Iran to build two uranium

Tehran vows tough response to any attack

AFP, Tehran/Zagreb

Iran said yesterday it is considering plans to start building two new uranium enrichment plants from March, with the sites concealed in the mountains to avert air

The announcement from Iran's atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi came soon after top US General David Petraeus warned that Washington would now pursue "pressure track" against Iran to thwart its galloping nuclear programme.

"Inshallah (Allah willing), in the next Iranian year (starting in March) as ordered by the president (Mahmoud Ahmadinejad), we may start the construction of two new enrichment sites," Salehi told ISNA news agency.

He said the enrichment capacities of the new sites would be similar to the existing facility in the central city of Natanz, where Tehran is refining uranium despite three sets of UN sanctions.

enrichment plants in Mar

According to the latest UN nuclear watchdog report, Iran has installed in Natanz 8,610 centrifuges, the device which rotates at supersonic speed to enrich uranium.

Of these, 3,772 centrifuges are actively enriching uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Iranian officials maintain Natanz has an annual capacity to produce about 30 tonnes of enriched uranium. According to IAEA, the Islamic republic currently has an estimated 2,065 kilogrammes (4,540 pounds) of low-enriched uranium.

Salehi said the new plants will be equipped with new generation centrifuges and the facilities would be hidden in mountains so as to protect them from "any attacks."

Washington and its ally Israel have not ruled out military strikes against Iran's nuclear sites. On Sunday, Petraeus said the United States would increase pressure on the Islamic republic.

"I think that no one at the end of this wingspan of 86 feet (26 meters), time can say that the United States and the 'making them the size of Boeing rest of the world have not given Iran every opportunity to resolve the issues diplomatically," said Petraeus, head of US Central Command.

Iranian officials dismissed the latest - veillance and carrying diverse report as "baseless."

Meanwhile, Iran has no intention of launching a war but will respond : ceremony at a sprawling air base "strongly" to any attack, Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Ahani said in an interview published Monday amid concern over its . nuclear programme.

told Croatia's Vecernji List daily. "But if we are attacked, we will respond strongly."

Israel unveils new drone fleet that can reach Iran

AP, Tel Nof Air Force Base

Israel's air force on Sunday introduced a fleet of huge pilot less planes that can remain in the air for a full day and could fly as far as the Persian Gulf, putting rival Iran within its range.

The Heron TP drones have a 737 passenger jets and the largest unmanned aircraft in · Israel's military. The planes can fly at least 20 consecutive hours and are primarily used for surpayloads.

At the fleet's inauguration central Israel, the drone dwarfed an F-15 fighter jet parked beside it. The unmanned plane resembles its predecessor, "Iran certainly will not start a war. Ahani reaching an altitude of more than 40,000 feet (12,000 meters)

and remain in the air longer. fighting terror priorities for

ANI, New Delhi

President Pratibha Devisingh Patil yesterday assured that the government is doing its best to ensure that the prices of commodities are kept in check.

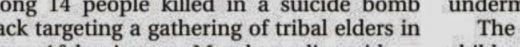
Addressing the joint sitting of the Parliament today, President Patil assert that the UPA government accords highest importance to ensuring relief to the "aam admi" on food prices and said it is committed to bring a legislation to

"In the longer term, our food security can be ensured only through sustained efforts at increasing agricultural productivity combined with a comprehensive reform of the public distribution system and open market intervention," she added.

She said, "India has weathered the economic crisis better than other countries.



ensure food security.



"There was a suicide bombing today in

Ghafour, a police spokesman told AFP. The bomber, on foot and wearing an explo-

He said at least another 15 people were

US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke (R) and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visit the Krtsanisi firing range outside Tbilisi yesterday. Holbrooke Monday visited a US training centre for Georgian soldiers who will be deployed to Afghanistan.

'Price control, Nato airstrike kills 27 Afghan civilians

Tribal chief among 14 killed in bomb attack

AFP, Kabul/ Jalalabad

A Nato airstrike killed up to 27 Afghan civilians, including women and a child, sparking fresh anger from Kabul yesterday against US-led forces pressing a major offensive to defeat the Taliban.

Top US commander Stanley McChrystal, who has made winning Afghan hearts and minds the focus of plans to end the eight-year war in Afghanistan, was forced into another apology over civilian deaths after the third incident in a week.

"We are extremely saddened by the tragic loss of innocent lives," he said.

Meanwhile, an influential Afghan leader was among 14 people killed in a suicide bomb attack targeting a gathering of tribal elders in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, police said.

which 14 people including Haji Zaman Ghamsharik were killed," Colonel Abdul

sives-packed vest, hit a tribal gathering in Nangarhar province's Khogyani district, he

wounded in the attack.

"I have made it clear to our forces that we are here to protect the Afghan people, and inadvertently killing or injuring civilians undermines their trust and confidence in our mission,' McChrystal added in a statement.

He spoke to President Hamid Karzai on Sunday, pledging to fully partner with the joint investigation, Nato said.

McChrystal and his superior, General David Petraeus, mapped out an offensive lasting 12-18 months that would strike beyond the current focus of operations in the southern province of Helmand.

But the third mistaken Nato airstrike reported by Afghan officials in a week risked undermining the campaign's strategic goals. The government said four women and a

child were among the civilians killed in Gujran district of Daykundi province, which was carved out of Uruzgan province, on Sunday when Nato forces mistook their convoy for Taliban militants.

A statement from the council of ministers, chaired by Karzai, condemned the incident as "unjustifiable", as it revised the death toll to 27, down from the 33 dead reported earlier by the president's office.

Clashes over Israeli plan to restore 2 Jewish holy sites in West Bank

AFP, Hebron

AFP, London

oil company.

personnel.

cial use was probably far less.

about to begin drilling.

ers to follow suit.

empires is over."

regional allies at a meeting in Cancun.

between London and Buenos Aires.

DavidWillie told the BBC.

occupied territory.

Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron on Monday amid outrage over Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the occupied territory.

Dozens of youths hurled rocks at an Israeli military checkpoint in the city as troops fired tear-gas and stun grenades, an AFP correspondent said. A strike closed down shops and schools.

"Approximately 100 Palestinians were burning tyres and throwing rocks at IDF (Israeli military) soldiers," an army spokeswoman said, adding that one soldier was lightly

There were no reports of any Palestinians wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparked anger on Sunday when he said he hoped to include the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem in a 100-million-dollar plan to restore national

off the Falklands

British rig to start drilling

A British oil rig was due to start drilling off the Falklands on

Monday, a move likely to ratchet up tensions with Argentina

which claims the disputed islands, the BBC reported, citing the

(62 miles) north of the islands in the south Atlantic, the BBC said.

Falklands but a spokesman for Desire Petroleum, which is carry-

ing out the drilling, said the amount that would be of commer-

Argentina and Britain went to war over the archipelago in

Buenos Aires, which has pushed for years to reopen negotia-

Argentina escalated the row last week by ordering all ships

Britain has tried to downplay the row, but Argentina won

Argentina was hoping Monday to win more support from its

Desire Petroleum insisted on Monday their interest was

"Desire is an oil company and it's exploring for oil and not

purely in oil and sought to distance themselves from the row

getting involved in what Argentina is saying about going to the

UN. The rig is sitting firmly inside (British) waters," spokesman

1982, with the loss of 649 Argentine lives and 255 British military

tions on the islands' sovereignty, is furious that the British are

heading to the Falklands through its waters to first seek permis-

sion from Buenos Aires before appealing to other regional pow-

backing from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday,

who urged Britain to give up the Falklands and said "the time for

The platform has been towed to a point about 100 kilometres

There are an estimated 60 billion barrels of oil in the

heritage sites.

Israeli soldiers take position and open fire on Palestinian stonethrowers during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday.

Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in Hebron amid outrage over Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the

"We strongly condemn this decision which yet again confirms the Israeli government's determination to impose facts on the ground,' chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told AFP by phone from Paris, where he was accompanying Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on an official visit.

"We call on the international community to consider this decision illegal," he said. "This Israeli decision is provocative for Muslims around the world and especially Palestinians."

Sheikh Taysir al-Tamimi, who heads the Palestinian Islamic courts, said the decision "amounts to a declaration of war against the Islamic holy sites in Palestine.' "The practices of the Israeli occupation and

its actions against the holy sites violate divine laws and international ones," he added in a statement.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron where the biblical figure Abraham is believed buried, is sacred to both Muslims and Jews and has long been the scene of tensions.

Monarch, PM meet over future of Dutch govt

AFP, The Hague

Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende met Queen Beatrix yesterday for consultations after his government collapsed over the Netherlands's role in Afghanistan, a government spokesman

Balkenende arrived at the head of state's working palace in The Hague around 9:30 am (0830 GMT), spokesman Frady van Hapert told AFP.

Ninety minutes have been set aside for the talks, after which Queen Beatrix will meet the leaders of the two Dutch houses of parliament, political party chiefs and the deputy president of the council of state, an advisory body.

Balkenende tendered the resignations of the 12 Labour Party (PvdA) cabinet members to Queen Beatrix on Saturday, hours after the coalition fell apart over a spat on whether or not to extend the Dutch troop deployment in Afghanistan.

Labour withdrew from the government, insisting that the military mission must end this year as planned. Balkenende also offered to relinquish the 12 posts held by his

own Christian Democratic (CDA) party, the majority coalition member, and the three of the smaller Christian Union (CU).

The queen, the constitutional head of state, must now decide whether or not to accept the resignations and call early elections.

In talks scheduled to last until late afternoon, Queen Beatrix will meet with PvdA leader Wouter Bos, who was the vice premier and finance minister in Balkenende's cabinet, as well as CU leader Andre Rouvoet -- fellow vice premier and minister of youth and family affairs.

ANTI-TALIBAN OFFENSIVE Kandahar next Nato target

AFP, Kabul/ Washington

The commander of international forces in Afhganistan was quoted as saying Monday that the southern province of Kandahar was likely to be the next target of operations to eradicate the

US General Stanley McChrystal, commander of 121,000 US and Nato troops in Afghanistan, said a major offensive now in its second week in a poppy-growing valley in Helmand province was a "model for the future".

Helmand and neighbouring Kandahar -where Kandahar city was once the Taliban capital -- have been the main hotspots of the insurgency launched soon after the US-led invasion

মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ ও সংস্থার নাম

সংগ্রাহক সতার নাম

toppled the Islamists' 1996-2001 regime.

Nato and Afghan officials have said that Operation Mushtarak (Together) under way in Helmand is a template for expanding the campaign to at least three other Taliban-held areas of the province.

McChrystal was quoted by Britain's The Times newspaper as telling reporters that operations will also move into Kandahar, although he did not specify any areas.

"We are going to go to where significant parts of the population are at risk and Kandahar is clearly very, very important not just to the south but to the nation," he said, adding: "It is not the only area though."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা স্মারক নং-মবিঅ/ঢাক/নিমুবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত/দিবাযত্ন/গাড়ি ভাড়া/০২/০৯/১৩

তারিখ: ১৮-০২-২০১০ইং

জামানত

3,200/-

মাইক্রোবাস ১টি ৯ সীটের এসিসহ ভাড়ার খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর।

প্রকল্প পরিচালক, নিম্নবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর কর্মজীবী মায়েদের শিশুদের জন্য

202005	Cash Scotter Selectific Services		দিবাযত্ন কর্মসূচি প্রকল্প।	
91	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	100	মবিঅ/ঢাক/নিমুবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত/দিবাযত্ন/গাড়ি ভাড়া/০২/০৯/১৩, তারিখঃ ১৮-০২- ২০১০ইং।	
81	অর্থের উৎস	3.83	বাংলাদেশ সরকার (জিওবি)।	
Œ I	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা		প্রকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সরবরাহকারী যাদের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং গাড়ির বিস্তারিত বিবরণ, গাড়ির রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, রুট পারমিট, হালনাগাদ ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত কপি প্রদান করতে হবে (১ম শ্রেণী গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত)।	
ঙা	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	828	মাইক্রোবাস ১টি ৯ সীটের এসিসহ ভাড়া নেয়ার কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ১ বছরের মধ্যে।	
٩١	সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের ন ঠিকানা	ম ও :	নিমুবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর কর্মজীবী মায়েদের শিশুদের জন্য দিবাযত্ন কর্মসূচি প্রকল্প, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড (৭ম তলা), ঢাকা- ১০০০।	
ы	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের না ঠিকানা	ম ও :	মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, নিমুবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর কর্মজীবী মায়েদের শিতদের জন্য দিবাযত্ন কর্মসূচি প্রকল্প, ৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড (৭ম তলা), ঢাকা- ১০০০।	
91	দরপত্র সিভিউল ক্রয়ের শেষ ত ও সময়	চারিখ :	১৫-০৩-২০১০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	
201	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়		১৬-০৩-২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ১:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
771	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ও ঠিকানা		মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের ২য় তলায় অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক মহোদয় এর কার্যালয়।	
121	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়		১৬-০৩-২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা।	
106	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ			
- 13	কাজের বিবরণ	সরবরাহের	স্থান সিডিউলের দরপত্রের	

মূল্য মাইক্রোবাস ১টি ৯ সীটের নিম্নবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর কর্মজীবী মায়েদের শিতদের 800/- টাকা জন্য দিবাযত্ন কর্মসূচি প্রকল্প, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, এসিসহ ৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড (৭ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক বা সোনালী ব্যাংকে টেভার সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা ১-৩০২১-০০০০-৫১৩০ কোডে (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিয়ে চালানের ফটোকপি জমা দেয়া সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিল ও বক্স খোলার দিন কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী দিন একই সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল এবং বক্স খোলা 1 36

বিশেষ শর্তাবলী: ক) দরপত্রদাতাগণ The Public Procurement Regulation-2008 এর শর্তাবলী মানতে বাধ্য থাকবেন। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন প্রকল্প পরিচালক

মাইক্রোবাস ১টি ৯ সীটের এসিসহ ভাড়া নেয়া সম্পর্কিত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

নিমুবিত্ত ও মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর কর্মজীবী মায়েদের

us and we may not be able to recognise them. "They could be staring us in the face and we just don't recognise them," the Sun

Lord Martin Rees, the

Astronomer Royal of the UK,

says aliens could be amongst

Aliens could be

among us, says

Britain's top

astronomer

ANI, London

quoted him, as saying. Rees, who is also the President of the Royal Society, continued: "The problem is that we're looking for something very much like us,

assuming that they at least have something like the same mathematics and technology. "I suspect there could be life and intelligence out there in forms that we can't conceive. Just as a chimpanzee can't understand quantum

theory, it could be there are

aspects of reality which are

beyond the capacity of our brains." Rees, 67, was speaking shortly after hosting the first conference on the possibility of alien life in the Royal Society's 350-year-history.



PHOTO: AFP

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Swiss businessman Max Goeldi (R) sits in a car next to a Libyan policeman after turning himself in to Libyan authorities in Tripoli on Monday. Goeldi turned himself in to Libyan police to serve time in jail after leaving his shelter at the Swiss embassy, an AFP journalist said. Goeldi has been stuck in Libya since July 2008 amid a diplomatic row between the two countries along with a fellow compatriot, Rashid Hamdani who was earlier allowed to depart the North African country.

জিডি-৮৪১

শিশুদের জন্য দিবাযত্ন কর্মসূচি প্রকল্প মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা