

## Rebels free 3 Malaysian hostages

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Aug 18: Muslim extremists today freed three Malaysians among 31 hostages held in the southern island of Jolo, negotiator Lee Peng Wee told AFP.

Lee said the hostages were handed to his special emissary Jamil Hassan who led them down from the guerrillas' mountain jungle hideout where the other 28 captives are being held.

"Our emissary has informed us that he has the three Malaysians and that they are on their way to Zamboanga city by boat," Lee said, after receiving a satellite phone call from Hassan.

"(Malaysian) Prime Minister Mahathir requested us to help secure the release of the Malaysians... and we are glad it's finally over."

"There was no ransom paid," he said.

# Hizbul offers fresh talks

## 6 Hindus slain in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 18: The Hizbul Mujahideen militant group, which recently called off its unilateral ceasefire in Indian-administered Kashmir, has proposed fresh talks with New Delhi, a media person appointed by the group said today, reports AFP.

Fazal Haseem Qureshi, who acted as official mediator in talks between the Hizbul and Indian government officials before the collapse of the ceasefire two weeks ago, said the proposal had been made in a telephone conversation he had with Hizbul's Pakistan-based supreme commander Syed Salahuddin.

"Salahuddin has offered a comprehensive ceasefire, provided the government of India comes out with a statement that Pakistan will be included in any final resolution of the Kashmir dispute," Qureshi told

AFP. Salahuddin called off the Hizbul's 15-day unilateral ceasefire on August 8, citing Indian intransigence over the group's demands for tripartite talks that would include Pakistan.

Qureshi, a respected separatist politician in Kashmir, said the question of precisely when Pakistan would have to be brought into the peace talks was open to negotiation.

"This is a modality which still has to be worked out," he said.

"The important thing is for India to make an unambiguous statement that Pakistan will be involved in any final decision."

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the Muslim militancy in the Indian zone of the divided Kashmir region which has claimed more than 25,000 lives in the past decade.

Islamabad denies the charge but extends open moral and diplomatic support to the militants.

The two countries have fought two wars over Kashmir since independence in 1947.

In a related development, Kashmir's main separatist alliance, the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, said it was willing to split its seven member executive to facilitate a dialogue between Pakistan and India.

"The split offer is an effort to get both sides to the negotiating table," said Hurriyat chairman Abdul Gani Bhat, adding that three members of the executive would talk with the Pakistani

side and four with the Indian government.

"In this way, India will be able to meet its stated objective of not involving itself in tripartite talks, while Pakistan will satisfy its stated objective that there can be no peace in Kashmir without its involvement," Bhat said.

India had indicated earlier this year that it was willing to hold a dialogue with the Hurriyat leadership.

Meanwhile, six Hindus were killed and six injured by suspected Muslim militants overnight in a village in the troubled northern Indian state of Kashmir, a senior police official said today.

The attack occurred Thursday evening in Koddara village in the southern Kashmir district of Rajouri, some 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of here, Rajouri police said.



Deposed Fijian prime minister and former coup hostage Mahendra Chaudhry (L) is greeted by Indian President K.R. Narayanan during a courtesy call at the presidential palace yesterday. Chaudhry is on a ten-day visit to India, as part of a tour of Commonwealth countries, seeking support for his reinstatement as premier following his ouster by ethnic Fijian rebels.

— AFP photo

## Barak urges Bashar to forge 'honourable peace'

TEL AVIV, Aug 18: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has publicly called on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to forge an "honourable peace" with Israel, which would serve the interests of both nations, reports AFP.

"If there exists in Syria a wish to reach an honourable peace, it will find Israel responds in kind," said Barak, during an awards-giving ceremony here Thursday.

"We are aware of the fact that Syria, under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad, considers peace as a strategic objective," Barak said.

He said that a real peace must adequately reflect the aspirations of the two countries both in terms of security and honour.

## Water-borne diseases claim 20 in Assam

GUWAHATI, India, Aug 18: At least 20 people have died of water-borne diseases in India's flood-hit northeastern state of Assam in the past week, fuelling fears of a possible epidemic, officials said today, reports AFP.

A government health official said gastro-enteritis had become a major problem in the western Assam districts of Kokrajhar and Nalbari after tens of thousands of people returned to their ravaged homes when flood waters started receding.

"At least 15 deaths were reported from two areas in the district and more than 50 are down with gastro-enteritis during the past week," Kokrajhar district magistrate John Ingti told AFP by telephone.

"We are finding it hard to cope with no doctors available to treat the villagers."

A local Baptist Mission has volunteered to depute its doctors for three days every week while a team of private paramedics have decided to set up health camps in Kokrajhar.

"The river water seems to be contaminated after the high floods and the villagers fell sick after eating fish caught from the river and also drinking water from that source," Kathar said.

Most of the villagers hit by the gastro-enteritis were tribal refugees sheltered in camps. In Assam's Nalbari district, 150 km west of the state capital Guwahati, at least five villagers have died of dysentery, while hundreds of others were reported sick.

"Teams of doctors have treated about 12,000 flood affected people in Nalbari district so far," Nalbari district magistrate B.R. Samal said.



North Korean woman Choi Bong-Jo (L), who came from the North for a reunion with her family members, cries in a bus as she leaves Seoul after she met her long separated sister Choi-Bong-Nam (R), living in the South yesterday. Both Koreas exchanged 100 people each for four-day family reunions in their capitals in a rare event since the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

—AFP photo

## Gore spells out plans for his presidency

LOS ANGELES, Aug 18: Al Gore provided the American people with a long litany of what he would do as the next president on Thursday — from upgrading schools and expanding health care to strengthening Social Security, raising the minimum wage and keeping the economy on a roll, reports Reuters.

In accepting the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination, the vice president got specific and effectively challenged Republican rival George W. Bush to do the same.

"I believe people deserve to know specifically what a candidate proposes to do," Gore told the Democratic National Convention. "You ought to be able to know and judge for yourself."

Polls show the public agrees

with Gore on many issues. Yet they prefer Bush to be the next president, largely because they see him as more likable.

"The presidency is more than a popularity contest," Gore said to sustained cheers from convention delegates. "It is a day by day fight for people."

"If you entrust me with the presidency, I know I won't always be the most exciting politician, but I pledge to you tonight I will work for you every day and I will never let you down," he said.

Gore, 52, tried to get voters on Thursday night to focus on the issues and to finally see him, a White House understudy for nearly eight years, as a politician with own vision.

"For almost 25 years, I've been fighting for people," he said.

## Lankan Parliament dissolved Elections on Oct 10

COLOMBO, Aug 18: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today dissolved Parliament and announced a general election for October 10, effectively cancelling earlier plans to reform the electoral system, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga used her executive powers to dissolve the 225-member National Legislature with effect from midnight Friday, six days before it was due to end its six-year term, the government said in a statement.

It added nominations for the parliamentary election would be accepted between August 28 and September 4.

The dissolution of parliament effectively ended a campaign by the ruling party to change the country's electoral system.

The government on August 8

shelved an electoral reform bill when the ruling party failed to muster the required two thirds majority in parliament to expand the number of seats in the assembly by 73 to 298.

The English-language Island newspaper said legislators who defected from the main opposition to the People's Alliance were keen to press ahead with the bill.

But political sources said support still remained insufficient.

Last week the president's mother Sirima Bandaranaike, 84, resigned as prime minister allowing her daughter to appoint a younger figure to lead the party's election campaign.

Despite resigning the premiership, Bandaranaike is still holding onto the leadership of Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party.

## 'Killing fields' probe takes dramatic turn

Meanwhile, a Sri Lankan government campaign to link the main opposition leader to vigilante killings 12 years ago has taken a dramatic turn with ruling party figures also being implicated, a press report said today.

The Ravaya, or Echo weekly, in its Sunday edition made available Friday, said the arrest of a newspaper columnist in connection with murders that took place in the late 1980s could also reveal the involvement of several government members.

The paper previously published several exposes on the existence of a torture chamber and eventually prompted the authorities to appoint a Presidential Commission.

## Russian sub rescue efforts continue without success

### No fresh contact with crew

MOSCOW, Aug 18: Russian efforts to rescue 118 submariners aboard the stranded Kursk continued overnight but without success, news agencies reported today, says AFP.

Four rescue capsules were diving in turn, trying to dock with the beleaguered nuclear submarine, with time running out for the Kursk's crew.

Commander of Russia's northern fleet, Vyacheslav Popov, was quoted on RTR television as saying there had been no fresh contact with the crew, amid growing fears as oxygen levels drop in the stranded submarine.

The unmanned vessels, untested previously in emergency situations, took turns

diving into the icy waters, but the navy said strong currents — some 108 meters (355 feet) under the Barents Sea, where the Kursk is grounded on its side — and atrociously poor visibility have stymied all rescue efforts.

Hopes were switching to British and Norwegian rescue efforts.

In one of the few pieces of good news, a member of the British rescue team said late Thursday that the hatches on the stricken Russian submarine were compatible with the hi-tech British submersible vessel racing to mount a rescue mission.

Commander Alan Hoskins told the BBC that Russia had assured the international rescue

mission, steaming north to try and help save the submarine's crew, that their LR5 mini-sub would be able to dock with the crippled vessel.

The LR5, described as a kind of underwater helicopter, is being transported to the scene of the submarine disaster by a Norwegian supply ship, the Normand Pioneer, Hoskins said they were making good progress and were on track to arrive at the scene around lunchtime on Saturday.

However a British defence report based on video footage of Kursk's damage concluded that one of its two rescue hatches was unusable.

**সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
 Jiban Bima Tower (15 & 16 Floor), 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000  
 PABX: 9568101, 9568102, 9561525 FAX: (88)-02-9563721  
 E-mail: secdbd@bdmail.net Website: http://www.secdbd.org

Ref. SEC/Admin./20/01/93 (part V)/377 17 August 2000

**Vacancy Announcement**

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a statutory body discharging the responsibilities of country's Capital Market Regulator, invites applications from Bangladeshi nationals for appointment in the following position:

**Position:** Private Secretary to Chairman  
**Number of post:** 01 (One)  
**Educational Qualification:** At least Second Class Master degree in Business Administration/Finance/Economics/Accountancy/Management/Law or Statistics from any recognized university.  
**Pay scale:** Tk. 4300-185x7-5595-EB-195x11-7740 and other admissible benefits under 1997 National Pay Scale.  
**Age:** Not exceeding 30 (thirty) years on 30 August 2000.  
**Preference:** Candidates having good Computer Literacy and proficiency in English will be given preference. Experience at appropriate level will also be an added advantage.  
 Interested candidates may apply with detailed C. V., two recent passport-size photographs and attested copies of all certificates of academic qualification and experience. **Applications having deficient papers will not be considered.** Envelope containing the application and other relevant papers should be marked with the post applied for and should reach Deputy Director (Admin. & Finance), Securities and Exchange Commission, Jiban Bima Tower (15 & 16 floor), 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 within 30 August 2000.  
**SEC strongly discourages persuasion or canvassing in any form and will treat them as disqualification of the candidate.**

Sajjad Hassan Saleh  
 Deputy Director (Admin. & Finance)

GD-776

## Indian opposition charges government with attack on minorities

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Opposition in Lok Sabha yesterday held the BJP-led government responsible for rising attacks on minorities and accused it of promoting Hinduism ideology in a bid to establish Hindu Rashtra, reports PTI.

Participating in a special discussion on atrocities on linguistic and religious minorities, they alleged that attacks on minorities, particularly on Christians, have increased ever since NDA came to power at the centre, posing serious threat to

the country's pluralistic culture. Initiating the discussion, Moinul Hassan (CPI-M) alleged that RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal, and other outfits have intensified their campaign against Christians and other minorities leading to spurt in assaults on them.

There was also an attempt to spread Hinduism ideology through interference in the activities of Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), he said.

## BRIEFLY

**Li Peng to visit US:** China's parliamentary head Li Peng is to make a rare visit to the United States to attend a United Nations-sponsored conference, officials said Friday, AFP reports from Beijing.

The trip by Li at the end of this month will be only his second to America since the 1989 bloody crackdown on student demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, for which Li is widely blamed as the instigator. The last time Li visited the United States was in 1992 when he attended a summit at the United Nations.

**Canadian FM to resign:** Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy will resign next month to take a teaching position at the University of British Columbia, a Canadian television network reported, AP says from Toronto.

Axworthy has told his staff of his impending resignation, CTV News reported Thursday night. The privately owned network didn't identify its sources or specify when he would step down.

**Quakes hit Japan islands:** Two strong earthquakes rocked a chain of volcanic islands off Tokyo Friday, sending rocks falling on to cars, AP reports from Tokyo.

Earlier Friday, another earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 4.0 jolted Tokyo. A 62-year-old woman broke her shoulder when she fell off her sofa, said Tokyo Fire Department spokesman Keita Kaneko.

**Putin to visit Cuba this year:** Russian President Vladimir Putin will make an official visit to Cuba before the end of the year, ITAR-TASS reported yesterday, citing presidential aide Sergey Prikhodko. AFP reports from Moscow.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque extended the invitation to Putin during a trip to Russia in January, the agency said. Havana has maintained close ties with Moscow despite the Soviet Union's collapse, providing 40 per cent of its sugar imports and hosting a Russian military post which monitors regional submarine traffic.

**Dhaka WASA Tender Notice**  
 (পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন)

Tenders are invited from Class I enlisted civil contractors of Dhaka WASA for the undermentioned work

Name of work	Amount of earnest money	Date and time of receiving tender
1. Construction work of Officers' Quarter on land of Dhaka WASA at Road No 24 at Dhanmondi, Building No-1	Tk 47,99,770/-	4/9/2000 till 12 Noon
2. Do- work Building No-2	Tk 78,05,761/-	Do
3. Do- work Building No-3	Tk 44,11,312/-	Do

Tenders will be opened on the same day of receiving them at 2:00 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present). Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Mohammad Shahjahan  
 Executive Engineer  
 Construction (Civil) Division  
 Dhaka WASA

Address: WASA Bhaban  
 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka  
 WASA-P1-260/2000  
 DFP-19594-13/8  
 G-1468

**ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা**  
 প্রকৌশল বিভাগ-২  
 নগর ভবন

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন  
 আপনার শিক্তিকে টিকা দিন

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী, খাতানামা সরবরাহকারী, স্থাপনকারী, স্থানীয় এজেন্ট, অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন পরদর্শী প্রতিষ্ঠান, আধুনিক ওয়াকশপের অধিকারী, আমদানিকারক ও ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত বাংলাদেশ সরকারের লাইসেন্স বোর্ড হতে প্রাপ্ত বৈধ বৈদ্যুতিক লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদারগণের/প্রতিষ্ঠানের/এজেন্টের নিকট হতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র আগামী ১৮-০৯-২০০০ইং/০৬-০৬-১৪০৭ বাংলা তারিখ/বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিভাগীয় কমিশনার ঢাকা, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। একই দিনে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। শতকরা হিসাবে দর গ্রহণে এবং কণায় উভয়েই স্পষ্টভাবে লিখতে হবে, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য করা হবে। কোন দরপত্র প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের উপর ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) অপেক্ষা অধিক নিম্ন দরে এবং ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) অপেক্ষা অধিক উর্ধ্ব দরে দাবিকৃত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। প্রতিটি কাজের ক্ষেত্রে সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরপত্র প্রদানকারী ঠিকাদারগণের মধ্যে একাধিক রেসপনসিভ ঠিকাদার সর্বো নিম্নদর প্রদান করলে, সেক্ষেত্রে নিয়মানুযায়ী লটারির মাধ্যমে ঠিকাদার নির্বাচন করা হবে। প্রত্যেক কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাকে ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা প্রদত্ত দরের ২.৫০% হিসাবে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। ঢাকা বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয় ও ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও সকল নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় এবং প্রধান কার্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগের হিসাবরক্ষক (পোদার) এর নিকট হতে প্রতিটি সেট নির্ধারিত মূল্যের বিনিময়ে করপোরেশনের চালান মারফত (অফেরতযোগ্য) টেভারের সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলী ক্রয় করা যাবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর বিভাগ-২ এর দপ্তর হতে জানা যাবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত কোন অর্থ বা সমুদয় দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত টাকা	বায়নার টাকা	সময়সীমা
১।	Supply & Installation of Repeater cum Base Station and Related Accessories for Wireless Control Room of Dhaka City Corporation.	৳ ৫১,৯৭,৮২২/-	৳ ২,৫০%	৭০ দিন
২।	Height of Mirpur Wireless Tower will be reduced from 300'-00" to 140'-0" and newly installation of 100'-00" height lattice Tower at Gulshan Zone Office compound along with related works for DCC	৳ ৩১,৪৪,৮৭৯/-	৳ ২,৫০%	৩০ দিন
৩।	ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মটরলা রেডিয়ো পি-১০০ আইকম আইসিএইচ-১৬, ফিলিপস পিআরপি-৭৪, ওয়াকিং টার্কিয়ার ব্যাটারী ক্রয়করণ।	৳ ১১,৭৪,৩০০/-	৳ ২,৫০%	৪৫ দিন

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী  
 ডিভিসি-পিআরডি/৬৯/০০-০১  
 জিডি-৭৭৮

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা।