

## Japan's current account surplus rises in March

TOKYO, May 15: Japan's broadest measure of trade fell 16.8 per cent in the fiscal year through March 31, but rose 25 per cent in March from the same month last year, the government announced Monday, says AP.

In fiscal 1999, the current account surplus fell to 12,621 trillion yen (\$116.04 billion) compared to the earlier year, the Finance Ministry said.

The current account surplus rose to 1,298 trillion yen (\$11.9 billion) in March, measured before adjustment for seasonal factors, the ministry said.

The current account measures trade in merchandise, services, tourism and investment. It is calculated by determining the difference between Japan's income from foreign sources against payments on foreign obligations. It excludes net capital investment.

A huge surplus has been a constant source of friction with the United States and other trading partners. They have been urging Japan to boost its economy to stimulate imports. Japan is struggling to emerge from its worst economic downturn in 50 years.

# WTO blasts critics seeking its end

Members' support discredit cynics, says annual report

GENEVA, May 15: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) today lashed out at critics demanding its abolition, saying they had become discredited as member countries showed they wanted to move on to new agreements, report Reuters.

But in its annual report, the body also cast doubt on prospects for the early launch of a new global round of trade liberalisation negotiations, asserting that there could be no shortcuts to such a major undertaking.

The comments came in an unusually blunt introduction to the report, compiled by the five-and-a-half-year-old WTO's permanent secretariat, which confirmed figures released last month showing world goods trade grew by 4.5 per cent in 1999.

The report said "catastrophic" suggestions that it could not survive in the wake of the failure of a WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle — where there were mass demonstrations against the body — had now been debunked.

"The WTO is not lost, and it

is not discredited," the unsigned editorial introduction declared.

"On the contrary, it is the more extreme critics who are becoming discredited as member countries showed they wanted to move on to new agreements," the editorial said.

Developing countries, who make up over two-thirds of the WTO membership and account for nearly all of the 30 countries queuing up to join, argue that although its functioning needs to be improved the rules it administers are vital to them.

"Despite the setback of Seattle," the WTO report said, "The unilateral trading system is con-

tinuing ... to deliver a vital contribution to economic growth and stable economic relations among its members at all levels of development."

The editorial said the existence of the system and the rules played a crucial part in enabling Asia to recover quickly from the region's 1997 financial crisis by boosting trade.

"The WTO has been portrayed by critics as the powerhouse of globalisation, seen as a malign force or even a conspiracy," the editorial declared in a reference to attacks from many environmental and development groups.

But it added, "Globalisation

is not a programme or an agenda" and was simply the latest in several periods throughout history marked by rapid erosion of national barriers to economic activity and contact between peoples.

However, widespread public confusion and apprehension about the process "call for a positive agenda from governments and international organisations if they are to forestall a populist and protectionist backlash," the WTO report declared.

This is where the WTO has its real relevance to globalisation, not as its sinister architect but as a forum for negotiating rules to help guide it."

## DCCI calls for more Chinese import from Bangladesh

A Chinese delegation led by MT Chen held a business meeting with the Board of Directors and members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at DCCI auditorium in the city yesterday, says a press release.

During the meeting, DCCI Vice-President Golam Mustafa said the Chinese investors would get all possible help in setting up joint ventures in their sectors of interest like plastic, electronics and garment accessories.

He narrated various incentives offered to the foreign investors in the declared Industrial Policy in this regard.

Mustafa stated that the existing bilateral trade is in favour of China and called for importing more products from Bangladesh.

The Chinese business leader, MT Chen said he is representing 200 small and medium sized entrepreneurs from the eastern part of China. He said that the team had come to Bangladesh to explore scopes for joint collaborations in the fields of machinery and product development.

Among others, DCCI Director Moazzam Hossain, past Directors Ashraf Ibd Noor, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Omar Faruque and Nazimuddin Ahmed participated in the business meeting.



Vice-President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Muhammad Golam Mustafa holds a meeting with a Chinese delegation led by MT Chen at the DCCI auditorium Sunday. Members of the DCCI Board of Directors Mohammed Mazharul Islam, Sayeedur Rahman and Arshad Ali were present in the meeting.

— DCCI photo

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Ministry of Planning

#### Close Observation Implementation and Evaluation Division

##### Evaluation Unit

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Date 24-1-1407 Bang, 7-5-2000

## Tender Notice

A jeep with 7-9 seats and 5-door of minimum 2600 CC will be purchased for a project titled 'Evaluation of Sixteen Selected Projects managed under Close Observation Implementation and Evaluation Division. Interested manufacturers/ bonafide suppliers establishments are requested to submit tenders in sealed envelopes under the undermentioned terms and conditions by procuring schedule of tenders from the undersigned.

### Terms and conditions:

- 1) Tenders will have to be reached the office of the undersigned by 12:00 Noon on 22-5-2000 and will be opened the same day before tenderers (if anyone remains present).
- 2) Bank Draft/Pay Order for 2.50% of the total cost (refundable) in favour of the undersigned will have to be deposited with tender.
- 3) The jeep will have to be delivered within 7 (seven) days of receiving work order.

DFP-11309-10/5 Dr Muhammad Bazlur Rahman

Project Director.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Engineer

Facilities Department, Ministry of Education, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka

## Tender Notice

No 02/FD/DZ/Pry/Developments/99-2000 Dated: 27/4/2000

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the A-1 class contractor enlisted with Facilities Department for the work of repair and renovation on monthly basis for a period of one year for servicing of 2 (two) lifts at the head office of the Primary Education Directorate under "IDA-aided Project for Development of Primary Education in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna Division."

Estimated cost, time limit for work, cost of tender documents and other terms and conditions will be available in the tender document.

1) Tender documents can be purchased till 22/5/2000 during office hours from the offices of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Mymensingh/Kishoreganj/Tangail/Faridpur/Madaripur/Narayanganj/Savar Zone including the office of the Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Education, Building No. 6, Floor No-1719, Room No-1711, Bangladesh Secretariat along with the office of the undersigned on payment of specific fee (non-refundable) during office hours.

2) Tenders will be received till 1-30 PM on 23/5/2000 in the tender boxes kept at the offices mentioned and will be opened simultaneously on the same day at 2:00 PM before tenderer or their nominated representatives (if any one remains present.)

3) Copies (attested) of enlistment register of contractor (renewed up-to-date), VAT and income tax registration will have to be enclosed with tender, otherwise tender will be treated as outright rejected.

4) Earnest money at the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost as the security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the "Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka" will have to be submitted by the contractor with tender.

If the rate submitted is below the estimated cost then at the rate of 10% (ten per cent) of the quoted cost in the form of Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank as the advance security in favour of the "Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka" will have to be submitted with tender, otherwise tenders will be treated as outright rejected.

5) Work order, certificate for completion of work (the name of certificate issuing official, seal and memo number of the office will have to be there as the evidence of experience for completion of the type of work earlier.)

6) Anyone who will be selected for repair and servicing of life, he must give guarantee of the work of repairing for a period of 1 (one) year and he will have to pay as fine at the rate of an amount of Taka 200 (two hundred) per day if the lift remains inoperative due to fault in repair during office hours from the day of work order.

7) Tenders submitted will be treated as outright rejected if the rate is submitted more than below 5% (five per cent) of the estimated cost.

8) VAT and income tax will be deducted from the bill as per government rule.

9) Necessary papers with appropriate evidence as per requirement of the eligibility evaluation form will have to be enclosed with tender. Tenders will be treated as outright rejected if any wrong information is given.

10) Certificate of TIN will have to be enclosed with tender.

The authority reserves the absolute power to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-11312-10/5

G-908

Executive Engineer  
Facilities Department  
Dhaka Zone, Dhaka

DFP-11589-11/5

G-910

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Director

#### Greater Dhaka Transport Planning & Co-ordination Board

Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Dhaka

Tenders in sealed envelopes in prescribed form under the following terms and conditions are hereby invited from bonafide manufacturer establishment/supplier agents for supplying Furniture and split type Air Cooler as mentioned in schedule for Greater Dhaka Transport Planning & Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB).

Details of Retender

1. Place where schedule with detailed description will be available

2. Last date of selling tender schedule

3. Last time of depositing tender schedule

4. Date and time of opening : 29-05-2000 at 12-30 PM (in presence of tenderers, if anyone remains present).

5. Description of furniture and split type air cooler as mentioned in schedule:

Serial No. Description Security money Cost of schedule Time fixed for supply

1) Superior quality steel furniture for use in the office of the GDTPCB (as per list stated in the schedule).

2) 3 brand new Split-type Air Cooler (as per list stated in schedule) for use in the conference room of the office of the GDTPCB.

Latest model: One-no. of condensing unit with a/c no. of cooling unit of 24,000 BTU/Hr. capacity (USA, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy origin).

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

2.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.

500/- taka.

Within 7 (seven) days from the date of acceptance of tender.

3.50% of the quoted cost.