PADMA AWARDS All 3 nominees from W Bengal refuse honour NDTV ONLINE

All three people from West Bengal on the BJP-led government's honour list have refused the Padma awards — a situation deeply embarrassing in a state where the BJP suffered a stunning electoral defeat last year.

Former CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee — an arch critic of PM Narendra Modi — was the first to decline on Tuesday. Since

then, two
eminent
artistes
from
the
state,
tabla
maestro
Pandit
Anindya
Chatterjee

and eminent vocalist Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, have said they too, have turned down the awards, which, meanwhile, have sharpened the rift within the opposition Congress.

Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, the 90-year-old who has a singing career spanning eight decades, refused a Padma Shri — the fourth highest civilian honour — saying it suits a junior artiste and not someone of her stature.

Buddhadeb, who was conferred the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award, issued a statement declining it.

The Congress, meanwhile, stands divided over the Padma Bhushan to senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad. While leaders like Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor have congratulated Azad over the government recognition, senior leader Jairam Ramesh has commended Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's refusal of the award.

"Right thing to do. He wants to be Azad not Ghulam," his tweet read.



An Indian soldier salutes while standing on a vehicle during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India, yesterday. Lumbering tanks and the deafening roar of fighter planes echoed through New Delhi yesterday as India's military showcased its might on Republic Day. The annual January 26 event marks the adoption of India's constitution.

'It's destructive'

Moscow warns against sanctions on Putin; France, Germany join Russia-Ukraine talks

AFP, Moscow

INTERNATIONAL

Russia yesterday hit back at US threats of direct sanctions against President Vladimir Putin, saying moves against the Russian leader would be ineffective and hurt efforts to lower tensions over Ukraine.

Officials from France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine meanwhile started talks in Paris yesterday in the latest bid to ease a crisis sparked by fears that Moscow is preparing an invasion of its pro-Western neighbour.

The West has warned Russia of severe consequences if it does invade, and on Tuesday, Washington said there could be sanctions personally targeting Putin.

Reacting to the news, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the threats as worthless because senior Russian officials are barred from holding assets abroad.

But such a move, he said, would do serious damage to diplomatic efforts to ease ratcheting tensions over Ukraine.

"Politically, it's not painful, it's destructive," Peskov told reporters.

The Kremlin has previously said any US sanctions personally targeting Putin would be akin to crossing a red line, warning the move could result in a rupture of bilateral ties.

US President Joe Biden said Tuesday that any Russian military attack on Ukraine could even "change the world".

Russia is expecting this week to receive written US responses to sweeping security demands Moscow made last year that seek to dramatically limit Nato's reach and capabilities in Eastern Europe and the ex-USSR.

Russia FM Sergei Lavrov yesterday warned in an address to lawmakers that Moscow would take "all necessary measures" if it didn't receive constructive responses and if the West continued its "aggressive policy".

British PM faces moment of truth

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson braced Wednesday for a potentially damning report into lockdown-breaching parties, after the launch of a police inquiry dramatically upped the stakes.

The report from an investigation by senior civil servant Sue Gray is complete, but has not yet been submitted to Downing Street, the government said.

The explosive confirmation that London's Metropolitan Police force has now started its own investigation could complicate the release of Gray's report, but opposition parties insisted on its publication in full.

Otherwise, according to senior Labour MP Chris Bryant on BBC radio, the public will "simply say this is a cover up".

It was unclear whether Downing Street would release the report later yesterday or some other time, with Johnson facing another grilling in parliament at the weekly joust of Prime Minister's Questions from noon. He again yesterday refused to resign as opposition MPs heaped pressure on him.

At least seven backbench Conservative MPs have called publicly for Johnson's resignation. A total of 54 letters are required to trigger a party vote of no confidence.

AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

West links aid to human rights

AFP, Oslo

Western diplomats Tuesday linked humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to an improvement in human rights after meeting a Taliban delegation on a landmark visit to Europe. On the final day of the Taliban's first official trip to Europe since returning to power in August, the fundamentalists held talks behind closed doors with several Western diplomats. The Taliban are seeking international recognition and financial aid. No country has yet recognised the fundamentalist regime. The Taliban delegation, led by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, met senior French foreign ministry official Bertrand Lotholary, Britain's special envoy Nigel Casey, and members of the Norwegian foreign ministry. Western diplomats laid out what they expected from the Taliban during the talks. Apart from seeking guarantees of education for both boys and girls, Norway also called on the Taliban to respect human rights, in particular those of women and minorities.

KSA, Thailand restore diplomatic ties

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and Thailand have announced the resumption of diplomatic ties, after more than three decades of frozen relations linked to the theft of jewels from a Saudi palace. Thai-born janitor Kriangkrai Techamong stole \$20 million worth of precious gems in 1989 from the home of a Saudi prince, triggering a spate of murders in Bangkok and a feud between the countries dubbed the "Blue Diamond Affair". The two countries announced in a joint statement late on Tuesday "the full re-establishment of diplomatic relations" during a visit by Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha to Riyadh. The two countries agreed to appoint ambassadors in the near future.

39 missing after boat capsizes in Florida

AFP, Miami

The US Coast Guard has launched a search for 39 people reported missing when a boat capsized off the coast of Florida in a "suspected human smuggling venture." A survivor said the boat left Bimini in the Bahamas on Saturday night, and had encountered rough weather before it capsized. Human smugglers use the Bahamas as a jumping-off point for transporting people, many from other Caribbean countries to the United States.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Dhaka Zone Office, Allenbari, Dhaka. Phone: 9136138, 01730782592

Email: acedha@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No.35.01.2690.007.07.001.22-378 Request f

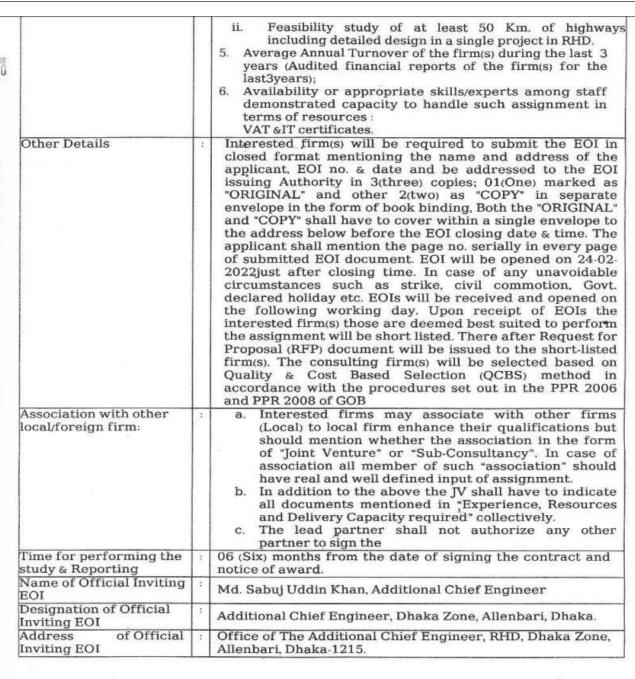
7.07.001.22-378 Date 25-01-2022

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For

Feasibility study of (i) Nayakandi (Sripur)-Chalakchar (Monohardi)-Shakerbazar Road (Z-2122), (ii) Shibpur-Bannerbazar-Palas (Taltali) Road (Z-2036), (iii) Dohar (Bashtala)-Kartikpur-Jhowkanda (Mainut) Road (Z-8207), (iv) Dohař-Kartikpur-Balirtek Road (Z-8209), (v) Kapashia-Pabur-Fuldi-Kaliganj Road (Z-3025), (vi) Lakpur-Kamargaon-Gagutia-Katiadi (Motkhola) Road (Z-2034) and (vii) Keraniganj (Konakhola)-Kholamura-Hazratpur-Itavara-Mirpur (Hemayetpur) Road (Ch. 7+000 to 23+500) = 07(Seven) under Roads & Highways Department, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka. (Approx. length is

Ministry Division		Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Road Transports Highway Division
Agency	:	Roads and Highways Department
Procuring Entity	:	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Allenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
Project Name		Feasibility study of (i) Nayakandi (Sripur)-Chalakchar (Monohardi)-Shakerbazar Road (Z-2122), (ii) Shibpur-Bannerbazar-Palas (Taltali) Road (Z-2036), (iii) Dohar (Bashtala)-Kartikpur-Jhowkanda (Mainut) Road (Z-8207), (iv) Dohar-Kartikpur-Balirtek Road (Z-8209), (v) Kapashia-Pabur-Fuldi-Kaliganj Road (Z-3025), (vi) Lakpur-Kamargaon-Gagutia-Katiadi (Motkhola) Road (Z-2034) and (vii) Keraniganj (Konakhola)-Kholamura-Hazratpur-Itavara-Mirpur (Hemayetpur) Road (Ch. 7+000 to 23+500) = 07(Seven) under Roads & Highways Department, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka. (Approx. length is 121.47 Km.)
EOI for Selection of	:	National Consultant
EOI Ref No.	:	DZ/02/Important District Highways/2021-2022
Date	:	25-01-2022
Procurement Method	:	Quality &Cost Based Selection(QCBS)
Source of Fund	:	GoB
EOI Closings Submission Date s Time	:	With all supporting documents, the EOI must be delivered on or before 24-02-2022; 12.00 AM in sealed envelopes
EOI Submission Place	:	Office of The Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Allenbari, Dhaka-1215.
Brief Description of Assignment and Project Experience, Resources		i. Feasibility study for this road (Approx. length-121.47 Km.) ii. Topographic survey, hydrological survey, sub-soil investigation, classification traffic count survey, O-D survey, travel time survey etc. iii. Preliminary engineering design drawing. iv. Sociological and Environmental study. v. Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) study. vi. Cost estimate of this project. vii. Economic and financial evaluation. viii. 3D image and animation video. Interested Firm(s) must provide information emphasizing
and Delivery Capacity Required		that they are qualified to perform the services (Brochures) registrations. Profile availability of appropriate skills/experts among staff etc. The EOI's will be evaluated on the basis of the following to prepare shortlist: 1. Age of the firms (minimum 8 years); 2. Background of the firm (s) (limited to two pages); 3. Generals experiences of the firm(s) (limited to two pages; 4. Summary of similar projects / services completed in last 5 years with total professional man month. i. Experience in Service lane, drains, footpath, flexible

&rigid pavement etc.



The client shall not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation on delivery of the EOI. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI's without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md Sabu Uddin Khan)
ID No.005032
Additional Chief Engineer (c.c.), RHD
Dhaka Zone, Dhaka.

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