

Iran releases 5 British sailors detained at sea

AP, Tehran

Iran released yesterday five British sailors who were detained last week when their 60-foot racing yacht drifted accidentally into Iran's Persian Gulf waters and was seized.

The elite Revolutionary Guard, whose navy had stopped the vessel, interrogated the yachtsmen and found that their "illegal entry" into Iranian waters had been a mistake, the official IRNA news agency said.

The release is an overture to London, which has been trying to keep the incident from getting tangled up in politics not only in the rancor between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear issue but also the country's own internal postelection turmoil, which has pumped up the leadership's fears of foreign plots.

A Foreign Office spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government policy, confirmed the release and said the yachtsmen are being towed to international waters.

A spokeswoman for Sail Bahrain, the

group operating the yacht, said the five are to be met by a representative of the company, who will then tow them to Dubai. She said they expected the yacht to be out of Iranian waters in the next hour, and that it would make good time to Dubai, likely arriving before noon British time.

David Young, whose son Oliver is also among the five, said he was "very relieved" by the news. "We thought it would be over quickly. This is what we were hoping for," Young said.

The vessel was on its way from Bahrain to Dubai last Wednesday for the start of its first off-shore race when it had a problem with its propeller, according to Andrew Pindar, whose Team Pindar owns the yacht. It drifted into Iranian waters and was seized by the Revolutionary Guard near the Iranian island of Sirri, which lies near the mouth of the narrow Hormuz Strait off Dubai.

The British were released in the early hours Wednesday, IRNA said.

The report said British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and Iranian

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki discussed the matter late Tuesday.

Miliband told reporters in London earlier Tuesday that there was "certainly no question of any malicious intent on the part of these five young people."

"This is a human story... it's got nothing to do with politics, it's got nothing to do with the nuclear enrichment programme," Miliband said. "We are keen this be resolved as soon as possible."

The seizure of the yacht, called Kingdom of Bahrain, was also a snub to that Arab nation, which has long had a tense relationship with its larger neighbour across the Gulf. Bahrain's government also contacted the Iranians to say the entry was a mistake and push for the crew's release.

Team Pindar, an independent British-based yachting team, runs the yacht under the Sail Bahrain initiative, in which the kingdom is a partner. The yacht had been heading to join the 580-kilometer (360-mile) Dubai-Muscat Offshore Sailing Race, which was to begin Nov. 26. The race went ahead without the yacht.



Schoolgirls gather around "The People's Orb" (L), a shimmering 20cm silver sphere containing a 350 gigabyte mosaic of stories, voices, images and action collected from around the world to inspire action on climate change in Copenhagen as it is unveiled in Sydney yesterday. The People's Orb will travel to Denmark to be presented to a representative of world leaders during a dedicated Earth Hour Copenhagen when the lights of the city will be turned off for one hour from 7pm on December 16.

PHOTO: AFP



United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi (L) cuts the ribbon during the flag-off ceremony of the Red-Ribbon Express on World AIDS Day in New Delhi on Tuesday. Sonia flagged off the Red Ribbon Express, which will travel across the country carrying HIV/AIDS prevention messages.

PHOTO: AFP

Top Iranian economist jailed

AFP, Tehran

Leading Iranian economist Saeed Laylaz has been sentenced to nine years in prison for protesting the re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, his lawyer said yesterday.

"The court of first instance has sentenced Laylaz to a nine-year jail term," Mahmoud Alizadeh Tabatabai was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

Laylaz was charged with participating in illegal gatherings and possessing classified documents, the lawyer said, adding the court had also refused to release him on bail.

Iran to enrich uranium to a higher level: Ahmadinejad

AP, Tehran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday that Iran will enrich its uranium to a higher level in direct contravention to an international call to halt the process.

Ahmadinejad expressed frustration with negotiations over a UN-backed deal to swap Iran's low-enriched uranium for higher-enriched fuel rods to power its medical research reactor.

He told a crowd of thousands Wednesday in the southern city of Isfahan that Iran "will produce 20 percent" enriched uranium and "anything it needs" for its nuclear program.

The West fears Iran's

enrichment program will produce the material for a nuclear bomb, a charge Iran denies.

The idea behind the swap deal was to keep Iran from having sufficient enriched uranium on hand to produce a weapon.

Tuesday he said that Tehran is reviewing the option of decreasing cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog after it issued a resolution critical of Iran last week.

Speaking in a live television interview late Tuesday, Ahmadinejad also criticized

Russia's support for International Atomic Energy Agency's resolution, calling it a mistake.

"Friendly relations with the agency are over. We will cooperate as much as they offer us compromises. We are reviewing this," he said.

The sharply worded IAEA resolution on Friday demanded Iran halt all uranium enrichment and stop construction of a newly discovered nuclear facility near the Iranian city of Qom. Iran responded by saying it would build even more such facilities.

Imelda to run for Philippine Congress

AP, Manila

Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos filed her candidacy for next year's congressional elections, joining the country's boxing champion and the outgoing president in the star-studded race for the lower house.

Strongman Ferdinand Marcos's flamboyant 80-year-old widow, who has successfully fought off more than 900 civil and criminal cases against her, dispatched a lawyer shortly before midnight Tuesday to file her nomination papers in Ilocos Norte, her home province.

Tuesday was the last day for nominations for the May 2010 national elections.

Other top candidates for Congress include Manny Pacquiao, who last month won his seventh world boxing title in as many weight classes. Pacquiao ran unsuccessfully in 2007 for a congressional seat in southern General Santos city, where he began his career. This time he is running in Alabell township in neighbouring Sarangani province.

Issue of east Jerusalem sparks EU-Israel row

AFP, Brussels

A row broke out between Israel and the European Union Tuesday over a draft EU proposal that east Jerusalem should become the capital of a future Palestinian state as part of a Middle East peace deal.

At the heart of the diplomatic spat is a suggestion by the Swedish EU president that EU nations should call for an "independent, democratic, contiguous and viable state of Palestine comprising the West Bank and Gaza and with East Jerusalem as its capital."

However it has already caused a storm in Israel where it was first aired in the Haaretz

daily.

"The process being led by Sweden harms the European Union's ability to take part as a significant mediator in the political process between Israel and the Palestinians," the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement.

"After the important steps taken by the government of Israel to enable the resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians, the European Union must now exert pressure on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table. Steps like those being led by Sweden only contribute to the opposite effect."

The draft text was prepared

for a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels next week, and diplomats said there was plenty of opposition to it within member states and it could change ahead of the meeting.

One EU diplomat said that "half disagree with this statement", adding there were now three options -- for the text to remain as it is, to be completely scrapped or for it to be edited in some way.

The text will be worked on at various diplomatic levels through the rest of the week but it is quite likely that it will be left for the foreign ministers to thrash out next week, the source added.

Rainforest protectors

FROM PAGE 1

stealing forest resources, but gradually realised how important the forest was and vowed to protect it. The day before we arrived, he was guarding his paddy field from birds and monkeys. He challenged a gang of loggers who were taking away six logs. Rashid was brutally beaten up by the gang and then dragged to the forest office, where he was chained and detained overnight.

"I was tortured throughout the night and repeatedly blamed for inviting journalists into the area," said Rashid, who was in pain lying on the bed in his hut.

An elderly resident of Kalenga said urgent measures are needed to protect the rainforest from these greedy gangs in and around the forest office. "Majority of the people here want the forest to survive but they are unable to lodge any protest against the atrocities of foresters and their local connections," he said, adding that rampant logging, extracting firewood in great quantities by chopping down smaller plants and trees continue unabated.

On Tuesday, tipped off by some local people the local Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel recovered eleven logs from Sonbari area of the forest and handed them over to the Forest Office. BDR personnel said whenever they set out on patrol, thieves are warned of their movements over mobile phones.

"We could not arrest anybody as they fled the area leaving behind the chopped down trees," said the BDR personnel at Kalenga.

The technique used by the criminals for hiding illegal logging is widely known in the area. Local people said as soon as trees are felled and taken away, scores of people are employed within a day or two to dig out the stumps and cover the area. According to sources in Kalenga, on Wednesday the foresters employed scores of people and deployed them in Sonbari area to do a similar job.

As we went around the forest we met scores of men and women of Tipra tribe working in the fields harvesting paddy. They said the forest is set to disappear within years if theft of trees is not prevented now.

"We have lived in this forest for generations but we are totally helpless before these gangs who regularly enter the forest and make away with trees

chopped into three feet long logs to facilitate transportation," said Khomen Dev Barma from Sonbari.

Along the tracks over an area of about 10 kilometres that we walked, we saw countless number of stumps and traces of large trees. In one house in Devbari we found a freshly felled tree with a diameter of about two and a half feet. In the same house we found a large bundle of freshly chopped smaller trees.

Khomen told us that the forest department has filed hundreds of cases against hundreds of people in the area. There are instances of 10 cases filed against one individual in the area.

"But the problem is cases against these individuals make things even worse for the forest. Obviously these people need more money to fight those cases and are forced to plunder the forest. I can tell you this is a vicious cycle of corruption," Khomen said.

The headman of Devbari, Moni Dev Barma, said under the Habiganj-2 range there are four reserve forests known as Kalenga, Rema, Rashidpur and Sonbari.

"They have not left any trace of forest in Rashidpur and Kalenga is on the verge of disappearing," Moni Dev Barma said. The fate of about 500 Tipras is now uncertain, he added.

In Kalenga, Chairman of Ranigaon Union Nurul Munim Chowdhury, also the president of the forest Co-management Committee, said a USAID funded project called Nisharga, later known as IPEC, was launched to rehabilitate people who indulged in depleting forest resources. He admitted the failure of the project.

"Lots of trees were uprooted in a cyclone last year. The problem started when the government issued permission to auction those trees," he said.

According to Nurul Munim Chowdhury, as soon as the news of the auction spread, scores of tractors started arriving in the area. The forest suffered an irreparable loss at the time when huge number of priced trees were felled and taken away in broad daylight under the cover of auction.

"In our last meeting I clearly notified Chunarughat upazila administration that every day the forest in Boiragunji was being ruined with up to 10 trucks laden with timber and firewood leaving the area," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

President of the World Editors Forum (WEF) within the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), Xavier Vidal-Folch (R) presents the Golden Pen Award to editor-in-chief of the Friday Times and Daily Times in Pakistan, Najam Sethi during WAN's annual conference in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad on Tuesday. Sethi noted that the Taliban had prevented the sale of his newspapers in areas of Pakistan under their control and had placed him on a hit-list along with three other Pakistani journalists.

Chittagong WASA Invitation for Re-Tenders Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of LGRD/Local Government Division.	
2	Agency	Chittagong WASA.	
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.	
6	Invitation for	Tender	Goods (Single lot)
7	Invitation Ref No.	MKWTP/PD/03/08/243	
8	Date	13/09/2009	
9	Procurement method	ICT (open).	
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government).	
11	Development partners	Japan Debt Cancellation Fund.	
12	Project/programme code	(if applicable) N/A	
13	Project/programme name	(if applicable) N/A	
14	Tender package No.	CWASA/MKWTPRP/P-3	
15	Tender publication date	Date 23/11/2009	
16	Tender last selling date	Date 13/12/2009	
17	Tender closing date and time	Date 14/12/2009 Time 02:00pm	
18	Name & address of the office(s)	Address 14/12/2009 Time 02:30pm	
19	- Selling tender document (principal)	Mohara Water Treatment Plant, Chittagong WASA.	
20	- Selling tender document (others)	Janata Bank (WASA Branch), Accounts Section, Chittagong WASA.	
21	- Receiving tender document	Mohara Water Treatment Plant, Chittagong WASA.	
22	- Opening tender document	Mohara Water Treatment Plant, Chittagong WASA.	
23	Place/date/time of Pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A	
24	Information for tenderer	Genuine vehicle manufacturer or their authorized distributor.	
25	Eligibility of tenderer	Supply of a vehicle (double cabin pick-up).	
26	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of spares, tools & equipment of above vehicle.	
27	Brief description of related services	Tk 2000/- (two thousand).	
28	Price of tender document	Lot No. Identification of lot Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months	
29	Lot No.	1	CWASA/MKWTPRP/P-3 Chittagong Tk. 60,000/- or US dollar \$890 4 (four) months
30	Procuring entity details	Jane Alam Bhuiyan.	
31	Name of official inviting tender	Project Director.	
32	Designation of official inviting tender	Mohara WPT, Chittagong WASA, Chittagong-4208.	
33	Address of official inviting tender	Tel No. 031 Fax No. 031 E-mail: cwasa@globaictg.net	
34	Contact details of official inviting tender	672108 610465	
35	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	Project Director MKWTP Rehabilitation Project Chittagong WASA Ph: 880 31 672108	

SPR-125
22/11/09
GD-5406

Amendment No. 2 for HPS's Tender of BPDB

Memo No. HPS/7.10/2009/1444

Date: 19-11-09

"বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চয়ী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

Procurement of Intake Air Filter Elements for Turbine Compressor for Haripur 100MW Gas Turbine Power Station, BPDB, Haripur, Narayanganj against the tender invited vide Memo No. HPS/7.10/2009/1100 Date 27-08-2009 is again hereby amended as follows:-

Sl. No.	Invitation for tender Ref. and date (Inquiry No.)	Description	Existing as	Amended as (Amendment No. 2)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	HPS/7.10/2009/1100, Date: 27-08-2009	Last date and time for selling the tender (Tender Notice Sl. No. 16)	22 Nov. 2009 up to BST 2:00pm (Amendment No. 1)	09 Dec. 2009 up to BST 2:00pm
		Last date and time for submission of tenders (Tender Notice Sl. No. 17)	23 Nov. 2009 up to BST 12:30pm (Amendment No. 1)	10 Dec. 2009 up to BST 12:30pm
		Tender opening date and time (Tender Notice Sl. No. 18)	23 Nov. 2009. The tenders shall be opened immediately after receiving of the same (Tenderers authorised representatives are allowed to attend). (Amendment No. 1)	10 Dec. 2009. The tenders shall be opened immediately after receiving of the same (Tenderers authorised representatives are allowed to attend).
		The point of delivery (Section-4 Clause No. GCC 22.2 & Section-6)	Chittagong/Mongla Seaport	Haripur Power Station, Haripur, Narayanganj.
		Price schedule (Price schedule for goods, Page No. 54)	Price schedule for goods (PG-2C)	Price schedule for goods (Form G-2) clarification: a. Price offered in foreign currency in CIF (Cost, Insurance & Freight) (US\$). b. Inland transportation including other related cost in BDT to be mentioned in the column 9 of price schedule which will be payable by HPS, BPDB after completion of post landing inspection and RCDR. If inland transportation cost is not mentioned in column 9 it seems to be included in the CIF coated value mentioned in column 5 of the price schedule. In that case inland transportation cost will not be payable against transportation from the port to the site. Insurance cost from port of shipment to the delivery point (Haripur Power Station) will be borne by the suppliers (not reimbursable). c. CD VAT will be payable by Haripur Power Station, C&F charges, demurrage (if any), loading/unloading and all other related costs will be borne by the suppliers.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Md. Shah Nawaz

Deputy Manager (General)

Haripur Power Station

Bangladesh Power Development Board,

Haripur, Narayanganj

Ph. (02) 7647778, 01713-129278

Biddut/Jana-562/43/23/11/09
GD-5399