

Govt efforts lack transparency

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According to the TIB, the estimated damage to agriculture in the first year after Cyclone Amphan was about Tk 2,035 crore in the coastal districts alone. Besides, there is a risk of about 61,602 hectares of land being left unused for the next two to three years due to long-term loss of land as the long-term damage of land was not taken into consideration.

The study found that irregularities and corruption were committed in the construction of disaster-tolerant dams, roads, and shelters. Besides, use of political power and personal interests were given priority for the construction of shelters and dams.

Regarding transparency, the study said hotline numbers were not circulated among the affected people and disaster forecast information and warning messages were not sent to some remote areas.

About lack of accountability, the graft watchdog said a dam in Sathkhi's Asashuni upazila was yet to be repaired six months after Amphan, leaving about 20,000 people homeless.

There was also a lack of effective

initiatives to conduct disaster drills, proper assessment of relief needs and identify and evacuate those people at risk, the study found.

Speaking at the press conference, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said although Bangladesh has a good reputation for disaster management and some countries are following its model, there is still room for improvement.

"Because of the growing natural disasters and the existing lack of good governance, we still lose about 2.2 percent of our national income a year. This huge loss of national income can be reduced if the deficits in this regard can be eliminated," he added.

The TIB made 12 recommendations to deal with disasters. The recommendations include updating the existing disaster warning system and conducting campaigns among the people in an understandable language.

It also suggested delivering timely forecasts and warnings with more importance in the high-risk areas and carrying out relief and rehabilitation programmes with transparency giving priority to the most vulnerable families and areas.



Rhinos are given boxes of Christmas treats during the 10th annual Christmas cracker event at Orana Wildlife Park on the outskirts of Christchurch, New Zealand yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ACC can summon anyone

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legality of a notice issued by the ACC requesting her to appear before the commission's office to give her statement on the allegation against her of amassing illegal wealth.

The HC bench on December 3 upheld the ACC notice through summarily rejecting the writ petition.

The court also ordered DAG Rupa to appear before the head office of ACC in Dhaka on or before January 27 to place her statement.

The full text of the rejection order was released yesterday after the judges of the HC bench signed it.

Interpreting the HC observation, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the ACC has legal jurisdiction to issue notice to any citizen of Bangladesh except for the president, requesting him or her to appear to the commission office for their statements over corruption

allegations. The ACC has not violated any fundamental rights of DAG Rupa by issuing the notice to her, he said, adding the ACC issues such notices to examine corruption allegations.

The ACC notice does not mean trial proceedings against any person, Khurshid Alam Khan added.

On November 1, DAG Rupa filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the ACC's October 28 notice asking her to appear before it on November 4 to place a statement about the alleged accumulation of wealth beyond her known sources of income.

According to an ACC letter, DAG Rupa has been charged with irregularities, corruption, abuse of power and bribery through forgery and collusion with different accused persons, including GK Shamim, thereby acquiring illicit wealth.

Afghan women's rights activist shot dead

AFP, Kabul

Gunmen on motorbike shot dead a women's rights activist and her brother north of Afghanistan's capital yesterday, officials said, as a wave of assassinations ravages the violence-wracked country.

Freshta Kohistani, aged 29, was the second activist to be killed in two days after a prominent pro-democracy advocate was gunned down in Kabul on Wednesday.

Their murders follow a similar pattern seen in recent weeks, in which prominent Afghans have died in targeted killings in broad daylight, several of them in the capital.

"Unknown gunmen on motorbike assassinated Freshta Kohistani in

Kohistan district of Kapisa province," interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian told reporters.

Kapisa provincial governor Abdul Latif Murad told AFP that the shooting had taken place near Kohistani's home and that her brother was also killed in the attack.

Kohistani had enjoyed a relatively large following on social media, and regularly organized civil society events in Kabul calling for women's rights. She was married and had one child.

Days before her death, she wrote on Facebook that she had asked for protection from the authorities after receiving threats.

She had also condemned the ongoing wave of assassinations of journalists and other prominent figures.

World readies

FROM PAGE 12
coronavirus strain that UK officials believe spreads faster, with thousands of lorry drivers stranded in Britain.

But some truckers feared there was little chance of making it across the Channel in time for the holidays, which have been marred around the world because of the pandemic.

"Home for Christmas? Forget it," said Laurent Beghin, a French driver who delivered his cargo of paint on Sunday but was still stuck in England as of Wednesday.

Scuffles broke out between police and truckers complaining of poor facilities and a lack of virus tests at one lorry park in southern England.

Passengers with negative virus tests also boarded the first Eurostar trains from London to France since border closures were introduced on Sunday, eager to spend Christmas with their families.

The new strain of the virus, which has also been detected in small numbers elsewhere, appears to spread more easily than other types but experts say there is no evidence it is more lethal or resistant to vaccines.

China and Indonesia yesterday became the latest countries who suspended flights to and from Britain after it reported a new, more infectious strain of the coronavirus.

The co-founder of BioNTech -- which developed a coronavirus vaccine with Pfizer -- has said their prophylactic is "highly likely" to work against the new strain.

Fears over the strain, however, and surging coronavirus infections in general across the continent

have severely dampened the mood over the holiday season in many countries.

Germany has been forced to cancel its famous Christmas markets and Pope Francis plans to bring the Vatican's Christmas midnight mass forward by two hours to meet Italy's curfew rules.

The European Union is preparing to kick off vaccinations across the bloc on Sunday, hoping to turn the corner in the fight against the virus, which has infected more than 78 million people worldwide with more than 1.7 million deaths.

The United States -- the worst-hit country in the world -- has already started inoculations, and its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that more than one million people have been vaccinated.

CDC director Robert Redfield said it was "an early but important milestone", but officials admitted that the rollout was behind schedule.

Moncef Slaoui, chief advisor of the government's Operation Warp Speed, said the objective of injecting 20 million people this month was "unlikely to be met".

Vaccinations were kicking off elsewhere in the world as well. Switzerland, Qatar and Dubai in the UAE were administered their first shots on Wednesday, while Serbia, hard-hit Mexico, and Costa Rica were set to begin today.

Even as vaccines are rolled out, many parts of the world are in the grip of worrying waves of infections, forcing governments to reimpose restrictions -- including lockdowns of varying intensity -- and severely curtail celebrations and gatherings over Christmas and the New Year.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12
the miscreants so that people can live peacefully and engage themselves in rebuilding the war-shattered country.

Bangabandhu cautions the nation that the Pakistani collaborators are still active in the country and conspiring to sabotage the policies of the government. He asks the people to be aware of these elements and to thwart their evil design.

Visibly moved by the support of the people, the prime minister says, "I do not find words to reply when a father would come and say that he did not mind the loss of his son if I remain alive to serve the nation." Referring to the relief operation in the country and the criticism by different quarters in this regard Bangabandhu says that relief worth Tk 102 crore has been distributed and people in every nook and corner of the country received them. He also ridicules those who criticise the relief operation for the sake of criticism.

SAMAD'S APPEAL TO US

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad today appeals to the US government to stop bombing on North Vietnam forthwith and says, "Our people cannot but condemn such acts."

He urges the Nixon administration to establish lasting peace in that part of Asia by signing the peace accord.

The foreign minister also criticises Pakistani President ZA Bhutto for his contradictory remarks on the question of resolving all outstanding disputes between the three countries in the sub-continent. Referring to Bhutto's recent stand not to recognise Bangladesh before the general elections in March, the foreign minister says if Bhutto thinks that the Awami League government will not do well in the ensuing polls then he is simply living in a fool's den.

SOURCES: December 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Allegations

FROM PAGE 12
He told reporters at his office that elections had been competitive with 60 to 70 percent voter turnout.

It has been reported that eminent citizens urged President Abdul Hamid to form a supreme judicial council to probe allegations against the election commission, he said.

"This can create confusion among countrymen and the EC needs to make its position clear on the issue. That's why we are holding today's briefing." However, he did not take any question from reporters.

Forty-two eminent citizens on Saturday said they had on December 14 urged the president to constitute a supreme judicial council to probe allegations of corruption and misconduct by the EC.

They mentioned in a letter to the president that members of the EC indulged in misconduct and irregularities, under KM Nurul Huda's leadership. They mentioned irregularities in spending of over Tk 10 crore.

Three election commissioners have also allegedly been violating rules in their usage of vehicles.

The letter said the commission committed gross misconduct in the 11th parliamentary election and city corporation elections in Dhaka, Khulna, Gazipur, Sylhet, Barishal and Rajshahi.

There were irregularities during the purchase and usage of the electronic voting machines, they said.

About the allegation of spending Tk 2 crore on special speeches at training sessions ahead of elections, Huda yesterday said that allocation for special speakers for 11th National Election was Tk 1.04 crore, and for the 5th upazila election, it was Tk 47.70 lakh.

"The allocation was less than Tk 2 crore... So, the allegations... were made on false information," he said.

Huda added that the commissioners had yet to get their cars three and a half years after taking oath. "The allegations that three cars are being used flouting the rules were totally false..."

The EC does not import voting machines, he said, adding that it was not involved in any financial matter during the procurement. "So, there is no question of corruption."

He then refuted the allegation of corruption in recruitment, saying that the recruitment process was fair and impartial.

About the allegations of misconduct during the elections, Huda said diplomats from different countries observed the election and did not raise any question.

International election observers said good things about the elections. Print and electronic media did not publish or broadcast news on irregularities in the elections, he claimed.

Election commissioners Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam and Brig Gen (ret) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, attended the briefing and Mahbub Talukdar was not there.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Upazilla Health Complex
Moheshkhali, Cox's bazar

Tender Notice

Memo No- UHC/Moheshkhali/MSR Tender/2020-2021/ 1263/15 Date: 23/12/2020

Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Procurement of MSR goods for Upazilla Health Complex Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar in the Fiscal year 2020-2021

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
02	Agency	Upazilla Health Complex, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.		
03	Procuring Entity District	Cox's Bazar		
04	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
05	Tender Name	Procurement of MSR in the Fiscal year 2020-2021		
06	Budget and source of funds	Revenue, Development and GOB.		
07	Name of group	Description	Price of Tender Schedule (only each, Non refundable)	Tender Earnest money amounts (Refundable)
	A	Medicine	750/- (Taka Seven Hundred Fifty only)	70,000/- (Tk. Seventy Thousand only)
	B	MSR Instruments	750/- (Taka Seven Hundred Fifty only)	40,000/- (Tk. Forty Thousand only)
	C	Chemical, Re-agent, X-ray film	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	10,000/- (Tk. Ten Thousand only)
	D	Gauge, Bandage, Cotton	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	20,000/- (Tk. Twenty Thousand only)
	E	Linen goods	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	20,000/- (Tk. Twenty Thousand only)
	F	Furniture	750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only)	10,000/- (Tk. Ten Thousand only)
08	Name and addresses of the Office			
	a) Tender Schedule Selling Place	Upazilla Health Complex, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.		
	b) Tender Schedule Receiving Place	1. Upazilla Health Complex, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.		
c) Tender Schedule Opening Place		Upazilla Health Complex, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.		
09	Tender Schedule Selling Date		Tender booklets will be sold from the date of 30-12-2020 to 21-01-2021 during the office hour. No Tender booklet would be sold after schedule date and time.	
10	Tender Dropping and Closing Date and Time		24-01-2021 at 12.00 Noon.	
11	Tender Opening Date and Time		24-01-2021 at 12.30 Noon.	
12	Description of Terms and conditions		Detailed description in Tender booklet.	
13	Description of Goods & Related Services		Detailed description in Tender booklet.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
14	Name of Procuring Entity		Dr Mohammad Mahfuzul Haque	
15	Designation of Procuring Entity		UH&FPO	
16	Address of Procuring Entity		Upazilla Health Complex, Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.	
17	Contact details of Official Tenders		Phone:	

Note: a) Price of Tender schedule would be paid by Treasury Challan into the Code No: 1-2711-0000-2366 for The Upazilla Health & Family Planning Officer, Moheshkhali Cox's Bazar by The Sonali Bank, Moheshkhali branch.
b) If the date of Selling, Receiving and Opening of Tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, The next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.
c) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The Competent authority reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all Tender without assigning any reasons what so ever.

(Dr Mohammad Mahfuzul Haque)
UH&FPO
Upazilla Health Complex
Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar.

2nd batch

FROM PAGE 12
Rohingyas of the first batch expressed their satisfaction and said they chose to move to the facilities -- being built under a Tk 3,100 crore housing project by the Bangladesh Navy -- for safety and comfort.

They added that not only were the living conditions poor in their makeshift homes in the Cox's Bazar camps, fighting between rival gangs had made their lives even more difficult.

They believe they can live a better life on the char with greater access to healthcare, education and work.

Compared to the cramped conditions in the camps, the housing project is a better option, they said.

In the camps, a family of 6-8 people would have to live together within a 400-square foot space.

On Bhasan Char, which appeared in 2006, the constructed building are equipped with electricity and solar panels as well as biogas plants and functioning mobile networks. The houses have been built four feet above ground with concrete blocks.

Each building will house 16 families of four in its 16 rooms, providing more than the UN stipulated 37 square feet per head, project officials said.

The United Nations and other development partners, however, expressed concerns and demanded independent assessments of the housing project before relocation began.

A UN team has still not been allowed to visit the island.

The UN and rights groups have been questioning the relocation plan, saying the island was prone to floods and could be submerged during high tides.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২
(মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং উইং)
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং সিএসডি-২(এমইএস)ঃ ৫/৩/২০২০-৮৪ তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০২০

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ট্রেনিং একাডেমির একাডেমিক ভবনে স্থাপিত ১৫০TR ক্ষমতাবিশিষ্ট পুরাতন চিলার নিলামে বিক্রয় করার নিমিত্তে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে আগ্রহী দরদাতা/ক্রেতাগণের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/দরদাতাকে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে/সাদা কাগজে আবেদন করে ৮১,০০০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার) মাত্র-এর বিনিময়ে ১২/০১/২০২১ তারিখ বেলা ০৫:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২ (৩০ তলা ভবনের ৭ম তলায়), বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা হতে দরপত্র দলিল ত্রয় করতে হবে এবং দরপত্র দলিল ত্রয়কারী কেবল মাত্র উক্ত দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।
- উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (দশ শতাংশ) হারে জামানতের টাকা বাংলাদেশে অবস্থিত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকৌশল), কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। জামানতবহীন দরপত্র বাতিল হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।
- অংশগ্রহণকারী দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদপত্র (ব্যক্তি/ফেরে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদপত্র) থাকতে হবে এবং দরপত্রের সাথে এ সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র জামানত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ও শিডিউল অব আইটেমসহ দরপত্র ১৩/০১/২০২১ তারিখ বেলা ০১:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২ (৩০ তলা ভবনের ৭ম তলায়) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয় ঢাকা অথবা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ট্রেনিং একাডেমি (বিবিটিএ) এর একাডেমিক ভবনের ৭ম তলায় প্রকাশন উইং এ রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব জমা দিতে হবে। তবে দরদাতাগণ জমাদানের নির্ধারিত সময়ের পূর্বে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যাচিত দলিলাদি উক্ত স্থানদ্বয়ের যে কোন একটিতে ডাকযোগে/ফুরিয়ার সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে/ব্যক্তিগতভাবে জমা দিতে পারবেন। ১৩/০১/২০২১ তারিখ বেলা ৪:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাগণের (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সম্মুখে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের ৩০ তলা ভবনের ৭ম তলায় কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২ এ দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।
- গ্যোয়ার্ড অব কন্ট্রোল দেয়ার তারিখ হতে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে মালামাল অপসারণ ও House-Keeping (পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্ন) কাজ ভারপ্রাপ্ত প্রকৌশলীর নির্দেশনাক্রমে সন্তোষজনকভাবে সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।
- কৃতকার্য দরদাতাকে উক্ত মোট দরের উপর সরকারি নিয়মানুযায়ী ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্স পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
- নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নিলাম এর মাধ্যমে অপসারণকৃত মালামাল দেখতে চাইলে অফিস কর্মীবলে সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৬:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ট্রেনিং একাডেমি, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা এ কর্মরত প্রকৌশলীগণের সহযোগিতায় পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।
- সব ধরনের নিরাপত্তামূলক ব্যবস্থাদি গ্রহণপূর্বক মালামাল অপসারণ ও House-Keeping (পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্ন) কাজ সমাপ্ত করতে হবে। কাজ চলাকালীন সময়ে ব্যাংক সম্পদ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত (Mending goods the damages) হলে গ্যোয়ার্ড প্রাপ্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নিজ দায়িত্বে তা মেরামত/পরিবর্তন করে দিতে হবে।
- সন্তোষজনকভাবে কার্য সমাপ্তির পর জামানতের টাকা ফেরত দেয়া হবে।
- নিয়োজিত কর্মীবলে সব ধরনের (Safety Measures) অনুসরণ করে কাজটি সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। অনাকাঙ্খিত কোনো দৃষ্টিনার দায়দায়িত্ব গ্যোয়ার্ড প্রাপ্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বহন করতে হবে।
- ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়ানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

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