



Supporters of India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wearing garlands made from vegetables shout slogans during a protest in New Delhi yesterday. BJP supporters protested against a rise in the price of essential commodities and demanded the resignation of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

3 Hamas gunmen killed as Israel mulls Gaza offensive

AFP, Jerusalem

Three Hamas gunmen were killed by Israeli troops in Gaza on Tuesday as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was set to meet top ministers to weigh up a possible military offensive on the territory in a bid to stop militant rocket fire.

The meeting comes after the family of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, held at a secret location by Gaza militants, received a letter from their son who was captured in a deadly cross-border raid two years ago.

Israel's political and military leaders have for months been mulling a wider military blitz in the besieged coastal strip aimed at ousting its Islamist rulers Hamas and halting near-daily rocket attacks on Israel.

On Tuesday, Israeli troops killed

three Hamas fighters in Gaza City and wounded five more people, Palestinian medics said.

"Within the last hour 17 mortars were launched toward Israel from eastern Gaza. The IDF (Israel Defence Forces) targeted the launching squad twice and identified hitting it," an Israeli military spokesman told AFP.

Olmert, whose political future is clouded by a scandal over corruption allegations, will hold talks with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Ehud Barak before convening the security cabinet on Wednesday.

"The current situation cannot last. The prime minister will discuss the various options available, including the use of force," government spokesman Mark Regev told AFP.

He said a decision was possible after the security cabinet meeting.

"There is no doubt that an offensive in Gaza is inevitable but the timing is the question," a senior defence official told AFP. "An operation now could jeopardise efforts to bring about the release of Gilad Shalit and strain Israel's ties with Egypt."

Since Hamas seized power in Gaza nearly a year ago, Israel has sealed the impoverished territory off from all but limited humanitarian aid and launched regular air strikes and limited ground incursions.

On Monday, a foundation run by former US president Jimmy Carter passed on a letter from Shalit to his family, following an agreement in April between Carter and exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshal in Damascus.

Bomb kills head of Saddam's tribe

AP, Baghdad

Iraqi police say the head of Saddam Hussein's tribe has been killed by a bomb that was planted on his car.

Sheik Ali al-Nida was the head of Iraq's al-Bu Nasir tribe, a large Sunni Arab clan which includes Saddam's family.

An Iraqi police officer says al-Nida and one of his guards died in the explosion Tuesday morning. Three other guards were seriously wounded.

The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to media.

He says the bomb exploded while al-Nida drove through the Wadi Shishain area of Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, about 80 miles north of Baghdad.

US, allies threaten tougher Iran sanctions

AP, Kranj

President Bush and European allies yesterday threatened tougher sanctions to squeeze Iran's finances and derail its potential pursuit of a nuclear weapon. Bush said the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran would endanger world peace.

"They can either face isolation, or they can have better relations with all of us," Bush said of Iran's leaders while capping his final European Union-US summit.

The president and EU leaders embraced new financial sanctions against Iran unless it verifiably suspends its nuclear enrichment. They said Iran must fully disclose any nuclear weapons work and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to verify that work.

Iran is also under fire for defying three sets of UN Security Council sanctions and continuing to enrich uranium, which can generate both nuclear fuel and the fissile material for the core of nuclear warheads. Iran insists that it has only civilian uses in mind for its nuclear programme.

The president flatly said Iran "can't be trusted with enrichment." "A group of countries can send a clear message to the Iranians," Bush said. "And that is: we're going to continue to isolate you, we'll continue to work on sanctions, we'll find new sanctions if need be if you continue to deny the just demands of a free world."

Speaking to reporters on the lush, sun-splashed lawn near Brdo Castle, Bush also fielded questions

on economic woes at home and climate change.

Bush essentially rejected the idea of possible government intervention to prop up the value of the US dollar. He said he believed in a strong-dollar policy, but that world economies will end up setting the value of the dollar.

On global warming, Bush declared, "I think we can actually get an agreement on global climate change during my presidency," which ends on Jan. 20, 2009.

He said no global warming agreement can be effective without China and India. The United States has been at odds with allies about whether any climate strategy should include mandatory emission reductions, among other sticking points.

Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa, the president of the European Council, said European members and the United States might have different approaches to some of its common challenges. He said a global agreement without the developing countries would be a short-term solution.

But he added "those who are the most developed have to take the leading role."

The summit, consisting of about three hours of meetings and a working lunch, took place in a modern glass building on the vast Brdo grounds in the shadow of Slovenia's jagged mountain peaks. The president had a long list of issues to cover with his European counterparts, but Iran seemed to dominate.

'Musharraf allowed CIA base in Pakistan'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf permitted the CIA to establish a base in northern Pakistan to launch strikes by drones on Islamist militants, says writer-journalist Ahmed Rashid.

"On Jan 9, 2008, Mike McConnell, director of national intelligence, and Gen. Michael Hayden, director of CIA, visited Islamabad where they discussed a plan to make operational a secret CIA base that could mount attacks on militants by drones armed with missiles," Rashid says in his book "Descent into Chaos".

The base was located in the restive Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, a

region considered a safe haven for Taliban and al-Qaeda cadres. The News on Tuesday reported, quoting from the book.

Musharraf, the book says, accepted help from the US Special Forces to train and mentor Pakistani counterterrorism units.

Turning to the February elections, the book says the US embassy in Islamabad had extensively reported to Washington about the plans drawn up by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to rig the polls.

Rashid describes "how the Bush administration remained soft on Musharraf despite all his follies and instead kept pushing (slain former Prime Minister) Benazir Bhutto to conform to the US-sponsored deal" to share power with him after the polls.



PHOTO: AFP

Deposed Pakistani Supreme Court chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry (C) is escorted by anti-Musharraf lawyers as he leaves his residence in Islamabad yesterday. Chaudhry left his Islamabad home to join a "long march" calling for the government to reinstate him and other judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf.

First China, Taiwan talks in 9 years to boost ties

THE CHINA DAILY/ ANN, Beijing

Negotiators from both sides of the Taiwan Straits will hold talks from Wednesday, the first in more than nine years, rekindling hopes of closer ties.

A 19-member delegation from Taiwan, led by the island's chief mainland negotiator Chiang Pin-kun, is scheduled to arrive in Beijing for the landmark talks.

The meeting will focus on cross-Straits chartered flights over weekends that can start as early as July and increasing the number of mainland travellers to the island.

The negotiation between the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) is scheduled to continue till Saturday.



People watch the floodwater flow down the Jian Jiang River through the worst earthquake-hit area of Beichuan county, in China's southwestern province of Sichuan yesterday. Muddy, brown water from a quake lake in southwest China was pouring into the flattened town of Beichuan on Tuesday, piling new woes on its tormented population.

Water gushes out of China's 'quake lake'

AFP, Beichuan

Water finally began gushing out of China's quake lake yesterday, flowing through flattened towns and villages in an operation aimed at heading off a disaster for more than a million people.

Torrents of muddy water swept away the remains of collapsed buildings and mountains of other rubble caused by last month's devastating earthquake, which left more than 86,000 people dead.

Authorities said the controlled operation to release the vast quantities of water, which involved the evacuation many days earlier of more than 250,000 people from the flood zone, had proceeded relatively smoothly.

"So far, the drainage operation is under control," Hu Peng, the press officer for Mianyang city, directly downstream from the lake, told AFP.

The Tangjia Shan lake was created when landslides blocked a river in southwest China's mountainous Sichuan province during the May 12 earthquake.

Authorities had warned that more than a million quake survivors could be at risk of a huge flood if the unstable dam burst its banks, and China's military had led frantic efforts to engineer a controlled release of the water.

Those efforts -- which included firing small missiles and using dynamite to clear boulders from the planned spillways -- finally began paying off on Tuesday as vast amounts of water began pouring out of the drainage channels.

Throughout Tuesday, water flowed steadily out of the lake 50 times faster than it was coming in, the state-run Xinhua news agency said, a rate roughly the equivalent of two Olympic-sized swimming pools being drained every second.

Pakistan elements aiding Taliban insurgents

Says US think-tank

AFP, Washington

Members of Pakistan's intelligence services and its paramilitary are supporting Taliban insurgents who enter Afghanistan to attack US and Nato forces, a US think-tank said in a report released Monday.

The study by the RAND corporation, funded by the US Department of Defence, finds that if Taliban bases in Pakistan are not eliminated, the forces supporting the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai "will face crippling long-term consequences in their effort to stabilise and rebuild Afghanistan."

The study, titled "Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan," says that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence

Directorate and paramilitary Frontier Corps "have failed to root out Afghan insurgent groups based in Pakistan and, in some cases, individuals from these Pakistani organisations have provided direct assistance to such groups as the Taliban and Haqqani network."

According to the report's author, Seth Jones, the Taliban and other groups "are getting help from individuals in Pakistan's government, and until that ends, the region's long-term security is in jeopardy."

Other groups such as al-Qaeda and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's radical Islamic Hezb-i-Islami organisation are also getting support in Pakistan, according to the study.

It says the insurgents find refuge in Pakistan's Federally Administered

Tribal Areas, North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan province.

"They regularly ship weapons, ammunition and supplies into Afghanistan from Pakistan, and a number of suicide bombers have come from Afghan refugee camps based in Pakistan," the report says.

The Taliban were removed from government in a US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001 and are waging an insurgency that has gained pace the last two years.

There are nearly 70,000 foreign soldiers from more than 40 nations attached to Nato's International Security Assistance Force, helping the growing Afghan army and police force tackle the insurgents and rising crime.

It will be 'tragic for India' to forgo nuke deal: US

PTI, Washington

Seeking quick implementation of the civil nuclear agreement, the US has said it would be "tragic" for India if it forgoes this opportunity for a strategic partnership with the US.

"...We believe it is essential to quickly implement the landmark civil nuclear agreement with the United States and bring India into the international nuclear non-proliferation mainstream," US Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Christopher Padilla said here on Monday.

"It would be tragic for India to forgo this opportunity for a strategic

partnership with the United States," he said.

Washington has been insisting that India needs to complete the processes required for the deal, saying time was running out in the light of the Presidential elections later this year.

New Delhi needs to firm up a safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and secure changes in the guidelines of the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) to enable international nuclear commerce with it. But stiff opposition from Left allies has tied the government's hands in moving fast on the deal.

Pak defence spending to be reduced: Gilani

THE DAWN, Islamabad

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani told the National Assembly on Monday his government would freeze and practically reduce defence spending in the next budget as a show of its desire for peace with neighbours, and voiced a belated hope of reciprocity from nuclear rival India, which hiked its defence budget three months ago.

And, in a move to let parliament know more about defence expenditures, he said estimates for the armed forces and other defence organisations would be presented in parliament under separate "major heads" rather than "one-line" allocation, in the budget for fiscal 2008-09 due to be unveiled on Wednesday.

The prime minister interrupted the scheduled proceedings of the lower house to make his first policy state-

ment on defence matters, which was later greeted by several members from both sides of the political divide mainly for the slight opening of the defence budget for the first time in the country's history.

The traditional secrecy of the defence budget has often been criticised by politicians and intelligentsia mainly for frequent military interventions in politics, including seizure of power in four coups that saw the country ruled by armed forces for more than half of nearly 61 years of its life.

Gilani said Pakistan could not remain oblivious of its defence needs in a volatile environment due to its location in a "geo-strategically important but a turbulent region" but added that his government would continue to strive for "peace with honour" without compromising on national interests.

Obama ramps up search for a running mate

AP, Washington

Barack Obama ramped up his search for a running mate on Monday, consulting with one congressional ally by phone and dispatching members of his vice presidential vetting team to the Capitol for meetings. Sen Dick Durbin said he had spoken with Obama, his fellow Illinois senator.

Jim Johnson and Eric Holder, who

comprise two-thirds of the group Obama has asked to help guide his search, met separately with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid as well as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Reps. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina and Rahm Emanuel of Illinois.

Obama's campaign announced last week that he has asked Johnson, Holder and Caroline Kennedy to help guide the search.

None of the congressional leaders involved in the meetings have figured in speculation about a possible running mate, suggesting that the day's conversations were designed to seek advice. Durbin and Emanuel are barred from being on the ticket because the Constitution requires that the presidential and vice presidential candidates be from different states.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Date: June 11, 2008

ICDDR-B Dhaka invites tenders in sealed cover, subject to the general terms and conditions from the Manufacturers/sole distributors/authorized local agents for supply, installation and commissioning of Washing Plant for Dhaka Hospital on C & F, Chittagong by sea freight basis. Quoted price should be in foreign currency for the imported items of the washing plant (all complete) by the manufacturers/bidders and in local currency for installation and commissioning by local agents/sole distributors.

SL	Description	Qty.	Tender Security in BDT	Completion time
1	Washing Plant for Hospital use		3% on quoted value in equivalent local currency (By pay order or Bank Guarantee)	90 days from the date of opening of LC and/or signing of contract
	A) High Spin Hygienic Barrier Washer	2 nos.		
	B) Dryer	2 nos.		
	C) Dryer-Ironer	1 no.		
	Including installation and commissioning.			

Tender schedules along with general terms and conditions and detail specifications will be available from Cash Section, Finance Department of ICDDR-B on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (non-refundable) per set on all working days of the Centre between 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM up to June 25, 2008. All tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in the Procurement & Materials Office, Dhaka up to 2:30 PM of June 26, 2008, which will be opened at 3:00 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

The ICDDR-B Management reserves the right to accept or reject part/whole of any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

icddr,b

Senior Manager
Procurement & Materials

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর বিএ/বিএসএস ও এসএসসি পরীক্ষা-২০০৭ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের জন্য জ্ঞাতব্য

পরীক্ষায় নকল একটি সামাজিক অপরাধ
নকলমুক্ত পরিবেশ বজায় রাখতে সহায়তা করুন

নকল সমাজে দুর্নীতির বীজ বপন করে
নকলমুক্ত পরিবেশ বজায় রাখতেই হবে
নকল শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থাকে ধ্বংস করে

- প্রশাসনের সার্বিক সহযোগিতায় কেন্দ্র সচিব নকলমুক্ত পরিবেশে সৃষ্টভাবে পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করবেন।
- শিক্ষার্থীগণ কেবল পরীক্ষার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় সামগ্রী (আইডি কার্ড, কলম, স্কেল ইত্যাদি) নিয়ে পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশ করবেন। পরীক্ষার হলে কোন অবস্থাতেই শিক্ষার্থীগণ ব্যাগ, মোবাইল ফোন নিয়ে প্রবেশ করতে পারবেন না।
- কোন শিক্ষক/ইনভিজিলেটরের বিরুদ্ধে নকলে সহায়তা প্রদানের অভিযোগ পাওয়া গেলে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে। শিক্ষক হিসেবে নকলে সহায়তা করে অভিযুক্ত হলে বহিষ্কৃত হতে পারেন। এতে সামাজিক মর্যাদা ক্ষুণ্ণ হয় ও কর্মজীবন কলঙ্কিত হয়।
- ইনভিজিলেটরগণ উত্তরপত্র স্বাক্ষর করার সময় শিক্ষার্থীর তথ্যাবলী (আইডি নম্বর, বিষয়/পত্র, ডিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্রের নাম, পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের নাম, উত্তর পত্রের সিরিয়াল নম্বর, পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠানের তারিখ ইত্যাদি) যাচাই করবেন। বিশেষ করে শিক্ষার্থীদের আইডি নম্বর ইংরেজিতে সঠিকভাবে ও স্পষ্ট করে লেখার বিষয়টি নিশ্চিত করবেন।
- পরীক্ষায় অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিধি মোতাবেক শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

এ.এস.এম. নোমান আলম
পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত), বাউবি

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