

International

Japan and Russia fail to resolve island dispute



A Christian devotee touches a portrait of Mother Teresa on the anniversary of her death in Calcutta yesterday. Thousands of people came to the mission to pay tribute to Mother Teresa, who is the subject of a Papal enquiry aimed at elevating her to sainthood. —AFP photo

Dilip Kumar surrenders, released on bail

LUCKNOW, Sept 5: Matinee idol Dilip Kumar on Monday surrendered before a city court, which had issued a warrant against him in connection with a pollution case, and was released on bail, reports PTI.

Dilip Kumar surrendered before special judicial magistrate Vidushi Singh who ordered his release after asking him to furnish a personal bond of Rs 3,000 and two sureties of the like amount.

Tight security measures were taken especially in view of the threats by some outfits to kidnap Dilip Kumar, in the American Library courts.

In 1983, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board had filed a case under the provision of the Pollution Act against the directors of M/s Mohan Meakin Breweries Ltd, Lucknow and Gaziabad.

Dilip Kumar, being one of the directors of the company, was served with notices to attend the court.

Since he did not attend the court, a warrant was sent to him following which he surrendered on Monday.

The court, however, exempted his personal attendance in the case in the future and allowed attendance through his counsel unless ordered to attend in person.

It was in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court that the matter was sent to the Lucknow court.

Court upholds jail sentence for Anwar's lawyer

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5: A prominent Malaysian lawyer who had represented jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim lost an appeal Tuesday against a three-month prison sentence he was given or contempt of court, the national news agency said, reports AP.

A judge had sentenced Zahir Zakaria in December 1998 after he refused to apologise for accusing two prosecutors in Anwar's corruption trial of trying to get a potential witness to lie.

On Tuesday, Court of Appeal judge Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim, who read the judgement, said the three-judge bench was unanimous in dismissing the appeal, Bernama news agency reported.

Zahir said he would not go to jail until his appeal against the latest ruling had been heard by the Federal Court, Malaysia's highest court.

TOKYO, Sept 5: Japanese and Russian leaders failed today to break a 55-year-old deadlock over the ownership of four tiny islands but vowed to pursue further negotiations, reports AFP.

The territorial dispute has blocked the signing of a Russo-Japanese peace treaty since World War II.

"We made efforts to find a compromise but in the end we could not resolve the peace (treaty) issues," Russian President Vladimir Putin told a joint news conference.

"We had a frank exchange of views, deepening our understanding of each other's positions," he said, in a final round of talks with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

Putin, who was to leave later in

the day at the end of a three-day visit, had rejected a call by Mori on Monday for Japanese territorial boundaries to be expanded to include the islands.

"We agreed to continue our talks on the four islands," Japan's prime minister said.

Mori and Putin issued a joint statement promising to tell their officials to accelerate negotiations, which had been due to end this year, but avoided setting a new deadline.

"The two sides agreed to continue their negotiations to forge a peace treaty by resolving the sovereignty issue of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai islands," it said.

The islands, known as the southern Kurils in Russia and Northern Territories in Japan

were occupied by Soviet troops in the dying days of World War II.

The then Russian president Boris Yeltsin and the Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto agreed to sign a peace treaty by the end of 2000 at a November 1997 summit in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk.

But progress has since been glacial because of the conflicting claims over the islands and analysts say the chances of meeting the deadline have all but evaporated.

"We will continue making utmost efforts to realise the Krasnoyarsk agreement," Mori told the news conference.

"We would like to come to an agreement by the end of this year."

But Putin tiptoed around the

deadline. "The issue is not one of dates but of goodwill. Such goodwill exists in Japan and Russia," he said.

"It is not stated (in the Krasnoyarsk agreement) that Russia and Japan are obliged to reach a peace agreement by the end of 2000, only that they must make every effort to do so."

Putin stressed that relations were warming despite the island row.

"Russia and Japan enter the new century on a fundamentally new footing as strategic partners," Putin told the news conference.

"We are ready to continue dialogue over this extremely sensitive issue for both countries."

Mori agreed.



Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori (R) as they exchange documents after a signing ceremony at the Akasaka guest house in Tokyo yesterday. Japanese and Russian leaders failed to break a stubborn 55-year-old deadlock over the ownership for four tiny islands but vowed to pursue further negotiations. —AFP photo

India accounts for 60 pc of HIV cases in Asia

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: India's billion-strong population is increasingly at risk from the spread of AIDS amid steady growth in the base number of HIV cases, the director general of World Health Organisation (WHO) said today, reports AFP.

"Although Indian and the South Asian region are not hit to the same extent as African countries, the curse is unfolding and millions of people are at risk," Gro Harlem Brundtland told a news conference.

According to the official Indian statistics, more than 3.5 million Indians have been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that leads to AIDS.

"The number is significant, as it could easily spread to higher numbers in society," said Brundtland, adding that it was crucial for condom use to be encouraged.

India accounts for 60 per cent of HIV cases in Asia and 20 per cent of the world's HIV infections.

Health Minister C.P. Thakur said the Indian government was aware of the threat to public health posed by AIDS and was taking preventive steps.

"We are trying to prevent transmission between mother and child," he said.

The minister said that a recent reduction in drug prices for controlling AIDS would help the government programme.

Brundtland said India's health record in tackling some other dangerous disease such as polio and leprosy had shown remarkable improvement.

"India has nearly eradicated polio and only a final hard push is needed. We expect India to eliminate leprosy in the next year or two," she said.

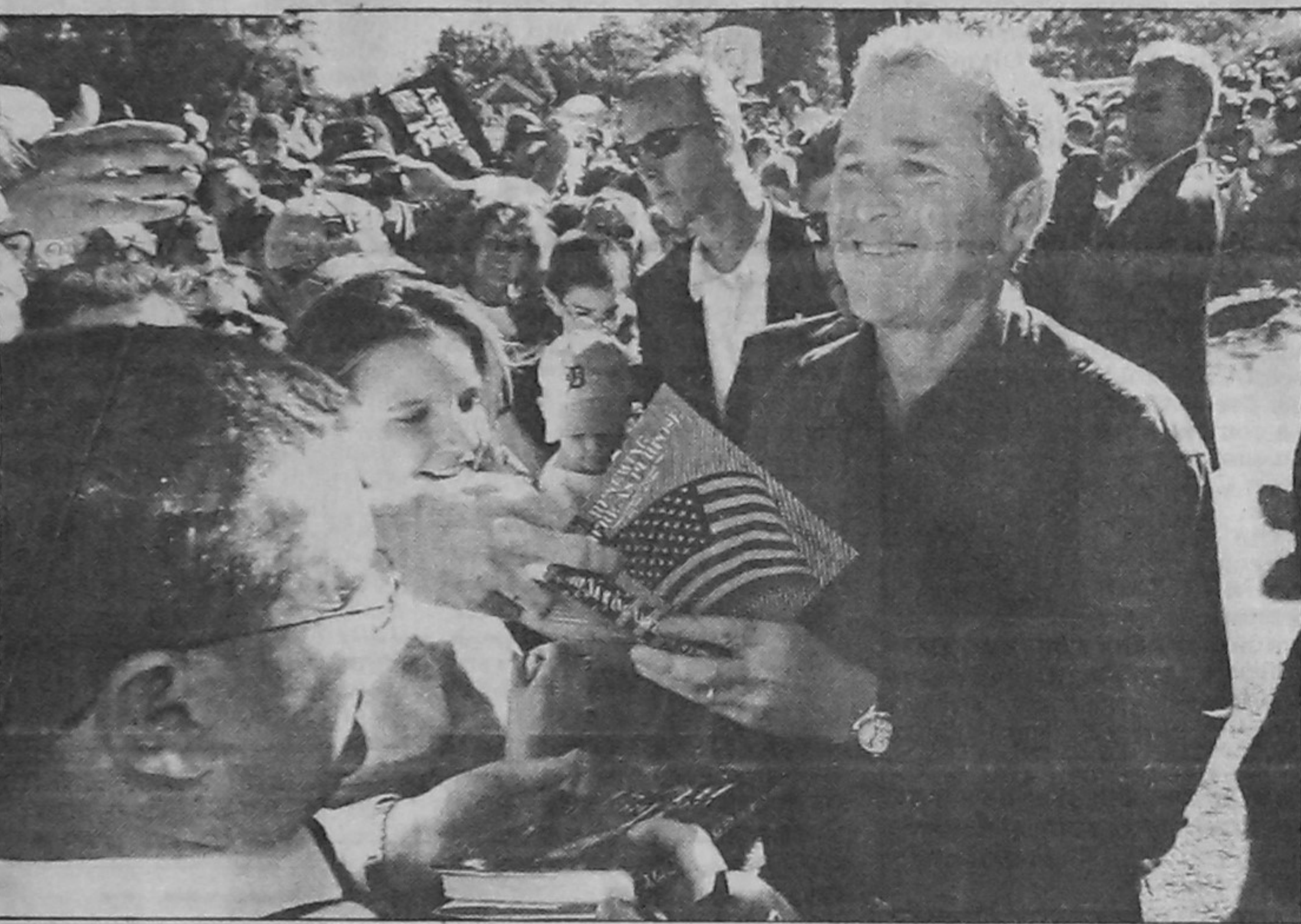
However, she cautioned that India needed to tackle vigorously other dangers to health, such as smoking, through the introduction of tough regulations on tobacco advertising for example.

The Indian Health Minister said the government was adopting a holistic approach to smoking, and planned new legislation within a year.

Brundtland also highlighted the need for good health among women.

"We have a challenge in the field of nutrition as boys are better fed than girls. There are many other factors which work against girls and women," she said.

As a result of poor nutrition, a large number of pregnant Indian women are anaemic and the health of their children suffers, she added.



Texas Governor and Republican presidential candidate George W Bush meets supporters following his speech at the Romeo Peach Festival on Monday in Romeo, Michigan. — AFP photo

Release Suu Kyi: Amnesty

BANGKOK, Sept 5: Amnesty International today called on the Yangon junta to release detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her party lieutenants, reports AFP.

"We strongly urge the Myanmar government to allow them freedom of movement," the rights group said in a statement, referring to Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders.

"The Myanmar government should immediately reveal the whereabouts of Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues, who have been held incommunicado ... increasing fears for their welfare," it said.

"The government should also remove the security forces surrounding Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home

compound and the NLD headquarters in Yangon."

Myanmar authorities raided the NLD headquarters and seized "incriminatory material" and documents early Saturday, just before they officially announced that a nine-day showdown between Aung San Suu Kyi and the junta was over.

The Nobel peace laureate and a dozen NLD members had been camped out in their cars on the outskirts of Yangon since August 24 when they were blocked from travelling to a party meeting outside the capital.

At the same time as the raid, the authorities effectively placed the NLD leadership under house arrest, although the junta has denied anyone had been officially arrested.

Editor gets suspended jail term for defaming Kumaratunga

COLOMBO, Sept 5: A Sri Lankan court today handed down a suspended two-year jail term to a weekly newspaper editor for criminally defaming President Chandrika Kumaratunga, reports AFP.

Colombo High Court judge Andrew Somawansa ordered that Lasantha Wickrematunga be jailed for two years for an article in his Sunday Leader newspaper in September 1995.

Wickrematunga said he will appeal against the judgement but in the meantime he will not have to serve the term because the sentence was suspended for five years.

If within the five years he is convicted of another criminal offence, then he will have to go to jail and serve the two year period in addition to what ever punishment handed down for the new offence.

State prosecutors argued that the Sunday leader article headline a "Promising Government" had implied that the president was corrupt and therefore amounted to criminal defamation of the head of state.

Wickrematunga said the article sought to analyse the pledges of Kumaratunga's government as it marked its first year in office and denied he implied the president was corrupt.

Miracle still happens

CAIRO, Sept 5: A two-year old toddler was recovering in the intensive care unit of a Cairo hospital after falling from a sixth floor balcony, the hospital said Monday, reports AFP.

Isra Hassan Ramadan was playing with her brothers on the balcony of their flat in the Abu Wafay district of northern Cairo Saturday evening, when she plummeted to the street below.

She was taken to the Nasser hospital unconscious and bleeding profusely. The hospital's deputy director Bahaa el-Din Abu Zid described her survival as "a miracle."

The government paper Al-Akhbar quoted him as saying that the little girl had been in a "terrible state" when she arrived, but that she had now regained consciousness.

All for 25 dollars

HONG KONG, Sept 5: A policeman who fled Hong Kong after stealing 25 US dollars has been jailed following 17 years on the run, it was reported today, reports DPA.

Chung Hang-ping, 45, robbed a woman of the money in a park on a drunken night out in 1983 when he was 28 years old, the Hong Kong Mail reported.

He jumped bail after being arrested and fled to Taiwan where he started a new life and now has a 15-year-old daughter. But Chung never dared return to Hong Kong and missed the funerals of his brother, mother and grandmother.

When he eventually returned to the territory earlier this year, he was immediately arrested at Chek Lap Kok airport by immigration officers and taken into custody, the paper reported.

Judge Stephen Geiser jailed him for three years and three months in a High Court hearing on Monday, telling him the punishment of his self-imposed exile did not excuse his offence.

"The defendant was a serving police officer at the time," Judge Geiser said. "He was in a position to protect people, not attack them."

Musharraf to raise Kashmir issue at UN summit

LAHORE, Sept 5: Pakistan's military ruler will use the UN Millennium Summit to raise his country's simmering dispute with India over Kashmir, Pakistan's foreign minister said Monday, reports AP.

Gen Pervez Musharraf, who will address the United Nations on Wednesday, plans to urge the Security Council to help resolve the 53-year-old dispute, which is a threat to peace in the poor South Asian region, Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said.

"India has rejected Pakistan's talks offer over Kashmir," he told a news conference. "Now the World community should focus attention on the issue."

Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India, has already been a flashpoint of two wars between them since British rule ended in the subcontinent in 1947.

Pakistan and India, the world's two newest nuclear powers, both lay claim to a united Kashmir.

A third war was fought then in 1971 over Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan. Last summer, the two countries fought a border

war in Kashmir, triggering international concerns that it could transform into a full scale conflict.

Sattar said the Security Council should play an active role to prevent a crisis and resolve disputes.

"Pakistan stands for peace, but the threat of war will remain in the region until this issue is resolved," he said.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of fomenting a decade-long insurgency in Kashmir and says Islamabad should stop supporting militants to create a suitable atmosphere for talks.

Islamabad has rejected India's charges and says it gives only political and moral support to Kashmiri people, fighting for merger with Islamic Pakistan or independence.

Sattar said in recent weeks Indian troops increased firing on border villages in Pakistani-held Kashmir.

On Monday, Indian troops rained artillery shells from across the disputed frontier, wounding at least 14 people, police said. Since August, more than 20

people have been killed by Indian firing and many more wounded, they said.

"Our troops are repaying Indians in kind because we cannot remain silent spectators when our civilians are being killed," Sattar said.

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in October last, accuses the previous governments of relentless corruption and the country's economic turmoil. He promises across the board accountability and reviving the country's battered economy.

The Supreme Court has given him three years to complete the task.

The International community is pressing Musharraf to restore democracy in Pakistan, but there is little domestic pressure for elections, in a country where four elected governments have been dismissed during the last 10 years on corruption charges.

Sattar said Musharraf will meet several world leaders during his week-long stay in New York, but not the Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Switzerland offers help to resolve Kashmir dispute

BERN, Sept 5: Switzerland has offered its help to broker a solution to the dispute over Kashmir between India and Pakistan, Swiss foreign minister Joseph Deiss said during a visit on Monday from his Indian counterpart, reports AFP.


Deiss said he also pressed on Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh Switzerland's wishes that India sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Singh thanked Deiss for the offer, saying "India and Pakistan speak the same language."

The Indian foreign minister said that an environment conducive to dialogue was necessary for talks on Kashmir, implying that New Delhi was waiting for a sign from Pakistan to open talks.

Singh also said that India was keeping to a recently adopted moratorium on nuclear testing, adding that he wished for the destruction of all existing nuclear weapons.

Singh's visit was the first to Switzerland by an Indian foreign minister since 1981.



Bangladesh Power Development Board


সময়মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিন পরিশোধ করুন
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ করুন

Tender Notice

Name of work: Construction of distribution line of 11 KV, 11.04 KV, 0.4 KV of Shambhupur-2 Feeder at Bhairab Bazar Town under 16-Town Electric Supply Project (2nd phase), Division-4, PDB, Comilla, rehabilitation, renewal and service replacement, installation of 11/0.4 KV sub-station and related work. Eligibility of contractors: Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited from valid enlisted Ka. Kha classes of electrical contractors of Power Development Board with ABC electrical licences. Estimated expenditure: Tk 12,73,382/-. Cost of tender: Tk 700/- (seven hundred) (non-refundable). It will have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order to the 16-Town Electric Supply Project Phase-2, PDB, Dhaka. Place of availability of tender and date: Can be purchased from the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Chittagong/office of the Project Director, 16-Town Electric Supply Project, PDB, Biddut Bhaban, No 1, A. Chandi Road, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, Distribution Division, PDB, Kishoreganj/Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building Branch, Biddut Bhaban, Zangalia, Comilla till 25/09/2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: Tenders will be opened in the offices mentioned (except bank), in the office of the undersigned on 26/09/2000 till 12:00 Noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the attending tenderers (if anyone remains present). Other terms and conditions as mentioned in schedule and all rules and regulations must be followed properly.

Executive Engineer
16-Town Electric Supply Project
Division-4
PDB, Comilla

Power/Public-358(5)/2000-2001
DPP: 21191-31/8
G-1560



পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন বিভাগ

ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া-ঝিনাইদহ, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন: (০৭১) ৫৪৭৮০ (অ), ৫৩১৬৮ (বা), পিএবিএক্স: ৫৩২৯, ৫৩৪৯১, ৫৪০৭৯/২১১ (অ), ২৯৫ (বা), ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-০৭১-৫৪৪০০
তারিখ: ০২/০৯/২০০০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (স্থানীয়/আন্তর্জাতিক)

ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের (১) চলিত রসায়ন ও রাসায়নিক প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ এবং (২) শরীর চর্চা ও শিক্ষা বিভাগের জন্য যন্ত্রপাতি, গ্রাসওয়ার ও কেমিক্যালস (সিডিউল মোতাবেক) সরবরাহের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/আমদানিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে তাদের নিজস্ব ছাপানো প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের সাথে (ক) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, (খ) এ ধরনের যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা অর্থাৎ পারফরমেন্স সার্টিফিকেট, (গ) আয়কর (ভ্যাটসহ) প্রদান স্বপক্ষে স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র এবং আপটুডেট ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ১৫.১০.২০০০ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০টা পর্যন্ত ক্যাম্পাসে অবস্থিত ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রারের কার্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া পুলিশ সুপার-এর কার্যালয়, ঝিনাইদহ পুলিশ সুপার-এর কার্যালয় এবং ১০-ডি/৪, মাদ্রাসা রোড বাইলেন, ব্রক-এফ (আজিজ মহল্লা), মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকাই ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রারের কার্যালয়ে (৩য় তলা) রফতানি দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। এ দিন বেলা ১২-৩০টা দরদাতা বা তাদের প্রতিনিধিদের (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে। আগামী ১৫.১০.২০০০ তারিখ ব্যাংকিং লেনদেন সময় পর্যন্ত অগ্রাধিকার, ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখা, কুষ্টিয়া আমানত/জামানত ফান্ড এসটিডি-০৩, অগ্রাধিকার, ধানাপাড়া শাখা, কুষ্টিয়ার এসটিডি-২৪, অগ্রাধিকার, ঝিনাইদহ শাখার এসটিডি-৪০ এবং ঢাকাই অগ্রাধিকার, নিউমার্কেট শাখা, ঢাকার চলতি হিসাব নং ৩০০৭০০৯ তে অফেরতযোগ্য ২,৫০০/= (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকার বিনিময়ে দরপত্র সিডিউল ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রত্যেক দরপত্রের সাথে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুকূল উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৩% টাকা যে কোন সিডিউল (Schedule) ব্যাংক হতে জমা করা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পে-অর্ডার আকারে জামানত হিসাবে জমা দিতে হবে। অগ্রাধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠান একসাথে সকল গ্রুপ বা যে কোন গ্রুপের দরপত্র জমা দিতে পারবেন; তবে সে ক্ষেত্রে গ্রুপওয়ারী পৃথক পৃথক প্রস্তাব, আবেদননামা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি জমা দিতে হবে। এছাড়া আমদানিযোগ্য বিদেশী মালামালের প্রস্তাবসমূহ ইমেইল আকারে দিতে হবে, এতে মালামালের নাম, স্পেসিফিকেশন, ক্যাটী অফ অরিয়েন্ট, বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় মূল্য (সিএডএফ মূল্য), অফার ভ্যালিডিটি (Offer Validity) ইত্যাদি তথ্যের বিস্তারিত উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।

দরপত্র জমা দেবার অর্থাৎ ১৫.১০.২০০০ তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না। নিখরাত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর দরপত্র পৌঁছালে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ তার দায়-দায়িত্ব বহন করেন না। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম
পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন)

GD-823

BRIEFLY

Quake jolts Indian state:

An earthquake of moderate intensity shook the western Indian state of Maharashtra early Tuesday, the Press Trust of India reported, AP reports from New Delhi.

The 5.2 magnitude quake had its epicenter in Warna, in the Koyanagar region, 1,175 kilometers (705 miles) south of New Delhi, the Indian capital, weather department officials told PTI. Tremors from the earthquake were felt in Bombay, India's financial hub and the capital of Maharashtra, PTI said, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

70 kg opium seized:

Russian security guards seized more than 70 kilos (150 pounds) of opium during a shoot-out with Afghan drug smugglers on the Tajik-Afghan border early today, security officials said, AFP reports from Dushanbe.

The haul brings the total amount of opium confiscated in the zone to more than 1,000 kilos in the past week alone. Around a dozen Afghan drug smugglers took flight after the gun fight, although no casualty figures were given. Russian border guards, who patrol the frontier under an agreement with the Tajik government, have reported a sharp increase recently in the amount of drugs destined for the country.

Lull prevails in Jaffna

COLOMBO, Sept 5: Fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula the center of a Tamil insurgency subsided Tuesday after two days of fierce battle that left 344 combatants dead on both sides, military officials said, reports AP.

"Now there is a lull, but we are not lowering our guard," defense ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne told The Associated Press. Since noon Monday, there has been no new ground fighting, he said.

The Voice of Tigers radio of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on Tuesday dismissed a government claim that the military had had driven back the rebels from the outer limits of Jaffna city.

"Fighting formations of the Liberation Tigers are ready to face any adventure," the radio said, but did not elaborate.

The radio, monitored in the government-held town of Vavuniya, read out the names of 22 of some combatants who died in the two days of fighting that began Sunday.

It, however, did not say how many actually died. The rebels read the names of only those fighters whose bodies were in their possession so that the families could take the bodies for cremation, the radio said. The figure was much lower than that given by the government.

The army said 114 soldiers were killed and 766 were wounded since the beginning of the assault called "Operation Sunrise." The attack, led by MIG-27 jets, was aimed at increasing security around Jaffna city the former rebel capital that is now under army control.

More than 230 rebels were killed in the army operation and at least 300 were wounded, Karunaratne said, citing intercepts of 23 rebel radio conversations.