

Washing Machine
Whirlpool
America's No. 1 Home Appliances
TRANSKOM ELECTRONICS
Customer Inquiry : 01712-665463
Corporate Sales Inquiry: 01713-041243-8

Handover of Ctg airport to Thai airline uncertain

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Handover of the management of Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong to a foreign company, which was due today, has now become uncertain as the government is still undecided over the matter on the backdrop of possible opposition by the port city people before general elections.

The Thai Airways is supposed to takeover the management of the second largest international airport of the country for a period of ten years as per an agreement signed on December 1 last year with the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab), the owner and operator of the airport.

The Caab chairman, Air Commodore AKM Harun Chowdhury, however, said the airport's handover is under process and they are ready to give its charge

to the Thai airline company any time, but they are awaiting the nod of the ministry concerned to do so.

Meanwhile, the government sought more time from the Thai Airways to complete the handover process, sources in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said, adding that execution of the contract between the government and the THAI was originally supposed to start in February this year.

According to the air travel business circle, protests from Biman employees, who feared job losses, and Bangladeshi politicians, have caused delay of such handover of the Shah Amanat airport several times.

"The four-party alliance government is reluctant to take a risk before the general election by handing over the airport to a foreign company despite its completion of all necessary formalities nine months back," a Caab official said.

Passing off a long time after inking of the deal, Thailand's national carrier was approaching to file a lawsuit against the Caab for its failure in handing over the management of the airport, but the latest talks between Bangladesh's foreign minister and his Thai counterpart Kantathi Supamongkhon at Dhaka saved the Caab from such lawsuit. The ministerial meeting between the sides reached the decision on handing over the airport on September 1, 2006.

Under the decision taken at the ministerial meeting, THAI will allow Biman to operate ground handling services, cargo and catering for its own aircraft and passengers at Shah Amanat International Airport, while it will operate ground handling and passenger services for other international airlines, especially those from the Middle East countries.

Under the original terms of reference in the 10-year agreement, THAI would have provided all the airport services to the airlines and passengers.

Had THAI taken over the charge to run the Shah Amanat airport, the estimated amount of its earning from fees would have reached US\$9.06 million. The Thai airlines is learnt to have taken up a strategy to manage some of the regional airports as well as small and medium-sized airports in Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, India, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the THAI proposed an increase in the number of flights between Bangkok and Dhaka from seven to 10 per week.

Another source said several airlines from the Middle East, China and even Malaysia are planning to operate through the airport in Chittagong.

Thai experts warn against early take-off for new airport

AFP, Bangkok

Bangkok's much-delayed new international airport is due finally to open next month, but following years of setbacks Thai travel industry experts still question whether it is really ready.

Apichart Sankary, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) whose 200 members toured the site last week, warned the September 28 opening date was too early and risked causing a host of operational problems.

"Don't think it will handle the arrivals. We should wait until Suvarnabhumi is totally ready, then we could open it," said Apichart.

The three-billion-dollar project has become a personal crusade for Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who once camped out on the building site to show his support.

6-day career, education fair kicks off

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A six-day fair on education and career began at Bashundhara Expocentre in Dhaka yesterday.

A total of 60 private universities and educational institutions and related services providers are participating in the fair, organised by Conference and Exhibition Management Services Ltd (Cems). State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon inaugurated the fair as chief guest. K Mahmud Satter, managing director of Eastern Bank, and Meherun N. Islam, managing director of Cems, also spoke at the inauguration programme.

The state minister lauded the role of private sector for the development of education sector.

He also hoped the fair will help students get more information about higher studies.

Representatives of educational institutions from 15 different countries including Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Ireland, Cyprus, Canada, Singapore, the USA, and the UK are participating as showcasing their services in the fair.

Scheduled to end on next Tuesday, the fair remains open from 10am to 5pm everyday with a Tk10 entry fee.

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) is the partner while The Daily Star, the Jugantor and Channel i are the media partners of the event, titled 'EBL 6th Edim Expo 2006'.

DSE turnover hits Tk 80.92cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Turnover on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday reached Tk 80.92 crore, the highest after 1996's bubble and bust.

Earlier on August 21, the DSE witnessed its highest turnover after 1996 with Tk 79.87 crore.

Market analysts said the institutional investors like banks and financial institutions, which play important role in keeping the market vibrant, were more interested in investing money in the market yesterday.

They also attributed the recent upward trends mainly to pre-election buying spree, coupled with a series of positive corporate results.

Besides, they said liquidity situation on the stock market also improved in recent times as the inter-bank call money rate eased, which encouraged the institutional investors including merchant banks to channel their funds to the stock market.

"Fresh funds are coming into the market," said a DSE broker. With the improvement in liquidity situation large investors have become active, he added.

Along with the turnover, the indices also went up. The DSE General Index rose by 21.89 points or 1.39 per cent to close at 1587.07 points while the DSE All Share Price Index increased by 25.52 points or 1.97 per cent to close at 1321.01 points yesterday.

A total of 75,36,261 shares of 199 issues worth Tk 80.92 crore changed hands on the DSE yesterday. Of the issues traded, 122 closed in gains, 56 suffered losses and 21 remained unchanged.

Trading on Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) closed higher yesterday with the gainers dominating the losers.

The CSE All Share Price Index increased by 69.90 points or 1.88 per cent to close at 3783.41 points.

The CSE-30 Index also shot up by 55.21 points or 1.71 per cent to close at 3277.39 points.

A total of 102 issues were traded yesterday. Of them, 69 gained, 24 declined and nine remained unchanged. A total of 3,257,562 shares Tk 17.46 crore changed hands on the bourses.

Trading on both DSE and CSE could not be held Wednesday due to nationwide shutdown, called by the 14-party opposition.

Regional co-op stressed to face Asian financial downturn

AFP, Bangkok

High oil prices and further spikes in US interest rates pose risks for robust Asian economies, a UN report said Thursday, calling for more regional cooperation to weather financial downturns.

Economic fundamentals in the Asia-Pacific have grown strong since the 1997 Asian financial crisis but the region faces risks such as soaring oil prices and rising interest rates in the United States, the world's biggest economy.

"High and rising oil prices are the main threat to the prospects of net oil importing economies in the region," said the report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

"High oil prices have already pushed up inflation in the region and hurt the current accounts balances of oil importers," it said.

The World Bank has forecast East Asia's economy will grow at a slower 6.6 percent in 2006 after 6.8 percent in 2005 due to the impact of high oil prices, which continue to stay above 70 dollars a barrel.

Apart from the oil factor, the UN warned further rises in interest rates in the United States, the eurozone and Japan could trigger a slowdown in the global economy and hurt export-led Asian economies.

Samsung sees higher global handset sales

REUTERS, Cheju, SKorea

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. said on Thursday it sees global mobile phone sales growing faster than expected this year while its own handset sales would meet its target.

"At first we expected some 900 million in sales this year, now it looks like 950 million," Lee Ki-tae, president of Samsung's telecommunication networks business, told a news conference held on the sidelines of the Samsung 4G Forum.

In July, Samsung forecast 910 million unit sales in the global handset market.

Lee said Samsung expected to meet its own mobile phone sales target of 115 million this year "without problem" and its handset business would improve in the second half from the first.

But he admitted the company was losing market share by underperforming rivals. "The most urgent problem is market share," Lee said.

Samsung, trailing Nokia and Motorola Inc. in the handset market, saw its mobile phone sales fall in April-June from the previous quarter as Motorola enjoyed booming sales due to its blockbuster RAZR.

"New models and seasonal demand should help (a recovery), but it won't be enough for Samsung to significantly regain market share against Nokia or Motorola," said Choi Yong-kyu, a fund manager at IBKSG Asset Management.

India to launch industrial research with Japan

PTI, Kuala Lumpur

India will launch a joint initiative with Japan for industrial research and development, aimed at bringing the industries of the two countries together to identify innovation driven projects.

"The Japan-India Initiative for Industrial Research and Development (JIIRD) is a unique concept to be set up by us with the participation of Indian government and its industry and their Japanese counterparts," Minister for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal said Wednesday.

"The industries at both ends will decide what area they wanted to work with and the government would come in with its support and backing," Sibal told reporters here.

The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect at Kuantan, in Pahang State, Tuesday evening. Sibal and his Japanese counterpart Iwao Matsuda met there on the sidelines of the 4th Asean Informal Ministerial Meeting of Science and Technology.

India and Japan are dialogue partners of Asean.

Tourism fair to begin in Dhaka Sept 7

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) will hold a three-day 'Bangladesh Tourism Fair 2006' in Dhaka to give a boost to the tourism industry.

Scheduled to take place at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel between September seven and nine, the fair will remain open to all from 10am to 9pm everyday.

The fair will accumulate local and international tour operators, airlines and bus services, hotel and motel services, travel agencies, river cruise authorities, theme parks, fashion houses and handicraft houses, among others.

BPC, the national tourism organisation of the country, will hold a host of programmes highlighting the fair that include cultural show, leisure show, photography contest, children's painting contest, food festival and fashion parade.

The Daily Star, the daily Jugantor and Channel i are media partners of the event organised by Channel F2 Events, an event management organisation.

All relevant information of the fair is available with the website www.btf2006.com.



State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon inaugurates the six-day fair on education and career at Bashundhara Expocentre in Dhaka yesterday.

career with CROWN CEMENT

Crown Cement is looking for candidates for their associated project near Dhaka City and Head Office in the following posts:

Name of the post	Qualification and Experience
01. Asst. General Manager (Commercial)	MBA/M.Com with 5/7 years working experience in any manufacturing company in the related field and corresponding post. Candidates should have knowledge of good computer literacy and must have good communication skills in English.
02. Project Engineer (Civil)	B.Sc Engineering (Civil) with 5/7 years working experience in related field.
03. Mechanical Engineer	B.Sc Engineering (Mech.) with 5/7 years working experience in related field.
04. Electrical Engineer	B.Sc Engineering (Electrical) with 5/7 years working experience in related field.
05. Sr. Accountant	B.Com/M.Com with 4/5 years working experience in accounting in any manufacturing company. Computer literacy essential.
06. Sr. Marketing Executive (Female)	Honors Graduate in Marketing with minimum 2 years experience in related field.
07. Diploma Engineer	Electrical/Civil/Mechanical with 5/6 years working experience in related field.

Handsome salary & other facilities are available for competent and skillful Candidates.

Apply with detailed C.V. PP size photograph within 10 days to the General manager

M.I. Cement Factory Ltd.
Sena Kalyan Bhaban (18th Floor), Suite # 1801
195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Personal contact is prohibited.

www.crowncement.com

Bangladesh Bank

Common Services Department
Head Office
Dhaka
Website: www.bangladesh-bank.org
www.bangladeshbank.org.bd

Re-Tender No. CSD(EQUIPMENT)69(3)/1594/2006 Dated: 28-08-2006
Re-Tender for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Personal Computers, Dot-Matrix Printers & Off-Line UPS at Head Office of Bangladesh Bank

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide local agents/ suppliers/ dealers/ distributors/retailers and manufacturers for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Personal Computers, Dot-Matrix Printers & Off-Line UPS at Head Office of Bangladesh Bank. Necessary information are given below:

No.	Source of funds	Invitation for Tender No.	Dated
01.	Bangladesh Bank	CSD(EQUIPMENT)69(3)/1594/2006	Dated: 28-08-2006
02.			
03.	Eligibility of tenderers	a) Tenderers or their principals from all countries except Israel having experience in successful supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Personal Computers, Dot-Matrix Printers & Off-Line UPS in any gov./semi-gov./autonomous organisations or registered companies in Bangladesh. b) Tenderers having distributorship/agencyship from reputed Personal Computers, Dot-Matrix Printers & Off-Line UPS manufacturers.	
04.	Name & address of the office selling tender document	Common Services Department (Equipment Section, 6th Floor of 30-Storeyed Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.	
05.	Name & address of the office receiving tenders	Common Services Department (Equipment Section, 6th Floor of 30-Storeyed Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.	
06.	Name & address of the office opening tenders	-do-	
07.	Last date & time for selling tender documents	17-09-2006 up to normal office hours.	
08.	Last date & time for submission of tenders	20-09-2006 on or before 12:00 noon.	
09.	Date & time for tender opening	20-09-2006 at 12:15pm (intending tenderers or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).	
10.	Brief description of the goods and services	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 16 (sixteen) Personal Computers, 12 (twelve) Dot-Matrix Printers & 16 (sixteen) Off-Line UPS at Head Office of Bangladesh Bank.	

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Price of tender documents	Tender security	Time for completion in months
01.	Personal Computers	Tk 750/-	Tender security amount will be Tk 30,000/- (Taka thirty thousand) only.	01 (one) month
02.	Dot-Matrix Printers	-do-	Tender security amount will be Tk 15,000/- (Taka fifteen thousand) only.	01 (one) month
04.	Off-Line UPS	-do-	Tender security amount will be Tk 1,500/- (Taka one thousand five hundred) only.	01 (one) month

Bangladesh Bank reserves the right to accept any tender in full, in part or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Date: 29-8-06
G.D. 2159
AHM Kai-Khasru
General Manager

Good e-governance can help reduce corruption'

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

It will be possible to reduce corruption, improve efficiency and ensure transparency in the administration if there is a good e-governance, observed the principal secretary to the prime minister yesterday.

He also cautioned that the information and communication technology may widen the gap between the rich and the poor unless conscious policy decisions are not taken.

"If we don't take measures to reach the ICT to the poor, the rich will monopolise the ICT and the gap will widen," Dr Kamal Uddin

Saarc chamber to lead business team to WTO in Sept

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) will lead a delegation of business representatives from South Asia to the WTO headquarters in Geneva in September to undertake a stock-taking of the multilateral trade negotiations and flag the concerns of developing countries.

The delegation will meet WTO ambassadors of all Saarc countries posted in Geneva and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy, SCCI President Dasho Ugen Tshup said here on Tuesday.

Addressing a South Asia conference on "WTO and Doha Agenda", he urged developed countries to deliver on their commitments and improve market access and remove all barriers for goods and services of export interest for developing and least developed countries to help successfully conclude the Doha round of talks.

He said SCCI has organised a series of seminars and conferences in Saarc countries to whip up an environment that builds up an understanding of the WTO negotiations.

Siddiqui told a national consultation meeting.

"We are at the rudimentary stage of e-governance and we are implementing a large number of projects to support ICT. But I am not satisfied with the progress. We have to go a long way if we want to establish e-governance in the country," he said.

Siddiqui was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the national consultation meeting on proposed broadband policy jointly organised by the PMO and UNDP at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The dialogue in Dhaka was followed by a series of consultations held in Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong.

Speaking at the event, Renata Lok Dessalieu, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, observed the proposed broadband policy has a far-reaching implication for Bangladesh.

"If used wisely, the connection of Bangladesh with broadband submarine cable should produce technological revolution with far-reaching positive implication," she said.

Poverty in Bangladesh has been slowly and steadily declining by one per cent annually but income inequality between the haves and have-nots has been widening, Dessalieu said adding that disparity creates tension in the society and it is more so in the densely populated Bangladesh.

Miah Mushtaque Ahmed, science and ICT ministry secretary, underscored the need for reducing all sorts of monopoly in the ICT so that the low-income group people gets the benefit.

SM Jahrul Islam, local government division secretary, noted tariff policy should be very carefully examined so that the most people can afford the service.

Experts and ICT professional took part in the discussions in two working sessions pinpointing the shortcomings of the proposed broadband policy.