

Iran has not answered nuclear questions: EU

Tehran's proposal not responsive to concerns: US

AFP, Brussels/Washington

Iran's latest nuclear proposals do not answer key questions about its own nuclear programme, a spokeswoman for the EU's foreign policy chief said Friday, adding to growing Western scepticism of the offer.

"This does not provide an answer to the nuclear questions", said Cristina Gallach, spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"The document is more focussed on global questions than on nuclear ones," she added.

"Consultations continue" between the major powers involved in tackling Iran on its controversial nuclear programme, in order to forge "a coordinated response" she added.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's senior adviser Mojtaba

Samareh Hashemi said the package calls for setting up an international system to scrap and prevent nuclear weapons worldwide.

But Hashemi did not reply directly when asked if it contained a promise that Iran would meet international demands to halt uranium enrichment.

The package was delivered to representatives of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- the nations tasked with persuading Iran to halt its uranium enrichment drive which they suspect is for making atomic weapons.

Tehran denies the charges and says its nuclear programme has peaceful goals.

The United States has said the new offers from Iran are "not really responsive" to concerns about its nuclear program, dampening hopes for new talks aimed at breaking a three-year impasse.

A US non-profit investigative journal-

ism group, ProPublica, said it obtained a copy of Iran's closely-held five-page proposal, in which Tehran said it was prepared to hold "comprehensive, all-encompassing and constructive negotiations."

The talks would address nuclear disarmament as well as a global framework for the use of "clean nuclear energy," according to the document published on ProPublica's website, but it did not address Iran's own nuclear programme.

"It is not really responsive to our greatest concern, which is obviously Iran's nuclear programme," Philip Crowley, the assistant secretary of state for public affairs, told reporters.

France has also voiced scepticism. "There's nothing in the new document about suspending uranium enrichment," as the United Nations had called for, one French diplomat said.



Family members stand in the rain yesterday in New York at the start of ceremonies marking the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre on Sept 11, 2001.

Day of mourning turns day of service

AP, New York

Drawing on the spirit that spurred volunteers to rush to the burning World Trade Centre on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans looked for ways to help each other on a day better known for mourning the thousands of people killed in the nation's worst terrorist attack.

Teresa Mathai, whose husband, Joseph Mathai, died at the World Trade Centre eight years ago Friday, planned to grieve at a morning wreath-laying ceremony in Boston and hear his name read out loud. Then she planned to install drywall at a low-income home in south Boston with Habitat for Humanity, one of thousands of volunteer efforts planned since Sept. 11 was declared a national day of service.

"Everyone has a different way of mourning," she said. "Some people keep it absolutely sacred. For me, this is

something that gives us solace."

The combination of mourning and national giving was troubling to some who feared the volunteerism would overshadow a sombre day to remember the four hijacked jetliners that crashed into the twin towers, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, killing nearly 3,000 people, most in New York.

"When I first heard about it, I was concerned," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother was the pilot of the American Airlines jet that crashed into the Pentagon. "I fear, I greatly fear, at some point we'll transition to turning it into Earth Day where we go and plant trees and the remembrance part will become smaller and smaller."

Thousands were expected at now-familiar ceremonies in New York, at the Pentagon and at the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 in a Shanksville, Pa., field.



A crowd attempts to put out a fire on a street in Kampala on Thursday after riots rocked the Ugandan capital leaving two dead and several injured as protesters clashed with police over efforts to stop a visit by a traditional ruler.

Swine flu may infect millions in China

AFP, Beijing

Tens of millions of people could be infected with swine flu in China in the coming months, a health ministry official said Friday, adding that fatalities would be "unavoidable".

The world's most populous nation, at 1.3 billion, has so far reported nearly 7,000 cases of A(H1N1) influenza but no deaths. It soon plans to launch a nationwide vaccination programme to prevent mass outbreaks of the virus.

"According to expert estimates, our nation during the autumn season might have several tens of millions

infected with A(H1N1)," Liang Wannian, deputy director of the ministry's health emergency office, told a press conference.

Liang said of that total, "half of them could experience clinical symptoms, several millions will seek medical help, and serious cases and fatalities will be unavoidable."

The spread of A(H1N1) influenza in China has gathered pace as the autumn months approach, Liang said, with more than half of the nation's nearly 7,000 cases detected between August 24 and September 10.

Discovery dodges space debris, landing delayed

AFP, Houston

Thunderstorms and high winds forced NASA to abandon Thursday a first attempt to land the space shuttle Discovery, which earlier dodged debris as it prepared for a high-speed descent to Earth.

"We will wave off this attempt," Eric Boe, mission control's shuttle communicator, told astronauts seeking to return home at the end of a 13-day mission to the International Space Station.

A second attempt to land Discovery at the Kennedy Space Centre, near Orlando in Florida, is scheduled for 0040 GMT Friday, although NASA said conditions were not expected to improve in time.

Inmates attack guards at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison

AP, Baghdad

Inmates at Abu Ghraib prison started a fire and attacked guards, prompting authorities to call in Iraqi troops and American helicopters for support, the US military said yesterday.

The unrest began when three inmates started a fire in their cell Thursday and tried to overpower guards in an apparent escape attempt, US military spokesman Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner said.

Prison authorities called in the Iraqi military to help quell the disturbance inside, while

the US provided helicopter support to monitor areas outside the prison, Conner said.

Iraqi authorities reported that three Iraqi guards and three prisoners were injured before security forces regained control, Conner said.

An Iraqi lawmaker told the AP, however, that two prisoners were killed Thursday and that violence had broken out again on Friday.

Shatha al-Abousi, who is a member of parliament's human rights committee, said prisoners had managed to get an assault rifle and were demanding that they be pardoned.

UN climate talks could fail, warn EU ministers

AFP, Copenhagen

European ministers warned that December's landmark UN climate talks could fail, as the EU Commission urged rich nations Thursday to stump up tens of billions of euros to help the developing world combat global warming. "The Copenhagen deal is hanging in the balance," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband told reporters.

"It's a real danger that the

world will not come together in the way that is necessary to agree on an ambitious and comprehensive deal in December," warned Miliband, in Denmark to meet with his Danish, Finnish, French and Swedish counterparts on the issue.

The December 7-18 talks in Copenhagen, under the 192-nation UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), aim to craft a post-2012 pact for

curbing the heat-trapping gases that drive perilous global warming.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner told AFP that Copenhagen would be judged as a success if there is the willingness from rich countries to help poorer ones deal with the effects of global warming.

"It is the richest who must share most of the burden with developing countries," Kouchner said.

Global warming may make the Arctic of today a thing of the past

ANI, Washington

If a new research is anything to go by, then the Arctic as we know it may soon be a thing of the past, with global warming causing dramatic biological responses in the region.

The research was led by Eric Post, associate professor of biology at Penn State University, along with a large, international team that carried out ecosystem-wide studies of the biological response to Arctic warming during the fourth International Polar Year, which ended in 2008.

The scientists found that the increase in mean annual surface temperature in the Arctic over the last 150 years has had dramatic effects.

In the last 20 to 30 years, for example, the seasonal minimum sea ice coverage has declined by a staggering 45,000 square kilometres per year.

Similarly, the extent of terrestrial snow cover has declined steadily, with earlier melting and breaking up and an earlier start to the growing season.

"Species on land and at sea

are suffering adverse consequences of human behaviour at latitudes thousands of miles away," said Post. "It seems no matter where you look - on the ground, in the air, or in the water - we're seeing signs of rapid change," he added.

The study shows that many iconic Arctic species that are dependent upon the stability and persistence of sea ice are faring especially badly.

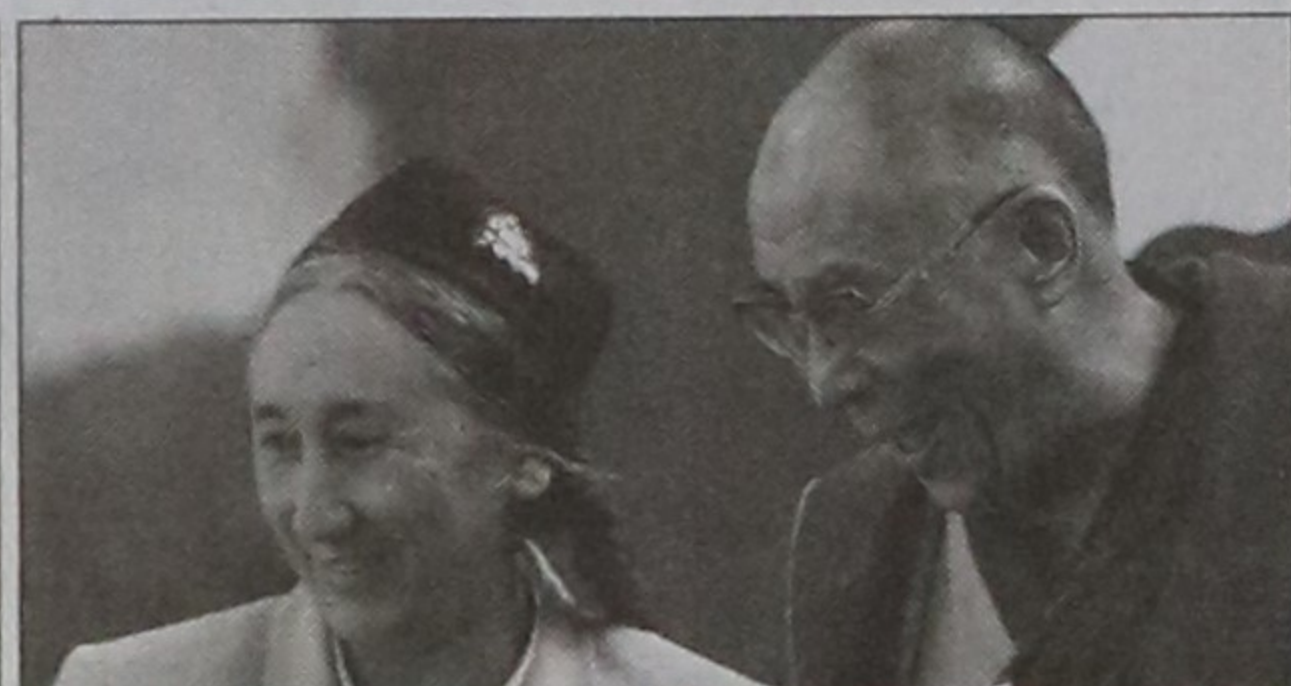
Loss of polar ice habitat is causing a rapid decline in the numbers of ivory gull, Pacific walrus, ringed seal, hooded seal, narwhal, and polar bear.

The researchers found that Polar bears and ringed seals, both of which give birth in lairs or caves under the snow, lose many newborn pups when the lairs collapse in unusually early spring rains.

These species may be headed for extinction.

The research also reveals that species once confined to more southerly ranges now are moving northward.

Among the most visible invaders are red foxes, which are displacing Arctic foxes from territories once too cold for red foxes.



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama (R) and Rabiya Kadeer, head of the World Uighur Congress share a light moment during a conference entitled "Peace, Democracy and Human Rights in Asia" held under the auspices of former Czech president Vaclav Havel in Prague yesterday.

US signs anti-piracy agreement at UN

AP, United Nations

The United States and four other nations signed onto an international plan to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia, committing Wednesday to playing a leadership role in protecting one of the world's busiest shipping routes.

The so-called "New York Declaration" signed by US Deputy Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo and her counterparts from Britain, Cyprus, Japan and Singapore is an attempt to pool resources and agree on the best ways of deterring the Somali pirates who prey on vessels passing between Europe and Asia.

"We realize that the fight against piracy in the Horn of Africa region cannot be solved entirely at sea," DiCarlo said. Other needed measures, she said, involve nations adopting legal mechanisms to prosecute suspected pirates and Somalia improving its capacity to police its own territory.

Though it is a nonbinding

political document, proponents say it will commit ship registry nations to adopt "best management practices" for ship security such as increased lookouts, raised ladders and emergency fire pumps readied to repel boarders.

It was first proposed in May by Panama, the Bahamas, Liberia and the Marshall Islands, four of the world's biggest ship registries. Those nations signed the declaration previously.

In Washington, Andrew Shapiro, the assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, told the ComDef 2009 defence policy conference on Wednesday that the document represents what Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has called "a 21st century solution to the 17th century problem" of piracy.

Clinton said during a visit in August to Nairobi, Kenya, that the US would provide more aid for Somalia, which is home to terrorists, drug smugglers and Islamist extremists.



An Israeli left wing activist holds a sign with the Israeli (L) and Palestinian (R) flags during a demonstration against Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem at Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on Thursday. Israelis are divided over whether to accede to US demands to freeze settlement activity, according to a poll aired by public radio.



Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka

No: R-878

Date: 22.08.09

Admission into Postgraduate Programs Semester: October 2009

Applications are invited for admission into the following postgraduate programs for October 2009 Semester. To apply for admission, an applicant must complete the online Application Form using the website <http://www.buet.ac.bd>, and submit the hardcopy of the completed Application Form together with the supporting documents (as described below) to the Registrar's Office, BUET within the period from 03 to 14 October, 2009 during office hours (9:00am to 5:00pm).

A) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree offered by the Departments/Institutes:

Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Physics, Urban and Regional Planning, Water Resources Engineering, Institute of Water and Flood Management.

B) Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) Degree in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Materials Science.

C) Masters Degree Programs:

(i) M.Sc Engg./M.Engg. in Advanced Engineering Management, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering (Environmental), Civil Engineering (Geotechnical), Civil Engineering (Structural), Civil Engineering (Transportation), Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, and Water Resources Engineering.

(ii) M Arch. in Architecture
(iii) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Thesis
(iv) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Project
(v) M.Sc in Water Resources Development
(vi) M.Sc in Management of Technology.

D) Post Graduate Diploma in Water Resources Development Information and Communication Technology

Important Information

• Upon submission of the online application through the website of BUET (<http://www.buet.ac.bd>), the printed copy of the completed Application Form together with the following supporting documents must be submitted to the Registrar's Office, BUET within the period from 03 to 14 October, 2009 during office hours (9:00am to 5:00pm) to complete the application procedure.

1. Cash payment of Tk. 300/- (three hundred) as application fee (non-refundable).
2. Two attested copies of recent passport-size color photographs (applicant's name must be written on the reverse side of each photograph).
3. Attested copies of certificates of all public examinations.
4. Attested copies of transcripts/grade-sheets/mark-sheets of degrees obtained.
5. Attested copies of testimonial/character certificate from the institution last attended.
6. Letter of consent, in prescribed form, from the employer for applicants in employment.
- Prospectus containing detailed qualification requirements for admission into different programs and information regarding the submission of application is available at <http://www.buet.ac.bd>.
- Applicants in employment whether part-time or full-time must apply through their employers for both part-time and full-time enrollments.
- Incomplete applications (submitted online but no hardcopy of the Application Form together with all supporting documents submitted to Registrar's Office, BUET) will not be accepted.
- Applications submitted by mail will not be accepted.
- Selection of candidates for admission into a postgraduate program is performed by respective department/institute. The selection procedure may vary from one department to another. Candidates are advised to contact the respective department/institute for information regarding the selection procedure.
- A few Teaching Assistantships/Fellowships may be awarded to suitable full-time students.
- Degrees obtained from institutions other than BUET will be subjected to equivalence by appropriate authority of BUET before a candidate is finally selected for admission to a degree/diploma program.
- Last date for submission of the application is 14/10/2009. Classes will commence on 05/12/2009.

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