Talks under way on Iran sanctions, says Obama

Tehran rejects UN-brokered nuke fuel deal

AP, Seoul

President Barack Obama said yesterday the United States has begun talking with allies about fresh punishment against Iran for defying efforts to halt its nuclear weapons pursuits.

indicated it would not ship its lowenriched uranium to Russia for processing, the centrepiece of deal aimed at a peaceful resolution to Iran's contested nuclear programme.

"They have been unable to get to 'yes', and so as a consequence, we have begun discussions with our international partners about the importance of having

news conference with South Korean sions in exchange for de-nuclearisation, President Lee Myung-bak.

steps will likely be developed "over the next several weeks." He did not get more specific about the nature of any new mentsincehetookoffice. Obama's tough talk came as Iran sanctions, which would require commithardly clear yet.

> signaled impatience over another nuclear threat, North Korea. They both declared fresh, united steps in getting that nation to give up its own nuclear weapons.

Lee and Obama rallied behind the South Korean's idea for a one-time "grand bar-

consequences," Obama said in a brief gain" with North Korea of aid and concesrather than the stalled step-by-step process. Obama said a new package of punitive And Obama said his envoy would travel to North Korea early next month for the first bilateral talks with the communist govern-

The South Korea stop was the final ments of international support that are dash of diplomacy for Obama on a weeklong Asia trip, and although he and Standing side by side, Obama and Lee Lee trumpeted the strength of their nations' alliance, a stalled trade deal continues to vex them.

> The ambitious South Korean-US pact has bogged down over US lawmakers' worries it could hurt the struggling American auto industry.

Depression can be as deadly as smoking

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,

Beware, depression can be as deadly as smoking.

This finding is based on a unique link between a survey of over 60,000 people and a comprehensive mortality database.

Researchers from University of Bergen (Norway) and Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) at King's College in London have found that mortality risk increased almost equally among depressed people and smokers.

Robert Stewart, who led the research team at IoP, said that more attention should be paid to this link (depression) because the association persisted after adjusting for many other factors.

Dhaka University student

Ahsanul Islam Chanchal said,

This justice has long been a

Sohrab Hossain, a rickshaw

demand of mass people, espe-

puller in the city, said, "the trial

of criminals should have been

held much earlier. I feel really

happy that it has been done in

store in Bashundhara City,

said, "The trial began 10 years

ago. The procrastination in

delivering justice gave us a

feeling that there is no rule of

law in this country. But now we

are satisfied that justice has

been served finally, though

student Tania Hossain said,

"The verdict will be considered

as a historic achievement of the

government. I welcome the

Another Dhaka University

cially the new generation."

the end.

delayed.

Karzai promised action on a raft of problems that have Afghan President Hamid caused consternation among Karzai was sworn in for a his Western backers, weary of second term yesterday, vow- pouring military and finaning to combat corruption and cial aid into Afghanistan with reaching out to his political little in return. rivals under Western pressure

Karzai seeks unity, vows

Afghan president takes oath for second term

to fight corruption

He pledged action on corruption, drugs, security Karzai took the oath of and unemployment, and office as the US-led war said he would call a "loya stretches into a ninth year, jirga" -- a meeting of politileaving record numbers of cal, tribal and community soldiers and civilians dead leaders from across the and with Taliban control country's complex social extending deeper into the make-up -- to bring peace.

Afghanistan's traditional In a wide-ranging speech, loya jirga and make every problem."

possible effort to ensure peace in our country," he said, calling on Taliban "not directly linked to international terrorism to return to their homeland".

To many Afghans, Karzai's presidency lacks legitimacy. his government lacks authority and the way in which he took the presidency lacks credibility.

Addressing endemic official graft in a speech delivered before an audience of visiting foreign ministers. including US Secretary of "We will call State Hillary Clinton, he said: "Corruption is a dangerous

Matter to end in less than 2 months Rule of law prevails Govt focuses

Dhaka central jail are--Lt Col (sacked) Sved Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (retd) Muhiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (retd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Maj (retd) Bazlul Huda.

They will file petitions with the Supreme Court to review its verdict that yesterday confirmed their death sentence, their lawyers said.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said the apex court verdict in Bangabandhu assassination case will be executed by the end of December or early in January.

Secretariat office after announcement of the verdict, the state minister said the verdict would be carried out after completion of entire legal process. There is a scope for the convicts

to seek for a review of the Appellate days or before 28 days of receiv- with the Supreme Court for he said, adding that if the convicts do not appeal for the review, they can have seven days' time for seeking mercy from the president

after the expiry of the 30 days. He said the government is trying to hunt down the absconding convicts in different countries with the help of Interpol.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, and the Chief State Counsel in this case advocate Anisul Huq yesterday told the reporters that the convicts now can appeal to the Supreme Court to review its verdict, and then can seek presidential mercy to

Talking to reporters at his savetheir necks from execution. These matters can be settled within two months, they said.

The attorney general told The Daily Star that as per the rules, the capital punishment of the convicts will be executed after 21

judgment by the jail authorities. The convicts have to file review petitions with the Supreme Court within seven days of getting copy of the verdict, he said adding that the review petition can be disposed of in a day or two, he said.

Mahbubey Alam said the review petitions are dismissed in most of the cases.

The convicts can submit mercy petitions to the president within seven days after dismissal of the review petitions and the mercy depends on the president.

Anisul Huq at a press briefing said the High Court verdict confirming the death penalty to seven absconding convicts in this case will remain valid following the Supreme Court verdict.

If the absconding convicts surrender before the court or are arrested, they can file petitions

now in the condemned cell of Division's verdict within 30 days, ing the certified copy of the condoning their delay in filing leave-to-appeal petitions against the High Court verdict, headded.

They have to mention specific reasons for delay in filing the leave-to-appeal petitions, he said, adding that if the Supreme Court rejects their petitions for condoning delay, there would not be any bar to execute them.

Lawyers for the convicts-advocate Khan Saifur Rahman and barrister Abdullah-al Mamun told The Daily Star that the Supreme Court as per its rules will halt the operation of the verdict until hearing of the review petitions.

If the president pardons the convicts, they will not be executed, he said, adding that if the president rejected the petitions, the death sentences will be executed after 21 or before 28 days.

> verdict." Tanshen Hossain, a bank employee, welcomed the behanged." judgement and urged the government to start trial of war criminals and jail killings.

An orthopaedics specialist Dr SM Idris while shopping at Bashundhara City said, "Punishment should be meted out as soon as possible to rid the nation of anxiety."

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in general was tense in the capital yesterday with the people taking extra precautions fearing untoward incidents. Many of them stayed indoors and the streets remained comparatively free

from traffic gridlock. Many buses and minibuses

country after an election

did not ply till afternoon. Crowds were thin in the markets. Akram Hossain, a salesman

AFP, Kabul

to restore legitimacy.

mired in fraud.

in Farmview Super Market in Farmgate said, "Awami League came to power once before. Why did they take so long for the trial? Now they should hold trials of other political killings including the assassination of Abu Sayeed, manager of a Ziaur Rahman."

> Mohammad Suman, an hotelier, expressed his concern that something ominous might happen before the execution is carried out.

"Six accused are absconding. Who knows how many years it would take to bring them back. Let's see the execution of the criminals first and then I will comment overit," he said. Abul Hossain, a vendor on

Dhaka University campus, said, "I am happy that murderers of Bangabandhu, who earned us independence, will Abdul Mannan, an auto-

rickshaw puller in the city, said, "It is of course a good news. General people would like to see each of the criminals executed. Speculating sabotage secu-

rity was beefed up across the country yesterday. About 12,000 additional policemen were deployed in the country with many guarding strategic points and buildings. The day, however, ended

without any unwanted incidents, much to the relief of general people.

absconding killers," Home Minister Sahara Khatun told The Daily Staryesterday.

Contacted, she said they will take all measures to bring them (killers) back, and they are hopeful of success in doing this.

Asked whether they have spotted where the killers are absconding, the home minister said they frequently move from one country to another, and that is the only problem in locating

The home minister had earlier made a global appeal to help track down the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu. The appeal was made at the 78th annual general meeting of Interpol in Singapore last month.

Meanwhile, six of the 12 convicted killers of Bangabandhu have been holed up in Libya, US, Canada, Pakistan and Kenya, one died in Zimbabwe, and five are behind bars at home.

Sources in the administration and intelligence agencies said some of the condemned killers on the run travel to different countries for business purposes. The six hiding abroad are Lt.

Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haque Dalim, Lt Col (retd) Nur Chowdhury, Lt Col (retd) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Capt Abdul Mazed and Risalder Moslehuddin Khan.

Sources say Rashid, one of the key plotters of the massacre

of Bangabandhu and most of their help in bringing back the his family members, has settled in Benghazi of Libya, where he has construction business. He often visits Pakistan and Singapore.

Dalim lives in Pakistan, and frequently travels to Libya and Kenyan capital Nairobi where he has businesses.

According to intelligence sources, Nur Chowdhury and Rashed Chowdhury are in Canada and the US. But other sources said Nur is living in Libya, and seeking asylum in Canada. And Rashed is trying for asylumin the US.

Abdul Mazed is hiding in Benghazi, while Moslehuddin might be in the Libyan city, or somewhere in Bangladesh.

Another convict, Lt Col Aziz Pasha, died in Zimbabwe on June 2, 2001 Awami League, after coming

to power in 1996 initiated moves to sign extradition treaties with different countries to bring back the condemned convicts. The five on the death row-

now in jail -- are Lt Col Syed

Faroog Rahman, Lt Col Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, Maj Mohiuddin Ahmed and Maj Bazlul Huda. Of them, Lt Col Mohiuddin

was deported to Bangladesh from Los Angeles on June 17, 2007, after a US court rejected his appeal for residency.

Huda was extradited from Bangkok on the day the trial court pronounced its verdict in the case in 1998.

Hasina gets Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Resolution of the United and pluralism, her determined she had launched a number of FROM PAGE 16

Memorial Trust said.

The announcement was made yesterday on the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi who was assassinated on Oct 31, 1984 by her bodyguard.

cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a citation, would be presented to her at a function to be held at a later date. Hasina, who will undertake

The award, which carries a

an official visit to India next month, has been chosen for her "outstanding contribution to the promotion of democracy

drive to alleviate poverty and secure social and economic justice for her people through inclusive and sustainable development and her consistent commitment to peace", it said.

After her re-election in December last year, Hasina embarked on her "Vision 2021", aimed at transforming Bangladesh into a middleincome country by 2021, by eliminating poverty and inequity, the Trust said.

As the prime minister of Bangladesh from 1996 to 2001,

programmes to meet the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, through projects covering employment-generation, housing, health and food security it said.

Hasina "promoted peace by resolving a long standing insurgency (problem) in Bangladesh by concluding the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord. Her global commitment to peace was manifested by her initiative that resulted in the adoption of the first-ever

♦ University of Winnipeg

Nations General Assembly on the Culture and Peace", the Trust said. The assassination of her

father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other members of her family in 1975 transformed her life and, indeed, "the political landscape of Bangladesh", it said.

"A number of attempts on her life and subsequent imprisonment only strengthened her resolve to restore democracy, peace and political stability in her country," it added.

On 22nd (SUN) & 23rd (MON) of Nov '09 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel (Shimul, Palash), Time: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Seminar: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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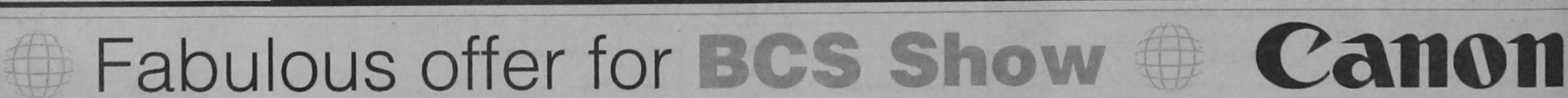
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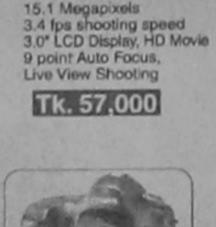
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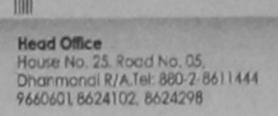




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