

India bans
cement export

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India has banned export of cement and withdrawn tax sops on export of rice and primary steel in a bid to rein inflation which reached a 40-month high of 7.41 percent on Friday even as it announced a slew of other incentives to achieve a 200-billion dollar export target set for financial year 2008-09.

The shadow of mounting inflation cast its shadow when Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath announced at a news conference on Friday the annual supplementary for the five-year Foreign Trade Policy he unveiled in 2004 after the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government assumed power.

Nath came out with a package of measures to boost exports, especially in labour-intensive sectors like textile, leather and marine products, hit by appreciating Indian currency rupee against US dollar in the last one year. The rupee rose by 12 percent during that period.

Giving in to the industry's demand, the government extended by one more year income tax holiday for export-oriented units which employ about 12 lakh people and gave one-year extension interest rate subvention upto four percent on pre-shipment and post-shipment credit for exporters of marine products, handicrafts, leather and all categories of textile barring manufibre.

Nath also announced a reduction of customs duty payable for import of capital goods for export-oriented manufacturing from five percent to three percent and lowered the average export obligation under Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme.

He also gave additional sops for export of fruits, vegetables and flowers will be able to draw additional duty-free credit scrip of 2.5 percent over and above the existing 2.5 percent under an existing export promotion scheme. However, the incentive would be restricted to specific varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The Commerce Minister said the incentive will help neutralise a major handicap suffered by Indian exporters of fruits, vegetables and flowers in terms of transport cost. India produces 11 percent of world vegetable supply, 15 percent of fruits.

No new tax in next budget, says adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

There will be no new tax in the budget for the next fiscal year, Finance and Planning Adviser Dr AB Mirza M Azizul Islam said yesterday.

"Rather, we are trying to reduce the tax in several sectors," the adviser added.

The allowances for freedom fighters will be increased in the new budget, he also said as he was addressing voluntary taxpayers' meeting here in the afternoon.

Earlier in the day, the adviser exchanged views with local people in a pre-budget meet-

ing at Rajshahi deputy commissioner's conference room.

"Don't expect the government to come up and set up factories. You should take initiatives and the government will provide policy support," he said.

"So far I am with the government, we will not be engaged with any business. I firmly believe that the government should not be involved in business. This is not my ideological position, it is a practical approach."

Recently, the government provided Tk 57 crore subsidy for sugar industry and Tk 7000 crore for jute industry to buy

raw materials," he said adding that the enterprises that cannot purchase their raw materials should not exist.

He said the reasons behind the closure of Pakshy Paper Mills, Khulna Newsprint Mills and other jute mills are mismanagement and lack of skills.

He said the government is planning to set up two fertilizer factories, but this would depend on availability of natural gas.

Earlier, local people demanded increased allocations for development of Rajshahi.



Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday to announce the schedule of an 11-day food festival organised by The Bangladesh Monitor and sponsored by Eastern Bank Limited.

Eco-friendly washing process in RMG sector stressed

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a function here Friday stressed the need for applying technical expertise on washing and finishing processes in the readymade garment (RMG) sector for protecting the country's environment.

They were speaking at a certificate distribution ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club.

IFC-SEDF organised the two-week training programme titled 'Training of Trainers' (TOT) on Garment Washing and Finishing', said an IFC-SEDF press release.

Deputy coordinator of IFC-SEDF (Sector Programme) Zakiuz Zaman and president of

Bangladesh Export Oriented Garments Washing Industries Association (BEOGWI) Engineer Shafiqur Rahman distributed certificates among 20 participants of the training course.

They said garment processing (washing-dyeing-finishing) services are key components of the garment supply chain in Bangladesh.

At present, they said, 95 percent of the total woven garment exports require some sort of wet processing.

There are more than 1,700 export-oriented small and medium enterprises with washing and dyeing operations within the sector. But the envi-

ronment faces threat for lack of technical expertise and awareness about the best techniques for wet and dry garment processing, they told the function.

They said this often leads to wastage in operational activity, higher cost of production, and in many cases the effluents are discharged into the environment, causing long-term environmental damage, particularly to low-lying arable lands and fisheries.

This affects millions of people, reduce agricultural output, fish production, and increase gastrointestinal and skin diseases, they added.

11-day food festival begins in Dhaka, Ctg tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An 11-day food festival will begin tomorrow simultaneously at 36 restaurants in Dhaka and Chittagong on the occasion of Bengali New Year.

Organised by The Bangladesh Monitor, a fortnightly travel magazine, the event is being sponsored by private sector Eastern Bank Limited (EBL).

During the festival titled 'EBL Food Festival 2008', 35 restaurants based in Dhaka and five restaurants based in Chittagong will offer special menus along with their regular dishes, said Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, announcing the festival schedule at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

He said during the festival, roaming teams of EBL officers will be offering special gifts to those dining at the restaurants, while EBL credit and debit card holders will be offered up to 20 percent discount on food prices at the restaurants.

The festival will be well accepted by food lovers and also will help generate new businesses for the restaurants, he hoped.

EBL Managing Director Ali Reza Iftekhar, Deputy Managing Director Mamoon Mahmood Shah and Head of Marketing Nazeem Ahmed Choudhury were also present at the press conference.

New GM of Hotel Sweet Dream

KS Alam has been appointed general manager of Hotel Sweet Dream at Banani in Dhaka, says a press release.

Prior to this appointment, he was general manager of KSS Travel Logistics and Event Solution.

He also worked at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel as executive assistant manager.



Visitors are seen at a stall of a three-day medical exposition at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The show ends today.

\$15b RMG export hinges on workers' productivity

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Productivity of workers needs to be improved to achieve US\$15 billion annual apparel export target, a seminar was told in Dhaka yesterday.

Although the investment in the country's RMG sector increased significantly over the last few years, the productivity of the workers remains almost static due to lack of investment in training for the workers, speakers told the seminar.

The seminar on 'Impact of globalisation and economic reforms and the role of trade

union' was organized by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

President of BEI Farooq Sobhan chaired the seminar while acting secretary general of BILS Wajedul Islam Khan moderated the function.

Economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad discussed the keynote paper presented by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Research Fellow Khandakar Golam Moazzem.

Farooq Sobhan said in the globalised world Bangladesh is facing two challenges --

attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and increasing of export base.

The government, private sector stakeholders and trade unions should work together to face the challenges, Sobhan said.

Lauding the initiative of forming the Better Business Forum (BBF), he said due to existence of such forum all business sectors and trade unions would be greatly benefited.

Kholiquzzaman said the condition of education and training facilities for the workers should be improved for ensuring better productivity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP)
Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education
Shikha Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE).
3	Procuring entity name	Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP).
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 01 (one) unit Microbus & 02 (two) units 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle (Jeep).
7	Invitation Ref No.	SESDP/PIU/Microbus/25(1)/2007/7005.
8	Date	08/04/2008.

KEY INFORMATION

9 Procurement method Open tendering method (national competitive bidding) PPR-2008.

FUNDING INFORMATION

10 Budget and source of funds RPA, Asian Development Bank (ADB). Loan No. 2266 BAN(SF).

11 Development partners (if applicable) ADB.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12 Project code 8030

13 Project name Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP).

14 Tender package No. Package-02 (Two) Lot-01 & Lot-02.

15 Tender package name Procurement of Microbus & 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle (Jeep).

Date Within 07 (seven) days after issuing the tender notice.

16 Tender publication date 04/05/2008 during office hour.

17 Tender last selling date Date 04/05/2008

18 Tender submission date and time 05/05/2008 2:00pm

19 Tender opening date and time (if different from 18) 05/05/2008 3:00pm

20 Name & address of office(s) Address

- Selling tender document (principal) Office of the Project Director, Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Shikha Bhaban (2nd Block, 5th Floor), 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.

- Selling tender document (others) N/A.

- Receiving tender document Project Director, Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Shikha Bhaban (2nd Block, 5th Floor), 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.

- Opening tender document SESDP Conference Room, Shikha Bhaban (2nd Block, 5th Floor), 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.

21 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional) Date N/A Time N/A

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22 Eligibility of tenderer This invitation for tender is open to eligible tenderers of Microbus & 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle (Jeep) from bonafide manufacturer/dealer/agent/supplier of ADB member countries.

A tenderer can participate in both or single lot only.

Purchase receipt of tender document (original).

Trade licence valid for 2007-2008.

In case of limited company, the certificate of incorporation.

Income Tax clearance certificate for the 2006-2007 fiscal year with TIN number.

Bank solvency certificate issued after 30th June, 2007.

VAT registration certificate.

Experience certificate and other conditions mentioned in the bid document.

23 Brief description of goods 01 (one) unit of Microbus & 02 (two) units of 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle (Jeep).

24 Brief description of related services As per bid document.

25 Price of tender document (Tk) BD Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only non-refundable in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank to Project Director, SESDP.

Lot No Identification of lot Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months

26 1 Microbus PIU, SESDP 30,800/- 02 months after work order

27 2 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle (Jeep) PIU, SESDP 1,82,000/- 02 months after work order

30 Name of official inviting tender M A N Siddique.

31 Designation of official inviting tender Project Director.

32 Address of official inviting tender Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP), Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Shikha Bhaban (2nd Block, 5th Floor), 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.

33 Contact details of official inviting tender Tel. No. Fax No. 7168315 siddique_57@hotmail.com 9553712

34 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

M A N Siddique
Project Director
Secondary Education Sector Development Project

GD-1716

JCI Bangladesh, Brac Bank to sign MoU on CSR

JCI world president due tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Junior Chamber International (JCI) World President Graham Hanlon arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a two-day visit.

During his visit, JCI Bangladesh will organise a two-day series of events including memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing between JCI Bangladesh and Brac Bank on corporate social responsibility on small and medium enterprise (SME) under UN global compact agreement.

Special Assistant to Chief Advisor Mahboub Jamil will attend the MoU signing as chief guest, said Farzana Chowdhury, president of JCI's Bangladesh chapter, speaking at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Under the deal, some 1.5 lakh SME entrepreneurs, who received SME loan from the