

# UN to inspect Iran's new nuclear plant on Oct 25

*ElBaradei holds talks with Ahmadinejad in Tehran, US seeks action against Iranian banks*

AFP, Tehran/Istanbul

UN nuclear inspectors are to visit Iran's new uranium enrichment plant that has raised alarm in the West on October 25, the UN atomic watchdog head announced on Sunday after talks with Iranian officials.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei held talks with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other officials on Iran's nuclear drive.

ElBaradei, who flew in on Saturday, told a news conference after the meetings that UN inspectors would check Tehran's new uranium enrichment plant near the holy city of Qom on October 25.

He also announced that officials from

the United States, Russia, France and Iran would hold talks in Vienna on October 19 on the possible enrichment abroad of Iran of Tehran's uranium.

In Geneva last week, six world powers and Iran held the first such talks for 15 months over Tehran's nuclear drive.

Western officials acknowledged that the encounter marked Iran's 'engagement' on its nuclear programme, which they said Iran had refused to discuss since July 2008.

Iran also tentatively agreed at the Geneva talks to ship some of its stocks of low enriched uranium (LEU) abroad for processing into fuel for an internationally supervised research reactor in Tehran.

Amid fears among Western powers that Iran may have amassed enough low

LEU to eventually create a nuclear bomb, senior US officials have said such a move might help lower tensions.

However, the agreement is only "in principle" and the technical details need to be worked out at an IAEA meeting in Vienna on October 18.

Meanwhile, the United States on Sunday urged global action against "money laundering and terror financing risks" from Iran and said sanctions against Iranian banks should be implemented by all nations.

Speaking at a meeting of the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee in Istanbul, US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner stressed the international community should order "countermeasures" against Iran.

## Taliban revival raises fear of failure for Western powers

AFP, Kabul

Foreign forces ousted the Taliban from power in Afghanistan in 2001, but eight years on a growing insurgency and widespread discontent among locals are raising fears of failure among Western countries.

The United States launched the first military operations against the hardline Islamist regime on October 7, 2001, accusing it of harbouring al-Qaeda which organised the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

But after being nearly wiped out at the start of 2002, the Taliban now has a "permanent presence" in most of the country, including the previously calm north and west, the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS) said.

Political uncertainty has only worsened the situation, the London-based ICOS said in a recent report, as the final results are awaited of the August 20 presidential elections, marred by widespread fraud allegations.

## Indonesians use bare hands to dig corpses

AP, Jumanak

With no outside help in sight, villagers used their bare hands Sunday to dig out rotting corpses, four days after landslides triggered by a huge earthquake obliterated four hamlets in western Indonesia.

Officials said at least 644 people were buried and presumed dead in the hillside villages in Padang Pariaman district on the western coast of Sumatra island. If confirmed it would raise the death toll in Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake to more than 1,300, with about 3,000 missing.

The extent of the disaster in remote villages was only now becoming clear. So far, aid and rescue efforts have been concentrated in the region's capital, Padang, a city of 900,000 people where several tall buildings collapsed.

But the quake was equally devastating in the hills of Pariaman, where entire hillsides were shaken loose, sending a cascade of mud, rocks and trees through at least four villages.



Residents ride on wooden boats down the streets of the town of Santa Cruz in Laguna province south of Manila yesterday, one week after Tropical Storm Ketsana poured the heaviest rains in four decades in the country's capital and surrounding provinces.

## Latest typhoon kills 16 in Philippines

AP, Manila

Landslides buried two families in the Philippines as they sheltered in their homes from Asia's latest deadly typhoon, which killed at least 16 people and left more than a dozen flooded villages cut off Sunday.

Police Superintendent Loreto Espineli said a family of five, including a 1-year-old boy, died when their home in Benguet province was buried as Typhoon Parma hit Saturday. Seven people, including another family of five, were buried in a nearby village, he said.

## Chinese PM meets Kim on visit to North Korea

AP, Pyongyang

China's premier met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on Sunday at the start of a state visit amid signs the North may be willing to restart talks over its nuclear programmes.

China's Xinhua News Agency reported the meeting but gave no details on what was discussed. Kim greeted Premier Wen Jiabao earlier in the day at Pyongyang's airport, a rare honour for a non-head of state and an indication that Kim remains firmly in charge despite recent reports of failing health.

Wen's three-day visit is being scrutinized for any further indication that North Korea is willing to re-engage with its negotiating partners after boycotting talks for months while threatening nuclear war and conducting nuclear and missile tests.

Kim has reportedly expressed a willingness

to engage in "bilateral and multilateral talks," although it's unclear if that indicates a willingness to rejoin the stalled six-nation discussions.

A commitment made to Wen would be a major sign of respect for China, the most important source of economic aid and diplomatic support for the North's reclusive communist regime. Beijing has hosted the stalled six-nation nuclear disarmament talks that also involve the US, Japan, South Korea and Russia, and continues to promote them as the best forum for dealing with the issue.

China's Foreign Ministry last week did not indicate whether Wen would raise the nuclear issue during his visit, saying he would sign agreements in the areas of economy, trade, tourism and education. Xinhua said the two leaders presided Sunday over the signing of a series of agreements.

## Ahmadinejad born Jewish?

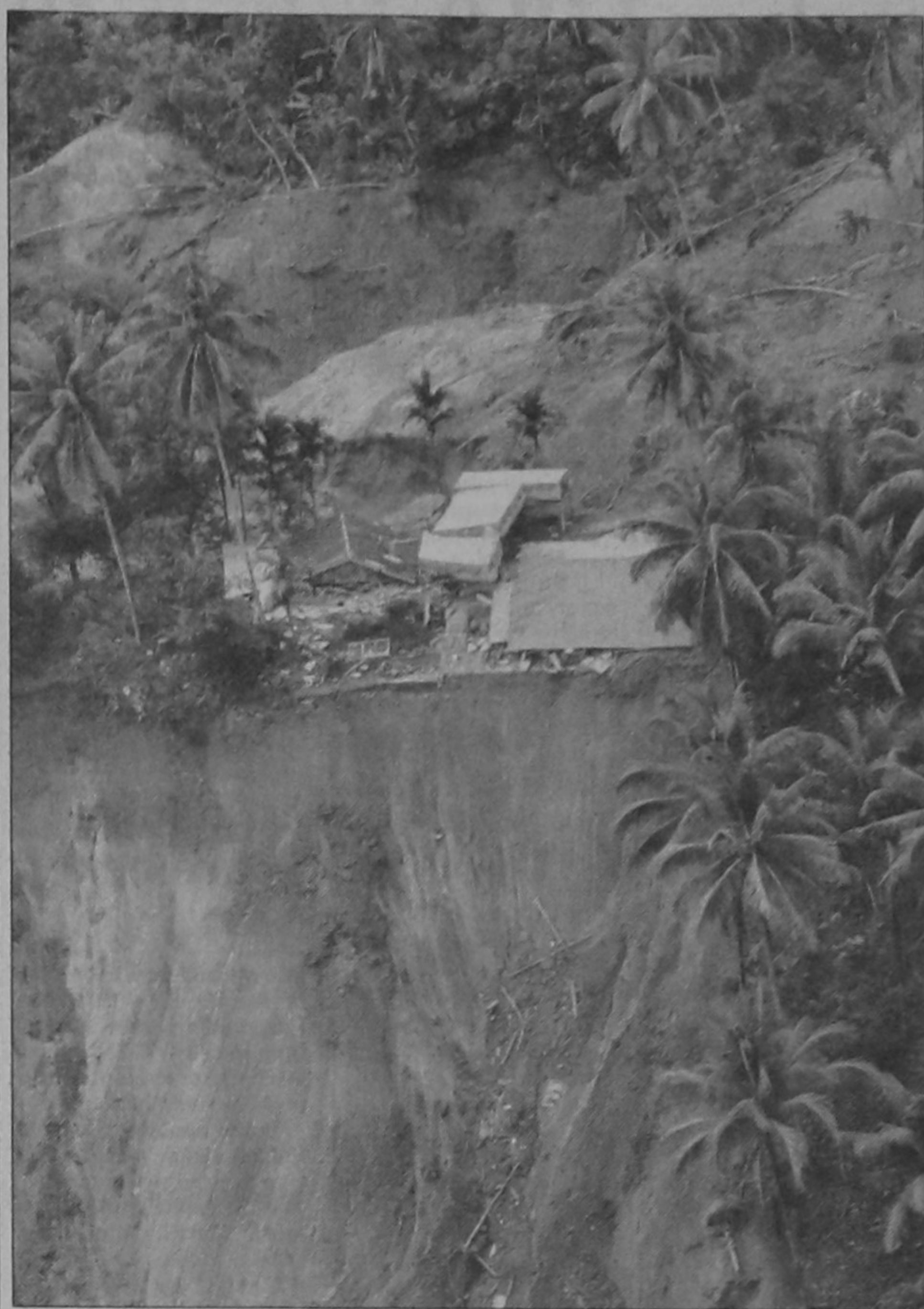
UPI, London

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad used to have a Jewish last name, a British newspaper reported Saturday.

The Daily Telegraph said records indicate the Ahmadinejad family changed its name from Sabourjians, a name that is of the Tehran government's official list of Jewish names.

Ahmadinejad has developed a reputation in the west for anti-Semitism due to his vitriol against Israel and his frequent assertions that the extent of the Holocaust during World War II has been exaggerated.

The Telegraph said it spotted the clue on an old identity card Ahmadinejad showed to the press during the 2008 elections that showed the Sabourjians name.



An aerial picture shows yesterday an area after landslide hits three villages following recent earthquakes in Pariaman. Rescuers held out scant hope on Sunday, for Indonesian quake survivors, handing recovery teams the grim task of retrieving the decaying bodies of some 4,000 victims believed buried in rubble.

## Foreign aid pours into Indonesia quake zone

AFP, Padang

Planeloads of relief supplies, and international rescue teams with sniffer dogs and specialist equipment, are flowing into Indonesia's earthquake zone, officials said yesterday.

"The pipeline is open and things are moving," Bob McKerrow, the head of Indonesia operations for the International Federation of the Red Cross, told AFP.

"I don't think there's a shortage of supplies. It normally takes three to five days to start getting it together. It's always a shambles the first few days."

Australia has sent a warship carrying a full medical team while France dispatched two aircraft carrying humanitarian assistance experts and 25 tonnes of relief supplies.

Teams from Australia, Britain, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Malaysia,

Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Switzerland have arrived or are travelling to the scene to help overwhelmed and exhausted locals.

While the rescue effort has focused on the worst-hit city of Padang on the west coast of Sumatra island, foreign help was also starting to trickle into outlying villages where desperate survivors feared they had been forgotten.

"We just arrived last night to provide medical assistance and help out in rescue operations," Pompiers de l'Urgence Internationale's Alain Choplain told AFP in one damaged hillside village.

"This is our first visit to assess the situation and the extent of the damage and destruction."

Lieutenant Robert McMahon, a medical planner from a US military base in Japan, said he was part of a 20-strong team that arrived Saturday.



Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei (L), and Iran's nuclear chief negotiator Ali Akbar Salehi (R) hold a press conference in Tehran yesterday. ElBaradei said that his inspectors will check Iran's new uranium facility being built near the holy city of Qom on October 25.

## Pakistan, US lost track of Laden 5 years ago Says Musharraf

ANI, Washington

Former Pakistan president General Pervez Musharraf has said that the US and Pakistan both lost track of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden five years ago, The Dawn reports.

Musharraf, who is on a lecture tour of the US currently, told students and delegates at a college in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, that both Pakistani and US intelligence have failed to collect any details regarding Laden's whereabouts, and now they are even unable to ascertain whether he was dead or alive.

Musharraf also said there is a need of a multifaceted strategy to deal with the Taliban effectively.

He said that while the al-Qaeda should be eliminated from Pakistan by force, dealing with the Taliban would require a military, political and socio-economic approach.

The former general underlined the fact that the Taliban was a widespread organisation with no central command.

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Addressing students and delegates at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, Musharraf underlined the fact that the Taliban was a widespread organisation with no central command.

"The Taliban is not a monolith, but rather a spread out organization with no single commander who could be removed for the command structure to be destroyed," The Nation quoted Musharraf, as saying.

## Pakistan frames law to haul up renamed terror groups

PTI, Islamabad

The anti-terror law in Pakistan has been amended allowing authorities to act against members of outlawed groups that set up new outfits with different names, a move which may have ramifications for Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) whose founder Hafiz Saeed floated Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) after it was banned.

An ordinance promulgated on Saturday by President Asif Ali Zardari amending the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 stated that if "office bearers, activists or associates of a proscribed organisation form a new organisation under a different name, upon suspicion about their involvement in similar activities, the said organisation shall also be deemed to be a proscribed organisation."

## Baby mammoth preserved perfectly in frozen soil

AFP, Chicago

Sucked to her death in a muddy river bed, a baby woolly mammoth spent 40,000 years frozen in the Siberian permafrost where her body was so perfectly preserved traces of her mother's milk remained in her belly.


Three years after her discovery by nomadic reindeer herders, Lyuba will head to Chicago as the star of a mammoth and mastodons exhibit at the world-famous Field Museum.

The exhibition, announced at mid-week, opens March 5 and will run through September 6. The Field Museum is the first US museum to display the prehistoric specimen.

"There's a visceral awe that takes hold of you in looking at a specimen like Lyuba, and the exhibition as a whole demonstrates how close we can come to knowing what these animals were like," said lead curator Daniel Fisher, a professor of geological sciences at the University of Michigan who is part of the international team studying the remains.



This undated image released by the Field Museum in Chicago shows an international team of scientists perform an autopsy and DNA analysis on Lyuba, a woolly mammoth.



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Interview conducted by **Ms. Lorraine Gaytten**  
Head of International Centre, University of Worcester  
Venue: **University of Worcester I Regional Office 1**  
Date: **8th & 9th October 2009 Time: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm**