

# Russia seeks NATO help to salvage sunken submarine

MOSCOW, Aug 16 : Russia today turned to NATO for help in saving up to 116 sailors from suffocating in their crippled nuclear submarine as its own rescue efforts continued without success, reports AFP.

The deputy head of Russia's navy was to fly to Brussels Wednesday to hold urgent consultations with NATO on how to save the stricken submarine Kursk, Interfax reported citing navy officials.

The news agency did not say when the deputy navy chief, Alexander Pobozyh, would leave Moscow.

This would mark the first time since the submarine went down over the weekend that Russia has reached out for international help in rescuing the crew members trapped over 100 metres (300 feet) under the Barents Sea.

Russia on Wednesday morning made a fresh attempt to save the trapped sailors after rough seas kept two rescue capsules from

docking with the sunken craft.

The head of Russia's navy said the Kursk -- out of contact since suffering a catastrophic accident and sinking to the bottom of the Barents Sea on Saturday -- would probably run out of oxygen by Friday.

Navy officials told ITAR-TASS that a mini-submarine manned by rescuers who were to enter the Kursk to go to the aid of the stranded sailors, began a docking manoeuvre at around 9:15 a.m. (11:15 BST).

Nearly three hours later, there was no news whether their efforts were successful.

The officials said that the more powerful craft, Pester, should have a better chance of operating in the sweeping underwater currents than the capsules.

They said stormy conditions were continuing to hamper rescue efforts.

A series of desperate attempts overnight by the two small craft to reach the ill-fated submarine

were scuttled by ferocious storms and atrocious visibility in the icy seas.

With oxygen supplies onboard the stricken Kursk rapidly exhausting, navy officials did not hide their pessimism.

As the latest rescue attempt got underway, however, navy commander Vladimir Kuroyedov, told ITAR-TASS: "Now I am feeling more confident that the operation to rescue the Kursk's crew will yield a result."

The mini-submarine would need to make several trips to save the entire crew -- assuming they survived their ordeal.

Navy officials gave conflicting signals about whether crew members were still banging against the side of the hull -- indicating a sign of life.

Meanwhile the navy urgently plotted contingency plans. One such proposal would have massive barges weighing hundreds of tonnes try to pull up the submarine with heavy belts.

Such a monumental project would mostly likely come too late for the crew.

In London, defence officials said Britain was readying a rescue mini-submarine for rapid dispatch to the Barents Sea should Russia ask for it, which Moscow had so far not done.

The United States again said it was ready to help while officials in Brussels confirmed that a team of Russian officers was in contact with NATO naval experts.

However, it remained uncertain whether NATO rescue craft would be able to dock with the stricken Russian submarine.

Despite locating the submarine, officials said they were still unable to determine precisely why one of the most prized and recent vessels in the Russian navy suddenly sank.

Russian navy officials had initially suggested the craft collided with another vessel, perhaps a foreign craft spying on the Northern Fleet's exercises.



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore (R) addresses supporters before US President Bill Clinton (2nd L), US First Lady and US Senate candidate from New York Hillary Rodham Clinton (L) and Gore's wife Tipper (2nd R) at a rally on Tuesday in Monroe, Michigan. Clinton passed the symbolic torch as the leader of the Democratic Party to Gore, who is scheduled to receive his party's nomination today at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

# Britain gives green light to human cloning

LONDON, Aug 16 : The British government today gave a green light to the cloning of human embryo cells for the first time, but only for medical research, reports AFP.

Endorsing a report by the government's chief medical officer, it announced that the law on human cloning would be relaxed to allow scientists to extract cells from young embryos and use them to grow skin and other tissue.

Such a move could help find cures for previously untreatable diseases, but is likely to run into opposition from religious groups.

However new legislation will outlaw human cloning for reproductive reasons, ensuring scientists are banned from "making" a cloned baby.

Although ministers Wednesday endorsed the report's recommendations, MPs will be given a free vote on the legislation later in the year.

# Abu Sayyaf frees another hostage

JOLO, Philippines, Aug 16 : Muslim extremist rebels on Wednesday freed a Filipino hostage from among 20 mainly Western captives held in the southern Philippines jungle, AFP reporters said.

Lucrecia Dablo, a cook, was freed soon after government emissaries had indicated only two French hostages were to be released following the payment of a ransom.

Top government negotiator Roberto Avenajado said he expected the Abu Sayyaf would go ahead with the release of the other 19 hostages on Thursday.

Dablo, among 21 hostages seized on the Malaysian island of Sipadan on April 23, was sobbing as she was led away by Avenajado.

# Bomb hoaxes delay 2 Air India flights

BOMBAY, Aug 16 : Two Air India flights were the victims of bomb hoaxes that coincided with heightened security tensions surrounding Independence Day, an airline spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Passengers on an Air India flight from New York to Bombay were hurriedly off-loaded in New Delhi late Tuesday after an unidentified caller said there was a bomb aboard, spokesman Jitendra Bhargava said.

"We received bomb calls on two flights. One was a New York-Bombay flight via London and Delhi, while the other was the return flight originating in Bombay on Wednesday morning."

# Curfew imposed in Meghalaya

GUWAHATI, India, Aug 16 : A military curfew was clamped in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya today after overnight attacks by separatist rebels left one policeman dead and two critically injured, reports AFP.

State police chief B.K. Dey Sawian said troops were issued shoot-on-sight orders to enforce the curfew imposed after midnight Tuesday in the state capital Shillong.

Sawian said militants from the Hynneterip National Liberation Council (HNLC) had attacked security posts Tuesday night, following official ceremonies to mark India's Independence Day.

"The militants could not disrupt the celebrations themselves and hence out of frustration they started attacking our personnel

at night," Sawian told AFP by telephone.

Some 50,000 federal troops had been deployed in five of northeast India's seven states on Tuesday to counter threatened Independence Day attacks by separatist rebel groups.

"The curfew was imposed as a preventive measure to avoid any further attacks and we shall review the situation later in the day," Sawian said.

Local residents were caught unawares by the curfew.

"We woke up this morning to find troops patrolling the streets along with armoured cars, and loudspeakers telling everyone to stay indoors," government doctor Paul Marbaniang said by telephone from Shillong.

"Nobody really seems to know what is going on," Marbaniang said.

The HNLC, with an estimated membership of 400-500, is fighting for a separate tribal homeland in Meghalaya, which borders Bangladesh.

The group has close links with larger separatist groups in the northeast region, which have helped with arms training in return for logistical support.

"The HNLC has been instrumental in providing shelter in Meghalaya to other rebel groups of the region, making the state the transit point for militant outfits with bases in Bangladesh," said a senior intelligence officer in Guwahati, capital of the region's largest state, Assam.

# Clinton passes leadership torch to Gore

MONROE, Michigan, Aug 16 : President Bill Clinton Tuesday formally anointed Al Gore as his standard-bearer and declared that the Democratic White House hopeful was "at the heart" of every good thing accomplished during their eight years in office, reports AFP.

"America's done well, but I tell you, you ain't seen nothing yet," Gore told thousands of rowdy supporters braving the scorching heat to cheer the torch-passing ceremony, which supporters hoped would ignite the vice president's campaign.

Aiming to hitch his fortunes in

the November election to the racing US economy, and pledging not to let his Republican rival, Texas Governor George W. Bush, "wreck it," Gore pledged: "We're going to keep the prosperity going."

Introducing his designated political heir in this town of 23,000 people, Clinton said "every good thing that has happened, that came out of our administration in the last eight years, Al Gore was at the heart of it... He is the right person to be the first president of the 21st century."

Flanked by their wives, Tipper and Hillary, the two men -- Gore in shirt-sleeves, Clinton still wearing his jacket -- embraced in several bear hugs as confetti and streamers rained down and assembled Democrats roared their approval.

Clinton's effusive demonstration of support contrasted with then president Ronald Reagan's 1988 transfer of power to his vice president, candidate Bush's father, a subdued, minutes-long affair on the tarmac at a US naval base outside New Orleans, Louisiana.

# Israel to resume peace talks with Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Aug 16 : Israel announced today the resumption of peace talks with the Palestinians ahead of a fresh US effort to clinch a deal that would bring an end to decades of bitter conflict, reports AFP.

US Middle East troubleshooter Dennis Ross is due in the region on Thursday to assess the prospects for another summit following the collapse of negotiations at the US presidential retreat in Camp David three weeks ago.

"He will be reviewing the situation in the region and meeting with the two parties to assess progress and developments since

the Camp David summit," a US embassy spokesman told AFP.

Meanwhile, Israel's acting foreign minister and top peace negotiator, Shlomo Ben Ami, said the negotiations would resume with the Palestinians, with a deadline for a peace accord less than a month away.

Asked if he would be meeting with Palestinian negotiators Wednesday evening, Ben Ami told reporters: "We are resuming talks with the Palestinians and will be meeting a Palestinian team."

Ben Ami, who has been on a swing through Europe to sell Israel's position on the peace

talks, said on Tuesday that he hoped to reach a preliminary accord by early September to pave the way for a new summit.

"It must not be a repeat of Camp David," Ben Ami said.

The summit broke down on July 25 after two weeks of intensive negotiations because of deep discord over control of Jerusalem, the city coveted by both Israel and the Palestinians as their capital.

And Ross said the United States was willing to call a new summit only if Israeli and Palestinian leaders were ready to make historic concessions.

# Fiery flying objects seen over Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan, Aug 16 : Thousands of people in remote Pakistani villages reported seeing several mystery objects streaking across the night sky late Tuesday, prompting an investigation by the armed forces, reports AFP.

The unidentified objects appeared to be flying in formation with trails of flame over six districts of western Baluchistan province, including the capital Quetta, around 9 p.m. (22:00 BST), witnesses and officials said.

Witnesses said they "looked like missiles" but a military spokesman later ruled out the possibility they were weapons.

Baluchistan administration chief Sharyar Masood described

them as "unidentified objects."

Reports from Afghanistan said they were also spotted over the southern city of Kandahar, the stronghold of the ruling Taliban militia.

In August 1998 people in Baluchistan, which borders Iran, Afghanistan and the Arabian Sea said they saw US missiles on their way to strike suspected terrorist camps in Afghanistan.

But the objects seen Tuesday were coming from the direction of Afghanistan and were last seen in the mountains of Barkhan and Loralai, northeastern Baluchistan, where some residents reported hearing explosions, officials said.

# Sleep quality could be key to holding back ageing process

CHICAGO, Aug 16 : Most men will have experienced a serious deterioration in their quality of sleep by the time they reach middle age, according to a study released Tuesday, reports AFP.

In the most comprehensive survey of sleep quality in adult men ever conducted, researchers at the University of Chicago reported that not only did the

deterioration set in sooner than expected, but also it was linked to changes in hormone levels related to the ageing process.

"Some of the hormonal changes we experience in ageing could be related to sleep quality," said Dr Eve Van Cauter, professor of medicine at the University of Chicago and author of the study.

The study found that age-related changes in sleeping patterns in men shift in two stages.

In the first phase (between 16 and 50) men enjoy the same amount of slumber time, but the proportion of slow wave or deep sleep falls off dramatically, apparently triggering a sharp drop in the secretion of growth hormone.

# Wahid pledges leaner, more professional Cabinet

JAKARTA, Aug 16 : Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid today pledged a leaner, meaner and more professional Cabinet and greater public participation in the decision-making process, reports AFP.

In a state-of-the-nation address at the parliament, written and read out by Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Wahid said he planned to restructure the government to sharpen its focus and priorities.

"The process of this (Cabinet) restructuring and trimming down will be meticulously carried out with a view to prevent the emergence of new and unnecessary problems," the speech said.

In an off-text prelude to the address, Wahid also said that "the powers of the president have to be limited, as our constitution has given too much power to the president," drawing loud applause from the 700-member assembly.

**ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা**  
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, অঞ্চল-২  
**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন  
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রথম শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহিতকৃত বামে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ১০-০৮-১৯০৭ বা/২৮-৮-২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার সময় সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা, ডেপুটি কমিশনার, ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। শতকরা হারে দর অংকে এবং কথায় উভয় স্পষ্টভাবে লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিভিলিটাস ব্যাংকের ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়নার ঢাকা দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে এবং স্থায়ী জামানতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের দরপত্রের সাথে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুকূলে ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকা জমাদানের চালানের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীগণের দপ্তরে এবং প্রধান কার্যালয়ে হিসাব বিভাগের হিসাবরক্ষকের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে (প্রতিসেট) চালানের মাধ্যমে (অফেরতমোদ্য) দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী, সিভিলিটাস ইত্যাদি ক্রয় করা যাইবে। দরপত্রের সাথে টিকাইটন সার্টিফিকেট, ঠিকাদার জালিকাভুক্তি, চলতি নবায়ন ও ঠিকাদারের নমনা স্বাক্ষর সর্বাঙ্গিক কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করিতে হইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চাকরালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অঞ্চল-২ এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তরে জানা যাইবে।

সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রকল্পে বৈদ্যুতিক কাজ সংযুক্ত থাকায় দরদাতাকে অবশ্যই চলতি নবায়নকৃত বাংলাদেশ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল লাইসেন্সিং বোর্ডের বৈদ্যুতিক লাইসেন্সধারী হইতে হইবে। এক্ষেত্রে দরদাতার এ, বি, সি সুপারভাইজিং সার্টিফিকেট অথবা অনুরূপ সার্টিফিকেটধারী নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত সুপারভাইজার থাকিতে হইবে।

কোন দরপত্রের মোট প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের উপর সার্বিকভাবে ৫% (পাঁচভাগ) অপেক্ষা অধিক নিম্ন বা উর্দ্ধদর দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। একাধিক ঠিকাদার কোন কাজের দরপত্রে সর্বনিম্ন একই দর দাখিল করিলে সংশ্লিষ্ট ঠিকাদারগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) প্রকাস্য লটারির মাধ্যমে ঠিকাদার নির্বাচন করা হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দলিলপত্র বিস্তৃত করা হইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত টাকা	বায়নার টাকা	সময় সীমা
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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী  
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, অঞ্চল-২  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন।

ডিসি/পিআর/ডি/৬০/০০-০১  
জিডি-৭৭০

**BRIFFLY**

**Nepali FM to visit China:** Nepalese Foreign Minister Chakra Prasad Bastola has accepted an invitation to visit China to celebrate nearly half a century of friendly relations, state radio reported Wednesday, AFP reports from Kathmandu.

Bastola will leave for Beijing on August 20, spending five days in the capital, RSS reported. China and Nepal established diplomatic relations in 1955. He will be accompanied by senior Nepalese government officials, including Nepal's Consul General to Tibet.

**Jordan appoints envoy to Israel:** Jordan has appointed career diplomat Abdel Iah al-Kurdi as its new ambassador to Israel to replace outgoing Ambassador Omar al-Rifai, officials said on Wednesday, AFP reports from Amman.

The decision was taken late Tuesday at a meeting of the cabinet, they said. Kurdi, a former ambassador to Malaysia, will be Jordan's third ambassador to Israel. Rifai is ending a four-year term in the Jewish state.

**TITAS GAS TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION CO LTD**  
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105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
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গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ।  
এর অপব্যবহার রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

**INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL BIDS (IFIB)**  
DESIGN — BUILD AND TURNKEY INSTALLATION OF ONE NATURAL GAS REGULATING & METERING STATION (RMS) UNDER GOB FINANCE FOR AES MEGHNAGHAT 450 MW CCPP.  
(IFIB No AESM 450 RMS, Dated 17th August 2000)

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd (TGTDC), a company of Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla), hereby invites sealed international bids under Government of Bangladesh (GOB) finance for the Design — Build and Turnkey Installation of one (1) Natural Gas Regulating & Metering Station (RMS) of a maximum flow capacity of 125 million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) to be located at Meghnaghat area of Sonargaon Upazila under Narayanganj district. The RMS will supply natural gas to the AES Meghnaghat 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (i.e. Meghnaghat Phase-I Power Plant) to be built by AES Meghnaghat Ltd, an Independent Power Producer (IPP), under the Private Sector Power Generation Policy of GOB, (Oct, 1996) and under a set of agreements signed between the above mentioned IPP and relevant GOB agencies, dated 29th July, 1999.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders from 21st August, 2000 to 4th October, 2000 on submission of a written application to the under mentioned project office and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk 15,000.00 (Taka fifteen thousand) only or US \$ 280.00 (Two hundred and eighty US dollars) only in cash or as Bank Draft in favour of Titas Gas T & D Co Ltd to its Accounts Department at 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215.

A two-envelope bidding procedure will be followed for the IFIB under which the bidder will submit simultaneously two separate sealed envelopes, one containing the Technical Proposal and one containing the Price Proposal. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security of Tk 5,000,000.00 (Taka five million) only or US \$ 92,600.00 (Ninety two thousand six hundred US dollars) only and must be addressed and delivered to the Project Manager (BCRMS Project) at the under mentioned address at or before 1300 hours on 5th October, 2000. The bid security must be submitted with the Technical Proposal and shall be in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay Order or a Bank Guarantee (as per the proforma furnished in the Bid Document) issued by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh or a scheduled foreign bank operating in Bangladesh and situated in Dhaka.

A bidder can submit one bid only and no alternative bids shall be accepted. Three (3) sets each of Technical and Price Proposals (in both cases one original and two copies) shall be submitted by the bidder. Bids sent by telegram, telex, fax or e-mail shall not be accepted. The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of bid and TGTDC shall in no way be responsible for such costs regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process. Both Technical and Price Proposals shall remain valid for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days from the last date of bid submission specified as above.

The Technical Proposals will be opened immediately after submission in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. The Technical Proposals will be evaluated first and the bidders may in the process be required to revise their Technical Proposals reflecting the changes and amendments required by TGTDC in order to bring all bids on an equal technical footing and to submit supplementary price proposals, if any, as per relevant provisions of the bid document. The Price Proposals and supplementary price proposals (if submitted) will be opened simultaneously in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by TGTDC upon completion of the evaluation of Technical Proposals.

Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the under mentioned Project Office located at "BSEC Bhaban" 8th Floor, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Tel: 8124343, 011-860-874, Fax: (8802) 8113031, (8802) 9120513, e-mail: titagas@bdonline.com.

TGTDC reserves the right to accept any and reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Titas/PR-17/2000-2001  
GD-768

**Project Manager**  
BCRMS Project