

Nepal debates whether it needs a king

AP, Kathmandu

As violence and protests mount against Nepal's monarchy, the streets of this crowded capital city are resounding with a question: Does this Himalayan kingdom still need a king?

One year after King Gyanendra dismissed Nepal's elected government and seized total power, the monarch of this beautiful but desperately poor country appears increasingly isolated, helpless as protesters against his rule fill the streets of Kathmandu and the death toll mounts from a Maoist insurgency.

Protests against the monarch have escalated in recent weeks. On Monday, unfazed by the heavy deployment of soldiers on the streets, hundreds of students burned an effigy of the king and shouted "Gyanendra, you thief, leave the throne!"

The king has not publicly commented on the demonstrations, but analysts say his response has been to resort to heavy-handed methods that many people feared he would employ when he suddenly assumed the throne nearly five years ago.

Last February, Gyanendra took absolute control of Nepal, dismissing

the elected interim government that shared power with him and declaring a state of emergency. He put Nepal into virtual lockdown: cutting phone lines, enforcing strict censorship and suspending many civil liberties. Dozens of politicians, student leaders and activists were detained.

Now rising anger against him fuels the debate over what role he should play in this country of 26 million people.

On one side are the Maoist rebels, who want the monarchy abolished. Opposing them are royalists who remain deeply loyal to the king.

In between is a vast middle ground. "They say you can't have two swords in one scabbard, but in this case Nepal needs both the king and the political parties," says Jyoti Prasad Shrestha, leader of the National Democratic Party and a veteran politician.

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Amar Raj Kaini, a senior leader of the Nepali Congress (Democratic

Party, agrees but only partly.

"Yes, the king has a role. We need him to resolve the current flux in the political situation, but we also believe there is no alternative to democracy," says Kaini, a former school headmaster who spent three years in prison for his political beliefs.

Gyanendra's unexpected ascent came from tragedy. In 2001 his brother, King Birendra, was gunned down with much of his family in a palace massacre apparently committed by Birendra's son, the crown prince, who also died.

Gyanendra's troubled inheritance was a number nation traumatized by the incomprehensible royal murders, an ineffective, squabbling political class and a countryside wracked by a violent Maoist insurgency.

Every day, the debate over the king spills into Kathmandu's streets.

"The king's rule is no different from the days of the political parties. If anything, things have worsened. All these days of strikes and streets being closed for protests, no one cares for the common man," says Upendra Dhital, a shopkeeper watching protesters burn tires on the road in front of his Katmandu stationery shop.

Fruit, vegetables cut stroke risk: Study

REUTERS, London

Eating more than the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day can further reduce the odds of suffering a stroke, researchers said yesterday.

An analysis of eight studies that looked into the impact of fruit and vegetables on stroke showed that the more healthy foods people consumed, the less likely they were to have a stroke, which is a leading cause of disability and death.

"For the first time we have shown a quantitative relationship between fruit and vegetable consumption and stroke," said Professor Graham MacGregor of St George's medical school at the University of London.

"It has been known that fruit and vegetables seem to reduce stroke but it wasn't known how much they did it by," he added in an interview.

In the analysis of research involving more than 257,500 people from Japan, Europe and the United States, the scientists found that people who ate more than five servings of fruit and vegetables a day had a 26 percent reduction in stroke compared to individuals who consumed less than three servings daily.

"It is a very important finding because it really shows that the quantity of fruit and vegetables you should be eating is more than five a day," MacGregor said.

The average fruit and vegetable consumption a day in most developed countries is 3-5 servings. A serving of vegetables is 77 grams and 80 grams for fruit, according to MacGregor and his team.

INCREASED POTASSIUM
Strokes are caused by a blockage in an artery leading to the brain or bleeding in or around the brain. About 17 million people die each year of cardiovascular diseases,

particularly heart attacks and strokes. High blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, raised cholesterol, obesity and lack of exercise are risk factors.

Fruit and vegetables are full of nutrients such as vitamin C, beta carotene and potassium as well as plant proteins and dietary fibre.

The researchers suspect that potassium is an important factor in preventing stroke.

"We've known that if you give people additional potassium it lowers blood pressure," said MacGregor, who reported the research in The Lancet medical journal.

70 countries to meet in London to renew Afghan support

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's international partners gather in London next week to renew their support for the strategic but destitute country as it battles an insurgency, drugs and corruption following 25 years of war.

The country last year completed a political transition with the first full parliamentary elections in around three decades, made possible following the ouster of the hardline Taliban regime in a US-led operation in 2001.

The January 31-February 1 conference will push the process to a new level, maintaining pressure on donors while reassuring Afghanistan that its "special relationship with the international community will remain strong," according to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

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জিটি-১৫৫

"বিন্যতের আলোর ছটায় বিদ্যা শিকার বিতার ঘটায়"

Invitation for Bids

Invitation No. 85
Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh
Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy development Project
PROCUREMENT OF SUB-STATION EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES
IDA Credit No. 3679 BD

- This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 580 (Vol.25) of 16 April 2002.
- The Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of Sub-Station Equipment & Accessories.
- Director, Procurement, Rural Electrification Board, Bangladesh now invites sealed bids under "slice and packages" from eligible bidders for supply of as follows:

Item	Bid Package No.	Sub-Package No.
Sub-station Switches & Fuse	G-10C	2.12G-10.23
Power Transformer		2.15G-10.24
Power Transformer		2.15G-10.25
Automatic Voltage Regulator		2.15G-10.26
3-Phase ACR (33 KV)		2.18G-10.27

A bidder may submit bid for one or more sub-packages.

- Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, revised 1999 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director, Procurement, Rural Electrification Board, Bangladesh and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours on working days.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Tk. 3000.00 or in US\$ 50.00. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order or Direct Deposit to Account No.STD-14, Janata Bank, REB Branch, Dhaka. The document will be sent by airmail for overseas delivery and courier or surface mail for local delivery. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing any international courier service to collect the same from Rural Electrification Board, Bangladesh
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 13th March, 2006. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than an amount as follows or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

Sub-Package No.	Minimum bid security amount (US\$)
2.12G-10.23	7,800.00
2.15G-10.24	7,700.00
2.15G-10.25	4,500.00
2.15G-10.26	4,000.00
2.18G-10.27	5,000.00

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 12:30 p.m. on 13th March, 2006.

- World Bank Fund (IDA Credit No. 3679 BD) for goods is expected for this bid. Contract Agreement will be made subject to release of the World Bank Fund.

Director, Procurement
Rural Electrification Board
Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh
Telephone : 891 64 20, 891 64 24 - 28/113
Fax: 891 64 20, 891 64 00, 891 93 93
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
Power Division
Power Cell
Biddut Bhaban (10th Level)
1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
Ph: 9551261, Fax: 7172729

Memo No. PC/03/078D/1079 Date: January 25, 2006
Sub: Addendum to the Pre-qualification (PQ) Documents for Selection of Bidders to Develop 10-30 MW±10% Natural Gas Fired Power Plants on Build, Own & Operate (BOO) Basis.

With reference to the abovementioned Pre-qualification (PQ) documents, it is to be noted that Applicants who has previous experience of working as local associate with foreign companies in the development of at least 1 (one) power plant having capacity of 100 MW or more and having reliable operating history of at least 2 (two) years, may participate in the abovementioned pre-qualification process in any capacity of power plant (10 MW/20 MW/30 MW). The closing date for submission of completed Qualification Statements shall be rescheduled at 1300 hours BST (Bangladesh Standard Time) on February 02, 2006 instead of January 29, 2006 due to the Akher Monajat of holy Biswa Ijtema on the same day.

Director General
Power Cell

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি
DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH

BIRDEM
An enterprise of
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(DAB)
Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000

01.	Tender Nos.	i) DAB/P(F)/115/2005-2006 dated 28 January 2006 ii) DAB/P(F)/127/2005-2006 -ditto- iii) DAB/P(F)/128/2005-2006 -ditto-
02.	Nomenclature of Tenders	i) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of the Vitreo Retinal (VR) Microscope and VR Machine ii) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of the Clinical Laboratory Equipment iii) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of the Ultrasonogram Machine
03.	Eligibility of Tenderers	Reputed, Bonafide, Experienced Manufacturers/ Suppliers/ Accredited agents, & General Trading Firms.
04.	Price of Tender Documents (in Taka) Non-Refundable	i) DAB/P(F)/115/2005-2006; Taka Five Thousand (5,000.00) only ii) DAB/P(F)/127/2005-2006; Taka Four Thousand Five Hundred (4,500.00) only iii) DAB/P(F)/128/2005-2006; Taka One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500.00) only.

APPLICABLE FOR ALL TENDERS

05.	Amount of Tender Security	Two percent (2%) of the quoted value
06.	Name and address of the office of selling tender documents	Office of Cash Accounts Officer Room # 208 1 st floor of O. P. D Building, BIRDEM.
07.	Name and address of the office receiving/ opening tenders	Office of the Director, Procurement, 4 th Floor of DAB Secretariat.
08.	Start date & time of selling tenders	29 January 2006 (from 9.00 a. m to 12.00 hours/noon)
09.	Last date and time of selling tenders	11 March 2006 upto 12.00 hours/noon
10.	Last date and time for submission of tenders	Upto 12 March 2006. During 9.00 a. m to 12.00 hours/noon
11.	Date and time of opening of tenders.	At 12.30 hours/noon on 12 March 2006 Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives may remain present during opening of tenders.
12.	Right of Procuring Entity	The Authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject the whole tender or any part of it or annul the tendering process without having any obligation to assign or communicate reasons thereof whatsoever and without any financial implications thereto.

Sajjad Hussain Khan
Director, Procurement