

Anwar criticises Mahathir for not appearing in court

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 7: Jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday lashed out at Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for allegedly hiding behind court protection, as defense lawyers made a final bid to force the 74-year-old leader to testify in Anwar's sodomy trial, reports AP.

"Mahathir is bold enough to slander and include himself in a conspiracy against me but he's afraid to face me and give evidence in court," Anwar said in a handwritten statement to reporters. "Once again, it's clear that Dr Mahathir is taking cover behind the court."

In April, High Court Judge Ariffin Jaka, who's currently presiding over the sodomy trial, ended a six-month effort by defense lawyers to subpoena Mahathir.

Ariffin ruled that there was no evidence to support defense allegations that Mahathir masterminded a conspiracy to destroy Anwar's career. The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling earlier this week.

On Wednesday, Anwar said it was "regrettable" that the appellate court had issued its ruling without giving any reasons why Mahathir should be exempted from being summoned.

Suharto turns 79

JAKARTA, June 7: Once all powerful, but now a prisoner in his own home, Indonesia's ex-President Suharto turns 79 on Thursday, a sick and disgraced man desperately trying to fend off allegations of massive corruption, reports AP.

Suharto, who ruled with an iron fist for 32 years until riots forced him from office in 1998, has little to celebrate on his birthday.

Under house arrest for more than a week, Suharto Tuesday lost a 27 billion dollar defamation case he launched against US-based Time magazine for alleging that he amassed a fortune as president.

Moreover, family members and defense lawyers claim a series of strokes have left him weak and sometimes incoherent with dangerously high blood pressure and mental blackouts.

Through his attorneys, the old autocrat continually denies any wrongdoing and has challenged Indonesia's new reform-minded government to find concrete evidence against him.

Even so, for months he refused to cooperate with a state graft investigation on the grounds of ill health.

Fighting intensifies in Solomon Islands

100 killed, rebels claim

WELLINGTON, June 7: Fighting between rebel factions on the Solomon Islands intensified Wednesday, with one group using a stolen police gunboat to attack rivals gathered on a beach, official said, reports AP.

A rebel spokesman, Andrew Nori, said his side killed 100 armed foes, according to information he got from colleagues whom he said fired a machine gun from the gunboat directly into a crowd of people, as well as reports from others whom he said were about 100 metres (60 feet) away on the ground watching.

There was no immediate way to confirm Nori's claims of fatalities. A Solomon Islands government spokesman and New Zealand officials said there had been a gunboat attack in the morning, but they had no information about any deaths.

"It's true there was a shooting incident, and there might well have been casualties," said the Solomon Islands spokesman, Alfred Maesulla.

Nori, who speaks for migrants from the nearby island of Malaita who are trying to remain on the main island of Guadalcanal despite an assault from indigenous rebels, said there had been about 300 to 400 armed men on the beach when the gunboat opened fire. He said about 100 of them went down.

"They were all militants," Nori told The Associated Press by telephone. "There were no civilians. They were all carrying weapons. They were not holding a picnic."

Information on the crisis has been difficult to verify because flights into the Solomon Islands have been cancelled since Monday and phone service has been sporadic.

Earlier Wednesday, rebels who had seized the Solomon Islands prime minister at gunpoint on Monday dropped their demands that he resign.

The political fate of Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu would be determined in a parliamentary session on June 15, where he will face a vote of no confidence, according to a joint statement signed and released by the government and Nori.

Ulufa'alu will no longer be followed by armed rebel guards, with normal police providing his security and he is at liberty to move out of and into his residence and offices at will, the joint statement said. The deal will put the Solomon Islands closer to being "back into constitutional rule," New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff said.

US to work with Pakistan to fight terrorism

WASHINGTON, June 7: The United States pledged Tuesday to maintain a vigorous security dialogue with Pakistan after the Islamabad government rejected a report which branded the country a "safe haven" for terrorists, reports AP.

The Congress-appointed National Commission on Terrorism accused Pakistan Monday of offering "transit and moral, political and diplomatic support to several groups engaged in terrorism."

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker told reporters here that the US was committed to working with Pakistan to crack down on terrorist groups.

"I think we continue to have a vigorous discussion with Pakistan, both in Islamabad, through our embassy there and visits by high-level officials," he said.

"Our goal is to solve the terrorism problem in all of its aspects around the world in countries where we need to work to improve the situation regarding terrorism," he said, adding that talks had been going on with Pakistan on the issue for "many, many years."

Pakistan's Information Minister Javed Jabbar issued an immediate riposte to the report earlier Tuesday, telling

AFP in Islamabad that his government "categorically and totally" rejected its findings.

Jabbar, a key advisor to Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, said the accusations reflected inadequate study of the situation in Pakistan.

Reeker said US officials were studying the report, which recommended that President Bill Clinton's administration should consider designating Pakistan, along with Greece, as "not cooperating fully" in the fight against terrorism.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Sunday said Washington was not considering sanctions against Pakistan.

Nations which fall into the "not cooperating fully" category face a US embargo on arms sales.

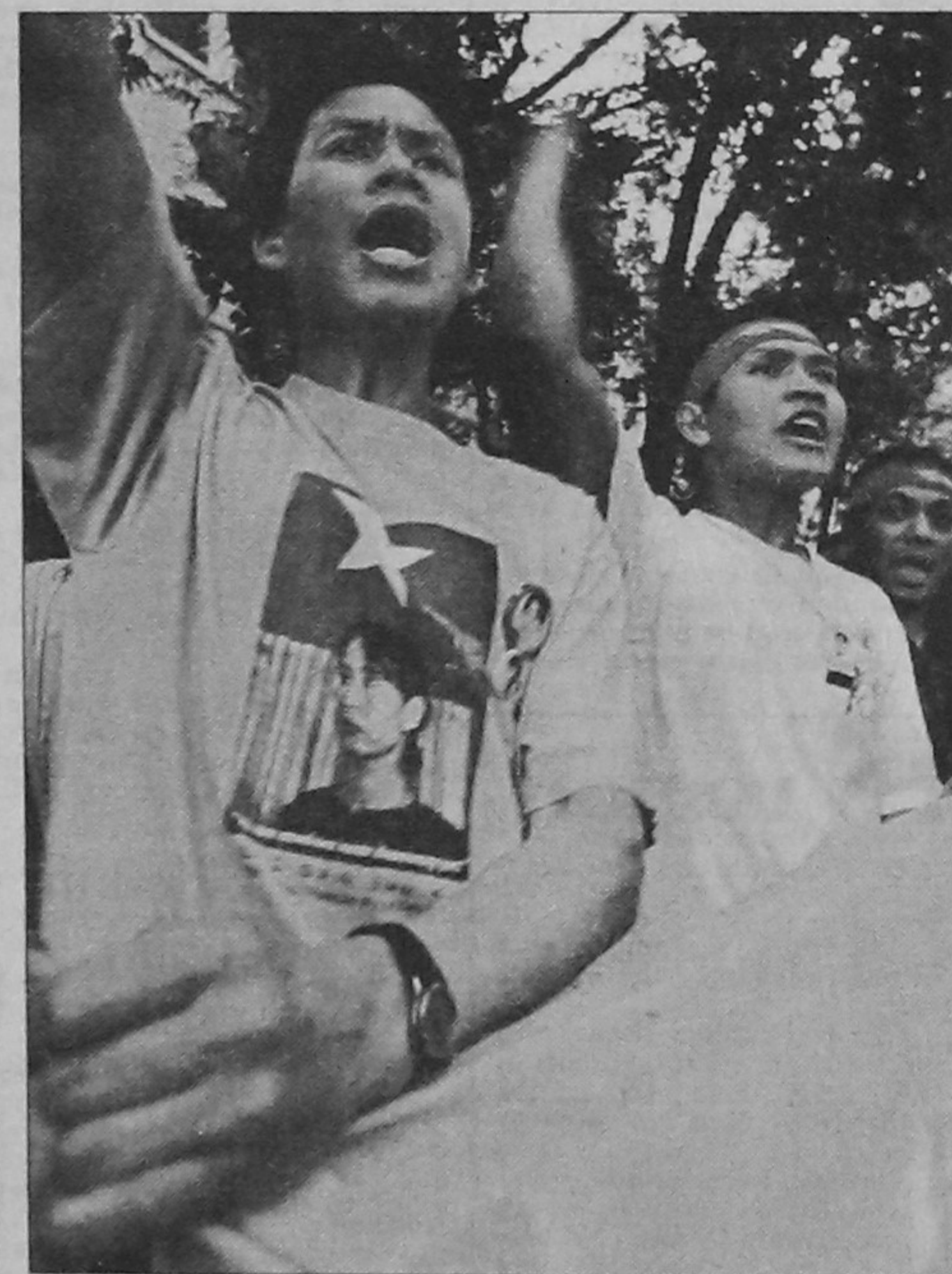
Despite its criticism, the commission, which was set up two years ago after bombings at US embassies in Africa, praised Pakistan for arresting and extraditing Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, who masterminded the World Trade Centre bombing in New York in 1993.

Islamabad's cooperation was also "vital" in heading off terrorist attacks planned last year for the turn of the millennium, the report said.

The US has repeatedly asked Pakistan to help convince the ruling Islamic Taliban militia in neighbouring Afghanistan to hand over terrorism suspect Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden is wanted in the United States for allegedly masterminding the US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

BRIEFLY



Myanmar people living in Japan raise their fists as they shout slogans against the visit of Lt. General Khin Nyunt to Japan, in front of the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo yesterday. Khin Nyunt is in Tokyo to attend the official funeral ceremony for former Japanese prime minister Keizo Obuchi on June 8. Japan triggered fury among pro-democracy campaigners by allowing the top Myanmar official a visa. — AFP photo

US-N Korea talks begin: US and North Korean defence officials began talks in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday in an effort to resume operations to trace the remains of more than 8,000 US soldiers missing in action from the Korean War, AP reports from Kuala Lumpur.

"Our desired outcome is to get a schedule for our team to go back into North Korea as soon as possible," said Larry Greer, a spokesman for the US Defence Department's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action office. The talks between officials of the US Defence Department and the North Korean People's Liberation Army are expected to last until Friday or Saturday.

Tajik drug smuggler arrested: A Tajik drug smuggler, who swallowed 593 grams of heroin, was arrested Tuesday at the Domodedovo airport in south-east Moscow, a police spokesman said, AFP reports from Moscow.

Doctors found the drug wrapped in 70 polythene bags in the stomach of 24-year-old Rajabali Kadyrov, who had just arrived from the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Heroin often enters Moscow and the rest of Europe through Tajikistan, which shares a 500 km border with Afghanistan, the leading producer of the drug.

Taiwan obtains US permission to test Patriot missiles

TAIPEI, June 7: Taiwan has obtained permission from the United States to test the US-built Patriot missiles in the island, the first time the missiles will be tested outside the United States, defense officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

The Patriots, designed to intercept incoming missiles, are an important part of Taiwan's defense against China's Dongfeng-31 — a nuclear-capable missile that can reach as far as the western United States.

"We already have permission from the United States to test the PAC-2 next year. We only have to sort out the details," said a military spokesman who spoke on customary anonymity.

He did not say when the United States had given its permission.

Taiwan's military has acquired 200 PAC-2 missiles, upgraded versions of the Patriots used by US forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Taiwan has test fired the missiles in the United States, but the military wants to observe how they work in Taiwan's subtropical climate.

NATO rejects AI charges on Kosovo

BRUSSELS, June 7: NATO rejected Tuesday as "baseless and ill-founded" allegations by Amnesty International that it violated the rules of war in the Kosovo conflict last year, reports AP.

In a statement, it recalled UN war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte's remarks to the UN Security Council last week that she saw no basis for investigating NATO for its 78-day air war that forced Serbia out of Kosovo.

"The allegations made in the Amnesty International report that NATO violated the laws of war in its conduct of the Kosovo air campaign last year are baseless and ill-founded," NATO secretary general George Robertson said.

"NATO scrupulously adhered to international law, including the law of war, throughout the conflict and made every effort to minimise civilian casualties," Lord Robertson added in a press statement.

He acknowledged that "in a few cases mistakes were made... leading to civilian deaths or injuries." But he added: "Such incidents must be weighed against the atrocities that NATO's action stopped."



Indonesian student-protesters join forces to break down the gate of the attorney general's office in Jakarta during an anti-Suharto demonstration yesterday. Some 200 protestors rallied to demand that former president Suharto and his cronies be brought to trial for alleged corruption during his 32-year rule. — AFP photo

Soldiers, rebels exchange gunfire in Fiji

SUVA, June 7: Fijian soldiers and coup rebels exchanged gunfire today near Suva's parliamentary compound where some 30 political hostages, including deposed Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry, have been held since May 19, reports Reuters.

"Four chaps from the (rebel) compound were looting a nearby house and our soldiers arrested one man and fired some shots in the air," the South Pacific nation's military spokesman Filippo Tarakinikini told Reuters.

"Three of them ran back into the compound and fired at the soldiers and they returned their fire," said Tarakinikini.

Hours earlier Fiji woke to the news that the Commonwealth was suspending its participation from councils of the organisation. Ironically ahead of a long weekend holiday here marking the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

The decision, which stops short of full suspension, was made by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) which met in emergency session in London Tuesday.

There was no immediate reaction from the martial law administration to the news which was widely expected.

On May 19, bankrupt businessman George Speight and a small military squad seized parliament and took 31 hostages, including Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry. Fiji's first ethnic Indian leader, in an attempted coup.

Army commander Voreqe Bainimarama declared martial law 10 days later.

A delegation from the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group -- which monitors human rights and democracy in the 54-member body -- will arrive here over the weekend.

It will include Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff who are due to fly Friday to Honiara in the Solomon Islands where another coup is underway.

Speight said he welcomed the delegation.

"My door is open to anybody from overseas," he said, adding he would explain why Fijians were unhappy in their own land.

But Speight ruled out any attempt by the Commonwealth to mediate in the crisis.

"This is a local issue that only Fijians can resolve. I do not recognise their (Commonwealth ministers) right to mediate," he was quoted

by the BBC as saying. Speight told a Sydney radio station he was also finding it hard to deal with martial law chief Bainimarama.

"What we're finding very frustrating in dealing with the army is that they seem to be up and down like a yo-yo and when I say that, I mean specifically Commodore Bainimarama," Speight said.

"The army is hardening, specifically Commodore Bainimarama in his attitude, because I've been trying to get them to explain to me why is it that there is this overwhelming desire to hold on to executive power for the next couple of months."

After the gunfire Wednesday morning, military spokesman Filippo Tarakinikini said a group of men left the parliament complex to raid nearby houses.

Meanwhile outside of Suva, in remote settlements along the Rewa River, ethnic Indians lived in fear of attacks by indigenous Fijians.

Nightly, houses are being burnt to the ground by roving gangs, shops are being looted and communities of Fiji-Indians are hiding in the darkness, hoping they will not be found.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Norway Assisted Primary Education Development Project of Quality Improvement Directorate of Primary Education Bangladesh Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216

Memo No. P&D/37-Prj/99/594 Dated: 29/05/2000

Re-Tender Notice (3rd Time)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a grant from the Government of Norway towards the cost of Primary Education Development Project for Quality Improvement. It is intended that the part of the proceeds of this grant will be applied to eligible payments under implementation of contracts for which this invitation is issued.
- The Director General & Project Director, Norway Assisted Primary Education Development Project for Quality Improvement (PEDQI), Directorate of Primary Education, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216 invites sealed tenders from the agents/sellers/distributors/dealers/suppliers for the supply of Weighing Machine for Thana Resource Centre (TRC).
- The detail description of the item may be found in the tender schedule. A complete set of tender schedule with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or Senior Assistant Secretary (Dev. 1), Building # 6, Room # 619, 6th Floor, Primary and Mass Education Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka on all working days during office hours from 05/06/2000 up to 18/06/2000 upon submission of written application enclosing the original Bank Challan of Tk. 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) only paid (Non-refundable) to the Account Head No. 1/2431/0001/2366 in favour of the Director General, Directorate of Primary Education, Bangladesh.
- The tenders will be received in the tender box in person kept in the Office of The Directorate of Primary Education, Mirpur Section-2, Dhaka-1216 and Office of the Senior Assistant Secretary (Dev. 1), Building # 6, Room # 619, 6th Floor, Primary and Mass Education Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka on all working days during office hours from 05/06/2000 up to 18/06/2000 in presence of the bidders or their authorised representative(s), if any.
- The bidder shall have to furnish at least 2.5% (two and a half per cent) his quoted value as earnest money in a form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of "The Director General, Directorate of Primary Education, Bangladesh" from any scheduled bank of Dhaka City.
- The bidder shall have to submit the sample of Weighing Machine along with the tenders, otherwise the tender will be rejected.
- The DPE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Baharul Islam
Asstt. Director & Member Secretary
of the Tender Committee
For Director General & Project Director

DFP-13881-4/6
G-1101

Corrigendum Notice

This is for information of all concerned that the following amendment has been brought in the tender invited through the Notice No-31/1999-2000 and Memo No-939 dated-23/5/2000 for the work of construction of boundary wall in the office compound and settlement record room under Rangpur Collectorate during year 1999-2000.

Name of work : Construction of boundary wall (eastern side) in the office compound of Zonal Settlement Office in Rangpur.

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

DFP-13789-1/6 Khondaker Salah Uddin
G-1096 Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Rangpur

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Commander 8th Armed Police Battalion Nishindara, Bogra Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi contractors/suppliers for appointment of the following group-based contractors of Armed Police Battalion in Bogra. Tender schedule containing detailed description and rules and regulations regarding submission of tenders can be purchased on payment of Taka 400/- (four hundred taka) only (non-refundable) per set till 18.6.2000 from the day of publishing in newspapers during office hours on any working day from the office of the undersigned. Tenders will have to be submitted in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned by 12:00 Noon on 20.6.2000 and tender box will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the tenderers/their representatives present (if anyone remains present).

- 01) Group 'Ka' Repairing work of barrack no 3 for residing APBN Force in Bogra (1999-2000 fiscal year).
 - 02) Group 'Kha' Sewing of liveries for APBN Force in Bogra (for 2000-2001 fiscal year).
 - 03) Group 'Ga' Supply of stationery for APBN office in Bogra (during 2000-2001 fiscal year).
- Original copies of the undermentioned certificates must be produced at the time of purchasing tender schedule.
- 01) Financial solvency certificate for the current year.
 - 02) Valid trade licence.
 - 03) Income tax certificate.
 - 04) Citizenship certificate.
 - 05) Certificate of experience of work for at least 3 (three) years in Army/BDR/Ansar forces.

The authority reserves the power to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Abul Kashem Ferdous
Commander (Police Super)
8th Armed Police Battalion
Nishindara, Bogra
Phone No - 72810(O)

DFP-13805-1/6
G-1095