Peace talks between Filipino rebels, govt begins

AFP, Oslo

Peace talks between the Philippines government and communist rebels opened yesterday in Norway with both sides expressing hopes for early yesterday, officials said. concrete progress toward meeting an ambitious October 2002 deadline for laying more than 32 years of conflict to rest.

"We hope that the discussion on hour ordeal that began Thursday evening. goodwill and confidence-building measures will result in the accelerated release of political prisoners as well as other measures," Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator for the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF), said at an opening ceremony.

In a separate speech, Silvestre Bello, lead negotiator for the government, said he hoped the negotiations being held at a site in an Oslo suburb would mark the start of a peace process resulting in "a just, equitable, human, pluralistic society" in the Philippines.

Six Red Cross staff killed in Congo

AFP, Geneva

Six people working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, including two expatriates, were killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC said at its Geneva headquarters yesterday.

An ICRC spokesman said the four Congolese workers and two foreign delegates, 54-year-old Colombian Julio Delgado and 36-year-old Swiss woman Rita Fox. were killed Thursday in the northeast province of

Spokesman Juan Martinez said the six were found dead near two vehicles about 30 kilometres north of Bunia near the Ugandan border.

Martinez said the ICRC was told of the killings by the Ugandan military, but that it was unclear how the

Ethiopian plane hijackers surrender, free hostages

AP, Khartoum

Hijackers with hand grenades and pistols seized an Ethiopian air force plané over Ethiopia carrying at least 50 passengers and diverted it to Khartoum. The attackers released all their hostages hours later and surrendered

"All of them have been released," said Ghazi Salah el-Din Atabani, Sudan's minister of information.

There were no reports of serious injury among the passengers, crew or the five hijackers following the nine-

Atabani told a news conference at Khartoum airport that the hijackers agreed to surrender after receiving assurances that they would be treated fairly and would

not be sent back to Ethiopia. "The hijackers will be tried according to international laws," he said.

freed the hostages, most of whom were members of the Ethiopian military.

Then a hijacker who identified himself as Bagemberman Tebegne, a member of Ethiopia's air of the plane said the hijackers were armed with hand force, left the plane and was allowed to speak with grenades and pistols, the TV report said.

He said the five seized the aircraft to "draw interna- ing political asylum. tional attention to the terrible economic and political

situation in Ethiopia and the lack of freedoms. As he finished his comments, the other four hijackers ately clear if that had occurred.

walked down the steps of the aircraft and gave them-

It was not clear if the hijackers were students at Addis Ababa University as had been earlier reported by staterun Sudanese television.

Government officials and officials from the United Nations and the Red Cross had conducted negotiations with the hijackers, who included four men and one woman. Earlier reports said there were nine attackers. A few hours after the plane landed in Khartoum, the

hijackers released 11 women and children. Sudan's Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismil told Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television, that the hijackers landed in Khartoum because they were running out of fuel, adding he did not know what their intended desti-

nations was. The Antonov 12 aircraft originated in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, and was heading to northern The end came in three stages. First, the attackers. Ethiopia when the hijackers seized the plane, the TV report said. It landed at Khartoum airport at 6:20 PM Thursday, it said.

A crew member who managed to escape out the back

Atabani said earlier that the hijackers had been seek-The television report said the hijackers wanted to meet with US and British diplomats. It wasn't immedi-

plane which was hijacked while on a domestic flight in Ethiopia.



Sudanese security agents search Ethiopian military personnel and their hijackers at Khartoum airport yesterday after they left the Ethiopian military

Number of mosques has grown fast in US: Study

REUTERS, Washington

The number of mosques and Islamic worshappers has grown tremendously in the United States over the past six years, according to groups. a study released on Thursday.

The report, "The Mosque in America: a National Portrait," identified 1,209 mosques in the United States last year, compared to 962 in a similar study in 1994, representing a 25 per cent increase. Average attendance at Juma prayers was 292, representing a 94 from 416 mosques. per cent jump over 1994.

the United States is estimated at 6 million to 7 million.

findings in this survey is that mosques are quite ethnically US society, 82 per cent strongly diverse," said Ihsan Bagby of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, the report's primary researcher.

mosques are attended by more tions; and 72 per cent said they than one ethnic group. In total, 33 should be involved in politics.

Fighting shatters peace hopes

per cent of regular mosque goers were of South Asian origin; 30 per cent were black Americans; and 25 per cent were Arabs, with the rest coming from a variety of other

However, 78 per cent of partici-

pants on a typical Friday were men. The study was part of a larger survey of American congregations of all types being carried out by the Hartford Institute of Religious Research. It consisted of lengthy interviews with representatives

It found that 30 per cent of The total Muslim population in mosques were established in the 1990s and a further 32 per cent were started in the 1980s. Some 87 per "One of the most significant cent had been founded since 1970.

Asked about their attitudes to agreed with the statement that America, "is a technologically advanced society that we can learn from", 77 per cent thought Muslims Bagby said 93 per cent of all should be involved in US institu-

Chinese experts warn of confrontation with US

AP, Beijing

Continued US arms sales to Taiwan could spark military confrontation between China and the United States, the government's Xinhua News Agency yesterday quoted .Chinese experts as saying.

Xinhua echoed government accusations that the sales embolden supporters of Taiwan's permanent separation from China.

Selling weapons "will not only severely undermine China-US relations and add to the risks of military collisions across the Taiwan Strait, but lead to a direct military confrontation between China and

from Chinese colleges as saving.

A US offer this week of submarines, destroyers and aircraft for Taiwan and comments by President George W Bush that Washington can use military force to defend the island from Chinese attack have increased tensions with Beijing.

China and Taiwan split amid civil island as part of its territory and has not ruled out using force to get it

> may have worried Chinese leaders that he was scrapping Washington's tionship with the United States." past ambiguity over whether it Chengsaidinatelephone interview.

America," Xinhua quoted experts would use force to defend Taiwan, said Joseph Cheng, a China scholar in Hong Kong.

But Beijing's response will be tempered by its limited options and desire to maintain peace with its neighbours, said Cheng, director of the Contemporary China Research Centre at City University.

"There is a fundamental consenwar in 1949. But China still views the sus in the Chinese leadership. They are certainly realistic in trying to secure a peaceful international environment to concentrate on Bush's comments Wednesday economic development and they understand they need a good rela-

Musharraf to visit Myanmar

AP, Yangon

Gen. Pervez Musharraf will make the first official visit next week by a Pakistani leader to military-run Myanmar in 16 years, Myanmar officials said vesterday.

Myanmar state newspapers announced Musharraf will visit at the invitation of Gen. Than Shwe, the leader of the ruling State Peace and Development Council. Diplomats said his three-day visit

would start Tuesday.

It will be the first visit by a Pakistan leader since the current Myanmar regime took power after crushing democracy protests in 1988. The last visit was by military ruler Zia-ul Haqin 1985.

in Lanka: Death toll 311 AFP, Colombo

Heavy fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels raged for a third day yesterday, raising the death toll to 311 and shattering hopes of early peace talks, officials

Fighting intensified as soldiers backed by tanks, aircraft and navy gunboats launched a major offensive aimed at wresting territory from Tiger control in the Jaffna peninsula, in the island's north.

The defence ministry said at least 131 soldiers were killed and 604 wounded in fighting since Wednesday, and placed rebel losses

at 180 dead and over 300 wounded.

However, the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said over their Voice of Tigers radio that they had lost only 33 of their cadres. They claimed over 300 government troops dead and more than 1,200 troops wounded.

the Red Cross said it had received clearance from both sides to transfer the bodies of some of the dead combatants.

bodies would be transferred on launchedabigoffensive."

The Tigers said they offered "stiff

and determined" resistance and stalled the military's advance towards the strategic town of Pall, which is in rebel control.

Defence ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne said the army's The International Committee of newly acquired multi-barrel rocket launchers had caused extensive damage to the guerrillas.

"It is clear from the fighting that the Tigers had all their guns and Red Cross spokesman Harasha everything else in place," Gunawardena could not give any Karunaratne said. "If we didn't take numbers immediately, but said the the initiative, they would have



six died.

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ গাজীপুর-১৭০৩

পলিপ্রোপাইল ট্র্যাপ ও মার্কিন কাপড় সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

করপোরেশন কর্তৃক উপরে উল্লেখিত মালামাল সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্চে। মালামালের স্পেসিফিকেশন/ নিয়মাবলী/শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল করপোরেশনের গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ের অর্থ ও হিসাব উপ-বিভাগ অথবা ঢাকাস্থ লিয়াজোঁ অফিস, ম্যানহার্টন টাওয়ার (৪র্থ তলা), ৮৩, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী সার্কুলার রোড হতে বিকেল ২ ঘটিকা হতে ৪ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সকল অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আগামী ০৩-৫-২০০১ ইং হতে ১৪-৫-২০০১ ইং পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে দরখান্তের মাধ্যমে প্রতিসেট সিডিউল টাঃ ২০০/- (টাকা দুইশত) মাত্রের বিনিময় (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্রয় করা যাবে।

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকের বরাবরে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র তার গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ে অথবা উপরোক্ত লিয়াজোঁ অফিসে আগামী ১৫-৫-২০০১ ইং বিকেল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সরাসরি নির্ধারিত বাব্রে drop করার পাশাপাশি ডাকযোগে কিংবা কুরিয়ার মারফতও নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ে পৌছানো যাবে এবং পরবর্তী কার্যদিবস ১৬-৫-২০০১ ইং বিকেল ২.০৫ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) প্রাপ্ত সকল দরপত্র গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ে খোলা হবে। করপোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষন করেন।

জিডি-৩৯০

মোঃ মজিবর রহমান আকন্দ উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (ক্রয়্ম-বিক্রয়)



Combo picture shows Japan's five newly appointed female ministers. (Top from L) Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka, and Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Atsuko Toyama; (bottom from L) Environment Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Chikage Ogi, and Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama.

5 women ministers in Japanese cabinet

AFP, Tokyo

A record number of five women were appointed to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's cabinet on Thursday, as the new reformist leader underlined his desire to break with the past.

The biggest surprise among the 17 ministers was the appointment of Makiko Tanaka as the nation's first ever female foreign minister.

and technology agency chief's new job is the most senior government position yet for a Japanese woman in a country where females hold less than 10 per cent of parliamentary

Tanaka is best known as the daughter of late premier Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's most powerful postwar politician.

bureaucrat Atsuko Toyama, 62, as his education, culture, sports science and technology minister along with former chief cabinet secretary Mayumi Moriyama, 73, to the justice

circle, Toyama was a trail-blazer for Protocol on global warming.

women in Japan's male-dominated

A graduate of the prestigious Tokyo University, she became the first woman to be accepted on the career fast track in the education ministry, eventually ending up as director of the cultural affairs

is unlikely to be daunted by her cabinet position having already The 57-year-old former science served under then prime minister Toshiki Kaifu in 1989 as the country's first female chief cabinet secre-

New justice minister Moriyama

Koizumi retained environmental minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, 60, and transportation minister Chikage Ogi, 67 from Mori's cabinet.

Ogi, a former musical revue actress, is an outspoken advocate of opening up Tokyo's domestic Koizumi also appointed former Haneda Airport to international

The fourth female minister, Kawaguchi, is kept on as environment minister, having come to prominence for her opposition to the United States' shelving of its Little known in the political commitment to the 1997 Kyoto



গাজীপুর-১৭০৩

পলিথিন শীট সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

করপোরেশন কর্তৃক উপরে উল্লেখিত মালামাল ক্রয়ের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচেছ। মালামালের স্পেসিফিকেশন/ নিয়মাবলী/শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল করপোরেশনের গাজীপুরুস্থ কার্যালয়ের অর্থ ও হিসাব উপ-বিভাগ অথবা ঢাকাস্থ লিয়াজোঁ অফিস, ম্যানহার্টন টাওয়ার (৪র্থ তলা), ৮৩, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী সার্কুলার রোড হতে বিকেল ২ ঘটিকা হতে ৪ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সকল অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আগামী ০২-৫-২০০১ ইং হতে ১০-৫-২০০১ ইং পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে দরখান্তের মাধ্যমে প্রতিসেট সিডিউল টাঃ ২০০/- (টাকা দুইশত) মাত্রের বিনিময় (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্রয়

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকের বরাবরে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র তার গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ে অথবা উপরোক্ত লিয়াজোঁ অফিসে আগামী ১৩-৫-২০০১ ইং বিকেল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সরাসরি নির্ধারিত বাব্দ্রে drop করার পাশাপাশি ডাকযোগে কিংবা কুরিয়ার মারফতও নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে গাজীপুরস্থ ২.০৫ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) প্রাপ্ত সকল দরপত্র গাজীপুরস্থ কার্যালয়ে খোলা হবে। করপোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জিডি-৩৮৯

মোঃ মজিবর রহমান আকন্দ উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (ক্রয়-বিক্রয়)



ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ

নগর ভবন, কক্ষ নং-৩০২ আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছেন্ন রাখুন আপনার শিতকে টিকা দিন

দরপত্র আহ্বান

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের ডিইউটিপি'র ট্রাফিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগের তত্ত্বাবধানে ঢাকা মহানগরীর যানজট নিরসনকল্পে নাগরিক সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি ও সড়ক ব্যবহারকারীগণের পরমার্শকল্পে বিজ্ঞাপন চলচ্চিত্র নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে এ বিষয়ে প্রকৃত অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১এ সীলমোহরকৃত দুই খাম পদ্ধতিতে (কারিগরি ও আর্থিক) দরপত্র আহ্বান করেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৮/০৫/২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বাব্দ্রে জমা দিতে হবে এবং ঐদিন বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। টাকার পরিমাণ অংকে ও কথায় উভয়ই লিখতে হবে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের কমপক্ষে ৩টি শর্ট ফিল্ম নির্মাণের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান তাদের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপত্রের মাধ্যমে আগামী ০৭-০৫-২০০১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগর ভবনস্থ ডিইউটিপি'র ট্রাফিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে ৫০০/-(পাঁচশত) টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) চালান মারফত দরপত্র ক্রয় করা যাবে। প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহের মধ্যে কারিগরি প্রস্তাবসমূহ মূল্যায়নের পর কেবল মাত্র রেসপনসিভ প্রতিষ্ঠানের আর্থিক প্রস্তাবসমূহ খোলা হবে।

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/৪৬১/'০০-'০১ জিডি-৩৯৩

প্রধান জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

Pak politicians in hiding as raids go on

was blocked after security forces saying they would be arrested if they

REUTERS, Karachi

military rulers arrested hundreds of the thousands. people in the second major clampopposition sources.

16-party Alliance for the Restoration said. of Democracy (ARD) from pushing - He added that political leaders ahead with plans for a banned rally would still attend the rally. "Several set for May Lin Karachi, they said. of the leadership have gone under-"The whole night there was an ground because of the current

People's Party (PPP) of self-exiled May 1," he said. former premier Benazir Bhutto. central city of Lahore late in March - travel to Karachi for the May 1 event.

proved fruitless as the authorities as part of a campaign demanding discovered their prime targets had that the military stand down and

"My house was raided, but I'm The military regime of General for me so I'm not in my usual places." set by the supreme court.

be reached.

Political party workers said hun-Leading Pakistani politicians scur- dreds of their colleagues had been ried into hiding on Thursday as detained, but the total could run into

"(We) strictly condemn this down within a month, according to situation including the arrests. It's a conspiracy against the federation of Police and security forces Pakistan, a conspiracy against the launched raids through the night constitution... and a conspiracy and into Thursday in a bid to stop the against democracy," the PPP official

operation against (political activ- arrests and harassment... Our senior ists)," said an official of the Pakistan leaders will be there in Karachi on Military authorities earlier this A similar rally planned for the week warned political leaders not to

detained thousand of political activ- did. The ARD, which includes both the But many of Thursday's raids PPP and the PML, intended the rally immediately restore democracy.

still out," said Ejaz Sharffi, a member Pervez Musharraf, which dislodged of the suspended National Assembly Sharif in a coup in October 1999, has and of the Pakistan Muslim League banned all public rallies but vowed to (PML) of ousted and exiled premier restore civilian rule around October Nawaz Sharif. They are still looking 2002, within a three-year deadline

The number of arrests was The detained included former unclear as police officials contacted justice minister and PPP deputy by Reuters refused comment, and secretary general Mian Raza Rabbani officials of the Sindh provincial as well as Fauzia Wahab, who heads government could not immediately the PPP's human rights office.



BANGLADESH PETROLEUM EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION CO. LTD (BAPEX)

(A COMPANY OF PETROBANGLA) HBFC BUILDING (4TH FLOOR) 22, PURANA PALTAN, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH

PHONE: 9568951, FAX: 880-2-9561473, TELEX: N 671413 BAPEX BJ. INTERNATIONAL FOR BIDS

FOR PROCUREMENT OF PIPE AND PIPE LINE MATERIALS

Date of issuance of Tender 25-4-2001

Sealed Bids are invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agent for supply of following Pipe and Pipe Line Materials as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange. Bid Closing Date International Tender Brief Description of Cost of Tender Material Documents 24-5-2001 at 11.00 TK.5500.00 OR US\$ BAPEX/MCD/INT/ LINE PIPE API 5LX52 ERW Hours (BST) TEN-204/2001 100.00

24-5-2001 at 11.00 BAPEX/MCD/INT/ POLYETHYLENE TAPE 8 TK.3300.00 OR US\$ TEN-205/2001 PRIMER 55.00 Hours (BST) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from General Manager (MCD) at the

above address. Tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder or through their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of documents from Accounts Division of this Company at Ibrahim Mansion (3rd floor), 11, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh from 9.00 Hrs. to 13.00 Hrs. on all working days with effect from 25-4-2001. No documents will be sold on the bid closing date.

All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2.5% of total amount in the form of Bank Guarantee, Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank located in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to the above address on or before 11:00 Hrs. of the closing date. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11:15 Hrs. in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.

The Company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP: 10927-24/4 G-777

General Manager Material Control Division