

Iran ready to negotiate nuclear proposals: FM

AFP, Tehran

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki renewed yesterday Iran's readiness for negotiations over its nuclear proposals but made no direct response to calls from the major powers for urgent talks.

"By giving this package, the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown its determination to enter into negotiation on the main topics in the package," Mottaki told reporters in Tehran.

"I think that if one takes into account separate statements made by these powers, they acknowledge that our package has major topics for holding constructive negotiations," he said.

"This can be the basis of negotiations... We hope that they (the six world powers) address our package seriously,

deeply and analytically."

Iran handed over its new proposals for allaying Western concerns over its nuclear programme on Wednesday.

A US non-profit investigative journalism group, Pro Publica, said Thursday it obtained a copy of proposals 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 Pro Publica's website, but it did not address Iran's own nuclear programme.

Washington has already expressed disappointment with the package. "It is not really responsive to our greatest

concern," assistant secretary of state for public affairs, Philip Crowley, told reporters on Thursday.

But Moscow has been more upbeat. "There is something to dig into," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

The six powers -- Britain, China, France and Germany as well as Russia and the United States -- have since called for urgent talks with Iran on the proposals.

"We will seek an early meeting, and we will seek to test Iran's willingness to engage," Crowley said in Washington.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who regularly represents the powers in talks with Tehran, said he was in contact with Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in a bid to arrange a meeting at the "earliest possible opportunity."



PHOTO: AFP

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki shakes hands with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu (L) during a meeting in Tehran yesterday. Davutoglu is on an official visit to Iran as part of a regional tour.

Venezuela to buy missile from Russia

AFP, Caracas

Amid rising tensions with neighbouring Colombia, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced late Friday that his country would soon take delivery of Russian-made missiles with a range of 300km.

"We have signed some agreements with Russia. Soon we will begin receiving some missiles," Chavez said during a meeting with supporters in front of the presidential palace.

He underscored the reliability of the Russian weaponry, but stressed that his country had "no plans to attack anybody."

But the announcement came amid rising tension between Caracas and Bogota over Colombia's decision to allow the United States access to several military bases on its territory.



PHOTO: AFP

Members of an anti-Muslim protest group taunt Muslim protesters after being contained by the police in Harrow, north London on Friday. Riot police intervened to quell clashes between Muslims and anti-Islamic extremists protesting outside a London mosque on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Riot police quell clashes at 9/11 demo in London

AFP, London

Riot police arrested 10 people Friday as they intervened to quell clashes between Muslims and anti-Islamic protesters outside a London mosque on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

About 1,000 mostly Muslim protesters, many with masks over their faces, were involved in running scuffles around the mosque in Harrow, northwest London, following a demonstration by a small anti-Islamic group.

"Items including bricks and bottles have been thrown at officers," said a spokesman for London's Metropolitan Police amid a tense stand-off as the sun set over Harrow Central Mosque.

Karzai takes clear lead in Afghan election

AFP, Kabul

Incumbent President Hamid Karzai held a firm lead in controversial Afghan elections, taking 54.3 percent of the vote, according to partial results announced yesterday.

Figures released by Afghanistan's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) put Karzai's nearest rival, Abdullah Abdullah, well behind in the count so far with 28.1 percent.

The IEC announced results from 95 percent of the polling stations in the August 20 elections, which have been overshadowed by allegations of widespread fraud and threats of violence by Taliban militants.

Of 5,800,000 valid votes, Karzai had 3,009,559 against Abdullah's 1,558,591, the IEC announced at a media conference.

The margin between the two rivals is barely changed since the last results were announced a week ago.

The drawn out count has allowed allegations of vote-rigging to overtake the election process, with Abdullah accusing Karzai of state-engineered fraud in order to take another five-year term at the helm.

The Election Complaints Commission (ECC) has said it found "clear and convincing evidence" of fraud, and gave the IEC parameters within which to detect irregularities. IEC spokesman Daud Ali

Najafi said that 2.15 percent of the vote counted so far had been quarantined and excluded from the latest results on the orders of the ECC, with votes from 600 polling stations affected.

The final result cannot be extrapolated from the latest figures as hundreds of thousands of votes could be excluded from the final count, election officials have told AFP.

"A list has been sent to the ECC for further investigations," Najafi said, without providing a timeframe.

Asked when the full 100 percent of the vote would be released, he said: "Tomorrow we will sit down with the ECC and see when we can announce the final results."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Discovery lands safely in US

AFP, Houston

The Discovery astronauts found sunny skies in California on Friday as they descended to a weather-delayed landing at Edwards Air Force Base to end a demanding two-week mission to the International Space Station.

Earlier in the day, thunderstorms twice prevented the seven astronauts from landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, a replay of the foul conditions on Thursday that kept the shuttle orbiting for an extra day.

3 killed in Baghdad car bomb attack

AFP, Baghdad

A massive car bomb exploded close to a major army base and the Iraqi health ministry in Baghdad killing at least three people and wounding dozens on Saturday, security and health officials told AFP.

The bomb exploded at 12.35 pm (0935 GMT) next to the former site of the country's defence ministry, which is now used by the Iraqi army, an interior ministry official said, giving the death toll.

An official at Medical City Hospital in the capital said 35 people were being treated for injuries.

Storm kills 11 in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Flooding and landslides triggered by a tropical storm killed 11 people and displaced over 360,000 in five provinces in the Philippines, the government said yesterday.

The storm lashed the main island of Luzon for three days, dumping heavy rain before exiting Friday, the Office of Civil Defence said.

It added that the people died from drowning or were buried under landslides. Three others were reported missing.

Hartal culture must go

FROM PAGE 1

AB Tajul Islam said the reason behind this hartal should be investigated. He continued that the deal of three offshore blocks with the foreign companies was signed just as it has been done with any deals during the last 20 years.

Tajul also said the provision in the deal for exporting gas is pro-country. According to it, Bangladesh will get the gas first.

BNP leader Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said just as the countrymen BNP does not want hartals, but it had supported the

move to protest the way the police treated Prof Anu Muhammad on street.

Supreme Court lawyer, Belayet Hossain said hartals do not bring any good for the country. We need to restrain ourselves from such practice.

Actress Tropa Mazumder said movements should be carried out avoiding the trends of calling hartals.

On prime minister's urge to the opposition leader to join the House Jafrul Islam said the people of the country elected them to be at the parliament. But

they are not there, as the seat dispute has not been solved and the cases against Khaleda Zia not withdrawn, he added.

Tajul said, BNP had been provided with the number of seats it deserved. The opposition could discuss on any issue in the parliament.

Belayet said it is the opposition's constitutional duty to make the parliament effective.

The dialogue organised on the contemporary issues of the country was held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre.

Most parties laud talks outcomes

FROM PAGE 1

connectivity with Nepal and Bhutan, provide at least 100MW power on a priority basis and increase trade and communications facilities.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, talked about allowing India to use the Chittagong port and designating Ashuganj as a new port of call under the Inland Water Transit and Trade Agreement.

The two sides also agreed to resolve the matters regarding Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves and Tin Bigha corridor. Besides, they recognised the need to finalise an agreement on sharing the water of river Teesta.

BNP-JAMAAT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said Dipu Moni is misleading the nation by spreading falsehood that Bangladesh will get access to Nepal and Bhutan if transit is given to India.

"She is saying all this to conceal the facts. Instead of shielding national interests, she is working to serve the interests of others," Delwar told reporters at BNP headquarters at the city's Naya Paltan.

"Nothing can deter us from waging a movement to protect the interests of the country," he cautioned the government.

Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman said Bangladesh has gained nothing positive from the talks.

He said the foreign minister had failed to get her counterpart to discuss more pressing issues like India's proposed construction of

Tipaimukh dam, maritime boundaries and death of Bangladeshis in BSF firing.

OTHERS

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said, "I'd say the outcomes in general seem nice for us. Bangladesh will benefit if the two countries sign agreements on the issues they have agreed on."

On the prospect of allowing India to use Chittagong port and designating Ashuganj as a port of call, the noted academic said, "I don't see any problem if India is allowed to carry machines or equipment from Ashuganj."

He observed that Bangladesh will also benefit from transit to Nepal and Bhutan.

Prof Chowdhury however expressed concern over the Tipaimukh issue.

"Confusion reigns though they [India] have said they won't do anything harmful to us," he added.

He said agreement-signing is not enough as implementation is what matters most.

Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to caretaker govern-

ment, said Bangladesh will gain politically and economically once the two countries finalise agreements on the issues discussed.

He noted that Indian top echelons had said many good things in the past, but their promises did not materialise for bureaucratic tangles at lower levels of their administration.

Akbar Ali said he believes things will get much clearer once the treaties are concluded.

Imtiaz Ahmed, professor of international relations at Dhaka University, said there's no doubt the talks have produced some good results for Bangladesh.

"One thing is clear that India has taken a 'give-and-take' approach to its relations with our country."

He said the two sides may be seeking to touch the long-standing bigger issues after building trust through resolving the smaller ones.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud said the government and the foreign minister deserve kudos for the breakthroughs in the talks.

Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon praised the outcomes of the foreign minister-level meeting.

He said the connectivity with Nepal and Bhutan will certainly contribute to the country's economic progress.

"But I don't understand why our foreign ministry did not raise the Tipaimukh dam issue," Menon, also a lawmaker, added.

About the decisions to reopen the Sabroom-Ramgarh trade point and a land route along Demagiri-Thegamukh through Mizoram border, he said these bode well for economy.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, welcomed the progress in the latest round of negotiations and said these are positive signs.

He however expressed disappointment at no discussion on Tipaimukh dam. "Newspaper reports say our foreign minister did not talk about the proposed dam. It is frustrating for us," he added.



রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- নিঃ প্রঃকেঃ ঢাঃ-০১/২০০৯-২০১০

এতরাজা রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের আওতাধীন "রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের আওতাধীন গুলশান ১নং গোলচন্দ্র এলাকার রোড নং-১৭, ১৯ ও ২০ দ্বারা বেষ্টিত ৩/৫, ৫/৫ ও ৭/৫ নং প্রতে প্রকৃতি "বহুতলবিশিষ্ট কার পার্কিং কাম অফিস বিল্ডিং নির্মাণ (কেইজ-১) শীর্ষক কাজের স্থানে বিদ্যমান সীমানা দেয়াল যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পুনঃ নিলামযোগ্য স্থাপনার বিবরণ	নিলাম সিকিউরিটি (ক্রেতায়োগ্য)	সিডিউল মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	অপসারণের জন্য নির্ধারিত সময়
১.	আরসিসি কলাম, বেইজ, সলিং, সিসি, ব্রিক ওয়ার্ক ও লোহার গ্রীল দ্বারা বেষ্টিত সীমানা দেয়াল, যার দৈর্ঘ্য আনুমানিক ৫০৬ (পাঁচশত ছয়) ফুট	টাঃ ৩,০০০/-	টাঃ ৩০০/-	১৫ (পনের) দিন

- খ) শর্তাবলীসহ নিলাম দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থানঃ ম্যানেজার সোনালী/জনতা/অমণী ব্যাংক, রাজউক ভবন শাখা, ঢাকা।
গ) নিলাম দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ১৬-০৯-২০০৯ইং।
ঘ) নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থানঃ সদস্য (উন্নয়ন/প্রশাসন ও ভূমি/পরিকল্পনা/এস্টেট/অর্থ), প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (বাস্তবায়ন/প্রকল্প ডিজাইন) ৯ কেন্দ্রী ঢাকা/দক্ষিণ ঢাকা (রাজউক) বিভাগ, ঢাকা।
ঙ) নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়ঃ তারিখ-১৭-০৯-২০০৯ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
চ) নিলাম দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানঃ তারিখ-১৭-০৯-২০০৯, সময় ২:৩০ ঘটিকা, স্থান-রাজউক সভাকক্ষে।
ছ) নিলাম দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (প্রকল্প ও ডিজাইন) রাজউক, রাজউক ভবন (৫ম তলা), ঢাকায় খোলা হবে।
জ) রাজউক যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ আজমল হক

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-৪১৮৮



Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence
Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts



Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for the following positions for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

1. Admin Associate - 01 position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copies of the TOR's can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than 26 September, 2009.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"
"Women are strongly encouraged to apply"

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Finlay Tea has vacancy for a Medical Coordinator in its tea estates. The position will require the incumbent to stay in the tea garden in Srimangal.

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Responsibilities:

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