

# Decision on appointing PSI firms Thursday

UNB, Dhaka

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is likely to decide on appointment of PSI firms at its Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting on Thursday.

Only one audit firm, M/S National Marine Consultants Inc, out of three bidders, remains alive in scrutiny by the PEC. It will now evaluate the bid of National Marine Consultants.

"The bid may be rejected if the audit firm fail to pass the technical fitness in the next meeting as per guidelines of the Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) of the government," a senior official of NBR told UNB.

The government has decided to appoint an international audit firm to scrutinise the price quoting of the Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI) companies against the backdrop of suspected import

inspection scam.

Three international audit firms, two from the USA and one from the EU countries, submitted tenders invited by the NBR.

The government's revenue authority has been trying to appoint an audit firm to ensure check and balance in the function of the PSI companies for a couple of years. But the NBR has so far failed due to some legal complications and tight procurement policy of the

government.

The government has taken the move considering the importers' complaints about harassment and delay in getting their consignments after import valuation by the PSI companies.

Recently the NBR unearthed irregularities of a PSI company, M/S Cotecna Inspection SA, in importing luxury vehicles.

The government appointed four PSI companies in September 2005 for a three-

year term to continue with the provision for compulsory pre-shipment inspections introduced in 2000.

The companies are Cotecna Inspection SA, SGS (Bangladesh) Limited, Bureau Veritas BIVAC (Bangladesh) Limited and Intertek Testing Limited.

They were appointed to help the customs department, which lacks sufficient logistic support and skilled manpower in carrying out inspection of volumes of imports.

## PSI waived in poultry feed raw materials, farm machinery

UNB, Dhaka

The government has waived pre-shipment inspection (PSI) of raw materials for poultry feed and all kinds of poultry farm machinery considering heavy loss caused to the sector due to bird flu.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a statutory regulatory order, signed by the president on Thursday.

The government took the decision to help the country's

Tk 100 billion poultry industry recoup losses, caused by the outbreak of the deadly avian influenza epidemic.

It had earlier withdrew duty on the import of raw materials for poultry feed to help salvage the country's nearly 150,000 poultry farms, which suffered an estimated loss of Tk 41 billion.

The livestock ministry said the H5N1 strain of the flu have so far affected 46 out of the 64 districts since the deadly virus was first detected at a Dhaka

farm in February last year.

The government has set up a fund of Tk 100 million for compensation to the affected farms.

The poultry farm operators import about 5,00,000 tonnes of ingredients for poultry feed annually.

Total poultry-feed production is recorded at 2 million tonnes annually. Vegetable ingredients that account for about 95 percent of the raw materials are procured from within the country.



Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to the chief adviser, speaks at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) at a city hotel yesterday. Rudolf P. Klink, Ficci vice president, and M.A. Matin, secretary general, are also seen. (Story on B1)

## Stocks continue rising

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks continued rising for the fourth day yesterday amid sharp up and down in indices.

The indices curve reflects the volatility in the market with the stock prices going up and down during the whole trading hours, market insiders said.

"If we analyse the index curve, it reflects that a volatility was there which is a sign of instability," said Yawer Sayeed, managing director and chief executive officer of AIMS of Bangladesh.

He, however, said the overall market was positive with the indices gaining sharply that also indicate a liquidity glut in the market.

Prices of BD Finance, BOC, IPDC and Uttara bank declined, although the companies have declared hefty dividends.

According to Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website, BD Finance has recommended a 10 percent stock and 5 percent cash dividends for the year 2007, while Uttara Bank has recommended stock dividend at 1:1, IPDC has recommended 5 percent cash and 10 percent stock dividends.

## FBCCI POLLS

# Annisul Huq aims to strengthen apex trade body

STAR BUSINESS REPORT



strengthen and streamline the apex trade body so that the federation can play a major role in accelerating the country's economic growth.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), which is a platform of around three crore businessmen, needs a competent leadership to drag out the federation from a frustrating performance stage, he said.

"The FBCCI should and can dream for a better economy," Annisul said exchanging views with journalists in Dhaka yesterday. The FBCCI should adopt short, medium and long-term strategies to infuse dynamism into its activities, he said.

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Annisul, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), also suggested that the FBCCI should play a role in making policies on setting up special economic zone for attracting expatriate Bangladeshis' investment, development of small and medium enterprises, and controlling and monitoring the price hike of essentials.

He also looks forward to giving a corporate shape of the district chambers that have no own office, staff and fund.

Being a nominated director from the BGMEA, Annisul will not need to contest the first phase of election for directorship to be held on March 17.

According to the FBCCI constitution, 24 directors -- 12 from chamber group and 12 association group -- are elected through direct voting. The elected and nominated 38 directors enjoy voting rights

and also become eligible for the posts of president and vice presidents of the apex trade body.

## Rouf Chy declared valid candidate

UNB, Dhaka

President of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspathi Manufacturers Association MA Rouf Chowdhury has emerged as a valid candidate to contest the FBCCI election scheduled for March 17.

Chowdhury and former BGMEA President Annisul Huq are contenders for the post of president of FBCCI.

FBCCI Arbitration Tribunal last night declared Rouf Chowdhury's candidature valid.

## 11-day Thai food festival begins in city

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An 11-day Thai food festival has begun at the hotel Westin Dhaka in the capital.

Finance and Planning Adviser Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam inaugurated the festival styled 'Taste of Thailand' on Saturday.

"In my early days I spent many years in Thailand, so Thailand is something that is very close to my heart," the adviser said.

He also wished all success of the event.

During the festival food lovers would be able to taste different traditional and fusion Thai dishes at the hotel.

"Thai food is one of our country's greatest prides. As it is widely popular among so many people all over the world, one can hardly go to a country having no Thai restaurants", Chalermphol Thanchitt, Thai ambassador to Bangladesh, said.

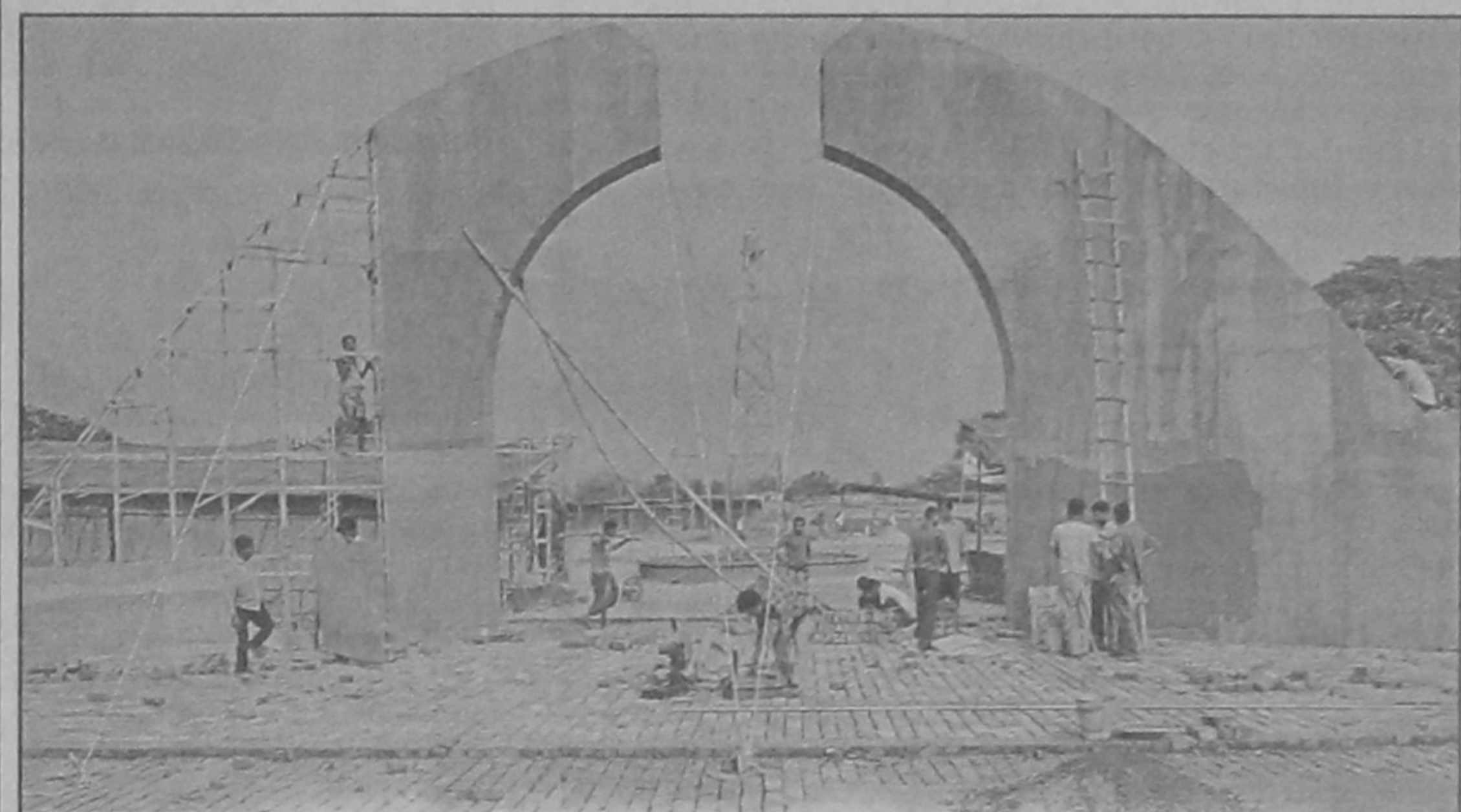
Pointing to the fact that the number of places where real Thai dishes are served is limited, he said so it prompted the Thai Embassy to organise the festival.

During the festival professional instructors from Thailand will take class on Thai food cuisine on March 9-12 free of cost.

The Westin Dhaka and The Royal Thai Embassy jointly organised the festival. Private television station Channel i and lifestyle magazine ICE Today are media partners of the event.

ATM Hafizullah, sales and marketing manager of Westin Dhaka, also spoke at the function.

## Bogra int'l trade fair begins today



Workers are busy giving finishing touches to a gate to the venue of Bogra international trade fair beginning today.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A month long international trade fair begins in Bogra today with companies from six countries including Bangladesh taking part in the show.

Some 190 stalls have been set up in Shibbaty area in the town for the show. Pakistan,

Iran, Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia have confirmed participation of their companies.

Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries is organising the show in co-operation with district administration.

Bogra Chamber President Fazrul Rahman Paiker said

cultural programmes will be held everyday on the sidelines of the tradeshow.

Deputy Commissioner Bogra Humayan Kabir will inaugurate the fair. The Joint Forces Commander Lt Col Md Mahabubul Hoque and Superintendent of Police Md Akram Hossain will attend the inaugural ceremony.



Finance and Planning Adviser Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam and Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Chalermphol Thanchitt pose for photographs with Thai performers at the launch of Thai food festival in Dhaka on Saturday.

## Biman Bangladesh Airlines

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8912700-9, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642469 DABG BJ

Engineering & Stores Directorate  
Zia International Airport, Dhaka

Ref: DACPPI/Auction/05/2008/75

Date: 05/03/2008

## Auction Tender

No: 02/2008 Dated: 05/03/2008

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for sale of following items of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. on 'as is where is' basis.

S/N	Description of goods	Value of tender schedule
01	Spare parts of S2 ADN A/C at Shah Amanat International Airport Chittagong	1,000.00 (one thousand) Taka

Tender schedule will be available at a cost of Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) with Asst. Manager (Accounts), Cash & Banking Section, situated at Biman Balaka Bhaban (Ground Floor), Zia International Airport, Dhaka on all office days within working hours from dated 06-03-2008 to 06-04-2008. A signed (sealed) formal application mentioning tender number will be required to purchase the tender schedule. After obtaining schedule(s), intending bidders may inspect the item mentioned in the schedule during office hours (10am to 3pm) from dated 07-04-2008 to 08-04-2008 showing original yellow cash receipt to Station Manager/Duty Engineer/Stores & Purchase Dept. Rep. at Chittagong Airport. The date of the tender submission will be on 10-04-2008 from 0900 hours to 1200 hrs LT at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Stores & Purchase Dept., Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours in presence of tenderer(s) if any. Faxed or mailed offers/tenders will not be accepted. Biman management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Iqbal Ahmed Ali Za  
Manager, Stores

GD-1086

## WTO talks face critical period to wrap up new deal

REUTERS, Geneva

Trade negotiators are entering a critical period in their efforts to wrap up a new world trade agreement by the end of the year.

At stake is a pact to boost trade and growth in a world economy buffeted by financial crisis, as markets open for businesses from food to finance in rich and poor countries.

But optimism at the start of the year that a deal could be done soon has faded, as the talks have bogged down in technical details and recriminations among rich and poor countries about who should show the greatest ambition in lowering barriers.

Meetings this week on central agriculture and industrial goods will determine whether World Trade Organisation (WTO) mediators can issue

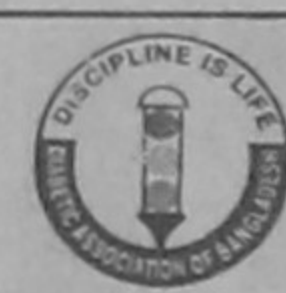
revised texts distilling the progress.

Those negotiating texts, and a set of talks this week on the services sector, are intended to pave the way for a meeting of trade ministers who would agree the outlines of a deal.

"The next two weeks will be crunch," said a senior diplomat from an export-oriented developing country.

Negotiators for the Doha round talks, launched in 2001, have entrenched their positions, making little progress in narrowing the gaps over the past month as they review the latest revisions of the agriculture and industry drafts issued on Feb 8.

As a result, they hoped for meeting of ministers, flagged in January for around easter, which falls this year on March 23, now looks likely to be in mid-April, if at all.



## BIRDEM

(An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)

Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre

122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue

Shabbagh, Dhaka-1000

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

01	Nomenclature of tender	Renovation works of 1st, 2nd & 4th floor of Doctor's quarter for conversion into Consultant's chamber and dormitory for Assistant Registers of BIRDEM.
02	Invitation Ref. & date	BIRDEM/Const.Work/08/1457 dated: 08 March 08
03	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
04	Source of fund	BIRDEM
05	Last selling date of tender documents	29 March 2008
06	Closing date & time of tender	30 March '08 (Sunday) at 12:00 noon
07	Opening date & time of tender	30 March '08 (Sunday) at 12:30 p.m
08	Price of tender documents	Taka Two thousand (2000/-) only (Non-refundable)
09	Tender security	2% of quoted amount in favour of BIRDEM. Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
10	Name and address of the office selling tender documents	Cash Section, Room # 208, OPD Building, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, BIRDEM
11	Place of receiving tender	Tenders will be received in a tender box kept in front of the room # 225, OPD Building, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, BIRDEM.
12	Eligibility of tenderers:	i) Special Class-I, Class-II & Class-III enlisted contractors of PWD, LGED, CMMU & MES having requisite financial limit. (ii) The tenderers shall have valid Trade licence, TIN, VAT & Income Tax certificate (iii) An application with up-to-date enlistment order is required to be submitted to the undersigned for obtaining permission for purchasing of the tender documents & permission be enclosed with the tender.

The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept any or reject the whole tender or part of it or annual the tendering process without having any obligation to assign or communicate reasons thereof whatsoever and without any financial implications thereto.

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Director, Logistic Services  
BIRDEM