

Congress begins debate over Estrada's impeachment

MANILA, Nov 6: The Philippine legislature began public hearings today on an opposition motion to impeach President Joseph Estrada for alleged corruption, reports AFP.

The hearings, aired on radio on television, seek to remove Estrada from office for alleged corruption, bribery, culpable violations of the constitution and betrayal of public trust.

House of Representatives minority leader Sergio Apostol told the House justice committee, scrutinising the impeachment motion filed on October 18, that at least one third of the 218-member House had endorsed the bid.

"We have already achieved the number of at least one third," he told the panel.

Another opposition legislator, Mike Defensor, urged the committee to hand over the case immediately to the whole House for a plenary debate.

But Estrada allies in the House argued the committee hearings should continue.

Under the constitution, at least one third of the House must endorse an impeachment case against the president to authorise the Senate to hold a tribunal to try him.

When the motion was filed on October 18, about 40 legislators backed it but more have thrown their weight behind it as public pressure mounts on Estrada to resign over allegations that he took eight million dollars in bribes from illegal gambling bosses.

If Estrada stands on trial in the Senate, at least 15 of the 22 senators



Joseph Estrada

must declare that there is a "preponderance of evidence" against him in order to kick him out of office.

Estrada has rejected the charges and vowed to fight the impeachment case against him. He still has three years and eight months to run of a six-year term.

Meanwhile, Estrada's aides are in talks with the opposition for a peaceful handover of power, officials said today.

"We are all looking for a very peaceful and graceful exit for the president. That's why I have been talking with (Finance) Secretary (Jose) Tito Pardo," former president Corason Aquino told local radio. She did not disclose any details.

Legislators have warned he could face criminal prosecution if found guilty and removed from office.

Pardo confirmed Monday that he has offered himself as a go-between for Estrada and the opposition, which wants Estrada to resign immediately ahead of the impeachment process.

"I have offered myself as a channel for communication," said Pardo, who also clarified that he was not quitting the cabinet.

On Saturday 60,000 people gathered on the streets of the capital Manila to press for Estrada to quit.

But top presidential aide Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora insisted Monday Estrada was "determined to hold on to his position" and would not stand down.

Pakistan to set up nuclear regulatory authority

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Pakistan is expected soon to establish a Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) to ensure and enforce safety procedures in the country's nuclear related activities, a newspaper report said yesterday, reports PTI.

The proposal for NRA will be discussed at the next cabinet meeting and the ordinance for establishing the NRA will be issued thereafter. The News reported quoting officials.

One of the elements of the new law regarding NRA would be the enforcement of strict nuclear export control, it said.

It said the NRA will deal with a number of issues, including safety of nuclear plants and nuclear material, disposal of nuclear wastes, environmental protection, other peaceful uses of nuclear technology and nuclear export control.

The Pakistan government recently enacted fresh laws to enforce nuclear export control.

Officials said the establishment of NRA had nothing to do with the international nuclear safeguards or non-proliferation regime.

Officials said the authority would be an independent body, though it would be assisted by a number of institutions. Its staff will be drawn mostly from the nuclear establishment of the country as well as from the foreign office.

Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Dr Ashfaq is likely to head the authority.

3 killed in Karachi blast

KARACHI, Nov 6: At least three people were killed and five injured today when a bomb exploded inside a media group's building in this troubled Pakistani port city, police and hospital sources said, reports AFP.

The explosion tore through the building owned by the Nawa-i-Waqat press group, which publishes the Urdu-language Nawa-i-Waqat and English-language The Nation newspapers, witnesses said.

The powerful blast destroyed the office building's main gate and damaged walls and windows of an adjacent private hospital, they said.

Bomb disposal squad chief Moinuddin Ahmad said the device went off inside the advertising department on the ground floor and could have been the work of a suicide bomber.

One of the dead was Najmul Hasan Zaidi, the news group's advertising manager, hospital sources said.

The other victim has been

maimed beyond recognition. Her limbs were torn off and the body was totally smashed," said doctor Rasul Bakhsh at the Civil Hospital.

Security guard Azam Ali said that just before the explosion a woman carrying a bag entered the office and asked to place an advertisement.

"Just as I left the building to bring tea from a nearby shop there was a big explosion," he said, adding that he did not know if the dead woman was the same as the one he had seen with the bag.

Police at first believed it was a car bomb as the force of the blast wrecked a vehicle parked outside the building.

"It is an act of terrorism," said senior police officer Aleem Jafery, as police and paramilitary troops surrounded the area.

Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil told AFP that an unidentified woman, "believed to be a suicide bomber," had targeted the news group's offices.

116 arrested in biggest anti-govt protest in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad accused opposition parties today of lawlessness after 116 people were arrested in Malaysia's biggest anti-government protest for months, but his opponents criticised police for using "Gestapo" tactics, reports AFP.

Police fired tear gas and chemically-laced water cannon Sunday to break up the protest by supporters of jailed ex-deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim.

Police were seen attacking some detainees and at least one officer was assaulted by protesters.

Mahathir, quoted by Bernama news agency, said the trend among the opposition was to break the law and invite action against them.

When this happened they would inform their "friends overseas" who would in turn condemn the government for the alleged absence of freedom, he said.

Several thousand protesters Sunday marched along a main highway after police declared their planned rally at a nearby site to be illegal and blocked access to the venue.

Mahathir said Anwar's trial lasted one year and he was defended by nine of the country's best lawyers. "And yet they (overseas critics) still say there is no due process."

"We are a free country ... our laws are clear and we fully abide by the law and still they say there is no due process," he said.

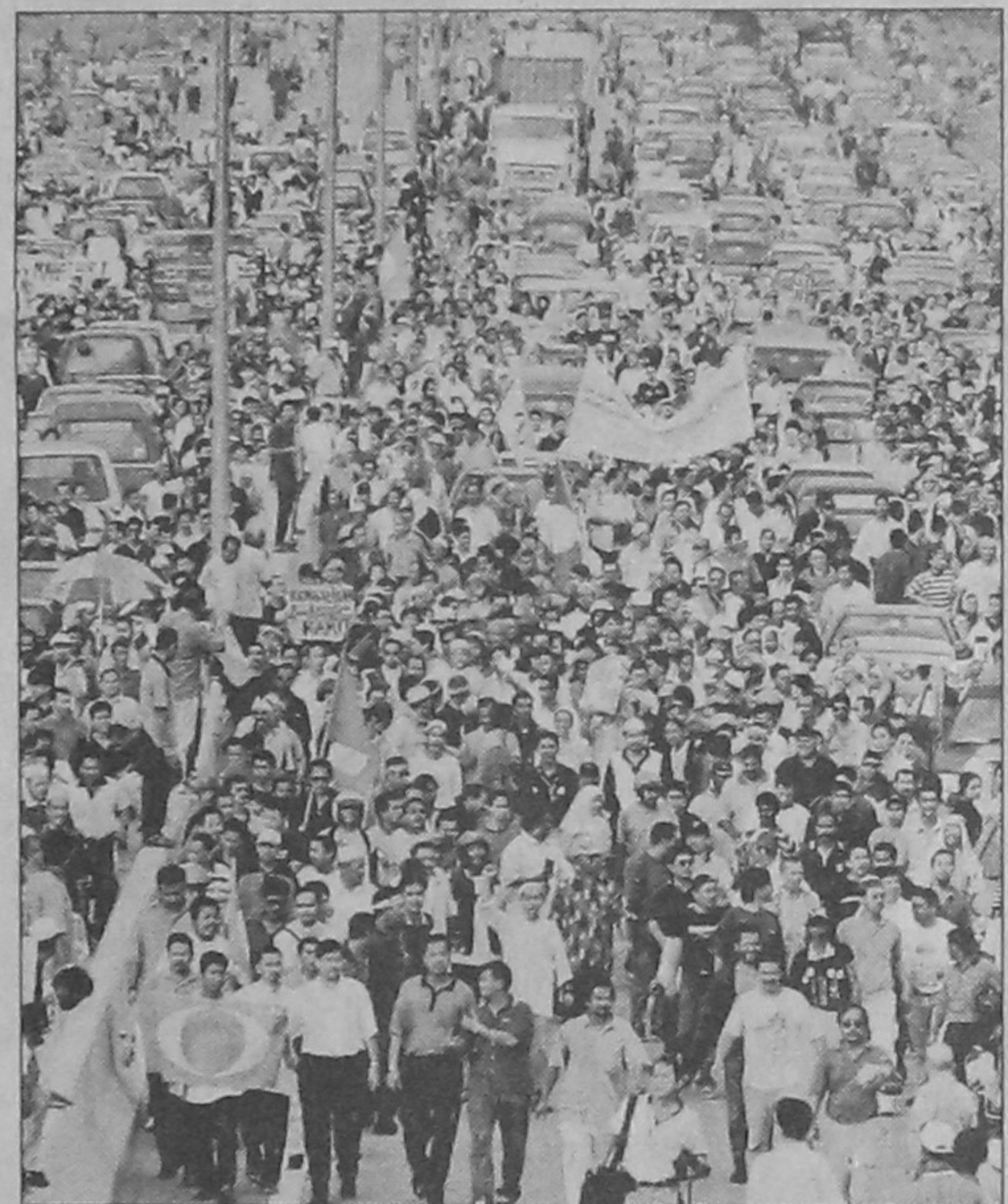
Mahathir also criticised the resolution by seven US congressmen calling for a new trial for Anwar.

Anwar was sacked by Mahathir on September 2, 1998 and arrested 18 days later following mass anti-government rallies.

In April 1999, he was jailed for six years for abuse of power and in August this year was imprisoned for nine years for sodomy. The sentences will run consecutively.

Anwar says Mahathir orchestrated a conspiracy to frame him on criminal charges because he was seen as a political threat. The government denies any plot and says courts are independent.

Opposition party leaders at the protest, including Anwar's wife Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, accused the police of over-reacting.



Protesters march during an anti-government demonstration along a highway near Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, causing a massive traffic jam. At least 1,000 people held a demonstration along a main highway demanding justice and the release of jailed ex-deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim.

--AFP photo



Democratic presidential candidate and US Vice President Al Gore is announced at a rally at Memorial Hall's Fairmont Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Sunday.

--AFP photo

Republican presidential candidate and Texas Governor George W. Bush waves to the thousands of people gathered at Orlando's Tinker Field for a midnight campaign rally on Sunday.

--AFP photo

Stakes high for Clinton

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: Bristling for battle but largely muzzled by his own party, President Bill Clinton stalks the sidelines of Tuesday's fiercely contested national election with the stakes high for him both politically and personally, reports AFP.

Vice President Al Gore's Democrats have generally kept Clinton under wraps for fear the president, a prodigious campaigner, could overshadow the candidate and taint him with the sex scandals that have plagued the White House.

But despite being deprived of a "last hurrah" and relegated to a minor role in his last campaign while in public office, the 54-year-old Clinton still has a lot invested in the vote Tuesday.

His hand-picked deputy is running to succeed him, his wife is fighting for a Senate seat in New York, and his party is driving to recapture the majority in Congress it lost to the Republicans on Clinton's watch in 1994.

And to add a touch of political macho to the mix, George W. Bush, the Republican spilling to wrest the presidency from the Democrats, is the son of the man whom Clinton ousted from the White House in the 1992 election after a single term.

Like all US presidents in their waning years in power, Clinton is concerned about his place in history. But rarely has a chief executive stepped down leaving such ambivalent feelings behind him among the US public.

Despite being only the second president to face impeachment, Clinton's job approval rating has stayed around 60 per cent, exceptionally high for someone with eight years on the job. But up to 50 per cent of Americans give him unfavourable marks overall.

Gore has distanced himself from his boss and insisted he was his own man. His aides also became prickly when the president sug-

gested offhandedly in a radio interview that a Gore victory would be "the next best thing" to a third Clinton term.

But the vice president has done little to stake out new ground on the policy front. Indeed he has used as his trump card the unparalleled run of economic prosperity that reigned during Clinton's two terms.

The continuity theme is one that Clinton also stressed on the rare occasions he was allowed out on the national hustings.

"Do you like this progress and do you want to build on it?" Clinton asked supporters Thursday in Los Angeles. "If you want to keep building on the progress, your choice is Al Gore (and vice presidential candidate) Joe Lieberman and the Democrats."

Clinton would bank in a Gore victory since it would be the first time that the Democrats would have held onto the presidency for more than two consecutive terms since the five-term run by Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman from 1932-1952.

Sweeter still would be success in regaining control of the Congress six years after the Republicans overturned healthy Democratic majorities and won control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time in four decades.

The 1994 "Republican Revolution" was the political nadir of Clinton's presidential tenure. But the celebrated "comeback kid" was able to manoeuvre the Republican leadership masterfully in a round of budget battles and pave the way for his re-election in 1996.

Now the Democrats can come full circle. They are given an outside chance of picking up the seven seats they need to retake the House and a slimmer possibility of winning the five seats needed for control of the Senate.

Landslides kill 52 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Nov 6: Rain-triggered landslides killed at least 52 people and buried dozens of houses on Indonesia's main island of Java, officials said today, reports AP.

As many as seven villages in Central Java province were hit Sunday after two days of heavy monsoonal rain. Ani, government spokesman in the town of Purworejo, said. Like many Indonesians she uses only one name.

In the worst hit village of Pakekan, 14 people were buried alive, she said.

"We fear the death toll could rise as it still raining hard," she said.

Last week, landslides killed 36 people in the region, some 450 kilometers from Jakarta.

Ani said police and army personnel were working with local people to find survivors.

In addition to the landslides, incessant rains since Friday have also caused floods in the region and hampered rescue efforts.

Landslides in Indonesia are frequently triggered by heavy tropical rains in areas where hillsides have been weakened by deforestation.

Scientists find gene for kidney disease

HAMBURG, Nov 6: Researchers have located a gene that could be responsible for one of the most common kidney diseases affecting one per cent of the world population, including 100,000 persons in the United States, reports DPA.

The tapping of the gene, located on human chromosome number 6, opens the way for finding possible treatments for the mysterious disease Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) that is limited now to dialysis or transplantation, the science journal Nature Genetics reports in its November issue.

Symptoms for the disease are the presence of blood in the urine, usually after an upper respiratory infection or cold. This somehow triggers excessive immune reaction, followed by deposits of the

antibody IgA that lead to scarring of the kidneys.

Ultimately, a fraction of patients develop kidney failure and must rely on dialysis or transplantation for survival. Prior to this finding, IgAN was recognised as the most common form of glomerulonephritis worldwide, but its causes were unknown and were believed to be diverse," said researcher Richard Lifton from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Lifton collaborated with Ali Charavi of Yale and Mount Sinai Medical Schools and with researchers in Bari, Italy, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Tennessee to undertake detailed genetic studies of 30 families in the US and Italy.



Titag Gas Transmission & Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215

Store: 2207/3/OVS/98-99/2000 Dated: 10-10-2000/25-06-1407 Bang
Phone Number: 8112135-42/7178, 9125667

Re-Notice for Sale of Old Vehicles

বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাস জ্বলতে থাকে আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Sealed re-tenders are invited from interested individuals/establishments for selling in auction the undermentioned vehicles on "as and where it is basis". Interested buyers can inspect the vehicles on any working day from 9-30 am to 4-00 pm by contacting the Deputy General Manager (Transport) of the company No. 1, Shantinagar, Dhaka. The Manager (Store) may be contacted to know any necessary information on any working day at the head office of the company at Kawran Bazar from 9-30 am to 4-00 pm.

Sl. No	Registration number	Name of vehicles	Time of purchase	Cost of tender documents
01.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-7871	Proton Saga Car	1987	Tk. 1,000/=
02.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-7872	Do	1987	
03.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-7873	Do	1987	
04.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-7874	Do	1987	
05.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-8610	Toyota Starlet Car	1988	
06.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-8611	Do	1988	
07.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-6197	Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep	1987	
08.	Dhaka Metro-Bha-6198	Do	1987	
09.	Dhaka Metro-Na-8380	Nissan Pick up	1987	
10.	Dhaka Metro-Cha-9829	Mitsubishi Microbus	1988	
11.	Dhaka Metro-Cha-9830	Do	1988	

2. Interested buyers can purchase tender documents on application in letter head pad/plain paper from the undermentioned offices at the cost as mentioned above till 15-11-2000 on all working days from 9-30 am to 1.00 pm from the date of publishing the notice in the newspaper.

- 2.1 Accounts Division : Petrobangla, Petro Centre, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
- 2.2 Accounts Division : TGTDCL, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.
- 2.3 Accounts Division : BGSL, Head Office, Chanpur, Comilla.
- 2.4 Accounts Division : BAPEX, HBFC Building (8th floor), 22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
- 2.5 Accounts Division : BGFC, Court Road, Brahmanbaria.
- 2.6 Accounts Division : JGTDC, Barkatia Super Market, Amberkhana, Sylhet.
- 2.7 Accounts Division : SGFL, Chiknagol, Haripur, Sylhet.
- 2.8 Accounts Division : RPGCL, BSEC Bhaban (6th floor), 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.

2.9 Accounts Division : GTCL House-1, Road-12, Sector-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230.

3. Security money at the rate of 20% (twenty per cent) of the total quoted cost in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of the Titag Gas T&D Co Ltd will have to be deposited with tender. No security through cheque will be accepted.

4. Tenderers can drop the tenders in the tender boxes kept at the undermentioned place/office on 16-11-2000 till 11-00 am.

- 4.1 Petrobangla, Petro Centre, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
- 4.2 TGTDCL, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
- 4.3 BGSL, Head Office, Chanpur, Comilla.
- 4.4 BAPEX, HBFC Building (8th floor), 22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
- 4.5 JGTDC, Barkatia Super Market, Amberkhana, Sylhet.
- 4.6 BGFC, Court Road, Brahmanbaria.
- 4.7 SGFL, Chiknagol, Haripur, Sylhet.
- 4.8 RPGCL, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.
- 4.9 GTCL, House No-1, Road No-12, Sector No-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230.

5. Tenders received will be opened on the specific date at 12-00 Noon in the places as mentioned in no. 4 section in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any one remains present).

6. If it is not possible to open the tender on the day of opening due to unavoidable circumstances, then it will be opened the following working day at the same time.

7. Other terms and conditions and information regarding the tender have been mentioned in the tender documents.

8. The authority reserves the power to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Titag/PB Relations-46/2000-2001
DPP-26421-1/11
G-1962

Deputy General Manager (Store)



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

Principal Office
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Phone: 8120031, 8111550
PABX-8111516-7, 8111519, 8111522
Tele: 642217 TCB BJ
642203 TCB BJ
Fax No: 880-2-81113582
E-Mail: tcb@bdonline.com

Re-Tender Notice

Tender for Import of 1200 Pcs. of Fire Arms and 2,50,000 Pcs. of Cartridges.

Tender No: TCB/IMP-20/2000 Date: 06-11-2000

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh invites sealed tender in the prescribed form obtainable from Sonali Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/- (Taka five hundred) only per set (non-refundable) for import of 1200 Pcs. of Fire Arms and 2,50,000 Pcs. Cartridges (Europe/USA/South Africa/Australia/China/Singapore origin only) under cash. Offers are to be made on C&F(C) Chittagong liner term basis showing FOB price and freight separately along with 1.00% (One per cent) Earnest Money. Shipment of entire quantity of Fire Arms and Cartridges is to be made by 31-01-2001. Other terms and conditions are available in the tender form.

Tenders to be dropped in the tender box kept in the Import Division of the Corporation at TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka upto 11-00 AM on 20-11-2000 and opened at 11-15 AM on the same day. Tenderers may remain present at the opening of the tender. The successful bidder is to submit 3% (Three per cent) Performance Guarantee in foreign currency before signing of contract with TCB.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and to purchase quantities more or less than those tendered. No tender document will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.

Fakhruddin Ahmed
Senior Executive (Import-I)

GD-1020

Campaign against India's plan to build fresh dumping ground for radioactive waste

JADUGUDA, India, Nov 6: Frontline green activists and tribals are stepping up a spirited campaign against India's plans to build a fresh dumping ground for radioactive waste at the country's only uranium production zone, reports AFP.

However, the Uranium Corp. of India Ltd. (UCIL), which feeds national atomic power plants as well as India's nuclear weapons development programme, says it is determined to go ahead with its plans.

Anti-nuclear researchers warn that Jaduguda -- or the "Magma Fields" -- is already a radioactive nightmare for some 40,000 inhabitants of the valley cupped in a horseshoe of hills, 250 kilometres west of Calcutta.

The UCIL, which began mining nine years before India first tested an atom bomb in 1974, recently doubled the production of uranium ore to 2,000 tonnes daily to meet the country's strategic needs, top government sources told AFP.

Ghanshyam Biluri, president of the Jharkhandi Organisation for Human Rights (JOHR) said he was fighting to end alleged violations of safety norms at UCIL's mines, as well as the unchecked flow of radioactive effluent from its uranium processing plant. "Around 80 UCIL workers have perished between 1994 and 1996 and a record number of 30 employees have died this year. We believe the deaths are due to radiation but the government is hiding the facts," Biluri said.

Citing a JOHR survey of women in a one-kilometre radius of the dumping grounds, Biluri said 43 per cent of pregnancies had failed to go to term, while 17 per cent had resulted in stillbirths.

All the women suffered from disrupted menstrual cycles and fatigue.

A third have fertility problems while 70 per cent of 2,500 inhabitants in three villages near the dump yards have tuberculosis, Biluri said, adding that around 100 children had been diagnosed with skin, lung or blood cancer.

Biluri's JOHR is working with several nuclear expert teams to buttress its charges that UCIL's

three dumping zones pose a major health risk to local inhabitants.

The JOHR blocked the construction of the last uranium dump yard -- or "tailing pond" -- for nine years until 1997 when UCIL finally built it across 76 acres of Jaduguda's once-fertile land.

The other two tailing ponds span 117 acres.

"And now the UCIL wants to build a fourth one and we will oppose it," Biluri said, adding the JOHR would be supported by a forum called "Women Against Radiation" and other anti-nuclear groups.

UCIL Technical Director K.K. Beri squarely refuted Biluri's allegations and insisted that the JOHR campaign was being backed by foreign propaganda that had intensified with the nuclear sanctions imposed on India following its shock May 1998 nuclear tests.

"We work within international safety limits, and the only thing that we did wrong was that we did not do our own propaganda properly and at the right time," Beri told AFP at the fortified UCIL headquarters here.

Beri said the health problems among Jaduguda's population were linked to genetic disorders and malnutrition and had nothing to do with any fallout from UCIL's operations.

But according to Biluri, a nuclear scientist couple, Surender and Sanghamitra Gadekar, took readings of dangerously high radioactivity levels in September, and recently returned to confirm their findings.

A 1998 state legislative probe into the mining operations in Jaduguda was extremely critical of the safety conditions.

Indian nuclear sites are closed to international inspection.

After initial processing at UCIL, which is India's only uranium producing unit, the material is sent to a refining facility in Hyderabad which supplies the country's nuclear power plants.

Some of the material is also used to fuel India's nuclear weapons programme.