

# Track Saarc progress, says commerce adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday called for preparing concrete evidence to find the actual progress of Saarc in various fields including trade.

"We need to assess the progress of Saarc before going for further negotiations in this region," he said addressing the inaugural session of a daylong workshop on 'Trade facilitation in South Asia' at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) jointly organised the workshop in cooperation with the Friedrich Nauman Foundation (FNF).

Chaired by FBCCI President Annisul Huq, the workshop was also addressed by Commerce Secretary Firoz Ahmed.

The adviser said various problems and prospects of the Saarc are discussed at seminars and workshops. "But nobody appreciates the past achievement of the Saarc in different



FBCCI President Annisul Huq speaks at the inaugural session of the daylong workshop on 'Trade facilitation in South Asia' at a city hotel yesterday. Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman (3-R) inaugurated it.

sectors including trade," he pointed out.

Regarding the non-tariff barriers (NTBs), he said, "This is a political issue; we have to detach ourselves from this and focus on specific issues."

However, he admitted that coordination among the Saarc countries is yet to reach a convenient level. "The progress so far is not sufficient," he added.

Zillur also laid emphasis on talks between businessmen of the Saarc countries to find out the problems, possibilities and potential of trade in the region.

He advocated for finding specific and prioritised issues in the region to deal with trade, which is not gaining momentum.

The commerce secretary advocated for easy movement

to the Saarc countries and for adopting an open sky policy in this regard.

"Proper and effective links are essential among the Saarc countries, which should adopt an open sky policy," Firoz Ahmed said.

He also emphasised the need for a regional transport agreement to facilitate regional transportation and exchanges.

## Crushing at state-run sugar mills begins Oct 24

UNB, Dhaka

Sugarcane crushing at state-owned 15 sugar mills will begin on October 24 with a target to produce over 1.73 lakh tonnes of sugar by crushing 22.72 lakh tonnes of sugarcane this fiscal (2008-09).

The first sugarcane crushing programme will be held at North Bengal Sugar Mills in Natore on October 24. Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil will be present at the inauguration programme, said a PID hand-out.

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), has fixed the recovery rate of 7.62 percent for this year.

After the North Bengal Sugar Mills, crushing will begin in Natore Sugar Mills on October 31, while in Rajshahi Sugar Mills on November 7, in Kushtia, Faridpur and Zealabangla Sugar Mills on November 14 and in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Setabganj, Shyampur, Rangpur, Pabna, Joypurhat, Keru and Company and Mobarakganj Sugar Mills on November 28.

Of the mills, North Bengal Sugar Mills has set a target to produce highest 18,867 tonnes of sugar by crushing 2.45 lakh tonnes of sugarcane.

## US diplomat sees prospects for Dhaka-Washington trade enhancement

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A diplomat at the US embassy in Bangladesh sees a number of prospects and opportunities for enhancing the Dhaka-Washington trade, despite the unprecedented global financial fallout, according to a press release.

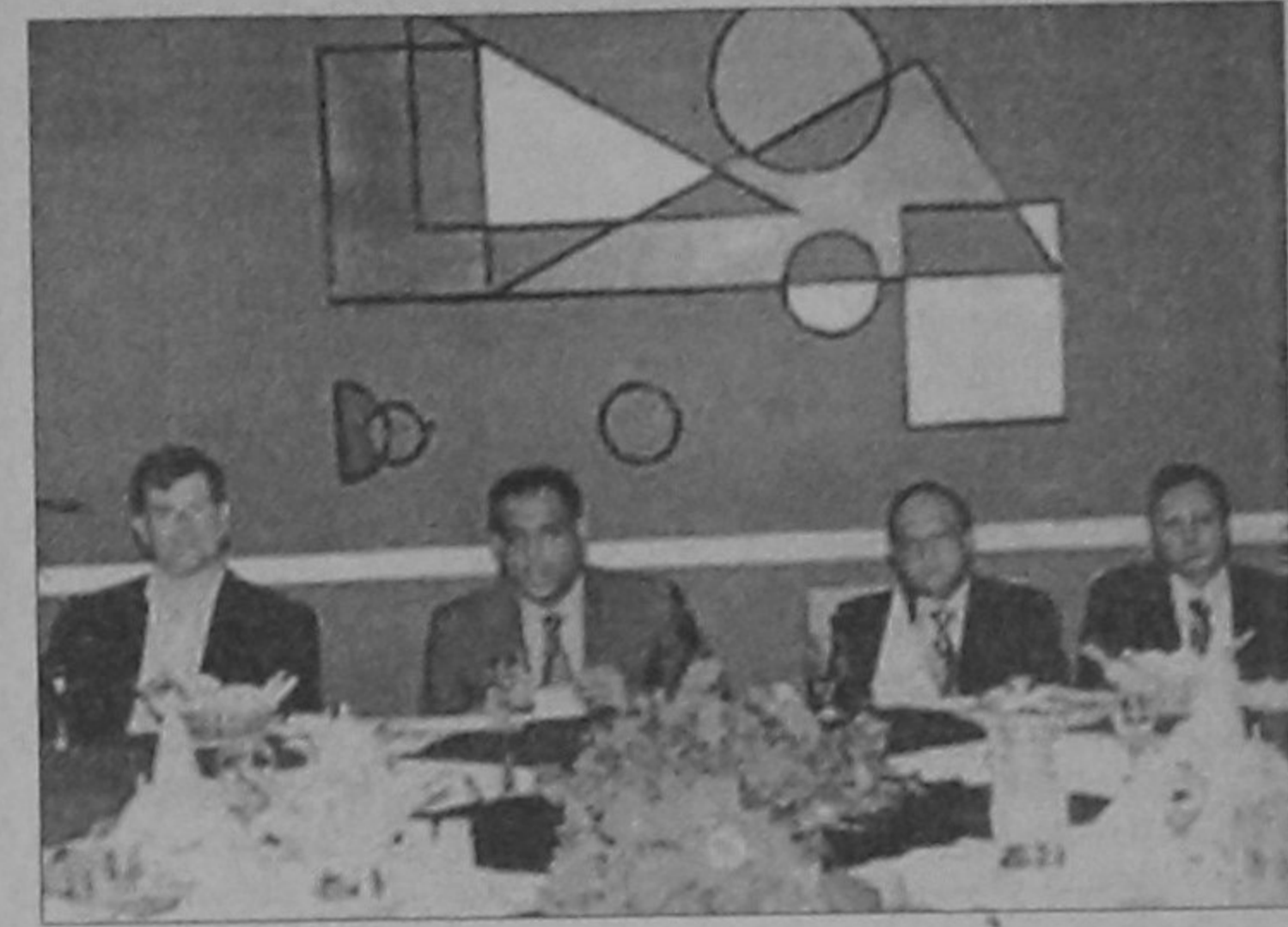
"Even in this day of global financial crisis, there are opportunities for enhancing the trade between Bangladesh and the US," Jon Danilowicz, counsellor for political and economic Affairs, told a meeting with the Chittagong chamber Board of Directors in the port city yesterday.

Jon, however, linked Bangladesh's sustainable development to a peaceful and democratic environment here.

"Democracy is the most important pillar for economic development and Bangladesh is expected to see a democratic transition soon," he said.

The diplomat informed the business community that the US government shares the concerns of Bangladesh regarding power, energy and infrastructure, including port, which are considered to be key components of competitiveness in the global business arena.

Former president of



CCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury speaks at a meeting with Jon Danilowicz, political counselor for the US Embassy in Bangladesh, in Chittagong yesterday. Yousof Abdullah Harun, former FBCCI president, Mahbub Alam, CCCI vice president, and other high officials were also present.

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yousof Abdullah Harun, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) President Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, First Vice President of BGMEA MA Salam, Bangladesh Shippers Council President Md Mahbub Ali and CCCI Vice President Mahbub Alam attended the meeting, organised by the Chittagong Chamber of

Commerce and Industry. CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Chowdhury said, "The US is an important development and trading partner of Bangladesh. The export of Bangladeshi readymade garments largely depends on the US markets. Hence, the recent financial crisis of the US posed a threat to Bangladesh product exports."

## Locals yet to benefit from int'l price fall

UNB, Dhaka

Unlike in the case of increases, the consumers in Bangladesh hardly receive the benefit of declining prices of essentials in international market.

The consumers in the country have to pay a higher price as soon as commodity prices go up in the international market, but they hardly get any immediate relief when prices go down in the global market.

In the last three months, according to a Citibank NA study, palm oil price fell by more than 50 percent, wheat and soybean oil prices dropped by 40 percent and sugar price fell by more than 25 percent.

But the consumers here had to buy a litre of soybean oil (loose) yesterday at an average

of Tk 102 as compared to Tk 103 a month back and Tk 121 three months ago when the price in the international market was at its peak, according to a commerce ministry monitoring report.

Palm oil price however declined almost at par with the international market -- selling here at an average of Tk 62 per litre yesterday against Tk 103 a month back.

But the prices of wheat flour and sugar remained almost static over the period.

"This is the perennial problem of our economy," Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed told the news agency yesterday. "Prices get a boost in the local market as fast as possible when those increase in international market, but don't follow the trend in case of fall," he said.

He said the commerce ministry is monitoring the market trend and will convene a meeting probably for the second week of next month to review the price movements as compared to the international market.

Another senior official of the ministry, requesting anonymity, said there is also a problem in holding such meeting with the businesspeople as they often show excuses one way or the other.

"The (edible oil) refiners will lose over Tk 500 crore this year," claimed A Rouf Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association.

He told the news agency that the palm oil was selling in the local market even below the international price.

Asked about the soybean oil price, Rouf Chowdhury said import of edible oil has been lower this year.

Meanwhile, Association of Bankers Bangladesh President K Mahmood Sattar has expressed concern that the commercial banks would face liquidity problem as they apprehend delayed repayment of import financing due to decline in the prices of imported commodities.

"We raised our concern only," he told reporters after a "bankers meeting" at Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Replying to a question, Sattar said the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the authorities concerned are supposed to monitor the commodity prices in the local market.

## Chavez hopes oil prices stabilise around \$80

AP, Caracas

President Hugo Chavez says he'll be happy if oil prices stabilize between US\$80 and US\$90 a barrel.

Prices for light, sweet crude fell to US\$71.85 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday after reaching record highs of over US\$140 earlier this year.

Independent analysts say Venezuela cannot maintain high levels of government spending if prices stabilise below US\$80 a barrel. Oil accounts for 94 percent of Venezuela's exports and roughly half the government's budget.

## Radisson showcases Italian delights



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A six-day food festival kicked off at the Radisson Water Garden yesterday to showcase different delights of

Italian cuisine to Dhaka residents.

"The main objective of this festival is to showcase the cultures and tastes of Italy to the people of Bangladesh," said Dr Itala Occhi, Italian ambassador to Bangladesh, who inaugurated the festival.

Occhi also mentioned that some Italian dishes such as pizzas and pastas are already popular among the local people.

Famous Italian dishes, ranging from pizzas to pastas and coffees to ice creams,

will be on display at the festival.

Andres Alex Gomez, general manager of Radisson, said the festival would increase the culinary skills of the local culinary industry through interaction between the two countries.

KaiUwe Klenz, executive chef of Radisson, said different food items would be prepared instantly according to guests' wishes.

The festival will remain open from 10am to 10pm every day.

## Essential Drugs Company Limited

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

### International Tender Notice

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw & Packing Materials on C&F Dhaka by Air & Chittagong by Sea/Benapole by Road basis:-

Sl No.	Tender No. & date	Name of the item	Cost of tender schedule	Last date of closing & opening
01.	IMP/R&P/SEM/11/2008-2009 dated 15/10/2008	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw &amp; Packing Materials:</b> 01) Atropine Sulphate BP 2007 02) Cephadrine (Compacted) BP 2007 03) Cephadrine (Micro) BP 2007 04) Chloramphenicol Base BP 2007 05) Chloramphenicol Powder (Sterile) BP 2007 06) Doxycycline Hyclate BP 2007 07) Talcum Powder BP 2007 08) Chlorpheniramine Maleate BP 2007 09) PVP/PE/PVDC (Triplex) Multy Layer Film for Blister Packing	Tk. 1,500.00/set equivalent to US\$ 22.00 non-refundable	Closing: 11/11/2008 at 11.00am Opening: 11/11/2008 at 11.15am
02.	IMP/RM/SEM/12/2008-2009 dated 15/10/2008	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials:</b> 01) Dried Aluminium Hydroxide BP 2007 02) Magnesium Hydroxide BP 2007 03) Mannitol BP 2007 04) Aerosil-200 BP 2007-USP NP 05) Calcium Lactate BP 2007 06) Cetrimide Strong 40% Soln BP '07 07) Ferrous Fumarate BP 2007 08) Calcium Hydrogen Phosphate BP 2007 09) Maize Starch BP 2007	Tk. 1,500.00/set equivalent to US\$ 22.00 non-refundable	Closing: 12/11/2008 at 11.00am Opening: 12/11/2008 at 11.15am
03.	IMP/RM/SEM/13/2008-2009 dated 15/10/2008	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials:</b> 01) Magnesium Stearate BP 2007 02) Mebendazole USP '31/BP 2007 03) Metronidazole Benzozate BP 2007 04) Propylene Glycol BP 2007 05) Stearic Acid BP 2007 06) Sucrose BP 2007 07) Tetracycline HCL BP 2007	Tk. 1,500.00/set equivalent to US\$ 22.00 non-refundable	Closing: 13/11/2008 at 11.00am Opening: 13/11/2008 at 11.15am

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Pijush Kanti Debnath  
Production Director &  
Incharge, Purchase Dept. (CC)  
For: Managing Director

GD-4735

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Computer System Analyst (RHD)  
Management Information Cell  
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna  
Dhaka

Memo No: EOI/2008-1581

Date: 16/10/08

### Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Selection of Consulting Firm

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) will provide fund for Consultancy Services for operation and maintenance of MIS in the RHD by engaging consulting firm (National) during the financial year 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under the Ministry of Communications (hereinafter referred to as the 'Client') now invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) from reputed consulting firm or firms in Joint Venture/Association for short-listing of the consulting services for Operation and Maintenance of MIS in the RHD.

**The services include:**  
The services include: Providing operation and maintenance of all MIS component of RHD required for the computerized databases, websites, application software(s), Local Area Network (LAN), Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), Wide Area Network (WAN), Intranet and Internet services and related hardware equipments working at RHD, MOC and field offices in satisfactory operating condition and providing appropriate local and foreign MIS/ICT-Governance training to the GOB personal related to the MIS/ICT maintenance services as determined by the Client.

**The experience, resources and delivery capacity required are:**  
1) Brochures & registration of the firm(s)  
2) General and overall experience of the firm(s) (limited to three pages).  
3) Experience of the firm(s) in similar assignments (limited to three pages).  
4) Average annual turnover of the firm(s) during the last 3 (three) years.  
5) Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications.

The Computer System Analyst, RHD now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The information should be provided on: brochures & registration of the firm, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification & equipments and experience among staff, etc.

Interested bonafide consulting firm/joint venture firms are invited to submit Eoi proposal enclosing only the required information. In case of joint venture, it is preferable to limit the total number of firm including associates to a maximum of 3 (three).

A consulting firm will be selected using the quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008 (PPR-2008) and Procurement Procedures issued by the GOB. Interested applicants may obtain further information by applying to the address below during office hours between 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by in sealed envelope delivered to the address of the undersigned shown above by 09 November 2008 within 12:00 noon and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm (Time based) for providing Consultancy Services for operation and maintenance of MIS in the RHD".

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any Eois.

Md Shamsur Rahman  
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Management Information Cell  
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GD-4746

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর  
(সদর দপ্তর)

আবহাওয়া ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

নথি নং আই-পি-১(১)/২০০৮-০৯/১৩৮১(২)

তারিখঃ ১৪/১০/২০০৮ইং

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা কর্তৃক নিম্নে বর্ণিত বিভিন্ন প্রকারের যন্ত্রপাতি/যন্ত্রাংশ ক্রয় করার জন্য প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

১।	মহাগুলের নাম	প্রতিষ্ঠা মহাগুল।		
২।	অধিদপ্তরের নাম	বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর।		
৩।	প্রকৃতির এনটিটি	পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।		
৪।	টেডার নথি নং	আইপি-১(১)/২০০৮-০৯।		
৫।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নাম/বর্ণনা	বিভিন্ন প্রকারের যন্ত্রপাতি/যন্ত্রাংশ।		
৬।	দরপত্র নং, পণ্যের নাম, সিডিউলের মূল্য ও আবেদনকারীর বিবরণ নিম্নে দেওয়া হইলঃ			
লট নং	দরপত্র নং	পণ্যের নাম	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	আবেদনকারী (ফেরতযোগ্য)
লট-১	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩)/ডিডিএন/২০০৮-০৯	ডিডিএন লিংক স্থাপন	১০০০/-	১,০০,০০০/-
লট-২	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩) ব্যাড স মেশিন/২০০৮-০৯	ব্যাড স মেশিন	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-
লট-৩	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩) মাইক্রোওয়েভ/২০০৮-০৯	লিড এসিড ব্যাটারী প্রতিস্থাপন	৪০০/-	৪,০০০/-
লট-৪	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩) ম্যাক/২০০৮-০৯	ইউপিএস অফ লাইন (প্রোমেবল) ও এলসিডি মনিটর ২১ ইঞ্চি	৪০০/-	১১,০০০/-
লট-৫	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩) জলবাধু/২০০৮-০৯	কম্পিউটারের টেবিল, চেয়ার ও ফ্যান মেশিন	৪০০/-	৪,০০০/-
লট-৬	নথি নং আইপি-১ (৩) পিসি/২০০৮-০৯	পিসি, এলসিডি মনিটর ১৭ ইঞ্চি, অফলাইন ইউপিএস, লেজার প্রিন্টার	৪০০/-	২১,০০০/-
৭।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	সিনপটিক মহাশাখা, আবহাওয়া সদর দপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।		
৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের আরম্ভ তারিখ	পরিকায় প্রকাশের দিন হইতে।		
৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২২-১১-২০০৮ইং।		
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সময়	প্রত্যেক কার্যদিবসে সকাল ৯-০০মিঃ হইতে বিকাল ৫-০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত।		
১১।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-১১-২০০৮ইং দুপুর ১২-০০মিঃ পর্যন্ত।		
১২।	দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-১১-২০০৮ইং দুপুর ১২-০০মিঃ।		
১৩।	দরপত্রের তথ্য/শর্তাবলী	দরপত্র সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত বহিঃস্থ।		
২।	অগ্রাধী দরদাতাগণ পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-এর বরাবরে আবেদন করতঃ প্রতিটি দরপত্র সিডিউল নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উক্তেখিত মূল্যে ক্রয়/সম্ভ্রম করিতে পারিবেন।			

দীপক চন্দ্র নাথ  
সহকারী পরিচালক  
পরিচালকের পক্ষে  
ফোন-৯১১৭৪৩৬ (অফিস)

জিডি-৪৬৮৪