Zillur Rahman yesterday urged

identify specific areas in infor-

mation technology that

Bangladesh could utilize imme-

diately as a weeklong BCS IT

"You have to pin-point the

areas where Bangladesh could

make some output right now.

reap maximum benefit," he

said inaugurating the show

Expo 2008 began.

# Software makers seek tax holiday extension

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Software and information services industry people yes-

Software and Information setting up a software tech-Services (BASIS) placed the nology park and an demand at a press briefing in improved infrastructure in noted. Dhaka.

Lindt launched

launched in Dhaka yesterday.

be available at 20 super mar-

Eleven types of chocolates

will be available in the market.

A Lindt chocolate bar is priced

at Tk 275, while a gift box con-

taining 18 pieces of chocolates

Shams Haider, head of oper-

ation of Agora, was also present

Mitsubishi to make

Japan on Friday launched a

project to build its first ever

passenger jet, a next-

generation regional airliner

that aims to meet growing

demand for fuel efficient

Mitsubishi Regional Jet is

expected to take to the skies in

2013, carrying Japan's hopes of

developing a full-fledged civil

aviation industry with it.

1. Procuring Entity

4. Eligibility of Tenderers

5. Price of Tender Document

will be obtained.

submitted

6. Amount of Tender security

7. Name and address of the office

from where tender documents

8. Name and address of the office

where tender documents will be

2. Tender Name

The state-backed

is priced at Tk 1230.

at the launching.

AFP, Tokyo

planes.

passenger jet

Chittagong," he added.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

of the chocolate.

outlet.

BASIS President Rafiqul Islam Rowly said as per the existing provision the software and IT enabled serterday demanded an extension vices industry is entitled to of tax holiday until 2015 to help have a tax holiday until develop the software and IT 2009, which he suggests is enabled services industry in not enough for the industry's development.

Bangladesh Association of BASIS also demanded for such as lack of quality human IT sector.

The BASIS president said Bangladesh has potentials to earn more from the IT enabled services, such as data processing, animation, website services, medical transcription, and call centres.

"But we cannot exploit the potentials because of obstacles resources, poor technological support and marketing," Rowly

"We need an IT park imme- centres.

diately," he said, as he cited examples of Kolkata, the provincial capital of West Bengal, that has three IT parks, but Bangladesh has none.

Shoeb Chowdhury, vicepresident of BASIS, said call centres have good prospect, but Bangladesh has already lost the market to other players, including India and Philippines, because of the delay in approving the call



Zahid Hussain (right), manager of Transcom Distribution Ltd, and Shams Haider, head of operation of Agora, cut ribbons to mark the launch of Swiss chocolate Lindt in Dhaka yesterday.

### Ministry seeks opinions on draft competition act

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Commerce is working towards enacting the Competition Act, 2008 to ensure fair competition in the has drafted the Competition Act, market.

said the Act is being formulated to provide, keeping in view the economic development of the country, for the establishment practices having adverse persons or public by April 20. impact on competition, to control or eliminate restrictive press release requested for agreements or arrangements opinions directly in writing, among enterprises, or combi-through mail hardcopy or nations or abuse of dominant e m a i l

UBALI BANK LIMITED

Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (Engineering

Department), Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Internal decoration works of existing premises of our

i) Minimum work experience of 3 (Three) years in building

The tenderer must have experience during 3 (Three)

nature each costing minimum Tk.15.00 (fifteen) Lac.

clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.

iv) Having valid B & C contractory and supervisory licence

iii) Having valid trade licence, up to date Income Tax

Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand) only non-refundable.

Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division.

: 2% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order

favouring Pubali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka-1000

Pubali Bank Limited. Establishment Division, (12th floor)

years in completion of minimum 02 nos. work in same

decoration/renovation/construction.

ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION

(Engineering Department)

HEAD OFFICE, 26 DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000.

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Tenderers as defined in the tender

New Market Branch, Dhaka.

for electrical works.

v) Must be financially solvent.

Engineering Department (8th floor)

Up to 5:00 PM (BST) on 15 April 2008

: Up to 11:00 AM (BST) on 16 April 2008

26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka -1000

26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka -1000.

bidder (if any).

documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below.

3. Time for completion of the work : 20 (Twenty) Calendar days.

which limit access to markets or otherwise unduly restrain competition and for matters connected therewith.

With this end, the ministry 2008 and hosted the draft at its The draft act in its prelude web site www.mincom.gov.bd for comments and opinion from the stakeholders.

The ministry invites comments and opinion from the of a Commission to prevent concerned and interested

The commerce ministry in a positions of market power, exportl@intechworld.net.

Economic links top agenda as UAE PM heads to China

ing ties with Asian powers.

The turmoil in Tibet and the debate raging in Western capitals over a possible boycott of the opening of the be conspicuously absent from the agenda during the four-day visit by Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed al-Maktoum, as will human rights issues.

UAE officials did not respond to AFP's questions on this subject, but one expert said Sheikh Mohammad, who is also ruler of the booming emirate of Dubai, has no intention of meddling in China's internal affairs.

AFP, Dubai

The prime minister of the United Arab Emirates heads to China on Monday on an official visit aimed at boosting economic links, underscoring the oil-rich Gulf states' grow-

Beijing Olympic Games will

### BCS IT exhibition begins Probal's panel

UNB, Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Nabadhara Panel led by Tanveerul Haque Probal bagged 11 posts of directorship in the biennial election of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) held Saturday.

REHAB POLLS

gets 11 posts

Incumbent President Mokarram Hossain Khan led Green Panel got 10 posts.

According to the election schedule, the elected directors will select their president for 2008-2010 tenure on April 3.

A total number of 318 voters out of 354 cast their votes.

### DSE regional office in Sylhet opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A regional office of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was opened in Sylhet yesterday.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi formally inaugurated the new office.

SEC Member Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, and DSE President Abdullah Bokhari, Senior Vice-president Ahmad Rashid Lali, Chief Executive Officer Salahuddin Ahmed Khan and Director Rakibur Rahman were also present.

Later a workshop on capital market was held.

Addressing the workshop, the SEC chief said a huge number of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRB) from the Sylhet region are living abroad. Time has come to look after that the NRB's earning can be invested in proper way, he said.

Capital market is an investment option through which industrialisation can be accelerated, he said.

Referring to the ICB's NRB mutual fund, Siddigi said more mutual funds should be introduced targeting the remittances send by the NRBs.

### Warid welcomes decision to allow mobile network in hill districts

Warid Telecom has welcomed the government decision to allow mobile network in three hill districts, says a press release.

CEO of Warid Telecom Muneer Farooqui, said, "We welcome the government decision allowing mobile network in three hill districts. Warid Telecom's network and technology caters for rapid deployment capability in the form of mobile BTS solutions."

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on Thursday at a meeting in Rangamati announced the government decision to allow cellphone network in 3 | said. CHT districts.

Bangladesh is a land of potential where people willing and ready to work and engage them-Commerce Adviser Hossain

the country's IT experts to ties. "It's time where to set our goals and work hard to achieve them," he said.

selves in constructive activi-

He said that government is very much keen to spread the use of computers and IT based education at the grassroots level. "But we are facing a The government would do dearth in qualified people to everything to help the sector work in the rural areas;" he added.

computers sent to many village organised by BCS (Bangladesh Computer Samity) at Multiplan Centre in Dhaka. there was no computer-literate The adviser said that teachers in those schools.

"We have to address this type of obstacles that stand in the way to spread digital technology across the country," he

He stressed the need for changing mindset for introducing IT and computer based education in the society.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mostafa Jabbar, president of BCS.

The exposition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm everyday. The entry fee is Tk 10 per Hossain Zillur lamented that

Some 276 exhibitors set up schools still remained idle, as 300 stalls showcasing their products in the BCS IT Expo 2008.



Dr Stefan Frowein, the ambassador of European Union (EU) in Dhaka, and A Rouf Chowdhury, CEO and president of private land phone operator Ranks Telecom Limited (RanksTel), exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. As per the agreement, RanksTel will provide the EU mission with complete communication facilities.

## China, New Zealand set to sign free trade deal

AFP, Wellington

China will sign its first free trade pact with a developed country on April 7 when it inks a deal with New Zealand, according to reports here Sunday.

Details of the agreement, the result of three years of negotiations, will not be released until after the signing ceremony.

The New Zealand government has confirmed the date and Prime Minister Helen Clark will lead a delegation of 150 business and government representatives to Beijing for the ceremony, the New Zealand Press Association said.

Clark and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will sign the free trade agreement in Beijing at the Great Hall of the People. "This is a significant event

for both New Zealand and China. As is well known, New Zealand will be the first devel- deal. oped country to sign a comprehensive FTA with China," Clark

Trade Minister Phil Goff rights issues that was not contract.

said it was in New Zealand's interests to secure preferential entry into the world's fastest relationship with China." growing economy as the agreement would create jobs and growth.

"Without it New Zealand exporters would be disadvantaged against competitors whose countries did secure free trade with China.

One MP refusing to attend the signing ceremony is United Future Party leader Peter Dunne who said he turned down his place on the trip in protest over China's treatment of the Tibetan people.

However, he added that he believed the free trade agreement was in the best long-term interests of New Zealand.

During the Chinese crackdown in Tibet over recent weeks, Clark was accused of downplaying her reaction because of the looming trade

But she said that while New Zealand had a difference of opinion with China on human

"standing in the way of New Zealand having a broad-based

### Emirates quits sharing routes with Lanka's carrier

AFP, Colombo

Dubai's Emirates Airlines said Sunday it would stop sharing routes with Sri Lanka's national carrier when its decade-long management contract expires this month.

"Code share arrangements" between Emirates and SriLankan Airlines will cease from 31st March 2008 with the expiry of the management agreement," Emirates said in a statement released here.

The decision follows worsening relations between Emirates Airlines and Colombo, with talks between both sides collapsing after nearly two years of negotiations over renewing the

### UTTARA BANK LIMITED

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (4TH FLOOR) HEAD OFFICE, 90, MOTIJHEEL C/A, DHAKA-1000

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers/ Sole Agents/Importers for supply & installation of portable Electric Generators (Preferably Japan/USA/any E.U. Country/Malaysia/Taiwan/Australia/Korea Origin) having capacity range from 5.0 KVA to 8.5 KVA at different branches of Uttara Bank Limited. Intending Tenderers having work experience for supplying, installation & maintenance of at least 50 Nos. of Portable Electric Generators at different Organizations during the last 3(three) years may collect Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk. 1000/- only (non-refundable) per set on or before 22/04/2008 during office hours after submission of written application on their letter head pad alongwith the attested copies of certificates from the concerned organization /organizations regarding their successful completion of work for supply, installation and maintenance of at least a total number of 50 Nos. of Portable Electric Generators at those organisations.

Tenders will be recevied upto 12-00 noon on 23/04/2008 in the Tender Box placed at the office of the undersigned during office hours. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 P.M. in presence of the Tenderers (if any).

The Uttara Bank Limited reserves the right not to accept the lowest Tender and to reject any Tender or part thereof or all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

> (ENGR. M.A. AWAL) DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER



Advanced Chemical Industries Limited ACI Centre, 245 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

#### PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

ACI Board in its meeting held today has given approval to the following:

- ACI will forward-integrate collection, storage and distribution of perishable agricultural produce to enhance its Farmers' Partnership Programme.
- A subsidiary company be set up with a paid-up capital of Tk. 100 million with 76% shareholding of ACI and 24% shareholding of Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman, ACI Group. The subsidiary will be named ACI Logistics Limited which will link up ACI Agribusinesses connections with ACI distribution network to form an integrated supply chain and outlet configuration. The subsidiary will be involved in procurement, appropriate storage and marketing of agro and biogenic products, fish, meat and other perishables and fast moving consumer goods.

Dhaka 30 March 2008

By Order of the Board Sd/-Sheema Abed Rahman Company Secretary

tender document.

9. Last date & time for selling

10. Last date & time for tender submission

11. Date & time for tender opening

12. Special Instructions

necessary papers alongwith tender.

Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to reject any/all

tender(s) prior to acceptance. Tenderers must produce

At 11:15 AM (BST) on 16 April 2008 in presence of

Md. Rasul Amin General Manager