

Automated Kamalapur ICD ready to start customs clearance this month

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD) is ready to start customs clearance under an automated system any day this month.

The ICD authority now awaits the Chief Adviser's consent to launch the automated operation, Mahub Zaman, managing director, Data Soft Limited, said yesterday.

Data Soft in association with Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has completed the automation work on a built operation and transfer (BOT) basis. The software firm earlier implemented the Chittagong Customs House automation project.

"We plan to launch the automation of Kamalapur ICD and Dhaka Customs House simultaneously, but the Dhaka Customs needs some more time as it has several unique patterns of clearance," Mahub Zaman said.

The government expects a significant rise in the customs unit's revenue income on such automation.

Traders also think that this will help reduce corruption, as the new system will streamline customs procedures.

Moreover, through the system, updated information on international market prices of different export and import items will be

available, eliminating the possibility of under-valuation. The automated system will also have website with different stakeholders' profiles.

Automated customs house is now a matter of necessity, rather than a matter of choice, since the European Union (EU) will not issue any manual document for imports after July 1 2009, an official said.

Shipping agents, freight forwarders and stakeholders from now on will be able to submit import general manifest (IGM) and export general manifest (EGM) online from their offices or houses.

Operation of the IGM/EGM module would allow round-the-clock entry of documents at a cost of Tk 50 each for 16 different types of services, while Tk 180 was charged for each data-entry under the previous system.

Apart from clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents, exporters and importers will also be able to handle documents directly after obtaining the self-clearing licence.

The automation will cut customs formalities to only five steps against the existing 42, trimming both hassles and time.

The project will lower the cost of doing business by 40-50 percent and save time by three to four days in terms of completing customs procedures, traders hoped.

Mango restores internet capacity

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mango Teleservices Ltd, the lone private sector International Internet Gateway (IIG) of the country, has successfully mitigated a disaster in the submarine cable systems in the shortest possible time.

It now provides high quality internet services to the nation after restoring the total capacity on Saturday without affecting its customers, according to a press statement.

As an unprecedented occurrence, three submarine cable systems (SMW3, SMW4 and FLAG) were damaged between Italy and Egypt in the Mediterranean Sea on Friday.

Make power bid criteria friendly to local investors

Energy firms association demands

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Energy Companies Association (Beca), a platform of local energy sector investors, yesterday demanded that the government retain the same pre-qualification criteria applicable to the Bibiyana power project for all upcoming 450 megawatt power projects.

It said the criteria would ensure the participation of local companies in power projects.

The government recently cancelled a tender for the Bibiyana 450mw project because of the high power tariff proposed. But Beca felt that the pre-qualification

documents of this project were drawn in a manner that facilitates the participation of local companies.

The association notes that after 2001 Independent Power Project (IPP) business has been redrawn worldwide.

"Now, local and regional companies are taking over the vacant places created by the departure of big multinational IPP companies. Unless we help our local company in developing this type of project, the risk is there that there may be another bidding," Beca Vice President Jafer Ummeed Khan said in a letter addressed to the special assistant to the chief adviser

in charge of the energy ministry.

Due to the stringent qualification criteria, large 450mw power projects could not draw much participation from bidders. Only a few foreign companies were qualified in the bids taken after 2001, and those submitted proposals for higher tariff. Gradually those firms lost their enthusiasm.

This time, the ministry relaxed qualification criteria, but again only a few foreign companies were able to qualify. In the Bibiyana bid, only one bidder submitted proposal prompting the government to go for re-tender and the Sirajganj 450mw project has been

shelved due to the lack of response from the pre-qualified companies.

However under the present government, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and the Chittagong Port Authority undertook various projects setting criteria that were friendly to the local investors. As a result, a number of local bidders participated.

In the same spirit, the government should retain the pre-qualification criteria of the Bibiyana project so that local investors can participate in the 450mw power schemes in future, Beca suggested.

DSE ups transaction capacity

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange has added two new processors to the existing two, which increases the transaction capacity of the premier bourse, as part of the first phase of an uplifting programme.

With the addition of the two new CPUs (central processing units), the daily average transaction capacity has risen to a minimum of 150,000 transactions from 100,000 transactions a day.

With Grameenphone set to list on the stock exchange early next year, the upgrading was long overdue. The capacity of the existing automated trading system was questioned, as Grameenphone shares are expected to crowd the market.

The Grameenphone issue is going to be the largest ever issue in the Bangladesh stock market. The country's largest mobile operator submitted the final prospectus of its initial public offering (IPO) to the stocks regulator on December 11, seeking approval to raise \$65 million (Tk 449 crore) from the market.

"We are expecting that the level of transactions will increase with the inclusion of Grameenphone shares, after the election," said Salahuddin Ahmed Khan, chief executive officer of DSE.

"After completion of the first phase of the uplifting programme, we are now prepared to handle a minimum of 150,000 transactions a day," he said. The second phase of the upgrading process is currently

going on.

The cost of the two-phase expansion programme is estimated to be Tk 8.5 crore. After the completion of the full expansion programme, the DSE will be able to deal with 250,000 transactions a day.

On average, the DSE witnesses 50,000 to 60,000 transactions a day.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the DSE president has recently said it will be wrong to think that the upgrading of the bourse was in response to the announcement of the float of shares by the big companies alone.

The move was much needed, following several DSE server system failures in the past few months.

The DSE last underwent an overhaul about three years ago. The automated trading system first

started on August 10, 1998. It is based on TANDEM NonStop K204 System (mainframe server), which is fault-tolerant, available, scalable and maintainable.

The system software used is HP proprietary NonStop Kernel and the database is NonStop SQL, which handles database functionality successfully.

The central trading system, being on the stock exchange premises, runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The application software named TESA (The Electronic System Architecture) was developed on 32-bit application architecture for the global securities markets. It has high processing speed, high message integrity and fully automatic recovery.



Employees of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DBH) take part in 'volunteers- sponsorship home build activities' launched by the Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh (HFHIB) for low-income people at Kaliganj in Dhaka on Saturday.

Brac introduces Africa fund

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Brac has raised \$62.6 million of debt capital to provide micro-finance to poor borrowers in Tanzania, Uganda and Southern Sudan, the nongovernmental organisation said in a statement yesterday.

The Brac Africa Loan Fund provides long-term, local-currency funding that will enable Brac to scale up its micro-finance operations to reach over 700,000 borrowers through more than 200 branches across the three countries.

The fund represents the largest single financing to date of a southern hemisphere development organisation expanding into Africa.

The fund will aggregate US dollar loans from investors through a special purpose company and use the funds to make local currency loans to Brac Uganda, Brac Tanzania and Brac Southern Sudan, over a period of seven years.

A second and final closing is planned during the first half of 2009 to reach the

fund's target of \$74.0 million.

"BRAC appreciates the support of our international investors as we work to build sustainable, locally managed development programmes. Brac's lending operations are a platform for delivering its holistic development programmes," said Brac Founder and Chairperson Fazel Hasan Abed.

"The BRAC Africa Loan Fund will provide very important access to long-term, local-currency capital in the region, which will help BRAC's local programmes achieve scale," said Elizabeth Littlefield, chief executive officer of CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poor), an independent policy and research centre.

"The first closing of the fund amidst a global liquidity and credit crisis shows the strength of the appeal to investors of investments designed to deliver both financial returns and significant development impact," said Laurie J Spengler, president of ShoreBank International Ltd.

AKTEL launches new service

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AKTEL has launched 'AKTEL Push Mail' for their post-paid customers, according to a press statement.

With this new service, clients can send or receive emails instantly anytime, from several accounts to a single inbox without having login multiple times.

The service also does not require a change of handsets, as it is applicable with any handset. Customers will be able to view and download attachments including Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point.

Security will also not be a concern as the solution combines unique anti-abuse technology with anti-virus and anti-spam filtering.

AKTEL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Jefri Ahmad Tambi said, "We always strive to give innovative and affordable services to our customers. We expect that AKTEL Push Mail will help the post-paid users to be updated with its unique timesaving features."

AKTEL postpaid customers can get more information regarding this new service by visiting their nearest customer care centre or calling their help line.



AKTEL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Jefri Ahmad Tambi introduces 'AKTEL Push Mail' for their post-paid customers recently in Dhaka. Chief Commercial Officer Bidyut Kumar Basu and other high officials were also present.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh.

Memo No. APSC/Pro-02/2008/1677 date: 20/12/2008
Request for Expression of Interests (EOI) for Consulting Services for Feasibility study for 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Ashuganj Existing Power Plant Site.

01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd
03. Procuring Entity Name	Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria
04. Procuring Entity code	Not used at present
05. Procuring Entity District	Brahman Baria, Bangladesh
06. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Services for Feasibility study for 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project.
07. EOI Ref No	APSC/Pro-02/2008/1677
08. Date	20/12/2008

KEY INFORMATION

09. Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
10. Budget and Source of Funds	APSC's Own Fund and its revenue budget

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11. Project/ Programme code	Not applicable
12. Project/ Programme name	Feasibility study for 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Ashuganj Existing Power Plant Site
13. EOI closing date and time	14/01/2009 at 12:00 Noon

Brief description of the assignment

Preparation of specification for turbine, boiler, generator, electrical and mechanical electrical, equipment, for evacuation of power, study of existing intake and discharge channel of circulating water system, prepare detailed cost estimate of local and foreign, components, project implementation schedule, analyze detailed project risks, establish design criteria, prepare conceptual design of the plant, plant performance, quantity of material. Environmental Impact Assessment etc. for the 150MW Combined Cycle Plant.

Experiences, Resources and Delivery capacity required.

Application has been invited from the competent consulting firms who have qualification and experience in the aforementioned type of consulting services with a view to prepare a short-list of them.

A firm, who likes to participate, may associate with other firm (s) to submit a single proposal in undertaking this assignment but No firm should form association with more than one firm.

Other details (if applicable)

The intending consulting firms may collect the "Detailed Terms of Reference as well as document" from the office of the Convener, Procurement, Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited on submission of a written application, to the Director (Technical) Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited, B-Baria. The short-listing of the consulting firms will be made as per submitted EOI of the intending consulting firms on the basis of the evaluation criteria provided in the document.

1 (one) original & 5 (five) copies of Expression of Interest in sealed envelopes shall be submitted on or before to the specified date and address.

Any application submitted later than the specified time shall not be entertained.

Short listed firms will be selected using the selection method in accordance with PPR-2008.

RFP will be issued to short listed firms

Place of EOI submission

Convener
Procurement Committee
Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.
Ashuganj, B-Baria.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

18. Name of official Inviting EOI	Md. Abdus Samad
19. Designation of official Inviting Tender	Convener, Procurement committee
20. Address of official Inviting EOI	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd, Ashuganj, B-Baria, Bangladesh.
21. Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Tel: 08528-74033 Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apsc.com, Website: www.apsc.com

APSC reserves the right to cancel the notice of Expression of Interest and/or to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason there of.

20/12/08
(Md. Abdus Samad)
Convener
Procurement Committee,
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh.
Tel:0088 08528-74033, Fax:0088 08528-74044

Memo No. APSC/Pro-29/2008/1695 Date: 21/12/2008

"Amendment of APSC Tender Enquiry"

Tender Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
Supply of Current Transformer and 10KA heavy duty station class Lighting Arrester for APSC	- Last Selling date of Tender Document	- 23/12/2008 during Office hour	- 18/01/2009 during Office hour
Tender Invitation No. APSC/Pro-1/2008/1490 Dated: 05/11/2008	- Tender closing date & time	- 24/12/2008 at 12:00 noon.	- 19/01/2009 at 12:00 noon.
	- Opening date & time	- 24/12/2008 at 12:30 P.M	- 19/01/2009 at 12:30 P.M.

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged

21/12/08
Convener
Procurement Committee
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Tender No. FDC/PD-Import/2007-2008/7/Re/33/Re/47/ Date: 15/12/2008

International Re-Tender for Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film

01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information, Government of Bangladesh.
02. Agency	Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Dhaka.
03. Procuring entity name	Managing Director, BFDC.
04. Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
05. Invitation for	Import of 35mm Colour Picture Negative Film.
06. Invitation for Ref No.	FDC/PD-Import/2007-2008/7/Re/33/Re/47/
07. Date	15/12/2008.
08. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).
09. Budget and source of fund	Revenue.
10. Tender package No.	1 No.
11. Tender package name	Import of 35mm Colour Picture Negative Film.
12. Tender publication date	17/12/2008.

13. Tender last selling date & time	14/01/2009 up to 5.00pm.
14. Tender closing date & time	15/01/2009 up to 2.00pm.
15. Tender opening date & time	15/01/2009 at 2.30pm.

Name & address of office(s)

i) Selling of tender documents	i) Cash Counter of Accounts Section, BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
ii) Receiving of tender documents	ii) Office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
iii) Opening of tender documents	iii) Office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

Eligibility of tenderer

The tenderer/local agent should have:

- Professional capability, technical qualification & personnel, reputation experience, equipment, financial resources.
- Agency certificate from the manufacturer to participate in the bid (original).
- Registration from CCI&E and Bangladesh Bank.
- Up-to-date trade licence issued by Municipal Corporation/Authentic authority of Bangladesh.
- Up-to-date income tax GIR/TIN certificate & VAT registration (arrested).

18. Brief description of goods	Import of 35mm Colour Picture Negative Film.
19. Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 2500/- (two thousand five hundred) only.

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/ months
1	Import of 35mm Colour Picture Negative Film	BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208	Tk 8,00,000 (eight lac) only by Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/BG (except Uttara Bank Ltd)	As per schedule

21. Name of official inviting tender	SM Kaiser Hossain Mallick.
22. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director (Procurement).
23. Address of official Inviting tender	Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
24. Contact details of official Inviting tender	Tel: 8120204, Fax: 88029137280.
25. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

SM Kaiser Hossain Mallick
Deputy Director (Procurement)
on behalf of Managing Director of
BFDC

GD-5877