

Libya seeks transfer of Lockerbie bomber

AFP, Edinburgh

Libyan authorities have applied for the man convicted over the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing to be transferred from his prison in Scotland to Libya, the Scottish government said yesterday.

The request for former Libyan agent Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi's transfer could take three months or more to process, a spokesman said, while a spokesman for victims' relatives said he would support the move.

"The application will be considered by officials who will provide information and advice to Scottish ministers for decision on this matter," said the Scottish government spokesman.

"Under the terms of the agreement this process may take 90 days although it could be longer if further information is required in relation to the application, or for another reason."



An Iraqi youth looks at a destroyed vehicle caught in the blast of a car bomb at a wholesale produce market near a mixed neighbourhood of Dura in southern Baghdad yesterday.

Car bomb kills 11 in Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

A car bomb exploded yesterday at the entrance to a fruit and vegetable market in south Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding about 30, police and hospital officials said, in the latest sign of rise in attacks.

The blast, which occurred about 7:00 am local time at the Rasheed market in the city's southern Dora area, follows a sharp increase in violence in Iraq last month, raising concern that militants have regrouped after suffering sharp setbacks in fighting over the last two years.

Most of the recent bombings have taken place in Shiite areas, suggesting Sunni militants such as al-Qaida in Iraq are responsible. The Rasheed market is in a mainly Sunni area but the farmers who bring their crops there are predominantly Shiites.

Some survivors of the blast complained that security forces were too lax in search-

ing trucks used by farmers to bring produce to the market.

"The security personnel are not searching the farmers who bring their vegetables to the market," survivor Raad Hussein told Associated Press Television News. "They search only private cars."

Kamil Lahmoud, a Shiite farmer from Mahmoudiya, said he had just sold his produce and was inside an office collecting his money when the blast happened.

"I was injured slightly in my head and left hand," he said. "I went out and saw many people covered with blood and bodies scattered everywhere."

Police and hospital officials confirmed the attack and the casualty toll but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information.

Despite the rise in attacks, the Iraqi government has ruled out asking US combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal.

Gates touts strength of US-Saudi ties

AFP, Riyadh

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates yesterday reassured nervous Saudis over a possible warming of US relations with Riyadh's regional rival Tehran, stressing Washington's strong ties with the kingdom.

"The relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia has been one of the mainstays of stability in the Middle East for more than 60 years," he said at the Eskin Village military base outside the Saudi capital.

"Saudi Arabia continues to be an important partner for the US in counter-terrorism and a range of other issues."

Gates said Washington was also looking at ways of speeding up the delivery of arms to Saudi Arabia and other US allies.

He was speaking to US military personnel and civilian advisers to Saudi security forces on the final day of a two-day trip to the country, the world's leading oil exporter and a key American regional ally.

On Tuesday he met top officials on the second stop of a regional trip partly aimed at assuaging worries that Washington was preparing a "grand bargain" with Tehran that would move it away from Arab powers Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

After meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Tuesday, Gates said

Washington would proceed carefully and that no Iran deal was imminent.

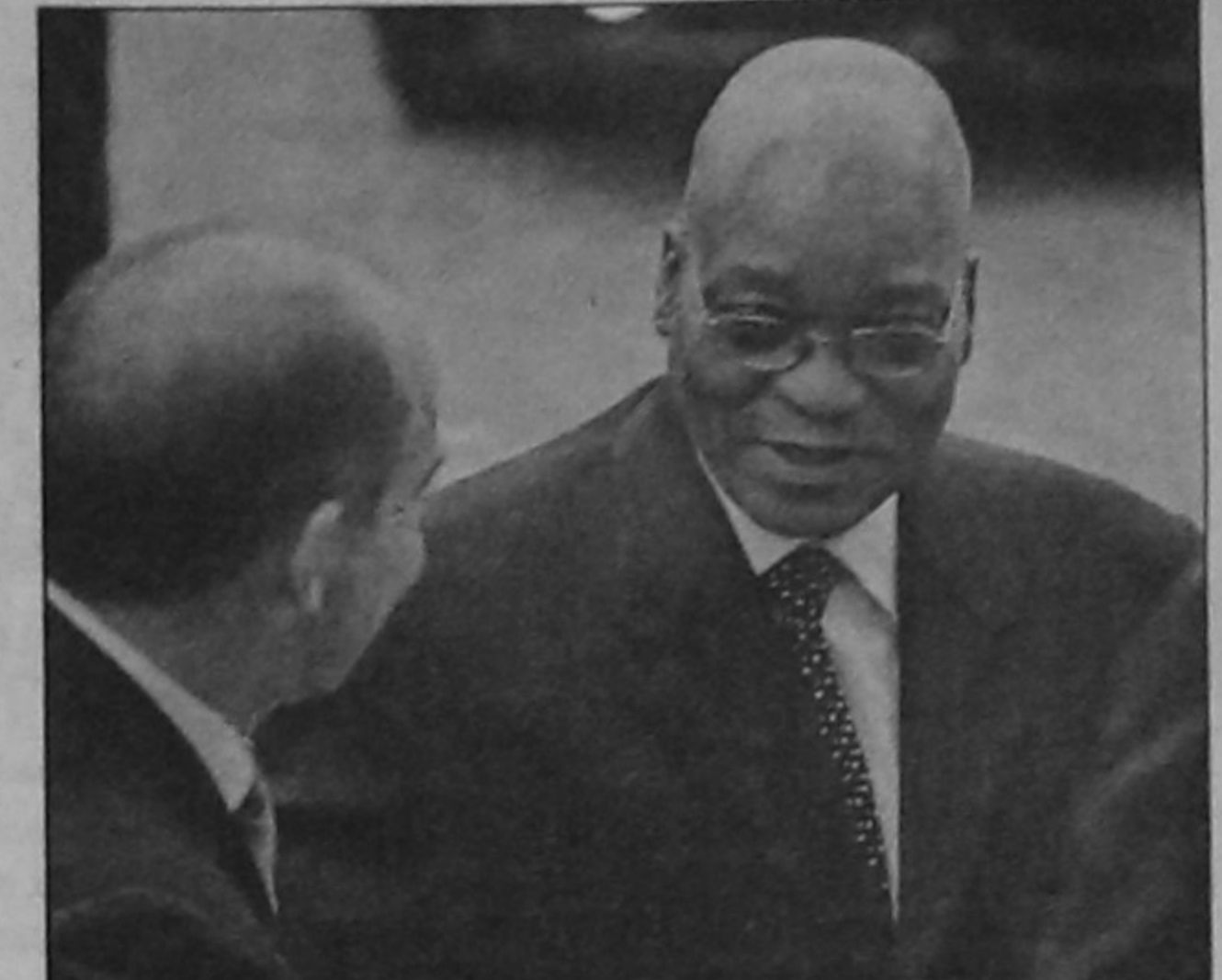
There were "some exaggerated concerns, some notion here in the region that there might be some grand bargain between the United States and Iran that would suddenly be sprung on them," he told reporters in Egypt.

Such concerns were "completely unrealistic," Gates said, pledging that Washington would consult closely with its allies and that no deal would be hatched in secret.

"We will keep our friends informed about what is going so that nobody gets surprised," he said.

Both Egypt and Saudi Arabia have quietly expressed serious concerns about US engagement with Iran, which they see as the most serious regional threat to stability.

"Uppermost in our minds is taking measures necessary with our partners in the region, to maintain their security and their stability in particular against Iranian subversive activities," Gates said on Tuesday.



Ruling African National Congress (ANC) party president Jacob Zuma (C) arrives for the first sitting of the National Assembly in Cape Town yesterday as South Africa's new parliament convened for the first time to elect Zuma president, two weeks after he won over millions of voters on a pro-poor populist ticket.

Offices, businesses reopen in Mexico as epidemic fades

AFP, Mexico City

Offices and restaurants in Mexico were scheduled to reopen yesterday after a week-long shutdown caused by swine flu but officials now insist it is on the wane.

Although the toll from the epidemic creeps up each day, now standing at 29 dead and more than 913 infected, authorities say it peaked last week and is now under control.

The lifting of the shutdown was to be progressive over coming days.

High schools and universities are scheduled to open today, to be followed by primary schools and kindergartens next Monday.

There was no immediate word however when cinemas, theaters and nightclubs in Mexico City would be permitted to open their doors again.

Mexico was at the center of the A(H1N1) epidemic that has now spread to more than 20 countries.

The Mexican government, though, is challenging the assumption that the virus originated in the country, and keeps pointing at a smaller outbreak that occurred in the United States around the same time.

President Felipe Calderon said Tuesday the world could thank Mexico for having responded quickly to the emergency.

"The frontline of the battle was Mexico, and we defended all of humanity from the propagation of this new virus," he told national television.

Calderon's office later said that the World Health Organization's representative in Mexico, Philippe Lamy, had praised the Mexican government's actions.

"The lessons learned from the Mexican experience were essential for the international community," Lamy was quoted as saying.

Calderon cautioned however that "this virus is still circulating," and warned people to maintain hygiene precautions to avoid spreading the disease.

UNOs more powerful

FROM PAGE 1
Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the government promulgated the guideline evidently without any consultation with the elected upazila parishad officials.

"The manner in which the guideline has been promulgated is certainly undemocratic. Over all, actions of the parliament and the government indicate that they are not interested in empowering the local government," Malik said referring to empowering lawmakers through the upazila parishad act to supervise the functions of the local governments.

The guideline will remain effective until the Upazila Parishad Rules of Business 2009 is framed.

The guideline empowers the UNOs, in short-term absence of the upazila chairmen, to convene meetings of the parishads in cases of emergency, and it says that the chairmen and the UNOs will jointly maintain the upazila parishad funds.

On behalf of the parishads, the UNOs with approval of the chairmen are allowed to communicate with the government.

All papers requiring approval of the chairmen must go through the UNOs, who will write his or her opinion before submitting the papers to the chairmen, says the guideline.

As per the guideline, notices for convening parishad meetings must be sent to local lawmakers, who are now the advisers to the parishads.

The parishads will need to send all meeting minutes and chairmen's orders to local lawmakers, and to the Local Government Division and the deputy commissioners concerned, says the guideline.

The upazila parishad constituted, among others, with a chairman and two vice-chairmen, one of whom is a woman are empowered to look after all local development activities, and to review law and order, and relief and rehabilitation work at the upazila level.

The LGRD ministry already sent the guideline to the upazila parishads, eliciting frustrated reactions from elected vice-chairmen, due to having no mention of their duties.

"We don't have any task. What can we do except mediating disputes in villages!" Sridham Das Gupta, vice-chairman of Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj, told The Daily Star with visceral frustration.

Sridham and many chairmen and vice-chairmen yesterday thronged the LGRD ministry to know about their functions.

FUNCTIONS OF A CHAIRMAN

According to the guideline, an upazila chairman is empowered to do the following: implement all decisions taken by the upazila parishad, take initiatives to prepare proposals and schemes related to functions of the parishad, appoint employees and take disciplinary actions except against officials and employees on deputation, but may send proposals with the approval of the parishad to control, supervise, withdraw, transfer, and for taking disciplinary actions against the officials and employees on deputation, take measures to collect taxes, tolls, fees and other dues, and impose taxes and fix their rates.

He or she may also receive funds on behalf of the parishad, spend money for any matter within the capacity of the approved budget of the parishad, maintain financial accounts, correspond on behalf of the parishad, sign contracts on all matters of the parishad, issue or approve licenses, permits, and notices on behalf of the parishad, adjudicate cases of offences under the parishad act, and file and pursue cases on behalf of the parishad, among others.

Singapore to lower flu alert

AFP, Singapore

Singapore said yesterday it would likely lower its alert level for swine flu next week, as the new strain of the virus appeared milder than originally feared.

Authorities however will maintain temperature checks at the city-state's airport, sea ports and land border, the health ministry said in a statement.

Passengers who had travelled to Mexico, the epicentre of the current flu outbreak, within seven days prior to their arrival in Singapore would still be placed under quarantine, it said.

Screenings for flu-like symptoms at offices, schools, buildings and events will be lifted.

EDCL এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১	ইডিসিএল/ক্র/সোলকাল/ডেভার/২০০৯/২৩৬ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৫/২০০৯ইং	আইসোপ্রোপাইল এ্যালকোহল (Isopropyl Alcohol) (সিডিউল মোতায়েক)।	৮,০০০.০ কেজি (আট হাজার) কেজি
সিকিউরিটি আর্নেট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতখোঁপা)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) মাত্র	১৩/০৫/২০০৯ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৩/০৫/২০০৯ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিয়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল উন্নয়ন করা যাইবে।
উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের অ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(মোঃ ফিরোজ-উল-আলম)
পরিচালক অপারেশন ও ইনচার্জ,
প্রািনং এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।

NATIONAL TEA COMPANY LIMITED
Head Office : "BGIC Tower" (7th Floor)
34, Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000.

31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE

It is notified for information of all Valued Shareholders of National Tea Company Limited that the **31st Annual General Meeting** of the Company will be held on Wednesday, the 24th June, 2009 at 3.00 P.M. at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, 160/A, Kakrail VIP Road, Dhaka.

The Share Transfer Book (Register of Transfer) shall remain closed from 5th June, 2009 to 24th June, 2009 (both days inclusive).

DIVIDEND

It is also notified for information of all Valued Shareholders of National Tea Company Limited that the Board of Directors recommended dividend for the year 2008 @ Tk. 20.00 per share.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M. NAUFEL KARIM KHAN
COMPANY SECRETARY

N.B: Attendance Register of the Shareholders will be kept open on the day of the Meeting from 2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. The Shareholders are requested to record their presence in the Attendance Register within the stipulated time.

SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR RAW AND PACKAGING MATERIALS

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by SMC for supply of raw and packaging materials for manufacturing of ORSaline-N & ORSaline Fruity. Tender schedule will be sold to suppliers who have proven track record in supplying raw materials and packaging materials for manufacturing of oral saline in Bangladesh. The intending supplier shall have to apply to the undersigned in their letterhead along with their past experience certificate /documents, agency certificate, for issuance of tender documents. Tender Documents will be issued to eligible parties from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (five hundred) only (non-refundable) on all working days (Sunday through Thursday) during office hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. with a break from 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.) from **May 7, 2009 to June 7, 2009**. No tender document will be issued after June 7, 2009.

Earnest money equivalent to 1% of the quoted value must be submitted along with the offer in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Social Marketing Company without which the tender shall be rejected outright. Any Bank Guarantee from foreign Bank must be endorsed or authorized by a local Bank in Bangladesh. Completed Tender document along with bid bond to be dropped on **June 9, 2009** in the Tender box kept at 1st floor of SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 3:15 p.m. in presence of the bidder if any. No Tender shall be received after the above mentioned date and time.

Social Marketing Company (SMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Md. Luthfur Rahman
Manager, Procurement
Social Marketing Company
SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A Dhaka-1213
Phone-8811423-29

SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF GAS OR DUAL FUEL (GAS-DIESEL) GENERATOR OR RENTAL BASIS POWER AT BASHUNDHARA, DHAKA
For the IUB Campus @ Bashundhara

- Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Gas or Dual Fuel (Gas-Diesel) Generator or Rental Basis Power at Bashundhara, Dhaka for the under-construction Independent University, Bangladesh new campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. This Invitation is for Technically-qualifying the contractors and accepting Bid for the scope of works, which includes all works specified in the schedule and bill of quantities.
- 2.5% of the bid amount must be submitted as earnest money together with the tender in the form of Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh validated not less than 6 (six) months from the date of submission of tender in favour of the Independent University, Bangladesh without which the tender will be rejected.
- The intending bidders shall apply in their letterheads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility to obtain tender documents.
 - Attested copies of documents evidencing several years of experience in Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Gas or Dual Fuel (Gas-Diesel) Generator or Rental Basis Power.
 - Attested copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Gas or Dual-Fuel (Gas-Diesel) Generator or Rental Basis Power.
 - Attested copies of the up-to-date Trade License, Income Tax Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate.
- Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable cash of Tk.5,000/- (Taka Five Thousand) between 07 May 2009 and 01 June 2009 during office hours.
- The tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to 2:00 pm of 08 June 2009 and shall be opened at 3:00 P.M. on the same day at the same place in presence of the Tenderers who may like to attend the tender opening.
- The Technical Offers will be opened 1st and evaluated based on the procedure adopted by the Authority. The Financial Offers of the technically qualified firms only will be opened in presence of tenderers, if any.
- The IUB reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tender and not to accept the lowest bidder and can reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Director, Planning & Development
Independent University, Bangladesh
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Tel: 9884498, 9881681, 9881917, 9862386-90