

Qatari investment urged

UNB, Dhaka

President Dr Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the Qatari entrepreneurs investors to invest in Bangladesh, saying that a very congenial atmosphere is prevailing in the country.

He also emphasised increasing trade volume between the two countries as there is potential in this connection.

The President made the remarks when the outgoing Qatari Ambassador to Bangladesh Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Abdullah made a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban.

Iajuddin expressed his happiness at the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

He said that about 80,000 Bangladeshi workers are presently working in Qatar. He apprised the Qatari ambassador of availability of Bangladeshi professionals, including doctors, engineers and teachers, who could contribute to Qatar's national development.

Iajuddin sought cooperation from the envoy in importing more Bangladeshi products, including pharmaceuticals, readymade garments and vegetables.

He recalled the visits of Qatari Amir to Bangladesh in April 2005 and invited the Amir through the outgoing ambassador to visit Bangladesh again.

The outgoing ambassador apprised the President that the Bangladeshi workers have been contributing to Qatar's development. Bangladesh in the meantime achieved significant progress in various fields including education and health sectors, the envoy added.

Terming the current relations between Bangladesh and Qatar as excellent, the envoy thanked the President for extending all out cooperation to him and praised the hospitality of Bangladeshi people.

He hoped that the two countries would work together for their mutual interest in the days to come.

Zillur invites Turkish investment in revival of jute industry

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, now on a visit to Turkey, has invited Turkish investment in the revival of Bangladesh's jute industry currently underway.

He also listed the facilities his country offers for the foreign investors, which include cheap labour, tax holiday and infrastructural support.

The call for investment came during the adviser's meeting with Turkish Minister for Industries and Foreign

Trade Kurshad Tuzman in Ankara on Tuesday, according to an official handout yesterday.

He told Tuzman that ready-made garments (RMG), pharmaceuticals, textiles, jute and jute products, energy, leather and ceramics are the most potential sectors of business between the two countries.

Tuzman said food processing, textile, construction industry and health machineries could be the potential fields of trade and invest-

ment between the two countries.

He also said his government is considering establishing direct flights between Turkey and Bangladesh soon in order to boost the bilateral trade.

The Turkish minister proposed to hold the pending 3rd session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in Ankara during the first half of 2009, the handout further said.

"Turkish trade delegation will be sent to Bangladesh in every 6 months," Tuzman said.



Deen Mohammad, chairman of Phoenix Finance and Investments Ltd, inaugurates the head office of Phoenix Securities Ltd on Thursday in Dilkusha. Other high officials are also seen.

Budget deficit to reach 5.2pc of GDP in FY 09

Economist Intelligence Unit says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasts Bangladesh's budget deficit for fiscal year 2008-09 at 5.2 percent of GDP instead of the official target of 5 percent.

Real GDP is expected to grow by 6 percent in the current fiscal, driven by strong household spending and investment, said EIU, a part of The Economist Group.

It predicts the political scene will remain unsettled until early 2009. The next general election is due in late 2008. Despite the introduction of a range of electoral reforms, the EIU said the election is expected to be fought by two long-time rivals -- Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Consumer price inflation is expected to remain high over the forecast period, averaging 8.2 percent in 2008 and 8.8 percent in 2009.

The trade deficit is expected to swell to record level in 2008-09, as demand for industrial raw materials rises and international oil prices stay high.

EIU is a research and advisory company of The Economist Group that provides country, industry and management analysis worldwide.

AmCham stresses youths' capacity building for private sector uplift



Denise Rollins, mission director of USAID in Bangladesh, speaks at the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh Luncheon meeting yesterday at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The youths' capacity building is an imperative to develop the private sector, the driving force of Bangladesh economy, the AmCham meet in Dhaka was told yesterday.

By involving different stakeholders, the USAID (United States Agency for International Development) in collaboration with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is going to hold the Asian Higher Education Summit in October here for enhancing their skills, the top official of the USAID in Bangladesh said.

The donor agency official

also dwelt on the areas her organisation works on here, such as flood, energy, family planning, conserving forests and wetland, employment generation for rural people and promotion of transparency and accountability in governance.

Rollins said this year USAID will give \$170 million to Bangladesh for improving the livelihood of poor people.

She said USAID is also imparting training to the rural people for creating income generation opportunities.

AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed chaired the luncheon meeting.



Masayuki Inoue, Japan's ambassador in Bangladesh, presides over the prize giving ceremony among dealers of the HITACHI branded electronics, who made outstanding performance in achieving sales targets for the year 2007-08, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Thursday. President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hossain Khaled, Managing Director of HITACHI Home Electronics Asia Pte Ltd Masanori Iwanaga, were also present.

Etihad cuts Ramadan air fares by 50pc

UNB, Dhaka

Etihad Airways has slashed its air fares by up to 50 percent on various routes for the holy month of Ramadan and the autumn.

The special promotion, which will remain effective between September 1 and November 10, sees prices to popular destinations like

London have been reduced by 52 percent to Dhs 1900.

Return economy flights from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok start from Dhs 1293, a discount of 37 percent. Kuala Lumpur drops 30 percent to Dhs 1851 and Cairo prices start at Dhs 1163, a discount of 23 percent.

Customers wishing to travel to Africa can take advantage of Etihad's reduced fares, which include Johannesburg from

of Ramadan is a very special time for people living and working in the UAE and the Middle East, and Etihad is proud to unveil these great value fares that will provide customers with the opportunity to visit family and friends who live abroad."

Customers wishing to travel to Africa can take advantage of Etihad's reduced fares, which include Johannesburg from

Dhs 2130, a 34 percent discount on the normal fare, and Casablanca from Dhs 1851, a discount of 20 percent.

Within the Middle East, Etihad customers can book return economy flights to Muscat, Bahrain and Doha from Dhs 326 and Amman and Beirut from Dhs 558.

All prices exclude taxes, says an Etihad press release.

Euro prolongs recovery against dollar

AFP, London

The euro gained further against the dollar Thursday on market speculation that eurozone interest rate cuts are unlikely in the near future, dealers said.

In morning London deals, the European single currency rose to 1.4765 dollars from 1.4737 in New York late on Wednesday.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar dropped to 109.08 yen from 109.47.

The euro climbed further away from six month lows of below 1.46 dollars, reached on Tuesday in the wake of downbeat consumer confidence and business sentiment surveys in Germany, Europe's biggest economy.

"Anticipation of a quick rate cut by the ECB now seems to be fading on the back of comments by bank members and this has helped lift the euro away from recent dollar lows," said CMC Markets analyst

James Hughes.

The euro has been buoyed by comments from European Central Bank policymaker Axel Weber, who indicated the bank was unlikely to lower interest rates anytime soon.

Up to now, markets have been expecting rate cuts from the ECB and hikes from the US Federal Reserve to narrow the rate differential in the two regions.

The dollar was also being pressured by a fresh rise in oil prices on concerns that Tropical Storm Gustav could hit oil and gas installations in the Gulf of Mexico, dealers said.

Market players were looking ahead to another batch of US economic indicators, including second-quarter economic growth and a home price survey due Thursday.

Dealers said the greenback could get a boost from the snapshot of economic second-quarter growth amid hopes it would be revised upwards from an earlier estimate of 1.9 percent.



Tashfin Delwar, chief executive officer of Universal Business, signs an agreement with Jason Pontes, international accounts manager of THE TODWIL GROUP, yesterday at Universal's office in Dhaka. Under the agreement, the former has been appointed as the exclusive agent of the latter. Officials of Universal, Ataul Mukit, chief financial officer, Rifat Mahmood, head of operations, among others, were also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Military Engineer Services
CMES (Army) Dhaka
Dhaka Cantt

Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.			
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services (Army).			
3. Procuring entity name	CMES (Army) Dhaka.			
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5. Invitation for	Procurement of works.			
6. Invitation Ref No	4001/Adv/01/E-4.			
7. Date	25 Aug 2008.			
8. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).			
9. Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (Revenue).			
10. Project/programme code	Job No E IN C/18 of 2006-2007.			
11. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Utility services to MIST at Mirpur Cantt.			
12. Tender publication date	07 Sep 2008.			
13. Tender last selling date & time	17 Sep 2008 on 1400 hours.			
14. Tender closing date and time	22 Sep 2008 on 1200 hours.			
15. Tender opening date and time	22 Sep 2008 at 1230 hours.			
16. Name & address of the office(s)				
Selling tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.			
Receiving tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.			
Opening tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.			
17. Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted contractor 'D' & 'E' class & equivalent class contractors enlisted with other govt./semi-govt./other organization having security clearance from DGFI along with up-to-date attested photocopy of trade licence, VAT Reg. & IT certificate & bank statement.			
18. Brief description of works	Supply & installation of sky gondola for constr of 1x40 'C/D' type accn (4th floor to 13th floor over existing 3rd floor) at MIST, Mirpur Cantt.			
19. Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 500.00			
Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of CMES (Army) Dhaka Cantt (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/months/yea
20. a. MIST at Mirpur Cantt	GE (Army) Mirpur	Taka 25,000/-		04 (four) months.
21. Name of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Dhaka.			
22. Designation of official inviting tender	Lt Col.			
23. Address of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Dhaka.			
24. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 8754120 Fax No. 88-02-8754120			
25. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	CMES (Army) Dhaka Dhaka Cantt			

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Family Planning
IEM Unit
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tender

No. DGFP/IEM/PGP-1683/2008/601		Date: 25/08/2008
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.	
2. Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning.	
3. Procuring entity name	IEM & Line Director IEM.	
4. Procuring entity code	None.	
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6. Invitation for	Organizing 655 Traditional Folk Songs Programme at Upazila & below level of Chittagong & Sylhet Division.	
7. Invitation Ref No.	DGFP/IEM/PGP-1683/2008/----	
8. Date	25/08/2008.	
9. Procurement method	Open tender method.	
10. Budget and source of fund	RPA (GOB), IDA Credit No. 4052-BD, HNPSP.	
11. Development partners	International Development Association (IDA).	
12. Project/programme code	8100.	
13. Project/programme name	Health & Nutrition & Population Sect. or Program (HNPSP).	
14. Tender package No.	IEC-07.	
15. Tender package name	Organizing 655 Traditional Folk Songs Programme at Upazila & below level of Chittagong & Sylhet Division.	
16. Tender publication date	25/08/2008.	
17. Tender last selling date	06/10/2008.	
18. Tender submission date and time	07/10/2008, Time: 12:00 hrs.	
19. Tender opening date and time	07/10/2008, Time: 14:00 hrs.	
20. Name and address of the office	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEM, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.	
i) Selling tender document	Office of the Director, IEM & Line Director, IEM, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.	
ii) Receiving tender document	Office of the Director, IEM & Line Director, IEM, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.	
iii) Opening tender document	Office of the Director, IEM & Line Director, IEM, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.	
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Pre-tender meeting will not be held.	
22. Eligibility of tenderer	Any advertising/consulting firm who has 2 years experience in the similar type of activities and who will fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet (TDS) and other required conditions mentioned in the tender document.	
23. Brief description		