

# Govt must create jobs to eradicate poverty

Prof Muzaffer says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government must create extensive employment opportunities to eradicate poverty from the country, said chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday.

"The government needs to create new jobs to eliminate poverty," said Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, adding that unemployment causes various forms of social chaos, such as militancy and social crimes.

"If the previous government had created enough employment, the rise of militancy

might not have increased countrywide," he said.

He was addressing a seminar on 'Present Context of Bangladesh and the Budget 2008-09', organised by the Economics department of Dhaka College.

Prof Ahmad said the government must address the need to employ the multitude of unemployed people, most of them being educated and capable of working in different sectors.

He said every budget should aim to establish distributive justice, which would ensure the access to all funda-

mental rights for all and reduce the income gap between different classes of people in the society.

Prof Ahmad emphasised good management and high level of efficiency of the workers and managers to make the industrial sector profitable, while urging the government to formulate an effective policy to ensure energy security and to use renewable energy as an alternative to other non-renewable sources of energy.

In his keynote paper, Dr. Noor Islam, assistant professor of Economics at Dhaka College, urged the government

to implement the budget.

"Due to lack of implementation, many good and positive phrases of the budget eventually fail to take effect on national economy," he said.

He stressed on the need for implementing government's declaration to create new jobs for the people of some areas in north Bengal with famine like situation.

Professor Rokana Alam Kadree, chairman of the department of economics, and professor Basirul Haque, principal, of Dhaka College were also present at the seminar.

## Battlelines drawn for WTO talks

ANN/ THE STATESMAN

Even as strategies for the crucial battle at the World Trade Organisation mini-ministerial on 21-24 July are being worked out over agriculture and NAMA (non-agriculture market access), developing countries led by India are seeking to extend the ambit of the talks to include areas of concern such as fisheries subsidies and bio-piracy.

With developed countries, led by the US and backed by the WTO secretariat trying to include just agriculture and NAMA issues in the mini-ministerial talks, India wants issues of its concerns to be taken up as well. "What we are saying is have the ministerial on 21 July. But include these issues as well," an official said. "These issues need to be resolved. We need to be given full consideration," he added.

The developing countries also want that the agenda for the mini-ministerial be decided by the entire trade negotiations committee (TNC), which includes all the member countries and chaired by the WTO Director General, Pascal Lamy and not by just the director general on his own.

The mini-ministerial, while not including all the member countries of the WTO, involves trade ministers who represent various groups of interest. Once an issue goes through the mini-ministerial, the areas of convergence would then be endorsed by all the members.

Hopes have been pinned on this mini-ministerial to break the deadlock in several issues that have been holding up the Doha Round of talks, including flexibilities to be given to developing countries in agriculture and NAMA as well as reduction of trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture given by the developed countries, mainly the US.

On the fisheries subsidies issue, sources said the developing countries want a detailed discussion on it and a supplementary text on fisheries subsidies. The flexibilities, which must be given to developing countries to protect the livelihood of millions of poor fishermen must be taken up, India has said.

India, China and Indonesia have submitted a joint paper to the WTO for removing the stringent conditions mentioned in the draft proposal for allowing subsidies for their fishermen.

# Market for Bangladeshi labourers continues to expand, says adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhah Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said the overseas market for Bangladeshi workers continues to expand and the government intends to pursue such expansion.

"This year, so far, we have already cleared 464,000 workers for employment abroad. At this rate, we should easily surpass 900,000 by year-end, which will be an all time record. Last year

we had managed to send 832,000 workers abroad and it was also a record", he said speaking to media about the government's continuous effort.

The Adviser added, "In terms of remittance, they have transmitted nearly US \$4 billion so far. If this trend continues, and there is no reason why it should not, then we are also likely to hit record figures in this respect as well."

"Of course, in consonance with our 9-point strategy, we

will emphasize welfare and upgrading of skills. Problems still exist, but we are preparing to confront and overcome them to the best of our abilities", said the Adviser, who is also in charge of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry.

"The search for new markets is on-going. We are also at the final stage of preparing manpower agreements with Bahrain and Jordan", he concluded.

## BGIC declares 17.5pc stock dividend

Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) Ltd has declared a 17.5 percent stock dividend.

The dividend was announced at the 23rd annual general meeting (AGM) of the company held yesterday in Dhaka, says a press release.

Chairman of the company Towhid Samad presided over the AGM.

Directors Abdus Sattar, AZ Humayun, Saleh Ahmed, Mahmud Hasan, Shohel Humayun and Managing Director AK Azizul Huq Chaudhury, among others, were present at the meeting.



Towhid Samad, chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) Ltd, speaks at the 23rd annual general meeting (AGM) of the company yesterday in Dhaka. Directors and managing director are also seen.

# Dhaka-Colombo direct air link soon

UNB, Dhaka

Direct air link between Dhaka and Colombo is likely to resume soon as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have finalised

the Air Services Agreement.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said this to journalists after a meeting with Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhah Ahmed Chowdhury here yesterday.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had been in negotiations for long to reestablish the direct air connectivity, but the differences in opinions on the possible routes have delayed the process.

Now the two countries have agreed on Colombo-Dhaka-Katmandu route and vice versa.

"We expect our national carriers will soon take advantage of flying directly from Colombo to Dhaka,"

Bogollagama said.

He also said the direct air link would help boost cooperation in trade, education, health and technological sectors between the two countries.

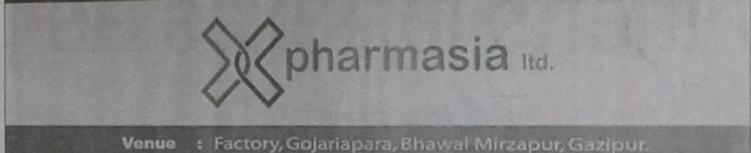
Asked if the air link could be resumed before the next Saarc summit scheduled for August 2-3 in Colombo, the Sri Lankan foreign minister said they are trying to encourage the Lankan airlines to take the advantage soon offered by the Bangladesh government.

Official sources here said Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national flag carrier, might not operate flights on the route because of its various constraints including inadequate aircraft.

| গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  |   |
|--|---|
| ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল   |   |
| সিটিং এডভোকেট (২য় তলা)  |   |
| সেনাবাগিচা   |   |
| ঢাকা-১০০০  |   |
| <b>দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>  |   |
| ১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ   | অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়।                                       |
| ২। এজেন্সি   | ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল।   |
| ৩। দরপত্র আহবানকারী  | ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল।   |
| দরপত্রের নাম   |   |
| ৪। দরপত্র আহবানকারী  | ঢাকা।   |
| দরপত্রের জেলা  |   |
| ৫। সে কাজের দরপত্র   | ২ (দুই)টি সিডান কার (১৩০০ সিসি)।  |
| ৬। দরপত্র নম্বর  | ০১/২০০৮-২০০৯।   |
| ৭। দরপত্র ইস্যুর তারিখ   | ২৬-০৬-২০০৮ইং।   |
| ৮। দরপত্র পদ্ধতি   | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।   |
| ৯। বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস  | রাজস্ব বাজেট (২০০৮-২০০৯)।   |
| ১০। প্রোগ্রাম কোড  | প্রযোজ্য নহে।   |
| ১১। দরপত্রে প্যাকেজ নাম  | ২ (দুই)টি সিডান কার (১৩০০ সিসি)।  |
| ১২। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ  | ১৬-০৭-২০০৮ইং।   |
| ১৩। দরপত্র বাস্তব হস্তান্তর তারিখ ও সময়   | ১৭-০৭-২০০৮ইং ও সময় বেলা ১২.০০মিঃ।  |
| ১৪। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়  | ১৭-০৭-২০০৮ইং ও সময় বেলা ১২.৩০মিঃ।  |
| ১৫। দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম  | ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল।   |
| ১৬। দরপত্রদাতাগণের যোগাযোগ   | অধোবাইজড ভিলার, এজেন্সি এবং ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার।                                   |
| ১৭। কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ  | ২ (দুই)টি সিডান কার (১৩০০ সিসি, ৫ (পাঁচ) আসনবিশিষ্ট (ড্রাইভারসহ)।               |
| ১৮। লট লটের নাম ও অবস্থান  | টেজার দরপত্র দপিলের সরবরাহের সিকিউরিটি মূল্য (টাকায়) সময় (টাকায়) অফেরতযোগ্য। |
| ১। ২ (দুই)টি কার   | ৭০,০০০/- ২,০০০/- ৬০ (ষাট) দিন   |
| ১৯। দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম  | মোঃ মোসলেম উদ্দিন খান।  |
| ২০। দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী   | রেজিস্ট্রার।  |
| ২১। দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা   | ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল, সিটিএ ভবন (২য় তলা), সেনাবাগিচা, ঢাকা।              |
| ২২। দরপত্র আপীলাতকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম   | ফোন নম্বর: ৯৩০৩৯৫১।   |
| ২৩। দরপত্র আহবানকারী যে কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে পৃথীত সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। |   |
| ২৪। দরপত্রদাতাকে টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের সকল পৃষ্ঠায় অবশ্যই স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে।                                   |   |
| ২৫। পিপিআর ২০০৩ এ প্রদত্ত তথ্য সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।                                    |   |

মোঃ মোসলেম উদ্দিন খান  
রেজিস্ট্রার (৩য় দাঃ)  
ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইবুনাল, ঢাকা

## LAUNCHING CONFERENCE



Venue : Factory, Gojariapara, Bhawal Mirzapur, Gazipur.  
Date : Saturday, 28 June, 2008



Aktar Hussain, chairman and managing director of Pharmasia Ltd, a newly established pharmaceutical company, among other senior officials, are seen at a product launching ceremony in Gazipur on Saturday. The company will initially market 40 pharmaceutical products.



United Commercial Bank (UCB) Ltd celebrated its 25th founding anniversary yesterday. Chairman of the bank Md Jahangir Alam Khan, directors and managing director (current charge), among other senior officials, were present at a function in Dhaka to mark the occasion.

# HSBC showcases Bangladesh's business opportunities in US

Global banking giant HSBC has recently showcased different business opportunities in Bangladesh to representatives from around 50 major US companies at the bank's New York City office, says a press release.

Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bangladesh Steve Banner delivered a 2-hour presentation in this regard styled 'Understanding and Navigating Opportunities in Bangladesh' to highlight different aspects of the country's business climate.

The presentation provided potential US buyers/investors with insights into the opportunities available in Bangladesh. The presentation, which covered import/export regulations, investment guidelines and opportunities within export processing zones, was followed by a question and answer session.

Banner said: "Given the rising production costs in other countries, Bangladesh is attracting an increasing amount of interest from international buyers and investors. I was therefore delighted when my HSBC colleagues in New York invited me to speak to some of their largest US cus-



Steve Banner

tomers about the opportunities in Bangladesh."

The audience was very knowledgeable, and there were many large companies that were very keen to link up with potential suppliers in Bangladesh, he said.

"Given our global network, HSBC is in a unique position to put its overseas customers, in this case in the USA, in direct contact with HSBC customers in Bangladesh. Hopefully this event will result in new orders

for some of our customers in Bangladesh, as well as increased investment in the country," the HSBC Bangladesh chief said.

"The event was so popular that we are now planning a similar programme for companies based on the US West Coast."

HSBC is a leading bank facilitating international trade to and from Bangladesh, having handled 9.7 percent of the country's exports in 2007.

**Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) IMPORT SECTION**  
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
**INVITATION FOR TENDER (NATIONAL)**

**TRADING CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH (TCB)**

|   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Ministry/Division         | Ministry of Commerce                        |
| 2 | Agency                    | Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)     |
| 3 | Procuring Entity Name     | Senior Executive (Import), TCB, Dhaka       |
| 4 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka                                       |
| 5 | Invitation for            | Onion (Imported)                            |
| 6 | Invitation Ref No.        | File No. TCB/IMP-805/Purchase of Onion/2007 |
| 7 | Date                      | 26-06-2008                                  |

**KEY INFORMATION**

|   |                    |                                  |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (National) |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

|   |                            |                |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| 9 | Budget and Source of Funds | TCB's Own Fund |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

|    |                                       |  |           |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 10 | Tender Package Name                   | Purchase of Onion (Imported)   |           |
|    | Date                                  | Time   |           |
| 11 | Tender Last Selling Date              | 20-07-2008   | 5.00 P.M. |
| 12 | Tender Closing Date and Time          | 21-07-2008   | 2.00 P.M. |
| 13 | Tender Opening Date and Time          | 21-07-2008   | 2.15 P.M. |
| 14 | Name & Address of the office(s)       | Address  |           |
|    | - Selling Tender Document (Principal) | Sonali Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka, Rupali Bank Ltd, TCB Bhaban Branch, Dhaka, National Bank Ltd., Kawran Bazar Branch, BTMC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka & TCB's offices at Dhaka, Chittagong & Chulna. |           |
|    | - Receiving Tender Document           | Import Section, TCB, TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.   |           |
|    | - Opening Tender Document             | Import Section, TCB, TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.   |           |

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

|    |                               |   |   |                             |   |
|----|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 15 | Eligibility of Tenderer       | All eligible tenderer of Bangladesh.  |   |                             |   |
| 16 | Brief Description of Goods    | 100 M. Ton (1,00,000 Kg) Onion (Imported) Price is to be quoted per Kg and per M. Ton basis. VAT, Tax are applicable on the quoted price. |   |                             |   |
| 17 | Price of Tender Document (Tk) | Tk. 1000/= (One thousand) per set.  |   |                             |   |
|    | Lot No                        | Identification of Lot   | Location  | Tender Security Amount (Tk) | Completion Time in Weeks / Months                       |
| 18 | 1                             | Onion (Imported)  | TCB's Godown at 230 Tejaon I/A and/or 344/C Tejaon I/A, Dhaka | Tk. 15,000/=                | Within 3(three) weeks from the date of contract signing |

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 19 | Name of Official Inviting Tender            | ABUL BASHAR KHAN  |
| 20 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender     | Senior Executive (Import), Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.                         |
| 21 | Address of Official Inviting Tender         | Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, No. Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. |
| 22 | Contact details of Official Inviting Tender | Tel. No. 02-8120031 Fax No. 880-2-8113582 <e-mail> tcb@bdonline.com                   |
| 23 | Special Instructions:                       | a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tenders. |

(Abul Bashar Khan)  
Senior Executive (Import)  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

GD-3027