

## Russia says fires abating close to nuclear site

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday wildfires raging close to a secret nuclear site had been controlled, amid accusations it sought to cover up the risks from fires in forests contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

With the country's worst ever heat wave showing signs of relenting, the authorities faced new weather problems as a violent storm ripped through northwest Russia overnight and headed for Moscow.

The peat and forest fires in the countryside of central Russia have killed over 50 and also raised concerns about the security of potentially dangerous strategic sites located in the vicinity of the fires.

A major worry has been fires in a nature reserve close to Russia's main nuclear research centre in Sarov -- a town closed to foreigners as in Soviet times -- but the authorities said they had taken a major step to resolving the crisis.

## Iran to begin work on new nuclear site in 2011

AFP, Tehran

Iran is to start building its third uranium enrichment plant in early 2011, a top official said, defying world powers, which have slapped new sanctions on Tehran for pursuing the sensitive nuclear work.

Iran's atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi, cited on state television late on Sunday, said the search for sites for 10 new enrichment facilities "is in its final stages."

"The construction of one of these will begin by the end of the (current Iranian) year (to March 2011) or the start of next year, inshallah (God willing)."

Iran is already enriching uranium at its main plant in the central city of Natanz and is building a second enrichment facility inside a mountain at Fordo, southwest of Tehran.

The country's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the planned construction of 10 new enrichment plants late in 2009 after Tehran was censured by the UN atomic watchdog over building the Fordo facility.



PHOTO: REUTERS  
A view of the scene of a car bomb attack in Thailand's Narathiwat province south of Bangkok on Wednesday when a hidden bomb in a car park blasted near a Thai bank but nobody was injured or killed.

## Iraqis file case to break political deadlock

AFP, Baghdad

A dozen civic groups launched an audacious court action yesterday in a bid to break Iraq's deadlock over the formation of a new government, five months after a general election.

The legal appeal to Iraq's Federal Supreme Court is the latest sign of growing popular discontent with political elites in a violence-wracked country where basic services and infrastructure remain weak and dilapidated.

The charities and pressure groups brought the case against caretaker parliament speaker Fuad Masum, accusing him of violating the constitution by leaving the Iraqi Council of Representatives' first session open, with no progress on the election of a new speaker.

That, they allege, has blocked the election of a new national president and prime minister.

"We call on the Federal Court to require the defendant ... to end the open session as it violates the constitution ... or call on the Federal Court to dissolve the Council of Representatives and carry out new elections," the groups said in a news release.

Iraq's four main political blocs, none of which holds a parliamentary majority, have made little progress in forming a governing coalition in the months since the March 7 poll.

Ex-premier Iyad Allawi's Iraqiya bloc narrowly won the election with 91 seats in the 325-member parliament, followed by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's State of Law Alliance with 89.

While the constitution stipulates that a speaker, president and prime minister must be elected in that order, analysts note the posts will likely be decided on jointly by Iraq's main political groups as part of a grand bargain.

Massum, who holds his post by virtue of being parliament's oldest lawmaker, conceded that leaving parliament's first session open "was a violation of the constitution, and ... I will stand before the court to defend my stance, and I will accept any ruling the court will make."

## Israel rejects 'preconditions' for ME peace talks

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli officials on Monday rejected any "preconditions" ahead of an expected international invitation to direct peace talks with the Palestinians that would call for a complete settlement freeze.

Their remarks came as Washington appeared to be closing in on the relaunch of direct negotiations after months of shuttle diplomacy that have thus far failed to convince the Palestinians to enter face-to-face talks.

"Israel is ready to start direct negotiations immediately, but without any preconditions," an Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"The Palestinians, who have lost valuable time by refusing to revive these direct contacts, will present all the topics they want to discuss at the negotiating table," he added.

The diplomatic Quartet -- comprised of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia -- was expected to issue a statement inviting both sides to relaunch direct talks, which were suspended in late 2008.

The Palestinians have said it will be modelled on a Quartet statement issued in Moscow in March that called on Israel to halt settlement construction and for the direct talks to lead to a final peace deal in two years.

They have resisted months of US pressure to relaunch the talks, arguing that Israel's rightwing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

is not serious about withdrawing from lands occupied by Israel in 1967.

Israeli media reported that a forum of seven top cabinet members have decided to reject the Quartet statement, which may call on Israel to extend a limited West Bank settlement freeze, set to expire in September, for another 10 months.

"The Quartet declaration should allow the Palestinians to descend the tree they have climbed by refusing negotiations, but it must not be binding on Israel," several Israeli media outlets quoted an unnamed minister as saying.

The minister was quoted as saying that Netanyahu's government would reject the appeal from the Quartet but accept a parallel invitation issued by Washington that would be "more balanced."

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat charged that Netanyahu's government was not serious about peace.

"The announcement by the Israeli government rejecting the statement of the international Quartet before it is even issued shows that Israel is persisting in its rejection of a serious peace process," Erakat told AFP.

"(This) clearly proves that this government has other interests besides peace and stability in the region," he added.

Erakat also rejected Israel's decision on Sunday to deploy 23 caravans in eight West Bank settlements to serve as classrooms, saying it was "placing additional obstacles" in the way of US efforts to revive the peace process.

## Thai govt ends emergency rule in areas

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand lifted a controversial state of emergency in three more provinces yesterday, but not Bangkok, almost three months after the end of deadly street protests that left the nation deeply divided.

The move came as 17 leaders of the "Red Shirt" anti-government movement appeared in court, where they pleaded not guilty to terrorism charges over their role in the two-month-long mass rally, which left about 90 people dead.

The government said that although there were lingering fears of unrest, it was scrapping emergency rule in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Ubon Ratchathani in northern Thailand because the strict laws were hurting business and tourism.

"I admit that to revoke the emergency decree is risky as there might be some activities that will affect the image of the country," said Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

For Bangkok and surrounding provinces, it's the hardest decision to make as Bangkok is the centre of everything," added Abhisit, who has come under pressure from foreign allies and rights groups to revoke the laws.

The government has said the decree is still needed in the capital following two small bomb blasts there last month, including one that killed a man.

## US-S Korea drills anger North, worry China

REUTERS, Seoul

The US and South Korean militaries will stage their second joint exercise in less than a month from yesterday, fuelling tensions with the prickly North and angering regional power China.

The annual exercise comes a week after Seoul completed its own drills near a disputed maritime border off the west coast that prompted the North to retaliate by firing a barrage of artillery shells in the same area.

Responding with the same rhetoric as it has in the past, the reclusive North said the latest exercise was a "dangerous act to light the fuse of a new war."

Pyeonggang has often turned to sabre-rattling to make a point but analysts say it is unlikely to risk a full-blown war which would pit it against the combined might of the US and South Korean militaries.

But US officials have said further provocations by the North are possible in coming months, especially as Pyongyang tries to build political momentum for the succession to leader Kim Jong-il, expected to hand power to his youngest son.

Unlike the show-of-force drills in July which involved a US aircraft carrier, this month's exercises are lower key.

Washington and South Korea say the exercises are defensive and designed to send a message to Pyongyang that its behaviour is aggressive and must stop.

Last week's tit-for-tat military actions occurred near the Northern Limit Line, the site of several deadly clashes since the 1950-53 Korean war, and the location of the torpedoing of a South Korean warship earlier this year.

Seoul blames the sinking of the Cheonan corvette, which cost 46 lives, on Pyongyang. The North denies responsibility.

## Kyrgyz army involved in mob violence: HRW

AP, Bishkek

A prominent human rights group said yesterday that Kyrgyzstan's armed forces abetted and may even have actively taken part in violence by ethnic Kyrgyz mobs against the minority Uzbek community that left at least 370 people dead in June.

Human Rights Watch said many witnesses reported seeing individuals in camouflage attacking Uzbeks and using armoured military vehicles to remove improvised roadblocks barring entry into Uzbek neighbourhoods.

"This pattern raises serious concerns that some government forces either actively participated in, or facilitated attacks on, Uzbek neighbourhoods by knowingly or unwittingly giving cover to violent mobs," the report said.

The report by the New York-based group is the most ambitious attempt to date at an independent survey of the causes and consequences of the clashes, which also sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from their

homes to neighbouring Uzbekistan.

Kyrgyzstan's interim government spokesman Farid Niyazov wouldn't immediately comment on the report, but said the government welcomes the probe and would continue to cooperate with rights groups to help establish the truth about the unrest.

Top government representatives have acknowledged the real death toll may be much higher than the official tally.

Kyrgyzstan, a strategically located ex-Soviet Central Asian nation that hosts US and Russian military bases, has remained tense before October's parliamentary elections called after former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was driven from power in a bloody uprising in April.

Establishing the origin of the five-day wave of violence that erupted on June 10 has been hindered by sharply diverging testimonies, although international observers largely agree it rose out of petty interethnic brawls in the southern city of Osh.

## Bacteria can 'smell' environment, research shows

BBC ONLINE

Research has shown that bacteria - among the simplest life forms on Earth - have a sense of smell.

Scientists from Newcastle University in the UK have demonstrated that a bacterium commonly found in soil can sniff and react to ammonia in the air.

It was previously thought that this "olfaction" was limited to more complex forms of life known as eukaryotes.

The finding, published in Biotechnology Journal, means that bacteria have four of the five senses that humans enjoy.

The discovery also has implications in the understanding and control of biofilms - the chemical coatings that bacteria can form on, for example, medical implants.

Bacteria have already demonstrated the ability to sense to light, in analogy to sight, and to change the genes that they express when confronted with certain materials, in analogy to touch.

However, there is a distinction between an organism reacting to a chemical that it encounters directly (in analogy to the sense of taste) and a reaction to a chemical that is floating around in the air, says Reinert Nijland, lead author of the study.

"The difference is both in the mechanism that does the sensing, as well as in the compounds that are sensed," Dr Nijland, now at University Medical Centre Utrecht in the Netherlands, told BBC News.



## ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

### Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power Energy & Mineral Resources/ Power Division		
2	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd. (DPDC)		
3	Procuring Entity Name	DGM(Tech), Network Operation & Customer Service, Circle Shyampur, DPDC		
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5	Invitation for	Group- (1)	Yearly Repair and Maintenance of 11/0.4 KV, 0.4 KV Overhead Line & Distribution Transformer under NOCS, Shyampur for FY 2010-2011	
		Group- (2)	Yearly Repair and Maintenance of 11/0.4 KV, 0.4 KV Overhead Line & Distribution Transformer under NOCS, Jurain for FY 2010-2011	
		Group- (3)	Yearly Repair and Maintenance of 11/0.4 KV, 0.4 KV Overhead Line & Distribution Transformer under NOCS, Postagola for FY 2010-2011	
		Group- (4)	Yearly Repair and Maintenance of 11/0.4 KV, 0.4 KV Overhead Line & Distribution Transformer under NOCS, Fatullah for FY 2010-2011	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
7	Budget and Source of Fund	Revenue Budget of DPDC		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
8	Tender Enquiry No.	DGM(Tech), NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC/Tender/2010/44, Date: 12/08/2010		
9	Last Selling, Closing, Opening Date & Time of Tenders	Closing & Opening Date	Closing time	Opening time
		15-09-2010 (upto 5.00 pm)	16-09-2010	12.00 noon 3.00 pm
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDER</b>				
10	Name and Address of the office for selling, receiving & opening of Tender Documents	Place of Selling	Place of Receiving	Place of Opening
		Office of the : i) GM (Tech), NOCS (South), DPDC 12/1/B, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Telephone- 7123133 ii) DGM (Tech), NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC. 12/1/B Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Telephone-7121552	i) GM (Tech), NOCS (South), DPDC, 12/1/B, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Telephone- 7123133 ii) Deputy General Manager (Tech.) NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC. 12/1/B Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Telephone-7121552	Office of the : Deputy General Manager (Tech.) NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC. 12/1/B Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Telephone-7121552
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	i) Reputed Contractors who have experience of at least 2(two) successful completion of yearly repair & maintenance works of 11/0.4 KV over head distribution lines each over last 5(five) years in any organization of power sector in Bangladesh. ii) Tenderer shall have available competent manpower and logistic supports to complete the work. They have to provide the list of manpower and logistics in support		
12	Price for the tender Document	Tk. 1000.00 (one thousand) only (non refundable) for each group through Pay order/ Bank Draft issued by any schedule Bank in favour of DGM(Technical) NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC.		
13	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	For Bid (1) Tk15,000/= (Fifteen thousand), Bid (2) Tk 20,000/= (Twenty thousand), Bid (3) Tk18,000/= (Eighteen thousand) and Bid (4), Tk 25,000/= (Twenty five thousand) only to be submitted with Bid in favour of DGM (Technical) NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC in form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule Bank.		
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
14	Name and Designation of the Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan, DGM (Technical), NOCS Circle Shyampur, DPDC.		
15	Address of the official inviting Tender	12/1/B Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000		
16	Contract Details of official inviting Tender	Tel. No. 7121552	e-mail: dgmtechshyampur@dpdc.org.	
17	Special instructions	i) The Tenderer shall have to apply in their original letter pads (Photocopy will not be accepted) for purchasing tender document. The Tenderer shall have to show up-to-date valid original copies of Trade license, income Tax Certificate, Vat Registration Certificate and ABC license (Electrical) while purchasing the tender document and submit the attested copies of above documents with the tender document. ii) All documents /Certificates must be attested by an officer of DPDC not below the rank of Manager iii) The Tenderer shall have to Submit the experience certificate from not below the rank of Manager or equivalent officer for similar type of works in single contract which will not less than taka 250000.00 along with work order as a supporting iv) Procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in any stage without assigning any reason there of. v) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received / opened on the next working day at the same time. vi) The Tenderer shall have to satisfy the other criteria laid down in the tender Document vii) The Tenderers can participate in single tender or any numbers of above 4 groups separately.		
		(Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan) DGM (Technical) NOCS, Circle Shyampur, DPDC		

## Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited Printing & Security Stationery Department ECSD, Head Office, Islami Bank Tower 40, Dilkusha, C/A, Dhaka www.islamibankbd.com

### Tender Notice

#### For MICR Encoded Security Instruments

Sealed quotations are invited from the bonafide suppliers/printers (Local & International) for printing & supply of MICR encoded Mudaraba savings Account Cheque Books, Al-Wadeeah Current Account Cheque Books, Payment Order and Demand Draft Blocks with security features as per Bangladesh Bank's guide lines. The tender schedule/particulars of quotation will be available at our Printing & Stationery Department, Establishment & Common Services Division, 63, Dilkusha C/A, (7th floor), Dhaka-1000 on payment of Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two thousand) only (non-refundable) in the form of Payment order favouring ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA within 01-09-2010. The envelope containing quotation should be marked prominently in red ink with the words Quotation for MICR encoded Security Instruments and should be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the Establishment & Common Services Division, Head Office, Islami Bank Tower, 40, Dilkusha C/A, (7th floor), Dhaka-1000 on 02-09-2010 up to 11:30 A.M. The Tender will be opened on the same day at 11:40 A.M. in presence of the Tenderers or their representatives, if any. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Executive Vice President

Islami Bank My Bank