

Photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA on March 2 shows Hellenistic coins dating back to the era of Alexander the Great after they were discovered in northern Syria.

Coins from Alexander era found in Syria

AP, Damascus

More than 250 silver coins dating back to the time of Alexander the Great were unearthed in northern Syria, a Syrian archaeologist said Thursday.

Youssef Kanjo, the head of archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Aleppo, said the coins were discovered two weeks ago in northern Syria when a local man was digging the foundations of his new home.

The man handed the coins, that were found in a bonze box, to authorities, Kanjo said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Moon's biggest crater exposes its hidden lower crust

ANI, Washington

Reports indicate that the biggest and deepest crater on the Moon can provide glimpses of the hidden lower crust of Earth's natural satellite.

Shortly after the Moon formed, an asteroid smacked into its southern hemisphere and gouged out a truly enormous crater, the South Pole-Aitken basin, almost 1,500 miles across and more than five miles deep.

Project Financing

The Process

Nato forces close to victory in Afghanistan: Petraeus

Three more coalition soldiers die in attacks

ANI, AFP, Ottawa/ Kabul

General David Petraeus, the head of US Central Command, has stated that Canada's decision to pull out troops from Afghanistan has come at a time when the Nato forces are heading toward a decisive victory against the Taliban.

"Having worked hard this past year to get the inputs right ... now [the International Security Assistance Force] and its Afghan partners can start to see the progress that is possible," the Globe and Mail quoted him, as saying.

While Gen Petraeus declined to comment on the effect that Canada's 2011 exit from Kandahar next year will have on Nato's broader mission in Afghanistan, he admitted: "Obviously, we always like to see everyone continue to pitch in."

Gen Petraeus, who oversees the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, predicted that Nato will "regain the initiative from the insurgency" by following a counterinsurgency strategy similar to the one he followed as a commanding general in Iraq.

"We all recognise that an enormous amount of hard work and tough fighting lie ahead. As was the case in Iraq, the reality in Afghanistan is that everything is hard and it is hard all the time," he said.

Protecting civilians and helping Afghan security forces pave the way for Afghan governance are more important to the mission than killing or capturing the enemy, he argued.

"You don't kill or capture your way out of an insurgency," Gen. Petraeus pointed out.

"What we learned from Marjah was it's okay to announce that you're coming if you don't want to get into a slugfest right in the city you are trying to save," he added. "That means some of the bad guys are going

to get out the back door. That's okay, because we'll track them down. The objective is to secure the population." In fresh violence, Nato announced the

deaths of three soldiers fighting Taliban militants in Afghanistan's volatile south, bringing the number of foreign troops to die in the war so farthis year to 112.

A Kashmiri man inspects the debris of destroyed houses in Dadsara, in Tral district, south of Srinagar yesterday. Four suspected militants belonging to Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Kashmir's frontline militant group, and one army officer were killed on Thursday in two-day gun battle between separatists and central government forces in the south Kashmir village. Four residential houses were also destroyed.

PHOTO: AFP





Chinese President Hu Jintao (Top/R) applauds as Premier Wen Jiabao delivers his speech during the opening session of the National People's Congress inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PADMA MULTIPURPOSE BRIDGE DESIGN PROJECT

The Study

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) is currently undertaking the detailed engineering

design of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Design Project under the finance from Asian

Development Bank (ADB). The Project has been preparing the detailed engineering

design for the construction of Padma Bridge and associated structures. The Project

involves construction of about 6.15 km long main bridge, transition structures,

approach roads, river training works (RTWs), bridge end facilities (service areas,

construction yards, toll plazas, resettlement sites), two railway stations at both ends

with the provision of rail track, gas and power transmission lines and communication

cable on the bridge. The construction of the project components will involve massive

Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has been in discussion with various co-financiers to

participate in the investment of the Project. A number of co-financiers has already

showed interest and extended their commitments. These co-financiers include the

ADB, the World Bank, the Japan International cooperation Agency, the Islamic

Development Bank, and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. In addition

The Project is being categorized as Category "A" project in accordance with the

Harmonized Safeguard Requirements of the Government and co-financiers. As per

the harmonized safeguard requirements, two public consultations are required for

category "A" project, once during the early stages o EIA filed work and once when

the draft EIA report is available. Upon completion of the study, an Environmental

Impact Assessment report documenting the process will be submitted to BBA and

the co-financiers and will be available for public review. A draft Environmental

Impact Assessment report documenting the process has been submitted to BBA

and the co-financiers on November 19, 2009 and a revised version on January 31,

The first public consultations were conducted during July 20-22, 2009. This is the

second public consultation and is scheduled to allow the public to meet the project

team, discuss the study outcome, major environmental and social impacts, and

mitigation and enhancement measures recommended in the study. You are invited

Location: Union Council of Matbarer Char, Village: Bakorerkandi, Shibchar, Madaripur.

The consultation will consist of formal invitations to various shakeholders and displays showing the final alignments, environmental and social impacts and mitigation and

enhancement measures. BBA and their design consultant Maunsell AECOM will be on

We are interested in hearing any comments that you may have about the study.

With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public

to the Co-financiers, GoB will also contribute in the implementation of the Project.

activities which will have both negative and positive impacts on the environment.

China vows to address needs of the poor

AFP, Beijing

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao vowed yesterday to ease rules denying public welfare services to millions of migrant workers as he pledged to meet the social security needs of the nation's huge poor underclass.

"We will move faster to improve the social security system for both urban and rural residents," Wen said in his "state of the nation" address opening the annual session of parliament.

The National People's Congress convened with concern mounting over a huge wealth gap and social stability in a country that sees thousands of protests every year -- often violent -by those who have missed out on China's boom.

"We will move faster to build a better social safety net to provide basic security to people and free them from worries," Wen told the 3,000 delegates to the National People's Congress.

"We will not only make the pie of social wealth bigger by developing the economy but also distribute it well on the basis of a rational income distribution system," he added.

Wen pledged to reform an increasingly unpopular household registration, or "hukou", system under which each citizen's residency status is tied strictly to their hometown.

The system has come under fire for denying the country's 230 million migrant workers access to the government's social safety net once they leave their hometowns for work in China's cities and coastal economic hubs.

"We will carry out reform of the household registration system and relax requirements for household registration in towns and small and medium-sized cities," he said.

The government recently announced its intent to reform the system but mention of the issue in Wen's annual "government work report" officially elevates it to the level of a national priority.

বিষয় বা কাজের

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, New Bhaban (4th floor) 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000

web: www.pgcb.org.bd ভারিবঃ ২৫/২/২০১০ইং

স্মারক নং-জিএমডি/চট্টগ্রাম(উঃ)/পিজিসিবি/হি-৮/২০১০/১১৩

দরপত্র/পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-১১ (২০০৯-২০১০)

- ঃ ক) হাটহান্ধারী গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রের জন্য ৩৩ কেভি, ৫০০ SQMM ও ৮০০ SOMM XLPE ক্যাবল ফিটিংস ক্রয়। খ) হাটহান্ধারী গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রের জন্য ৩৩ কেভি আইসোলেটর বার ক্রয়।
- গ) খুলনী গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রে একটি ডিপ টিউবওয়েল স্থাপন কাজ (পুনঃ দরপত্র)। ঘ)শাহমিরপুর গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রে একটি ডিপ টিউবওয়েল স্থাপন কান্ধ (পুনঃ দরপত্র)।
- ঃ ক) টাকা ৫,০০০/-, খ) টাকা ১,২০০/-, গ) টাকা ১০,০০০/- এবং ঘ) টাকা জামানতের ৬,৫০০/- মাত্র মাত্র পিজিসিবি এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসীলি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পে-পরিমাণ অর্ডার/বাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দেয়।

দরপত্র

অফেরতযোগ্য পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুকুলে তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংক এর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট এর মাধ্যমে দেয়। ঃ ক) মহাব্যবস্থাপক (সঞ্চলন-১), ১নং আঃ গণি রোড, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৪র্থ তলা), ঢাকা। কাম্পানী সচিব, পিঞ্জিসিবি লিঃ প্রধান কার্যালয়, আইইবি ভবন, রমনা ঢাকা ।

ঃ ক) টাকা ২০০/-, খ) টাকা ১০০/-, গ) টাকা ৪০০/- এবং ঘ) টাকা ২০০/- মাত্র

প্রান্তিস্থান ঠিকাদারের

मिललभवामि

- গ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, জিসি, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (২র তলা), আমাবাদ, পিজিসিবি, চট্টাম। ঘ) নিমু সাক্ষরকারীর দধর। ঃ পিঞ্জিসিবি/বিউবো/ডিপিডিসি/আরইবি এর অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ক, খ, গ শ্রেণী/এবিসি লাইসেন্স ও টি,আই,এন ধারী/সরবরাহকারী ও প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
- যোগ্যতা দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের
 - ঃ ২১/৩/২০১০ইং বেলা ১:০০ ঘটিকা।
- শেষ তারিখ দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ সময় ও স্থান
 - ২২/৩/২০১০ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা, ক্রমিক নং-৪ এর (খ) ব্যতীত যে কোন দপ্তরে দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- দরপত্র খাম খোলার স্থান ও সময়
 - ২৯/৩/২০১০ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায় (দাখিলকৃত সমস্ত দরপত্র প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে) ব্যবস্থাপক, জ্বিএমডি চট্টগ্রাম (উত্তর), পিজিসিবি চট্টগ্রাম এর দপ্তরে সকল দরপত্র একত্র করিয়া দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সকল দরপত্রের খাম খোলা হইবে।

৯। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বে দপ্তর প্রধানের নিকট ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্তির ও মালিকানা দলিল, ব্যাংক সল্ভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, আয়করের হালনাগাদ সার্টিফিকেট, VAT রেজি**ট্রেশ**ন ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স প্রদর্শন এবং দপ্তর প্রধানের অনুমতি গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। সিডিউলে উল্লেখকৃত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এইক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হইবে। কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা পিজিসিবি কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষন করে।

> দেবাশীষ দাশ, ব্যবস্থাপক জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম-উত্তর, পিজিসিবি, এগারমাইল, দেওয়ান নগর, হাটহাজারী চট্টগাম।



GULSHAN CLUB LTD

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In association with Institute of Architects Bangladesh [IAB]

Notice for Open Architectural Design Competition for Design of Gulshan Club, Dhaka

Gulshan Club Ltd. has taken the initiative to construct a Multi-purpose Club Complex with multi-level parking facilities on the existing land measuring approximately 4.5 bigha.

With this view, Gulshan Club Ltd., in association with the Institute of Architects Bangladesh [IAB], is organising an Open Architectural Design Competition to select the most appropriate design. Selected Architect/Firm shall have to render comprehensive services [architectural and engineering design, supervision etc.] as required for the successful completion of the project.

A panel of Jurors, nominated by IEH and IAB as per the competition guidelines of IAB, will select the best design from the entries. The three best designs shall receive the following awards -

: Tk. 7,00,000.00 [Taka Seven lakh only] First Prize Second Prize: Tk. 5,00,000.00 [Taka Five lakh only] : Tk. 3,00,000.00 [Taka Three lakh only] Third Prize

Interested architects should note the following information-

01. Eligibility:

- Architects willing to participate in the Open Design Competition must meet the eligibility conditions specified in the Dhaka Mohanogor Imarot Nirman Bidhimala 2008 for designing Type - E buildings.
- In case of Firms, Owner or at least 01 [one] of the Partners/Directors must fulfill the criteria above.
- Firms and Architects may participate as a Joint Venture with a foreign [preferably Asian] Firm having experience in designing social clubs. The local Firm or Architect fulfilling the eligibility conditions shall be the Lead Firm.
- 02. Competition Documents: Interested Architect/Firm may obtain Competition Documents from the office of the undersigned from 10 April 2010 till 15 April 2010 between 12.00 pm to 8.00 pm paying an amount of Tk.1,000.00 in cash. A written application for the competition documents has to be submitted.
- 03. Queries: Written queries, if any, shall have to be submitted to the undersigned on or before 22 April 2010 within 8.00 pm. A Briefing Session will be held on 27 April 2010 at 6.00 pm at the Gulshan Club to reply to the queries.
- 04. Submission: Entries shall be submitted on 15 July 2010 between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm at the office of the undersigned.

M.M. Chakrabarty Secretary Gulshan Club Ltd.

Thousands of women murdered in honour killings yearly: UN

AFP, Geneva

Some 5,000 women are murdered in honour killings every year, the UN's top human rights official said Thursday, calling it an "extreme symptom of discrimination" against women. "It has been estimated that as many as one in three women

across the world has been beaten, raped or otherwise abused during the course of her lifetime," said Navi Pillay in a statement. "And the most common source of such violence comes from

within the family. Amongst the most extreme forms of abuse is what is known as 'honour killing'," added the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

She pointed out that the problem is exacerbated by the fact that in some countries, legal systems "exempt individuals guilty of honour killings from punishment." "Honour killings are, however, not something that can be

simply brushed aside as some bizarre and retrograde atrocity that happens somewhere else," she said, stressing that under international laws, there is a "clear state responsibility" to ensure that women are not discriminated against.

Singapore boosts security over terrorist threat

AP, Singapore

Singapore bolstered security measures after receiving information of a plot by terrorists to attack ships off the coast of the citystate, a Cabinet minister said yesterday. The government has increased security at land checkpoints,

on the sea and at high-risk targets such as two new casino resorts, Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng told Parliament. Wong did not say which terrorist group was planning the reported attack.

"We received intelligence from our liaison partners about this possible plot to go and attack vessels coming through Singapore waters through the Malacca Strait," Wong said. "The threat is real and we are not immune to it."

Singapore's navy warned Thursday that a terrorist group was planning attacks on oil tankers and other vessels in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia said Thursday they have stepped up maritime and air patrols in the waterway, through which 15 million barrels of oil a day passed in 2006, according to the US Energy Information Agency.



An Indian Nihang (religious Sikh warrior) performs a fire breathing act while participating in a procession during the Amritsar Heritage Festival in Amritsar yesterday. The festival, which runs from March 4-7, aims to preserve and promote Punjabi culture.

record. In addition, there will be a comment sheet available, please place the completed questionnaire in the box provided or return it to the address below: Dr. Masud Karim, P.Eng. **Environmental Specialist 1**

Mr. Rafiqui Islam Project Director, Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka. Tel: (02) 988 8969

hand to answer any questions.

Comments

2010 and are available for public review.

to attend the meetings in the following locations:

1. Mawa Side 1, Date: 10AM to 12AM, March 16,2010

2. Mawa Side 2, Date : 2PM to 4 PM, March 16, 2010

3. Janjira Side 1, Date: 11AM to 1 PM, March 17, 2010

4. Janjira Side 2, Date: 11 AM to 1 PM, March 18, 2010

Charland, Date: 11AM to 1 PM. March 19, 2010

Location: Kathalbari Char, Shibchar, Madaripur.

Location: Naodoba High School, Janjira, Shariatpur

Location: Village: Jashaldia, Lauhajang, Munshiganj

Location: Village: Kumabhog, Lauhajang, Munshiganj

Public Consultation

Road 83, House No.13/A, Gulshan 2, Dhaka Tel: (02) 881 2938 / 882 5796 Email: masud@eng-consult.com