

Budgetary allocation for ethnic communities demanded

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Proper planning and allocation in budget needed to improve the living conditions of the ethnic communities, a national seminar was told yesterday.

"The government needs to allocate more in the upcoming budget for the improvement of the livelihood of the ethnic communities of the country and make them capable of contributing to the national economy," said Meghna Guho Thakurta, executive director of Research Initiative in Bangladesh (RIB).

She was addressing a national seminar on the "Needs of the Most Neglected Communities in Bangladesh", arranged by RIB, a national NGO.

"Most of the neglected ethnic communities are now living in poor conditions and don't get access to most of the fundamental rights," said added.

Eminent economist Ataur Rahman, who also spoke at the seminar, said the government should have a proper direction in its policy and ensure access to land, education, employment and treatment in the



Participants are seen at a seminar on government policy and budget, organised by the Research Initiative in Bangladesh at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

upcoming budget.

"They are also citizens of our country, so they should have the same access like the majority people of the country," he added.

Representatives from different neglected ethnic communities including Harijan, Hrisi, Munda, Kewra shared their experiences and problems at the seminar.

Nando Kumar Bashfore, a representative from Harijan (cleaner) community, said, a few of the schools allow their children studentship, but most of the time they are not treated equally.

"Even, in some cases, Harijan children are not allowed to sit with other children," he added.

The speakers at the seminar

urged to eliminate these social discriminations. They also stressed on ensuring the security and access to justice to the neglected and disadvantaged ethnic groups.

Professor Abul Barkat, general secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association and Dr. Hamida Hossain, human rights activist were also present at the seminar.

Promotional online fares to 3 Singapore Airlines destinations

Singapore Airlines launched promotional fares to 3 popular regional destinations, says a press release.

The fares are valid for economy class tickets booked online, via the airline's website, singaporeair.com/bd.

Fares to 3 cities, inclusive of all taxes and surcharges (subject to currency fluctuations), are Bangkok \$686, Ho Chi Minh City \$735 and Maldives \$1081.

Tickets are on sale from 23 May to 07 June 2008, and valid travel from 01 June to 30 July 2008.

Cheang Kok Ming, general manager Bangladesh, says, "Customers can book and purchase their tickets online, at their convenience and in the comfort of their home. By booking online, customers have a choice of popular destinations like Bangkok and exotic destinations like Ho Chi Minh City and Maldives at promotional fares."

New MD of Shilpa Bank



Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) appointed Md Mizanur Rahamn as its new managing director on Sunday, says a press release.

Prior to his joining the BSB, he was the deputy managing director of Janata Bank Ltd.

Rahamn joined Sonali Bank in 1978. He was also the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Kolkata branch of the bank.

Form 'crisis management cell' to fight energy crisis

Ctg entrepreneurs urge govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Entrepreneurs here yesterday urged the government to form a 'crisis management cell' to solve the acute energy crisis to avert the negative impact on the country's economic growth.

The businesspeople also said industries are facing a serious setback in Chittagong as the authorities of Bakharabad Gas System Limited (BGSL) has stopped new gas connections for industrial use.

They were addressing a discussion on 'Energy Crisis', organised by International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) in collaboration with Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI).

IBFB President Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury said a number of industrial units in the region could not go for opera-

tions even after completing all necessary infrastructure.

The manufacturing units are also incurring huge economic losses due to the government's decision to stop giving new gas connections for industrial purposes, Chowdhury added.

Pointing at the acute crisis in power generation and severe load shedding in Chittagong, the speakers at the discussion also said businesses are incurring huge losses due to frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations.

The government should urgently take decisions to go for immediate exploration of coal and gas to overcome the energy crisis, the speakers told the discussion, attended by businesspeople and journalists.

The speakers also underscored the need for more interaction between business communities and journalists for better coverage of business

problems.

They also suggested the businesspeople take steps like developing information cells so that journalists can collect required information to make their reports correct, complete and objective.

Shakawat Hossain, managing director of Western Marine Shipyard Limited, Jahir Uddin, managing director and chief executive officer of Mostafa Group, Shahidullah Shahjahan of PR Group, and Nur Mohammad of Khan Jahan Ali Ltd also addressed the discussion.

Chittagong journalists M Nasirul Hoque, Jashim Chowdhury Sabuj, Reaz Haider, Ali Haider and Saiful Alam also participated in the discussion.

MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman gave welcome speech. The Daily Star News Editor Inam Ahmed moderated the discussion.

Hefty duty on imported sugar sought to save industry

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has proposed to the government a huge increase in duties on imported sugar in the upcoming budget to cut down on the losses incurred by the sugar mills of the country.

BSFIC Chairman Mokhles Ur Rahman told a group of reporters at his office Tuesday that his corporation has already sent the proposal to the

Industries Ministry seeking the increase in specific duties both for raw sugar and imported sugar.

The BSFIC has proposed increase of the specific duty on raw sugar from existing Tk 4,000 to Tk 9,500 and on imported sugar from Tk 5,000 to 15,000.

"There will have to be a tariff adjustment for a balanced competition. The sugar industry needs all the government support. If the market price is balanced, the industry will

survive," the BSFIC chairman said.

He said the marketing of local sugar is under threat amid existing "uneven competition."

He said that at present the production cost of one kilogram of sugar in the mills is Tk 38, while the selling price is Tk 31. "If the production cost does not go down, the amount of loss will increase."

Mokhles said the 15 state-owned mills in the country could produce 1.6-1.67 lakh metric tons of sugar against the

demand of 12-13 lakh metric tons.

Emphasizing on government support, he said some 15,000 labourers and 500,000 farmers are directly involved with the industry. "It is said that about 5 million (50 lakh) people are indirectly involved with the industry."

Replying to a question, the BSFIC chairman said the total dues of the sugarcane cultivators, which was Tk 32.45 crore, has already been paid.

China to import grain

AFP, Beijing

China could be forced to become a major grain importer to feed its increasingly wealthy population at a time of record global food prices, a leading environmentalist said Wednesday.

As one of the world's top grain producers, China imports little wheat or corn, but may soon have to buy from abroad as citizens change their eating habits, said Lester Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute.

Brown, an influential environmental scholar, said four billion people worldwide are seeking to switch from grain-based diets to meat-based diets, which demand more farm resources.

"I don't anticipate much increase in China's grain production and I expect China to move into the international market," Brown told reporters in Beijing.

"If China imports only 10 percent of its grain needs, it will become the world's largest importer of grain."

Dwindling water resources in China, and a fall in crop yields brought on by global warming, will also force the world's most populous nation to tap foreign grain markets, he said.

China's 1.76 trillion dollars in foreign reserves will bolster its capacity to import more grain, he added.

"China's consumption of more meat, milk and eggs as it moves up the food chain is resulting in a two-million-tonne increase of grain consumption per year," Brown said.

According to the World Bank, global food prices have nearly doubled in three years, with experts blaming factors such as rising oil prices and the growing use of biofuels.

Sky-rocketing commodity prices in the past year have battered developing countries, where food takes the lion's share of household income.

Rising food prices have sparked deadly unrest and rising malnutrition, and a number of countries have put limits on exports to try to feed their own populations.

"We are in the midst of the most serious food-price inflation ever witnessed," said Brown.

BUSINESS MEET

FBCCI team leaves for China

UNB, Dhaka

A 32-member business delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) left here Wednesday for Kunming, China to attend the 3rd China-South Asia Business Forum.

The three-day forum was scheduled to begin today, said a FBCCI press release.

The Forum, which has the support of business leaders of regional and apex chambers of the South Asian countries, will tackle a number of regional and international economic issues from the perspective of private sectors' role in economic and social development.

During the visit, the FBCCI delegation, under the leadership of FBCCI Director SM Shafiqul Islam, will meet the Vice Prime Minister and Governor of Yunnan Province of China and Chairman of CCPIT. They will also have meetings with their counterparts and dignitaries of the province.

The delegation will attend the opening ceremony of Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair where they will interact with the Chinese entrepreneurs. They will also visit Guanzhi city during the visit.

The business delegation is expected to return home on Monday.

UNB, Dhaka

An Indian company will set up a garments accessories manufacturing industry in Adamjee Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

The company, M/s Text Zippers (BD) Ltd, will invest US\$ 3.41 million (about Tk 23 crore) for its plant erection and

will annually produce 25 crore pieces of different types of zippers.

It will also create employment opportunity for 152 Bangladeshi and eight foreign nationals.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Export Processing

Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the M/s Text Zippers (BD) Ltd at BEPZA Complex Tuesday.

Prasanta Bhushan Barua, member (investment promotion) of BEPZA, and Vijay Toley, managing director of M/s Text Zippers (BD) Ltd, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর)
 মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২
 নং আইইডিসিআর/সিডিসি প্রজেক্ট/২০০৭-৮/৫১৪৫ তারিখ: ২-৬-০৮ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ অফিসে ২০০৭-২০০৮ অর্থ বৎসরে সিডিসি/ইউএসএ প্রজেক্টের আওতায় বরাদ্দ ও ছাড়কৃত অর্থে মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি ও ক্যামিকেল রি-এজেন্ট (এম এস আর) এবং Web Based Disease Surveillance স্থাপন/ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত আমদানিকারক/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/সংস্থা/বিভাগ : স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
 ২. সংস্থা : রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর)।
 ৩. তহবিলের উৎস : সিডিসি, আটলাক্ট, ইউ এস এ।
 ৪. দরপত্রের বিষয় : (a) Supply and Installation of Medical & Surgical Requirements with Chemical & Reagent (MSR) and (b) Establishment of Web Based Disease Surveillance (Software Development, Computer & Accessories, Connectivity etc).
 ৫. দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও : নং আইইডিসিআর/সিডিসি প্রজেক্ট/২০০৭-৮/৫১৪৫ তারিখ: ২-৬-০৮ইং
 ৬. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি : খোলা দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
 ৭. Identification of Packages:

Sl No	Name of Items	Package No	Tender security/earnest money	Time for completion
1.	Supply and Installation of Medical & Surgical Requirements (MSR)	IEDCR-CDC-1	3,50,000/-	60 days from the date of contract signing
2.	Establishment of Web Based Disease Surveillance (Software Development, Computer & Accessories, Connectivity etc).	IEDCR-CDC-2	2,00,000/-	60 days from the date of contract signing

৮. দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য ও : প্রতি সেট ৭৫০/ (অফেরতযোগ্য) কোড-১-২৫১১-০০০-২৩৬৬ বাতে পরিচালক, প্রাক্তির স্থান দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি শেষ তারিখ : রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর বরাবরে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ড্রিজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাদানপূর্বক চালানের কপি দাখিলপূর্বক হিসাব শাখা, রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), মহাখালী, ঢাকা হইতে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ৩০.০৬.০৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৯. দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান : পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), ঢাকা।

১০. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ : ০৭.০৭.২০০৮ইং বেলা ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।

১১. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান : পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), ঢাকা।

১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০৭-০৭-২০০৮ইং অপরাহ্ন ১.৩০মিঃ। দরপত্রদাতা বা তাহার প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেই উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, ঐ দিন যদি সরকারি ছুটি হয় তাহা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

১৩. পারফরমেন্স বন্ড : সফল দরপত্রদাতাকে গৃহীত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি হিসাবে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নির্দেশ মোতাবেক জমা দিতে হবে।

১৪. দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা : (ক) দরপত্রের সাথে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ISO Certified সনদ, আয়কর সনদ, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে ম্যানুফেকচারার্স অথরাইজেশন লেটার, অর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদ, আমদানি লাইসেন্স এর ফটোকপি এবং Package, IEDCR-CDC-1 এর ক্ষেত্রে ৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং Package, IEDCR-CDC-2 এর ক্ষেত্রে ১০ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার প্রমাণ ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
 (খ) মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি ও ক্যামিকেল রি-এজেন্ট সরবরাহের একক কার্যদেশের বিপরীতে ৫০,০০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) টাকার মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং এর স্বপক্ষে প্রমাণ দাখিল করতে হবে।
 (গ) এম এস আর দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ পরবর্তী সেবা প্রদানের সুবিধা থাকতে হবে এবং এর অনুল্লেখ্য প্রমাণপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
 (ঘ) Web Based Disease Surveillance স্থাপন এবং Software Development পরবর্তী সেবা প্রদানের সুবিধা থাকতে হবে এবং দিতে হবে।

১৫. বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা : কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র পূর্ণ/আংশিক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধ্যাপক মাহমুদুর রহমান, পিএইচডি
 পরিচালক
 রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর)
 মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২
 ও
 প্রকল্প পরিচালক
 সার্ভিসেস এন্ড রেসপন্স টু এডভান্স ইনফ্রাফ্রন্ট ইন বাংলাদেশ

সি-১৬৪২

Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd.
 (A Company of Petrobangla)
 Head Office, Birashar
 Brahmanbaria-3400
 Bangladesh

International Re-Tender Notice

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস গৃহস্থালীতে বিক্রয় জ্ঞান।

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2. Agency	Petrobangla.
3. Procuring entity	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL).
4. Procuring entity district	Brahmanbaria.
5. Invitation Ref No.	Tender No. BGFCL/MATS(FP)/096(R-1), Dated May 29, 2008.
6. Invitation for	Procurement of Pipe & Pipe Fittings, Plug Valve, Control Valve, Angle Valve & Needle Valves.
7. Procurement method	Open tendering.
8. Budget & source of fund	Own resources of BGFCL.
9. Tender selling schedule	
a) Date & time	Tender documents will be available between 0900 hrs & 1500 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from June 04, 2008 to July 06, 2008.
b) Place	BGFCL's Liaison Office at Road # 6, House # 75, Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka-1213.
c) Price of tender document	Tender documents will be sold on payment of BTK 5,000.00 (non-refundable).
10. Bid receiving and opening	
a) Date & time	Bids will be received up to 1100 hrs (BST) on July 07, 2008 and will be opened on the same day at 1130 hrs (BST) in presence of the bidders' representatives if any.
b) Place	BGFCL's Liaison Office at Road # 6, House # 75, Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka-1213.
11. Eligibility of bidder	Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with international experience in supplying similar materials are eligible to participate in the bidding.
12. Description of materials	
Gr-A: Pipe & pipe fittings	Bid security amount: BTK. 3,00,000.00 or USD 4,600.00 (Gr-A) Delivery time: 120 days after opening of L/C
Gr-B: Plug Valve, Control Valve, Angle Valve & Needle Valves	BTK. 1,30,000.00 or USD 2,000.00 (Gr-B)
13. Name of official inviting tender	M Nurul Absar.
14. Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Technical Services).
15. Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd Head Office Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400, Bangladesh Telephone No. 0851-58603 Fax: 0851-58758
16. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

PRS-09/08/36(FP)
 GD-2639

M Nurul Absar
 General Manager (Technical Services)