

Free, fair polls to create congenial business environment: Geeta Pasi

US trade show begins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Charge d' Affaires of US Embassy in Dhaka Geeta Pasi yesterday suggested that the government should reduce corruption and hold free and fair election for creating congenial business environment in the country.

Geeta Pasi was speaking at the opening ceremony of 17th US Trade Show-2008 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

She said the government should implement the roadmap for holding the election for smooth running of trade, business and commerce in a democratic regime.

The US envoy also assured transparency in visa issuance in her embassy to check the violation of human rights.

"The exhibitors in this Trade Show represent some of the finest companies in the world. They are well-known by their customers for their commitment to innovation, technology, efficiency and customer service," she said.

Special Assistant to Chief Adviser Mahubul Alam inaugurated the US Trade Show-2008, an annual event. The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) organised the display in cooperation with the US

Embassy in Dhaka.

Mahubul Alam urged the US companies operating in Bangladesh to exploit the investment potentiality here. He urged the US companies to invest more and more in the country's real estate sector as it has a huge potentiality.

Mahubul Alam said despite different natural calamities, the country has been maintaining a good economic growth.

"The present current government has been trying to remove corruption from all sectors to have a good business environment," he said, adding that the government is committed to handover the state power to an elected government.

AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed said 61 companies are showcasing their products and services in the exposition.

Mentioning US as the largest single importing country from Bangladesh, Ershad urged the government for economic reforms to run business and trade smoothly.

He said Bangladesh exported to US products worth US\$12.178 million and import products worth \$17.157 million in the 2007 fiscal.



Visitors are seen at a cosmetics stall at the US Trade Show-2008 that began at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

EU to help economy grow

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union will support Bangladesh's initiatives aimed at promoting technology transfer to foster the diversification of the local economy in export-oriented sectors.

Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein, head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka, came up with the assurance while addressing a seminar yesterday.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) organised the seminar at the wrap-up ceremony of the 'Export integration and entrepreneur development' at Hotel Sheraton.

FBCCI administrator Syed Manzur Elahi presided over the seminar.

Ambassador Frowein said the EU wants to help Bangladesh in trade and investment related to EU legislation and support initiatives aimed at promoting technology transfer to foster the diversification of the local economy in export-oriented sectors.

The EU, he added, also wants to provide support to initiatives aimed at promoting vocational training and entrepreneurship in the country to foster employment in export-oriented sectors.

Frowein said the small projects facility, which funded the 'Export integration and entrepreneur development', has achieved enormous interests from eligible organizations.

Govt borrowing to rise on widening budget deficit

Says finance adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam said yesterday government borrowing from the banking system would rise to more than what has been estimated to finance the widening budget deficit, which is likely to be 4.7 percent of GDP in the current fiscal year.

"The extent of enhanced borrowing is not yet finalised," he told the reporters, after a high-powered meeting at the Planning Ministry.

Estimated government borrowing from banks for 2007-08 fiscal was Tk 7,253 crore. However, the government already borrowed Tk 7,950 crore as of February 19, according to Bangladesh Bank sources.

"Overall domestic borrowing will not increase too much as sales of national savings certificates has declined," said the Adviser, who chaired the meeting of the Coordination Council on Fiscal, Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies.

Estimated total domestic borrowing, which including bank borrowing, for 2007-08 was Tk 19,276 crore, while foreign borrowing was estimated at Tk 6,305 crore to

finance an estimated deficit of 4.2 percent of GDP.

Dr Aziz termed the meeting as a regular one that discussed issues of budget deficit, revenue collection, and revised size of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) to prepare the next budget for the next fiscal (2008-09).

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Finance Secretary Dr Mohammed Tareq, ERD secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Planning Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, and NBR Chairman Mohammed Abdul Mazid were present at the meeting.

"Foreign assistance has increased simultaneously with revenue collection to help finance the budget deficit in the context of a planned ADP cut to a range between Tk 22,500 and Tk 23,000 crore from original allocation of Tk 26,500 crore," said the Finance Adviser.

"Even the bank borrowing will increase to some extent to finance the deficit," he said.

The revenue collection has increased by 25 percent to Tk 23,483 crore during the first half of the current fiscal from 18,845 crore in the same period of last fiscal.

Indices post record gains

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The main index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday jumped 92 points, the second highest single day gain, following the market regulator's clarification on margin loan offer and the government's initiative to offload more shares of multinational and state-owned companies already listed on the bourses.

Market operators said the latest two developments have resulted in the whooping rise in stock prices across the board. The Securities and Exchange Commission at a meeting with the merchant banks on Tuesday removed all the confusion created over margin loan disbursement.

At the meeting, the SEC clarified that the merchant banks can offer the amount of loan equal to the cash deposited by the investors. Net asset

value (NAV) of securities will not be considered to this effect. The NAV will be applicable to offering loans against securities.

Market insiders said the merchant banks were not providing sufficient loans to the investors due to the confusion, although there was demand for loans.

But, after the clarification there was no confusion among the merchant banks to offer loans to the investors.

In addition, the government at a meeting on Tuesday asked the already listed multinational companies where it is a stakeholder to increase the percentage of their stocks.

The government also decided to offload 25 percent stakes in four state-owned companies including three listed firms that are trading on the bourses.

The share prices of the four

companies jumped by 10 to 18 percent yesterday. Opening with Tk 329.90 Atlas Bangladesh shares closed at Tk 378.30, while beginning the day with Tk 544.50 the Eastern Cables shares closed at Tk 619.25, opening with Tk 1919.50 the National Tubes shares closed at Tk 2104.25, and starting with Tk 1690 the Usmania Glass shares closed at Tk 1855.75.

The government's decision also put an impact on other listed state-run companies with their prices going up amid a hope among the investors that the government will offload more shares of those companies.

The main index, DSE General Index yesterday went up by 92.19 points or 3.27 percent to close at 2906.8 points. The index witnessed largest single day rise on November 26 with 127 points or 4.31 percent

gain. The DSE All Share Price Index also shot up by 70.72 points or 2.96 percent to finish at 2456.1 points.

A total of 1,05,17,432 shares worth Tk 186.64 crore changed hands. Of the issues traded, 185 advanced and 32 declined with eight unchanged.

Price indices on the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also went up with the gainers outnumbering the losers.

The CSE Selective Categories Index shot up by 158.96 points or 3.41 percent closing at 4808.66 points, while the CSE All Share Price Index went up by 222.5 points or 3.05 percent ending at 7508.87 points.

A total of 21,74,819 shares worth Tk 37.44 crore changed hands. Of the issues traded, 102 advanced and 12 declined with six unchanged.

SHARE OFFLOAD GP seeks no change in govt policies

UNB, Dhaka

Grameenphone, the country's leading cellphone operator, yesterday expressed interest to offload its shares on the stock market but sought assurance of the government that it would not change its investment policies.

A 6-member delegation of the mobile phone giant, led by Telenor Norway senior vice-president Erik Hylland, raised the concern of government's policy change as they met Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam at Planning Ministry.

"They also raised concern whether the capital market of Bangladesh would be able to absorb the GP shares of Tk 300 crore-Tk 400 crore," the adviser told reporters after the meeting.

However, GP's concerns raised at the meeting remained unclear as the delegation members refused to talk to the press.

Dr Aziz assured the GP delegation that no government in Bangladesh takes such policy decisions that go against the interest of the private sector.

He invited them to decide first their entry into the market and said the confusion over the market capacity to absorb the GP shares could be removed through discussions with all stakeholders.

"They're eager enter the market," he said, replying to a question whether the company would offload shares by June as announced earlier.

SEC chief seeks more mutual funds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Termining mutual funds' contribution to stock exchanges very poor, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman yesterday urged financial institutions to introduce more mutual funds.

The contribution of the existing mutual funds to the stock markets is around three percent, which is even more than 50 percent in many developed countries, he said.

"Mutual funds are needed for sound stock market," Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi said as he was inaugurating a brokerage house of Bangladesh Shipa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) in Dhaka.

Gender-sensitive national budget stressed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for a gender-sensitive national budget and emphasised government policy for the development of the womenfolk by recognising the economic value of their household works worth at least \$69.8 billion a year.

The speakers said if their works that they do at home everyday were taken into account in economic value, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) would increase drastically.

They also recommended allocation of more fund in the national budget for women. The speakers suggested that the mindset towards women's

works at home that are never paid for should be changed for the uplift of women's status and growth of national economy.

The roundtable styled 'Contribution of women to national economy' was organised at National Press Club where a study on the woman issue was presented.

Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB), a non-government organisation, conducted the study.

Different NGO activists working on the issue took part in the discussion.

The study shows that the value of women's unpaid household works varies from \$69.8 billion to \$91 billion a year in the country.

"Women save a lot of

money by doing the household works that would cost a lot if we had to engage people to get the works done. But we do not understand the economic value of their works," said economist Atiur Rahman, who presented a paper on 'Recognising the unrecognised: Contribution of women through their unpaid work'.

The study also reveals that 81 percent women in the country are engaged in around 50 types of household works for 16 to 20 hours everyday.

Conducted among 370 men and 370 women under different categories from both the rural and urban areas, the study recommended participation of men in household works.

Bottled water market grows fast

SOHEL PARVEZ

Sales of bottled water in the country is rising by up to 20 percent a year mainly due to consumers' lack of confidence in public water service facilities.

An increased mobility of people across the country has also contributed hugely in the ever-growing popularity of such products in the local market, producers said.

"Mass awareness against water-borne diseases, coupled with lack of confidence in the government provided water supply facilities, are the main reasons behind such a rise in the demand. Product availability has also encouraged rise in consumption," according to Md Saiful Islam Helaly, general manager, Marketing, of Meghna Group of Industries, a leader in manufacturing bottled water under the brand Fresh.

Industry people said the demand for pure drinking water has been enjoying an annual growth of 10-20 percent over the last couple of years with many new players entered the market to grab a slice of the Tk70-100 crore market.

According to producers, Super Fresh and Mum control over 60 percent of the market followed by Jibon, Acme, Pran and Spa.

"Many office goers these days prefer bottled water with



The photo taken yesterday in the capital's Karwan Bazar area shows a consumer drinking bottled water. Increased mobility of people and mass awareness against water-borne diseases have contributed to a speedy growth of the market.

their lunch," said Md Aktaruzzaman, marketing manager of Partex Beverage, the second biggest player in the market under the popular brand Mum.

Increased mobility of people has helped the market grow with consumers taking bottled water during their travel, he said.

However, intense competition coupled with increased production costs have squeezed many players already.

"Profit margins in this segment are thin. A major part of our profit is going to the pockets of retailers. The whole industry is now hostage to the hands of retailers," Helaly of Meghna Group said while talking to The Daily Star.

A 500-600 ml (milliliter) bottle that sells at Tk 10 in retail, costs between Tk 6.25 and Tk 7.90 in wholesale.


Badhsha Faisal, owner of a food court at Karwan Bazar, who usually carries Mum

branded bottled water of Partex, said a single pet of 500 ml MUM costs him Tk6.75.

"It's (water) a slow item and therefore the profit margin must be higher than other products," said Faisal.

But Nasir, owner of a grocery store in Lalbag of the capital, prefers to carry Fresh instead.

"I usually carry Fresh more because it offers me increased margin," he added. sohel@thedailystar.net



বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ

এটিএস এরোডোম বিভাগ
সদর দপ্তর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা

নথি নং-সিএবি/ভূসং/জলাশয়/ইজারা/৬০১/(অংশ-১৪)৯৭ তারিখঃ ২০-০২-২০০৮খ্রিঃ

বিমান বন্দর পরিচর্যা রায়ুন। **গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন, পরিবেশ বাঁচান**

ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের কুমিল্লাস্থ ইপিএল কলোনির মধ্যে অবস্থিত নিম্নোক্ত জলাশয়টির পার্শ্ব বর্ণিত পরিমাপ (কম/বেশী) অনুযায়ী ইজারা গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান/সংস্থার নিকট হইতে দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী সাপেক্ষে ইজারা দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রমিক নং	জলাশয় নং	জলাশয়ের চৌহদ্দি	পরিমাপ (বর্গফুট) (কম/বেশী)
০১	জলাশয় নং-৩৭/৩৮	ইপিএল কলোনির মধ্যে অবস্থিত	৪.৫ একর (কম/বেশী)
০২	প্রতি স্টেট দরপত্রের মূল্যঃ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য।		
০৩	ইজারার মেয়াদঃ প্রতিটি জলাশয়ের ইজারার মেয়াদ হইবে ইজারাহোল্ডর বুঝিয়া দেওয়ার তারিখ হইতে ০৩ (তিন) বৎসর।		
০৪	দরপত্র জমা করিবার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৬-০৩-২০০৮খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা।		
০৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৭-০৩-২০০৮খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।		
০৬	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৭-০৩-২০০৮খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।		
০৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রতি কার্যদ্রব্যসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নোক্ত অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে:- ক) সিএবি, সদর দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা ও সম্পত্তি শাখা কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা। খ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, মহোদয়ের ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী, সিএবি, সদর দপ্তর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা। গ) পরিচালক, জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের হিসাব/রাজস্ব শাখা, ঢাকা। ঘ) সদস্য (পরিঃ ও পরিঃ), সিএবি, সদর দপ্তর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা।		
০৮	দরপত্র বাস্তব সদর দপ্তরের এটিএস/এরোঃ শাখায় কক্ষ নং-৩০৩ ও সিএটিসি প্রশাসন ভবনের ৪র্থ তলায় কক্ষ নং-৪০৭, পরিচালকের দপ্তর, জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দর, ঢাকা-তে বসানো হইবে এবং সিএবি, সদর দপ্তর, এটিএস/এরোঃ শাখায় কক্ষ নং-৩০৩-এ দরপত্রাণ অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হইবে।		
০৯	দরপত্রাদাণগত উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% হারে আনুমানিক বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসীলি ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে পরিচালক, জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।		
১০	সফল দরদাতাদের ইজারা মূল্যের ১৫% মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) ও ৩% আয়কর পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে।		
১১	দরপত্রাদাতাকে দরপত্র সিডিউলে তাহার পূর্ণ ঠিকানা প্রদান করিতে হইবে।		
১২	সীলমোহরকৃত খামের উপর কাজের নাম সুস্পষ্টভাবে লিখিয়া ইজারা দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।		
১৩	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ না দর্শাইয়া যে কোন ইজারা দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সমস্ত দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		
১৪	অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র অন্তর্ভুক্ত না হইলে পরবর্তী প্রথম কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে।		
১৫	কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রচলিত ও দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী মানিয়া চলিতে হইবে।		
১৬	উল্লিখিত কাজের বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত তথ্য নিম্নাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরের সম্পত্তি শাখা হইতে জানা যাইবে।		
১৭	সরকার/কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হার প্রতি বর্গফুট বার্ষিক ১.০০ (এক) টাকা।		

সিএবি/পিআর-৩/২০০৮/১৩৭
তারিখঃ ২০-২-২০০৮খ্রিঃ
জিডি-৯২৩

পরিচালক (এটিএস এন্ড এরোঃ)
বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা