

Yemen ready to talk to Qaeda if they disarm

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's president Ali Abdullah Saleh said he is open to dialogue with al-Qaeda militants as a top official warned that dozens of foreign Jihadis are grouping in a remote part of the impoverished country.

"If al-Qaeda (militants) lay down their arms, renounce violence and terrorism and return to wisdom, we are prepared to deal with them," Saleh told Abu Dhabi TV in an interview carried by Yemen's Saba news agency on Sunday.

"We are prepared to deal with anyone who renounces violence and terrorism," he said.

Washington has urged Yemen to crack down on al-Qaeda after the local fran-

chise of Osama bin Laden's network said it was behind a Christmas Day botched bombing on board a US airliner.

Saleh, whose country is also facing a Shiite rebellion in the north and a movement for autonomy in the south, stressed the government will crack down heavily on those who resort to violence.

"They are a threat not only to Yemen but also to international peace and security, particularly al-Qaeda. They are ignorant, drug dealers and illiterate. They have no relation with Islam," he said.

The governor of southern Shabwa province, Ali Hasan al-Ahmadi, meanwhile was quoted Sunday as saying dozens of al-Qaeda fighters, among them

Saudis and Egyptians, have streamed in from Afghanistan to join local members of the jihadi network in lairs carved out in the province's rugged Kour mountain.

"There are dozens of Saudi and Egyptian al-Qaeda militants who came to the province," Ahmadi told the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat daily.

"This is in addition to Yemenis who came from Marib and Abyan (provinces) and a number of militants from Shabwa province itself," he added.

Among them, he added, are the leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) Nasser al-Wahishi, his number two, Saeed Ali al-Shehri, a Saudi, and radical US-Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaqi.



PHOTO: AFP
Palestinians stand next to their demolished home yesterday in the farming village of Tana near Nablus in the so-called Area C, a closed military zone where Israel exercises full control.

Blast kills British journalist in Afghanistan

AFP, London

A British journalist was killed and another seriously injured in an explosion in Afghanistan, which happened when they were embedded with US marines, Britain's Ministry of Defence said Sunday.

Rupert Hamer, defence correspondent for the Sunday Mirror newspaper, died when an improvised explosive device (IED) blew up as he accompanied a US Marine Corps patrol near Nawa, southern Afghanistan, on Saturday.

Russia kills two 'militant chiefs' in Dagestan

AFP, Moscow

Russian security forces have killed two leading local Islamist militants in clashes in the violent southern Caucasus region of Dagestan, officials said yesterday.

Madrid Begov, described as the head of the "Makhachkala-Shamkhal terrorist sabotage group", was killed Sunday morning during an operation by security forces in Makhachkala, the main city of Dagestan.

The clash took place when the forces surrounded a suspected militant safe house on the outskirts of the city, security officials in Dagestan told official Russian news agencies.

"After being asked to surrender, Begov replied with gunfire. In the resulting storm (of the house), Begov was eliminated," a spokesman for the FSB security service told the ITAR-TASS news agency.



PHOTO: AFP
Fireworks explode behind the "Zeche Zollverein" during the opening ceremony of the "Ruhr.2010" cultural capital event on Saturday in Essen, western Germany. The "Zeche Zollverein", a former colliery, is on the Unesco list of World Heritage Sites and will be one of the places in the Ruhr area where the Ruhr 2010 will be celebrated as cultural capital during one year with many events in arts, architecture, music, theatre and dance.

Britons concerned over rise of Muslims

ANI, London

A major study conducted by Britain's National Centre for Social Research has found that only a quarter of the locals feel positive towards Muslims.

The findings, which will be published later this month in the respected British Social Attitudes Survey, show that the British public is concerned at the rise of Islam in the UK and fear that the country is deeply divided along religious lines.

The study also found that more than half of the population would be strongly opposed to a mosque being built in their neighbourhood.

David Voas, professor of population studies at Manchester University, who analysed the data, said that people were becoming intolerant towards all religions due to "the degree to which Islam is perceived as a threat to social cohesion".

Israel trashes implicit US financial pressure

20 houses demolished in West Bank

AFP, Jerusalem/ Nablus

Israel yesterday dismissed an implicit threat by a top US official to apply financial pressure on its close ally in order to advance peace talks.

President Barack Obama's Middle East envoy George Mitchell said in an interview with PBS television earlier in the week that under US law, Washington "can withhold support on loan guarantees to Israel."

But Israeli Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said Sunday that "we have no indication that there is any intention to pressure us through the guarantees... only a few months ago we reached an agreement with the US treasury and state departments on the extension of their guarantees."

The United States offered Israel 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees in the early 1990s to assist the Jewish state in the absorption of hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

In 1991, former US President George Bush temporarily suspended the approval of the guarantees by Congress in order to pressure Israel to take part in an international peace conference.

Loan guarantees are not cash grants, but allow Israel to take loans from international bodies with better conditions and lower interest rates.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in response to Mitchell's comments that "everyone knows that the Palestinian Authority is refusing to renew the peace talks, while Israel has taken important and significant steps to kickstart the process."

Despite intensive diplomatic efforts, Washington has so far failed to revive the stalled Middle East peace process, a key component in the Obama administration's foreign policy.

The Palestinians have said they will not restart talks until Israel freezes all settlement activity, while the Jewish state has enacted only a partial easing of construction in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army on Sunday demolished 20 houses in the northern West Bank after evacuating some 40 families who were living there, Palestinian witnesses said.

The ramshackle houses used by local shepherds were in the farming village of Tana near Nablus in the so-called Area C, a closed military zone where Israel exercises full control.

US lawmakers to take up airport security

AFP, Washington

Boosted airport security measures will be at the top of US lawmakers' agenda when they return to Congress next week, amid intelligence failures exposed by the botched Christmas Day attack.

Top senators vowed to grill intelligence bosses on the alleged failings, with Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and National Counterterrorism

Centre director Michael Leiter in the firing line.

"We will ask Admiral Blair and Director Leiter why the intelligence community was unable to bring together pieces of intelligence held by various agencies to detect this plot," vowed Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman.

Lieberman, a Connecticut independent, will hold hearings on how to improve US security in the wake of the thwarted attack, starting January 20.

Europe freeze strands travellers, cuts power

AFP, Berlin

The Arctic freeze that has stricken Europe left hundreds of people stuck in vehicles in deep snow or stranded at airports with scores more flights cancelled and power cuts to thousands of homes yesterday.

The treacherous conditions cut off villages in northern Germany and the Baltic islands, and disrupted rail traffic with the troubled Eurostar still only able to run

two out of three trains under the English Channel.

The weather, which forecasters said was caused by a rare depression that they had called "Daisy", unleashed blizzards in northern Germany that left motorways, other roads and railways in impassable at certain points.

Hundreds of people were stuck in their cars and lorries in snow, or in trains, overnight and on Sunday morning, authorities said.



PHOTO: AFP
Extremely frigid temperatures cause steam to rise above the Des Moines River on Saturday in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, USA. The Midwest is bracing for another round of heavy snow and wind chills as low as 50 degrees below zero according to the National Weather Service.

Moon may get nuclear energy

ANI, Washington

Reports indicate that Nasa engineers are working on an ultra-compact nuclear power plant for the Moon that should generate enough electricity to run a house, or a lunar exploration base.

According to a report in Discovery News, the reactor is about the size of a big wastebasket.

When the Apollo astronauts were on the moon, they only stayed a few days at a time, and batteries or fuel cells did them just fine.

But now, Nasa is talking about astronauts staying for weeks or months, and batteries won't help their cause at all.

"They're going to need a long-term source of power for their exploration and scientific activities."


Brother of UAE president acquitted in torture trial

AFP, Dubai

An Emirati court on Sunday acquitted Sheikh Issa bin Zayed, the brother of the United Arab Emirates president, of charges of torturing an Afghan citizen, his lawyer told AFP.

"The court acquitted Sheikh Issa after establishing he was not responsible," for the torture, lawyer Habib al-Mulla said.

"The court accepted our defence that the Sheikh was under the influence of drugs (medicine) that left him unaware of his actions," the lawyer said.



Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (DUET), Gazipur

Gazipur-1700

Invitation for Tenders

01	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education.
02	Agency	: University Grants Commission (UGC).
03	Procuring entity name	: Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), Gazipur, Gazipur-1700.
04	Procuring entity district	: Gazipur.
05	Invitation for	: Procurement of goods.
06	Invitation Ref No.	: DUET/P&D/OTM/2009-10/158 Date: 07-01-2010
07	Procurement method	: Open tendering method (OTM).
08	Budget and source of funds	: GOB (Revenue).
09	Tender package No.	: G-14, G-15, G-16 & G-17
10	Tender publication date	: 10-01-2010
11	Tender last selling date	: 21-01-2010
12	Tender closing date and time	: 24-01-2010 at 12.00 noon.
13	Tender opening date and time	: 24-01-2010 at 12.15pm.
14	Name & addresses of the offices:	
15	Selling tender document	: Accounts Section, DUET, Gazipur, Gazipur-1700.
16	Receiving tender document	: Vice-Chancellor Office, DUET, Gazipur, Gazipur-1700.
17	Pre-tender meeting	: Place: Director (P&D) Office, DUET, Gazipur, Gazipur-1700. Date: 17-01-2010 & Time: 03.00pm.
18	Eligibility of tenderer	: Enlisted to any government, semi-government, autonomous body or otherwise qualified.

Package No.	Identification	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Delivery/ completion time in weeks	Price of tender document
G-14	Supply of Car for Vice-Chancellor, DUET, Gazipur	DUET Campus	60,000.00	2 weeks from the date of NOA	6,000.00
G-15	Supply of Microbus	DUET Campus	50,000.00	2 weeks from the date of NOA	5,000.00
G-16	Supply & Installation of Split Type AC	DUET Campus	8,000.00	3 weeks from the date of NOA	500.00
G-17	Portable Interactive White Board System	DUET Campus	4,000.00	2 weeks from the date of NOA	300.00

19	Name of official inviting tender	: Engr. Md Abdul Kadir.
20	Designation of official inviting tender	: Procurement Officer.
21	Address of official inviting tender	: Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), Gazipur.
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Ph-9204734-43, Ext.-1051, 1057 Fax Number: 880-2-9204702
23	This IFT will be available in the website of DUET:	: www.duet.ac.bd
24	The price of tender document (non-refundable) should be paid by Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Vice-Chancellor, DUET from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.	
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders.	
26	Special instruction: If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time & same venue.	

Engr. Md Abdul Kadir
Procurement Officer
DUET, Gazipur, Gazipur-1700

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PM reaches New Delhi

FROM PAGE 1
special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.

Hasina and her entourage were taken to the ITC Maurya Sheraton Hotel, where the premier will stay for four days.

India has announced addressing a host of developmental issues that are directly related to Bangladesh.

Prior to Hasina's arrival, the Indian foreign secretary in a statement said the premier's India visit "promises to be a path-breaking one and gives both countries a historic opportunity to build a new and forward looking relationship."

Rao reiterated that India is committed to working with the Bangladesh government "to build on our historical and traditionally close links and open new vistas in our bilateral relations."

The Indian foreign secretary said, "India remains committed to provide substantial assistance to Bangladesh to become a major partner in its economic development."

"We are addressing an entire range of developmental issues of direct interest to Bangladesh including railway infrastructure, transportation, dredging, power grid interconnectivity, human resources development, investment and trade," the Indian diplomat said.

Pointing out that Bangladesh has welcomed India's decision to provide it with transit to Nepal and Bhutan, Rao said, "We seek to revive those physical and emotional links which remain disrupted since independence."

She said India seeks Bangladesh's "understanding and cooperation on our security and connectivity needs."

"We are confident that this visit would serve to underline that strong India-Bangladesh relations are vital, not just for both our countries but for the entire region and the international community," Rao said.

Hasina's visit sent out strong signals that she would seize the opportunity to seek warmer ties and resolution of longstanding issues with the world's largest democracy.

India has already said the Bangladesh premier's visit will be a "landmark" event in bilateral ties amid indications that New Delhi is willing to "travel extra mile" by taking non-reciprocal steps in various fields including lowering of tariff barriers.

Hasina's official entourage includes Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, and PM's advisers HT Imam, Mashihur Rahman and Gowher Rizvi. A high-level business delegation is accompanying her with an aim of expanding trade with India.

Security has been stepped up in New Delhi, particularly in Chanakyapuri area. Additional policemen and paramilitary forces have been deployed in and around the places to be visited by Hasina and her entourage during their stay in the Indian capital.

Hasina's official engagement in New Delhi begins tomorrow with a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 9:00am. She will be given a 21-gun salute and a guard of honour in the forecourt of official residence of the Indian president. Horse-mounted Indian Presidential Guards will escort her at the time.

Indian President Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be present on the occasion.

Hasina will pay floral tributes to India's Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Raj Ghat at 10:30am.

External Affairs Minister SM Krishna will call on Hasina at her hotel suite in the morning. Hasina will meet President Patil at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 12:00noon.


She will then return to the hotel where Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj will call on her in the afternoon.

Hasina will go to 10, Jan Path, to meet the President of India's ruling Congress party Sonia Gandhi at 4:30pm.

The meeting will be followed by delegation-level talks between Bangladesh and India, where Hasina and Manmohan will lead their respective delegations.

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Securities and Exchange Commission
Jiban Bima Tower (14, 15, 16 & 20th floor)
10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh



Ref. SEC/Admin/11/04/94-1971 Date: 07-01-2010

Re-Tender Notice

01.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Finance.			
02.	Agency	: Securities and Exchange Commission.			
03.	Invitation of	: Purchasing Computers, Printers, Computer Scanner, Laptop and Multimedia Projector.			
04.	Invitation Ref. No. & date	: SEC/TEC-11/2009; Date: 07-01-2010			
05.	Procurement method	: Open tendering method (OTM).			
06.	Budge and source of fund	: Commission own fund.			
07.	Tender last selling date	: 31-01-2010.			
08.	Tender submission date & time	: 31-01-2010 up to 02:00pm.			
09.	Date and time of opening tender document	: 31-01-2010 at 03:00pm.			
10.	Name and address of the office of selling tender document	: SEC's Office, Jiban Bima Tower (15 th floor), 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.			
11.	Name and address of the office of receiving tender document	: Do			
12.	Eligibility of tenderer:				
This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below:					
i. The bidder must be a bonafide firm and supplier of relevant equipments.					
ii. Reputed firms who have minimum 5 (five) years general experience in similar nature of works. Bidder having experience in successful completion of work at least one number similar nature work in a single work order amounting to Tk. min. 20 (twenty) lac for each lot in govt./semi-govt./autonomous organisation of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years and completion certificate with work order of the said work must be enclosed with the tender. Submitted completion certificate shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Officer.					
iii. Must have average annual turnover of Tk. min. 3 crore for last 5 (five) years. The work order and completion certificates of the completed works should be submitted to calculate average annual turnover. Bidder will have to submit the statement of average annual turnover for the said amount.					
iv. Tenderers must have up-to-date trade licence, up-to-date income tax clearance certificate with TIN & VAT registration certificate.					
v. Original money receipt of purchasing tender document must be enclosed.					
13.	Lot No.	Identification of lot & location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Price of tender document (Tk.) (non-refundable)	Time for completion
1.		Purchasing reputed brand Computers, Printers, Computer Scanner and Laptop	60,000.00 (sixty thousand)	2000.00 (two thousand)	120 days
14.	Name, designation and address of official inviting tender:		Hafiz Mohammed Harunur Rashid Assistant Director, SEC 10, Dilkusha C/A (15th floor) Dhaka-1000		
15.	Tender security will have to be submitted along with the tender in form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in form W-3 in favour of "Securities and Exchange Commission, Dhaka" from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.				
16.	If it is not possible to receive and open the tenders on the fixed date due to unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.				
17.	The authority reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

Hafiz Mohammed Harunur Rashid
Assistant Director, SEC
Dhaka, Phone: 9568101-02

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