

Guantanamo
'hell on Earth',
says Somali
detainee

AP, Hargeisa

A Somali just home from eight years in the US jail at Guantanamo Bay told AFP the prison was "hell on Earth", and alleged torture there had scarred some of his fellow inmates.

Mohamed Saleeban Bare, who arrived in his hometown of Hargeisa on Saturday, said he was innocent of any charges that would have caused security forces to arrest him in Pakistan in 2001 and transfer him to the US jail via Afghanistan.

2 New Zealand
farmers guilty
on cow cruelty
charge

AP, Wellington

A New Zealand court convicted two farmers on an animal cruelty charge yesterday for impaling a live cow with a tractor's fork.

The two North Island men had shot an ailing Hereford cross cow last year to slaughter it and told authorities they thought it already was dead when they speared it with the tractor. But a policeman later noticed that the animal was still alive, and it was able to stagger away when released from the tractor fork.

Farm owner Ronald Frew and farm manager Geoffrey Donald, both 43, were found guilty in Taihape District Court of ill-treating a cow, Radio New Zealand reported.

Runaway teen
sailor escorted
back to
Netherlands

AP, The Hague

Police say 14-year-old sailor Laura Dekker has arrived back in the Netherlands after disappearing from home and flying to the Caribbean.

Police spokesman Bernhard Jens says Dekker is being interviewed by police at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and will then be turned over to childcare authorities.

Dekker was shielded from waiting media after her arrival early Tuesday morning on a flight from the Netherlands Antilles island of Curacao.

Dekker made headlines earlier this year when a court banned her from attempting to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world.

China rejects UK claims it 'hijacked' climate talks

AP, Beijing

China dismissed yesterday a British editorial accusing it of "hijacking" the UN-sponsored climate talks in Copenhagen as baseless and politically motivated.

British climate change minister Edward Miliband's editorial singled out Beijing as the culprit behind the talks' near collapse.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said the piece seemed designed to sow discord among developing nations.

She said the comments by an individual British politician not mentioning Miliband by name were an attempt to "shirk the obligations of developed countries to their developing counterparts and foment discord among developing countries, but the attempt was doomed to fail."

At a news conference later, Jiang added that

developed countries are "absolutely unqualified to censure developing countries" on climate change since many of them have not honoured existing commitments to curb global warming. She didn't specify any countries or say how they fell short.

"China has made arduous efforts," she said. "In terms of attitude and effectiveness of our actions, our measures are on par with any other country."

China has said it will cut "carbon intensity," a measure of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of production, by 40 to 45 percent by 2020, compared with levels in 2005.

Miliband wrote in The Guardian newspaper Sunday that most countries developed and developing supported binding cuts in emissions, but that "some leading developing countries currently refuse to countenance this."



PHOTO: AFP

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon (L) shakes hands with China's President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday. French Prime Minister Francois Fillon told Chinese students during a speech at Beijing's Beihang University that any "misunderstandings" between Paris and Beijing were a thing of the past, following a heated row last year over Tibet.



Egypt antiquities
chief to demand
Nefertiti bust

AP, Cairo

Egypt's antiquities chief said he will formally demand the return of the 3,300-year-old bust of Queen Nefertiti from a Berlin museum after confirming it was sneaked out of Cairo through fraudulent documents.

Zahi Hawass, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, has been aggressively campaigning to reclaim treasures that he says were stolen from Egypt and purchased by some of the world's leading museums.

Hawass' campaign yielded a huge success this week with the return of painted wall fragments from a 3,200-year-old tomb from the Louvre in Paris. Hawass had cut ties with the French museum and suspended its excavation in southern Cairo to pressure it to return the artefacts.

Highlighting the importance of the efforts, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak traveled to Paris to oversee the handover of the fragments, which arrived in Cairo Tuesday.

Washington 'forged' nuclear documents: Ahmadinejad

AFP, Washington

Documents revealed last week that appear to show Tehran is working on a nuclear bomb trigger were "forged" by Washington, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has told a US news network.

"They are all fabricated bunch of papers continuously being forged and disseminated by the American government," Ahmadinejad told ABC News in an interview aired Monday when asked about the confidential documents first revealed in London's The Times newspaper.

The obtained documents describe a four-year plan to test a neutron initiator, the component of a nuclear bomb that triggers an explosion.

The Times claimed that foreign intelligence agencies dated the documents to early 2007 -- four years after Tehran was thought to have suspended its weapons programme.

Qaeda vows revenge

73 Saudi soldiers killed till November

AFP, Dubai, Washington

Washington, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has told a US news network.

"They are all fabricated bunch of papers continuously being forged and disseminated by the American government," Ahmadinejad told ABC News in an interview aired Monday when asked about the confidential documents first revealed in London's The Times newspaper.

Al-Jazeera identified them as "armed men claiming to be from al-Qaeda" and said they had vowed revenge for the victims of the air raid.

Thursday's air strike on the village of Al-Majala killed 23 children and 17 women, a local official and tribal sources said.

In a separate development, documents revealed last week that appear to show Tehran is working on a nuclear bomb trigger were "forged" by

Describing charges that Iran's continuing work on a clandestine nuclear weapons program as "a repetitive and tasteless joke," Ahmadinejad said the reports were about a nuclear trigger were "fundamentally not true."

US President Barack Obama's senior advisor David Axelrod said Sunday that any accusation of Washington fabricating documents was "nonsense."

"Nobody has any illusions about what the intent of the Iranian government is," Axelrod told ABC's "This Week."

"We've given them an opportunity to prove otherwise by allowing them to ship their nuclear material out to be reprocessed for peaceful use. And they have passed on that deal so far."

Ahmadienjad told AFP on Friday that Iran was ready to strike a uranium enrichment deal if the United States and the West respect the Islamic Republic and stop making threats.

World has
'betrayed'
Gaza civilians

AFP, Jerusalem

The world has "betrayed" civilians in the Gaza Strip by failing to end a blockade of the Hamas-run enclave, 16 rights groups, including Amnesty International and Oxfam, said yesterday.

The international community has betrayed the people of Gaza by failing to back their words with effective action to secure the ending of the Israeli blockade which is preventing reconstruction and recovery," said the report.

Israel and Egypt have allowed only vital humanitarian aid into the territory since the Islamist Hamas seized power there in June 2007.

First Eurostar train leaves Paris

European flight cancellations add to Christmas chaos

AP, AFP, Paris / London

Eurostar resumed its high-speed rail service linking Britain, France and Belgium yesterday after a three-day suspension that stranded tens of thousands of travellers during the holiday season and left French President Nicolas Sarkozy indignant.

The first train pulled out of the Gare du Nord station in Paris shortly after 8 a.m. carrying 750 passengers, most of whom had been stranded for days.

Budget airline easyJet cancelled more than 150 flights yesterday due to severe weather conditions, in a fresh blow to European passengers hoping to travel for the Christmas holidays.

Officials at the Eurostar train company said they had identified the problem that caused trains to break down in the Channel Tunnel unusually dry, powdery snow that got into the engines.

As many as 40,000 people have been affected by the suspension. Eurostar

offered its "deepest apologies" and promised compensation.

President Sarkozy on Monday summoned the head of France's SNCF rail operator into the Elysee Palace for a one-on-one meeting and ordered him to get the Eurostar moving again, saying the situation was "unacceptable for travellers."

Problems started Friday after five trains failed inside the Channel Tunnel, trapping more than 2,000 passengers for hours in stuffy and claustrophobic conditions. Exhausted, sometimes teary-eyed passengers appeared in British and French TV broadcasts complaining that they had been left underground for more than 15 hours, without food or water or any clear idea of what was going on.

Eurostar's CEO Richard Brown, who has faced stiff criticism over the company's handling of the crisis, pledged that "we will be doing our very best to get everyone home by Christmas."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Gopalganj PWD Division, Gopalganj

Dated:

Memo No.

Invitation for Tender (Open Tendering Method)

1. Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	:	Public Works Department (PWD).
3. Procuring entity name	:	Executive Engineer, Gopalganj PWD Division, Gopalganj.
4. Procuring entity code	:	NA
5. Procuring entity district	:	Gopalganj.
6. Invitation for	:	Construction of Fire Service & Civil Defence Station at Mukshedpur in the District of Gopalganj (work comprises of civil, sanitary & water supply, kitchen cum dining, underground reservoir, pump house, fuel shed, flag stand & El works).

7. Invitation Ref. No. : Tender No-15/2009-2010.

8. Date : 13-12-2009.

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement method : Open tendering method.

FOUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and source of funds : GOB

11. Development partners : N/A.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/programme name : N/A.

13. Tender publication date : Within 22-12-2009.

14. Tender last selling date : 11-01-2010 during office hour.

15. Tender closing date and time : 12-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon.

16. Tender opening date and time : 12-01-2010 at 1:00pm.

17. Name and address of the office(s) : Address

a) Selling tender document : Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Gopalganj.

b) Selling tender document (others) : Executive Engineer, under Barisal PWD Zone, Barisal/Dhaka PWD Division-1, Dhaka/Chittagong PWD Division-1, Chittagong/Rajshahi PWD Division-1, Rajshahi/Khulna PWD Division, Sylhet/Divisional Commissioner's Office, Dhaka.

c) Receiving tender document : Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Gopalganj.

d) Opening tender document : Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Gopalganj.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

18. Eligibility of tenderer	:	This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below:
a)	:	A physical or juridical individual or body of individuals or company subject to the condition that eligible category of contractors/tenders stated above have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in similar nature works and also having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of building work in a single work order of government/semi-government/autonomous organisation during last 5 (five) years with Tk 50.00 lac including having experience in completion of water supply, sanitary work and electrical works of Tk 2.00 (two) lacs each. The experience certificate for successful completion works shall have to be issued by the office not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned department/organisation duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of that district/area under whose jurisdiction the work has been done as per Format (Form W-9) for the purpose provided with the tender document.
b)	:	The tenderers shall have minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk 100.00 (one hundred) lacs.
c)	:	The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets/cash flow) and or credit facilities commitments of the successful tenderer shall be Tk 40.00 lacs.
d)	:	The tenderer must possess: i) up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, ii) valid VAT registration certificate, iii) up-to-date trade licence, iv) original money receipt, v) attested copy of document mentioned above to be submitted along with the tender, vi) fulfilling all the other condition of TDS.
e)	:	Other required eligibility and conditions of the tender are shown in tender data sheet and P.C.C. of tender document.

20. Brief description of works : Civil, sanitary & water supply arrangement and electrical works etc.

21. Brief description of related services : Civil, sanitary & water supply arrangement and electrical works etc.

22. Lot No. Identification of lot : Location Price of tender document Tender security amount in form of PO/BD in schedule bank of Bangladesh Completion time

01	Construction of Fire Service & Civil Defence Station at Mukshedpur in the District of Gopalganj (work comprises of civil, sanitary & water supply, kitchen cum dining, underground reservoir, pump house, fuel shed flag stand & El works)	Near Mukshedpur PS	Tk 2,00,000 (two thousand)	Tk 2,00,000 (two lac) only	365 days
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a)	The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
b)	If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate the tender security may be forfeited.
c)	This tender notice in brief and the details of the tender can be seen from the office of the undersigned during