# INTERNATIONAL

#### US troops detain senior Afghan police official

AFP, Kabul

US forces have detained a senior police officer in northeastern Afghanistan for alleged corruption and links to insurgents, an Afghan official and Nato said yesterday.

A senior provincial official said Atahullah Wahaab, deputy police chief in Kapisa province, was taken into custody by US forces on Friday.

The police "commander was arrested by ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) and coalition forces for illegal activity and corruption," the US military, operating under Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf), said in a statement.

The statement said Wahaab was a "facilitator" of improvised explosive devices (IED), and was involved in the storage, distribution and installation of IEDs on roads in Kapisa.

# US not in direct contact with Taliban: Holbrooke

AFP, Munich

Washington is not in "direct contact" with the Taliban as part of efforts after January's London conference on Afghanistan to re-integrate insurgents, US envoy Richard Holbrooke said yesterday.

"The press, since London, has been kind of obsessed with the idea that there are all sorts of secret talks going on with the Taliban. So I want to state very clearly that our nation is not involved in any direct contacts with the Taliban," Holbrooke said at an international security conference in Germany.

Washington and its allies agreed in London to support Afghan President Hamid Karzai's efforts to persuade insurgents not ideologically committed to the Taliban or al-Qaeda to abandon fighting in favour of the prospect of jobs.

Holbrooke said that this would run "in parallel" to military efforts, stepped up with the sending of almost 40,000 more international troops to join the 110,000 already there, and the training of Afghan security forces.

"Every Pashtun family in the south either

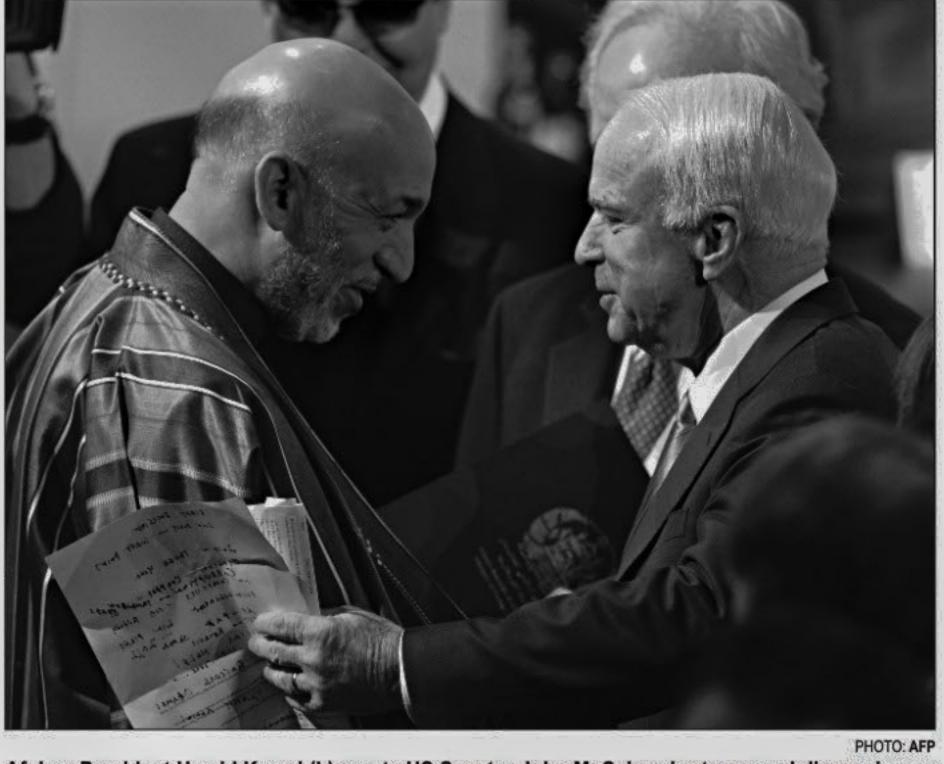
has relatives or friends who are fighting with, or associate with, the Taliban. That's just a matter of fact, that's just the situation," Holbrooke said at the conference in Munich.

"The majority of people fighting with the Taliban are not ideologically committed either to al-Qaeda or (Taliban chief) Mullah Omar, and that is what the integration programme is all about."

He added: "The number one issue is that anyone who wants to reconcile, reintegrate or anything has to sever any ties, any involvement with al-Qaeda. For the majority of the people fighting with the Taliban that is an easy decision. But for the leadership it may be difficult." Reports after the London talks said that the

outgoing UN special representative to Afghanistan, Kai Eide, had met with Taliban figures on January 8 at their request -- claims vehemently denied by the Taliban. "Of course you saw that the UN senior repre-

sentative said he had contacts. That's up to him, there have been other contacts, there is lots of track-two diplomacy," said Holbrooke, who is US envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Afghan President Hamid Karzai (L) greets US Senator John McCain prior to a panel discussion on Afghanistan at the 46th Munich Security Conference at the Bayerischer Hof hotel yesterday.

#### Top Chinese official holds talks in N Korea

AFP, Seoul

A senior Chinese Communist Party official held talks with North Korea on Sunday, state media said, as Pyongyang comes under growing pressure to return to nuclear disarmament talks.

The trip by Wang Jiarui, head of the Communist Party's international department, comes shortly before UN chief Ban Kimoon's top political adviser Lynn Pascoe is due in Pyongyang.

Ahead of the flurry of visits, North Korea freed a US missionary who had been held since Christmas Day after he crossed into the country across the frozen river from China to protest at human rights abuses.

#### Internet down in Iran ahead of demos

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday its Internet connections will remain slow this week due to technical problems, ahead of anticipated protests by opposition supporters.

Connections have been slow since last week and some email accounts have been unavailable for several hours each day.

"The cause of the reduced Internet speed in recent days is that part of the fibre-optic network is damaged," Communications Minister Reza Taghipour told Iran's state broadcaster.

"The breakage will be repaired by next week and the Internet speed will be back to normal," he added.

The Iranian week runs from Saturday to Friday.

Taghipour said the undersea optic fibre across the Gulf between the Iranian port of Jask and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates had been damaged due to shipping traffic and anchoring.

He also acknowledged that text messaging in Iran had been disrupted, blaming it on "changing software."

Iran's anti-government protesters have effectively used the Internet and SMS services to organise rallies and spread news and pictures of the demonstrations.

### Israel 'failed' to probe war crimes Says HR Watch

AFP, Jerusalem

Human Rights Watch said yesterday that Israel has failed to properly investigate alleged crimes committed during last winter's devastating Gaza war as demanded by the United Nations.

"Israel claims it is conducting credible and impartial investigations, but it has so far failed to make that case," said Joe Stork, HRW's New York-based group's deputy director for the Middle East.

"An independent investigation is crucial to understand why so many civilians died and to

bring justice for the victims of unlawful attacks," Stork said in a statement.

About 1,400 Palestinians were killed during the 22-day onslaught launched by Israel on December 27, 2008, aimed at halting rocket attacks from the Islamist Hamas-ruled enclave. Thirteen Israelis were killed in the fighting.

called on Israel and Palestinian armed groups to investigate alleged war crimes detailed in a UN report by the respected former international war crimes prosecutor Richard Goldstone.



Debris flow damages a home after heavy rains caused mudslides on Saturday in La Canada Flintridge, California. Large wildfires in 2008 and 2009 stripped the hills and mountains of vegetation, resulting in mud and debris flow danger as winter rains pass over foothill communities where thousands of people have been evacuated at times in recent weeks.

#### BENAZIR KILLING PROBE Four member UN team in Pakistan

ANI, Rawalpindi

A four member UN team probing former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assassination has arrived here to carry forward the inquiry.

The UN officials, who arrived late on Saturday, included officials Wright Voranic, Fujiwara, Mersky and Pradhan Summar. The commission members are expected to resume their work on Monday.

Strict security arrangements have been made for the UN inquiry commission, The Dawn reports.

#### New Orleans elects first white mayor in 32 yrs

AFP, New Orleans

New Orleans has elected its first white mayor in 32 years ushering in hopes of a new era in a city still trying to rebuild five years after Hurricane Katrina.

Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu was elected Saturday to replace outgoing Mayor Ray Nagin, an African-American who led the city during the hurricane, but saw his popularity plunge over the slow pace of reconstruction.

"The people of New Orleans did a very extraordinary thing... striking a blow for unity," Landrieu said after his nearest rival businessman Troy Henry conceded defeat.

Landrieu, a Democrat becomes the city's first white mayor since his father "Moon" Landrieu left the office in 1978. The city is 61 percent black.

#### Sydney banker 'stole and spent \$7m on prostitutes!

ANI, Melbourne

A banker in Sydney stole 7 million dollars from his employer and allegedly spent most of the amount on prosti-

Sung Kyu Chung, a senior manager in the Korea Exchange Bank's Sydney office, pleaded guilty to nicking 7.2 million dollars from the bank by fudging records and staging at least 77 false transactions.

The 41-year-old was charged in 2008 after auditors noticed massive discrepancies in the bank's finances, reports News.com.au.

Chung apparently flew business-class flights to Thailand and stayed in fivestar hotel rooms.

#### Prehistoric human bones found in Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian researchers believe they have discovered a new set of prehistoric human bones in a cave near the largest man-make lake in Southeast Asia, newspapers reported yesterday.

The skeletal remains are of a youth who died 8,000 to 11,000 years ago, the Sunday Star quoted Nik Hasan Shuhaimi, deputy director of the Institute of the Malay World and Civilisation of the National University of Malaysia, as saying.

The bones were found in the Bewah Cave near Kenyir Lake in the northeastern state of Terengganu in November. DNA samples have been sent to the United States for radiocarbon dating with results expected in March, it said.

## Nato seeks broader ties with China, India, Russia

AFP, Munich

The head of Nato said yesterday that the alliance's troubled mission in Afghanistan shows it is vital to boost ties with nations like China, India and Pakistan. Drawing from flaws exposed in Afghanistan,

where Nato is struggling to hold off a Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgency, Anders Fogh Rasmussen called for the military alliance to become the hub of a broad global security coalition. "This is a key lesson we are learning in

Afghanistan today ... we need an entirely new compact between all the actors on the security stage," he said at a major security conference in Munich, southern Germany. "India has a stake in Afghan stability. China

too. And both could help further develop and

rebuild Afghanistan. The same goes for Russia. Basically, Russia shares our security concerns," he said.

Nato and its partners have more than 110,000 troops in Afghanistan, but they have been unable to put down the insurgency more than eight years after a US-led coalition ousted the Taliban from power. Under a recent switch of strategy, almost

40,000 extra troops are streaming into the conflict-torn country, aiming to protect civilians and win their support, rather than hunt down fighters, many re-supplied from Pakistan. Following last month's conference in London,

the strategy also involves a "surge" of civilian experts, backed by redoubled efforts from major donors, financial institutions and bodies like the United Nations and European Union.

### Israel open to peace talks with Syria: Netanyahu

AP, Jerusalem

Israel's prime minister attempted to end a war of words with Syria yesterday, saying his country is open to peace talks with its longtime enemy.

Israeli and Syrian officials have traded threats over the past week, raising concerns of an escalation between two countries that have officially been at war for more than 60

Israel desires peace agreements with "all of its neighbours," Netanyahu told his weekly Cabinet meeting.

"We did it with Egypt and Jordan, and we want to achieve similar agreements lose power in any future with the Palestinians and conflict.

the Syrians," he said. "I hope that we are on the brink of renewing negotiations with the Palestinians, and we are open to renewing the process with the Syrians as well."

Netanyahu's comments came after an ominous exchange between officials in the two countries. Syrian President Bashar

Assad accused Israel of avoiding peace and his foreign minister threatened that Israeli cities would come under attack in a future war. Israel's foreign minister responded that Syria would be defeated and

Assad and his family would

#### Iraqi Shia militants claim kidnapping of 2 Americans AFP, Baghdad

Radical Shia Islamists who claim to have kidnapped a US military contractor of Iraqi origin said yesterday they are also holding a second American hostage captured two years ago. "Two Americans are in the

hands of the League of the Righteous," said an official from the militant group, which on Saturday aired a video it said was of Issa Salomi, a civilian employee the Pentagon said went missing in Baghdad two weeks

"One was taken two years ago and the other some days ago," the official said on condition of anonymity.



#### **Department of Population Sciences University of Dhaka**

CELEBRATING THE DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

Dhaka University Alumni Association of Population Sciences (DUAAPS), in collaboration with Department of Population Sciences and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is going to celebrate its Journey of 10 years. A series of colorful events will take place from 10 to 12 March 2010.

All alumni, who have completed MPS, DPS, and Training Programs from the department, are requested to obtain their DUAAPS membership and to register for the grand event of celebrating the "Decade of Excellence." DUAAPS membership form is available at the department office and at the website (www.dpsdu.edu.bd). Deadline for registration: 22 February 2010. For further information, please contact: Prof. Dr. A K M Nurun Nabi, DUAAPS, 01712221819, Convener, Mobile No. e-mail: duaaps2009@yahoo.com



#### **Department of Population Sciences University of Dhaka**

#### **ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT** Diploma in Population Sciences, 2010

Applications are invited from candidates in prescribed form for admission to the Diploma in Population Sciences Program for the Year 2010.

Eligibility for Admission: Admission is open to individuals who have at least a Bachelor Degree or its equivalent from any recognized university/institution, with at least 3 years of professional experience in the area of population, reproductive health, gender, and other related areas.

Duration of the Program: Duration of this Diploma Program is of 3 months, which includes 108 hours of class teaching spreading over 10 weeks time period, & 2 weeks for presentation, comprehensive assessment & graduation.

Course Fees: Taka 30,000.00 (thirty thousand), payable to the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka.

Application Procedure: Prescribed application form should be collected from the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka, between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday through Thursday on cash payment of Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only from 6 February to 27 February 2010. Filled-in application form should be submitted to the Department of Population Sciences by 27 February 2010.

Contact Address: Department of Population Sciences, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4046-Cha, Arts Building, University of Dhaka, Tel: 9661920-73, Ext.: 6713. email:dpsdu98@yahoo.com.For details, please visit our website: www.dpsdu.edu.bd

Chairperson Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka

#### Name of Official Inviting Tender 28 29

Lot No

**Procuring Entity Details** 

Designation of Official Inviting Tender Address of Official Inviting Tender Contact details of Official Inviting Tender

Identification of Lot

Therapy Equipments and

Miscellaneous Therapy

Support Materials

Director (Admin & Finance) 8035046, 8035052

500/- (Five hundred) only

tender document)

National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons, A/2, Secton-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206 e-mail Fax No.8035053

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings

jpuf38@bttb.net.bd

The UN General Assembly in November

#### National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons A/2 Secton-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206. Invitation for Tender

N/A

Dhaka

07/02/2010

জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন

Ministry of Social Welfare

জাঃপ্রঃউঃফাঃ ৪৮/২০০৯-৬১২

Open Tender Method (OTM)

Revenue Budget (GOB)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH Ministry/Division Agency **Procuring Entity Name Procuring Entity Code Procuring Entity District** Invitation for

Invitation Ref No: Date **KEY INFORMATION Procurement Method** 

**FUNDING INFORMATION Budget and Source of Funds** 

**Development Partners** (if applicable) **PARTICULAR INFORMATION** Project / Programme Code

(if applicable) Project / Programme Name Tender Package No. Tender Package Name **Tender Publication Date** 

Meeting (Optional)

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

23

Eligibility of Tenderer

Tender Last Selling Date Tender Closing Date and Time Tender Opening Date and Time Name & Address of the Office

- Selling Tender Document (Principal) Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document

Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender

Brief Description of Goods or Works

Price of Tender Document (Tk)

Protibondhi Seba O Sahajya Kendro

N/A

N/A 09-2-2010

23-2-2010 On 24-02-2010 at 1.00 PM On 24-02-2010 at 2.00 PM

National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons, A/2, Secton-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206

National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons

National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons

Procurement Therapy Equipment and Ancillary Goods

Do

Renowned Supplier/ Importer/ Producer as detailed in the Tender Document. Physiotherapy Electrical & Manual Equipments,

Sports Equipments, Rehabilitation Equipments such as Sensory Integration, Fine Motor, ADLs etc., Pediatric Equipments, Visual and Audio Equipments, Miscellaneous Therapy Support Materials. Brief Description of Related Services N/A

> Completion Time in Tender Security Location Weeks / Months Amount (Tk) Concerned Location of Tk. 5,00,000/-8 Weeks (Taka Five lacs) Dhaka, Manikgang, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur Districts (as per

Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty