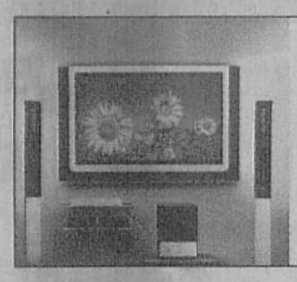
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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

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Cut yarn prices or face open import from India

Finance minister warns local manufacturers

UNB, *Dhaka*

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday cautioned if domestic manufacturers do not reduce yarn prices, the floodgates will be opened allowing import from India through the land ports within a month.

The government imposed a ban on the yarn import from India through land ports about three years ago to protect local spinning mills and stop smuggling of the product through false declaration.

"Any protection in a ruthless competitive world is not acceptable," he told the opening ceremony of Batexpo-2005 at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka.

"Unless you (yarn manufacturers) reduce prices, within a month border will be opened to import yarn from India," he said.

On a downtrend in woven garment export to EU market, the finance minister appeared critical of garment manufacturers for only spinning money without investing in backward-linkage industry for which woven exports came down.

He, however, assured that the fall in woven export is a seasonal phenomenon as EU market is going through unstable situation. Referring to his meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner, Saifur said India may soon face such measures as the WTO-imposed safety clause on China regarding export of woven apparels.

Disagreeing with BGMEA leaders' plea for salvaging sick garment industries through government's financial help, Saifur said most industrial units and institutions in the nationalised sector are either "dead, semi-dead or half-dead" as the management could not run those properly.

He rejected the suggestion for salvaging the sick industries through bank loan, which, he said, would create extra burden on the banks. However, he said a policy could be formulated to solve their problems.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia opened the three-day apparel fair. The inaugural session was also addressed by Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, Commerce Ministry Adviser Barkat Ullah Bulu and BGMEA President Annisul Huq.

BGMEA seeks Saarc cumulation

UNB, *Dhaka*

BGMEA President Annisul Huq yesterday urged the government to consider whether or not they should try Saarc cumulation for increasing garment exports to the EU market.

"Saarc cumulation is the only way to increase our export to EU again," he said at the opening ceremony of Batexpo-2005 in Dhaka.

The BGMEA chief made the remarks as Bangladesh's woven garment exports to the EU market.

In January to June 2004, $ 998.70 million worth of exports went to the EU market, which came down to $ 802.84 million in January to June 2005. The demand for woven garments is about 65 percent in the world market.

The woven apparel export also suffered as backward linkages are very insufficient.

Huq also urged the government to consider their plea for central bonded warehouse to survive the competition in terms of lead-time.

Strike halts Indian financial activities

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

A nationwide strike called by Left-backed trade unions protesting Indian government's economic reforms hit financial, industrial and airlines services activities across the country yesterday.

Normal functioning of government-owned banks and insurance companies was disrupted as millions of employees of public sector companies and airports went on a day-long shutdown called in protest against the moves by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh government to divest blue-chip industries, privatise Delhi and Mumbai airports and "dilute" labour laws.

The national strike by Left trade unions, the first since the Congress-led government came to power in May last year, paralysed normal life in the Leftist strongholds of West Bengal and Kerala and all modes of public transport went off the streets of Kolkata. But there is no report of violence from any part of the country during the strike.

Movement of trains in eastern and southeastern parts of the country was crippled as protestors squatted on rail tracks at different places and several long-distance trains were stranded.

Commercial activities came to a virtual halt with shops, schools and colleges remaining closed across West Bengal and Kerala.

Financial services, including public sector banking operations, have also been hit in the financial capital of Mumbai.

Several flights had to be cancelled as employees of airports joined the strike, leaving thousands of passengers stranded.

The government deployed personnel of army, air force and navy to help maintain normal working at the airports.

Seven central Left trade unions led by the CITU and AITUC and 70 industry unions and federations participated in the strike, making it one of the largest stirs in recent times.

The Left parties, which provide crucial support for Manmohan Singh government from outside, oppose sale of government stakes in profit-making public sector units as well as government move to permit FDI in retail, banks and pension funds and hike the FDI cap in insurance sector.

A government decision to sell 74 percent stakes in international airports in Delhi and Mumbai angered the Left parties and their trade unions.

PHOTO: STAR

Judith A Chammas (R), chargé d'affaires of US Embassy, Dhaka, speaks at a meeting on "Trade and Economy" organised by the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) yesterday in Dhaka. BCI President AK Azad, among others, was present.

Bangladesh single country fair kicks off in Kathmandu

UNB, *Dhaka*

In a bid to boost trade relations between the two South Asian countries, a five-day Bangladesh single country fair began in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu yesterday.

Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of Nepal Kirti Nidhi Bista, Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal M Humayun Kabir and acting Vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh Mustafa Mohiuddin jointly inaugurated the fair at Birendra International Convention Centre.

Bangladesh usually exports pharmaceuticals, textile fabrics, melamine tableware, chemical fertiliser, knitwear and garment accessories to Nepal while imports vegetables, processed food, mineral and chemical products from the Himalayan country.

Addressing the inaugural programme, Minister Bista lauded Bangladesh for its progress over the years, especially in areas of garment, leather, pharmaceutical and chemical industries, according to a message received here yesterday.

The minister said Bangladesh has registered a steady economic growth, particularly in export front, despite recent challenges emerging from quota phase-out.

He said the fair would provide an ample opportunity for consumers, traders, investors and industrialists from Nepal and Bangladesh to promote economic relations between the two countries.

Ambassadors of Pakistan, Russia, Denmark, Norway, Sri Lanka, CDA of USA and Myanmar, presidents of various District Chambers of Nepal were also present at the function.

Foreign investment surges in developing countries

Says Unctad

AFP, *Undated*

Global investment flows have recovered from a three-year decline, with the rebound fuelled by global corporations' operations in developing countries, a UN report said Thursday.

Prospects are good for maintaining the trend this year and in 2006, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said in its annual study of foreign direct investment.

"The high level of FDI to developing countries is likely to be sustained," said Anne Miroux, who steers Unctad's World Investment Report.

Multinationals "are seeking to improve their competitiveness by expanding in the fast-growing markets of emerging economies and by seeking new ways to reduce costs," she said.

Developing nations in Asia are the biggest winners, Unctad noted.

Globally, foreign direct investment flows last year reached 648 billion dollars, two percent higher than in 2003.

Behind that figure lie diverging trends, said Unctad.

FDI in developing countries surged by 40 percent to 233 billion dollars, the second-highest amount ever recorded.

In the developed world it fell 14 percent to 380 billion dollars, with much of the decline tied to repayments of intra-company loans and capital repatriation from western Europe by foreign parent companies.

The United States remained the top recipient of FDI, drawing 96 billion dollars of the total, followed by Britain, mainland China, Luxembourg, Australia, Belgium, Hong Kong, France, Spain and Brazil.

GP introduces voice SMS

GrameenPhone Ltd has introduced voice SMS, which will enable subscribers to send voice messages in any language at a lower cost.

This service is not handset dependent and all the GP pre-paid and post-paid subscribers will be able to send and receive voice SMS (short message system) through the GP network, says a press release.

The new service will ease subscribers' way of communication as it will allow them to record a message/ greeting/ announcement and send them instantly without searching the alphabets on the small keypads of the mobile phone sets.

A subscriber has to press '*' on the keypad followed by the receiver's number to send a voice SMS of 30-second duration with a charge of Tk 2.5 for per message. Receivers can listen to new voice message free of cost just by dialing *0*.

Oil prices higher above $66 in Asian trade

AFP, *Singapore,*

Oil prices rose in Asian trade Thursday as US refineries shut down by two powerful hurricanes were slow to reopen, raising fresh concerns over supplies, dealers said.

At 12:20 pm (0420 GMT), New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in November, was up four cents to 66.39 dollars a barrel from its close of 66.35 dollars on Wednesday in the United States, where it had shot up 1.28 dollars.

The market ignored reports of better than expected US inventory data, remaining concerned about the fate of refineries continuning offline following Hurricane Rita's passage at the weekend, less than a month after Katrina.

"Refinery recovery looks likely to be slow," said Victor Shum, an analyst with US energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz in Singapore.

"Even though the (US) intentory report ... showed rather large gains in gasoline stocks, that was ignored by the market."

He said that with the northern hemisphere winter season fast approaching, demand for heating fuel was likely to build and the refineries need to get back into operation.

"Going forward, the tight supply situation across the entire energy complex, including crude oil production and refinery capacity will really put a high (ceiling) on prices," Shum said.

The US Department of Energy (DoE) reported a drop in crude oil inventories of 2.4 million barrels, a sharper decline than the 1.5-million-barrel drawdown expected by financial markets.

But gasoline (petrol) reserves increased 4.4 million barrels, against market expectations of a drop of two million barrels.

Distillates, used for heating and diesel fuel, fell 500,000 barrels, not as bad as expectations of a decrease of two million barrels.

US refineries operated at 86.7 percent of capacity in the week to September 23, down from 90.8 percent the previous week, the DoE added.

Bangladesh to export drugs to North Africa from next yr

BDNEWS, *Dhaka*

Export market of Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals will expand to North Africa in March next year, Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceuticals Industry (Bapi) President SM Shafiuzzaman said yesterday.

Export of pharmaceuticals to this region has already started, he added.

He was speaking at a press conference at the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) office. EPB Director AKM Nizamul Alam, ACME Laboratories Ltd Director Tanveer Sinha and members of the team that visited North Africa were also present.

The Bapi president said large-scale pharmaceuticals export from Bangladesh to the region will start in March next year adding that Square Pharmaceuticals has already exported its products to Libya.

Shafiuzzaman said Bangladesh is the only least developed country (LDC) among 50 LDCs of the world, that is self sufficient in pharmaceuticals industry. Bangladesh as a LDC country is eligible to export and produce pharmaceuticals without patent up to 2016, he added.

Bapi and EPB jointly formed the marketing mission to visit the six countries of North Africa from 5-20 September. 16 members of the delegation visited Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Sudan. Delegates from different companies including Square, Beximco, Orion, Navana, ACME, Jayson, EsKayef, Alco and Bio-pharma also participated in the mission.

Intraco to distribute CNG compressors of Korean co

Intraco CNG Ltd, a concern of Hotel Agrabad Group, will distribute CNG (compressed natural gas) compressors of Korea-based Kwangshin Machine Industry Co Ltd in Bangladesh.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the two companies on Wednesday in Dhaka, says a press release.

Riyadh Ali, managing director of Intraco CNG, and Brian Ahn, director (Sales) of Kwangshin Machine Industry, signed the deal on behalf of their companies. Other senior officials from both the sides were also present.

US, China textile talks end without agreement

AFP, *Beijing,*

China said Thursday that textile talks in Washington with the United States had ended without an agreement being reached and that another round of negotiations would be held.

"China and the United States held the fifth round of textile talks in Washington D.C., the two sides made positive progress in the talks, but some differences remain as well," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement.

"Both sides agreed to hold the next rounds of talks as quickly as possible and fix the time and place for them through diplomatic channels."

The announcement came after the two sides extended negotiations to a third day Wednesday in the dispute over limits on Chinese textiles to the US market.

Industry sources had cast doubt on prospects for a deal, but officials said the two-day meeting had been extended to give the delegations more time to narrow their yawning differences.

"We have made good progress in our discussions over the past couple of days and, although we still have differences, we feel that additional time to work on the issues would be beneficial," chief US negotiator David Spooner said late Tuesday.

Chinese textile exports to the United States have rocketed by an average of 627 percent since global quotas on the trade were lifted on January 1, according to US industry figures.

For US critics, the textiles dispute has highlighted what they call China's "manipulation" of its exchange rate to give its exports an unfair edge in world markets.

US textile associations have filed a barrage of petitions with the government demanding new quotas against Chinese garment exports.

Authorities have looked favourably on most of the petitions so far.

But the US Trade Representative's (USTR) office says the quotas are "cumbersome" and would prefer an agreement that injects some certainty for importers and retailers until 2008.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়

সাপোর্ট টু আইসিটি টাস্কফোর্স প্রোগ্রাম প্রকল্প

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	প্রকল্পের নাম	সাপোর্ট টু আইসিটি টাস্কফোর্স প্রোগ্রাম প্রকল্প (SICT)
২।	অর্থের উৎস	SICT প্রকল্পের অনুকূলে বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচীর (এডিপি) বরাদ্দ।
৩।	প্যাকেজ নং	সিডি
৪।	টেন্ডারের নাম	SICT প্রকল্পের রক্ষিত জাতীয় আইসিটি টাস্কফোর্সের সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়ন খোক বরাদ্দের আওতায় মন্ত্রিপরিষদ বিভাগ কম্পিউটারাইজেশন।
৫।	দরপত্র নং	পবি/আইসিটি/কেডিঃ-১০২/২০০৪/৬৯৬, তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০০৫।
৬।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	প্রকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সরবরাহকারী এবং যাদের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, টিআইএন সনদপত্র আছে।
৭।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	৫ অক্টোবর ২০০৫-২৬ অক্টোবর ২০০৫, প্রতিদিন বেলা ১২:০০টা থেকে ৩:০০টা।
৮।	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি, দাখিল ও খোলার স্থান	সাপোর্ট টু আইসিটি টাস্কফোর্স প্রোগ্রাম প্রকল্প, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ব্লক-১৩, ৩য় তলা।
৯।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৬ অক্টোবর ২০০৫, বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭ অক্টোবর ২০০৫, বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৭ অক্টোবর ২০০৫, বেলা ১২:১৫ ঘটিকা (দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে)।

১২। কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণঃ

	লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	স্থান	প্রতিটি দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (নগদ)	জামানতের পরিমাণ (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট, পে-অর্ডার)	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
	জি-৬	৩৩টি কম্পিউটার, ৩টি ল্যাপটপ, ৩টি লেজার প্রিন্টার, ১টি ফ্লাডবেড স্কানার, ৩৭টি ইউপিএস, ৮টি সার্জ প্রটেক্টর/স্পাইক প্রটেক্টর, ১টি এক্সটার্নাল ডিভিডি রাইটার এবং ৩৫টি কম্পিউটার চেয়ার ও ৩৫টি কম্পিউটার টেবিল সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন	ঢাকা	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	৮০,০০০/- (আশি হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের দিন হতে ৪৫ দিন
	জি-৭	৪টি রিয়েল আইপি, ১টি ফায়ার ওয়াল, ২টি সার্ভার ও রেক, ১টি ডাটা বেকআপ ইউনিট, সফটওয়ার ও সার্ভার কনফিগারেশন, ১টি ডাটা সেফ, ওয়েব স্পেস ক্রয়, বর্তমান নেটওয়ার্ক (ল্যান) সম্প্রসারন, ইন্টারনেট ব্র্যান্ডউইথ সরবরাহ, ডিডিএন কানেকটিভিটি সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন	ঢাকা	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	৮০,০০০/- (আশি হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	
	জি-৮	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, কেবিনেট ডিভিশন, বিসিসি এবং পরিকল্পনা কমিশন মধ্যে অপটিকাল ফাইবার সংযোগ	ঢাকা	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	৮০,০০০/- (আশি হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	
	জি-৯	২টি মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন	ঢাকা	৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা)	৮,০০০/- (আট হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	
	জি-১০	১টি ডিজিটাল ফটোকপিয়ার সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন	ঢাকা	৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা)	২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	
	জি-১১	১টি এলসিডি মনিটর সরবরাহ	ঢাকা	৪৫০/- (চারশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা)	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র)	

১৩। দরপত্র দাখিল অথবা খোলার দিন যদি সরকারী ছুটি থাকে তবে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবস দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য হবে।

১৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

১৫। আলোচ্য দরপত্রটি ও এ সম্পর্কে সংশোধনী (যদি থাকে) অত্র প্রকল্পের নোটিশ বোর্ডে এবং প্রকল্পের ওয়েব সাইটে (www.sictgov.org) পাওয়া যাবে।

১৬। আলোচ্য দরপত্র "The Public Procurement Regulations, 2003" এর Open Tendering Method মোতাবেক এক খাম পদ্ধতিতে পরিচালিত হবে।

জিডি-১৫৬৩

উপ-প্রকল্প পরিচালক

সাপোর্ট টু আইসিটি টাস্কফোর্স প্রোগ্রাম প্রকল্প

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Experience Requirement: Some experience preferable.
Additional Job Requirements:

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- Should have depth knowledge in Income Tax and Corporate Tax issues.
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- Ability to prepare and drafting all kind of official documents and letters.
- Should have adequate experience to work under computer environment and well conversant in operating accounting software.
- Excellent command over English and Bengali (written & spoken)
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Salary Range: NA

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