

BNP renews call for joint survey

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implement the 1,500MW hydroelectricity project and said it would stand beside the people who are concerned by the move.

"The construction of Tipaimukh dam is against World Heritage Convention, Bio-Diversity Convention, Wetlands Convention and other international laws and conventions," BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

The press meet was arranged to reveal contents of a letter by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of November 24 to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Former ministers Moyeen Khan and Hafizuddin Ahmed, among others, were present.

Quoting from the letter, Fakhrul said the Indian prime minister claimed that Tipaimukh is not an irrigation project and it will basically help controlling floods. It will not affect Bangladesh negatively, reiterated Singh.

"But, we believe it would affect the country as well as the people if the dam is built," the BNP leader said adding that the party thinks a joint

survey is necessary before starting the project work.

Following reports that a promoters' agreement had been inked on October 24 among two Indian state-run organisations and the Manipur government over the project, Khaleda on November 22 wrote to Manmohan Singh to stop the project, and also called for discussions and a joint survey.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party, key ally of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance, yesterday declared a long march towards Tipaimukh on December 10 protesting the Indian move. The decision was taken in a joint meeting of the party at its Banani office with Presidium Member Kazi Zafar Ahmed in the chair, said a press release.

Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's two advisers to Delhi, Fakhrul said, "They could not oppose the project and now saying that Tipaimukh dam will be helpful for Bangladesh while it has increased public concern."

One of the duo, International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi, yesterday said, "We are completely satisfied by the Indian gov-

ernment's explanation concerning the Tipaimukh dam. There should not be any further apprehension about this issue."

Singh's letter also mentioned that a parliamentary delegation from Bangladesh had visited the project area in 2009 and was apprised of that Tipaimukh dam would not cast adverse impact on any area of Bangladesh.

Fakhrul told reporters, "Nearly 3 crore people of 10 districts of the north-east region of Bangladesh, their agriculture, fisheries resources, environment and ecology will be affected once the dam is built."

Terming the project "a time bomb" as it is located in an earthquake-prone zone, Fakhrul said the ruling Awami League government failed to act in preventing its construction.

Singh on Saturday at a public rally in Manipur asked all ministries concerned to actively pursue the funding of Tipaimukh hydroelectric project. He also said the environmental clearance has been accorded to the project, to be funded by the World Bank, and the forest clearance process is underway.

The sins of civil society

FROM PAGE 1
coups in the nation's forty-year history, it is important that all pro-liberation and democratic forces remain in a state of alert where the future is concerned. We could not agree more with the prime minister, for she voices precisely the sentiments that have been growing in us on this score.

With all this gigantic effort expended by local and international forces towards questioning the trial of the 1971 war criminals, it is indeed for all of us to bear in mind the truth that we must not lose the woods for the trees. The prime minister has also informed us, in unmistakable terms, that civil society members may be privy to high education, but their acceptability among the masses is low. So what is the point here?

Let us now move on, for the very good reason that we must now enlighten the nation on the many sins our civil society has, in very civil manner, putatively been committing in these past many years. Let us all be patient as we go through an enumeration of the sins. Once that is done, let us open the floor to the people of this country.

It is a people's republic we inhabit. Wherefore should we then not leave the ultimate judgement on the sinister activities of civil society in the hands of the millions who struggle, from sunup to sundown, to ensure a decent living for themselves? But, no more obfuscation, no more of bantering. Let us go through our list of civil society sins.

Begin with the recent dramatic conclusion of the Narayanganj City Corporation elections. Bangladesh's civil society clearly rooted for Selina Hayat Ivy. And it did that because it believed that her probity, as against the various and varied allegations of wrongdoing levelled at her rival, was an absolute necessity in these perilous times and that therefore her electoral triumph would send out a message of hope to the rest of the country.

Sheikh Hasina, in the pre-ballot process, ought to have cheered us through making her support clear for Ivy. Now, did civil society take a wrong step here?

Members of civil society have been equally harsh on the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP. They have unambiguously demanded that the opposi-

tion, as a mark of its adherence to democratic principles, return to the Jatiya Sangsad and thereby convince the country that it means business. The opposition, of course, has in its questionable wisdom chosen the path of street agitation. Which begs the question: why is civil society enlightening the opposition on a theme the latter ought to have embraced on its own?

And yet civil society gets flak, and not just from the prime minister.

The prime ministerial reference to nineteen coups (there were only four successful ones in point of fact, the others being abortive) reminds one of the heartbeat people of the country have gone through for reasons not of their making. Neither can one pin the blame on civil society for these blatant demonstrations of illegitimate military rule. If civil society is to be held responsible for any transgression, it is over its conviction that unless the major political parties are able to push aside their past and move on to a cooperative future between themselves, it will be the forces of darkness perennially waiting in the wings who will stand to benefit from this unmitigated chaos.

Civil society is the messenger here. Must the prime minister or anyone else shoot it down because it serves warning of what might be if our politicians do not look beyond narrow partisan interests?

The rapidity with which the fifteenth amendment to the constitution was passed and the caretaker system of government done away with has convinced us yet once more of the inherent dangers in a party or government enjoying a two-thirds or three-fourths majority in parliament. Exercising such a majority is all right, but going to the people on such critical issues as abolishing the caretaker system is infinitely better. That was, and is, the view of civil society.

Must that emphasis on a strengthening of democratic principles be held against it?

Civil society brings citizens across the political divide together. And across that divide has risen the demand, inexorably and inevitably, for a strong, independent local government system in the country. The emasculation of the system through the deliberate actions of the ruling AL has stymied, for now, the chances

of democracy flowering out into its full form.

When civil society argues in defence of substantive local government, is it really undermining democracy?

With huge swathes of public opinion not taking kindly to the manner of the Dhaka City Corporation split, civil society clearly had a stake here. It spoke for all of us, with all our concerns about the ramifications of the move.

If now civil society is guilty of striking at democracy, what penalties must be imposed on it?

It is the public interest which must take precedence over everything else. And public interest dictates that the Election Commission be peopled by men of integrity and conviction, that the Anti-Corruption Commission have full authority to prosecute everyone even remotely suspected of having committed wrongdoing -- beginning right at the top of the pyramid.

If civil society is opposed to a change in the route of the proposed metro rail, it is for the government to put the views of any government agency aside and show respect to public opinion.

And that is all, ladies and gentlemen.

Last few days of Ershad

FROM PAGE 1
protests.

The sudden announcement came on the night of December 4, sending anti-Ershad movement leaders hurrying to choose his successor. The three political alliances fighting against the dictator had already agreed to a formula on how power would be transferred should Ershad resign.

Ershad would hand over the presidency to his Vice-president Moudud Ahmed, making the latter acting president. Moudud would then resign as acting president and transfer power to a person chosen by the three

alliances --- the 8-party led by Sheikh Hasina, the 7-party headed by Khaleda Zia and the 5-party alliance of left parties.

Several names came up, but the then Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed turned out to be the frontrunner to become acting president and head of what would be the country's first-ever caretaker administration to oversee general elections.

Both Hasina and Khaleda held separate rallies in the afternoon of December 5 to celebrate the ouster of Ershad. But there was still no formal announcement

about what the whole world was waiting to hear: Who would be Ershad's replacement?

As a correspondent of Associated Press (AP) news agency, I was chasing both Hasina and Khaleda to get their comments. Also with me was Anita Pratap, a New Delhi-based correspondent of Time magazine.

With help from Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury (who later became the country's president) we traced Khaleda at the Dhanmondi residence of BNP leader Advocate Julmat Ali Khan, where she was presiding over a meeting of the 7-party

alliance. We came to know that Hasina was huddled with the leaders of her 8-party alliance at 32, Dhanmondi.

Perched on the second floor of Julmat Ali's residence Anita and I became witness to a rare telephone conversation between Khaleda and Hasina.

Taking a break from her meeting, Khaleda came to the second floor where Col. Mustafizur Rahman (who later became foreign minister) dialled Hasina's number so she could talk with her arch rival.

Khaleda: Assalamu Alaikum. How are you? How

did your rally go?

Hasina's reply is inaudible.

Khaleda: Time is running out. Our alliance has confirmed the name of

Justice Shahabuddin as acting president. We also want you to act fast and announce it the soonest.

Again Hasina's reply is not audible. But we get some idea about what she said by Khaleda's reply.

Khaleda: You are the supreme leader of your alliance. I guess you can announce the name right now.

With these words Khaleda offered thanks to Hasina before she hung up.

Downstairs she announced the name of Justice Shahabuddin amid cheers from the leaders.

As we left the house to try to meet with Hasina at 32, Dhanmondi, Ehsanul Kabir, a journalist-turned-press official of BNP, quipped: "Farid Bhai, you have been a witness to a historic conversation."

When we met Hasina about 15 minutes later, she explained why she was delaying the formal announcement about Justice Shahabuddin.

"We had to make sure Justice Shahabuddin has all the security and protection he needs before we make the announcement," she said. "This is a very trying time. Anything can happen."

Note: The Ershad regime came to an end when Justice Shahabuddin, on December 6, 1990 took over power.

পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা।
৫৩/১, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা-১১০০।
তারিখঃ ০৫/১২/২০১১ খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্ৰাচীর সঙ্গ্রহ প্রকাশনামালা পি.পি.আর.-২০০৮খ্রিঃ অনুযায়ী ২০১১-২০১২ খ্রিঃ অর্থ বৎসরে অত্র হাসপাতালের Construction কাজ করার জন্য ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

সংখ্যা	বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
১.	সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্বার নাম	পরিচালক, ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা-১১০০।
২.	সংগ্রহ পত্র	উদ্ধৃতি
৩.	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অব ফান্ড	হাসপাতালের নিজস্ব তহবিল ও সরকারী অনুদান।
৪.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের আইটেমের নাম, মূল্য এবং জামানত/আনেষ্টেমিনির পরিমাণ	আইটেমের নাম দরপত্র সিডিউলের নগদ মূল্য (অক্রেডিটেশন) Construction Works of one R. C. C slab of selected floor. ১,০০০/- ৪০,০০০/- (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/প.অর্ডার পরিচালকের বরাবরে করতে হবে)।
৫.	দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	দরপত্র আগামী ২১/১২/২০১১ খ্রি., রোজ বুধবার পর্যন্ত "পুরালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা শাখা" হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ মূল্যে ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৬.	দরপত্র দাখিলের বিজ্ঞপ্তিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা।
৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২১/১২/২০১১ খ্রিঃ রোজ-বুধবার (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২২/১২/২০১১ খ্রিঃ রোজ-বৃহস্পতিবার, বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২২/১২/২০১১ খ্রিঃ রোজ-বৃহস্পতিবার, বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা। পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা-১১০০।
১১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা।
১২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সত্ত্বার নাম ও পদবী	ক্যান্টেন (অবঃ) ডাঃ এম. এ. সালাম, পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
১৩.	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	দরপত্রের বাস্তবায়ন শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত করা হয়েছে। যদি কোন ঠিকাদারের কোন ব্যাখ্যা বুঝতে অসুবিধা হয়: তাহলে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে কর্মরত সর্বাধিক কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীর নিকট থেকে জানা যাবে।
১৪.	নির্দেশনা	ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাস্তবায়নের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। খ) অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র বিক্রি, গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে তাহা প্রযোজ্য হবে। গ) দরপত্রাদাতা কর্তৃক দরপত্র সিডিউল পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তন করা যাবে না।

ক্যান্টেন (অবঃ) ডাঃ এম. এ. সালাম
পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
সাইজ ৪ ৭.৫ x ৩
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

Invitation for Bid for Construction of Irrigation Channels
Credit No. 4507 – BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.2W1.C

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Construction of Irrigation Channels. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of Irrigation Channels in 13(thirteen) Sidr affected Upazillas against Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 4 and Lot 5 under Package No. 2W1.C. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the construction of irrigation channel or similar works are only encouraged to participate. The construction period is 24 (twenty four) weeks from the date of the Notification of the Award.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRPP office of FAO (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9A, Apt. # A1, Dhanmondi R/A, Tel. 813 0758/104) during office hours. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee as mentioned below. The method of payment for the tender documents will be in cash against a written receipt. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount described below:

Package No.	Lot No.	Item	Price of Tender Document	Bid Security Amount
2W1.C	Lot No. 1	28 (twenty eight) Small scale Irrigation Structures in Bagerhat District	Tk. 2000.00	Tk. 200,000.00
	Lot No. 2	30 (thirty) Small scale Irrigation Structures in Barisal & Jhalokhati District		Tk. 225,000.00
	Lot No. 3	25 (twenty five) Small scale Irrigation Structures in Jhalpur District		Tk. 175,000.00
	Lot No. 4	37 (thirty seven) Small scale Irrigation Structures in Patakhali District		Tk. 275,000.00
	Lot No. 5	55 (fifty five) Small scale Irrigation Structures in Barguna District		Tk. 400,000.00

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on 2 January 2012. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidders' representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
House # 37, Road # 8
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 880-2-8118015
Fax: 880-2-811 3446

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.