

US says Iran sanctions ruling likely in weeks

Iran to stop enrichment if given N-fuel

AFP, AP, Paris/ Tehran
The United States hopes for a fresh UN sanctions resolution against Iran in "a matter of weeks", as world powers raise the heat on Tehran over its nuclear programme, a US defence spokesman said yesterday.

Iran declared Tuesday it has started the process of producing 20 percent enriched uranium, defying world powers who have warned of new sanctions unless the Islamic republic halts its sensitive nuclear drive.
Western powers fear Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons. Tehran insists it wants nuclear power for civilian purposes.

Iran moves closer to nuke warhead capacity

AP, Vienna

Iran pressed ahead Monday with plans that will increase its ability to make nuclear weapons as it formally informed the UN nuclear agency of its intention to enrich uranium to higher levels.
Alarmed world powers questioned the rationale behind the move and warned the country it could face more UN sanctions if it made good on its intentions.

China jails quake activist for subversion

AP, Beijing

A Chinese court yesterday sentenced an activist who investigated the deaths of thousands of schoolchildren in the country's massive 2008 earthquake to five years in jail for inciting subversion of state power, the United States lawyer said.
The man's lawyer said the sentence handed down to Tan Zuoren by a court in southwestern Sichuan province, saying such convictions were politically motivated and urging China to immediately release the activist and others similarly prosecuted.

Some Haitian hospitals charging patients: UN

AP, Port-Au-Prince

The United Nations warned Monday that it will cut off shipments of free medicine to Haitian hospitals that charge patients, saying it had learned some are levying fees for drugs.
When the catastrophic earthquake struck Jan. 12, authorities immediately decided to make all medical care free. More than 200 international medical relief groups have sent teams to help, and millions of dollars of donated medicine has been flown in.

had information that about a dozen hospitals both public and private had begun charging patients for medicine.
The officials said they could not immediately provide the names of the hospitals but said they were in several parts of the country, including Port-au-Prince.
"The money is huge," said Christophe Rerat of the Pan American Health Organization, the UN health agency in the region. He said about \$1 million worth of drugs have been sent from UN warehouses alone to Haitian hospitals in the past three weeks.

SINGLES' HEAVEN Beijing's 'I'm Looking For U' supermarket!

ANI, New Delhi

A Beijing supermarket may become a popular hangout for couples and singles looking for love this Valentine's Day.
The "I'm Looking For You" market opened last November for China's unofficial "Singles Day" which is on the 11th of that month.
And since its launch the supermarket has attracted over 1,000 clients and successfully matched more than 50 couples.
This supermarket offers a venue where singles can meet and charges are a mere 20yuan for registration, reports the China Daily.



Supporter of Ukraine's newly elected President Viktor Yanukovich rally in front of the Central Election Commission in Kiev on Tuesday. Ukraine's defeated presidential election candidate Yulia Tymoshenko was set to challenge some results of the bitterly contested polls despite calls on her to ease tension by conceding defeat.

Ukraine's Yulia to challenge vote

AP, Kiev

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has refused to concede the presidential race to opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich and plans to legally challenge the results, Ukrainian and Russian media reported yesterday.
Tymoshenko told officials with her party that she will "never recognize" the legitimacy of the election, the respected Ukrainkaya Pravda Web site and Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency reported.
The reports said Tymoshenko has instructed lawyers to mount a legal challenge and plans to demand a third round of voting.
Yanukovich is leading in Sunday's runoff vote by 3.2 percent with almost all the ballots counted. Unlike past elections in Ukraine, international monitors have praised this vote as being free and fair.

15 die in S Africa orphanage fire

AFP, Johannesburg

Fire raged through an orphanage in South Africa yesterday killing 15 people, including at least eight children, police said.
Nine people were injured in the blaze at Newcastle in the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal, a police spokesman told AFP.
"Police were called to the scene at 6:00am (0400GMT) and the house was still alight," spokesman Jay Naicker said.
"Police helped the fire department to put out the fire but it was too late, the house burnt down. Nine people have been taken to the hospital with burn wounds."
The cause of the fire was not immediately known, he added.

IRAQ WAR INQUIRY Bush was determined to overthrow Saddam

ANI, London

Former US President George Bush is said to have warned former British Prime Minister Tony Blair that the United States would go ahead with the invasion of Iraq "come what may".
According to evidence heard at the official inquiry into the conflict, conversations between the two reveal that Bush was determined to overthrow Saddam even if he co-operated fully with United Nations' weapons inspectors.
The disclosure came as former foreign secretary Jack Straw was making his second appearance before the inquiry.
There has been intense speculation about the private communications between Blair and Bush in the run-up to the war, details of which have not been made available to the inquiry team although they have not been released publicly.
When Straw was asked whether Blair was categorically told by Bush that he would attack Iraq no matter what the UN inspectors findings were, Straw responded: "Certainly not to the best of my recollection."
The conversations appeared to relate to the period in late 2002 and early 2003, when UN inspectors, led by Hans Blix, were searching for Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction.

PHILIPPINE MASSACRE 197 people charged with murder

AFP, Manila

A former close ally of Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and 196 other people were on Tuesday charged with murder over an election-linked massacre that horrified the nation, prosecutors said.
Andal Ampatuan Sr, the head of a Muslim clan and the former governor of Maguindanao province where the slaughter of 57 people occurred last year, was among those charged, according to papers filed in a Manila court.
In total, 197 people were charged, including other senior clan members, local government officials and policemen who allegedly helped organise the killings, as well as thugs accused of abducting and shooting the victims.
"All the conspirators are answerable as co-principals regardless of the extent or degree of their participation," prosecutors said in a lengthy report outlining their case against the group.
However, only 11 of those charged are in custody, with most of the others still on the run nearly three months after the November 23 killings, according to police.

Tel Aviv 'saviour' accused of enslaving women

AP, Jerusalem

The women tattooed his name and portrait on their bodies and gave their children his name Savori.
They spoon-fed the bearded, one-time healer as if he were royalty, brushed his shoulder-length white locks, sent him text messages when they were ovulating and slept with him at his bidding.
They turned over wages and welfare payments to him and lived in cramped, rundown Tel Aviv apartments with the children they bore him. According to police, he fathered some of his own daughters' children.
The man, 60-year-old Goel Ratzon whose first name is Hebrew for "Savior" is now sitting in a Tel Aviv jail, suspected by police of enslaving a cult-like harem of at least 17 women and 37 children. Ratzon, who's lived this way for two decades, denies any wrongdoing, his lawyer says.

Bali bombing mastermind still alive in Philippines

AFP, Manila

An Islamist militant accused of being behind the deadly 2002 Bali bombings is alive and hiding in the southern Philippines despite earlier reports of his death, a senior military official said yesterday.
Dulmatin, leader of the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), was not killed in a clash in 2008 as the military initially believed, said Major General Juancho Sabban, the head of the Philippine Marines.
"I believe, from what my sources say, he is still in Sulu," Sabban told reporters, referring to the southern chain of islands in the south including Jolo, a hotbed of Islamist militants.
Sabban also said that another JI militant, Umar Patek, is also believed to be hiding in the Sulu islands and is being sheltered by the Abu Sayyaf, a local Muslim extremist group linked by intelligence agencies to the al-Qaeda network.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Information Upgradation of Film Preservation System Project Bangladesh Film Archive 121 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue (2nd Floor), Shahbag, Dhaka. Amendment Notice for Tender Opening Memo No.: BFA/Project-22/ 2007/953 Date: 07/02/2010 Subject : Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Digital intermediate system on turn key basis & onsite training, and audio-visual equipment & accessories. Ref : BFA/Project-22/ 2007/916, Date: 21/12/2009. In accordance with the decision of the Pre-bid meeting held on 19/01/2010 the Tender last selling, closing and opening date and time have been amended as follows:-

Table with 4 columns: Sl No., Description, Published, Revised/Amended. Row 1: 01. Tender last selling date & time 09/02/2010, 15:00 Hours 22/02/2010 15:00 Hours. Row 2: 02. Tender closing date & time 10/02/2010, 15:00 Hours 23/02/2010 15:00 Hours. Row 3: 03. Tender opening date & time 10/02/2010, 15:30 Hours 23/02/2010 15:30 Hours.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Boalmari, Faridpur Invitation for Tender (Works) Tender Notice No. 04/2009-2010 Memo No: LGED/U.E/Boal/Farid/2010/100 Dated: 04/02/2010 Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender document for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions below:

Table with 6 columns: Sl No., Project name, Estimate of cost (Taka), Amount of tender security (Tk), Price of tender documents (Tk), Time for completion. Rows include Re-construction of Chondibilla Govt. Pny. School, Dhopadanga Govt. Pny. School, Moral Akhalipara Govt. Pny. School, Ramchandrapur Govt. Pny. School, Bonomalpur Govt. Pny. School.

Md. Sarwar Alam Project Director Tel: 88-02-9674269 e-mail: bfa_project@yahoo.com GD-656 Md Rezaul Karim Upazila Engineer LGED, Boalmari Faridpur Phone: 0632456164 C-237

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka Notice Be informed that the Ministry of Manpower of Singapore has been changed a few in the IPAN/Visa (In-Principal Approval) for the workers who are interested to go to Singapore. The changes are as follows: Employment Terms and Salary Deductions The interested workers are advised to ask for a copy of his employment contract from his Bangladeshi agent before coming to Singapore. The contract should state his salary, terms of employment such as overtime pay, as well as deductions that may be made from his salary, as example, for housing and food. The agent in Bangladesh should not ask the worker to pay for and there should not be any deductions made from his monthly salary for the following costs: a. \$5000 Security Bond b. Application, renewal or cancellation of work permit c. Foreign worker levy d. Compulsory medical insurance for foreign workers e. Compulsory pre-employment medical check-up f. Compulsory training courses g. Cost of your journey home h. Or other costs connected or related to the employment of a foreign worker. These are costs to be borne by Singapore employer. That means, Bangladeshi agent or Singapore employer cannot deduct expenditure from the salary of the workers. Enforcement of Agreement with Home Country Agent The Singapore Government is unable to enforce any of the terms of the agreement with his home country's employment agency. For example, if his employment is prematurely terminated, the Singapore Government is unable to recover the agency fee the worker has already paid to his employment agent in his home country. In the event of any dispute, the worker is advised to seek help from the authorities in his home country. Work is not Guaranteed Regardless of the validity period of the work permit, the employer may terminate his employment and cancel his work permit at any time without compensation, unless his contract says otherwise. If the employer terminates his employment, the worker is not allowed to stay in Singapore to find another employer. Therefore, the worker should consider this when deciding how much to pay his agent to work in Singapore. Obtaining Your Work Permit This letter gives his permission to enter into Singapore to work. The worker must ensure his employer applies for his work permit issuance within 14 days upon his arrival in Singapore. If his employer fails to do so, the worker will have overstayed and will be fined or prosecuted and/or sent back home. To obtain a work permit, the worker must pass a compulsory medical examination upon arrival. Conditions of Work Permit The interested worker can only work in Singapore on a valid work permit. The worker is not allowed to work in Singapore in a social visit pass unless he has been issued with a Temporary Work Permit. The worker and his employer and bound by a set of conditions of Work Permit. If any of the workers violate any of these conditions, his work permit will be revoked and he may be prosecuted and/or sent back home. Director General Phone: 9349925 (off.) Fax: 88 02 8319948 Email: dg@bmet.org.bd GD-642