



Israeli leftwing peace activists join Palestinian protesters in a demonstration against the eviction of Palestinians from their homes in annexed Arab east Jerusalem, in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood on Friday. Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 six day war and later annexed it in a move not recognised by the international community.

Iran gives West ultimatum to accept nuke proposal

AP, AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday gave the West a one-month "ultimatum" to accept a uranium swap, warning that if there is no deal it will produce its own nuclear fuel for a Tehran reactor, state television reported. Iran is warning it will produce nuclear fuel on its own if there is no deal to have the West deliver the fuel in exchange for Tehran's enriched uranium by the end of January.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told state TV on Saturday the West must "make a decision" whether to accept the Iranian counterproposal to either sell Tehran the fuel or swap it for Iran's enriched uranium.

Mottaki says this is an "ultimatum." He says the international community "has one month left" to decide or Tehran will enrich uranium to a higher level, needed for the fuel.

Iran dismissed an end of 2009 deadline on a UN-drafted deal to swap enriched uranium for nuclear fuel. The deal would have reduced Iran's capabilities to make nuclear weapons.

"The international community has just one month left to decide" whether or not it will accept Iran's conditions, otherwise "Tehran will enrich uranium to a higher level," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki was quoted as saying.

Iran, which rejected a December 31 deadline to accept a UN-brokered deal, said on Tuesday it is ready to swap abroad its low-enriched uranium for nuclear fuel, insisting however that the exchange should happen in stages.

Tehran has rejected a proposal by UN nuclear watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to ship out most of its stockpile of low-enriched uranium for further processing by Russia and France into fuel for a research reactor.

Iran said it was ready for a fuel swap "in several stages," and in late December Mottaki said Iran is open to exchanging uranium on Turkish soil. The IAEA has ruled out a swap taking place on Iranian territory.

World powers have been pushing for Iran to accept the UN-brokered deal and are also mulling plans to impose fresh UN sanctions against Tehran after the Islamic republic dismissed the year-end deadline.

Iran is already under three sets of UN sanctions for refusing to abandon its sensitive programme of uranium enrichment, the process which produces nuclear fuel or, in highly extended form, the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

The United States, Israel, and other world powers suspect Tehran is making an atomic bomb under the guise of a civilian nuclear programme. Iran denies the charge.

Israeli warplanes hit Gaza after rocket attack

AFP, Gaza City

Israeli aircraft attacked at least four targets in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip early yesterday, wounding two people in retaliation for a rocket strike on Israel, officials said.

Two explosions were heard in Gaza City, one north of the city and one in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. Palestinian medics and witnesses said all the missiles appeared to land in open fields.

Two people, including a child, were lightly wounded, medics said.

An Israeli military spokesman said warplanes had attacked two tunnels militants were digging in the direction of Israel, apparently to

infiltrate the country and carry out attacks. Israel routinely retaliates after rocket attacks from Gaza, and the latest air strikes came after a rocket hit the southern town of Netivot on Thursday without causing casualties.

"We will not tolerate any attempt to disrupt the calm in Israel's southern communities," the spokesman said.

It marked the latest violence along Gaza's border, which has been mostly quiet since a war Israel launched on the Islamist Hamas in Gaza on December 27, 2008 in response to rocket fire ended with mutual ceasefires on January 18.

The ceasefires have largely held, despite violations by both sides.

Obama blames al-Qaeda affiliate for airliner attack

AFP, Honolulu

US President Barack Obama yesterday for the first time accused an al-Qaeda affiliate of arming and training a young Nigerian man for a thwarted suicide mission to blow up a US airliner.

Obama, in his weekly radio and video address, promised to hold the group, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, to account for the attack, declaring the United States was at war with a "far-reaching network of violence and hatred."

The president's vacation in his home state of Hawaii has been interrupted by the ramifications of the failed attack on a Northwest jet heading for Detroit on Christmas Day.

Obama has reviewed preliminary results of probes he has ordered into the attack, and said details were becoming clear about the 23-year-old Nigerian suspect Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

"We know that he travelled to Yemen, a country grappling with crushing poverty and deadly insurgencies," Obama said in his address, posted on the White House website early Saturday.



US President Barack Obama eats shave ice with his daughters Malia (L) and Sasha outside Island Snow store in Kailua, Hawaii, on Friday. The First Family is on a vacation in Hawaii.

Top ten smartest species of 2009 revealed

ANI, London

A report from BBC's Earth News has outlined ten of the smartest species revealed in 2009.

At number one is the albatross, which is smart enough to associate with killer whales in collecting food for its chicks, a strategy that the bird may adopt for efficiency.

Thanks to tiny cameras fitted on the seabirds' backs, scientists came to know that the albatross follows hunting killer whales, and tuck into the scraps left behind by the giant animals.

At number two is the chimpanzee, whose spatial memory is so precise that it can find a single tree among thousands in a forest.

The chimps also recall how productive each tree is, and can decide to travel farther to eat from those they know will yield the most fruit.

At number three is the octopus, which can scoop up halved coconut shells before scampering away with them so they can later use them as shelters.

Researchers said that it is the first example of tool use in octopuses.

Police shoot man who tried to kill cartoonist

AFP, Copenhagen

Danish police shot and arrested an axe-wielding Somali who attacked a cartoonist reviled by Muslims for a controversial drawing of their Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (SM), authorities said yesterday.

Kurt Westergaard, who has faced several death threats since his cartoon nearly five years ago set off protests across the Muslim world, hid in a safe room as the 28-year-old suspect tried to break into his home late Friday.

Police said they shot and wounded the intruder, said by intelligence services to be linked to the radical Somali Shebab movement and leaders of al-Qaeda in East Africa, as he threatened them with an axe and a knife.

"He will be charged for two murder attempts, on Kurt Westergaard and on a police officer," East Jutland Police Superintendent Ole Mabsen told AFP on Saturday.



Evacuees affected by the Mayon volcano unload their belongings from a jeepney as they return home in the outskirts of Legazpi City, the Philippines' Albay province yesterday.

John Major slams Blair over Iraq war

BBC ONLINE

Former prime minister Sir John Major has criticised Tony Blair's handling of the Iraq war and his presentation of the case for invasion in March 2003.

Sir John said he had reluctantly backed the war because he believed what Blair had said as prime minister.

But now, he said, big questions had been raised by the unfolding evidence to the Chilcott inquiry into the war.

He told the BBC the argument that Saddam Hussein was a bad man and must be removed was an "inadequate" one.

Sir John said it now seemed there were doubts before the invasion about whether there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"Utterly certain" in an interview with BBC Radio 4's Today programme, he said he wanted to know whether the cabinet had known about those doubts.

He said, "I had myself been prime minister in the first Gulf War, and I knew when I said something I was utterly certain that it was correct, and I said less than I knew."

"I assumed the same thing had happened and on that basis I supported reluctantly the second Iraq war."

Sir John said he did not know whether the invasion was potentially illegal, but he added that in the mid-1990s President Clinton's administration had raised the question of regime change with his officials.

They replied that any attempt to remove Saddam Hussein as a bad man had to be legal and viable.

Sir John said the argument that someone was bad was an inadequate argument for war.

"There are many bad men around the world who run countries and we don't topple them, and indeed in earlier years we had actually supported Saddam Hussein when he was fighting against Iran."

"The argument that someone is a bad man is an inadequate argument for war and certainly an inadequate and unacceptable argument for regime change."

KSA in talks with Iran over Laden daughter

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia said yesterday it is holding talks with Iran to repatriate Osama bin Laden's daughter to the kingdom after she took refuge in the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

"We consider this is a humanitarian issue," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told a news conference.

"We are negotiating with the Iranian government on this basis," he said.

Imam bin Laden, 17, recently fled from a family compound near Tehran to the embassy in hopes of leaving Iran, where she, several siblings and one of Osama bin Laden's wives have lived under house arrest for several years.

British newspaper The Times reported 11 of the al-Qaeda terror network chief's grandchildren were also living in the high-security compound outside Iran's capital.

সোশ্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
SOCIAL ISLAMI BANK LIMITED

Logistic Support Division
 Head Office: 15, Dilkusha C.A, Dhaka

INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR 60KVA PRIME DIESEL GENERATOR

1. Description of work	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of a 60 KVA Prime Diesel generator in the 1 st Floor of SIBL Principal Branch Premises, 15 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
2. Detail Specifications & Terms & Conditions	Interested bidders may download specifications and details of terms and conditions from the bank's website- www.siblb.com or may collect specifications and description of terms and conditions by return mail by placing request to the Vice President, Logistic Support Division, Head Office, 15 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka two working days ahead of tender submission date through email address- siblsd@gmail.com
3. Source of Funds	Social Islami Bank Limited
4. Tenders Ref. & Date	SIBL/HO/GSD/2009/470 dated 31.12.2009
Tender Security	Tk 30,000/- in the form of PO favoring "Social Islami Bank Limited" from any qualified financial institution in Bangladesh.
5. Time for Completion of Delivery	As per date mentioned in the work order
6. Eligibility of Bidders	Must be Bangladeshi national / firm / company / joint venture company. At least 5-years experience in similar work with a bank and must have (a) Trade License, (b) VAT Registration, (c) TIN
7. Name and address of the Office for receiving and opening of Tender Document	Logistic Support Division Social Islami Bank Limited 4 th Floor, 15 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka in all office hours.
8. Date & Time for Submission of Tenders	10.01.2010 up to 3.30 pm
9. Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	10.01.2010 at 4.00 pm
10. Special Instruction	a. Bidder or bidder's authorized representative is allowed (one person for each tender) to remain present at the time of tender opening. b. The Bank Authority reserves the right to reject all tender prior to acceptance and is not bound to select the lowest bidder for supplying any generator.

A H M Rezaul Quader
 Vice President
 Phone- 9559335, e-mail address: siblsd@gmail.com



Recently trained Shebab fighters wait during a military exercise on Friday in northern Mogadishu's Suqaholaha neighbourhood. The group's senior officials said they are prepared to cross Gulf of Aden in order to assist Islamist fighters in Yemen.

Britain for talks on fighting extremism in Yemen

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called an international meeting Friday on combating extremism in Yemen, after an alleged attempt to blow up a US airliner threw the spotlight on militancy there.

Brown's office said the meeting would take place in London on January 28, running "in parallel" with a conference on Afghanistan which is expected to be attended by senior ministers or leaders from about 43 nations.

Long-standing concerns that Yemen has become a haven for Islamic terror groups were thrown into sharp relief when a Nigerian man allegedly trained in the Gulf State was charged with trying to blow up a US airliner on December 25.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, reportedly confessed to being trained by an al-Qaeda bombmaker in Yemen for his alleged mission to blow up the plane as it came into land in Detroit, sparking a major international security scare.

The United States revealed this week that it was sharply increasing its military and economic aid to the Gulf State to fight a growing threat from al-Qaeda, and Brown said it was vital to mobilise international support.

"The international community must not deny Yemen the support it needs to tackle extremism," the British prime minister said.

BPDB's International Tender Notice

"বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রমী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.		
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Gas Welding Set, Arc Welding Machine, Spray Painting Machine with Gun & Compressor, Bench Grinding Machine & Bench Drill Machine.		
7	Invitation for tenders Ref. No.	Pur-217/2009-10/Rev.(CF).		
8	Date	22-12-2009.		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	BPDB's Revenue Budget (Cash Foreign Exchange).		
11	Development partners	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code	Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name	Not applicable.		
14	Tender package No.	GDF-16 (FY 2009-2010).		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Gas Welding Set, Arc Welding Machine, Spray Painting Machine with Gun & Compressor, Bench Grinding Machine & Bench Drill Machine.		
16	Tender publication date	22-12-2009.		
17	Tender selling date	27-12-2009 to 17-01-2010.		
18	Tender closing date and time	18-01-2010 at 11.00am.		
19	Tender opening date and time	18-01-2010 at 11.30am.		
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (other)	Not applicable.		
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Renowned manufacturer/supplier/tenderer.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Gas Welding Set, Arc Welding Machine, Spray Painting Machine with Gun & Compressor, Bench Grinding Machine & Bench Drill Machine.		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only as Pay-Order (non-refundable) from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favour of the Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
26	Lot	Identification of lot		
		Location		
		Tender security amount		
		Completion time in weeks/months		
	(a) Gas Welding set-03 Nos.	BPDB's Central Store, Tongi, Gazipur	Tk. 15,000.00 or US\$ 215.00	180 days from the date of L/C opening
	(b) Arc Welding Machine-03 Nos.			
	(c) Spray Painting Machine with Gun & Compressor-04 Nos.			
	(d) Bench Grinding Machine-03 Nos.			
	(e) Bench Drill Machine-03 Nos.			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
27	Name of official inviting tender	Abu Reza Md Salahuddin		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	The Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.		
30	Contact details of official inviting	Phone: + 88 02 9550532, 7120089 Fax: + 88-02-7126151.		
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.			

Abu Reza Md. Salahuddin
 Director
 Directorate of Purchase
 BPDB, Dhaka

Biddiut/Jana-723(4)/23/12/09
 GD-5878