

# Simplify visa for South Asia to enhance trade ties

## Says Truth Commission chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Truth and Accountability Commission chairman has suggested simplification of the visa system between the South Asian regions to ease transfer of goods and enhance trade.

"The main barrier to exporting goods to the neighboring countries and increasing regional trade is a difficult visa system of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc)," Justice Habibur Rahman Khan told a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

He also insisted on the implementation of the treaties the Saarc countries have

already signed.

Saarc Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC) organised the seminar on 'Opportunities for Industrial and Infrastructure Development.'

Justice Khan stressed increasing economic co-operation between different regional chambers and organising fairs that would open new doors for the entrepreneurs.

Mir Nasir Hossain, vice president of SCWEC, said the South Asian women entrepreneurs need to organise exchange programmes to enhance regional exports.

"The government of these countries should patron differ-

ent exchange programmes, which could increase the export of new products," he said, adding that it would help grow the economy further.

The seminar also emphasised expanding the arena of women entrepreneurship to IT based businesses and developing the infrastructure for such an industry.

VL Indira Dutt, chairperson of SCWEC presided over the seminar.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, executive chairman of the Board of Investment, and Nasreen Awal Mintoo, the former chairperson of SCWEC, were also present at the seminar.



AKM Sajedur Rahman, managing director of Basic Bank Ltd, addresses a meeting of the operational heads and in-charges of the bank's Dhaka city branches recently. General Managers, Md Abdul Jabbar, Shaikh Ahmed, Sk Monzur Morshed, Md Mesbahul Haque, and other high officials were also present on the occasion.

# Germany adopts 480b euro bank bailout

AFP, Berlin

Germany's 480-billion-euro (650-billion-dollar) bank bailout flew through parliament in an historic fast-track vote Friday to restore shattered confidence in the crisis-ridden financial sector.

The rescue package, the biggest ever in German post-war history, sailed through the lower house of parliament, or Bundestag, where 476 parliamentarians voted in favour, 99 against and one abstained.

It was then unanimously passed in the early afternoon in the upper house, or Bundesrat, comprising provincial legislators from Germany's 16 states.

There had been however some grumbling from regional premiers earlier over the cost of the bailout, since they would have to shoulder 35 percent of the burden.

Finally, the plan -- which includes up to 80 billion euros in fresh capital for banks and 400 billion euros in guarantees in order to jumpstart stalled lending between banks -- was signed by President Horst Koehler.

That meant it could effectively come into force from Saturday once it had been published in the official gazette, opening the doors to any bank seeking aid from Monday.

In the lower house, the ruling conservative CDU/CSU and the Social Democrat SPD

parties both voted in favour, as did the liberal FDP, The Greens and the far-left Die Linke party voted against.

Economy Minister Michael Glos said the move was crucial not just for the banks, but primarily for "the good of citizens and the economy."

"Everything must be done to restore confidence" in the financial sector, Glos said.

But Green parliamentary chief Renate Kuenast branded the proposals as a blank cheque for banks, who could still not be held responsible to taxpayers.

Berlin has been at pains to reject such charges, stressing that, in return for aid, the state will take stakes in the banks and demand influence in company decisions, the payment of dividends and even bankers' salaries.

So far, no bank has signalled its intention to apply for aid under the rescue package.

A financial source told AFP that Germany's biggest bank, Deutsche Bank, would not seek state aid.

"Deutsche Bank's capital structure is very strong, as a result there is no need to seek state aid," the source said.

In the meantime, Deutsche Bank chief Josef Ackermann said he would forego his annual bonus of several million euros to show solidarity with staff in a time of financial crisis.

# China to boost its property market

ANN/CHINA DAILY

Facing a housing market lull which could drag China's economy further in the backdrop of a worldwide financial crisis, Beijing is probing possibilities to loosen its macro control to activate the real estate sector.

As many as 18 Chinese cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou and Xi'an, have announced detailed policies to boost their property market, which have seen at least four months of consecutive drops in housing prices.

Propelled by the local governments' measures, the central government is believed to be studying market trends. Analysts predict that Beijing is expected to jump on the bandwagon by rectifying its strict regulatory decrees of higher taxation, and removing draconian control on bank lending to anyone buying second homes.

Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference Thursday in Beijing, Du Ying, deputy minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, told reporters that the real estate industry, a major sector of China's fixed-asset investment, that a major drive behind the country's past rapid economic rise is declining, and the government is "closely watching developments".

Some Chinese economists caution that a worsening slump in the real estate market in China would not only undermine the healthy growth of the economy, but also put the country's financial system at risk.

The worsening financial crisis, now sweeping the world and hardening the lives of many, originated from the subprime debacle in mid 2007 in the United States. Because of the sudden bust of a 10-year American housing boom, a rocketing number of American homeowners were unable to pay mortgages, and the banks were troubled by mountain-high bad debts.

To prevent the same scenario from happening, the 18 Chinese cities have resorted to measures, including doling out subsidies to private homebuyers, unprecedented since former Prime Minister Zhu Rongji launched privatisation policies of housing; cutting taxes on housing deeds, and even giving permanent urban residents permits to lure outside homebuyers, in Hangzhou's case.

# Bush assures US economy will rebound

AFP, Washington

President George W. Bush reassured Americans Saturday about the long-term health of the economy, insisting that the United States is still "the best place in the world to start and run a business."

"In the long run, the American people can have confidence that our economy will bounce back," the US president said in his weekly radio address.

"America is the best place in the world to start and run a business, the most attractive destination for investors around the globe, and home to the most talented, enterprising, and creative workers in the world."

The comments came as new data showed construction starts on new US homes slumped an additional 6.3 percent in September to the lowest level since the recession in 1991.

Housing starts fell to an annualized rate of 817,000. That was down 31.1 percent from a year ago in the latest evidence of the bursting of the housing bubble that has ravaged the US economy and led to the global financial crisis.

In hope of halting the downward slide, the US government is now using a portion of the 700 billion dollars authorized by Congress to inject capital directly into troubled banks by purchasing their equity shares.

# Ensure proper use of remittance

Speakers urge

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Speakers at a discussion in Tangail said on Saturday Bangladeshi expatriates from different countries have been sending remittances of about \$6.4 billion a year -- an amount that promises to make the country self-sufficient.

Foreign aid will not be required if the huge amount of foreign exchange can be utilised properly, the speakers said at a discussion, organised as part of "Remittance Fair 2008" at Tangail Shaheed Smriti Poura Uddyan in the town.

Support should be extended to the expatriates to earn more remittance, they added.

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Rural Poverty Deduction Organisation (RPDO) co-organised the fair. Manusher Jonno Foundation, an initiative that promotes human rights and good governance in Bangladesh, financed the programme.

A total of 15 stalls, including stalls of eight government and private banks in Tangail, displayed products at the daylong fair.

Although Bangladeshi expatriates are sending huge remittances into the country a year, which is the highest contribution to the country's GDP, they are not being justly honoured

by the state, the discussants complained.

Despite the existence of an expatriate development policy, immigration is still not safe as "dishonest" recruiting agencies are still active in the field, they alleged.

Tangail Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) KM Tariqul Islam inaugurated the fair and attended the discussion as chief guest.

Dr Tasnim Siddiqui, adviser of RMMRU and teacher of the Political Science Department at Dhaka University, addressed as main speaker. Executive Director of RPDO Rawshan Ara Lili chaired the event.

RMMRU has organised remittance fairs in different places of the country to keep the "flow of immigration and remittance in speed and to make banking services customer-friendly".

RMMRU will introduce the facilities given by the banks for the expatriates and their families through the fair.

RMMRU is a research, training and advocacy organisation of Dhaka University, which has been working on immigration and remittance at national and international levels since 1995.

RMMRU also directed the thematic media campaign about safe immigration across the country for the first time in South Asia, said Dr Tasnim Siddiqui.

Dhaka City Corporation	
Waste Management Department	
Level-2, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000	
Invitation for Tenders	
1. Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives/Local Govt. Department.
2. Agency	Dhaka City Corporation.
3. Procuring entity name	Chief Waste Management Officer, Waste Management Department.
4. Procuring entity code	none.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Invitation for	Waste Management services of Ward No. 1, Dhaka City Corporation under private sector.
7. Country of origin	None.
8. Invitation Ref No.	145/WMD.
9. Date	13/10/2008.
KEY INFORMATION	
10. Procuring method	Two stage tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION	
11. Budget and source of funds	DCC's own fund.
12. Development partner (if applicable)	None.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
13. Project/programme code (if applicable)	None.
14. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Waste Management services of Ward No. 1, Dhaka City Corporation under private sector.
15. Tender package No.	W-1.
16. Tender package name	None.
17. Tender publication date	On or before 16/10/08.
18. Place/date/time of pre-tendering meeting	Office of the Chief Waste Management Officer, Waste Management Department, Nagar Bhaban, Room No. 301, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka. Date: 22/10/2008 at 11:00am.
19. Tender last selling date	12/11/08.
20. Tender closing date and time	13/11/08 up to 12:00 hours (noon).
21. Tender opening date and time	13/11/08 at 12:30pm, tenderers and/or their representatives are allowed to attend.
22. Tender validity time	120 days.
23. Name & address of the office(s)	
- Selling tender document (principal)	Commander Maksudur Rahman Chowdhury, Chief Waste Management Officer, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
- Selling tender document (others)	Accounts Officer, Accounts Dept., Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
- Receiving tender document	Office of the Chief Waste Management Officer, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
- Opening tender document	Office of the Chief Waste Management Officer, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
24. Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: a) The provision laid down in the "Public Procurement Regulations-2008" must have in strict compliance. b) The tenderer must have up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate & trade license. c) The tenderer must have a minimum 3 (three) years of experience for similar works. d) The tenderer must submit the experience certificate along with the tender. Completion certificate shall have to be issued by the concerned officer. e) The tenderer must submit a certificate for liquid assets or working capital, or credit facility or free fund having amount of minimum 10 lakh. Necessary papers shall have to be submitted by the tenderer from any schedule bank of Bangladesh. Other required eligibility and conditions for the tenderer are shown in the tender data sheet of tender document.
25. Brief description of works	
Location	Zone 10: Ward No-1
Price of tender document in Taka (non-refundable)	2000/-
Tender security	3.30 lakh
Completion time in years	3 years
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
26. Name of official inviting tender	Commander Maksudur Rahman Chowdhury
27. Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Waste Management Officer.
28. Address of official inviting tender	Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
29. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9556016
30. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without mentioning the reason.	
Chief Waste Management Officer Waste Management Department Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka Tel: 9556016	

Department of Women and Gender Studies University of Dhaka INVITATION FOR TENDER					
Tender No.			Dated: 10/10/2008		
D1	Ministry/Division	University of Dhaka			
D2	Agency	Department of Women and Gender Studies			
D3	Procuring entity name.	Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University			
D4	Procuring entity code.	N.A			
D5	Invitation for	a) Production of Documentary Film b) Supply of Photocopier Machine with Stand			
D6	Date	10/10/2008			
Key information.					
D7	Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
Funding Information.					
D8	Budget and source of funds.	Project Fund under the project Institutionalizing the Department of Women's Studies Studies of University of Dhaka.			
Particular Information.					
D9	Tender Package No.	N.A			
D10	Tender Package name.	a) Production of Documentary Film b) Supply of Photocopier Machine with Stand			
D11	Tender publication date	15/10/2008			
D12	Last Date & Time for Selling of Tender Document.	Date: 9/11/2008 at 4.30 pm			
D13	Last Date & Time for Closing of Tender.	Date: 10/11/2008 at 10.00 am			
D14	Date & Time for Opening of Tender	Date: 10/11/2008 at 10.30 am			
D15	Name and address of offices for Selling Tender Documents:	Project Office (Room no -5032), Department of Women and Gender Studies, 4th Floor, Arts Building, Dhaka University.			
D16	Name and address of offices for Receiving Tender Documents:	Project Office (Room no -5032), Department of Women and Gender Studies, 4th Floor, Arts Building, Dhaka University.			
D17	Place/date/time of Tender Opening.	Office of the Chairperson, Department of Women and Gender Studies, 4th Floor, Arts Building, Dhaka University. Date: 10 November, Monday, 2008. Time: 12.30 pm			
Information for tender.					
D18	Eligibility of Tenderer.	Intending bidders having experience of similar work in the last three years, VAT Registration Certificate, upto-date Trade License, I.T Clearance Certificate, Experience Certificate with attested copy of work order and completion certificate along with other relevant information/certificate (if any)			
D19	Brief description of works and related services.	a) Documentary film making, b) Photocopier machine supply with post sale service			
D20	Price of Tender Document (Tk).	Tk. 1,000/- (One thousand) only each item (Non refundable)			
D21	Package No.	Name of Work	Location	Earnest money (BDT).	Completion time in Month.
	01	a) Production of Documentary Film b) Supply of Photocopier Machine with Stand	Arts Bldg. Dhaka University	a) Nil b) 6,500/= only.	a) 5 (Five) Months b) 1 (One) Months
D22	Details of Tender Security Amount.	Bank Draft/ Pay order for Earnest money from any Schedule Bank in favour of the Name of inviting tender (applicable for Item No-b).			
D23	Special Instructions.	Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there of. The bidders are liable to abide by the decision of the University authority. Tender form, schedule of items of work, tender notice and special terms & conditions etc. will be the integral part of the tender. The bidders should write the name of the work and their firms name on the envelope clearly. The VAT/ Income Tax and other Taxes, if any, imposed by the Govt. will be deducted from their bills as per Govt. rules.			
Procuring Entity Details.					
D24	Name of official inviting tender.	Professor Dr. Najma Chowdhury			
D25	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Manager			
D26	Address of official inviting tender.	Project Manager, Institutionalizing the Department of Women's Studies, Department of Women and Gender Studies, 4th Floor, Arts Building, University of Dhaka.			
D27	Contact details of Official inviting tender.	Tel - 9661920-73/ 6773			
GD-4681					
Wajum Chowdhury, Project Manager Institutionalizing the Department of Women's Studies Department of Women and Gender Studies University of Dhaka					