



Visitors admiring a calligraphy composition on display at the solo calligraphy exhibition of Arifur Rahman at the National Museum yesterday. — Star photo

Drug price should be de-regulated, but without making any compromise on quality

Speakers at roundtable on drug pricing

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable discussion meeting said that the pricing of the locally manufactured drugs in the country lacks synchronisation and there is no justification of price regulation in the globalised free-market economy.

Speakers at the roundtable on 'Drug Pricing: Situation in Bangladesh and People's Stand,' argued that the pharmaceutical companies are operating a monopoly trade by taking advantage of the regulated price list of drugs enforced by the current 1982 Drug Control Ordinance.

They said that by and large it is noticed that there is no transparency in import of the raw materials of drugs and dissemination of the manufactured products.

Some speakers strongly felt that there should be no compromise in ensuring the quality of drugs to reduce its price. Speaking on quality improvement of drugs, a speaker

said, "There should be no difference in quality of drugs manufactured either in USA or in Bangladesh because it involves the same human being all over the world."

Other speakers were highly critical of price regulation of 'essential drugs.' They asked, what is the justification behind classification of 'essential' and 'non-essential' drugs?

Kazi Shahidul Alam, Director of 300-bed Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital said, "Most of the drugs have no efficacy and the 1982 Drug Control Policy is nothing but an eye-wash."

Referring to price control of the 117 'essential drugs,' Barrister M Jahir asked, "Why all drug should not be under the control? After all, it's a matter of public health."

Referring to global open-market system, Prof Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University said, "We should see drug as a product and not

merely as drug. And in the context of global open-market system we should de-regulate prices of drugs and give the pharmaceutical companies scope to practice free-market system."

Editor of Financial Express Moazzem Hossain referring to enforcement of drug prices, said, "Who can guarantee enforcement of prices. It is simply not practical. We should, rather, strongly focus on improving quality of drugs and strictly enforce it."

Others who also spoke were Dr Humayun Hye, former health consultant of World Bank, Mohammad Samad of Dhaka University, Mosharraf Hossain MP and Col (ret'd) Shaukat Ali, MP.

Dr Quasem Chowdhury of Health Action Forum, the organising body, moderated the roundtable. The roundtable was held at the National Press Club yesterday.

Metropolitan

All measures to protect interest of investors to be taken: Jalil

SAVAR (Dhaka), June 3: Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil today said the government will take all possible measures to protect the interest of investors as well as workers through upholding the national interest, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting of the investors in export processing zone areas at Dhaka EPZ the minister said the government has been providing special incentive to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

The minister said the government is determined to ensure the right of workers along the interest of investors. Industrial production must be increased through maintaining good relations between management and workers, he added.

Some investors of EPZ areas and Executive Chairman of

Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) Brig M A B Siddiq also spoke at the meeting.

Referring to the contribution of EPZs in attracting investment, the minister said the government is setting up several other EPZs and industrial parks at different places of the country to attract more FDI.

Some investors referred to the existing congenial investment friendly environment in EPZs and urged the government to maintain it. Workers and employees of EPZs are getting better benefit in comparison to areas and the BEPZA is always monitoring their welfare, they added.

Earlier, the minister visited Yangon High Tech Sportsware Industries Ltd in DEPZ and expressed his satisfaction over the factory management.

Hunger strike demanding repeal of Enemy (vested) Property Act

The leaders of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Pujya Udayan Parishad have called upon all concerned to join a countrywide hunger strike tomorrow demanding repeal of the Vested (Enemy) Property Act in the coming session of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

In a statement, the leaders termed the Act as contradictory to the spirit of the War of Liberation and constitution of the country and said if this Act was not repealed it would hinder national unity and development.

They have threatened to go for a tougher action programme in future if the Act is not abolished.

Selim to attend Global Confce on Health Promotion

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim left the city yesterday for Mexico to attend the Global Conference on Health Promotion, scheduled to begin on June 5, reports UNB.

Health Minister of the government of Mexico in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) organised the conference, which will be attended by the Health Ministers of 21 developing countries.

The Health Minister is expected to return home on June 10, said an official handout.

CPB suggests more allocations for slum dwellers in DCC budget

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has pleaded increased allocations for the slum dwellers and the working class people in the upcoming budget of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), reports BSS.

It has stressed that the thrust of the budget has to be on the measures to turn the Dhaka city into a terrorism-free, pollution free, where the poor and the have-nots would get the benefits of social justice and democratic culture.

At a rally on Friday presided over by the city chief of the CPB Ashraf Hossain Ashu, the speakers called for drastic change in the present Mayor-oriented administrative system by ensuring participation of people in the whole functioning pattern.

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Participants at a roundtable on highrise building in Dhaka city organised by Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

Pollutants threatening marine ecosystem in Chittagong

Environmentalists warn at seminar

CHITTAGONG, June 3: Around 1300 tons of toxic solid and liquid waste, discharged from the port city each day in absence of sewerage system, fall into the Bay of Bengal through the river Karnaphuli causing serious threat to the existence of marine fish resources, reports BSS.

The massive pollution coupled with industrial effluent, spilling of oil and dumping of the rotten goods from vessels deteriorate the marine ecosystem and also threaten the zoo plankton and phyto-plankton. It was revealed by the environmental experts, city planners and high officials at a seminar held in the city on Friday.

They said that such pollution of the marine water is also endangering the usage of 'surface water,' the main source of sweet water for the city people.

Organised by the Chittagong Environment Journalists' Unit (CEJU) the seminar on 'Environment of Chittagong and what to be done' was attended by Mayor of Chittagong A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury

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Bangladesh Power Development Board Tender Notice

রাত ১১টা থেকে তোর ডটার মধ্যে স্টেচ পাস্প চালান

Sealed tenders are invited wide Tender Notice No CERS/A-7/2000/730 dt. 14-5-2000 from PDB's 'C' & 'D' class enlisted contractors/bonafide suppliers for supply of materials to repair transformer at CERS, PDB, Tongi office. Estimated cost of which is Tk 69,820/- only. Tender document/schedule will be available from the office of Superintending Engineer, CERS, PDB, Tongi & Chief Engineer (Services), PDB, Biddut Bhaban, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka against Bank Draft/Pay Order for Tk 100/- per set (non-refundable) in favour of ZAO (A&CO), PDB, Dhaka up to 13-6-2000. Earnest money at the rate 5% (five per cent) of quoted amount should be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Deputy Director, ZAO (A&CO), PDB, Dhaka. Tenders will be received at the above two offices up to 12-00 Noon of 14-6-2000 and opened on the same day at 12-30 PM at both the offices in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their nominated representatives.

Executive Engineer CERS, PDB, Tongi, Gazipur.

Biddut/Jana 2/62/399-2000 DFP-13433-29/5 G-1072

as the chief guest. Superintending Engineer of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin presented keynote speech in the seminar, presided over by (CEJU) president M Nasirul Haq.

Speaking on the occasion, the mayor advocated for planned development of the city in order to protect the ecological balance.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police A F M Ahmedul Haq Chowdhury said around 55,000 motorised vehicles ply in the city of which 16,000 tempo and auto-rickshaws are solely responsible for the discharge of black smoke causing air pollution.

The CMP commissioner quoted a recent survey and dis-

closed that the traffic police posted in the road are the worst affected of this dangerous air pollution and added that around 98 per cent sergeants die of asthma and chest disease.

Participating in the seminar, chairman of the CDA Col M M K Z Jalalabadi said, Chittagong is blessed with hills and sea and he pleaded for stop of felling of trees, cutting of hills, and preservation of ponds, and other wetlands for maintaining the ecological balance.

Chairman of the Chittagong WASA Capt. M Jakaria underscored the importance of using surface water to meet the demand of the drinking water of the masses instead of the growing trend of using underground one which he described as a threat to environment.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Narayanganj Road Division Shimrail, Narayanganj

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

1. Tender notice no : 130/Narayanganj Road Division. Year 1999-2000.
2. Name of work : Repairing work with supply of spare parts for JM Roller No-013 under Narayanganj Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.
3. Estimated cost : Taka 86,980/-
4. Earnest money : Taka 1,740/- In the form of Bank Draft/Treasury Challan/Protirakha Sanchaya Patra/5-year term Bangladesh Sanchaya Patra and Bonus Sanchaya Patra in favour of undersigned.
5. Time allowed for work : 10 (ten) days from the date of issue of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor : "A to E" general class.
7. Offices where tenders will be available : Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Dhaka/Monikganj/Munshiganj/Gazipur/Narsingdi/Narayanganj and Sub-divisional Engineer (R&H) Vitikandi/Narayanganj Road Sub-division-1/2.
8. Offices where tenders will be received : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj Road Division Shimrail, Narayanganj.
9. Last date and time of selling tender : 12-6-2000 till office hours.
10. Date and time of receiving tender : 13-6-2000 at 12-30 PM.
11. Date and time of opening tender : 14-6-2000 at 1-00 PM office of the Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj.
12. Date and time of lottery : 18-6-2000 at 1-00 PM.
13. Official to approve estimate : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka.
14. Head of expenditure : 168-Repair.
15. Cost of tender : Taka 250/- per set (non-refundable).

Md Abdul Muktedir Executive Engineer, R&H Narayanganj, Road Division

DFP-13708-31/5 G-1069

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Re-Tender Notice

No. DACPM/90-01/2000 Dry Lease of DC-10-30

Biman Bangladesh Airlines invites offers (tenders) for dry lease of one DC10-30 Aircraft for 3 years with specifications as given in the tender schedule, to be delivered in Biman Bangladesh Airlines' livery at Dhaka at the earliest. Tender to be submitted based on the terms and conditions as detailed in the tender schedule.

2. Airlines/Operators/Owners of Aircraft/Leasing Company having Aircraft of its own can only participate in the tender. Biman will not deal with any agents/brokers during the process of evaluation and finalization of the lease contract.

3. The basic requirement for the leased aircraft as per the tender schedule will be as under:

- (a) DC10-30 Aircraft.
- (i) Year of manufacture must not be earlier than calendar year 1978.
- (ii) Configuration: 30 Business, 244 Economy Class seats, Total 274 seats (Minimum)
- (iii) Engine: GE CF 6-50C2
4. The offer should be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes, one for technical specifications and another for financial offer, addressed to the General Manager Planning, Bangladesh Biman, Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh latest by 1200 hrs BST (0600hrs UTC) on or before 20 June 2000 and same shall be opened immediately after closing time in presence of bidders if any. Offers/bids can also be submitted through DHL/Courier Service on or before the closing date.
5. Tender schedule containing detailed specifications and terms and conditions will be available in Biman Head Office, Balaka, ZIA, Dhaka and in Foreign Stations of Biman on all working days during office hours from 3rd June, 2000 on payment of USD 100 (one hundred) or equivalent foreign currency (non-refundable). In case of purchasing the tender schedule from Bangladesh the amount will be BDT 5125/- (Five thousand one hundred twenty five only) (non-refundable).
6. Bidders who have submitted bid for DC10-30 vide our Tender Notice No DACPM/90/2000 may not submit fresh bid in case they consider that their earlier submitted bid remains valid.
7. Biman Bangladesh Airlines reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offer(s) partly or wholly at any time and or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be acceptable in this regard.

General Manager Planning (ACTG)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works E/M Division-3, Dhaka

Memo No-2387

Dated: 22-5-2000

Tender Invitation Notice No 53/1999-2000

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 in sealed envelopes are invited from special class-I/class-I (combined)/class I for E&M work/2nd class contractors enlisted with Public Works Department and have the VAT Registration Book for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received till 12-00 Noon on 13-6-2000 during office hours in the tender boxes kept at the office of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka and tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of tenderers or their nominated candidates (if anyone remains present). Tender schedule, form and terms and conditions etc can be purchased from the offices of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours on payment of usual Taka 425/- (four hundred twenty-five taka) in cash (non-refundable) latest by 12-6-2000. Security money at the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost, part-I and at the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the quoted cost in the form of Bank Draft/PO/SDR/CD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-3, Dhaka will have to be deposited with each tender. Contractor himself or his authorised person can purchase tender by producing all necessary papers including registration book for enlistment. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

S No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time fixed for completion of work
1)	Digging of deep tubewell of 3" diameter including other related work at 8 important fire stations in Dhaka metropolitan city, supply of 10 Horse Power submersible pump motor set, supply, installation and other related work for water lifting from the proposed deep tubewell under Mondol Para Fire Station in Narayanganj.	Part-I, Tk 1,70,741/64 Part-2, cost quoted by contractor.	Part-I, at the rate of 2% (two per cent) Part-2, at the rate of 2% (two per cent) cost quoted by contractor.	30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.

Bimal Kumar Kundu Executive Engineer Public Works E/M Division-3 Segunbagicha, Dhaka Phone: 9553305

DFP-13368-29/5 G-1058

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES International Tender

International tender is hereby invited for selecting an Approved Maintenance Organisation to do the Repair/Overhaul of CF6-50C2 engines (15 on-wing plus 02 spares) of Biman fleet. One agency will be selected by tender for a period of three years. Interested parties may submit their sealed offers to the address given below:

Director Engineering Engineering Hangar Complex Zia International Airport Dhaka-1229 Bangladesh Phone: 880-2-8914460 Fax: 880-2-8913353

For information, the engines are installed on our DC10-30 Aircraft having daily utilisation rate of about 12 hours at 4:1 Hrs/Cycle ratio.

The tender schedule is to be collected from the office of Chief Engineer, Engineering Department, Hangar Complex, ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

The offer must be submitted by 03 July, 2000 during office hours i.e. up to 1700 hrs local time.

Imamul Majid Chief Engineer Biman, ZIA, Dhaka

GD-526