## INTERNATIONAL

Handout picture shows Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (C) touring "Jamran", Iran's first domestically built warship, during its unveiling ceremony at an undisclosed location in southern Iran yesterday.

## Iran could be working on nukes, warns IAEA

### Tehran terms warhead report 'baseless'

AFP, Viennal Tehran

The UN atomic watchdog is concerned that Tehran may be working on a nuclear warhead, according to a restricted report obtained by AFP Thursday.

"The information available to the agency ... raises concerns about the possible existence in Iran of past or current undisclosed activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile," the watchdog's chief Yukiya Amano wrote in his first report to its board of governors.

But Iran's envoy to the UN atomic watchdog dismissed as "baseless" on Friday a leaked report expressing concern that it might have been trying to develop a nuclear warhead, the Fars news agency reported. Ali Asghar Soltanieh said the documents

cited in the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency were "fabricated and thus do not have any validity."

The language of the report was much more blunt than that used by Amano's predecessor Egyptian Mohamed ElBaradei, who stepped down as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the end of November.

The Vienna-based IAEA has been investigating for a number of years intelligence reports claiming Iran was involved in weapons research.

These so-called "alleged studies" included uranium conversion, high explosives testing and the adaptation of a ballistic missile cone to carry a nuclear warhead.

A US intelligence report in 2007 said Iran halted such research in 2003, but Amano's report gives credence to the belief held by some western countries that the programme continued.

The information was "extensive ... broadly consistent and credible in terms of the technical detail, the time frame in which the activities were conducted and

the people and organisations involved,' the report said.

The 10-page document, which is to be discussed by IAEA governors at a meeting next month, also confirmed Tehran had begun enriching uranium to higher levels, theoretically bringing it closer to the levels needed for an atomic bomb.

Iran has previously reached uranium enrichment levels of no more than five percent at its facility at Natanz, in defiance of UN orders for it to cease and despite three rounds of UN sanctions.

Earlier this month, Iran announced it would begin enriching uranium to 20 percent, ostensibly to make the fuel for a research reactor that makes medical radioisotopes.

Iran insists its intentions are peaceful, but western powers suspect Tehran is enriching uranium to make nuclear weapons, as the material in high purity form can be used in the core of a atomic bomb.

Jailed Ulfa

be freed

Says Gogoi

Guwahati

leaders could

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,

Assam Chief Minister Tarun

Gogoi yesterday hinted at

releasing jailed leaders of the

outlawed United Liberation

Front of Asom (Ulfa) for peace

talks, aimed at bringing an end

to three decades of violent

"I also know that there

cannot be talks with handcuffs

on and would surely want

negotiations with dignity and

honour and hence we are

working out strategies for

meaningful talks although I

cannot spell out everything at

insurgency in the state.

### Soldiers sack Niger govt Niger's uranium makes after toppling president COUL

Troops in control after detaining Tandja, his ministers the world's third largest uranium producer and is aiming to

AFP, Niamey

Niger's new military rulers posted tanks and trucks mounted with machine guns around the presidential palace yesterday after toppling strongman Mamadou Tandja and sacking the government dumlast year. in a deadly coup.

The junta swung into action shortly after it took control Thursday with a call for the backing of the 15 million population, promising to turn Niger into an beacon of good democracy and governance" after months of political turmoil.

The military stormed the palace during a cabinet meeting, and seized Tandja and detained his ministers before announcing it was suspending the constitution that the 71-year-old forced through with a controversial referen-

Calling itself the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy (CSRD), the junta said the government of the impoverished but uraniumrich west African country was dissolved.

African Union chief Jean Ping condemned the coup and said there should be "zero

tolerance" for taking power by: impoverished and famine-hit.

blighted by a string of recent; exploiting its uranium resources.

## coup a world affair

Niger, where the military has ousted the country's strongman, is double production by 2012, but the west African country is also

France, China and Canada will all be anxiously watching West Africa has been developments as they are prospecting and in some cases

coups, including takeovers by: The key contract was signed in 2009 with France's state conthe military in Guinea, trolled nuclear energy company Areva to launch mining at the Guinea-Bissau and: mammoth Imouraren deposit in the north of the country. The agreement ensures that most of the country's uranium is

Two armoured tanks and : extracted and bought by France, whose mining operations in its several trucks mounted with former colony began in the 1970s. machineguns were stationed : Areva's two main mines, Cominak and Somair, are near Arlit,

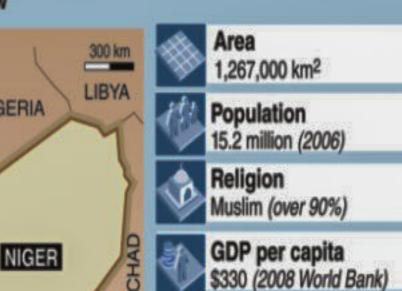
around the presidential pal-: some 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) north of the capital. Announcing the latest contract last year, Niger and France

Several pick-up vehicles : said that when Imouraren goes on stream in 2012, Niger's uramounted with machine: nium production would double, elevating the country to the guns were also stationed: world's second biggest uranium provider. outside the prime minister's : The strategic deal for France stalled when Niger's govern-

office and the foreign minis- : ment and some media in 2007 accused Areva of backing Tuareg : rebels in the north, where the uranium lies.



Thursday Military stages coup toppling president Mamadou Tandja, Military dissolves government



Resources Uranium Armed Forces

5,300 (2009)

#### this point in time," the chief minister told journalists. Several killed at

demo in west

**Ivory Coast** AFP, Abidjan

Several people were killed yesterday in clashes between security forces and demonstrators staging a protest against President Laurent Gbagbo at Gagnoa in western Ivory Coast, hospital sources

Medical staff said that demonstrators brought three bodies to the hospital complex in the town and that the victims had gunshot wounds. At least one person was seriously wounded, according to the

say how many.



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian protesters take cover from tear gas fired by Israeli forces during a demonstration against Israel's separation barrier, in the West Bank village of Maasarah, near Bethlehem yesterday.

#### Canadian student ship sinks off Brazil, 64 rescued

AFP, Rio de Janeiro A college class-at-sea ship

carrying dozens of Canadian students sank off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, but all 64 passengers and crew members were plucked from the water alive, a Brazilian Navy spokesman said yesterday.

The Concordia, a threemasted sailing ship for a "Class Afloat" program, sank in the late afternoon Thursday some 300 miles (550 km) off the Brazilian coast after battling strong winds, Commander Romualdo told AFP in a telephone interview

# N Korea vows not to swap

AFP, Seoul

from Brasilia.

#### nukes for aid assistance, South Korea's further display of firepower after shelling in late January Yonhap news agency has

imposes curfew

**ALGERIA** 

North Korea, under international pressure to return to nuclear disarmament talks, vowed Friday never to give up its atomic arsenal in return for economic aid.

The communist state's official news agency instead demanded an end to what it this was part of a military drill called US hostility -- appar- or a permanent move. ently restating a call for a formal peace treaty on the negotiators held talks in Korean peninsula.

rately the North had declared live-fire zones near its disputed sea border with South Korea, raising the prospect of a cussed possible economic

heightened tensions. The North has also moved

some multiple rocket launchers to bases along its west coast, a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) told AFP. It was unclear whether Chinese and North Korean

Beijing last week about Seoul's military said sepa- restarting the six-party nuclear forum, which the North quit last April.

The two sides also dis-

reported. Some analysts believe the North will eventually have to return to dialogue given its worsening economy and acute food shortages. The North has developed

atomic bombs for its own defence, "not to threaten anybody or receive economic favours or rewards", the Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary.

It is a "misjudgement" if the outside world thinks it will dump nuclear bombs in return for economic benefits, the agency said.

staff reached by telephone. A police source confirmed "some dead," but could not

CIC

#### HIV may soon fight HIV

ANI, London

Vaccines against many viruses, including flu, are made from deactivated versions of those viruses, but such an approach was previously dismissed as too risky in the case of HIV. Now, scientists are resurrecting the controversial approach.

Gaithersburg, Maryland, is planning to inject people with an HIV vaccine made of the deadly virus itself, albeit a deactivated version.

VIRXSYS

Their plan follows successful tests of a similar vaccine against SIV - also known as simian HIV - in monkeys.

"We said 'let's use HIV against itself', and that's what we're doing," New Scientist quoted Gary McGarrity, VIRxSYS's vice president of scientific and clinical affairs, as saying.

VIRxSYS researchers described how they vaccinated monkeys, and then six months later injected them with SIV.

Within weeks of receiving the injection of SIV, concentrations of the virus had fallen by at least 95 per cent in those treated.

After a year, when the trial ended, these concentrations remained low, whereas untreated monkeys became progressively sicker as their immune systems were depleted by the virus.

### Europeans press Israel over Hamas killing row

AFP, London

Four European countries whose passports were implicated in a Hamas commander's killing have piled pressure on Israel, as Dubai said it wanted Mossad's chief arrested if his spies were behind the hit. Britain, Ireland, France and

Germany on Thursday called in Israeli envoys for talks at their foreign ministries on the killing last month, widely suspected to be the work of the Israeli spy agency using false

At the same time Interpol issued arrest notices for 11 suspects -- six listed with British passports, three Irish, one French and one German -wanted by Dubai for the killing of Hamas commander Mahmud al Mabhuh in the emirate.

Amid mounting diplomatic tension, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband urged the Israelis to cooperate "fully" in investigating the incident.



Veterinary surgeons from the College of Veterinary Science perform a capped elbow surgery on "Rajib", a 7-year old male Royal Bengal tiger, at Assam State Zoo in Guwahati yesterday. The tiger was taken to the Assam State Zoo in 2006 from the Orang National Park after it was injured in a fight.

### Rains highlight Haiti's urgent needs

UN appeals for 1.44 billion dollars in aid

AFP, Port-au-prince

been traced to computers at two

Chinese schools, one with ties to the military, The New York

Citing unidentified anony-

mous sources, the newspaper

said trails led to Shanghai

Jiaotong University and the

Lanxiang Vocational School,

which was created with mili-

tary backing and trains some

Google vowed a month ago

to stop bowing to Internet censors in China in the wake

of sophisticated cyberattacks

aimed at the US firm's source

code and Gmail accounts of

Chinese human rights activ-

ists around the world.

of its computer scientists.

Times reported on Thursday.

Heavy rain Thursday in Haiti's capital worsened squalid camps and highlighted the urgent need for shelter after last month's quake, as the UN called for a record 1.44 billion dollars in aid. More than a month after what some experts say could be the

worst natural disaster in modern history, aid workers are racing against time to try to distribute enough tarpaulins to the more than one million left homeless. Even those will provide only basic protection when the rainy

season begins around May, aid officials say. "Everything was wet," said Joseph Jean-Luc, 30, as he helped

a friend build a shelter by nailing together branches at a massive tent city that used to be a country club golf course overlooking Port-au-Prince.



আপনি কি কানে কম শুনছেন? সুইজারল্যান্ডের PHONAK অডিওলজিষ্ট এর পরামর্শ নিন। হিয়ারিং চেকআপ এন্ড কাউন্সিলিং ক্যাম্প

কানে কম শোনা রোগীদের জন্য অত্যাধুনিক হিয়ারিং এইড Type Of Hearing Aids

২৪ ক্ষেব্রুয়ারীর আগে এ্যাপয়েনমেন্ট নিন।

24th Febuary 2010 **ENT Care Center** 

H# 11/A, R#130, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 Tel: 8856705,8850801 Mob: 01727-346715, 01727 346714

25th Febuary 2010 **Abid Hearing Aid Centre** H#53/A, R#3/A, Dhanmondi Dhaka-1209 Mob: 01555-006141 E-mail: jhossain66@gmail.com

World Leader Sound Recovery System Hearing Aid, www.phonak.com

#### Attack on Google launched from Chinese schools Says NY Times AFP, New York **Philips DVD Players** Cyberattacks aimed at Google Unmatched performance at unbelievable price and dozens of other firms have



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