

Hossain Zillur stresses combined SME effort



Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs President Rokia Afzal Rahman speaks at the inauguration of the month-long second 'Women's SME Expo Bangladesh 08' organised by Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) at Railway Polo-ground in the port city yesterday. Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman opened the fair.

CUCORRESPONDENT

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday underscored the need for a combined effort by the organisations of small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) to achieve their desired goal.

The organisations will have to play their roles, aided by the government, in building small enterprises in all districts.

The adviser was speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of the month-long Second Women's SME Expo Bangladesh 08" organised by Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) at Railway Polo-ground.

Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs President Rokia Afzal Rahman and Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil attended the ceremony as special guests. CWCCI President Monowara Hakim Ali chaired the event.

Describing the exposition as a mark of success, the adviser has said efforts to include women entrepreneurs in business and economic activities are an important aspect of the government policy.

The adviser lauded the entrepreneurs and asked them to find ways to survive in the competitive market.

"At first, the entrepreneurs will have to determine the goal, taking all available facilities

from the government to introduce them as a new class of entrepreneurs in the world," Dr Zillur said.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, also former caretaker government adviser, said the modern society is now allowing women to do business, which was not possible earlier in Bangladesh.

"The scenario has changed over last two decades and women are now doing business impressively with little capital and progressed a long way," she said.

Quoting Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, Rokia Rahman said a country whose economy remains active and vibrant is sure to go ahead faster than others. She praised the role of

CWCCI leaders in arranging the fair for a second time in the port city.

SME Foundation Deputy General Manager Yamin Akbary and Fair Committee Chairperson Angela Boishakhi Mandis also addressed the ceremony.

Later, the guests handed over crests to the successful women entrepreneurs of the port city.

The fair is home to 15 pavilions and 450 stalls. A food zone, help line and day-care centre for the children of entrepreneur-mothers were set up at the fair.

The fair will remain open from 10.00am to 10.00pm everyday, with the entry fee set at Tk 10 per person.

Gold hits lowest level in a year

ANN/THE STRAITS TIMES

Investors are fleeing commodities, including recent red-hot favourite gold, as global inflation eases and the United States dollar gains ground.

Gold, popular as a hedge against inflation, has lost much of its dazzle in the past fortnight with prices slumping to their lowest level in more than a year.

After hitting a record US\$1,033.90 an ounce in March this year, gold slumped to \$705.53 at one point on Thursday, the lowest level since September last year.

This sharp drop has surprised some analysts since gold is traditionally seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty.

However, investors are cashing out of commodities in general, leading to a pullback in prices of other precious metals, including silver and platinum.

Silver fell to its lowest level in more than two years, trading as low as \$9.305 per troy ounce yesterday, while platinum is at a five-year low. Base metal copper is at its lowest in almost three years on prospects of a global recession.

Training on public procurement begins today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A comprehensive three-week residential training course on procurement of goods, works and services in Munshiganj begins today.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning, will organise the training under its Public Procurement Reform Project-II, according to a press release.

Abdus Sobhan Sikder, secretary in charge of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, will inaugurate the course at the Engineering Staff College, Bangladesh (ESCB) at Char Bausia in Gazaria under the district.

Thirty mid-level officials related to public procurement from four target agencies will participate in the training course. These target agencies are Roads and Highways Department, Local Government Engineering Department, Rural Electrification Board and Bangladesh Water Development Board.

Easy transfer of remittance underscored

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers yesterday urged banks to provide better services for migrant workers for smooth transfer of their hard-earned money to Bangladesh.

They also called for efforts to create wider scope for a proper use of remittances in economic development.

The calls came from the inaugural session of a daylong fair titled "Remittance Fair 2008" at the Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong.

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RAMMRU), an affiliate of Dhaka University, organised the fair to raise awareness about safe migration and exchanging information between different banks and migrant workers and their family members about easy procedures of remitting money back home.

Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Project Director of Remittance Payment and Partnership Project (RPP) Khandakar Muzharul Haque inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

BB Executive Director Muzharul Haque said the



Participants attend the inaugural session of "Remittance Fair 2008" in Chittagong yesterday.

worldwide financial crisis might have a minimal impact on the country's economy thanks to a rise in remittance inflows over the last few years.

The country saw more than 30 percent growth in remittances to around \$5 billion last year.

Haque emphasised the need to make people aware about necessary information about safe migration and easier, quicker and more secure procedures of remitting money from abroad.

He hoped RAMMRU would act as a bridge between the migrant workers, their relatives and the banks.

In his speech, Richard Moss, partnership manager of RAMMRU, said local banks should provide extended services for migrant workers.

Mentioning the 'automation of cheque clearing' under the project, Moss said it would ensure higher efficiency and low costs in remittance transfer.

A total of 15 organisations, including 11 banks participated in the fair by displaying different services at 21 stalls.

The banks are Sonali Bank, Jamuna Bank, Janata Bank, NCC Bank, Agrani Bank, Pubali Bank, Islami Bank, Standard Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Krishi Bank and AB Bank.

EU urges more telecoms competition despite crisis

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission Saturday urged greater competition in the union's telecommunications sector, rejecting calls for operators for a moratorium because of the global financial crisis.

"Some of you ... have come to me in the past weeks and told me that now, because of the financial crisis, it would be time to soften or even to abandon telecoms regulation," Viviane Reding, the EU commissioner responsible for the

information society and media, told a conference of operators in Venice.

"First of all, I firmly believe that regulation taking care of competition always has a positive effect on the economy. Times of economic difficulties are thus not a reason to suspend the principles of competition law," she said according to remarks released in Brussels.

Last November the commission presented a series of measures aiming to promote competition and services for consumers in the telecoms sector.

It called for better coordination between member states with a new "super-regulator." But the proposals have received a frosty reception from some member states and existing national operators.

"You and your lobbyists should be aware that the times when one could simply say 'no regulation' to have policy makers and public opinion on your side, that these times are over now," Reding said.

"There is a very interesting lesson from the ongoing financial crisis for the overall

perception of regulation. It is certainly not over-regulation that has caused the financial crisis!"

Reding said the absence of a single telecoms market in Europe was "extremely damaging for Europe's economy."

She said one expert calculated the additional cost of regulatory fragmentation in telecoms was 20 billion euros (25 billion dollars) a year.

"Commission experts believe this figure to be still a very conservative estimate," Reding said.

Malaysian inflation eases

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's inflation eased slightly to 8.2 percent in September after a series of retail fuel price cuts which saw the transportation index expand at a slower pace, government data showed.

"Among the contributing factors to this decline is the reduction in the price of petrol and diesel announced by the government," the statistics department said in a statement late Friday.

Inflation jumped to a 26-year high in August at 8.5 percent, after reaching 8.3 percent in July, driven by the high cost of food and fuel following a steep 41-percent fuel price hike in June.

The department said the cost of food and non-alcoholic drinks rose 12.3 percent in September compared to the

same period in 2007.

Transportation prices remained high, increasing 18.1 percent from last year but on a monthly basis the index contracted by 3.0 percent from August after the slight fall in fuel prices.

"I hope this trend will continue that shows that in the months to come inflation or rises in prices of goods will not be a problem to the country," said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Shahrir Samad, according to state Bernama news agency.

Retail fuel prices have been cut three times since the hike and Shahrir said another price cut will be announced at the end of the month, following the trend in falling global fuel prices.

Malaysia's central bank said that "inflation has now

peaked and is expected to moderate into 2009," after announcing that its overnight policy rate will remain unchanged at 3.5 percent on Friday.

Bank Negara said that monetary action will only be taken if there was a risk that economic growth could worsen.

It said lower cost pressures and moderating domestic demand are expected to reduce inflation in 2009 but slower global growth and the decline in commodity prices will affect the performance of the export sector and overall economic growth in 2009.

The government is expected to announce next month a downward revision of its 2009 growth forecast from its initial target of 5.4 percent amid the global financial crisis. It expects the economy to grow at 5.7 percent this year.

Military Engineer Service
AGE (Army) Parbatipur
Bir Uttam Shaheed Mahub Senanibash

Invitation for Tenders

Notice No. 4000/NT/02/E-4 Date: 16 October 2008

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.		
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services.		
3. Procuring entity name	AGE (Army) Parbatipur.		
4. Procuring entity district	Parbatipur.		
5. Procuring method	Open tendering method (OTM).		
6. Budget and source of funds	Govt of Bangladesh (GOB).		
7. Project/programme code	Project works. 3/1931/0120/7011.		
8. Last date of application for tender	09 November 2008 (during office hours).		
9. Selling of tender will commence on	12 November 2008 (during office hours).		
10. Selling of tender will terminate on	18 November 2008 (during office hours).		
11. Last date and time for submission of tender	25 November 2008 (at 1200 hours).		
12. Date and time of opening	25 November 2008 (at 1230 hours).		
13. Name and address of the office(s)	AGE (Army) Parbatipur.		
14. Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted contractors Class-'E' & 'D'.		
15. Brief description of goods/works	Location	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order	Completion time in weeks/months
(a) LP Gas supply for construction of SM BK Complex (Ground floor complete and 1 st floor partial with 5-storied foundation) with CH/DH (2-storey with 5-storied foundation) incl ancillary works and furniture for 29 Bir at Bir Uttam Shaheed Mahub Senanibash.	AGE (Army) Parbatipur	5,000/-	100/- 15 days
16. Name of office inviting tender	AGE (Army) Parbatipur.		
17. Designation of official inviting tender	AE B/R.		
18. Address of official inviting tender	AGE (Army) Parbatipur, BUSMS.		
19. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 05222-56399.		
20. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject tender document.			

ISPR/Army/08/1699
GD-4812

AGE (Army) Parbatipur
Bir Uttam Shaheed Mahub Senanibash

Meghna Petroleum Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
58, Agrabad C/A
Chittagong

Procurement of Product Delivery Meter

Tender Notice
No. Pur: 145 Dt. 19/10/08

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers/importers/suppliers/sole agent for import/supply of 3" NPT connection POL Product delivery meter.

Interested bidders may collect tender schedule from our Purchase/Cash Section 58/59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and Deputy General Manager's Office, Meghna Bhaban, 131, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka against cash payment of Tk. 1,500/- (one thousand five hundred) only (non-refundable) in all working days from Sunday thru Thursday within 1500 hrs up to 23-11-2008.

The bidders are to submit the following documents at the time of purchasing of tender schedule:

- Certified copy of up-to-date valid trade licence.
- Certified copy of up-to-date Income Tax registration/TIN.
- Certified copy of Bank Solvency certificate.
- Certified copy of VAT Registration certificate.
- Certified copy of Import registration certificate.

The bidders are to submit the sealed tenders in 2 (two) separate envelope, one for technical offer and other for Commercial offer (both technical and commercial offer) must be dropped in the tender box kept at our abovementioned Chittagong and Dhaka Office latest by 1500 hrs. of 25-11-2008. The technical offer only will be opened on the same day at our Chittagong and Dhaka Office at 1515 hrs. in presence of bidders (if any). The price offers of the technically successful bidders only will be opened later on, date and time of which will be communicated to them by confirmation letter.

All other terms and conditions will be as per tender schedule.

The company reserves the right to accept any tender or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

GD-4870

Directorate General of Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Website: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturer(s)/supplier(s) (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Air Force.

Ser No	Name of items & qty	Schedule selling date		Tender opening date	Currency	Tender No	Cost of I/T
		From	To				
a.	PD7.1 Test Bench Qty-01 set	30-10-2008	4-12-2008	15-12-2008	Foreign	10337/AP-3	Tk 5,000.00 1st Time

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender can be dropped latest by 1200 hours and opened at 1205 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/08/2562
GD-4779

Squadron Leader
For Director General

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-Mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

1st Time Tender

1. Sealed tenders (double envelop system) in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army":

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
A.	Cloth Drill Tetron/Cotton Grey (65% Polyester & 35% Cotton) 152.50/157.50 cm. Qty: 3,00,000 Mtrs.	03-11-2008	02-12-2008	03-12-2008	Local	62583/P-6

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hour to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Army/08/2566
GD-4810

Major
For Director General