

Obama extends Syria sanctions despite 'positive' signs

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama Thursday extended sanctions against Syrian or pro-Syrian personalities for provoking instability in neighbouring Lebanon, despite some positive recent signs from Damascus, the White House said. "In the past six months, the United States has used dialogue with the Syrian government to address concerns and identify areas of mutual interest, including support for Lebanese sovereignty," Obama said in a statement.

He said there have been "some positive developments in the past year, including the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of ambassadors between Lebanon and Syria."

But he said "the actions of certain persons continue to contribute to political and economic instability in Lebanon and the region

and constitute a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

As a result, he said, he decided to extend for one year sanctions decreed August 1, 2007 by former president George W Bush who froze the assets of individuals accused of undermining Lebanon's sovereignty on Syria's behalf.

The United States has inflicted a whole series of sanctions against Syria, its chief adversary in the region along with Iran, which is allied with Damascus.

Since coming to office, Obama has moved cautiously to improve relations with Syria, mindful that it plays or could play an influential role in the region, whether in Lebanon, Iraq or in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Obama administration recently eased trade sanctions against Syria in one recent gesture toward Damascus.



US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice signs the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while Valerie Jarrett, Senior Adviser and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, looks on at the United Nations in New York City Thursday.

Buta Singh's son admits involvement in bribery scam

ANI, New Delhi/Mumbai

National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Chairman Buta Singh's son Sarabjot Singh is reported to have cracked under the CBI's pressure and admitted on Friday to his involvement in a bribery scam.

According to sources, Sarabjot allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs. one crore from a Nashik-based contractor to close a case before the Commission.

Iran activists dread midnight knock of police raid

AP, Beirut

Iran's human rights activists say they live in dread of the midnight knock on the door or the car that pulls up next to them on the street, fearing that at any moment they might be arrested in the government's post-election clampdown.

They take precautions: moving only in small groups of two or three and positioning themselves near corners where there are several routes to make a dash for safety. They avoid telephones, purge e-mails and frequently change passwords.

"We fear for our lives. We can be detained at any moment," said Zahra Saiedzadeh, a human rights activist, in a telephone inter-

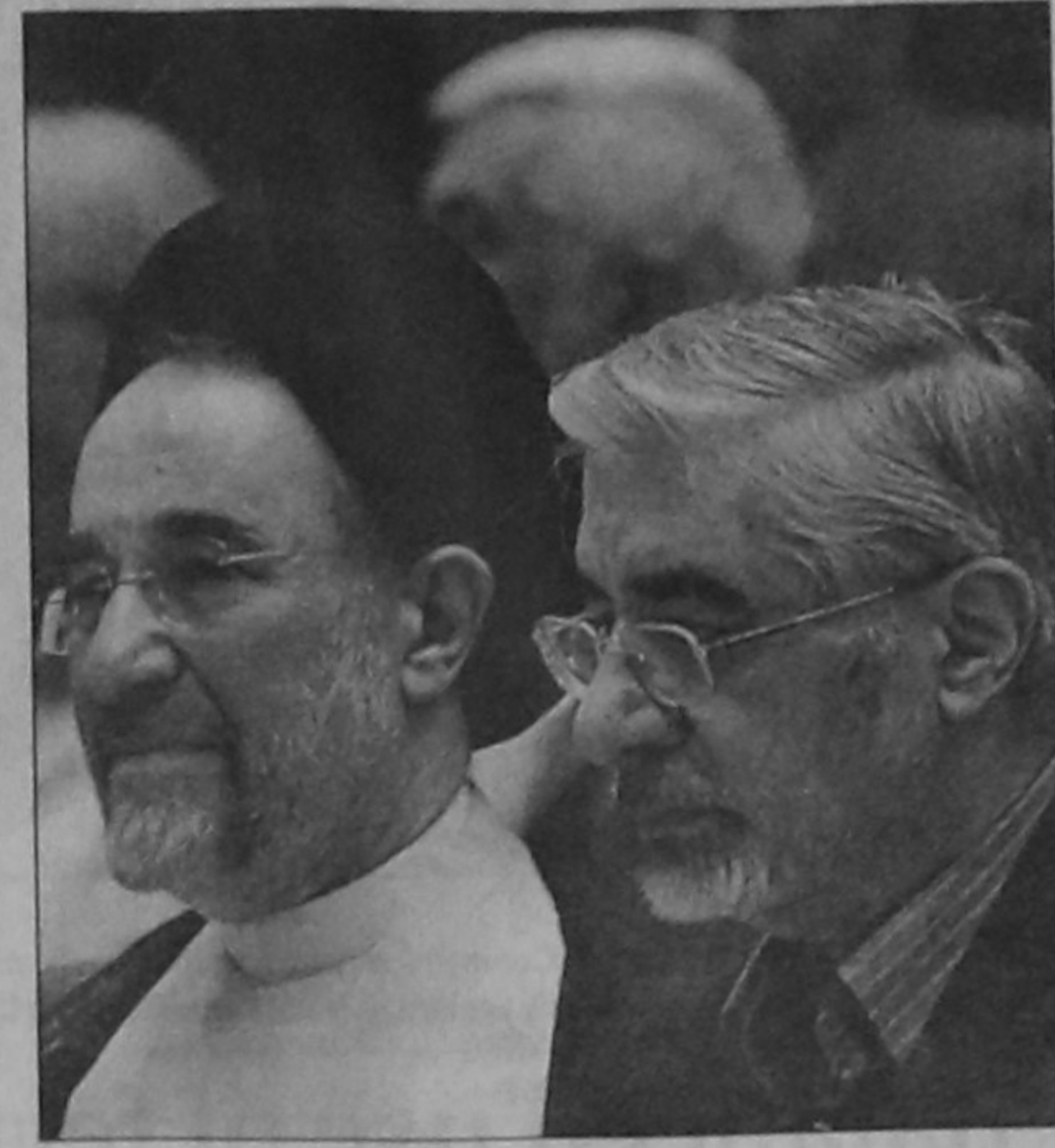
view from Tehran.

"There's not much more we can do," she said, adding that the government is intent "on silencing us."

The crackdown unleashed after the disputed June 12 election went far beyond the young protesters who took to the streets crying fraud in the vote.

The government has used the opportunity to target a wide range of figures who have long been a thorn in its side: pro-reform politicians, critical writers and the community of activists who have long pressed for greater civil liberties and rights for women.

They have been picked up from their homes or offices in nighttime raids, or off the street, sometimes during protests but often not.



Iranian opposition leader, Mir Hossein Mousavi (R) and his close ally, former reformist president, Mohammad Khatami (L) attend the memorial service for Seifollah Dad, a former deputy culture minister in charge of cinema affairs during the presidency of Khatami, at a mosque in Tehran yesterday.

News in Brief

Obama backs Philippine peace

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama on Thursday threw his support behind peace moves between the Philippines and Muslim rebels as he met with President Gloria Arroyo.

Holding his first White House summit with a Southeast Asian leader, Obama hailed the long-standing US alliance with the Philippines on a range of issues including pressing Myanmar on democracy.

72,000 evacuated due to Texas fire

AFP, Chicago

A fire at a chemical plant has forced the evacuation of a Texas town of 72,000 people after it released a massive plume of orange smoke that could be seen for miles Thursday, officials said.

No serious injuries were reported as a result of the fire, but officials called for the mass evacuation after the smoke blanketed much of Bryan, Texas, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Houston.

Priest killed in India

AFP, Vatican City

A priest was killed Wednesday in the southern Indian state of Karnataka where Christians have been targeted in violent attacks, the Vatican-based news agency Asianews said Thursday.

The naked body of James Mukalel, 39, was found Thursday morning on a road leading to his parish in the diocese of Belthangady.

Britain ends troop presence in Iraq after six years

AFP, Baghdad

Britain ended its troop presence in Iraq on Friday, concluding six years of military involvement in the country that began with the US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Under a deal between Baghdad and London signed last year, the last of Britain's forces left this week ahead of a July 31 deadline for their withdrawal, a spokesman for the British Embassy in Baghdad told AFP.

A small contingent of

around 100 naval trainers currently de-camped in Kuwait could return once Iraq's parliament has considered a new agreement between London and Baghdad. Parliament will reconvene in September.

"As our forces' existing permissions expire on July 31, we are now withdrawing the Royal Navy trainers while we discuss the position (of the new deal) with the Iraqi authorities," a spokesman for Britain's defence ministry said, adding that their departure was "unfortunate".

Ahmadinejad denies rift with Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Friday that his relation with Iran's supreme leader is similar to that of "father and son," in his first comments since hardliners warned him to obey Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mehr news agency reported.

"In the recent days some with naive thoughts tried to portray that the relation between government and the dear leader of the revolution has been tarnished... to allude a rift between the government and the leader," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying.

"But they do not know that the kind of relation between

the supreme leader and me goes beyond political and administrative forms. It is made of love, belief and is like father and son," he added.

Iranian hardliners warned Ahmadinejad on Wednesday to obey Khamenei, piling further pressure on the embattled president following his disputed re-election and a series of controversial political decisions.

Ahmadinejad's post-election troubles stem from his choice of a controversial aide Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei as his first deputy and his tardiness in then terminating the appointment after being ordered to do so by Khamenei.

US insists on six-way talks for N Korea

AFP, Washington

The United States stood firm Thursday on seeking to revive six-nation talks with North Korea after the UN chief urged Washington to seize an opening to negotiate directly with the hardline state.

North Korea, which in recent months has tested a nuclear bomb and missiles, said this week it was open to a "specific and reserved" dialogue on its nuclear programme -- but warned against any push to restart six-way talks.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a former South Korean foreign minister, said he was encouraged by the statement and urged the United States to pursue a direct dialogue with the North.

"We've seen his remarks," State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said on Ban.

"Our approach on North Korea is we feel very strongly that we have to engage North

Korea multilaterally, through the six-party mechanism," Kelly told reporters.

Kelly said the United States was open to direct contact with North Korea, perhaps in an effort to free two US journalists sentenced to hard labour for entering the secluded country.

But he added: "We feel very strongly that any (bilateral) talks that we have to be in the context of the six-party talks."

The six-party talks -- involving China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the United States -- reached a deal in 2007 to provide North Korea with security guarantees and badly needed fuel if it ends its nuclear weapons drive.

But North Korea stormed out of the deal in April, saying it was protesting a UN Security Council statement criticizing its test of a missile.

Experts say that North Korea is seeking US recognition as a nuclear power -- particularly as leader Kim Jong-il's faltering health triggers a looming power struggle.



US President Barack Obama shakes hands with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines during meetings in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on Thursday.

Rights groups protest Nigerian response to uprising

AFP, Maiduguri

Human rights groups on Thursday called on Nigeria to investigate the killing of an Islamist leader shot dead in military custody after leading an uprising that caused hundreds of deaths.

The leader of the self-styled Taliban sect, Mohammed Yusuf, was shot dead after troops arrested him and routed his followers late Thursday. One officer said he begged for mercy before he was gunned down.

"We call upon Nigerian authorities to take immediate

action and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for this arbitrary killing and any others that have taken place during this week's violent clashes," said Eric Gutschus, Nigeria researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"Failure to hold members of the security forces to account for abuses has emboldened them to commit serious crimes without fear of being brought to justice," he told AFP.

"Mr Yusuf's killing demonstrates total disregard for the rule of law and the most fundamental human rights," Gutschus added.

Jackson's mother gets permanent custody of his children

AFP, Los Angeles

Michael Jackson's mother is to get permanent custody of the late pop star's children after agreeing a deal with the singer's ex-wife, attorneys for the two sides said in a statement Thursday.

The agreement -- which averts the possibility of an ugly court case -- will see Jackson's former wife Debbie Rowe receive visitation rights to the two children she bore Jackson, Prince Michael, 12, and Paris, 11.

The surrogate mother of Jackson's third child, seven-

year-old Prince Michael II, known as "Blanket," has never been identified.

Rowe will obtain visitation rights for Prince Michael and Paris but would receive no money beyond the spousal agreement already in place -- reportedly worth some 8.5 million dollars -- a statement said.

"Mrs Jackson and the family are pleased this matter is resolved and was handled in a caring, thoughtful and courteous manner by the parties and their representatives," Jackson's lawyers Londell McMillan and Diane Goodman said.



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

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Dhaka-1208

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F/Dhaka by Air & Chittagong by Sea / Benapole by Road basis :-

S.L. No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/04/2009-2010 dated 29/07/2009	1. Film Coating Materials (Enteric Coating) 2. Folic Acid BP/USP 3. Pyridoxine HCl BP 4. Riboflavin BP 5. Thiamine Mononitrate BP 6. Cefradine BP 7. Chlorpheniramine Maleate BP 8. Lemon Essence 9. Essence of Orange Sweet 10. Orange Oil	Tk. 1500.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 22.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 12/08/2009 at 11.00 AM Opening : 12/08/2009 at 11.15 AM
02.	IMP/RM/SEM/05/2009-2010 dated 29/07/2009	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: 1. Dried Aluminium Hydroxide BP '2007 2. Magnesium Hydroxide BP '2007 3. Mannitol BP '2007 4. Avicel PH 101 5. Avicel RC-591 6. Calcium Lactate Pentahydrate 7. Dibasic Calcium Phosphate BP 8. Magnesium Stearate BP 9. Sorbitol Solution 20% BP 10. Penoxymethyl Penicillin Potassium BP/USP	Tk. 2000.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 29.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 17/08/2009 at 11.00 AM Opening : 17/08/2009 at 11.15 AM
03.	IMP/RM/SEM/06/2009-2010 dated 29/07/2009	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: 1. White Bee's Wax BP 2. Benzyl Benzoate BP 3. Benzoic Acid (Fine Powder) BP 4. Salicylic Acid (Fine Powder) BP 5. Ferrous Fumarate BP 6. Stearic Acid BP 7. Hard Paraffin BP 8. White Soft Paraffin BP 9. Mebendazole USP	Tk. 1500.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 22.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 20/08/2009 at 11.00 AM Opening : 20/08/2009 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website No. www.edcl.gov.bd

(Md. Feroze-ul-Alam)
Director Operation & Incharge
Planning & Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director.



ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড

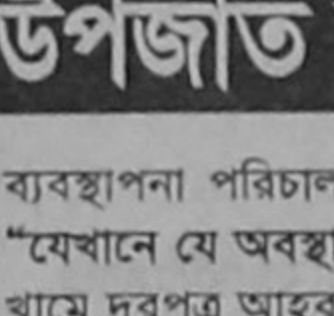
(বাংলাদেশ ইস্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন)

১৩১-১৪২ টংগী শিল্প এলাকা
টংগী, গাজীপুর-১৭১০।

"আদমদী পাইপ" নামে ব্যাট ন্যাশনাল টিউবস এর জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ ব্যবহার করুন যা দীর্ঘস্থায়ী, পুনঃ ব্যবহারযোগ্য, নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ।

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ফ্যাক্স : ৯৮০২৭৬৬



উপজাত মালামাল বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক নিম্নোক্ত উপজাত মালামাল "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে" বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে অগ্রাধী ক্রেতাগণের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে :

টেন্ডার নম্বর ও তারিখ	মালামালের বিবরণ	আনু. পরিমাণ (নং টন)	আপেক্ষিত মান	টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য	টেন্ডার বাজর বন্ধ এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
বাণিজ্য (বিক্রয়)- ৮২/০৯ তার ২৯-০৭-০৯	কিনারা ছাটাই (গ্যাজ ট্রিনিং) সীম চ্যাঁচ (সীম পেভিং) কয়েল এডস (কুভলী গ্রাউন্ড) বন্ধনী পাত (বাইন্ডিং হুপস) শুক দস্তা (হার্ড জিংক)	১২০.০০০ ২০.০০০ ৬.০০০ ২.০০০ ১৯.৮০০	১.৫০ (এক লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা (ন্যেতযোগ্য)	৮.১,৫০০/- (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার বাজর বন্ধ : ১৭-৮-২০০৯ সকাল ১১-০০ টায় বাজর খোলা : একই দিন সকাল ১১-১৫ টায়
	সর্বমোট =	১৬৭.৮০০			

ভাটি নিবন্ধন সার্টিফিকেট, আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট ও ট্রেড লাইসেন্স -এর মূলকপি দেখাইয়া নির্ধারিত মূল্য পরিশোধপূর্বক টেন্ডার সিডিউল নিম্নোক্ত অফিসসমূহ হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ১৬-৮-০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাইবে। অফিসসমূহ : (১) হিসাব বিভাগ, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিঃ, টংগী, গাজীপুর, (২) হিসাব নিয়ন্ত্রক, বাংলাদেশ ইস্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, ১০২ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫, (৩) ঢাকা বিভাগীয় কমিশনার এর কার্যালয়, সেতুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা এবং (৪) প্রগতি ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ, ৯৬ আগ্রাবাদ বা/এ, চট্টগ্রাম। টেন্ডার খোলার দিন কোন টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ টেন্ডার খোলার দিন অফিস ছুটি / বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উক্ত স্থানসমূহে টেন্ডার গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।

(ডঃ মোঃ আমিরুল মমিন)
অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌঃ (বাণিজ্য)
ফোন : ৯৮০২৭৩৭