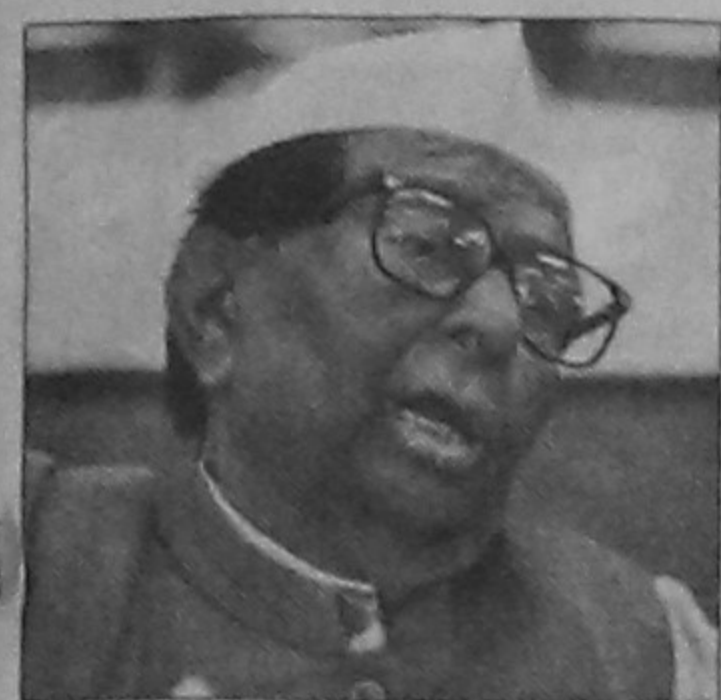




Ex-Congress president Kesri dead

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 : India's main opposition Congress Party was today mourning the death of its former president Sitaram Kesri, reports AFP.

Kesri, 81, died from respiratory failure at 00:00 BST Tuesday with his son and a daughter at his bedside, according to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, where he was hospitalised with pulmonary embolism on October 12.

On learning of Kesri's death, party president Sonia Gandhi, and senior Congressmen Jitendra Prasad, Ahmed Patel, Jagdish Tytler and Ajit Jogi visited the hospital to offer their condolences to Kesri's family.

Sonia saluted Kesri's "enormous political intelligence and maturity" and organised a condolence meeting for him at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi.

Kesri will be cremated on the banks of the Ganges on Thursday, said Congress party spokesman Ajit Jogi.

Fujimori dismisses coup rumour after Montesinos' return

LIMA, Oct 25 : Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on Tuesday dismissed the possibility of a military coup in his country despite political turmoil caused by the sudden return from exile of former intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos, reports AFP.

Yet in an radio interview the controversial Montesinos said that he was returning to Peru to stay as a "common citizen" following personal negotiations with Fujimori himself - a statement seen as a direct provocation to the political opposition.

Fujimori insisted that he remained in control of the country.

"I exercise full control of the armed forces and reject any possibility that the country's constitutional order could be thwarted," Fujimori said.

Mobs storm prison, kill 24 Tamil inmates in Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 25 : Hundreds of local hooligans stormed a rehabilitation centre in central Sri Lanka today, killing 24 Tamil inmates in an orgy of violence that also left another man dead, police said, reports AFP.

Violent mobs attacked the detainees with knives and stones in a riot that also left at least 16 people seriously wounded, a local police source said, adding the facility had been destroyed in a fire.

"There were 40 Tamil Tiger suspects at the centre," a local official said by telephone. "Twenty four of them have been killed while the balance 16 escaped with serious injuries."

He said the body of the 25th man killed was yet to be identified. It was not immediately clear if he was one of the men involved in the attack on the centre at Bandarawela, 210 km east of here.

The mobs attacked these people and later set fire to the entire place," a police officer said after visiting the scene. He said police had been deployed in the area.

State radio said the inmates had tried to take over the facility on Tuesday triggering tension and the army had been called in to restore order.

However, a defence ministry spokesman here, Sanath Karunaratne, said troops sent to the centre had withdrawn around midnight but

rioting had broken out again on Wednesday morning.

"We have sent another platoon this morning, but by the time our troops got there, it was all over," Karunaratne said.

Police sources said it seemed the inmates clashed with their minders and later hundreds of residents armed with knives and sticks came to the aid of the army captain in charge.

The wounded were being treated at three hospitals under tight security.

The centre was located at Bandarawela. The Tamil detainees, who were being provided with vocational training at the centre, were not hard core Tiger rebels, according to officials here.

They said the facility was maintained under a civilian authority, the National Youth Services Council, to provide vocational training to former rebels who had surrendered to security forces.

"These are people who had actually given themselves up to security forces and were being taught some trade or the other so that they could go back to society as free men," a military official here said.

The attack was reminiscent of a massacre of dozens of Tamil prisoners at a maximum security prison in the capital Colombo in July 1983 when Sinhalese mobs attacked members of the minority community.

US, allies seek 'further gains' from N Korea

SEOUL, Oct 25 : US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today the United States, South Korea and Japan must stand firm in its dealings with North Korea to secure more concessions, reports AFP.

Speaking after talks with the foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan, Lee Jeong-Binn and Yohel Kono, Albright told a press conference: "Our unity is crucial until we make further gains."

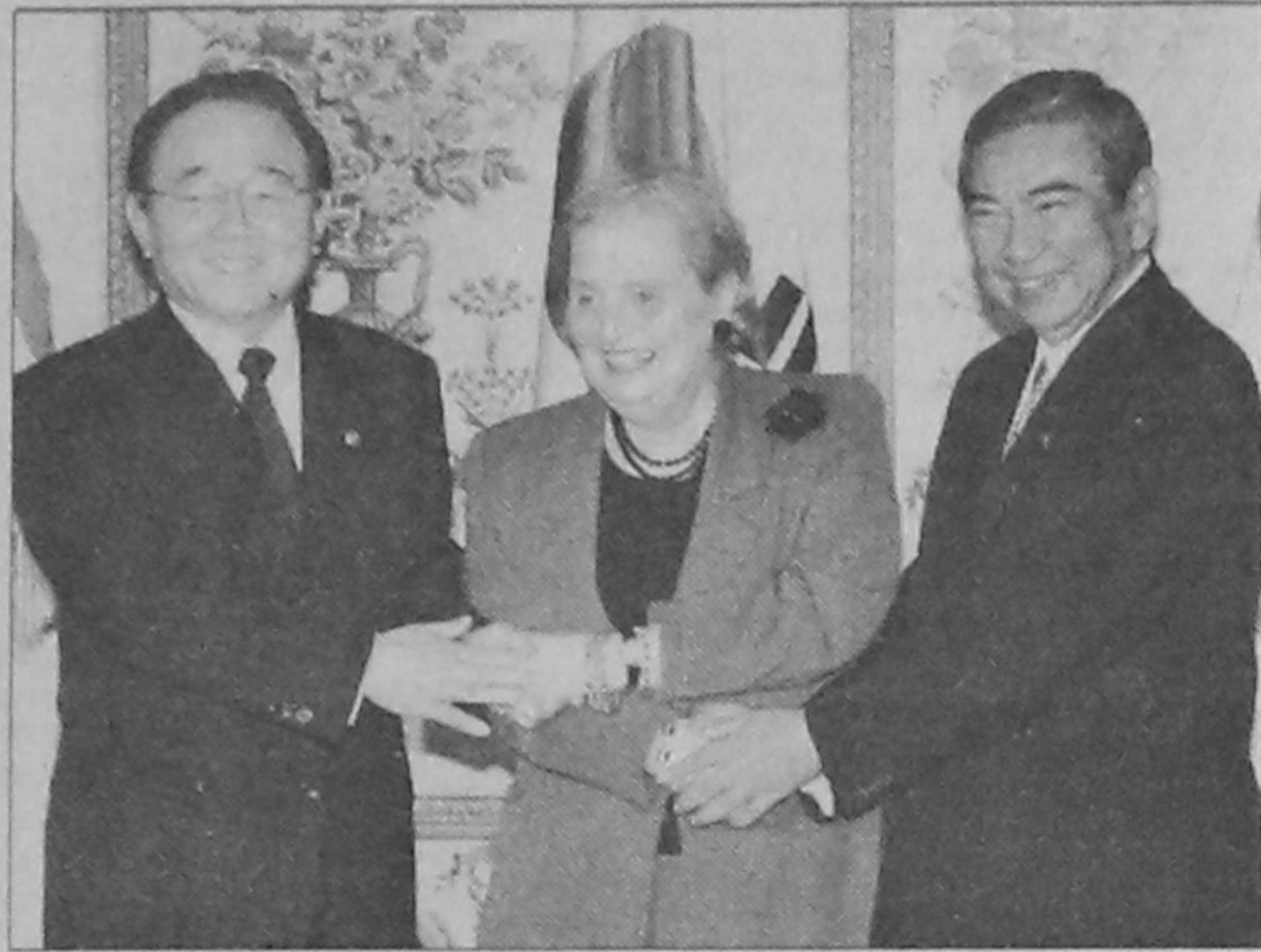
No details were given of the talks but Albright was to brief Washington's main Asian allies on details of her two days of talks this week in Pyongyang with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il and other top officials.

Albright said in Pyongyang that Kim Jong-Il had hinted the Stalinist country would curb its long-range missile launches.

A stadium extravaganza on Monday had featured an image of North Korea's Taepodong missile and Kim Jong-Il "immediately turned to me and quipped that this was the first satellite launch and would be the last," Albright said.

Part of the gala, which featured 100,000 performers, included a display of the August 1998 missile launch over Japan which North Korea insists was only a satellite launch.

The South Korean foreign minister told the press confer-



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (C) shakes hands with South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Jeong-bin (L) and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohel Kono (R) before a meeting to assess what she learned in Pyongyang and coordinate policies towards North Korea at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul yesterday.

ence: "We actively support the results of Albright's visit to North Korea expecting it to make important progress in US-North Korea relations and also South-North relations and Japan-North Korea normalisation talks."

Japan is due to start new normalisation talks with North Korea in Beijing on October 30 but has lagged behind other nations.

Kono, however, also stressed the need for close consultations between the three. "For the universal values of freedom, democracy and basic human rights in North Korea we need to keep up our cooperation," he said.

3 Malaysian hostages freed in Philippines

JOLO, Philippines, Oct 25 : Philippine troops today recovered three Malaysians abducted off Sabah state by Filipino Muslim guerrillas last month, military sources told AFP here.

An AFP reporter saw dive resort manager Mohamed Noor Sulaiman, 43, dive master Joseph Ongkino, 40, and contractor Kan Wei Chong, 35, inside an army base in this southern island in early afternoon.

The captives were rescued in the village of Mabayah near Talipao town, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, after a three-hour firefight Wednesday morning, a military intelligence officer said.

There was no immediate word on casualties but the hostages were unharmed.

Divers carve opening in Kursk sub

MOSCOW, Oct 25 : Russian and Norwegian divers succeeded in cutting an opening in the hull of the stricken Kursk submarine early today, the commander of the Northern Fleet Admiral Vyacheslav Popov told ITAR-TASS, reports AFP.

"The team are now covering the jagged metal inside the Kursk with protective material to avoid puncturing their diving suits when the operation to recover the 118 dead Russian sailors begins," Popov told the news agency.

NZ to ease immigration rules

WELLINGTON, Oct 25 : New Zealand was set to make speedy changes to its immigration rules to encourage more migrants, Prime Minister Helen Clark said today, reports AFP.

She told the Evening Post the need for changes to the immigration rules was "very urgent".

Work had begun on simplifying immigration processes for people with skills that are in short supply.



A mother hugs her daughter after they were reunited following a hostage taking on Tuesday at Pioneer Elementary School in Glendale, Arizona. A teen-age boy, armed with a 9mm handgun, took a teacher and about 10 students hostage at the elementary school before a police negotiator convinced him to surrender. --AFP photo

Bombay court bans taxi cabs from Nov 1

BOMBAY, Oct 25 : Bombay will ban thousands of polluting taxis from the city's streets from November 1, officials said today, reports AFP.

"The Bombay High Court has banned all three-cylinder, diesel-run taxis from the city and asked them to convert either to petrol or compressed natural gas," deputy transport commissioner Satish Sahasrabudde told AFP.

Sahsrabudde said special squads would start checking for taxis violating the ban from November 1.

"We will strictly implement the court order," he said, adding that between 8,000 and 10,000 of Bombay's 55,000 taxis would be affected.

"The polluting taxis have no choice but to fall in line."

The taxi operators union had sought a stay until December 31 to convert the polluting taxis but the court declined to grant their request.



Israeli soldiers shoot at stone-throwing Palestinian teenagers in Khan Yunes in the Gaza Strip during clashes on Tuesday. Almost four weeks of clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces have left 136 people dead and about 4,000 wounded. All but eight of the fatalities have been Palestinians.

--AFP photo

Palestinian territories tense after overnight firefights

JERUSALEM, Oct 25 : The Palestinian territories remained tense today following overnight firefights in the West Bank and an attack on an Israeli military convoy in the Gaza Strip, witnesses said, reports AFP.

At least a dozen Israeli military bases came under gunfire attack overnight in the two territories, an Israeli army spokesman said.

Early Wednesday, a roadside bomb exploded near an Israeli military convoy close to Morag settlement in the Gaza Strip, without causing casualties, military sources said.

Palestinians waiting in ambush opened fire at the convoy from both sides of the road and Israeli soldiers fired back, the sources said. The assailants escaped to a zone controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

The army combed the area for other body-trapped devices.

Late Tuesday night, Israeli tanks positioned outside the Jewish settlement of Psagot fired at targets in the adjacent West Bank town of Ramallah after the settlement came under fire, witnesses said.

But contrary to previous

nights, the east Jerusalem Jewish settlement of Gilo had a quiet night.

In the previous few nights, the Israelis rocketed or shelled Beit Jala after Gilo came under fire from positions in the nearby Palestinian village.

The Israeli army has said it is gearing up for a prolonged struggle against the Palestinians, with fears that the fighting could last more than a year.

At least 138 people have been killed and 4,000 wounded in almost four weeks of violence, the great majority of them Palestinians.

Rival Ivory Coast forces fight as tens of thousands protest

Minister resigns, backs Gbagbo

ABIDJAN, Oct 25 : Rival army factions battled in Ivory Coast early today and tens of thousands of people headed towards central Abidjan protesting against General Robert Guei's self-declaration as president, reports AFP.

Angry protests over Guei's declaration erupted across the west African nation Tuesday, when nine demonstrators were killed as the presidential guard fired on crowds here.

Undeterred, supporters of opposition rival Laurent Gbagbo renewed their protests on Wednesday as soon as a dusk-to-

dawn curfew was lifted, insisting that he was the victor in Sunday's election.

Guei's hold on the army appeared to slip as soldiers were seen fraternising with the protesters in the working-class district of Abobo early Wednesday. The protesters then headed toward the central Plateau business district, where the presidential palace is located.

Hundreds of protesters were already massed near the state television headquarters, where a security presence had been reinforced, residents said.

The central city of Bouake and

the port city of San Pedro were at a standstill and security forces could not be seen.

Witnesses reported artillery and automatic weapons fire.

Meanwhile, Ivory Coast Communications Minister Henri Sama today resigned from the military government and recognised the victory of Laurent Gbagbo in Sunday's presidential election.

"Gbagbo has won, we gave our word and General Guei must respect it," Captain Sama, also the government spokesman, told AFP.

Philippines vice president asks Estrada to resign

MANILA, Oct 25 : Vice President Gloria Arroyo today called on President Joseph Estrada to resign, warning the Philippines economy could collapse if he clung to office amid a corruption scandal, reports AFP.

Arroyo quit Estrada's Cabinet two weeks ago after the latter was accused of taking 414 million pesos (8.4 million dollars) in bribes from illegal gambling bosses, but has refused to openly call for the resignation of Estrada who faces a possible impeachment trial.

But on Wednesday, Arroyo, who is next in line of succession, changed her stand. She warned the economy would last "not for long" if Estrada stayed in office.

She cited the collapse of the peso, which plunged to an all-time low of 49.80 to the dollar amid the political crisis.

"It is futile to resort to a monetary policy tool like interest rates in order to resolve a crisis of confidence. The problem reflected by the peso decline is a political problem which requires a political solution," she told reporters.

Asked if she now backed calls for Estrada's resignation, Arroyo answered in the affirmative, saying there was "no other solu-



Gloria Arroyo

tion."

"The tightening of our money supply will have serious repercussions in our domestic economy. Many businesses are in danger of closure because of the abrupt and unexpected high cost of money," she said.

"Eventually the poor will suffer from these policies in the form of higher unemployment and probable supply shortages."

Arroyo said business has been "groaning" due to high interest rates.

Estrada has rejected charges that he received payoffs and that he diverted millions of dollars in tobacco excise taxes.

Siamese twins separated in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 25 : Doctors today successfully separated Siamese twin girls joined upside down at the back of the head after a marathon operation in Brisbane, reports AFP.

It is believed to be the first separation of Siamese twins joined in this manner, with one twin facing up and the other facing down.

Tay-lah and Monique Armstrong were born linked by a small piece of bone and shared major blood vessels, although they have their own brains.

Such Siamese twins are estimated to occur only once in every five million births.

A Royal Children's Hospital spokeswoman said both babies were in a critical but stable condition.

About 20 medical staff in two teams working in shifts began operating on the six-month-old twins on Tuesday and worked through the night.

"It's very rare," neurosurgeon Scott Campbell told the Seven television network before the operation. "It's going to be difficult challenge."

The girls were born seven weeks premature on April 3.

BRIEFLY

3 rebels shot dead in Aceh: Indonesian forces shot dead three alleged rebels during armed clashes in the troubled province of Aceh in north Sumatra, as separatist representatives seek a team to probe the escalating violence there, reports said Wednesday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

A raid by three platoons of security forces on a suspected rebel headquarters in Cot Baro Tepi Raya village in the Glumpang Tiga subdistrict of Pidie district on Saturday led to a clash during which three suspected rebels were killed, the state Antara news agency said. One of the victims was Teungku Yahya, the deputy commander of the rebel command in Pidie, according to a release from the national police cited by Antara.

Rift Valley Fever kills 88 in KSA: The number of Saudi dead from Rift Valley Fever, which struck the Saudi-Yemen border area in early September, has climbed to 88 after another three deaths, the health ministry said Wednesday, AFP reports from Riyadh.

"Three more deaths have been recorded in the Saudi kingdom," said a statement released in Riyadh. The ministry said 450 people have contracted the virus, but 346 have been able to leave hospital after recovering.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 894771-9, 894730-4, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BJ

Tender Notice

No. 09/2000-2001

Scaled tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from interested Manufacturers/Distributors/Suppliers of the supply of the item mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

- Off-set/Base paper white (80-90 grms) - 228 Ream
Size: 23"x36"
- Hot & Cold Towel (Milky white) - 96000 pcs
Size: 22x22 cm.
- Tyre - 100 pcs
Size: (400.8) part no. 4810-40080
- Tyre & Tube with Flap part no. 28x8-15 (12 Ply) - 17 set
- Tyre with Tube part no. LT235/85 R16, M/S-8 PR - 11 set
- i. Envelope Medium (white off-set paper) - 180000 pcs.
Size: 9.5"x4.5"
- ii. China manifold paper light pink Size: 23"x36" - 84 Ream

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items, terms and conditions will be available from the Manager (Cash & Banking), Head Office 'BALAKA' & Accounts Officer (Cash Payment Unit), Admin. Building, Zia, Dhaka of Biman Finance Directorate, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 300/- (Three hundred) only per set (per group) non-refundable by applying own letter head pad during any working day up to 5.11.2000.

Scaled tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Sec., Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, Zia, Dhaka and Biman Press Building, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka latest by 1130 hours (BST) on 6.11.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, Zia, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of the items and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

By General Manager (Purchase)
Store & Purchase Directorate

GD-986

জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

গাজীপুর

তারিখঃ ২৪-১০-২০০০ ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মৃ. নং ১০৬৭

এতদ্বারা ২০০০ সালের ডিগ্রী পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্রসমূহের সকল ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের গত ২৩-১০-২০০০ ইং তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি মোতাবেক দেশের সকল বিভাগীয় হেডকোয়ার্টার ব্যতিত অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্র এবং কেন্দ্রের আওতাধীন কলেজ ১৯৯৯ সালের ডিগ্রী পাশ পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র তালিকা অনুযায়ী বহাল থাকবে। এর ফলে গত ০৩-১০-২০০০ ইং তারিখে দেশের জেলা প্রশাসকদের নিকট প্রেরিত ২০০০ সালের ডিগ্রী পাশ পরীক্ষার চূড়ান্ত কেন্দ্র তালিকা আংশিক পরিবর্তন পূর্বক নতুন সংশোধিত কেন্দ্র তালিকা জেলা প্রশাসকদের নিকট শীঘ্রই প্রেরণ করা হবে। ০৩-১০-২০০০ ইং তারিখে প্রেরিত কেন্দ্র তালিকা অনুযায়ী যে সকল কেন্দ্রের ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অলিখিত উত্তরপত্র এবং অন্যান্য সামগ্রী গ্রহণ করেছেন তাদেরকে নতুন সংশোধিত কেন্দ্র তালিকা অনুযায়ী সংশ্লিষ্ট কেন্দ্র হতে ইতোপূর্বে গৃহীত মালামাল সমন্বয়ের মাধ্যমে গ্রহণ/বিতরণ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। সমন্বয়ের পর কোন কেন্দ্র কত সংখ্যক উত্তরপত্র এবং অন্যান্য সামগ্রী গ্রহণ/বিতরণ করেছেন, তার একটি তালিকা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীকে প্রেরণ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। জেলার সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল কলেজের অধ্যাপকে জেলা প্রশাসকের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করে নতুন সংশোধিত কেন্দ্র তালিকা গ্রহণ পূর্বক তদানুযায়ী প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রফেসর বিনয় রতন বড়ুয়া
পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক
জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
গাজীপুর

জিডি-৯৮৫

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

- Scaled local tenders are invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned local manufacturers/suppliers for the procurement of 5 Spool ware rack for 9 Meter Pole and Top Mount side Mount for 11 Meter P.C Pole as stated below:

SI No	Tender Enquiry No & date	Description of equipment/materials	Qty	Cost of tender document (Taka)	Tender receiving date.
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	Pur-220/99-2000/ (Rev), dt: 16.10.2000	5 Spool ware rack for 9 Meter P.C Pole Top Mount side Mount for 11 Meter P.C Pole	3000 Sets 3000 Sets	3,000/-	27.11.2000

- A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Taka as mentioned in column-5 each as above against this tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director, Purchase, Power Development Board, Dhaka.
- Pay Order/Bank Draft equivalent to 2.5% (two & half per cent) of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.
- Tender will be received up to 11.00 AM and will be opened at 11.30 AM in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any; Tender shall neither be sent by Post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer send by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.
- The expenditure will be booked against (O&M) Revenue budget 2000-2001.

Biddut/Jana-776-(5)/2000-2001
DFP-25471-19/10
G-1871

Director, Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka