

Brutal cold grips northeast US  
Lowest ever wind-chill temperature recorded; infant dies in Massachusetts

REUTERS

A dangerous combination of record-setting cold temperatures and powerful winds buffeted the northeastern United States on Saturday, creating life-threatening conditions and causing the death of an infant in Massachusetts.

New Hampshire's Mount Washington overnight recorded a wind chill – a measure of how the combined effect of air and wind feels to the skin – of minus 108 degrees Fahrenheit (-78 Celsius), which appeared to be the lowest ever in the United States. The air temperature at the peak reached minus 47 degrees F (-44 C), with winds gusting near 100 miles per hour (160 kilometers per hour), according to the Mount Washington Observatory.

The high winds brought a tree down onto a car in Southwick, Massachusetts, the Hampden district attorney said in a statement, crushing the vehicle and killing an infant passenger. The driver was transported to a hospital with serious injuries.

In Boston, where officials closed down the public school system on Friday due to the impending freeze, the low temperature hit minus 10 degrees F (-23 C), shattering the day's record set more than a century ago, the NWS said. In Providence, Rhode Island, the mercury dropped to minus 9 degrees F (-23 C), well below the previous all-time low of minus 2 degrees F (-19 C), set in 1918.

The arctic blast flowing into the United States from eastern Canada brought record lows to Albany, New York; Augusta, Maine; Rochester, and Worcester, Massachusetts, among other places, the NWS said.

The NWS office in Caribou, Maine, said it had gotten reports of "frostquakes" – tremors that feel like earthquakes but are caused by the soil cracking suddenly in the cold – as well as trees splitting open, likely due to sap freezing inside the trunks.

Several cities took emergency measures to aid residents, including opening warming centers and conducting outreach to ensure homeless people were sheltered from the brutal cold.



People fight a fire in Puren, Araucania region, Chile on Saturday evening. At least 23 people have died in hundreds of forest fires whipped up amid a blistering heat wave in south central Chile, a senior government official said.

PHOTO: AFP

ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO UKRAINE  
Western arms won't hit Russia  
Says Germany's Scholz referring to consensus with Zelensky

AGENCIES

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky agrees that weapons supplied by the West will not be used to attack Russian territory, Germany's leader said in an interview yesterday.

"There is a consensus on this point," Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in an interview with the weekly Bild am Sonntag.

Ukraine's Western allies have pledged to arm it with precision rockets and missile systems, as well as tanks, as it tries to push back

Russian troops in its east.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has compared the intervention of countries such as Germany with his nation's struggle during World War II, reports AFP.

"Again and again we are forced to repel the aggression of the collective West," he said Thursday on the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory at the Battle of Stalingrad.

But Scholz rejected the comparison. "His words are part of a series of absurd historical comparisons that he uses to justify his attack on Ukraine", he said.

"But nothing justifies this war. "Together with our allies, we are supplying battle tanks to Ukraine so that it can defend itself. We have carefully weighed each delivery of weapons, in close coordination with our allies, starting with America."

He said that such a consensus-based approach "avoids an escalation".

Putin casts the military operation in Ukraine as a fight to "disarm" his neighbour, and defend Russia against an aggressive West. Ukraine and the West call it an illegal war to expand Russian territory.

No chance of debt distress

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instruments, whereas government bonds of similar maturities provide a yield of around 7 percent," the IMF staff report said.

Subsequently, the lender called for continued reforms to align NSC interest rates to market-determined rates and phasing out the interest rate caps.

This would help debt dynamics by lowering the cost of domestic borrowing, improving monetary policy transmission and deepening domestic debt markets, it said.

Going forward, the debt scenario looks comfortable.

"All but one external debt indicators are below their corresponding thresholds under the most extreme shock, despite an initial increase due to large taka depreciation in fiscal 2021-22 and fiscal 2022-23."

The present value of debt-to-exports breaches the threshold under the most extreme shock to exports.

This temporary two-year

breach (starting in 2025) of low magnitude is driven by large export fluctuations during the pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery periods.

"However, a short-lived and small breach, as well as favorable debt dynamics with declining external debt-to-GDP ratio path, supports the use of judgment and deviation from mechanical rating."

Due to large taka depreciation in this fiscal year (around 21 percent), the present value of debt-to-exports and debt service-to-exports ratios are at a higher level compared to the previous DSA.

Both debt service-to-exports and debt service-to-revenue ratios are on a declining trend and remain under the threshold under the most extreme shock of an export shock and a one-time depreciation shock respectively.

"Nevertheless, given the low share of external debt in financing mix, the projected increase in total debt service-to-revenue

ratio could raise external debt rollover risks."

Indicators in percent of revenues are on a rising trend, with debt service-to-revenue ratio increasing from 48.2 percent in fiscal 2022-23 to 65.8 percent in fiscal 2032-33, thus further highlighting the importance of mobilising tax revenue.

In fiscal 2021-22, domestic debt service payments amounted to \$31.9 billion in fiscal 2021-22 (7.5 percent of GDP) while external debt service payments amounted to \$2.1 billion.

"Increasing the revenue-to-GDP ratio beyond the programme period will be critical in providing non-debt financing to growth-enhancing and climate-resilient infrastructure projects."

Overall debt-to-GDP is expected to "increase moderately" to around 42.1 percent by fiscal 2032-33, which is well below the threshold.

Growth is projected to be slower in fiscal 2022-23,

compared to the previous DSA projection, but is expected to exceed the previous growth path in the medium to long term, supported by additional external financing and accelerated reform agenda under the IMF programme and programmes by development partners, including the World Bank.

Risks are tilted to the downside and include intensifying spillovers from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rising commodity prices, a slowdown in major export destinations, elevated defaulted loans and prospective losses from natural disasters.

The authorities remained cautious about contracting external debt, especially commercial debt, the report said.

They underscored that several reforms underway, including domestic revenue mobilisation, public financial management, and public debt management, will help improve the debt dynamic and ensure fiscal and debt sustainability.

Business groups influencing state policies

FROM PAGE 1

"Now, we see capital accumulation by inflating the cost of the state's projects."

Even after that, the noted economist pointed out, elites are not serving their own interest. As a result, an authoritarian system has emerged in the absence of democratic accountability.

Debapriya said the relative autonomy of the state has eroded because of such practices. And now, external agents such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank had imposed the conditions that economists had been advocating for the last five years.

"We are becoming vulnerable to external agents in the absence of relative autonomy of the state."

The present political system is also not aligned with the vision of becoming a developmental state, said Debapriya.

"The allocation for healthcare is far below the allocation for mega projects," he said, citing an example.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan said while many businesspersons

were joining politics, many politicians also saw politics as an entry point to business.

"Such a tendency is visible among politicians from union councils to parliament. Once you get into politics, you can use this as an entry point to business."

Prof Sobhan cited the seven-murder case in Narayanganj against Nur Hossain, a bus helper who made Tk 3 crore a day from the sand trading by joining politics.

He, with the help of some Rab members, carried out the murder to climb up the political ladder.

"If every politician aspires to become a businessman, the consequence is the degeneration of party organisation," said Prof Sobhan.

"This is because they have become financially autonomous. There is no ideology to hold them together."

"So, you now have an aggregation of businessmen who in many ways are competitive. So, the degeneration of party and consequential commercialisation of

the state meant you are functioning a state of anarchy."

Nazrul Islam, the founder of the Bangladesh Environment Network, said the relative autonomy of the state had reduced amid a decline in the inter-class contest in politics.

He said the taka was kept overvalued against foreign currencies owing to the influence of the import lobby. "This has discouraged exports."

Owing to the dollar shortages caused by higher import bills, the central bank has had to adjust the exchange rate abruptly. As a result, the local currency has lost its value by about 25 percent against the US dollar in the past one year.

A similar example is seen in the case of gas exploration, Nazrul said.

"Bangladesh was able to explore gas in only 19 wells in the past 20 years. So, the country has become dependent on LNG because of the influence of the LNG lobby group."

About quick rental power plants, Shapan Adnan, a researcher, said thousands of crores of taka are being

taken from the state coffer through indemnity and financial undertakings.

And this has been done in a way that one can't challenge in courts, he said.

Similarly, the voices and welfare of the working class are becoming absent, the researcher said.

"The working class are not given the scope to play its role. This is alarming."

Mirza M Hassan, a senior research fellow at the Brac Institute of Governance and Development, said certain business groups such as the associations representing bankers and garment exporters were becoming very powerful in changing the policies of the government.

MM Akash, professor of Dhaka University's economics department, said there was no debate that the state was serving the capitalist class.

"Politics is dominated by money, muscle and manipulation. And when politicians, bureaucrats and businesses join hands to manipulate, elections take place even though there is no voter and the cost of a project rises three times."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Directorate General of Health Services  
Management Information System (MIS)  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

Memo No.: DGHS-MIS/e-GP/2022-23/Amendment/2067  
Date: 05/02/2023


**e-Tender Amendment Notice (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)**  
The following amendments are made for Tender ID- 762648 invited in the e-GP System.

Description of Amendments	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	05/02/2023 15:00	16/02/2023 15:00
Eligibility of Consultant	<b>Sl. No.-12:</b> Other requirements are described in the Tender Document <b>Sl. No.-13:</b> Not existed <b>Sl. No.-14:</b> Not existed	<b>Sl. No.-12:</b> Updated BCS/BASIS memberships Certificate <b>Sl. No.-13:</b> Updated ISO 9001 Certificate (Verifiable Online) <b>Sl. No.-14:</b> Other requirements are described in the Tender Document
Opening and Closing Date & Time	05/02/2023 17:00	16/02/2023 17:00
Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	05/02/2023 16:00	16/02/2023 16:00
Brief Description of Goods, Works or Service	Procurement Of Biometric Attendance System	Procurement Of Biometric Attendance System


The other terms and condition of the tender are remaining unchanged.

(Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain)  
Director  
Management Information System (MIS)  
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

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**খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড**  
বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা  
ফোন : ০২-৪৪১১০৯৯০, ০২-৪৪১১০৯৮৭, ০২-৪৭৭৭২০০০৩, ০৪১-২৮৩০৯৮৮  
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**মুজিব ১০০**  
ফরাসি

দরপত্র নং- খুলি/এসি-০৪/২০২৩/ তারিখ জানুয়ারি ২০২৩

**স্থায়ী সম্পদ মূল্যায়ক ও পরামর্শক নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ক। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড (খুলি) এর বর্তমান স্থায়ী সম্পদসমূহের পুনঃ মূল্যায়ন (Fixed Assets Revaluation) করার জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে স্থায়ী সম্পদ মূল্যায়ক প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

১। উল্লেখিত ফার্মকে স্থায়ী সম্পদ মূল্যায়নের কাজে ০৫-০৭ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

২। কার্য সম্পাদনের ভ্রমণ, থাকা-খাওয়া, যাতায়াত এবং অন্যান্য খরচ ফার্মকে বহন করতে হবে।

৩। কার্য সম্পাদনকালে প্রতিষ্ঠানের সকল বিভাগের (বিভাগ, সেকশন, অনুবিভাগ অনুযায়ী) স্থায়ী সম্পদ আইটেম/কোড অনুযায়ী নামাখরি ট্যাগ করতঃ মূল্য নির্ধারণ করতে হবে।

৪। ভ্যাট-ট্যাক্সসহ মূল্য উল্লেখপূর্বক মোট মূল্য নির্ধারণ সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

৫। খুলিলির ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের নিরীক্ষিত আর্থিক প্রতিবেদনে প্রদত্ত পর্যবেক্ষণসমূহ সমাধানের জন্য পরামর্শ প্রদান করতে হবে।

৬। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী নিয়োগ পত্রে উল্লেখ করা হবে।

খ। উক্ত মূল্যায়ন কাজে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ফার্মসমূহকে ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন, টিআইএন ও অভিজ্ঞতা সনদসহ অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যপত্রাদি আপামি ১৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ তারিখ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ (খুলি) এর প্রধান ফটকে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে অথবা ডাক/কুরিয়ার যোগে দরপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। ঐ দিনই দুপুর ১১.৩০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ (খুলি) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

পক্ষে ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর

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