

US deploying anti-missile system, troops to Israel

AFP, Washington

The Pentagon said Sunday it will deploy a high-altitude anti-missile system and its US military crew to Israel to help the ally protect itself from potential Iranian missile attacks.

At the direction of US President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin "authorized the deployment of a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery and associated crew of US military personnel to Israel to help bolster Israel's air defenses following Iran's unprecedented attacks against Israel on April 13 and again on October 1," Pentagon press secretary Pat Ryder said in a statement.

US has been privately urging Israel to calibrate its response to avoid a broader war in ME

The United States has been privately urging Israel to calibrate its response to avoid triggering a broader war in the Middle East, officials say, with Biden publicly voicing his opposition to an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear sites and his concerns about a strike on Iran's energy infrastructure.

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, is a critical part of the US military's layered air defense systems and adds to Israel's already formidable anti-missile defenses.

Israel steps up military pressure in north Gaza

10 Palestinians killed, 30 more injured as tank shells hit food distribution centre in Jabalia

REUTERS, Cairo

Palestinian medics said yesterday that at least 10 people were killed and 30 injured by Israeli tank shells that hit a food distribution centre in northern Gaza's Jabalia, with casualties including women and children.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the report. Medics said an Israeli drone had opened fire where dozens of residents had gathered to receive food.

Jabalia has been the focus of an Israeli military offensive for around 10 days. The military completed the encirclement of the historic refugee camp and has sent tanks into the nearby Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun towns, with the declared aim of stamping out Hamas fighters who are trying to regroup there.

The northern part of Gaza, home to well over half the territory's 2.3 million people, was heavily bombed in the first



early months of the war, driven by Israeli evacuation orders and a military ground offensive in their areas, while around 400,000 people remained, according to United Nations estimates.

But months after intense ground fighting there, Israel sent troops back to Jabalia to root out Hamas fighters it said were regrouping for more attacks.

The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said their fighters have been staging attacks against the Israeli forces with anti-tank rockets and mortar

bombs. The health ministry in Gaza said yesterday that at least 42,289 people have been killed in the Israeli offensive that began on October 7, last year. The toll includes 62 deaths in the previous 24 hours.

With the Israeli military calling on Palestinians to evacuate south as they step up pressure on Hamas - and Hamas telling them not to leave because it was too risky - the past few days resemble earlier phases of the war.

▶ Hamas staging attacks against Israeli forces with anti-tank rockets
▶ Death toll in the enclave rises to 42,289

phase of Israel's assault on the territory which began a year ago.

Hundreds of thousands of northern Gaza residents quit their homes in the



People carry their belongings while crossing from Lebanon into Syria on foot at the Masnaa border crossing yesterday, after Israeli strikes had closed off the road to vehicles.

PHOTO: REUTERS

IMAGES OF LIVING THINGS IN AFGHANISTAN

Taliban vow to enforce media ban

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban morality ministry yesterday pledged to implement a law banning news media from publishing images of all living things, with journalists told the rule will be gradually enforced.

It comes after the Taliban government recently announced legislation formalising their strict interpretations of Islamic law that have been imposed since they swept to power in 2021.

"The law applies to all

Afghanistan... and it will be implemented gradually," the spokesman for the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV) Saiful Islam Khyber told AFP, adding that officials would work to persuade people that images of living things are against Islamic law.

"Coercion has no place in the implementation of the law," he said. "It's only advice, and convincing people these things are really contrary to sharia (law) and must be avoided."

The new law detailed several rules for news media, including banning the publication of images of all living things and ordering outlets not to mock or humiliate Islam, or contradict Islamic law.

Aspects of the new law have not yet been strictly enforced. Taliban officials continue to regularly post photos of people on social media.

"Until now, regarding the articles of the law related to media, there are ongoing efforts in many provinces to implement it but that has not started in all provinces," Khyber said.



Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com

Memo No: 53.23.0000.043.03.007.24.6667

Date: 14 October 2024

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Name of the project: Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)

Credit No.: IDA-7300

Assignment Title: Selection of firm for branding activities of the subsectors under SMART project

Reference No. PKSF/SMART/S-08

- The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
 - The consulting services ("the Services") include (but not limited to) suggesting a methodology to identify products with potential for branding, developing and executing a comprehensive marketing and branding strategy for selected products or product line of MEs, supporting to improve product development to meet market demand and eco-label products of MEs as safe, organic, green, agro-ecological, enhancing MEs' competencies in product standardization and support to get the required certification; strengthening the market positioning of MEs' products with effective branding and communication support, tracking the sales of the targeted MEs and measure the outcome of the assignment etc.
- The assignment will require an *estimated of 165 professional staff-months* as per the assignment requirement mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The assignment will require work for 36 (thirty-eight) months. The assignment is expected to be started from May 2025.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the PKSF website (www.pksf.org.bd/tender).
 - The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: General experience (years in business), Experience in similar assignments, Experience of conducting branding and marketing activities at microenterprise-level, and Experience of performing similar assignments under The World Bank/ UN agencies funded projects.

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- Up-to-date relevant registration papers of the firm(s);
 - JV agreement or letter of intent along with the proposed JV agreement (if applicable);
 - Firm's brochure including staffing;
 - Record of relevant experience in last ten (10) years (including name of the assignment, scope, contract amount, name of the client, total input in terms of man-month, period of contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location of the services, name of the development partner etc.)
 - Any other item necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above; Notably, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage;
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2023 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
 - Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint-venture or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. In case of an association, all members of such "association" must have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of 03 (three). Notably, the qualifications of sub-consultants will not be considered in the EOI evaluation and shortlisting process.
 - A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method (Open-International market approach) set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.
 - Further information can be obtained at the address below either by e-mail or in person during office hours: 10:00 to 14:00 hours.
 - Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form (Hard copy along with a soft copy through flash-drive) to the address of the undersigned (in person, or by courier mail) **by 04 November 2024 on or before 13:00 hours** Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).
 - The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin),

Additional Managing Director

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area,

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com



NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.
COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
PABX: 223381901-4, 223383981-2, Ext-117

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

Service Description	Price of the Tender Document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Request for Quotation of Supply, installation, implementation & configuration of Servers, Operating System License, Oracle Database License, Application Load Balancer and SFP Module to NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	October 15, 2024	October 30, 2024	October 30, 2024 on/before 2:00 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President &
Head of Common Services Division