

N Korea calls for peace talks, end to sanctions

AP, Seoul

North Korea proposed concluding a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War this year, saying yesterday that improved ties with the United States and an end to sanctions are conditions for resuming international negotiations aimed at ridding it of nuclear weapons.

The North's call came as President Barack Obama's special envoy for human rights in North Korea said earlier in the day during a visit to Seoul that any normalisation of relations depends on an improvement in what he called the North's "appalling" human rights situation.

The North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the resumption of the six-nation nuclear talks depends on building confidence between Pyongyang and Washington and called for a peace treaty, which it has long demanded.

Before nuclear talks can get back on track, North Korea and the United States must improve their relationship by begin-

ning talks aimed at signing a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War, the lack of which it called a "root cause of the hostile relations," the ministry said in a statement.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, thus leaving the peninsula technically at war. North Korea, the US-led United Nations Command and China are signatories to the ceasefire, while South Korea has never signed the accord.

The statement called for a peace treaty to be concluded this year, which it emphasised marks the 60th anniversary since the outbreak of the Korean War.

North Korea pulled out of the six-party nuclear talks with the US, China, South Korea, Russia and Japan last year after international criticism of a long-range rocket launch that drew UN sanctions. It later conducted its second underground nuclear test.

"This appears to be an overture by the North Koreans to try and, in their own way, break through the logjam that we

have seen for more than a year now in the talks," said Peter Beck, an expert on North Korea currently conducting research at Stanford University.

The proposal comes after a landmark visit to North last month by Stephen Bosworth, President Barack Obama's special envoy for the country. Bosworth said after his trip that the North agreed on the necessity of returning to the talks, though the country has not said when it would rejoin them.

Bosworth also said he conveyed a message from Obama calling for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula" and underlining Washington's willingness to help bring the isolated country back into the international fold. He said discussion of a peace treaty could take place within the six-party talks framework.

North Korea said after the meeting that the two sides discussed a wide range of issues including denuclearisation, forging a peace treaty, improving bilateral relations and economic and energy assistance.

'Sarah Palin thought Saddam was behind 9/11'

ANI, New York

Sarah Palin thought Saddam Hussein was behind 9/11, authors of a tell-all book about 2008 US presidential election claim.

Political journalists and writers Mark Halperin and John Heilemann allege a pile of revelations about the former Alaska Governor in their book "Game Change", including she was possibly mentally unstable and had wild mood swings.

"One minute, Palin would be her perky self; the next she would fall into a strange blue funk," the New York Daily News quoted the authors as saying.

The book also says: "When her aides tried to quiz her she would routinely shut down - chin on her chest, arms folded, eyes cast to the floor, speechless and motionless, lost in what those around her described as a kind of catatonic stupor.



German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle (L) addresses reporters under a huge painting depicting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa yesterday. Westerwelle said during a surprise visit to Sanaa Monday he was told by Yemeni authorities that they know where five Germans and a Briton kidnapped in June are being held.

Qaeda offers exchange for French hostage

AP, Cairo

al-Qaeda's North Africa offshoot demanded the release of four of its members in exchange for a French hostage it kidnapped two months ago, in a message posted on militant Websites yesterday that gave a 20 day deadline.

al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb said that their only condition for the freeing of Pierre Camatte is the release of four members of the group arrested by Mali several months ago.

"We give France and Mali 20 days from the date of issuing this statement to respond to our legitimate demand otherwise the two governments will be fully responsible for the French hostage's life," it said in a statement dated Sunday.

The group announced last month its kidnapping of Camatte in Mali Nov. 25 and three Spaniards in Mauritania five days later.



Two people watch a snow blower clearing the roads of snow in Hinrichsdorf on the northern German island of Fehmarn yesterday as the whole country is blanketed with snow and buffeted by gale force winds.

Europe counts the cost of big freeze

AFP, Berlin

Europe battled Monday to recover from Arctic cold amid warnings over the cost of the weeks long freeze that has caused the cancellation of thousands of flights and train journeys and been blamed for dozens of deaths.

Some villages in northeast Germany remained cut off as snowdrifts whipped up by gale force winds made roads and railways unpassable.

"We are slowly fighting our way through the masses of snow," a police spokesman in the northern German city of Luebeck said, while weather experts said falling temperatures meant more snow this week.

At Frankfurt airport,

Europe's third busiest, where some 320 flights were cancelled at the weekend, 15 more were scrapped on Monday and authorities warned of further problems as air traffic slowly gets back to normal.

Spain and Portugal also felt the full force of the harsh winter, with the southern Spanish city of Seville under snow for the first time in half a century.

Authorities sounded the alert across central and northern Spain, with 137 flights cancelled at Madrid-Barajas airport.

In Portugal, around 50 main roads were closed as snow forced scores of people to spend the night stuck in their vehicles. Schools were shut in the worst-hit regions.

Egypt discovers new workers' tombs near pyramids

AP, Cairo

Egyptian archaeologists discovered a new set of tombs belonging to the workers who built the great pyramids, shedding light on how the labourers lived and ate more than 4,000 years ago, the antiquities department said Sunday.

The thousands of men who built the last remaining wonder of the ancient world ate meat regularly, worked in three months shifts and were given the honour of being buried in mud brick tombs within the shadow of the sacred pyramids they worked on.

The newly discovered tombs date to Egypt's 4th Dynasty (2575 B.C. to 2467 B.C.) when the great pyramids were built, according to the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Zahi Hawass.

Graves of the pyramid builders were first discovered in the area in 1990, he said, and discoveries such as these show that the workers were paid labourers, rather than the slaves of popular imagination.

"These tombs were built beside the king's pyramid, which indicates that these people were not by any means slaves," said Hawass in the statement. "If they were slaves, they would not have been able to build their tombs beside their king's."

40,000 anti-Qaeda fighters in Iraq integrated: US

AFP, Baghdad

More than one third of 118,000 anti-Qaeda militiamen have been integrated into Iraqi institutions as part of national reconciliation efforts, a senior US general said on Sunday.

The men are members of the Sahwa (Awakening) movement, known as the "Sons of Iraq" by the US Army, which joined American and Iraqi forces in 2006 and 2007 to fight al-Qaeda and its supporters, leading to a dramatic fall in violence across the country.

"Seventy-eight thousand right now are on the rolls, over 40,000 have been integrated, 30,000 of those have been integrated directly into the ministries over the last couple of months," Major General Joseph Reynolds told reporters.

Around 10,000 have been integrated into the Iraqi security forces.

Control of the Sahwa passed to Iraq last October, and for the past year their wages -- said to have been cut from 300 dollars under US leadership to 100 dollars -- have been paid, often late, by the Shia-led government.

24 million Chinese men face lonely future

AFP, Beijing

More than 24 million Chinese men of marrying age could find themselves without spouses in 2020, state media reported yesterday, citing a study that blamed sex-specific abortions as a major factor.

The study, by the government-backed Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, named the gender imbalance among newborns as the most serious demographic problem for the country's population of 1.3 billion, the Global Times said.

"Sex-specific abortions remained extremely common-place, especially in rural areas," where the cultural preference for boys over girls is strongest, the study said, while noting the reasons for the gender imbalance were "complex."

Researcher Wang Guangzhou said the skewed birth ratio could lead to difficulties for men with lower incomes in finding spouses, as well as a widening age gap between partners, according to the Global Times.

Bangabandhu's killers deserve no mercy

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condemned are exhausted, he added.

Two condemned convicts -- Syed Farooq Rahman and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan -- have no more scope for seeking presidential mercy since they did not submit their petitions by the January 9 deadline, he said.

Shafique said the three mercy seekers AKM Mohiuddin, Bazul Huda, and Mohiuddin Ahmed sent their mercy petitions to the home ministry on Saturday, and the law ministry already gave its legal opinion on the matter.

He however said the opinion could not be disclosed since it is privileged.

The minister said death sentences of condemned convicts are

usually executed between 21 to 28 days of the issuance of death warrants according to the jail code.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka on January 3 issued the death warrants for five of the condemned convicts in Bangabandhu murder case.

Asked about the statement by Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, lawyer for Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, claiming that his clients had not submitted the mercy petitions voluntarily, rather their consent was taken under duress -- Shafique said all three petitioners wrote their own mercy petitions.

The government is dealing with the mercy petitions according to the rule of law, and the law

will take its own course, Shafique said.

On Sunday, two of the five condemned convicts -- Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed -- also filed separate review petitions with the Supreme Court against its judgment confirming their death sentences.

The other three death row inmates with active death warrants against them -- Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, and Mohiuddin Ahmed -- will also file review petitions, said their lawyers recently.

The law minister said the government will act according to the Supreme Court directive regarding the review petitions.

Loss of species is 'wake up call' to humanity

Warns UN

ANI, London

The United Nations has warned that the on-going loss of species should be considered as a wake-up call, as it affects human well-being around the world.

Eight years ago, governments pledged to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, but already it is clear that the pledge will not be met.

The expansion of human cities, farming and infrastructure is the main reason. According to a report by BBC News, the UN argues that as natural systems such as forests and wetlands disappear, humanity loses the services they currently provide for free, such as the purification of air and water, protection from extreme weather events and the provision of materials for shelter and fire.

The rate of species loss leads some biologists to say that we are in the middle of the Earth's sixth great extinction, the previous five stemming from natural events as asteroid impacts.

Some analyses suggest that nature loss is accelerating rather than decelerating.

"We are facing an extinction crisis," said Jane Smart, director of the biodiversity conservation group with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

"The loss of this beautiful and complex natural diversity that underpins all life on the planet is a serious threat to humankind now and in the future," she added.

The UN hopes some kind of legally-binding treaty to curb biodiversity loss can be agreed at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) summit, held in Japan in October.

One element is due to be a long-awaited protocol under which the genetic resources of financially-poor but biodiversity-rich nations can be exploited in a way that brings benefits to all.

However, given the lack of appetite for legally-binding environmental agreements that key countries displayed at last month's climate summit in Copenhagen, it is unclear just what kind of deal might materialise on biodiversity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Information
Bangladesh Film Archive
Upgradation of Film Preservation System Project
121 (2nd Floor) Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbagh, Dhaka.

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Memo No.: BFA/Project-22/ 2007/926 Date: 11/01/2010

Subject: Pre-tender Meeting on 19 Jan 2010.

Ref: BFA/Project-22/ 2007/916, Date: 21/12/2009.

The Pre-tender meeting for 'Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of digital intermediate systems on turn key basis & on-site training, and audio-visual equipment & accessories' of 'Up-gradation of Film Preservation system' Project will be held on Tuesday 19/01/2010 at 3:00 PM instead of 13/01/2010 (11:30 AM) at Bangladesh Film Archive, 121 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue (2nd Floor), Shahbagh, Dhaka due to unavoidable circumstances.

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain same and this corrigendum notice will be part and parcel of the tender circulated vide office Memo No: BFA/Project-22/ 2007/916, Date: 21/12/2009.

The full text of the tender notice was published in The Daily Star, New Age & Jugantor on 23/12/2009 and in Manabzamin on 04/01/2010.

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GD-172

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer
PWD Project Circle-1
Public Works Department
Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Corrigendum Notice

Memo No. SE/PC-1/2009/Food/07

Date: 10-01-2010

This is for information of all concerned that Invitation for Tender for "Construction of New Food Godown of 1.10 lakh MT Capacity in the Northern Region of the Country" against IFT No. 01/2009-2010 circulated vide this office Memo No. SE/PC-1/2009/Food/05 Date: 09/12/2009 and published by the dailies The Daily Star, The Somokal, dated 11/12/2009, 13/12/2009 and 12/12/2009 respectively have been amended as follows:

Tender Notice Sl. No	Tender last selling, closing & opening date and time	Lot Nos.	Prevailing time schedule	Amended time schedule
10.	Tender last selling date and time	For WD-16, WD-17, WD-18, WD-19, WD-20, WD-21, WD-22, WD-23, WD-24, WD-25.	11-01-2010 up to 5:00pm	17-01-2010 up to 5:00pm.
	Tender Closing date and time	-Do-	12-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon	18-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon
	Tender opening date and time	-Do-	12-01-2010, 1:00pm	18-01-2010, 1:00pm
11.	Tender last selling date and time	For WD-26, WD-27, WD-28, WD-29, WD-30, WD-31, WD-32, WD-33, WD-34, WD-35.	12-01-2010 up to 5:00pm	18-01-2010 up to 5:00pm
	Tender closing date and time	-Do-	13-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon	19-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon
	Tender opening date and time	-Do-	13-01-2010, 1:00pm	19-01-2010, 1:00pm
12.	Tender last selling date and time	For WD-36, WD-37, WD-38, WD-39, WD-40, WD-41, WD-42, WD-43, WD-44, WD-45.	13-01-2010 up to 5:00pm	19-01-2010 up to 5:00pm.
	Tender closing date and time	-Do-	14-01-2010 up to 12:00 Noon	20-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon.
	Tender opening date and time	-Do-	14-01-2010, 1:00pm	20-01-2010, 1:00pm
13.	Tender last selling date and time	For WD-46, WD-47, WD-48, WD-49, WD-50, WD-51, WD-52, WD-53, WD-54, WD-55.	17-01-2010 up to 5:00pm	20-01-2010 up to 5:00pm
	Tender closing date and time	-Do-	18-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon	21-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon
	Tender opening date and time	-Do-	18-01-2010, 1:00pm	21-01-2010, 1:00pm
14.	Tender last selling date and time	For WD-56, WD-57, WD-58, WD-59, WD-60, WD-61, WD-62, WD-63, WD-64, WD-65	18-01-2010 up to 5:00pm	24-01-2010 up to 5:00pm
	Tender closing date and time	-Do-	19-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon	25-01-2010 up to 12:00 noon
	Tender opening date and time	-Do-	19-01-2010, 1:00pm	25-01-2010, 1:00pm

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

- Any tenderer (individual or JVCA) can participate in any lot.
- Money receipt of tender document sale must be attached with the tender.
- Conditions imposed in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) Viz ITT 27.7 has been amended as follows:- Tenderers are being invited for all lots. Tenderers can submit tender(s) for any lot.
- Average annual construction turn over, tender capacity & liquid asset of the tenderer will be collectively/cumulatively taken into account in evaluation process if participating in different lots.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

This Invitation for tender is available on following Web Sites: www.pwd.gov.bd, www.dgfood.gov.bd, www.cptu.gov.bd

All other terms and conditions of the invitation for tender will remain unchanged and this corrigendum notice will be part and parcel of the tender circulated vide this office Memo No SE/PC-1/2009/Food/05 Date:09/12/2009

Md. Nabi Newaz
Superintending Engineer
PWD Project Circle-1,
Purta Bhaban, Dhaka

GD-160

Jamuna Oil Company Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong

Appointment Notice

Applications are hereby invited from the citizens of Bangladesh for filling up the following post on contractual basis under Jamuna Oil Company Limited, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

Name of the post	No of post	Duration of contract	Compensation package/salary & allowance per month	Qualification and experience	Age
Head of the Department		Initially for a period of 02 (two) years. But renewable subject to satisfactory performance	Consolidated salary (negotiable) will be paid to suitable candidate, which is inclusive of house rent, medical allowances and transportation. The candidate must mention the expected consolidated salary (per month) in their application. Income Tax will have to pay by the employee. Leave (Sick & Casual) as per company's rule. Two annual bonus in a year will be provided at the rate of 40% of consolidated salary. No other benefits will be provided.	Candidate should be qualified Chartered Accountant (ACA/FCA) with practical experience after having Chartered Accountancy Certificate in Senior position of large govt/semi-govt/ autonomous/industrial/commercial/multinational organization	50 years (maximum)
DGM (Finance)	01				
DGM (Audit)	01				

Duties & responsibilities:

DGM (Finance): Will be the Chief of Finance of the company reporting to the Managing Director. He will be responsible for the overall financial management of the company including treasury functions, financial and management accounting, costing and taxation. Other field of important activities will include maintaining computerised billing and management accounting system, negotiations with financial institutions for commercial credits, foreign exchange transactions and development of an internal system of delegation of financial powers.

DGM (Audit): Will be the Chief of Audit of the company reporting to the Managing Director. He will be responsible for the functional area of accounting and auditing management and will be entrusted with the responsibility to assist the Audit Committee and the management of JOCL in the effective discharge of their responsibilities by providing an independent, objective and critical review of the business including financial discipline, accounting system, management process, internal control system, risk identification, mitigation and management.

Interested candidates may apply with their detail CV and two copies of recent passport size photograph, attested copies of all academic and experience certificates to the Deputy General Manager (Personnel), Jamuna Oil Company Limited, Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. The application should reach to the mentioned address at the latest by 04.02.2010. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidature. Please mention the position applied for on top of the envelope.

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