

An unidentified Iranian defendant addresses a courtroom in Tehran during the trial of suspected opposition supporters yesterday. An Iranian court put on trial another 28 people arrested over the post-election unrest as opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi vowed to pursue his protests in a new "Green Hope" movement.

PHOTO: AFP

An Iranian court yesterday started the trial of another 28 people arrested in protests against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election, local news agencies said.

Their appearance in court lifts to around 140 the number of people tried in mass hearings for offences linked to the huge demonstrations that followed the announcement of the results of the presidential vote.

Fars news agency carried the names of 27 men and one woman accused on Sunday of offences such as "participation

in illegal rallies", "vandalising public property" and "hurting" security forces, according to a general indictment.

There were no well-known political figures among the defendants. Earlier news reports said that 25 people would appear in the dock on Sunday.

At previous hearings Iran put around 110 people on trial on charges stemming from protests against the June 12 poll, which kept Ahmadinejad in power amid fraud allegations by the opposition.

Those defendants included top reformists, political activists, a French lecturer and two employees of the French and the British embassies. The trial of

lecturer Clotilde Reiss has finished, although she remains in custody.

The court proceedings, which the opposition leaders denounced as "show trials", have angered the international community and heightened political tensions as Iran battles its worst political crisis since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Ahmadinejad's re-election triggered massive street protests in Tehran by supporters of his closest rival Mir Hossein Mousavi and other defeated candidates.

Officials said at least 30 people have been killed in clashes with security forces. The opposition puts the death toll from the protests at 69.

N Korea threatens retaliation over US, UN sanctions

AP, Seoul

North Korea followed recent conciliatory gestures of freeing two detained US journalists and a South Korean worker, tensions continue over the divided Korean peninsula mainly over the North's nuclear programme.

The US is moving to enforce UN as well as its own sanctions against North Korea to punish it for its second nuclear test in May and a series of missile launches.

The UN sanctions strengthened an arms embargo and authorised ship searches on the high seas to try to rein in the North's nuclear programme. They also ordered an asset freeze and travel ban on companies and individuals linked to the programme.

If the US and South Korea "tighten 'sanctions' and push 'confrontation' to an extreme phase, the (North) will react to them with merciless retaliation ... and an all-out war of justice," the North Korean military statement said.

UK troops doing a 'vital' job in Afghanistan: PM

Troops death toll passes 200

AFP, London

Prime Minister Gordon Brown insisted British troops are doing a "vital" job in Afghanistan Sunday despite controversy over Britain's role there as another soldier's death pushed the toll over 200.

Amid a spike in violence ahead of Afghan presidential elections next week, Brown insisted Britain would not give up, even though the bloody milestone has revived questions about the purpose and resourcing of the mission.

His comments came after relatives of those killed in the fight against the Taliban since 2001 called for British troops to pull out.

One said the prospect of them spending decades in Afghanistan -- as politicians and

military chiefs say could be necessary -- "sends a cold shiver down my spine".

"In these moments of sorrow and sadness, we must never forget why we are in Afghanistan and why people are making the sacrifice that they are making," Brown said.

"Three-quarters of the terrorist plots that hit Britain derive from the mountainous areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan and it is to make Britain safe and the rest of the world safe that we must make sure we honour our commitment to maintain a stable Afghanistan."

Meanwhile Anthony Phillipson, whose son James died in a fire fight with the Taliban in 2006, said the death of all the troops were "effectively pointless", adding it was "immoral ministers have left troops so inadequately equipped".

military chiefs say could be necessary -- "sends a cold shiver down my spine".

"In these moments of sorrow and sadness, we must never forget why we are in Afghanistan and why people are making the sacrifice that they are making," Brown said.

"Three-quarters of the terrorist plots that hit Britain derive from the mountainous areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan and it is to make Britain safe and the rest of the world safe that we must make sure we honour our commitment to maintain a stable Afghanistan."

Meanwhile Anthony Phillipson, whose son James died in a fire fight with the Taliban in 2006, said the death of all the troops were "effectively pointless", adding it was "immoral ministers have left troops so inadequately equipped".

Taiwan steps up typhoon response

US, China offer help

AFP, Liukuei

More than 140,000 troops battled Sunday to reach survivors stranded a week after Typhoon Morakot struck as the United States and China offered helicopters to help in the rescue effort.

As the massive operation airlift people to safety from the devastated areas in southern and central Taiwan continued, President Ma Ying-jeou issued his second apology in as many days for his government's slow response.

"Sorry we were late," Ma told a community meeting in southern Pingtung county. "Still, we hope to get your life back to normal as soon as possible," he added.

The official death toll stands at 124 but Ma has warned that

number could rise to more than 500, with hundreds feared buried beneath the rubble in the village of Tsiaolin alone.

After days of mounting criticism, the president convened his first national security meeting on Friday and replaced Taiwan's head of emergency operations.

Meanwhile the United States pledged to send heavy-lift military helicopters to Taiwan to help in relief efforts, the foreign ministry said, in what would mark the first time US troops have been deployed on the island in 30 years.

The ministry did not say when the Sikorsky CH-53Es Super Stallions, the US military's largest and heaviest helicopter, would arrive, but national media said they could be here as early as late Sunday.

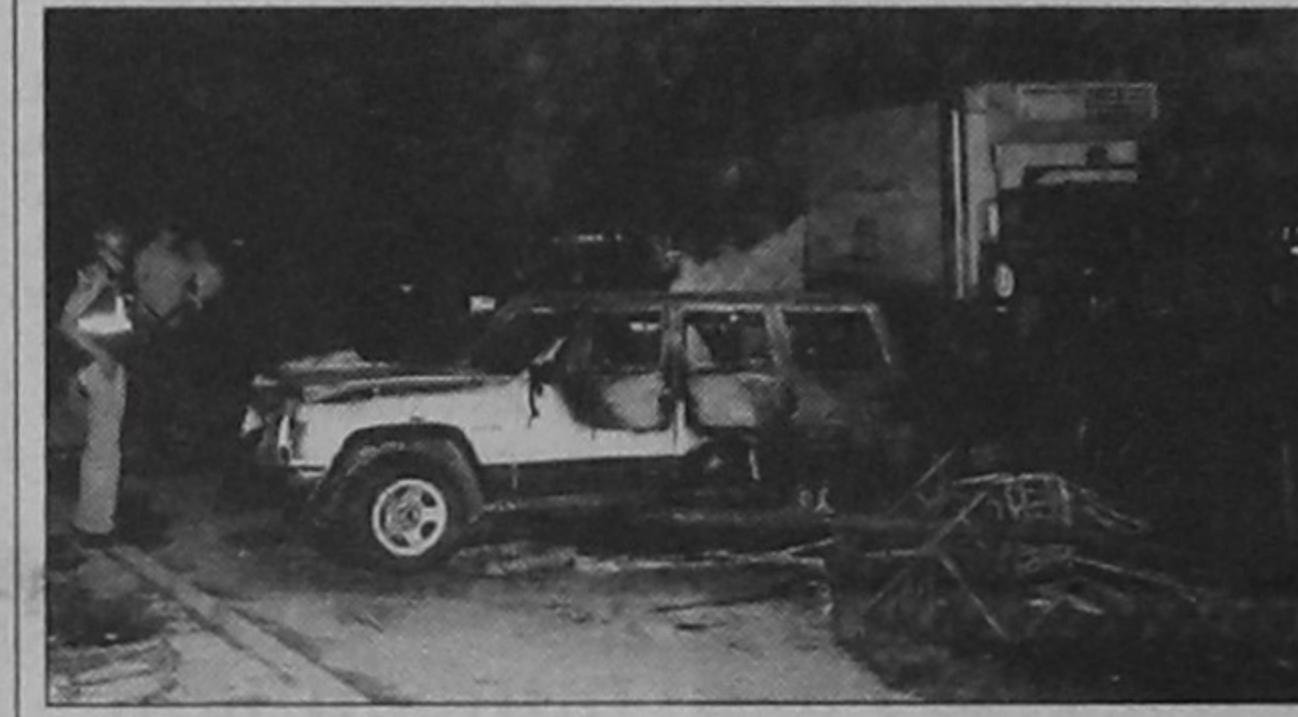


PHOTO: AFP

A Kuwaiti policeman stands guard near a burnt vehicle after a fire ripped through a packed wedding party in Jahra, west of Kuwait City, early yesterday. At least 41 women and children were killed and dozens injured in the fire, which triggered a panicked stampede.

Mubarak visits US as Obama pushes for ME peace deal

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday began his first visit to the United States in five years, to meet his US counterpart Barack Obama for talks that will focus on Middle East peace.

His trip comes as the United States pressures Israel to halt settlement construction in the West Bank while demanding that Arab countries begin normalising ties with Israel ahead of a peace deal Obama is trying to broker.

Mubarak, who is accompanied by several ministers, will meet senior administration officials before holding talks with Obama on Tuesday, the third meeting between the presidents in as many months.

He will also meet with leaders from American Jewish groups on Monday, several of the groups said.

Obama and Mubarak's talks will focus on Middle East peace, the Iranian nuclear programme and Sudan, according to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit, who stood in for Mubarak in May when the president withdrew from the initial dates for his US visit because of the death of a grandson.

"The visit now comes at a critical time... because the American side is coming closer to announcing its vision on how to achieve peace and end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Al Ahram on Saturday cited Abul Gheit as saying.

Mother, son are classmates in West Bengal school

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

A mother and her son share the same classroom space as students in a West Bengal school.

Mother Anima Das, 35, and her son Palash are students of Class 11 in Basirhat Dandirhatu Nagendra Kumar Higher Secondary School in Kolkata's neighbouring North 24-Parganas district.

Their subjects are also common as both have chosen Sanskrit, history, philosophy and political science, school head master Dipak Ranjan Mondal told IANS.

According to Palash, his mother had quit studies when she was in Class 9 after she got married.

Encouraged by her in-laws, Anima took admission in Class 9 in Pipha Rabindra Open School in 2005 and passed her Madhyamik (secondary) exam from there.

Directorate General of Defence Purchase



Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed forces:

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Currency	Tender No.
		From	To		
a.	Calcium Hypochlorite (Star Clone) 9,000 KG	26-08-2009	29-09-2009	Local	1045/P-8
b.	Lambda Cyhalothrin 3,000 KG	26-08-2009	29-09-2009	Local	1038/P-8

2. Tender schedules with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable), between 0800 hours to 1300 hours at DGDP office on all working days. Sealed tenders shall have to be dropped in the tender box placed at DGDP tender room latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the day specified in presence of the tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/09/2954

GD-3784

Major
For Director General

Request For Quotation (RFQ)

Procurement of 50 units Desktop PC, 50 units UPS and 50 units

Laser Printer for UNDP

Bangladesh

Sealed Bids are invited from interested manufacturer/ authorized agents/ Dealers & Distributors with the detailed specification and price in supplying of the following Lot's /items:

Description	Quantity
Desktop Computer	50
UPS	50
Laser Printer	50

Submission of Bid: The envelope should state "Bid for 50 units Desktop PC, 50 units UPS and 50 units Laser Printer for UNDP" and should be marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations and only the successful bidder(s) will be contacted. However, UNDP, Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any bid(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

The detailed bid documents are available: parvin.akther@undp.org. Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Bids must be submitted before 12.30 hrs on 25 August 2009.

News in Brief

Farmers kidnap 13 cops in Peru

AP, Lima

Farmers freed 13 police officers and four civilians seized at a hydroelectric dam in Peru's Andean region after local officials agreed Saturday to provide them with fertiliser.

Authorities said the hostages were held for nearly 24 hours at a church in Huallamayo, a town about 215km northeast of the capital, Lima.

5 die in Australian house fire

AFP, Melbourne

Five people, including four young children, died in a house fire in southern Australia early Sunday, police said.

Media reports said the dead were a mother and her four children, although police said no bodies had been formally identified. They said the blaze broke out at Clifton Hill, just outside Melbourne, in the early hours and completely gutted the house, as well as severely damaging a neighbouring property.

China spells out strict swine flu rules for schools

AFP, Beijing

China has issued strict rules to schools to curb the spread of swine flu, urging them to downsize classes and in some cases delay the start of the new academic year, state media said yesterday.

The ministries of education and health issued a notice urging all pupils who had come into close contact with people infected with A(H1N1) flu to stay at home for at least seven days, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Just over two weeks ahead of the start of the new school year, which usually falls on September 1, education authorities in areas under serious threat of the disease were also given the go-ahead to postpone the start of the new term.

Vacancy Announcement



Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced professionals who wish to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the 'Construction of Server Stations for the Electoral Database'.

1. Project Manager (1 Post)

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 22 August, 2009.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.

Tender Notice

for Interior Decoration & Furniture Works

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank Limited for the 'Interior Decoration & Furniture Works' of (i) Chowmohoni Branch, Noakhali, (ii) Choudhogram Branch, Comilla (iii) Oxygenmore, Chittagong & (iv) Savar Branch, Dhaka from the reputed and eligible Interior Contractor(s)/Architectural & Engineering firms. Details of the notice are as follows.

1. The interested bidders should fulfill the following minimum qualifications and requirements for their participation in the said tender.
 - i) Should have experience (minimum 10 years) in similar job of any Bank(s) Branch of minimum Tk.50.00 lac in a single tender.
 - ii) Must have efficient technical team to execute the work within the stipulated time.
 - iii) Should have valid Registration Certificate, updated VAT & Tax certificate, Trade License, TIN Number, and updated Bank Solvency Certificate.
2. The bidder shall submit an application to the undersigned for participating in the tenders supported by documentary evidence like certificates (as mentioned in serial no.1 (i, ii, iii), year of establishment, list of key personnel, at least 2 (two) completion/performance certificates of similar jobs etc. at the time of receiving the Designs & Tender Documents from our end. Tender documents & designs will be issued only after satisfactory verification of the above documentary evidences. The enlisted firms of category-F of Prime Bank Limited having minimum 5 (Five) years experience may receive the design &