

## 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

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### 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		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)		
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		
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) 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.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
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: <a href="mailto:tcb@tcb.gov.bd">tcb@tcb.gov.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd">tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd</a>
26	<b>Special Instructions:</b>	<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](http://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. Package No-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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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GD-237

### MILITARY PARADE

### N Korea unveils 'record' number of ICBMs

AFP, Seoul

North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversaw a major military parade showcasing a record number of nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missiles, state media reported yesterday, including what analysts said was possibly a new solid-fuelled ICBM. The parade on Wednesday to mark the 75th founding anniversary of North Korea's armed forces featured fireworks, military bands and uniformed soldiers marching in unison to spell out "2.8" -- the date of the celebration -- and "75", the official Korean Central News Agency reported. The weapons on show included at least 10 of the North's largest Hwasong-17 ICBMs, as well as vehicles apparently designed to carry a solid-fuelled ICBM. Seoul-based specialist site NK News reported. North Korea has long sought to develop a solid-fuel ICBM because such missiles are easier to store and transport, are more stable and quicker to prepare for launch, and thus harder for the United States to detect and destroy pre-emptively.



### Earthquake in Indonesia's Papua kills 4

AFP, Jayapura

At least four people were killed yesterday when an earthquake struck the capital of Indonesia's breakaway eastern region of Papua and crumpled a waterfront restaurant, officials said. The 5.1-magnitude quake hit around 1.28 pm on land just southwest of Jayapura city at a depth of 22 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. The country's meteorological agency gave a higher magnitude of 5.2 and warned of potential aftershocks. Indonesia experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide. The region affected by Thursday's quake is home to a decades long insurgency waged by rebels seeking independence from Indonesia.

(Khandaker Nurul Hoq)  
Deputy Secretary