

## Spain holds general polls

AFP, Madrid

Spaniards voted in an election yesterday that could give the Socialist prime minister a new mandate to pursue sweeping social reforms, but with the country still stunned by the killing of an expatriate by suspected Basque separatists.

The Socialist Party of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero is tipped to defeat the conservative opposition Popular Party (PP) led by Mariano Rajoy.

But the latest opinion polls indicate he may not achieve an absolute majority, and will have to forge uncomfortable alliances with regional nationalist parties.

Zapatero, 47, had scored a surprise election win over Rajoy, 52, on March 14, 2004, three days after train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people.

Election campaigning was again suspended this time around, after a former municipal legislator, Isaias Carrasco, a Socialist, was shot dead Friday in the northern Basque region.

There have been no claims of responsibility, but police said it bore the hallmark of the Basque separatist group ETA, which has killed over 800 people in its nearly 40-year campaign for an independent homeland.

## Sarkozy faces test in local French polls

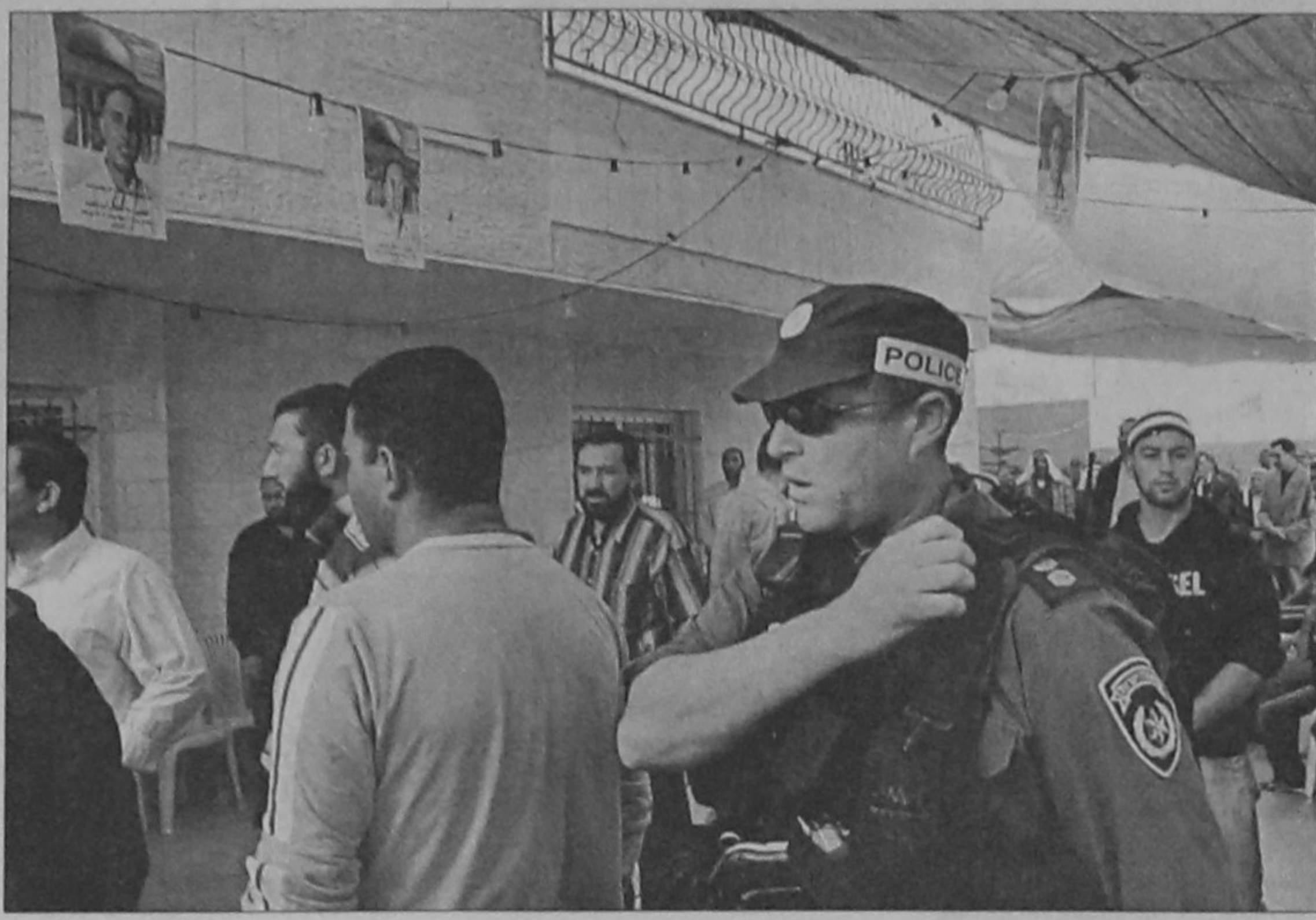
AFP, Paris

French voters headed to the polls yesterday in local elections seen as the biggest public test for President Nicolas Sarkozy since his election 10 months ago.

Opinion polls predict major gains for the opposition Socialists in a vote seen as a referendum on Sarkozy, whose popularity has plummeted among voters dismayed by his flamboyant private life and slow progress in improving consumer spending power.

Sarkozy trounced Socialist presidential candidate Segolene Royal last May with promises to overhaul France's economy, but since then has seen his popularity plummet among voters dismayed by his flamboyant private life and disappointed that their spending power has not increased.

The Socialists are likely to hold on to Paris and the second city of Lyon, and could also take Marseille, Strasbourg and Toulouse from the right, symbolic victories that could further damage the president's image.



Israeli policemen walk inside Palestinian gunman Alaa Hisham Abu Dheim's mourning tent at his family house in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber yesterday. Dheim was responsible for shooting and killing eight yeshiva students three days ago in Jerusalem. Israeli police came to his house to summon some of his family members for questioning in a police station.

## Stop threats then we'll talk, Iran tells West

AFP, Tehran

Iran told the West yesterday it would only hold talks over its disputed nuclear programme if world powers stopped threatening further punitive measures against Tehran.

"The time of using the policy of the carrot and the stick has ended," Javad Vaedi, a top national security official, said on the sidelines of a security conference in Tehran.

"If they (the West) want to have serious negotiations, in fair conditions and taking into account the interests of the two parties, they must first stop threatening."

His comments came a week after the UN Security Council tightened sanctions against Tehran over its refusal to heed the world body's calls to freeze uranium enrichment, a potential weapons-making process.

Following the sanctions resolution, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected any new talks with the European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana -- who has represented world powers in past discussions on the nuclear crisis.

Ahmadinejad said Tehran would in future negotiate only with the UN atomic agency and would not sit down with anyone from outside the body, such as Solana, who has held two years of nuclear talks with Iran.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, speaking at a conference in Tehran, meanwhile refused to directly answer a question about whether Iran would continue talking to Solana.

"We are still supporters of negotiations that have a precise objective, a defined programme and are assured of providing us with results," he said.

"We are ready to discuss any proposition in this framework, including the important questions of the world, different problems, notably that of occupation and the desire of certain countries to dominate others."

The Security Council has repeatedly called on Iran to freeze uranium enrichment, which the West fears could be used to make nuclear weapons, but which Iran insists is only needed to make atomic fuel for power stations.

## Mufti warns Saudis to watch their money

AP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's top religious authority warned Saudis against giving money to "evil" organizations, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Just days before the warning by Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Abdullah al-Sheikh, grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, police intercepted a phone message purportedly from al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. In the audio recording, al-Zawahiri exhorts followers to collect money for needy families in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"It is bad to give funds to just anyone who asks, and to parties with shabby reputations or unknown backing," the mufti said in the statement published in the daily newspaper al-Okaz.

"It's even worse to give it to an organization that's known for its evil and for hurting Islam and its followers," he added in an apparent reference to al-Qaida.

The oil-rich kingdom, birthplace of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, has been waging a crackdown on the group's militants since a 2003 wave of attacks on foreigners here.

Last April, one of the largest sweeps by Saudi authorities netted 172 militants, including pilots allegedly trained to carry out attacks on oil refineries using civilian planes.

## Mideast peace talks to resume next week

Israel maintains state of alert after Jerusalem attack

AFP, AP, Jerusalem

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will resume next week after being temporarily halted by a fierce Israeli military campaign against the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, officials on both sides said on Saturday.

The negotiations "are set to resume during the course of next week," a senior Israeli official told AFP.

"We have always said these negotiations should continue, because we distinguish between the terrorists of Hamas and the moderate Palestinians of the (Palestinian) Authority," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

For his part, an official from the Palestinian Authority of moderate president Mahmud Abbas said a "resumption of negotiations is expected on Wednesday."

Earlier in the day, Abbas had said that despite the Israeli attacks, which have left scores of Palestinians dead in the past two weeks, peace is the only way forward.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in his first response to the shooting attack, has called it "horrible." Militants launching rockets from Gaza and those involved in the shooting attack

had the same purpose, Olmert said Saturday.

"The perpetrators of both intend to make our lives unbearable," Olmert told an international women's day event outside Tel Aviv. "This won't happen."

Meanwhile Israeli police remained on a state of alert while the army extended a closure of the West Bank yesterday, days after a deadly attack at a Jewish religious school in Jerusalem.

"Police remain on a state of alert, especially in Jerusalem, and thousands of police officers have been deployed," senior police official Yoram Ohayun told army radio.

Police were giving priority to guarding education facilities, she added.

In the meantime, an Israeli soldier wounded by Gaza militants in a border ambush on Thursday died of his wounds, the military said. He was the second soldier to die as a result of the attack, and the fourth soldier killed in Gaza violence this month.

Those killed in the Jerusalem attack were students at the Jewish seminary, one 26 years old and the others between the ages of 15 and 19. Israeli police have arrested eight people in connection to the attack.

The gunman did not meet the typical profile of Palestinian attackers, police said.

"He is not known to the security forces," Jerusalem police commander Aharon Franco told Channel Two TV. "He was a normal man, who worked as a driver, who was going to wed soon."

Relatives of the man, Alaa Abu Dheim, said he had been distraught over the violence in Gaza.

Meanwhile, an Israeli security source said senior Israeli official Amos Gilad would travel to Egypt yesterday to discuss with officials there the situation in Gaza.

Gilad, who is political counselor at the defence ministry, declined to confirm the report when asked by Channel Two private television.

However, he did not rule out the possibility that Egypt might mediate a treaty between Israel and Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since seizing it in June from forces loyal to Abbas.

Repeating that Israel would not negotiate directly with Hamas, which it considers a terrorist group, he said there are two conditions for Israel to stop its raids on Gaza -- the total halt to rocket fire on Israel from the territory and of arms smuggling into Gaza from Egypt.

## Attacks kill four in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Four people were killed and several others wounded in separate attacks in Iraq yesterday, Iraqi security officials said.

Two people were killed and five others wounded in a car bomb attack against an Iraqi army and police patrol in the northern city of Mosul, police Brigadier General Khalid Abdul Sattar said.

In the central city of Tikrit, a police officer was killed and two policemen wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near their checkpoint, police said.

In Baghdad, a civilian was killed and another wounded in a similar roadside bomb attack.

## 'Al-Qaeda will rejoice if Obama wins'

AFP, Washington

A Republican congressman suggested, in an interview published Saturday, that the election of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will mean a victory for Al-Qaeda and other radical Islamists.

"I will tell you that, if he is elected president, then... the Al-Qaeda, the radical Islamists and their supporters, will be dancing in the streets," Representative Steve King of Iowa told the Daily Reporter newspaper.

The paper is published in Spencer, Iowa, which is King's home district.

## Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd.

T K Bhaban (13<sup>th</sup> Floor) 13, Kawran Bazar Dhaka-1215

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

SEALED TENDERS are hereby invited by the undersigned for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 x 850 KVA electrical substation and 2 x 450 KW emergency generator including riser busbar trunking for Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd, at 35, Topkhana Road, Dhaka from Contractors who have the following qualification.

- Contractors Qualifications: Firms, who have proven experience in successful supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of similar work within the past 5 (five) years in a single tender in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous/ Private Organization of Tk 15 (Fifteen) Million. The intending bidders shall have to apply in their letter head pad along with the following documents duly attested by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer in support of their eligibility and obtain permission for the issuance of the Tender Document.
  - Photocopies of valid Trade License, Tax Identification number with up to date tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.
  - Photocopies of satisfactory completion certificate from employer(s) for supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance, within the last 5 (five) years in a single tender in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous/Private Organization, of similar supply. The experience certificate shall be accompanied by the respective "Work Order".
  - Photocopy of valid ABC class Electro-mechanical Contractor and Supervisory license issued by the Bangladesh Electricity Licensing Board.
- The intending Contractor shall have to apply in their letter heads along with a copy of above mentioned documents to the undersigned for issuance of Tender Documents.
- Tender Documents will be issued only to the contractors or their authorized representatives who will apply for issue to Tender Document as under para-1 above on cash payment of Tk. 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) only (non-refundable) from Accounts Department of FILIC at T K Bhaban (13<sup>th</sup> Floor), 13 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, from 10/03/08 to 23/03/08 during office hours.
- No Tender Documents will be issued after 23/03/2008.
- Earnest Money at the rate minimum 2.5% (two point five percent) of the total bid amount in favour of Fareast Islamic Life Insurance Company Ltd. in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh must be submitted along with the tender without which the tender shall be rejected outright.
- Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 12:30 hours on 24/03/08 and will be opened on the same day at 14:00 hours in presence of Bidders who may like to be present. No Tender shall be received after the above designated date and time.
- The Tenderers must quote rates for item of works both in figures and in words clearly and legibly.
- Tenderers must visit the site and get acquainted with conditions of the site, the scope of works and available space before tendering.
- For any clarification regarding preparation and submission of Tender the tenderers may contact with the undersigned or the consultant of the project, BCL-DECON, House No. 95A, Road No. 4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Telephone: 986 2713-6.
- The work must be completed in all respect within 6 (six) Calendar months.
- Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd (FILIC) reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever

### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare													
2	Agency	ICDDR,B													
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B													
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka													
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Lift (Elevator).													
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/Mohakhali/Gyanaloy/08-02	Date: March 6, 2008.												
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (PPR-2003)													
8	Budget and Source of Funds	IDA through RPA (GoB)													
9	Project (if applicable)	Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh													
10	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No.: 5													
11	Mode of Payment	GOB													
12	Tender Publication Date	March 6, 2008													
13	Tender Last Selling Date	April 18, 2008													
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	April 21, 2008	Time: 11:00 Hours												
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	April 21, 2008	Time: 11:30 Hours												
16	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address													
	- Selling Tender Document	Treasury Unit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Hospital Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.													
	- Receiving Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.													
	- Opening Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.													
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) The tenderers shall be Manufacturer / Sole Agents of Manufacturer or Principal from eligible source countries. (ii) Tenderers shall have minimum 05 (five) years of experience with the same brand and 100+ units of same brand and origin in the supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Lift (Elevator) and may submit price quotation through their Local Agent in Bangladesh. (iii) All prices of Import Item shall be on C&F Chittagong by sea freight basis (Cost of items and freight to be specified), Local items shall be on site delivery basis and quoted by local currency. (iv) Tenderers shall have work experience for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Lift (Elevator) of the similar capacity and origin in Dhaka which is running successfully for at least last 03 (three) years. (v) Local Agent must have credit line facilities of at least Tk. 1.50 (One point Fifty) Crore supported by documentary evidence. (vi) Local Agent must have physical facilities to provide after sale services during and after the warranty period. (vii) Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities. (viii) Details are available in the Tender Document.													
18	Identification of Lots, Tender Security, Completion Time and Price of Tender Document	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pkg. No.</th> <th>Identification</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Tender Security Amount in BDT or equivalent foreign currency (by Pay Order / Bank Guarantee)</th> <th>Completion Time</th> <th>Price of Tender Document (in cash)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Supply, Installation, Testing &amp; Commissioning of Lift (Elevator).</td> <td>ICDDR, B 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahamed Sharani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh</td> <td>Tk. 6,54,430.</td> <td>8 (Eight) Months</td> <td>BDT. 3000.00 or equivalent foreign currency</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Pkg. No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in BDT or equivalent foreign currency (by Pay Order / Bank Guarantee)	Completion Time	Price of Tender Document (in cash)		Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Lift (Elevator).	ICDDR, B 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahamed Sharani Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh	Tk. 6,54,430.	8 (Eight) Months	BDT. 3000.00 or equivalent foreign currency
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19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	M. Alam													
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Procurement Specialist, Gyanaloy, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh.													
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh													
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: (8802)9860523-32	Fax: (8802)9860620 e.mail: malam@icddr.org												
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.														