

British medics question suicide verdict over Kelly's death

AFP, London

Two paramedics called to the apparent suicide of British weapons scientist David Kelly last year have severe doubts about the official verdict that he killed himself, they said in an interview yesterday.

The body of Kelly, a leading expert on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, whose death sparked a major political crisis for Prime Minister Tony Blair was found in woodland near his home in July last year.

An official inquiry into his death, led by judge Lord Brian Hutton, which also functioned as an inquest, said Kelly had killed himself by cutting his left wrist, having also taken a non-fatal overdose of painkillers.

However the two ambulance staff told the Observer newspaper that they were extremely suspicious of the suicide verdict.

Kashmiris from both zones meet in Nepal Indo-Pak talks on missile tests begin tomorrow

AFP, Kathmandu

Separatists from both the Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir were meeting in Nepal to discuss the troubled region's future among themselves, an official said yesterday.

Leaders of the moderate wing of the main separatist alliance Hurriyat, politicians, former ambassadors and rights activists from India and Pakistan were among at least 25 people participating in the three-day conference to boost ties between the rivals.

"Kashmiri leaders from both India and Pakistan, including some Hurriyat leaders, ex-bureaucrats and scholars have been meeting in Kathmandu since Saturday to help build confidence and good rapport between India and Pakistan," the official who declined to be named

said.

The three-day conference was organised by the Geneva-based International Pugwash Foundation and ends Monday. Pugwash holds conferences around the world to seek solutions to global problems.

The aim of the meet was to bring together people from India and Pakistan and provide them with a platform to discuss the long-standing dispute over Kashmir.

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan both claim the scenic Himalayan region, which has been the trigger for two of the three wars between them since 1947.

India accuses Pakistan of stoking an Islamic militancy in Indian-administered Kashmir, a charge Islamabad denies.

About 40,000 people have been

killed in violence since the outbreak of the Islamic militancy in 1989 by official count. Separatists put the toll at twice that number.

India and Pakistan are in the midst of a peace process aimed at resolving decades of differences over Kashmir after coming to the brink of their fourth war in 2002.

Meanwhile, nuclear-armed Pakistan and India are due to meet in Islamabad next week to discuss a possible agreement on giving advance notice to each other before conducting missile tests, foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The expert-level talks on confidence building measures (CBMs) will be held December 14-15 in Islamabad, foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told AFP.

Maoists bomb 2 houses in Kathmandu

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's army killed six Maoists in the country's west while two houses were damaged in bomb attacks in the capital during weekend violence, police said yesterday.

The six were killed in clashes with the army in Mugu and the frontier districts of Arghakhanchi and Puthan in western Nepal Saturday, a security source said.

In another incident, Maoists fighting to overthrow the Nepalese monarchy Sunday targeted the residence of a former communist, Kesharjung Rayamajhi, who had in the past favoured an active role for the king in Nepalese politics.

"A group of Maoists exploded a locally made powerful bomb, badly damaging the house of Rayamajhi at Bharatpur municipality south of Kathmandu early Sunday," a police source said.

"The two-storey house was badly damaged but no one was hurt or killed in the blast," the source said.



Volunteers help carry a man wounded in a grenade attack on Saturday on a self-out concert by Indian Bollywood star Shahrukh Khan in Colombo. The concert ended abruptly after two people were killed and 19 wounded in the grenade attack that followed protests against the staging of the concert to coincide with the first death anniversary of a popular Buddhist monk.



A mother (C) accompanies her son (R) after he was released from jail in Yangon yesterday. At least two Myanmar dissidents were among thousands of prisoners freed yesterday after the military government announced it had begun releasing more than 5,000 detainees in a third mass release in less than a month.

Myanmar frees 5,000 more prisoners

AFP, Yangon

At least two Myanmar dissidents were among thousands of prisoners freed yesterday after the military government announced it had begun releasing more than 5,000 detainees in a third mass release in less than a month, relatives and officials said.

A prison department official said inmates were being freed from dozens of jails throughout Myanmar and all 5,070 should be released by the end of Sunday.

"We are releasing them from 41 prisons around the country and we will finish today," the official said.

At least 26 truckloads carrying more than 1,300 inmates, most believed to be petty criminals, were seen rolling out of Insein prison, Myanmar's largest jail, Sunday to be released at other locations.

Well-known political prisoner Htwe Myint, 77, a senior member of Myanmar's Democracy Party, was confirmed as released by his family. He had been serving a seven-year sentence which had already expired, relatives said.

"I have just been to see him at our

cousin's house. The whole family is very excited," Htwe Myint's niece told AFP.

Also freed was Democracy Party chairman Thu Wai, said too to be in his seventies, according to a spokesman of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the party headed by detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I can confirm that both men were released," the NLD's U Lwin told AFP.

The two had been on the lists of prisoners of conscience compiled by international human rights groups.

Rights watchdog Amnesty International, which says 1,350 political prisoners remain imprisoned in Myanmar, cites both dissidents as serving seven-year jail terms for distributing leaflets in 1995 and have had their sentences extended since 2002.

Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate, was detained in May last year and is currently under her third stint of house arrest. The NLD announced late last month that authorities extended the detention by another year.

Ukraine kicks off new presidential campaign State silence on poison report

AFP, Kiev

Ukraine's repeat election campaign officially kicked off yesterday but the country's ruling elite was silent after news that Western-oriented opposition leader and presidential frontrunner Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned earlier in the race in this former Soviet republic.

Yushchenko, in Vienna where physicians said the mystery pre-election illness that dramatically disfigured his face had been caused as a result of ingesting poison, was shown on Ukrainian television saying he was "very happy to be alive in this world today."

Amid speculation that the attempt to poison Yushchenko had been intended to kill him, as he has insisted, a senior European envoy was arriving in Kiev to check on the chances of the country holding a fair vote December 26.

But there was no immediate information on whom the Council of Europe's Secretary General Terry Davis would meet amid struggles between Europe and Russia over influence in a country that has served in the past decade as a bridge

between Moscow and the West.

Kiev itself was calm Sunday morning as hundreds of opposition demonstrators camped out in khaki tents in the capital, some chopping up wood for open fires to keep themselves warm, others sketching caricatures of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

And though officials were saying nothing, everywhere on the streets there was talk of Saturday's report of dioxin poisoning from the Austrian doctor who said Yushchenko's face had been disfigured so suddenly because he probably ingested the chemical in his food.

"Everyone knew that he was poisoned. Now even more people will vote for him," said Taras, a 22-year-old from a region in western Ukraine that supports the opposition.

"The ruling elite has once again proven its criminal methods," agreed pensioner Vira Tikhonova as she strolled down Khreshchatk, the main cobble-stoned thoroughfare, lined with imposing buildings, through the Ukrainian capital and now the meeting point of debate over Ukraine's new path.

Labour opens way for alliance with Sharon

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel's opposition Labour party said yesterday it had no preconditions for joining with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, paving the way for a broad new government to push through his Gaza withdrawal plan.

Sharon needs Labour to rebuild his coalition, avert early elections and overcome rightist rebels opposed to withdrawing from Gaza under a plan seen by Western countries as a possible step to peace with Palestinians after Yasser Arafat's death.

Center-left Labour and Sharon's right-wing Likud began coalition talks on Saturday. Labour leader Shimon Peres, a veteran peace-maker and firm backer of Sharon's "disengagement plan," said a deal could be clinched within days.

Labour was expected to demand as many as 10 cabinet posts, but the party's chief negotiator ruled out preconditions.

"Let this be clear: There will be a government," Haim Ramon told Army Radio on Sunday. "The question is whether we will sit in this government with significant cabinet portfolios, or if we enter this government without portfolios."

Arabs rebuff US calls for speedy reforms

REUTERS, Rabat

US calls for reform in the Middle East clashed with Arab demands to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on Saturday as Washington insisted that economic and political modernisation is needed to fight terrorism.

With unabated violence in US-occupied Iraq, the inaugural "Forum for the Future" in Morocco was viewed by many in the Middle East as US meddling even though American officials insist change must come from within the region.

Outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington was committed to working actively with Palestinians and Israelis to solve the conflict but that "reform does not have to wait for that."

"We did not overlook some of the challenges that we are all facing in the region and uppermost in that list of challenges is the situation between the Israelis and the Palestinians," he told a news conference at the close of the one-day conference.

"But we cannot ignore the fact that reform has to go on... A child who is in need of an education and will not be a contributing member of

society without that education, needs that education now," he said.

The original US initiative to promote democracy across the Arab world was watered down after an outcry from Arab critics. More emphasis was put on economics and less on political reform.

"Now is not the time to argue about the pace of democratic reform or whether economic reform must precede political reform," Powell told delegates from nearly 30 countries.

"All of us confront the daily threat of terrorism. To defeat the murderous extremists in our midst we must work together to address the causes of despair and frustration that extremists exploit for their own ends," he said.

Despite criticism of the meeting about 20 Arab, African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries attended it, along with members of the Group of Eight (G8) industrial states.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, dismissing any idea of a "clash of civilizations" between the Western and Arab worlds, said "the real bone of contention" was a perceived Western bias toward Israel.

Iraqi security forces face wave of attacks 2 GIs, 11 Iraqis killed

AFP, Baghdad

Security forces were again targeted in a spate of deadly weekend attacks across Iraq, as the number of US troops killed while trying to impose order ahead of next month's landmark elections continued to rise.

At least 11 Iraqis were killed Saturday. Three police officers, including a provincial police chief, died and six others were wounded in two separate ambushes north of Baghdad, police said.

Masked gunmen also killed seven civilians in a series of attacks Friday and Saturday in Iraq's "triangle of death," south of Baghdad, police and witnesses said.

A US soldier has died from his wounds after his patrol was hit by a homemade bomb that wounded three other troops on Saturday in northern Baghdad, the army said yesterday.

A US marine was killed Saturday in Al-Anbar province, where renewed fighting erupted in the former rebel stronghold of Fallujah after days of relative calm following last month's blistering assault on the city, the US military said.

Marines in the Sunni Muslim city fired several dozen artillery rounds from their main base near the town during the day, an AFP correspondent said.

Military commanders say their assault on Fallujah crippled Iraq's insurgency, but eight coalition soldiers were wounded Saturday when their convoy was attacked with mortar rounds, grenades and small arms fire in the northern city of Mosul.

US air support dropped a 500-pound (quarter tonne) bomb on the attackers, but the number of casualties among the attackers was unknown, the army said.



A wounded Palestinian boy is carried into a hospital in the southern Gaza Strip refugee camp of Khan Yunes yesterday. Six Palestinian pupils were wounded by an Israeli army tank shell at their primary school in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Mymensingh Road Division Mymensingh Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry	Ministry of Communication.		
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department.		
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Mymensingh.		
4	Invitation for	Construction of flexible pavement, base type-1, carpeting & seal coat.		
5	Invitation ref. no. & date	2484 & 01.11.2004.		
6	Procurement method	Open.		
7	Budget and source of funds	Development, GOB.		
8	Project name	1) Fulbaria-Ashim-Sankibanga-Bagarbar Road. 2) Mymensingh-Gafforgaon-Tok Road. 3) Gafforgaon-Bhaluka-Shakipur Road.		
9	Tender package no.	04/EE/MRD/2004-2005.		
10	Tender package name	Package No. 1: Construction of flexible pavement, base type-1, carpeting & seal coat at 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> (P), 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> (P) km of Fulbaria-Sankibanga-Bagarbar Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005. Package No 2: Construction of base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work at 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> (P) & 48 <sup>th</sup> km of Mymensingh-Gafforgaon-Tok Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005. Package No 3: Construction of base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work at damaged pavement of 15 <sup>th</sup> (P), 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> (P) km of Gafforgaon-Bhaluka-Shakipur Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005.		
11	Tender publication date	17.11.2004.		
12	Tender last selling date & time	18.12.2004 during the office hours.		
13	Tender closing date and time	19.12.2004 at 12:00 Noon.		
14	Tender opening date and time	19.12.2004 at 3:00 PM.		
15	Name & address of the office(s)			
i) Selling tender document				
Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Bridge Design Division-1, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Sherpur/ Netrakona/ Kishoreganj/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh/Bhaluka/Phulpur/1 <sup>st</sup> Line Workshop.				
ii) Receiving tender document				
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh/Executive Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh Road Division, Mymensingh/Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh/Police Super, Mymensingh.				
iii) Opening tender document				
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh Road Division, Mymensingh.				
16	Eligibility of tenderer	All tenderers regardless of whether enlisted or not enlisted with the employer may submit tenders provided that they are otherwise qualified. The tender must fulfil the following criteria. <b>General qualifications documents:</b> a) Certificate issued by the competent authority stating: -- VAT registration -- TIN b) Attested copy of the trade licence and nationality certificate shall be submitted with the tender documents. <b>General construction experience:</b> Package No 1 Minimum Tk 40.00 lac, Package No 2 Minimum Tk 20.00 lac & Package No 3 Minimum Tk 20.00 lac of similar type of construction work in a single contract in the last 5 years preceding the date of submission of the tender. <b>Turnover:</b> Package No 1, Minimum Tk 9.00 crore, Package No 2 Minimum Tk 5.00 crore & Package No 3 Minimum Tk 5.00 crore average annual turnover in the last 5 years preceding the date of submission of the tender and incorporate the same in the tender document. <b>Financial capabilities:</b> Minimum required cash flow amount for Package No 1 Tk 6.00 crore, for Package No. 2 Tk 3.00 crore & for Package No 3 Tk 3.00 crore and incorporate the same in the tender document. <b>Equipment capabilities:</b> The tenderer shall own or have assured access through lease, hire, or other such method, of the essential equipment, in full working order: 1. Hot Mix Plant 2. Pneumatic Type Roller 3. Static Two Wheel Vibratic Steel Roller 4. Bitumen Spreader 5. Dump Truck 6. Pay Loader		
17	Brief description of works	Construction of flexible pavement, base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work.		
18	Price of tender document (Tk)	1) Package No. 1: Tk 3,000.00 (three thousand) only. 2) Package No. 2: Tk 3,000.00 (three thousand) only. 3) Package No. 3: Tk 2,000.00 (two thousand) only.		
Lot No (Package No)	Identification of lot (package)	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
1 (one)	Construction of flexible pavement, base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work of Fulbaria-Sankibanga-Bagarbar Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005.	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> (P), 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> (P) km	Tk 2.90 lac	2 (two) months
2 (two)	Construction of base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work of Mymensingh-Gafforgaon-Tok Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005.	22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> (P) & 48 <sup>th</sup> km	Tk 1.50 lac	-do-
3 (three)	Construction of base type-1, carpeting & seal coat work at damaged pavement of Gafforgaon-Bhaluka-Shakipur Road under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2004-2005.	15 <sup>th</sup> (P), 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> (P) km	Tk 1.45 lac	-do-
19	Name of official inviting tender	: Md Jalilur Rahman Prmanik.		
20	Designation of official inviting tender	: Executive Engineer, RHD.		
21	Address of official inviting tender	: Mymensingh Road Division, Mymensingh.		
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Tel: 091-54277		
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
Md Jalilur Rahman Prmanik Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Mymensingh				
DFF-27435-17/11/04 G-1139				