

Bangkok wants to double trade with Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Thailand wants to double bilateral trade with Bangladesh to \$1 billion a year through signing a free-trade agreement and greater investments in the next five years.

Thai Deputy Permanent Secretary Charivat Santaputra said the two countries must enhance cooperation to tap the economic and political potential to boost the bilateral trade.

He was speaking at a seminar on "Bangladesh-Thailand: Potentials from Partnership", held on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Dhaka-Bangkok diplomatic relations.

"We should find as many non-zero-sum opportunities as possible considering our respective comparative advantage," said Santaputra, adding

that the two countries must better understand each other to improve relations.

Santaputra said although the potentials 'are there', neither of the two countries have tapped these potentials as yet, adding that a move in this direction requires an effort from both sides.

He said the two countries must work together in both regional and multilateral forums with a special focus on developing relations with other countries in the neighbourhood, such as Myanmar.

The senior Thai foreign ministry official said Dhaka and Bangkok should improve existing ties in tourism, medical tourism, energy, education and aquaculture.

Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary M Touhid Hossain suggested that Thailand should be more generous in giving

special trade opportunities to Bangladesh so that the trade deficit could be reduced.

He said preferential treatment, provided by Thailand, has not yielded expected results and rising Thai exports to Bangladesh has not been matched by a rise in exports of Bangladeshi products to Thailand.

Currently, bilateral trade between the two countries stands at \$500 million. This includes last year's \$3.5 million Thai investment in Bangladesh, registering a 9 percent growth compared to that of the previous year.

Touhid also asked for an eventual withdrawal of visa requirements to move between the two countries with an initial visa waiver for businessmen of both countries.

The Thai embassy in Dhaka could increase its capacity to

expedite the disposal of visa applications, he added.

Last year, 48,000 Bangladeshi tourists visited Thailand, registering an increase of 9 percent as compared to that of the previous year, while 6,400 Thai tourists came to Bangladesh. Flight frequency between the two countries has increased from 13 to 21 flights per week.

Thai Ambassador Chalermpon Thanchitt laid out a five-year vision for Dhaka-Bangkok relations, saying there should be a full-fledged bilateral free trade deal to boost economic ties.

He said in Bangladesh Thailand will look for heavy investments in infrastructure, such as building elevated expressways, sky-trains and multi-modal transport links through open sky, Asian Highway and sea transport.

Aziz leaves for Accra today

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam leaves Dhaka today for Accra in Ghana to attend the third high-level international meeting on aid effectiveness.

Aziz will lead a three-member Bangladesh delegation at the three-day meeting beginning on Tuesday, said a finance ministry official.

The adviser will also lead another 39-member delegation to "UK-Bangladesh Climate Change Conference: Bangladesh Facing the

Challenge" scheduled to be held in London on September 5-11.

The adviser is scheduled to return home on September 13.

The chief adviser's Special Assistant for Environment and Forest Devasish Roy will also attend the London conference as a member of the delegation.



Housing and Public Works Secretary ASM Rashidul Hai speaks at a discussion on the proposed Real Estate Management Ordinance 2008 in Dhaka yesterday. (Story on B1)

Income Tax Day on Sept 15 every year

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers decided that September 15 would be observed as National Income Tax Day every year with the aim to encourage people to pay tax.

In its weekly meeting yesterday at the Chief Adviser's Office with Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair, the Council took the decision, as the government believes that such initiative would bridge the gap between taxpayers and tax administration.

The objective to observe a specific day, as National Income Tax Day, is to create a taxpayer-friendly atmosphere by creating awareness among the taxpayers about the process of giving tax and their rights. Top and regular taxpayers at district and national levels will be awarded on the day.

The meeting also approved the ratification proposal of the Cape Town Convention and related Aircraft Protocol. The interests of sellers, financier,

purchaser and lessee in the aircraft business have been preserved under the convention.

"The ratification of the convention will create scope for buying aircraft on flexible conditions and at cheaper rates," the council meeting noted.

The meeting also approved ratification of the agreement, signed between Bangladesh and Switzerland to avoid double taxation.

"Existing economic relations between Bangladesh and Switzerland would hopefully be strengthened with the approval of the agreement," participants at the meeting said.

The Advisory Council also discussed the draft of the Chartered Secretaries (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 and sent it back for further scrutiny.

Advisers and special assistants to the Chief Adviser attended the meeting. Cabinet secretary and secretaries concerned were also present.

ICSMB's new president



STAR BUSINESS DESK

The council of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh (ICSMB) unanimously elected Mohammad Asad Ullah as president of the institute for the term 2008-09 at the 113th meeting held yesterday, according to a press release.

Mohammad Asad Ullah was also the president of the institute in the term 2006-07. Prior to that, he served as the senior vice-president in 2005-06, as treasurer in 2003-04 and as vice president in 2004-05.

He is also the company secretary for Beximco Group of Companies and has been associated with the group for the last 17 years. He carries vast experience in the line of management and corporate legal affairs.

Phuket airport reopens

AFP, Bangkok

The airport on Thailand's resort island of Phuket resumed flights on Sunday, two days after being forced to suspend operations by anti-government protesters, the airport director said.

Up to 15,000 passengers have been stranded at the airport on the southern resort isle

-- the gem of Thailand's tourism industry -- after protesters stormed the runway and blocked the entrances on Friday.

"The airport resumed operations at about 11:00am (0400 GMT)," said Vicha Neunlop, director of Phuket International Airport, Thailand's second busiest airport.

"The first flight will land

soon. All services at the airport are back to normal. Protesters started leaving the airport (this morning) -- there are not many left now," he told AFP.

Airports in Phuket, Krabi and Hat Yai were forced to close on Friday as protests that have brought chaos to Bangkok's government district spread to southern tourist spots.



Sonali Bank Ltd Chairman Ali Imam Majumder presides over its 1st annual general meeting on Saturday at its head office in Dhaka. Chief executive officer and Managing Director SA Chowdhury, and other high officials were also present.

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড
কাদিরাবাদ ক্যান্টনমেন্ট
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কাদিরাবাদ ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	বেতন স্কেল	ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১।	প্রধান শিক্ষক	০১	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখে	৫১০০-২৮০৫৭- ৭০৬০-ইবি- ৩০০৫১১-১০৩৬০	স্নাতকসহ বিএড এবং সমগ্র শিক্ষা জীবনে একটি ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে। ইংরেজি ও গণিতে পারদর্শীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
২।	অফিস সহকারী- কাম-মুদ্রাকারিক	০১	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখে	৩০০০-১৫০৫৭- ৪০৫০-ইবি- ১৭০৫১১-৫৯২০	ন্যূনতম এইচএসসি পাসসহ প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২০ ও ইংরেজিতে ৩০টি শব্দ টাইপের গতি থাকতে হবে। কম্পিউটারে পারদর্শীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

১। স্বহস্তে লিখিত আবেদনপত্র ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার, কাদিরাবাদ সেনানিবাস, নাটোর বরাবরে ১৮-০৯-২০০৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
২। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে তার নিজের নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, জাতীয়তা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখপূর্বক নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র দরখাস্তের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
ক) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
খ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
গ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র এবং জন্ম সনদ/জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র।
ঘ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের তিন কপি ছবি।
ঙ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী/প্রতিমন্ত্রীর স্বাক্ষরে স্বাক্ষর ও প্রতিশ্রুতির সম্মিলিত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
চ) ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার, কাদিরাবাদ সেনানিবাস এর অনুকূলে ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মূল্যের (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।
৩। প্রচলিত বিধি মোতাবেক টাইম স্কেল, উৎসের ভাষা, চিঠি বিনোদন ভাষা এবং চাকুরী স্থায়ী হওয়ার পর পেনশন/ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিলের সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে।
৪। চাকুরীর প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৫। আগামী ২১-০৯-২০০৮ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ টায় ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড অফিসে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।
৬। উক্ত পদের চাকুরী ক্যান্টনমেন্ট সার্কেস কল ১৯৫৪ অনুসারে নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে।
৭। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
৮। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

মোঃ নায়েব আলী মজল
ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার
কাদিরাবাদ ক্যান্টনমেন্ট
নাটোর

তারিখ-০৯/০৮

Asian currencies lower against dollar

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian currencies ended the week lower against the dollar as the greenback gained ground on the back of stronger than expected US economic data and hopes of US rate cuts.

JAPANESE YEN: The Japanese yen eased in the past week, but market players saw the unit possibly swinging upward amid revived talk of a future interest rate hike, dealers said.

The yen stood at 109.01 to the dollar on Friday, down from 108.93 a week ago.

"The inflation figure caused some yen-buying since it was quite high. The markets reacted naturally," said Kenichi Yumoto, vice president of forex sales at Societe Generale.

Core inflation surged to 2.4 percent in July as prices rose for the 10th straight month on the back of soaring energy and raw material costs, the sharpest increase since October 1997.

While markets do not expect Japan to raise its super-low rates any time soon, the data came a day after Bank of Japan member Miyako Suda said that the central bank was prepared for a hike once the economic slump was over.

CHINESE YUAN: The yuan closed at 6.8409 to the dollar Friday on the exchange-traded market, compared with Thursday's close of 6.8313, and a closing price of 6.8347 to the dollar the previous Friday.

On the over-the-counter market, it ended at 6.8400 to the dollar against 6.8275 the previous day.

The central bank had set the yuan central parity rate at 6.8345 to the dollar Friday, compared with 6.8326 on Thursday.

The People's Bank of China allows a trading band of 0.5 percent on either side of the midpoint.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The US-linked Hong Kong dollar finished the week at 7.807 to the greenback compared with 7.81 the week before.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The rupiah ended the week's trading at 9,155 to the dollar, down from 9,147 a week earlier.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The dollar was at 1.4157 Singapore dollars on Friday from 1.4054 the previous week.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won continued its descent over the past week, falling to 1,089.0 to the dollar Friday from 1,062.50 a week earlier.

The won further weakened as foreign investors kept dumping local shares and oil refiners bought the greenback for import settlements, dealers said.

THAI BAHT: The baht fell to a 12-month low during the week due to a political stand-off between the government and protesters who are besieging the main government house, dealers said.

The Thai unit closed Friday at 34.20 to the dollar, down from the previous week's close of 33.91-94.

Global Ins gets new chairman, vice chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The board of directors of Global Insurance Ltd has elected AKM Shaheed Reza as chairman and Md Abdul Khaleque as vice chairman of the company in its recent board meeting, according to a press release.

Reza is the chairman of Allure Apparels Ltd, Fashion Plus Ltd and Reza Fabrics and he is also a sponsor director of Mercantile Bank Ltd.

Khaleque is the director of Creative Engineers Ltd and Creative Paper Mills Ltd.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Director, Planning & Development and Line Director, Sector-wide Management, Research & Development
Directorate General of Health Services
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

Request for Expression of Interest

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2.	Client	Director, Planning & Development and Line Director, Research & Development, Directorate General of Health Services
3.	Procuring Entity Code	8270 (Research & Development, Health)
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consultant/ Consulting Firm for conducting studies on: 1 Health facility survey for monitoring pro-poor performance, inputs, quality of record keeping, availability and knowledge of staff, patient-provider interaction, patient satisfaction. 2 Assessing utilization of ESD services by gender and socio-economic status. 3 Determinants of the patient provider interfacing.
6.	EOI Ref. No.	Memo No. DGHS/P&R/R&D/08 (Package No. Research S-1, S-2 and S-3)
7.	Procurement Method	Consultant/Consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines/ Public Procurement Acts-2006 of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh (followed by QCBS Method)
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	As per ADP Allocation (2008-2009) : RPA-GOB (IDA Credit No. 4052-BD)
9.	Development Partners	IDA
10.	Project/ Program Name	Research & Development, HNPSP
11.	EOI-Closing Date & Time	25.09.2008 (Up to 3.00 p.m.)
12.	Brief Description of Packages	S-1 Health facility survey for monitoring pro-poor performance, inputs, quality of record keeping, availability and knowledge of staff, patient-provider interaction, patient satisfaction. S-2 Assessing utilization of ESD services by gender and socio-economic status. S-3 Determinants of the Patient Provider Interfacing.
13.	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	Interested Consultant/Consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the same (Government registration, brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar condition, availability of appropriate skills among staff, logistic support, valid trade license, income tax certificate, VAT registration, audit report, bank solvency certificate etc.). Consultant/Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.
14.	Other Details	i) Interested Consultants/Consulting firms may obtain further information at the address (at the top) between 9.00-15.00 hours on all working days. ii) The word "Expressions of Interest (EOI)" must be written on the top of the envelope along with the package number. iii) Any bidder may bid for all the three, any two or any single package Hard copy based Expressions of Interest is now invited from eligible bidders as per the above instructions.
15.	Name of official inviting EOI	Dr. Md Nazrul Islam
16.	Designation of official inviting EOI	Line Director, Research & Development Directorate General of Health Services Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
17.	Address of official inviting EOI	Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
18.	Contact details of official inviting EOI	Tele.: 9880082 Fax: 8141296
19.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs	

(Dr Md Nazrul Islam)
Director, Planning & Research and Line Director
Research & Development, Directorate General of Health Services.

GD-3976