

UN warns of looming

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years, countries have run down reserves from an average of 107 days of consumption 10 years ago to under 74 days recently.

Prices of main food crops such as wheat and maize are now close to those that sparked riots in 25 countries in 2008. FAO figures released this week suggest that 870 million people are malnourished and the food crisis is growing in the Middle East and Africa. Wheat production this year is expected to be 5.2 percent below 2011, with yields of most other crops, except rice, also falling, says the UN.

The figures come as one of the world's leading environmentalists issued a warning that the global food supply system could collapse at any point, leaving hundreds of millions more people hungry, sparking widespread

riots and bringing down governments. In a shocking new assessment of the prospects of meeting food needs, Lester Brown, president of the Earth policy research centre in Washington, says that the climate is no longer reliable and the demands for food are growing so fast that a breakdown is inevitable, unless urgent action is taken.

According to Brown, we are seeing the start of a food supply breakdown with a dash by speculators to "grab" millions of square miles of cheap farmland, the doubling of international food prices in a decade, and the dramatic rundown of countries' food reserves.

This year, for the sixth time in 11 years, the world will consume more food than it produces, largely because of extreme weather in the US and other major food-exporting countries had hit harvests badly and sent prices spiralling. Brown says.

His warnings come as the UN and world governments reported that extreme heat and drought in the US and other major food-exporting countries had hit harvests badly and sent prices spiralling.

scious. There was blood everywhere. I was in total shock.

"Then the man with the gun fired at me and another girl ran away. We were all just so traumatised and shocked. Everything happened so quickly."

"The bus driver raced us to hospital. It was chaotic because everyone was screaming and crying and Malala was lying on the floor in front of me."

Shazia had been hit by two bullets. By yesterday, however, she was well enough to walk around her bed in the Combined Military Hospital. The third girl had comparatively minor injuries.

Explaining the build-up to the attack, Shazia said: "Malala would talk to us about the dangers she was facing but refused to change the way she lived. She just said the extremists might do something to her because she had spoken out against them so much and they might want to harm her."

"She knew something might happen but she never let it affect her. She refused to be anything other than a normal schoolgirl."

Shazia said she was disgusted with the men who carried out the attack. "We

don't know who they were but I am sure they were the people Malala had been warned about," she said.

As she prepared to go home to her family, Shazia said her greatest wish was to return to school with Malala even though the Taliban has threatened to return and kill Malala.

"With the grace of God, I am completely all right now. Malala will recover soon too, I hope. We will go back to school and study together again."

"I am praying for Malala and praying she can join her school friends again as soon as possible. The whole nation is praying for her and I am sure she will make a full recovery," Shazia's father Muhammad Ramzan, 50, who runs a bakery in Mingora, said he was horrified by the attack.

"We have never been enemies with anyone," he said. "I don't know who did this. Malala was outspoken and she had told her classmates something like this could happen but we never imagined it would happen in this way."

Malala's uncle Mehmood-ul-Hassan Yousafzai said her condition was improving. Doctors said the next 48 hours would be critical to her recovery.

Malala was hit in the head and fell to the floor uncon-

Teletalk's 3G service opens

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"We have advanced a lot in achieving the goal."

The vision looks likely to be realised before 2021, she added.

Zillur Rahman, who was on the other side of the video call, said the country took a step forward towards the 'digital Bangladesh' with the introduction of the 3G service.

The new initiative would play a key role in developing education, health and eco-

nomic sectors of the country, he added.

The service would be available in Dhaka for the time being, through the 200-odd 3G-enabled base transceiver stations the state-run operator has installed in the capital city.

Teletalk subscribers would receive the service by this month, with the sales of 3G SIM cards and conversion of the existing 2G mobile SIM cards, said its officials.

But the users will have to have 3G-enabled handsets or smartphones or internet modems to enjoy the service, they said.

The service will be rolled on to the private mobile networks once the licences are secured via the auction due in early next year.

Sunil Kanti Bose, the telecommunications secretary, said data use is increasing by the day.

"What used to be 2.5

gigabits per second (Gbps) three years ago, is now 18 Gbps. The lone submarine cable is providing a total of 30 Gbps bandwidth to the market."

Sajib Wazed Joy, the prime minister's son and an IT expert, said 4G (fourth generation) service, a technology that provides faster internet speed than the 3G, would be introduced in Bangladesh in future -- if Awami League is voted to power again.

As per the 3G draft guideline, the operators who will obtain 3G licences would be able to provide 4G services through their network.

Currently, two internet service providers, Qubee and Banglalion, offer the 4G WiMAX data service, while CityCell's Zoom Ultra brand offers 3G-equivalent internet speed.

Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun also spoke at the event.

Bridge work may start

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funds, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

He said the three-member panel, which arrived in Dhaka yesterday to review the investigation into the allegation of corruption in the project would stay in the country until November 4 and submit a report to the WB after returning to Washington.

"Maybe, we will be able to do something by the end of November. But I do not want to make any comment on the issue as it would be a speculation," Muhith told The Daily Star in an interview in Tokyo on Saturday.

The minister is now in the Japanese capital to attend the semi-annual meetings of the WB and the International Monetary Fund.

During his stay here, Muhith held meetings with top officials of the WB, and the international panel appointed to oversee the investigations by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

"I am convinced that the Padma bridge project work will start, but I cannot give you a specific date," he said.

As agreed earlier, the panel would give its report within a month, said the minister.

Discussion about implementation of the nearly \$3 billion project would begin after that, he added.

"We have informed the World Bank about our demands. An implementation team from the bank will visit Bangladesh but implementation will start after the external panel gives a report on their findings."

The minister said the implementation team might arrive in Bangladesh on October 25 or 26.

The team will also discuss with three other co-financers of the project -- Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Islamic Development Bank -- the new financing arrangement.

Muhith admitted that some misunderstandings cropped up between Bangladesh government and the WB following the latter's corruption allegation concerning the bridge project in September last year and subsequent suspension and then cancellation of its \$1.2 billion financing.

"The incident has dented mutual trust a bit, which we will have to restore now to make the relationship normal," he said.

Gas Transmission Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level 3-6)

71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

আলানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ

অধিকারী

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ

করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

শিল্প প্রাক্তিক গ্যাস

গ্রহণাত্মক বিকল্প আলানি

IFB No. GTCL/B-D/12(R)

Date: 14 October 2012

Invitation for Re-Bids

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).			
3	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL).			
4	Invitation for	Installation of 36" OD High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Method across rivers under Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project on Design, Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning basis.			
5	Invitation Ref. No.	For Lot-1 GTCL/B-D/12/Lot-1(R), For Lot-2: GTCL/B-D/12/Lot-2(R).			
6	Date	14 October 2012.			
7	Procurement method	ICT; Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
8	Budget and source of funds	The source of public funds is: Petrobangla, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDCL), Sylhet Gas Field Ltd (SGFL), Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd (BGFCL), Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd (JGDSL), Rupnartala Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), Bakhram Gas Distribution Company Ltd (BGDCL) and Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL)'s own sources.			
9	Project name	Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project.			
10	Bid package No.	Not applicable.			
11	Bid package name	Not applicable.			
12	Bid start selling date	Date: 14 October 2012 during office hour.			
13	Bid last selling date	Date: 30 October 2012 during office hour.			
14	Bid closing date and time	Date: 31 October 2012, Time: 11:30hrs (BST) for all Lots.			
15	Bid opening date and time	Lot-1: 12.00hrs (BST) Lot-2: 13.00hrs (BST)			
16	Name & address of the office(s)	Accounts Department, Gas Transmission Company Limited, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-4), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.			
17	Place of receiving bid document	Board Room, Gas Transmission Company Limited, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.			
18	Place of opening bid document	Board Room, Gas Transmission Company Limited, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.			
19	Place/date/time of pre-bid meeting	Pre-bid meeting will not be held.			
20	Experience criteria and eligibility of bidder(s)	Bidders shall have experience of installation of minimum one 500 meter x 30" OD Gas Transmission in a single contract by HDD method on design, procurement, supply, installation, testing & commissioning and turnkey basis. -Detailed eligibility criteria are stated in bid document. -Bidder(s) will be evaluated separately for each Lot and Notification of Award (NoA) would be accordingly made for four separate Lots. -A bidder may participate in one or both Lots. Bidder participating in both Lots must submit along with the bids separate set of documents evidencing their capabilities separately for each Lot as per the requirement of the bidding document in terms of equipment, manpower, average annual turnover etc.			
21	Brief description of works	The scope of work consists of installation of 36" OD x 1000 PSIG high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method across 7 (seven) rivers for each Lot by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method on Design, Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Tie-in with main line pipe of 36" OD X 17.5mm WT API 5LX60 (PSL-2) LSAW with 3LPE/CW pipe on both sides of each river. The name of seven rivers for Lot-1 is Singly, Kushiara-1, Kushiara-2, Dersher, Kalni, Bawli and Gorahotra and their linear bank to bank distance is 45 meter, 82.85 meter, 85.90 meter, 54.85 meter, 250 meter, 150 meter and 300 meter and for Lot-2 the name of seven rivers are Dhanu, Norsunda, Brahmaputra-1, Brahmaputra-2, Shila, Suti and Matikata and their respective distance is 350 meter, 50 meter, 125.87 meter, 130 meter, 85 meter, 97.86 meter and 70 meter.			
22	Price of bid documents (Tk)	Lot-1: Tk 10,000.00 or US\$ 130.00 Lot-2: Tk 10,000.00 or US\$ 130.00			
23	Lot	Identification of the lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in months
1		Installation of 36" OD High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method across Singly, Kushiara-1, Kushiara-2, Dersher, Kalni, Bawli and Gorahotra rivers under Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project on Design, Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning basis	Habiganj and Kishoreganj districts	Tk 1,77,28,000.00 or US\$ 236,520.00	180 days from the effective date
2		Installation of 36" OD High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method across Dhanu, Norsunda, Brahmaputra-1, Brahmaputra-2, Shila, Suti and Matikata rivers under Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project on Design, Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning basis	Kishoreganj and Gazipur districts	Tk 1,82,72,000.00 or US\$ 243,820.00	180 days from the effective date
24	Name of official inviting bid	Engr. Md. Mahmud Khan.			
25	Designation of official inviting bid	Project Director.			
26	Address of official inviting bid	Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project, Gas Transmission Company Limited, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-3), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.			
27	Contact details of official inviting bid	Telephone: 8802 8315616 Fax: 88029358100 E-mail: jbd_gtcl@yahoo.com			
28	If tenders cannot be received and opened due to any unavoidable circumstances or holiday on scheduled date and time, the same shall be received and opened at the same venue and time on the subsequent working day.				
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.				
		Engr. Md. Mahmud Khan Project Director Bibiyana-Dhanua Gas Transmission Pipeline Project			

Gen Harun

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group's 22 top officials including Harun and Rafiqul over Tk 3,285.26 crore laundering.

Yesterday, the HC rejected the bail petitions of Harun, saying that those were not filed following proper legal procedures.

The court also said the petitioner would have to seek bail through filing appeals against the lower court order.

Harun's lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru told The Daily Star that they had already filed two appeals on behalf of his client with the HC for bail yesterday afternoon as per the court's instructions.

The HC bench of Justice A H M S a m u d d i n Choudhury Manik and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Justice Farid Ahmed will hear the appeals today, headed.

On Thursday, a Dhaka court sent Harun to jail in connection with the money laundering cases after rejecting his bail prayer.

Another HC bench yesterday issued a rule upon the ACC and the government to explain in two weeks why a Dhaka court's order that had cancelled bails of five Destiny officials should not be declared void.

On September 12, Judge (i n - c h a r g e) D r Akhtaruzzaman of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka cancelled the bail of

Destiny Group, which started its journey in 2000 through multi-level marketing business with just Tk 12 lakh, ended up with an ACC allegation that its top officials laundered Tk 3,285.26 crore and transferred company funds to personal accounts.

The anomalies first came to light after a Bangladesh Bank probe in March found Destiny's cooperative arm engaged in illegal banking.

Other agencies, including the ACC, cooperatives

department and commerce ministry, also stepped in to look into the matter.

Hours after a Dhaka court

sent Destiny top brass to jail on Thursday, the government announced plans to keep the controversial group's business running by appointing an administrator.

Keeping investors' interests in mind, the government will appoint the administrator within a week after doing away with the current management, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Hussain told journalists on that day.

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