

US eases sanctions on Myanmar

Obama acknowledges progress: sends first US ambassador in 22 years

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday eased its economic sanctions on Myanmar while maintaining a ban on ties with its military.

In a statement issued after the appointment of the first US ambassador to Burma in two decades, President Barack Obama said Myanmar, which was until recently dominated by a notorious military regime, is making progress towards democracy.

"Today, the United States is easing restrictions to allow US companies to responsibly do business in Burma," Obama said.

"President Thein Sein, Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma continue to make significant progress along the path to democracy, and the government has continued to make important economic and political reforms."

The US leader said he remains concerned about the Myanmar army's role in the economy, and warned that sanctions would continue to apply to military-owned firms, human rights abusers and those that trade with North Korea.

"This order is a clear message to Burmese government and military officials: those individu-



Barack Obama Derek Mitchell

als who continue to engage in abusive, corrupt, or destabilizing behavior going forward will not reap the rewards of reform," he said.

But he cited the role of Myanmar leader President Thein Sein and Nobel-prize winning opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in moving the country along the path to full democracy.

Earlier, the new US ambassador to Myanmar, veteran Asian policymaker Derek Mitchell took up his post, met Thein Sein in the capital Naypyidaw.

He arrived days after Suu Kyi, whose pro-democracy struggle saw her locked up for 15 of the last 23 years, made her debut in parliament, lending legitimacy to a body that remains dominated by the army and its allies.

Washington withdrew its ambassador to Myanmar after a crackdown on a pro-democracy uprising in 1988 and elections won by Suu Kyi's party in 1990 that were never recognized by the junta.

But a recent slew of positive changes from Thein Sein's quasi-civilian government, which took power last year, have surprised the West and driven hopes of a democratic future for the country.

Until yesterday's order, US law required the president to restrict imports from Myanmar and banned US investment and financial services to the country.

American businesses were pushing for a relaxation of punitive measures against the impoverished but resource-rich country, which has seen a stampede of high-profile foreign visitors in recent weeks seeking market access.

Myanmar's parliament is currently considering a new investment law and a series of other measures aimed at liberalizing the economy, which was left in tatters by decades of mismanagement, cronyism and isolation under the junta.

Human rights groups have voiced concerns that the oil and gas industry has fueled abuses like

Morsi to respect court

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"There will be consultations with (political) forces and institutions and the supreme council for legal authorities to pave a suitable way out of this," the statement added.

Last week, Morsi ordered parliament to convene in defiance of a military decision to disband the house in line with a court ruling last month, before the generals handed power to the president.

Morsi's decree was applauded by supporters who believed the court's decision to disband parliament was political, but it set off a fire storm of criticism from opponents who accused him of overstepping his authority.

According to the country's interim constitution, drafted by the military generals who took charge after president Hosni Mubarak's overthrow early last year, the military assumed the dissolved parliament's powers.

Morsi's decision was seen as an opening shot in a power struggle between Egypt's first civilian leader and the Mubarak-appointed generals who wanted to retain broad powers even after they transferred control on June 30.

"The battle for power centred on the judiciary," read the headline of independent daily Al-Watan yesterday.

On Sunday, Morsi had ordered parliament back and invited it to convene. Taking its cue from the president, the People's Assembly briefly met on Tuesday to review the court ruling.

According to Morsi's decree, new parliamentary elections are to be held after a constituent assembly picked by the legislature finishes a constitution.

But the assembly's fate is in doubt, with the administrative court deciding yesterday to look into complaints on the panel's legality next Tuesday rather than in September as had been scheduled, the official MENA news agency reported.

Should the court declare the parliament appointed assembly illegal, the military will appoint a new one, as stipulated in its interim constitution.

The origins of the battle for parliament lay in the constitutional declaration issued by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (Scaf), which ruled Egypt during its transition after president Hosni Mubarak was ousted last year.

The declaration, which acts as a temporary constitution until a new one is drafted, granted the military sweeping powers, including legislative control, and rendering the presidential post little more than symbolic.

The SCAF consists of generals appointed by Mubarak, as was the head of the constitutional court which annulled parliament because it found that certain articles of the law governing its selection invalid.

Critics said the decision was politically motivated.

"The constitutional court whose judges were appointed by Mubarak has cancelled the president's decree and restored the field marshal's decree," wrote prominent commentator Alaa al-Aswany, referring to SCAF head Hussein Tantawi.

"The message is clear, the elected president is not to exercise power without the military," he said.

But others saw in Morsi's decree a constitutional coup which showed little regard for the judiciary or democracy.

Thousands of protesters rallied Tuesday evening in Tahrir Square, hub of the 2011 revolution, in support of Morsi and chanting "Down with the military" and other slogans hostile to judges and allegedly anti-Islamist TV anchors.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is due to visit Cairo on Saturday, urged all parties to engage in dialogue.

The Egyptian people should "get what they protested for and what they voted for, which is a fully elected government making

Graphics Arts Institute

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During his testimony on July 10, Shahidul said Mirpur area became enemy-free on January 31, 1972 even though the Pakistani army formally surrendered on December 16, 1971.

"On December 16, 1971, our target was the Graphics Arts Institute [at Mohammadpur in the capital] where intellectuals were taken and tortured and their bodies were thrown to Rayer Bazar killing field," said Shahidul, also chief of Mama Group Guerrilla Bahini.

Replying to a question, Shahidul said they attacked the Arts Institute around 5:00pm on December 16, 1971 and at one stage of the around one-hour-long battle, the Pakistani army retreated. One group of retreating army went to Mohammadpur, while another group went towards Mirpur, he added.

Shahidul, who was also a platoon commander, said when they entered the institute, they did not find any Pakistani army but found clots of blood in several rooms.

"After capturing the institute we heard mourning of people who had lost their near and dear ones. Al Badr [an auxiliary force of Pakistani invaders] took

someone's father or brother and killed them there [Graphics Arts Institute]," said Shahidul.

In the indictment order on May 28, the tribunal said Quader Mollah as the president of Islami Chhatra Sangha (the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami) of Dhaka University's Shahidullah Hall organised formation of Al-Badr with members of the student body.

Ekrumul Huque, defence counsel of Quader Mollah, asked the witness yesterday's last question, "How many times did you go to Mirpur in between December 16, 1971 and January 31, 1972?"

The witness became little emotional and said: "I had gone many times [to Mirpur]. When they [Pakistani army and their collaborators] said that Bangladesh would turn into a part of Pakistan once again, we were not seating idle burning the candles."

In his testimony, Shahidul said in the face of a strong attack on December 16, 1971, the Pakistani army retreated and merged with Biharis (non-Bangalees) in Mohammadpur and Mirpur areas and convinced them that Bangladesh would be annexed to Pakistan.

"We were sharpening our weapons and waiting to get

Quader Mollah and his cohorts and the Pakistani occupation army," said the freedom fighter, adding, "Don't make me excited. When I remember the horrifying memories of the war, I wish I could strangle them!"

During the three-hour-long cross-examination, Ekrumul Huque asked around 80 questions to the witness before the three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir adjourned the case proceeding until today following a time plea of the defence.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Quader Mollah has been indicted on six charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and mass killing. SQCHY'S TRIAL During cross-examination yesterday, the sixth prosecution witness against BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that the Pakistani army did not loot or torch his house.

Witness Nirmal Chandra Sharma said his house was looted a few days after the brutal killing of his family members.

"Our house was looted after the incident but I don't know whether locals did it,"

Nirmal said in response to a question from defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Heena.

The witness on Monday in his deposition had said he witnessed his family members brutally killed in a raid of the Pakistan army, accompanied by Salahuddin Quader, at the Modhya Gohira village in Chittagong on April 13, 1971.

Nirmal lost his mother, brother, two uncles and nephew in the raid while his father Joyonto Kumar Sharma, whose left hand and leg were riddled by bullets, died after suffering for 5-6 years. Nirmal had narrowly escaped bullets when the Pakistani army lined up his family and opened fire on them.

During cross-examination Heena suggested that it was not true that his mother, his uncles, nephew and brother were killed or even his father was injured.

Nirmal said it was not true.

The defence further suggested that Nirmal gave the deposition before the court to get benefits from the government, which the witness denied.

The tribunal yesterday appreciated Heena for wrapping up the cross-examination of the witness 30 minutes ahead of schedule. The tribunal on Tuesday had fixed one and half hours of yesterday for the defence to finish cross-examination.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday fixed July 16 for producing the next prosecution witness. The proceeding of the case would be adjourned until then.

Salahuddin Quader was facing 23 specific charges of crimes against humanity he allegedly committed during the Liberation War.

Women MPs

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Legislators from seven South Asian countries -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- representatives of political parties, civil society, and gender experts, attended the conference.

Participants underlined that women leaders must have access to decision-making positions and a more gender-neutral working environment.

Delegates agreed that more needs to be done to ensure the rights of women in terms of equal representation in politics.

"I hope America will learn lessons from Bangladesh as the country has done much to advance political engagement of women," US Ambassador Dan W Mozena told reporters after the programme yesterday.

Talking about the number of women lawmakers in the US, he said he did not know the exact figure, "but it is fewer than in Bangladesh." Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for women and children affairs, told the conference that women

parliamentarians could play a crucial role in achieving gender-responsive governance.

"Evidence shows participation of women in politics not only develops social policies, services, and women's working conditions but also decreases violence against women," she added.

She called upon legislators to work together and increase women's participation in decision-making positions to ensure gender-responsive governance.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said women in the region were still lagging behind men in the political domain and it should be addressed.

The women parliamentarians at the conference condemned the summary execution of an Afghan woman by the Taliban this week.

Bangladesh lawmaker Ruby Rahman, Simeen Mahmood of Brac University and Hasan Mazumdar, country representative of The Asia Foundation and Justice Fakhar-un-Nisa

No discord

FROM PAGE 1

He said the DCs and police were having an excellent relationship and this can be easily noticed by visiting the officers' clubs in different districts.

In the meeting, The DCs told the PM that non-cooperation of the police had been hampering the efforts to maintain law and order. They alleged they do not get police assistance timely while conducting mobile courts.

HT Imam also claimed that DCs did not face any political pressure while discharging their duties.

"When one is posted as a deputy commissioner s/he knows very well how to work with politicians and others," he told reporters emerging from the DC conference at the Secretariat.

As many DCs raised the

fact that families of bureaucrats face trouble when one dies on duty and demanded allowance for the families, the PM's adviser said the government was mulling group insurance for all civil servants.

About the proposed Civil Service Act, he said the formation of the act was underway. "Once formulated, the act will ensure transparency and accountability of civil servants and bring dynamism in the administration."

He said there were rewarding and scolding systems in police administration for their good and bad performance, but not in the civil administration.

"Hence we are going to establish a mechanism to assess good and bad performance of civil bureaucrats in place of the existing annual



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka, www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd

2nd Corrigendum

of

RAJUK/PD/UAP-IFT No.: 04/2011-2012: Date: 17/05/2012 of Uttara Apartment Project, RAJUK

Following modifications have been made in the Tender Document of IFT No.- 04/2011-2012; Date: 17/05/2012 and subsequent Corrigendum Notice published earlier in 1) The Daily New Age, 2) The Daily Star, 3) The Daily Ittefaq, 4) The Daily Kaler Kantha, 5) The Daily Janakantha, 6) RAJUK Website and 7) CPTU Website in connection with Designing & Construction of 72 Nos. 16-storied building (Type-B, Net 1050sqft.) in/c one basement having 16-storied foundation with one Basement floor in/c parking facilities at Basement and Ground Floors, Internal Sanitary and Plumbing, Water supply, Fire fighting, Gas Connection, internal Electrification works, Supply and Installation of Lift, Sub-station & Standby Generator, construction of Boundary wall, Main Gate, Sewerage System, Internal Roads, and other Ancillary works on Turnkey Basis of Uttara Apartment Project, RAJUK.

| Sl. No. | Reference | Printed in the tender documents/IFT | To be modified as |
|---------|--|--|---|
| 01. | Tender closing date & time (IFT Sl. No.- 18 & 1st Corrigendum TDS Sl. No. ITT 42.1; Pg. No. 32 of Technical Proposal) | 31/07/2012 at 1:00pm | 30/08/2012 at 1:00pm |
| 02. | Date & time of opening tender (IFT Sl. No.- 21 & 1st Corrigendum TDS Sl. No. ITT 48.1; Pg. No. 32 of Technical Proposal) | 31/07/2012 at 2:00pm | 30/08/2012 at 2:00pm |
| 03. | Section-7, General Specification Pg. No. 98 of Technical Proposal 5. Specification for Architectural Design | a) The employer requires that maximum floor area for the tower building should be 7866sqft at each floor having six (6) flats in each floor. Area of each flat will be net 1050sqft. excluding staircases, lobby, common spaces. | a) The employer requires that maximum floor area for the tower building should be as per supplied drawing having six (6) flats in each floor. Area of each flat will be net 1050sqft. excluding staircases, lobby, common spaces. |

All other terms and conditions in the IFT, corrigendum notices & tender documents will remain unchanged minutes of pre-bid meeting held on 09-07-2012 will be part & parcel of the tender.

Engr. Khondker Salahuddin
Chief Engineer
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

GD-2810



Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka

Invitation for Re-Tender (2nd Time)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 01. | Ministry/Division | : Ministry of Education. |
| 02. | Agency | : University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. |
| 03. | Procuring entity name | : Jahangirnagar University. |
| 04. | Procuring entity code | : Not used at present. |
| 05. | Procuring entity district | : Dhaka. |
| 06. | Invitation of work | : Construction of Dean Office for Faculty of Biological Science at JU. |
| 07. | Invitation No. | : 01/2012-2013 |
| 08. | Date | : 08-07-2012 |
| KEY INFORMATION | | |
| 09. | Procuring method | : Open tendering method (OTM). |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | |
| 10. | Budget & source of funds | : University own fund/GOB. |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | |
| 11. | Tender last selling date | : 24-07-2012 (within office hour). |
| 12. | Tender receiving date & time | : 25-07-2012 up to 12:00 noon. |
| 13. | Tender opening date & time | : 25-07-2012 at 12:15pm. |
| 14. | Name & address of the office(s) | |
| | Selling tender document | : Agrani Bank Ltd, Jahangirnagar University Branch, Savar, Dhaka. |
| | Receiving tender document | : 1. Office of the Treasurer, JU, Savar, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Director (P&D), JU, Savar, Dhaka. 3. Office of the University Engineer, JU, Savar, Dhaka. |
| | Opening tender document | : Office of the Treasurer, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka. |
| 15. | Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting | : Not to be held. |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | |
| 16. | Eligibility of tenderer | : a) The tenderer should have experience in construction work for at least 5 years. b) Experience of similar nature of works (1-storied pointed brick bearing/frame structure building) in a single amounting equal to 50% of quoted amount in any govt./semi govt./autonomous organisation during last 10 years and to be supported by the following documents from the employer (certificate in this regard issued from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer). (i) Work order. (ii) Completion certificate of said work. c) Average annual turnover of Tk 30.00 lac only for last five years. d) Minimum liquid asset of Tk 15.00 lac. e) Minimum tender capacity of equal to his/her quoted amount. f) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate. g) Vat registration certificate. h) Trade licence. i) Satisfying all other conditions laid down in the tender document. |
| 17. | Price of tender document (Tk) | : Lot No. 1: Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only. |
| 18. | Lot No. | Identification of work Location Tender security Time for completion of work |
| | 1 | Construction of Dean Office for Faculty of Biological Science at JU Jahangirnagar University 1,50,000/- 270 days |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | |
| 19. | Name of the official inviting tender | : Akhter Hussain. |
| 20. | Designation of the official inviting tender | : University Engineer (Acting). |
| 21. | Address of the official inviting tender | : Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka. |
| 22. | Contact details of the official inviting tender | : PABX: 7791001-30, 7791045-51, Extn. 1218 |
| 23. | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. | |
| 24. | Special instruction: If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/opened on the next working date in the same time & same venue. | |

GD-2790