

Almost 1,100 foreigners missing in Thailand

AFP, Bangkok
Almost 1,100 foreign tourists are among a total of 4,499 people missing after the tsunami disaster in Thailand, the interior ministry said Wednesday.
Ten days after the disaster, the ministry for the first time gave separate figures for Thais and foreigners who are missing.
It said 3,423 Thais and 1,076 foreigners are still untraced. Officials have said earlier that most of them must be presumed dead.
The ministry's disaster mitigation unit said 5,265 are now confirmed dead -- 2,542 Thais, 2,510 foreigners and 213 whose race could not be established.

The waves hit resorts and fishing villages in six provinces along the Andaman Sea coast on December 26.

The hardest hit province of Phang Nga, where the devastated beach resort of Khao Lak is located, had 4,134 confirmed dead, of whom 1,921 were Thais and 2,213 were foreigners.

Krabi, which includes Phi Phi island, reported 686 deaths -- 288 Thais, 188 foreigners and 210 unidentified.

Phuket's death toll was 262 with 154 Thais, 105 foreigners and three unclassified. Ranong had 172 deaths including two foreigners.

Trang reported five deaths including two foreigners, and six Thais died in Satun.

Of the missing, 2,113 including 336 foreigners were listed in Phang Nga, 1,669 in Krabi including 579 foreigners, 700 in Phuket including 161 foreigners, 16 Thais in Ranong and one Thai in Trang.



A foreigner looks at the pictures of the dead bodies at a relief camp in Khao Lak beach yesterday.

Looming election will be 'tough', says Blair

AFP, London
British Prime Minister Tony Blair sought Wednesday to dispel the assumption he will easily win a third consecutive term in office later this year, predicting the election would be a "tough, tough fight".
"This election, when it comes, has not been won yet. It will be a tough, tough fight for us. This is going to be a hard, tough election," Blair told BBC radio.
"Nothing should be taken for granted at all, and the surest way to suffer an electoral setback is to take people for granted," he said.

Under British election rules, the incumbent prime minister gets to pick the date of the next election, and while Blair can serve until mid-2006 if he chooses, a poll is widely expected for this May.
The prime minister insisted, however, that no election date had been picked, saying: "I don't know the date of the election then no-one else does."
Despite seeing his personal popularity take a severe battering due to British public disquiet over the Iraq war, Blair's Labour Party is still the pundits' favourite to win another term in office.

150 Maoists killed in clash: Official

AFP, Kathmandu
Some 150 Maoist guerrillas were killed in a fierce battle with security forces in Nepal's remote southwest on Wednesday, a top army official said.
"In a clash with the security forces, at least 150 rebels were killed and over 30 others injured" in Kailali district in the far southwest, the senior army official, who did not wish to be identified, told AFP.
There was no immediate comment on casualties from the Maoists.

World leaders descend on tsunami-hit Asia

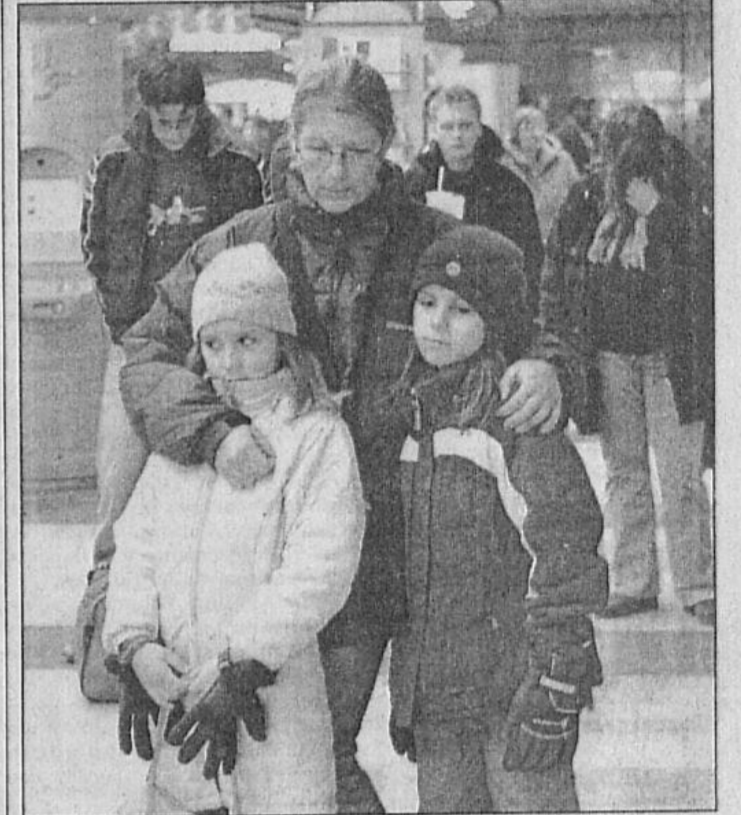
AFP, Banda Aceh
World leaders are headed to Indonesia to see first-hand the massive operation to save millions of tsunami victims as the United Nations suggested the catastrophe could end up being one of the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded.
US Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed shock after visiting Aceh, the Indonesian province most devastated when the wall of water smashed into 11 countries, a day ahead of a crisis summit in the capital Jakarta on the tsunami.
Powell, who is days away from retirement, expressed hope the support for predominantly Muslim Indonesia could change the battered image of the United States around the globe after the divisive invasion of Iraq.
But President Bush faced criticism for not cutting short his holiday for one of the world's worst catastrophes in years, amid an outpouring of world donations to help the millions left destitute.
Germany was set to become the biggest donor to the Indian Ocean nations devastated by the tsunami by pledging 500 million euros (668 million dollars) in aid, government sources said in Berlin.
The figure surpasses the 500 million-dollar promise from Japan, which for three days had been the largest donor, and the Japanese government indicated Wednesday it would likely hike up its offer.
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was due to attend the emergency one-day summit Thursday in Jakarta along with Powell, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and leaders of China, the European Union and fellow Southeast Asian nations.

Europe's silent tribute to tsunami victims

AFP, Paris
Europe fell silent for three minutes at midday Wednesday as people around the continent paid a poignant tribute to the 146,000 victims of southern Asia's tsunami disaster.
Flags were flying at half-mast across the continent to commemorate those killed in the catastrophe, including hundreds if not thousands of European tourists who lost their lives when paradise beaches were swamped by the raging waters of the Indian Ocean.
The continent-wide tribute, for most Europeans at 11:00 GMT, came after the first coffins carrying Swedish victims of the December 26 tsunami which struck South and Southeast Asia arrived in Stockholm early Wednesday.
Sweden, which is feared to be among the worst hit countries in Europe, rolled out full honours for the six caskets, which arrived on board a Hercules military transport plane from Phuket, Thailand.
So far 286 Europeans have been confirmed as dead after the December 26 disaster, but more than 5,000 remain missing and feared dead.
Europe's silent commemoration was called for by the current Luxembourg presidency of the European Union (EU), which is seeking to coordinate European governments' aid efforts.
All Europeans are called on "to observe three minutes of silence in order to show solidarity and mourn the victims of the disaster," said European Commission spokesman Gregor Kreuzhuber.

Dozen Israelis wounded by Palestinian rockets

AFP, Jerusalem
Twelve Israelis were wounded yesterday when two rockets fired by Palestinian militants from the northern Gaza Strip exploded in an army base, military sources said.
Ten of the victims suffered slight injuries, while the other two were evacuated to a hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beersheva where they were said to be in a moderate condition, an army spokesman told AFP.
Eleven of the victims were soldiers while the 12th was thought to be a civilian, military sources added.
One of the rockets hit the mess hall, where cooks were preparing lunch, and another struck near the base commander's office on the Nahaloz base, close to kibbutz near the border with Gaza, sources said.
The attack would be met with a strong response "on the widest possible scale," a military source said.
"The risk of terrorist attacks is getting greater ahead of the Palestinian presidential election on Sunday and the implementation of the plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip in the coming months," the source added.



People observe three minutes of silence at Stockholm's central train station yesterday to pay tribute to the victims of the Asia's tsunami disaster.

US seeks more money to train Iraqi forces

AFP, Baghdad
US embassy officials in Baghdad want more money for the Iraqi police, national guard and army, warning the deteriorating security situation is outpacing their efforts to strengthen the country's fledgling security forces.
The funding could come either from a new 75-80 billion dollar supplemental budget to be submitted to Congress this February, or by diverting more funds from Washington's 18.4 billion dollar reconstruction package for Iraq.
"I don't know if we have to put more from the 18.4 (billion) in. I guess if we have to, we will," said an US embassy official on condition of anonymity.
"We already have taken a lot of money out from some of the bigger long range projects. To take out more is going to be very painful but we know we need more additional support."
Last summer, the US embassy performed a top-to-bottom review of spending priorities in its 18.4 billion dollar aid package and recommended diverting 1.8 billion dollars to security from electricity and water projects.



An armed Iraqi officer surveys the scene following a car bomb yesterday in Baghdad.

Sri Lanka 'on top of disaster'

AFP, Colombo
Sri Lanka has the tsunami disaster under control although up to 25 percent of those affected by the devastation have yet to be reached by relief workers, the disaster management chief said Wednesday.
"I think we're on top of the disaster," Tara de Mel, director of the government's Centre for National Operations (CNO), told AFP. "We at least know where the gaps are and what to do to fill those gaps."
De Mel said the distribution of aid had been cleared after a bottleneck that saw relief supplies arriving from international donor agencies piling up at the airport on the outskirts of Colombo.
However, relief workers were desperately still trying to reach remote parts of the east coast, she said at the CNO headquarters here where about 100 people, half of them volunteers, are coordinating relief for the estimated 860,000 people left homeless 10 days ago by the tsunami.
"Some parts of the east coast have not been reached. We are receiving reports that some families are still holed up," de Mel said, acknowledging their situation would by now be "desperate."
"But each day we are reaching more and more people. We have already reached more than 75 percent of those affected and that figure is increasing all the time."
The CNO was set up by President Chandrika Kumaratunga soon after the disaster struck on December 26, killing at least 30,229 people in Sri Lanka and 150,000 in the region.
A panel of psychologists and psychiatrists, meanwhile, had been set up to coordinate "psycho-social intervention" for survivors of the tragedy, whom doctors are saying are beginning to crack from trauma-related stress.

KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED, KHULNA INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE
Managing Director, Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Khulna invites sealed quotations for the following materials on C & F Mongla/Chittagong/Benapole basis against Tender No. BABB (F)-36/2004-2005 dated 01 January 2005.

| Description of goods | Price of tender schedule | Opening date |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| M.S. Plate, Shipbuilding Quality | Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) non-refundable | 02-02-2005 at 11-00AM |
| LRS/ABS Grade A: | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 3 mm - 30 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 4 mm - 30 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 5 mm - 65 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 6 mm - 65 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 8 mm - 50 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 9 mm - 50 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 10 mm - 50 M Tons | | |
| 4880 x 1525 x 12 mm - 20 M Tons | | |

Tender schedule may be obtained from:
1. Officer-in-Charge, NSSD Dhaka, Naval Headquarters Complex, Banani, Dhaka-1213.
2. DGM (Accounts), Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Khulna. GD-07

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Directorate
Office of the Executive Engineer
129/A, Road No-4, East Nasirabad, Chittagong
Memo No. LGED/EE/Ctg/2004/5865 Dated: 04-12-2004

Amendment to LGED Tender Notice No 21/2004-2005
It is hereby notified that, under unavoidable circumstances, the dates of selling, receiving & opening tender document of Tender Notice No. 21/2004-2005 for 45 (forty-five) group works invited vide Memo No LGED/EE/Ctg/Tender-1/2004/5174 dated 26-10-2004 of Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Directorate, Chittagong, are amended as the following.

- Date, time & place of pre-tender meeting: On 30-12-2004 at 12-00 hours instead of 09-12-2004, at the office of the undersigned.
- Last date of selling tender document: During office hours up to 10-01-2005 instead of 21-12-2004.
- Last date of receiving tender document: During office hours up to 11-01-2005 instead of 22-12-2004 till 12-00 Noon at the office of the undersigned.
- Date & time of opening tender document: On 11-01-2005 at 3-00 PM instead of 22-12-2004 at 3:00 PM at the office of the undersigned.

And the undermentioned 1 (one) group work out of the invited 45 (forty-five) group works is stopped, under unavoidable circumstance:

| Serial No | Group No | Name of work |
|-----------|----------|---|
| 1 | 10 | Construction of 51.05 M long RCC bridge on Haddargo Canal in Sandwip Upazila. |

Other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer
DFP-30311-14/12 Local Government Engineering Directorate
G-03 Dist: Chittagong

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur. 3rd call

RHD Notice Inviting Quotation

- Quotation Notice: 01/RDG of 2004-2005.
- Name of work: Leasing out of Kapasia Ferry Ghat at 19th KM of Salna-Rajendrapur-Kapasias Road near Kapasia Bazar under Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur for collection of tolls from vehicular traffic including fuel & lubricant for ferry service for the year 2004-2005.
- Location with name of ferry ghat: At 19th KM of Salna-Rajendrapur-Kapasias Road Kapasia Ferry Ghat.
- Amount of security money: 10% (ten percent) of quoted amount.
- Date from which ferry ghat will be leased: 01/01/2005 or at suitable date accepted by the dept.
- Eligibility for quotation: Well reputed person/persons/firms having VAT registration.
- Name of offices where quotation documents will be sold: a) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka. b) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Gazipur/ Dhaka/ Manikganj/Munshiganj/Narayanganj/Norshingdi/Bridge Design Division-1 (East), Dhaka/ Monitoring & Evaluation Division, Dhaka. c) Executive Engineer (RHD), Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka. d) Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Tongi/Joydebpur/Gazipur Road Sub-Division, Gazipur.
- Name of offices where quotation documents will be received: a) The Superintending Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka. b) The Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Gazipur.
- Last date & time for selling the quotation documents: 10/01/2005 during the office hours.
- Last date of receipt of quotation documents: 11/01/2005 up to 12-00 Noon.
- Date, time & place of opening: 11/01/2005 at 3-00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Gazipur.

Sealed quotation in departmental schedule are hereby invited from well reputed persons, firms for leasing out of Kapasia Ferry Ghat for collection of toll 1 (one) year. Details terms & conditions can be purchased from the abovementioned offices @ Tk 3000/- (Tk three thousand) only (non-refundable) per set.

DFP-31288-27/12/04
G-1310

Executive Engineer, RHD
Gazipur Road Division, Gazipur

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Commandant
Police Training Centre, Khulna

Tender Notice

Notice No.-2406/ Dated: 2/12/04

- Description of work: Supply of the undermentioned goods to the Ration Store of Police Training Centre, Khulna for the third quarter of 2004-2005 financial year.
 - Supply of lentil pulse -- = Tk 5,000/- Security money
 - Supply of soybean oil Do = Tk 5,000/- and dalda
 - Supply of fuel wood Do = Tk 3,000/-
 - Wheat crushing Do = Tk 1,000/- with transportation
- Work period: From January/2005 to 30th March/2005.
- Eligibility of contractor: Should be a citizen of Bangladesh and genuine trader/contractor/supplier.
- Price of tender: Price of each schedule is Tk 400/- (four hundred) which is non-refundable.
- Place of availability of tender: Police Office, Police Training Centre, Khulna.
- Last time of purchasing tender schedule: From 14/12/2004 to 10/01/2005 up to 14.00 hours.
- Date and time of submitting and opening tender: Tender will be received on 11/01/2005 from 10.00 hours to 12.00 hours and tender box will be opened on that day at 13.00 hours in presence (if any) of tenderers.
- Terms and conditions of tender: Tenderer shall have to submit citizenship certificate, up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate, attested certificate of up-to-date renewed trade licence and security money for each item in the form of Bank Draft with the tender. Not tender will be sold or received by post. Income tax and VAT will be deducted as per government rates.
- Supply of goods will be received as per requirement of the Ration Store. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender.

Fani Bhusan Chowdhury
Commandant (Addl DIG)
DFP-29368-7/12
G-19
Police Training Centre, Khulna.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works Division-2, Chittagong

Re-Auction Sale Notice (2nd Call)
Auction Tender Invitation Notice No-24/2004-2005

Auction tenders are hereby invited from Public Works Directorate, enlisted all class contractors, interested persons/firms on the basis of the undermentioned terms & conditions for the undermentioned goods.

- Location of goods: Various kinds of materials kept at godown/stock of Public Works Hathazari Sub-Division, Dewan Bazar, Chittagong under Chittagong Public Works Division-2, Rahmatganj, Chittagong.
- List of materials:

| Sl No | Description of materials | Survey report no. & date | Quantity |
|-------|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 1. | ¾" dia GI bend | 13/S-2 (Hathazari Sub-Division) dated 25-11-2002 | 56 Nos |
| 2. | 4" dia RW plain bend | -do- | 74 Nos. |
| 3. | 2" dia RW plain bend | -do- | 110 Nos. |
| 4. | 4" dia GI socket | -do- | 23 Nos. |
| 5. | 1 ¼" dia GI socket | -do- | 26 Nos. |
| 6. | Belfast sink | -do- | 23 Nos. |
| 7. | Hand washing basin (small) | -do- | 35 Nos. |
| 8. | 1"x3/4" dia GI elbow | -do- | 36 Nos. |
| 9. | Commode | -do- | 1 No. |
- Estimated cost: Total quoted amount.
- Earnest money: 10% (ten percent) on quoted rate.
- Last time of receiving the materials: 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of issuing work order.
- Eligibility of participant in auction tender: Public Works Directorate enlisted all class contractors, interested person/firm.
- Price of auction tender: Tk 400/- (Four hundred) only per group (non-refundable).
- Place of selling auction tender: Office of the undersigned as well as office of the Executive Engineer of Chittagong Public Works Division-1/3/4/Rangamat/Khagrachhari.
- Place of receiving auction tender: Office of the undersigned as well as Chittagong Public Works Division-1/3/4 & Executive Engineers' Offices.
- Date & time of showing materials to be shown on the spot: 06-01-2005 to 10-01-2005 everyday 11.00am to 12.00 Noon during office hours.
- Last date of selling auction tender: 10-01-2005 up to office hours.
- Time of receiving & opening auction tender: a) 11-01-2005 up to 12.00 hours (receiving). b) 11-01-2005 at 3.00pm (opening).
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any auction tender without assigning any reason.

Mohammad Alam
Executive Engineer
Chittagong Public Works Division-2
Rahmatganj, Chittagong.

DFP-30636-19/12
G-21