

Zardari acquitted of drugs smuggling charges

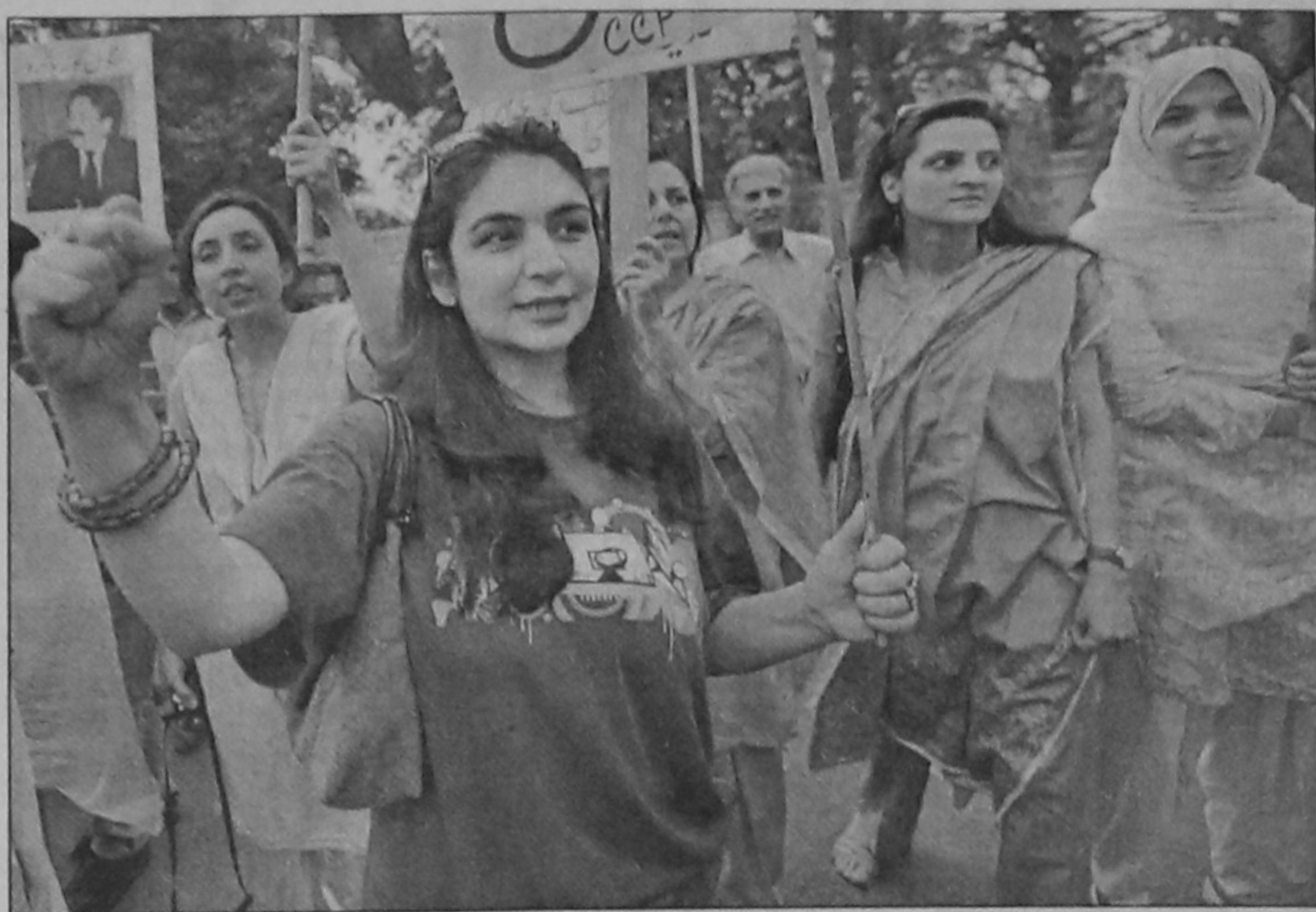
AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani court on Monday acquitted Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, of decade-old charges of drugs smuggling, his lawyer said.

Zardari was accused of trafficking in 1998 by the government of then-premier Nawaz Sharif and his lawyers asked the court to exonerate him because the case was politically motivated, lawyer Latif Khosa said.

Judge Ejaz Hasan Awan acquitted Asif Ali Zardari and co-accused Arif Baloch in a fake drugs smuggling case, Khosa told reporters outside the court in the eastern city of Lahore.

"The court accepted our application for acquittal since no offence has been made out so far and the case had been registered on a political basis just to harass and blackmail the petitioner," he said.



Pakistani civil society activists protest against President Pervez Musharraf in Lahore Sunday. Pakistani lawyers decided on May 17 to step up their campaign next month for the reinstatement of judges deposed by Musharraf last year.

INDO-PAK TALKS TODAY

More cross-LoC bus services on agenda

PTI, New Delhi

Keen to take the peace process with Pakistan forward, India is expected to press for launch of more cross-LoC bus services and early operationalisation of the truck service when the two sides resume the composite dialogue in Islamabad today.

The Indian side is also expected to propose increasing the frequency of fortnightly Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot bus services to make these weekly, official sources said here today.

The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries will meet today to set

the agenda for talks between External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday, which will mark India's first high-level contact with the new Pakistan government.

During the much-delayed talks, the two sides will review the fourth round of Composite Dialogue and assess progress made on eight issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, Siachen, Sir Creek and CBMs.

At the talks, the Indian side is expected to press for launch of Kargil-Skardu and Jammu-Sialkot bus services as part of additional initiatives to increase contacts

between people on two sides of the LoC, the sources said.

The two sides will also discuss operationalisation of the truck service on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route, they said.

The two countries have already decided to launch the truck service to boost cross-LoC trade but lack of preparedness on part of the Pakistani side has been delaying the initiative.

India has already made all preparations, including widening the road between Baramulla and Kaman Post, the last point on this side of LoC, and establishing other infrastructural facilities.

British PM takes parliamentary grilling online

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Monday launched an online version of his weekly question-and-answer session in parliament, vowing to give let the public grill him directly, on YouTube.

Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) is a weekly institution in the lower House of Commons, where lawmakers get 30 minutes at noon every Wednesday to quiz him on any subject that takes their fancy.

The online version is seen as an attempt to counter charges that the Labour leader is behind the times, in particular compared to Conservative leader David Cameron, who has called Brown "an analogue Prime Minister in a digital age".

West Bengal Panchayat polls claims 19 lives

PTI, Kolkata

The death toll in violence in Murshidabad district during the last phase of Panchayat elections yesterday rose to 19 today with 231 people admitted to different hospitals, as fresh armed clash between the CPI-M and Congress claimed one more life in the district.

The police fished out the body of a CPI-M worker, missing since May 14, from the Battuli river, near Sagat island, in South 24-parganas district during the day.

Kashmir issue 'ripe' for resolution, says Bush

Pakistan will not negotiate with militants: PM

PTI, AFP, Islamabad/ Sharm-el-Sheikh

Taking note of "major and significant developments" in the Indo-Pak ties, US President George W. Bush has said the Kashmir issue is "ripe" for resolution.

The "Kashmir issue is ripe for solution", Bush was quoted as saying by Pakistani officials during a meeting he had on Sunday with Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum for the Middle East in Egypt.

Bush's remarks came ahead of a meeting between External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad

on May 21 to review the composite dialogue process.

During the hour-long talks in the resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh, Bush said he saw "major and significant developments" in Pakistan-India relations, but he did not elaborate.

He said he was happy to note that the two sides had made a lot of progress in their talks on Kashmir and for comprehensive peace in the region.

Briefing reporters after the Bush-Gilani talks, the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Finance Hina Rabbani Khar and Additional Foreign Secretary Zameer Akram said Bush had appreciated the dialogue process

between India and Pakistan and said he had no doubts in his mind that Kashmir was "ripe for solution".

Khar said Pakistan's relations with neighbouring countries figured in the discussions between the two leaders, with specific focus on ties with India.

Khar quoted Bush as saying that it was the "right time for the resolution of the Kashmir issue".

Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani vowed on Monday that his government would not negotiate with militants unless they laid down their arms, amid US concerns over Islamabad's talks with the Taliban.

"One thing should be clear,"

Gilani told journalists at the World Economic Forum for the Middle East. "We will not have a dialogue with militants, we will not have dialogue with extremists or terrorists."

"We only have dialogue with those forces, these tribals, who decommission themselves," Gilani said while on his first overseas trip since civilian leadership took over.

"If they lay down their arms then they are in the mainstream with us."

Gilani's government defeated the backers of President Pervez Musharraf in elections in February and has pledged completely to overhaul the pursuit of what its key US ally terms the "war on terror".

70pct still without food aid in Myanmar, says UN

Humanitarian chief allowed into devastated Irrawaddy delta

AFP, AP, Bangkok/Yangon

About 70 percent of Myanmar's hungry cyclone survivors remain without UN food aid more than two weeks after the disaster, forcing them to leave their villages, relief workers said yesterday.

With the junta so far resisting calls to allow enough foreign disaster experts in to help direct the emergency effort, supplies are stacking up in Yangon with only small trucks to get aid to some two million needy people.

Marcus Prior, spokesman from the UN's World Food Programme, said that while 750,000 survivors were in desperate need of food, only 250,000 people had been reached with a two-week ration of rice.

"I would say that now we are just over 30 percent," he said, labelling the response so far "slow and insufficient".

But Myanmar's military regime allowed the UN humanitarian chief into the devastated Irrawaddy delta for a brief tour on Monday, a UN official said, as the government's dealings with the international community appeared to thaw.

But the United Nations said its foreign staff were still barred from the delta and described conditions there as "terrible", with hundreds of thousands of cyclone victims suffering from hunger, disease and lack of shelter.

John Holmes, the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, flew by helicopter to the delta before returning to Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, to meet with international aid agencies, said a UN official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak with the media.

Others, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, will also be

allowed into the disaster zone this week, officials said, in an apparent effort to deflect criticism that the government is not managing the relief operations properly.

Cyclone Nargis destroyed paddy fields and food stocks in the nation's key food-producing Irrawaddy Delta region, raising fears of a famine in Myanmar, already one of the poorest countries in the world.

British aid group Save the Children warned Sunday that thousands of young children could die within weeks unless food reached them.

Hundreds of thousands of people also remain without shelter as the rainy season sets in, compounding the misery for those who lived through the massive storm, which left at least 133,000 people dead or missing.



A cyclone survivor fetches drinking water in Kyout Tan town ship, some 32km from Myanmar's biggest city Yangon on Sunday. United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon will visit Myanmar this week to discuss the delivery of international aid to the victims of the devastating cyclone, a spokesman said.

Asean can lead cyclone aid effort, says Myanmar

AFP, Singapore

Myanmar agreed yesterday to an international relief effort led by its regional allies to help more than two million cyclone victims still critically short of life-saving food, shelter and medicines.

As the junta declared three days of national mourning, the UN's top aid official John Holmes got a first-hand look at the scale of a disaster that has left at least 133,000 people dead or missing.

The regime agreed to allow its

Southeast Asian neighbours to help but stopped short of permitting a full-scale aid operation, despite warnings the most vulnerable survivors would soon start to die unless they get help soon.

Nor did it indicate any softening in its refusal to allow in foreign aid workers in anything like the numbers needed to reach an estimated 2.4 million people still in desperate need 17 days after the tragedy struck.

Instead it struck a compromise at emergency talks here for the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (Asean) to coordinate assistance.

"The foreign ministers have agreed to establish an Asean-led coordinating mechanism," Singapore's George Yeo said after hosting his counterparts here, including Myanmar's Nyan Win.

He said Nyan Win told the meeting the estimated damage from the cyclone was "well over 10 billion US dollars" and that the regime had agreed to accept the immediate despatch of medical teams from other Asean nations.



Indian woman, Anjali Haldar, who's husband was killed in a recent clash waits to cast her vote at a booth of a Panchayat (village administration) polls in Basanti, some 100km south of Kolkata yesterday.

Suicide attack kills 13 in Pakistan

Taliban claim responsibility

AFP, AP, Peshawar

A suicide bombing in the north-western Pakistani city of Mardan on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded many others, a government minister said.

The blast happened outside a bakery near a military base in the city, which has experienced several attacks blamed on pro-Taliban Islamist militants in recent months.

"At least 13 people are dead," said Bashir Bilour, senior minister for North West Frontier Province.

"It could be an attempt to disrupt the peace talks or a reaction to Damadola," he added, referring to a recent missile strike by coalition forces based in Afghanistan on suspected Taliban militants in Pakistan's tribal belt.

A Taliban militant group claimed responsibility Monday for the suicide bombing at the gate of an army base in Pakistan's volatile


northwest.

Taliban spokesman Maulvi Umar said the attack was carried out by a branch of the militant group Tehrik-e-Taliban in response to a Pakistani military operation in the nearby district of Darra Adam Khel.

"We have said time and again that the Pakistani government should stop such activities because we are in negotiations with the government and such acts can harm these negotiations," he said.

Earlier Sunday an armed group of pro-Taliban militants occupied a lawmaker's house in the troubled Bajaur tribal area, taking his relatives and servants hostage, witnesses and officials said.

Shaukatullah Khan was out of town when up to 40 armed militants stormed his house, alleging that Khan had made lot of money and that it was the property of local tribes.



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খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্র. নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	দরপত্রের তফসিলের মূল্য	কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা
১।	পরিষ্কৃত্য কাজে ব্যবহৃত ৫ (পাঁচ) টি গারবেজ ট্রেইলারের (সেফ-১২মি, প্রস্থ-২.৪মি, ও উচ্চতা-০.৯মি) রি-বিশ/মেরাত কাজ।	৭০,০০০/-	১০০০/-	৫০ দিন
২।	চাইনিজ এ্যানফল্ট প্রাইট নং-১ (মেডেল-LB-30, China) এর বিল্ডিং ইউনিট, সাব-ইউনিটের খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ নতুন (নয়/পুরনো) সরবরাহ, সংযোজন ও স্থানীয় মেরামত কাজ।	৩০,০০০/-	১০০০/-	৪০ দিন
৩।	রোড মার্কার (রি-হিটার) এবং বার্মোড্রাক্ট লেইং মেশিনের নতুন খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ (নয়/পুরনো) সরবরাহ, সংযোজন ও স্থানীয় মেরামত কাজ।	৫,৫০০/-	৫০০/-	১৫ দিন
৪।	ঢাকা মেট্রো-১-১১-০০২৮ হাইড্রোলিক ক্রেন এর মেরামত কাজ।	৫,৫০০/-	৫০০/-	১৫ দিন
৫।	পরিষ্কৃত্য এবং উদ্ভেদনসহ জাকরি চক্কুপূর্ণ কাজে ব্যবহৃত পে-সোডার নং-৮ এর প্রয়োজনীয় খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ দ্বারা মেরামত কাজ।	৫,৫০০/-	৫০০/-	১৫ দিন

শর্তাবলী: (ক) দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত "মেঘের" ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুকূলে যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাকে হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রফট আকারে জমা দিতে হবে। (খ) দরপত্রপ্রদাতাদের হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ব্যাকে সলজেন্ডি সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত কপি সহ, কারিগরী জানবল, যন্ত্রপাতির তালিকা ও অনুদ্রপ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এবং সকল ট্রেডার ডকুমেন্টস সত্যায়িত থাকতে হবে ও দাবিলকৃত দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টস এর প্রতি পাতায় টিকাদাতার স্বাক্ষর ও সীল থাকতে হবে। (গ) দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত PW-1 ফরমে চাইনিজ/ইউরোপীয় তথ্যাদি যথাযথভাবে পূরণ ও দাবিল করতে হবে। (ঘ) দরপত্র প্রকৌশল বাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিয়মিতকরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। (ঙ) দরপত্র খোলার সময় দরদাতা/প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন। (চ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ (যান্ত্রিক-২)
ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোন নং-৭৫৪৪৭৩২

জিএসআই/পিআর/৩৫১/০৭-০৮
জিডি-২৩৭৩



Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Ref. No. BSFIC/PD-2/All Mills/MOP/2008/326 Dated: 15-5-2008

Invitation for Tenders

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide importers/suppliers/dealers for purchase of 2,100 (two thousand one hundred) M. Tons of MOP (Muriate of Potash) fertilizer (in bag) on free delivery at sugar mills site basis as defined in the tender document under the following terms and conditions:

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Industries.
2. Name of procuring entity	: Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation.
3. Procurement method	: Open tendering method.
4. Source of fund	: Own source.
5. Tender No. & date	: BSFIC/PD-2/All Mills/MOP/2008/326 Dated: 15-5-2008.
6. Time for completion of delivery	: Delivery must be started within 3 (three) days on receipt of purchase contract & to be completed within 15 days.
7. Eligibility of tenderers	: Must be importers/suppliers/dealers.
8. Price of tender document	: Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) only (non-refundable).
9. Amount of tender security	: Tk. 25.00 (twenty-five) lac (refundable).
10. Name and address of the office of selling tender documents	: DGM (Cash) of this Corporation (6th Floor), Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
11. Name and address of the office of dropping & opening tender	: Secretariat Division of this Corporation (5th Floor), Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
12. Last date & time for selling tender documents	: All working days up to 15-06-2008.
13. Last date and time for submission of tender	: Up to 11.00am on 16-06-2008.
14. Date and time for opening of tender	: At 11.10am on 16-06-2008.
15. Name & designation of official inviting tender	: Md. Saiful Alam Khan Chowdhury, Chief (Purchase), Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation (7th Floor), Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
16. Special instruction	: The Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. If there is govt. holiday or unavoidable situation arises on the date fixed for tender dropping/opening, in those cases, the next normal working day will be considered valid date for dropping/opening of the tender at the same time.
17. Name of goods & quantity	: 2,100 (two thousand one hundred) M. Tons MOP (Muriate of Potash) fertilizer (in bag).

S-F-427
GD-2407

Md. Saiful Alam Khan Chowdhury
Chief (Purchase)