

# Nepalese parties miss deadline to form govt

Govt to be formed by majority support in House: Prachanda

AFP, PTI, Kathmandu

Nepal's former Maoist rebels and mainstream parties failed to meet a deadline to form a new government, leaving the Himalayan nation in political limbo, an official said yesterday.

The Maoists, who won the most seats in April assembly elections, blamed Nepal's "traditional style of dirty politics" for the failure to form a government.

"We've missed the deadline for presenting the president with a consensus for government formation due to the petty interests of some party leaders," senior Maoist leader Chandra Prakash Gajurel told AFP.

A key meeting of the main political parties in Nepal to end the deadlock over power sharing today was postponed indefinitely, opening up the way for a possible floor test in the Constituent Assembly to decide who would form the new government in the country.

The four main parties -- CPN-Maoist, Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and Madhesi People's Rights Forum (MPRF) -- indefinitely postponed the meeting to resolve the dispute over power sharing and formulating a common minimum programme.

With the parties failing to form a national unity government under Article 38 (1) of interim constitution, they will seek to form a gov-

ernment under Article 38 (2), which means that the party with the majority support in the Constituent Assembly gets to form the government.

"As we have missed the presidential deadline, the post-election government will be formed under Article 38 (2) of the interim constitution. But it should not be construed that we have failed to reach a consensus," Maoist chief Prachanda was quoted as saying in the media.

On Tuesday, Ram Baran Yadav, the first president of republican Nepal, extended by three days the deadline he had given for the parties to reach agreement on a Maoist-led new government.

There was no immediate reac-

tion from the president's office to the parties' failure to constitute a government.

The constituent assembly declared Nepal a republic in late May, abolishing the 240-year-old Hindu monarchy, but the parties have not been able to form an administration since.

Minendra Rijal, a senior leader of the Maoists' biggest rival, the Nepali Congress, said more work needed to be done to work out policies and assign ministerial portfolios before a government could be formed.

"The situation is very fluid. I am hopeful but not assured that we can find a way out of the current deadlock," said Rijal.

Nobody can stop me from becoming PM: Mayawati

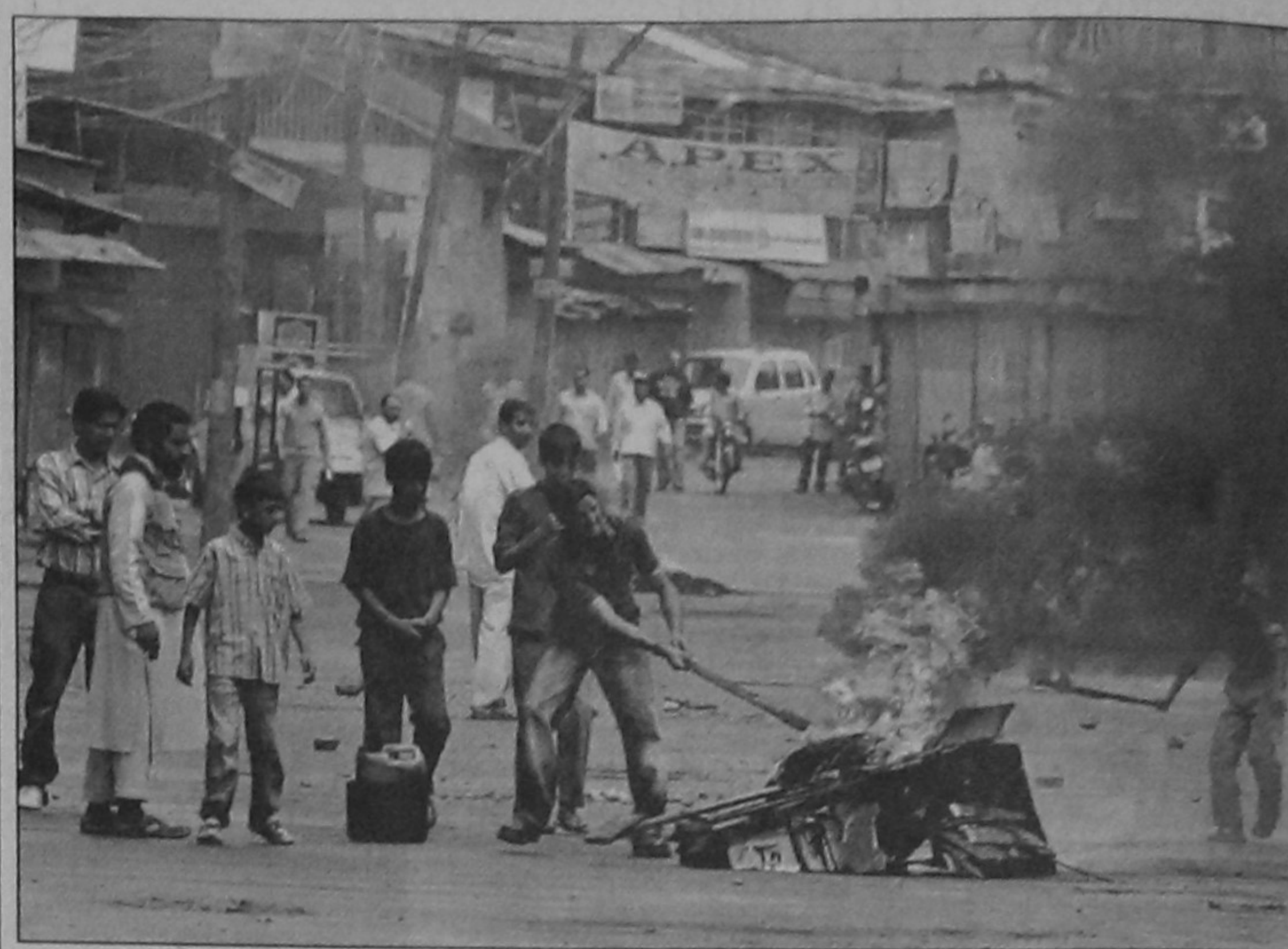
PTI, Lucknow

Unfazed by the failure of efforts to pull down the UPA government that may have pitchforked her into national centre stage, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati today said that "nobody can stop her from becoming Prime Minister".

In a show of strength a fortnight after the attempt in Parliament floundered, the BSP leader addressed a huge gathering of her party workers and supporters and a surprise presence in the stage was that of suspended Congress leader and former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh.

Singh and his son Jagat Singh, an expelled Congress MLA in Rajasthan, are expected to join the BSP.

"If I can become chief minister of UP four times... Why cannot I become the Prime Minister. If people from Sarv Samaj (all castes) continue to support the BSP nobody can prevent her from becoming the Prime Minister," she said addressing the party's National Workers Convention here.



Kashmiri Muslims burn tyres on a road in Srinagar yesterday. India's Kashmir valley is facing shortages of food, fuel and medicine as the revolt-hit region is gripped by the worst Hindu-Muslim tensions in decades, locals say.



Indian people walk through flooded streets as several low-lying residential areas go under water in Hyderabad yesterday. Torrential rains lashed the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and some other districts of the southern Andhra Pradesh due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal.

## Shrine clash threatens to tear Kashmir from India

AP, Srinagar

It started as a small demonstration against a plan to build bathrooms and shelters for Hindu pilgrims visiting a shrine in Kashmir.

But 12 deaths and 47 days of rioting have transformed the protests into one of the worst political crises to hit this Himalayan region, threatening to sever the bonds between the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir and Hindu-majority India.

Even during the last two decades of a brutal separatist rebellion in Kashmir and India's harsh military response, the region remained firmly tethered to the rest of India through its coexistence with the predominantly Hindu region of Jammu, united in the state of Jammu-Kashmir.

The traditionally good relations between the two regions were a rare bright point in the long-troubled region that has otherwise been a flash point for Hindu-

Muslim conflict and the rivalry between India and Pakistan.

Now, surging violence has laid bare long-buried animosities.

Hindus in Jammu say they are tired of the union and blocked the main road linking them to Kashmir to make their point. And most Kashmiris say a divorce would suit them too.

"It used to be Jammu & Kashmir, now it's Jammu vs. Kashmir," said an editorial cartoon in Friday's Times of India newspaper, a day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh convened an emergency meeting of the region's leading politicians in a bid to end the crisis.

The riots began on June 23 after the state government announced it was transferring about 100 acres of land to the Amarnath shrine, a cave to which hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock every year to see a large phallic-shaped icicle revered by Hindus as an incarnation of Lord Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction and regeneration.

## 20 militants killed in west Afghanistan

Pentagon seeks to double size of Afghan army

AP, AFP, Kabul Washington

About 20 Taliban fighters were killed in a battle with Afghan and US-led forces near a key military supply route in western Afghanistan, a provincial official said yesterday.

Younus Rasouli, deputy governor of Farah province, said police attacked a village in Bala Buluk district Friday after being informed that Taliban militants had ordered residents out and taken over to use as a base. The police called in air support from the US-led coalition during the gun battle, Rasouli said.

Coalition spokesman 1st Lt. Nathan Perry confirmed that fighter aircraft engaged in combat in Bala Buluk on Friday for about an hour. He said there were no coalition casualties but did not provide further details.

Bala Buluk includes sections of

the highway between the cities of Kandahar and Herat and the main road to Farah city. Rasouli said the militants were suspected of planning attacks on convoys supplying American and Nato bases in the region.

Rasouli said residents had completely abandoned the village, Seta Jang, so there were no civilian casualties from the fighting. He said the militants had retreated from the village, which was back under police control.

Fighting has spread into areas such as Farah this year as the six-year-old Taliban-led insurgency has gathered steam. Nato says the surge in fighting is partly because there are more Afghan and international troops to mount patrols in remote areas.

Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has endorsed a 17-billion-dollar plan to

double the size of the Afghan army over five years, the Pentagon said Friday.

Under the plan, the Afghan army would grow from 65,000 to 122,000 active duty soldiers by 2014, said Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary, adding that it also includes upgrades to Afghanistan's fledgling air corps.

"It's an Afghan government plan he (Gates) has endorsed, and we are now working to achieve," Morrell said.

He said the planning was still in the early stages, but the Pentagon estimates it will cost 17 billion dollars over five years to train, equip and double the size of the force.

"Now who would pay for that? Those are the discussions we are just now beginning to enter into. It would be wrong to assume we are going to shoulder this burden alone," he told reporters.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Custom House (Import), Chittagong

### Invitation for Tender

File No. S4/03/GL/P-7/08-09

Dt. 5/08/08

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced, skilled and established contractors/suppliers or their authorized agents for the undermentioned works and related services as per terms and conditions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 01. Ministry/Department                       | : Ministry of Finance, IRD, National Board of Revenue.   |
| 02. Name of procuring entity                  | : Custom House (Import), Chittagong.   |
| 03. System of procurement                     | : OTM  |
| 04. Source of fund                            | : GOB  |
| 05. Number of tender items                    | : 1  |
| 07. Date of tender invitation                 | : 03/08/2008   |
| 08. Eligibility of tenderer                   | : Any individual firm of Bangladesh who fulfill the qualification stated in the tender document (TDS & ITB). |
| 09. Name & address of tender selling office   | : PA (administration/GL), 2nd Floor, Custom House (Import), Chittagong.                                      |
| 10. Name & address of tender receiving office | : Assistant Commissioner (Admn), 2nd Floor, Custom House (Import), Chittagong.                               |
| 11. Last date of selling tender               | : 26/08/2008.  |
| 12. Tender closing date & time                | : 27/08/2008 at 12:00 noon.  |
| 13. Date & time of opening tender             | : 27/08/2008 at 12:05pm.   |

Sl	Description of Item	Location	Price per schedule (non-refundable)	Amount of tender earnest money (in Taka)	Completion time
1.	Yearly repairing and maintenance work Air-condition of Hallroom of Custom House.	Custom House (Import), Chittagong.	Tk. 400/-	Tk. 3,000/-	Monthly basis

#### Special Instruction:

- The tender notice is in brief and the details of the tender can be seen/known from the office of the undersigned during the office hour.
- Tender document may be purchased through treasury challan from Sonali Bank, Custom House Branch, Chittagong. The deposit head is as: 1-1131-0000-0421.
- The amount of tender security for the item shall be in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from Sonali Bank, Custom House Branch, Chittagong/any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Commissioner of Customs, Custom House (Import), Chittagong.
- All other terms and conditions as stated in "The Public Procurement Rules-2008" will remain valid.
- If the tender is not received within the mentioned day and time, it will be directly rejected and shall be returned to the tender as unopened. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender can not be received and opened in the schedule date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same place and time.
- Any corrigendum (if any) will also be part of the tender and it will be binding upon the tenderer.
- The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tenderer and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Kazi Mustafizur Rahman

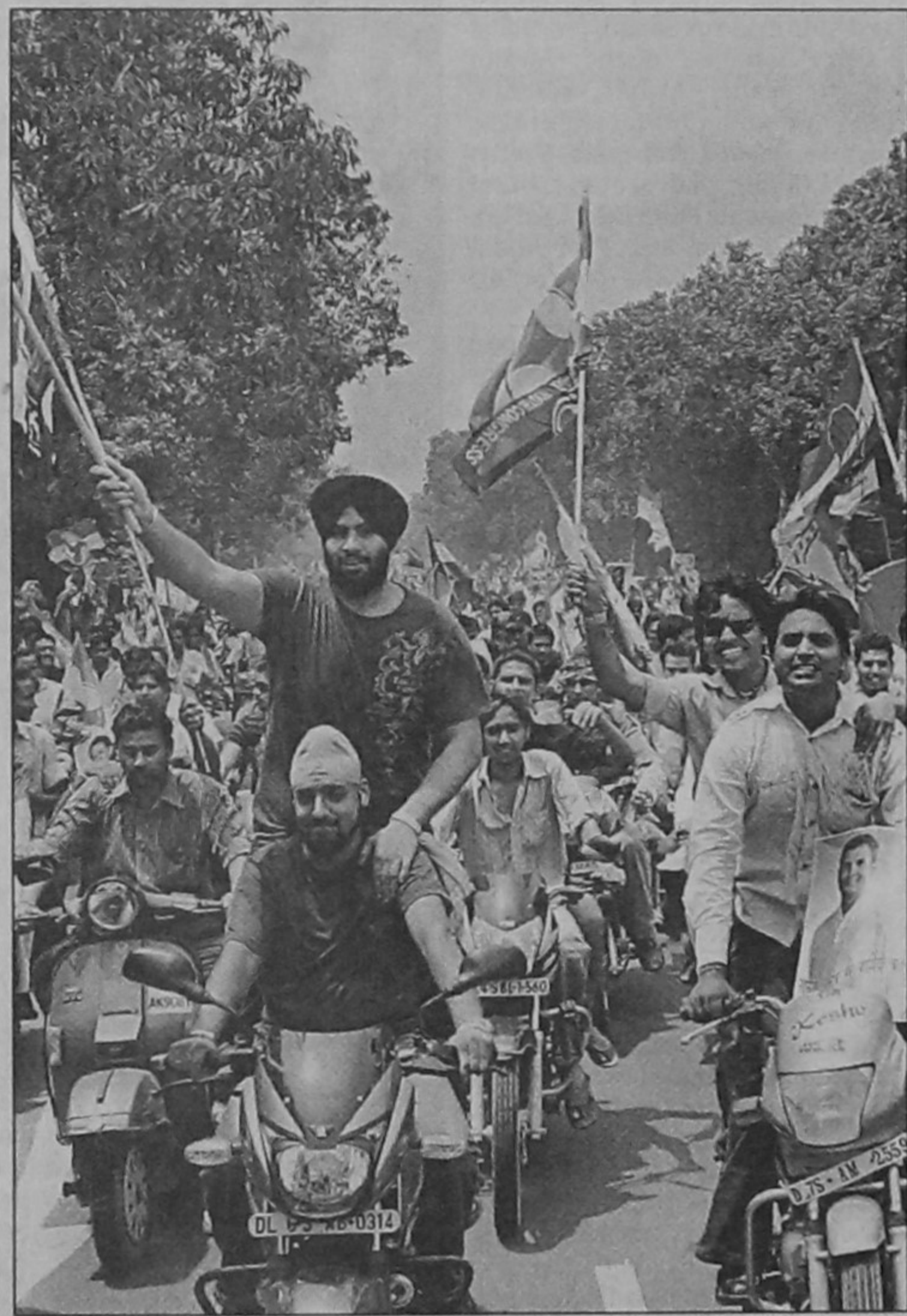
Joint Commissioner-1

&  
Convener

Tender Evaluation Committee

Custom House (Import), Chittagong

Phone-031-713917



Indian Youth Congress supporters ride motorcycles during a pro-Indo-US nuclear deal rally in New Delhi yesterday. US President George Bush made a telephone call to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during which both the leaders expressed the desire to see the US-India civil nuclear agreement move forward as expeditiously as possible.

## Militants kill 8 police in northwest Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani Taliban militants shot dead eight police in a northwestern Pakistani town close to restive Swat valley, officials said yesterday.

"A group of ten armed militants attacked a police checkpoint in Bunir and shot dead eight police officials deployed there," local police official Sardar Hameed told AFP of Friday night's incident.

"These militants came from Swat valley to attack the post," Hameed added.

A spokesman for the militants, Haji Muslim Khan, confirmed the killings.

"Our men attacked the checkpoint and shot dead police officials," he told reporters by telephone in Mingora, the main town in Swat.

"We will continue targeting all those police officials who are taking part in the ongoing military operation against us," he added.

Swat was a thriving tourist resort until last year, when radical pro-Taliban cleric Maulana Fazlullah launched a violent campaign to enforce harsh Islamic Sharia law in the region.

The government signed a peace deal with the Swat militants in May and agreed to gradually pull out troops and introduce an Islamic justice system in the valley. In exchange, the rebels said they would halt attacks and surrender their arms.

But violence erupted again in the area in recent weeks, adding to US concerns about Islamabad's efforts to negotiate with hardliners based near the Afghan border.

## US worried over impact of Pak impeachment move

THE DAWN, Washington

The United States fears that the move to impeach President Pervez Musharraf may harm the global war on terror in which Pakistan plays a pivotal role, says a report quoting US State Department officials.

On Friday the top US commander in Afghanistan publicly accused the ISI of "some complexity" over time with militant groups fomenting violence in the neigh-

boring country.

Another media report claimed that senior Bush administration officials were urging President George W. Bush to allow US troops to enter Pakistan's tribal areas while pursuing Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

The CNN report on the impact of the proposed impeachment on the war on terror contradicts a public statement by a department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos saying the move will not affect the

war.

But CNN claimed discussing the issue with senior State Department officials who feared that Pakistan's internal political turmoil, caused by the move to impeach President Musharraf, would hurt US efforts to defeat the militants hiding in the country's tribal belt.

The CNN report also quoted US officials as saying that there were "50-50" chances of the impeachment move to succeed.

## Teletalk Bangladesh Limited

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url: www.teletalk.com.bd

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited invites Tender for SIM Cards and Scratch Cards from both National and International tenderers. The detail information of the Tenders along with the detail Specifications are available at [www.teletalk.com.bd](http://www.teletalk.com.bd)

The Tender Schedules will be available from 10 August to the day before the tender closing date within the office hour at Customer Care Desk of Teletalk Corporate Office, Banani, Dhaka. The prospective bidders may procure Tender Documents through applications on the official letter pads. The important information on different works in brief are as below:

Name of Works	Selection of Contractors under Frame-work contract for Supply of 1million SIM Cards to Teletalk under Frame-Work Contract on DDP basis	Selection of Contractors under Frame-work contract for Supply of 3.5 million Scratch Cards to Teletalk under Frame-Work Contract on DDP basis.
Invitation Ref. & Procurement Method	TBL/PROC/02/12/2008/53, 07/08/2008; National Tender	TBL/PROC/04/13/2008/50, 07/08/2008; National Tender
Tender Closing/Opening Date	11 September, 2008	10 September, 2008
Tender Document Price (in Cash)	Tk.10,000/- (TK.Ten Thousand)	Tk.3,000/- (TK.Three Thousand)

N.B.1:- Earnest Money is 1% of the total financial proposal.

N.B. 2:- All the Procurement Processes will be guided by the Procurement Policy for Teletalk (PPT). N.B. 3:- Teletalk reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or to delete or change any or whole of the tender without assigning any reason.

DGM(Procurement)

Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd.

[www.teletalk.com.bd](http://www.teletalk.com.bd)

Teletalk  
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