

# Infrastructure, war to blame for high death toll

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.

# US not seeking conflict with China

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


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.



 <b>Biman Flight Catering Centre</b> বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার		
<b>Invitation of International Tender Notice No. 04/2023</b>		
01	Agency	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.
02	Invitation for	a) Procurement of Bakery Equipment. b) Procurement of Hot Kitchen Equipment.
03	Invitation for Ref:	a) 30.34.0000.063.77.004.2022 b) 30.34.0000.063.77.004.2022
04	Tender document selling date	From 12-02-2023 to 14-03-2023 (During office hours).
05	Tender receiving date and time	Date: 15-03-2023 Time: 1200 Hrs BST
06	Tender opening date and time	Date: 15-03-2023 Time: 1500 Hrs BST
07	Selling address of schedule (local)	(i) Address: a. Manager Finance, Biman Flight Catering Centre, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka b. Manager Cash & Banking, Balaka Bhaban, Biman, Bangladesh Airlines, Dhaka.
08	Selling tender document (foreign)	(ii) Address: Manager Finance, Biman at Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, London, Jeddah, Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur.
09	Receiving tender document	a. BFCC Main Security Gate, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka. b. Biman Balaka Bhaban, Security Counter Gate (Ground Floor), Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka.
10	Price of tender document (Tk)	a) USD 20.00 or BDT 2,000.00 (two thousand) only per set (non-refundable) (Bakery equipment). b) USD 20.00 or BDT 2,000.00 (two thousand) only per set (non-refundable) (Kitchen equipment).
11	1) Location	2) Tender security amount (USD/BDT)
	BFCC/Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka	a) USD 3,900.00 or BDT 3,90,000.00 (three lac ninety thousand) only (refundable) (Bakery equipment) b) USD 2,850.00 or BDT 2,85,000.00 (two lac eighty-five thousand) only (refundable) (Hot kitchen equipment)
12	Procuring entity & fund	General Manager, BFCC, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka. Biman/BFCC's own fund.
13	Official inviting tender	General Manager, BFCC, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kumtilla, Dhaka. Phone: 880-2-8901780-64 Ext-30, Fax: 880-2-8901638
14	Tender schedule and other related information will be available in Biman website:	<a href="http://www.biman-airlines.com">www.biman-airlines.com</a> for ready reference.
For-Biman Flight Catering Centre, <b>Manager Store &amp; Purchase, BFCC</b>		

		<b>Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)</b> TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 <a href="http://www.tcb.gov.bd">www.tcb.gov.bd</a> <b>Commercial Section</b>		
(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 <b>Notice of Tender for Purchase Tender (International).</b>				
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		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
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		
		<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	
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)	<b>Address</b>		
- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.		(1) Sonali 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.		
-Receiving Tender Document		In front of TCB's reception (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
- Opening Tender Document		Board Room, TCB.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
18	Eligibility of Tender	Bona-fide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.		
19	Brief Description of goods	Import of 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. Tons White Refined Sugar packed in 50 (Fifty) kg bag. c) 8,000 (±5%) (Eight Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M. Tons 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).		
	Lot Identification of No.	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/ Bangla Hiti/ Darshana/ Sonmashjid/ Rhotma/ Teknaf by rail/ truck.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) USD 371,900.00 (US Dollar Three Hundred Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred) or 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) <b>24-06-2023</b> (b) <b>24-06-2023</b> (c) <b>24-06-2023</b>
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
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. <b>02-8180062</b>	Fax No <b>880-2-8180057</b>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:tcb@tcb.gov.bd">tcb@tcb.gov.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:tcimp@tcb.gov.bd">tcimp@tcb.gov.bd</a>
26	<b>Special Instructions:</b>			
	a. Incomplete, conditional Tender and alternative offer shall not be considered. b. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all Tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. 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 d. Tenderer who's Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the Tender.			

GD-238

(Khandaker Nurul Hoq)  
 Deputy Secretary