

International

'US may review ban on DPRK if ties between Koreans improve'

SEOUL, Jun 1: South Korean President Kim Dae-jung hinted in an interview published today that US sanctions against Stalinist North Korea may be reviewed if tense relations between the rival Koreas improve, reports AP.

Seoul and Washington would work together to press the North towards reform and openness, Kim said ahead of his maiden summit with President Bill Clinton during a visit to the United States later this week.

Stressing that improved ties between the Koreas were key to easing tension between Washington and Pyongyang, Kim also called for firmer US backing for South Korea as it weathers an unprecedented economic storm.

"I want to discuss with US leaders ways to encourage North Korea to join programmes for reconciliation, exchange and cooperation between the North and the South by seeking inter-Korean dialogue and the progress of four-party peace talks (the two Koreas, the United States and China)," Kim told the English-language Korea Times.

"What is even more important for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula is to improve relations between the

South and the North," he said. "(South) Korea and the United States broadly concur on this point... (and) share the view that the improvement of US-North Korean relations, including US economic sanctions against North Korea, should be examined in harmony with the progress of inter-Korean relations."

The South Korean leader is scheduled to leave here June 6 for an eight-day trip to the United States, during which he will visit New York, Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

While underscoring the importance of the US-Korean security pact, with 37,000 US soldiers stationed here in the absence of a formal peace between the once-warring Koreas, Kim also urged the creation of a Northeast Asian regional security system.

He said a regional system would complement the existing arrangement and "contribute to promoting peace and stability" in the region harbouring the last great Cold War outpost.

"To maintain smooth relations with our largest trading partner, the US, is vital to the recovery of the Korean economy," he said.

India planning another round of N-tests: Pak FM  
Pakistan developing long-range missile to carry N-warheads

ISLAMABAD, Jun 1: Pakistan is developing a new long-range missile to carry nuclear warheads and is capable of building nuclear weapons "within days", the country's leading scientists said, reports AFP.

Dr Samar Mobarik Mand, the head of Pakistan's missile programme, said the *Shaheen II* (Eagle) missile with a range of 2,000 km would be ready for a test flight within a year.

Mand also told today's edition of the *Nation* daily that Pakistan had the technology to manufacture nuclear weapons "within days" and that the *Ghauri* missile was ready to go into mass production.

India's live nuclear tests on May 11 and May 13 followed by Pakistan's six blasts two weeks later have fuelled widespread international concern of a dangerous arms race between the two countries.

The tests were met with massive worldwide condemnation and punitive sanctions on both countries from the United States, Japan and several other

countries. Pakistan tested the 1,500km *Ghauri* missile on April 6, the first salvo in an arms race with India that culminated with last month's nuclear tests by both countries.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the scientist who oversaw the six nuclear tests at the Changhri range in Baluchistan, said Sunday that Pakistan's missile capability was more "efficient and reliable" than India's.

Khan said late Sunday that Pakistan had the technology to manufacture nuclear weapons "within days" and that the *Ghauri* missile was ready to go into mass production.

India's live nuclear tests on May 11 and May 13 followed by Pakistan's six blasts two weeks later have fuelled widespread international concern of a dangerous arms race between the two countries.

The tests were met with massive worldwide condemnation and punitive sanctions on both countries from the United States, Japan and several other

countries. Earlier reports from Washington says, Pakistan's foreign minister claimed on US television Sunday that India was planning another round of nuclear tests — a charge that India's US ambassador flatly denied.

Speaking on CNN, Pakistan's foreign Minister Goher Ayub Khan said new tests were planned "in the first or second week of July."

But on the same news programme moments later, India's ambassador to Washington Naresh Chandra denied that additional tests were in the works.

"I find it incredible," Naresh Chandra said. "This information is obviously a pure concoction."

In New Delhi, an Indian government spokesman told AFP: "This is absolutely fictitious. We are surprised by the charge, as India has already declared a moratorium" on future tests.

Khan told CNN he had "credible information" that additional testing is planned by Delhi.

"For the last year and a quarter, we've been informing everybody that there's an arms race which will lead to nuclear conflagration here, and confrontation, and nuclear build-up — but nobody listened," he said, adding: "It is only after the bang that they woke up."

The minister told CNN that Islamabad is seeking mediation by the United States and the United Nations to help end its escalating nuclear arms race with India — and in the hope of quelling rising tensions over the long-disputed region of Kashmir.

"We have asked the Secretary General of the UN to sit with US and have the Indians there to solve the Kashmir problem. We have asked (US President Bill) Clinton also," Khan said.

Clinton "should bring Pakistan and India to the table to solve the Kashmir dispute, from which everything is now stemming," he said.

ILO confce on child labour begins in Geneva today

GENEVA, June 1: Hundreds of children from all over the world will symbolically kick off the annual conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tuesday in the hope of seeing a convention on child labour, reports AFP.

The children arrived here at the weekend after marching from Asia, Africa and Latin America for the opening of the three-week ILO meeting, where representatives of 171 governments, along with workers and employers, will discuss a draft convention.

The ILO secretariat reckons that some 250 million children work worldwide, 61 per cent of them in Asia, 32 per cent in Africa and seven per cent in Latin America. The size of the problem and the relative failure of existing legislation has convinced a growing number of countries that more limited and realistic objectives must be sought than a total ban on child labour.

The draft convention singles out slavery, trafficking, prostitution and particularly dangerous work in mines, plantations and certain industries.

"The recommendations will involve each country establishing national action plans," said

the head of the secretariat, Jichael Hansanne. "Also — and this is the major element — we will have monitoring mechanisms. They will be accountable to international opinion for their undertakings."

More than 100 countries have declared their support for the convention. If agreement is reached in Geneva, the definitive pact should be approved next year.

The second main item on the agenda is a pledge by all countries to respect the fundamental rights of workers in the context of economic globalisation.

The project follows the rejection by the World Trade Organization in Singapore in 1996 after a divisive debate of a "social clause" which would have laid countries violating basic workers' rights open to sanctions.

The Geneva declaration is a compromise. It contains a clause to the effect that it will not be used by the rich countries of the north to support protectionist measures against the cheaper labour of the south.

Conversely, developing countries will have to respect the basic principles of the ITO contained in seven major conventions ratified by just 35 countries.

Japanese coalition splits

TOKYO, Jun 1: Japan's four-year ruling coalition broke up today when two allied parties cut ties with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), officials said, reports AFP.

The break-up leaves the LDP without a majority in the upper house, but it retained its dominance in the more powerful lower house.

During a meeting of leaders of the three allied parties, Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), told Hashimoto her party would quit the ruling camp, party officials said.

"She has just told (the premier) of our intention," an SDP official said. Hashimoto accepted immediately, LDP officials said.

Masayoshi Takemura, chairman of the minor New Party Sakigake, announced it was also leaving, a Sakigake Party official said.

The SDP and Sakigake, while holding no Cabinet posts in the government, had pledged to support the LDP in parliament as part of a coalition.

After the meeting, Hashimoto told reporters: "There was a friendly atmosphere."

Asked if there was any friction, he replied, "How could there be?"

Meanwhile, two-thirds of Japan's voters distrust their politicians, according to a survey published today ahead of upper house elections next month.

The daily Asahi Shimbun's poll of 2,243 people in mid-May found 67 per cent of respondents replied "no", when asked whether they trust politicians. Just 31 per cent said "yes" and two per cent gave no answer.

Distrust has grown since the newspaper first put the question to voters in May 1994, at that time, 61 per cent said they distrusted politicians compared to 36 per cent who said they did not.

In the latest survey, those aged in their late 20s were the most disaffected, with 82 per cent saying they distrusted politicians, according to the newspaper.

Dislike of lawmakers was

evident in the survey, involving random interviews across the country, some 45 per cent believed politicians were "unreliable," 13 per cent "conning," seven per cent "arrogant" and 10 per cent "money-spinning."

On the plus side, seven per cent said politicians were "Active," five per cent "reliable," three per cent "dedicated" and four per cent said they had "strong beliefs."

Six per cent gave no answer. The ratio of those saying they felt politicians were "unreliable" was sharply up from 38 per cent in a similar poll in 1993.

Indian heat wave death toll now 800

NEW DELHI, Jun 1: An unrelenting heat wave swept India on Sunday as 100 more people died, raising the death toll to more than 800 so far this summer, Press Trust of India news agency said, reports AP.

Day temperatures hovered around 42-48 Celsius in several parts of the country. The first showers of the monsoon rains are expected to hit the southern tip of the country in the coastal Kerala state any time now, meteorological officials said.

Hijacker of Pak airliner tries to hang himself

KARACHI, Jun 1: One of the hijackers of a Pakistani airliner tried to hang himself in a detention cell in the city of Hyderabad, police said today, reports AP.

Guards overpowered Sabir Ali, 24, after he attempted to hang himself using the cloth belt from his trousers late Sunday, a police official said.

"He is all right and we have tightened security," police inspector Umed Ali Solangi told AFP by telephone from Hyderabad, 160 kms northeast of Karachi.

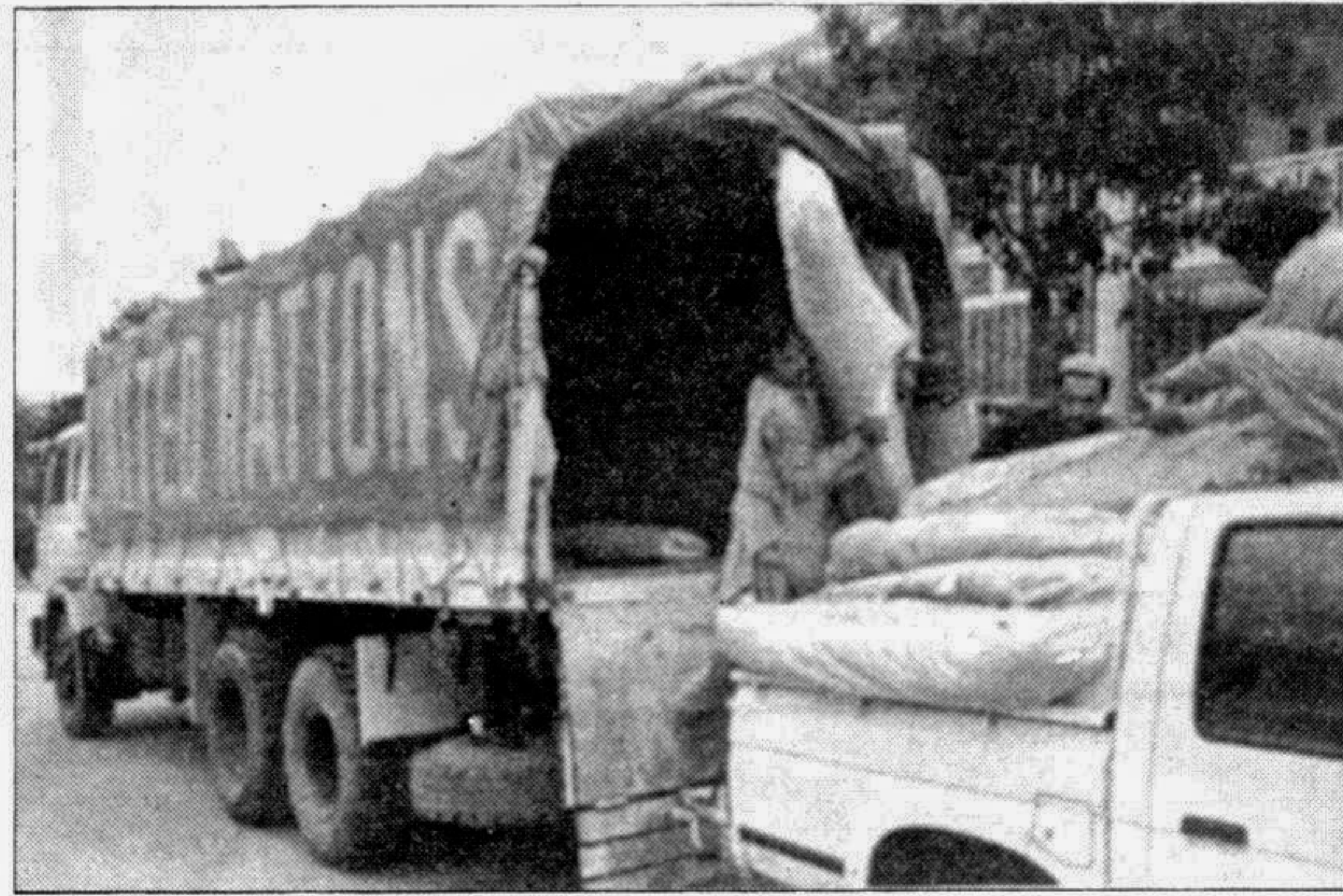
The police official did not explain why the man wanted to kill himself.

Indo-Pak Nuclear stand-off

Special session of UN conference on disarmament today

CANBERRA, Jun 1: The United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament will hold an emergency meeting on Tuesday to discuss the nuclear stand-off between Pakistan and India, the Australian government said today, reports Reuter.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer, who called on Sunday for a special session of the Geneva-based conference, said Australia would use all possible international forums to seek a solution to the tensions on the Sub-continent.



Relief goods load onto a United Nations truck in Islamabad Sunday for earthquake victims in northern Afghanistan. The powerful earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.9, rocked the mountainous region of Badakshan, killing as many as 5,000 people. — AP/UNB photo

US admn stresses need for China trip

WASHINGTON, Jun 1: Administration officials defended President Bill Clinton's planned trip to China this month, which is under fire from Republicans because of suspected improper technology transfers and other allegations, reports AP.

China is vital to US efforts to keep peace on the Korean Peninsula, deal with the Asian financial crisis, bring stability to Indonesia and resolve the India-Pakistan nuclear crisis, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Sunday. "We should be engaging in China."

Republicans have insisted that Clinton postpone the trip because of recent revelations that Chinese military officials tried to make illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party and may have received rocket technology from an American satellite company headed by a big Democratic Party donor.

"To go to China right now I think would be the wrong message," Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Richard Shelby, a Republican from Alabama, said on CBS' news programme "Face the Nation." Shelby said his panel would begin hearings this week on the administration's decision to allow the Loral Corp. to sign a communications satellite deal with the Chinese.

Sen Fred Thompson, a Republican from Tennessee, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he was most concerned that Clinton, while in China, would "talk about additional technology transfers in exchange for another promise from the Chinese that they would not break their promises" on passing military technology to countries such as Iran and Pakistan.

Defence Secretary William Cohen, also on CBS, and US Ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson, on "Fox News Sunday," said China has reduced its weapons transfers.

And Cohen said it was the president's policy that "we are better off not simply trying to isolate, be indifferent to, criticize or condemn individual countries but to engage them in constructive dialogue."

Critics have also condemned the plan for Clinton to be officially welcomed at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, the centre of the democracy movement, the Chinese military suppressed in 1989.

Talbott acknowledged that the square has become a "synonym for the brutality that the Chinese leadership carried out there," but he said it is more important that Clinton pursue the human rights issues he took up with Chinese leader Jiang Zemin.

Whittaker scales Mt Everest on one foot

KATHMANDU, Jun 1: US climber Thomas Whittaker who became the first disabled person to conquer Mount Everest said he was overwhelmed by the experience but most happy because he did it on his own, reports AP.

"I am the happiest man in the world," said the 49-year-old Whittaker, who returned from the Everest base camp situated at 5,486 metres on the world's highest mountain at the weekend.

"I managed myself to climb to the top of the world carrying my own high altitude gear inside a rucksack, some medicines and extra clothing."

Whittaker who works as an adventure education professor in Prescott, Arizona, lost his right foot in a car accident in 1979 in the United States.

He uses a specially designed artificial leg, or "flex foot," with an ice crampon attachment to grip the icy surface of the mountain. Trekking organisers and colleagues described him as the "bravest of the brave and the emperor of the disabled world."

At a special function in Kathmandu Sunday, Nepal Tourism Ministry secretary Deependra Purush Dhakal presented Whittaker with a special certificate marking his feat.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco  
1, Asian Highway, Plassey-Nilkhet, Dhaka

Sub: 1998 Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustration

With a view to raising standard of illustrated children's text books, the Picture Book Illustrators of our country are invited to participate in the competition titled 1998 Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustration organised by Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for Unesco (ACCU).

Prizes:  
A) First prize (1 No): One medal, US dollar 3000 (three thousand) and air passage & accommodation & food will be provided by ACCU for attending the prize awarding ceremony in Tokyo.  
B) Second prize (2 Nos): US dollar 1000 (one thousand) with one medal.  
C) Runners up (10 Nos): US dollar 300 (three hundred) with one medal.  
D) Incentive prize (20 Nos): One medal.

2. It is requested to collect all information & form from the office of the undersigned within 2-4 PM on 14-15 June '98 and send designs for children's text books, following the rules & regulations imposed by the sponsoring organisation, to the undermentioned address.

Noma Concours Secretariat  
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO  
6, Fukuromachi, Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo, 162-8484, Japan Prof Kafil Uddin Ahmad  
DFP-11496-24/5 Secretary  
G-1219 BNCU

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)  
Narayanganj Road Division  
Shimrail, Narayanganj

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender Notice No : 339/Narayanganj Road Division, year 1997-98.
  - Name of work : Construction of brick pavement including excavation work at 19th km of Bhulta Arahazar-Gopaldi-Banchharampur under-Narayanganj Road Division during 1997-98 fiscal year.
  - Estimated cost : Taka 21,84,478/-
  - Earnest money : Taka 43,690 (In the forms of Draft/ Defence Savings Certificates/5-year Bangladesh Sanchay Patra/Bonus Sanchay Patra/Treasury Chalan from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned).
  - Time allowed for work : 25 (twenty-five) days.
  - Eligibility of contractors : Contractors from 'A' to 'D' general category.
  - Offices from where tender papers will be available : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Dhaka/Manikganj/ Munshiganj/Gazipur/Narsingdi/ Narayan-ganj/Planning and Design Division, Dhaka Zone/Planning Division (Roads Bridge, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and the Sub-Assistant Engineer (R&H), Blikandi/ Narayanganj Road Sub-Division, Shimrail, Narayanganj.
  - Offices where tenders will be received : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka/ Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone/ Monitoring and Evaluation Circle (Road & Bridge), Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj Road Division, Shimrail, Narayanganj.
  - Last date and time of selling tender : 10-6-98 till office hours.
  - Date and time of receiving tender : 11-6-98 at 12:00 Noon.
  - Date and time & opening tender : 14-6-98 at 1:00 PM at Executive Engineer, R&H, Narayanganj Road Division., Shimrail, Narayanganj.
  - Date and time of lottery : 17-6-98 at 1 PM.
  - Expenditure head : 266-development.
  - Estimate approving : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka.
  - Cost of tender : Taka 500/- per set (non-refundable).
- It may be mentioned that tender has been invited as per approval of the estimate of the concerned authority and the approved rate and the estimated cost will be deemed as final.  
DFP-11963-27/98  
G-1224  
Executive Engineer  
R&H, Narayanganj, Road Divisio



Ultranationalist demonstrators chant anti-French slogans as they hold the flags of the Nationalist Movement Party, at Istanbul's Taksim Square, Sunday. A group of ultranationalist demonstrators gathered before the consulate to protest a French parliamentary motion recognising the Armenian genocide of 1915. — AP/UNB photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Public Works E/M Division-5, Dhaka

Tender Invitation Notice  
No. 159/97-98

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate enlisted special 1st class/E/M 1st, 2nd class contractors having valid ABC/BC class contractor's & supervisor's licence issued by Bangladesh Electrical Licensing Board for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the prescribed tender box of Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6/Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka up to 12-00 Noon of 9.6.98 & the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence (if any) of the interested tenderers or their nominated representatives. No tender schedule & rules & regulations will be supplied on the date of opening tenders. Tender schedule, rules & regulations & related papers can be collected on cash payment of Tk 425/- (non-refundable) from Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6/Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka. Earnest money at the rate 2% of tender quoted amount should be submitted with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/CD/SDR from any scheduled bank approved by Bangladesh Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-5, Dhaka. Participants in the tender must enclose/submit TIN certificate with the tender. The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. Contractor himself or his representative bearing authorisation letter can purchase the tender on production of registration book with necessary papers. The last date of selling tender is 8.6.98.

Sl No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Approved time
1	Supply, installation & electric wiring at security compound light & gate light at Press Institute construction project ground at Circuit House Road, Dhaka	1,90,854/-	2% on estimated cost	30 (thirty) days

Md. Fazlul Huq  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works E/M  
Division-5, Dhaka  
DFP-11323-20/5  
G-1220