



**SANYO**  
Japan  
**Freezer**  
(100% CFC Free)  
Transfin Trading Ltd.  
Phone: 8115307-10, Fax: 8113062

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2001

Let us finance the home of your dreams

We can help you

- Build your own home
- Purchase a home or an apartment
- Buy a housing plot in approved land developments

National Housing FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Chamber Building 16th Floor, 122-124 Motmed, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 955 9311 (Hunting), 911 809132. Mobile: 017 602832, 017 602833, 019 357434. Fax: 880-2-956987. E-mail: housing@bdonline.com

## Jalil blasts developed countries for non-fulfilment of WTO pledges

### 'The purpose of the trade body has been defeated'

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil has said that Bangladesh and other least developed countries (LDCs) will have to think twice before joining the next round of WTO negotiations starting in November in Qatar as the LDCs have been deprived of the 'pledged benefits'.

"We (the LDCs) are not against the next round of negotiations. But before that, the developed world has to implement the decisions taken earlier in favour of the LDCs under the WTO framework," Jalil told a group of newsmen at the Commerce Ministry conference room yesterday.

The minister, who sounded a bit frustrated with the non-implementation of the WTO re-

lated decisions that could benefit the LDCs, briefed the newsmen about the LDCs' strategy in future talks on trade related issues. Commerce Secretary Ghulam Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

"By the looks of the things, it seems that the very purpose of the WTO has failed. Only the rich countries are getting benefits from the trade related negotiations. Whatever decisions have been taken in favour of the LDCs, these have not been implemented," Jalil said.

Before the WTO ministerial meeting in Qatar in November, the policy planners would sit in Geneva to fix the agenda of the talks.

On the agenda of the next round of negotiations, the Commerce Minister said that the LDCs

are against incorporating labour related issues in the next talks.

Referring to a US legislation that allowed quota and duty-free access of apparel of Sub Saharan and African countries, Jalil said such laws create some sort of divisions among the LDCs.

He also said that as the leader of the LDCs, Bangladesh's effort is to establish more transparency in the WTO's decision making.

The commerce minister also focussed on the UN-sponsored conference of LDCs that will take place in Brussels in May. In addition to trade related issues, Jalil said the conference would focus on other development and social issues. "The main focus of the conference would be to enhance the capacity of the LDCs for their

graduation to developing country status."

Referring to the European Commission's (EC) proposal for duty and quota-free access of all LDC products except arms, Jalil said he has been assured by a large number of European Union countries that they would support the proposal scheduled to be tabled at the next European Council meeting.

Replying to a question on the country's garments quota policy, the minister said it should be changed and the commerce secretary has been assigned to draft the new policy, taking views of all concerned.

Jalil also said that the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), which gets a portion of free quota, would not get any quota this year.

## Malaysia to build free trade zone near Thai border

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A free-trade industrial zone costing three billion ringgit (789 million dollars) is to be developed near the Malaysia/Thailand border over the next decade, a senior official said Thursday.

The ASEAN Industrial Metropolis covering 2,400 hectares (5,928 acres) will be built at Bukit Kayu Hitam in the northwestern Malaysian state of Kedah, the state's chief minister Syed Razak Syed Zain said.

The zone will include areas for heavy industry and small and medium industries, an immigration and Customs complex, a commercial centre and housing, Bernama news agency quoted him as saying.

It is scheduled for completion in 2010.

"When fully operational, the project will attract investments worth 20 billion ringgit and create 20,000 job opportunities for locals and Thais," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is expected to preside at a ground-breaking ceremony on March 5.

Syed Razak said the project would be one of the most modern and largest free trade areas in member states of ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

## EIB to borrow 33 billion euros in 2001

AFP, Brussels

The European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to borrow 33 billion euros (30.6 billion dollars) in 2001, its president Philippe Maystadt said here Thursday.

The bank had borrowed 29 billion euros in 11 national currencies last year, Maystadt told a press briefing.

The EIB was created in 1958 to finance long-term investments in European countries.



Shah A.M.S. Kibria, Finance Minister, inaugurates a three-day Janata Bank Executive conference 2001 held at a city hotel yesterday. Additional Secretary (Banking) Dr. Shoeb Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Directors of Janata Bank, Dr. Atiur Rahman, Managing Director S A Chowdhury, Director Mohiuddin Ahmed, Commodore Md. Khorshed Alam and Deputy Managing Director S. I Bhuiyan were present at the conference.

## German data bolsters eurozone resilience to US slowdown

REUTERS, London

Strong manufacturing orders, with exporters at the forefront, gave Germany's economy an unexpected boost yesterday, backing up view that Europe can withstand a US economic slowdown without early rate cuts.

Bundesbank President Ernst Welteke, a member of the European Central Bank's governing council, said in a television interview it was "not yet the time" for rate reductions.

And Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet, also an ECB council member, said that European growth should stay reasonably robust, although "downside risks" still remained.

French Finance Minister Laurent Fabius told parliament that a US slowdown would obviously have an impact on Europe

and to a lesser extent France, but he said French growth should be "very healthy if slightly slower than once predicted".

Commentators seized on December's provisional manufacturing orders, up 2.7 per cent as evidence that real growth in the euro zone and its biggest national

economy are proving more resilient than suggested by business sentiment surveys.

Germany's exporters, including its carmakers and engineering giants, were among the main drivers of orders growth, with foreign orders up 4.0 per cent.

## Meghna Life Ins executive confce held

A conference of the senior executive of Meghna Life Insurance Company was held at its head office in the city recently, says a press release.

Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of Meghna and Karnaphuli Life Insurance Company, was the chief guest at the conference.

Mujib-ud-Daula, Managing Director of the company, presided over the meeting.

Director Mia Mohammad Abdul Hai and Adviser MA Majid FCA were the special guests on the occasion.

EDS Solaiman Hossain and Abdul Wadud Khan and GMs Mohidur Rahman Khan, Abdur Razzaque, Khandoker Muklesur Rahman, Sirajul Islam, Sadekur Rahman and Akteruzzaman, Aminul Islam and DGM Nasiruddin also spoke at the meeting.

## BOE seen cutting rates by quarter point

AFP, London

British monetary authorities met here on Wednesday to discuss cutting interest rates for the first time since June 1999.

Economists said that although the British economy was looking relatively healthy against its US cousin, the Bank of England was likely to administer an interest rate cut of a quarter of a per cent point as a prevention against infection from a global slowdown.

HSBC economist Adam Cole said that the market expected a small cut from the bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday as "an insurance policy against a big deterioration in the global economy."

The committee is already known to be steering towards a rate cut: records from its January meeting showed that four out of nine members voted for a cut -- the strongest push since June 1999.

Rates have been pegged at six per cent for 12 consecutive months.

"The primary factor arguing for a rate cut is clearly the deterioration in the US economy and what that implies for UK exports and for industry," Cole said.

The United States buys around one-sixth of British exports and US multinationals inject large amounts of investment into Brit-

ain, so if the US powerhouse cools, the British economy usually feels the chill.

Although economic growth here slowed sharply to an annual rate of 2.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, the British economy is not looking as sluggish as its US counterpart, economists said.

Nevertheless, the weak inflationary outlook in Britain leaves plenty of scope for an interest rate cut, they add.

The government's favoured measure of price changes, so-called underlying inflation which excludes the cost of home-loan repayments, showed an annual rise of two per cent in December.

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tender in foreign currency is invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/enlisted firms in DGDP for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy:

S No	Name of item & qty	Date of selling From To	Date of opening	Tender No
1.	Spares for Electrical & Radio Electrical Equipment (Qty: 54 L/I)	18-02-2001 25-3-2001	27-3-2001	6742/NP-2
2.	Spares for Electrical & Radio Electrical Equipment (Qty: 24L/I)	18-02-2001 25-3-2001	27-3-2001	6743/NP-2
3.	Lithium Battery (Qty: 02 L/I)	18-02-2001 08-3-2001	11-3-2001	6558/NP-3 Re-Tender
4.	Spares for HF Manpack TX/RX Model: SGC-715 (Qty: 02 L/I)	18-02-2001 08-3-2001	11-3-2001	6559/NP-2 Re-Tender
5.	Spares for Frequency Counter (Qty: 10 L/I)	18-02-2001 08-3-2001	11-3-2001	6560/NP-2 Re-Tender
6.	Spares for Depth Sounder (Qty: 02 L/I)	18-02-2001 08-3-2001	11-3-2001	6561/NP-2 Re-Tender
7.	Spares for Various Electrical & Radio Electrical Equipment (Qty: 18 L/I)	18-02-2001 08-3-2001	11-3-2001	6568/NP-2 Re-Tender

2. Tender schedule with detailed specification/condition will be available on payment as per international tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of the tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/2001/136  
DFP-3222-5/2  
G-292

**Commander BN**  
for Director General



Md Jahangir Alam Khan, Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd, addresses as chief guest the inaugural session of the Executive and Branch Managers' Conference-2001 held at a local hotel Wednesday. Sharif Zahir, Director, Muhammad Sajid-ul Haq, Managing Director, and Hamidul Huq, Addl Managing Director, are also seen in the picture.

**Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission**  
4, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Ramna, Dhaka-1000

No-Esta: 1-3 (1152)/95 Dated: 28-01-2001

**Subject: Framing of charge against Dr Ahmed Zakir Mamun a Senior Scientific Officer for unauthorised absence from work place.**

As Dr Ahmed Zakir Mamun, a Senior Scientific Officer in the Dhaka Centre of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (Father: Late AKM Taherul Islam, Village: Haramia, Post Office: Bektarhat, Thana: Sandwip, District: Chittagong and House # 70, Avenue-5, Section-6, Bloc-C, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216) was granted 1 (one) year study leave with salary subject to the handing over of responsibilities at the work place for studying under post doctoral fellowship in Kawasei Gakuin University in Japan as per office order no 55/98, dated 26-02-98. He handover the responsibilities on 23-8-98 (afternoon) and as such his leave started from 24-04-98. His leave was extended under the same terms and conditions for a period of 1 (one) year more as per his application on 12-11-99. That is the total period of his leave stood at 2 (two) years and which was effective from 24-04-98 to 23-04-2000. After the expiry of the said period, he prayed for time till June 2000 through a letter of the date 15-03-2000 by not joining the work place. But through a memo of 14-05-2000 the prayer was not granted and he was directed to join the place of work. But till to day he has not joined the place of work. Such activities by him is a punishable offence in accordance with the Government Employees (Special Arrangements) Ordinance, 1979. So, by accusing him by the 3(b) clause of the said ordinance and it was published in the Dainik Ittefaq and the Dainik Muktakantha on 08-10-2000.

As he has not replied to that till today or has not joined the work place.

So a decision has been taken by commission as per rule of clause (9) of Government Employees (Special Arrangements) Ordinance 1979 (4) the punishment of dismissing him from service.

So, he has been directed to show cause in writing as to why he will not be dismissed from service as per (4) (9) clause of the ordinance to the undersigned within 3 (three) days of publishing the notice. Otherwise punishment will be attributed as per rule.

BAEC S Information-1(2)/94-654  
DFP-3063-4/2  
G-307

**G C Biswas**  
Secretary

## UCBL branch managers' confce held in city

The Branch Managers' Conference-2001 of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) was held at a local hotel Wednesday, says a press release.

Speaking as chief guest, Md Jahangir Alam Khan, Director, called upon the branch managers to continue their dedicated efforts to further accelerate the growth of business by extending quality client service to match the banking needs of the new millennium and to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. He emphasised on increasing personalised services and business drive with professionalism to further strengthen the bank's position in present market situation.

He also expressed his gratitude to the clients, representatives of trade, commerce and industries, national media and Bangladesh Bank for extending support to help UCBL overcome the crisis suffered in 1999.

The inaugural session of the conference was also attended by Sharif Zahir, Director, Muhammad Sajid-ul Haq, Managing Director, Hamidul Huq, Additional Managing Director, Md Salsuddin Gazi and Bakhtiar Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Directors, Executive vice-presidents, executives and incharges of all branches. The conference, divided into three sessions, reviewed the performances of the year 2000 and adopted new action plans for re-vamping and strengthening the operational activities of the bank.

Sharif Zahir, Director, emphasised customers' satisfaction and to introduce new products. He called for on retail banking and improving customer services.

**Bangladesh Power Development Board**

### Invitation of Local Tender

সময় মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন  
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ করুন

1. Local sealed tender is invited by BPDB Project Director 18-Towns Power Distribution Project from renowned manufacturers for the procurement of materials for Moulvibazar-Fenchuganj 33 KV line under 18-Towns Power Distribution Project, as detailed below:

Tender enquiry No & date	Description of equipment/materials	Quantity	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving and opening date
PUR-18T/MOV/41/2000 dt. 21.01.2001	ACSR Merlin (170 Sqmm)	118 Km	Tk. 1000.00	28.02.2001
PUR-18T/MOV/42/2000 dt. 22.01.2001	a) 33 KV Pin Insulator with Pin. b) Disc Insulator with Fittings	1200 Nos. 400 Sets.	Tk. 500.00	28.02.2001

2. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested bidders from on submission of written application to the undersigned and upon payment of non-refundable fee of taka as mentioned in column-5 above against the tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Project Director, 18-Town Power Distribution Project (Phase-II), PDB, Dhaka.

3. A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.

4. Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 11.30 AM and will be opened at 11.45 AM in the prescribed date as mentioned in column-6 above in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives if any. Tender shall neither be sent by post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer sent by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.

5. Due to unavoidable circumstances (if any) selling & receiving date shall be shifted to immediate next working day.

Biddul/Jan-1486(5) 2000-2001  
DFP-3134-5/2  
G-291

**Project Director**  
18-Town Power Distribution Project (Phase-II)  
BPDB, Dhaka

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Tangail Public Works Division  
Tangail

### Tender Notice

Memo No-197 Dated: 25-1-2001

1.	Tender notice No	: 70 (2000-2001).
2.	Name of work	: Construction of infrastructure titled modernisation of 6 (six) textile institutes of Bangladesh. 1 (one) at Bajitpur in Tangail district. Sub-head: Special electrification work of machines at cotton spinning shed.
3.	Estimated cost	: Taka 3,48,404/-
4.	Earnest money	: Taka 6,970/-
5.	Place of selling and receiving tender	: All the offices of the Executive Engineers under Mymensingh Public Works Circle, Mymensingh.
6.	Last date of selling tender	: 26-02-2001 till office hours.
7.	Date of receiving and opening tender	: 27-02-2001 till 12-00 noon and will be opened the same day at 12-15 pm.
8.	Eligibility of tenderers	: Special class I and class I valid enlisted electrical contractors of Public Works Department with financial limitation (who have ABC/BC and supervisory licence).
9.	Date of lottery	: On 13-03-2001 in the office chamber of the undersigned. At 11-00 am (if more than one lowest tenderer is found).
10.	Time limit for completion of work	: 2 (two) months.

DFP-3033-4/2  
G-306

**Executive Engineer**  
Tangail Public Works Division  
Tangail