

Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad delivers his keynote speech during a dialogue forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Mahathir urges PM Abdullah to resign

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Veteran ex-leader Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday urged Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to resign following disastrous election results.

Abdullah, also president of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), is facing increasing calls to quit from party leaders.

"I ask (Abdullah) to resign," the former prime minister, who ruled Malaysia for 22 years, told a gathering of at least 2,000 UMNO members.

The focus of the meeting was to analyse the March 8 election results but it turned out to be a platform to demand Abdullah's resignation.

'Immigrants putting strain on Britain'

AFP, London

Record levels of immigrants are putting too much strain on British public services and the government has overstated their positive economic impact, a parliamentary report said Tuesday.

The inquiry by a House of Lords committee including two former finance ministers concluded that a surge in immigration since the post-2004 expansion of the European Union had led to "little or no impact" on economic well-being.

"It called for caps to be set on the number of people allowed to enter Britain, saying some groups - the low-paid, some ethnic minorities and young people looking for their first job - may have suffered due to competition from immigrants.

Ministers should set an "explicit target range" for immigration and rules to keep within that limit, the report said.

Bush support for Ukraine's Nato entry opens up alliance split

AFP, Kiev

President George W Bush said yesterday the United States "strongly supports" Ukraine's bid to join Nato and told Russia it would have no right to veto the move.

But in a sign of protracted debate at the annual Nato summit in Bucharest this week, France opposed letting Ukraine and Georgia into the alliance, with Prime Minister Francois Fillon saying it could upset the balance of power in Europe.

Speaking at a news conference in Kiev, Bush said Washington wanted to see Ukraine and Georgia, both former Soviet republics, given a Membership Action Plan (MAP), a formal step toward joining Nato.

"I strongly believe that Ukraine and Georgia should be given MAP and there's no trade-offs, period," said Bush, with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko at his side.

The US president however stopped short of saying that the Atlantic alliance must extend MAP agreements to Ukraine and Georgia at the summit, which opens in Bucharest on Wednesday.

Bush's comments were likely to stoke tension with Russia and the membership move is opposed by Germany, France and other European powers.

"We are opposed to the entry of Georgia and Ukraine because we think that it is not a good answer to the balance of power within Europe and between Europe and Russia," the French prime minister said in an interview with France Inter radio.

"France has a different view from the United States on this issue," said Fillon. "We want to have a dialogue with Russia on this subject and that is what the president will say in Bucharest" at the Nato summit.

Russian officials warned before Bush spoke that Ukraine's member-

ship of Nato would undermine European security.

"Admission of Ukraine into Nato will lead to a deep crisis in Russian-Ukrainian relations. This affects pan-European security," Interfax and RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasins saying.

"So the West must decide what kind of relationship with Russia will serve its interests," Karasins said, speaking during a Russian parliament hearing.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened to target Ukraine and Georgia with nuclear missiles should they join the alliance.

Bush said he had recently spoken with Putin to explain why the United States supports Ukraine and Georgia joining Nato and to assure the Russian leader that Moscow had nothing to fear from such a move.

Britain to announce delay in Iraq troop cut

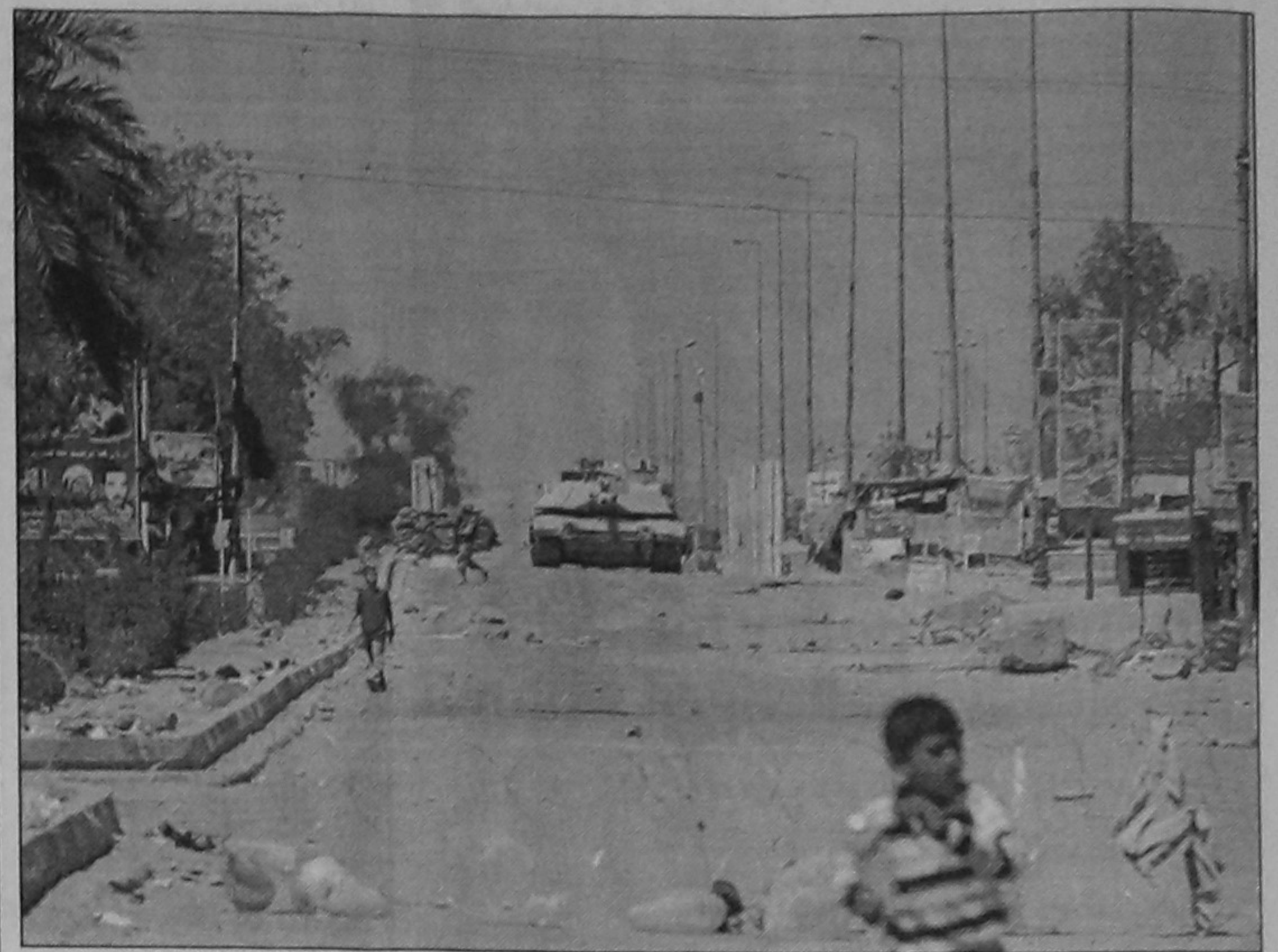
AFP, London

Britain is to announce Tuesday that there are no current plans to reduce troop levels in southern Iraq, following a recent flare-up around Basra, reports said.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced in parliament last October that Britain hoped to reduce troop levels from 4,100 to 2,500 in the spring but media said that has been called into question by the recent fighting.

Defence Secretary Des Browne is to make a statement on Iraq in the House of Commons at 3:30 pm (1430 GMT), the Ministry of Defence confirmed, but declined to comment on the reported announcement.

The BBC reported he would say that there are no current plans to cut troops in Iraq, while the Guardian daily said on its website that Browne was expected to "abandon plans" to cut the number of British troops in Iraq.



A US military tank takes a position to prevent entry and exit from Baghdad's Sadr City during a ban on vehicle movement in the area yesterday. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said Tuesday that a crackdown on Shia militiamen in Basra was a "success" and that 10,000 extra troops would be recruited to keep order in the southern oil hub.

Israeli settlements to expand as Rice wraps up peace push

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel on Monday announced plans to build hundreds of new houses in a Jewish settlement in annexed east Jerusalem, dealing a new blow to faltering Middle East peace talks.

The Jerusalem municipality made the announcement as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice wrapped up a regional tour aimed at bolstering the peace process.

"The plan is part of a global initiative by the mayor of Jerusalem to build 40,000 housing units in the city to ease access to housing for young couples," a municipality statement said.

It said 600 homes will be built in Pisgat Zeev, a Jewish settlement in the mostly Arab east of the Holy City which was seized by Israel in the 1967 war and later annexed in a move not recognised by any other state.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, while the international community considers all settlement construction in the occupied territories to be illegal.

The internationally drafted 2003 roadmap agreement that forms the basis of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks requires Israel to freeze all settlement activity and the Palestinians to improve security in the territories.

Pre-polls violence rising in Nepal

PTI, Kathmandu

In spiralling pre-poll violence in Nepal, scores of people were injured in fresh clashes between cadres of Nepali Congress and Left parties, prompting a worried Election Commission to urge parties to refrain from activities that will affect the credibility of the vote.

Curfew was clamped in Dadeldhura district in far west Nepal after Maoists and CPN-UML activists allegedly beat up Nepali Congress workers during canvassing on Monday for the April 10 Constituent Assembly polls.

The cadres of the two Left parties attacked the Nepali Congress district office accusing its workers of burning their party flags. Over two-dozen people were injured in the violence.

In another incident, a central member of People's Front Nepal Kaman Singh Lama was seriously injured when cadres of CPN-

United attacked him during campaigning in Kaver district.

With the feud among the parties spilling on the streets, Chief Election Commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokharel met Prime Minister Girija P Koirala, Maoist chief Prachanda and CPN-UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal urging them to take steps to stop the violence that could hamper canvassing.

"The violence, including killings, beatings and the threatening of election candidates has occurred in several parts of the country and the trend is increasing... We are worried," Chief Election Commissioner Bhojraj Pokhrel said.

"This will spoil the election environment.... It will raise questions over the elections being credible and fair," he told reporters.

Urging all parties to exercise restraint and control their cadres, Koirala said the EC had the authority to mobilise Nepal Army, police and civil servants if needed.

Truce calms Iraq, weakens PM Maliki

AP, Baghdad

Rockets fell on the Green Zone and random machine gun fire rang out Monday in the southern city of Basra as Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr sought to rein in his militia after a week of battles that claimed about 400 lives.

The peace deal between al-Sadr and Iraqi government forces said to have been brokered in Iran calmed the violence but left the cleric's Mahdi Army intact and Iraq's US-backed prime minister politically battered and humbled within his own Shia power base.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had promised to crush the militias that have effectively ruled Basra for nearly three years. The US military launched air strikes in the city to back the Iraqi effort.

But the ferocious response by the Mahdi Army, including rocket fire on the US-controlled Green Zone

and attacks throughout the Shia south, caught the government by surprise and sent officials scrambling for a way out of the crisis.

The confrontation enabled al-Sadr to show that he remains a powerful force capable of challenging the Iraqi government, the Americans and mainstream Shia parties that have sought for years to marginalize him. And the outcome cast doubt on President Bush's assessment that the Basra battle was "a defining moment" in the history of Iraq.

With gunmen again off the streets, a round-the-clock curfew imposed in Baghdad last week was lifted at 6 am Monday, except in Sadr City and two other Shia neighbourhoods. Streets of the capital buzzed with traffic and commerce.

Several rockets or mortars slammed Monday into the Green Zone, the nerve centre of the American mission in Iraq. But the US Embassy said there no reports

of serious injuries. At least two Americans working for the US government were killed in Green Zone attacks last week.

An American soldier was killed Monday by a roadside bomb in northeastern Baghdad, the US military said without specifying whether the attack occurred in a Shia or Sunni area. The military also said a US soldier wounded south of Baghdad on March 23 died Sunday in Germany.

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said in Copenhagen, Denmark that the violence in Shia areas had not changed American plans to withdraw more combat forces this spring.

Republican Sen. John McCain, who has linked his presidential campaign to the conduct of the war, said he was "surprised" that al-Maliki had ordered an operation in Basra rather than keeping the focus on fighting al-Qaeda in Iraq in the northern city of Mosul.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chief Adviser's Office
Privatization Commission
Transport Pool Bhaban (8th & 9th Floor)
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice No. 962/04/2008-253

Date: 29 March 2008

Sub: International Tender Notice for Sale of State Owned Enterprise

International tenders are hereby invited from both local & foreign buyers (individual, company, co-operative body, employees' association) for the sale of the following state owned enterprise on 'As is Where is' basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the Enterprise for Sale	Land Particulars
01	Chittagong Chemical Complex, Barabkundu, Shitakundu, Chittagong	The mill is under control of the Ministry of Industry and operated by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). Salable land: More/Less 40.45 acres. The mill is started at 1965 and produces Caustic Soda, Hydrochloric Acid, Chlorine Liquid, Belching Powder and Hypochlorite. The mill is closed down on dated 15 December 2002.

Terms and Conditions:

- The buyer shall submit Demand Draft/Pay Order equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted price either in terms of BDT or in US dollar or in pounds issued in favour of the Secretary, Privatization Commission (Account No. STD-004001487, Janata Bank, Nabab Abdul Gani Road Branch, Dhaka) encashable in any schedule bank located in Dhaka city. Earnest money shall not be received in any other mode of payment.
- The buyer shall not be required to inherit any liability regardless of any long term loan or restructured loan of jute mills or in cases where applicable and short-term or current liability of the enterprise, under sale.
- Tender shall be submitted strictly based on the tender documents. Intending buyers shall submit tender in prescribed forms, duly filled in along with the requisite tender documents.
- The successful bidder shall pay 32.50% of the sale price (quoted price) as down payment plus 2.5% of the quoted price as earnest money totaling 35% (thereby meaning total down payment=32.5%+2.5%=35%) within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the issuance of the Letter of Intent (LOI).
- 15% rebate on the total sale price (quoted price) shall be granted if the buyer pays off the 75% of the selling price within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI). Similarly, a rebate of 20% on the total sale price (quoted price) shall be allowed if the buyer makes the full amount of selling price 'at a time' within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the issuance of the Letter of Intent (LOI). An extra 5% rebate on the total sale price i.e. a rebate of 25% of the quoted sale price shall be granted as rebate if the buyer pays off the price 'at a time' in a freely convertible foreign currency.
- The land of the Privatized enterprise or any part belonging to it thereof, may be used for the establishment of industry or for its expansion. The buyer shall not use such land for any commercial purpose viz the establishment of real state, making of commercial/residential plots for sale.
- Tender Submission and Acceptance:**
After the publication of the "Tender Notice", interested foreigners, Bangladeshi citizens living abroad and overseas commercial firms etc. willing to procure the tender forms or relevant particulars, may contact Bangladesh High Commissions/Embassies in London, Washington, Ottawa, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Islamabad, New Delhi, Tokyo, Singapore, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Seoul and Consulate General at New York and Jeddah.
- Bangladeshi citizens living abroad or foreigners may procure tender forms and tender conditions downloading them from the website of the Privatization Commission (www.pc.gov.bd) or from any other country of their choice and submit it duly filled-in. But the 'payment-receipt' of US\$100 (one hundred) or £70 (seventy) collecting it from the website of the Privatization Commission (www.pc.gov.bd) shall be submitted along with the tender.
- Each set of tender form, tender conditions and enterprise-profile etc can be procured from the office of the Secretary, Privatization Commission in all working days during office hours on non-refundable cash payment of Tk. 5,000/- (five thousand) only or US\$100 (one hundred) or £70 (seventy).
- Tenders shall be dropped in the tender boxes placed at the office premises of the Privatization Commission, Transport Pool Bhaban (9th Floor), Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000 and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Federation Bhaban, 60 Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- Based on the terms & conditions specified herein, intending buyers & their representatives shall be able to collect tender form, tender conditions, enterprise-profile & other relevant papers etc till 02 June 2008 and submit the tender latest by 03 June 2008 within 12.00noon. The tender shall be opened on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if they are present) at the conference room of the Privatization Commission. The tenders dropped by any bidder living abroad must reach the Commission within the deadline, set forth.
- Incomplete and erratic tenders shall be considered 'Cancelled'.
- The Privatization Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all of the tenders, dropped without assigning any reason thereof.
- An introductory brief necessary to get understanding about the Industrial Enterprise, Enterprise Profile, Tender Conditions and Tender Circulars etc can be checked, visiting the Website of the Privatization Commission: www.pc.gov.bd.
- Bidders are free to consult the concerned officials of the Privatization Commission for any clarification or narrations of the tender they need for clarity.

Md Shawkat Akbar
Secretary
Privatization Commission
Phone: 88-02-9551986
Fax: 88-02-9556433, 7168564
Email: pb@bdonline.com
pc@bdonline.com

GD-1535

HUQ AND COMPANY

BARRISTERS-AT-LAW & ADVOCATES

47/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Phones : 9552196, 9555953 Fax : 880-2-9562434 Email : huqandco@bol-online.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

- That being instructed by my client "International Hotel Holdings Limited" of House No.17, Road No.02, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. I the undersigned do hereby giving this public notice that the Plot No.1, Shahbag C/A including the scheduled land measuring 3.82 acres has been acquired by the Government in favour of RAJUK under L.A. Case No.10/96-97. This land was allotted to International Hotel Holdings Limited by RAJUK.
- Some heirs of late Mir Nawsher Ali, Son of Late Mir Mohammad Golap Ali took possession of the schedule land on 17.03.08 in pursuant to Judgement and decree dated 07.09.1996, Decree was signed on 12.09.1996 by the Assistant Judge, Additional Court No.5, Dhaka in Title Suit No.13 of 1991 a suit for permanent injunction which has no relation to the title in schedule land. Moreover the said Late Mir Nawsher Ali filed Title Suit No.750 of 1985 in the Court of 3rd Sub-Judge (Joint District Judge) for declaration of title which was decreed on contest by the defendant No.2 on 30.06.1986. But the defendant No.1, Court of Wards Dhaka Nowab Estate, filed Misc Case No.36 of 2005 challenging the said decree dated 30.06.1986 which is till now pending in the 3rd Court of Joint District Judge, Dhaka.
- So, the alleged possessors have no right, title and interest over the schedule land. Therefore, I am requesting all concerns not to buy the schedule land or any part thereof nor to enter into any agreement in connection with said land on the basis of the said possession and/or decree. If any person deals with the present possessor inspite of this public notice, he will do the same at his own risk and responsibility.

SCHEDULE OF THE LAND

All that piece and parcel of lands situated in S.A. Plot No.24 under S.A. Khatian No.8 corresponding to C.S. Plot No.22 and 23 (part) under C.S. Khatian No.16837 in Mouza Shahr, Dhaka, Sheet No.21, Police Station-Katwali, Dhaka measuring about 0.83 acres detailed as under:

Khatian No.	Plot No.	Area
(C.S.) 16837	C.S. 22	0.69
	C.S. 23(part)	0.14 acres
(S.A.)8	S.A.24	0.83 acres

Total: 0.83 acres.

For: Huq and Company

Shah Monjurul Hoque
SHAH MONJURUL HOQUE
Advocate

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board

Office of the Director (Procurement), Telephone Revenue Bhaban
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No. DP/L-10/IT/07-08/Mtc/35

Date: 25-03-2008

Sub: Re-scheduling deadlines of local Tender No. DP/L-10/IT/07-08/Mtc/3 Dated: 11-02-2008 for supply, installation and testing of 80M Green Field Self-supported Tower in Borguna Telephone Exchange Compound on turnkey basis.

The following changes have been made of the abovementioned tender notice:

Sl No	Particulars	Deadlines postponed on 10/03/08	Re-scheduled date & time
17	Last date for selling tender document	11-03-2008 AD	06-04-2008 AD
18	Last date & time for submission of tenders	12-03-2008 AD up to 11-30 hrs BST	07-04-2008 AD up to 11-30 hrs BST
19	Date & time for opening of tenders	12-03-2008 AD at 11-35 hrs BST	07-04-2008 AD at 11-35 hrs BST

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Dy Director (Local Procurement)

Phone: 8150700

GD-1534