

INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2023

MAGH 27, 1429 BS

The Daily Star

7

EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA

Infrastructure, war to blame for high death toll

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

More than 72 hours since two devastating earthquakes struck northwestern Syria and southern Turkey, civil defence members and rescue teams are still working around the clock in an attempt to rescue people still stuck under the collapsed buildings.

Residential complexes, which were recently built to accommodate those who were forcefully displaced from government-controlled areas of Syria to the opposition-controlled northwest of the country during the now almost 12-year war, were completely destroyed. Older, residential neighbourhoods in Salqin and Harem in the Idlib countryside, as well as al-Atareb and Jenderez in Aleppo were also ruined.

Saria Bitar, a civil engineer and head of Hathi Hayati Volunteering Group in the northern city of Idlib told Al Jazeera that the infrastructure of the buildings in Syria were not equipped to handle earthquakes, especially strong ones. Some structures survived, but those had engineers that supervised the construction and made sure they matched international criteria.

"The first reason for the quick collapse of the buildings in the Idlib and Aleppo countrysides is the violent attacks these cities suffered, with all kinds of heavy weapons over the past 10 years," Bitar said, referring to Syria's war.

Osama al-Yahya is one of the survivors that was rescued from under the rubble of his destroyed house at Jinderes, near Afrin in the Aleppo countryside.

But the 40-year-old refused to stay in the tent and decided to come back to the town to help the civil defence teams and other civilians rescuing families still trapped under the debris.

"The situation is disastrous. Hundreds of families are still stuck and we do not know when we will reach them. I alone was able to take out 23 bodies from under the debris, including my neighbours and friends."

A feeling of helplessness and being let down by the international community has developed, as the families in the area said the world has left them alone in a crisis that countries cannot face alone.



Emergency personnel conduct a rescue operation to save 16-year-old Melda from the rubble of a collapsed building in Hatay, southern Turkey, yesterday. She had been trapped there since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country's south-east early Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

BIDEN ON SPY BALLOON CONTROVERSY

US not seeking conflict with China

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden said Wednesday the United States is not looking for conflict with China despite heightened tensions over last week's downing of a Chinese balloon that US officials say was part of a spy fleet spanning five continents.

"We're going to compete fully with China, but... we're not looking for conflict – and that's been the case so far," he said in a televised interview with PBS.

Pointing to global ramifications of the balloon incident that has

animated the United States, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said earlier that the United States was giving data to allies as it assesses recovered debris.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, speaking separately to reporters on Air Force One, described the balloons as part of a fleet and said they had been spotted around the world for several years.

A huge white balloon carrying sophisticated equipment traversed the continental United States last week before Biden ordered the military to shoot it

down just off the east coast in the Atlantic.

China insists that the balloon was merely conducting weather research, but the Pentagon described it as a high-tech spying operation.

Beijing yesterday condemned Biden's comments that Xi Jinping faced "enormous problems", saying the remarks were "extremely irresponsible".

Beijing confirmed it had refused the offer of a call between the two countries' defence chiefs after Washington shot down the inflatable aircraft.

Turkey, Syria quake could cost \$4b

AFP, Paris

The earthquake that has devastated Turkey and Syria could cause economic losses exceeding \$4 billion, ratings agency Fitch said yesterday.

More than 17,500 people have died so far in the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday.

"Economic losses are hard to estimate as the situation is evolving, but they appear likely to exceed" \$2 billion and could reach \$4 billion "or more", Fitch Ratings said.

Insured losses will be much lower, possibly around \$1 billion, due to low insurance coverage in the area, it added.



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www tcb gov bd



Commercial Section

(a) 11,000,000 (±5%) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil,

(b) 12,500 (±5%) M. Ton White Refined Sugar,

(c) 8,000 (±5%) M. Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil

Notice of Tender for Purchase Tender (International).

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce,		
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.		
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	(a) Refined Soyabean Oil (b) White Refined Sugar (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0000.016.08.042.23.2774, b) 26.05.0000.016.08.042.23.2775, c) 26.05.0000.016.08.042.23.2776		
8	Date	09-02-2023		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11	Package No.	a) TCB/Imp-65/Soyabean Oil/2022-23, b) TCB/Imp-65/Sugar/2022-23 c) TCB/Imp-65/Red Lentil/2022-23		
12	Package Name	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) White Refined Sugar, (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil		
13	Tender Publication Date	10-02-2023		
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	23-03-2023 17:00 P.M		
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	27-03-2023 12:00 P.M		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	27-03-2023 12:15 P.M		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	(1) Somali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
18	Eligibility of Tender	Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.		
19	Brief Description of Import of goods	a) 11,000,000 (±5%) (Eleven Million Plus Minus Five Percent) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle. b) 12,500 (±5%) (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Plus Minus Five Percent) M. Ton White Refined Sugar packed in 50 (Fifty) kg bag. c) 8,000 (±5%) (Eight Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M. Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil packed in 25/50 (Twenty Five/Fifty) kg bag.		
20	Price of Tender Document	Price of (a) Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (b) White Refined Sugar tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) & (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).		
21	Lot / Identification of Lot No / Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (USD/BDT)	Shipment Schedule
21.1	a) Refined Soyabean Oil b) White Refined Sugar c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Previous name Chittagong) by Sea or Benapole/ Bengal Hili/ Darshana/ Sonamajid/ Bhomra/ Teknaf by rail/ truck.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amount to: a) USD 371,900.00 (US Dollar Three Hundred Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred) BDT 3,94,00,000 (BDT Three Crore Ninety Lac) Only b) USD 251,000.00 (US Dollar Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand) or BDT 2,66,00,000 (BDT Two Crore Sixty Six Lac) Only c) USD 146,300.00 (US Dollar One Hundred Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred) or BDT 1,55,00,000 (BDT One Crore Fifty Five Lac) Only in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh and Bank Guarantee from a foreign Bank must be endorsed by any local scheduled Bank. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the similar form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.	Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within (a) 24-06-2023 (b) 24-06-2023 (c) 24-06-2023
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Khandaker Nurul Hoq		
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 02-8180062	Fax No. 880-2-8180057	E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd, tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd
26	Special Instructions:	<p>a. Incomplete, conditional Tender and alternative offer shall not be considered.</p> <p>b. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all Tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.</p> <p>c. Tenderer who was awarded the Notification of Awarded (NOA) earlier but could not submit Performance Security (PS) in due time, will not be eligible for the Tender.</p> <p>d. Tenderer who's Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the Tender.</p>		



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Govt. Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Parbatipur, Dinajpur.
www.led.gov.bd

Memo. No. :- 46.02.2777.000.16.006.23-99

e-Tender Notice : 06/2022-2023

This is Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

Tender ID	Work Description/Package No	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
780455	Construction of Head Teacher room with attached toilet of (1) Chalk Masha GPS (Vertical-1 Room), (2) Ambari GPS (Vertical-1 Room), (3) Moddahpara GPS (Vertical-1 Room), 4) Bashupara GPS (Vertical-1 Room) Under PEDP-4 Upazila: Parbatipur, Dist: Dinajpur. PackageNo-e-Tender/PEDP-4/DIN/PAR/2022-23/W15.0150.	05-Mar-2023 16.00	06-Mar-2023 15.00

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The Fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to Date & Time. Tender Security Submission Date & Time up to 06-Mar/2023 14:30. Further information and Guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md. Ahsan Habib
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Parbatipur, Dinajpur
Email-ue.parpitpur@led.gov.bd
Phone: 0534-74329

GD-237

Proposed rules will infringe on global principles

FROM PAGE 2

the arbiters of lawful expression."

Khan, who serves as the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion, was referring to the draft "Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms 2021".

"The draft regulation uses vague and broadly worded terms that would create legal uncertainty and risk incentivising the removal of legal content," she said.

The special rapporteur expressed concern at the fact that the draft regulation requires "publishers" of online news, curated content or web-based programs (including social media) to register with the BTRC after obtaining a "no objection" certificate from the Ministry of Information.

"I am concerned that the registration process outlined in the draft regulation may not respect the requirements of independence or procedural fairness, and may lead to the stifling of diverse views by the provider in order to avoid suspension or termination of its services by the authorities," said the letter.

The letter noted that according to the 2005 Joint Declaration of the Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression, "no one should be required to register with or obtain permission from any public body to operate an internet service provider, website, blog or other online information dissemination system."

She pointed out that the draft law requires intermediaries to forbid users to "host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share" such prohibited content.

In addition, intermediaries must take down content that violates any law upon receiving a court order or notification by the BTRC or any authorised governmental agency, it added.

Many of the categories of prohibited content in the draft regulation are vaguely defined and therefore would be susceptible to subjective interpretations, stated the letter.

"Such broad and vague definitions [of content categories] as 'racially or ethnically objectionable', 'offensive, false, or threatening and insulting or humiliating' or 'hurts religious values or sentiment' are well beyond the restrictions permitted by international law and likely to result in over-removal of content by intermediaries as well as self-censorship among users, thereby having a direct chilling effect on freedom of expression," the letter said.

It added that information that may be regarded as offensive, false or untrue by some people may be considered legitimate political discourse by others.

She argued that the regulation would give the authority to issue take-down orders to the BTRC and governmental agencies without judicial oversight. Content removal, under international standards, must be undertaken "pursuant to an order by an independent and impartial judicial authority, and in accordance with due process and standards of legality, necessity and legitimacy".

Creating obligations on companies to monitor and quickly remove user-generated content is likely to force intermediaries to comply automatically with all takedown requests irrespective of merit, said the letter.

The UN special rapporteur urged the government to refrain from imposing disproportionate sanctions on intermediaries, particularly criminal liability.