

Reach consensus on economic issues

FBCCI asks political parties

UNB, Chittagong

FBCCI President Anisul Huq yesterday asked the political parties to reach a consensus on economic issues.

He also urged the parties to refrain from calling hartal or blockade programmes in the future for the sake of the economy.

"Political parties should clearly mention in their electoral manifestoes that they would not resort to any programme like hartal and blockade in the future. Parliament should be the centre of all political activities," he said addressing a business conference at the Engineers' Institution here.

He said the country's politics as well as the economy were passing through a transition period. "Now an opportunity is there for the nation to take the country towards a healthy politics and a strong economy through the general election."

He demanded an assurance from the political parties that Chittagong Seaport would not



FBCCI President Anisul Huq speaks at a business conference at the Institute of Engineers in Chittagong yesterday.

be closed for a single day in the future. "Any political dispute should be settled in parliament, not on the street," the FBCCI chief said.

Former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Minto said, "We don't want such a democracy that the three governments had given us after 1990. We want such a democracy which would

not paralyse the economy. Now it is time to establish good governance."

Ex-FBCCI president Mir Nasir Hossain said political parties should discard the mentality of rejecting election results. "We don't like to see any movement on the street after the elections. Parliament should be the

place of all political activities," he said.

Chaired by President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, the programme was attended, among others, by representatives of 18 chambers under Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

Bangkok for FTA with Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A free trade arrangement is essential for Bangladesh and Thailand to further develop the bilateral trade relations, Thai ambassador Chalermphol Thanchitt yesterday said.

"The free trade arrangement will be very helpful for mutual benefits of the two countries and it will enhance trade between Thailand and Bangladesh," Thanchitt told a press conference at the National Press Club in the city ahead of the Made in Thailand Fair 2008.

Terming Bangladesh as an emerging market in South Asia, the ambassador said the trade relation between the two countries is very healthy now.

Thanchitt said currently Thai exports to Bangladesh stands at \$ 500 million a year, which he hopes will double in next five years.

The month-long Thai fair will start on November 7 at Basundhara City Expo Center. Forty-five Thai companies will showcase Thai products and services in the exposition.

Usa Wijnam, director of Thai Trade Center and Chowdhury Sultan Mahmud, owner of Mother Care, a Thai toiletries importer were also present at the press conference.

Edible oil price shoots up in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The price of edible oil shot up here yesterday both at the wholesale and retail levels because of poor supply and reported shortage of stock at refineries.

Many of the wholesale and delivery order (DO) traders were refused to get deliveries of edible oil from the refining mills against the DOs bought two or three days ago, sources said.

Edible oil importers and refining mill owners are scheduled to meet with the commerce adviser at the ministry today to seek cooperation from the government and central bank in order to overcome the loss they have incurred on the recent fall of price in the international market and to keep

the import smooth.

Wholesale prices of different non-brand edible oil ranging from palm oil to soya bean oil increased by Tk 100 to Tk 300 per maund (37.32 kilogram) in Khatunganj.

Palm oil price shot up at Tk 2200 per maund against Tk 2000 on Sunday and super palm oil reached Tk 2400 to Tk 2500 per maund from Tk 2200. Soya bean oil was selling at Tk 3600- Tk 3700, while it was Tk 3550 a day before.

Meanwhile, retailers at different outlets also started selling edible oil at higher prices since yesterday afternoon. Retailers at different kitchen markets were found selling soya bean at Tk 104 to Tk 105 per kg against Tk 98 on Sunday.

Traders 'blamed' unavail-

ability of edible oil from the refineries for such a price-hike.

Meanwhile, Vice President of Bangladesh Vanaspati and Oil Manufacturers and Owners Association Md Shahabuddin Alam said the total stock has now come down at around 90 thousand tonnes.

Alam, also the SA Group chairman, said the association would demand that the government increase the 90-day time limit for LTR payments to banks against opening of letters of credit (L/C) without charging penalty.

They would also seek support from the Bangladesh Bank in getting loans with long-term refund opportunity so that they can overcome the loss and proceed for further import of the essential commodity.



AKTEL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Jefri Ahmad Tambi launches AKTEL Directory Service recently in Dhaka. The service provides users with important phone numbers, addresses and other relevant information. Segutia Y Samad, acting chief commercial officer, and other high officials were also present.

Flak fear delays govt decisions: Mirza Aziz

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government often feels compelled to defer many of its policy decisions, including those related to energy, and even cannot take actions eventually for fear of sharp reaction from civil society, said Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday.

"In many cases, the government decisions have been delayed over fear of reaction from the civil society," said the finance adviser at a book launching ceremony in Dhaka.

He said everyone is now in agreement that the energy crisis will hinder the development of the country. "But how does one address the issue?"

Should we go for nuclear power, or coal mining or gas exploration?"

He said: "If we go for coal extraction, there are differences of opinion, even violent difference of views, about the technical aspects. It has become difficult to take a decision even due to freedom of the civil society organisations," news agency UNB adds.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), publisher of the book titled 'A Ship Adrift: Governance and Development in Bangladesh', organised the programme at LGED Bhaban.

Prof Nurul Islam, research fellow emeritus of International Food Policy Research Institute, and M

Asaduzzaman, research director of BIDS, edited the publication.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Wahiduddin Mahmud, professor of economics at Dhaka University, spoke among others.

The finance adviser said the issue of governance depends on mediation between the conflicts of interests of various stakeholders. "But it's not an easy task."

Good governance counts largely on leadership, mainly on the persons who head political parties, state machinery and others areas, the adviser said.

"Governance is partly a

science but it's largely a matter of art and it depends on the person who leads the organisation," he said.

Prof Nurul Islam, citing bad governance in the past, said there is a slack state of governance in Bangladesh.

"It's an ill-governed country. But it's a question how the garment sector is doing exceedingly well despite bad governance," said Islam.

He said there is a link between infrastructure finance with political campaign finance. A major intake of fund for political parties' campaign comes from infrastructure finance, he pointed out.

"Unless you reform political campaign finance, infrastructure finance will inevitably be

affected," he said, stressing the need for change in political governance.

"Governance change will depend on the change in political governance."

Citing good governance practices in some sectors such as banking sector, Wahiduddin Mahmud said governance also banks on the perception of political leaders.

Despite poor governance, Mahmud said, Bangladesh has done much better in terms of economic growth compared to many countries with good governance.

"Now it's time to address the deficit in governance," he said, adding that leadership is important for good governance.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Union Parishad Complex Bhaban Construction Project
LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
Memo No. LGED/PD(UCCP)/MR-25(Part-1)/1283 Date: 28.10.08

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

National Open Tendering Method

Tender Notice Number: LGED/PD-UCCP/PG/2008-09

- Construction of Union Parishad Complex Bhaban Project under Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives has the provision to supply of computers with accessories and imparting training to various Union Parishad secretaries and intends to invite sealed bid from the eligible bonafide bidders for supply the following office equipment (goods).

Tender package number	Name of goods	Quantity	Time for completion	Tender security (Taka)
UCCP/08/PG-01	Lot No: UCCP/08/PG-01 Supply and installation of computers and accessories to various Union Parishad & imparting training to the concerned UP secretaries.	100 sets	90 days/ followed by the LGED training calendar	200,000.00
UCCP/08/PG-02	Lot No: UCCP/08/PG-02 Supply and installation of computers and accessories to various Union Parishad & imparting training to the concerned UP secretaries.	100 sets	90 days/ followed by the LGED training calendar	200,000.00

- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites sealed tenders from eligible tenderers from eligible source for the supply of the goods for the purpose of the project.
- Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information on the tender form and inspect the tender documents at the office of the Project Director, Union Parishad Construction Project, Local Government Engineering Department, LGED Bhaban (Level-10), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Telephone: + (88)-02 8158005, Facsimile: + (88)-02 8158005 on all working days during normal office hours up to December 21, 2008.
- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible tenderer on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 2,000.00 (two thousand) for each tender Package No. UCCP/08/G-01 & 2 respectively.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a tender security mentioned in Bangladesh Taka in the form of Payment Order/Bank Draft in favour of the Project Director, Union Parishad Complex Construction Project (UCCP), LGED and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to tenderers on or before 1:00pm (local time), December 22, 2008.
- Tenders will be publicly opened in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives who choose to attend at 2:00pm (local time) on December 22, 2008 at the office of the undersigned.
- The authority reserves the right to accept any tender, or to accept any part of the tender, or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof and in such case no compensation will be entertained.
- The quantity of computers and accessories may be varied.
- This invitation for tenders is available at the website www.lged.gov.bd, www.cptu.gov.bd

MD. Abu Taher Khan
Project Director

ROK financial crisis spills into real economy

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD

The global financial crisis has begun to hurt South Korea's real economy, although the currency swap deal between Seoul and Washington restored confidence in the financial markets.

The housing sector--historically sensitive to business cycles--is suffering a downturn with falling home prices and a rising unsold-home rate, driving liquidity-squeezed builders into bankruptcy.

According to the latest report by Kookmin Bank's KB Research Centre, apartment prices across the nation have dropped for three consecutive weeks, with the greater Seoul area leading the price plunge.

The affluent areas of Gangnam and Seocho's apartment prices dropped between 0.6 and 0.7 per cent last week alone. Homeowners are rushing to sell apartments on worries that the drop in prices would accelerate because of worsening economic conditions, the research centre said in the report.

The Bank of Korea's latest financial stability report supported the claims, saying "the backlog of unallocated apartments has reached 160,000 units, its highest-ever level, as housing purchases slow".

The report added that, hypothetically, in the worst case scenario, a 20 per cent drop in house prices and a 6.3 per cent

mortgage delinquency rate would cause 4.8 trillion won (US\$3.6 billion) in losses for banks.

The BOK, though, does not foresee this scenario taking place.

Furthermore, an increasing number of builders are going out of business because they cannot repay debts.

Industry data showed that a total of 251 local builders went bankrupt in the first nine months of the year, up 47.6 per cent from a year earlier. Small- and medium-sized construction firms' default rates on bank loans also rose to 2.26 per cent in late June from late December.

On Friday, cash-strapped Shinsung Engineering & Construction managed to escape bankruptcy by repaying 5.5 billion won (\$4.4 million) worth of bills to banks just before it wrapped up the day.

The slump in the construction industry and the weak local currency led some steel importers such as Samjeong Steel Co to go bankrupt as well.

C & Group, which has shipping and construction affiliates under its wing, recently said it is reviewing a plan to apply for a workout programme, after rumours spread that the business group is vulnerable to liquidity risks.

The Financial Services Commission said on Friday that authorities would make sure to minimise negative economic impacts.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

No. ARC/1-17/2008-Pc. Dated: 30/10/2008

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Agriculture.
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).
3. Procuring entity name	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).
4. Procuring entity code	: N/A.
5. Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
6. Invitation for tender	: Supply of stationery goods, computer stationery goods, sanitary goods, electrical goods and spare parts, different type of vehicle for BARC.
7. Invitation Ref No.	: ARC/1-17/2008-Pc.
8. Date	: 30/10/2008.
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement method	: Open tendering method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget & source of funds	: GOB.
11. Development partner (if applicable)	: N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	: N/A.
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).
14. Tender package No.	: 1 (one) package - GD-01.
15. Tender publication	: 07/11/2008.
16. Tender last selling date, time	: Date: 26/11/2008, Time: Up to 4.00pm.
17. Tender closing date & time	: Date: 27/11/2008, Time: 12:00 noon.
18. Tender opening date & time	: Date: 27/11/2008, Time: 12:05pm.
19. Name & address of the office(s)	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
- Selling tender document	: Head Cashier, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
- Receiving tender document	: Senior Assistant Director (Procurement), BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
- Opening tender document	: Conference Room No. 02, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
20. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	: N/A.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
21. Eligibility of tenderer	: The tenderer should submit valid & updated the following attested photocopy of document with the tender: Valid trade licence, 5 years of experience certificate supplying similar types of goods. Income Tax certificate and VAT registration certificate, TIN No., bank solvency certificate.
22. Brief description of goods	: Supply of stationery goods, computer stationery goods, sanitary goods, electrical goods and spare parts, different types of vehicle for BARC.
23. Brief description of related services	: As per description in the tender document.
24. Price of tender document (Tk)	: Tk 500/- (five hundred) non-refundable.
25. Package No. Identification of lot	: Tender security amount in Tk Completion time
Package:- GD-01	Lot-01: Stationery goods Tk 3800/- (three thousand eight hundred) only 3 (three) weeks
	Lot-02: Sanitary goods Tk 1300/- (one thousand three hundred) only 3 (three) weeks
	Lot-03: Electrical goods Tk 1300/- (one thousand three hundred) only 3 (three) weeks
	Lot-04: Computer stationery goods Tk 1800/- (one thousand eight hundred) only 3 (three) weeks
	Lot-05: Spare parts, different types of vehicle for BARC. 2050/- (two thousand fifty) only 3 (three) weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
26. Name of official inviting tender	: M Nazimuddin.
27. Designation of official inviting tender	: Senior Assistant Director (Procurement) Acting.
28. Address of official inviting tender	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
29. Contact details of official inviting tender	: Telephone: 9120795, 8117110.
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereby.	

GD-5042 M Nazimuddin Senior Assistant Director (Procurement) Acting BARC, Dhaka