

Iranian clerics object to women ministers

Ahmadinejad's ministerial nominee was an Interpol target in 1994

AFP, Ani, Tehran

Iran's conservative clerics have objected to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's decision to include three women in his new cabinet, a report said on Saturday, dealing a blow to the hardliner's bid to secure parliament's nod for his ministerial line-up.

Ahmadinejad named Sousan Keshvaraz, Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi and Fatemeh Ajorlou as his ministers respectively of education, health, and welfare and social security in his 21-member cabinet.

"Although it is a new idea to choose women as ministers, there are religious doubts over the abilities of women when it comes to management. This should be considered by the government," Mohammad Taghi Rahbar, the head of the clerics' faction in the 290-member conservative-dominated Iranian parliament was quoted as saying by the conservative daily Tehran Emrouz.

He said the faction, whose view has yet to be officially declared, will seek the

opinion of the country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the issue.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Vahidi, who has been nominated by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to serve as Iran's Defence Minister, is wanted by Interpol in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural centre in Argentina's capital city of Buenos Aires.

According to reports, Vahidi was the head of the secret Quds Force. The Federation of American Scientists, in a document from 1998, says the primary mission of the Quds Force is to organise, train, equip, and finance foreign Islamic revolutionary movements.

In a statement issued by the Anti-Defamation League, it said that Vahidi was one of five Iranian officials sought by Interpol on Argentine charges of "conceiving, planning, financing and executing" the 1994 attack. The New York Times reports.

Ahmadinejad's proposed cabinet, which boasts 11 new names including the three women, will face a vote of confidence on August 30.

Rahbar said leading Iranian clerics such as Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi and Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani were of the same opinion and wanted Ahmadinejad to reconsider his decision regarding the three women.

The nomination of females to the cabinet marks a first in the 30-year history of the Islamic republic, although in 1997 then reformist president Mohammad Khatami appointed two women among his vice presidents.

In recent years Iranian women have outnumbered men in universities but they still account for only around 15 percent of the official workforce.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, women have been banned from becoming judges and suffer from legal inequalities with men in marriage, divorce and inheritance.

Defending his decision in a television address on Thursday, Ahmadinejad said the three women were chosen after "close examination."

"I am against belittling women. We have to carve out the way," he said.



In this image grab taken from a newscast on Libya's official television, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi (L) welcomes freed Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi inside his tent in Tripoli on Friday.

Gaddafi welcomes home Lockerbie bomber

AP, Tripoli

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi welcomed home the only man convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people with a hug and praised Scotland for releasing him.

Abdel Baset al-Megrahi returned to Libya Thursday after Scottish officials announced he was being freed on compassionate grounds because he is suffering from terminal prostate cancer. The decision to free al-Megrahi has been met with condemnation by many of the victims' families and the US, which has called for him to be put under house arrest.

The US and Britain were also outraged at the warm welcome al-Megrahi received at the airport when he arrived in Tripoli, where he was met by a crowd of hundreds, some who threw flower petals.

Gaddafi's Friday meeting with al-Megrahi, which was shown on Libyan state television, is sure to fuel the debate about how Libya should be

treating the man they once turned over for trial.

Gaddafi hugged al-Megrahi, who at one point kissed the Libyan leader's hand, before sitting down with al-Megrahi and his family.

In what has been the only official Libyan reaction since the release, Gaddafi lauded Scotland for their decision.

"To my friends in Scotland; the Scottish National Party, and Scottish Prime Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, I praise their courage for having proved their independence in decision making, despite the unacceptable and unreasonable pressures they faced. Nevertheless, they took this courageously right and humanitarian decision," he said.

Gaddafi went on to cite "my friend Brown, the Prime Minister of Britain, his government, the Queen of Britain, Elizabeth, and Prince Andrew, who all contributed to encouraging the Scottish government to take this historic and courageous decision, despite the obstacles."



A Palestinian protester runs for cover from tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers during a demonstration against Israel's controversial separation barrier in the West Bank village of Nilin, near Ramallah, on Friday.

CIA used mock execution to get info from Qaeda

AFP, Washington

US Central Intelligence Agency interrogators used a handgun and an electric drill to try to frighten a captured al-Qaeda commander into giving up information, The Washington Post reported yesterday.

Citing a report by the agency's inspector general and unnamed former and current US officials, the newspaper said the tactics were used on Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri.

Nashiri, who was captured in November 2002 and held for four years in one of the CIA's secret prisons, ultimately became one of three al-Qaeda leaders subjected to

waterboarding, the report said.

A federal judge in New York has ordered a redacted version of the classified IG report to be publicly released Monday, in response to a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, the paper said.

The report, written in 2004, offers new details about Nashiri's interrogation, including episodes in which the detainee reportedly was threatened with death or grave injury if he refused to cooperate, The Post said.

In one instance, a CIA interrogator showed Nashiri a gun and sought to frighten the detainee into thinking he would be shot, said the paper, citing unnamed sources.

Iraqi security worsening Says FM Zebari

AFP, Baghdad

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari yesterday said Iraq will witness more deadly attacks in coming months because security is deteriorating due to collusion between security forces and insurgents.

Zebari, whose office lost 32 workers in two massive truck bombings that also targeted the finance ministry on Wednesday, admitted the latest attacks were a serious security setback and the government had failed to protect its citizens.

Wednesday's bombings came only minutes apart and killed at least 95 people and wounded about 600, marking the worst day of violence seen in the conflict-hit country in 18 months.

"How could this truck pass unless there is collaboration?" Zebari told reporters in Baghdad.

"There was collaboration between security forces and the terrorist group to facilitate the passing of this truck through such a sensitive

area."

Zebari said Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki had ordered the arrest of 11 senior security officers on Thursday so they could be questioned on how a four-tonne truck had entered an area where even two-tonne vehicles were barred.

"These people should be held accountable if there is such a penetration," Zebari said.

He also made the first official admission that the blasts signalled that security gains made in the past year have recently appeared to unravel, a fact witnessed by a series of murderous blasts across the country.

"This has been going on for the last two months. Every week, every two weeks we see a wave of these bombings and killings of innocent people," Zebari said.

"Enough of these over-optimistic remarks about security. There has been a deterioration in the security situation, this is a fact and the coming (violence) will be bigger," he said.

News in Brief

Obama to visit Beijing in Nov

AFP, Beijing

US President Barack Obama will make his first presidential visit to China in November, in an effort to bring a new impetus to the key bilateral relation, America's new ambassador to China said Saturday.

"Much is happening in US-China relations... President Obama... is going to be visiting in the middle of November," Jon Huntsman told journalists after arriving in the Chinese capital late Friday.

Six killed in Thai south

AFP, Narathiwat

A bomb killed three security volunteers in Thailand's south while militants shot dead three Muslim civilians as the region entered the holy month of Ramadan, police said yesterday.

Suspected insurgents detonated the device as a group of officials heading to investigate an earlier blast in troubled Yala province on Saturday tried to move a felled tree blocking a road, they said.

US army officer says sorry for Vietnam killing

AFP, Washington

After more than 40 years, the former US army officer found guilty of organising mass killings in the Vietnamese community of My Lai during the war has made a public apology.

"There is not a day that goes by that I do not feel remorse for what happened that day in My Lai," former lieutenant William Calley told members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus, Georgia.

"I feel remorse for the Vietnamese who were killed, for their families, for the American soldiers involved and their families. I am very sorry."

Calley spoke on Wednesday, but due to a restricted audience his remarks did not become known until now.

The killings that occurred on March 16, 1968 in the South Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai prompted widespread outrage around the world. They are also credited with advancing the end of the Vietnam War because they significantly undermined US public support for the war effort.

The massacre began when men of Charlie Company under the command of Lieutenant Calley opened fire on civilians during a "search and destroy" mission in My Lai and neighbouring villages.

Obama okay with single term if reaches goals

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama would be fine with serving only one term if he achieves some of his most audacious goals, like his embattled health care overhaul, spokesman Robert Gibbs said Friday.

"I have heard the president say that, if making tough decisions and getting important things done that Washington has failed to deal with for decades means that he only lives in this house and makes those decisions for four years, he's quite comfortable with that," Gibbs told reporters.

His comments came as some of Obama's Democratic allies are balking at his push to

remake US health care, while others are on the fence about his approach to fighting climate change, ahead of the 2010 mid-term elections.

And Obama himself has seen his job approval ratings, and ratings on key individual issues, drop from their sky-high levels when he took office in January.

"The way he approaches this issue, the economy, Afghanistan, Iraq, any of these issues is not in a mode of self-preservation," said Gibbs.

Obama says he wants to take decisions "he thinks are in the best interests of the American people, not what's in the best interest of his personal polling numbers," said the spokesman.

Koreas hold high-level talks after 2-yr lull

AP, Seoul

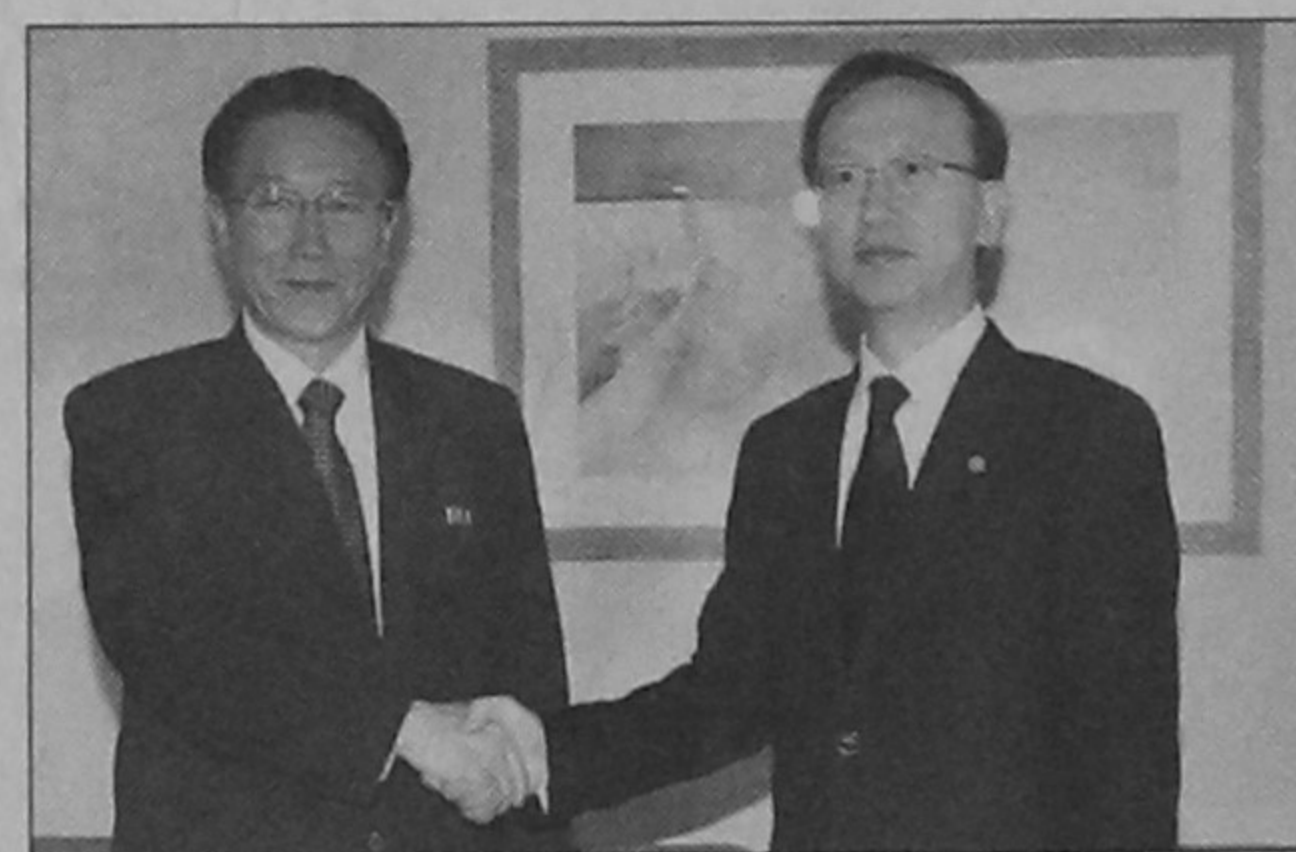
Top South and North Korean officials in charge of inter-Korean relations held talks Saturday for the first time in nearly two years amid a series of conciliatory moves by North Korea after months of tensions on the divided peninsula.

Unification Minister Hyun In-taek met visiting North Korean spy chief Kim Yang Gon, who also handles inter-Korean matters, ministry spokeswoman Lee Jong-joo said. She said the meeting

lasted about 80 minutes, but had no further details.

The North Korean officials expressed a desire to meet President Lee Myung-bak whom North Korean media regularly deride as a "traitor" and were carrying a letter from leader Kim Jong Il, the South's Yonhap news agency reported, citing a source it did not identify.

The North Koreans came to Seoul on Friday to mourn late South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who died Tuesday, and had been scheduled to return home Saturday afternoon.



Kim Yang-Gon (L), North Korea's Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea, shakes hands with South Korea's Unification Minister Hyun In-Taek (R) before their meeting in Seoul yesterday.

Swine flu vaccines found safe in early trials

AFP, Washington

Early indications are a new swine flu vaccine is safe and is on track to be made available to the public by mid-October, US health officials said Friday.

"There are no red flags regarding safety," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, noting that a series of clinical trials were being conducted on the vaccine with results due out between mid September and late October.

Adult volunteers participated in the first of five trials starting on August 7, and only reported arm swelling or redness where they received the injection.

Encouraged by the results, health officials went ahead this week with vaccine trials on children aged six months to

17 years, Fauci told reporters.

Additional experiments on about 120 pregnant women -- who are particularly at risk of infection from the influenza A(H1N1) virus and are high on the federal government's priority list for vaccines -- are to begin in September.

Officials expect that between 4,500 and 4,600 people will eventually take part in the vaccine studies.

Between 45 and 52 million doses of the vaccine are expected to be available by mid-October, said Jay Butler, who heads the H1N1 Vaccine Task Force of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC, which had made plans to distribute the vaccine once available, has issued its final recommendations for which groups of people should receive the shot.



Bakhra Gas Systems Limited


(A Company of Petrobangla)
Comilla, Bangladesh

গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিল পরিশোধ করুন

Invitation for International Tender

01. Ministry/Division	Energy & Mineral Resources Division, M/O Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.						
02. Agency	Petrobangla.						
03. Procuring entity name	Bakhra Gas Systems Limited.						
04. Procuring entity district	Comilla, Bangladesh.						
05. Invitation for	Appointment of Pre-shipment Inspection Agent.						
06. Invitation Ref No.	BGSL/INS/PSI/2009.						
07. Date	20.08.2009.						
KEY INFORMATION							
08. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.						
09. Budget and source of funds	BGSL Own Fund, Cash Foreign Exchange Resource.						
10. Time limit to selling tender	02.09.2009 to 13.10.2009.						
11. Tender last selling date	13.10.2009.						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>14.10.2009</td> <td>12:30 hrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14.10.2009</td> <td>12:45 hrs.</td> </tr> </table>		Date	Time	14.10.2009	12:30 hrs.	14.10.2009	12:45 hrs.
Date	Time						
14.10.2009	12:30 hrs.						
14.10.2009	12:45 hrs.						
12. Tender closing date & time							
13. Tender opening date & time							
14. Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender documents	Tender document will be available in the following BGSL offices during office hours. a) Finance & Accounts Department, Head Office, Chapapour, Comilla, Bangladesh. b) Accounts Section, Revenue Department, Marketing Division, 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. c) Dhaka Liaison Office, House No. 222, Lane No. 15, Lake Road, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh.						
15. Receiving tender document	Purchase Department, Bakhra Gas Systems Limited, Head Office, Chapapour, Comilla, Bangladesh.						
16. Opening tender documents	Purchase Department, Bakhra Gas Systems Limited, Head Office, Chapapour, Comilla, Bangladesh.						
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER							
17. Eligibility of tenderer	Experience in inspection of line pipes and pipeline materials and equipment used in Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution System during last 10 (ten) years.						
18. Qualification of bidders	Internationally reputed inspection firms having proven experience on similar work.						
19. Price of tender document	US\$ 30.00 or Tk. 2000.00 (non-refundable)						
20. Bid bond amount	US\$ 1800.00 or Tk. 1,25,000.00.						
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS							
21. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Tel: 081-68681.						
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Bakhra Gas Systems Limited, Head Office, Chapapour, Comilla, Bangladesh.						
23. Special instruction	a) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day. b) BGSL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.						

BG-963/August, 2009
GD-3898



Directorate General 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 tender in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/importers (enlisted with DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy:

S. No.	Name of Item & Qty	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Tender Number & Time
		From	To		
a.	Electric Cooking Range (Qty: 01 Set)	31-08-2009	28-09-2009	29-09-2009	9272/NP-2 1st Time L/C, S/E
b.	Rice Cooker (Qty: 05 Sets)	31-08-2009	28-09-2009	29-09-2009	9273/NP-2 1st Time L/C, S/E

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available in this directorate general on payment as per invitation of tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 to 1300 hours on the abovementioned date of selling. The tender can be dropped in the tender box latest by 1000 hours and the same will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of the participants (if any).

ISPR-Misc/09/2964
GD-3853

Lt Commander BN
For Director General