

Africa must fight corruption, decide own future: Obama

He visits Ghana seeking to lift up the continent of his ancestors

AFP, AP, Accra

US President Barack Obama said in a key-note speech on Saturday that Africa's leaders must battle corruption and strengthen democracy, but that it is up to Africans to decide their future in the world.

"Africa's future is up to Africans," Obama said in a wide-ranging speech in the capital of Ghana in which he warned "no country is going to create wealth if its leaders exploit the economy to enrich themselves", pledged new help to fight disease and said that "conflicts are a millstone around Africa's neck."

Obama said his visit to Ghana Saturday was designed to illustrate that "Africa is not separate from world affairs."

Obama said events in Africa do not lose their effects at the continent's borders and said Africa is a fully integrated part of the global economy.

"What happens here has an impact

everywhere," Obama said during a meeting with Ghanaian President John Atta Mills.

Obama scheduled a 21-hour visit to the West African nation to highlight that country's democratic tradition and engagement with the West. During his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa since taking office, Obama sought to lift up the continent of his ancestors while keeping its emotions in check.

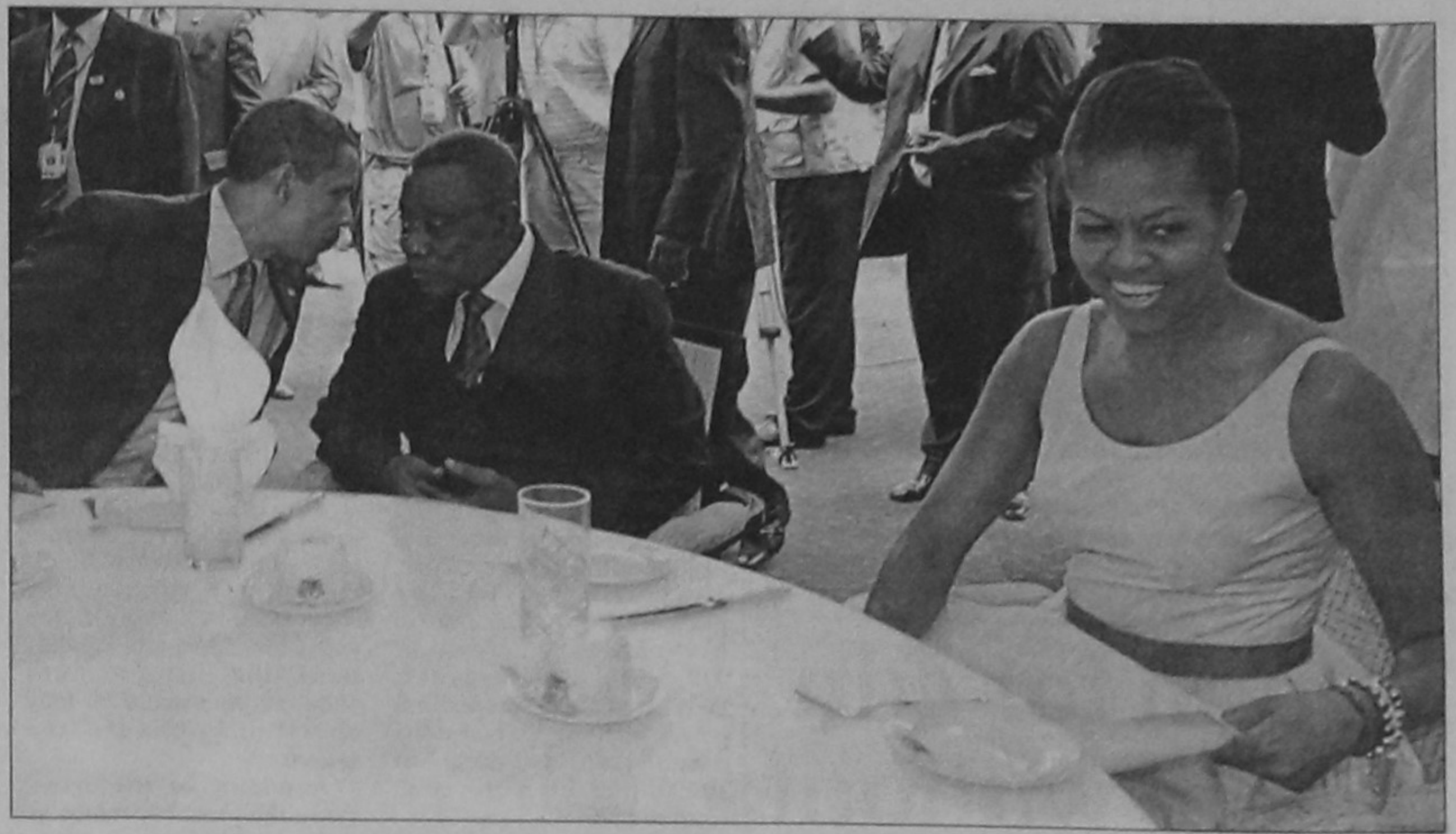
Greeted by a rush of excitement on his arrival here, the United States' first black president planned a speech to Ghana's Parliament on Saturday outlining his hope for a future Africa prospering in democracy. He was also visiting a hospital and a one-time slave trading post, joined by his wife, Michelle, a great-great granddaughter of slaves.

But his speech was also pitched as a sobering account of Africa's enduring afflictions: hunger, disease, corruption, ethnic strife and strongman rule.

No big public event was planned in part for fear it could cause a celebratory stampede, as a 1998 stop by President Bill Clinton almost did.

"I can say without any fear of contradiction that all Ghanaians want to see you. I wish it were possible for me to send you to every home in Ghana," Mills said, underscoring the US first family's popularity that gave them Page One billing in many of the nation's newspapers.

People lined the streets Saturday morning, many waving at every vehicle of Obama's motorcade as it headed toward a meeting at Osu Castle, the storied coastline presidential state house. One woman emerged from a coffee shop to wave a tiny US flag while others sold posters and T-shirts with Obama's picture. Many billboards lined the roads, including one that showed the president and his wife with the greeting, "Ghana loves you."



US President Barack Obama (L) chats with his Ghanaian counterpart John Atta Mills yesterday during breakfast with First Lady Michelle Obama at Osu Castle, the government headquarters and a former slave trading fort, in Accra. The visit marks Obama's first to Sub-Saharan Africa as US president.

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: AFP

Demonstrators and photojournalists run for cover as Israeli soldiers fire teargas during a protest against the Israeli controversial separation barrier in the West Bank village of Bilin near Ramallah on Friday.

Israeli-Palestinian peace 'not moving forward'

Says French FM

AFP, Beirut

The peace process between Israel and the Palestinians is "not moving forward" though there is progress in the Middle East as a whole, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Friday.

"In the region, things are moving... countries such as Syria and Saudi Arabia appear to be moving closer to one another," Kouchner said after meeting Lebanese President Michel Sleiman.

"In the Middle East, things seem to be advancing. But the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not moving forward -- on the contrary,"

Kouchner said in Beirut.

The situation is a worry for France but "we are very hopeful that this will move forward as well, meaning (the creation of) a viable, independent Palestinian state that can live in peace" side by side with Israel, he added.

The French minister reiterated a call for Israel to freeze its settlement activity and urged the Jewish state to resume peace talks.

Israel has refused to stop construction work in settlements in occupied territory, which the international community considers illegal and which is one of the major obstacles in the hobbled Middle East peace process.

Iran plays down G8 concern over protests, nuclear standoff

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday played down G8 concerns about its crack-down on protests after the June presidential election and its nuclear programme, saying it is working on a package to address international issues.

"There has been no new message from the G8 which wrapped up its meeting last

night," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told reporters at a news conference.

"They (world leaders) had different views and in some cases they did not reach an overall agreement... we are going to present our package which will be a basis to negotiate all regional and international issues," he added, without elaborating.

Birds too can build fireproof homes

ANI, Washington

Its not just humans, birds can also build fireproof homes, say Japanese researchers at Kyushu University in Fukuoka.

To woo females, male great bowerbirds of northern Australia build bowers that are not only attractive, but also fire resistant.

These bowers have two walls of twigs partially flanking a six-foot-long passageway that the birds cover with conspicuous bits of bones, stones, shells, and fruits, reports Live Science.

In 2006, a part of savanna outside the city of Darwin was caught in fire.

Lead researcher Osamu K. Mikami says that of the nine bowers there, only three were destroyed. The remaining six stayed intact.

UK defends Afghan mission

AP, London

Foreign Secretary David Miliband defended Britain's role in Afghanistan on Saturday after fighting claimed eight soldiers' lives in 24 hours.

The deaths pushed Britain's overall toll in Afghanistan to 184 five more than the total British deaths in the Iraq war. Britain's influential media placed the news on the front pages, inevitably increasing pressure on the government both to explain the and to say whether it is giving the military the support it needs to fight the war.

Miliband told the BBC that Britain would

not be safe until it had built security in Afghanistan. He said it is essential to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming an "incubator for terrorism" that serves as a launching pad for attacks on the West.

"This is about the future of Britain because we know that the badlands of Afghanistan and Pakistan that border area have been used to launch terrible attacks, not just on the United States, but on Britain as well.

"We know that until we can ensure there is a modicum of stability and security provided by Afghan forces for their own people, we are not going to be able to be secure in our own country," he said.

Thousands camp in tents after China quake

AP, Guantunxiang

Thousands camped in tents in southwestern China on Saturday after a magnitude-6.0 earthquake destroyed thousands of homes, killed one person and injured 320, state media reported.

At the epicentre of Thursday's quake in Yao'an county, nearly 22,000 people took shelter in some 3,000 tents, and emergency crews rushed in quilts, rice, cooking oil and other

supplies, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The quake displaced some 250,000 people, the report said, sharply revising downward an initial estimate of 400,000. Xinhua, which cited a deputy governor of Yunnan province where the quake occurred, did not give a reason for the discrepancy.

A duty officer at the provincial government offices declined to comment, saying the media office was closed for the weekend.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুলিশ কমিশনারের কার্যালয়

বরিশাল মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ

বরিশাল

স্মারক নং-বিএমপি/প্রশা-০৯/১৭৭৬/১(৩)

তারিখ-০৬/৭/০৯খ্রিঃ

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বরিশাল মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত দি পার্বলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন ২০০৬ ও বিধিমালা ২০০৮ মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে ২০০৯-২০১০ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত বামে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	১	সরঞ্জামাগার।
০২	সংস্থা	২	পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	৩	পুলিশ কমিশনার, বরিশাল মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, বরিশাল।
০৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানের পদ্ধতি	৪	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৫	অর্থায়ন	৫	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হইতে বাজেট বরাদ্দ সাপেক্ষ।
০৬	কাজের নাম	৬	বরিশাল মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের (১) বিভাগীয় ভাভারের মালামাল সরবরাহ, (২) অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি ও সংশ্লিষ্ট মালামাল সরবরাহ, (৩) মোটরযান ও জলযানবাহন খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সংযোজন ও মেরামতসহ সরবরাহ, (৪) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।
০৭	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৭	২৬/০৭/০৯খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৮	দরপত্র ক্রয় ও দাখিলের স্থান	৮	পুলিশ কমিশনার এর কার্যালয়, বিএমপি, বরিশাল।
০৯	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	৯	২৭/০৭/০৯খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১০	২৭/০৭/০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১১	মূল্যায়ন	১১	২৮/০৭/০৯খ্রিঃ।
১২	কাজের বিবরণ	১২	দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত।
১৩	দরপত্রের মূল্য (প্রতিটি)	১৩	৪০০/- (চারশত) অক্ষরতমোগ্য।
১৪	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	১৪	(ক) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (খ) সমকালীন ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, (গ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সার্টিফিকেট, (ঘ) ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সার্টিফিকেট, (ঙ) নাগরিকত্ব সার্টিফিকেট, (চ) ০১ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ফটো (সত্যায়িত), (ছ) ৩নং আইটেমের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় সকল সার্টিফিকেটের/লাইসেন্সের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে এবং আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। ইচ্ছাছাড়া দরপত্রে বর্ণিত সকল শর্তাবলী ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে মানিয়া লইতে হইবে।
১৫	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	১৫	(ক) নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। (খ) দরপত্র জামানতের টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারসহ দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করিয়া নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (গ) দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। (ঘ) কালতালিকাভুক্ত কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে দরপত্র প্রদান করা হইবে না। (ঙ) যথামাত্রা দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না। তবে সংশোধনের প্রয়োজন হইলে একটানে কেটে দাখিলকারীরসহ (ইনিশিয়াল) প্রদান করিতে হইবে। (চ) দরপত্রে উক্ত মূল্য অকে ও কথায় লিখতে হইবে। (ছ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (জ) অকৃতকার্য দরদাতার জামানত যথাসময়ে ফেরত দেওয়া হইবে।
১৬	কাজের বিবরণী	১৬	সিডিউলের মূল্য
(১) বিভাগীয় ভাভারের মালামাল সরবরাহ		৪০০/-	৩০,০০০/-
(২) অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি মালামাল সরবরাহ		৪০০/-	৪৬,০০০/-
(৩) মোটরযান ও জলযানবাহন খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সংযোজন ও মেরামতসহ সরবরাহ		৪০০/-	৪৬,০০০/-
(৪) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ		৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-

কাজী মোরতাল আহমেদ

উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সদর)

বরিশাল মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, বরিশাল

তারিখ-০৩/০৭/০৯

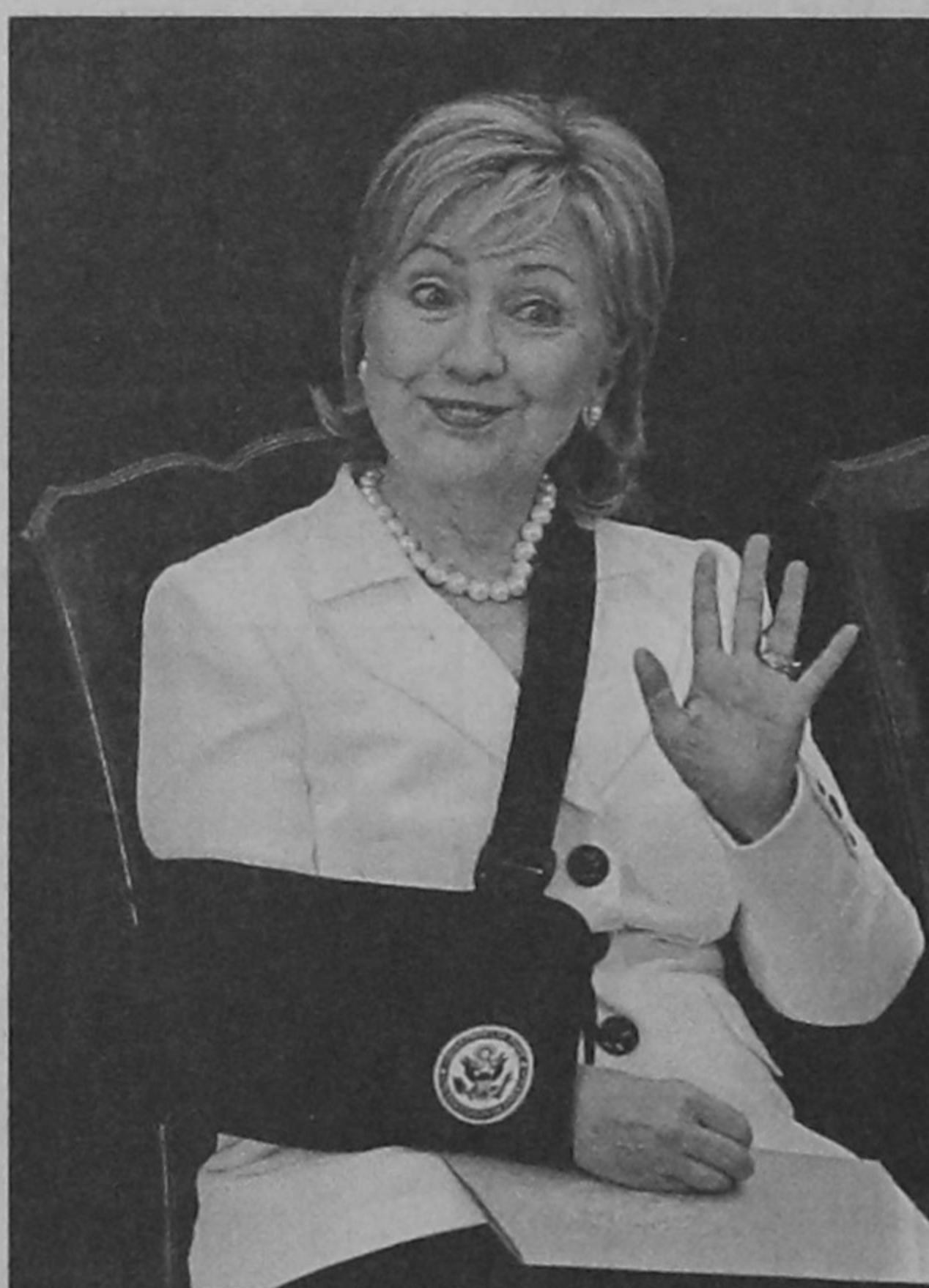


PHOTO: AFP

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton waves as she participates in a town hall meeting at the State Department on Friday in Washington, DC. Hillary held the meeting marking six months after assuming office and invited questions from State Department employees.

Nigerian rebels blow up Chevron pipeline

AFP, Lagos

Nigerian militants on Friday claimed to have blown up for a second time a recently repaired oil pipeline operated by US petroleum giant Chevron.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the country's most prominent armed group, said it destroyed the pipe around 1900 GMT on Friday. The pipeline was first hit in May. "Our fighters revisited the recently repaired Chevron pipeline linking Alero creek through Abiteye to the Chevron export terminal in Delta state and destroyed it again," it said.

Nigeria's main rebel group which claims is fighting for a greater share of the oil wealth to go to locals, said it originally destroyed the pipeline in southern Nigeria on May 24 in response to a military offensive.

In an emailed statement MEND said it would from now target repaired facilities because authorities and oil firms seem in a hurry to fix damaged infrastructure rather than the plight of locals displaced by the government offensive.

"The government and the oil companies seem to care more about the flow of oil than the return of displaced persons."

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