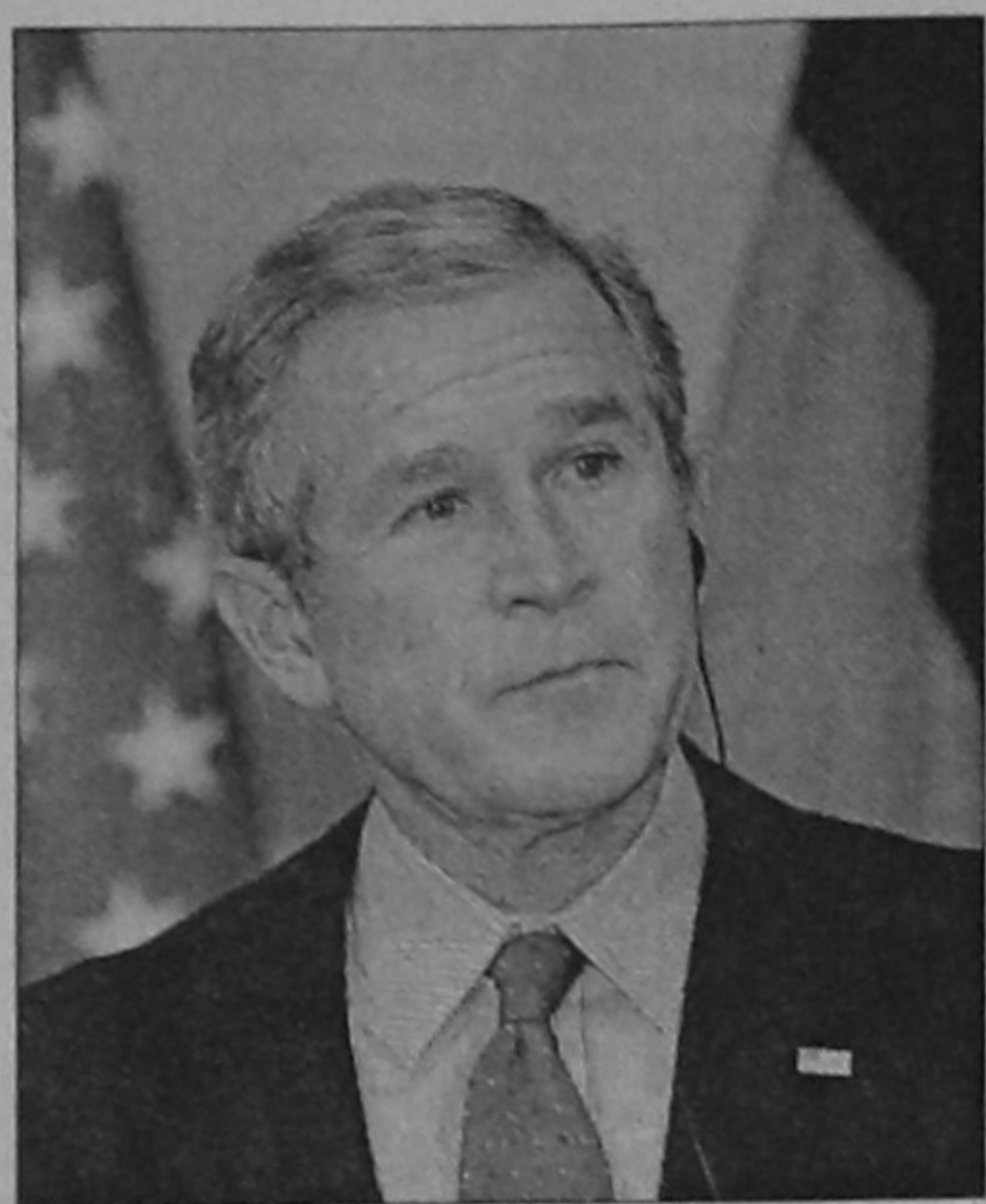




Bush's folly



Invasion of Iraq "was the right decision" and because of it, "the world is a better place to live in" -- attributed to Bush and reported in the media internationally. He is the only Bushman among the political leaders in the

world today and the most provocative sabre-rattler of this age! He is another, and a rather presentable version of Idi Amin!

Meanwhile, people the world over including the USA, oppose the Iraq war and its overall costs, in lives and money. Nobel Prize winning economist Stiglitz estimates the overall cost of this useless war at US\$ 3 trillion!

One tenth of the amount could have probably provided pure drinking water to most developing countries; another tenth could have provided for their primary healthcare!

Does Bush care? He lives and dreams of death and destruction and, most importantly, handsome profits for the US armament industries! Conservatives, and most US Republicans love it with strong support from Bush's cronies.

Let us hope that his successor, whoever he or she may be, propagates peace and doesn't turn out to be another sabre-rattler!

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Ancient artefacts

These days we observe with great concern that some unscrupulous people, accidentally recovering stray ancient sculptures fancifully valued at 'crores of taka' are smuggling these out of the country. An instance in point is the latest news item with pictures (9 March Sunday) where two artefacts recovered from Bogra were given the price tag of Tk 9 crore. Such grossly speculative valuation of antiquities is, in fact, doing more harm than good to our art and antiquarian treasures, for these antiquities are not saleable articles, rather strictly forbidden objects of trade. As such, there cannot be any price tag on these antiquities. Such unchecked fanciful pricing is always the outcome of unbridled imagination of the discoverer or the reporter and as such only whets the cupidity of the smugglers for clandestine traffic in antiquities.

In the event of any antiquity

including sculptures accidentally discovered or found and offered for sale, the Department of Archaeology, acting as the sole agent of the government, is vested with the power to purchase or acquire it. In doing so, the director is assisted by an 'acquisition committee' comprising some senior professional officers of the Department who fix the compensation price on the basis of the value of the material of the object plus its antiquarian value.

In this connection the Treasure Trove Act of 1878 (10 Feb as amended by xiii of 1891), defines that all treasures including materials discovered under the ground are the property of the government, and it pays compensation to the land owner a sum equal to the value of the material of such treasure (at the current market value) or portion, together with 1/3 of such value. However, in view of some changed circumstances and to counteract illegal traffic in

antiquity, the Department of Archaeology as well as the National Museum, Dhaka have constituted 'Acquisition Committee' which fixes the prices of these articles liberally.

The highly speculative absurd valuation without absolutely any basis, frequently quoted in newspapers by misinformed reporters, only encourages and allures smugglers to indulge more in illegal trade in our treasured heritage. This alarming trend should be strongly discouraged in public for the safety of our heritage. You can play a very vital role here.

Nazimuddin Ahmed

Ex Director of Archaeology

Bangladesh

National Project Advisor for

UNESCO

Newspaper industry

It is widely believed that after the declaration of the state of emergency the newspaper industry is

struggling for survival. Not only are they suffering from dearth of advertisements but also the unusual price hike of newsprint makes them vulnerable.

We all know that the newspaper is the true voice of the people. If this crisis persists, the newspaper industry will suffer badly and, as a result, democratic governance will be affected in the long run.

Mushfique Wadud
Department of English
Stamford University Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina's stand

Despite being incarcerated, Sheikh Hasina has been vocal about different problems that Bangladesh is now facing. As for the present food crisis, she frequently refers to her government's success in food production.

Running a small country with such a large population is undoubtedly a daunting task. Every government faces myriads of crises, so does the current CTG. Devastation of crops by unprecedented floods compounded by cyclone Sidr has made its task much more difficult. We expect that Sheikh Hasina would consider these facts in right earnest and instead of mocking potato consumption she would give the CTG her well-thought-out advice to overcome the food crisis.

It would be really nice for us to observe that it's the people of Bangladesh who matter most to our allegedly corrupt politicians, rather than the CTG.

Ahmad Ferdous Bin Alam
Department of CSE, DU

An open letter to IGP

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) has said on several occasions that during the period of the present caretaker government he is working freely as there is no external pressure (such as from politicians).

Now my question to him: is there any noticeable decrease in sale and use of heroin, phensidyl and other drugs after 1/11? I guess the answer is "no" and millions of young people are becoming violent for collecting money to purchase those drugs and are slowly pushing themselves to death. How powerful are those drug sellers? Are they more powerful than the

law enforcers? If my assumption is correct, please invite people for concerted action against those who are responsible for killing our young men and women. I am sure those criminals are not more powerful than the people. The whole nation is ready to help the IGP and the government and just tell us how we can help you to get rid of the curse of drug addiction.

Dr. Mahboob Hossain
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacy
The University of Asia Pacific
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Law of inheritance

Whenever questions of inheritance under Shariah Law are addressed, it seems that people take for granted that each and every parent would leave behind huge properties and their heirs have to share and enjoy the same. In fact this is a misconception. Many a father leaves behind huge debts. Who pays back the debts of the deceased parents? Usually in our society a girl is not asked to pay the debt of her parents.

If a law is passed that boys and girls would inherit equally the assets of parents, then the question of liabilities would also come up. In that event if a poor girl is required to pay the debts of her parents, then I can guarantee that it would become a doomsday for hundreds and thousands of poor girls, including the married ones. They will lose their husbands and their families will be broken.

It is the microscopic wealthy section of society, which may claim equal rights of inheritance for boys and girls but the majority of the girls will not be able to pay debts of their parents. They are far greater in number, but their voice is not heard.

Allah knows best what is good and what is bad for His creation.

Md. Shah Jahan
Dhaka

Income tax law

This is about a recent press report that the existing Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 has been sought to be replaced by a new draft by the International Monetary Fund. This is rather an extraordinary move in view of the fact that after much

Maitree Express

Maitree Express between Dhaka & Kolkata is running after a long hiatus of forty-three years! Felicitations to both the governments of Bangladesh & India. Certainly, it's a sign of rapprochement between the two countries. This year epar Bangla-opar Bangla (Bengalis from Bangladesh & India) could celebrate the occasion with the Bengali New Year & restore the relationship. At this historical moment, I want to request the Bangladesh government & railway authorities to ponder about the future prospect of Bangladesh railways.

Indian railways have made a Rs. 200 billion (\$ 4.5 billion) profit during the fiscal year 2006-07 (Source: IR website) after losses of several years & for this tremendous achievement credit goes to Lalu Prasad Yadav, Indian Railways minister.

Finally, I hope Bangladesh railways too will become a profitable organisation in the near future. I am always optimistic let's hope for the best!

Md. Mahfuzur Rahman
Core Network Engineer
Celtel-Malawi



deliberation drafting of the existing ordinance was completed.

The intention was to rationalise the Income Tax Act of 1922, amended every year, regroup similar sections, turning provisions and sub-sections into independent sections. After 1984 the IT Ordinance has been extensively amended, but it has stood the test of time.

Long ago, the Income Tax Department was served in top positions by two ICS Chartered Accountants, and also an ICS

officer having the highest degree in mathematics from Cambridge. There have been other illustrious persons who served the Income Tax Department.

However, I am not aware of any situation in which these illustrious officials wanted wholesale amendment to the Income Tax Act. They emphasised intensive study and right application of the law, not arbitrary and prejudiced action in contravention of the law and well-settled judicial opinions. Frequent amendments, or wholesale

replacement of the act is not desirable, because financial statutes all over the world are difficult. The work of amendment must proceed with caution.

There may be an assessment of the effect of major amendments coinciding with Five-Year plans. At any rate, informed public opinion may be sought on specific points.

SMS Zaman
Member (Retd)
Taxes Administration
National Board of Revenue
Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Division

Department of Public Health Engineering

WSS in Coastal Belt Project

DPHE Bhaban (Ground Floor), 14, Shaheed Capt. (Retd) Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Request for Application of Interest from Individuals for Two Positions of Driver & Peon cum Cleaner

The GOB-DANIDA Water Supply and Sanitation in Coastal Belt Project (May '08-June '08) is inviting applications to recruit the following national support staff for its Head Office at Dhaka.

Sl No	Title of positions	Number of positions	Maximum age	Qualification and experience
01	Driver	01	50 years	The applicant should be a class VIII passed. He should have valid driving licence for light vehicles (jeep/car). He should have experience of minimum 10 years in driving vehicle all over Bangladesh. The applicant should possess good physical and mental health.
02	Peon cum Cleaner	01	30 years	The applicant should be SSC passed with 05 years of relevant experience. The candidate should be potential, energetic and submissive.

Conditions:

- Candidates having satisfactory performance in a component/project of Danida will be given preference.
- The name of the post for which applying should be clearly mentioned at the top of the envelope.
- The application should contain the following:
 - Full name of the applicant (English and Bangla);
 - Father's name;
 - Mother's name;
 - Present address;
 - Permanent address;
 - Date of birth, and age on April 24, 2008;
 - Educational Qualification;
 - Experience, and
 - Driving licence No. and date;
- Any form of persuasion will lead to disqualification of the candidature.
- The appointment procedures and the remuneration package will be as per the existing; service rules of Danida.
- The application must be address of and reach the Project Director, WSS Coastal Belt Project, DPHE Bhaban (Ground Floor), 14, Shaheed Capt. (Retd) Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
- Only short-listed candidates will be invited for interview.
- The deadline for submission of application: April 24, 2008 within office hours.

Project Director
WSS Coastal Belt Project

GD-1819

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Shipping

141-143, Motijheel C/A (8th Floor)

Dhaka-1000

R&D-67/bTSP/MSO-2008/1848

Date: 15-04-2008

Notice

This is to inform all the people that, the Department of Shipping under the control of the Ministry of Shipping is updating 'The Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance-1983' in stages.

The department is seeking comments from the stakeholders in maritime transport sectors and from the public in general on the new draft regulations.

All concerned are invited to review the new drafts that are now available at the department's website www.dos.gov.bd and read the new draft legislation.

Comments in writing are highly welcomed and should be submitted to the Department of Shipping before 30 April 2008 using the following channels:

Fax: 88-02-7168363

Email: dosdgd@dtb.net.bd

Postal address: Department of Shipping, 141-143 (8th Floor)

Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

GD-1835

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD

Road Network Improvement & Maintenance Project-1

Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Memo No. 1276

Date: 10-4-08

Road Network Improvement & Maintenance Project-1 (RNIMP-1)

[ADB Loan No. 1920-BAN(SF) and OPEC Loan No. 916(P)]

Performance Based Routine Road Maintenance Contract

Addendum and Corrigendum No. 2, Dated 09th April 2008

This Addendum and Corrigendum No. 2 dated 09th April 2008 is issued pursuant to Cl. 8 and Cl. 22 of Section 1: Instructions to bidders of the bidding documents and shall form a part of the bidding and contract documents for the above contract.

The deadline for submission of bids is hereby extended till 05th May 2008. Accordingly, following amendments shall be incorporated in the bidding documents:

Section 2: Instructions to Bidders

- ITB 22.1, Page 2-4
The deadline for bid submission shall be:
Date: 05-05-2008
Time: 12:00 hrs. BST
- ITB 25.1, Page 2-4
The bid opening date & time shall be:
Date: 05-05-2008
Time: 14:30 hrs. BST

Invitation for bid issued Vide Memo No. 677 dated 25-02-2008

- Para 16
The bid documents last selling date & time shall be 04th May 2008 up to 17:00 hrs. BST.

All other terms and conditions of the bidding documents shall remain unchanged.

All bidders are requested to acknowledge receipt of this document by signing and returning the attached acknowledgement slip.

Md. Firoz Khan Noon

Project Director (ACE), RHD

RNIMP-1

Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

GD-1801

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Technical Service, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for International Re-Tender

Invitation for Re-Tender No: Babe/karika/bmre/5 KW FM Transmitter/2007-161

Date: 15-04-2008

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from foreign manufacturers or their authorised suppliers/distributors through their local agents in Bangladesh for the goods and related services as described in the following:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Betar.
3	Procuring entity name	Director General.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 5 KW FM Transmitter, FM antenna, Feeder Cable, AVR & other accessories for Bangladesh Betar Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur and Sylhet.
6	Procurement method	Open tendering method (International Competitive Tendering).
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
8	Project/programme code	5020.
9	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Balancing, modernisation, replacement & expansion of equipment at different Stations of Bangladesh Betar
10	Tender package No	G6.
11	Tender last selling time and date	At 04:30pm (BST), 14-05-2008.
12	Tender closing time and date	At 11:00am (BST), 18-05-2008.
13	Tender opening time and date	At 11:30am (BST), 18-05-2008.
14	Name and address of the office	Address
Selling tender document	Project Director: Balancing, modernisation, replacement & expansion of equipment at different Stations of Bangladesh Betar, Technical Service, Bangladesh Betar, Administrative Building, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
	Room No. 315, Technical Service/Main Gate, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.	
Receiving tender document	Room No. 315, Technical Service/Main Gate, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.	
15	Opening tender document	Room No. 318, Technical Service, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
16	Eligibility of tenderers	All tenderers except from Israel.
17	Brief description of goods or works	6 (six) sets 5 KW FM Transmitter, AVR, Feeder Cable, FM Antenna, Program Input Equipments, Audio Processor, Patch Cord, Patch Panel, Modulation Monitor, Monitoring Amplifier etc.
18	Brief description of related services	Installation, testing, commissioning & training of the above supplied equipments at six sites.
19	Tender document price	Tk 3,000/- to be deposited in the form of Treasury Chellan to the code 1/3351/0001/2366 in favour of Director General, Bangladesh Betar
20	Tender security amount only in the form of Bank Guarantee from any reputed international bank endorsed by their any associated bank in Bangladesh in favour of the Director General, Bangladesh Betar	Tk 10,00,000/- equivalent to tenderer's home currency or US\$ 14,500.00 only
		Completion time in months 8 (eight months)
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Sultan Ali.
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director: Balancing, modernisation, replacement & expansion of equipment at different Stations of Bangladesh Betar.
23	Address of official inviting tender	Technical Service, Room No. 315, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No. 02-8113691 (Office) Fax: 880-9112475 E-mail: sultanbetar@yahoo.com
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

Md. Sultan Ali
Project Director
Ph: 8113691

GD-1831