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Resident-NRB convention begins in city Dec 22

3-day meet aims technologist-investor-entrepreneur co-op

Star Business Report

TechTransfer 2000, Bangladesh, a convention aimed at building a bridge between the resident and non-resident Bangladeshi technologists, investors and entrepreneurs, begins in Dhaka on December 22.

Hosted by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), TechBangla

is an organisation of the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) - is organising the three-day convention, the first of its kind in the country. Prof Nooruddin Ahmed, BUET Vice-chancellor, is expected to inaugurate the convention at the BUET premises.

"The fundamental strategy of

TechBangla is to provide a platform for collaboration between the residents and NRBs and build an active cooperation among the technologists, investors and entrepreneurs," said Dr Shaikh Mizan, coordinator of TechBangla, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

TechBangla organised the similar convention named TechTransfer 2000. North America at Atlantic in New Jersey, USA, this year, he added.

"From the success of that convention, the NRBs have become more interested in developing a close link as well as contributing towards the country's technological development," the coordinator mentioned.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Convener of the national committee on IT and former advisor of the caretaker government, Prof Golam Mohiuddin of BUET, Anisul Kabir Jaisir, an organiser of TechBangla, and Rezaul Rahman of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), also attended the press conference.

In his speech, Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said that three groups for entrepreneurs, investors and technologists would work separately at the convention.

The government has so far fully or partially implemented 21 out of 45 recommendations of the JRC committee report, he said, mentioning that the number of IT users in the country is now around five lakh and it is increasing day by day.

Prof Golam Mohiuddin said the convention will help start joint venture projects in the country with the help of NRBs.

Anisul Kabir said that the convention would become a regular annual event.

Shaikh Mizan said TechBangla is going to hold the convention in Dhaka with particular emphasis on participation from and cooperation between resident and NRB technologists, investors, entrepreneurs, and planners from all over the world.

He mentioned that there are many successful Bangladeshis in the field of technology, investment and entrepreneurship, abroad and some of them have already registered for joining the convention.

Holding the convention on a regular basis will help organise Bangladeshi experts working abroad, and in this way they can extend their support to transfer technologies for the country's development, Mizan observed.

Brain drain is very much harmful for a country but it has also a positive impact, he said, adding that the NRB experts can fruitfully link the country to the modern and developed countries.

The main events of the convention include transferable technology proposals by the technologists, scientists and engineers; presentation of entrepreneurial projects; transferable technology presentation and display by companies; entrepreneurs' workshop; technology workshop; technologist-investor-entrepreneur interactions; technology policy forum and tour of the resident companies.

Concord to market German furniture

Concord yesterday signed an agreement with Garant-Mobel to market high quality modular furniture for the first time in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Garant-Mobel is the largest German furniture retail outlet. The Concord-Garant-Mobel stores will be set up on the third floor of Twin Towers Concord at Chamelibagh, second floor of Concord Regency at Panthopath and in the Concord Showroom at Mohakhali.

Their products include all types of home furniture, furnishings and accessories, office furniture and kitchen furniture. It will be a one-stop store at Twin Tower Concord with 10,000 sq ft, floor space, and 1200 different types of products.

Iraq resumes oil exports

DUBAI, Dec 13: Iraq resumed oil exports today when the Indian Oil Corp began to load a cargo - putting an end to a 12-day suspension of Iraq's United Nations monitored sales, reports Reuters.

"The Jade is definitely loading and the Nikolas is about to berth," an Iraqi official told Reuters by telephone from Baghdad. Both tankers are chartered to IOC for lifting from Iraq's Gulf port of Mina al-Bahr. Iraq had kept 2.3 million barrels a day (bpd) of oil sales on hold from December 1 after customers under the United Nations oil-for-food exchange, an exception to Gulf War sanctions, declined to meet Iraqi demands for special payments.

At least in IOC's case, Baghdad appears to have dropped its demand for a 40-cent per barrel surcharge.

Dhaka, Vienna to strike economic co-op deal

High-powered team due Dec 20

By Rafiq Hasan

An economic co-operation and investment protection agreement is likely to be signed between Bangladesh and Austria this month.

According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, the agreement would be signed during the three-day visit of a high-powered delegation from the West European country to Bangladesh from December 20.

A vice-minister of Austria will lead the team during their stay in Dhaka. The agreement would be signed following official talks between the two countries on December 21.

ERD Secretary Dr Mashhur Rahman is likely to lead the Bangladesh delegation at the talks.

This is the first time since the independence of Bangla-

desh that an economic co-operation agreement is going to be signed with Austria," said a high official of the Finance Ministry.

There was no such agreement between the two countries because of the insignificant volume of bilateral trade and economic activities, he said. Trade and investment between the two nations would get a boost from the deal, he hoped.

The initiative for signing the agreement with Austria was taken a few years back, but it was not implemented mainly due to lengthy official procedures.

For increasing co-operation between the two countries, a high-powered Bangladesh delegation led by the ERD secretary visited Austria in 1997.

Official discussion between

the two nations for reaching a full fledged agreement started immediately after it.

Chief of European desk at the Economic Relation Division, Abdur Razzaque will receive the Austrian delegation on their arrival in Dhaka by an Air India flight from Nepal.

When contacted, a high official of the Ministry of Commerce told The Daily Star that the export-import volume with Austria is not that significant. He could not give the exact volume of export from Bangladesh to Vienna, but said garments and jute goods dominate the export basket.

Bangladesh exported around \$2.50 billion worth of garments to the European Union member countries during the year 1999. Part of the export also went to Austria, the official said.

BSB holds soul-searching review meet

After a Jatiya Sangsad body suggested merger of two state-run industrial financing agencies, Bangladesh Shilpa Bank held a soul-searching review meeting to find a way out of crisis, reports UNB.

The BSB board of directors, while reviewing the bank's overall performances, including loan recovery and sanction, Tuesday, felt the urgency of making it self-generating and capable of meeting operating expenses from operating profits.

Parliamentary standing committee on Finance Ministry on Monday suggested that BSB and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSRB) both burdened with overdue loans and facing acute provision deficit, be merged.

"There is no need of two ailing agencies just for realising overdue loans," the lawmakers said.

Both the agencies have long stopped industrial financing for want of funds.

BSB Chairman Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, however, said the Shilpa Bank overcame its stagnation and now achieved dynamism.

"Loan-recovery drive should gear up while authorities need to be more careful in sanctioning new loans," he said.

BSB managing director Rabul Hossain observed that all indicators marked upward as "a new sense of dynamism has been added to the bank management."

BSB general managers Dr Nazmul Bari, ASM Rezal Qudus, Obaed Ul-Jah, ASM Shahnajim, AKM Nazrul Islam and Khaliur Rahman Chowdhury also attended the review meeting.

BB launches new Tk 10 polymer notes today

Star Business Report

The central bank launches new Tk10 polymer notes today, which will ensure four times durability than the traditional paper notes.

The notes, to be launched on an experimental basis in place of paper notes as per decision of the Bangladesh Bank will be available at its Motijheel office.

The new note contains picture of the national mosque and a portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the front side while it carries the picture of the Jatiya Sangsad and the National Memorial on the back.

The new notes distinctly differ from the ones made of paper as these do not have the watermark, but contain a new feature - transparent window.

Central bank officials said that the cost of polymer notes would be double than that of the paper notes. "But the vulnerability of these novelties would be four times higher in the case of lower denominations and two times more for Tk 500 notes. Therefore, there is marginal cost effectiveness in favour of polymer notes," a senior BB official said.

He said that such polymer notes have proved successful in countries having those in circulation.

Another senior official, however, cautioned that the durability of polymer notes witnessed in other countries of the world might not be ensured in Bangladesh. He said that stapling and drilling of polymer notes have a damaging impact on them, which would in turn hurt their immunity.

"Besides, folding of the notes will also have similar effects," the official said, adding that stapling and drilling of notes, especially in the case of higher denominations, is of vital importance considering the social and operational hazards in Bangladesh.

"The system of stapling and drilling also prevails in some neighbouring countries. We are in a position to do away with the system in the near future," the official said.

He also said that following the launch of polymer notes in Thailand, it was found that people tended to get hold of a polymer note as a collection item rather than using them in their day to day business transactions.

Admitting the facts, a senior central bank official said they have warned the banks against stapling, drilling or folding the notes in the greater interest of their durability.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Census and House Enumeration-2001 Project
Parisangkhyan Bhaban
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka
No-BBS/Cen-2001/Vehicle hire-680 Date: 07/12/2000

Tender Notice for Hiring 7-9 Seated Microbus

A microbus of 7-9 seated is needed for hiring on daily basis for use in the supervision work of the census coordinator for smooth conducting the census to be held in January 2001 under Census and House Enumeration-2001 Project under Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide rent-a-car/trader/ etc holding Inter-district Transport Licence for it.

Tender schedule containing rules and regulations can be procured from 17-12-2000 to 18-12-2000 from 11:00 hours in the morning to 2:00 hours from the office of the Director of Census and House Enumeration Project 2001 by producing attested certificate of payment of income tax up to date and on payment of Taka 400/- (four hundred) in cash (non-refundable). Details can be known from the tender schedule. No schedule will be sold on the day of receiving tender. Tenders will have to be deposited in the tender box kept at the Room No-110, Bhaban No-8, on 20-12-2000 till 1:45 pm at Bangladesh Secretariate. Tenders will be opened the same day at 2:30 pm before tenderers (if anyone remains present).

The authority reserves the power to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.
DFP-30058-11/12
G-2174

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Exchange Rates

American Express Bank foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to clients.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	54.2500	54.2800	53.8150	53.6970	53.6250
Pound STG	78.6361	78.8797	77.6497	77.4794	77.3755
Deutsche Mar	24.7835	24.7972	23.7456	23.6935	23.6618
Swiss Franc	31.8070	31.8246	31.1682	31.0998	31.0581
Japanese Yen	0.4873	0.4976	0.4787	0.4776	0.4770
Dutch Guilder	21.9956	22.0880	21.0746	21.0284	21.0002
Danish Krona	6.4306	6.4342	6.3010	6.2872	6.2788
Australian \$	29.9677	29.9843	28.6242	28.5614	28.5231
Belgian Franc	1.2016	1.2023	1.1513	1.1488	1.1472
Canadian \$	35.8868	35.9066	34.8836	34.8072	34.7605
French Franc	7.3896	7.3937	7.0801	7.0646	7.0551
Hong Kong \$	6.9694	6.9733	6.8866	6.8715	6.8622
Italian Lira	0.0250	0.0250	0.0240	0.0239	0.0239
Singapore \$	31.6032	31.6206	30.6185	30.5513	30.5104
Euro	48.4724	48.4992	46.4423	46.3405	46.2784
Saudi Rial	14.5057	14.5138	14.3091	14.2777	14.2586

Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7512	53.3665	52.9181	52.4696	52.0212	51.1243

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Buying/S	Selling/S	Category	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
53.6250	54.2500	USD	6.71195	6.58000	6.46500	6.39313	6.35126
77.3755	78.6361	GBP	5.99375	5.96000	5.96359	5.94078	5.92431
31.0581	31.8070	EUR	4.97500	4.96436	4.95688	4.95000	4.95000

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
46.75	57.60	43.60	3.7825	9400/9430	1191.4/1195
46.76	58.20	43.65	3.8005		

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)
Administration & Establishment
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Tender Invitation Notice by Roads & Highways Department

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 are invited.

- Tender notice no: 11/2000-2001 AE Dhaka.
- Name of work: Supply, assembling of new ceiling mounted fluorescent tube light in the seminar room, computer room and GIS room of HDM Circle and repairing of aircooler during 2000-2001 fiscal year.
- Estimated cost: Taka 2 01 376/-.
- Earliest money: Taka 4 030/-.
- Specific time limit for completion of work: 10 (ten) days from the date of issue of work order.

- Eligibility of contractor: 'A' to 'E' category R&H enlisted as per financial limitation general category contractors as per rule.
- Offices from where tenders can be purchased: Executive Engineer (R&H), Administration & Establishment/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Division Maintenance Sub-Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
- Offices in which tenders will be received and opened: Superintendent Engineer (R&H)/ Executive Engineer (R&H), Administration & Establishment, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
- Last date and time of selling tender: 19-12-2000 (till office hours).
- Last date and time of receiving tender: 20-12-2000 till 12:00 Noon.
- Date and time of opening tender: 20-12-2000 at 12:45 PM.
- Date and time of lottery (if necessary): 21-12-2000 at 2:00 PM.

NB Tenderer/tenderers should submit TIN number (Tax Payers Identification) certificate along with the tender otherwise their tenders will not be regarded to be acceptable.

Md Afabbuzaman
Executive Engineer, R&H
Administration & Establishment
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka
DFP-29907-10/12
G-2185

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H
Road Division, Habiganj
Telephone-53269

Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender notice no: 09 (nine)/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Habiganj 2000-2001.
- Name of work: Protection and earth work including construction of pavement on different km on different roads under Habiganj Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year. Divided into 7 (seven) groups.
- Estimated cost: As per group list.
- Earliest money: Do.
- Time limit for completion of work: Do.
- Eligibility of contractor: Do.
- Head of expenditure: 266 Development.
- Authority to approve estimate: Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Comilla Zone, Comilla.
- Offices in which tenders will be received: Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet Division, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Habiganj.
- Offices in which tender will be sold: Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet Division, Sylhet/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Habiganj/Moulvibazar/Sylhet/Sunamganj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Planning Division-I (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division, Habiganj/Shashtaganj/Assistant Engineer (R&H), 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Habiganj.
- Last date and time of selling tender: 19-12-2000 till office hours.
- Last date and time of receiving tender: 20-12-2000 till 12-30 PM.
- Date and time of opening tender: 02-01-2001 at 11-00 AM.
- Date and time of lottery: 09-01-2001 at 12-00 Noon.
- Group List:

Group no.	Name of work and location	Estimated cost	Earliest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
1 (one)	Protection work by brick matressing with flexible pavement on the 41st km (p) of Sarail-Nasirnagar-Lakhai road under Habiganj Road Division and earth work during 2000-2001 fiscal year.	Tk 58,24,227/-	Tk 1,16,485/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
2 (two)	-Do- year -Do- road 41st (p) and 40th (p) km -Do- -Do- work.	Tk 63,08,165/-	Tk 1,26,163/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
3 (three)	-Do- year -Do- road 40th (p) km protection work and earth work with brick pavement by cc block.	Tk 34,26,519/-	Tk 68,530/-	60 (sixty) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
4 (four)	Earth work including protection work by ACC block on the 11th km on Habiganj-Baniachang-Azmiriganj road (Sharifuddin Road portion) under Habiganj Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year.	Tk 56,78,824/-	Tk 1,13,576/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
5 (five)	-Do- year -Do- road protection work with earth work by ACC block 12th km.	Tk 62,45,841/-	Tk 1,24,917/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
6 (six)	-Do- year -Do- road earth work with protection work by ACC block on 13th km.	Tk 61,29,201/-	Tk 1,22,584/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.
7 (seven)	-Do- year -Do- road earth work with the protection work on 14th km by ACC block.	Tk 49,54,874/-	Tk 99,097/-	90 (ninety) days.	'A' to 'C' general category.

Mofizul Islam
Executive Engineer, R&H
(Current Charge)
Road Division, Habiganj.