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A democratic country?

Every now and then US leaders try to teach us democracy, human rights and justice. They also tell us that the USA is the most successful democracy in the world. Former US President Bill Clinton moves a step forward and claims that the USA is the greatest civilisation on earth.

True the USA is the most powerful and prosperous country in the world. But we wonder whether the US leaders preach what they really practice. Don't the activities and powers of the US President George Bush, his confrontations with the US Senate and House of Representatives, his flouting and scoffing of American and world public opinion, invasion

and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, indiscriminate killing of millions of innocent people on the one hand and overall US possession of nuclear arms, weapons of mass destruction, stationing of US troops in foreign countries like Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Afghanistan and Iraq for indefinite period point to the real intentions of the US?

Would the US leaders kindly clarify the relevant matters for the sake of information, freedom of speech, freedom of press and welfare of billions of people of our good earth?

O H Kabir
Wari, Dhaka



বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান

জিরানী, সাতার, ঢাকা

স্বারক নং-বিকেএসপি/প্রশাসন-২/৫৯৬/২২১

তারিখঃ ০৭ কার্যক, ১৪১৪বা
২২ অক্টোবর, ২০০৭ইং

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"সিলেট, বরিশাল ও খুলনা বিভাগে (১ম পর্যায়) এবং চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে বিকেএসপির আধিক্যক এক্ষিপ্যুল কেন্দ্র-স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বিভিন্ন প্রকার কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ-এর নিমিত্তে The Public Procurement Regulations-2003-এর বিভিন্ন মোতাবেক সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/ব্যাবসায়িক সংস্থা তালিকাভুক্ত কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সংবিহৃত ১ম শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলনহোরাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র ক্ষেত্রের জন্য নিয়মিত্বাকরণ করা যাবে। এজন ঠিকাদারকে আবেদনের সাথে প্রেত লাইসেন্স, বাংল ট্রানজেকশন সেটেমেন্ট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এবং আনুসংগিক কাগজপত্রাদির মূলপত্র আবেদনগ্রন্থের সাথে উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।

১।	মুরগিলয়/বিভাগ	মূর ও কৌড়া।
২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (বিকেএসপি)।
৩।	প্রক্রিয়াজর এন্টিট্রি/দণ্ডনের নাম	মহাপ্রয়াচালক, বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (বিকেএসপি)।
৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর জেলার নাম	ঢাকা।
৫।	কাজের নাম	সিলেট, বরিশাল, খুলনা ও চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।
৬।	দরপত্রের নথর	বিকেএসপি/প্রশাসন-২/৫৯৬/২২১, তারিখঃ ২২-১০-২০০৭।
৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮।	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	উন্মুক্ত (২০০৭-২০০৮)।
৯।	টেক্সের প্যাকেজ নং	প্যাকেজ নং 'এ'।
১০।	টেক্সের প্যাকেজের নাম	প্যাকেজ এও সিলেট, বরিশাল, খুলনা ও চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।
১১।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৪-১১-২০০৭।
১২।	দরপত্র দাখিল/বকের তারিখ ও সময়	০৫-১১-২০০৭ সময়ে বেলা ১-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০৬-১১-২০০৭ সময়ে বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪।	দণ্ডন দণ্ডনসম্মত নাম ও ঠিকানা	ক) দরপত্র দাখিল বিভিন্ন স্থান (প্রধান)। ক) বিকেএসপি, জিরানী, সাতার, ঢাকা। খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান (অন্যান্য)। খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান/দণ্ডনসম্মত নাম গ) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান/দণ্ডনসম্মত নাম গ) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান।
১৫।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	CPTU Regulations, 2003 অনুযায়ী বিগত ও (তিনি) বহসের সকলের প্রকারি/আধা-সরকারি/ব্যাবসায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিভিন্ন প্রকার কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা প্রাপ্ত হবে।
১৬।	কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	সিলেট, বরিশাল, খুলনা ও চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার কৌড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।
১৭।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর কৌড়া চট্টগ্রাম
১৮।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান
১৯।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বিকেএসপি, জিরানী, সাতার, ঢাকা।
২০।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	দেলিফেন্স ৭৭০১২১৫, ৭৭০১২১৬
২১।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	ফ্যাক্স নংঃ ৭৭০১৫১৩
২২।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া চট্টগ্রাম
২৩।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া চট্টগ্রাম
২৪।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া চট্টগ্রাম
২৫।	প্যাকেজে প্রার্থিত অবস্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৌড়া চট্টগ্রাম

শাহ আশরাফ আলী
নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী
বিকেএসপি

Politics, crime and sports

Russia roared back from behind to spectacularly defeat England 2-1 at Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on Oct 17, increasing its chances of reaching the European Championship. The match unfolded peacefully on the artificial pitch, but the victory, Russia's most impressive since beating world champions France in 1998, was spoiled by violence. England went ahead in the 29th minute with a stunning volley from Wayne Rooney, although he looked off.

Earlier, England seemed in control of the game, and few believed that Russia could come back. Fans sent off flares in the crowd after an hour, even though they usually wait for a goal first. Less than 10 minutes after the flares had been sent off, coach Hiddink's second-half substitute, Roman Pavlyuchenko, destroyed England with two goals in four minutes. First, Pavlyuchenko scored from the spot after Konstantin Zyryanov was fouled by Rooney. The foul appeared to have taken place just outside the penalty area, but the Russian team was still awarded a penalty.

Four minutes later, Pavlyuchenko pounced to score after England goalkeeper Paul Robinson parried a shot by Zyryanov. Russia is in third place with 21 points. If it wins the next two games against Israel and Andorra, it is guaranteed a trip to the finals in Austria and Switzerland next year. Before the game, Russian fans unfurled a gigantic national flag that stretched along most the side of the stadium and featured a bear with sharp claws.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov, who attended the game, was quick to capitalize on the success by mixing sports with politics through vague nationalist sentiments, with state-owned Channel One television showing a recording of a meeting he had with players ahead of the game. "We won the Great Patriotic War and were first to fly to space and, therefore, you must win today too," Zubkov told the players. "You must do everything you can," he exhorted, cutting the air with his right-hand. The meeting was highly reminiscent of Soviet times, when Communist bosses met athletes ahead of important games.

Several clashes erupted between Russian and English fans ahead of the game, and police accused the foreigners of getting drunk and stirring up trouble. "After they arrived they went straight for the pubs and clubs. The English fans are getting drunk and provoking conflicts," a police spokesman said, Itar-Tass reported. "Police found several English fans on the street in a state of extreme intoxication." More than 20 Russian fans broke into a bar on Novy Arbat three hours before the game and attacked a group of foreigners with hockey sticks, chairs and tables before fleeing, Ekho Moskvy radio reported. Police, however, denied that any incident had taken place, Interfax reported.

That is the whole story about the hidden agenda of political sports in the world. It seems the field of sports is linked to domains like trade, strategy, crime and politics. If cash and other lucrative prizes don't make any significant results in sports, then crime is invariably unleashed to the public. In fact, as we see nine months have already elapsed with the bang of reforms but our political parties have not stepped ahead nine inches in the area of reforms, rather they are raising a hue and cry about release of their key leaders, both of whom are in custody now, along with their colleagues and cohorts (and many have fled to evade arrest for their累累 deeds of minting and rolling in money).

So, Mr. Ahsan made the observation, 'And what started with a bang might end with a whimper'. He also quoted a political thinker as saying, "One would play with fire if one failed to sincerely carry out a reform" and referred to the story about the fate of Girolamo Savonarola, Dominican preacher falling victim to his own reforms because he could not condemn the violation of one of his reforms. It is really not unlikely that, as Mr. Ahsan has reason to believe, if the failed leaders are made to walk free, get their confiscated wealth back and eventually the election is held, it would be at best the same old liquor in a new bottle, and it cannot be ruled out that the pioneer(s) of reforms would meet the fate of Girolamo. On reading the newspaper reports and stories of the filthiest looting of national wealth and abuse of power by the national leaders and their cronies and cohorts, Mr. Ahsan in one of his earlier write-ups wanted them to face public trial.

Nevertheless, before setting democracy to roll in, set the house (the nation) in order and for this to happen, please take as much time as needed; this is the exigency and to meet exigencies mind least about the constitution, for we know bad money drives away good money, and so we cannot still allow the bad guys to rule the roost. A.H. Dewan

for it? We, as citizens of Bangladesh, have the right to appear in the general BCS every year.

So, we urge the authorities concerned to consider the matter in right earnest and give a chance to the candidates who have crossed the age-limit for no fault of theirs. If it is done a god number of age-barred candidates will have the opportunity to appear in the BCS exams for the last time.

Abdul Alim
Nawabpur Road
Dhaka

It is now a buzz word that the advertisement of the 28th BCS examination will be published within a very short time. But we are much worried over the matter of fixing the age limit. The advertisement of the 27th BCS was published in June 2005. We have not had any advertisement since 2005 and a good number of students have lost their age to appear at the BCS exams. So we call upon the Honourable Chairman of the PSC to fix the age limit as of November 2006. So that we, the age-expired candidates, can take part in the upcoming 28th BCS.

In this regard, we would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Chief Adviser of the CTG.

Md. Asaduzzaman
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Shamoli, Dhaka

Just justice?

The term "just justice" was the heading of your back page UNB report on Chief Justice's advice to judges (Oct 19). I wonder if the adjective "just" is appropriate with the noun justice. Delivering "just" justice or for that matter "unjust" justice, qualifying the noun "justice" seems totally out of place! One can however say impartial justice or sober justice or proper justice; which are examples of adjectives qualifying the word "justice".

If however the idea was to convey that free judiciary should deliver nothing but justice; then "only" would have been a more appropriate word to use.

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

In this regard, we would like to convey that free judiciary should deliver nothing but justice; then "only" would have been a more appropriate word to use.

Let's honour and recognise him. Thanks to Mr. Shahnoor

Tajuddin Ahmed



Wahid for his write-up.
Mithun Chakma
General Secretary
Democratic Youth Forum

Price hike

Again the prices of vegetables, oil, rice, potato, onion and eggs have increased just a few days after Eid. The wholesalers are making the excuse that the rise in prices is due to short supply of goods. The prices came down when the RAB roamed around the markets before Eid. But this came to nothing as soon as the RAB stopped its drive to prevent shopkeepers from charging too high. The government has to find out the mysterious causes behind this sudden rise in the prices of essential com-

modities. It was easily prognosticated that the prices would increase once the RAB stopped its mission and that's exactly what has happened. There are business people who want to make undue profits.

The government must take stern actions in order to rein in the people who are involved in these businesses.

Minhaj Ahmed
Uttara, Dhaka

Good write-ups

Mr. Mohammad Badrul Ahsan's erudition and insight into the endless subjects, either on history, politics, theology or that relate to day-to-day life (I love to cite a few of the titles, among hundreds, 'Midlife Misery', 'God and truth', 'Legends of life', 'Laden and Bush', 'Other side of history', 'Garden of Life') from romance to pains of estrangement, from affluence to poverty, from everything to nothing, defy all description and one simply gets startled to get to the depth of his knowledge and at the beauty in his style of writing, always using sharp contrast. And the piece, 'Under cross talk' is, therefore, such a one that if one misses it, one misses great pleasures of reading apart from knowing what one was/is ignorant of.

His piece ('Closing of the Red Sea, Oct 12) dwelt upon reforms in our political planks, and like all his past write-ups, this one was also paved with the historical pertinent event that took place in France before the Revolution and references of the fall of the Roman Empire, the atrocities of the Middle Ages, etc. He seems