

## Pak military will have to hand over power to civilian admn

### Sharif still defiant

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31 : Pakistan's military regime will have to hand power to a civilian administration as soon as possible or take the blame for the "disintegration" of the country, ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif said in an interview published today, reports AFP.

Speaking to Japan's Mainichi Shimbun from his prison cell in the high security Attock Fort outside the capital, Sharif said "this government has failed completely and it will have to revert to civilian rule."

"It is not a choice or an option available to it. It is a demand that has to be met as early as possible to save the country from disintegration," he said in the interview published in English-language dailies here.

Sharif on Monday won a small victory against the military regime which toppled him in a bloodless coup last year. The Sindh High Court threw out his conviction for terrorism and rejected a state appeal demanding his execution.

But he is still languishing in prison with a life sentence for hijacking related to events on the night of the military takeover, when he tried to stop a plane carrying coup leader General Pervez Musharraf from landing.

He said the Musharraf regime had failed in every aspect of its ambitious reform agenda, including stamping out corruption and reviving the debt-ridden economy.

"No government in the 52-year history of our

country has lost its credibility as quickly as this government has," he said.

"There is disharmony and chaos... and internationally we are a discredited country. There is flight of capital and manpower and the government's propagandists are misleading the people, but the situation is such that they themselves do not believe their own propaganda."

Musharraf, who rode to power on a wave of anti-Sharif sentiment, last week admitted for the first time that his popularity was waning and there was a "perception of discouragement and despondency."

He said that "if we were not performing, I would be the first person to be thinking of ways to bring somebody who can run Pakistan better."

But he said the perception of Pakistan's failures had been blown out of proportion by intellectuals and the media and there was no need to rush in a civilian administration.

Pakistan's supreme court has validated the coup and given Musharraf three years to complete his reforms and hold general elections.

Sharif said the Pakistani military has no respect for democracy and had held every civilian government hostage.

"The moment a civilian set-up is established a systematic campaign of sabotage is started to undermine the authority of that government," he said.



West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu (2<sup>nd</sup> from R) gestures as he speaks to his cabinet colleagues after attending the last cabinet meeting of his twenty-four year tenure as the state Chief Minister in Calcutta yesterday. State Home Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya (3<sup>rd</sup> from R) will replace Basu as the new Chief Minister after the latter retires on November 6 on health grounds. — AFP photo

## 1st crew to live on ISS blasts off

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan, Oct 31 : Two Russians and an American blasted off today for the International Space Station to become the first crew to inhabit a ground-breaking project to advance space exploration in the 21st century, reports AFP.

Just over four minutes later the Soyuz craft carrying US astronaut William Shepherd and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalyov and Yuri Gidzenko, left the Earth's atmosphere and reached orbit.

"Everything is going according to plan. The rocket is in orbit," said Alexei Lukyanov, an official at the Baidkonur space center here.

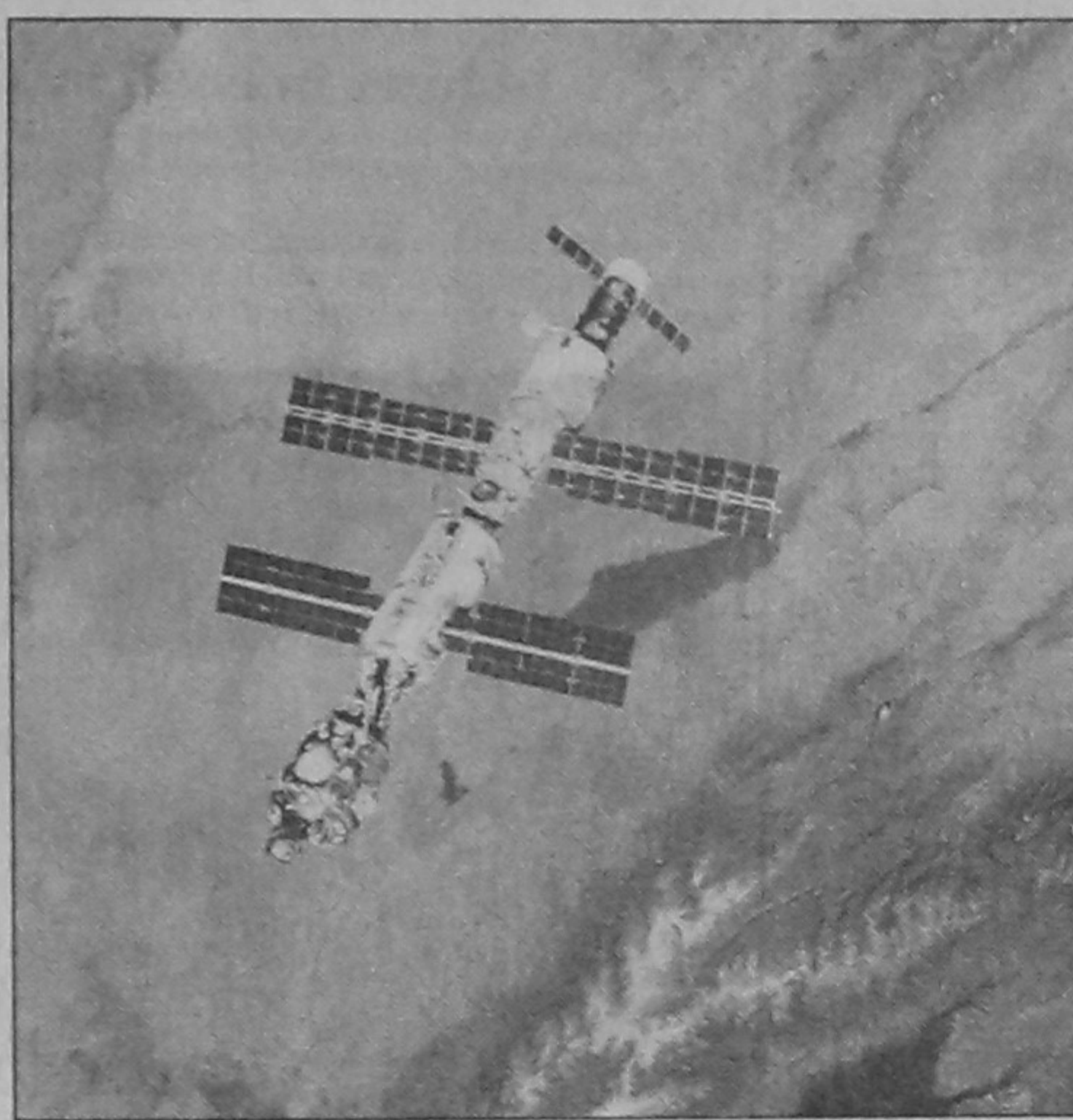
The Soyuz left a fiery plume as it soared through the fog above the Kazakh steppe into the skies at 13:53 BST.

The crew, due to reach the ISS on Thursday, will be the first to take up long-term residence on the 16-nation space project, which marks unprecedented international cooperation in man's exploration of space.

Their craft is scheduled to dock automatically with ISS at 0919 GMT Thursday, although the crew can switch to a manual procedure if necessary.

The three cosmonauts will remain on the multi-billion-dollar space station, until February 2001 when a replacement crew arrives.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Paris for an official visit, congratulated his country's space agency for the successful launch, Interfax news agency



An undated picture released yesterday shows the International Space Station in orbit over Lake Baikal, in Siberia from NASA. — AFP photo

reported.

Unprecedented security measures were taken in case of an accident to the Russia Soyuz TM-31 rocket.

Around 400 people including doctors and rescue teams were deployed from this central Asian cosmodrome to the Sea of Japan, the last place where the Soyuz could drop if its takeoff had failed — a distance of some 7,000 kilometres (4,400 miles).

Two ships, 14 planes and 20 helicopters of the Russian armed forces were also mobilised.

Ahead of the launch, Shepherd told a final pre-launch press conference that the joint Russian-US mission marked "a new era" in space travel.

Shepherd, who speaks fluent Russian, will be mission commander while his fellow cosmonauts speak English, which is expected to dominate transmissions from the space station and controllers back on Earth.

When the crew arrives at ISS, they will make the space station's three modules operational and will connect and test on-board computers.

After organising cargo and additional equipment brought in by Russia's Progress cargo ship and the US shuttle Discovery, they will conduct a series of medical, biological and technical experiments.

The cosmonauts will notably study the effect of weightlessness on the human organism.

The ISS project is backed by 16 nations led by

the United States and Russia. ISS currently consists of the Russian modules Zvezda and Zarya, and the US module Unity.

By becoming a manned station, ISS will take the place of the Soviet-era Mir orbiter, the world's only operational space station, which is due to be scrapped in February because of financing problems.

The Progress cargo ship is due to be dispatched to the station in mid-November to replenish the ISS's fuel stocks and provide food and water supplies for the three-man crew.

The launch in early December of another US space shuttle should bring two large solar panels which will generate electricity for the station.

The ISS is expected to be completed in 2005 or 2006, a vast structure 108 meters (yards) long and 74 metres wide, weighing more than 450 tonnes.

Work in the station's lab will continue until at least 2013.

## Arab FM's to meet in Cairo Nov 4

BEIRUT, Oct 31 : Lebanon received an invitation Monday for an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo next month to follow up on the Arab summit that pledged solidarity with the Palestinians in their struggle against Israel.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Hamoud was invited to a meeting in Cairo on November 4, along with foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians, a government official told AFP.

The invitation was sent by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, whose country hosted the October 21-22 Arab summit and held the rotating presidency of annual Arab summits, he said.

## 8 Abu Sayyaf rebels slain

JOLO, Philippines, Oct 31 : Eight members of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim group were killed in two separate clashes on Jolo Island, the Philippine military said today, reports AFP.

The rebels, who are fighting for an independent Islamic state in the southern Philippines, are holding an American and a Filipino captive on the island.

Five Abu Sayyaf members were killed Tuesday in a 30-minute firefight that broke out after troops looking for the hostages cordoned off a street block in Talipao town, where about 40 guerrillas had taken refuge.

## Putin stresses on points of accord between Russia, France

PARIS, Oct 31 : Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed on the points of agreement between Moscow and Paris in a speech in the French capital Monday, as one of his advisers told French television the fight to finish off Chechen rebels would continue, reports AFP.

"When Russia and France are together, they are strong" he told French President Jacques Chirac at a dinner organised in honour of the Russian leader at the Elysee Palace.

"Our union is important not only for each of our countries. It contributes to peace and stability in Europe and beyond its frontiers," said Putin.

Putin denounced "aggressive separatism, religious extremism and international terrorism," in what seemed to be a justification of Russia's military offensive in Chechnya, which France has heavily criticised.

## BJP launches campaign to woo Muslim voters

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 : India's ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party launched today a nationwide campaign aimed at wooing Muslim voters and improving the party's image, reports AFP.

Announcing the launch of the two month exercise, BJP president Bangaru Laxman said party workers would fan out across the country from November 1, with the aim of bridging "the gap between the country's largest political party and the country's largest religious minority."

The move to bring Muslims into the party fold follows a resolution passed by the BJP national executive meeting, held in the western Indian city of Nagpur, in August.

Indian Muslims, who number about 120 million, have traditionally voted for the main opposition Congress party, which prides itself on its secular credentials.

The divide between Muslims and the Hindu nationalists widened after a right wing Hindu

organisation, affiliated to the BJP, demolished a 17th century mosque, in the northern Indian city of Ayodhya in 1992.

Laxman said the campaign would seek to boost the party's image by "overcoming the negative influences and tendencies" within the BJP.

But Muslim leaders have dismissed the new BJP line on minorities as political gimmickry.

The campaign will also focus on poverty eradication, terrorism, extremism and "other threats to national security," Laxman said.

Ridiculing the "picture of disarray" presented by the principal opposition parties in India, he said the BJP was emerging as the "natural party of governance."

Laxman said talk of reviving a third front, ranged against the Congress and the BJP, was "a desperate move" on the part of leftist parties, and reflected "the pathetic condition of the Congress."

## 'Pakistan has means to deliver nuclear strike'

MOSCOW, Oct 31 : Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf said in an interview published here today that he did not know the size of his country's atomic arsenal, but that Pakistan had the means to deliver a nuclear strike, reports AFP.

He also said he was unable to say firmly whether alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden, now assumed to be hiding in Afghanistan, had in fact been the sponsor of a wave of deadly attacks against Western targets.

First asked about the nuclear potential of Pakistan, Musharraf strongly urged other countries to view his country as a powerful military power.

"Personally, I do not know how many nuclear devices we have. I must check. Of course we have them, but I would not like to name figures that I do not know," Musharraf said in an interview to be published Tuesday in the Vremya Novosti daily.

An early transcript of the interview was obtained by AFP.

"We do have nuclear weapons," added Musharraf, who came to power after prime minister Nawaz Sharif's unpopular government was toppled in a coup in October last year.

"We are a nuclear state. We have rockets, we have nuclear warheads — we are a nuclear power," Musharraf said.

"We have the means to deliver

nuclear warheads. There can be no doubt about that."

Yet he stressed that Pakistan had no intention "of attacking any country."

Islamabad conducted nuclear weapons tests in May 1998 in response to detonations by rival neighbor India. Both countries declared afterwards a moratorium on further testing.

While there are no accurate estimates of the two countries' nuclear arsenals, a recent US Central Intelligence Agency report India has produced enough plutonium for 60 weapons, but that it only has around 35 actual bombs.

Pakistan, the report said, has enough material for the roughly the same number of bombs. Both countries could deliver the nuclear bombs by aircraft or a combination of bombers and missiles.

Meanwhile Musharraf, mentioning bin Laden, said he could do little to assist the West in its search for the accused terrorism mastermind.

"Bin Laden is in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is an independent country. What can Pakistan do here," he asked.

And asked whether he viewed bin Laden as a "terrorist," Musharraf replied: "To tell you the truth, I do not know... I have no such proof, so I cannot comment."

## Taiwan opposition moves to impeach president

TAIPEI, Oct 31 : Taiwan's first non-Kuomintang (KMT) government was today facing its worst political storm since seizing power more than five months ago as opposition lawmakers sought to build an alliance to topple President Chen Shui-bian, reports AFP.

The crisis was sparked by the government's announcement on Friday that it would scrap a partly built 5.6 billion US dollar nuclear power plant in northern Taiwan despite opposition objections.

Chen's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) on Tuesday mobilised all its legislators in a bid to head off the political struggle.

DPP lawmaker Chou Po-lun recommended that the party "immediately set up a special committee to deal with the situation."

"In order to ensure political stability, the presidential office, the cabinet and the party must work together to stop the crisis from spreading," Chou said.

The Kuomintang, now in opposition for the first time after ruling the island for five decades, is seeking to impeach Chen and Vice President Annette Lu in a move which could lead to their removal and spark new elections.

KMT lawmaker Ting Shou-chung, who initiated the

impeachment bid, told reporters the move had been backed by 94 MPs by Tuesday morning.

But he said he would not formally put it to parliament until he won further support from legislators in a bid to ensure the impeachment process would progress.

"We have to see to it that the bill is approved by the parliament," Ting said.

The other two major opposition parties — the People First Party (PFP) set up by former KMT member James Soong and the right-wing New Party (NP) — have voiced support for the impeachment bid after talks with KMT Chairman Lien Chan Monday.

Under the constitution, impeachment is a three-step process. First 25 percent of the parliament must agree to discuss the move, 66 percent of legislators then have to agree to put the motion to a nationwide vote.

Eligible voters across Taiwan would then vote on whether to impeach Chen and Lu. If the majority of voters voted in favour of impeachment the two would be out.

The KMT controls 115 seats in the 221-seat parliament. The PFP has 27 seats, the NP nine seats while the DPP has only 68 seats. Independents have 12 seats.

## Sharon vows to topple Barak after talks break down

JERUSALEM, Oct 31 : Israel's hawkish opposition leader Ariel Sharon vowed today to topple the government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak after the collapse of talks on a political alliance to deal with the tide of deadly violence in the Palestinian territories, reports AFP.

"We are going to do everything to bring down the government," Sharon, chairman of the right-wing Likud bloc, told public radio.

The prime minister's credibility is in doubt because he has snubbed the state of Israel by refusing to promote the unity of the Jewish people, which is vital to confront the war of attrition waged by (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat.

Barak's political future has been on a knife-edge since a mass walkout of religious and right-wing parties from his Labour-led coalition in July, leaving him with a government of just 30 MPs in the 120-member Knesset.

But after failing to agree with Sharon on forming a national emergency government, Barak's political skin was saved Monday by the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Shas party — one of those that

boiled in July on the eve of the Camp David peace summit.

Negotiations with Likud stumbled over Sharon's demand for a veto on peace and security matters, particularly any resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians, which Barak postponed indefinitely last week because of the Palestinian uprising that has claimed the lives of more than 150 people.

The Palestinians have warned that the inclusion of Sharon, whom they blame for sparking the current wave of violence by his provocative visit to a disputed Jerusalem holy place on September 28, would mean the end of the peace process.

Sharon is also reviled by Arabs for the 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, carried out by pro-Israeli militias while Sharon was defence minister.

On Monday, Shas, the third largest party in parliament with 17 seats, signed an agreement with Barak's Labour Party not to try to topple the government for at least one month.

But Shas chief Eli Yishai warned Tuesday that his party's support was not guaranteed.

## Gore, Bush, make gruelling final sprint for White House

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin, Oct 31 : US presidential contenders George W Bush and Al Gore today swung through key battleground states, one week before voters choose the winner of the gruelling race for the White House, reports AFP.

Bush, the Republican governor of Texas was in Fresno, California, where a day earlier he began a multi-state campaign trip that closed with an interview on NBC Television's popular "Tonight Show" hosted by Jay Leno.

Asked about President Bill Clinton's impeachment ordeal last year, Bush said it was "time to forget that chapter." He criticised Clinton's remark in an interview with Esquire magazine in which he suggested the Republicans apologise for trying to remove him from office over an extramarital affair.

"The vice president was fighting to get out behind of (Clinton's) shadow and now the shadow returns... I don't think it will help him," Bush told Leno.

Bush, who enjoys a slight edge in most national opinion polls

ahead of the November 7 vote, was on the offensive in California, which until recently was considered an easy win for the Democratic vice president but no longer safe, according to recent surveys.

Gore and his allies also ratcheted up rhetoric critical of Bush as woefully unprepared to lead the country as the vice president barnstormed Monday through Michigan and Wisconsin, two of the so-called battleground states still up for grabs.

"When you look at the experience — five years as governor of Texas — you look at the proposals... let me tell you honestly, George Bush is not ready to be the president of the United States," said Gore's running mate, Joseph Lieberman at a small but rowdy rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

More cautiously, Gore himself tells voters the country is "at a fork in the road" and strives to hitch his political fortunes to the racing US economy, vowing to use the massive federal budget surpluses it stands to generate to improve US families living standards.

## India gives birth to new state

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 : India gives birth to a new state at the stroke of midnight today, when a tribal-dominated region the size of Greece will be formally sliced off the massive central state of Madhya Pradesh, reports AFP.

Chhattisgarh will become India's 26th full-blown state, with an area of 135,194 square km (54,077 square miles) and a population of 17.6 million.

While the campaign for statehood only began in earnest in the 1970s, its roots go back nearly 80 years when local leaders began to claim a distinct cultural identity for the region.

Chhattisgarh is the first of three new states to be created this year, but unlike the other two — Uttarakhand and Jharkhand — its gestation has been totally peaceful.

Nevertheless, there have been some birthing pains, including a bitter struggle within the Congress party, which will control the

new state assembly, over the appointment of the chief minister.

The state government will take on a region that, while rich in mineral resources, is still extremely backward with negligible industrial activity and an overwhelmingly rural population largely made up of lower castes and tribes.

The main task for the new administration will be to counter the growing Maoist rebel (Naxalite) movement in the new state's poorer areas.

Seven of Chhattisgarh's 16 districts have a strong Naxalite presence.

The state's designated director general of police, Mohan Shukla, said this week that he would seek a special budget of 150 million rupees (three million dollars) to arm his police force with new weaponry capable of tackling the Naxalite threat.

## 9 die in N Europe storm

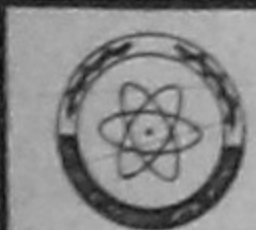
LONDON, Oct 31 : Northwest Europe was mopping up today after 24 hours of fierce storms left at least nine dead, cut power to

thousands of homes and caused extensive floods and travel chaos, reports AFP.

An air-sea rescue helicopter

had to airlift the crew of a chemical tanker to safety after it got into difficulties off the northwest coast of France, and ferry passengers had to struggle for hours to reach land safely.

Six people died in a series of incidents Sunday and Monday in Britain and Ireland, while another three were killed in France as the foul weather hit the north of the country.



## Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission

4, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, PO Box No 158, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Fax No 88-02-863051, E-mail: baec@agni.com

Ref No. P&S-18 (444)/99-2000

Dated: 23-10-2000

## Re-Invitation of International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby re-invited from the bonafide local/international suppliers/manufacturers for supply of Radioisotopes. Tender documents will be available during office hours up to 21-11-2000 at a cost of Tk 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) from the Accounts Officer (Works), Finance & Accounts Division, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Ramna, Dhaka on written request in a prescribed form available in the Procurement Branch. Permission will only be given to those suppliers/manufacturers who are experienced in similar nature of job and can furnish documents like: (1) Current year trade licence, (2) Up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate, (3) Bank solvency certificate, (4) VAT registration certificate and (5) Licence under Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Act 1997. Tender with 2% (two per cent) earnest money on the total tendered amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of "Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka" shall have to be dropped in the tender box to be kept in the office of the undersigned up to 11.30 hours on 22-11-2000 and will be opened at 11.45 hours on the same day in presence of those tenderers or their representatives who may wish to be present. If there occurs total transport disruption or govt holidays on the opening date of tender, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid opening date of tender keeping time, place and other terms intact. No tender documents will be sold on the opening day of tender.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or a part thereof without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BAEC/SID NO-1 (2)/94-615 Sr Administrative Officer  
DFF-25993-26/10 (Procurement)  
G-1910 Phone No 8626521.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Planning  
Planning Division  
Strengthening the Working Capacity of Social Science Research Council and its Documentation Centre (SSRCDOC)  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No. SSRCDOC/SSRC/30/98/1334

Dated: 24.10.2000

## Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide traders and suppliers [preferably Authorised Dealer(s)/Agent(s) of the manufacturing firm(s)] for the purchase of following office machine(s) and equipment(s) for the Project "Strengthening the Capability of Social Science Research Council and its Documentation Centre (SSRCDOC)" of the Ministry of Planning:

Sl. No.	Description of tools	Quantity
1)	Micro Computer/Personal Computer	4 (four) pcs.
2)	Laptop Computer	1 (one) "
3)	Laser Printer	1 (one) "
4)	UPS	3 (three) "

The schedule containing necessary terms and conditions of the tender can be procured from the office of the undersigned (Block No. 18, Room No. 25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) up till 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 during office hours. Tender will be received till 11.30 AM of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 and will be opened on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 at 12.00 Noon in the presence of tenderer(s) if any.

DFF-26079-26/10  
G-1908

Mir Md. Rowsonazzaman  
Deputy Project Director

## Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Meherpur

## Notice Inviting Tenders

No 07(E/M) 2000-2001

- Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the valid enlisted E/M contractor/firm of PWD ABC/BC licence from Licensing Board of Bangladesh according to their financial limit for the undermentioned work & will be received by the undersigned & all the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle Jessore up to 12.00 Noon of 21-11-2000 & will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the intending contractors who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. The tender form will be sold up to 5-00 PM till 20-11-2000.
- Name of work : Construction of Mosque at Mujibnagar Complex in the Dist of Meherpur. (S.H. Providing E.I. & fans in/c service connection).
- Estimated cost : Tk 4,02,539/- only.
- Earnest money : Tk 8,051/- only.
- The intending tenderers/firms shall have to enclose the following documents duly attested by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gazetted Officer with the tender failing which the tender will be summarily rejected:  
A) VAT Registration Certificate.  
B) Copy of Up-to-date Renewal of Enlistment.  
C) TIN Certificate.
- Tender documents consisting of Bangladesh Form No 2911, schedule of items, additional terms & conditions etc can be seen & obtained from the office of the undersigned & all the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle Jessore during the office hours.
- In case of quoting same lowest rate by more than one tenderer/firm then the lowest tenderer will be selected through lottery to be held on 04-12-2000 at 11-30 AM in the office of the undersigned.

Executive Engineer

Meherpur PWD Division

DFF-26073-26/10

G-1909