

Opening up of VoIP business for private firms suggested

BASIS Soft Expo 2009 due in January

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) should be open for all and the government should start giving licences to local companies to develop further the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, suggested the chief of the trade body concerned.

"If the VoIP that offers international calls at a lower cost is open and more local companies are awarded licence, the ICT sector would develop further earning more revenue for the country," Habibullah N Karim, president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), told a press conference in Dhaka yesterday, marking a software show.

This five-day long sixth BASIS Soft Expo 2009 will begin in the capital from January 27 next.

The BASIS chief pointed to the fact that neighbouring India is earning a huge revenue from the sector as companies are allowed there to provide VoIP services.

Karim criticised the government rules relating to VoIP saying that those had caused a huge loss to Bangladesh's ICT sector.

The government has already awarded licences to BTCL (Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited), formerly



Habibullah N Karim, president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

BTCL, and three private companies for VoIP business.

Bangladesh fetched US\$ 8 million from exports of software and IT services, which could be enhanced to US\$ 150 million by 2011, the BASIS president said, hoping that job opportunities would also be raised from 4000 to 20000 by that time.

"This target is really achievable, if the current growth rate continues and the government would provide adequate support to the sector," he said.

A more business-friendly policy and sufficient electricity supply can flourish the sector, Karim further said.

The journalists were told

that the BASIS Soft Expo 2009, with the theme Linking People with Technology, would be organised at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center. Besides showcasing products and services, seminars, workshop, IT talent search and IT job fair will also be organised during the fair.

The organisers expect 200 companies from 10 countries to participate in the fair this time.

Rafiqul Islam Rawly, chairman of the national organising committee of the fair, and MA Mubin Khan, director of BASIS, were also present at the press meet.

Europe to meet on financial rescue package

AFP, Paris

European leaders were to meet over the weekend in France in the latest bid to forge a common response to the global banking crisis, moving closer to a British-style plan of partial nationalisation.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were to hold talks on Saturday at General Charles de Gaulle's village graveside and then on Sunday the leaders of all 15 eurozone members will gather in Paris.

The heads of the European Union's four biggest economies -- Britain, France, Germany and Italy -- held a first crisis summit a week ago but Merkel and Sarkozy were split over the need for a common plan.

However, after a week of plunging stock markets, and crisis talks on Friday between the finance ministers of the G7 industrial powers, the single-currency bloc has agreed to try once more to coordinate a response.

After the G7 talks in Washington, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said his government was ready to invest directly in banks for the first time since the Great Depression in a bid to restore confidence.

This move followed the decision by Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown to guarantee inter-bank lending and to offer to take stakes in some of the country's biggest banks in a programme of partial nationalisation.

Europe, after reluctance in particular from Merkel's Germany, now seems likely to follow London down this route, which bankers hope will restart frozen lending between banks and pump vital liquidity into financial institutions.

France's finance minister,

Christine Lagarde, said French banks were relatively well positioned and would not need a government buy-in, but that other European economies might follow the British example.

"It's very likely, because European banks are also under-capitalised," she said in an interview with France Info radio on Saturday.

"We have seen Great Britain, which is outside the eurozone, make propositions in this area," she added. "We'll have to see about that in the eurozone, but I suppose it's one of the options."

On Friday, the German daily Die Welt reported that Germany was working on a British-style plan, and a senior European official told AFP that Brown's idea was a "good one" and would be discussed by the eurozone 15.

"It would be smart to follow the British example at the European level," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity so as not to pre-empt the summit.

"I spoke to Madame Merkel and I think she's open to a European decision."

Under the British programme, unveiled on Wednesday, 50 billion pounds (64 billion euros, 87 billion dollars) of taxpayers' money has been made available to buy shares in the country's banks.

Across the Atlantic, Paulson has a 700-billion-dollar pot with which to act since Congress approved his bail-out plan, initially focused on buying out bad loans or so-called "toxic assets" from banks in difficulty.

Under a five-point G7 "action plan" announced Friday, economic powers will ensure banks "can raise capital from public as well as private sources in sufficient amounts to re-establish confidence."

Key money market rates signal credit freeze

AFP, Paris

Two key interest rates, Libor and Euribor, stayed at high-distress level on Friday, unmoved by wave after wave of official action to shock global lending markets into life.

But one other benchmark rate, the rate for money lent overnight, dropped sharply, signalling a sudden easing and a change in sentiment towards very short-term risk.

The so-called Libor rate for dollars lent for three months rose to 4.817 percent from 4.7500 percent on Thursday.

The three-month Euribor rate, the reference in the eurozone, fell slightly to 5.381 percent, but still near the 5.393 percent reached on Thursday, setting a record since it was created at the beginning of 1999.

Western Marine to train shipbuilding workers

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's leading shipbuilding firm, Western Marine Group, has signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MoU) with two government agencies to train and develop skilled manpower for the emerging shipbuilding industry.

The MOU were signed on Wednesday with the Department of Youth Development under the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Narayanjanj-based Institute of Marine Technology (IMT) under the Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry, said a press release.

Director General of the Department of Youth Development Fakhru Islam, IMT Principal Md Alamgir and Executive Director of Western Marine Services Limited and Chief Executive of Western Marine Institute Sajid Hussain

signed the agreements on behalf of their respective sides.

Earlier, on August 11, the group signed a similar deal with Chittagong-based Technical Training Centre.

Western Marine Group established the Western Marine Institute in July after getting approval from the Technical Education Board.

Under the MoU, Western Marine Institute will offer course on 'Welding and Fabrication' jointly with Chittagong-based Youth Development Training Centre and Narayanjanj-based Institute of Marine Technology.

Spoken English course will also be provided to the students to hone their language skill. After receiving the training, participants will be able to acquire necessary skills to find jobs in shipbuilding sector at home and abroad, said the release.



Director General of the Department of Youth Development Fakhru Islam, Institute of Marine Technology Principal Md Alamgir and Executive Director of Western Marine Services Limited and Chief Executive of Western Marine Institute Sajid Hussain exchange documents after signing agreements recently. Western Marine Institute will offer course on 'Welding and Fabrication.'

S'pore eases monetary policy

AFP, Singapore

Singapore on Friday loosened its monetary policy for the first time in more than four years, citing the global financial crisis and lower domestic growth as well as easing inflation.

The move by the Monetary Authority of Singapore -- the city-state's de facto central bank -- followed coordinated interest rate cuts by the world's leading central banks earlier this week in an effort to calm turbulent markets.

The MAS conducts monetary policy through the local currency rather than by setting interest rates.

The Singapore dollar is

traded against a basket of currencies of its major trading partners within an undisclosed band known as the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER).

In a statement, MAS said it had maintained the policy of a modest and gradual appreciation of the NEER policy band since April 2004 but is shifting its policy to zero percent appreciation.

"Against the backdrop of a weakening external economic environment and continuing stresses in global financial markets, the growth of the Singapore economy is expected to remain below potential in the period ahead."

"Concomitantly, external and domestic inflationary pressures are likely to ease," MAS said in explaining its policy change.

Also Friday the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued estimates showing Singapore's trade-sensitive economy declined for a second straight quarter, and said it was revising downwards the city-state's full-year growth forecast to around three percent.

On a seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter annualised basis, real GDP declined by 6.3 percent in the third quarter after contracting 5.7 percent in the previous quarter, the ministry said.

Japan seeks emergency IMF loan programme to stabilise markets

ANN/THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

Japanese finance minister Shoichi Nakagawa is expected to propose in Washington a new emergency International Monetary Fund loan program to help emerging and small economies, sources said Thursday.

Nakagawa, who also is state minister in charge of financial services, is expected to propose the plan at Friday's Group of Seven meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors taking place in Washington, the sources said.

The total size of the loans could be about US\$200 billion, about 20 trillion yen, they said.

The proposed program is designed to assist newly emerging economies, and small and medium-sized countries injecting public funds into their own financial institutions.

Given the current global financial turmoil, which started in the United States but has spilled into Europe and emerging economies, it is hoped the program will help steady the global financial

system through international capital cooperation.

In some newly emerging economies and small and medium European countries, total assets in domestic financial institutions far exceed the national gross domestic products.

In such countries, governments might be unable to raise necessary funds to help failing financial institutions through measures such as nationalisation.

One example is Iceland, which has a population of about 310,000. After the country established a system allowing the government to nationalise all banks in the country, it requested Russia provide it emergency loans. The Icelandic parliament passed into law Monday a bill that allows the government to effectively nationalise the nation's banks.

If implemented, it is hoped the "Nakagawa plan" would ease the concerns of small countries and emerging markets and reduce tension in international financial markets, the sources said.

Canadian imports plummet

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's imports showed their biggest monthly drop since 1991 in August, Statistics Canada said Friday, which analysts said pointed to weakening domestic demand and a gloomy outlook for the economy.

Overall, the trade surplus grew by 38 percent in August from July but this was because of the sharp fall in imports. Exports also fell.

Imports fell 5.8 percent in August to 37.3 billion Canadian dollars (31.5 billion US), in the first decrease since March, due to fewer purchases of foreign cars and energy products, said the government agency.

"The decline in imports was the largest percentage drop since December 1991," said Statistics Canada. "Total import volumes fell 6.9 percent, while prices increased 1.1 percent."

At the same time, exports fell 1.6 percent to 43.1 billion dollars (36.4 billion US) in the first decline since December 2007. Export volumes were down 1.5 percent, while export prices remained relatively unchanged.

চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল (এনপিএস/০৫)	শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা	১২-১১-২০০৮ তারিখে বয়স
১।	সহকারী হারবার মাস্টার	টাঃ ১৩,৭৫০-১২৫০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০১টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বৎসর
২।	কর্কফুলী পাইলট	টাঃ ১১,০০০-১৭,৫০০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বৎসর
৩।	মেডিক্যাল অফিসার	টাঃ ৭,৪০০-১০,২৪০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০৩টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৪।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল)/সনক	টাঃ ৬,৮০০-১০,০৯০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০১টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৫।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক)	টাঃ ৫,১০০-১০,৩৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০৫টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৬।	সহকারী শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা (উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়)	টাঃ ৫,১০০-১০,৩৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০৫টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৭।	শরীরচর্চা শিক্ষিকা (বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মহিলা প্রার্থী)	টাঃ ৫,১০০-১০,৩৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০১টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৮।	ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (ক্র্যাফট)	টাঃ ৫,১০০-১০,৩৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
৯।	মেডিক্যাল টেকনোলজিস্ট (ল্যাব)	টাঃ ৪,১০০-৮,৮২০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
১০।	ফার্মাসিস্ট	টাঃ ৪,১০০-৮,৮২০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
১১।	ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (লাইসেন্সড)	টাঃ ৪,১০০-৮,৮২০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৪৫ বৎসর
১২।	ইনল্যান্ড মাস্টার (২য় শ্রেণী)	টাঃ ৩,৭০০-৮,০৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০২টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ বৎসর
১৩।	ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (১ম শ্রেণী)	টাঃ ৩,৭০০-৮,০৬০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০৫টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ বৎসর
১৪।	রেডিও অপারেটর	টাঃ ৩,৩০০-৬,৯৪০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	০৩টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর
১৫।	ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (২য় শ্রেণী)	টাঃ ৩,১০০-৬,৩৮০/- (এনপিএস/০৫)	১০টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বৎসর

শর্তাবলীঃ

- আবেদনপত্র পদের নাম, প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম ও মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, টেলিফোন নম্বর (যদি থাকে), জন্ম তারিখ ও বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, শখ ও অন্যান্য পাঠ্যসূচি বহির্ভূত কার্যাদি, জাতীয়তা, বৈবাহিক অবস্থা, ধর্ম উল্লেখ থাকিতে হইবে। দরখাস্তের সাথে প্রধান অর্থ ও হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা/চক-এর অফিসে ২০/- (বিশ) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পোস্টাল অর্ডার সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।
- যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান পরে মারফত জানানো হইবে। লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হইবে না।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার বা চক-এর কোন প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদাতোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের ০২(দুই) কপি ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের অনুলিপি, পৌরসভা/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারের নিকট হইতে নাগরিকত্ব/জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। চাকরীর অধীনে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। অসম্পূর্ণ/ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হইবে।
- নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে সরকারি বিধি অনুযায়ী সকল প্রকার কোটা অনুসরণ করা হইবে।
- আবেদনপত্র পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের বরাবরে প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে এবং আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য ব্যবহৃত ষাখের উপর অবশ্যই "পদের নাম" স্পষ্ট করিয়া উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সরক্ষণ করে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় এ নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম বাতিল/পরিবর্তন/সংশোধন/সুগতি করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- বিজ্ঞাপিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হইতে পারে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত/প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা কাগজপত্র নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম চলাকালে যে কোন পর্যায়ে বা নিয়োগ প্রাপ্তির পরেও অসত্য/ভুল প্রমাণিত হইলে তাহার দরখাস্ত/নির্বচন/নিয়োগ সরাসরি বাতিল করা হইবে।
- যে কোন প্রকার তদসীর প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হইবে।
- দরখাস্ত গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখঃ ১২ নভেম্বর, ২০০৮খ্রিঃ। উক্ত তারিখের পর আর কোন আবেদনগ্রহণ গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।

এসএসস লিয়াকত আলী
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ