



Police and army secure the scene of a suicide attack outside the Justice Ministry Building in central Baghdad yesterday. Two suicide bombings rocked central Baghdad near the ministry and the offices of the capital's governor killing at least 136 people and injuring some 600 others.

PHOTO: AFP

Internet 'a teenager' at 40

AFP, San Francisco

Leonard Kleinrock never imagined Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube that day 40 years ago when his team gave birth to what is now taken for granted as the Internet.

"We are constantly surprised by the applications that come along," Kleinrock told AFP as he and others at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) prepared to throw the Internet a 40th birthday party on Thursday.

"It's a teenager now. It's learned some things but it has a long way to go. It's behaving erratically, but its given enormous gratification to its parents and the community."

On October 29, 1969 Kleinrock led a team that got a computer at UCLA to "talk" to one at a research institute.

Kleinrock was driven by a certainty that computers were destined to speak to each other and that the resulting network should be as simple to use as telephones.

Myanmar sees Suu Kyi's role in reconciliation

Says Thailand

AFP, Hua Hin

Myanmar's prime minister told Asian leaders yesterday that the ruling junta sees a role for democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi in fostering reconciliation ahead of elections in 2010, Thailand said.

Premier Thein Sein's comments to a regional summit in Thailand came after the government allowed the detained Suu Kyi to have a rare meeting with a minister, and as the United States sought to engage the regime.

Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi, 64, was placed under a further 18 months' house arrest in August, effectively barring her from taking part in elections promised by the ruling generals in 2010.

But Thein Sein "feels optimistic that she can also contribute to the process of national reconciliation," Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva quoted his Myanmar counterpart as saying at a briefing to Asian leaders.

He did not say if Thein Sein indicated whether this meant she would be allowed to take part in the electoral process.

Thein Sein was quoted by Japanese officials as saying on Saturday that the conditions of Suu Kyi's detention could be relaxed if she behaves.

She was convicted in August over an incident in which an American man swam to her lakeside house.

Abhisit said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) was pleased that the United States, which maintains strict sanctions against Myanmar, was now following its lead in trying to engage the junta.

"The one thing we all agreed on is that we welcome signs of further engagement in response to some developments in Myanmar. Asean has always argued that engagement is the right approach," Abhisit said.

Rights groups earlier criticised Asean for failing to mention Suu Kyi in its final summit declaration and for devoting just three lines to the military-ruled nation's political situation in the nine-page document.

But Abhisit denied that the group had softened its stance on Myanmar, having previously issued direct appeals for her release. The group has long faced western criticism for failing to take on the junta.

"It is not true. It was discussed. Everybody agrees that we should help Myanmar move forward in completing their roadmap so that it will lead to democracy," Abhisit said.

Myanmar announced a "roadmap to democracy" in 2008, starting with a controversial constitution that was forced through just days after a deadly cyclone and culminating in the elections.

2 passenger trains collide in Egypt, killing 25

AP, Cairo

A passenger train collided with the back of a second one just outside of Cairo on Saturday, destroying several passenger cars and killing at least 25 people, a police official said.

At least 55 others were wounded in the accident, which occurred in Girzah district of 6th of October province, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the media.

Emergency personnel worked to extract the dead and wounded from the trains, said the official.

The train that caused the collision was headed from Cairo to the southern city of Assuit, while the one ahead of it was travelling from Giza province to the oasis town of Fayoum, said Egypt's official Middle East News Agency.

Egypt has a poor safety record on its railways, and there are several fatal accidents each year, usually blamed on poorly maintained equipment.

The country's worst railway disaster took place in February 2002 when a train heading to southern Egypt caught fire, killing 363 people.

More recently, a passenger train barreling toward a station collided with a second train in August 2006, killing 58 people. The train belonged to the country's oldest and most dilapidated third-class train service.

UN experts inspect Iran's atomic plant

AFP, Tehran

UN experts were inspecting Iran's controversial second uranium enrichment plant yesterday to verify whether the newly disclosed facility was designed for peaceful nuclear purposes.

Inspection of the plant, being built inside a mountain near the Shiite holy city of Qom, came as US President Barack Obama garnered support from France and Russia for a separate UN-brokered deal to end the crisis over Tehran's atomic programme.

A four-member team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors arrived in Tehran early on Sunday and later began inspecting the facility, which is being constructed adjacent to a military base south of the capital.

"They are currently doing their job," Ali Shirzadian, spokesman of Iran Atomic Energy Organisation, told AFP without offering details.

Iran's disclosure to the IAEA of the Qom plant's existence on September 21 sparked a wave of global outrage, with Obama warning the Islamic republic would face "increased pressure" if it fails to come clean on its atomic

ambitions.

Iran has already been enriching uranium -- the most controversial aspect of its nuclear project -- for several years at another plant in the central city of Natanz, in defiance of three sets of UN sanctions.

Uranium enrichment is the focus of Western concern that Iran's ultimate aim is to manufacture a nuclear weapon, a charge strongly denied by Tehran.

Enriched uranium produces fuel for civilian reactors, but in highly extended form can also make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei has already criticised Iran for what he said was its late disclosure of the Qom facility's existence, saying such construction must be revealed on the day it begins.

Iran, which informed the agency about a year after building began, said its disclosure obligation only begins 180 days before it places any nuclear material inside the facility.

Mohammad Kosari, deputy head of parliament's committee on national security and foreign policy, said the inspectors would inspect only the Qom plant.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors arrive at Imam Khomeini Airport in Tehran early yesterday. Four IAEA inspectors are in Tehran to check Iran's controversial second uranium enrichment plant.

Saudi female TV journalist to face 60 lashes

AFP, Riyadh

A Saudi female journalist said Saturday that a court has ordered her to receive 60 lashes for working at a television network that aired the sexual confessions of a man.

Rozana al-Yami said a judge in the Red Sea coastal town of Jeddah dropped all charges that she had been directly involved with the episode of a programme on LBC, a Saudi-owned Lebanese network, in July.

However, Yami said the judge sentenced her to 60 lashes, for having been a part-time employee for LBC's Saudi operations. The judge mentioned LBC had lacked the appropriate operating licence, she said without elaborating.

Police clash with Palestinians at Al-Aqsa mosque compound

AFP, Jerusalem

Clashes erupted yesterday between police and Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in the latest violence to shake Jerusalem's flashpoint site holy to Muslims and Jews.

Police said they entered the compound in the morning after Palestinian demonstrators threw stones at visitors to the holy site, known to Muslims as Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

Once inside, police themselves came under stone attack and had to wade through oil that Palestinians had spilled in an effort to make them slip and fall, public radio reported.

Firing stun grenades to break up the protests, the police left the site after less than an hour and closed access to both visitors and the Muslim faithful, said police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld.

Police entered anew the compound later in

the morning after the rock throwing resumed, Rosenfeld said, adding that 12 demonstrators had been arrested.

Witnesses said that some 100 Palestinians remained inside the compound.

Kamal Khatib, a spokesman for the Israeli Arab Islamic Movement, which has been at the forefront of recent demonstrations at the compound, blamed police for the clashes.

"The police always excuse their attacks by saying that the worshippers threw stones," he told AFP. "It is clear they just want to justify their crimes."

He added that police were stopping busses filled with Muslim worshippers in northern Israel in a bid to prevent them from reaching Jerusalem.

The office of Western-backed Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas warned of "dangerous consequences" and called on Israel to "halt all provocative acts."

Aila victims sink deeper

FROM PAGE 1

"I cannot bear anymore. Perhaps death in the storm was a better option than living in this hell," he lets out a deep sigh.

"No home, no income, no food, no water -- how can a human being live here? You will not realise how it feels when your children are crying for food and you have nothing to feed them," he says as he speaks to The Daily Star correspondent visiting the Aila-hit areas.

"Everyone has forgotten us. My little children do not want to live in this small hut anymore but they have nowhere to go, nothing to do."

"Living in this hut during the day is like living in an oven. And when it rains miseries go unbound... perhaps we will die here helplessly," Lutfar adds.

Lutfar is not alone. Several thousands of the Aila victims of different unions of Shyamnagar and Ashashuni upazilas are leading miserable lives in makeshift huts on roads and embankments.

Cyclone Aila struck a deadly blow on the country's southwest coast on May 25, killing about a hundred and washing away several thousand houses and other property.

Though many of the victims have returned to what was left of their homes, people of the worst-affected Gabura, Padmapukur unions in Shyamnagar and Pratappnagar in Ashashuni are still living in a dismal condition.

They have no proper shelter, no food, and no safe drinking water or sanitation facilities.

A significant number of people have migrated to 'safer' places failing to bear the hardships. According to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Satkhira, around 10,000 people have shifted elsewhere.

The government initially came up with huge food and other modes of assistance and continued it for a few months. But it has been over a month that the government aid has stopped, increasing

the survivors' woes.

During a recent visit to different villages of Gabura and Padmapukur unions, it was found most of areas are still submerged by river waters.

The villagers say they could not return to their damaged or destroyed houses to rebuild everything due to lack of resources and help. Besides, things get worse during high tides and heavy rain as their living places are flooded through the breaches on the embankment.

The damaged embankment has now become home to thousands as water still gushes in the villages through the breaches during high tides.

"How can we return to our houses as those are still under knee-to-waist-deep water?" asks Mojibor Sana of Dumuria village.

The problem of safe drinking water is acute in the areas. The victims say though the government and some non-government organisations installed a number of tube-wells, but those are not adequate at all.

"The situation remains unchanged; it is rather deteriorating day by day as all the villages are still under water," says Shaiful Azam Lenin, chairman of Gabura union.

"Around 25,000 out of 38,000 people in my union are leading inhuman lives on the embankment," he informs, adding there is no government assistance for over a month.

The dam repairing work from which the victims used to get some food assistance has also stopped.

The sufferings of these people already leading a miserable life turn worse

during rains.

"The fear of rain and storm always haunts us. Whenever it rains we clutch at the roof of the hut and pray to Allah so that the wind may not sweep it away. But rainwater enters our huts anyway making the floors muddy and unliveable," comments Wazid Kumar Mridha of Jhapa village in Padmapukur.

"The situation is terrible," sums up Amzad Hossain, chairman of Padmapukur union. He says over half of 32,000 people of his union are living on the embankment with no food or shelter.

The villagers say huge quantity of relief came soon after the cyclone, but the distribution has stopped for over a month. Besides, the "food for work" programme to repair the damaged embankment has also stopped for over a month, they complain.

Many victims allege they did not get the rice they were supposed to get despite working under the "food for work" programmes to repair the dams. Moreover, they allege they did not receive the money allocated by the government for rebuilding their houses.

DC of Satkhira Mohammad Abdus Samad told The Daily Star: "We have distributed rice before the Eid and during the Durga Puja."

He said they would soon provide food assistance, medical support and sanitation to around 9,500 displaced families in the district and continue it till December.

The government has already given house-rebuilding money to the survivors who took refuge on the embankments and would distribute it again soon, he added.



TICI TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are hereby invited (single envelope system) by the Executive Director, Training Institute for Chemical Industries (TICI), Polash, Narsingdi, from the bonafide Importer/Sole Agent/Stockiest/ Manufacturer for Supply of the following goods:

Sl No.	Tender No.	Description of materials	Cost of tender Security	Amount of Tender Documents	Last date & Time of Submission of Tenders
01.	TICI/PUR-18/09-10 dated 22-10-2009	De-Humidifier (Detailed description & specification as per tender schedule)	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 100/- per set (non-refundable)	16-11-2009 at 11-30 a.m.
02.	TICI/PUR-19/09-10 dated 22-10-2009	Trunking Busbar System (Detailed description & specification as per tender schedule)	Tk. 17,000/-	Tk. 200/- per set (non-refundable)	16-11-2009 at 11-30 a.m.
03.	TICI/PUR-15/09-10 dated 22-10-2009	Various Furniture (Detailed description & specification as per tender schedule)	Tk. 5,000/-	Tk. 150/- per set (non-refundable)	16-11-2009 at 11-30 a.m.

Tenders will be received in the Tender Box kept in (A) Purchase Office of TICI, Polash, Narsingdi and (B) Purchase Division, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha, C/A, Dhaka, on the above mentioned date & time & will be opened on 17-11-09 at 11.30 A.M at Purchase Office of TICI, (Polash, Narsingdi in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives (if any). Tender documents will be available on all working days from (1) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, C/A, Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) Accounts Division of TICI, Polash Narsingdi. No tender documents will be sold on the date of submission of Tenders. Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Due to unforeseen reason if the tenders are not possible to receive & open in schedule time and date the same will be received & opened on the following working day the same date & time.

(Kamal Chandra Dhar)
Dy Manager(Purchase)
For Executive Director

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the "Local Governance Support Project-Learning and Innovation Component (LGSP-LIC)" project.

Driver cum Messenger

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will drive the project vehicle within / outside Dhaka city to meet the transportation requirement of the project, day-to-day maintenance of the vehicle, maintain log book, arrange repairs where necessary, collect / deliver mail or documents when required.

Qualifications and Experiences: The incumbent should have at least secondary education or equivalent level, with at least five years relevant experience. The incumbent must have a valid heavy / light vehicles driving license. Good knowledge of road network in Dhaka and surrounding areas and adequate knowledge and skills in vehicle maintenance and minor repair are essential. She / he must have working knowledge of communicative English, and must possess good manner. Experience of UN or government organizations would be an asset;

Submission of Application: Application should be marked 'Confidential' and the position applied for (i.e. Driver-cum- Messenger - LGSP) should be clearly written on the A4 Size envelope. Application including curriculum vitae and a recent passport-size photograph should be sent to the HR Cluster, UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000, or deposited at the Deposit Box at the IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agrargaon, Dhaka-1207 by 5 November 2009. Applications should be received no later than 5 November 2009.