



PHOTO: AFP
Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama (L) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh (R) prior to their talks in the southern Thai resort town of Hua Hin yesterday on the sidelines of the 15th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit.

India, China avoid Arunachal, vow to build better ties

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hua Hin

India and China yesterday pledged not to let their differences derail bilateral relations as Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Wen Jiabao held a much-awaited meeting here amid strained ties.

At a nearly hour-long meeting here, both leaders avoided the most contentious issues - Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims, and the Dalai Lama's proposed November visit to the northeastern state that China opposes - as they discussed ways to build a relationship marked by a lingering border dispute.

"We have reached important consensus on promoting bilateral ties, and I believe that our two countries maintain a good relationship in the future, which conforms with the interests of the two countries," Wen said at the beginning of the talks.

Both Manmohan Singh and Wen agreed that differences between them on a range of issues should not be allowed to act as impediments.

According to N Ravi, Secretary (East) in the external affairs ministry, Manmohan Singh said that both sides should take measures at the political and diplomatic level to foster better understanding and trust "so that our relationship remained strong and robust."

"Neither side should allow differences to act as impediment in the growth of functioning cooperation," he said.

Asean asks Myanmar to conduct fair elections

AP, Cha-Am

Southeast Asian leaders, having launched the region's first human rights watchdog, called yesterday on military-ruled Myanmar to conduct free and fair elections next year but refrained from criticising one of the world's worst human rights offenders.

A final statement from the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also urged North Korea to return to six-party talks aimed at halting Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, and stressed the need to continue domestic stimulus packages to ensure sustained recovery from the global economic crisis.

The three-day meeting at a Thai beach resort also includes leaders of China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

When the summit opened Friday, the bloc unveiled the region's first human

rights commission, but it was immediately derided as toothless by activists who pointed out that its mandate did not extend to prosecution of violators like Myanmar, an Asean member. The activists were also angered by the exclusion of several members of civil society from the summit.

Members of Asean have recently escalated their criticism of Myanmar, particularly over the detention of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who Saturday will have spent 14 years in detention, most of it under house arrest.

But as a bloc, Asean acts by consensus, avoids confrontations and maintains that the group's approach to engaging Myanmar works better than the West's sanctions and threats.

The junta has ignored calls to free Suu Kyi and an estimated 2,100 political prisoners ahead of elections, which will be the first in two decades. The leaders' statement Friday was typically meek,

obliquely referring to Suu Kyi to avoid publicly scolding Myanmar.

"We underscored the importance of achieving national reconciliation and that the general elections to be held in Myanmar in 2010 must be conducted in a fair, free, inclusive and transparent manner in order to be credible to the international community," the statement said.

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva described the rights commission as "a significant milestone" in the 42-year history of Asean.

The group has traditionally steered clear of rights issues because of its reluctance to meddle in the internal affairs of member nations.

"It is a big shame to our dreams for genuine democracy in the region. It's like all of the human rights of the people in this region have been violated," said Sister Crescencia L. Lucero, a leading rights advocate and Roman Catholic nun.

Abbas calls Palestinian elections for Jan 24

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Friday called presidential and legislative elections for January 24 in the Palestinian territories including the Gaza Strip, in a move seen as pressuring Hamas into signing a unity deal.

The Islamist rulers of the battered coastal enclave issued a swift rejection of the move, branding it illegal and unconstitutional.

Abbas issued a decree inviting "the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to take part in free and direct presidential and legislative elections on Sunday January 24, 2010," his office said.

In the decree he instructed the election committee to prepare for the vote.

Abbas, whose presidential term expired in early 2009, had said on Tuesday he would issue a decree calling the elections, in a move apparently meant to press Hamas into signing a much-delayed unity deal with his Fatah faction.

In the last parliamentary elections in January 2006, Hamas won an upset victory over the previously dominant Fatah.

Egypt has been struggling to broker a recon-

ciliation agreement between the two main rival Palestinian factions for months, and this month proposed an agreement that would see new elections held in June next year.

Fatah has signed the agreement but Hamas has repeatedly postponed its official response, saying it needs more time to study the deal.

On Friday, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza City condemned the Abbas decree.

"This is an illegal and unconstitutional step because Abu Mazen's (Abbas's) tenure is over and he has no right to issue any decree concerning this" election, Fawzi Barhum told AFP.

He said Abbas was making a "deliberate attempt to make (Palestinian) divisions permanent," by calling elections for January.

The bitter rift between Fatah and Hamas goes back to the start of limited Palestinian self-rule in the 1990s, when Fatah strongmen cracked down on the Islamist militant group.

Simmering divisions boiled over in June 2007 when Hamas fighters expelled Abbas loyalists from Gaza in a week of bloody clashes, seizing control of the impoverished and densely populated territory.

The date set for the next elections coincides with the end of the current Palestinian parliament, which is dominated by Hamas.

US to help Iraq get rid of sanctions

AFP, Baghdad

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and US envoy to the UN Susan Rice held talks in Baghdad Friday on helping Iraq get rid of sanctions imposed in the aftermath of Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Maliki's office said.

The pair also discussed Iraq's campaign for a special UN investigation into the circumstances surrounding deadly truck bombs at two government ministries in August.

"The prime minister confirmed that it was necessary to let the joint US-Iraq committee work in order to find a way to get Iraq out of Chapter Seven," his office said in an e-mailed statement, referring to the part of the UN charter under which sanctions were imposed on Iraq.

Earlier this month, after meeting with Maliki in Washington, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton indicated that the United States and Iraq were to establish a joint committee to discuss problems related to the sanctions.

Crisis talks collapse in Honduras

AFP, Tegucigalpa

Talks to resolve the political crisis in Honduras have collapsed over the de facto government's refusal to reinstate ousted president Manuel Zelaya.

Zelaya late Friday had rejected a proposal that de facto leader Roberto Micheletti would step down if Zelaya gave up his claim to the presidency, after his envoys already said the talks were dead.

Zelaya's negotiators accused the regime of dragging out the talks in the run-up to November 29, when an election is to be held to choose a new president.

"We consider that the dialogue has been exhausted, we cannot continue to give deadlines," said Mayra Mejia, a member of Zelaya's negotiating team.

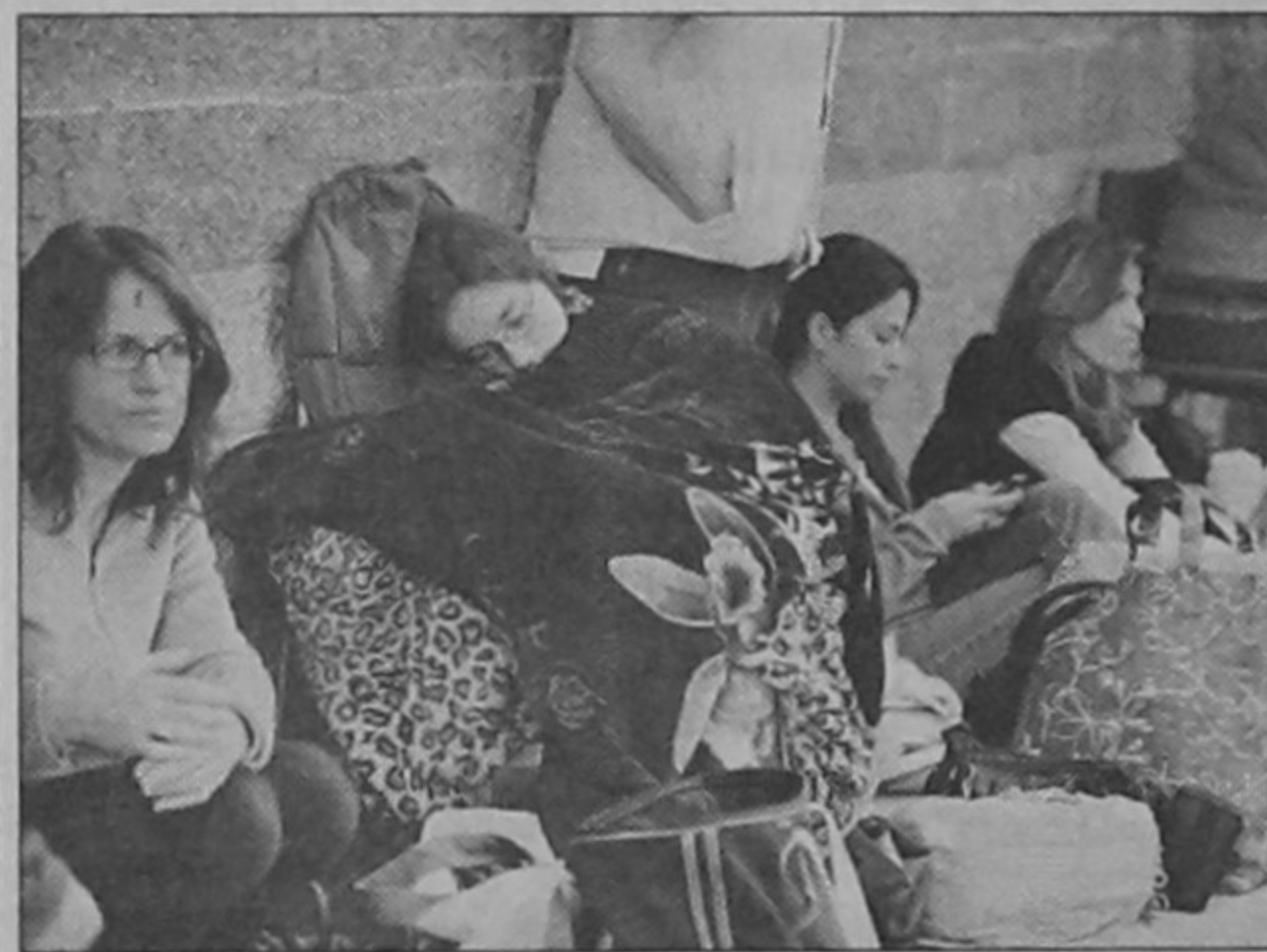


PHOTO: AFP
People wait in line for the opening of the first Public Health H1N1 vaccine clinic in Los Angeles County on Friday at the Balboa Sports Complex in Encino, California. These clinics will provide access to free H1N1 vaccine to priority group individuals who do not have health insurance or a regular source of healthcare.

US mulls direct talks as N Korean envoy visits

AFP, Washington

The US State Department is considering a rare face-to-face meeting with a North Korean envoy visiting the United States, raising hopes of progress in stalled nuclear talks.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly late Friday said no decision had been taken on who would meet Ri Gun, the senior North Korean nuclear negotiator who has reportedly arrived in New York for a visit of several days.

But Kelly said a meeting between Ri and the US special envoy for North Korean disarmament talks, Sung Kim, had not been ruled out.

"I wouldn't exclude that. I don't have anything to announce about that, but I certainly wouldn't exclude it," he said.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that Ri arrived in New York on Friday.

He was also expected to visit San Diego on Monday for closed-door informal talks on the nuclear standoff, the event's director Susan Shirk told AFP.

Kelly indicated it had not yet been decided which US official would attend that meeting.

Ri's rare visit has fuelled speculation that North Korea is preparing to return to six-party talks about its nuclear weapons programme.

On Monday, Kurt Campbell, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said the United States was ready to meet one-on-one with North Korea but only if it leads "rapidly" to full-fledged six-nation denuclearisation talks.

North Korea in April declared the six-nation forum and its agreements to be null and void after the United Nations condemned its long-range rocket launch. The communist state later also tested an atom bomb.

But on October 6, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il told Chinese envoys the North was willing to return to six-way talks, but insisted it first negotiate directly with the United States to repair "hostile relations".

Campbell, who has recently held talks in Beijing that the United States "would be prepared for, in the right circumstances at some point, some initial interaction" with North Korea "that would lead rapidly to a six-party framework."



PHOTO: AFP
Bosnian Muslim women from Srebrenica hold a hand woven carpet with the names of their killed relatives embroidered before boarding a bus in Sarajevo early yesterday. Buses carrying about 200 Bosnian Muslim family members of the war victims departed Sarajevo for the Hague, Netherlands, to demand swift trial and severe punishment for Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Obama hits out at climate 'naysayers'

AFP, Boston

US President Barack Obama on Friday hit out at naysayers he blamed for peddling "cynical" claims that global warming is a myth to derail a landmark climate change bill in Congress.

Obama warned that the closer the Senate came to passing legislation which has already cleared the House of Representatives, the more opponents would resort to underhand tactics.

"The naysayers, the folks who would pretend that this is not an issue, they are being marginalised," Obama warned in a speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"But I think it's important to understand that the closer we get, the harder the opposition will fight and the more we'll hear from those whose interest or ideology run counter to the much needed action that we're engaged in."

"There are those who will suggest that moving toward clean energy will destroy our economy," Obama said, a day after the release of a poll showing fewer Americans see solid evidence of global warming.

"There are going to be those who... make cynical claims that contradict the overwhelming scientific evidence when it comes to climate change, claims whose only purpose is to defeat or delay the change that we know is necessary."

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No. 01/PGCB/Sec (Procurement-RPP)/2009/4100 Date: October 22, 2009

NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION

Extension of Closing Date for Submission of Bids against Bidding Document for "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 230KV AND 132KV GRID SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR EXTENSION OF EXISTING GRID SUBSTATION FOR EVAQUATION OF POWER FROM RENTAL POWER PLANTS (RPP) AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS [Contract No.: PGCB/PROC-RPP/2009/01]"

Ref: Memo Nos. (1) 01/PGCB/Sec(Procurement-RPP)/2009/3579, dated: 13th September, 2009
(2) 01/PGCB/Sec(Procurement-RPP)/2009/3895, dated: 8th October, 2009

The closing date for submission of Bids for the above work has been extended from **November 02, 2009 at 11:30 am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to November 12, 2009 at 11:30 am BST.**

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary

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- The incumbent should be young & well groomed.
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বাংলাদেশ তৈল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ করপোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)

সেবা বিভাগ
৩, কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
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মিনিবাস ও মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়া জন্য দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ তৈল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ করপোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা) এর কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদেরকে সকল কার্যনির্বাহী অফিসে আনা এবং অফিস হতে ফেরত নেয়ার জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত কটে ০৪ (চার)টি মিনিবাস ও ০১ (এক)টি মাইক্রোবাস দৈনিক ভাড়া ভিত্তিতে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের জন্য সরবরাহ করার নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত মিনিবাস/মাইক্রোবাস মালিকদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	মিনিবাস চলাচলের কটে	প্রতিসেট দরপত্র সিডিউলের অফারযোগ্য মূল্য	নিরাপত্তা জামানত/ আর্নেস্টমনি
০১।	(ক) পেট্রোসেন্টার-সাতার-খনিজনগর	টাই ২,০০০.০০	টাই ৫০,০০০.০০
	(খ) পেট্রোসেন্টার-বনানী-হাউজিং কমপ্লেক্স	টাই ২,০০০.০০	টাই ৫০,০০০.০০
	(গ) পেট্রোসেন্টার-বড়বাংলা বানীমহল-ডেমুকা	টাই ২,০০০.০০	টাই ৫০,০০০.০০
	(ঘ) পেট্রোসেন্টার-চায়াড়া-নিতাইগঞ্জ-নারায়নগঞ্জ	টাই ২,০০০.০০	টাই ৫০,০০০.০০
	(ঙ) পেট্রোসেন্টার-মোহাম্মদপুর (মাইক্রোবাস)	টাই ২,০০০.০০	টাই ৫০,০০০.০০

০২। অর্থের উৎসঃ পেট্রোবাংলার নিজস্ব অর্থায়ন।
০৩। দরপত্র সূত্র ও তারিখঃ ২৪.১১.২২ (অংশ)/তারিখঃ ১৪/১০/২০০৯।
০৪। শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সম্বলিত টেন্ডার সিডিউল অফিস চলাকালীন সময় আগামী ২৫/১০/২০০৯ তারিখ হতে ০৫/১১/২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত অফিসসমূহে হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে:-

ক) হিসাব বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ তৈল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ করপোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা), ৩, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা।
খ) হিসাব বিভাগ, তিস্তা গ্যাস টিএভিডি কোং লিঃ, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা।
গ) হিসাব বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম এক্সপ্লোরেশন এন্ড প্রোডাকশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (বাপেঙ্গ), ৮০/এ-বি, সিঙ্গেলবারী সার্কেলার রোড, শাহজালাল টাওয়ার, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা।
ঘ) হিসাব বিভাগ, গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, রেড ক্রিসেন্ট বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৬), ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইকটান, ঢাকা।

০৫। যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাঃ সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/খ্যাতনামা বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে মিনিবাস সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন দরদাতাকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
০৬। মিনিবাস সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত কার্যাদেশের কপি, বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, বৈধ ইনকাম ট্যাক্স সনদপত্রসমূহের মূল কপি/অথবা প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ছায়াছবি এবং সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রসিদ দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৭। মিনিবাস নুনতম ৩১ (একত্রিশ) আসন বিশিষ্ট কুশনযুক্ত এবং ২০০২ সন হতে পরবর্তী যেকোন মডেলের হতে হবে ও মাইক্রোবাস নুনতম ০৯ (নয়) আসন বিশিষ্ট কুশনযুক্ত এবং ২০০২ সন হতে পরবর্তী মডেলের হতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ, কটাপূর্ণ, শর্তযুক্ত ও নিরাপত্তা জামানত (আর্নেস্টমনি) ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না। বিদ্যমান শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী অনুযায়ী সিডিউল পূরণ করে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৮। টেন্ডার নম্বর, তারিখ এবং মিনিবাস চলাচলের কটে উল্লেখপূর্বক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ০৫/১১/২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে পেট্রোবাংলার ভাতার শাখা (২য় তলা), ৩, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ফেলতে হবে এবং একই দিন দুপুর ১১.৩০ ঘটিকায় মহাব্যবস্থাপক, সেবা বিভাগ (২য় তলা), পেট্রোবাংলা, ৩, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এর দপ্তরে দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।
০৯। দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তানুযায়ী যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাকে হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে নিরাপত্তা জামানত "পেট্রোবাংলা" এর অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
১০। দরপত্রটির ক্ষেত্রে "PPR-2008" এর বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।
১১। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কার্যদিবস ব্যাহত হলে অথবা অন্য কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ এবং খোলা হবে।
১২। পেট্রোবাংলা কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোন কারণ ব্যতীতকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা পরিমাণ ত্রুটি/বৃদ্ধি করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

এবি বড়ুয়া চৌধুরী
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, সেবা বিভাগ
জিডি-৪৭৫০