



Investigators collect evidence at the suicide attack site in Islamabad yesterday a day after the deadly suicide bombing. Pakistani investigators sifted through evidence on Monday in the wake of a suicide bombing that killed 19 people near a protest marking the anniversary of a bloody raid on the radical Red Mosque.

Iran will not renounce nuclear rights

Says Ahmadinejad

AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday bluntly rejected as "repetitive" calls for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, as world powers reviewed its response to an offer to end the five-year nuclear crisis.

Ahmadinejad's defiant remarks were the latest sign Tehran's response contains no suggestion it is ready to suspend uranium enrichment activities, which world

powers fear could be used to make a nuclear weapon.

"It is a repetitive scenario," the state news agency IRNA quoted Ahmadinejad as saying in an interview with Malaysian television from Kuala Lumpur where he is to attend the summit of the D8 group of developing nations.

"On one side they (world powers) ask to negotiate and on the other they threaten and say that we must give in to their illegal demands and renounce our

rights," he added.

His comments come days after Iran gave an undisclosed response to the package from six world powers to break the deadlock in the nuclear standoff, which has raised fears of regional conflict and sent oil prices spiralling.

The proposal from the world powers offers Iran technological incentives in exchange for suspending uranium enrichment, which the West fears could be used to make a nuclear weapon.

Bush, Medvedev clash on missile defence

AFP, Tokyo

US President George W. Bush praised Russian President Dmitry Medvedev Monday as a "smart guy" who means what he says, even as they clashed on US missile defence plans.

The two leaders, holding their first face-to-face meeting since Medvedev took the reins from Vladimir Putin in May, also highlighted their cooperation in diplomatic efforts to resolve nuclear disputes with Iran and North Korea.

"There are topics on which we are making progress, such as Iran and North Korea, but there are topics on which we diverge, such as the missile shield and European matters, but there are possibilities for agreement," said Medvedev at the meeting on the fringes of a summit of rich nations in Japan.

"While there's some areas of

disagreement, there's also areas where I know we can work together for the common good," said the US president. "I found him to be a smart guy who understood the issues very well."

"Iran is an area where Russia and the United States have worked closely in the past and will continue to work closely to convince the regime to give up its desire to enrich uranium," he added.

Seven years after Bush declared he had looked into Putin's eyes at their first meeting, seen his soul, and deemed him trustworthy, the US president declined to offer a similar assessment of the new Russian leader.

"I'm not going to sit here and psychoanalyse the man, but I will tell you that he's very comfortable, he's confident," said Bush. "You may not agree with what he tells you, but at least you know it's what he believes."

21 dead in China coal mine accident

AFP, Beijing

An accident in a northern Chinese coalmine has left 21 miners dead, state press reported Monday, citing a local provincial mining bureau.

The cause was not immediately clear but miners were first reported trapped in the mine in one of China's prime coal producing areas on Saturday morning, the China News Service said.

Twenty-one were confirmed dead in the mine in Datong city, Shanxi province, while 11 others either escaped themselves or were rescued, it said.

According to the China Daily, preliminary investigations showed that either a gas blast or a spontaneous ignition were the likely causes of the accident.

Victims suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning, it said.

Four die in Abkhazia cafe explosion

AFP, Moscow

Four people died and six were wounded late Sunday when an explosion rocked a cafe in Georgia's pro-Russian separatist province of Abkhazia, Interfax news agency reported Monday.

A local official quoted by the agency said "a local security official and a local resident" died on the spot while two other people including a translator working for a UN mission in Abkhazia succumbed to their wounds in hospital.

An inquiry was opened, he added.

The leader of the separatists in Abkhazia, Sergei Bagapsh, accused Tbilisi of having organised the "bombing" in the Gal region, declaring: "This attack confirms once again that Georgia has taken the road of state terrorism."

Iraq demands pullout timetable in talks with US on defence pact

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said yesterday that he is negotiating a deal with Washington that will provide for only a short-term US troop presence beyond this year and will also set a timetable for a full withdrawal.

It was the first time that Iraq had made a pullout deadline a condition for a promised new agreement with the United States setting the basis for a troop presence into 2009.

"The direction we are taking is to have a memorandum of understanding either for the departure of the forces or to have a timetable for their withdrawal," a statement from Maliki's office quoted him as telling Arab ambassadors to the

United Arab Emirates. "The negotiations are still continuing with the American side, but in any case the basis for the agreement will be respect for the sovereignty of Iraq," he added.

It was the first time that the Shia prime minister had specifically demanded a timetable for a US withdrawal, something that President George W. Bush has repeatedly refused to set.

Bush and Maliki agreed in principle last November to sign a Status of Forces Agreement in Iraq by the end of July to set the basis for a US troop presence beyond December this year when the UN mandate runs out.

But discussions appeared to be deadlocked last month amid

strong opposition from Iraqi politicians both Sunni and Shia, with some Shia leaders denouncing the proposed agreement as "eternal slavery."

Shia radical leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who has a broad popular base among the Shia poor in cities across central and southern Iraq, has been particularly outspoken in his demands for a US withdrawal timetable.

Iraqi politicians have not only bristled at the duration of any continuing defence pact with the United States. They have also expressed reservations about how many bases Washington should retain, what powers the US military should continue to hold to detain Iraqi civilians, and what immunity

US troops should have from US law.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari has said that Washington has agreed to one key demand from Baghdad, the scrapping of immunity from prosecution in Iraq of the tens of thousands of foreign security contractors operating in the country.

Since the 2003 invasion, foreign security firms have operated virtually outside the law, neither subject to the Iraq legal system nor to US military tribunals -- an exemption, which has been a persistent source of outrage to ordinary Iraqis.

Last Wednesday, Zebari said if the new US security pact were not finalised by July 31, there were two options for Iraq.

Hamas to hold talks on fragile Gaza truce

AFP, Gaza City

A Hamas delegation is to visit Egypt yesterday for talks on a fragile two-week-old truce deal with Israel in and around the Gaza Strip, the Islamist movement said.

"On this visit, the delegation will look at a number of issues, including the truce, the extent of Israeli compliance with it and the violations we have registered on its part," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhum told reporters.

Since the Egyptian-brokered agreement came into effect Palestinian militants have fired a number of rockets and mortar rounds into southern Israel,

although the overall level of violence in and around Gaza has dropped substantially.

Palestinian and UN officials have meanwhile accused Israeli troops of firing into Gaza, although the army says it has fired only warning shots at people approaching the border fence.

On Monday, a mortar round launched from northern Gaza struck inside Israeli territory near the Karni border crossing, the Israeli army said.

Hamas insists its fighters are adhering to the truce and says it is doing its best to crack down on individuals and smaller armed groups who violate it.

Bush slams Zimbabwe polls as G8 steps up pressure

AFP, Tokyo

US President George W. Bush said Monday he was "extremely disappointed" with Zimbabwe's "sham" election, as world leaders rapped up pressure on President Robert Mugabe to restore democracy.

"I care deeply about the people of Zimbabwe, I am extremely disappointed in the election, which I labelled a sham election," Bush said on the sidelines of a summit of rich nations at this mountain resort in northern Japan.

Mugabe's re-election on June 27

has been widely criticised. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who won the first round but fell short of a majority, pulled out of the contest, citing a campaign of violence and intimidation.

"We have made clear, I have made very clear, that the result of the election is not legitimate," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters.

Germany "does not exclude more sanctions" against Zimbabwe, she added.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Zimbabwe's parties to

restore the "rule of law" and said he would take up the crisis with African leaders.

Ban, speaking to AFP on the plane taking him to the Group of Eight (G8) summit, said last month's election giving Mugabe a sixth term lacked legitimacy.

"Therefore I urged that political parties in Zimbabwe should work out an arrangement so that they can really bring back democratic rules, the rule of law and peace and stability in their country," Ban said in the interview.

EU close to deal on new immigration guidelines

AFP, Cannes

EU interior ministers pushed Monday for a rapid agreement on new guidelines for controlling immigration, rejecting concerns that the plan would create a fortress Europe.

"It is a good proposal for a common position for everybody," said Czech Interior Minister Ivan Langer as he arrived for informal EU talks in the French Riviera resort city of Cannes.

The "European Pact on Immigration and Asylum" sets out principles for the EU to manage migration, fight illegal immigration and help development in poor countries that people are leaving or travelling through to get to Europe.

France, which took over the bloc's rotating presidency on July 1, wants to have the guidelines wrapped up by October, so they can be endorsed by EU leaders.

"I hope that even today we will be able to reach a political agreement on this pact that could be finalised during the French presidency," said Greek Interior Minister Prokopis

Pavlopoulos.

"It is a plan, a framework for immigration policy that is absolutely necessary for Europe and for the rest of the world," he said.

Even Spain, which has put up most resistance to the pact and forced France to remove "integration contracts" making immigrants learn the language of their new home, said the document now largely respects its system.

"We are satisfied, we believe that this recognises the major part of our model of immigration," said Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba.

Others insisted that the 27 nations were not erecting ever higher walls even though Europe has had to increase security on its borders with the outside world, in exchange for passport-free travel inside.

"I can't see any walls around Europe," said German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble. "There are six million illegal immigrants in Europe. We have to fight illegal immigration and supervise legal migration."



Anti-government protesters shout slogans during a demonstration in front of the National police headquarters in Bangkok yesterday. More than 2,000 people from the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) gathered in front of National police headquarters demanding that police stop supporting ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Bangladesh Cricket Board

Management Office: Navana Tower (5th Floor), 45, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Ph: +880 2 9888956/9890530

Ref No: BCB/2008-09/ **Quotation Notice** Dated: 08/07/2008

QUOTATIONS FROM LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIERS

Sealed Quotations are invited from the Bonafide Suppliers/ Manufacturers/ Sole Agents/ Distributors/ Shops/ Wholesalers for supplying the following items for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

- Group A : Cricket Ball [Senior Balls[156gms] & Junior Balls[135gms]
- Group B : Cricket Gear Senior & Junior [Cricket Bats, Cricket Helmets, Batting Gloves, Wicket Keeping Pads, Wicket Keeping Gloves]
- Group C : Bowling Machines [Jugs Cricket Bowling Machine with Power Pack or BOLA Professional Bowling Machine with Power Pack]
- Group D : Bowling Machine balls [Jugs Dimple Balls or BOLA Bowling Machine Balls]
- Group E : Energy Sports Drinks [Gatorade] Group F : Kookaburra Cricket Balls [Match] Red and White Group G : Kookaburra Cricket Balls [Reject] Red and White [Practice Balls]
- Group H : Cricket Training Equipments Pugg Portable goals, base ball gloves, thera bands, skins, ice box, drink mixture drums, fitness balls, scales, speed ladders, measuring tape, skin fold clippers, medicine ball, football, rugby ball, stop watch, plastic stumps, catching machines etc. Recovery garments.

The following documents must be submitted with the quotation document:

- Valid Trade License (Mandatory), VAT Registration Certificate and TIN Certificate.
- Experience/performance certificate along with a list of present customers with telephone number.
- Sole Agency/Dealership/Distributorship certificate and their price list of products (if any).
- Name of the Proprietor/Partner/Managing Director / CEO and the Key Person with Business Address, Telephone/ Fax number/E-mail (if any) must be enclosed with the application.

Other Information:

If you are interested in quoting for the above, application along with all supporting be sent with a covering letter addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board Management Office, Navana Tower (5th Floor), 45 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 OR email on or before 24th July 2008 to ceo@bcb-cricket.com The Closing date for receipt of the quotations by post is 24th July 2008 or Last time for dropping the quotation at the BCB Management Office is 3:00 pm on 24th July 2008. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all applications partially or wholly at any stage of the Enlistment process without assigning any reason whatsoever Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board

TENDER FOR HIRING OF SECURITY SERVICE AND CLEANING SERVICE

July 08, 2008

Sealed quotations are invited subject to the General Terms & Conditions of the Centre from reputed firms having at least 5 years experience with proven records of providing high quality:

01. Security services 02. Cleaning services

to large organizations including UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and international organizations.

Tender should be submitted duly signed by appropriate authority along with company profile detailing background, experience, financial strength, management strength, size of establishment and network, recruitment policy, training facilities for staffs, supervision style of employee, welfare scheme for employees, inspection policies and procedures for security and cleaning tools, equipment in use, performance certificates and any other relevant information and documents.

ONLY FOR SECURITY SERVICE

Applications received will be scrutinized based on the pre-qualification criterion and only short listed applicants will be provided 2 hours walkthrough to ICDDR,B site to assess security service needs and to formulate a comprehensive security plan based on the assessed risks and threat levels.

Based on the security need assessment, security service providers will make a presentation on the proposed security plan outlining various aspects only for Dhaka.

Cash section of ICDDR,B finance office will sell tender document for security service and cleaning service up to July 22, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on all working days. Interested bidders have to pay cash Tk. 1,000 (non-refundable) for each type of tender document.

Tender should be dropped in the box kept in procurement office on July 23, 2008 within 11.00 a.m. Tender will be opened at 11.15 a.m. on the same day in presence of representative of firms if any.

ICDDR,B management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender bids without assigning any reasons, whatsoever.

Senior Manager,
Procurement & Materials
ICDDR,B

SOUTH ASIA INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Sena Kalyan Bhaban (8th Floor) 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

CREDIT RATING REPORT

Long Term Rating	BB-1
Short Term Rating	ST-4
Date of Rating	27th May, 2008

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB) has assigned BB-1 rating in the long term and ST-4 in the short term to South Asia Insurance Co. Ltd for the year 2007.

The Rating Broadly Indicates :

- Average Safety cohort. Companies are adjudged to have average financial and moderate claim paying ability. Adequate capacity for timely repayment of obligations.
- In the year 2007 company achieved 14% growth in underwriting profit and 10% growth in total asset.
- The Company has its strength in liquidity position and solvency. Current asset to current liability in 2007 was 2.57 times.
- The Company's required Solvency is 6.91 but available solvency is 65.90.
- The Company's solvency ratio is 9.53 times of required solvency.

মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Mercantile Bank Limited

General Services Division, Head Office
61 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited from the bonafide firms for purchase of **83 (eighty three) units Brand (DELL/HP/IBM) Computer and 83 (eighty three) units 1000VA Offline UPS with 15 minutes backup and 04 (four) units Canon LBP1210 Laser Beam Printer** for our Bank as per terms and conditions mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

- Tender schedule will be available from General Services Division, Head Office, 61, Dilkusha C/A, (7th floor), Dhaka from 10.00 am. to 3.00 pm. on all working days between 09.07.2008 to 16.07.2008 on cash payment of **Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred)** only (non-refundable).
- Tender documents to be dropped on **24th July, 2008 till 3.00 P.M.** in the Tender box kept in the General Services Division, Head Office, 61, Dilkusha C/A, (7th floor), Dhaka and shall be opened at **3.30 PM on the same date** at the same place in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives if any remain present.
- Tender is to be submitted in sealed cover as mentioned in the schedule.
- Earnest money equivalent to 2.5% of the total quoted amount must be submitted and attached with the Tender in the form of Payment Order issued by any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh favouring "Mercantile Bank Limited".
- The bidder may quote either for computers or ups or printers or all of them.
- The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or part of it without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Bank is not bound under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.

Senior Vice President
Head of General Services Division