



French President Nicolas Sarkozy (C) welcomes US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (L) as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas looks on yesterday in Paris at the start of the international donors conference to raise funds for the Western-backed Palestinian Authority at Kleber international centre.

Palestinians appeal for \$5.6b in aid to avert 'catastrophe'

Donors meet opens in Paris

AFP, Paris

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas urged the international community yesterday to step up support to the Palestinians or risk a "catastrophe" as he appealed for 5.6 billion dollars in aid at a donors' conference.

Ninety international delegations were in Paris for the one-day conference to agree a package of aid to stabilise the Palestinian economy and shore up the peace process with Israel, jumpstarted in the US city of Annapolis last month.

"Without this support, without the payment of aid that will allow the Palestinian treasury to fulfill its

role, we will be facing a total catastrophe in the West Bank and Gaza," Abbas told the conference near the Arc de Triomphe.

Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad formally asked donors for 5.6 billion dollars (3.85 billion euros) including 3.9 billion dollars in direct support to the budget to help develop a viable economy and institutions for a future Palestinian state.

"To make this vision reality, we need your financial, political and moral support," said Fayyad, an economist appointed prime minister when Hamas radical Islamists seized armed control of the Gaza Strip.

President Nicolas Sarkozy

pledged 300 million dollars (210 million euros) on behalf of host country France, while the United States, the European Union and Germany were expected to donate a further 1.35 billion dollars.

As the conference kicked off, Abbas urged Israel -- represented by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni -- to freeze all settlement activity in the Palestinian territories to allow the newly-relaunched peace drive to gain a foothold.

"I expect a complete halt of all settlement activities without exception," Abbas said, also calling for the dismantling of 127 "wildcat settlements," the lifting of military checkpoints, a halt to construction of the separation barrier and pris-

oner releases.

Speaking afterwards, Livni repeated her support for the Palestinian reconstruction drive, but told delegates it must go hand-in-hand with steps to improve security conditions for Israelis.

"To restore faith in the peace process, we must not only build the foundations for the future, we must improve the economic and security reality in the present," Livni said.

"We have no desire to control Palestinian lives," she said, referring to demands for Israel to lift restrictions on freedom of movement in the occupied West Bank, and especially the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

300 flee Indian jail in mass breakout

AFP, Raipur

Nearly 300 communist rebel supporters escaped from an understaffed jail in eastern India in a dramatic mass breakout on Sunday, police said.

Some 299 prisoners fled the jail in Chhattisgarh, a hotbed of Maoist insurgency, after overpowering their guards during a meal.

"It was a premeditated conspiracy," local police official Rahul Sharma told AFP by telephone from Dantewada town.

More than half of the jail's 377 inmates escaped, Sharma said, describing many of the fugitives as sympathisers of the Maoist rebels.

"The jail is housing all Naxal supporters," said Sharma, referring to the rebels as they are known locally, but added that there were "no hardcore Maoists" in the prison.

'Allies losing Afghan war'

30 people killed in operation

AFP, Sydney/Kandahar

Australia's new government has warned Nato and its allies they will lose the war against hardline Taliban forces in Afghanistan unless they urgently change tactics, a report said yesterday.

The country's new Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon issued the stark warning at a meeting in Edinburgh last week of eight nations engaged in the conflict, including the United States, The Australian newspaper said.

The coalition of Nato and allied forces engaged in the conflict since

meeting in Britain.

"We are winning the battles and not the war, in my view. We have been very successful in clearing areas of the Taliban but it's having no real strategic effect," he said.

Meanwhile, more than 30 people, including a couple and their three children, were killed in the latest surge of violence to hit Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

The family of five were killed when a bomb blew up their motor-bike in the troubled south-central province of Uruzgan on Sunday, police said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secondary Education Sector Development Project
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education

Shikha Bhaban (2nd Block, 5th Floor)
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender Notice

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.			
2.	Agency	Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education.			
3.	Procuring entity name	Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP).			
4.	Procuring entity code	8030.			
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6.	Invitation for	Invitation for bid to procure Computer & Peripherals through local competitive bid under SESDP.			
7.	Invitation Ref. No.	SESDP/PIU/Computer & Peripherals/129/2007/4244.			
8.	Date	Date: 10-12-2007.			
KEY INFORMATION					
9.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM), PPR-2003.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Asian Development Bank (ADB).			
11.	Development partners (if applicable)	GoB & ADB.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12.	Project code	8030.			
13.	Project	Secondary Education Sector Development Project.			
14.	Tender package No.	01			
15.	Tender package name	Procurement of Computer & Peripherals.			
16.	Tender publication date	Within 07 (seven) days after issuing the tender notice.			
17.	Tender last selling date	09-01-2008			
18.	Date	Time			
19.	10-01-2008	2.00pm			
20.	Tender opening date and time	10-01-2008 3.00pm			
Name & address of the office(s)					
- Selling tender document					
Project Director, Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Shikha Bhaban, 5th Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.					
- Selling tender document (others)					
Project Director, Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Shikha Bhaban, 5th Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.					
- Receiving tender document					
Project Director, Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Shikha Bhaban, 5th Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.					
- Opening tender document					
SESDP Conference Room at 3.00pm, 5th Floor, Bhaban-02, Shikha Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.					
21.	Pre-tender meeting will be held on	N/A.			
Place/date/time of					
Date					
Time					
00 pm					
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22.	Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for tenders is open to eligible tenderers of Computer & Peripherals from bona fide manufacturer/dealer/agent/supplier of ADB member countries.			
23.	Brief description of goods	9 (nine) unit of Computer & Peripherals.			
24.	Brief description of related services	03 (three) years full, with spare parts & service from the date of delivery.			
25.	Price of tender document (Tk)	BD Tk. 750/- (seven hundred and fifty) only non-refundable in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank to Project Director, SESDP.			
26.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (refundable)	Completion time in weeks/months
01	Computer & Peripherals	PIU, SESDP (For MPO purposes of the Zonal Education offices according to the DPP of SESDP)	Tk. 18,000/- (Bank Draft/Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee)	6 weeks after work order	
30.	Name of official inviting tender	M Afzal Rahman.			
31.	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.			
32.	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director, SESDP, Shikha Bhaban, 5th Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.			
33.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 9553712 Fax No. 7168315 e-mail:			
34.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

M Afzal Rahman

Project Director

Secondary Education Sector Development Project

Phone: 9553712

'Hindu nationalists to win Gujarat polls'

AFP, New Delhi

India's main opposition Hindu nationalist party was expected to retain power in crucial elections in the country's religiously divided Gujarat state, reports quoting exit polls said Monday.

CNN-IBN said the BJP would bag between 92 and 100 constituencies, while the Congress was expected to win 77 to 85 seats.

The NDTV poll predicted 90 to 110 seats for the BJP and 70 to 95 for the Congress, which rules at the federal level.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) -- whose controversial leader Narendra Modi rules the state -- will, however, get fewer seats than last time, television channels said, citing exit polls after voting closed Sunday.

Official results are expected on December 23.

After the last elections in 2002, the BJP held 128 seats out of 182 in the state assembly.

This time, the party is predicted to win 90 to 103 seats, according to

22 killed in fresh Lanka violence

AFP, Colombo

Renewed violence between Tamil rebels and government forces left at least 22 people dead in northern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Among the dead were two civilians killed by unidentified attackers in the Jaffna peninsula where 15 Tamil Tiger rebels also died in clashes with troops on Sunday, the ministry said in a statement.

Soldiers shot dead another five Tiger rebels in Vavuniya district, just south of the mini-state run by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The ministry did not cite casual-

ties among its forces.

The latest toll took the number of rebels the military says it has killed to at least 316 since December 1. The government says only a handful of its troops have died this month.

Independent verification of casualty claims are rarely possible and journalists are not allowed to visit rebel-held areas in the north.

Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides in one of Asia's longest-running civil wars, which erupted in 1972 when the LTTE launched its campaign for a Tamil homeland in the majority Sinhalese nation.

Independent verification of casualty claims are rarely possible and journalists are not allowed to visit rebel-held areas in the north.

The latest toll took the number of rebels the military says it has killed to at least 316 since December 1. The government says only a handful of its troops have died this month.

Independent verification of casualty claims are rarely possible and journalists are not allowed to visit rebel-held areas in the north.

Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides in one of Asia's longest-running civil wars, which erupted in 1972 when the LTTE launched its campaign for a Tamil homeland in the majority Sinhalese nation.

Turkish planes bomb PKK targets in Iraq

AP, Ankara

Turkey said dozens of its warplanes bombed Kurdish rebel targets as deep as 60 miles inside northern Iraq for three hours Sunday, the largest aerial attack in years against the outlawed separatist group.

Turkey's military chief said the US gave intelligence and tacit approval for the raid.

An Iraqi official said the planes attacked several villages, killing one woman. The rebels said two civilians and five rebels were killed.

The US Embassy in Iraq refused to comment Monday on the Turkish general's assertion that American officials had given Turkey permission to enter Iraq's air space.

In the nighttime offensive, the fighter jets hit rebel positions close to the border with Turkey and in the Qandil mountains, which straddle the Iraq-Turkey border. The Turkish military said in a statement posted

on its Web site. It said the operation was directed against the rebels and not against the local population.

As many as 50 fighter jets were involved in the airstrikes, private NTV television and other media reported. Turkey has recently attacked the area with ground-based artillery and helicopters and there have been some unconfirmed reports of airstrikes by warplanes.

The attack came a month after the United States promised to share intelligence with Turkey to help combat the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and Turkey's military chief, Gen Yasar Buyukant, said US intelligence was used.

"America gave intelligence," Kanal D television quoted Buyukant as saying. "But more importantly, America last night opened (the Iraqi) airspace to us. By opening the airspace, America gave its approval to this operation," he said.

In the nighttime offensive, the fighter jets hit rebel positions close to the border with Turkey and in the Qandil mountains, which straddle the Iraq-Turkey border. The Turkish military said in a statement posted

on its Web site. It said the operation was directed against the rebels and not against the local population.

As many as 50 fighter jets were involved in the airstrikes, private NTV television and other media reported. Turkey has recently attacked the area with ground-based artillery and helicopters and there have been some unconfirmed reports of airstrikes by warplanes.

The attack came a month after the United States promised to share intelligence with Turkey to help combat the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and Turkey's military chief, Gen Yasar Buyukant, said US intelligence was used.

"America gave intelligence," Kanal D television quoted Buyukant as saying. "But more importantly, America last night opened (the Iraqi) airspace to us. By opening the airspace, America gave its approval to this operation," he said.

In the nighttime offensive, the fighter jets hit rebel positions close to the border with Turkey and in the Qandil mountains, which straddle the Iraq-Turkey border. The Turkish military said in a statement posted

on its Web site. It said the operation was directed against the rebels and not against the local population.

As many as 50 fighter jets were involved in the airstrikes, private NTV television and other media reported. Turkey has recently attacked the area with ground-based artillery and helicopters and there have been some unconfirmed reports of airstrikes by warplanes.

The attack came a month after the United States promised to share intelligence with Turkey to help combat the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and Turkey's military chief, Gen Yasar Buyukant, said US intelligence was used.