

Ahmadinejad blasts Obama, says Israel is 'doomed'

AFP, Shanghai

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday said Israel was "doomed" and singled out US President Barack Obama for scorn, blaming Washington for orchestrating new nuclear sanctions against Tehran.

Speaking during a visit to the World Expo in Shanghai, Ahmadinejad denounced the UN Security Council's sanctions resolution adopted Wednesday with Chinese and Russian backing as "worthless paper".

The firebrand leader accused global nuclear powers of "monopolising" atomic technology and said the new sanctions would "have no effect" -- reserving most of his tough rhetoric for the United States, not his ally Beijing.

Swatting aside the US leader's offers of dialogue and rapprochement if Iran relents on its nuclear ambitions, Ahmadinejad said: "I think President Obama has made a big mistake... he knows the resolution will have no effect.

"Very soon he will come to understand he has not made the right choice and he has blocked the way to having friendly ties with the Iranian people."

Ahmadinejad chose a visit to his country's national pavilion during "Iran Day" at the Shanghai Expo over an appearance at a regional security summit in Uzbekistan attended by the Chinese and Russian leaders.

Presidents Hu Jintao of China and Dmitry Medvedev of Russia were in Tashkent yesterday for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The SCO yesterday snubbed Iran's membership bid, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the group's new guidelines did not allow countries under UN sanctions to join, leaving Tehran increasingly isolated over its refusal to renounce uranium enrichment.



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Ahmadinejad's visit to the Expo comes at a delicate time in Tehran's relations with China, one of the Council's five permanent veto-wielding members.

His government had earlier reacted furiously to China's decision to fall into line with the United States and other powers that accuse Iran of covertly trying to build nuclear weapons.

Ahmadinejad nevertheless shied away from criticising Beijing, which has emerged as Iran's closest trading partner.

"The main problem is the US administration, and we have no problem with others," he told reporters, accusing the United States of seeking to "swallow" the Middle East.

"Not only China but others also announced the resolution is going to open a way for diplomacy."

The UN resolution expands an arms embargo and bars Iran from sensitive activities such as uranium mining.

It also authorises states to conduct high-seas inspections of vessels believed to be ferrying banned items for Iran and adds 40 entities to a list of people and groups subject to travel restrictions and financial sanctions.

EU to raise pressure on Israel over Gaza blockade

REUTERS, Brussels

European Union foreign ministers will call on Israel next week to lift a three-year-old blockade of Gaza which they describe as "unacceptable and counterproductive" - including to Israel's security.

In a draft statement prepared for a meeting on Monday, the foreign ministers will condemn the use of violence during Israel's operation to stop a flotilla of aid ships reaching Gaza in which Israeli forces killed nine Turks.

They will also call for a "credible, impartial and independent" investigation.

The EU also says it is prepared to contribute to a new mechanism for getting goods in and out of Gaza, which would be based on more regular land access and possibly sea crossings to the coastal territory of 1.5 million people.

"The policy of closure is unacceptable and counterproductive, including from the point of view of Israel's security," a copy of the draft seen by Reuters reads.

"The EU calls for a change of policy leading to an unfettered flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons" into Gaza in line with a U.N. resolution.

Israel has maintained a blockade on Gaza since mid-2007, when the Hamas militant movement took full control of the territory from its rival Fatah, a year after winning a parliamentary election.

37 killed, 500 hurt in Kyrgyz unrest

AFP, Bishkek

Kyrgyzstan's interim government declared a state of emergency and slapped a curfew on southern parts of the country yesterday as ethnic clashes left at least 37 people dead and more than 500 wounded.

Interim President Roza Otunbayeva, whose government has struggled to assert its rule over the ex-Soviet Central Asian state since taking power amid unrest in April, backed off earlier statements that authorities had regained control.

"The situation remains tense. Similar conflicts occurred in the month of May. Then we were able to bring the situation under control by imposing a state of emergency," she said in a statement.

"Now again we are forced to impose a curfew."

Otunbayeva warned the situation was likely to deteriorate further throughout the night as government forces attempted to regain control over the southern capital of Osh.

Witnesses reached in Kyrgyzstan's second largest city by telephone described chaotic scenes, with gunfire ringing out throughout the day and heavily armed helicopters swooping low over the centre of Osh.

"I can't leave the city. There are no flights, no cars, no public transport whatsoever," Andrea Berg, Central Asia researcher for New York-based Human Rights Watch, told AFP by phone from a guest house where she remained trapped.

"There is still shooting going on. While I'm talking to you I hear shooting and it's really not far away," she said.

Brawls had broken out overnight between ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbek groups in Osh, once the stronghold of for-



PHOTO: AFP

Kyrgyz soldiers stand on an armoured vehicle in the streets of Osh yesterday. Ethnic clashes in southern Kyrgyzstan left 37 people dead and around 500 injured, the country's health ministry said.

mer president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was overthrown in April, witnesses said.

Buildings and cars were set alight and shop windows smashed across the city, as groups of men battled in the streets with guns and improvised weapons.

Troops in armoured personnel carriers blocked off the ethnic Uzbek neighbourhood of Cheryomushki, which one resident reached there by telephone said had fallen into the hands of gangs armed with automatic weapons.

"We are all just panicking. We do not know what to do and how to save our families," said local resident Yelena, who declined to give her last name out of fear of reprisals.

"Who knows what will happen tomorrow," she asked.

The authorities had sent armoured vehicles to Osh in a bid to restore order, government spokesman Farid Niyazov told AFP.

The leaders of Russia and China called for calm as the unrest topped talks at a regional security summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in neighbouring Uzbekistan.

"We sincerely hope that this phase of internal turmoil is overcome as soon as possible," Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said at the meeting of the group.

"China and other neighbours will continue to offer Kyrgyzstan all possible help," Chinese President Hu Jintao said through a Russian translator, calling for "a swift stabilisation of the situation."



PHOTO: AFP

A supporter of Taiwan's former president Chen Shui-bian holds a placard that reads "stop political persecution" outside the high court in Taipei yesterday, during the ruling in former president Chen Shui-bian's appeal against a sentence for corruption. Taiwan's high court reduced Chen's life sentence for corruption to 20 years in jail.

Car bomb kills 2 Americans, 3 Iraqis

AP, Baghdad

A car bomb struck a joint US-Iraqi military convoy north of Baghdad yesterday, killing at least five people, including two American troops.

Iraqi officials said a suicide attacker hit a patrol of Humvees and Stryker vehicles in central Jalula, about 80 miles (125 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, not far from the Iranian border.

American forces responsible for operations in Iraq's north confirmed the casualties in Diyala province. Names of the casualties were not released, pending notification of family members.

They said three Iraqis, including one police officer, were also killed, and about 22 were wounded in the blast.

An eyewitness who was watching the patrol from his doorway as the bomber struck said he believed troops were searching for weapons following a dispute among residents brandishing hand grenades and firearms the previous day.

The man, who gave his name as Abu Kowyan, 42, said the car bomber attacked from a nearby alley, ramming into the joint patrol as troops were getting out of their vehicles.

He said he counted about seven or eight American soldiers lying on the ground shortly after the blast. The fiery explosion shattered windows in his house 20 yards (meters) away.

Iraqi police, hospital and local officials said five Iraqis were killed, including a policeman and a woman, and 14 others were wounded. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

Conflicting casualty tolls are common in the chaotic aftermath of an attack.

Vacancy with Oxfam GB

Oxfam GB works in more than 80 countries to provide people with the support they need to overcome poverty and suffering.

At Oxfam we are committed to ensuring diversity and gender equity within our organization and strongly welcome applications from female and under represented groups to apply for this position. Oxfam does not discriminate against applicants or employees based on their HIV/AIDS status.

Oxfam GB has been working in Bangladesh since the War of Independence (1971) and established our permanent country office in 1972. Since then we have responded to all major emergencies in the country. We are committed to lessen the suffering of the poor and vulnerable communities of the country by promoting an integrated development and disaster risk management programme in response to development and humanitarian needs.

We are looking a dynamic team player for the below mention positions under Several Water Sanitation & Hygienic Promotion (WASH) project for Fixed Term Contract of Bangladesh Programme:

Programme Officer (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in WASH) 01 position based in Dhaka

Role & Responsibilities: You will be responsible for manage programme and quality implementation of WASH project, design and implement of WASH activities and documentation through MEL. Strengthen Partners capacity, Implementation training session, Coordination with Govt. PH team others colleagues and ensure that work aims to meet sphere standards and adheres to Oxfam's guidelines and ways of working protocols.

Qualification, competencies & skill required: Masters degree preferably in public health, at least 5 years experience on WASH and MEL in international or national NGO and sound knowledge of Public Health. Candidate should have ability to demonstrate a good understanding of WASH and community mobilization, strong team leadership and communication skill in written and verbal both Bengla and English, ability to work in a diverse team, good analytical and conceptual thinking skill.

Programme Officer (Gender in WASH) 01 position based in Dhaka

Role & Responsibilities: You will be responsible for manage programme and quality implementation of ACWSI project, design and implement of WASH activities and to support / monitor partners to develop capacity to achieve the project plans and help to drive our Gender Equality objective of ACWSI project forward. Implementing different training, negotiation skills, and also good partner management skills. Knowledge and experience on gender analysis and methods, an understanding of gender issues and rights especially as relevant to issues of violence against women.

Qualification, competencies & skill required: Masters degree preferably in gender/public health, at least 5 years experience on Gender and WASH in international or national NGO and sound knowledge of Public Health. Candidate should have ability to demonstrate a good understanding of Gender, WASH and community mobilization, strong team leadership and communication skill in written and verbal both Bengla and English, ability to work in a diverse team, good analytical and conceptual thinking skill.

Project Officer (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Documentation) 01 position based in Dhaka

Role & Responsibilities: You will be responsible for Monitor, evaluation, document and feedback the work of partners. Design, develop and implement user friendly and effective monitoring/ evaluation/ learning documentation/ feedback framework through effective consultation especially with PO-Engineer and PHE/PHP/HPC and ensure that work aims to meet sphere standards and adheres to Oxfam's guidelines, policies and ways of working.

Qualification, competencies & skill required: Bachelor/ Masters degree in any discipline, at least three years work experience in MEL/ documentation/ publication related to WASH in international or national NGOs and sound knowledge of software data base, data entry and data analysis. Candidate should have ability to demonstrate a good understanding of WASH and community mobilization, strong team working/building, communication and high quality report writing skill in written and verbal both Bengla and English, ability to work in a diverse team, good analytical and conceptual thinking skill.

Oxfam GB can offer you a challenging job and a competitive salary package with excellent benefits and a unique opportunity to make a difference.

Collect the job application form and job profile from Oxfam GB, House # 4, Road # 3, Block # 1, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh. You may also write to oxfambd@oxfam.org.uk for the documents.

If you feel you can make a difference please submit your application (hard copy/soft copy) with cover letter to the HR and Admin Coordinator, Oxfam GB, Bangladesh Programme, House - 4, Road - 3, Block - 1, Banani, Dhaka - 1213, Bangladesh or mail to bahmed@oxfam.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 22 June 2010. Please note only short listed candidates will be contacted due to limited resources. Women are especially encouraged to apply.



Diversity

Oxfam

The difference starts with you

Vacancy Notice



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the post of Project Officer for the 'National Human Rights Commission and Capacity Development' Project.

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, Saturday, 26 June 2010.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)



The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks quotations from interested and well qualified International/National Organizations/Institutions in response to the following RFQ in the CHT.

RFQ for Weaving Training on Silk & Cotton, Natural Dye and Pit Loom & Frame Loom for the weaver group members

The RFQ along with the instructions for submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

The deadline for quotation submission is Monday, 21st June, 2010 04:30 pm (Local Time)

Vacancy Notice



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the post of District Facilitator for the 'Activating Village Courts Project' for 17 different districts (Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, Chuadanga, Norail, Magura, Sylhet, Mouloviabazar, Rangpur, Nilfamari, Lalmonirhat, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Kishorgonj, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur). UNDP reserve the right to choose the districts among the selected candidates.

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, Saturday, 26 June 2010.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.