

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Career woman

It is a fact that due to the peculiar socio-economic approach of our country, women are to struggle harder than their male counterparts to achieve their goals.

It is praiseworthy that GoB has always tried to ensure the empowerment of women despite different obstacles. I would like to request the PSC to take another step which may facilitate our womenfolk in building their proper career in government jobs. The reason is stated below.

According to the biological clock, the marriageable age of a girl is between 18 to 25 years in our climatic zone and 99% of the parents try to get their girls married within this range. The post-marriage concern arises regarding child bearing.

While pregnant, a woman has to undergo many physical changes.

After childbirth, she is to breast feed the baby for at least two years. The child needs mother's attention full time for the initial five years.

The government allows 4 months' maternity leave to a working woman and she has no scope to extend it for a longer time even without pay. If she gives up job, she cannot re-enter. There is acute shortage of standard affordable day care centres. The consequence is that the child is neglected which ultimately affects the nation and, on the other hand, the woman concerned fails to discharge her duties as an ideal mother. She cannot discharge her official duties properly.

My view is that if we allow a woman to finish her university study by the age of 25, to face family affairs for the next 5 years and provide free time of 2 years for getting ready for competitive PSC

exams, GoB may find a hassle free talented women for the service of nation which may even be of greater value than offering quota system.

Therefore, I propose to fix the entry age for PSC exams for female candidates at 32 years, while the retiring age should be the same, irrespective of gender.
Prof. Roksana Begum
Former Principal, Govt Tolaram College, Narayanganj

Retirement age

The proposal for enhancement of retirement age for govt. servants including freedom fighters from 57 years to 60 years is being mooted since long without any realistic steps being taken to implement the same. Recently, though a proposal by the ministry for freedom fighters to enhance the retirement age of

freedom fighters serving in government jobs up to 65 years has been placed in the upper echelon of the govt, but it is yet to yield any outcome. The government has formed a new committee with a view to scrutinizing all such public committee reports and to make final recommendations. On 30 July last, reportedly in a meeting of the said committee, the previous proposal of all the committees to enhance the retirement age-limit to 60 years has been rejected due to strong opposition of some influential and young bureaucrats (Amla). It was said in the report that instead of discussion on enhancing the age limit, it was discussed as to how to decrease the age-limit from present day 57 years to 55 years. If the report is correct, then it is not only surprising, but also devoid of practicality.

The enhancement of retirement age is going on all around the world. It is not a new phenomenon. Moreover, in many countries of the world, there is no fixed retirement age-limit for the employees. The condition in Bangladesh is different. In some spheres, it is 67, in others it is 65 or 60, which shows a clear disparity amongst the various departments of govt and non-govt jobs and is amounting to violation of fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution. There have been a lot of letters, comments, articles, write-ups in the newspapers/periodicals justifying the necessity and background for enhancement of the same. Hence, the matter, perhaps, needs no further elaboration. So, the report of influencing the decision of a meeting in a negative way (as has been reported), if it is correct, is sad and surprising indeed. Taking any decision on a touchy matter in such a way may harm the popularity of the govt. It is learnt that during the tenure of the past two governments, some government servants having early promotion to higher posts were not in favour of enhancement of age limit, instead they were in favour of reduction of the same, so that they could serve a longer period due to the exit of their senior counterparts.

As the proposal had earlier been recommended by the Cabinet and only needed the approval of the then PM, so the Honourable Chief Adviser can easily give his approval to it. Besides, as the essence of various reports on public administration reform appears to be the same, the new committee needs less time for its recommendations, and not three months as has been reported in the press.
Some govt officers and employees
K.B. Rudra Road, Dhaka

Chittagong's sad tale



Do we really understand the meaning of equality and human rights? If we do, then why are the people of Chittagong facing the danger of being washed away and thrown into the drains, or falling into manhole and being lost forever during a heavy shower? The reason is lack of proper drainage system. The very well known 'Chaktai Khal' and a number of other less known khals have been occupied, of course illegally and filled up by sand coming down from the innumerable hills cut down by land grabbers. So long we have been living in a fool's paradise. Every year during the rainy season we hear that a sizeable fund has been made available

and very soon the 'Chaktai Khal' will be dredged and the drains from all around the city leading to the 'Khal' cleared, which will stop water logging in the city. Alas! Nothing has been done and the situation has gone from bad to worse. Main areas of the city go under water and the ground floor of houses and shops are inundated.

There is no compensation, because some are clever enough to call it natural calamity. Sorry, I just do not agree. It is man-made calamity and not natural calamity. Luxurious apartments are being built and cement mixture and mosaic scrapings are washed into the city drains where it settles and hardens thus reducing their

carrying capacity. Now, can we honestly blame nature for this? Hills have been cut thoughtlessly, opening the door to erosion. Hundreds of tons of soil are washed away by rain filling up the drainage system. Again, will you blame nature for this?

This is my earnest request to those who have the authority, to take planned measures for saving and improving the drainage system (not only the Chaktai Khal) of Chittagong before the advent of the next rainy season. Otherwise, there will be no end to the sufferings of the people living in this city.
Farida Chowdhury
Nasirabad Housing Society
Chittagong

Combating traffic jam



The present caretaker govt. deserves congratulations for the recent initiative to make the roads rickshaw free. It is so refreshing. The capital city cannot afford to witness such chaotic traffic causing immense sufferings to the city dwellers.

Time and again, I have mentioned that the rickshaws should be phased out in a planned manner from the main city roads over the next few years. I would request the authorities to immediately extend the rickshaw-free road from Kakrail to Bangladesh Bank and also include the main thoroughfares in Gulshan and Dhanmondi under the scheme.
Shamim Ahmed
Gulshan, Dhaka

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)-Economist

EOI No: 4/2007

Location: Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), 1st Annex Building, 1st Floor, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, Phone: 9550301/7125740.

Date: 24 October, 2007

The Microcredit Regulatory Authority has been allocated public fund from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) toward the cost of Promoting Financial Services for Poverty Reduction (PROSPER) Program, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this fund to payments under the contract for economist.

Brief description of job: Newly established MRA is working in the field of microfinance that has a particular focus on poverty alleviation through employment generation. MRA is formulating policy guidelines to monitor and supervise Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in the country. Therefore, it needs policy inputs from the perspective of a regulator to make policies. These inputs could be generated both from secondary research works and primary data from the field. The research economist will help the authority to provide those inputs for future policy guidelines. The services may include:

- Provide specific policy inputs
- Specify research area and research topic
- Provide a pool of potential researcher in this field
- Identify training needs of MRA in this area
- Identify training and research institutions for above mentioned purposes and bridge them with MRA
- Review monetary, fiscal and other financial policies with their possible implications on microfinance sector development
- Analyze macroeconomic situations of the country and their impact on microfinance and poverty alleviation
- Any other related activities that may be assigned from time to time
- Completion of work: 12 (twelve) months.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2003. Experiences in the field of financial market and microfinance will be appreciated.

Interested consultants may contact during normal office hours at the address above for additional information.

Microcredit Regulatory Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Expressions of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned shown above by 25 November 2007, 5pm, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for MRA, Economist."

PRPD: 48/2007-1758

Dt. 25.10.2007

GD-3706

Khandakar Muzharul Haque

Executive Vice Chairman

Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Family Planning

Janasankhya Bhaban

Azimpur, Dhaka-1205

দুটি সপ্তাহের বেশী নয়, একটি হলে ভাল হয়।

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1.	Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.				
2.	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning.				
3.	Procuring entity name	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management).				
4.	Procuring entity code	None				
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka				
6.	Invitation for	Procurement of Computer, Dot Matrix Printer & UPS.				
7.	Invitation Ref. No	DGFP/L&S-2/2007-2008/6235/1175.				
8.	Date	24/10/2007.				
9.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
10.	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Development).				
11.	Development partner	None				
12.	Program code	None				
13.	Program name	Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program.				
14.	Tender package No	GFP/LP(07-08)/03.				
15.	Tender package name	Procurement of Computer & other 2 items.				
16.	Tender publication date	-				
17.	Tender last selling date	26/11/2007 within office hour.				
18.	Tender closing date & time	27/11/2007 up to 11.30am.				
19.	Tender opening date & time	27/11/2007 at 12:30pm.				
20.	Name and address of the office(s) Selling tender document	1. Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka. 2. Additional Director (Drugs & Stores), Central Warehouse, Family Planning, Mohakhali, Dhaka.				
	Receiving tender document	Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.				
	Opening tender document	Office of the Director (Logistics & Supply), Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.				
21.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205 on 12/11/2007 at 11.00am.				
22.	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of last 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of similar goods. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 2 (two) years of experience in supply of specific goods. The tenderer shall have other qualifications as per tender documents. The minimum annual production capacity of the manufacturer shall be submitted specified in the schedule of requirements for the tender.				
23.	Brief description of goods	05 pcs. computers, 01 pc. Dot Matrix Printer & 05 pcs. UPS.				
24.	Brief description of related services	3 (three) years free services after installation.				
25.	Price of tender document	Tk. 400/- (four hundred) only (non-refundable). Payment will be made by Pay-Order/Bank Draft in favour of Director (Logistics & Supply) & Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.				
	Package No.	Identification of package		Location (Final destination)	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in weeks
	GFP/LP/ (07-08)/03	Computer	05 pcs.	Central Warehouse, Directorate General of Family Planning, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212	Taka 7,000.00 (seven thousand) only	08 (eight) weeks from the date of contract signing
		Dot Matrix Printers-3000	01 pc.			
		UPS-1000VA	05 pcs.			
27.	Name of official inviting tender	Md Hossain Molla.				
28.	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management).				
29.	Address of official inviting tender	Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.				
30.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh. Telephone: 880-2-8627557, 880-2-8625912 Facsimile number : 880-2-8625912 Electronic mail address : dirslsdp@agmi.com aadgfp@dekko.net.bd				
31.	a.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders and not bound to accept the lowest offer by the tenderer.				
	b.	All clauses and sub-clauses of "Public Procurement Regulation 2003" will be strictly followed.				
		Md Hossain Molla Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management) (Deputy Secretary) Phone-8627557				

GD-3715

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
Chittagong

Ref No. 25.02/100

Date: 23 October, 2007

International Tender Notice for Export of Naphtha Ex-ERL, Chittagong during November, 2007

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation ("the Corporation") hereby invites offers from reputed buyers for export of 110,000 barrels (plus/minus 5%) of Naphtha on FOB Chittagong basis Ex-Eastern Refinery Ltd., Chittagong in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereinafter:

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Exporting entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Exporting entity district	Chittagong.
5	Invitation for	110,000 barrels (plus/minus 5%) on FOB Chittagong basis.
6	Invitation Ref. No. and date	Ref No. 25.02/100, Date: 23 October, 2007.
7	Delivery schedule and place	Delivery: 25-27 November, 2007, Place: Chittagong.
8	Price	Price to be quoted in US\$/BBL FOB Chittagong basis.
9	Tendering method	Open tendering method.
10	Tender package name	International tender for Export of Naphtha.
11	Tender publication date	23 October, 2007.
12	Tender last selling date	11 November, 2007.
13	Tender closing date and time	Date: 12 November 2007, Time: 1200 hours (BST).
14	Tender opening date and time	Date: 12 November 2007, Time: 1205 hours (BST).
15	Offer Validity time	Date: 18 November 2007, Time: 1800 hours (BST).

Name and address of the office(s)	
16	Selling tender documents (principal)
	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
17	Selling tender documents (others)
	(a) BPC Dhaka Liaison Office, 1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka and (b) Bangladesh Missions in Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA & UK.
18	Name and address of the office receiving offers
	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
19	Name and address of the office opening offers
	-Do- (in presence of the bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present).
20	Qualification of the suppliers
	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender document.
21	Brief description of goods/items
	Specification of Naphtha set out in Appendix-C of tender document.
22	Tender documents price
	Tk. 1,000/= or US\$ 20.00 per set.
23	Bid bond/Bank guarantee
	As per tender document.

Entity Details	
24	Designation of official inviting tender
	Sr. General Manager (Com. & Ops).
25	Address of official inviting tender
	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
26	Contact details of official inviting tender
	Phone: +88 031-716121, Fax: +88 031-720147/724910
27	Bidder(s) must submit along with their offer the original money receipt for tender document purchased in Bangladesh and original/photo copy of money receipt for those who purchased tender document outside Bangladesh.
28	Other terms and conditions will be as per general terms and conditions of export of Naphtha by the corporation (Reference No. 25.02/100 date 23 October, 2007). The corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

GD-3701