

End of Cuba embargo 'way down the road': US

Summit of Americas ends with hope of burying hatred

AFP, Washington/Port Of Spain

The United States cautioned yesterday that any lifting of its embargo on Cuba was "way down the road" despite hopes raised at a Summit of the Americas by President Barack Obama, who opened the door to talks with the communist island.

"That's way down the road, and it's going to depend on what Cuba did, Cuba does going forward," Obama's economic advisor Larry Summers said in an interview on US television.

Unprecedented overtures by Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro in recent days have fuelled a surge in optimism that the two countries, whose enmity was forged in the early days of the Cold War half a century ago, could launch what Obama called "a new beginning."

Both leaders said they were willing to discuss topics that Havana had previously refused to address with Washington, including human rights and political prisoners.

At stake is the 47-year-old economic embargo Washington imposed on Cuba in the early years of Fidel Castro's revolution. Virtually all of Latin America is united in demanding the embargo be lifted.

Obama, who Sunday met with Central American leaders at the summit in Trinidad and Tobago, has highlighted his recent decision to lift curbs on Cuban-Americans' contacts with Cuba.

But he said any further US moves were contingent on concrete signs of policy change by Raul Castro.

"Actions are always going to speak louder than words," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs, accompanying Obama, said Saturday.

Latin American leaders, though, have also been pressing the United States to give more concessions.

Obama's "intentions have to be translated into concrete policy," Argentine President Cristina Kirchner said Saturday.

"We still haven't seen any changes towards Cuba," Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa said, though he added he now viewed Obama's administration "with a lot of sympathy."

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in an interview published by the Spanish newspaper ABC, said Obama's decision to lift restrictions against Havana was "a first step in the right direction."

He added, though, that it was "important not to wait for a gesture from Cuba for other steps to be taken."

Cuba's exclusion from regional bodies such as the Organization of American States -- from which it was kicked out in 1962 under US pressure -- "remains an anomaly," Lula also said.

Nevertheless, it appeared Obama's charm offensive paid off at the summit, especially with Cuba's strongest ally, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Chavez, who vociferously criticized the administration of Obama's predecessor George W. Bush, said late Saturday it was "possible" that Washington and Caracas could return their respective ambassadors to their posts.

The countries ordered out each other's ambassadors last September, as bilateral relations plunged to a new low.

Acting State Department spokesman Robert Wood said "this is a positive development that will help advance US interests, and the State Department will now work to further this shared goal."

Chavez also took every opportunity at the summit to be photographed shaking Obama's hand, and gave the US leader a gift of a book -- though one that argued that Latin America had been the victim of exploitation by the world's big powers since colonial times.

Obama, an author of two bestsellers himself, later told reporters he thought Chavez was offering a tome he had written, and said "I was going to give him one of mine."

Ahmadinejad urges 'justice' for jailed US reporter

AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on Sunday for fair treatment of US reporter Roxana Saberi, who has been sentenced to eight years in jail as a US spy, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported.

In his first such intervention in judicial proceedings, Ahmadinejad told the Tehran prosecutor to examine the cases against both Saberi and an Iranian-Canadian blogger who has been behind bars since November, IRNA said.

"At the president's insistence, you must do what is needed to secure justice ... in examining these people's charges," said a letter from Ahmadinejad's chief of staff Abdolreza Sheikholslami to prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi.

The Tehran prosecutor would have a key role in the appeal process as a representative of the state.

"Take care that the defendants have all the legal freedoms and rights to defend themselves against the charges," the letter said.

Saberi, 31, a former US beauty queen, was convicted last Monday by an Iranian revolutionary court of spying for the United States during a closed-door trial and sentenced to eight years in jail.

The verdict was only unveiled on Saturday.

US President Barack Obama, who has called for dialogue with Iran since he took office in January, was "deeply disappointed" at the sentence, according to his spokesman.

The State Department branded the espionage charges as "baseless," while Saberi's father has said his daughter was "tricked" into

confessing by being told she would be released.

Saberi's lawyer has said he would appeal the verdict, which is the harshest sentence ever to a dual national on security charges in Iran.

She has been held since late January, when she was initially reported to have been arrested for buying alcohol, an illegal act in the Islamic republic.

Hossein Derakhshan, a prominent Iranian-Canadian blogger, has been detained since his arrival in Iran in November 2008 and is being investigated on charges of insulting Shiite imams.

Ahmadinejad's move comes just a day before he is due to address a UN conference against racism and intolerance in Geneva on Monday in the absence of United States and Israel, which have boycotted the event.

Thailand extends state of emergency in capital

AP, Bangkok

Authorities on Sunday extended a state of emergency in Thailand's capital, saying efforts to restore security were still incomplete after anti-government rioting last week and a brazen attack on a protest leader.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva met with security agencies to discuss the potential for more protests, riots or attacks in Bangkok, government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn said.

Officials decided to retain the state of emergency because the situation is still "problematic, but as soon as things have calmed down, it will be lifted immediately," Panitan said.

"More and more, things are back to normal but there are still elements of concern," he said.

The emergency decree bans gatherings of more than five people, forbids news reports that threaten public order and allows the government to call up military troops to quell unrest.

In his weekly television address Sunday, Abhisit sought to ease tensions and defended his government's actions in deploying troops to quell the violent protests that had paralyzed the capital. Two people were killed and more than 130 injured during the unrest, which pitted angry protesters against soldiers and residents.

"What the government did was to restore

peace for the benefit of all Thais. More importantly, it was to allow the government to continue working," Abhisit said.

"What I'd like to reiterate is that nobody has won and nobody has lost from the past events," he said.

The anti-government protesters, known as "red shirts," want former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to return to power. Thaksin, who fled overseas to avoid a corruption conviction, was ousted by a 2006 military coup.

Police said six or seven men may have been involved in the pre-dawn attack Friday on Sondhi Limthongkul, an outspoken media tycoon and Thaksin opponent.

Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Suporn Pansua said investigators were studying a surveillance video taken from an intersection near the attack in an attempt to identify the assailants.

Video from the street surveillance camera showed two pickup trucks were following Sondhi's vehicle shortly before the shooting, he said.

The assailants opened fire at Sondhi's car with M-16 and AK-47 rifles, riddling the windshield with bullet holes and shattering the windows on one side. Sondhi was slightly injured, while his driver was seriously wounded and an aide in the car also was hurt.

PM goes to Saudi Arabia

FROM PAGE 1

Rekha, Awami League (AL) presidium member Kazi Zafarullah and three ministers and two state ministers.

Hasina's Saudi visit was postponed twice. During the four-day tour to the kingdom, Hasina will also perform umrah.

Party sources said Hasina picked Zafarullah as a member of her entourage because he has close relations with Saudi government high-ups.

Hasina will meet King Abdullah on April 21.

Hasina will request the Saudi government to resume, in full swing, recruiting Bangladeshi workers there. Recruitment was partially banned in March last year that resulted in a significant drop of manpower export to that country.

"We will of course seek their support in trying the war criminal in our country," said a senior cabinet minister preferring not to be named.

Talking to The Daily Star State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, said,

"The issue of manpower will surely come up for discussion with the king."

State Minister for Labour and Employment Monnojan Sufian said, "We will request Saudi Arabia to hire more workers from Bangladesh and make sure that they get good salaries."

Sources say that the labour issue is at the top of Hasina's agenda.

There are around 20 lakh Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, the largest labour market for Bangladesh, but the number of workers going to that country has drastically dropped in recent times due to the partial ban.

In 2007, Saudi Arabia hired 2.04 lakh Bangladeshis. In 2008 the number was only 1.3 lakh. In January-February this year, the Kingdom employed only 2,500 workers from Bangladesh.

Manpower businesses and experts said that it would be a great success for Hasina if she manages to get the partial ban lifted.

The prime minister will also urge the kingdom to allow Bangladeshi workers to change jobs while they are under contract.

Sheikh Hasina will also discuss signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to protect the rights of Bangladeshi workers more effectively and increase their salaries, an expatriates' welfare ministry official said.

Hasina's 35-member delegation also includes Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister Hasan Mahmud, Minister for Labour and Employment Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister Monnojan Sufian, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Deputy Press Secretary Nakib Uddin Ahmed, APS Khairul Islam, Protocol officer Monzila Farook and Zafarullah's wife Nilufar Zafarullah.

BCL troubles remain

FROM PAGE 1

hundred students were injured, and over a dozen educational institutions including four public universities, and three medical colleges were forcefully closed for different periods, due to the martial mastery of the BCL students.

Seven of those educational institutions including two public universities and a medical college are yet to resume academic activities on the campuses.

As intra-BCL clashes were erupting incessantly ignoring government and mother party directions, and criticisms were being raised from different quarters against the BCL atrocities, Sheikh Hasina on March 31 decided to step down from the post of the organisational chief of her student wing.

Some AL presidium members in a meeting even suggested suspending BCL's organisational activities for several months, meeting insiders said.

The meeting decided to implement the law to its full extent and vigour to tackle BCL violence on campuses.

In the parliament, opposition lawmakers scathingly criticised the government for BCL's role in educational institutions.

As a sign of the government's stern adherence to its decision, two BCL central leaders, Ashrafur Rahman and Sohail Rana Mithu, were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on April 13, on charges of disrupting academic atmosphere in Dhaka University (DU), and the elite crime fighting force is reportedly creating a list of the on-campus traders of violence.

BCL SINCE AL IN POWER

Ignoring Hasina's instructions, armed BCL operatives captured dorm rooms of JCD and Shibir activists in DU. BCL leaders then started extracting

tolls from campus tea-stalls and food shops, and dived into manipulating the tender process for development works on the campus, of course only when they were not busy beating up several hundred rival JCD and Shibir activists with a zealous unity that has become quite rare in BCL lately.

In Chittagong University, BCL activists kept classes stopped for a few days demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor, prompting the university authorities at one point to impose a ban on political activities on campus, apprehending deterioration of law and order.

The Rajshahi University proctor and nine assistant proctors resigned in January in the wake of demonstrations by BCL students there.

Organisational activities of Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, and Dhaka Medical College units of BCL are currently suspended following violent intra-organisation clashes on those campuses.

The ingenuity of BCL leaders and activists did not stop there, they also manipulated the honours level admission process in some colleges under the National University in and outside the capital, in a bid to earn some fast cash. After all life in the fast lane of power does seem to require cash.

When asked about the last 100 days' activities of BCL, its President Mahmud Hasan Ripon told The Daily Star that they already asked all units of the organisation to ensure congenial atmosphere on all campuses by any means necessary, and warned them of stern actions against those who will get involved in further clashes.

The nation is eagerly watching.

বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশন

১ম ১২তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন

সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশন বাংলাদেশ সরকারের একটি বিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থা। শুল্ক ও বাণিজ্য নীতি এবং বি-পাস্কিক, আঞ্চলিক ও বহু পাস্কিক বাণিজ্য চুক্তি-যথা সাফটা, বিমস্টেক মুক্ত বাণিজ্য এলাকা ও বিশ্ব বাণিজ্য সংস্থা ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে সরকারকে পরামর্শ প্রদান কমিশনের দায়িত্ব। বিভিন্ন উৎস হতে বাণিজ্য ও শিল্প বিষয়ক তথ্য/উপাত্ত সংগ্রহপূর্বক প্রক্রিয়াজাত ও বিশ্লেষণ করে কমিশন শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে গবেষণা কার্য সম্পাদন করে থাকে। এ ধরনের গবেষণা পরিচালনায় নির্ভরযোগ্য বাধ্যাদান, বিচক্ষণ মতামত প্রদান ও ইংরেজি ভাষায় দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন অগ্রহী প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশন নিম্নোক্ত পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বয়স	পদ সংখ্যা	জাতীয় বৈতনিক/০৫	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১.	সহকারী প্রধান বয়স: আবেদন পৌছানোর শেষ তারিখে অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বৎসর	২ (দুই)	টঃ ১১,০০০-৪৭৫১৪-১৭,৬৫০/-	(ক) মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক উভয় পরীক্ষা বা উহাদের সমমানের পরীক্ষায় প্রথম বিভাগ বা সমমানের জিপিএ; এবং (খ) সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান (Social Science), পরিসংখ্যান, হিসাব বিজ্ঞান, বাণিজ্য, ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন বা প্রাকৃতিক বিজ্ঞানে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর বা সমমানের স্নাতকসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি বা ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি বা প্রকৌশল বিষয়ে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর বা সমমানের স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি; এবং (গ) শিল্প বা অর্থনীতি সংক্রান্ত গবেষণা কাজে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা। (ঘ) বিদেশে স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকলে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক এর শিক্ষার মান ও অভিজ্ঞতার সীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।
২.	গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা বয়স: আবেদন পৌছানোর শেষ তারিখে অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বৎসর	৬ (ছয়)	টঃ ৬,৮০০-৩২৫২৭-৯,০৭৫-ইবি-৩৬৫১১-১০,০৯০/-	(ক) সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান (Social Science), পরিসংখ্যান, হিসাব বিজ্ঞান, প্রাকৃতিক বিজ্ঞান বা ব্যবসায় প্রশাসনে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি বা ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী অথবা সমমানের জিপিএ প্রাপ্ত ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি অথবা প্রকৌশল বিষয়ে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী অথবা সমমানের জিপিএ প্রাপ্ত স্নাতক ডিগ্রি। ডিগ্রি ছাড়া পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণকারীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন তবে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার পূর্বে অবশ্যই পরীক্ষা পাসের সনদপত্র কমিশনে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না; (খ) মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক উভয় পরীক্ষায় বা উহাদের সমমানের পরীক্ষায় যে কোন একটিতে প্রথম বিভাগ অথবা সমমানের জিপিএ থাকতে হবে; (গ) শিল্প বা অর্থনীতি সংক্রান্ত গবেষণা কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী অধিকার পাবেন। (ঘ) স্বীকৃত বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকলে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক এর শিক্ষার মান ও অভিজ্ঞতার সীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।

শর্তাবলী:

- পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত যথা: প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, অভিজ্ঞতা ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক সদা তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ২ (দুই) কপি ছবি, সত্যায়িত স্যাটিফিকেটের কপি; ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার, সিটি করপোরেশন, ১ম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা অথবা চেয়ারম্যান পৌরসভা/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কর্তৃক জাতীয়তা সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি; এবং প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশন, ১ম ১২তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবরে ২৮ মে, ২০০৯খ্রীঃ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র ও কন্যাদের কোটার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব ও মাননীয় মন্ত্রী/প্রতিমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং অন্যান্য বিশেষ কোটার ক্ষেত্রে নিজ জেলা প্রশাসক/উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সংশ্লিষ্ট স্যাটিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- চাকুরীভিত্তিক প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে।
- প্রত্যেক দরখাস্তকারী সচিব, বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশনের অনুকূলে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা মূল্যের অফেরতযোগ্য ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (পোষ্টাল অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে) দরখাস্তের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষেত্রে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ, ক্রটিপূর্ণ অথবা বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত দরখাস্তসমূহ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। সত্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার সুস্পষ্ট নাম, পদবী ও সীলমোহর থাকতে হবে।

সচিব
বাংলাদেশ টারিফ কমিশন
ডিডি-২০১৯

DAP Fertilizer Company Ltd (A Government Enterprise under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation)	
Address: P.O. Chittagong Urea Fertilizer, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh.	
Fax No: 88-031-632389 Phone: 841210, 622301-4, E-mail: bcidpacfbld@clic-online.net	
ডিএপি সার ব্যবহার করুন অধিক ফসল ঘরে তুলুন	
Invitation for Tender	
1. Project name	DAP Fertilizer Company Limited, Rangadia, Chittagong.
2. Source of fund	ADP of GOB.
3. Tender package no.	DAPFCL/Civil/WT/516
4. Invitation for tender no & date	DAPFCL/Civil/2008-09/ Dated: 11/04/2009
5. Tender name	Construction of 35 M. Ton capacity RCC Over Head Tank for DAPFCL Dormitories at CUFL Jetty Ghat.
6. Brief description of works & related services	CC, RCC, MS structural fabrication works, MS stair, MS railing, GI pipeline, GI gate valves, plaster, snowcem etc.
7. Time for completion of work	60 (sixty) days.
8. Eligibility of tenderers	Civil contractors enlisted in B-category and A-category from BCIC, contractors having experience of overhead tank construction work from any corporations/autonomous organisations, shall be considered eligible. The certificate (outside BCIC contractor) to be issued by an engineer (not below the rank of Executive Engineer) must be enclosed along with the tender. Otherwise, the tender shall be treated as cancelled.
9. Price of tender document	Tk. 500/- (five thousand) (non-refundable) per set.
10. Validity of tender	60 (sixty) days from the day tenders are received.
11. Amount of tender security	Tk. 25000/- (twenty-five thousand) only. This tender security shall have to be deposited along with the tender in favour of DAP Fertilizer Company Limited, Rangadia, Ctg in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Otherwise the tenders shall be summarily rejected.
12. Name & address of the office for selling tender document	a) Cash Section, Accounts Department, DAPFCL, Rangadia, Ctg.
13. Name & address of the office for receiving tenders	a) Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer (Const), DAPFCL, Rangadia, Ctg.
14. Name & address of the office for opening tenders	Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer (Const), DAPFCL, Rangadia, Chittagong.
15. Last date and time for selling tender document	May 05, 2009 during office hour.
16. Last date & time for tender submission	May 06, 2009 up to 11-00am.
17. Date & time for opening tenders	May 06, 2009 at 11-00am in presence of tenderer(s)/their authorised representative, if there be any.
18. Special instructions	a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of works will be guided as per 'the Procedures for Implementation of the Public Procurement Regulations, 2003'/PP Act 2008. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or/and reject any or/and all tenders prior to acceptance.
DC Das Additional Chief Engineer (Civil) For Managing Director, DAPFCL	
GD-1992	