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Sarkozy to marry girlfriend Bruni: Report

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PARIS: French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who will be visiting India later this month, is to marry his new girlfriend, the former model turned singer Carla Bruni, a French newspaper reported on Sunday, claiming a wedding was "imminent".

Citing several anonymous sources, the *Journal du Dimanche* said the couple, currently on a private visit to Jordan at the invitation of King Abdullah II, are believed to have set a wedding date for either February 8 or 9.

Presidential spokesman David Martinon declined to comment on the front-page story.

Sarkozy, 52, and Bruni, 39, were photographed on Saturday touring the rose-red city of Petra in southern Jordan, the president carrying Bruni's young son Aurelien on his shoulders.

During a Christmas trip to Egypt, the recently-divorced president reportedly gave Bruni an engagement ring - a pink diamond heart - while Bruni gave him a luxury Swiss watch in grey steel.

Sarkozy and Bruni - heiress to a tyre fortune whose former boyfriends include rock stars Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton - have been trailed by a swarm of paparazzi since their romance was first publicised in mid-December.

Bruni may accompany Sarkozy on an official trip to India late this month, according to media reports.

The French president and his second wife Cecilia announced their divorce in October after 11 years of a tumultuous marriage. Sarkozy has a 10-year-old son with Cecilia, as well as two grown sons from a previous marriage.

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