

Obama dominates in first 100 days

AFP, Washington

In his high-velocity first 100 days, Barack Obama has sketched the outlines of a presidency of astounding ambition, which would remake the United States at home and transform its role abroad.

Yet the new president's agenda still faces tests of fire posed by a punishing economic crisis, the scheming of US allies and foes abroad and a poisoned political environment back home.

"It is clearly the most ambitious agenda at least since the 1960s," said Princeton University historian and political scientist Julian Zelizer.

Inheriting a crisis of a magnitude few recent predecessors faced, Obama seems to have steadied America's nerves despite the wrenching financial blight. He unleashed a huge

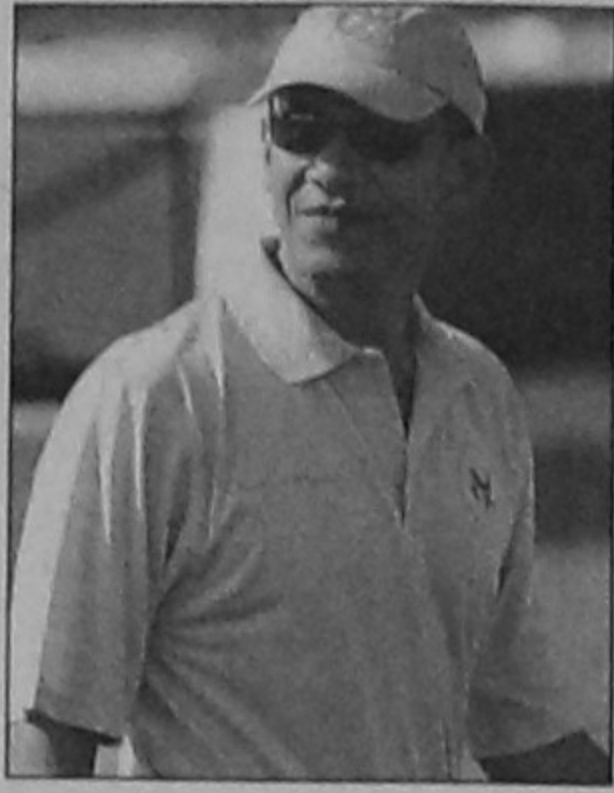
government intervention in the economy, passed a historic 787-billion-dollar stimulus bill and now has high-stakes environmental and healthcare reforms on the launchpad.

Abroad, Obama swapped George W. Bush's swagger for a cupped ear, giving Russia respect it craves, reaching out to Muslims and vowing to drain decades of enmity with foes Cuba and Iran.

He previewed fundamental policy changes towards China, Mexico and Cuba, apologized to Europeans for past US "arrogance," mandated the closure of Guantanamo Bay, outlawed torture and ordered withdrawal from Iraq.

Obama doubled down in Afghanistan and Pakistan, ditched US denial on climate change and called for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Tom De Luca, professor of political science at Fordham



Barack Obama

University, said Obama's foreign policy was "breath-taking in its scope."

"I think it clearly illustrates the immense self-confidence Obama has in himself and in his administration."

Obama, 47, once panned by rivals as inexperienced, slipped on the mantle of president with ease, in unflappable style.

Despite missteps on cabi-

net nominations and the fallout of Bush-era terror interrogations, his team has mostly dominated the political message.

The result: Obama is carrying the American people with him. Fifty-six percent in a USA Today/Gallup poll said he had done an excellent or good job.

A Fox News poll gave Obama a job approval rating of 62 percent, though like other surveys, found a sharp gap between Democrats and Republicans.

But talking about change is easy, effecting it is not: Obama admits America is a "big ocean liner -- it's not a speedboat; it doesn't turn around immediately."

He has yet to face a full-scale foreign crisis, and will face rising pressure to lift many families out of economic misery.

Many initiatives, including engaging Iran, battling the global crisis and subduing

North Korea also depend on events and actors outside Obama's control.

For example, despite a euphoric welcome, Obama failed to crown a Europe trip this month with large numbers of new NATO troops for Afghanistan.

But the White House says results take time and exuded satisfaction after a Latin American summit last week.

"President Obama has on his first two foreign trips changed the image of America around the world through leadership and engagement that advances our national interests, makes us safer and more secure and stronger," his spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

Despite a fast start, eased by Democratic majorities in Congress and a demoralized Republican party, it is unclear whether Obama's political touch will endure on divisive issues like healthcare and climate change.



A handout picture released by the Lebanese photo agency Dalati and Nohra shows Lebanese President Michel Sleiman shaking hands with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a meeting in Baabda, east of Beirut yesterday. Hillary made an unannounced visit to Lebanon as the country readies for parliamentary elections that could see the militant group Hezbollah and its allies emerge victorious.

PHOTO: AFP

Communities see Obama as first Asian-American president

AFP, Washington

Barack Obama made history as the first African-American president but in his first 100 days he has also shown himself to be America's most Asian leader yet, community members say.

Obama appointed a record three Asian-Americans cabinet members and quickly focused his attention across the Pacific. He invited Japan's prime minister as his first guest and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton went to Asia on her maiden trip.

At home, Asian-American leaders have welcomed signs Obama will take political risks to revamp the immigration system, whose rigid rules and creaky pace are blamed by many in the community for tearing apart families.

"In a nutshell, he has done more in 100

days than the last administration has done in eight years," said Representative Mike Honda, who heads the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Honda, a member of Obama's Democratic Party, told AFP he expected the president to take up immigration reforms after May.

He also applauded Obama for signing a measure giving nearly 200 million dollars in back pay to aging World War II veterans from the Philippines, who fought alongside US forces but were stripped of benefits in 1946.

Obama through his background "understands what it means to be inclusive and to be on the other side," Honda said.

"It just makes me smile and makes me proud that we have someone like him as the American face," said Honda, who was

interned as a child in a World War II camp for Japanese-Americans.

Obama has a deep personal connection with Asia, having spent part of his childhood in Jakarta. His sister is partly of Indonesian descent, her husband in turn is of Chinese heritage.

"Sometimes I jokingly say that this is the most Asian-American president that we will have," said Helen Zia, a prominent Asian-American scholar and activist.

"He recognizes what it means to be bicultural or bilingual -- that it's something we can contribute to America rather than being seen as a potential enemy or alien," she said.

She said there was "poetic justice" that one of the Asian-American members of the Obama cabinet, Steven Chu, heads the Department of Energy.

Two dead as Somali pirates seize tanker

AFP, Sanaa

Somali pirates seized a Yemeni oil tanker off the Arabian peninsula country in a deadly clash with coast guards yesterday that cost at least two lives, Yemeni officials said.

"There are ongoing clashes at the moment and an oil tanker belonging to Aden refineries was seized," an official told AFP.

The defence ministry's website, www.26sep.net, said two pirates were killed in the confrontation, and three other pirates and two coast guards wounded. The tanker was on its way to the port city of Aden from Al-Mohra in eastern Yemen.

US will not sell out Lebanon to Syria

AFP, Beirut

Visiting Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged yesterday that the current rapprochement between the United States and Syria will not come at the expense of Lebanon.

"There is nothing that we would do in any way that would undermine Lebanon's sovereignty," Hillary told a press conference after meeting Lebanese President Michel Sleiman.

"So I want to reassure any Lebanese citizen that the United States will never make any deal with Syria that sells out Lebanon or the Lebanese people."

Her comments came dur-

ing an unannounced visit to Lebanon just six weeks before key parliamentary elections that could see the Shiite militant group Hezbollah and its allies come out victorious.

Hillary said she was "heartened" by the recent establishment of diplomatic ties between Beirut and Damascus for the first time since their independence 60 years ago.

Syria pulled its troops out of Lebanon in April 2005 ending almost 30 years of political and military domination.

The withdrawal came amid a public outcry over the assassination of Lebanese former prime minister Rafiq Hariri in a Beirut bombing in February that year.

US raid kills 2 in Iraq

AFP, Kut

A woman and a policeman were shot dead during a US raid on a house in the southern Iraqi town of Kut early yesterday, according to an Iraqi security official and a local media.

The Iraqi official said US forces also arrested five people in the raid.

"American forces detained five people, including a police captain and a tribal leader, during the raid, which was carried out at 2:30 am (2330 GMT)," the official said on condition of anonymity.

A medic at a nearby hospital said it had received the body of a woman who had been shot in the stomach and the shoulder and a man who had been shot in the head.

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- The Tender must be accompanied by Earnest money (2.5% of quoted amount) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank in favor of "Social Marketing Company".
- Tenders will be received at 1st floor of Social Marketing Company, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 up to 3.00 P.M. on May 10, 2009 and will be opened on the same day at 3:15 P.M. in the presence of the tenderer(s) or their representatives if any.
- For any clarification regarding preparation and submission of Tender, the tenderers must contact Manager, Civil Works.
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Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Purchase of Liquid Nitrogen

Project Name	BRAC AI Programme
Source of Fund	Own Fund
Tender Package No	AI-LN/01-09
Reference No & Date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-AI/09-11 Date : 22.04.2009
Tender Name	Liquid Nitrogen
Time for Delivery	Monthly 25,000-30,000 Liters
Price of the Tender Documents	Tk. 500/- (Five hundred) only.
Tender Documents Available	Accounts Department, Annex Building (5 th Floor) BRAC Centre 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Date & Time for Selling Documents	April 27, 2009 to May 07, 2009.
Tender Dropping Place, Date & Time	Procurement Department (Ground Floor), BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Date: May 10, 2009 upto 14:30 hrs.
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	As above. Tender opening May 10, 2009 at 15:00 hrs.

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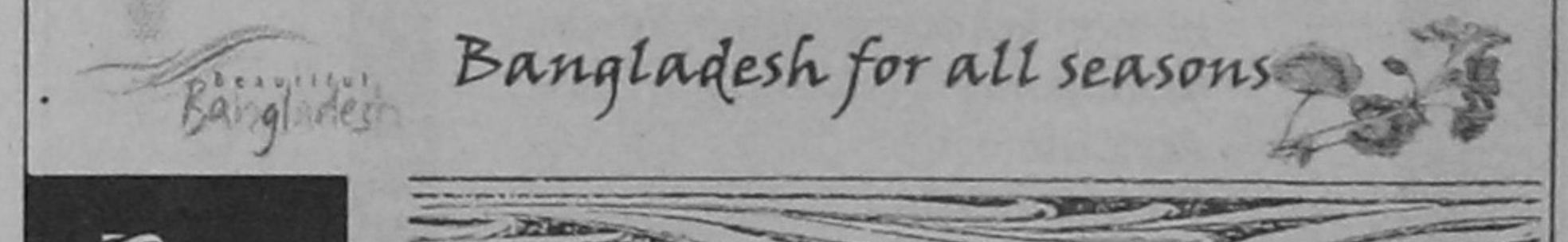


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বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনী

ঘাঁটি জহুরুল হক

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জহুরুল হক ঘাঁটির রানওয়ে ২৩ এর উত্তর-পশ্চিম পার্শ্ব হেলিকপ্টার উড্ডয়ন প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য বর্তমানে ব্যবহৃত প্রশিক্ষণ ভূমি ঘাঁটি ভরাট ও সমতলকরণ।

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনী জহুরুল হক, চট্টগ্রামের রানওয়ে ২৩ এর উত্তর-পশ্চিম পার্শ্ব হেলিকপ্টার উড্ডয়ন প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য বর্তমানে ব্যবহৃত প্রশিক্ষণ ভূমি ঘাঁটি ভরাট ও সমতলকরণ কাজটি সম্পন্ন করা হবে এবং এ প্রেক্ষিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। চুক্তির মেয়াদকাল চলতি আর্থিক বৎসর (২০০৮-২০০৯) এর মধ্যে সমাপ্ত হবে। নির্বাচিত ঠিকাদারকে প্রশিক্ষণ ভূমি ঘাঁটি ভরাটের পর ড্রেসিং ও লেভেলিং করতে হবে। হেলিকপ্টার উড্ডয়ন প্রশিক্ষণের ভূমির নকশা বিমান বাহিনী ঘাঁটি জহুরুল হক, চট্টগ্রামের পূর্ব ফ্লাইট হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

অন্যদিক নির্মাণ এবং আর্থিকভাবে স্বচ্ছ ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ আগামী ০৩ হতে ০৪ মে ০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) সকাল ১১০০ ঘঃ হতে দুপুর ১৩০০ ঘঃ জহুরুল হক ঘাঁটির পূর্ব ফ্লাইট হতে ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকার (অফারতথ্যোগ্য) বিনিময়ে বিশদ শর্তাদিসহ টেন্ডার ফরম সংগ্রহ করতে পারেন। দরপত্রের সহিত নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলপত্রাদি জমা দিতে হবেঃ

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উপরোক্ত দলিলাদিসহ পূর্ণকৃত দরপত্র ঘাঁটি জহুরুল হক, চট্টগ্রামের অনুকূলে আগামী ০৪ মে ০৯ তারিখ দুপুর ১৩০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বা বি বা ঘাঁটি জহুরুল হক ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা 'পি' কোয়ার্টার অফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে মুখ বন্ধ নামে জমা দেয়া যাবে। ০৪ মে ০৯ তারিখ ১৩০০ ঘঃ সময় দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। কোন প্রকার কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এফসি ক্যান্টন

বিমান বাহিনী ঘাঁটি জহুরুল হক

দুরাঃ ২৫০১০০৬

আইএসপিআর/বিমান/০৯/১০৬
জিডি-২০৬৭