

## WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT

## Ban ki-moon urges clean energy revolution

AFP, Abu Dhabi

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called yesterday for a clean energy revolution that would make energy available for everyone, at a summit in Abu Dhabi.

"Our challenge is transformation. We need a global clean energy revolution -- a revolution that makes energy available and affordable for all," he told participants in the fourth edition of the World Future Energy Summit.

"This is essential for minimising climate risks, for reducing poverty and improving global health, for empowering women and meeting the Millennium Development Goals, for global economic growth, peace and security, and the health of the planet,"



he said in his keynote speech.

"You can lead this revolution, and in many ways, many of you are already doing so," he told participants in the summit and exhibition, which has attracted more than 3,000 delegates.

Ban also hailed last month's governmental meeting on climate change in Cancun as one that made progress on financing the fight to tackle global warming and on deforestation, "which accounts for nearly one-fifth of global carbon emissions."

"Taken together, these outcomes give us important tools. Yet of course, we have much farther to travel," he said.

He stressed, however, the need to strengthen efforts on national fronts, noting Abu Dhabi's initiative to create a city powered solely by renewable energy as "just one of a growing number of initiatives in developed and developing countries that are bringing life to our vision of green, sustainable societies."



Interim Tunisian President Fouad Mbazza (R) is escorted by soldiers as he arrives at the Government Palace, in Tunis yesterday. Tunisian protesters called for the abolition of ousted president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's ruling party amid a chaotic power vacuum as politicians prepared a government of national unity.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN  
brief

## Indonesia urges South China Sea code of conduct

AFP, Medana

A code of conduct is urgently needed between Beijing and southeast Asian nations to prevent conflict in the South China Sea, Indonesia said yesterday.

Nine years have passed since the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed to develop a code of conduct and the time had come for talks to produce results, Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said.

"There has been plenty of time for the guidelines to be considered," he told reporters in Medana, Lombok, after a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers.

"If we allow the situation ... to remain dormant and

## Amnesty calls on Haiti to prosecute former dictator

AFP, London

Rights group Amnesty International yesterday urged the Haitian authorities to bring former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to justice after he made a surprise return to the country.

Duvalier flew in from France on Sunday for the first time in 25 years in the wake of disputed presidential elections and as Haiti struggles to recover from a huge earthquake a year ago.

The former leader declared he had "come to help". Amnesty said he should now face justice for the nearly three decades of rule by Duvalier and his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, which many

## No proof Lenin ordered last tsar's murder: probe

AFP, Moscow

A long-running probe into the murders of the last Russian tsar Nicholas II and his family has closed after failing to find evidence that Lenin ordered the killings, investigators said yesterday.

Historians and archivists have found no evidence that the Bolshevik leader or regional chief Yakov Sverdlov gave permission for the imperial family to be shot in 1918, Vladimir Solovoyov, Russia's chief investigator, told the Izvestia daily.

The investigative committee of the state prosecutor's office said yesterday that it had completed its investigation of the deaths of the tsar's family and

## UN prosecutor submits Hariri charges

AFP, Beirut

The prosecutor of a UN-backed tribunal on the murder of Lebanese ex-premier Rafiq Hariri yesterday submitted his indictments in the case to a pre-trial judge, Al-Markaziya news agency reported.

"Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare today handed his indictments to pre-trial judge Daniel Franssen after the completion of his probe into the assassination of Rafiq Hariri," the report said.

"The official announcement will be made tomorrow (Tuesday) and the pre-trial judge will begin his review of the case to determine whether to accept or

## UN chief urges Israeli settlement freeze

AFP, Abu Dhabi

UN chief Ban Ki-moon yesterday urged Israel to "freeze" settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including east Jerusalem.

"I continue to call on Israel to lift the unacceptable conditions in Gaza and to freeze settlement activities anywhere in the occupied Palestinian territories, including east Jerusalem," Ban told a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

Ban's call comes a day after Israeli media reported that Israel is to approve 1,400 new settler homes in east Jerusalem, defying pressure to halt settlement building that has stalled peace talks with the Palestinians.

AUSTRALIA FLOODS  
Queensland PM launches inquiry

BBC ONLINE

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has announced an inquiry into flooding that has devastated swathes of the Australian state.

Bligh said that the inquiry would look at issues including the operation of dams and would serve as an investment in the state's future.

Treasurer Wayne Swan has warned the floods could be the costliest natural disaster in Australia's history.

Further south, the state of Victoria is also braced for floods.

Water has already swamped some of the state's northern towns and is threatening 1,400 homes in 43 others. Some 3,500 people have left their homes so far.

Announcing the \$14.8m Commission of Inquiry, Premier Anna Bligh said the time had come to "forensically examine" the chain of events.

"I see this as an investment in our future safety, an investment in being better prepared for an event like this in the future," she said.

"I also think we owe it to those people who have lost loved ones and those who have lost their lives to honour their memory by learning the lessons of this flood."

China's new pollution targets inadequate  
Says Greenpeace

AFP, Beijing

Environmental group Greenpeace yesterday praised China for setting new pollution targets but said the measures fell well short of what was needed to curb the country's world-beating carbon emissions.

The environmental protection ministry said late last week it had added nitrogen oxide and ammonia nitrogen to a list of major pollutants that it wants reduced by 1.5 percent this year, according to state media.

The nitrogen compounds join chemical oxygen demand -- a measure of water contamination -- and sulphur dioxide on the list of reduction targets set by Beijing.

## Barak quits Labour, forms new party in Israel

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday he was leaving his struggling Labour party and setting up a new centrist party called "Independence," in a move set to strengthen the government.

The surprise decision will see Barak and four other deputies leaving the strife-torn faction as the result of a "shift to the left" within the party which he has led since 2007.

But with Barak's new party set to remain in government, the move looked likely to stabilise and even strengthen the largely rightwing coalition of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We have presented a request to the Knesset to recognise us as a new faction that will be called 'Independence' ... which will be centrist, Zionist and democratic," Barak said at a press conference broadcast live on Israeli radio.



"The State of Israel is facing tests which are not simple, at the centre of which is the political process with the Palestinians and with the region, security tests and complex challenges regarding the economy and society," he said.

"We are ready to face them."

The move was widely interpreted as a tactical move by Barak to protect his position as defence minister and to remain in the ruling coalition following increasing pressure from Labour deputies to quit over the impasse in peace talks with the Palestinians.

Until now, Labour has been the third-largest party in Netanyahu's ruling coalition, with 13 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

Barak took four others with him -- Agriculture Minister Shalom Simchon, deputy defence minister Matan Vilnai and MPs Einat Wilf and Orit Noked.

## Keep SQ Chy detained

FROM PAGE 20

The BNP leader claimed he was not involved in politics before joining Bangladesh Muslim League in September 1979.

"No allegation against me had been reported in the media before I joined Bangladesh Muslim League. People had elected me parliament members six times because I am innocent. I plead not guilty," he claimed.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum told the court that primary investigation has found the BNP leader's involvement in the killings of Nutan Chandra, founder of herbal medicine factory Kundeshwari Oushadhalya, and 35 people at Jagatmallo Para, and 69 others at Unasattar Para in Chittagong during the Liberation War.

Those people were tortured to death in places close to Salauddin's Chittagong residence. Primary investigation shows that Salauddin led the killings with the help of Pakistan occupation forces, the prosecutor said.

If the accused is allowed to move free, he might hamper the probe and influence the witnesses, the lawyer said. The jail authorities earlier took Salauddin to the tribunal's prison at around 8:30am and produced him before the court two hours later. Salauddin was first produced before the tribunal on December 30 after he was booked on war crimes charges on December 19.

The court on December 19 issued an arrest warrant against Salauddin after hearing a petition filed by war crimes probe agency that sought his arrest on December 15.

On December 16, law enforcers arrested the BNP leader in Banani with links to torching of a car at Moghbazar on June 26. A person was killed in the incident.

## Tunisia appoints national unity govt amid turmoil

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia unveiled yesterday a transitional unity government which will prepare for elections after the ouster of president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and immediately announced the release of political prisoners and new media freedoms.

The government, with Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi at its helm, also abolished the information ministry and lifted a ban on the country's main human rights group, the Tunisian League for Human Rights.

The government includes three members of the opposition and six of the cabinet of disgraced Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia Friday after 23 years of iron-fisted rule, including Foreign Minister Kamal Morjane.

It was announced as hundreds of people demonstrated in the capital Tunis and other

cities for the abolition of Ben Ali's Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) party, which was excluded from discussions on the formation of the new government.

Tunisian presidential and parliamentary elections are to be held within two months under the north African state's constitution, but the opposition says it could take up to six months to organise a truly democratic vote.

With Tunisia in a state of chaos since Ben Ali's downfall, the United Nations called yesterday for the "prompt restoration" of rule of law, and the United States and European Union said they would help organise swift elections.

"The revolution continues! RCD out!" shouted hundreds of demonstrators in the capital as police fired tear gas and water cannons and shot live rounds in the air to disperse the crowd as a ban on public protests remains in place.

## Pirates seize Greek ship in Somali basin

AFP, Brussels

Pirates hijacked a Greek-owned ship with 24 Filipino sailors on board in the Gulf of Aden yesterday after firing small arms and a rocket-propelled grenade at the vessel, the EU's naval force said.

The 52,000-tonne Eagle bulk carrier was seized by a single pirate skiff in the Somali basin as it headed from Aqaba, Jordan, to Paradip, India, the European Union's anti-piracy force said.

There has been no contact with the ship since the attack, which took place 490 nautical miles southwest of Salaam, Oman, and no word about the crew's condition, the EU Navfor mission said.

## Irish PM in party leadership crisis

AFP, Dublin

Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen fought for his political life yesterday after his foreign minister announced he would vote against him in a snap party leadership election.

But while Foreign Minister Micheal Martin's challenge raised the stakes for Cowen, the government's chief whip predicted that the revolt against the prime minister would fizzle out and Martin received little support in the press.

Cowen's allies were spending the day ensuring support for Tuesday's confidence ballot following days of speculation about his position.

After stinging criticism over his handling of an ongoing economic crisis, Cowen announced Sunday that he would stay on as leader of the Fianna Fail party, which governs in a coalition, and challenged his critics to back him or sack him in the secret vote of 71 Fianna Fail lawmakers.

Just hours later, Martin, seen as one of Cowen's main challengers for the party leadership, said he would vote against him.

On a day of drama, Martin also offered his resignation -- only to then agree to stay on at Cowen's request.

But the government's chief whip John Curran said he did not know of any minister who had thrown their weight behind Martin.



Top three: Roosevelt (FDR), Lincoln, Washington. Next five: Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan.

## The top US presidents

BBC ONLINE

Franklin D Roosevelt has topped the first ever UK academic poll rating the performance of 40 US presidents since George Washington.

Barack Obama was not included in the survey, but interim assessments indicate that he would have made the top 10 of the rankings. George W Bush was in 31st place, putting him in the bottom 10.

In 1960, US political scientist Richard Neustadt began his seminal book Presidential Power with the observation: "In the United States we like to 'rate' a President. We measure him as

'weak' or 'strong' and call what we are measuring his 'leadership'."

In the half century since then, systematic presidential rating has become a regular exercise for US scholars. Over the same period, study and research of US history and politics expanded dramatically in UK universities. Until now, however, there has been no UK poll of US presidents.

The new survey was conducted before the 2010 mid-term elections by the United States Presidency Centre of the Institute for the Study of the Americas (part of the University of London's School of Advanced Study).

PHOTO: BBC