



Indian police officers detain a supporter of the hardline faction of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) following a news conference by APHC chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in Srinagar yesterday.

Russia, US resume talks to cut nukes

AFP, Geneva

Russia and the United States on Monday resumed talks on renewing a key agreement on limiting their nuclear arsenals, their envoys in Geneva told AFP.

"The session is resuming," said a spokesman for the US mission, adding that the talks on the renewal of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) which expires on December 5, will be hosted in turn by the United States and Russia.

A Russian diplomat added that the first day of the latest round of negotiations is taking place at the US mission, and that the talks should last two weeks in all.

Washington and Moscow agreed earlier this year to reach a new nuclear deal to succeed START, marking the

first tangible step in the thaw in US-Russian relations heralded by President Barack Obama's administration.

START, signed in 1991 just before the break-up of the Soviet Union, bound both sides to deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

Negotiations have been dogged by bargaining over the deployment of the US missile defence shield in ex-Soviet states in eastern Europe, a project that has angered Russia.

But Obama announced in September that he would shelve plans to site parts of a missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic, and instead deploy more mobile equipment targeting Iran's short and medium-range missiles.

Millions tricked by fake anti-virus software

BBC ONLINE

Online criminals are making millions of pounds by convincing computer users to download fake anti-virus software, Internet security experts claim.

Symantec says more than 40 million people have fallen victim to the "scareware" scam in the past 12 months.

The download is usually harmful and criminals can sometimes use it to get the victim's credit card details.

A cup of coffee may help banish wrinkles

ANI, London

Want to get rid of those pesky wrinkles? Well, then forget trying lotions and grab a cup of coffee.

Nescafe, brand of instant coffee made by Swiss-based manufacturer Nestle, has started selling a version aimed at women, and it comes with the beauty-enhancing ingredient collagen.

So, instead of applying lotions to smooth out wrinkles, users can simply rely on a cup of coffee.

Sachets contain coffee, skimmed milk and 200mg of collagen - a protein found naturally in body tissue.

Flowers can be kept fresh for 15 years!

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Lucknow

Imagine preserving the colour and shape of a flower for nearly 15 years! A team of researchers at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) museology department claims to have developed a technique that can do just that.

The technique, according to the researchers, will benefit the flower business across the globe and help scientists preserve and conserve endangered, vulnerable and useful species of plants for study purposes.

Two Iran reformers jailed over vote unrest

AFP, Tehran

Iran has sentenced two reformist politicians to five-year prison terms for provoking street riots after the country's disputed June presidential election, their lawyers said on Sunday.

Hedayat Aghaie was accused of "disrupting the public order by provoking people to riot, propagating... saying that the votes were rigged and acting against national security," said lawyer Ali Reza Jafarian.

The official IRNA news agency quoted the lawyer as saying Aghaie was still being tried for some other charges such as bribery and insulting regime officials.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei opened a meeting attended by delegations from Moscow, Paris, Tehran and Washington and IAEA experts to discuss a proposal

Iran to boost uranium enrichment if talks fail

Tehran warns West ahead of talks

AFP, Vienna

Iran headed into new talks with world powers on its nuclear programme yesterday vowing to step up its uranium enrichment if it does not get what it wants from the negotiations.

France, Russia and the United States began talks with Iran at the UN watchdog's headquarters here Monday on the supply of nuclear fuel for a research reactor in Tehran.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei opened a meeting attended by delegations from Moscow, Paris, Tehran and Washington and IAEA experts to discuss a proposal

whereby Russia and France would enrich fuel for the reactor.

Under the plan, Iran will hand over most of its stockpile of uranium which many western nations say is being built up to develop a nuclear bomb.

But before the talks with France, Russia, the United States and IAEA officials, Iran said it would carry on enriching uranium no matter what happens in Vienna.

Iran Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Ali Shirzadian said the country will keep on enriching uranium up to the five percent level, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"But if the negotiations do not yield the desired results, Iran will start enrich-

ing uranium to the 20 percent level for its Tehran reactor. It will never give up this right," the spokesman added.

Shirzadian said the third-party enrichment deal was a "test" for world powers. "This issue is a test for the Western powers to show how honest they are in their commitments," he said.

The talks, which begin at 3:00 pm (1300 GMT), are the latest attempt by the international powers to restrict Iran's nuclear drive. The UN Security Council has already imposed three rounds of sanctions on Iran for refusing to stop its enrichment.

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States have led the talks with Iran.

Obama offers Sudan incentives to end Darfur 'genocide'

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama unveiled a new policy on Sudan yesterday and warned Khartoum of more US pressure if it failed to respond to his fresh incentives to stop "genocide" and "abuses" in Darfur.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the United States will offer Sudan incentives based on "verifiable changes" in a bid to end the violence in Darfur and stabilise southern Sudan.

"Words alone are not enough," said Hillary who was flanked by Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the United Nations, and Scott Gration, the special envoy for Sudan.

"Assessment of progress and decisions regarding incentives and disincentives will be based on verifiable changes in conditions on the ground," the chief US diplomat said.

Hillary said, for example, that the Obama administration would watch for "credible elections" scheduled for next year under a fragile 2005 peace agreement aimed at ending a two-decade civil war in the south.



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas (R) meets with Poland's Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. The Polish premier is on an official visit to the Palestinian territories.

Fatah hits out at Hamas over stalled unity

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party lashed out at the Islamist Hamas movement yesterday, blaming it for the failure of an Egypt-proposed Palestinian unity agreement.

"Hamas has thwarted all efforts. They have frustrated us and Egypt."

Egypt has been struggling to broker a reconciliation agreement between the two main Palestinian factions for months and this month proposed an agreement that would see new elections held in June.

Fatah has signed the agreement while Hamas has repeat-

edly postponed its official response, saying it needs more time to mull the deal.

Dahlan insisted that in the absence of a deal Abbas would call elections for January in accordance with the constitution.

"We have taken our final decision to go to elections at the constitutionally appointed time... because we respect the law," he said.

The bitter divisions between Fatah and Hamas go back to the start of limited Palestinian self-rule in the 1990s, when Fatah strongmen cracked down on the Islamist militant group.

HQ Bangladesh Rifles

Medical Directorate, Peekhana, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender

1. Ministry/Division

Ministry of Home Affairs

2. Agency

Bangladesh Rifles

3. Procuring entity name

Director General, Bangladesh Rifles.

4. Procuring entity code

2231 Bangladesh Rifles.

5. Procuring entity district

Chittagong.

6. Invitation for

Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of other equipment (Air Conditioner, office equipment, Hospital Waste Disposal Plant & laundry equipment).

7. Invitation reference no.

800/41/xx/Med.

8. Date

11 October 2009.

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement method

Open Tendering Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and source of funds

Annual Development Project (ADP), Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

11. Development partners

Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/programme code

5020.

Establishment of 50 bedded hospital at Satkania, Chittagong.

13. Project/programme name

GD-04.

Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of other equipment (Air Conditioner, office equipment, Hospital Waste Disposal Plant & laundry equipment).

14. Tender package no.

15. Tender package name

Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of other equipment (Air Conditioner, office equipment, Hospital Waste Disposal Plant & laundry equipment).

16. Tender publication date

18 October 2009.

17. Tender last selling date

12 November 2009 up to 1600 hours.

18. Tender closing date, time and place

15 November 2009 at 1100 hours, HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Peekhana, Dhaka, Gate No. 4, Zigatola (Near Rifles Square).

19. Tender opening date and time

15 November 2009 at 1300 hours.

20. Name and address of the office(s)

a. Selling tender document HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Medical Directorate, Peekhana, Dhaka.

b. Receiving tender document HQ Bangladesh Rifles, Peekhana, Dhaka, Gate No. 4, Zigatola (Near Rifles Square).

c. Opening tender document BDR Hospital, Peekhana, Dhaka.

21. Pre-tender meeting (optional)

Place, date & time BDR Hospital, Dhaka, 09 November 2009, Time 1100 hours.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22. Eligibility of tenderer

a. A minimum number of years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services: 02 years.

b. The tenderers have minimum of 01 year supplying experience to any reputed Hospital/CMH/Institution.

c. Must have minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility supported by bank solvency certificate.

d. All other terms and conditions as described in tender schedule.

23. Brief description of goods or works

Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of other equipment (Air Conditioner, office equipment, Hospital Waste Disposal Plant & laundry equipment).

24. Brief description of related service

As per terms and conditions of tender schedule.

25. Price of tender document

Tk. 2000.00 (two thousand only) each (non refundable).

Lot No

Identification of lot

Location

Tender security (amount in Tk)

Completion time in days

Within 90 (ninety) days from the issuing of supply order

26. 01 Air Conditioners

Satkania, Chittagong

Tk. 1,19,000/- (one lac nineteen thousand only)

27. 02 Office Equipment

Satkania, Chittagong

Tk. 18,000/- (eighteen thousand only)

28. 03 Hospital Was te Disposal Plant

Satkania, Chittagong

Tk. 4,08,000/- (four lac eight thousand only)

29. 0