

34 suspected Qaeda men killed in Yemen airstrike

AFP, Sanaa

Yemeni forces killed 34 suspected al-Qaeda members, including senior leaders, in a dawn raid Thursday in a remote mountainous region of Yemen's Shabwa province, a security source said.

The raid was carried out as dozens of members of al-Qaeda were meeting in Wadi Rafadh, said the source, referring to a rugged location about 650 kilometres (400 miles) east of the Yemeni capital.

The head of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Nasser al-Wahishi and his deputy, Saeed al-Saudi Shahrani, were present at the meeting, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US Senate okays historic healthcare reform bill

AP, Washington

Senate Democrats passed a landmark healthcare bill yesterday that could define President Barack Obama's legacy and usher in near-universal medical coverage for the first time in the country's history.

The 60-39 vote on a cold Christmas Eve morning capped months of arduous negotiations and 24 days of floor debate. It also followed a succession of failures by past congresses to get to this point. Vice President Joe Biden presided as 58 Democrats and two independents voted "yes." Republicans unanimously voted "no."

The tally far exceeded the simple majority required for passage.

The Senate's bill must still be merged

with legislation passed by the House before Obama could sign a final bill in the new year. There are significant differences between the two measures but Democrats say they've come too far now to fail.

Both bills would extend health insurance to more than 30 million more Americans.

Vicki Kennedy, the widow of the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, who made health reform his life's work, watched the vote from the gallery.

"This morning isn't the end of the process, it's merely the beginning. We'll continue to build on this success to improve our health system even more," Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, said before the vote. "But that process cannot begin unless we start today... there

may not be a next time."

The House passed its own measure in November. The White House and Congress have now come further toward the goal of a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's healthcare system than any of their predecessors.

The legislation would ban the insurance industry from denying benefits or charging higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. The Congressional Budget Office predicts the bill will reduce deficits by \$130 billion over the next 10 years, an estimate that assumes lawmakers carry through on hundreds of billions of dollars in planned cuts to insurance companies and doctors, hospitals and others who treat Medicare patients.



US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (3rd L) speaks alongside US Senate Democrats during a press conference after a series of procedural votes prior to the final vote on pending healthcare reform legislation at Capitol in Washington, DC Wednesday.



Palestinian children enjoy Christmas festivities at the Manger square outside the Church of the Nativity in the Biblical West Bank city of Bethlehem on Wednesday. Scores of Christian pilgrims are celebrating the Christmas at the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Iran sentences leading reformist to 6 yrs jail

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian court has sentenced prominent reformist Abdollah Ramezanzadeh to six years in prison on charges including acting against national security, the Fars news agency reported on Thursday.

Ramezanzadeh, spokesman for reformist former

president Mohammad Khatami, was arrested on June 14 in a crackdown on mass protests against the disputed re-election of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad two days earlier.

"Branch 15 of the revolutionary court announced that the court of first instance has sentenced Ramezanzadeh, one of the defendants from the

recent incidents, to six years in prison," Fars said.

"Acting against national security, propaganda against the Islamic republic and keeping confidential documents were among the charges against him," it added.

Ramezanzadeh pleaded not guilty on all counts at a late-November hearing. Iranian media reported at the time.

UN slaps sanctions on Eritrea

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council on Wednesday slapped an arms embargo on Eritrea and targeted sanctions on its leaders for aiding Somali rebels and refusing to withdraw troops from its disputed border with Djibouti.

The vote in the 15-member body was 13 in favour, with veto-wielding China abstaining and Libya, the lone Arab council member and the current African Union chair, casting a "no" vote.

Eritrea's UN ambassador Araya Desta rejected the council's charges and slammed what he called a "shameful resolution based on fabricated lies mainly concocted by the Ethiopian regime and the US administration."

The Ugandan-drafted text bans weapons sales to and from Eritrea, while also imposing travel restrictions and asset freezes on the country's political and military leadership.

Guantanamo prison may stay open till 2011

AP, Washington

President Barack Obama's commitment to close the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by next month may be delayed until 2011 because it will take months for the government to buy an Illinois prison and upgrade it to hold suspected terrorists.

The drawn-out construction timetable shows the political risk of Obama's pledge, a delay that could even be extended by congressional opposition to funding the purchase and upgrades for the Thomson Correctional Centre, an underused state facility about 150 miles west of Chicago.

Lawmakers in both parties have been wary of bringing detainees to the United States. Attorney General Eric Holder already has decided that self-declared 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others will be tried in federal court in New York City.

In the Senate, a spokesman for Republican leader Mitch McConnell promised that the GOP would use delaying tactics to prevent funding the Illinois facility and added that he expected support from Democrats.

Massive storm snarls holiday travel in US

AFP, Chicago

A massive winter storm yesterday snarled holiday travel across the central United States as freezing rain and heavy snow caused traffic chaos and threatened to ground more flights.

"There's just a humongous storm moving across the center of the country, basically from the Canadian border to Texas and spreading from west Colorado to Illinois," said National Weather Service (NWS) spokesman Pat Slattery.

"Christmas travel is going to be very difficult."

The northern parts of the storm were expected to drop up to two feet (61 centimetres) of snow while flood warnings

were issued further south.

A powerful tornado late Wednesday on the storm's southern flank slammed the town of Longview in eastern Texas, ripping the roof off a house and toppling trees, the local KLTV station reported.

"We would recommend that people if at all possible postpone their travel plans just to be on the safe side," Slattery said in a telephone interview.

"This is not a storm to be messed with."

Freezing rain would make driving extremely dangerous - especially after dark when the rain turns to ice - and high winds would dramatically reduce visibility, Slattery warned.

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UN appeals for calm after Copenhagen bustup

AFP, Paris

The UN's pointman on climate change pleaded for calm on Wednesday after angry spats erupted over the outcome of the much-trumpeted world climate summit in Copenhagen.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), warned "all this finger-pointing and recrimination" could cloud negotiations next year for sealing a post-2012

pact on tackling global warming.

"We need to work together constructively, whereas countries are in the media blaming each other for what happened, the same countries that are going to have to be back at the negotiating table next year with an open willingness to work together," he told AFP in a phone interview from London.

"It's bad for the atmosphere, it's bad for the relationship among people that ultimately have a common

goal to move this forward."

De Boer did not name names but chose to give the interview after Britain and China swapped verbal blows as to who was to blame for the Copenhagen outcome, while Brazil took aim at the United States.

Sweden, current president of the European Union, said the summit was a "disaster" and declared both China and the United States, the world's number one and two polluters, responsible for the disappointing result.

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CORRIGENDUM - 1

The following amendments in the "Bid notices" issued under memo no. DESCO/CS/SPSDP/2009/5665 dated 24/11/2009 published in "The Daily Ittefaq" and "The Daily Star" on 25/11/2009 and memo no. DESCO/CS/SPSDP/2009/5585 dated 23/11/2009 published in "The Daily Samakal" and "The Daily Star" on 24/11/2009 are hereby issued which shall constitute an integral part of the said Bid Notices and the corresponding Bid Documents:

| Sl. No. | Corresponding ICB No. | Package no./Lot no. | Description of Materials/Goods | Revised date and time for submission of Bids up to | Revised date and time for opening of Bids |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 01. | 02/2009 | 3/B | 11/0.415KV, 750KVA & 500KVA, 3-Phase, 50Hz, Package Type Distribution Sub-Station | 25/01/2010 at 12:00 PM | 25/01/2010 at 12:30 PM |
| 02. | 04/2009 | 5/G (Group-1) | Tools & Safety Accessories | 26/01/2010 at 12:00 PM | 26/01/2010 at 12:30 PM |
| | | 5/G (Group-2) | Test Equipment | 26/01/2010 at 12:00 PM | 26/01/2010 at 01:00 PM |
| | | 5/G (Group-3) | Meter Testing Equipment | 26/01/2010 at 12:00 PM | 26/01/2010 at 01:30 PM |
| | | 5/G (Group-4) | Transformer Oil Centrifuging Machine & Accessories | 26/01/2010 at 12:00 PM | 26/01/2010 at 02:00 PM |

However, all other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Memo no. DESCO/CS/SPSDP/2009/6060
Dated 24/12/2009

A. H. M. Nurul Huda
Company Secretary



ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Registered Office: WAPDA Building (First Floor), 12 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
BTMC Bhaban (8th Floor), 7-9, Kavarin Bazar C/A, Dhaka - 1215. Tel: 880-2-9116382, 8124197
Fax: 880-2-9118345, E-mail: egcb_ld@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR TENDERS.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Ministry / Division | Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources. |
| 2 | Agency | Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. |
| 3 | Procuring Entity name | Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. |
| 4 | Procuring Entity Code | N/A |
| 5 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka |
| 6 | Invitation for | Procurement of Goods (Single Lot) |
| 7 | Invitation Ref. No. | 3091-EGCB/2009 |
| 8 | Date | 24-12-2009 |
| KEY INFORMATION | | |
| 9 | Procurement Method | ICT (Open Tendering Method) |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | |
| 10 | Budget and Source of Funds | Revenue Budget (EGCB's Own fund) |
| 11 | Development Partners (if applicable) | N/A |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | |
| 12 | Project/ Programme Code (if applicable) | N/A |
| 13 | Project/ Programme Name (if applicable) | N/A |
| 14 | Tender Package No | N/A |
| 15 | Tender Package Name | Procurement of Hydrazine Hydrate for Boiler of Siddhirganj 210 MW Thermal Power Station, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh |
| 16 | Tender Publication Date | 25-12-2009 |
| 17 | Tender Last Selling Date | 07-02-2010 up to 15:00 Hr (BST) |
| 18 | Tender Submission Date & Time | 08-02-2010 up to 12:00 Hr (BST) |
| 19 | Tender Opening Date & Time | 08-02-2010 on 12:30 Hr (BST) (Tenderers or their authorized representatives, if any, are allowed to attend) |
| 20 | Name and Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document | Company Secretary, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (8 th Level), 7-9, Kavarin Bazar, Dhaka. |
| | - Receiving Tender Document | Company Secretary, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (8 th Level), 7-9, Kavarin Bazar, Dhaka. |
| | - Opening Tender Document | Company Secretary, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (8 th Level), 7-9, Kavarin Bazar, Dhaka. |
| 21 | Place/Date/Time of Pre Tender Meeting | N/A. |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | |
| 22 | Eligibility of Tenderer | The Manufacturer/Tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years of specific experience in the Production / supply of similar goods. |
| 23 | Brief Description of Goods | Procurement of Hydrazine Hydrate for Boiler of Siddhirganj 210 MW Thermal Power Station, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh |
| 24 | Brief Description of Related services | N/A |
| 25 | Price of Tender Document (TK) | TK 2100/- (Two thousand one hundred) or US \$ 30/- (Thirty) to be paid in the form of Bank Draft / Pay order in favor of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. |
| 26 | Lot No. | Identification of Lot |
| | N/A | Hydrazine Hydrate |
| | | Location: Siddhirganj 210 MW Thermal Power Station, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh |
| | | Tender Security Amount: US\$ 1,500/- or BDT 1,05,000/- |
| | | Completion Time: 150 days from the date of opening of Letter of Credit |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | |
| 27 | Name of Official Inviting the Tender | Kazi Nazrul Islam |
| 28 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender | Company Secretary |
| 29 | Address of Official Inviting the Tender | EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (8 th Level), 7-9, Kavarin Bazar, Dhaka. |
| 30 | Contact details of Official Inviting the Tender : | Tel: +88-02-8124197, 9134029, 9134032 Fax: +88-02-9118345 |
| 31 | The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders. | |

(Kazi Nazrul Islam)
Company Secretary
EGCB Ltd.

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Job responsibilities :

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2. Ensure the compliance of the organization's policies and procedure.
3. Prepare and finalize audit report with necessary analysis and comparison.
4. Ensure accuracy of audit reply, review of management reply and presentation of facts in the Annual Review Committee (ARC).
5. Disseminate follow-up audit report and communicate with respective programs/ departments.
6. Assist Manager Audit for preparation of monthly audit report, program wise scope of audit, audit program and permanent file structure, quarterly report or presentation of financial and accounts related irregularities.

Educational Qualification : C.A. Course Completed with M.Com.

Salary : Tk. 17,170/- per month

Age : Maximum 33 years.

Job Location : Dhaka (BRAC Head Office) with frequent field visit in remote/ town areas within the country (Any BRAC Field Offices).

Audit Officer-I

Job responsibilities :

1. Audit of different programs/departments/enterprises of BRAC as per annual audit plan.
2. Ensure the compliance of the organization's policies and procedure.
3. Prepare and finalize audit report with necessary analysis and comparison.
4. Assess correctness of audit reply, review of management reply and necessary follow-up.
5. Assist Manager Audit for preparation of monthly and quarterly audit report.

Educational Qualification : B.Com. with C.A. Course Completed/ C.M.A (Inter)

Salary : Tk. 13,760/- per month

Age : Maximum 33 years.

Job Location : Dhaka (BRAC Head Office) with frequent field visit in remote/ town areas within the country (Any BRAC Field Offices).

Additional information for both positions

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