

## Unocal for selling gas to India thru' pipeline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh can do the best utilization of its natural gas by selling it to India through pipeline, reiterated a top official of US oil company Unocal yesterday.

Scott A Barber, managing director of Unocal, yesterday also said Bangladesh should make a decision of exporting gas soon as India looks for other energy options.

Barber was making a presentation at a discussion meeting on the country's gas resource at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday.

"There is a limited window of opportunity to capture the credit-worthy Indian market. India has been actively pursuing other energy options that will exclude natural gas from Bangladesh. So there is a timing issue here," he said.

During his presentation yesterday Barber also discussed its Natural Gas Pipeline Project that Unocal submitted to the government last October, wishing to export 500 million cubic feet of gas a day to India for the next 20 years.

"It was a contractual obligation for us to look for economically feasible alternatives," he said.

According to Barber, international oil companies are unwilling to further explore gas in Bangladesh unless they are sure about returns on their investments. He added that Unocal has already invested around US\$ 350 million.

When talking about expanding the local use of gas, Barber urged the members of the chambers to make industries and produce value-added products using gas.

At the meeting, FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun said that there would be a series of talks after two expert committees place their final studies to the government on July 7.



The chairmen of nine education boards called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday and submitted the copies of the results of SSC and Dakhil exams of their respective boards to her.

## New arrangement for US visa applicants

UNB, Dhaka

The US Embassy in Bangladesh has made a new arrangement with American Express Bank for the non-immigrant visa applicants to process their applications and to schedule non-immigrant visa interview appointments.

With the new arrangement effective from July 9, applicants for tourist, business, student, H1-B, J-1, V and other non-immigrant visas will no longer need to wait in line at the Consular Section of the Embassy to schedule an interview and pick up visa applications, said a press release yesterday.

Instead, selected offices of American Express Bank Ltd in Motijheel and Gulshan in Dhaka, Agrabad in Chittagong and Secures offices in Sylhet will offer applicants the opportunity to schedule interviews, purchase fee receipts, obtain and fill-out application forms, and submit passports in one step.

For this service American Express Bank Ltd will assess a per passport service fee of Tk 350 in Dhaka and Tk 450 in Chittagong and Sylhet.

Applicants unwilling to take the service through American Express Bank and Secures may continue to schedule interviews for non-immigrant visas in person at the Consular Section.

However, from July 9, the Consular Section will only accept non-immigrant visa applications and schedule interviews for walk-in applicants on Sunday mornings between 8 and 9 am.

The number of appointments available for applicants who appear at the Consular Section will be extremely limited, the release added.

For faster service, applicants are strongly encouraged to go to the selected American Express Bank Ltd and Secures offices mentioned above to schedule

non-immigrant visa interviews and submit their visa applications. Applicants residing outside of Dhaka will be able to schedule non-immigrant visa interviews without coming to Dhaka.

Non-immigrant visa applicants who use the services of American Express will only need to make one visit to the Consular Section in connection with their application, rather than the two separate visits that are required currently.

Immigrant visa and Diversity Visa scheduling will not be affected by these changes.

Visa applicants are encouraged to apply as far in advance of their proposed travel as possible to ensure their applications are processed before their planned departure date.

For further information, the contact number for the Consular Section of the American Embassy is 882-3800 or the American Express Bank 955-0266 or 018-245937.

## Hasina condemns raids on houses of Hasnat, Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned Tuesday night's police raids on the houses of former Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and former State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and wondered if the country was under martial law.

At the instruction of the "killer government," she said every night police and BDR had been conducting raids on the houses of Awami League leaders and workers, issuing threats and intimidation and forcing members of her party to stay away from their houses.

Hasina said the entire country is plagued with kidnap, murder, rape, extortion and grabbing of property by armed hoodlums of the ruling BNP.

She mentioned how a young housewife in Barisal had been raped in front of her in-laws. The victim was denied her right to register a case, she said.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament accused police of raping the wife of a local Awami League leader in Kishoreganj "at the instruction of the ruling party leaders."

She said failing to tackle the law and order situation and to provide security to the people, the alliance government continued operation against the Awami League activists.

The government, she said, has introduced "autocracy" by denying people's democratic rights to expression and speech.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Lecture**  
The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises its Golden Jubilee Lecture on 'Globalisation and the Future of Poor Countries' by M Monwarul Islam, vice chancellor of East West University. Venue: Society auditorium, 5 Old Secretariat Road. Time: 5:00pm.

**Work for a Better Bangladesh**, will begin. Venue: House-49, Road-4/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00am.

### DHAKA TOMORROW

**Film show**  
Under its weekly movie programme, Alliance Francaise will screen two films titled 'France, la visite' and 'A bout de souffle'. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10:30pm and 6:00pm respectively.

**Freshers' reception**  
Old Rajshahi Cadets Association (ORCA) organises a freshers' reception for 33rd batch and a voluntary blood donation programme. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 5:00pm.

**Seminar**  
The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh (BCGP) organises a seminar on 'Childhood Meningitis' with Professor Dr Mirza Mazharul Islam as chief guest. Venue: BCGP auditorium, 215/A Boro Moghbazar. Time: 9:00am.

**Workshop**  
A two-day workshop on Tobacco Control Advocate Training, organised

## Mosquito control campaign launched in Dhaka city

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) lacked financial and administrative discipline in the last eight years and hooligans resorted to gunfights to grab tenders at Nagar Bhaban.

The minister was inaugurating a mosquito control campaign launched by Urban Primary Health Care Project (UPHCP) at Nagar Bhaban. Mayor of Dhaka Sadeq Hossain Khoka, State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Hoque Zia and Secretary AYBI Siddiqui attended the function.

UPHCP with assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched mosquito control campaign in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporation areas.

## Changes in Canadian immigration policy

UNB, Dhaka

Canada has brought a significant change in its immigration and refugee policy that will have both positive and negative impacts for those planning to migrate to the North American country.

The new law titled 'Immigration and Refugee Protection Act' that came into effect from June 28 has, however, significantly broadened the number of occupations and extended the age limit for the immigrants.

Addressing a press conference, representatives of the Canada-based Southeast International Immigration Services, specialised in Canadian immigration matters, said that the new act made immigration difficult for the commoners but easy for qualified people. Barrister Ian Wong and Shah Jahir Ahmed said the new law would now accept those professionals who do not have related education, which they observed very common in Bangladesh.

Besides, another positive change is that the new law will now accept persons up to 49 years of age to get full marks in the ratings. The age limit earlier was 45.

Describing the downside of the changes, they told newsmen that selection criteria for assessing Skilled Workers Applications had been radically changed and the

pass mark set at 75 points, up from 70 under the old system.

Points will be awarded on the basis of educational qualification, language proficiency, job experience, age, adaptability (spouse education) etc.

However, pass marks will be relaxed if one opts for smaller and less populous cities or towns in Canada for immigration, barring Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

For the investor category, the requirement is investment of 400,000 Canadian dollars for a period of five years.

## 2 bus passengers shot, robbed of Tk 86000 in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Muggers shot two Dhaka bound bus passengers and snatched Tk 86 thousand from them near BRTC market here late Tuesday night.

The miscreants shot the two passengers identified as Abdur Rashid and Mohammad Hossain of Chandanai in the district when they were waiting to board Dhaka bound bus of Hanif Paribahan. The muggers then snatched the money from the victims leaving them seriously wounded.

## Call for good corporate governance

BSS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday stressed the need for good governance in the corporate behaviour to boost economic performance and growth.

"Good governance is the reflection of good directives, perfect economic transparency, good policy and good behaviour of the corporate houses," he said at the launching of South Asian Network on Corporate Governance in the city.

Organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), the launching ceremony was addressed by Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chairman of Global Corporate Governance Forum and Head of Private Sector Policy Department at DFID in London Dr Vicki Harris, Indian economist Dr Omkar Goswami, Pakistani economist Dr Faisal Bari, Sri Lankan economist Nivard Gabraal, and BEI president and former foreign secretary Farooq Sobhan.

Former advisers to the caretaker government Rehman Sobhan and Syed Manzur Elahi, Commerce Secretary Sohail Ahmed Chowdhury, former state minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange Salman Ispahani, directors and chief executives of leading business houses and academics attended the function.

The commerce minister said the practice of good governance is

improving in the country, but its progress is very slow. "The corporate houses and other related bodies should take up awareness programme to improve corporate behaviour," he said.

He stressed the need for appointment of independent directors to the financial institutions so that the sponsor directors cannot manipulate in decision-making activities by the executives.

He drew the attention of the governor of Bangladesh Bank in this regard and said by applying such policy, the rate of bad loans would be reduced. The foreign banks are not being controlled by the sponsor directors, but they are

performing excellently in the country, he added.

Chowdhury said someone can become sponsor director by holding shares of Tk one crore, and he is playing a vital role in sanctioning loan of Taka 500 crore or more without having expertise. "This is very shameful," the commerce minister said.

And this is the same in the case of insurance companies, he added.

The experts from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka narrated the experiences of their respective countries in corporate governance.

## 'Political will needed to reduce poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Regional Director of the ActionAid Ramesh Singh has identified human rights violation, terrorism, acid violence, and trafficking in women and children as serious social problems hampering the country's development activities.

Underscoring a strong political will to fight all these problems, he said the country now needs a comprehensive movement to ensure transparency and good governance both in government and non-government sectors. He believes this would help Bangla-

desh reduce the poverty.

"Without political commitment, poverty reduction programmes cannot get momentum," Singh told reporters in the city. He came here on a 12-day visit that concluded last week.

The Nepal-born development activist observed that Bangladesh has achieved a notable success in development sector in the last couple of years despite many limitations.

He suggested decentralisation of administration so that the common people can play their part in development activities.



An agreement was signed on Monday, marking the step forward in collaboration between the governments of Australia and Bangladesh for the implementation of IDEAL (Intensive District Approach to Education for All) Project, in which Unicef is a partner. High Commissioner of Australia Robert Flynn and Unicef country representative Morten Giersing signed the agreement. The aim of the project is to attract more children into schools and help them achieve acceptable levels of learning.

## French language course starts in Ctg on July 6

Alliance Francaise will start a new session of French Language Course in Chittagong on July 6, says a press release.

Students will have the option to choose either Normal course or Intensive course. The duration of the course will be 11 weeks. The admission will be closed on July 6.

During the session a student is entitled to enjoy all the privileges due to a member including library and café facilities as well as free access to the movies and the cultural activities.

The courses will be conducted with audio and video methods by the trained teachers.

## HOLY FAMILY RED CRESCENT MEDICAL COLLEGE

1, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000

### BID NOTICE

Sealed bids are hereby invited in two envelope system (Technical Proposal and Financial Offer) from Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) enlisted as well as the established and reputed 1st Class or equivalent category Contractors for one level vertical of the existing two storied Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College (HFRCCM) building at I, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka.

Contractors must have at least 5 years of sufficient practical experience some of which must include the Pre-engineered/Pre-fabricated steel structures as well as the civil works and have successfully completed and commissioned at least one project of similar steel structure of not less than Tk. 5.00 million in a single contract within last 3 years.

Joint venture of Contractors/Firms is allowed to participate in the bid. In case of such joint venture/association, "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) signed by all parties must be produced and the lead firm shall have to be the main partner and must have to be responsible for undertaking of total project execution.

Bid Documents will be issued from the HFRCCM office from 08.00 to 14.00 hrs on all working days up to 25 July 2002 on cash payment of non-refundable fee Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) only per set. The same be purchased only on production of attested copy of firm enlistment and authorized letter bearing the signature of representative duly attested by the Contractor.

Technical proposals and Financial Offer shall be submitted in clearly marked two separate envelopes. All documents and information asked for must be attached with the Technical Proposals. After evaluation of the Technical Proposals the Financial Offers of the qualified Contractors only will be opened and those of the Contractors not found qualified will be returned unopened.

Both the proposal and offer, (along with an Earnest Money equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted amount to be enclosed with the Financial Offer) will have to be delivered to the HFRCCM office by 12.00 noon (time is observed sharp) on 27 July 2002. The Technical Offers will be opened at 12.15 hrs on the same day in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. For any reason if the bid receiving date is a Govt holiday the bids will be received on the next working day at the same time. The date of opening of the Financial Offers will be intimated to the qualified Bidders in due course.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever and shall not bound to accept the lowest offers or apportion the works in any manner deem fit.

Sd/- Principal,  
Holy Family Red Crescent  
Medical College, Dhaka.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director  
Dhaka Urban Transport Project  
Roads and Highways Department  
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

### Notice

This is for information of all concerned that Dhaka Urban Transport Project has been taken up under the financial assistance of the World Bank for the improvement of traffic movement, safety of pedestrians & traffics, improvement of bus services, improvement of traffic management, improvement of busy roads, construction of segregated lanes for motorized and non-motorized transports, improvement of Inter District Bus Terminals, improvement of 20 existing road-intersections and construction of Flyovers at Mohakhali and Jatrabari. To ensure smooth completion of Mohakhali Flyover, as a part of this project, it has become unavoidable to close the road from Shahid Jahangir Gate to Chairmanbari via Mohakhali level crossing for all types of transport excluding service buses/trucks from Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2002. In order to avoid possible traffic congestion in the flyover construction area it has become necessary that all types of transport except service buses/trucks using the said road to follow the following alternate routes.

- From Tongi, Uttara, Banani, Gulshan to City Centre:
  - Pragati Sarani
  - Kemal Ataturk Avenue-Gulshan 2-Gulshan 1, Arong & Tejgaon Industrial Area.
- From Tongi, Uttara to Farmgate, Dhanmondi and western part of the city:
  - Kakali-Sainik Club to Shahid Jahangir Gate through Cantonment Sadar Road. Honorable city dwellers are appealed to use the aforesaid alternate routes to ensure the construction period of flyover to ensure smooth movement of vehicular traffics. All-out cooperation is sought from all concerned for the implementation of the project. The authority sincerely regrets for this temporary inconvenience.

Md Idrish Mia  
Project Director  
Roads and Highways Department  
Dhaka Urban Transport Project  
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.

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Today is the **18th Death anniversary** of Al-Haj Golam Mowla, pioneer of Insurance in East Pakistan & Bangladesh. He was the founder M. D. of Great Eastern Insurance Co. Ltd. and Sadharan Bima Corporation. He was also an active Rotarian involved in different social works. Members of the Mowla Family request all to pray for the departed soul.