

Four Consultancy Contracts to Help Bangladesh Diversify its Exports

The Government of Bangladesh is collaborating with private industry groups in preparing a three-year Export Diversification Project which is expected to be supported by a Credit from the World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA). Expressions of interest are invited from qualified firms wishing to bid for any of four contracts to help implement the Project by providing expert advisory, training and other services:

(1) Project Coordination and Development. A central unit will be established under the Ministry of Commerce, with participation by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to help expedite and monitor implementation of Project activities. It will also be charged with:

- developing a strong capability for identifying and analyzing policy, process and infrastructure constraints on export activities,
- advising on the strengthening of relevant institutions in areas such as protection analysis, trade cooperation, and export promotion, and
- helping develop other subprojects to support product and market development.

(2) Matching Grant Facility Management. An MGF is to be established to help "make a market" in export services by providing 50:50 grants for innovative product and market activities by private export firms and service providers. Under the supervision of a Board comprising private and public representatives, a management contractor will be expected to exercise considerable initiative and autonomy in managing the Facility by applying criteria laid down in a Statement of Policies and Operating Procedures. In addition to evaluating applications under the prescribed criteria, the contractor will promote the Facility, assist exporters and industry associations to develop eligible proposals, and help them identify sources of advisory and information services. The firm to be selected to provide a team — comprising international and local managers, short-term expertise and home office technical back-up — should have a strong reputation for integrity in managing this type of Facility.

(3) Protection Analysis and Trade Cooperation. A subproject will be located in the Bangladesh Tariff Commission, but also involving Ministry of Commerce units, to strengthen the Government's capability in the areas of protection analysis, trade cooperation (negotiation and compliance monitoring and support), and information systems to support those activities. The selected firm's consulting team will comprise long- and short-term international and local consultants with strong experience in:

- transferring technology and skills in effective protection analysis at the economy-wide and subsector levels and in conducting hearings and other techniques for tariff and competition policy investigation,
- developing capacity for tracking opportunities and obligations under all WTO and other global trade agreements, as well as regional and bilateral arrangements, to which Bangladesh subscribes, including procedures for invoking safeguards and responding to actions by trading partners, and
- compilation, analysis and electronic processing of trade, industry and other data for monitoring and policy analysis, and of information needed to support the trade cooperation function.

(4) Modernisation of Customs Administration. The Project will include Phase 1 of the Customs component of the Government's comprehensive Revenue Administration Modernisation Programme (RAMP). Specific activities will include: • development of streamlined procedures for the clearance of exports and of imports associated with exports (to pilot such procedures for all imports), • upgrading the present semi-automated system for Customs data to "ASYCUDA++" to handle both present and proposed new procedures, • developing a monitoring system for bonded warehouse transactions to facilitate the use of this facility for most types of export production, • streamlining the schemes operated by the Duty Exemption and Drawback Office to better serve indirect exporters, and • in cooperation with the WCO, assisting staff and taxpayer training, functional reorganisation, and other activities to prepare NBR, Customs and the Bangladesh business community for Phases II and III (i.e. the substantial replacement of transactions-based operations by export tax audits supported by sophisticated modern risk management techniques). Contract staff will comprise long- and short-term international and local consultants with experience in modernising and automating Customs procedures, including the operation of ASYCUDA and the development of human resources in valuation, investigation and audit.

The short-listing, bid-preparation, selection and contracting of lead firms will be conducted under IDA guidelines during September 21-December 6, 1998 — i.e., in advance of effectiveness of the Credit. Local partners or staff may be recruited later by the successful lead firms, and teams should be mobilised in Dhaka soon thereafter. The firm which will be selected for Contract (1) — Project Coordination and Development — may not be associated with firm(s) involved in any of the other three contracts.

Expressions of interest at this stage should be supported by information on relevant international experience of the firm and the individuals whom it would expect to staff the contract if selected. They should be received by 6 pm local time, September 20, 1998. For Contracts (1), (2) and (3), the documents should be addressed to the Export Diversification Project Director (MOC), Room 118, Ministry of Commerce, Secretariat Bhaban 3, Dhaka (Fax 880-2-865741). The expressions for Contract (4) should be addressed to the Export Diversification Project Director (NBR), Room 309, National Board of Revenue, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka (Fax 880-2-836143).

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ADB official calls on Matia

Resident Representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Phiphit Suphaphiphat called on Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury in the city yesterday, reports UNB. During the meeting, they discussed the matters of possible ADB cooperation in the agricultural development and surface water management sectors.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

THREE INDEPENDENT APARTMENTS UNFURNISHED/FURNISHED INCLUDING AIR-COOLER ARE READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION. APARTMENTS MEASURING 2300SFT. HAVE FOUR BED ROOMS WITH ATTACHED BATH, LIVING, DINING, FAMILY SPACE, KITCHEN PLUS MAIDS ROOM WITH BATH, SPACIOUS VERANDA ON SOUTH, TWO CAR PARKS, FULL TIME SECURITY AND EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY. THE COMPLEX IS LOCATED AT GULSHAN - 2 (NEAR AMERICAN CLUB) OVER VIEWING A PARK. IDEAL FOR QUITE AND PEACEFUL LIVING. FOREIGNERS LOOKING FOR ELEGANT RESIDENCE ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT MR. ABDUN NASER MAHMOOD, FAX # 880-2-871536.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সদরঘাট ডাকবাজার নং-এস এ-১০৮০ ঢাকা-১১০০

অফিসে হাজির হওয়ার চূড়ান্ত নির্দেশ

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shilpa Bank. Includes a 'SALE NOTICE' regarding mortgaged assets of M/s Mamtaz Wire Products (Pvt) Ltd. and a detailed 'Mortgage Assets of M/s Mamtaz Wire Products (Pvt) Ltd.' section.

Bangladeshi expatriates send Tk 3,120.62 cr in 7 months

The country has sent 143,231 workers to various countries from January to July and earned foreign currency equivalent to Tk 3,120.62 crore during January-June period this year, reports UNB. This was informed at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Manpower Ministry held at Sangsodhaban yesterday with committee president Abdul Latif Mirza in the chair. The meeting had a detailed discussion on the progress and prospects of manpower export, existing problems and remedies in this sector and formulation of an appropriate policy in this regard. The committee members stressed the need for introduction of a conduct rules for the recruiting agencies, provisions of compensation for the affected workers and stringent measures against the forged agencies. The meeting also underscored the need for finding out new labour markets and imparting technical and language training to the workers according to the need of the employers. Committee members Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan, Shahjahan Khan, Afzar Uddin Ahmed Khan, Fazlur Rahman Khan, Noor Mohammad Mondal, Syed Wahidul Alam and Alamgir Haider Khan attended the meeting. Secretary of the Ministry M Ahsan Ali Sarker and concerned officials were present.

What's on today...

- Film show:** As part of a retrospective of films by Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Sardari Begum'. Venue: Indian High Commission Auditorium, Rd. 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.
- Workshop:** The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and World Bank have jointly organised a day-long Internet information service awareness workshop on 'Electronic information networking and year 2000 demands'. Venue: DCCI auditorium, 65-66, Motijheel C/A (5th Floor). Time: 10 am.
- Seminar:** DRIK Picture Library Limited has arranged a seminar on 'computer activities and gender representation'. Keynote speaker: Dr. Justine Cassell, chief of the Gesture and Narrative Language Research Group, MIT, USA. Venue: DRIK Picture Library, Rd. 15/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm.
- Meeting:** A meeting of 'Bangabir Osman Smriti Parishad' will be held. Venue: Pubali Bank auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 11:30 am.
- Seminar:** An international seminar on 'Geosynthetics Engineering', jointly organised by the DIRD Private Ltd, Bangladesh and Polyfelt Ges mbH Austria, will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9 am.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

SAFA confce in city on Aug 22-23 N'ganj dam still under threat

The 13th conference of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), a constituent part of SAARC, will be held in the city on August 22-23, reports UNB. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the conference at Hotel Sonargaon at 4 pm on Saturday. The theme of the conference is 'Accounting Profession's Response to the Challenges of the New Millennium'.

About 500 members of the professional accounting bodies, including delegates from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh will participate in the conference. About 100 cracks have developed on the embankment, posing threat to some 1300 hectares of area where 1.5 lakh people reside and some 500 industries of different sizes are located. Meanwhile, WDB has deployed two persons for every one kilometre of the dam to keep vigil whether any crack or seepage line develops on the dam.

Six camps have also been set up to monitor and supervise the activities to protect the dam. The cracks developed on the dam at Jatramura, Gokandail, Parabo, Jаланagar, Hatabo, Ganganagar, Gandhabpur and Kandapara, sources added.

Ministers visit flood-hit areas

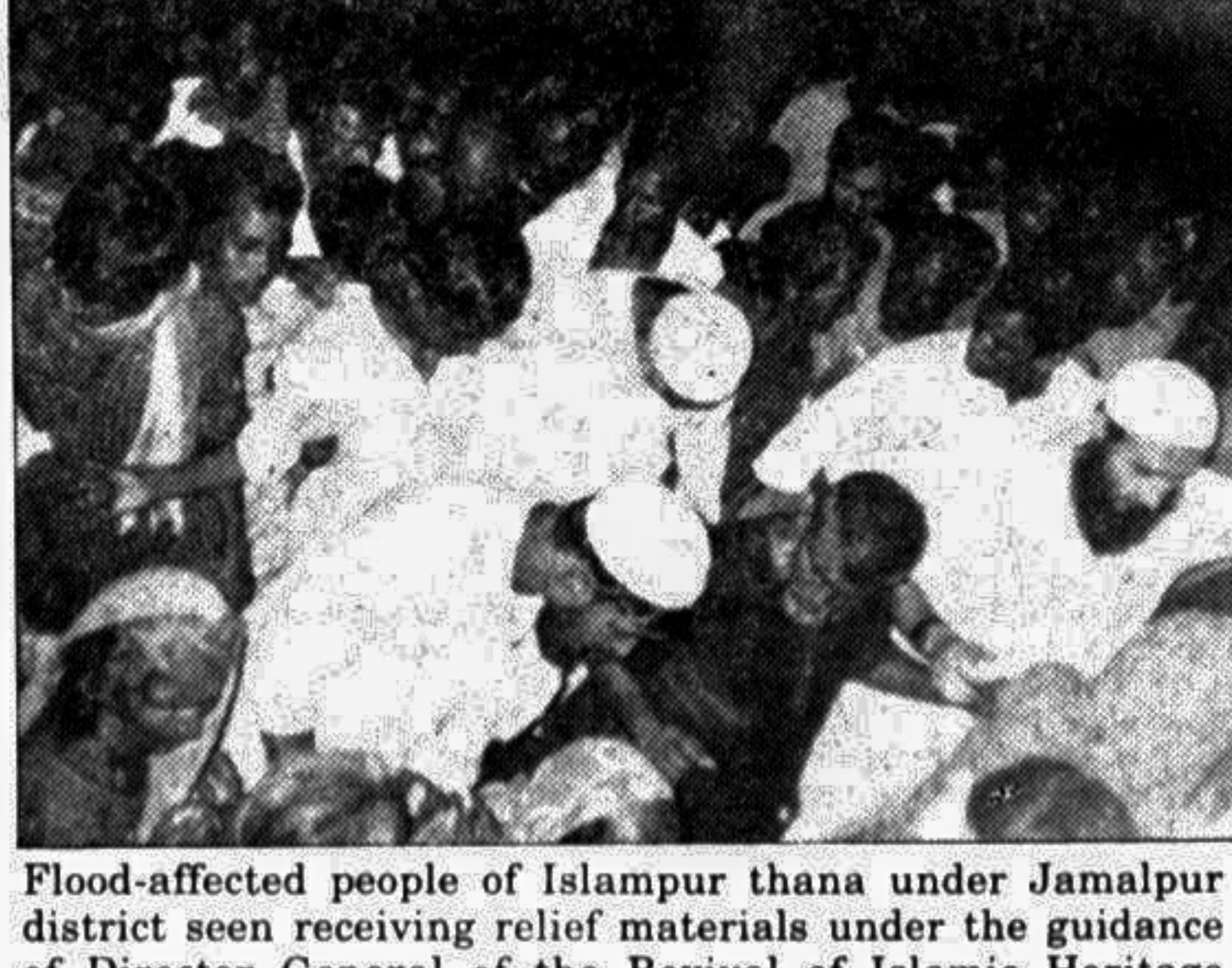
Ministers yesterday visited different flood-hit areas and distributed relief materials among marooned people, reports BSS. Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif yesterday visited flood affected East Rampura, Basaboo and Madarek areas in the city and distributed relief materials. Addressing the marooned people, the Mayor of Dhaka said the government was working round-the-clock to face the flood situation in the country.

Mohammad Hanif said Dhaka City Corporation had already distributed Taka 6 lakhs in cash and 115 metric tons of rice, 100 metric tons of wheat, dry foods, saline and water purifying tablets among the marooned people in the city. Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury accompanied the mayor. Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday visited Agargaon area in the city and distributed relief materials which included rice, biscuits, saline, sarees and lungies. Local MP Alhaj Mukbul Hossain was present.

State minister for Land Rashed Mosharrar visited Ashkona areas near the city and distributed relief goods. State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader visited different flood affected areas of Demra in the city and distributed relief materials. Local MP Habibur Rahman Mollah accompanied him.

RIHS distributes relief among flood-hit people

Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, a Kuwait-based NGO, has started relief distribution programmes for the flood affected people of Bangladesh. RIHS distributed relief materials containing food, medicine, ORS, etc and cash Taka 100 for each family at the third time to the flood-affected. About 1600 families of 10 villages under Islampur thana of Jamalpur district received relief materials on August 11 under the guidance of Engineer Ahmed Oihman Hagres, Director General of RIHS in Bangladesh.



Flood-affected people of Islampur thana under Jamalpur district seen receiving relief materials under the guidance of Director General of the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS), Bangladesh, recently.

Trawler with 11 deer seized

The Sundarbans Forest Division seized a trawler with 11 deer, including two dead, from the river Baleswari under Sarankhola range on Monday, reports UNB. The deer were being trafficked through the river, said a PID handout. The traffickers left the trawler when a patrol team of the Forest Division challenged them on suspicion. Some 23 deer were recovered from the Sundarbans range and 13 people were arrested in these connections during the last two years. The government has imposed ban on hunting of all types of wild animals and birds for five years to protect ecological balance through preserving bio-diversity.

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European Union Funded BWDB Systems Rehabilitation Project, ALA/89/06 Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Amendment Notice

It is hereby notified for information that tender invited from this office dated 17 August 1998 will bear the following amendment: Closing date for receipt of the tender: 03 September at 15:00 hours local time. Opening of the tenders will take place in the same place on 03 September at 15:30 hours local time. Team Leader BWDB, SRP-CTE

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