

Israel locks down Gaza

UN appeals for lifting siege

AP, AFP, Jerusalem

Israel has ordered all border crossings into Gaza temporarily closed, further slashing the flow of vital supplies to the coastal strip in a bid to pressure its Hamas rulers to stop rocket attacks into Israeli towns, defence officials said yesterday.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak's decision was prompted by an escalation of rocket fire following an Israeli anti-rocket raid in Gaza that left 19 Palestinians dead Tuesday, including the son of a prominent Hamas leader.

It was not immediately clear which supplies would not be allowed into strip, said Defence Ministry spokesman Shlomo Dror. The territory, home to 1.4 million Palestinians, receives food and humanitarian supplies from Israel and aid organisations.

"It's time that Hamas decide to either fight or take care of its popu-

lation," Dror said. "It's unacceptable that people in (the southern Israeli town of) Sderot are living in fear every day and people in the Gaza Strip are living life as usual."

The tightening of the blockade could make life more difficult for Gaza's already impoverished residents. Palestinians have suffered shortages of some food, fuel, spare car parts, computer paper and other supplies since Israel imposed the siege after Hamas seized the territory in June.

Dror said Gazans had enough food that no one would go hungry and assured "there will not be a humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

The increasing violence has clouded Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, resumed after a Mideast conference in November sponsored by President Bush. The Israeli operations have drawn condemnations from moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who rules from

the West Bank and is Israel's partner in the peace negotiations.

The United Nations condemned Israel's order.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees on Friday appealed to Israel to lift its lockdown of Gaza and open crossings into the impoverished territory where most of the residents depend on food aid.

"It is imperative that these crossings are opened so that the dire situation in Gaza does not deteriorate further, inflicting further misery on one and half million people who live there," Christopher Gunness, the spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), told AFP.

"This can only lead to the deterioration of an already dire situation," said Christopher Gunness, a spokesman for UNRWA, the UN agency in charge of Palestinian refugees. Closing the crossings

"can only lead to the further radicalisation of a depressed and demoralised people."

He spoke a day after Israel imposed a shutdown of Gaza amid an escalation of violence around the territory where the Islamist Hamas violently seized power seven months ago.

The rocket attacks persisted Friday, with 10 falling in Israel, police said, including one that hit Ashkelon, a town of 120,000 people. No injuries were reported.

In retaliation, Israeli aircraft fired on rocket launchers in northern Gaza. Hamas security officials said two Palestinians were killed, a Hamas militant who had just fired rockets and a 17-year-old civilian who was apparently an onlooker.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said Barak's decision was "part of the ongoing Israeli escalation and aggression policy against our people."



Israeli military vehicles are seen during an incursion at Balata refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday. Israeli troops killed Ahmed Sanakrah, a local commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militant group early Friday and arrested three members of the same group, loosely linked to president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party.

Bhutan elections set for March 24

AP, Gwuahati

Bhutan will hold its first democratic elections in March, the latest step in the transformation of the Himalayan nation where Buddhist kings reigned supreme.

The secluded and mountainous country has long been known as a quirky holdout from modernity, letting in few visitors and banning television and smoking.

But much has changed in recent years, television, for example, was introduced in 1999 and the election announced Thursday is the latest step in Bhutan's transformation.

For the average Bhutanese, many of whom view the monarchy and its attachment to tradition with affection, the vote has been greeted with a mix of enthusiasm and foreboding.

When the country held mock elections last year, hundreds of thousands of voters flocked to the polls, excitedly casting the first ballots of their lives.



Pakistani Shia Muslims chant anti-government and anti-US slogans during a protest in Karachi yesterday against the suicide attack on a Shia mosque in Peshawar. A teenage suicide bomber killed eight people at a mosque and troops fought Islamist militants in Pakistan on Thursday as US lawmakers warned the country was descending into chaos.

Pak gunships kill 8 militants

AFP, Wana

Pakistani military gunship helicopters opened fire on two cars near a contested fort near the Afghan border, killing eight Islamist militants, the army said on Friday.

The incident happened on Thursday near a military outpost at Siplatoli in the troubled tribal region of South Waziristan, in the latest unrest to grip the US-allyed nation ahead of elections on February 18.

Local newspapers quoted a Pakistani Taliban spokesman as saying that Siplatoli fort had earlier fallen to the rebels, but the army denies the claim and says it is still

controlled by troops.

"Gunship helicopters engaged two cars in the vicinity of Siplatoli Fort. Reportedly, eight miscreants were killed," an army statement said.

"Media reports saying that Siplatoli has been taken over by miscreants are incorrect as Frontier Corps troops are still manning the fort."

Troops traded rocket and artillery fire with rebels early Friday for the second night in a row at another fort in the region, near the village of Ladha, but said there were no casualties or damage.

Hundreds of militants overran a third fort in South Waziristan, in the town of Sararogha, in the early

hours of Wednesday, leaving seven soldiers dead and 15 missing.

"The army says up to 50 insurgents also died and that they have vacated the building."

The area is said to be a stronghold of Baitullah Mehsud, a tribal warlord with alleged links to al-Qaeda who is accused by the government of masterminding the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

The unrest in the tribal belt, which is home to many militants who fled the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, has underlined US fears that its key ally in the "war on terror" is spiralling out of control.

Bush confrontational, says Iran president

AP, Cairo

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday that President Bush sent a "message of confrontation" during his recent Mideast trip.

Bush spent much of his visit to the region, which he wrapped up on Wednesday, rallying support among Arab allies for a strong stance against Iran, calling the country the world's top sponsor of terrorism.

"President George Bush sent a message to the Iranian people and all the nations worldwide," said Ahmadinejad during an interview in Farsi with Al-Jazeera television.

"This message reflects his own conceptions and it is a message of rift, a message of sowing the seeds of division. It is a message of confrontation demeaning the dignity of mankind."

The Iranian president said

Bush's statements were made for domestic political reasons.

"They are in need of these statements for their presidential race," said Ahmadinejad. "However, these statements increase the sentiment of resentment of the Iranian people against the US officials."

Ahmadinejad also lashed out at Israel, a key US ally in the Mideast, saying the country was "rapidly doomed to collapse."

"All these nations believe they (the Israelis) are a murderous group carrying arms and trying through threats to change their image," said Ahmadinejad.

Israel on Thursday successfully tested a new long-range missile, said senior defence officials speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the project. Israeli radio reports indicated the missiles are capable of being armed with nuclear warheads.

'N Korea unlikely to abandon nukes'

AFP, Washington

North Korea is unlikely to abandon its nuclear weapons before US President George W. Bush leaves office in January 2009, his special envoy said Thursday, calling for a revamp of six-party talks to end the crisis.

Jay Lefkowitz, special envoy for human rights in North Korea, also accused China and South Korea of not exerting enough pressure on North Korea during the talks that first began in 2003 to end

Pyeongyang's nuclear weapons drive.

"It is increasingly clear that North Korea will remain in its present nuclear status when the administration leaves office in one year," he told a forum in Washington.

Using unusually sharp words, he said North Korea "has not kept its word," was "not serious about disarming in a timely manner" and "its conduct does not appear to be that of a government that is willing to come in from the cold."

Tigers kill 10 civilians, says Lankan military

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military yesterday accused Tamil Tiger rebels of killing at least 10 civilians in the south as violence between the two sides escalates following the formal end of a ceasefire.

The army said 10 villagers died in several attacks, suggesting the rebels were extending operations from usual areas of activity in the north and around the capital Colombo.

The defence ministry said they found seven bodies in the Thanamalwila region after villages tipped off paramilitary policemen about the rebel presence on Thursday night.

The military said it also found the bodies of three villagers in the

same area.

"It is now believed that the terrorists had killed the civilians after forcibly taking them to a jungle patch," the ministry said, adding that the rebels laid anti-personnel mines to slow army pursuit.

"In pursuit for its ethnically pure homeland, the terrorists have butchered thousands of innocent civilians in similar night raids at civilian villages," the ministry said.

Fighting across the north and east also left at least nine rebels dead on Thursday, the defence ministry said, reporting no military losses.

Colombo claims it has killed 438 rebels since the start of the year against 20 soldiers killed. The figures cannot be independently

verified.

Both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the ethnic-Sinhalese Sri Lankan armed forces have been accused of killing civilians during the decades-old ethnic war that has left tens of thousands dead.

Earlier this week, suspected rebels set off a roadside bomb killing 27 villagers on a bus.

The pro-rebel website TamilNet said one civilian was killed and seven injured when Sri Lanka warplanes bombed the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi on Thursday, although the army said it hit a gathering of rebel leaders.

The killings came after a truce, signed by the LTTE and the government in 2002, officially ended at midnight on Wednesday.

Kenya opposition vows strikes, boycotts

AP, Nairobi

Their protests weakened by a harsh police crackdown, Kenya's opposition said yesterday it would turn to economic boycotts and strikes to keep up pressure against President Mwai Kibaki over his disputed re-election.

Opposition spokesman Salim Lone vowed protesters would take to the streets for a third and final day despite the tough response from police, who have dispersed rowdy


crowds with tear gas and bullets.

Next, the opposition will call for a "boycott of companies owned by hard-liners who are around Mr. Kibaki," including one of Kenya's biggest banks, a prominent bus company and a major dairy producer. Lone also said they would work with unions "to organise strikes in selected industries," Lone said. He declined to give details.

Kenya, one of Africa's most stable and prosperous nations,

exploded in violence after the Dec. 27 election, the tightest race in the country's history. Kibaki's main challenger, Raila Odinga, insists the president stole the vote, and international observers and the electoral chief have question the results.

The economy is already reeling from the unrest, which has kept away tourists who flock to the East African nation's primeval wildlife reserves, providing billions of dollars in revenue.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পাত গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
মানিক মিয়া এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২০৭

স্মারক নং-জেআরআই/প্র/বিবি-১২৬৫(২)/০৪/২২৬৫ তারিখ: ১৫/০১/০৮

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ পাত গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউটের জুট এন্ড টেক্সটাইল প্রোডাক্ট ডেভেলপমেন্ট সেন্টার এর রাজস্ব বাতে অস্থায়ীভাবে সজ্জিত নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদে অস্থায়ীভাবে নিয়োগের জন্য আত্মী ও প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

নং	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল	বয়স	প্রয়োজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১।	বয়লার মিস্ত্রি	০১টি	২৬০০-৮৮৭০/-	সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	৮ম শ্রেণী পাসসহ সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ শাখায় ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেট। (প্রধান বয়লার পরিদর্শক এর দপ্তর হতে বয়লার পরিচালনার লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে)।

শর্তাবলীঃ

- আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর/মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স (২৪-০১-২০০৮ইং তারিখে), জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম, অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখপূর্বক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার বিবরণ প্রদান করিতে হইবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সংগে প্রার্থীর সদ্য তোলা ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি ও সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সুল/সাময়িক সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর সভার চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র এবং ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।
- প্রাপ্ত সকল আবেদনপত্র পরীক্ষা এবং বাছাই এর পর কেবলমাত্র উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য ডাকা হইবে। তবে এ ব্যাপারে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হইবে না।
- চাকুরীতে প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র পৌছাইতে হইবে। এইক্ষেত্রে আবেদনপত্রের কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
- সংস্থাপন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২০-৬-২০০৫ইং তারিখের এসআরও নং-১৮৩-আইন/২০০৫/সম/বিবি-১/এস-৯/২০০০ সংখ্যক প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুযায়ী বিজ্ঞপ্তিপ্রাপ্তি এর সমাপ্ত জুট এন্ড টেক্সটাইল প্রোডাক্ট ডেভেলপমেন্ট সেন্টার (জেটিপিডি) প্রকল্পের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বেলায় বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।
- উল্লেখিত পদে নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত নিয়োগবিধি, শূন্যপদ পূরণ সংক্রান্ত সরকারের অপর্যাপ্ত বিধিবিধান, আদেশ এবং অন্যান্য আনুষ্ঠানিকতা অনুসরণ করা হইবে।
- আবেদনপত্র মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ পাত গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, মানিক মিয়া এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২০৭ বরাবরে আগামী ২৪-০১-২০০৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পৌছাইতে হইবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর (ডাকযোগে বা সরাসরি) কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।
- সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা হইতে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য) মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ পাত গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট এর অনুকূলে আবেদনপত্রের সংগে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এক্সেপ্টেশন গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
- যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আবেদনপত্র বাতিল/স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
বাংলাদেশ পাত গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

জিডি-২৮১



PHOTO: AP

Omar Osama bin Laden, right, and his British wife Jane Felix-Brown, now known as Zaina Alsabah, 52, are seen during an interview with the Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt on January 11. The 26-year-old son of the al-Qaeda leader does not renounce his father in an interview with The Associated Press, but says there is a better way to defend Islam: Omar wants to be an 'ambassador for peace' between Muslims and the West.

Laden son wants to be peace activist

AP, Cairo

Omar Osama bin Laden bears a striking resemblance to his notorious father except for the dreadlocks that dangle halfway down his back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket.

The 26-year-old does not renounce his father, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, but in an interview with The Associated Press, he said there is better way to defend Islam than militancy: Omar wants to be an "ambassador for peace" between Muslims and the West.

Omar one of bin Laden's 19 children raised a tabloid storm last year when he married a 52-year-old British woman, Jane Felix-Brown, who took the name Zaina Alsabah. Now the couple say they want to be advocates, planning a 3,000-mile horse race across North Africa to draw attention to the cause of peace.

"It's about changing the ideas of the Western mind. A lot of people think Arabs especially the bin Ladens, especially the sons of Osama are all terrorists. This is not the truth," Omar told the AP last week at a cafe in a Cairo shopping mall.

Of course, many may have a hard time getting their mind around the idea of "bin Laden: peacenik."

"Omar thinks he can be a negotiator," said Alsabah, who is trying to bring her husband to Britain. "He's one of the only people who can do this in the world."

Omar lived with the al-Qaeda leader in Sudan, then moved with him to Afghanistan in 1996.

There, Omar says he trained at an al-Qaeda camp but in 2000 he decided there must be another way and he left his father, returning to his homeland of Saudi Arabia.

"I don't want to be in that situation to just fight. I like to find another way and this other way may be like we do now, talking," he said in English.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Meteorological Department
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

International Tender Notice

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.
2.	Agency/Office	Bangladesh Meteorological Department.
3.	Procuring entity name	Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department.
4.	Procuring entity code	N/A
5.	Procuring entity district	N/A
6.	Invitation for	Meteorological Instrument/Balloon.
7.	Budget and source of funds	GOB, 2007-2008 year.
8.	Description of tender	
	Sl No.	Tender No.
		Description of Items
		Value of tender schedule (non-refundable)
		Earnest money (refundable)
-	Lot 1	IP-1(3)/RS/2007-08
-	Lot 2	IP-1(3)/RSBL/2007-08
-	Lot 3	IP-1(3)/E.Anemo/2007-08
-	Lot 4	IP-1(3)/E.Anemo/2007-08
-	Lot 5	IP-1(3)/E.Anemo/2007-08
-	Lot 6	IP-1(3)/BL-30/2007-08
09.	Tender last selling date	
10.	Tender closing date and time	
11.	Tender opening date and time	
12.	Place of selling tender document	
13.	Place of dropping tender	
14.	General terms and conditions and detail specification of equipment will be available in the tender schedule.	
15.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Shamsul Islam Sarker
Asstt. Director
For Director
Phone: 9117436 (Off)

GD-268