

Negotiators tackle fate of nearly 4 million Palestinian refugees

INTERNATIONAL

TABA, Egypt (AP) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began tackling one of the touchiest issues, the fate of millions of Palestinian refugees, in one of several working groups convened today ahead of Israel’s Feb. 6 election.

But any breakthroughs could be nullified if Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is defeated in the election by his hard-line opponent, Ariel Sharon.

The talks in Taba, Egypt resumed Friday with Israeli negotiator Yossi Beilin meeting Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath to discuss refugees.

The Palestinians have been demanding that all refugees and their descendants, about 4 million people, be allowed to return to their original homes in Israel, but Israel has rejected that. Most of the refugees left during Israel’s 1948 war with seven Arab countries. Shaath said earlier that progress was made on compensation for the refugees.

Other working groups were to deal with Jerusalem, borders and security matters.

The negotiators considered adding an informal session Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, at the Israeli delegation’s hotel in the nearby Israeli resort of Eilat.

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A major earthquake rocked the entire Indian subcontinent on Friday, killing at least

130 people as it toppled buildings and houses in India and Pakistan.

The 7.9-magnitude quake was also felt in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Rescuers dug for survivors in India’s arid western state of Gujarat, where provincial minister Haren Pandya said 100 buildings had collapsed, 40 in the state’s main commercial center, Ahmedabad.

There were also reports of mine cave-ins, train derailments, broken water pipes, downed power and phone lines.

The quake at 8:46 a.m. was centered near the town of Bhuj in the Rann of Kutch, a desert plateau on the border between Pakistan and India, said the Indian Meteorological Center.

“The whole state has been affected. Communications have been disrupted all over the state,” Pandya told The Associated Press.

He said there were 130 confirmed deaths, most in Gujarat state, but New Delhi Television reported an additional six to eight. Two children were reported killed when their family home in Pakistan collapsed.

The quake hit as many cities were celebrating India’s Republic Day holiday. It caused high-rise buildings to sway from New Delhi in the north to Madras and Calcutta on the southern coasts.

NATIONAL

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Team-

sters President Ron Carey has been indicted for lying during an investigation into how \$885,000 in union funds were diverted to his 1996 re-election campaign.

Federal prosecutors on Thursday accused Carey, 64, of perjuring himself twice before a grand jury in 1997. The seven-count indictment also alleges Carey made 39 false statements to the election officer, the chief investigator for a review board and the board itself.

“We’re extremely disappointed with this indictment,” said defense lawyer Reid Weingarten. He said Carey would “contest these charges until he is fully vindicated.”

If convicted, Carey faces up to five years in prison on each of the seven counts.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — No one disputed that then-12-year-old Lionel Tate punched, kicked and stomped his 6-year-old playmate to death. His attorney said it was an acci-

dent that occurred while the boy was imitating professional wrestlers.

But a jury on Thursday rejected that defense and convicted the boy, now 13, of first-degree murder. Lionel was handcuffed and led from the courtroom in tears, followed by his sobbing mother. He faces life without parole.

Attorney Jim Lewis said he would appeal the verdict, citing the judge’s refusal to allow testimony on professional wrestling’s impact on children.

“The jurors heard some about wrestling, but I don’t think it was enough,” Lewis said. “They did not hear from the experts, the psychologists, the media violence experts, that could have persuaded this jury that Lionel had fallen into the trap so many youngsters fall into.”

Under Florida law, jurors did not have to conclude Lionel meant to kill Tiffany Eunick in July 1999, only that his actions were intentional and abusive.

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo. (AP) — The suspected ringleader of the fugitives who set off one of the nation’s biggest manhunts has agreed to a quick return to Texas, where prosecutors have pledged to seek the death penalty.

George Rivas agreed to the extradition against his attorney’s advice during a court hearing Thursday. He said he is prepared to accept the death penalty for his role in the Christmas Eve slaying of a police officer.

Two of the convicts were due in court Friday and two on Monday to face extradition, while another wants more time to consider his options.

Authorities said many reports about the men were simply rumors.

They dismissed claims that two of the convicts arrested Monday learned that authorities were closing in either

by intercepting a radio transmission or receiving a cellphone call.

“We’re not aware that they had help from anyone,” FBI agent Mark Mershon said Thursday. “No other arrests are planned.”

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — While lawmakers struggled to find a permanent solution to California’s energy crisis, consumers were given some temporary relief when a Stage 3 alert was lifted for the first time in nearly two weeks.

The alert, which meant power reserves were so low there was a good chance of blackouts, was lifted a minute before Friday began. It was replaced by a Stage 2 alert, in which power officials can still order service shut down to customers that have agreed to curtail energy in a crisis.

USD 352 is seeking bids

to sell an older Denison hydraulic multipress. It may be viewed by contacting Marvin Selby, Superintendent, 1312 Main, Goodland, Kansas, during working hours. **Sealed bids must be submitted to Pat Juhl, Board Clerk, P.O. Box 509, 1312 Main, Goodland, Kansas, by 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2001.**

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SALE OF SCHOOLS/REAL ESTATE

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Notice is hereby given that USD 454 is receiving sealed bids on the following property

Property 1: Lincoln School Building, 317 S. Dacotah St.

Property 2: Superintendent Office Building, 220 W. Seward.

Property 3: Schuyler School Building, 117 S. Dacotah St.

Property 4: Playground area north of Schuyler Building.

Sealed bids will be taken until 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001 at the USD 454 District Office, 220 W. Seward, Burlingame, Kansas 66413. Bids will be held by USD 454 for a period not to exceed 45 days from Feb. 15, 2001 for the purpose of reviewing the bids prior to awarding of the contract. For more detailed information contact Don Blome, Superintendent of USD 454 at 1-785-654-3328.

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