

# US Senate okays \$70 billion for war in Iraq, Afghanistan

AFP, Washington

The US Senate late Tuesday approved a half-trillion dollar budget bill for 2008 that includes 70 billion dollars for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, handing a major victory to President George W. Bush.

The Senate voted 70-25 to approve the catch-all budget bill but added extra war funds after the House of Representatives version passed Monday included 31 billion dollars for US-led efforts in Afghanistan but none for Iraq.

The version passed by the Senate does not include any of the restrictions that Democrats hoped

to pin on the release of war funds, such as linking them to a withdrawal date for US troops.

The bill returns to the House for a vote on Wednesday, though lawmakers are only to vote on the war funding portion added by the Senate. If it passes, Bush has indicated he will sign the spending package.

Amid deep differences with the Congress over the Iraq war, the White House had threatened to veto the entire spending bill if it contained no funding for Iraq.

"Obviously, the full funding that we requested since February is what the troops need -- not just what they want, but what they

need. But this will help us get through this period," said Bush spokeswoman Dana Perino.

Democrats, who took over the US Congress in November 2006 elections fueled by anger at the war in Iraq, have tried without success to use their power of the purse to impose a timetable for withdrawal from the strife-torn country where nearly 4,000 US troops have died since the March 2003 invasion.

Democrats reportedly also gave up several billion dollars' worth of other budget demands rejected by Bush, in order to see the spending measure passed before the year-end recess. They have also been concerned about

being seen as unsupportive of US troops in battle at Christmas.

Democratic House majority leader Steny Hoyer told CNN that the House initially passed the 31 billion dollars in funding for Afghanistan "so that we could confront terrorism and defeat the Taliban which was, after all, the site from which this country was attacked and which, frankly, we have distracted our attention from."

The package, known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, includes 11 of 12 annual appropriations bills, leaving out defense which has already been approved by lawmakers.

## Bomb kills 2 in southwest Pakistan

AFP, Quetta, Pakistan

A remote-controlled bomb exploded in Pakistan's restive southwest province of Baluchistan yesterday, killing two pro-government tribesmen, security officials said.

The bomb went off when family members of an influential tribal leader, Tariq Masoori, were travelling by car in the area of Dera Bugti, they said.

"Two people died and four were wounded, including Masoori's father," a security official said, requesting anonymity.

Baluchistan has been in the grip of a three-year rebellion launched by ethnic Baluch rebels who want more political rights and a greater share of profits from the desert region's natural resources.



A Muslim pilgrim gets his head shaved while others wait for their turn after casting pebbles at the column symbolising the devil in Mina near the holy city of Makkah yesterday

## Iraq says Turkish raid an 'attack on sovereignty'

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq said yesterday it believed Turkey was unlikely to extend a military operation against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq but sharply criticised Ankara for what it branded an attack on its sovereignty.

Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh urged Ankara to end the military action -- which comes after weeks of mounting cross-border tensions -- and use dialogue to solve the rebel issue.

"We feel this issue will not be solved militarily. Any such action is an attack on Iraq's sovereignty," he told AFP.

Around 500 Turkish troops crossed into northern Iraq on Tuesday targeting rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas hiding in the mountainous terrain

along the border with Turkey. The ground incursion was the first such operation since tensions between the two neighbours broke out after the rebels ambushed a Turkish military patrol on October 21 and killed 12 soldiers.

"We believe Turkey is not going to extend the operation. It is a limited operation," Dabbagh said. Turkey's military said the incursion had dealt a "heavy blow" to the rebels.

"A small-scale operation conducted by ground troops... dealt a heavy blow" to PKK militants who had tried to infiltrate Turkey overnight, it said on its website on Tuesday.

Iraqi Kurdish officials from northern Iraq had said on Tuesday evening that Ankara had started withdrawing the troops.

But Dabbagh said he did not

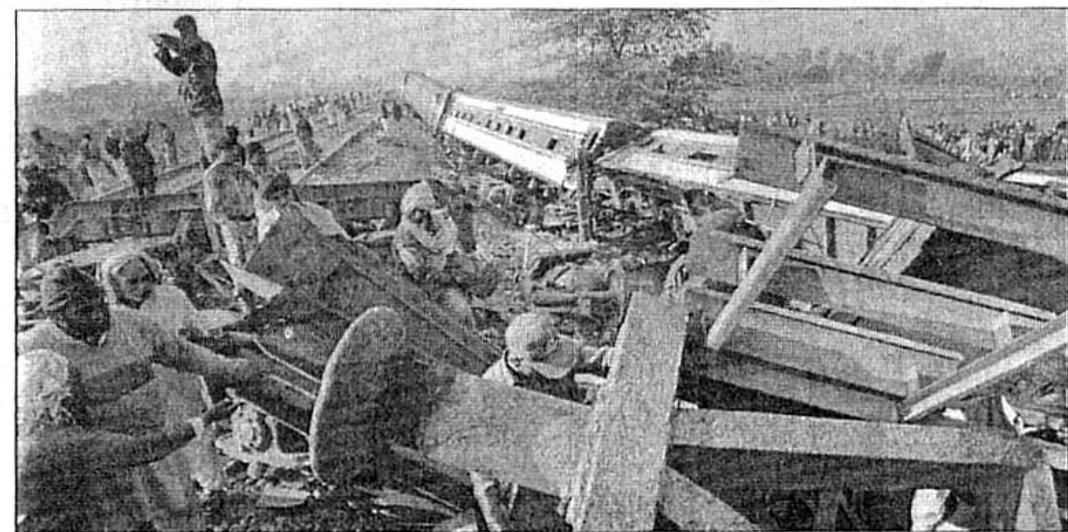
know if Turkish forces had withdrawn completely.

"It is difficult to say as the area there is not easy to track," he said.

Turkey did not indicate how many troops took part in the incursion, which began after the army "received images" of a rebel group attempting to sneak across the border.

Local Iraqi officials said about 500 soldiers crossed into remote areas in northern Iraq and began withdrawing by Tuesday afternoon.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist group by Ankara and much of the international community, has waged a bloody campaign for Kurdish self-rule in southeast Turkey since 1984. The conflict has claimed more than 37,000 lives.



Pakistani soldiers and rescue workers search the wreckage of a train following an accident in the southern town of Mehrabpur yesterday. A passenger train packed with holiday travellers slipped off the rails overnight, killing at least 56 people and injuring more than 100, officials said.

## Kashmir militants halt random grenade attacks

AFP, Srinagar

The main Muslim rebel group fighting Indian rule in the Himalayan region of Kashmir yesterday announced a complete ban on militant grenade attacks in public places.

The move by the headline pro-Pakistani group Hizbul Mujahideen comes as part of an apparent initiative by militant groups to win more public support for a rebellion that frequently claims the lives of civilian bystanders.

"There is a complete ban on grenade attacks by Hizbul and other outfits," or fellow members of the Pakistan-based United Jihad Council, Hizbul Mujahideen's operations chief Gazi Misbah-ud-Din said in a statement carried by local newspapers.

Hizbul Mujahideen, one of over a dozen rebel groups that has been fighting Indian troops since 1989, said such attacks were banned because "the movement is passing through a crucial phase and we need the utmost caution."

Militant tactics include frequent grenade attacks against Indian army bunkers and vehicles, although the targets are invariably protected by wire mesh.

The grenades regularly bounce back and explode among civilians, or otherwise provoke random retaliatory gunfire.

Observers believe that roughly 1,500 bystanders have died in such explosions over the past 18 years, although the militants have blamed Indian troops for the deaths as part of a campaign to "defame" the militant struggle.

## Spanish court convicts 47 over links to ETA

AFP, Madrid

Spain's anti-terrorism court yesterday convicted 47 members of Basque separatist groups over their links to the armed organisation ETA and sentenced them to prison terms of between two and 20 years each.

The rulings were issued following the biggest ever trial linked to ETA, which lasted from November 2006 to last March.

The 47 belong to various groups campaigning for Basque independence.

Prosecutors charged that these organisations have ties to ETA, blamed for 819 deaths in Spain over the past four decades in its campaign to establish an independent Basque nation in parts of northwestern Spain and southwestern France.

Anti-terrorist judge Baltasar Garzon, who headed the investigation that led to the trial, believes

ETA could not have survived without the support of these groups.

A total of 52 people were on trial, but five were found not guilty.

The 47 convicted received a total of more than 500 years in prison for either leading, being a member of, or collaborating with a "terrorist organisation," according to the ruling read by the head of the court, Angela Murillo, and broadcast on national television.

The government of Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero ended peace talks with ETA after it staged a car bombing at Madrid airport in December 2006 that killed two people.

ETA formally called off a 15-month-old ceasefire in June, saying the Madrid government had failed to make concessions in the peace process and it would now "act on all fronts" to campaign for an independent Basque state.

## Conservative Lee wins ROK presidency by landslide

### Exit polls show

AFP, Seoul

A former tycoon who promises to reinvigorate South Korea's economy and take a tougher line with North Korea won a landslide presidential election victory yesterday, according to exit polls and partial official results.

TV exit polls, released after voting ended at 6:00 pm (0900 GMT), said Lee Myung-Bak of the conservative opposition Grand National Party (GNP) had won just over half of total votes cast -- ending a decade of left-leaning rule.

If confirmed by official results expected by 10:00 pm, it would be the first time in the nation's history for a candidate to win over 50 percent.

The exit polls put Lee around 25 points clear of his nearest rival, Chung Dong-Young of the liberal pro-government United New Democratic Party (UNDP).

Rightwing independent Lee Hoi-Chang was third with between 13 and 14 percent. He conceded defeat and congratulated his name-sake.

With 26 percent of the vote tallied, official results gave Lee 46.5 percent to Chung's 28 percent and Lee Hoi-Chang's 15.8 percent.

Koreans grappling with high youth unemployment, an ever-widening income gap and soaring property prices gave Lee an unprecedented mandate even though he faces a fraud investigation.



Supporters of Grand National Party (GNP) presidential candidate Lee Myung-Bak celebrate around outside the party's headquarters in Seoul yesterday. Former tycoon Lee Myung-Bak, who promises to reinvigorate South Korea's economy and take a tougher line with North Korea, won a landslide presidential election victory, according to exit polls and partial official results.

## Israel mulls new east Jerusalem settlement

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday it was examining a plan to construct a new Jewish neighbourhood in occupied east Jerusalem, weeks after sparking world criticism for expanding another settlement in the city.

"This is a preliminary examination of an initial construction plan. Such feasibility checks are done all year round on all areas with building potential in Jerusalem,"

Housing Minister Zeev Boim said in a statement.

The statement was issued in response to a report in the Haaretz daily that said the minister had approved a construction plan in the neighbourhood of Atarot.

Two weeks ago, Israel invited bids for more than 300 new housing units in another neighbourhood of occupied and annexed east Jerusalem, known as Har Homa to Israelis and as Jebel Abu Ghneim to Palestinians.

The expansion came a week after Israelis and Palestinians revived peace talks at a conference in the US city of Annapolis and sparked criticism from Palestinians, the United States and the European Union.

At the conference, both Israel and Palestinians pledged to abide by the 2003 international roadmap peace blueprint, the first phase of which calls on Israel to halt settlement activity and on Palestinians to improve security.

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of selling From To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
1	Skimmed Milk Powder 200 Metric Tons	26-12-2007 15-1-2008	16-1-2008	Foreign	888/P-8

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderer (if present).

ISPR/Misc/07/1842  
GD-4569

Maj  
For Director General

**Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET)**  
Celebrating 60 Years of Engineering Education in Bangladesh  
EEB 2007  
(1947-2007)

As the pioneer institute in Bangladesh, BUET has stepped into its 60<sup>th</sup> year and this presents an occasion to celebrate. As a part of this celebration, BUET has been organizing a series of programs and events to commemorate this historical occasion in a befitting manner. All distinguished alumni, students and interested persons are invited to join and make the events successful. The exhibition will remain open to the general public.

Detailed Programs			
Date	Time	Events	Venue
28-31 Dec 2007	10:00am-8:00pm	BUET Exhibition	BUET Campus/Playground
29-31 Dec 2007	9:00am-5:00pm	Departmental exhibitions/Lab visits, Seminars (open for all)	Respective Departments/Institutes/Centers
28 Dec 2007	9:00am	Inter Hall Alumni Cricket (Six-a-side) and Volleyball	BUET Playground
28 Dec 2007	6:00pm-8:00pm	Drama: Pragotihashik	Central Auditorium
29 Dec 2007	9:00am-5:00pm	National Symposium on Engineering and Technological Education in Bangladesh (NSET) Registration required for Participants: 1) Alumni/Participants: Taka 500 2) Students: Taka 200	Central Auditorium
29 Dec 2007	7:00pm	Video Conference with Expatriate BUET Alumni	Civil Engg Seminar Room
30 Dec 2007	5:30pm-6:30pm	Debates	Civil Engg Seminar Room
30 Dec 2007	7:00pm	Film show	Civil Engg Seminar Room
31 Dec 2007	6:00 pm-8:00pm	Cultural program-Interview of Renowned Personalities	Central Auditorium

For more information please contact:  
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GD-4621

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army:

**AERO LUBRICANTS (SHELL PRODUCTS)**

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling From To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
1.	Aeroshell Oil W-120 (Type-11(B)) or SAE-60 (100 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
2.	Aeroshell Turbine Oil 555 (50 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
3.	STD 2360 Turbu Oil-2380 (50 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8

**AERO LUBRICANTS (NON SHELL PRODUCTS)**

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling From To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
1.	Mobil 28 (1lbs can) Grease (20 lbs)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
2.	Class B2 Sealing Compound (02 set)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
3.	WD-40 (50 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
4.	Grade 1 Corrosion Preventive Compound (02 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
5.	Grade 2 Corrosion Preventive Compound (02 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
6.	Type 1 Cleaner Detergent Compound (10 ltr)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8
7.	Powder Graphite (04 can)	26-12-2007 05-2-2008	06-2-2008	Foreign	996/P-8

2. Tender schedules with detail specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) between 0800 hours to 1200 hours at DGDP office on all working days. Sealed tenders to be dropped in the tender box placed at DGDP latest by 1000 hours will be opened at 1005 hours on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/07/1828  
GD-4517

Lt Col  
For Director General