

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Tourist caught smuggling lizards in pants

AFP, Wellington

A German visitor was caught trying to leave New Zealand with 23 geckos and 20 skinks hidden in his underwear, a courtwastold.

Hans Kubus, 58, was stopped at Christchurch Airport on Sunday after checking in, and was searched by customs staff.

A small package containing the reptiles was found in his underwear, prosecutor Mike Bodie told the Christchurch District Court on Monday.

## Serb president fined for toasting World Cup win

AFP, Belgrade

A Serbian court fined President Boris Tadic 400 euros (593 dollars) for drinking champagne, in contravention of an alcohol ban in football stadiums, to toast Serbia's World Cup qualification.

Tadic pleaded guilty to uncorking the champagne in a VIP lounge at the Red Star Belgrade stadium after Serbia's October 10 victory over Romania which qualified them for the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

## Pakistani held with 98 heroin packs in stomach

AFP, Bangkok

Thai customs officials said yesterday they had arrested a Pakistani man at Bangkok's main international airport with 98 aluminium foil packages in his stomach containing more than a kilo of heroin.

Chaudhry Ijaz Rasul, 34, was arrested as he attempted to clear customs at Suvarnabhumi Airport early Monday morning on a Thai Airways flight from Lahore in Pakistan.

## Lanka ex-general fears rebel attack on presidential bid

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's former military chief who led troops to victory over Tamil separatists in May said he fears fugitive rebels will try to assassinate him during his presidential election campaign.

Sarath Fonseka, who is trying to unseat President Mahinda Rajapakse in the January 26 elections, told AFP that about 1,000 Tamil Tiger fighters may have survived the end of the decades-long war.

Fonseka said that although the Tiger leaders had all been killed, renegade suicide bombers remained a serious risk.

"The Tigers still have an international network and about 1,000 cadres who are mingling with the IDPs (internally displaced people)," he said.

"I know my life is in danger, but many people and those in the military and the police believe that I am the one who led them to victory."

Fonseka, who was badly wounded when targeted by a suicide attacker in 2006, said the Rajapakse administration had cut his security protection despite his vulnerability on the campaign trail.

"My security unit had 25 vehicles when I was in the army, now it is reduced to two or three," he said. "But the risk is now even greater because I am contesting elections."

Presidential elections in Sri Lanka have often been violent. In 1994, the Tigers were accused of assassinating a top contender. In 1999, president Chandrika Kumaratunga survived a suicide bombing during her re-election bid.

## UN urges restraint after clashes in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

The United Nations urged Nepal's government and opposition Maoists to exercise restraint after deadly clashes between police and landless settlers in the west of the country.

The UN's human rights agency said it was investigating allegations that security forces used excessive force when they evicted the squatters, mostly Maoist supporters, from government-owned land.

One police officer and at least four of the settlers were killed and dozens more people were wounded during the eviction on Friday, prompting the Maoists to call a nationwide general strike that paralysed the country on Sunday.

"We have been monitoring the situation and interacting with actors on the ground to minimize the chances of further violence," said Richard Bennett, Nepal representative of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in a statement late Monday.

"I call on the national actors to exercise restraint and prevent any incidents which could further aggravate the fragile situation in the region."

Nepal's Maoists waged a bloody decade-long war against the state before winning elections last year and forming a government.

But the Maoist-led government fell in May after the president overruled their decision to sack the head of the army over his refusal to integrate their fighters into the military.

Since then the Maoists have held regular protests, some of them violent, and have prevented parliament from sitting.

Last week, the top US diplomat in Nepal expressed "deep concerns about the ongoing political stalemate". Charge d'affaires Randy Berry also said recent Maoist actions were inconsistent with the party's stated commitment to peace.



PHOTO: AFP  
A Pakistani fire fighter tries to extinguish fire at the bomb blast site in Lahore yesterday. At least 49 people were killed and 150 others wounded when twin bomb blasts ripped through a busy market in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, the city police chief said.



PHOTO: AFP  
Pakistani security officials inspect the destroyed army building after a car bomb blast in Multan yesterday. A massive car bomb ripped through the army building in the eastern part of the city, killing at least nine, officials said.

## Chicago man accused of involvement in Mumbai attacks

BBC ONLINE

US prosecutors have charged a Chicago man with involvement in the deadly Mumbai (Bombay) attacks of a year ago.

David Headley is said to have helped identify targets for the assaults, which left 174 people dead, including nine gunmen.

He had already been accused with another man of plotting to attack a Danish newspaper over cartoons that caused outrage in the Muslim world.

Federal prosecutors said Headley was co-operating with both investigations.

Headley, who changed his name from Daoud Gilani in 2006, and Tahawwur Hussain Rana are charged with planning attacks on the Danish offices of the Jyllands-Posten, which in 2005 printed controversial cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

## Google search getting eyes and ears

AFP, Mountain View

Google search is getting eyes and ears, moving beyond typed key words to let people scour the Internet with mobile telephone cameras or spoken words in multiple languages.

Google on Monday unveiled "Goggles" software that lets people search online using pictures taken with cameras in mobile phones based on its Android operating system.

"When you take a mobile phone camera and connect it

to the Internet, it becomes an eye," Google mobile search vice president of engineering Vic Gundotra said while demonstrating Goggles in Mountain View, California.

"Google Goggles lets you take a picture of an item and use the picture as the query."

An experimental version of Goggles will be available for people at Google Labs website. Goggles already recognizes books, wine labels, CD covers, landmarks and more, according to Gundotra.

He demonstrated by taking

a picture of a wine bottle label with a smart phone and almost instantly getting reviews, pictures and other Internet data about the vintage in a Google search results Web page.

"It is our goal to visually identify any image," Gundotra said.

"It is in Google Labs because of the nascent nature of computer vision. In the future, you will be able to point (a camera phone) and we will be able to treat it as a mouse pointer for the real world."

## Proof on India's interference in Pakistan handed over

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said that substantial evidence regarding India's interference in Pakistan's internal affairs has been handed over to the Foreign Office, which will take it up at an appropriate forum.

Talking to media persons during a press conference after a meeting with Ulema of different schools here, Malik said the evidence would be shared with

the international community at an appropriate time.

"The issue would be taken up forcefully whenever composite dialogue with India resumes," The Dawn quoted Malik, as saying.

Malik was in the city to convince the Ulema to come onboard against the ongoing terror incidents across the country, and urge them to issue a Fatwa against the suicide attacks in Pakistan.

Malik urged the Ulema to

play their due role in presenting the positive aspect of Islam. He said terrorists were defaming Islam and Pakistan across the world.

He said the ongoing wave of terrorism and suicide attacks being carried out in the country were in contradiction with the teachings of Islam.

He said he would have consultations with all the Ulema in this connection and his visit to Karachi primarily focussed on it.

## Karzai urges aid to fund Afghan security

AFP, Kabul

President Hamid Karzai said yesterday that Afghanistan lacked the resources to fund its security forces for the next 15 to 20 years, appealing for foreign aid to stand up the police and army.

"For 15 to 20 years, Afghanistan will not be able to sustain a force of that nature and capability with its own resources," Karzai told a joint news conference with visiting US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

He spoke following talks with Gates on how Washington intends to implement a sweeping new war strategy that will send 30,000 extra American troops to fight the Taliban, in a bid to start withdrawing US forces from July 2011.

The projected US draw down of forces has sparked concern in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan at a time when the Taliban-led insurgency is at its deadliest since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted their regime in Kabul.

"We hope that the international community and the United States, as our first ally, will help Afghanistan reach the ability to sustain a force," the Afghan president told the news conference.

## Clarification

## Introduction of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and Machine Readable VISA (MRV) program in Bangladesh

This Clarification is intended to share the facts relating to the misleading news being circulated on various printed and electronic media on the Introduction of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and Machine Readable Visa (MRV) for Bangladesh.

We are deeply concerned by a lot of misleading news comprising of true, half-true, and outright fabricated information being published in various national dailies, which is tarnishing the image of IRIS JV consortium members. We would therefore like to clarify these issues so that the valued readers are informed of the actual facts.

- Cancellation of Contract in Turkey:** The IRIS JV that has participated in the Bangladesh MRP/MRV project, comprises of three companies: IRIS Corporation Berhad, dataedge, and PWPW. IRIS Corporation Berhad did not participate in the Turkish ePassport program. Turkey's ePassport project was won by a consortium consisting of IRIS Technologies and a Turkish company by the name of Kunt Elektronik San. Tic. A. S. It should be noted that IRIS Technologies is a separate legal entity and therefore, there is no legal requirement to disclose or not disclose the issues of IRIS Technologies when the bidder is a separate legal entity as IRIS Corporation Berhad.
- Experience of PWPW:** ITT 12.1(b) of the tender document, states that the supplier must be capable of producing minimum eight million passports in a year and have issued minimum 25 million to other states. In this regard, we confirm that PWPW is capable of supplying more than 8 million passport a year and has already provided more than 25 million passports to countries other than Bangladesh.
- practical use of Ruhlamet printers:** We have provided state-of-the-art Ruhlamet printing solution that not only meets the tender specifications but exceeds them significantly. The tender requirement for personalization device (printer) was to have practical use for personalizing passports in at least five different countries (TDS 7.8.1 Item # 10). We have quoted Ruhlamet printers which are being used in nine countries (documentary evidence provided with the submitted bid).
- Submission of sample booklets:** We confirm that we have submitted sample passport booklets with lamination foil as per the tender requirement.
- Tusuka Properties:** This has nothing to do with the MRP project in Bangladesh. However, Tusuka Properties, being a sister concern of Tusuka Technotrade Limited, had participated in 2006 as the highest bidder in an open public auction conducted by *Arthorin Adalat* (Court) under the direction of Sonali Bank, Cantonment Branch, for the Gulshan property of a certain convicted criminal. We find this sort of smear campaigning against us by certain vested quarters unprofessional.

We hope the readers will clearly see through the smokescreen being created by a vested interest group to ensure that the next responsive bidder gets awarded costing the nation an additional Taka 260 crore over five years!

## TENDER NOTICE FOR SELECTION OF C&amp;F AGENT

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2	Agency	ICDDR,B
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Imported Goods related Services - Selection of C&F Agent.
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/Mohakhali/Gyanaloy/08-27 Date: November 15, 2009.
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
8	Budget and Source of Funds	IDA through RPA (GoB)
9	Project (if applicable)	Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh
10	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No.: 27 Procurement of Imported Goods related Services - Selection of C&F Agent.
11	Tender Publication Date	December 09, 2009
12	Tender Last Selling Date	December 30, 2009
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	December 31, 2009 Time: 11:30 A. M
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	December 31, 2009 Time: 12:00 Noon
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address - Selling Tender Document Cash Counter-2, Treasury Unit, Ground Floor, IPH Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka during 10:00 a. m to 03:00 p.m. - Receiving Tender Document Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka. - Opening Tender Document Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
16	Pre-Tender Meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on <b>December 20, 2009</b> at 10:00 AM in the Finance Conference Room, Procurement & Materials Unit, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	i) The tenderers must be genuine C&F agent(s), having valid C&F license, VAT registration certificate, Trade license etc. ii) (a) Tenderer shall have minimum <b>07 (seven)</b> years of overall experience as C&F agent. (b) Tenderer must have warehouse facilities at Chittagong, Dhaka. iii) Tenderer shall have minimum <b>5 (five)</b> years of specific experience in the execution of similar nature of sea & air shipment handling of Govt International and Diplomatic / UN agencies. iv) Tenderers shall submit documents for handling minimum value for <b>Tk. 4.00 (four) crore</b> of single shipment for last <b>3 (three) years</b> working with Govt. / International / UN agencies / Foreign Mission in Bangladesh. v) Tenderer must have their own transport fleet as per requirement.
18	Identification of Lots, Tender Security, Completion Time and Price of Tender Document	
	Pkg. No.	Identification Location Tender Security Amount in Tk. by Pay Order / Bank Guarantee Completion Time/ Validity of Contract Price of Tender Document (in cash)
	Pkg-27	Procurement of Imported Goods related Services - Selection of C&F Agent. ICDDR,B 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. BDT. 100,000/- (one lac) Only. 2 (two) years from the date of signing of contract BDT.5,000.00
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abu Masum
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Manager, Procurement,
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Gyanaloy Project, Finance Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: (8802)8860523-32 Fax: (8802)9860620 e-mail: masum@icddr.org
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	
24	Special Instruction :	(a) All activities in connection with the said Procurement of Imported Goods related Services - Selection of C&F Agent will be guided as per rule of <b>"The Public Procurement Rules 2008"</b> . (b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.