

Musharraf urges Europe to stand by Pakistan

He plays down al-Qaeda threat

AFP, Paris

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf prepared for talks yesterday with French President Nicolas Sarkozy after urging Europe to stand by his crisis-ridden country and promising free and fair elections.

Musharraf dismissed fears yesterday that his nuclear-armed country could slip into al-Qaeda's hands, saying there was a "zero percent chance" of a takeover by Islamic extremists.

Addressing a French foreign policy institute ahead of talks with President Sarkozy, on day two of a European tour, Musharraf insisted it was impossible for extremists to gain access to Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

The only way for that to happen, he said, would be if al-Qaeda and the Taliban "defeated the Pakistani army entirely" or if extremist religious groups won next month's election.

"There is a zero percent chance of either one of them," Musharraf said. "They (the weapons) cannot fall into any wrong hands."

Months of turmoil culminating in the assassination last month of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto crystallised fears in the West that Pakistan risks spinning out of control.

Musharraf, who arrived in Paris late Monday from Brussels on the second leg of a four-country European haul, called on Europe to

back -- not criticise -- his regime as it stood in the forefront of the fight against terrorism.

"We are determined to hold free, fair and transparent elections, and peaceful elections" on February 18, he said earlier in Brussels.

"Whoever wins, obviously power will be handed over to them," said Musharraf. "There is no possibility of it being rigged."

The former military ruler came with his economy and finance ministers, but EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana was cautious about future cooperation.

"The elections have to be fair, free and secure, which is also very important," Solana said after the two men talked over lunch.

"Our reaction on cooperation and the level of engagement will be in view of the result of the process," he added.

During an address at the European parliament later, Musharraf reiterated his call for backing.

"Pakistan is in the forefront of fighting terrorism, so help us instead of criticising us," he urged during an audience with the parliament's foreign affairs committee.

Pakistan's turbulent politics was thrown into chaos last month by the murder of opposition leader and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, which sparked violence and led to the general election being postponed.

Over 130 migrants die crossing Gulf of Aden last weekend

AFP, Geneva

More than 130 mainly Somali migrants died trying to cross the Gulf of Aden into Yemen over the weekend, the United Nations refugee agency said yesterday.

One boat carrying 135 passengers approached the Yemeni coast on Friday, when smugglers forced its occupants to jump overboard fearing capture by the Yemeni coast guard, UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman William Spindler told journalists.

"Those who resisted were beaten with sticks and stabbed. A large wave then capsized the boat, causing the death of 114 passengers and two smugglers," he said.

In another incident the following day, 10 women and six children died when a boat carrying 29 Somalis capsized off the coast in strong winds.



Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown (R) meets with Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of Palestine at 10 Downing Street in central London yesterday. Peace talks between Palestinians and Israel can go ahead despite the "unbearable" humanitarian crisis in Gaza triggered by a crippling Israeli blockade, the Palestinian prime minister said Tuesday.

Israel eases Gaza blockade for a day

Some food and fuel allowed after UN warning

AP, Gaza City

Israel eased a blockade of Gaza imposed in retaliation for militant rocket attacks, allowing in some food and fuel yesterday after the UN warned that international food aid to the impoverished territory may have to be suspended by the weekend.

Israel pumped cooking oil and fuel for Gaza's power plant through the Nahal Oz crossing. It was also expected to allow a single shipment of

fuel, food and medicine into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

The closure imposed after a spike in rocket attacks last week cut off fuel supplies. On Sunday, Gaza's Hamas rulers shut the strip's power plant, leaving one-third of the 1.5 million people without electricity. Gas stations and many bakeries closed, and health officials warned of an impending crisis in hospitals running low on generator fuel.

The cutoff of fuel prompted condemnation from aid and human

rights groups. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Monday and urged him to ease restrictions.

Before agreeing to Tuesday's one-time shipment, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert strongly defended the blockade.

He told legislators from his Kadima Party he will not allow a humanitarian crisis to develop. But he said Gaza's residents won't be able to live a "pleasant and comfortable life" as long as southern Israel is under rocket attack.

US sees progress on fresh Iran sanctions

AFP, Berlin

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday that leading nations have made progress towards a UN resolution to impose fresh sanctions against Iran but they were still short of an agreement.

"I think political directors have made progress. I know there are still some gaps to close," Rice said upon arriving in Berlin ahead of a meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security

Council plus Germany.

"I hope even if we don't leave with a resolution that we can give enough direction to the political directors to perhaps do it shortly," she added.

A French diplomat said on Monday that the so-called P5+1 expected to reach an agreement in Berlin on a draft UN Security Council resolution on a third round of sanctions against Iran.

"A draft of a third resolution is just about ready," the diplomat

added. "I think we will be able to transmit it to the Security Council in the coming days."

Washington and its European Union allies are pushing for further sanctions against Iran for defying international demands to stop uranium enrichment activities that they fear could be used to make a bomb.

But China and Russia, which have lucrative trade ties with the Islamic republic, have been reluctant to back any more punitive measures.

China says no to putting pressure on Myanmar

AP, Beijing

China yesterday rejected US demands for stepped-up pressure on Myanmar, whose governing junta has been accused of spurning real dialogue with the pro-democracy opposition.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said China wanted to see stability, democracy and development in the country also known as Burma.

However, Jiang urged the international community to be "objective when viewing the Myanmar situation ... and provide constructive assistance."

China objects to Western criticisms of the military regime, claiming that conditions in Myanmar have improved dramatically since a violent crackdown on peaceful protests in September.

"I don't think sanctions are helpful," Jiang told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Myanmar's military rulers say 10 people were killed when civilians and Buddhist monks were beaten and arrested after pro-democracy demonstrations following a sharp fuel price hike. Diplomats and dissidents put the toll much higher.



Democratic presidential hopefuls New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (L) and Illinois Senator Barack Obama (R) exchange comments as former North Carolina senator John Edwards (R) and debate moderator Wolf Blitzer (back to camera) listen during the Democratic Presidential Primary Debate hosted by CNN and the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute on Monday at the Palace Theater in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Hillary, Obama engage in bitter debate

AP, Myrtle Beach

Democratic presidential rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama accused each other of repeatedly and deliberately distorting the truth for political gain Monday night in a highly personal, finger-wagging debate that ranged from the war in Iraq to Bill Clinton's role in the campaign.

Obama told the former first lady he was helping unemployed workers on the streets of Chicago when "you were a corporate lawyer sitting on the board at Wal-Mart."

Moments later, Hillary Clinton said that she was fighting against misguided Republican policies "when you were practicing law and representing your contributor ... in his slum landlord business in inner city Chicago."

Obama seemed particularly irritated at the former president,

whom he accused in absentia of uttering a series of distortions to aid his wife's presidential effort.

"I'm here. He's not," she snapped.

"Well, I can't tell who I'm running against sometimes," Obama countered.

The two rivals, joined by former Sen John Edwards, debated at close quarters five days before the South Carolina primary and 15 days before the equivalent of a nationwide primary across 20 states that will go a long way toward settling the battle for the party's nomination.

Hillary Clinton was the national front-runner for months in the race, but Obama won the kickoff Iowa caucuses three weeks ago, knocking her off-stride. She recovered quickly, winning the New Hampshire primary in an upset, and on Saturday, won the popular vote in the Nevada caucuses while Obama won one more delegate than she.

5 people quarantined with symptoms of avian flu

India risks bird flu 'disaster'

AFP, Kolkata

India's worst ever outbreak of bird flu could turn into a disaster, an official warned yesterday, as five people were reportedly quarantined with symptoms of the virus.

Eight districts in West Bengal have been hit by the virus, and dead birds are being sold and locals said to be "feasting" on cheap chicken.

The state's animal resources minister, Anisur Rahaman, said authorities were "determined to cull all poultry in the districts in three or four days, otherwise the state will face a disaster."

More than 100,000 bird deaths have been reported, and teams are

racing to cull two million chickens and ducks.

The Times of India reported five people in West Bengal have been quarantined with "clinical symptoms" of avian flu -- including fever, coughing, sore throat and muscle ache -- after handling affected poultry.

If the tests are positive, this will be the first case of human infection in India, home to 1.1 billion people and hit by bird flu among poultry three times since 2006.

Health officials in New Delhi said they were currently analysing blood samples from close to 150 people who have complained of fever.

On the ground, culling teams

have been facing an uphill battle with villagers smuggling birds out of flu affected areas and selling them in open markets.

Thirty-year-old Sheikh Ali, a vendor in Birbhum's Gharisa market, 340 kilometres (192 miles) from the state capital Kolkata, said the sale of poultry had doubled in the past week.

"The prices of chicken have come down from 60 rupees to 20 rupees (1.5 dollars to 50 cents) per kilogramme (2.2 pounds)."

"Poor villagers are feasting on chicken. At normal times, they cannot afford to buy as prices are so high. Now they are enjoying the meat," Ali said.

মিডিয়াম মাল্টিরোল লজিস্টিক ইউনিট (ইউনামিড)
 প্রযুক্তি: আর্মি এসটি ব্যাটালিয়ন
 ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং: সেনাসদর, জিএস শাখা (ও ও পরিদপ্তর) পত্র ৮০৩৮/দারফুর/লগ তারিখ ১৭ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮।

এতদ্বারা মিডিয়াম মাল্টিরোল লজিস্টিক ইউনিট (ইউনামিড), প্রযুক্তি: আর্মি এসটি ব্যাটালিয়ন এর জন্য ০৮টি জেনারেটর জরুরী ভিত্তিতে ক্রয় করার জন্য দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক	নামমালা	পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য
1.	Generator (51-75 KVA) complete with Standard Tools, Accessories	০৮ টি	১,০০০/-

১। দরপত্রের জন্য বিস্তারিত সিডিউল মিডিয়াম মাল্টিরোল লজিস্টিক ইউনিট (ইউনামিড), প্রযুক্তি: আর্মি এসটি ব্যাটালিয়ন, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস এর অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ২৫ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে।

২। দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ২৭ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ সময় ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

৩। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ২৭ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ সময় ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা।

৪। দরপত্রের দ্রব্য সমূহ সরবরাহকৃত সিডিউলের সাথে প্রদত্ত বিনির্দেশ অনুযায়ী সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/০৮/১০৬১
 জিডি-৩৭৮

অধিনায়ক



Lady June Hillary touches the coffin of her husband Sir Edmund Hillary as New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark (R) pays her respects in Auckland yesterday. New Zealand paid tribute to Everest hero Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to stand on the roof of the world, at a rare state funeral beamed live to the Himalayas where he made his name.

Thaksin ally Samak to be nominated new Thai prime minister: Party

AFP, Bangkok

Samak Sundaravej, the charismatic but combative leader of the newly elected People Power Party, will be nominated as Thailand's new prime minister, a party official confirmed yesterday.

A staunch royalist, 72-year-old Samak marshalled allies of ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra to a victory in elections last month, the first since the military seized power in September 2006.

But speculation had mounted that some of the PPP's five partners might seek a less divisive figure after party leaders dodged the question at a press conference unveiling their coalition at the weekend.

"PPP will absolutely propose the name of Samak as prime minister -- no other name will be proposed," deputy PPP leader Chalerm Yoobumrung told reporters.

Samak charmed many voters with his salt of the earth demeanour, but his bullish manner has

alienated many Thais.

He remains under investigation over alleged corruption from his time as Bangkok governor, while pro-democracy activists accuse him of playing a role in deadly crackdowns led by past military regimes.

The pro-Thaksin PPP won nearly half of the 480 seats in the lower house in elections last month, the first since the bloodless coup, and wooed five smaller parties into a coalition that controls about two-thirds of the seats.

Their backing all but ensures that Samak would become the next prime minister.

Since announcing their coalition Saturday, the shape of Thailand's new government is quickly coming into focus.

In its first action since opening Monday, parliament named top Thaksin aide Yongyut Tiyaapairat as speaker, clearing the way for the prime minister to be named as soon as Friday.

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের
ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ পরিবর্তনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ আগামী ২৮, ২৯ ও ৩০ জানুয়ারী, ২০০৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য প্রথমবর্ষ স্নাতক সন্মান (২০০৭-২০০৮ শিক্ষাবর্ষ) শ্রেণীর ভর্তি পরীক্ষা যথাক্রমে আগামী ১২, ১৩ ও ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষার স্থান ও সময় অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

পরিবর্তিত সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপঃ

বিভাগের নাম	তারিখ	সময়
বাংলা ভাষা ও সাহিত্য বিভাগ	১২/০২/২০০৮	সকাল ১১.০০টা হতে ১২.০০টা
ইংরেজি ভাষা ও সাহিত্য বিভাগ	১২/০২/২০০৮	বেলা ২.০০টা হতে ৩.০০টা
অর্থনীতি বিভাগ	১৩/০২/২০০৮	সকাল ১১.০০টা হতে ১২.০০টা
হিসাব বিজ্ঞান ও তথ্য পদ্ধতি	১৩/০২/২০০৮	বেলা ২.০০টা হতে ৩.০০টা
সংগীত বিভাগঃ ক) লিখিত পরীক্ষা	১৪/০২/২০০৮	সকাল ১১.০০টা হতে ১২.০০টা
খ) ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা (লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণদের জন্য)	২৮/০২/২০০৮	সকাল ১০.০০টা হতে আরম্ভ
কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	১৪/০২/২০০৮	বেলা ২.০০টা হতে ৩.০০টা

রেজিস্ট্রার

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
 টেলিফোন নং-০৯০৩২-৫৬২৭২

জিডি-৩৭৩

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 HQ Bangladesh Rifles
 Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender
 No. 12/2007-08/CD Dated: 17 January 2008

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate.			
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Rifles.			
3.	Procuring entity name	Director General, Bangladesh Rifles.			
4.	Procuring entity code	2231 Bangladesh Rifles.			
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka			
6.	Invitation for	Supply of VHF 25 watt with accessories.			
7.	Invitation reference No.	416/CD.			
8.	Date	17 January 2008.			
KEY INFORMATION					
9.	Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
11.	Date of advertisement for tender	21 January 2008.			
12.	Tender last selling date	20 February 2008.			
13.	Tender closing date and time	03 March 2008 at 1130 hours.			
14.	Tender opening date and time	03 March 2008 at 1200 hours.			
15.	Name and address of the office(s)	Address			
a.	Selling tender document	HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.			
b.	Receiving tender document	HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.			
c.	Opening tender document	HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.			
16.	Pre-tender meeting Place, date and time	HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka on 25 February 2008 at 1000 hrs.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
17.	Experience of tenderer	As per tender documents.			
18.	Price of tender document	TK. 750/- each (non-refundable).			
DETAILS					
SI	Description of eqpt	Qty	Details	Tender security money	Duration of supply
a.	VHF 25 Watt Radio with accessories	100	As per schedule	93,000/-	As per deed
20. Sample to be provided with the quotation					
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
21.	Name of officer inviting tender	Md Abu Tasnim.			
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	Lieutenant Colonel, GSO-1 (Communications).			
23.	Address of official inviting tender and telephone No.	HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Communications Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka. Tel: 8616545/333.			
24.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.				
25.	All proceedings will be regulated as per PPR-2003.				

GSO-1 (Communications)
 For Director General

GD-339