

Obama presents \$450m plan to fund Colombia peace

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama announced a \$450 million plan to fund Colombia's peace process on Thursday, shaking up a controversial military aid program that defined relations for 15 years.

Hosting President Juan Manuel Santos at the White House, Obama said that as the country's 50-year conflict with leftist FARC guerrillas winds down it was time to rethink "Plan Colombia."

"A country that was on the brink of collapse is now on the brink of peace," Obama said, expressing optimism that an agreement can soon be reached.

A March 23 deadline has been set for the peace talks to conclude, designed to bring to an end a conflict which has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced six million.

Over the last decade and a half, Plan Colombia caused billions of dollars' worth of military aid to flow to Colombia's security services, fortifying the state against well-armed and well-funded drug cartels and rebel groups, chief among them the FARC.

Attack on the press

FROM PAGE 1

development of the mass media.

Besides enacting the Right to Information law, the government has been extending all-out cooperation so that the media can run independently. But independence does not mean doing whatever one wishes, he said.

"So you will have to be cautious in discharging your duties. You will have to exercise self-censorship. You will remain alert so that no one from outside can interfere in the mass media."

Underscoring the importance of newspapers, the president said during the Pakistan period, newspapers courageously stood against the West Pakistani rulers' oppression of the Bangali people, asserting the common man's demand for the right to freedom.

"During the Liberation War, the international media were instrumental in creating global public opinion in favour of the cause of our freedom struggle. After independence, newspapers devoted their creative energy to the rebuilding of the war-torn nation."

Most newspapers have maintained a secular and democratic stance and played a patriotic role at various critical junctures for the country, he said.

Newspapers voiced the woes of downtrodden people of the society for establishing their rights. "Their intellectual input to planning and implementation of various development policies such as women's empowerment, poverty reduction, and urban and rural development is well-recognised," said the president.

Hamid said English language dailies have a special place in the media scene, as they have connected Bangladesh to the global audience and brightened the image of the country by highlighting its successes.

Among them, The Daily Star deserves a special mention, he said.

Besides publishing news and opinions, The Daily Star is very committed to social causes such as tackling climate change, saving rivers and the environment, protecting the rights of children and women, and various development issues.

The president applauded the daily's initiative to honour distinguished people from different fields every year in recognition of their achievements in their respective fields. He also praised the newspaper for awarding top performing students of O- and A-level to encourage them to contribute to the country's advancement.

He hoped that The Daily Star would continue such efforts.

Hamid said the media should

have the courage to call a spade a spade, which can take a journalist to the peak of his professional excellence.

"You will criticise the government and also me. However, you have to keep in mind that it should be based on facts. It should not be biased in any way. Constructive criticism can play an important role in making the right decision for running the government and building the nation."

On terrorism and militancy, he said these issues are not confined to the boundaries of any country. They are global phenomena now. "The mass media will have to equip itself with latest technology to resist and unearth various technology-based organised crimes at local and international levels..."

Hamid said the media would have to play an active role so that no one could do anything evil by misusing religion. At this moment, the media, especially newspapers, must work together to fight extremism and terrorist activities.

He said Bangladesh is a land of religious harmony and "we will never compromise with this tradition".

Responsible and professional practice of the press serves people with correct information and helps them enhance their knowledge and awareness, added the president.

OC closed

FROM PAGE 16

Niazuddin Mollah, Assistant Sub-Inspector Jogendranath and Constable Jashim Uddin.

On the same day, the tea vendor, Babul Matabbar, died of burns at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he fell on a kerosene stove on Wednesday night.

He had been pushed by a police informant who was accompanied by some cops out to pick him up from Mirpur.

Babul's son Raju alleged that the policemen did not even help him take his critically burnt father to a hospital.

The police role in the incident has been criticised by different quarters including in parliament.

A section of cops are getting involved in criminal offences despite repeated warnings of stern action from the police high-ups.

At least 20 police personnel, from constables to OC, were suspended or closed for their alleged involvement in mugging, torturing and harassing common people in last one month alone, according to The Daily Star reports.

Rainforest

FROM PAGE 16

published in the journal Nature.

The international team of scientists compiled data from almost 1,500 plots at 45 sites across the Neotropics, which covers southern and central America, allowing them to produce map highlighting the carbon sequestration potential of areas across the Neotropics.

New growth, or secondary, forests grow as a result of a major clearing of old-growth vegetation. The clearing could be the result of a natural event, such as a fire, or as a result of human activity, such as logging or farming.

In order to maximise access to sunlight, nutrients and water, new trees grow quickly. This means the plants sequester a much greater amount of carbon from the atmosphere, which it uses as part of the photosynthesis process that uses sunlight to produce the sugars the plant needs to grow.

The team found that in optimum conditions, new-growth vegetation could sequester up to 11 times as much carbon as old-growth forests.

Co-author Lourens Poorter from Wageningen University, The Netherlands, told the Nature podcast that while it was important to halt deforestation, it was also important to recognise the role of secondary forests in a climate mitigation context.

"There is a potential for forests to regrow," he said. "You can either do that actively by planting but it can also be done passively (via natural regrowth)."

"What we have tried to do in this study is to get a comprehensive picture of how fast this recovery is in terms of biomass. If you have abandoned areas that have been used for agriculture, how fast do the forests regrow naturally and how much biomass has been taken up - we call that the recovery or resilience of biomass."

CEC, 6 others sued

FROM PAGE 16

Commissioner Abu Hena Morshed, Returning Officer (RO) Rafiqul Islam, Narsingdi Sadar Election Officer Nazrul Islam, Presiding Officer Joynal Abedin, Madhabdi Ward-4 Councillor Sheikh Farid and another defeated candidate Islamil Hossain.

According to the case statement, the RO suspended voting at all the nine polling centres at Madhabdi municipality on December 30 after the men of Farid and Ismail attacked one of the centres at Fazlul Haque Kindergarten, said Mohammad Shahiduzzaman, an inspector of the Narsingdi court.

Later, the authorities set January 12 for re-voting.

Obaidur, Farid and Ismail were contesting for councillor post with "water bottle", "ostrich" and "panjabi" electoral symbols.

During the re-voting, the plaintiff said, Farid along with his men again stormed a polling booth and stuffed ballot boxes.

Obaidul filed the case in connection with this incident.

The total number of voters at the centre was 2,907. Farid "bagged" 1,404 votes while Obaidul 815.

Obaidul alleged that the RO did not take any steps despite being informed about the "irregularities".

He demanded another re-election at the municipality.

Contacted, Narsingdi Election Officer Rafiqul Islam said, "Anyone can file a case over irregularities during polls. But, I haven't received any documents on any case yet."

Two 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 16

Rubel Mia, 24, son of Nurul Islam of Tebaria village in Debidwar upazila.

The injured, Nayeem Mia, 25, of Belashahar village in Chandina municipality, is undergoing treatment at Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Police said a gang was trying to rob passengers in a CNG-run autorickshaw by blocking Madhaiya-Nawabpur road in Ranichar village around 3:45am.

As the passengers screamed, locals rushed to the spot and caught three of the gang and beat them up, added police.

On information, police came to the spot and rescued the trio in a critical condition.

The three were taken to Chandina Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared Solaiman and Rubel dead. The bodies were sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Sub-Inspector Sajedul Alam of Chandina Police Station said Solaiman stood accused in a robbery case.

IS sending

FROM PAGE 16

Maassen, however, warned against alarm. "We are in a serious situation and there is a high risk that there could be an attack. But the security agencies, the intelligence services and the police authorities are very alert and our goal is to minimise the risk as best we can," he said.

A US intelligence report revealed by the White House on Thursday said Islamic State has as many as 25,000 fighters in Syria and Iraq, down from a previous estimate of up to 31,000.

US officials cited factors such as battlefield casualties and desertions to explain the roughly 20 percent decrease in fighters, and said the report showed a US-led campaign to crush Islamic State was making progress.

The new intelligence estimate "means they continue to be a substantial threat, but the potential numbers have declined," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

"ISIS has sustained significant casualties," Earnest said.

Ground fighting efforts by coalition partners of the United States are having an effect in the conflict against Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, he said.

US-backed Iraqi security forces and tribal militias and moderate opposition groups in Syria have contributed. So too has a US-led air campaign that has launched more than 10,000 strikes against the Islamist extremists, Earnest said.

Finally, international efforts are beginning to stem the flow of foreigners seeking to join the movement.

"ISIL is having more difficulty than they've had before in replenishing their ranks, and we have long been aware of the need of the international community to cooperate to stop the flow of foreign fighters to the region," said Earnest.

The new intelligence report of 19,000-25,000 Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria compares to 2014 estimates of 20,000-31,000 fighters.

S Asian art extravaganza

FROM PAGE 3

ceremony as special guests. Nadia Samdani, president and co-founder of SAF, Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA, and Farooq Sobhan, chairman of DAS Organising Committee, spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

"At present, this is the best and the largest art summit of Asia for which we can take pride in. I am sincerely thanking Nadia Samdani and Rajeb Samdani for the great initiative... We, from the government side, will continue to support it all the way," said Muhith.

The civil aviation and tourism ministry has started a campaign called "Visit Bangladesh 2016", as the Bangladesh government marks 2016 as the year of tourism.

"Through showcasing of art and its diverse facets in this platform, Bangladeshi art will reach the international arena, enhancing the country's image. I hope the number of foreign tourists will be doubled in the 2018 summit," said Menon.

"Many enigmatic things happen around us and we exactly don't know the reasons of those like why the clouds roam around over the sky, why the windy waves sweep over the corn fields, and why a mother pours all her affection to her newborn baby. Imageries like these evoke pure joy and a sense of beauty in our hearts. This inexplicable yet easily communicable feeling helps us understand art," said Asaduzzaman Noor.

He thanked the Samdanis, saying, "DAS is offering a unique opportunity for artistic exchange and interaction

between our artists and the artists of the world. I think this exchange will help our arts and artists reach beyond the border."

"To develop DAS as a research platform, we invited curators from different institutions like Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou, the Guggenheim, and the Kunsthalle Zürich to extend their research deeper into South Asia. Works from the National Gallery archive, National Museum of Bangladesh, and various private collections are also on display at the exhibition," said Nadia Samdani.

Over 600 global art connoisseurs, curators, researchers, critics, lovers and above all mere enthusiasts are attending the third successive edition of DAS, which is featuring nearly 300 leading artists, curators, and writers from across South Asia and the world.

The six curated exhibitions include 17 "Solo Projects", curated by the SAF's artistic director Diana Campbell Betancourt, "Rewind" (highlighting 12 South Asian master artists active before the 1980s), "The Missing One", curated by Nada Raza, "Mining Warm Data", curated by Diana Campbell Betancourt, "Architecture in Bangladesh", curated by Aurlien Lemonier, "Performance Pavilion: Shifting Sands Sifting Hands", curated by Nikhil Chopra, Madhavi Gore and Jana Prepeluh, and "Soul Searching", curated by Md Muniruzzaman.

Eleven Bangladeshi galleries also have presentations at the summit.

Creative Bangladesh



Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Segunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka- 1000

17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2016
Logo & Poster Design Competition

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy announces for a competition to design logo and poster of the 17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2016 going to be held on 1-31 December 2016.

Interested artists and designers are requested to collect the logo rules and regulations from the academy and submit their best output with an application and biography within 25 February 2016 at 5 pm to the office of the

Director, Fine Arts Department
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha, Ramna, Dhaka - 1000. Phone: +88029585440; +8801731266286; Email: asianart.biennalebd2016@yahoo.com; asianart.biennale.bd@gmail.com

Liaquat Ali Lucky
Director General
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
GD-357

Yunus urges global unity

FROM PAGE 1

"If the wealth concentration within and among nations becomes acute, then social, political and economic compulsions for armed conflicts will become imminent," he said while giving a lecture on "Can Wealth Concentration Be Stopped?"

Prof Yunus founded Grameen Bank three decades ago in order to provide collateral-free loans to people who had been shunned by traditional financial institutions.

He said the problem of wealth concentration was ever-expanding gap in private wealth.

Quoting figures from the UK-based international charity, Oxfam, Prof Yunus said 62 richest people owned more wealth than that by the bottom half of the world population.

Between 2009 and 2014, the wealth of 80 richest people doubled, he said, adding that during the current year, Oxfam forecast the richest 1 percent of the world would own 99 percent of the world's wealth.

"That means 99 percent of the people will be left with only 1 percent of the wealth. This information is so unbelievable that it takes time to absorb."

The Peace Prize laureate said concentration of wealth also meant concentration of power -- political and social -- and privileges and opportunities.

"The reverse is also true. If you don't have any wealth, you have no power, no privileges, and no opportunities."

Prof Yunus blamed the present economic system for the concentration of wealth, saying the current economic system was biased to the richest.

He mentioned he was not saying that the richest people are necessarily bad people, but it was the system which worked for the rich.

Prof Yunus said the outcome of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference in December, which saw nearly 200 countries striking a landmark deal to agree for the first time to take action to curb greenhouse gas emissions, inspired him to think of an idea to launch a global fight against wealth concentration.

"If the collective efforts of citizens led by committed group of scientists and activists from all sections of society could make us aware of climate danger, I believe by following the same roadmap we can galvanise forces to protect humanity from the danger of its destruction through ever-intensifying

wealth-concentration.

"Now I feel confident that wealth explosion can be arrested."

He said people at the top from whom governments are supposed to collect heavy taxes are politically very powerful. "They use their disproportionate influence on the governments to restrain them from taking any meaningful step against their interest."

In recent years, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and other bilateral donors were promoting inclusive finance, he added.

"If anybody aims at inclusiveness in banking with any seriousness, definitely it can not be achieved through conventional financial institutions. These financial institutions are built on principles and mode of operation which promote financial exclusion."

"If we wish to reach the poor, we need to build separate institutions with completely different architecture."

He said Grameen Bank's microcredit idea flourished globally because NGOs took it up. But NGOs are not the answer to fill the vacuum left by existing financial institutions.

"I have been arguing that one easy way would be to give banking licenses, with some restrictions, to the microcredit NGOs, to operate as banks and take deposits, so that they can become self-reliant institutions."

Prof Yunus said he was very happy to see the Reserve Bank of India issuing licenses to microcredit NGOs to become microcredit banks.

He said existing financial institutions had to be redesigned to make sure they could not remain to be the facilitating vehicle for wealth concentration.

"We need to build an entirely new set of financial institutions to deliver all financial services to the poor."

These exclusive institutions should be designed as social business rather than allowing them to become instruments of personal profit making for the rich, he said.

"Whenever people look for ways to bring down the wealth-gap, they will find social business as a very powerful tool to make it happen. Social business will slow down the process of accumulation at the top while people at the bottom will build up their asset base and retain whatever they earn."

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১।	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল ক্যাডেট কোর অধিদপ্তর।
২।	দরপত্র আহবান	ঃ	মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল ক্যাডেট কোর অধিদপ্তর।
৩।	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
৪।	তহবিল	ঃ	রাজস্ব ব্যয়।
৫।	দরপত্র আহবানের নম্বর ও তারিখ	ঃ	স্মারক নং ৩১০০/৮/১৯১/অর্ডা; তারিখ ০৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৬।
৬।	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	ঃ	পিপিআর ২০০৮/২০১০ এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য প্রণীত দরপত্র দলিলের বর্ণনামুযায়ী।
৭।	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয় স্থান	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল ক্যাডেট কোর অধিদপ্তর, ৩২, ঈশা খাঁ এ্যাভিনিউ, সেক্টর-৬, উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা।
৮।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	ঃ	তারিখঃ ১৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত।
৯।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	তারিখঃ ১৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৬ দুপুর ১৩০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল ক্যাডেট কোর অধিদপ্তর, ৩২, ঈশা খাঁ এ্যাভিনিউ, সেক্টর-৬, উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা।
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১৩।	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ	ঃ	

ক্রমিক	দ্রব্যের বিবরণ	মন্তব্য
১।	কম্পিউটার ও অন্যান্য দ্রব্য সামগ্রী	দ্রব্য সামগ্রীর বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
২।	স্টেশনারী দ্রব্য সামগ্রী	
৩।	ব্যয়িতব্য/স্যানিটারী দ্রব্য সামগ্রী	

১৪। শর্তাবলীঃ

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- ২। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিএনসিসি অধিদপ্তর হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
- ৩। দরপত্রের সাথে নমুনা (Sample) দাখিল করতে হবে। নমুনা ব্যতীত দরপত্র বিবেচনায় নেয়া যাবে না।
- ৪। দরপত্র খোলার সময় দরপত্রদাতা/প্রতিনিধিগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
- ৫। দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের সময় মহাপরিচালক, বিএনসিসি বরাবর দরপত্রের উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৩% হারে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (ফেরতযোগ্য) আনুষ্ঠানিক হিসাবে জমা দিতে হবে।
- ৬। নির্বাচিত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির পূর্বেই উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% হারে সিকিউরিটি মানি, মহাপরিচালক, বিএনসিসি এর বরাবর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে পারফরম্যান্স গ্যারান্টি হিসেবে জমা দিতে হবে।
- ৭। দ্রব্য সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের পরিমাণ সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দ্রব্যের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি বা হ্রাস করতে পারবেন।
- ৮। কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বদা দরপত্র গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহেন। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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জিডি-৩৬১

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University of Dhaka: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up one permanent post of Professor in the Department of Management at the pay scale of Tk. 56,500-74,400/-

Qualifications: Candidates must be distinguished scholars preferably with a PhD or equivalent degree in Management. They should have at least 12 (twelve) years teaching and research experience in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognised research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of university activities especially in guiding the overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification. In special cases the condition of period of experience may be relaxed.

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 22.03.2016. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

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