# INTERNATIONAL

# IAEA board divided over Iran nuclear dossier

Ahmadinejad rejects talks outside UN watchdog

AFP, Vienna, Tehran

Divisions persisted within the UN world powers on Monday urged EU atomic watchdog over the Iran nuclear dossier Wednesday, a day after a Western push for an anti-Iran resolution was scuppered by Russia, China and developing standoff with the West. countries.

International Atomic Energy debated Iran on the third day of its regular March meeting as the last news agency IRNA. major topic on the agenda.

On Tuesday, European countries had drafted an anti-Iran resolution which they wanted to put to Agency (IAEA) and in the framethe IAEA board.

after its opponents argued it was superfluous following Monday's UN Security Council decision to tion to the third set of UN Security step up sanctions against Tehran.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday rejected holding talks outside the UN atomic watchdog over Iran's nuclear programme, after the Security Council tightened sanctions against Tehran.

His comments came after six foreign policy chief Javier Solana to resume talks with Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili to break the deadlock in the four-year nuclear

The board of governors of the anyone with regard to its nuclear issue," Ahmadinejad said after a cabinet meeting, according to state

"From now on, the nuclear issue of Iran will be only in the International Atomic Energy work of mutual commitments and But the text was finally ditched nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), "he added.

> Ahmadinejad, in his first reac-Council sanctions against Tehran, described the measures as "invalid" and vowed that Iran would press on with its contested nuclear drive.

While the European Union and Tehran's disputed nuclear activities. the United States expressed concern over Tehran's refusal to heed UN

resolutions and suspend sensitive nuclear work, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) hailed Iran's progress in clearing up key questions about its disputed atomic drive.

"The EU remains seriously concerned that despite more than four years of intense efforts, the "Iran will not negotiate with IAEA is still not in a position to activities, ElBaradei said. determine the full nature of Iran's nuclear programme," said the Slovenian envoy Ernest Petric.

US Ambassador Gregory Schulte agreed.

"Iran's leaders say that they do not have a nuclear weapons programme. To give the world confidence that this is true, we call on them to fully disclose past and present activities.

remains open.

The so-called work plan agreed between the IAEA and Iran last autumn was a timetable for resolving all outstanding questions on

In a recent report, IAEA chief IAEA Mohammed ElBaradei

asserted that most of the issues were indeed "no longer outstanding". Nevertheless, Iran still had to address allegations it was involved in covert nuclear weapons work. And until it did so, the agency could not determine once and for all the peaceful nature of Iran's atomic

The idea of a separate IAEA resolution had been to turn up the pressure on Iran to clear up allegations of purported nuclear weap-

The UN resolution passed in New York gives Iran three months to comply with UN and IAEA demands to suspend uranium enrichment and reprocessing to help restore international confi-"Until then, Iran's nuclear file dence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme or face new sanctions.

> It includes an outright ban on travel by officials involved in Tehran's nuclear and missile programs, and broadens a list of individuals and entities subject to an assets freeze.



US soldiers with A company 4th Battallion 9th Infantry Regiment 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team guard an Iraqi prisoner Wednesday after guns, hoods and crush wires and dozens of IDs were found hidden in his house. The A company detained several people during a raid dubbed operation "Able Fortress" in the old city of Baguba.

### US-Iran talks on Iraq today

AFP, Tehran

Iranian and US officials will hold their fourth round of talks on security in Iraq in Baghdad today, the ISNA news agency quoted the head of Iran's delegation Reza Amiri Moghaddam as saying.

"Based on an agreement with the Iraqi government, the fourth round of tripartite negotiations on Iraqi security will be held on Thursday with delegations from Iran, Iraq and the United States," the agency quoted him as saying.

ISNA said the Iranian delegation arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday, adding that the talks with be at the level of "experts" -- meaning the discussions would not involve the two foes' ambassadors.

The announcement comes after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad held talks with Iraqi leaders earlier this week in a historic trip that was the first by an Iranian president to the country.

Iran and the United States held three rounds of talks about Iraq last year despite mounting tensions over the Iranian nuclear programme. The two foes have had no diplomatic relations since 1980.

The fact that such talks took place at all, given the acrimonious history between the two, was hailed as a landmark event.

# Comeback kid John McCain captures Republican crown

AFP, Dallas

John McCain capped one of the greatest comebacks in US political history to clinch the Republican presidential nomination, and come out firing against his eventual Democratic rival.

McCain swept the four states contested by the Republicans Tuesday -- Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island and Vermont -- to move past the 1,191 delegates needed for the nomination and force his rival Mike Huckabee out of the race.

"I am very pleased to note that tonight, my friends, we have won enough delegates to claim with confidence, humility and a sense of great responsibility that I will be the Republican nominee for president of the United States," McCain

told a victory rally in Dallas late Tuesday.

It ended months of uncertainty in the once muddled Republican race, which at one point had some eight candidates all chasing the

And it's another chapter in the nomination. larger-than-life story of the 71-yearold Vietnam war veteran who has

an effort to restructure our military, our intelligence, our diplomacy and all relevant branches of government to combat Islamic extremism, encourage the vast majority of moderates to win the battle for the soul of Islam, and meet the many other rising challenges in this changing world,

It capped a remarkable turn

around in his political fortunes. As McCain declared victory Tuesday, his supporters celebrated next to a huge board bearing the number of 1,191 -- the magic total of delegates needed to secure the

But he still has a hard battle ahead to convince conservative more than once defied the odds. voters that he is the man to take "The next president must lead over from Republican President

George W. Bush. McCain was due to meet with Bush at the White House on Wednesday.In an interview last month with Fox News, Bush said: "I think that if John is the nominee, he has got some convincing to do to convince people that he is a solid conservative, and I'll be glad to help him if he is the nominee.'

## Pakistani to die for attack on US consulate

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani court Wednesday sentenced an Islamic militant to death over a 2006 suicide bombing outside the US consulate in Karachi, which killed a US diplomat and three other people, lawyers said.

Anwarul Haq was convicted by an anti-terrorism court in the southern port city on four counts in connection with the attack on March 2, 2006 -- the eve of a visit to Pakistan by US President George W.

"The court found the suspect guilty in the incident and sentenced him to death on four counts," public prosecutor Naimat Ali Randhawa told AFP.

The court also sentenced Haq to 85 years imprisonment and fined him 1.5 million rupees (24,193 dollars) in connection with the 25 people who were wounded in the blast.

Another suspect, Usman Ghani, was cleared of all charges, Randhawa said, adding that the prosecution planned to appeal.

## Several Taliban killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Afghan and international troops killed several Taliban militants and discovered three car bombs in rebel caves in southern Afghanistan, the US-led coalition saidWednesday.

The insurgents were slain after a failed attempt to ambush the Afghan and international forces at the weekend near Gereshk, a troubled region in the southern province of Helmand, the coalition said in a statement.

It did not say how many were

The troops had been patrolling in the restive area when they came under attack from machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The soldiers cornered the rebels and used "precision munitions" to kill them, the coalition said.

Helmand is perhaps the most troubled region of Afghanistan. It also produces most of Afghanistan's opium, which in part funds the insurgency.

# 8 detained in Pakistan bomb probe

AP, Lahore

Police detained eight alleged Islamic militants after a suicide attack on a navy college, the latest in a wave of bombings to rattle Pakistan after elections, an official saidWednesday.

Members of outlawed Sunni Muslim militant organizations were detained in separate raids hours after Tuesday's bombing, said Chaudhry Masood Aziz, chief of the police anti-terrorism unit in the eastern city of Lahore.

The men have been picked up "in an attempt to find any clue to identify the bombers or people involved in the attack," Aziz said. None of them was a suspect, he

Police said two bombers rode on a motorcycle to the gate of the parking lot at the Pakistan Navy War College. The passenger dismounted and destroyed the gate, allowing his accomplice to ride inside and unleash a much more

# CHITTAGONG STOCK EXCHANGE LTD.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE) is inviting applications from professionals for the following positions:

#### Deputy Chief Executive Officer

The incumbent should have at least 12 (twelve) years hands on experience in capital market with relevant position. Masters or PhD degree holder preferably in Economics/ Business Administration/ Finance/ Law from a reputed university at home or abroad is highly desirable. The incumbent should be innovative, self motivated and capable of executing policy matters by assisting CEO. Based in Dhaka, the incumbent will keep liaison with different stakeholders like Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Member firms of CSE and various Government Agencies. The compensation package will commensurate with experience and other qualities.

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The incumbent should directly work with the CEO. This typical secretarial position demands at least Bachelor's degree in any discipline and excellent computer literacy specially in Microsoft Office with good type writing speed. (S)he should have be tidy person who can keep confidentiality and obviously should have good communication skill specially should be able to fluently speak both in Bangla and English. Experience in Multi National Company in the same position shall be preferred.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with their CV alongwith a recent photograph, relevant supportings and mark the desire post in the envelope by 20th March, 2008 to the following postal address:

The Chief Executive Officer

Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. CSE Building, 1080 SK. Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

# Turkey strikes northern Iraq

AFP, Arbil

Turkish warplanes and artillery fired on targets inside the Kurdish region of northern Iraq on Wednesday, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

If confirmed, it would be the first such strike by the Turkish military since it pulled out its troops from northern Iraq last Friday after a week-long incursion that came under fire from the government in Baghdad.

Turkish army chief Yasar Buyukanit had said on Monday that the military would launch further strikes on Kurdish rebels if need be, and rejected suggestions that last week's incursion was cut short by US pressure.

### Hijacker shot in China after taking foreign hostages

AFP, Beijing

A hijacker armed with explosives took a group of Australian tourists and a translator hostage in China on Wednesday before police shot and killed him, an Australian embassy official and Chinese media reported.

Initially 10 Australians were taken hostage on a tourist bus in the city of Xi'an in northwest China but nine were released soon after, Janaline Oh, spokeswoman for the Australian Embassy in Beijing, told

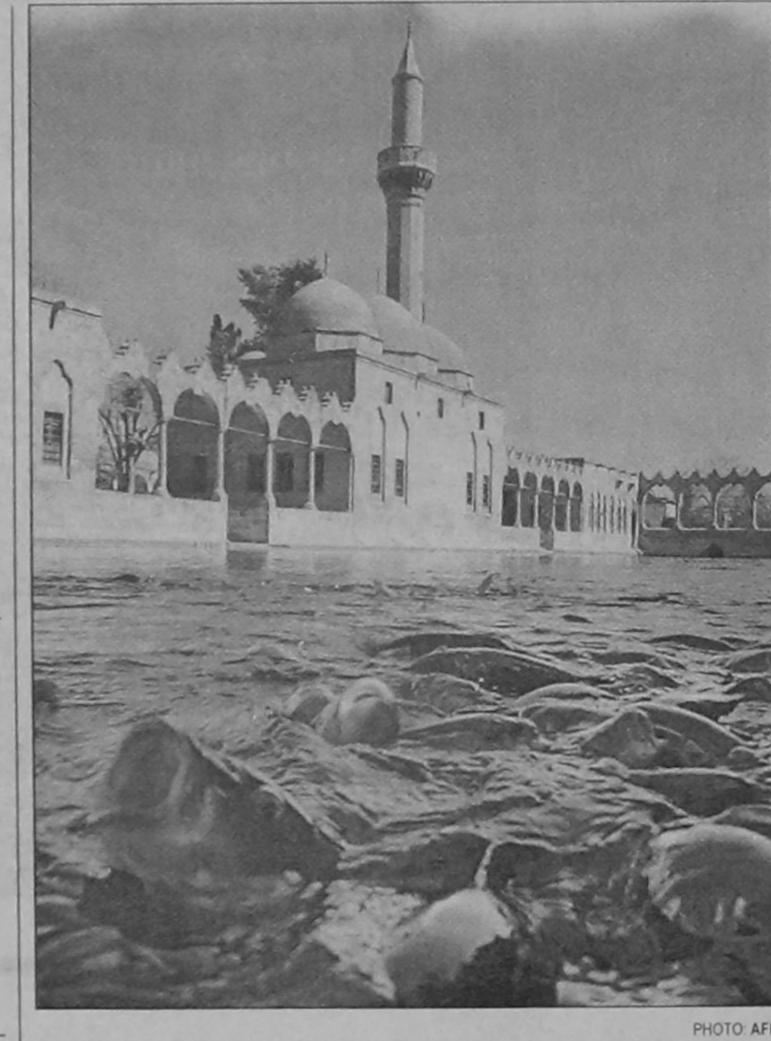
## 2 killed, 5 hurt in Kashmir grenade blast

AFP, Srinagar

Two people, one a woman, were killed in a grenade explosion inside their house in revolt-hit Indian Kashmir, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

The blast took place late Tuesday in Reshinagar area, 50 kilometres south of the summer capital Srinagar, the spokesman said, adding five other people were seriously hurt.

"It is being ascertained whether the grenade was hurled from outside or if those inside were fiddling withit "be said



Fish cluster, waiting for people to feed them Wednesday in Turkey's southeastern city of Sanliurfa. According to both the Holy Quran and the Bible it is the alleged birthplace of Abraham before his migration to Canaan, now Palestine. The local Muslim legend differs in that it includes the intervention of a cruel King, Nimrod, who had Abraham launched from a catapult from the city's citadel into a pile of burning wood. However, "Almighty intervened", and turned the fire to water and the faggots to fish. Today, visitors can visit the mosque complex surrounding Abraham's Cave and The Pool of Sacred Fish (Balikligöl) around it.

# Malaysian polls will be 'dirtiest ever,' warn activists

AFP, AP, Kuala Lumpur

group said Wednesday it fears group's deputy Asia director, said Malaysians will not get a fair vote in in a statement. "Malaysia's ruling this week's general elections coalition is too comfortable with because of an uneven playing field the status quo to allow reforms that favoring the ruling National Front would level the playing field."

New York-based Human Rights Abdul Aziz denied the allegations, Watch urged Malaysia to eradicate accusing Human Rights Watch of bias from the electoral process. trying to discredit the elections Opposition and activist groups say because "they know the National the process is rife with irregularities including government control of the media, restraint on opposition rallies and names of dead people on voting registration lists.

"Once again, elections in Malaysia are grossly unfair to the An international human rights opposition," Elaine Pearson, the Malaysian Law Minister Nazri

> Front will win." "To me, Human Rights Watch is biased. They are not important at all. It's only their opinion," Nazri told The Associated Press.

powerful blast.