



Indian Foreign Ministry official KC Singh (R) gestures as he talks with Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs official Khalid Aziz Babar (L) while Pakistan delegation members look on during a meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism in New Delhi yesterday. Top Indian and Pakistani security officials and diplomats met to resume anti-terror talks as part of a peace process launched by the South Asian rivals to cool regional tensions, an official said.

India shelves US nuclear pact for 4 more weeks

AFP, New Delhi

India's government said Monday it would hold off on implementing a controversial nuclear deal with the United States after again failing to win over sceptical coalition partners.

After another round of inconclusive talks with its wavering left-wing allies, officials from the dominant Congress party said the atomic energy pact would be shelved for another four weeks.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters that the accord would not be operationalised before November 16, when more talks are planned.

The Congress party of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh appeared to buckle last week under opposition from its leftist allies, who had threatened to withdraw their support and force early elections if the pact went ahead.

"The committee continued its

Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt back in jail

AFP, Mumbai

Bollywood bad boy, Sanjay Dutt, was back behind bars on Monday for possessing illegal weapons received from the plotters of the bombings, which killed 257 people and the chief prosecutor said.

In a separate coalition meeting, Singh was also said to have conveyed to the government's allies his disappointment over opposition to the accord, the NDTV news network said, quoting unnamed sources.

The prime minister has argued the deal, which would bring India into the loop of global atomic energy commerce, would help meet the future energy needs of an economy steaming along with an annual growth rate of nine percent.

But the communists say the deal, which would involve India being subjected to more international safeguards including inspections, could harm the country's nuclear weapons programme.

They are also opposed to closer political and strategic ties with Washington.

Dutt's lawyers said they will launch an appeal after reviewing the court's decision.

India, Pakistan renew push for anti-terror steps

AFP, New Delhi

Indian and Pakistani officials Monday exchanged intelligence on the latest terrorist incidents to hit the countries and discussed anti-terror measures, the foreign minister said.

The South Asian neighbours met under a peace process that in March saw them agree to share information on cross-border militant violence.

"Both sides shared new information on terrorist incidents including those which have occurred since the last meeting," Indian foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

"They agreed to continue to work to identify measures, exchange specific information and assist in investigations," Sarna said.

The official did not say if New Delhi pressed Islamabad for specific information related to bombings blamed on Pakistan-based outfits.

"I can't judge whether Iran intends to develop a nuclear bomb. It would need between three and

'Iran no clear and present danger'

US will not let Iran go nuclear: Cheney

AFP, AP, Paris/Leesburg

eight years to do so. All intelligence services are agreed on that," said ElBaradei.

The IAEA chief continued: "We still have a lot of time to use diplomatic tools, including sanctions, dialogue, all the 'carrots' and 'sticks' we have at our disposal."

Last week, US President George W. Bush evoked the possibility of World War III if the international community were to stand by and let Iran develop a nuclear bomb.

"If you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them (the Iranians) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon," Bush had said.

Earlier an AP report quoted US Vice President Dick Cheney on

Sunday that the United States and other nations will not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon.

"Our country, and the entire international community, cannot stand by as a terror-supporting state fulfills its grandest ambitions," Cheney said in a speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Studies.

He said Iran's efforts to pursue technology that would allow them to build a nuclear weapon are obvious and that "the regime continues to practice delay and deceit in an obvious effort to buy time."

If Iran continues on its current course, Cheney said the US and other nations are "prepared to impose serious consequences."

The vice president made no specific reference to military action.

2 US sailors killed on Bahrain base

AP, Manama

Two US Navy sailors were killed and a third was critically wounded early Monday in a shooting incident on a US military base in Bahrain, the US Navy said.

The incident was not terror related and was under investigation, a Navy official said on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorised to discuss the case with the media. No other details were immediately available.

The shootings took place in the barracks on the US Naval Support Activity Bahrain base around 5 a.m. local time, the Navy said in a statement. It wasn't immediately clear what triggered the shootings.

The US Navy's 5th Fleet is headquartered in Bahrain.

The two sailors were pronounced dead at the scene, and the third was taken to a local hospital in critical condition, the statement said.

Officials closed the base temporarily and reopened it about an hour after the incident.

Rice calls Benazir over Pakistan bomb blasts

AFP, Karachi

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telephoned Benazir Bhutto on Sunday to condemn last week's suicide bombings that targeted the former Pakistan premier, her party said.

Rice "expressed sympathy over the loss of innocent lives" in the bombings during Benazir Bhutto's homecoming parade that killed 139 people, her Pakistan People's Party said in a statement.

"Ms Rice said that she was heartened that Benazir Bhutto escaped the assassination attempt," the statement said.

Rice condemned the attack and expressed her sympathies to the families of the victims, it said.

The Western-friendly Benazir Bhutto said earlier Sunday she planned to stay in Pakistan to campaign ahead of general elections in January, seen as a key step to restoring civilian rule in the country of 160 million.

The US has backed a proposed power-sharing pact between Benazir Bhutto and embattled President Pervez Musharraf, a key US ally in the "war on terror", ahead of the elections.

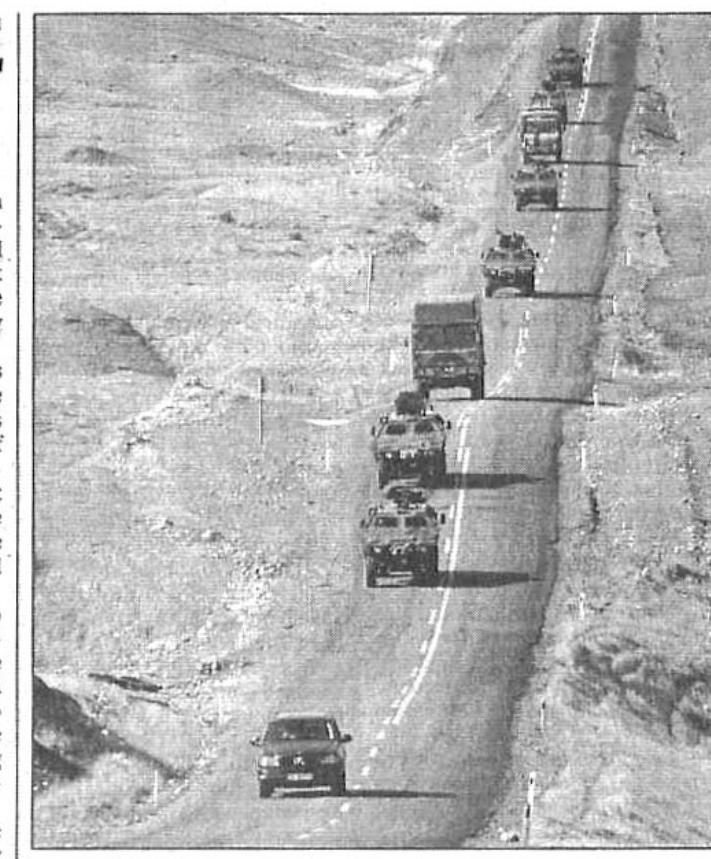


PHOTO: AFP
Turkish army troops head towards the Iraqi border in Cizre, town of Sirkiz yesterday. Turkey vowed strong action against Kurdish separatists after 12 of its soldiers and 32 rebels were killed Sunday in clashes sparked by an ambush in Daglica, near the tense border with Iraq.

Abbas hopes for ME solution by 2008

AFP, Jakarta

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said Monday during a visit to Indonesia that he hoped to secure "a real solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis by year-end.

The president is on a tour of key Muslim powers in Asia to drum up support ahead of a US-sponsored meeting with Israel expected by year-end, and was speaking after meeting with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"We are now in an intensive communication with Israel with the hope that we can form a document that can be accepted by both sides and by the international community," he told a press briefing, speaking in Arabic.

He said the hope was that the document would "become a reference for future conferences, then there will be a negotiation with the Israelis and before the end of 2008 we hope there will be a real solution."

Abbas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

The planned meeting has revived hopes of advancing the Middle East peace process that has been dormant since the eruption of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Abbas also said that the Islamist movement Hamas -- "a part of the Palestinian people" -- needed to be on side to help forge a successful future for the Palestinian state.

"But they also made a coup d'etat on the legitimate government and this action can divide and negate our efforts to find a solution... They should return to their origins and, to be honest, we cannot move except by working together within our internal country," he said.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June after violently routing security forces loyal to Abbas.

Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert have been trying to cobble together the document ahead of an international meeting called by US President George W. Bush expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland by year-end.

</