

US 'almost out of time' for debt deal: Obama

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama yesterday warned the US was almost out of time to agree a debt ceiling deal as Republicans and Democrats scrambled to find a way out of an impasse and avoid a disastrous default.

With just days to go until the United States could be pushed into an unprecedented default, Obama insisted the warring sides could still reach an 11th-hour compromise on raising the \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling.

"This is not a situation where the two parties are miles apart," Obama said despite a months-long bitter war of attrition now going down the wire to a Tuesday deadline when the US is set to run out of money to pay its bills.

Both sides were "in rough agreement" on how much spending can be cut "responsibly," and on the steps to take in the coming months on tax reforms as well as some kind of enforcement mechanism, Obama said.



"So there are plenty of ways out of this mess. But we are almost out of time. We need to reach a compromise by Tuesday so that our country will have the ability to pay its bills on time as we always have."

A key sticking point has been how much the debt ceiling should be raised by and over what period: Obama has called for it to last through the November 2012 elections with Republicans insisting on a much shorter time-frame.

Warnings have flooded that the political battles in Washington could

harm economies around the world, and threaten a fragile global recovery.

Chinese media attacked the United States over the debt wrangling, warning it could plunge the world into another recession.

China is the top holder of US debt with holdings at \$1.16 trillion in May, according to US data, and has raised concerns about its investments.

A default could hurt the US dollar and trigger a "torrential flood" of liquidity into the global economy, fueling inflation in emerging economies such as China, the Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily said.

China's official Xinhua news agency also accused US lawmakers of being "dangerously irresponsible" and warned they risked "strangling the still fragile economic recovery."

A Republican initiative stalled Wednesday amid a revolt by unruly arch-conservative Tea Party members who refused to back Republican House Speaker John Boehner's plan.

Apple has more cash than USA

BBC ONLINE

Apple has more cash to spend than the United States government, a report said yesterday.

Latest figures from the US Treasury Department show that the country has an operating cash balance of \$73.7bn. Apple's most recent financial results put its reserves at \$76.4bn.

The United States is currently spending around \$200bn more than it collects in revenue every month.

In the three months ending 25 June, Apple's net income was 125% higher than a year earlier at \$7.31bn.

With more than \$75bn either sitting in the bank or in easily accessible assets, there has been enormous speculation about what the company will do with the money.

Mumbai attacks gunman appeals death sentence

AFP, New Delhi



Ajmal Amir Kasab

The lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks that left 166 dead has filed a case at the Indian Supreme Court asking for his death sentence to be overturned, a court source told AFP yesterday.

The source said Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab had sent an appeal against his conviction and sentence via jail authorities in Mumbai, where he has been held since the attacks, which has been lodged with the court's secretary general.

"He filed the appeal through the Arthur Road jail authorities," the source said, asking not to be named.

Pakistani national Kasab, one of 10 Islamist gunmen who laid siege to Mumbai for nearly three days, was convicted by a trial court in the Indian commercial and entertainment capital in May 2010.

The first appeal by the 23-year-old school drop-out from a poor farming area in Pakistan's Punjab state failed in February, when the state high court confirmed his death sentence.

Lawyer Ujjwal Nikam, who prosecuted the

case in Mumbai, confirmed to AFP that "he (Kasab) has made the appeal proposal to the Supreme Court" without giving further details.

No one was immediately available for comment at the high security Arthur Road jail in south Mumbai, where Kasab is being held in solitary confinement.

One of Kasab's legal team for his appeal to the Bombay High Court in February, Farhana Shah, said that it was likely that her former client would be appointed a lawyer from the legal aid bench in New Delhi.

India has the death sentence, which is carried out by hanging, for the "rarest of the rare" criminal offences.

Kasab was found guilty of a string of crimes including waging war against India, murder, attempted murder and terrorist acts after a trial at a maximum security prison court in Mumbai.

During the trial, the prosecution produced fingerprint, DNA, eye-witness, CCTV and other evidence showing him opening fire and throwing grenades in the bloodiest episode of the November 26 attacks at Mumbai's main railway station.

Storm, landslides kill 59 in South Korea

AFP, Seoul

South Korean city planners and developers were blamed yesterday for allegedly causing "man-made" disasters that killed at least 59 people and left thousands homeless after record rainfall this week.

Among the dead were 16 killed when mudslides hit southern parts of Seoul on Wednesday and 13 who perished in a landslide in the Chuncheon region, 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the capital.

Three others died in a landslide at Paju north of Seoul.

Experts and news media attacked local authorities in Seoul, accusing them of making the situation worse through an allegedly reckless development of hills near residential areas in the south of the capital.

Some hillsides were redeveloped into public parks and hiking tracks, meaning rainwater could not be absorbed so easily, and natural waterways were changed to make artificial lakes, critics said.

Indian cabinet approves new anti-corruption bill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian cabinet on Thursday cleared a draft of legislation to set up an anti-corruption ombudsman (Lokpal) that excludes from its purview the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and members of Parliament for their actions inside the House.

The Bill, expected to be presented in the monsoon session of parliament beginning August 1, drew sharp reaction from the civil society led by Gandhian Anna Hazare which dismissed it as a "jokepal" and Hazare himself announced that he would again go on a fast from August 1 to protest a stronger anti-corruption watchdog.

The Bill provides for inquiry into allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister only after he or she demits office.

The civil society had wanted the Prime Minister and the judiciary to come under the ambit of the Bill.

Briefing mediapersons, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had insisted that his office be included within the ambit of the Bill but the cabinet decided otherwise, considering that such a step would affect the stability of the government of the day.

It envisages the setting up an anti-corruption ombudsman to probe charge of graft against a federal minister or top officials starting from the rank of undersecretary and above without the need for any sanction.

The Bill also envisages a separate investi-

gation wing for the ombudsman but does not give it any power to prosecute anyone and it would instead recommend prosecution to the Supreme Court.

A 10-member committee, comprising five ministers and five civil rights leaders, was set up in April to draft the bill, but the two sides prepared separate versions following sharp divergences on key issues.

Terming the Bill approved by the cabinet as "unacceptable", Anna Hazare, who had launched a movement in April this year with a fast demanding a strong anti-corruption watchdog, said he would begin a hunger strike on August 16 for a revised bill that would be "effective and strong".

Arvind Kejriwal, another activist opposed to the current Lokpal Bill, said there was "nothing for a common man and added that the issue of corruption has been completely left out of it.

Lawyer Prashant Bhushan, another member of civil rights group, said none of the major scams of recent times like the Adarsh Housing scam, the Commonwealth Games scam, the illegal mining scam, cash-for-vote scam, fodder scam is covered by government's Lokpal.

A series of corruption scandals, including the biggest one relating to sale of telecom license to private operators, has hemmed the Congress-led UPA government since last year and saw the arrest of two leading politicians including India's former Telecom Minister A Raja belonging to Congress ally Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Blast kills 18 civilians in Afghanistan

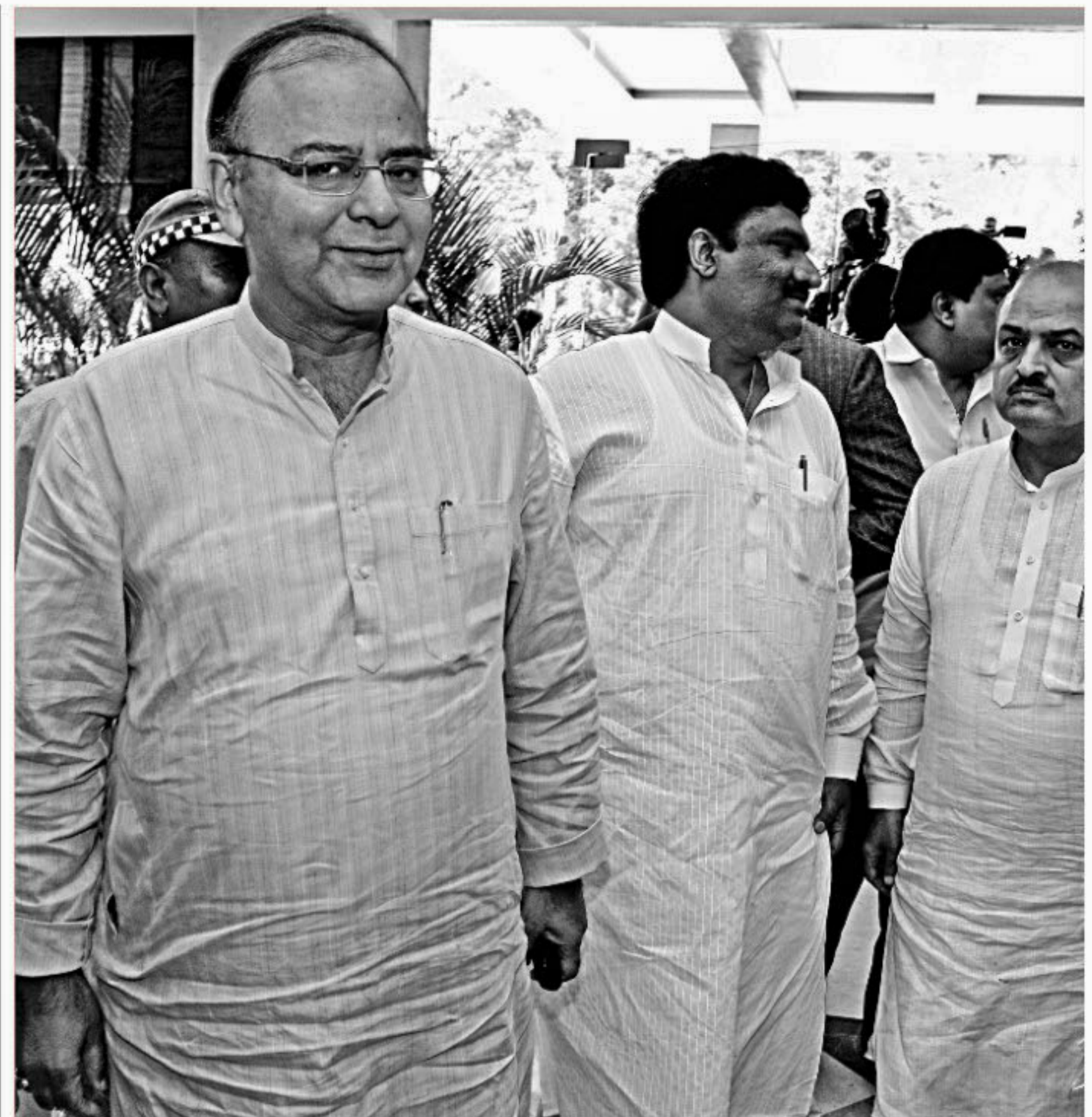
AFP, Kandahar

Eighteen civilians died when a roadside bomb destroyed their minivan in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province yesterday, a day after a Taliban attack in Uruzgan killed 21 people.

The latest bomb blast came as UN figures show civilian deaths are up 15 percent in the first half of this year, reaching record levels in the long war between insurgents and the Kabul government that is backed by Nato-led troops.

Afghan General Sayed Malook said the vehicle was in Nahri Sarraj district, travelling to the provincial capital Lashkar Gah 35 kilometres away, when it was hit. In a separate incident in Helmand yesterday, one person was killed and four others wounded when their tractor hit an improvised bomb in the Garmser district, officials said.

Cheap and easy to make, improvised explosive devices or IEDs are the Taliban's favoured weapon, responsible for the majority of civilian and security forces' deaths in the nearly 10-year war.



Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Arun Jaitley (L) arrives at a hotel to meet with the party's state leaders to discuss a successor for outgoing Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa in Bangalore yesterday. The BJP led government in the state of Karnataka is in crisis after India's top court halted the extraction of iron ore in Karnataka mines, where some of the country's biggest deposits are found after revelations about a USD 3.6-billion mining fraud.

PHOTO: AFP

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We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

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Yemenis stage rival rallies in Sanaa

AFP, Sanaa

Tens of thousands of opponents and supporters of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is convalescing in Saudi Arabia, held rival rallies in Sanaa yesterday.

"No dialogue, no haggling, victory is near," chanted anti-Saleh protesters who gathered in Sittine Road, in a western district of the capital, for a day of "patience and strength," an AFP correspondent said.

"Resistance, resistance, no to despair," read their banners.

A smaller number of Saleh's loyalists gathered in a southern district for a Friday of "loyalty" to the veteran leader, hospitalised in Riyadh from bomb wounds he sustained in an attack on his palace compound on June 3.



Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Purchase of Education Materials.

Project name	BRAC (ESP, BPS & BPPS)
Source of fund	DC Fund
Tender package no.	BEP(DC)-EM/ 03-11
Reference no. and date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-BEP(DC) 11-17 July 28, 2011
Tender name	Education Materials
Time of delivery	As per Tender Documents.
Price of the tender documents	Tk.1000.00 (One thousand) only.
Tender security	2.5% of Total tender value.
Tender documents available	Accounts Department (8th floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212.
Date & time of selling Documents	August 02 to August 16, 2011 Between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Tender dropping place, date & time	Procurement Department (Gr. floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. August 17, 2011. Between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	3 rd Floor Conference Room/ Class Room, BRAC Center. August 17, 2011 at 2:00 pm.

BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212
Phone: 9881265 ext 2082

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Phillips-Van Heusen Far East Ltd., the liaison office in Dhaka for our regional office in HK and head office in the USA, is sincerely inviting high calibre to join us in the following position.

Divisional Merchandising Manager - Women's Apparel (Ref. No. BD/DS/053/11)

The Person :

- Tertiary education in garment/textile
- At least 10 years experience in garment field, preferably in reputable foreign organizations
- Must have proven track record of relevant product experience
- Good in both spoken and written English
- Mature personality and good interpersonal skill
- Good management and problem solving skills
- Good communication and negotiation skills
- Computer literate

The Job :

- Report to the Senior VP of Women's Apparel in HK and the General Manager of the Bangladesh Office, the incumbent is to manage and coordinate the merchandising function within the country to achieve the goal of maximum total value. This includes the right mix of quality, cycle time, on time delivery and effective communication.
- Responsible for market awareness, i.e. pricing information, product development, market trends, etc.
- Oversee the executive of production and to ensure standard procedures are being followed and that all information is timely and accurate.
- Supervise the merchandising team to ensure they work in an organized and professional manner.
- Work closely with QA team to ensure product quality meets the company standard
- Ensure that all daily communication is both effective and timely.
- Ensure compliance of all Corporate policies.

Attractive package including 5 days work, 14-month salary plus discretionary bonus, medical / life / travel accident insurance scheme will be offered to the right person.

Application should be addressed to the Human Resources Department with :

- reference number quoted above;
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- available date

Please e-mail your application and resume to hkhr@pvh.com before August 9, 2011.

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৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা-১২০৮

সংক্ষিপ্ত স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইউসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেম সমূহ প্রকৃত প্রকৃতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১	ইউসিএল/ক্রম/সোকা/০২০১১/১৮৬ (ক) তারিখঃ ২৮/০৭/২০১১ইং	১২ (বার) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফয়েল এবং প্রিন্টেড এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফয়েল ফর ওয়ারএস ১/২ লিটার {12 (Twelve) Kinds of Printed Alu. Blister Foil & Printed Alu. Foil for ORS 1/2 Ltr.} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৪,৭৮০.০ কেজি ৩,০০০.০ কেজি

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২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ (এক হাজার দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র	০৯/০৮/২০১১ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০৯/০৮/২০১১ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কাৰ্যবিনবে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভাটি রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

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