

# Military intervention feared

## Anti-Estrada forces to march on to Philippines presidential palace today

MANILA, Jan 18 : Speculation of military intervention to end the political crisis in the Philippines reached fever pitch today with the government again warning the army against taking sides, reports AFP.

Text messages spread on mobile telephones - the most popular medium for political rumour in the Philippines - claimed that once protests in the capital Manila built to one million people, "the military will come in."

Estrada's spokesman Mike Toledo railed against what he called "disinformation."

"This is really bad and very irresponsible," he said. "It will cause trouble."

Toledo added Estrada had met the heads of the military and the national police on Wednesday and warned them: "Don't get involved."

Your job is to protect the territorial integrity of the country and the lives of its inhabitants," he quoted the president as saying.

Massive street protests attracting tens of thousands of people erupted in the capital late Tuesday after Estrada was all but acquitted in his corruption trial when senators judging the case excluded vital evidence of his banking records.

The judges decision was taken by a majority vote of 11 to 10 - all those who voted for exclusion were political allies of the president.

As a result prosecutors walked out, dismissing the proceedings as a "charade" and the trial was adjourned indefinitely on Wednesday.

Defence Secretary Orlando Mercado has accused former president Fidel Ramos of visiting the air force headquarters on Wednesday and urging the military to join the protests.

Ramos played a key role in the largely non-violent revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 when he was deputy chief of the military and successfully resisted seven attempts between 1986 and 1989 by right-wing officers to oust Marcos' successor, Corazon Aquino.

Ramos said in a television interview on Wednesday that signs of a possible coup were beginning to emerge.

Political analyst Alex Magno, president of the Manila-based Foundation for Economic Freedom, commented: "The military is desperately holding on to its institutional integrity."

Magno said the next 48 hours would be "very crucial" after the opposition announced plans to march in tens of thousands on the presidential palace on Friday.

Meanwhile, President Joseph Estrada's opponents today called on Filipinos to march in their millions on to the presidential palace on Friday to pressure the impeached leader to resign.

Tomorrow, Estrada must prove that he is not a coward and face millions upon millions of Filipinos who would march on Malacanang Palace, Karina David, Estrada's former housing secretary, announced to thousands of demonstrators.

The plan would put Estrada's opponents, at least 20,000 of whom have been gathered outside a suburban Manila religious shrine since Tuesday night, in a confrontation with several thousand supporters who have set up their own barricade on a street near the presidential palace.

Clinton's farewell trip to Arkansas as president

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, Jan 18 : US President Bill Clinton on Wednesday made the last official visit of his tenure, to his home state Arkansas where he first entered politics more than 25 years ago, reports AFP.

Clinton, who in three days' time will hand over office to his successor, Republican President-elect George W. Bush, received a warm reception from both chambers of the state legislature.

He spoke for an hour on the progress his native Arkansas and the United States as a whole has made since his election to the White House eight years and two terms ago.

"I will leave office at noon on the 20th amazingly grateful that somehow the mystery of this great democracy gave me the chance to go from a little boy on South Hervey Street in Hope, Arkansas to the White House," Clinton said toward the end of his speech.

US President Bill Clinton addresses the Arkansas State Legislature in the House Chamber on Wednesday at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock. The trip was Clinton's last one as President and he leaves office the most travelled President in US history.

# Emergency in California

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Pakistan feels the heat over UN's Afghan sanctions

ISLAMABAD, Jan 18 : Pakistan faces a diplomatic dilemma and mounting international pressure over its cosy ties with Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic militia, which is facing new UN sanctions from Friday, analysts said, reports AFP.

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Analysts said an arms embargo and the closure of the Taliban's diplomatic offices would pose particular problems for the Taliban's neighbour and ally, India.

The measures are designed to force the Taliban to end its alleged support for terrorism and extraterritorial terrorism Osama bin Laden.

The sanctions will definitely bring Pakistan under greater and concerted diplomatic pressure to reduce the level of its support for the Taliban regime," said Riffat Hussain, chairman of the department of defence and strategic studies at Quaid-e-Azam University.

Pakistan has long denied persistent reports that its Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency provides men, supplies and weapons to the puritanical movement, which emerged from religious schools in both countries in 1994 and seized Kabul two years later.

Both sides of the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan, where ousted defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood is still holding out against the Taliban in the rugged northeast, accuse the other of receiving foreign support.

But only the Taliban will be subject to the embargo, provoking accusations of bias against the UN from Afghan and Pakistani officials.

Retired general and former ISI chief Hamid Gul said the Taliban did not need Pakistan's military support.

"The Taliban will not feel any difficulty to continue the fight," he said.

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To prove its innocence, Pakistan has said it will allow UN monitors on its long border with Afghanistan if they are deemed necessary to police the arms embargo.

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# Mir loses balance in orbit

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MOSCOW, Jan 18 : Russia's space station Mir has lost its balance, forcing a delay in the launch of the Progress supply ship needed to bring the station back down to Earth, space control officials told AFP today.

The system that stabilises Mir in space has switched itself off as a result of problems with the station's batteries which are out of date and malfunctioning," a spokesman for Russia's space centre said.

The 15-year-old Mir station is due to be destroyed in March because of a lack of funds and a series of technical problems.

The supply ship Progress had been due to blast off from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, at 9:56 am Moscow time (10:56 BST) on Wednesday but was delayed at the last moment due to "technical problems," the Russian space agency said.

Russian space officials said the Soviet-era space station had lost its orientation overnight Wednesday. The launch of Progress would now take place on Sunday, they said.

Its mission is to judge Mir into a descent path that would end with the space station splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on March 6, a week later than the February 27-28 date originally set.

The supply vessel had been due to dock with Mir on Monday, but the latest mishap served to underline fears that Russian space-agency officials are far from being in complete control of the hazardous ditching operation.

Senior Russian experts have warned that there are no assurances the plan to destroy Mir would go smoothly.

Last month, Russia lost contact with Mir for almost 24 hours, sparking international alarm at the possible security threat if such a communication breakdown occurred while Mir was hurtling towards Earth.

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The banning legislation is likely to face still resistance in the upper chamber, the House of Lords, where pro-hunting conservatives hold a majority.

They can be over-ruled by the House of Commons but the wrangling this will involve means the ban is unlikely to become law before the next election, which is tipped to take place in May.

A ban on hunting foxes with hounds has proved to be one of the most emotive issues in British politics for more than a decade, with activists on both sides of the argument taking to the streets to express their views.

In the square outside the parliament building in central London, disappointed supporters of hunting, some of them camped out for the past two days, blew whistles and hunting horns when news of the vote emerged.

But their leaders insisted that the fight to preserve fox-hunting was far from over, claiming Blair's government would eventually cave in to public opposition to the ban.

Fatal acting

MADRAS, India, Jan 18 : A 26-year-old amateur Indian actor has been burnt to death while enacting the gruesome murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines who was torched alive by Hindu zealots two years ago, reports AFP.

The theatre organisers said the incident took place two weeks ago in front of a packed 1,000-strong audience in Nanganallur suburb in Madras when Kumar was playing the lead role in a play dedicated to Staines.

V. Rama Rao, chief organiser of the show said the cast and crew were stunned to learn later that Kumar had doused himself with petrol to make the murder scene more real.

Kumar just burst into flames when a co-actor unwittingly brought a match next to him, said Rao.

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Kabila's son Joseph, barely 30 years old and the DRC's army chief of staff, took over the vast country, run ragged after three-and-a-half years of civil war that has drawn in half a dozen African nations.

Earlier, officials in neighbouring Zimbabwe, whose troops have propped up Kabila in his fight against rebels, said the president died early Wednesday while being flown there for medical treatment.

But the DRC's ambassador to Zimbabwe, Kikaya Bin Karubi, said Kabila was alive and in a critical state in Harare.

"Obviously he is in a very critical condition, but he has not passed away yet," Karubi told Zimbabwe state television.

"As we speak there is a team of Congolese doctors who are attending to him," the ambassador said.

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The launching of the missile sparked strong criticism from South Asian neighbour and arch-rival Pakistan.

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**Investment Corporation of Bangladesh**  
Head Office, Dhaka  
Administration Division

### Application for the Post of a Part Time Lady Medical Retainer for ICB

Applications are invited for appointment of a part time Lady Medical Retainer for the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

02. The applicant must:

- have an MBBS degree;
- be a citizen of Bangladesh;
- have to her credit at least ten years Medical practice as Doctor and be of sound health and mind.

03. The terms and conditions of the appointment will be as follows:

- Monthly Retainer fee of Tk 3,500.00;
- The Retainer shall have to be present 3 (three) working days in a week at the Head Office of the Corporation for at least 2 (two) hours to be mutually arranged to examine the officers & staff of the corporation.
- The Retainer have to render consultation services at her chamber to the employees of the corporation if the circumstances so warrant without additional fees;
- if the circumstances so arise, the Retainer shall have to pay visit to the residence of the concerned employees for treatment of her own and her family members and consultation fee of Tk 50.00 will be paid by the corporation to the retainer for each call.
- The tenure of appointment of the Retainer will initially be two years and may be renewed their after on mutual agreement;
- The Retainership may be terminated at one month's notice from either side.

04. Applicants who fulfil the above terms & conditions may send their applications to the Deputy General Manager, Administration Division, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, Head Office, 13-16" Floor, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka, along with attested two copies of passport size photographs, academic certificates, experience certificates and Bio-data within 10 (ten) days of publication of this advertisement.

**Deputy General Manager**  
Administration Division

GD-64

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### Application for the Post of Income Tax Adviser

Applications are hereby invited from ICAB listed CA Firms for the post 'Income Tax Adviser' to be appointed in Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB). Applicants must fulfil the following criterion:

- 10 (ten) years experience as an Income Tax Advisor/Practitioner.
- Must have sufficient experience of filing all kinds of Income Tax Return and Income Tax related matters in Corporations/Financial Institutions.
- Must have experience on Audit Disposal and Income Tax Appeal procedures.
- Must have work experience on VAT, Municipal Tax and related matters.

02. CA Firms who meet the above requirements may send their applications together with the following information and necessary certificates to the Deputy General Manager, Administration Division, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, Head Office, 12th-15th Floor, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of this advertisement:

- Name of the Firm, (ii) Address, (iii) ICAB Registration Number, (iv) Date of Registration Issue, (v) Detailed work experience as Income Tax Advisor and supporting, (vi) Certificates of the Firm Partners.

03. Incomplete application shall not be accepted.

04. 'Application for the post of Income Tax Adviser' must be written on the top of the envelope.

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**Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES**  
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REF No DACTM/MAINT/11/01      Dated:

### Tender Notice for Enlistment of Laundry

Notice No 02/2000-2001

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide laundry owners situated in Dhaka City for enlistment of Washing and Cleaning (Laundry/Dry Wash) of different type of seat covers of Biman vehicle as and when required basis.