

34 killed in Afghan snowfalls

AFP, Herat, Afghanistan

Authorities said yesterday that at least 34 people had been killed in days of heavy snowfall across trouble-torn Afghanistan.

Hundreds of isolated communities were cut off after days of constant snowfall and rain blocking their roads to the major cities, authorities said.

Afghan health officials meanwhile have called on tens of thousands of health workers to stay on a state of alert.

In the worst incident, eight members of one family died when their mud-brick house collapsed under the weight of snow in western Herat province Monday night, Nooruddin Ahmadi, head of the Afghan Red Crescent in Herat, said.



Democratic presidential hopeful and New York Senator Hillary Clinton shakes hands with her supporters as she celebrates her victory in the state primary in New Hampshire yesterday.

Scotland Yard beefs up its team probing Benazir death

AFP, Islamabad

Scotland Yard has sent an explosives expert and two other detectives to Pakistan to beef up its team aiding the probe into the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, an official said yesterday.

The group included an expert in the type of explosives used in the gun and suicide bomb attack which killed Bhutto and nearly two dozen of her supporters after an election campaign rally in Rawalpindi on December 27, he said.

The first batch of British anti-terrorism detectives arrived last week following an invitation from President Pervez Musharraf, who had admitted Pakistani investigators had made mistakes in the initial probe of the murder.

Armed Pak tribesmen vow to hunt down militants

AFP, Wana, Pakistan

Thousands of armed tribesmen met in a remote Pakistani district yesterday vowing to organise a lashkar (legion) to hunt down al-Qaeda-linked militants blamed for killing eight of their kinsmen.

The tribal jirga (council) at Wana in South Waziristan bordering Afghanistan came three days after militants stormed two offices and killed eight tribal elders of a government-sponsored peace committee.

The council ordered tribesmen from every household belonging to the Wazir tribe to come to Wana with arms to prepare for action, a local official said.

"One man from each house should come to Wana with a gun at 10:00 am (0500 GMT) on Thursday to plan our defence and act against those who are responsible for disorder," tribal chief Malik Ghaffar told the gathering.

Wazir tribe chief Maulvi Nazir, who earned fame after he drove out hundreds of Uzbeks from the region last year in bloody clashes, is expected to address the lashkar on Thursday.

He did not turn up at Wednesday's meeting but had earlier blamed Baitullah Mehsud, a top al-Qaeda commander and leader of the rival Mehsud tribe, for the killing of the peace committee members.

Residents have reported that announcements have been made

on a public address system asking Mehsud tribesmen to "leave Wana to avoid losses."

Leader Mehsud is accused by the government of masterminding a spate of suicide attacks in the country, including the December 27 assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in a gun and suicide bomb attack in Rawalpindi.

Mehsud has denied any involvement in the killing. Local sources told AFP his tribe was preparing a jirga to negotiate with the Wazir tribe to avoid a confrontation.

Pakistan's tribal regions are a well-known hideout for Taliban and al-Qaeda militants who escaped there after US-led forces invaded Afghanistan in late 2001.

3 US soldiers killed in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Three US soldiers were killed when they were attacked with small arms fire while conducting operations in northern Iraq, the American military announced yesterday.

Two other soldiers were wounded in the attack, which occurred in Salahuddin province on Tuesday, a military statement said.

US commanders announced on Tuesday the launch of a joint US-Iraqi assault against al-Qaeda in Iraq, codenamed Operation Phantom Phoenix.

The location of the operation was not identified, but US commanders say al-Qaeda fighters have shifted to northern Iraq, especially Diyala, Salahuddin and Nineveh provinces, after being chased out of Baghdad by a "surge" of American forces.

White House warns Iran over naval incident

AFP, Jerusalem

The White House warned Iran yesterday over a weekend confrontation between Iranian speedboats and US warships in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

"I think the point that that shows is this was a very provocative act by the Iranians, and it could have -- and came very close to -- resulting in an altercation between our forces and their forces," National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley told reporters.

"And it's a warning to them: They've got to be very careful about this, because if it happens again, they are going to bear the consequences of that incident," he said.

"And we think the Iranians need to be on notice that they are fishing in troubled waters here."

"This is not -- this is a provocative act, not a smart thing to do, and they're going to have to take responsibility for the consequences if they do it again."

Nepal's Maoists slam PM over refusal to accept ex-guerillas in army

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoist leader slammed Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's refusal yesterday to accept former guerrillas in the army, calling it a threat to the nation's fragile peace process.

Koirala opposed integrating Maoist fighters into Nepal's army on the grounds that it would "politicise" the institution, state-owned media Rising Nepal reported yesterday.

"The army is the nation's wing and it should not be politicised," Koirala said.

"The Maoist army will not be integrated with the Nepal Army," he added.

As part of a peace deal in November 2006 that ended a decades-long civil war by the Maoists

to overthrow the monarchy, former rebel fighters have been housed in UN-monitored camps across the impoverished Himalayan country.

But just half of the Maoists' claimed 32,250-strong rebel army are actually former guerrillas, according to the UN, which was asked to count them under the peace deal.

"We're alarmed by the prime minister's remarks. It's a threat to the peace process," said Maoist chairman Prachanda in Kathmandu.

As part of a 23-point deal reached between the former rebels and government last month, both sides agreed to form a special committee to look into the integration of "verified" Maoist fighters into the army.

The Maoist chief said Koirala's comments were "against the spirit of the interim constitution and the peace accord".

"Such comments will only complicate the situation," Prachanda warned, adding it could derail assembly polls slated to be held by mid-April to elect a constituent assembly that will draft the country's new constitution.

The ultra-leftists quit the government in September in a row over the future of the monarchy and other issues but returned last month after lawmakers agreed to abolish the centuries-old institution and declare a republic.

However, King Gyanendra will remain on the throne for the time being as the deal between the Maoists and the government to make Nepal a republic will only be put into effect at the first meeting of a new constituent assembly.

Lanka steps up security for lawmakers

AFP, Colombo

Lokubandara said, adding that leaders of all political parties had discussed the issue Tuesday.

The year began with a gunman killing a minority Tamil lawmaker, T Maheswaran, while he was at a Hindu temple in the capital.

Minister Dassanayake and his bodyguard were killed in Tuesday's attack, which was followed by another powerful explosion in Colombo later Tuesday.

No one was hurt in the second blast, police said.

The killing of the minister came less than a week after a similar roadside bomb in Colombo killed five people. The authorities

blamed the Tigers for that attack.

Meanwhile, fighting escalated in the island's north, with the military claiming it killed 38 rebels and placing their losses at one soldier dead and eight injured during the past 24 hours that ended yesterday morning.

According to government figures, 138 rebels and seven soldiers have died in fighting since the start of the month -- although independent verification of casualty figures is rarely possible.

Journalists are not allowed into rebel-held areas. Both sides are known to make sharply varying casualty claims.

Japan PM urges opposition to back Afghan mission

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's embattled Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda yesterday urged the opposition to support resuming a naval mission backing the US-led "war on terror" ahead of a crucial parliamentary vote.

But the opposition refused to budge in the first formal parliamentary debate with Fukuda since he took power in September, saying the deployment violated Japan's pacifist constitution.

Japan in November ended the mission in the Indian Ocean providing refuelling support to coalition forces in Afghanistan after the opposition, which won one house of parliament last year, refused to extend legislation.

Parliament is widely expected to restart the mission soon as Fukuda's coalition still enjoys an

overwhelming majority in the more powerful lower house of parliament.

Japanese media reported Wednesday that the opposition-led upper house planned to reject the bill to restart the mission in a vote on Friday, with the lower house then expected to move immediately to pass it.

Fukuda, who is struggling in polls after a series of scandals, said the naval mission, Japan's main contribution to the "war on terror" launched after the September 11, 2001 attacks, benefited the international community.

"As a matter of principle, it is an international peacebuilding activity that is not defined as an exertion of military force," Fukuda said in a televised debate with opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa.



Pakistani protesters carry placards as they march to protest the detention of sacked chief justice of Supreme Court Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry during a rally in Islamabad yesterday. President Pervez Musharraf sacked Chaudhry and other judges when he imposed the state of emergency November 3, 2007.

Pakistan hits out at UN nuclear chief

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan rejected the UN nuclear chief's criticism of its atomic weapons yesterday, saying its arsenal would not fall into the hands of extremists and chiding his "irresponsible" remarks.

Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq told a weekly press briefing that Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should "be careful about his statements and ought to remain within his mandate."

"Pakistan is a responsible nuclear weapons state," he said.

"Our nuclear weapons are as secure as any other nuclear weapons

state. We therefore believe statements expressing concern about their safety and security are unwarranted and irresponsible."

The response followed ElBaradei's reported remarks to the pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat on Tuesday.

He was quoted as saying he feared "chaos... or an extremist regime could take root in that country, which has 30 to 40 warheads," and was "worried that nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of an extremist group in Pakistan or in Afghanistan."

There has been worldwide concern over the security of Pakistan's atomic arsenal since President Pervez Musharraf imposed a state of emergency in November, which was subsequently lifted.

Dhaka City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Sayedabad), Dhaka

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
Tender No. 06/2007-2008

Memo No: 07/EDZone-1/Tender/07-08 Date: 06/01/08

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as per Public Procurement Regulation-2003 as defined in the tender document for the undermentioned work as mentioned in the terms and conditions stated below.

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives.
2.	Agency	:	Dhaka City Corporation.
3.	Name of procuring entity	:	Executive Engineer, Zone-1, Dhaka City Corporation.
4.	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka.
5.	Procurement method	:	Open tendering method (OTM).
6.	Source of fund	:	GOB.
7.	Invitation for	:	Procurement of works.
8.	Invitation Ref No & date	:	07/EDZone-1/Tender/07-08, Date: 06/01/08
9.	Eligibility of tenderer	:	This invitation of tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below. a) The tenderer must have up-to-date in come tax clearance certificate. b) The tenderer must have up-to-date VAT registration certificate from NBR. c) The tenderer must have up-to-date trade license. d) The tenderer must have a minimum 3 (three) years of general experience. e) The tenderer shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover to an amount of Taka 97.00 lac during the last 3 (three) years. Necessary supporting documents shall be submitted along with the tender. f) The tenderer, must submit the experience certificate along with the tender for similar nature of work having a contract amount not less than Tk 29.00 lacs in a single contract during the last 3 (three) years. Completion certificate shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned department. g) The minimum tendering capacity of a tenderer must have Tk. 75.00 lac. h) The tenderer must submit a certificate for liquid assets or working capital, or credit facility or free fund having an amount of Tk. 19.00 lac for the contract period. Necessary papers shall be submitted from any schedule bank of Bangladesh. Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderer are shown in the tender data sheet of tender document.
10.	Tender publication date	:	Within 10/01/08.
11.	Project name	:	(01) Gas connection work for Cleaner Colony at Dayaganj, Dholpur & Sutrapur cleaner colony.
12.	Last selling date and time of tender document	:	January 29, 2008 during office hour.
13.	Tender closing date & time	:	January 30, 2008 up to 12.30pm
14.	Tender opening date & time	:	Tender will be opened on 30/01/08 at 2.00pm in the office of the undersigned and intending tenderers or their authorised representative may remain present during opening of tenders.
15.	Offer validity time	:	120 calendar day from the date of tender opening.
16.	Name & address of the office of selling tender documents	:	Office of the Executive Engineers, Zone-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, P&D Market, TED, Electrical 1, 2, Mechanical Division 1, 2, Accounts Department of Dhaka City Corporation.
17.	Name & address of the office receiving tender	:	Office of the Executive Engineers, Zone-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, P&D Market, TED, Electrical 1, 2, Mechanical Division 1, 2.
18.	Name & address of the office for opening tender	:	Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-1, Sayedabad, Dhaka City Corporation.
19.	Brief description of works	:	Earth work, earth filling, sand filling, soring, CC casting, gas pipeline, GI pipe, elbow socket, gas valve, service tee, elbow, nepele tee, wall estaaching, raiser box, regulator, drilling cost, welding rod, pipe fitting charge and others item.
20.	Brief description of related services	:	
21.	Identification of lot	:	Price of tender document in Taka (non-refundable) Tender security (in taka) Completion time (in days)
(01)	Gas connection work for Cleaner Colony at Dayaganj, Dholpur & Sutrapur Cleaner Colony	:	1000/- 1,60,000/- 120 days
22.	Special instruction	:	a) The tenderer shall duly fill in the form W-1 as per format given in the tender submission sheet (TSS) and form W-2 as per format given in the tender information sheet (TIS). b) Quoted rate to be written in figures and in words for each item of works in the bill of quantities (BOQ). c) Furnishing any false, misleading, incorrect documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action number Reg-15 of PPR-2003. d) The tenderer must sign all pages of tender document. e) The provision laid down in the PPR-2003, shall be strict compliance. f) In addition to the original tender two copies shall be submitted. g) This tender notice is brief and the details of the tenderer can be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours. h) The payment shall be made or availability of fund from GOB. i) Earnest money to be deposited along with the tender in the form of Pay Order, DD, BD from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of honorable Mayor DCC otherwise tender will not be considered as genuine.
23.	Name of official inviting tender	:	Ahmed Ali S F z a
24.	Designation of official inviting tender	:	Executive Engineer.
25.	Address of official inviting tender	:	Zone-1, Sayedabad, Dhaka City Corporation.
26.	Contact details of official inviting tenders	:	Phone: 7549398
27.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	:	

Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Sayedabad)
Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka
Phone: 7549398

DCC/PRO/204/07-08
GD-129



US President George W Bush (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert walk during a welcoming ceremony at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport yesterday.

SCHOLARSHIPS UNITED WORLD COLLEGES

United World College Society for Bangladesh invites applications for admission into the various UNITED WORLD COLLEGES (UWC) for TWO-YEAR International Baccalaureate course (IB) for the academic years 2008-2010. **Bangladeshi Nationals** born after 30th June, 1991 who have obtained at least 6 'A' grades out of 8 subjects passed, in the University of London 'O' Level exams or obtained at least 75% marks in aggregate or equivalent in the SSC exams from any Secondary Education Board of Bangladesh are eligible to apply.

Students whose 'O' Level or SSC examination results are awaited and expected to be available within August, 2008, may also apply, provided the concerned Principal / Head Master would certify that, based on previous school records, the candidate is most likely to obtain grades needed to qualify for this scholarship. However, final selection will depend on the published results.

Name of UWC	Description of Scholarships & other Expenses
UWC of the Atlantic, UK (ONE PLACE)	Parents to bear all expenses. For 2008-2009 approx. - Sterling £ 18,795. May be 5% increase in 2009-2010. PLUS air fare & out of pocket expenses, as required.
UWC of Mahindra, Pune, India (2 Scholarships)	50% Scholarships provided. Parents to bear approx. 1.Rs. 4,10,000/- per year, for 2 years. PLUS air fare, and out of pocket expenses Rs. 35,000/- & Project Weeks Rs. 14,000 per year & Caution Money of 1.Rs. 21,000/- which is refundable.
UWC of Waterford Kamhlaba, (Southern Africa) (ONE Scholarship)	(UWC of Waterford, classes start from Jan.2009) 25% scholarship provided. Parents to provide the remaining 75% cost (approx. Euro 8,250/- per year). Parents to pay Air Fare, Pocket expenses, medical costs etc. & separately for Holiday expenses approx. Euro 400/- per annum.
UWC of the Adriatic, Italy 5-Physics Scholarships	100% Scholarship to cover tuition and lodging, parents to provide return Air fare, pocket money, project week expenses and vacation expenses. Students must have gifted talent for Physics. Final selection will be made by UWC, Adriatic, Italy through world-wide competition.
UWC of the Adriatic, Italy 5-Music Scholarships	100% Scholarship to cover tuition and lodging, parents to provide return Air fare, pocket money, project week expenses and vacation expenses. Students must be musically gifted. The students must be pianists or string players e.g. violin, viola, cello. Final selection will be made by UWC, Adriatic, Italy through world-wide competition. Students must provide a video record of performance for evaluation in ITALY.
Simon Boliver UWC of Agriculture, Venezuela (ONE Scholarship)	65% Scholarship provided by College. Parents to bear 35% cost i.e. US\$ 4,620/- per year, for 3 years. Parents to pay Air Fare, Pocket money, Vacation, Legalization of documents expenses and Graduation Costs. This is a 3-year DIPLOMA COURSE in AGRICULTURE.

Boys and girls fulfilling above conditions, are requested to apply within 31st JANUARY 2008, in PRESCRIBED Application Form, available free of cost from receptionist of PETROCHEM (Bangladesh) Ltd., Priyo Prongon Tower (3rd Floor), 19, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani Commercial Area, Dhaka-1213.

UWC - Scholarship Advertisement 2008
Tel: 8821831 - 8825276

Courtesy: Bangladesh International Tutorial