

Iran lets UN inspect Arak reactor

AFP, Vienna

Iran has allowed inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect the nuclear reactor at Arak for the first time in a year, a diplomat told AFP Thursday.

"The inspectors were able to visit Arak last week," the diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity. "It was the first time that they had been authorised to do so for a year."

IAEA spokesman Ayhan Evrensel refused to comment on the matter.

Tehran had also allowed the UN nuclear weapons watchdog to step up surveillance of another key site at Natanz, said the diplomat.

"The containment and surveillance measures were updated as the agency wanted," said the source.

Agency officials had been anxious to improve its video surveillance to take account of the expansion of the site.

The site at Arak, with its nearly completed 40-megawatt reactor, is one of most sensitive nuclear sites in Iran, as it could produce plutonium, which Iran says would be for medical research.

While the West and Israel suspect Iran of secretly trying to build nuclear weapons, Tehran insists its atomic programme is for

energy generation.

IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei has persistently called for his agency's inspectors to be allowed back into Iran to continue their checks.

ElBaradei will publish his latest report on Iran next week and it will go before the agency's governors in September.

Israel however has accused the IAEA of holding back incriminating evidence of Iran's drive to obtain nuclear weapons, according to a report in the Haaretz newspaper Wednesday.

It cited unnamed Israeli officials as saying the agency had held back from publishing data obtained in recent months that indicated Iran was pursuing information about military applications for its nuclear programme.

ElBaradei, who steps down in December, has said the UN watchdog has no such evidence.

Iran has defied repeated UN Security Council calls to halt uranium enrichment, the process which makes nuclear fuel but also the core of an atomic bomb.

But on Tuesday, Iran's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said Tehran was ready to hold talks with the West on its atomic drive "without preconditions," state television reported.

Jackson's burial delayed by two days

PTI, Los Angeles

Michael Jackson's burial has been reportedly delayed by two days and the star will now be buried on August 31.

"Thriller" hitmaker's father Joe Jackson has revealed that the burial date has been pushed, because the family needs to get things in order before Jackson is laid to rest, celebrity website TMZ.com reported.

Jackson was earlier scheduled to be buried on August 29, what would have been his 51st birthday. Joe had earlier said that the star would be laid to rest at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles' Hollywood Hills on his birthday.

Earlier reports had quoted sources close to the family to claim that Jackson was laid to rest on August 6 at Forest Lawn Cemetery here, in an unmarked grave, without ceremony.



Freed Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi (L) holds the hand of Libyan leader Muammer Gaddafi's son Seif al-Islam (C) upon their arrival in Tripoli on Thursday.

Lockerbie bomber's reception sparks US, British fury

AFP, Tripoli

A hero's welcome given to the Lockerbie bomber in Libya sparked fury Friday in the United States and Britain which both warned Tripoli of serious diplomatic repercussions.

Hundreds of people waving Libyan and Scottish flags greeted Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi as he landed in Tripoli late Thursday, hours after a dramatic decision to free him on compassionate grounds as he has terminal cancer.

The only person found guilty of blowing up a US Boeing 747 airliner and killing 270 people over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, Megrahi said he was "very relieved" to be freed but described his conviction as a "disgrace."

Megrahi returned with an official delegation who included including Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's son Seif al-Islam.

The scenes of jubilation came despite a call by the United States that it would be monitoring reactions carefully while President Barack Obama said he believed the Scottish government had blundered in approving his release.

"We're now in contact with the Libyan government and want to make sure that... that he's not welcomed back in some way, but instead, should be under house arrest," said Obama.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said it had been made very clear to Libya that "he is not entitled to a hero's welcome."



Mogadishu police officers remove the body of an Islamist fighter into an ambulance after he was killed during fighting between Islamist rebels and government forces backed by African Union (AU) peacekeepers in the war-torn capital yesterday.

Somalia fighting kills 24 more rebels

AP, Mogadishu

At least 24 people were killed in fighting that pitted Islamist insurgents against government forces and African Union peacekeepers in Somalia's capital yesterday, witnesses and medical staff said. Residents were hiding in their homes as mortars slammed into the city.

The bloodshed came one day after fighting killed at least 40 people in central Somalia as the warring sides tried to gain ground in strategic towns.

Somalia has been ravaged by violence and anarchy since warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, then turned on each other. The al-Shabab insurgent group, which has foreign fighters in its ranks, operates openly in the capital and seeks to overthrow the

government and impose a strict form of Islam in Somalia.

The rebels launched a pre-dawn attack Friday on an African Union base, prompting a relentless firefight. Mortars slammed into a market as traders were setting up their goods for the day, killing six people. Ali Muse, the coordinator of Mogadishu's ambulance service, said another 18 bodies had been transported Friday.

"Hundreds of well-armed insurgents came to our district with minibuses and pick-up trucks and immediately they started firing towards the government troops and an African Union base," Mogadishu resident Abdi Haji Ahmed told The Associated Press by telephone. "We have been ducking under our concrete balcony for hours."

News in Brief

Blasts kill 4 in Chechnya

AFP, Grozny

Four suicide bombers riding bicycles on Friday staged an apparently coordinated string of attacks in the Chechen capital Grozny, killing four policemen, Russian officials said.

"Today four suicide attackers, moving on bicycles... set off explosive devices in various districts of Grozny, as a result of which policemen were killed," the investigative committee of Russian prosecutors said.

Flood, landslide kill 11 in Nepal

PTI, Kathmandu

The incessant rainfall and floods across Nepal have claimed at least 11 lives including seven children. Three children died in Lahan as they were swept away by the swollen Kamala river.

Two people have lost their lives in Surkhet district of western Nepal when they got buried in the mudslide, officials said.

Indian navy fighter jet crashes in sea

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian navy fighter jet crashed into the Arabian Sea off the western state of Goa on Friday, with the pilot presumed dead, a military official said.

The jet, a British-made Sea Harrier, plummeted into the sea 15 kilometres (nine miles) off Goa's coast, Indian navy spokesman PVS Satish said.

73 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean

AFP, Rome

Italian coastguards searched the Mediterranean Sea on Friday for the bodies of 73 migrants from Eritrea feared dead from hunger and thirst whilst trying to reach Europe from North Africa.

They began looking for the missing after five other migrants -- rescued the day before off Lampedusa island -- said they had perished during the voyage and that their bodies had been dumped at sea.

"Searches are underway, but for the moment we have recovered no bodies," an official with the Guardia di Finanza (customs) coastguard service in Lampedusa told AFP.

The emaciated survivors said their small 12-metre (40-foot) boat -- which set off from Libya

-- had been adrift without fuel for 20 days, and that they received no help from several passing vessels.

"As if fear were more important than the duty to help others at sea," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman Laura Boldrini, describing the reported failure to help as "alarming."

The disappearances reignited a furore against Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's anti-immigration policies, including a May deal with Tripoli aimed at preventing migrants headed for Europe from using Libya as a springboard.

"The fight against illegal immigration is one thing, but the lack of respect for human rights is another," said Dario Franceschini, leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

Shias, Sunnis blame each other for Iraq bombings

AFP, Baghdad

Powerful Shia politicians and Iraq's leading Sunni insurgency group on Friday accused each other of being responsible for massive truck bombings in Baghdad that killed 95 people two days ago.

Separate statements from both sides exposed the gulf between the country's two main Muslim groups in the wake of Wednesday's attacks at the ministries of finance and foreign affairs, which also left about 600 people wounded.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a Shia, on Wednesday said the bombings were "a desperate attempt to derail the political process and affect the parliamentary elections," planned to take place in January 2010.

A statement from the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, a powerful and influential Shia party close to Iran, said the country was facing "comprehensive war" and not only "simple bombings here and there."

It blamed Sunnis who once formed the backbone of toppled dictator Saddam Hussein's regime for the attacks.

Election likely to reset Japan climate target

AFP, Tokyo

When Japan elects its next government this month, climate change campaigners will be watching closely to see which party takes the levers of power in the world's second-largest economy.

Japan drew scorn from environmentalists when Prime Minister Taro Aso in June announced a greenhouse gas reduction target of eight percent from 1990 levels by 2020 -- far below the European Union pledge of a 20 percent cut.

Activists mocked Japan's conservative premier as "George W. Aso" and charged that the Asian industrial powerhouse would worsen global warming and speed the pace of melting ice caps, rising sea levels and changing weather patterns.

Environmental group Greenpeace accused Aso of kowtowing to Japan Inc's heavy industry, calculating that Aso's goal could help doom the earth to catastrophic warming of three degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit).

The man who is now seen likely to replace Aso in the top job after the August 30 vote, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) leader Yukio Hatoyama, has promised a more ambitious target -- a 25 percent cut by 2020.

PRICE

Poverty Reduction by Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprises

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

PRICE is a USAID-funded economic development project in Bangladesh being implemented by Chemonics International. The project has been working since 2008 with the goal of reducing poverty by enhancing competitiveness in the aquaculture, horticulture and leather sectors. Recently PRICE has decided to enhance its presence in **North Bengal, Chittagong** and the **Khulna-Jessore** regions. The project would like to recruit development specialists for these sectors, to be posted in the aforementioned geographic areas.

The Sector Development Specialists will assist their respective sector team leaders in formulating strategy and implementing interventions at the regional level to encourage broad-based economic development in the sector. Among their responsibilities will be:

- Diagnosis of the sector in the region and identification of beneficiaries and partners;
- Propose and implement a strategy to overcome constraints to achieving higher competitiveness in each sector;
- Coordinate the implementation of technical assistance, training and market linkages that benefit the entire value chain.

Qualifications

- University degree in economics, business management or related field.
- At least 2 years of relevant experience, including 1 of private sector experience in economic development, marketing, sales, finance or production;
- Fluency in written and verbal Bengali and English.
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, etc).
- Demonstrated planning, facilitation and supervisory skills.
- Commitment to excellence, teamwork, respect for people, leadership and integrity.

Compensation: A competitive remuneration package will be offered to the selected candidate.

Interested candidates who meet the minimum qualifications are invited to send an electronic CV and a cover letter with position title to recruitment@price-bd.com by August 31, 2009, referencing "Sector Development Specialist" in the subject line. NO CALLS PLEASE. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following positions:

Position : Personal Assistant to the Operations Manager
Job Type : Service Contract (Initially for 1 year with probation period)
Duty Station : Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Under the supervision of the Operations Manager (OM) the Personal Assistant ensures the effective functioning of the OM's office by providing secretarial assistance and office support to the OM.

He/she works closely with the Operations Manager for coordination and effective implementation while arranging appointments/meetings inside and outside the office.

He/she coordinates the Operations related information flow within the overall Operations Team and ensures timely distribution, attention and action on incoming mails. He/she also maintains follow-up action with other staff members on programming/administrative matters. The Personal Assistant maintains a collaborative relationship with all Operations staff.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinates and follow up incoming correspondence and communication from the Operations team. Ensures replies are sent in a timely manner. Keeps record of distribution of papers.
- Ensures efficient and effective internal and external communication by helping and following instruction, taking care of the proper filling of all e-mails, and keeping track of deadlines and reports to be sent using an electronic or manual recording system.
- Assist the OM in discharge of his/her duties. Fixes appointments, collects documents, and ensures that presentations, speeches and briefs are prepared in consultation with and the Operations Manager.
- Performs all tasks related to travel of the OM within and outside the country.
- On behalf of the Operations Manager, communicates with Govt. NGOs or others as may be required.
- Ability to identify key changes or developments nationally and from the press and inform OM accordingly.

*This is a summarized version of the TOR
Detailed TOR will be discussed with the sort-listed Candidates*

QUALIFICATIONS & COMPETENCIES:

Undergraduate degree in any discipline. 3-5 years of experience in the similar position along with event management experience is required. Excellent command of oral and written English and Bangla is essential. Proficiency in current office software applications including e-mail and internet applications is a must.

Interested candidates are requested to apply along with a detailed CV/P11 form and a passport size photograph on or before **10 September 2009 by 4:30 pm** to **The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207**. Alternatively, CV/P11 can be send via e-mail to the following address: hr@unfpa-bangladesh.org. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and P11 form can be obtained from UNFPA website www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/vacancy.php

"ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED"