

RECORD HEATWAVE Half of China hit by drought State Council declares \$1.45b subsidy to support rice farmers

AFP, Chongqing A crippling drought exacerbated by a record heatwave has spread across half of China and reached the normally frigid Tibetan Plateau, according to official data released ahead of more searing temperatures yesterday.

The world's second-largest economy has experienced over 70 days of heatwaves, flash floods and droughts -- phenomena that scientists say are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change.

Southern China has recorded its longest continuous period of high temperatures since records began more than 60 years ago, the agriculture ministry said this week. Experts have said the intensity, scope and duration of the heatwave could make it one of the worst recorded in global history.



A chart from the National Climate Centre showed Wednesday that swathes of southern China -- including the Tibetan Plateau -- were experiencing "severe" to "extraordinary" drought conditions.

The worst-affected area -- the Yangtze river basin, stretching from coastal Shanghai to Sichuan province in China's southwest -- is home to over 370 million people and contains several manufacturing hubs including the megacity of Chongqing.

The China Meteorological Administration predicted continued high temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius in Chongqing and the provinces of Sichuan and Zhejiang yesterday.

Parts of southwestern Sichuan were battered by heavy rains overnight, causing the evacuation of almost 30,000 people.

China's State Council on Wednesday announced a 10 billion yuan (\$1.45 billion) subsidy to support rice farmers experiencing drought conditions, which authorities have warned pose a "severe threat" to this year's autumn harvest.

China produces more than 95 percent of the rice, wheat and maize it consumes, but a reduced harvest could mean increased demand for imports in the world's most populous country -- putting further pressure on global supplies already strained by the conflict in Ukraine.



Stranded people wade through a flooded area after heavy monsoon rainfall in Rajanpur district of Punjab province in Pakistan yesterday. Figures from the national disaster agency showed yesterday that 903 people had died in the floods since June, and over 180,000 were forced to flee their rural homes.

PHOTO: AFP

EU NUKE TEXT FOR REVIVAL OF 2015 PACT

Iran reviews US response

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran has received Washington's response to an EU-drafted final offer for saving Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, Iran's foreign ministry said late on Wednesday, giving no firm indication of how close they are to narrowing remaining gaps.

After 16 months of fitful, indirect US-Iran talks, with EU officials shuttling between the sides, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on August 8 the bloc had laid down a final text and expected a response within a "very, very few weeks."

"This evening Iran received the US response through the European Union. The careful review of the response has started in Tehran," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

"Iran will share its view with the EU, as the coordinator of the nuclear talks, upon completion of Tehran's review."

Iran last week responded to the EU's text with "additional views and considerations" while calling on the United States to show flexibility to resolve three remaining issues.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price confirmed that Washington had responded to Tehran's comments on the EU text.

"Our review of those comments has now concluded. We have responded to the EU today," Price said.

Oil prices ended higher on Wednesday after a volatile trading session on concerns that

the United States will not consider additional concessions to Iran in its response to a draft agreement that would restore Tehran's nuclear deal - and potentially the OPEC member's crude exports.

Then-US President Donald Trump reneged on the nuclear deal in 2018, saying it was too soft on Iran, and reimposed harsh sanctions on the Islamic Republic, prompting Tehran to start violating the deal's nuclear curbs a year later.

A revival of the pact appeared close in March before 11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington in Vienna broke down over differences such as Iran's demand that the United States provide guarantees that no future president would exit the agreement as Trump did.

US President Joe Biden cannot provide such ironclad assurances because the deal is a political understanding rather than a legally binding treaty.

A senior US official told Reuters on Monday that Iran has dropped some of its main demands on resurrecting the deal to rein in Tehran's nuclear programme, including its insistence that international inspectors close some probes of its atomic program.

But Iran's nuclear chief, Mohammad Eslami, appeared to contradict that on Wednesday, saying the probes should be closed "before the implementation day" if the 2015 nuclear deal is revived.



Bangladesh's

FROM PAGE 12 in the near-term but faces major ongoing uncertainties to adverse business, financial and economic conditions.

While Bangladesh is weathering a period of heightened external pressure, characterised by an elevated current account deficit and declining foreign exchange reserves, the country's economic growth trajectory remains sound, S&P said.

"We expect external conditions to gradually stabilise over the next 12 months," it said. Subsequently, Bangladesh's outlook remains stable.

The unchanged credit rating has given breathing space to both the central bank and the government, said Md Habibur Rahman, chief economist of Bangladesh Bank.

"This rating has reaffirmed the resilience and strength of Bangladesh's economy," he said.

Had the agency lowered the sovereign ratings for Bangladesh, the country might have faced higher interest rates on foreign loans, said a BB official.

"On top of that, the foreign investors might have shown reluctance to make investments in Bangladesh," he added.

Bangladesh's economic recovery remains on a sound footing, with 7 percent real GDP growth projected over the next three years.

The normalisation of economic activity domestically and abroad is supporting strong momentum in Bangladesh's labour market and export industries, S&P said.

However, new challenges have emerged in the form of the "exceptionally strong domestic demand conditions that are exerting pressure on Bangladesh's external settings".

The ratings on Bangladesh reflect the country's modest per capita income and limited fiscal flexibility owing to a combination of diminished revenue-generation capacity and elevated interest burden.

Evolving administrative and institutional settings represent additional rating constraints.

"We weigh these factors against consistently high economic growth and an external position that's supported by substantive engagement with bilateral and multilateral development partners, large remittances from overseas Bangladeshi workers, and a globally competitive garment sector."

The factors should help to stabilise Bangladesh's broader external conditions over time, assuming a normalisation in domestic demand and global inflation dynamics.

"Modest per capita income, which we estimate at less than \$2,700 for fiscal 2023, remains one of Bangladesh's main rating constraints. This level of per capita income limits the fiscal and monetary flexibility needed to respond to exogenous shocks."

Draft finalised

FROM PAGE 1

Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar rivers.

The meeting also agreed to widen the area of the ongoing cooperation by including eight more rivers for data exchange.

The matter will be further discussed at the JRC Technical Level Committee, likely to be held this year in Dhaka.

Both sides agreed to conduct a feasibility study for optimum utilisation of water received by Bangladesh under the provision of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

"The name of those eight transboundary rivers will be finalised at the next meeting of technical committee. Meanwhile, we will fix the time and details of the joint feasibility study," said a Bangladeshi delegate, preferring anonymity.

Floods, river bank protection works, common basin management, and the Indian River Interlinking Project were also discussed.

The meeting further finalised the design and location of water intake points on the Feni river to meet the drinking water needs of Tripura's Sabroom town.

India was taking 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni river under an interim agreement signed in October 2019.

Prior to this meeting, a secretary-level meeting was held on August 23, 2022.

The Joint Rivers Commission was constituted in 1972 as a bilateral mechanism to address the issues of mutual interest on transboundary rivers.

Request for Expressions of Interest (Firm) International Convention Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ministry/Division: Local Government Division. Agency: Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). Procuring entity name: Project Director, International Convention Centre. Procuring entity code: Not applicable. Procuring entity district: Dhaka. Expression of Interest for: Consulting Firm. Selection of EOI Ref. No.: 46.207.000.12.05.182.2022-01. Date: 23 August, 2022. KEY INFORMATION: Procurement method: QCBS, ICB. FUNDING INFORMATION: Budget and source of funds: Own fund of DSCC. PARTICULAR INFORMATION: Project name: Design of International Convention Centre (Fifty (50)-Storeyed Skyscraper) at Kamrangirchar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. EOI closing date and time: 31 October, 2022 BST 12:00pm. INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT: Brief description of assignment: Planning, Design of Fifty (50)-Storeyed Tower having International Convention Centre (Convention Centre with capacity of 5000 Persons, 3000 Persons and 1000 persons, Seminar Rooms, Multipurpose Hall), Exhibition Halls, 5 Star Hotel, Office Space, Commercial space, Shopping Mall, Condominium, Eateries space (Restaurants, Cafe & Food Courts), Cineplex, Amphitheater, Banquette hall, Observation Deck, Parking facilities at Kamrangirchar to create a state-of-the-art and World Class skyscraper in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The facilities will be designed with sustainable approaches in planning and design, energy conservation, water resource management, solid waste management, efficient land use, eco-friendly building design to create cost-effective and measurable savings for the project. So that the construction will be in accordance with international best practices. Experience, resources and delivery capacity required: Proven experience of satisfactory completion of Project similar to the proposed service in at least 1 (one) number. Association with local firms is: Encouraged as joint venture or sub-consultancy or include in their payroll. Ref Phasing Location Indicative start date Indicative completion date S1 Feasibility Study Dhaka 15 Feb 2023 15 Mar 2023 S2 Preliminary Plan, Design etc. Dhaka 16 Mar 2023 15 Apr 2023 S3 Detail design, specifications, Cost Estimate Dhaka 16 Apr 2023 15 June 2023 S4 Project Proposal Dhaka 15 May 2023 30 Jun 2023 S5 Tender Documents Dhaka 01 Jun 2023 30 June 2023 PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of official inviting: Md. Ashiqur Rahman. Expressions of Interest Designation of official inviting: Project Director, International Convention Centre. Expressions of Interest Address of official inviting: Dhaka South City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban (Level 12, Room No. 1219), Dhaka-1000. Expressions of Interest Contact details of official inviting: Dhaka South City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban (Level 12, Room No. 1219), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: +8802 47120198 E-mail: pdiccdb@gmail.com The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs. ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/৪০/২০২২-২০২৩ Revised version of the advertisement published in The Daily Star on 24.8.22 Md. Ashiqur Rahman Project Director GD-1595

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় নারায়ণগঞ্জ ২য় কোয়ার্টার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২২-২০২৩ তারিখ: ২৪/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ "নারক নং- ৩৫৬১/২১" মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ: স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বিভাগ ০২ সংস্থা/বিভাগ: বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ ০৩ ক্রম/সংজ্ঞাহের প্রকৃতিরকারীর নাম ও রেফা: পুলিশ সুপার, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। ০৪ দরপত্রের আদার নং ও তারিখ: "নারক নং- ৩৫৬১/২১, তারিখ: ২৪/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ। ০৫ দরপত্রের বিবরণ: ২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরের জন্য নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর জন্য ক্রমিক নং-১৬ এর গ্রুপ অনুরোধী মাসালার সরবরাহ। ০৬ ক্রম পদ্ধতি: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) ০৭ বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস: পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার কর্তৃক প্রাপ্ত বাজেট ব্যয় হতে। ০৮ দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেখ তারিখ ও সময়: ১০/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ ০৫.০০ ঘটিকার অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) ০৯ দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১৪/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ১০ দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়: ১৪/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা ১১ দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণের স্থান: ১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, ২। ডিআইজি ঢাকা রোড, ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মুন্সীগঞ্জ রেলোড (৩য়মহল রেশম সান্দ্রী পাওয়া যাবে) ১২ দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা: পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ১৩ দরপত্র দলিল খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা: পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ১৪ দরপত্র দলিল খোলার সময় উপস্থিত: দরপত্রসমূহ/যোগাযোগ/সরবরাহকারী ও প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র ব্যয় খোলা হবে ১৫ দরপত্রসমূহ/যোগাযোগ/সরবরাহকারী যোগাযোগ: দরপত্রসমূহ/যোগাযোগ/সরবরাহকারী ও প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র ব্যয় খোলা হবে। ১৬) ক্রম/শেখ সামগ্রী ক্রয় ১৭) ক্রম/শেখ বিক্রয় ১৮) ক্রম/শেখ বিক্রয় ১৯) বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: ১) উপরে বর্ণিত দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকা, ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার/দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী অনুমোদন দাখিল করতে হবে। ২) দরপত্রের সঠিক সকল কাগজপত্রের ছায়াছবি ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িতপূর্বক দাখিল করতে হবে। সত্যায়িত কাগজপত্র ও দরপত্রের নিয়মাবলী পাঠনে ব্যর্থ হলে কাগজপত্র বাতিলকালে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। দরপত্র অফিসিাল ব্যক্তি কেবল দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন না। ৩) দরপত্র বিক্রয় বা দাখিলের শেখ দিন যদি সরকারী ছুটি থাকে সে ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত দিন বন্ধে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসকে বুঝবে। ২০) কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বদা দরপত্র গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহবে। কোন কারণে প্রদর্শিত ব্যক্তিরকে যে কোন অফিসে সকল দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। গোলাম মোস্তফা রাসেল, পিপিএম-বার বিপি-৭৩০৬১১৭৮০০ পুলিশ সুপার, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ফোন: ৭৬৪৮৪৪৯, ফ্যাক্স: ০২২২৪৪০৮২৪৮ E-mail: spnarayangonj@police.gov.bd জিডি-১৬১১