

# Boycotts overshadow start of racism conference

Europeans walk out as Iranian president speaks on Israel

AFP, Geneva

Western nations boycotted a UN-organised racism conference yesterday over fears it would become a forum for anti-semitism as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad prepared to deliver a keynote address.

United Nations chief Ban Ki-Moon decried the Western boycotts as the list of absentees lengthened and other European nations threatened to walk out.

The diplomatic fallout meanwhile spread as Israel recalled its ambassador in protest at the Swiss president's decision to meet Ahmadinejad -- the Iranian's first formal meeting with a Western head of state since taking office in 2005.

"Some nations, who by rights should be helping to forge a path to a better future, are not here," Ban said as he

opened the meeting in Geneva, telling delegates he was "profoundly disappointed."

"I deeply regret that some have chosen to stand aside," he added before holding his own meeting with Ahmadinejad.

Poland became the latest nation to boycott the meeting after the United States, Israel, Canada, Australia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

France decided to attend the event but warned that Europeans would walk out if Ahmadinejad made "anti-Semitic accusations" during the event.

Delegates from several European states attending the UN conference on racism walked out as Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke about Israel on Monday.

Ahmadinejad was about 10 minutes

into his speech when several diplomats, including the French ambassador and at least half a dozen other people exited as he referred to a "racist" government, in a clear reference to Israel.

At least three protesters in multicoloured wigs chanting "racist, racist" in French were bundled out of the conference hall earlier as Ahmadinejad began his speech, including one who approached the podium.

The Iranian's president's speech was marked by more catcalls from the non-governmental organisation, as well as some applause, but the response was more muted among about 100 countries attending.

Ahmadinejad has caused outrage both within Israel and other Western nations over his previous comments that the Nazi Holocaust was a "myth" and the Jewish state should be "wiped off the map".



PHOTO AFP  
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (L) and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay (C) watch a show presented by South African dancers at the opening of a five-day UN review conference on racism yesterday at the UN Offices in Geneva.

CIA waterboarded 9/11 mastermind 183 times

AFP, Washington

CIA interrogators waterboarded al-Qaeda's September 11 attack mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed 183 times and another terror suspect, Abu Zubaydah, 83 times, The New York Times reported yesterday.

Citing a 2005 Justice Department legal memorandum, the newspaper said the agency used the simulated drowning technique on the two al-Qaeda operatives far more than had been previously reported.

The report recalls that in 2007, former CIA officer John Kiriakou told media organisations that Abu Zubaydah had undergone waterboarding for only 35 seconds before agreeing to tell everything he knew.

## N Korea could restart nuke plants, says UN

AP, Seoul

North Korea could restart its nuclear facilities within months, the chief of the UN nuclear watchdog warned yesterday, but added he was optimistic that negotiations on halting Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions could be revived.

North Korea kicked out all international monitors of its nuclear facilities last week after vowing to quit six-nation disarmament talks and restart its atomic programme in anger over the UN Security Council's criticism of its April 5 rocket launch.

Pyongyang says the UN

rebuke is unfair because the liftoff was a satellite launch under its peaceful space programme. But the US and others say nothing entered orbit and that the launch was really a test of long-range missile technology in violation of a UN resolution banning the North from any ballistic activity.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed El-Baradei said in Beijing on Monday it could be a question of months when asked how soon North Korea could restart its nuclear facilities a move that could yield weapons-grade plutonium.

## Big budget on cards

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Development expenditure in the next budget might be Tk 30,500 crore which is Tk 25,600 crore in the current budget.

Finance ministry sources said in the next budget the new pay scale, about to be recommended by the pay commission, will be implemented in phases. Budgetary allocation for salaries and allowances of government staff will increase substantially.

Due to the global economic recession there is a plan to keep more stimulus packages in the next year's budget than this year's. The stimulus package in the current fiscal is

Tk 3,424 crore, which might go up to Tk 5,000 crore to Tk 6,000 crore in the next budget, depending on the local fallout of the global recession.

Government expenditure for poverty elimination and social safety nets will also increase. The finance minister said on Sunday that allocation for Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) will increase from 2.25 lakh metric ton to 5.54 lakh metric ton in the next budget. Test Relief (TR) will be raised from 2 lakh metric ton to 3.66 lakh metric ton.

and 100-day Employment Generation Programme will also be implemented in a larger scale resulting in more allocation for it too.

Usually 60 percent of the revenue expenditure goes to meet the pay and allowances of government staff, interest payments, and salaries and allowances of the staff of non-government educational institutions, despite an increase in allocations for subsidies and social safety nets.

Those expenditures are also likely to see an increase in the next budget due to a probable increase in government borrowing and a probable hike in salaries and allowances in general.

Finance and planning adviser to a former caretaker government and a former chairman of the Public Expenditure Review Commission M Hafizuddin Khan said, "Our budget is passed year after year in a traditional way, and the spending is also done in the same fashion." The parliamentary discussions on budgets also lack any constructive discourse, he added.

Khan said, however big a budget might be, to get a good result from it, basic changes are necessary in the process of its formulation and implementation.

He said parliamentary standing committees should discuss in detail the budgetary allocations for ministries, and allocations for projects should be determined on the basis of the discussions, to ensure quality.

Moreover, the parliament should discuss expenditures by the ministries and the problems in implementing the projects in detail every three months, he added saying, under the medium term budgetary framework several ministries have been given separate budgets over the last few years, but no good result from those ministries is visible.

He also said the government should review the rec-

## HC issues rule on govt

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During the hearing of the rule.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Momtaz Uddin Mujibur Rahman made declaration of independence on March 26, 1971. In addition, it was said in the petition that it was recognised in the Proclamation of Independence published on April 10, 1971.

Eight high government officials including the secretaries of the cabinet division, the president's secretariat and the office of the prime minister have been made respondents in the rule.

Dr Salam filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) on April 19.

He stated in the petition that the set of books -- History

of Bangladesh War of Liberation -- published in November 1982 had stated that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made declaration of independence on March 26, 1971. In addition, it was said in the petition that it was recognised in the Proclamation of Independence published on April 10, 1971.

Subsequently the volume was reprinted in December 2003 and was published in June 2004 by the then BNP-led four-party alliance government to say that Major Ziaur Rahman made the declaration of independence on March 26, 1971.

During the hearing of the

petition on April 19, petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzil Mursid told the court that those responsible for distorting the national history had committed offence against the state and violated the Constitution.

The court assigned senior lawyer M Amir-Ul Islam who was involved in drafting the Proclamation of Independence, and Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim as amicus curiae (friend of court) to make submissions on the issue.

They told the court the Proclamation of Independence, which has been protected by Article 150, is part of the constitution and it cannot be changed.

## High-rise buildings

FROM PAGE 16

building's ownership company said, "We have not put any fire fighting mechanisms yet, as the building is under construction."

All the floors of Jabbar Tower are built and a number of signboards have been hung to rent out space.

During a visit to the 20-story Silver Tower Silver Line Group near Gulshan intersection, a female employee of its corporate office said that fire fighting system in this building means hydrant points and a couple of extinguisher cylinders.

"But none of us know how to operate them or what to do in the event of a fire," she said.

An office boy of a private company on the tower's 14th floor said, "I do not know whether the hydrant points work at all, because we have never done any fire exercise in last six years."

Silver Line's executive director MI Chowdhury could not be

contacted despite repeated attempts, as the receptionist at the group's corporate office refused to provide any contact. She instead kept The Daily Star's phone numbers to convey the message to Chowdhury. A day after, she asked what it meant, she hung up the phone.

Eminent structural engineer and BNBC expert Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said that workable measures and regular drill are must for fire safety.

AKM Nasrul Minallah, assistant vice-president of Pragati Insurance Limited at the company's 16-story building in Karwan Bazar, said though they have hydrant boxes and extinguishers they are not in a good condition.

"We have never so far arranged any fire drill of the users at the building commissioned in 2001," he said.

The narrow emergency exit at

## গণআন্তর্বান

### গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সম্মতি (২০-২৬ এপ্রিল) ২০০৯

নিরক্ষরতা আর দারিদ্র্য থেকে আমরা চাই মুক্তি, আর সেই মুক্তির প্রধান হাতিয়ার হলো শিক্ষা

এই মুক্তির লক্ষ্যে গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সম্মতি আয়োজিত সকল অনুষ্ঠানে সর্বস্তরের জনগণকে অংশ নেওয়ার জন্য আমরা আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি। আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি, নিরক্ষরতা দূরীকরণে এক সাথে কাজ করার জন্য। আসুন, এবারের প্রতিপাদ্যের সাথে একাত্তরা ঘোষণা করে মিলিত কর্তৃত আওয়াজ তুলি:

### দিন বদলের সন্দ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য চাই

### যুব ও বয়স্ক সাক্ষরতা এবং জীবনব্যাপী শিক্ষা

বাংলাদেশে ২০ এপ্রিল ২০০৯ থেকে শুরু হওয়া সম্মতি উদয়াপন উপলক্ষে গীহীত বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচির মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হচ্ছে 'বৃহৎ পঠন' (The Big Read)। শিক্ষা বিষয়ে সচেতনতা বাড়াতে এবং সাক্ষর হওয়ার জন্য উদ্বৃক্ত করতে ২২ এপ্রিল ২০০৯ বুধবার এই 'বৃহৎ পঠন' কর্মসূচিতে অংশগ্রহণ করবেন দেশের প্রতিথেশ্বর ব্যক্তিবর্গ। কেন্দ্রীয় শহীদ মিনারসহ দেশের বিভিন্ন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থানে উদয়াপিত হবে এই পঠন কর্মসূচি। এ ছাড়া অন্যান্য কর্মসূচির মধ্যে রয়েছে সংবাদ সম্মেলন, গ্লোবাল মিনিটরিং রিপোর্ট বিষয়ে আলোচনা, শিক্ষামেলা, সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান, স্বাক্ষর সংগ্রহ অভিযান, জাতীয় পরামর্শ সভা, পোস্টার, স্টিকার ও লিফলেট বিতরণ প্রভৃতি।

সবার জন্য মানসম্মত শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করণে আমাদের দাবি

● যুব ও বয়স্ক সাক্ষরতা নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে বৈশ্ব্য সংক্রান্ত জাতিসংঘ সনদের আলোকে সাংবিধানিক অঙ্গীকার বাস্তবায়ন

● শিক্ষা বাজেট বাড়ানো এবং ধার্য বাজেট যুব ও বয়স্ক সাক্ষরতা এবং জীবনব্যাপী শিক্ষার উন্নয়নে ব্যবাধি

● সাক্ষরতা এবং মানসম্মত শিক্ষা বিষয়ে সেষ্টের ও অঞ্চলিকভিত্তিক পরিকল্পনা গ্রাহণ

● আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার পাশাপাশি উপনূর্ণানিক শিক্ষার ওপর সমান গুরুত্বান্বেশ এবং জন্য বেসরকারি উন্নয়ন সংস্থাগুলোর অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি

● নারী, কর্মজীবী শিশু-কিশোর, পথশিশু, পরিচয়হীন শিশু এবং চর ও হাওর এলাকা, দুর্গম ও বিচ্ছিন্ন এলাকা (যেমন, ছিটমহল), পতিতালয়, জেলে সম্প্রদায়, অনাথ ও ভবসূরে আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রের শিশুদের জন্য মানসম্মত আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার সুযোগ সৃষ্টি

● গণসাক্ষরতা অভিযান  
৫/১৮ হৃষ্ণুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭  
ই-মেইল: info@campebd.org ওয়েবসাইট: www.campebd.org

Job title	Manager/Assistant Manager - Sales
Educational Certification	MBA in any discipline from any reputed university, (Marketing preferred)
Professional Certification	➤ Certification in Network product [related to LAN & WAN] is preferred.
Experience Requirements	➤ At least 3-5 years sales experience preferably in Computer hardware, Networking & Data Center related products.
Job Responsibilities	➤ Able to play an important role as a team member in achieving sales targets ➤ Ability to deal with the existing and potential customers with positive attitude. ➤ Sell IT related products ➤ Set strategies for market penetration. ➤ Handle corporate clients and manage key client relationships.
Job Title	Assistant Manager - Technical Sales
Educational Certification</	