

Israel warns Abbas over deal with Hamas

Cheney hits out at Iran, Syria as he wraps up ME peace push

AFP, Jerusalem

A senior Israeli official yesterday warned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas against striking a reconciliation deal with Hamas, saying it would effectively sink faltering Middle East peace talks.

"Mahmud Abbas must decide whether he wants to continue negotiations with Israel or if he wants to renew an alliance with Hamas, as he cannot have both at the same time," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The sentiment was echoed by other unnamed Israeli officials cited by both army and public radio in their morning news reports.

The statements came a day after Abbas's Fatah signed an agreement with Hamas in Sanaa to open first direct talks between the two bitter rivals since the Islamists bloody seizure of the Gaza Strip nine months ago.

"The two movements Hamas and Fatah have agreed to accept the Yemeni initiative as a frame-

work for dialogue between the two movements and a return of the Palestinian situation to what it was before the events in Gaza," the declaration said.

But within hours of signing the agreement, the two bitter rivals bickered over its meaning, with Hamas focusing on the first part of the statement while Fatah highlighted the second as a precondition for any talks.

The Hamas seizure of Gaza effectively split the Palestinian territories into two separate entities with the Islamists controlling the impoverished coastal strip and Abbas ruling the occupied West Bank.

Israel considers Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, pledged to the destruction of the Jewish state, a terror group and refuses to have any direct dealings with it.

Israel and Abbas renewed peace negotiations in late November under US auspices, but the talks have made little progress since.

Meanwhile, US Vice President Dick Cheney on Monday hit out at

Iran and Syria as he wrapped up a Middle East peace push, saying they were undermining the renewed but faltering Israeli-Palestinian talks. Iran and Syria "are doing everything they can to torpedo the peace process," Cheney told reporters in Jerusalem as he wrapped up a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories before heading to Turkey.

During his talks with Israeli and Palestinian leadership, "I reaffirmed the president's commitment to help the process forward," Cheney said.

US President George W. Bush has said he hoped the two sides could strike a deal before he ends his term in January 2009.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who met twice with Cheney during his visit "reaffirmed his commitment to the president's vision and his willingness to do everything he can to achieve a result in 2008 although he is well aware of the difficulties," Cheney said.

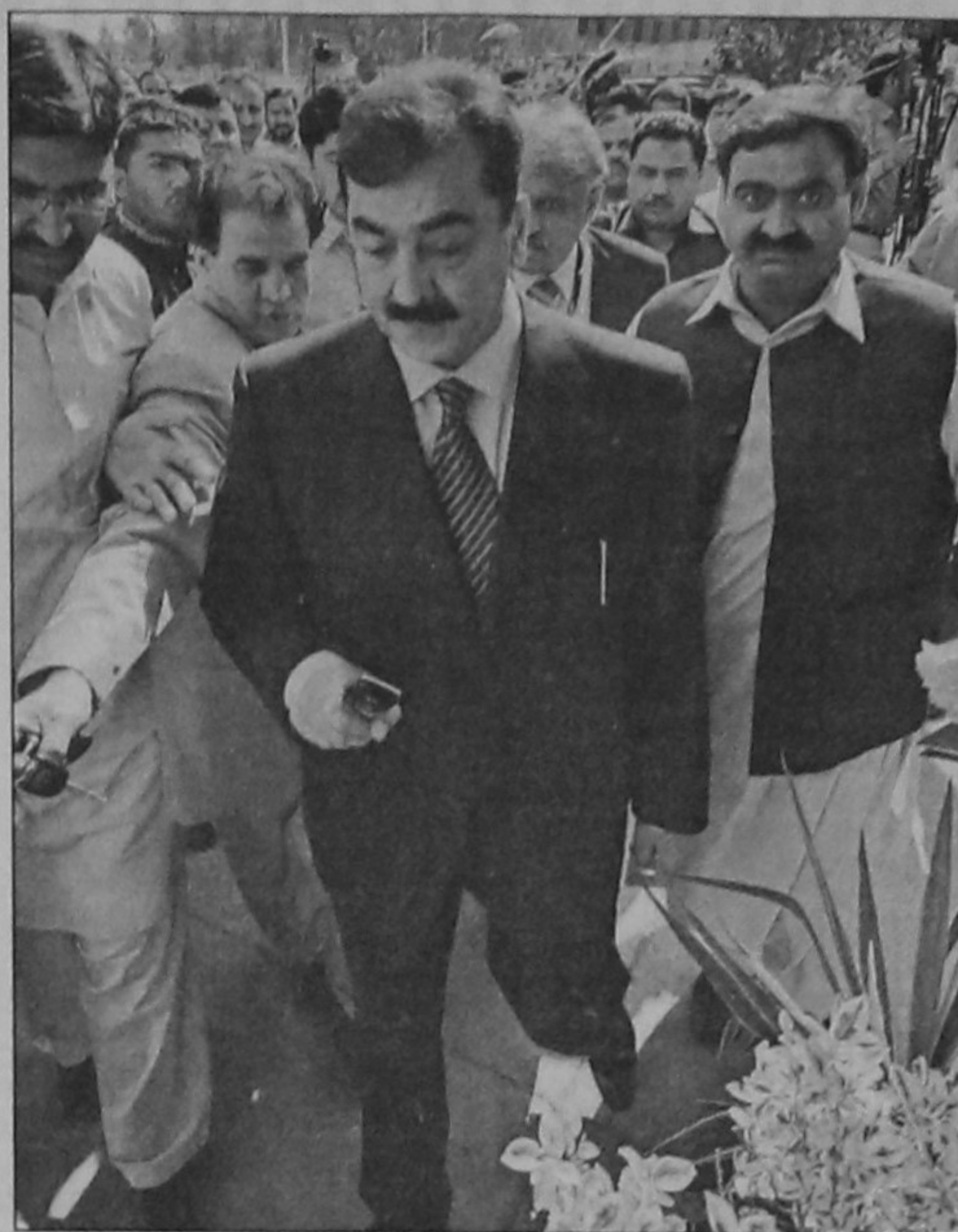
In Turkey, Cheney was to meet

with President Abdullah Gul, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other senior officials on the last leg of a regional tour that has also taken him to Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

In his first visit to the occupied West Bank as vice president on Sunday, Cheney said he told moderate Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas that "the United States is committed to doing everything we can to facilitate the peace process" but "we cannot dictate the outcome."

The talks with the Palestinian leadership came as Abbas's secular Fatah party and the Hamas movement penned a deal in Yemen to hold their first direct talks since the Islamists' bloody seizure of Gaza nine months ago.

"My conclusion in talking with the Palestinian leadership is that they have established preconditions which would have to be filled before they would ever agree to a reconciliation including a complete reversal of the Hamas takeover of Gaza," Cheney said.



Yousuf Raza Gilani (C), the candidate for prime minister nominated by the party of slain Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto arrives at the Parliament building for the election of the leader of the house in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan's parliament elected Gilani new prime minister as the coalition government geared up for a confrontation with key US ally President Pervez Musharraf.

Sharif opposes MQM's inclusion in govt

THE DAWN, PTI, Mansehra Islamabad

Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has expressed reservations over inclusion of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement in the coalition government.

"We, as well as those Urdu-speaking people who are not part of the MQM, have reservations over the inclusion of the MQM in the coalition government because we know who was behind the May 12 Karachi carnage which left 48 people dead," Sharif said.

The former prime minister was talking to newsmen in Khawari after attending the Chehlum of the mother of his son-in-law Capt (ret) Safdar, on Sunday.

"We want the report of the May 12 carnage made public. If we do not make the report public and fail to expose the hands behind the incident, coming generations will never forgive us."

Former NWFP chief minister Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Abbasi, PML-N general secretary Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, Gen (ret) Salahuddin Tirmizee and other party leaders were present on the occasion.

Sharif said President Musharraf had all the powers with himself and he wanted to transfer the elected government only a bleeding

Pakistan where terrorists were targeting sensitive places.

"We will take all powers back from Mr Musharraf by repealing the Article 58(2)b of the Constitution. Unless 58(2)b is revoked, the coalition government will never be powerful and strong."

In reply to a question, he said all policies of the former government, including detention of Dr AQ Khan, would be reviewed and changed in accordance with wishes of the people.

Meanwhile, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif will boycott the swearing-in ceremony of Pakistan's new prime minister tomorrow to protest against Pervez Musharraf's presence whom he has called "an illegal and unconstitutional" President.

"His (Sharif's) participation in a presidency-hosted function is out of the question," PML-N spokesman Ahsan Iqbal said yesterday.

Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party that is heading the coalition government, was yet to decide whether he would attend the ceremony, party spokesman Farhatullah Babar said.



Bhutanese voters check their voters ID cards as they line up to cast their votes outside a polling station at Kabesa on the outskirts of Thimphu yesterday. Voting began in the small Himalayan nation of Bhutan in elections that will elect the country's first democratic government and end a century of absolute royal rule.

Bhutanese pin high hopes on new govt

AFP, Babesa

Grocery shop owner Yangchin Dem, like many voters in Bhutan, says she is unsure how democracy can improve her daily life, but knew she had to cast her ballot in the tiny nation's landmark polls.

"Since democracy is new to Bhutan, I can't say anything about how things will change, but I hope the new government will serve the country as the king did," Dem, 45, told AFP.

"Some people are very rich, and some people are very poor. Since this government is for the people, I hope poor people can come up," she said in village of Babesa, outside the capital Thimphu.

Tens of thousands of Bhutanese, accustomed to absolute rule by the country's Wangchuck dynasty, overcame their uncertainty to cast ballots in Monday's polls to elect the country's first democratic government.

Many said they hoped the country's new political class would

deliver on campaign promises to help the poor and bring Bhutan into the modern world.

In Thimphu, voters clad in traditional garb -- long skirts and jackets for women, and a robe hoisted up to the knees and black socks for men -- started lining up outside polling stations before dawn.

"Since it was the first time I voted, I was nervous because I didn't know how to vote," said Phubden, a 21-year-old shopkeeper who uses one name.

Heavy casualties in Lanka fighting

AFP, Colombo

Heavy fighting between Tamil Tiger rebels and Sri Lankan troops in the north of the island over the weekend has resulted in heavy casualties, both sides said yesterday.

According to the defence ministry, clashes on Saturday and Sunday in the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya and Well Oya left at least 100 rebels and five soldiers dead.

It said security forces kept up a major offensive against the Tigers and had taken more of the guerrillas' bunker lines.

The pro-rebel Puthnam.com website, however, said that the Tigers had killed 55 government troops and wounded another 120 in Saturday's fighting alone. The website did not give rebel casualties.

The government says it has killed 2,343 rebels since January against the loss of 136 of its own troops.

Colombo allows no journalists or rights groups into the embattled regions, making it impossible to independently verify the figures.

Thousands of people have been killed in a new wave of fighting since December 2005, when a Norwegian-brokered truce began to unravel. The truce was formally ended by the government in January.

The rebels have been battling for an independent homeland since 1972 in an ethnic conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

7 mine clearing staff shot dead in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Gunmen shot dead seven Afghan staff of UN-funded mine clearing teams in northern Afghanistan, their organisations said Monday, in some of the deadliest attacks on non-government workers in months.

In one incident, unknown attackers halted a convoy of deminers returning from work in the province of Jawzjan on Sunday and opened fire, killing five and wounding seven, Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) said.

The gunmen shot into the first vehicle and then opened fire on the others, which included an ambulance, as they turned around and

sped off, director Kefayatullah Elbigh told AFP.

"Three people stopped the vehicle and started shooting at them without saying anything," he said.

Some of the men were able to use demining equipment to shield themselves from the barrage of bullets, Elbigh said.

It was the worst attack on the company in its 18 years of operations in Afghanistan, he said. "It was terrible."

Two more employees of a separate mine clearing team, the Mine Detection and Dog Centre (MDC), were shot dead in the northern province of Kunduz on Monday, their organisation and the United Nations said.

Pressure grows on US Democrats to unite

AFP, Washington

Democrats came under mounting pressure Monday to close ranks behind a single candidate, as Hillary Clinton struggles to wrest the mathematical advantage from Barack Obama to win their party's nod for the White House.


The bitter campaign faces weeks of harsh confrontation ahead of next month's crucial primary clash in Pennsylvania, one of 10 remaining contests to decide who will face off against Republican John McCain in November's election.

New York Senator Hillary Clinton is in an uphill battle to close the gap

between her and Obama, the Illinois senator who holds a lead in the number of nominating delegates, the nationwide popular vote and the number of contests won in the campaign.

Hillary Clinton's chances of snatching a victory were receding by the day, analysts said, with respected US newspaper Politico stressing Obama would have to be "hit by a political meteor" for Clinton to win the Democratic death-match.

Hillary Clinton's own campaign reportedly has acknowledged that there is virtually no way she can finish ahead of Obama in pledged delegates.



Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)
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Tel. No. 8859642, 8860341, 9880400, 8826206, Fax No. 8854648, E-mail: pcm_ho@desco.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Agency	Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)		
2	Procuring Entity Name	Office of the Manager (Procurement & Contract Management), DESCO		
3	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
4	Invitation for	Procurement of Works and Services		
5	Tender No.	07/2008 (Lot-1 & Lot-2)		
6	Invitation Reference No.	DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2008/255		
7	Date	24/03/2008		

KEY INFORMATION

8 Procurement Method: Open Tendering Method

FUNDING INFORMATION

9 Budget and Source of Funds: DESCO's own fund

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10 Tender Name: Lot-1: Renting CNG Driven Microbus.
Lot-2: Renting CNG Driven Pickup/Mini Truck.

11	Tender Last Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Tender & Lot No.	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time	Opening Time
		07/2008 (Lot-1)	16/04/2008	17/04/2008	12:00 Noon	12:30 PM
		07/2008 (Lot-2)	16/04/2008	17/04/2008		

12 Name & Address of the office for Selling Tender Document, Receiving & Opening Tender

Selling	Receiving & Opening
Office of Deputy General Manager (Finance & Accounts), DESCO, House # 3 (4 th floor), Road # 24, Block # K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213.	Office of Manager (Procurement & Contract Management), DESCO, House # 3 (5 th floor), Road # 24, Block # K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

13 Eligibility of Tenderer: Bonafide supplier having valid Trade License, TIN & VAT registration from concerned authority of Bangladesh.

14 Brief Description of Works: Detail described in the tender document.
Lot-1: Providing CNG Driven Microbus.
Lot-2: Providing CNG Driven Pickup/Mini Truck.


15 Price of Tender Document (Tk.)

Lot-1	Lot-2
Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) Only payable in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.	Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) Only payable in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.

Description of Packages	Location of Works	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion time in months
Lot-1: Renting CNG Driven Microbus	DESCO's Central Store, Mirpur-06, Dhaka	Tk. 2,00,000/- (Taka Two Lac) only (Payable in the form of Bank Guarantee/Bank draft/Pay order in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.	12 (Twelve) consecutive months from the date of commencement of works and services.
Lot-2: Renting CNG Driven Pickup/Mini Truck		Tk. 1,30,000/- (Taka One Lac Thirty Thousand) only (Payable in the form of Bank Guarantee/Bank draft/Pay order in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.	

17 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Khandaker Najibul Alam
Manager (Procurement & CM)



ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, B. Baria-3402, Bangladesh.
Telephone: 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: apscld@yahoo.com

Memo No. APSCCL/Pro-1/2008/ 666 Date: 22/03/2008

"Invitation For International Tender"

International Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderer as defined in the Tender Document for the Supply of under mentioned items as per terms and conditions stated in the Tender Document.

01.	Procuring Entity Name	: Convener, Procurement Committee, APSCCL, Ashuganj, B-Baria.
02.	Procurement Method	: Open International Tendering Method.
03.	Source of Funds	: APSCCL'S Own Fund.
04.		

Sl.No	Name of Supply	Price of Tender Document	Amount of Tender Security
01	Supply and Testing of Thermo vision Camera with standard accessories for APSCCL	Non refundable Tk.1000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	US\$ 900.00 or BDT 63,000.00. In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh

Sl.No	Name & Address of the Offices
a.	-Selling Tender Documents. (i) Director Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Deputy Director (Finance), APSCCL, Ashuganj, B-Baria.
b.	-Receiving & Opening Tender Documents Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSCCL, Ashuganj, B-Baria.
06	Eligibility of Tenderer Renowned Manufacturer/Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.
07	Last date and time for Selling Tender Documents. 04/05/2008 up to office hours.
08	Last date & time for Tender Submission 05/05/2008 at 12:00 noon (Bangladesh Time).
09	Date & time for opening of Tender. 05/05/2008 at 12:30 PM (Bangladesh Time).
10	Special Instruction a) The procuring entity reserved the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. b) Late Tender will not be accepted.

22.03.2008
(Md. Abdus Samad)
Convener,
Procurement Committee.