

# Form independent jute board, ensure fair price

CPD dialogue urges govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should form an independent jute board and ensure fair price for producers to revive the potential jute sector, a dialogue on jute sector organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was held yesterday.

The dialogue styled 'In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector: Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options' in Dhaka also emphasised a 'mandatory packaging act' to create a domestic market for jute.

"There are many people and groups working on jute sector but still there is not a single platform where all can discuss issues relating to the jute sector," said Shirin Akhter of Karmajibi Nari.

She also stressed the need for reviving Mongla Port to export jute easily and ensuring more use of jute for packaging different products including food, fertiliser and cement under a packaging act to create a secured domestic market of jute.

In the dialogue, CPD also called for an independent jute board comprising all major stakeholders that will take policy-related decisions on the jute sector.

The board will work out a plan of action, give guidelines, monitor performance and provide support for the

sector, said Golam Moazzem, research fellow of CPD.

"When farmers were selling jute a few months ago its price was Tk 600-700 per maund (around 37kg), but now the government is buying it at around Tk 1,000 from the hoarders," said Shahidullah Chowdhury, working president of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra.

Farmers were not benefited since they had already sold their produce, he said, adding that now the hoarders are getting the extra price.

Shahidullah also put emphasis on fixing a minimum price of jute to ensure fair price for the farmers.

Chairman of CPD Rehman Sobhan suggested that pressure should be put on the next elected government for making jute a big policy agenda, as jute is still a major source of income for the country.

He said, "In Bangladesh jute is related to livelihood of a large number of people that is unique in the world. So we cannot set guidelines on jute following other countries."

Giving an example, he said Bangladesh produces jute focusing on its export market, while India produces it for its domestic market. So the course of action for the two countries should be different.

Between the period 1981-

82 and 2006-07 Bangladesh's total production of jute goods decreased by 55.59 percent, while during the same period India's increased by 19.46 percent, said Uttam Deb, head of Research Division of CPD.

He also said Bangladesh accounts for 75 percent of the total global jute exports with its 60 percent of jute products being exported. The domestic market of jute goods is also expanding, he added.

The dialogue also forecast that increased price of petroleum will also help popularise jute bags and packages due to higher prices of polypropylene products.

Textiles and Jute Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar told journalists that quality seeds, jute price, export and production would be the possible areas that the upcoming jute policy should focus on.

Speakers at the dialogue also stressed the importance of giving subsidy to the farmers to encourage them to continue producing the cash crop.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Chairman Ataharul Islam, Chairman and Managing Director of Pubali Jute Mills Ltd Kamran T Rahman and Prof Abu Ahmed of the Department of Economics at Dhaka University, among others, spoke.

# HSBC's Young Entrepreneur Award announced

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Agro-based business plans made by three teams of business students won Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Bangladesh's Young Entrepreneur Award (YEA).

The business plans match with local needs, natural resources and environment.

"The competition was arranged to encourage young entrepreneurs, as well as the private sector of the country through creative business ideas," said Steve Banner, CEO of HSBC in Bangladesh, yesterday at the award giving ceremony in Dhaka.

Banner said they judged the agro-based business plans mostly on the front of creative ideas, ranging from development of new business solutions to the creation of new income sources that consider the country's available natural resources and environment.

He said to implement these new ideas the entrepreneurs need capital, something in which banks can be of help by making loan disbursements, adding that HSBC is ready to help the young entrepreneurs.

The gold winning team, titled Pandora and led by Nafia Reefat, a student of IBA of University of Dhaka, prepared a business plan on how to increase the production of fertiliser by using Hyacinth to meet the demand of the agricultural input and put a reign on its increasing price.

The silver winner team titled Halios Geron and also from

IBA, won the prize for a plan to export crabs, collected from the coastal area of the country, to neighboring countries. The bronze winner team got the prize for a plan to produce cashew nuts.

The winning teams will participate in a similar competition at the regional level in Hong Kong next month, said the bank's CEO.

Dr. Arif Dowla, managing director of ACI Bangladesh, who attended the ceremony as the chief guest, said the country's biggest challenge is the execution of creative ideas.

The government, non-government organizations, banks and multinational corporations need to take the responsibility of implementing the ideas of these young talents, he said.

The HSBC's YEA programme was first launched amongst students in Hong Kong in 2000 and provides the post-secondary students with an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and develop their business insight.

In 2006 it was introduced in Bangladesh.

This year seven teams, out of 330, were selected for the 'Bangladesh final' from the University of Dhaka, University of Chittagong and North South University.

The three winner teams received cash prizes and a weeklong study trip in Hong Kong and China.

Last year a Bangladeshi team won the regional award for a business plan on waste management.

## WEEKLY STOCK

# DSE turnover up 28.19pc

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Overall turnover on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) gained 28.19 percent last week amid increased transactions of shares.

The total turnover on the bourse was Tk 1,390.04 crore last week against Tk 1,084.36 crore the previous week, while a total of 8,80,06,962 shares were transacted last week against 5,80,81,606 shares the previous week.

The daily average turnover was Tk 278 crore, up by 2.55 percent than the previous week's Tk 271.09 crore.

The indices also increased slightly with the benchmark index DSE General Index rising by 19.2 points, or 0.62 percent, to 3092.05 points on Thursday, last trading day of week.

The DSE All Share Price Index rose by 20.05 points, or 0.85 percent, to 2375.30 points.

Market capitalisation also increased slightly closing at Tk

860,18.58 crore on Thursday, up by 0.58 percent than the previous week.

However, the losers dominated the gainers throughout the week with of the issues traded, 109 advanced, 148 declined and five unchanged.

Market insiders said corporate declarations by some companies and rumour about leasing and insurance companies, which prompted the investors to take position on that companies' stakes, helped the market to witness an upward trend last week from the previous week's downward trend.

The rumour was that the leasing and insurance companies will be asked to increase their capital base soon.

The top ten turnover leaders of the week were AB Bank, IFIC Bank, Square Pharma, AIMS First Mutual Fund, Apex Adelchi Footwear, United Commercial Bank, Lankabangla Finance, ACI, Keya Cosmetics and Brac Bank.

AB Bank topped the list of turnover leaders with 2,87,070 shares worth Tk 122.74 crore, accounting for 8.83 percent of the total market turnover.

At the end of the week, closing at 8665.15 points the CSE All Share Price Index slightly dropped by 0.61 percent while the CSE Selective Categories Index marginally declined by 0.8 percent finishing the last trading day at 5599.02 points.

A total of 95,49,099 shares of 181 issues worth Tk 143.82 crore were traded. Of the issues traded, 82 advanced and 87 declined with 12 unchanged.

The top ten turnover leaders of the week were AB Bank, IFIC Bank, Meghna Petroleum, Jamuna Oil, Beximco Pharma, Lankabangla Finance, Square Pharma, AIMS First Mutual Fund, Summit Power and Keya Cosmetics.

AB Bank topped the turnover list with 57,346 shares worth Tk 24.61 crore.



Models show off laptops of different brands at a three-day laptop fair that ends today at Engineers Institute auditorium in Chittagong.

# China warns of global slowdown

AFP, Shanghai

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan warned Friday global inflation posed a threat to China's speedy growth, saying high prices abroad had put the nation's economy under major pressure.

"China's economy continues to grow fast... although the economic pace is facing contradictions and problems," Wang said in a speech at a financial forum in Shanghai.

"Mainly, prices are relatively high, while fixed assets investment have not returned to rational levels and at the same time global inflation has intensified, creating major outside pressure for China," Wang said.

The government is battling to control a spike in inflation -- currently near 12-year highs -- while at the same time maintaining the rapid double-digit growth that China has enjoyed for five consecutive years.

The world's fourth-largest economy expanded by 10.6 percent in the first quarter of 2008 compared to a year ago.

Wang, a former mayor of

Beijing who is now a key economic policy decision maker, said China had to continue to strengthen macroeconomic controls and implement prudent fiscal policy while maintaining tight monetary policy.

"We must prevent economic growth from turning into overheating and prevent prices from turning into inflation," he said.

He said the weakening US dollar combined with the instability of financial markets and the economies of developed countries meant China had to take steps to protect its economic financial system.

"If we don't handle financial risks properly, this could cause turbulence in the overall economy and undermine social and political stability," he said.

Wang said China would continue to reform its banking, securities and insurance industries and pledged to tighten up on hot money flows.

"We will strengthen supervision over cross-board capital flows and step up efforts to set up a financial security network," he said.

# High energy prices worry ECB

AFP, Athens

European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet warns that inflation is a serious problem for the 15-nation eurozone and says people should get used to higher energy prices.

"As we have said on previous occasions, inflation rates are expected to remain high for a rather protracted period of time," Trichet stressed Thursday after ECB governors left the bank's benchmark lending rate at 4.0 percent.

Asked here if there were ways to offset the impact of soaring energy and food prices -- which some economists say represent a transfer of wealth back to countries supplying raw materials for the rest of the planet -- he said no.

"We don't call for an exceptional offsetting of some of the increases because in most cases this corresponds to a retransfer and we have to

accept that," Trichet said. Oil prices which hit a new peak near 124 dollars on Wednesday have edged lower since then, but along with a credit squeeze they are crimping activity around the world.

An ECB banking survey to be released Friday showed that credit conditions on loans to eurozone companies had tightened further in early 2008, the central banker added.

Trichet said the survey showed that a net 49 percent of banks tightened standards on lending to companies in the first quarter, and that a net 33 percent of banks tightened credit standards on loans for house purchases.

Both the ECB and the Bank of England left benchmark lending rates unchanged Thursday after policymakers deemed that inflation risks outweighed those posed by weaker economic growth.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Department of Immigration and Passports  
Dhaka

## Invitation for Tenders

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Home Affairs.
02. Agency	: Department of Immigration & Passports.
03. Procuring entity name	: Director General, Department of Immigration & Passports.
04. Procuring entity code	: Not used at present.
05. Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
06. Invitation for	: Supply of Personal Computer (Brand), Laser Printer & UPS.
07. Invitation ref No date	: Estt. 1/13/2008.
08. Date	: 08-05-2008.
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
09. Procurement method	: Open tendering method.
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and source of funds	: GOB
11. Development partners (if applicable)	: Not applicable.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	: Not applicable.
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	: Not applicable.
14. Tender package No	: Not used at present.
15. Tender package name	: Not used at present.
16. Tender last publication date	: 10-05-2008
17. Tender last selling date	: 01-06-2008
18. Tender closing date and time	: Date: 05-06-2008 Time: 11.00am.
19. Tender opening date and time	: 05-06-2008 11.30am.
20. Name & address of the office(s) address	: Assistant Account Officer, Department of Immigration & Passports.
Selling tender document (principal): Not used at present.	
Selling tender document (others): Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.	
Opening tender document: Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.	
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	: Date: 03-06-2008 Time: 10-00am Place: Conference Room, Passport Bhaban, Dhaka.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
22. Eligibility of tenderer	: Bonafide of Bangladeshi IT Firms/Vendors/Resellers.
23. Brief description of goods or works	: 03 Personal Computers (Brand), 03 Inject Printer, 01 Laser Printer, 03 UPS, 03 Computer Table & 03 Computer Chair.
24. Brief description of related services	: Supply and installation.
25. Price of tender document (Tk.)	: Tk. 500/- (five hundred) (non-refundable).
26. Amount of tender security	: Tk. 10,000/- (ten thousand).
27. Supply time in days	: 7 days from issuing work order.
28. Name of official inviting tender	: Md Rafiuddin Ahammed
29. Designation of official inviting tender	: Deputy Director (Admin) for Director General.
30. Address of official inviting tender	: Department of Immigration and Passports E-7, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
31. Contact details of official inviting tender	: Tel No: 8159496, Fax: 9123399.
32. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md Rafiuddin Ahammed  
Deputy Director (Admin)  
For Director General

GD-2217

Government of the people's of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Road Transport Authority  
Old Airport Road, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.  
Website: http://www.brta.gov.bd

## Invitation for Tender

<b>GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH</b>				
1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Communication			
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Road Transport Authority			
3. Procuring Entity Name	: Chairman, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority			
4. Procuring Entity Code	: Not applicable			
5. Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka			
6. Invitation for	: Supply of different types of printed official forms to be used in BRTA computer system.			
7. Invitation Ref No	: BRTA/758 Acct/07			
8. Date				
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10. Budget and Source of Funds	: GOB FUNDS			
11. Development Partners (if applicable)	: NOT APPLICABLE			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12. Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	: NOT APPLICABLE			
13. Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	: NOT APPLICABLE			
14. Tender Package No.				
15. Tender Package Name	: Supply of computer.			
16. Tender Publication Date	: 08-05-2008			
17. Tender Last Selling Date	: 25-05-2008 up to 04:00 pm			
18. Tender Closing Date and Time	: 26-05-2008 12:00 hrs.			
19. Tender Opening Date and Time	: 26-05-2008 14:00 hours			
20. Name & Address of the office(s)	: BRTA HQ (Accounts Section)			
- Selling Tender Document (Prinpal)				
- Receiving Tender Document				
- Opening Tender Document				
21. Place/ Date/ Time of pre-tender meeting (Optional)	: NOT APPLICABLE			
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Government of Bangladesh and having at least two years experience of supplying of similar goods.			
23. Brief Description of Goods or Works	: Supply of computer.			
24. Brief description of related services	: NOT APPLICABLE			
25. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	: Non-refundable Tk. 300.00 (Three hundred) only to be paid through treasury challan in Bangladesh Bank to the account code no- 1/5043/000/2366			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks/months
26. 1	Supply of computer	BRTA HQ, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka	20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand) only	2 (Two) weeks
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
27. Name of Official Inviting Tender	: Chairman, BRTA			
28. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Chairman			
29. Address of Official Inviting Tender	: BRTA H.Q. Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215			
30. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	: Phone# 8111400 Fax# 9116163			
31. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				

(Nowsher Ahmed Chowdhury)  
Director (Administration)  
BRTA

GD-2228