

'New Iraq' seeks Arab support at conference

Neighbours urged to write off debt, reopen embassies

AFP, Kuwait City

Iraq, backed by the United States, urged its Sunni Arab neighbours yesterday to offer diplomatic and economic support to a "new Iraq" that promotes national unity and ends sectarian divisions.

In a speech apparently aimed at dispelling their suspicions, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told a conference of Iraq's neighbours and world powers in Kuwait: "I am carrying the message of all constituents that Iraq has overcome its crisis and divisions and the will of its people has been united."

"Our hands are still extended to all who believe in building an Iraq in which religious, ethnic and party freedoms are respected," Maliki said.

"The new Iraq is not the Iraq of the past which instigated disputes and launched wars against other nations," he said.

At the same time, Maliki appealed to the Sunni-led Arab states to help stabilise Iraq by living up to pledges to forgive his country's debt, wiping clean war reparations, and reopening embassies in Baghdad.

The bill of debt and compensation Iraq is paying is causing a

heavy damage to our infrastructure and national economy," Maliki said.

"We are still waiting for implementing pledges and commitments made to waive loans and compensation," said the Iraqi premier.

Since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Iraq's Sunni leader Saddam Hussein, its Arab neighbours have been wary not only about violence there but also about backing a government tilted toward non-Arab Shia Iran.

Maliki complained that decisions made at two previous conferences of foreign ministers have not been implemented, especially the reopening of embassies by Gulf Arab nations in his war-torn country.

"It is very difficult to find a reasonable explanation for not resuming diplomatic relations with Iraq at ambassador level. There had been pledges but they have not materialised," he said.

Since a surprise visit to Baghdad on Sunday, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has been urging Arab states in meetings in Bahrain and now in Kuwait City to throw their support behind a new "non-sectarian" Iraq.



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari (L) talks with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki during the opening session of a ministerial conference on Iraq in Kuwait City yesterday. Iraq, backed by the United States, urged its Sunni Arab neighbours Tuesday to offer diplomatic and economic support to a "new Iraq" that promotes national unity and ends sectarian divisions.

Israeli soldiers kill 3 Palestinian militants

AFP, Gaza City

Israeli troops killed three Palestinian militants in overnight clashes in the northern Gaza Strip Tuesday after fighters attacked a military position near the border, the armed groups said.

The armed wing of Islamic Jihad and another smaller group claimed to have attacked an Israeli intelligence post in a joint statement identifying the dead as Othman Abu Hajar, 19, Fadi Salem, 20, and Ibrahim Mahmud Shalash, 19.

Palestinian medics confirmed that three people were killed in the area but said they had not yet received permission to retrieve the bodies.

An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the incident, saying that the three tried to launch an attack near the border before an air strike killed one of the men and Israeli ground troops killed the other two.

Alien but primitive life likely, says Hawking

AP, Washington

Famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking has been thinking a lot about the cosmic question, "Are we alone?" The answer is probably not, he says.

If there is life elsewhere in the universe, Hawking asks why haven't we stumbled onto some alien broadcasts in space, maybe something like "alien quiz shows?"

Hawking's comments were part of a lecture at George

Washington University on Monday in honour of NASA's 50th anniversary. He theorised that there are possible answers to whether there is extraterrestrial life.

One option is that there likely isn't life elsewhere. Or maybe there is intelligent life elsewhere, but when it gets smart enough to send signals into space, it also is smart enough to make destructive nuclear weapons.

Hawking said he prefers the third option:

"Primitive life is very common and intelligent life is fairly rare," he then quickly added: "Some would say it has yet to occur on earth."

So should you worry about aliens? Alien abduction claims come from "weirdos" and are unlikely. However, because alien life might not have DNA like us, Hawking warned: "Watch out if you would meet an alien. You could be infected with a disease with which you have no resistance."

Nepali politics parties face power-sharing dilemma

THE KATHMANDU POST/ ANN, Kathmandu

As the largest party in the constituent assembly but without a majority, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) is certain to lead a coalition government. What is uncertain, however, is what sort of coalition it would be and how power will be shared among the major parties.

One thing is sure—negotiations on the formation of the coalition government are not going to be plain sailing.

The second and third largest parties in the constituent assembly—Nepali Congress (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal—United Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML)—are almost evenly split on whether or not they should join a coalition led by the Maoists. Though the CPN-UML has decided to pull out of the present government, Jhala Nath Khanal, who may possibly become the next CPN-UML general secretary, said the party hasn't decided to stay out of the new government.

The NC and the CPN-UML face three critical issues before they decide to join or stay out of the next government.

a. What is the mandate of the CA poll?

b. Whether staying out of the government would be seen by the public as not being sincere about the peace process and as an attempt to get the Maoist-led government into trouble from day one?

c. Will abstention from the government pave the way for a Maoist dictatorship for years to come, if the reds are so inclined?

Tackling these issues isn't easy. Almost all NC and CPN-UML leaders agree that the mandate of the constituent assembly poll is against their participation in the new government. "The people's mandate for us is to stay out of the government but the party will decide taking into account all the factors," said Mahesh Acharya, central committee member of the NC. There is already growing pressure from the rank and file of these parties to withdraw from the gov-

ernment. Many party cadres, still licking their wounds, wish to see the Maoists running into trouble after forming a minority government.

But the parties are bound by the interim constitution and their own election manifestos to work together till a new constitution is drafted. A senior NC leader who is a minister in the current coalition government argued that their main responsibility is to draft a new constitution. "If the NC and CPN-UML stay out of the new government, inter-party animosity will grow, making it impossible to draft a new constitution and hold the next election on time," he said.

Should that happen, argued this politician, "people will blame not just the Maoists but also us for failing to take the peace process to a logical conclusion."

It is this fear of public sentiment going against them and a strong voice within the parties that giving the Maoists sole control of the government might lead to authoritarianism for years to come that may eventually trip the balance in favour of joining the new government.

In that case, the NC and CPN-UML leaders want constitutional and political checks and balance against an executive led by the Maoists. "If the Maoists want us to join the government, they should be ready to amend the constitution whereby a simple majority of the constituent assembly can remove the prime minister," said Gagan Thapa, youth leader of the NC. Another NC leader said the Maoists should be ready to give the post of prime minister or head of state to the other parties.

And that is what the Maoists want to avoid at all cost. In an interview with The Kathmandu Post, Maoist chairman Prachanda said they were against creating 'parallel power centres'. He said allocating the posts of PM and Head of State to different parties could create divided loyalty among the security forces and the international players. "We think it will only complicate the transition," he said.

IAEA presses Iran on weapons claims

AFP, Tehran

A top UN nuclear official was holding a second day of closed-door talks in Tehran yesterday seeking answers from Iran over claims it has studied how to design nuclear weapons.

Olli Heinonen, the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) deputy director general, went into talks with Iranian officials mid-morning Tuesday after a first round on Monday, the state broadcaster reported.

No information has filtered out on the contents of the discussions so far and not even photographs or video footage of the meetings have been released.

Heinonen's two-day visit is aimed at pressing Iran over claims it has carried out so-called "weaponisation studies", the Vienna-based watchdog has said.

The deputy head of Iran's atomic energy organisation Mohammad

Saeedi and its ambassador to the IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh led the Iranian delegation at Tuesday's talks as they had on Monday, the student ISNA news agency reported.

Official media reports before the talks had said that deputy national security chief Javad Vaeedi would lead the Iranian delegation but, as on the previous day, he was not present on Tuesday.

No reason was given for Vaeedi's absence.

In a sign of the sensitivity of the talks, Iran's leading hardline daily Kayhan launched a withering personal onslaught against Heinonen and his intentions on Monday.

"This trip is to complete a joint Israeli-US trick to provide phony proof on Iran's nuclear activities," said an editorial signed by chief editor Hossein Shariatmadari, who is appointed by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In a closed-door briefing to diplomats at IAEA headquarters in

Vienna on February 25, Heinonen presented detailed evidence suggesting that Iran could have been studying how to use its nuclear technology to make a warhead.

Some of the information is reported to have come from IAEA member states, including data from a laptop computer smuggled out of Tehran in an operation by Western intelligence in 2004.

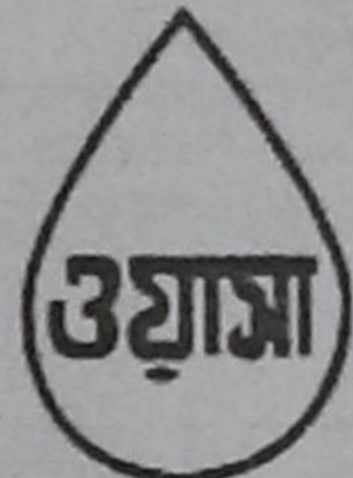
Western diplomats present at the meeting subsequently said the new evidence of alleged "weaponisation studies" was troubling.

Iran, which insists its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and aimed solely at generating energy, at the time furiously denounced the claims as fake.

Iran's refusal to suspend sensitive uranium enrichment operations -- which the West fears could be used to make a nuclear weapon -- has already led to three sets of UN Security Council sanctions against Tehran.



Professor Stephen Hawking (L) and his daughter Lucy Hawking (R) give a lecture entitled 'Why We Should Go Into Space' during the 50 Years of NASA lecture series at George Washington University in Washington, DC on Monday.



ঢাকা ওয়াসার পানি সরবরাহ, পর্যাৱনিকশন ও ড্রেনেজ সেবা

সকল অভিযোগ কেন্দ্র

দিবারাত্র খোলা রয়েছে

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ওয়াসার পানি সরবরাহ, পর্যাৱনিকশন অথবা ড্রেনেজ সেবা সম্পর্কিত যে কোন অভিযোগ জানানোর জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহক সাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ঢাকা ওয়াসার আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ে বিনামূল্যে অভিযোগ কেন্দ্র দিবারাত্র খোলা রাখা হয়েছে। সম্মানিত গ্রাহক সাধারণের যে কোন অভিযোগ পাওয়া মাত্র তৎক্ষণিকভাবে ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ঢাকা ওয়াসার এটি আঞ্চলিক অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রের অবস্থান ও টেলিফোন নম্বর নিম্নরূপ:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| ➤ মডস জোন-১, জোন-৭ | : ফকিরাপুর সীল ট্যাংক কম্পাউন্ড | ☎ ৯৩৫৬৯৫৭ |
| ➤ মডস জোন-২ | : ওয়াটার ওয়ার্কস কম্পাউন্ড, চান্দনী ঘাট | ☎ ৭৩১২৫৮৯ |
| ➤ মডস জোন-৩ | : লালমাটিয়া সীল ট্যাংক কম্পাউন্ড | ☎ ৮১২০২০৫ |
| ➤ মডস জোন-৪, জোন ১০ | : মিরপুর বাংলা কলেজ সংলগ্ন | ☎ ৯০০৮৮২২ |
| ➤ মডস জোন-৫; জোন-৮, জোন-৯ | : মহাখালী টি.বি. গেইট | ☎ ৯৮৯৯৩৪০ |
| ➤ মডস জোন-৬ | : ফকিরাপুর সীল ট্যাংক কম্পাউন্ড | ☎ ৯৩৫৮৬১৫ |
| ➤ নারায়ণগঞ্জ পানি সরবরাহ বিভাগ | : গোদানাইল | ☎ ৭৬৩০৫২৮ |
| ➤ উত্তরা ওয়াসার অফিস | : সেক্টর-৬, আজমপুর | ☎ ৮৯১৭৪৯২ |

- এছাড়াও সিস্টেম অপারেশন এন্ড কন্ট্রোল (এসওসি) বিভাগের টেলিফোন (☎ ৯৩৫৮১১২) সারা বছর ২৪ ঘণ্টা খোলা থাকে। প্রয়োজনে যে কোন অভিযোগ/সমস্যা এসওসি বিভাগকে জানান।
- বিশেষ কারণে বা কোন বিশেষ অনুরোধের জন্য পানির প্রয়োজন হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন অফিস অথবা এসওসি বিভাগকে জানান। তারা গাভীর মাধ্যমে পানি সরবরাহ করবে।

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ঢাকা ওয়াসার

১৯৭৬-১৯৭৭

Vacancy

- 1. Assistant Officer (Lab): 01 post**

Qualification: B. Sc. in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Electronics/ Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) or any relevant discipline, having relevant experience for minimum 3-4 years in maintenance of Computer Laboratories in any large organization. Proficiency in verbal and written English is necessary. An excellent computer skill is a must.

Monthly Salary: TK.10,850/- (including 40% house rent allowance on basic pay, dearness allowance and medical allowance of TK. 500/-) in the scale of TK. 6,900-690-17,300/-
- 2. Assistant Officer (PABX Maintenance): 01 post**

Qualification: Minimum science graduate having relevant experience for minimum 3-4 years in maintenance of telephone and PABX system in any large organization. Proficiency in verbal and written English is necessary. An excellent computer skill is a must.

Monthly Salary: TK.10,850/- (including 40% house rent allowance on basic pay, dearness allowance and medical allowance of TK. 500/-) in the scale of TK. 6,900-690-17,300/-

Age (for both positions): not over 35 years.

Other Benefits (for both positions): Provident Fund, Gratuity, Festival bonuses, group insurance, in-house free medical consultation etc.

The position sought must be clearly stated on the envelope. Only short-listed candidates will be called for tests and interview. Please apply giving detailed CV with a pass port size photograph and copies of all certificates and testimonials by 8 May 2008 to:

Director (Administration)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213

NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

B A N G L A D E S H

Admission : Summer 2008

| Programs of Study | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| BBA | BA (Hons) in Eng |
| MBA | MA in Eng (Prel+Final) |
| MBM | MA in EIT, MA in EL & EIT |
| B Pharm | LLB (Hons) |
| CSE, ECE | LLB 2-Year |
| MPH | LLM 1-Year & 2-Year |

Admission Requirements:

Bachelor's Programs: Minimum 2nd Divisions or GPA 2.5 in both SSC and HSC or equivalent examinations or 'O' Level in five subjects and 'A' Level in two subjects with minimum 'C' grade in each.

Master's Programs: At least a Bachelor's Degree relevant to the Master's Program.

Last date of Application
April 30, 2008

Why Northern?

1. More than 150 full-time faculty members with proven teaching & research experience at home & abroad.
2. Well-stocked library with total collection around 90,000 books.
3. State-of-the-art computer lab with more than 600 work stations with Internet facilities.

Financial Assistance:

1. NUB provides tuition fee waiver up to 100% based on the result of SSC & HSC examinations.
2. Sibling would get 25% waiver on tuition fees of each student.
3. Merit scholarship is based on the semester final results.
4. Generous financial assistance is also available for poor and meritorious students from IBAT Trust.

For more information please contact:
 Main Campus: 01191426301, 01191426302, 01191426303-14
 9667237-40, Ext. 0, 301-304, 9128122, 9134729, 8153437-39
 Ext. 108/109/110, 8152736-7, Ext. 0/202, Fax: 9135562
 Khulna Campus: 041-813844, 01191426318, 01191426319-20
 Rajshahi Campus: 0721-751529, 01191426315, 01191426316-17
 e-mail: info@nub.ac.bd web: www.nub.ac.bd