Brigades, was killed in eastern Gaza City overnight when unknown gunmen ambushed a minibus carrying fighters from the unit, the sources said.

Another Hamas loyalist was wounded when gunmen opened fire near a checkpoint controlled by national security, a service dominated by members of Fatah.

Seventeen Palestinians have been now killed in factional fighting since Sunday and more than 60 wounded, dealing a major blow to the struggling unity government just two months after it took office.

## Police say 60 Taliban killed in strikes, army says 11

AFP, Kandahar

Air strikes on Taliban rebels in southern Afghanistan killed about 60 fighters, a provincial police chief said yesterday, while the defence ministry issued a much lower death toll of 11.

The Nato-led force meanwhile rejected claims by the Afghan police and defence ministry that it was involved.

The separate US-led coalition that also carries out anti-Taliban operations was not available to comment.

Confusion about operations and death tolls is not uncommon, with the various military groups tasked with hunting down the militants blamed for destabilising Afghanistan often issuing different accounts of events.

"Sixty Taliban militants were killed in a Nato-led aerial operation last night on a Taliban gathering point in Zahri district of Kandahar province," provincial police chief Esmatullah Alizai said.

The strikes targeted a meeting of Taliban fighters late Monday and were followed by ground troops

who entered villages in the province on Tuesday, Alizai said.

The dead included three well-known Taliban commanders, he said. Zahri, about 30 kilometres east of Kandahar city, has been a flashpoint for Taliban violence and is close to where the militant movement was born in the early 1990s.

However, the Afghan defence ministry said only 11 militants were killed, according to its reports.

"In the joint Afghan National Army and Nato forces military operation 11 terrorists were killed in Nato airstrikes," it said in a statement.

## Legal action over Shetty, Gere kiss shelved

AFP, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court suspended legal action against Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty yesterday over enthusiastic kisses bestowed on her by Hollywood heart-throb Richard Gere.

Shetty had blamed India's "lunatic fringe" for the uproar caused by the kisses planted on her cheek by Gere last month at an AIDS charity event in the Indian capital New Delhi.

She said the kisses had been "wrongly projected" in the media, resulting in obscenity complaints being filed against the two celebrities by lawyers in three cities, the Press Trust of India reported.

The Supreme Court also suspended a lower court order forbidding Shetty from travelling abroad.

An Indian judge in the northern state of Rajasthan had issued an arrest warrant for Gere and a summons for Shetty following a complaint accusing the pair of obscenity.

Gere embraced the 31-year-old Shetty - winner of Britain's Celebrity Big Brother reality show - and kissed her in front of thousands of onlookers at the AIDS function.



President Muammar Qaddafi (R) talks to reporters as he receives President of Ghana John Agyekum Kufuor (L) Monday in Tripoli. Libya yesterday scoffed at rumours about Qaddafi's state of health after a report said he was in a coma.

## Sarkozy fine tunes govt as Chirac bids adieu

AFP, Paris

French president-elect Nicolas Sarkozy was putting the finishing touches to his broad-based government yesterday as Jacques Chirac prepared to bid farewell in a nationwide address.

On the eve of his inauguration, Sarkozy has surprised members of his own rightwing party and his leftist opponents by reaching out to prominent Socialists with offers of ministerial posts.

Bernard Kouchner, a world-renowned humanitarian who founded the Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) charity and served as the UN representative in Kosovo, was tipped to become the new foreign minister.

Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie was expected to be named interior minister and one of Sarkozy's closest advisers, Brice Hortefeux, was to take the helm of the new ministry of immigration and national identity, according to sources.

The government Sarkozy puts together will be in office until parliamentary elections in June that will decide whether he will have the strong majority in the legislature needed to push through his reform programme.

Most of the ministers are likely to stay on in their posts after the vote, if, as opinion polls predict, the ruling UMP party remains dominant in the national assembly.

The latest economic data released yesterday, showing growth had fallen short of government expectations in the first quarter, put added pressure on Sarkozy to make good on his pledge to shock the country out of its economic doldrums.

Sarkozy, 52, takes over today from Chirac who will welcome him to the Elysee presidential palace during a formal ceremony and hand over the launch codes of the French nuclear arsenal.

Chirac, who steps down after 12 years in office, was due to make a televised address later yesterday to bid farewell to the nation before beginning life as a private citizen.

The 74-year-old leader is planning to set up a foundation devoted to saving the environment and promoting a dialogue of cultures and will take up residence with his wife Bernadette in a chic apartment overlooking the Louvre museum.

The apartment is being lent by the family of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, a close personal friend of the outgoing president who was murdered in 2005.

After Sarkozy's handover ceremony, the new president will this afternoon head straight to Berlin to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in keeping with a tradition for newly-elected French presidents.

Tomorrow he is expected to name former social affairs minister Francois Fillon, 53, as prime minister. Fillon is seen as a calm and competent operator who successfully negotiated reforms to the pensions system in 2003.

## Mahathir recovering well: son

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's ailing former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad is recovering well after being admitted to hospital suffering breathing difficulties, his son and an aide said yesterday.

Mahathir, 81, was flown from a hospital on the resort island of Langkawi, where he was admitted Monday, to a specialist heart hospital in the capital Kuala Lumpur.

"The decision to transfer Mahathir... was made after doctors were satisfied at his positive rate of progress to treatment," his aide Suif Yusoff said in a statement.

"He is okay and he is very fine and is recovering well," Mahathir's son, Mokhzani Mahathir, told reporters.

"He spoke to the family members and told us that he was hungry," Mokhzani said a team of doctors had done a thorough check-up on Mahathir, including an x-ray and heart tests, and would release a statement later.

"He will be here for a few more days and he thanked everybody for their concerns and their prayers," Mokhzani said.

## Vietnam jails dissident

AFP, Hanoi

A Vietnamese court yesterday sentenced a dissident to five years' prison for spreading propaganda against the communist state and for disrupting security, the sixth activist to be jailed in a week.

Lawyer Tran Quoc Hien, 42, received three years' prison for anti-state propaganda and two years for disrupting security, to be followed by two years' probation, said Ho Chi Minh City People's court official Phan Ba.

The half-day trial of Hien, which was open to the media, was the most recent in a series of arrests and trials of political activists in Vietnam that have drawn protests from Western governments and human rights groups.

Vietnam's foreign ministry on Monday reiterated its position that it does not jail people for their political views, only for breaking the law.

"As we have said time and time again, the Vietnamese government has always respected the rights to freedom and democracy, including the freedom of speech," the government said in a statement.

## National Bank Limited

Dilkusha Branch, Dhaka.

Import Department

48, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

### Auction Notice

(To sell imported cattle and goat feed mill machinery)

It is hereby notified for general public that the following scheduled property imported under the L/C No. 093005010101 dated 10.03.2005 issued by National Bank Limited, Dilkusha Branch, 48-Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka (the Bank). After receiving the L/C documents, the L/C applicant Nasrin Arju Cattle & Goat Feed Limited failed to make payment against the L/C documents and to release the same. As such the Bank adjusted the L/C amount upon creating forced LIM against the said L/C. Now the Bank has decided to sell the scheduled property on as it is where it is' basis by way of tender on the date and place mentioned below in order to adjust the outstanding liability of Tk. 6,60,80,834.16 with interest up to 30.04.2007 with the Bank against the L/C on the following terms and conditions:-

1. The last date of submitting the tender is fixed on 05.06.2007 (within 3 p.m.). Interested buyers shall drop the tender with their seal and signature within a closed envelope in the tender box kept in the ground floor of the Dilkusha Branch of the Bank at 48, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka or shall send directly to the Senior Executive Vice President of the Bank by post/courier on the same address mentioned above.
2. Every participant in the tender shall deposit 25% of the offered/ tendered price by bank draft or pay-order with the tender to the Bank.
3. The envelope should be duly stamped and contain the words "Tender/proposal for purchasing Skolled Batch Feed Mill with Pelleting" clearly written on it.
4. The tender box will be opened on the same date at 3.15 p.m. in the presence of the participants or any of their representative(s) (if there is any).
5. The participant shall within 10 (ten) days after the acceptance of the tender pay the remaining 75% of money to the Bank, failing which the above-mentioned 25% deposited amount shall be forfeited.
6. If the proposed price of the scheduled property by way of tender appears to be unusually insufficient or less, the Bank reserves the right to cancel the tender.
7. All the deposited money of the unsuccessful participants of the tender shall be returned immediately.
8. The Bank always reserves the right to accept or cancel any tender without showing any reason.
9. Interested bidders/ purchasers may visit the premises where the machineries are kept for inspection. The interested bidders are hereby requested to contact the under signed for inspection.

Contact Person : Md. Serajul Islam  
Senior Vice President.  
Telephone No. 9552958, Mobile No. 01715752824

Address : National Bank Limited, Import Department,  
Dilkusha Branch, Dhaka

### List of Machinery

Main Intake Qty Name	Pelleting Qty Name
1 Hopper	1 Bucket Elevator
1 Chain Conveyor	1 Trough Auger
1 Bucket Elevator	1 Pre Bin for Pellet Press
1 Pipe Magnet	1 Pellet Press
1 Two-Way Valve	2 Pellet Mixer
1 Cleaning Machine	1 Press Box
	1 Main Motor
	1 Counter Flow Cooler
	1 Ventilator
	1 Cyclone
	1 Rotary Valve
	1 Crumbler
	1 Sieve
	1 Trough Auger
	1 Pelleting Tower
External Storage Qty Name	Bagging Qty Name
1 Bucket Elevator	1 Bucket Elevator
1 Chain Conveyor	1 Bagging Silo
1 Storage Silo	1 Bagging Scale
1 Aeration System	1 Sewing Machine
1 Temperature Control	1 Sewing Belt
1 Discharge Auger	
Grinding Qty Name	Air Compressor Plant Qty Name
1 Bucket Elevator	1 Compressor
1 Extraction Auger	1 Air Treatment Unit
1 Bucket Elevator	
1 Pre Bin	
1 Trough Auger	
Multimill Unit Qty Name	Control System Qty Name
1 Air Intake	1 Electric Panel - FlexMix PC Version
1 Hammermill	1 Press Panel
1 Jet Filter	
1 Ventilator	
1 Mal Collection Bin	
1 Discharge Auger	
Premix Addition Qty Name	Weighbridge Qty Name
1 Intake Hopper for Premix	1 Weighbridge
	1 Piping
	1 Spare Parts

ON behalf of : National Bank Limited  
Dilkusha Branch.  
Masur Ahmed  
Sr. Executive Vice President.

## Pak court official slain for his ties to chief judge, lawyers say

AFP, Islamabad

A top court official shot dead at his home was targeted because of his ties to Pakistan's suspended chief justice and had come under pressure from the government, lawyers for the judge said yesterday.

The claim came as Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry appeared at the Supreme Court to challenge his removal by Pakistan's military ruler President Pervez Musharraf in a row that has triggered deadly protests.

Supreme Court deputy registrar Syed Hamid Raza, 37, who was brought to the court by Chaudhry in 2005 and served as his personal assistant, was killed by gunmen at dawn on Monday.

"Raza's murder was a targeted killing. It appears to be linked to the case," Chaudhry's main lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan told the court.

"He was under pressure from various government agencies," Raza's family allege that he was deliberately assassinated, and his widow was quoted in newspapers Tuesday as saying that he had been detained twice by intelligence agencies.

"The officer was under immense pressure to stand in the witness box against the chief justice," The News daily said, quoting sources close to the Supreme Court.

Investigators initially said they suspected Raza had died in a robbery, but Islamabad's police chief admitted Tuesday they still have no solid lead.

"There have been no arrests so far, investigations are continuing. We are aware the family is saying he died in a targeted killing and we are looking at this with a very open mind," said the chief, also called Iftikhar Chaudhry.

He said police were not aware if Raza had been under threat or was facing pressure from any quarter.

The presiding judge hearing Chaudhry's appeal against misconduct charges, Khalilur Rehman Ramday, said the court had already taken notice of the murder, meaning that it can ask police and officials for reports.

"He (Hamad) was a wonderful boy... It is our belief that such an atrocity will not go unpunished. We shall do what can possibly be done by us," Ramday said.

Opponents say Musharraf dismissed Chaudhry to ensure a pliant judiciary in case of legal challenges against his intention to seek another five-year term as president.

As Washington's backing for a UN plan for Kosovo's independence and possible enlargement of the NATO military alliance.

At a US embassy meeting Rice told the five civil society leaders, who represented business, the media, aid and politics, that Washington had no intention of interfering in Russian politics, said one of those present.

"From what I see, the name of the game is damage limitation. Her message was the United States is here to assist and the United States is not in the business of a new Cold War with Russia," said Andrei Kortunov, from US-funded development group the New Eurasia Foundation.

The absence of human rights activists, who have had the chance to air their views on previous high-level American visits, prompted a dismissive response from Svetlana Gannushkina of the respected rights organisation Memorial.

Russia has bridled at what it sees as American interference, not only in the area of democracy but also US plans to extend missile defences to central Europe, as well

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met President Vladimir Putin yesterday on a visit aimed at allaying American interference in both the military and political spheres.

The meeting at a presidential residence outside Moscow came amid an escalation of tensions, with Russian newspapers warning of deep-seated differences in the US-Russian relationship.

Earlier Rice - who made highly critical comments on the eve of her visit about the state of democracy in Russia - met civil society leaders but avoided controversy by not meeting with human rights organisations critical of Putin's rule.

Russia has bridled at what it sees as American interference, not only in the area of democracy but also US plans to extend missile defences to central Europe, as well

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met President Vladimir Putin yesterday on a visit aimed at allaying American interference in both the military and political spheres.

The meeting at a presidential residence outside Moscow came amid an escalation of tensions, with Russian newspapers warning of deep-seated differences in the US-Russian relationship.

Earlier Rice - who made highly critical comments on the eve of her visit about the state of democracy in Russia - met civil society leaders but avoided controversy by not meeting with human rights organisations critical of Putin's rule.

Russia has bridled at what it sees as American interference, not only in the area of democracy but also US plans to extend missile defences to central Europe, as well

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met President Vladimir Putin yesterday on a visit aimed at allaying American interference in both the military and political spheres.

The meeting at a presidential residence outside Moscow came amid an escalation of tensions, with Russian newspapers warning of deep-seated differences in the US-Russian relationship.

## Request for Expression of Interest

Meghna Group of Industries is one of the largest and fast growing industrial groups presently comprises of twenty three industrial units. The Industries of the Group produce Cement, Milk Powder, Soybean Oil, Palm Oil, Mustard Oil, Coconut Oil, Natural Flour (Atta), Refined Flour (Maida), Semolina (Suji), Salt, Spices, Stearine (Dalda), Margarine (Ghee), Sugar, Mineral Water, Tea, Poultry & Fish Feeds, P.P. Woven Bag, Paper etc in its own industrial park, located at Meghnaghat, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. It also produces electricity and has a large trading wing engaged in bulk trade of commodities and chemicals.

Meghna Group employs more than 6000 people of various qualifications including permanent and casual. To meet the growing demand of quality in management and to establish the corporate system, the group reviewed its present system and felt to modernize and update its system and procedures. In this connection, the group decided to hire independent consultant/consulting firm to carry out the gap analysis on existing system and will develop policy, system and procedure to establish corporate management in the following areas :

1. MARKETING
2. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS
3. PROCUREMENT
4. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
5. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
6. ADMINISTRATION
7. TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
8. INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT

Meghna Group of Industries therefore invites competent firms/individual to indicate their interest of the above area showing that they are qualified to perform the work by means of description of similar assignment, availability of skill staff etc. Application should also provide a brief description of how they would do the task including details work plan (time frame) and financial offer.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope and delivered to the address of the undersigned by 5:00 P.M. on 07.06.2007, incomplete application, application by fax or e-mail or application received after deadline will not be accepted. Meghna Group of Industries reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without showing any reason whatsoever.



General Manager (Administration)  
**Meghna Group of Industries**  
FRESH VILLA, House # 15, Road # 34, Gulshan-01, Dhaka-1212.

