



Pedestrians walk over a makeshift overpass above floodwaters in a street in Pasig City near Manila yesterday, still waterlogged after Tropical Storm Ketsana dumped heavy rainfall there on September 26.

World powers hold talks with Iran tomorrow

AFP, Vienna

The UN nuclear watchdog will host talks between Russia, France, the United States and Iran here Monday that are seen as crucial to resolving the long-running standoff over Tehran's disputed nuclear drive.

Officials from Moscow, Paris, Tehran and Washington will meet at the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters in Vienna, to work out the modalities for a deal allowing the Islamic Republic -- which the West accuses of seeking to build an atomic bomb -- to secure nuclear fuel for a research reactor.

The reactor, which makes isotopes for medical uses such as cancer treatment, runs on uranium enriched to 19.75 percent, a level not so far achieved by Iran by itself.

Until now, the fuel has come from a batch of around 116 kilogrammes (2555 pounds) purchased by Iran from Argentina back in 1993, which is now running low.

As part of its controversial atomic drive, which the US in particular charges is a cover to build a bomb, Iran has managed to produce by itself uranium enriched to levels of no more than 5.0 percent.

Iran insists its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and so-called low-enriched uranium (LEU) is indeed used to produce fuel for civilian nuclear reactors. But when enriched further -- to 90 percent and more -- uranium can also be used to make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

The West is concerned that if Iran enriches still further the stockpile of around 1,500 kilogrammes of LEU that it has

so far amassed at its plant in Natanz, it will bring it closer to levels needed to make weapons-grade material.

According to Western diplomats, Iran contacted the IAEA in June to tell it that the current batch of fuel for the reactor would run out by the end of 2010, and asked the watchdog if it could find a country that would sell it some more.

The IAEA responded in September with a plan whereby Iran would hand over its stockpile of LEU to Russia to enrich it to the level required to run the research reactor.

Another country, France, would then take the enriched fuel and fashion it so that it could be used in the reactor, said a European expert with knowledge of the dossier.

"It's a win-win situation," one Western diplomat said.

Iran may declare Neda a martyr

AFP, Tehran

Iran's Martyr Foundation said yesterday it will declare Neda Agha-Soltan a martyr if it is proven that an enemy of the state caused the young woman's death during a protest rally after the June election.

"The pictures seem to show that Neda Agha-Soltan's death was the result of a plot by opponents and the enemy," ILNA news agency quoted Masoud Zaribafan, head of the state-run foundation, as saying.

"If this is confirmed by the intelligence ministry... her family must be somehow covered by the foundation," Zaribafan said.

The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans' Affairs provides facilities and financial help to families of those killed or wounded during the Iran-Iraq war of the 80s or who died for the cause of the Islamic republic.

Wrangling, horse-trading over Afghan vote result

AFP, Kabul

Two months after Afghans voted in controversial presidential elections, authorities were still wrangling yesterday over whether another poll is needed amid tense negotiations between rival candidates.

Officials in Kabul said Afghan politicians and their international backers have been involved in days of vigorous horse-trading in the hope of averting a run-off, which many fear could further destabilise the fragile country.

Afghanistan's August 20 election has been overshadowed by allegations of fraud, mostly against President Hamid Karzai, including findings by EU observers that a quarter of all votes, or 1.5 million, were suspicious.

Karzai leads preliminary results with around 55 percent of the vote. He needs 50 percent plus one vote to be declared the winner.

His main rival Abdullah Abdullah has around 28 percent.

An official announcement -- winner

or run-off -- will be made by the Independent Election Commission (IEC), widely regarded as pro-Karzai, which acts on the orders of the UN-approved Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).

ECC officials had been expected to deliver their orders, based on the findings of investigations into ballot-stuffing, to the IEC on Saturday. The IEC is constitutionally bound to obey the orders.

But officials, including an IEC source, said only informal meetings had taken place in which ECC members explained how they reached their conclusions.

The official said the ECC could make its decision public as early as Saturday, but the IEC is now expected to delay its announcement for some days.

"The issue is that the IEC will not accept the ECC decisions and they are heading for a head-on collision and political chaos," another diplomat said, adding: "This means further delays in the final result."

But he said "these delays give some breathing space for the back-room nego-

tiations to continue. I wouldn't put it past them (the IEC) to delay their announcements so those talks can continue."

A Western official familiar with the negotiations said discussions were now focusing on whether the Afghan constitution allows an unelected coalition government to be formed to avoid a run-off.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told US television that Karzai was likely to emerge the winner even if there is a run-off.

This week has seen a flurry of international diplomacy. Karzai's office said the president spoke by telephone on Friday to Clinton, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.

He also met French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in Kabul on Saturday.

Abdullah spoke to Clinton, his campaign office said, and met US Senator John Kerry, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, who is visiting Kabul, and US ambassador Karl Eikenberry.

3 US soldiers, 25 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Khost/Kabul

Bomb attacks in Afghanistan claimed the lives of three US soldiers, officials said Saturday, as Nato and Afghan forces killed 25 Taliban fighters in separate assaults.

The Nato-run International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the three American troops died in two attacks on Friday.

"Two US service members were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan October 16, and one US service member was killed in an IED attack in southern Afghanistan on the same day," ISAF said.

IEDs, homemade bombs planted on roadsides and difficult to detect, are claiming increasing numbers of foreign soldiers fighting the insurgency in Afghanistan.

US President Barack Obama is under pressure to order thousands more soldiers to Afghanistan, where

the commander of the 100,000-strong US and Nato force, General Stanley McChrystal, has reportedly asked for 40,000 extra troops.

Nato's commander in the south, Dutch Major General Mart de Kruit, told AFP in an interview this week that 10,000 to 15,000 more troops were required to ensure security in the region.

In the deadliest incident reported Saturday, an air strike killed 20 militants late Friday in Urgan district, in southern Paktika province, said Hamidullah Zawak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

"These people intended to attack security posts and the US-led coalition. They were killed before they could do so," he told AFP by telephone.

The Afghan defence ministry said meanwhile five militants were killed in an Afghan army commando operation on Friday in the Gereshk district of Helmand province, also in the south.



People hold a banner reading "Foreigner, Working Class" during a protest gathering around hundred people who demonstrated yesterday in the centre of Madrid for the rights of illegal immigrants.

Hitting early, swine flu kills 11 more kids in US

AP, Washington

As the swine flu outbreak strikes the US early and hard, health officials note a worrisome number of child deaths and warn that supplies of vaccine will remain scarce for at least the next couple of weeks.

Delays in producing the vaccine mean 28 million to 30 million doses, at most, will be divided around the country by the end of the month, not the 40 million-plus states had been expecting.

The new count from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention means anxiously awaited flu-shot clinics in some parts of the US may have to be postponed.

Galactic magnetic fields may control boundaries of our solar system

ANI, Washington

The first all-sky maps developed by NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) spacecraft suggests that galactic magnetic fields may control the boundaries of our solar system.

A "solar wind" of charged particles continuously travels at supersonic speeds away from the Sun in all directions.

This solar wind inflates a giant bubble in interstellar space called the heliosphere -- the region of space dominated by the Sun's influence in which the Earth and other planets reside.

As the solar wind travels outward, it sweeps up newly formed "pickup ions," which arise from the ionisation of neutral particles drifting in from interstellar space.

IBEX measures energetic neutral atoms (ENAs) traveling at speeds of roughly half a million to two and a half million miles per hour.

These ENAs are produced from the solar wind and pick-up ions in the boundary region between the heliosphere and the local interstellar medium.

Abbas to announce polls date Oct 25

AFP, GAZA CITY

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said yesterday that he would announce the date for the Palestinian elections on October 25.

The embattled Palestinian president said earlier this week that if the two factions did not reach agreement he would call for elections on January 24 instead of the June 28 date in the Cairo plan.

The Islamist movement Hamas will hand its response today to Egyptians mediating a Palestinian unity deal, a spokesman said on Saturday without tipping his hand on what it would say.

A Hamas delegation will travel to Cairo on Sunday, Fawzi Barhoum told AFP, while refusing to say whether the movement would accept the proposal.

9 die in Iraq violence

Truck bomb destroys key bridge

AFP, AP, FALLUJAH/ Baghdad

Nine people were killed, including six soldiers and two policemen, in a swathe of bombings and shootings across Iraq yesterday, ministry and security officials said.

In the deadliest attack, four soldiers killed and 10 others were wounded when their patrol struck a roadside bomb at around noon (0900 GMT) near a petrol station northeast of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, according to an official from the interior ministry who declined to be named.

In the oil-rich and ethnically-mixed northern province of Kirkuk, a roadside bomb in the town of Hawijah killed two soldiers who were on a military patrol.

The restive northern city of Mosul saw three attacks, which left two policemen and a civilian dead.

Earlier a suicide bomber blew up a dynamite-laden truck in western Iraq yesterday, destroying a key bridge on a highway used by the departing US military, police said.



VACANCY

Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC) is a community based non-government volunteering Organization run by a Board of Trustees with the triple objectives of prevention, cure and rehabilitation of the blind. The present 131-bed state-of-the-art multidisciplinary Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex has been rendering humanitarian services through both its static and outreach programme over the last three decades to those who are in need. This Institution is now recognized as one of the major referral, eye care and human resource development center of the region.

The Institution is looking to fill up the following posts.

Director (Administration)

The job demands:

1. Running the Institution in an efficient way and maximizing operational efficiency to provide the highest quality of safe and appropriate patient care.
2. Overseeing strong work force development through supervising and monitoring.
3. Achieving and maintaining strong operational and financial practices
4. Establishing effective means of communication with other Organizations and development partners.
5. To establish strong partnership with other Institutions as well as professionals and donors at home and abroad.
6. Building up mechanism for both internal and external resource mobilization.
7. Create an environment of continuous improvement that fosters physician and staff collaboration, enhance revenues, control costs, and improves overall performance of the hospital.

The incumbent should possess:

1. Required credential experiences and skill.
2. Advance degree in public health, appropriate management and leadership experience.
3. Broad understanding of health care issues, including the role of doctors, nurses and other practitioners is desired.
4. Thorough knowledge of modern management principles, practices and methods is required.
5. Balanced experience in operations, finance and administration.
6. Recognized leadership in regional and national organizations.

Age: Not exceeding 45 years.

Emoluments: Negotiable

Administrative Officer

The Job demands:

- a. Administrative work relating to office management.
- b. Preparing minutes of various meetings.
- c. Planning in broad outline the efficient and effective use of manpower and assists in administering staff welfare services.
- d. Prepares and keeps employment record of the staffs.

The incumbent should possess:

- a. MBA/ MA in English/ Public Administration.
- b. Integrity and high sense of responsibility.
- c. Good leadership qualities, administrative capabilities and excellent interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.
- d. Good written and oral communication skill both in English and Bangla.
- e. Computer knowledge is a must.
- f. Minimum 3 years experience in the required field in a reputed organization.
- g. And above all potentiality for development.
- h. Age not exceeding 30 years.

Remuneration:

Attractive Compensation package will be offered along with other service benefits.

Interested candidates are required to submit their Resume to reach by 7th November, 2009 along with two passport size photographs at the address given below:

Those who applied earlier need not to apply.

Managing Trustee
Chittagong Eye Infirmary & Training Complex
Pahartali, Chittagong.

Please quote the name of the position applied for at the top of the envelope.



Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd.

MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE

Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. intends to sell 2 (two) of its Memberships through open bidding system.

Sealed Applications from Corporate Entities are invited as per terms and conditions given in the Tender Schedule, which may be collected from the CSE offices (addresses appended below) on payment of non-refundable Pay Order/Demand Draft of Tk. 15,000 (Fifteen Thousand) only in favour of Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. during the CSE office hours: 9.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m within 2nd November, 2009.

The application should be made in "two-envelope" system. One envelope should contain a Completed application form for membership, information and documents required as per schedule and earnest money equivalent to Tk. 3.00 (three) crore only in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft favoring Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd., and the other envelope should contain a price offer in the form of a letter. The envelopes should be sealed and marked "Membership Offer as per Schedule" and "Membership Price Offer" respectively on the cover of the envelope. Both the envelopes should be submitted in a large sealed envelope marked "Application/Bid for Membership" on its cover, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd., CSE Building, 1080, SK.Mubib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong and must reach CSE on or before 4.00 p.m on 2nd November, 2009.

The membership bids will be opened in presence of applicants/ their authorized representatives, on the same day i.e 2nd November, 2009 at 4:30 p.m at the Head Office of CSE in Chittagong.

The Board of Directors reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any application/bid without showing any reasons thereof.

Chief Executive Officer

CSE Registered Office

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