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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 11, 2005 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

**Air Conditioners**

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## Govt to enact anti-dumping law

### NBR chairman tells DCCI leaders at pre-budget meet

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is going to enact an anti-dumping law in order to protect the interests of local industries. Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Khairuzzaman Chowdhury told a pre-budget discussion yesterday.

"The government will enact an anti-dumping law," he said asking the leaders of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) to give a list of items that are being dumped.

DCCI leaders at the pre-budget meeting also alleged imported goods are flooding the Bangladesh market,

posing threat to local industries.

They urged the NBR chairman to ensure transparency in the process of tax assessment and revenue earning. The chamber leaders also stressed the need for bringing parity in facilities enjoyed by entrepreneurs in the export processing zones and outside the zones.

Speaking at the meeting at the chamber auditorium in Dhaka, DCCI President Sayeef Islam demanded continuation of tax holiday in the next budget.

Responding to the chamber leaders, the NBR chairman urged the business leaders to come up with suggestions and alternative propos-

als on tax holiday and other issues that can be included in the next budget.

Chowdhury also sought suggestions from the business community in defining raw materials in order to rationalise duties on import of raw materials and finished items so that local entrepreneurs and manufacturers can invest in assembling industries.

The DCCI president underscored the need for giving emphasis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the next budget and a healthy policy for potential assembling industries by rationalising tax measures.

As a result of tax holiday, a total of

902 industrial units with an investment of Tk1,400 crore had been set up in the country in last three years, he added in a statement issued by the chamber.

The next budget should be an SME-oriented one since it is the backbone of today's national economy, he said adding that these industries should be protected at their preliminary stages.

Former DCCI presidents Mohammad Yunus, Matiuur Rahman, Rashed Maksud Khan and MH Rahman, incumbent Senior Vice-president Manzur-Ur-Rahman Ruskin and other leaders were present at the meeting.

## First meet of Dhaka-Jakarta joint commission in August

BSS, Dhaka

The first meeting of Bangladesh-Indonesia Joint Commission will be held in Dhaka in August this year providing scopes for discussion on ways to reduce trade gap between the two countries.

This was announced when the newly appointed Indonesian envoy to Bangladesh Warmas Hasan Saputra called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The joint commission was formed during the visit of Khaleda Zia to Indonesia last year.

The PM stressed the need for reducing trade imbalance between the two countries which is presently in favour of Indonesia.

Urging the Indonesian authorities to import more Bangladeshi products, the PM mentioned some of Bangladeshi products which can be imported by Indonesia at competitive prices. Giving special emphasis on pharmaceutical products she said Bangladesh has been exporting quality medicines to many countries.

The envoy conveyed an invitation from Indonesian president to Khaleda Zia to attend the Afro-Asian Summit scheduled for April 22-24 in Jakarta and Bandung.

Appreciating the invitation, the PM said she will not be able to attend the summit due to pre-occupations. However, the foreign minister will represent her to the summit, she said.

A cultural team will also accompany the Bangladesh delegation to the summit under the cultural exchange protocol signed during her last visit to Indonesia, she added.

## Summit Power to go public soon to raise Tk 30cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Summit Power Ltd (SPL), the first independent power producer (IPP) in Bangladesh, will go public soon to raise Tk30 crore.

"We have already applied to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its approval and hope to go public within the next two months," said Muhammad Aziz Khan, chairman and managing director of SPL, at a credit rating handover ceremony in Dhaka yesterday.

The present paid-up capital of SPL is Tk35 crore.

Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL), a joint

venture with Rating Agency Berhard of Malaysia and JCR-VIS Rating Company Limited of Pakistan, has awarded AA- (Double A minus) credit rating in long term to the SPL.

Muzaffar Ahmed, chief executive officer and president of CRISL, formally handed over the credit rating report to Aziz Khan.

Addressing the function, Muzaffar Ahmed said though rating is a new concept in Bangladesh, it is necessary for a company to do business transparently.

He said the AA- credit report is a unique distinction for a Bangladeshi IPP.

SPL has three 11-MW power

plants at Ashulia in Savar, Madhabdi in Narsingdi and Chandi in Comilla, which had been commissioned in 2001 and are now operated and maintained wholly by Bangladeshi engineers and technicians, SPL officials said.

Summit Power is now running profitably and successfully, they said adding that the company has a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Rural Electrification Board. The company's average electricity dispatch to the consumers in 2004 was 85 percent of its total capacity.

Mirza Khairuzzaman, executive director of SPL, and other high officials were also present at the function.

## World's cheapest mobile phone service in India

ANN/THE STATESMAN

Call tariffs of mobile phones in India are now the cheapest in the world with the rates falling by 35 percent in the last fiscal while the subscriber base swelled to 5.21 crore from 3.36 crore, adding 1.85 crore new users in 2004-05.

The minimum effective per minute charge for local outgoing calls for post-paid mobile service has come down from Rs 1.90 in March 2004 to Rs 1.20 in March 2005, showing a decline of 35 per cent, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in a review of the sector.

STD charges for distance beyond 200 kms have been reduced by 33 per cent to Rs 2.40 per minute from Rs 3.60 per minute, Trai said.

ILD charges have come down due to certain promotional tariff plans of international long distance operators as well as reduced ADC. Calls to USA, Canada and Europe cost in the range of Rs 7.20 per minute against Rs 9.60 per minute during the previous year, registering a decline of 24 percent.

## Inter-American Development Bank opens meet with Asia focus

AFP, Ginowan, Japan

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Latin America's main source of multilateral financing, on Sunday began its annual meeting in Japan with attention focused on global economic powerhouse China.

The meeting in Okinawa Island comes less than a month after South Korea became the IDB's 47th member and only the second Asian member nation after Japan.

"I sincerely hope this ... will provide us with an opportunity to promote economic links between the two regions -- Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia," Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said in opening remarks.

"I strongly believe that Japan's role as a reliable and stable economic partner for the region as well as a liaison between the region and Asia is now more and more impor-

tant," said Tanigaki, who chairs the conference.

But a major focus will be China, which is sending a delegation. Its surging economy has fueled demand for Latin American raw materials that has stimulated trade but it is also a formidable manufacturing rival.

Japan in 1976 became the first Asian country in the IDB and it provides five percent of the bank's capital.

Japanese officials warned Latin America to deal with China cautiously or risk being swallowed by its fast-growing manufacturing power.

Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Hiroshi Watanabe told reporters late Saturday that some of his colleagues at the IDB agreed with him during a preparatory meeting.

"I told them that they have to have clearer plans to split roles in the process from supplying raw materi-

als to assembling parts, the whole of which could be dominated by China," he said.

"In a big market where countries with great growth potential and those with lower potential co-exist, Latin American countries have to proceed cautiously, or they could be swallowed or beaten," he said.

"They cannot be as complacent as thinking trading with China will be good enough."

IDB president Enrique Iglesias has called the Okinawa meeting "a new window" for the bank. Previous meetings have all been in the western hemisphere or Europe except for one in the central Japan city of Nagoya in 1991.

In opening remarks on Sunday, Iglesias said a plunge in some commodity prices, rising interest rates and surging oil prices were a cause of concern for Latin America and the global economy.

## Fair & Lovely Foundation to sponsor training for women

Fair & Lovely Foundation, a social welfare concern of Unilever Bangladesh, will offer assistance to Faria Lara Foundation for implementing a supplementary education programme for women in Barguna district.

A contract to this effect was signed between the two organisations in Dhaka recently. At the contract signing ceremony, Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, handed over a cheque and 10 personal computers to Selina Hossain, executive director of Faria Lara Foundation, says a press release.

Under this project, 40 female SSC level students from 16 institutions in Barguna upazila in Barguna district will receive a three-month training on basic computer skills and spoken and written English. The programme will start on April 21.

## HSBC, Brac Concord Lands raise funds for autistic children

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd Bangladesh, and Brac Concord Lands Ltd have jointly raised Tk 1.4 lakh for the Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC), a local organisation running training and education programme for autistic children.

The funds were accumulated from the proceeds of a month long children painting exhibition in Dhaka recently. SWAC will use the funds to buy teaching materials and gymnasium equipment, says a press release.

Faruque Chowdhury, advisor to Brac, handed over the cheque to Anwar Hossain, chairman of SWAC, at a function in Dhaka on Thursday.

## Emirates' engineering centre under construction

Emirates is constructing a new engineering centre beside Dubai International Airport to maintain the airline's aircraft.

The US\$353 million centre will be constructed on 136 acres of land and will have seven fully air-conditioned hangars, says a press release.

Expected to be completed by the beginning of the next year, the engineering centre will be one of the biggest civil aviation maintenance facilities of the world.

## Dhaka seeks Chinese help in hybrid seed production

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar has sought stronger co-operation of China in technology transfer mechanism so that Bangladesh can develop parent line in hybrid seed production.

The minister was talking to a five-member Chinese delegation that met him at the agriculture ministry yesterday.

The delegation, led by Liu Haixin, vice general director of Science and Technology Department of Hubei province of China, is in the capital on a weeklong visit to enhance Bangladesh-China cooperation in agricultural science and technology.

At present, local private seed growers, including Supreme Seed Company, have some co-operation with the science and technology division of Hubei provincial government in producing and marketing hybrid seeds, especially rice.

Liu Haixin informed that China has 35 years of experience in pro-

ducing hybrid seeds of rice, maize, cotton and different vegetables.

These experiences can be shared with Bangladesh more purposefully, he said adding that China can also produce hybrid seed in Bangladesh as a joint-venture initiative.

Welcoming the willingness, the agriculture minister mentioned that during the last week's visit of the Chinese prime minister to Bangladesh, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to strengthen bilateral co-operation in agriculture sector.

He said bilateral technical co-operation agreements between the agriculture institutes of the two countries could be made under this MoU. The two countries could also exchange germplasm of fruits and vegetables, he added.

Responding to the spirit of co-operation, the Chinese delegation members informed that 55 percent of the total agriculture production in China are of hybrid origin as against nearly 2 percent in Bangladesh.

## Agrani Bank MD explores remittance business during KSA tour

Managing Director and CEO of Agrani Bank Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed has returned home recently from Saudi Arabia. He visited the Middle Eastern country with a view to boosting the bank's remittance business.

During his visit, Syed Abu Naser met Chairman and CEO of Al Rajhi Commercial Foreign Exchange Abdul Rahman Al Rajhi, says a press release.

Al Rajhi assured the Agrani Bank CEO of all out co-operation in remitting currency from Saudi Arabia.

During the visit, Syed Abu Naser also called on the acting president of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah. The acting president showed interest in telecommunications, power and other projects in Bangladesh.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Uniconsult International Limited (UCIL) is currently working as consultant for ADB funded Northwest Crop Diversification Project (NCDP), the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) under the Ministry of Agriculture. For selecting a consultant for the project, applications are invited from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following project position:

**Position: Market Information Specialist; Duration: 06 person-months; Duty Station: Dhaka at PMU Office.**

**Terms of Reference:** Actively involve to review and assess the current market information collection system and identify deficiencies and suggest mechanism for upgrading the system; Determine needs of appropriate communications equipment for DAM fields offices and formulate a plan of action with timetable for proper utilization of the equipment; Help PM, PIU, DAM to procure modern communications equipment for all DAM offices of the project area; Formulate training courses with the help of int'l consultant on the preparation of information packages for use by broadcast media and provide on-the-job training at Dhaka and in regional DAM offices where broadcast facilities exist; Organize a training program for NCDP (DAM) officials aiming at the proper use of equipment through development of knowledge and skills; Oversee the training program in the use of communications equipment to be procured for DAM component of NCDP; Develop a website for DAM about HVCs marketing interventions with sharing the experience of DAM database and web-site already developed by FAO project of DAM; and Prepare and submit all sorts of reports including interim at the end of each input and terminal consultancy report at the end of total input to satisfy donor and GOB.


**Qualification and experience:** The candidate should have at least higher university degree in Economics/and, Master's degree in Economics/Agriculture Economics/MBA and other relevant subject with minimum second class in all examinations. He/She should have at least 15 years experience including 5 years in donor funded project experience for information and communication systems, broadcast media especially in market. Candidates having experience in communication and broadcast media development, training, sound working knowledge of computer will be given preference. The candidate should be capable of writing report in English independently and willingness to conduct field visit frequently. Age not more than 60 years. Remuneration would vary from TK 50,000-60,000 per month on the basis of qualification and experience.

Interested candidates having required qualification and experience may apply with detailed Curriculum Vitae in ADB format with one recent photograph and all certificates. The application should be sent to UCIL on or before 20 April 2005. Applications should be sent indicating the name of the position applied for on the envelope. Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

President

Uniconsult International Limited (UCIL)

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