

Japan Post, Express in parcel delivery tie-up

AFP, Tokyo

Japan Post agreed Friday to merge its parcel delivery operations with those of shipping firm Japan Express in its first business tie-up since the start of postal privatisation.

Japan Post and Japan Express, Japan's largest transportation service company, said in a statement that they plan to set up a joint venture in October next year to combine the operations.

The two companies have yet to decide on their investment ratio for the venture, which will control a combined 19 percent or the third largest of Japan's parcel-delivery market.

They also plan to consider expanding their business tie-up in the future in order to "build a comprehensive and strategic business relationship."

On Monday, Japan Post began its long privatisation process, splitting into four units to handle deliveries, savings, insurance and counter services under a holding company that remains fully government-owned for now.

Together they have some three trillion dollars in savings and life insurance policies, making the group the world's biggest financial institution.

The split is the initial step in a decade-long process that counts as the first major privatisation in Japan since the 1987 breakup of the national railway.

Vietnam car sales rocket 83 percent

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnamese car sales have rocketed 83 percent in the first nine months of the year, manufacturers said on Saturday.

Sales have shot up to 49,240 vehicles against 26,934 in the same period last year, the Vietnamese Automobile Manufacturers' Association (VAMA) said.

Passenger car sales between January and September were reported at 10,882 vehicles, a rise of 143 percent.

The figures were compiled from 16 of VAMA's 18 members. Data were not available for the other two members.

The biggest rise belonged to Japan's Honda which sold 2,729 locally assembled vehicles, up 858 percent from last year's 285.

Next in the list was Vidamco, a joint venture between South Korean GM Daewoo and a Vietnamese company with a 305 percent rise in sales.

In September alone, VAMA members sold 7,683 units, up by 99 percent against the same month of 2006.

US unemployment edges up despite new jobs

AP, Washington

Fears that the country could slide into a recession eased in September as employers created the most jobs in four months and workers' wages grew solidly. The unemployment rate crept up to 4.7 percent, the highest in over a year but still low by historical standards.

Wall Street breathed a sign of relief and pushed the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 125 points in afternoon trading.

The tally of 110,000 net new jobs generated in September clearly heartened investors and analysts. Yet what they really took comfort in was the revelation that the job market a main pillar for the economy didn't crack under the pressure of a painful credit crunch and housing slump in August after all.

The Labor Department's fresh snapshot of employment conditions around the country released

Friday showed that the economy actually created 89,000 jobs in August.

That was a huge and crucial turnaround from the loss of 4,000 jobs the first decline in four years reported a month before. At the time, that news had sent Wall Street into a nosedive, stoked fears the economy was heading toward recession and was seen as cementing the Federal Reserve's decision to lower interest rates.

To be sure, the ill effects of the housing and credit problems have hurt some employers, slowing national job growth this year. But the situation is nowhere near as dire as many were led to believe from the initial August employment report.

"We are on much sounder footing," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank. "To be fair, it is clear the pace of monthly job creation has slowed and the

unemployment rate is creeping higher but neither measure is indicative of an imminent recession, which was the scenario on everyone's lips just a month ago."

The main reason behind the turnaround in the August payroll figure? A big gain in government employment, especially in hiring teachers at local schools.

The bump up in the unemployment rate from 4.6 percent in August came as hundreds of thousands of people perhaps feeling better about their prospects resumed job searches.

The new rate of 4.7 percent, the highest since the summer of 2006, is still considered low by historical standards. After the country's last recession, in 2001, the unemployment rate peaked at 6.3 percent. More than two decades ago, for example, civilian unemployment went over 10 percent as the economy suffered through deep downturns.



PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS DHAKA

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka and Singer Bangladesh Ltd have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which employees of Singer Bangladesh will get medical services at special rates and other corporate benefits from the hospital. Shahjahan Majumder, director (Finance) of the hospital, and AM Hamim Rahmatullah, director and chief operating officer of Singer Bangladesh, signed the deal. Senior officials from both the sides were present.



PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Ltd and Trust Bank Ltd have recently entered into a listing agreement under which share trading of the bank has begun on the bourse. Farhad Uddin, company secretary to the bank, and Sheikh Mohammadul Haque, secretary to the DSE, signed the deal, while Maj Gen Md Motiur Rahman, adjutant general of Bangladesh Army and vice chairman of the bank, and Iqbal U Ahmed, managing director, and Md Abdullah Bokhari, president of the DSE, and Salahuddin Ahmed Khan, CEO of the bourse, among other senior officials from both the sides, were present.

China to open 'super' coal mines

AFP, Beijing

Energy-starved China will boost coal output by 400 million tonnes a year by 2010 by streamlining the industry and opening a string of new "super" pits, state media reported Friday.

Widespread closures and mergers will leave fewer than 20 firms, including six to eight new "super" coal production enterprises with a yield of 100 million tonnes each, accounting for more than 50 percent of the country's entire output by 2010, Xinhua news agency said.

China reported a total coal output of more than 2.3 billion tonnes of coal last year.

Small mines that are illegal or inefficient and have given the industry its appalling safety record are already being weeded out, Wang Xianzheng, deputy director of the State Administration of Work Safety, was quoted as saying.

Over the last two years, more than 9,000 small mines have been shut and another 1,000 will close by the end of 2007, Xinhua said.

As part of the streamlining process the country plans to build 10 large strip-mines with a production capacity of 10 million tonnes each and another 10 pits with a yield of 10 million tonnes each, Wang said.

China's coal mines are among the most dangerous in the world, and many of the accidents occur in small, unlicensed mines where safety regulations are widely ignored.

More than 4,700 coal miners died in China last year, according to official figures, but independent labour groups put the real toll at closer to 20,000 annually. They say many accidents never come to light.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Grameenphone Ltd has recently entered into a corporate agreement with courier company Security Air Express to provide it with complete communication facilities under the mobile phone operator's "Business Solutions" package. Senior officials from both the companies were present at the signing ceremony.



PHOTO: GREY WORLDWIDE

Apex Adelchi Footwear Ltd has recently opened 'Gallerie Apex', a showroom of Apex brand shoes and sandals, on Airport Road at Banani in Dhaka. Deputy Managing Director of the company Syed Gias Hussain inaugurated the showroom, while senior officials were present.

Euro hits 2-week low against dollar

AFP, London

The euro fell on Friday to its lowest level for two weeks against the dollar, after news that the US economy generated 110,000 jobs in September.

The US Labor Department report on nonfarm payrolls, seen as one of the best gauges of economic momentum, also hiked its estimate for August to show a gain of 89,000 jobs, instead of a loss of 4,000 that had stunned analysts.

Following the news, the European single currency sank to 1.4033 dollars -- last seen September 20 -- compared with 1.4140 dollars beforehand.

The euro has now shed 1.8 percent in value since striking a historic high point of 1.4283 dollars

on Monday.

The dollar had plunged to the historic trough amid expectations that the US Federal Reserve would continue cutting American interest rates to help shore up a struggling US economy.

"We still believe that a weaker (US) economy will lead to a more severe deterioration in labour market conditions in the coming months, persuading the Fed to cut rates further," said Capital Economics analyst Paul Ashworth.

"But on the basis of today's data the Fed may now opt to wait and see at October's meeting."

Last month, the US central bank had slashed its key rate by half a point to 4.75 percent amid turmoil on world financial markets.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Archives and Libraries

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Dhaka-1207

No. 12-16/2007-NAB/647

Date: 02/10/2007

Request for Expression of Interest

The Directorate of Archives and Libraries has been allocated public funds from the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh toward the cost of the Construction of National Archives Building 2nd Phase Project and intends to apply part of these funds to payments for the provision of consultancy services for the project.

The services include preparation of detail structural design from approved architectural design, working design, detail estimate, preparation of tender documents, construction supervision, preparation of structural, electrical, mechanical, chemical, sanitary and plumbing, furniture, acoustic, air-conditioning, microfilm, lighting, equipment design, schedule of items of works and specification etc.

The experience, resources and delivery capacity required are brochure with summary of facility and areas of expertise, description of similar assignment, experience in similar operating condition, appropriate experience and professional qualifications of applicants staff and resource to carryout the assignment, administrative strength, and financial capability. The firm should have to submit income tax certificate, VAT registration certificate and other relevant documents.

The Directorate of Archives and Libraries now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultant are invited to provide information, indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

A consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the PPR-2003 and Public Procurement Procedure issued by the GOB.

Interested consultant firms may obtain farther information from the address given below during normal office hour.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope to the address of the undersigned by 14:00 hrs on 21/10/2007 and be clearly marked Expression of Interest for the procurement of professional and intellectual service for Construction of National Archives Building (2nd Phase) Project.

Dr. Md. Zahedul Islam

Project Director

Construction of National Archives Building (2nd Phase)

Directorate of Archives & Libraries

32, Justice SM Morshed Sorani

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Dhaka-1207

GD-3436

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড	
বাবস্থাপক (পরিচালন) এর দপ্তর চট্টগ্রাম বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো পেট্রোল চৌকি, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম	
খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
স্মারক নং-চবি/ক/এম (পরিঃ)/২৪/২০০৭/১১৭৯ তারিখঃ ২৫-০৯-২০০৭ইং	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও বনজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ।
২। এজেন্সী/প্রতিষ্ঠান	বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড।
৩। দপ্তরের নাম	বাবস্থাপক (পরিচালন), চট্টগ্রাম বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪। বাজেট ও "হরবি" এর প্রকৃতি	রাজস্ব বাজেট এবং বিউবোর নিজস্ব অর্থ।
৫। দরপত্রের নাম	চট্টগ্রাম বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের ভাঙার হাইড্রোইকনিক এন্ড (HCL) সরবরাহকরণ।
৬। দরপত্রাদানের মেয়াদ	কিউবো/বায়ুতাপসিত/আধা-বায়ুতাপসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত ট্রান্সমিটার/ব্রকড দাবাসার/সরবরাহকরণ।
৭। দরপত্রের মূল্য	টাকা ৬০০/- (ছয়শত) মাত্র প্রতি সেট (অফারের ক্ষেত্রে)।
৮। দরপত্রের সময়সীমা	২০ (দুই) দিন।
৯। সরবরাহের সময়সীমা	১৫ (পনের) দিন।
১০। জামানতের পরিমাণ	টাকা ১৮,০০০/- (আঠার হাজার চারশত) মাত্র। বায়নার টাকা হিসাবে যে কোন তফসীল থাকে হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে সহকারী পরিচালক (হিসাব), আইসেল, চবি, বিউবো, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দাবিভুক্ত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
১১। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র।
১২। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান/দপ্তর	(ক) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, চবি, বিউবো, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম। (খ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (বিভাগ), দক্ষিণাঞ্চল, বিউবো, আখাউড়া, চট্টগ্রাম। (গ) বাবস্থাপক, শিকলবাধা বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম। (ঘ) বাবস্থাপক, সোনালী ব্যাংক, চৌকি, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৩। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/১০/২০০৭ইং (দরপত্র চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।
১৪। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/১০/২০০৭ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও দপ্তর	উপ-বাবস্থাপক (পরিচালন), চবি, বিউবো, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস কক্ষ রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে।
১৬। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/১০/২০০৭ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় টেন্ডার ওপেনিং কমিটি ও দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।
১৭। পারফরমেন্স বন্ড	সকল দরপত্রদাতাকে অভিজ্ঞতা/কার্যাবলি ইত্যাদি ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে উক্ত/কার্যাবলি মূল্যের ১০% (দশ শতাংশ) হারে পারফরমেন্স বন্ড ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে সহকারী পরিচালক (হিসাব), আইসেল, চবি, বিউবো, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১৮। বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১) এই দরপত্র "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট অ্যাক্ট-২০০৬" অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হইবে। ২) টেন্ডার নথিপত্রের সাথে কমপক্ষে মালামালের ৫০০ গ্রাম নমুনা দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল হইয়া যাইবে। ৩) সরকারের নির্ধারিত আদেশ/নির্বাহী কার্যবশত দরপত্র জমা/দাখিলের তারিখে দপ্তর বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র জমা ও দাখিল করা যাইবে। দাখিলের তারিখ নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে ভাঙে অথবা সুরক্ষার সার্ভিসে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা যাইবে।
১৯। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল কিংবা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।	
উপ-বাবস্থাপক (পরিচালন) চট্টগ্রাম বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম	

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)			
Invitation for Tender (IFT)			
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communications	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	CHAIRMAN, BRTA	
4	Invitation for	Supply and installation of goods and maintenance of BRTA-Information System in different offices in Bangladesh	
5	Invitation Ref No	BRTA/2E-2/TD/BRTA-IS(Maintenance)/2006-2787 - 03-10-2007	
6	Date		
KEY INFORMATION			
7	Procurement Method	OTM (National) OPEN	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
9	Tender Package No	BRTA/IT/01/2007	
10	Tender Package Name	Supply and installation of goods and maintenance of BRTA-Information System in different offices in Bangladesh	
Date			
11	Tender Publication Date	03-10-2007	
12	Tender Last Selling Date	29-10-2007	
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	30-10-2007	12:00 NOON
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	30-10-2007	12:30 PM
15	Name & Address of the office - Selling Tender Document	Account Section, BRTA, Old Airport Road, Allentbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. (Tenderers have to apply for the tender documents in their respective business/official Letter Heads)	
- Receiving Tender Document			
Chamber of Director(Administration), BRTA, Old Airport Road, Allentbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215			
- Opening Tender Document			
BRTA, Old Airport Road, Allentbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215			
16	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	BRTA, Old Airport Road, Allentbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. 25-10-2007, 10:30 AM	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderers having experience in supplying computer Accessories, software development, maintenance, data entry etc. possess required professional and technical qualifications and competence, financial resources, and physical facilities etc may submit tenders provided they possess the minimum qualification criteria indicated in the tender document.	
18	Brief Description of Goods	Supply and installation of goods and maintenance of BRTA-Information System in different offices in Bangladesh.	
19	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	3000.00 (three thousand) to be paid through treasury challan in Bangladesh Bank to the account code no. - 1/5043/0000/2366	
20	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location
20	Goods and services are to be supplied as a single lot.	DHAKA	5 lac
21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	CHAIRMAN, BRTA	
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	CHAIRMAN	
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BRTA, Allentbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215	
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. +88028111400 Fax No. +88029116163	
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders		

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Bangladesh Road Transport Authority