

EU nations approve sanction against Iran

AP, AFP, Brussels

European Union nations have approved new sanctions against Iran, including an assets freeze of the country's biggest bank. EU officials say Iran's Bank Mellat has been blacklisted by the decision, which was formally adopted without debate at EU talks in Luxembourg on Monday.

Western officials have accused Bank Mellat of providing services to Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The United States placed the bank on its blacklist last year.

The sanctions also include a travel ban on high-level experts dealing with Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran has denied pursuing nuclear weapons, saying its programme is geared toward generating electricity.

The measures, which will stop the operations of the bank at its

European offices in London, Hamburg and Paris, were approved during a meeting of EU agriculture and fisheries ministers in Luxembourg.

The move, adopted without discussion by the EU ministers, also adds another 20 individuals and 15 organisations to the EU's visa-ban and assets-freeze lists.

European officials did not give details on Monday of those added to the list, but said they were officials and experts identified as having connections with Iran's nuclear and weapons programmes.

No Iranian political leaders were hit by the sanctions, because "we want to have a dialogue," one diplomat said.

The EU move, running alongside a string of UN sanctions against Iran adopted since 2006, aims at persuading Tehran to suspend its uranium enrichment activities, which the international community fears are part of a nuclear weapons build-

ing programme.

Tehran insists it wants atomic energy only for a growing population whose fossil fuels will eventually run out.

The UN sanctions include a clause calling for "vigilance" by member states over the movement in their territories of people directly associated with or supporting Iran's nuclear activities.

Washington has been waiting for Europe to take such measures for months, and the matter became a theme of US President George W. Bush's recent European tour.

The 27 EU member states have been working out the details since May but the measures were delayed until after a trip to Iran earlier this month by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

Solana visited Tehran on June 14 to present a cooperation offer to Iran on behalf of the six major countries involved in the dossier -- Britain, China, France, Germany,

Russia and the US.

The proposal, which offers Iran technological incentives in exchange for it suspending the sensitive process of uranium enrichment, has been made public, as has a letter from the six world powers dealing with the nuclear crisis.

Solana said Friday that he had still received no response from the Iranian side on the offer, which is conditional on Tehran suspending its uranium enrichment activities.

Top Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili said the idea of Iran suspending enrichment -- repeatedly rejected by the government -- was not part of the discussions with Solana.

However he added Sunday that Iran was examining a "timetable" presented by world powers for starting talks on a package aimed at ending the five-year standoff over its nuclear programme

Govt should not be sacrificed for nuke deal : CPI

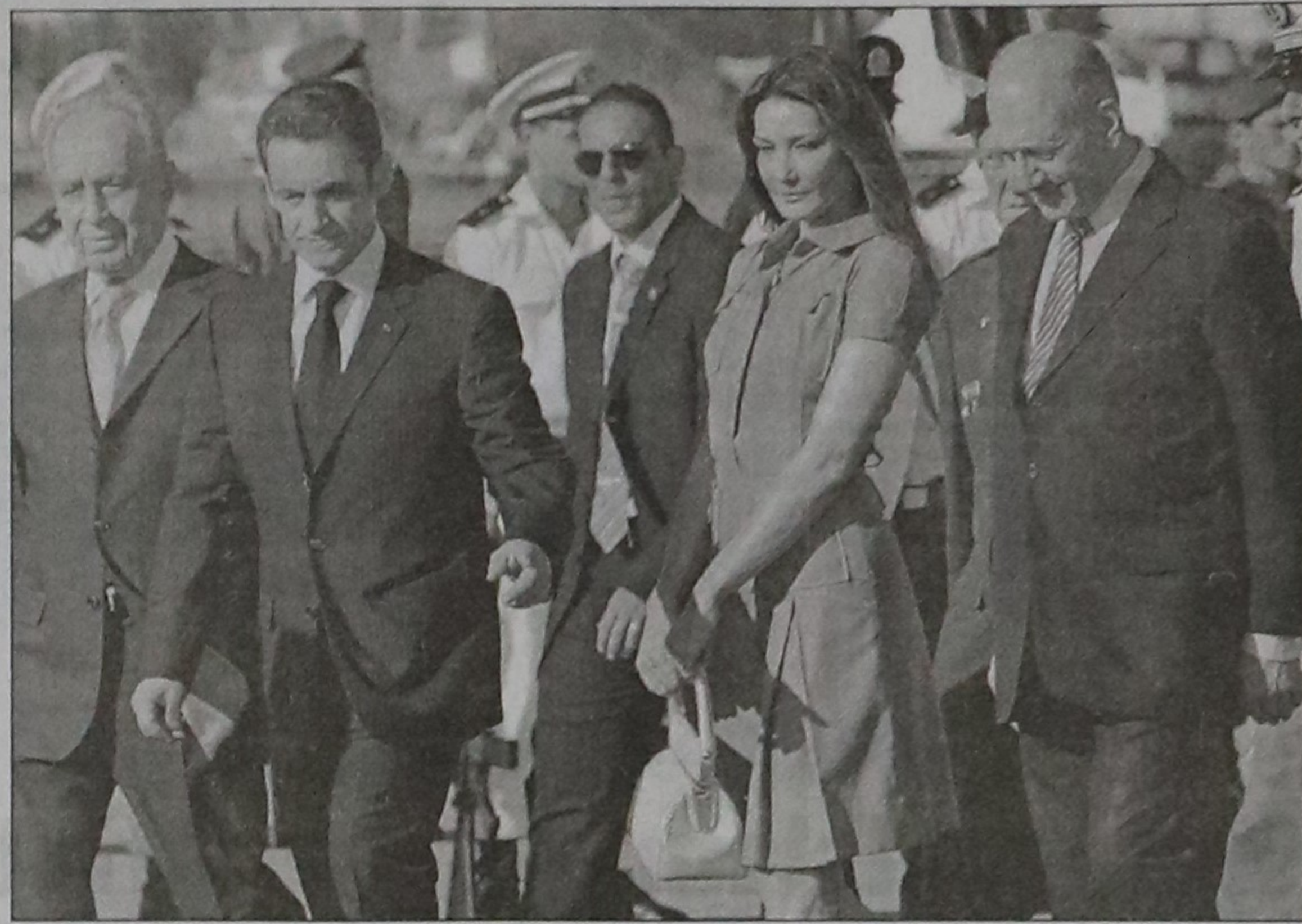
PTI, Bhubaneswar

Asking the Congress-led UPA to set its priority on fighting soaring inflation instead of focusing on Indo-US nuclear deal, CPI today said the central government should not be sacrificed in the name of such an agreement, as nobody wants early polls.

"The priority at this moment is to fight the rising inflation and not the nuclear deal," CPI General Secretary A B Bardhan told reporters on the sidelines of a convention here against POSCO's proposed steel project in Orissa.

"There should not be early elections as nobody favours it except the divisive forces," he said adding, I do not understand as to why the government is in such a hurry to go ahead with the deal.

"After all, the UPA government should realise it is not going to be a deal between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W Bush but between India and the US," the CPI leader said.



French President Nicolas Sarkozy (2nd L) and his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy (2nd R), are welcomed by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (R) and President Shimon Peres (L) upon their arrival on Sunday at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. Sarkozy is in Israel for a three-day state visit to mark the Jewish state's 60th anniversary.



A Sunni fighter responds to a source of fire during clashes in Bab al-Tebbaneh neighbourhood in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli yesterday. Two persons were killed yesterday in fierce sectarian clashes that erupted at the weekend in Tripoli.

Mubarak, Olmert to talk Gaza truce

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert travels to Egypt today for talks with President Hosni Mubarak focused on the Gaza truce and Cairo's efforts to mediate a prisoner swap between Israel and Hamas.

The meeting in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh was announced by Olmert's office just hours after the Egyptian-mediated ceasefire in the Gaza Strip took hold last Thursday following months of bloodshed.

Both sides have since observed

the truce as Palestinian militants halted all rocket fire at the south of Israel, which in turn ended its raids across Gaza and started easing its punishing blockade on the Hamas-ruled territory.

Egypt played a key role in the talks as Israel rejects direct contact with the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, which it blacklists as a terrorist group.

The deal earned Olmert heavy domestic criticism for not making the truce conditional upon Hamas releasing army Corporal Gilad Shalit, abducted two years ago in a

Sarkozy presses Israel for settlement freeze

AFP, Jerusalem

French President Nicolas Sarkozy called yesterday for a halt to Jewish settlement activity in the occupied West Bank while proclaiming his staunch support of Israel in an address to its parliament.

"There can be no peace without stopping settlement," Sarkozy told MPs and invited guests.

"There is a proposal backed by many members of your Knesset for the adoption of a law that would encourage settlers to leave the West Bank in exchange for compensation and relocation in Israel," he said.

Israeli authorities have announced the construction of hundreds of new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank in recent months, infuriating the Palestinians and drawing criticism from the international community which regards all settlements on occupied land as illegal.

Sarkozy also called for an easing of travel restrictions in the West Bank, where the army operates hundreds of roadblocks which the World Bank says are a major obstacle to economic growth but which Israel insists are vital to its security.

He said the Palestinians too had to do more in order to achieve peace.

"There can be no peace if Palestinians themselves do not combat terrorism," Sarkozy stressed that France was strongly committed to Israel's security.

"France will always be by Israel's side when its security, its existence are threatened," he said, adding that France would consider it "unacceptable" for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons.

"France is determined to pursue with its partners a policy ranging from ever-tighter sanctions to an opening should Tehran opt to respect its international obligations."

Sarkozy said a lasting peace required the creation of a viable Palestinian state alongside Israel with both sharing Jerusalem as their capital.

"There can be no peace without recognising Jerusalem as the capital of two states and the guarantee of freedom of access to the holy places for all religions," he said.

Israel occupied Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East

war and later annexed it in a move never recognized by the international community. It has insisted that it regards the whole city as its "eternal, indivisible" capital.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas welcomed Sarkozy's speech, his spokesman said. "The positions expressed by President Sarkozy reflect the French support for the Palestinian cause in seeking to reach a peaceful settlement in the region," Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

On Tuesday, Sarkozy plans to travel to the West Bank town of Bethlehem for talks with the Palestinian president.

Sarkozy's visit, one of several by world leaders to mark the Jewish state's 60th anniversary, was aimed at underlining the strength of Franco-Israeli relations, in contrast with the tensions that marked ties under former French president Jacques Chirac, perceived in Israel as being pro-Arab.

Sarkozy is the first French president to visit Israel in almost 12 years, and only the second to address the Israeli parliament after Francois Mitterrand in 1982.

World leaders challenge Mugabe's legitimacy

AFP, London/Harare

World leaders challenged Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's legitimacy yesterday and threatened sanctions after the opposition withdrew from this week's presidential run-off, citing pre-poll violence.

Britain and the United States were unequivocal in laying the blame for the violence on Mugabe's government and its

"thugs" and said they were prepared to take their concerns to the UN Security Council.

"We do not accept the status quo, we do not expect the international community to accept the status quo and it becomes urgent that there is a resolution of this which accepts the will of the people of Zimbabwe," said British Foreign Office Minister Lord Mark Malloch Brown.

Mugabe is now "living on bor-

rowed time," said Malloch Brown, who raised the prospect of tougher international action, including global sanctions against the financial assets of those close to the veteran leader.

Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) opposition party, quit the run-off race against Mugabe for the presidency on Sunday, saying increasing violence had made a free and fair poll impossible.

Syria keeps silent over UN nuclear inspectors

AFP, Damascus

Syria kept silent on Monday about a visit by UN nuclear officials to inspect a mysterious site bombed by Israel last year, with no official announcements a day after the team's arrival.

There was no acknowledgement in the state-owned media that the inspectors were even in the country to investigate US allegations that the Al-Kibar site in the northeastern desert was a nuclear reactor nearing completion.

Just one privately owned daily, Al-Watan -- like all Syrian media close to the government -- made

any mention of the inspection mission by the UN nuclear watchdog, carrying a commentary published by the Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

The commentary highlighted Syria's strong denial of the US allegations and recent statements by International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei that the watchdog had no evidence of Syrian nuclear foul-play.

"We believe therefore that the IAEA team's mission is a routine visit aimed at putting an end to the rumours over a Syrian nuclear programme," the commentary said.

Born-again canal

FROM PAGE 1

where the canal used to flow into the Buriganga, on the plea of constructing a bridge.

About 5,000 small and large garment factories in Suvadda union are also blamed for drying of the canal as the factories had dumped waste in it for years.

The Water Development Board with assistance from the Armed Forces Division and Dhaka district administration evicted illegal encroachers and re-excavated the canal. It was opened for public on June 16.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Keraniganj Md Aminul Islam said they had started the eviction drive and excavation of the canal on January 24 this year. "We demolished about 150 illegal structures including 82 buildings on the canal from the bridge near Alam Market to Rajendrapur in Keraniganj."

He went on, "We plan to restore the remaining portion of the canal during the next dry season, if funds are available."

On Char Mirerbagh canal, the UNO said, a portion of it has been re-excavated and initiative will be taken to complete the process after the rainy season.

He however said they have no plan about Mirerbagh canal.

Char Mirerbagh canal falls into Suvadda Khal that links the Buriganga and the Dhaleshwari while Mirerbagh canal used to link the two rivers directly.

Suvadda Khal is very important for people of the area, especially traders, as four markets in Keraniganj are on its banks. Traders at Kaliganj, Golam Bazar, Abdullahpur and Rajendrapur markets bring goods by boats from Sadarghat, Islampur and other areas through this canal due to low carrying cost.

Ali Hossain, an elderly resident of Kalindi in Keraniganj, recalled that many big boats used to carry goods through the canal before 15 years ago.

Hundreds of boats would ply the three canals everyday and several thousand people in and around Keraniganj would earn their living from it. Drying of the canals had not only affected them but also endangered environment,

he said.

Boatman Manik, engaged in this profession for about 45 years, said as the canals had dried up, more than half of the boatmen changed their job.

Boat race, a very popular and entertaining event during rainy season, used to take place in Suvadda canal every year, drawing huge crowds. The last one took place 1984, recalled Shawkat Hossain of Aaganagar in Suvadda union.

Farming and fishing in the area were also hampered seriously due to drying up of the canal, he said. "We used to fish in the canal almost everyday and used its water for farming purposes and domestic chores even 20 years ago."



A sheet of water flows off the garage door as Jack Wheeler opens it to look out at his flooded front yard as well as the cornfields on Sunday in Oakville, Iowa. The flooding was caused by the Mississippi River and Iowa River that inundated the town.

PUBALI BANK LIMITED
ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
(ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT)
HEAD OFFICE, 26 DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000.

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDERS

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Tenderers as described in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below.

1. Procuring Entity : Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (Engineering Department), Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2. Tender Name : Internal renovation/decoration works of our Foreign Exchange Branch, Dhaka.
3. Time for completion of the work : 30 (Thirty) Calendar days.
4. Eligibility of Tenderers : i) Minimum work experience of 3 (three) years in building decoration/renovation/construction.
ii) The tenderers must have experience of Minimum 02 Nos. work in same nature each costing minimum Tk. 15.00 (Fifteen) Lac for the last 3 (Three) years.
iii) Having valid trade licence, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.
iv) Having valid B & C contractory and supervisory licence for electrical works.
v) Must be financially solvent.
5. Price of Tender Document : Tk. 1000.00 (Taka one thousand) only non-refundable.
6. Amount of Tender security : 2% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order favoring Pubali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
7. Name and address of the office from where tender documents to be obtained : Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, Engineering Department (8th floor) 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka -1000
8. Name and address of the office where tender documents to be submitted : Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (12th floor), 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka -1000
9. Last date & time for selling tender document : Up to 5:00 PM (BST), 08 July 2008
10. Last date & time for tender submission : Up to 11:00 AM (BST), 09 July 2008
11. Date & time for tender opening : At 11:15 AM (BST), 09 July 2008 in presence of bidder (if any).
12. Special Instructions : Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to reject any/all tender(s) prior to acceptance. Tenderers must produce necessary papers along with tender.

Md. Rasul Amin
General Manager

TVU Thames Valley University
London Reading Slough

make **new connections**

Thames Valley University is an exciting mixture of old and new. The university can trace its origin back over 140 years with courses designed to prepare students for working in the 21st century.

- MA Hospitality Management
- MA Human Resources
- MA International Business Management
- MA International Marketing
- MA Marketing
- MA Media
- MA Project Management
- MA Tourism Management
- MBA
- MSc Applied Computing for Enterprise
- MSc Corporate Communications
- MSc Information Systems
- MSc Interactive Software Development

A full range of degree programmes are also available

Ms Naushaba Singh, Academic Liaison Manager,
will meet & interview the prospective students.
Date : 24 June 2008, Time : 12pm - 6pm, Date : 5 July 2008, Time : 2pm - 6pm

OVERSEAS STUDY COUNSELING LTD.
AN APPROVED PARTNER OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION. PROMOTING EDUCATION TO THE UK.

15 Barun Bhaban (3rd Floor) Janata Bank Building, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

TVU Thames Valley University
London Reading Slough

make **new connections**

Thames Valley University is an exciting mixture of old and new. The university can trace its origin back over 140 years with courses designed to prepare students for working in the 21st century.

- MA Hospitality Management
- MA Human Resources
- MA International Business Management
- MA International Marketing
- MA Marketing
- MA Media
- MA Project Management
- MA Tourism Management
- MBA
- MSc Applied Computing for Enterprise
- MSc Corporate Communications
- MSc Information Systems
- MSc Interactive Software Development

A full range of degree programmes are also available

Ms Naushaba Singh, Academic Liaison Manager,
will meet & interview the prospective students.
Date : 24 June 2008, Time : 12pm - 6pm, Date : 5 July 2008, Time : 2pm - 6pm

OVERSEAS STUDY COUNSELING LTD.
AN APPROVED PARTNER OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION. PROMOTING EDUCATION TO THE UK.

15 Barun Bhaban (3rd Floor) Janata Bank Building, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.