

Dhaka trade fair kicks off today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The 14th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) begins today.

Organisers expect the participating companies to obtain Tk 100 crore spot orders during the month-long gathering for local and foreign traders.

They also expect business deals worth Tk 500 crore in the DITF-2009. Last year, local exporters received only Tk 20 crore spot orders.

The DITF is an annual programme, which mainly aims to showcase local products to foreign buyers. The Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) is jointly organising the fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed is scheduled to inaugurate the fair.

Organisers have already allocated pavilions and stalls to the participants. This year, a total of 467 organisations, including 22 from seven other countries, are taking part in the fair. The foreign participants include India, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, USA, UAE, Japan and Germany, said EPB Vice Chairman Md Shahab Ullah at a press conference at the EPB conference room yesterday.

He said the exhibition will showcase a wide range of local and foreign products, including machinery and equipment, agriculture and gardening materials, carpets, chemicals and allied products, cosmetics, dairy products, electrical and electronic items, food and groceries, gift items, handicrafts, home appliances, leather, leather goods and footwear, sports gear, sanitary ware, textile and garments, toys and stationery, watches and clocks, jewellery, ceramics, melamine, car and plastic products. Shahab Ullah said all preparations for the fair have been completed.

The security agencies headed by commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will ensure security at the fair, he added.

The EPB official anticipates a good response from both local and foreign customers. He said, like other years, DITF-2009 will also get significant export orders from foreign buyers.

He added, "The amount of spot orders will be doubled to Tk 100 crore this year."

Sri Lanka is the partner country of DITF-2009. The exposition will remain open to visitors everyday from 10am to 9pm on weekdays and from 10am to 10pm on holidays.

The price of entry-tickets has been fixed at Tk 12 for adults and Tk 7 for minors.

3,000 e-cash registers' use begins today in six cities

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mandatory installation of electronic cash register (ECR) at some selective shops, hotels and restaurants at six city corporations comes into effect today, paving the way for introducing ECRs at all small and medium shops and service providers across the country by July 1.

A total of 3,000 selective hotels, restaurants, fast food, sweet and furniture shops, beauty parlours, community centres and all shops at shopping malls will start using ECRs from today.

However automated business establishments will not need to install ECRs if they incorporate some specific software into their systems to preserve their actual sales figure.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has taken the move of installing ECRs at shops against the backdrop of resentment among a section of businessmen who have already automated their operations.

Earlier the NBR decided to frame a policy to regulate the ECR suppliers who have after-sales customer service. The policy will also ensure the actual configuration of the ECR machines as required by the regulations for getting transparent figure of sales tax.



A file photo shows a man receiving sales proceedings from a customer through an electronic cash register at a shop in Dhaka.

ure of sales tax.

The NBR is trying to introduce ECR at all small and medium enterprises in a bid to plug holes in VAT (value added tax) collection procedure.

"Non-recorded data hinder VAT collection from services sector. The problem can easily be solved through installation of ECR. Both the businessmen and government exchequer will be benefited with the introduction of the system," an NBR official said.

The recorded documents will help the government collect actual revenue and the business owners assess their tangible turnover, he added.

Some big shops in the capital are paying a nominal

monthly VAT at a flat rate of Tk 4,200, although only small shops are entitled to pay at such rate, NBR officials said.

Shops having only Tk 120 per day turnover can pay tax at the flat rate. But a number of those shops have millions of taka worth sales a day, the officials said.

There will be some changes in the category of shops that are paying tax at the flat rate, they added.

The revenue board has faced strong resistance from businesses after issuing the order on mandatory installation of ECR by July 1, 2008. Following requests from businesses, the NBR has extended the timeframe for ECR installation to July 1 this year.

BTRC drive against unauthorised ISPs soon

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) will soon start its drive against the unauthorised Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Cyber Café Service Providers (CCSPs).

The decision has been taken by BTRC, the telecommunication watchdog, for bringing discipline in the sector as the number of ISPs and CCSPs is growing indiscriminately, but giving poor services.

The BTRC also took a decision on December 30 to bring the ISPs and CCSPs within the ambit of license. The commission asked

the interested person or legal entity to submit application for license from today. The deadline for submitting the application is March 31, 2009.

The BTRC further decided to issue three categories of 'Internet Service Licenses' at thana level -- category A for Dhaka metropolitan area, Category B for other five metropolitan areas and Category C outside the metropolitan areas.

The initial license fees for category A, B and C are Tk 10,000, Tk 5,000 and Tk 1,000 respectively. The annual license renewal fees are Tk 5,000, Tk 2,500 and Tk 500 for the three category licenses.

Citi named Best Overall Internet Bank

UNB, Dhaka

Citibank, NA has been ranked the Best Overall Internet Bank and Best Corporate/Institutional Internet Bank Globally by Global Finance at its World's Best Internet Bank Awards Dinner

held in New York recently. Citi was also named the global winner for Best Information Security Initiatives, Best Online Cash Management Site and Best Investment Management Services.

In addition to the top global awards, Citi was also honoured with the Best Corporate/Institutional Internet Bank in Asia including Bangladesh, India, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, in Central and Eastern Europe, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa and in North America, said a press release.

Global Finance's World's Best Internet Bank Awards drew entries from 207 banks from around the world. Winners were determined based on evaluations conducted by a judging panel and selected by Global Finance's editors.

Best Air offers 44 pc fuel surcharges

UNB, Dhaka

Best Air yesterday announced a cut of 44 percent fuel surcharges on all routes as world oil prices fell.

The new rate will be applicable from today, the first day of the new year, said a press release.

The fuel surcharge that would be axed for tickets issued on or after January 1, 2009 would be almost US \$ 35 per sector.

"From Thursday, 50 percent of fuel surcharge would be dedicated for all Best Air bookings," Best Air Director (Marketing and Sales) Farhad Hossain said.

Oil was trading as low as \$US 32.40 on December 19, but it picked up yesterday to \$US 40 a barrel, an increase of more than 20 percent, he said.



Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Zafar Osman presents a bouquet to Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman at a meeting at the Secretariat yesterday. Senior Vice President MS Shekil Chowdhury and Vice President Sirajuddin Malik were also present.

World stocks end wretched 2008 with modest rally

AFP, London

World stocks brought down the curtain on a miserable year with modest gains Wednesday but 2008 will be remembered for key markets shedding half their worth as the global economy endured a disastrous slow-down.

Despite a number of bourses gaining some ground over the past few days, the overall picture for 2008 has been one of gloom as the worst economic crisis since the 1930s tore into investor confidence and battered equities.

In European trade, London rose 0.94 percent on Wednesday but slid a massive 31 percent over the year. Paris ended the day flat and almost 43 percent lower during the past 12 months.

Wall Street reopens at 1430 GMT for its final trading day of 2008.

"Equity markets are set to finish this rather disastrous year with something of a flourish," said CMC Markets dealer Jimmy Yates.

"Whether this is Santa's rally or simply testament to the volatility that has characterised the year will doubtless be a point to debate in the months to come," Yates added.

US stocks revved higher Tuesday after a government rescue announced for finance firm GMAC and its former parent General Motors boosted hopes for a recovery in the troubled US auto sector.

Wall Street's firmer showing gave a boost to Asian and European markets.

Frankfurt ended its year

on Tuesday, closing with a daily gain of 2.24 percent. During 2008 however, the German bourse shed a massive 40 percent -- a pattern mirrored elsewhere.

By the close of trade on Wednesday, Hong Kong and Singapore had almost halved in value over the year. Sydney lost more than 40 percent, Mumbai 52 percent and Shanghai nearly two-thirds -- the steepest annual loss in the Chinese market's 18-year history.

Tokyo was 42.12 percent down and Seoul 40.73 percent when they closed for the year on Tuesday.

"We have not reached the bottom yet. The worst will come when investors start to sell their shares in panic next year," Peter Lai, sales director of DBS Vickers in Hong Kong, told AFP.

Markets have been hammered by the world economic crisis, which was sparked by the collapse of the sub-prime, or high risk, mortgage market in the United States. This led to the US government takeover of mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae in September.

But shares went into a tailspin soon after following the failure of Wall Street banking icon Lehman Brothers under a mountain of debt. Giant insurer American International Group then had to be bailed out by Washington.

A 700-billion-dollar rescue package for the ailing financial industry was unable to stop the rot as the US and other leading nations entered recession.



Jefri Ahmed Tambi, managing director and chief executive officer of AKTEL, and Sayeeful Islam, managing director of Software Shop Limited, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently to bring AKTEL 'News on demand', a WAP-based news service to its customers. This value added service is available in AKTEL Spice, where only AKTEL customers can access and download the latest or archived news.

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
Biddut Bhabon (3rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000.

Invitation for Local Tender

1 Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)			
2 Procuring Entity Name	Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurement Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)			
3 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
4 Invitation for	Procurement of Cable Fluid			
5 Invitation Ref. no.	DPDC/DGM(CP&S)08-09/368			
6 Date	28-12-08			
Key Information:				
7 Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (Single-Stage-Single-envelope)			
Funding Information				
8 Budget & source of Funds	DPDC's own fund.			
Particular Information:				
9 Tender Name	Procurement of Cable Fluid			
10 Last Selling Date of Tender, with Bid Submission and Bid Opening Date, Time	Last Selling Date	Bid Submission & Bid Opening Date	Bid Submission Deadline	Bid Opening Time
	10-02-09	11-02-09	12:00 noon	12:30 pm
11 Name & Address of the office for selling, receiving and opening of Tender Document.	Selling		Receiving & Opening	
	Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurement Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC), Biddut Bhabon (3 rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000		Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurement Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC), Biddut Bhabon (3 rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000	
Information for Tenderer:				
12 Eligibility of Tenderer	a) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of (5) years of overall experience in supply of Electrical goods. The offered material must be in the production of the Manufacturer for last 05(Five) Years.			
	b) The Tenderer or the manufacturer of goods shall have experience in supply of minimum 50 (Fifty) Barrels of Cable Fluid in maximum 02(two) contracts within last 03(three) years.			
	c) The manufacturer shall have a minimum production capacity of 100(One hundred) Barrels of Cable Fluid per annum. Documentary evidence to be provided in support of annual production capacity.			
	d) The satisfactory completion of similar natured goods for value not less than Tk. 15.00 (Fifteen Lac) under 02(two) contracts within last 03(three) years to be evidenced by certificate from utility.			
	e) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is: 8 (Eight) Lac			
13 Price of Tender Document (Taka)	Taka 1,000/- (Taka One thousand) only payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurement Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).			
14 Item	Tender Security Amount (Taka)	Location of Delivery		
	Procurement of Cable Fluid	Taka 70,000.00 (Seventy Thousand) only.	CSD (Revenue), DPDC, Tongi.	
15 Completion Time: 120 days from the date of signing of contract				
Procuring Entity Details:				
16 Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Shamsul Alam			
17 Designation of official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurement Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)			
18 Address of official Inviting Tender	Biddut Bhabon (3 rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000.			
19 Contact Details of official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 9567258	Fax: 9566338	E-mail: dgmps@dpdc.org	
20 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

(Md. Shamsul Alam)
Deputy General Manager,
Contracts & Procurement Circle, DPDC

Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)
Mohakash Bigyan Bhaban
Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Bangladesh.

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

01 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence		
02 Agency	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)		
03 Procurement Entity Name	Project Director, EDREMOS Project		
04 Procurement Entity Code	N/A		
05 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
06 Invitation for	Tender for Goods (Single Lot)		
07 Invitation Ref. No.	SR/PA-326 (Ground Station)/2007/1193		
08 Date	30/12/2008		
KEY INFORMATION			
09 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (International Competitive Tender)		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10 Budget and Source of Funds	JDCF		
11 Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12 Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	7040		
13 Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Environment, Disaster and Resources Monitoring System (EDREMOS) Project		
14 Tender Package No.	EDRE/2008-09/GD-15		
15 Tender Name	Procurement of Satellite Ground Station with Standard Product.		
16 Tender Publication date	Date	30/12/2008	
	Tender Last Selling Date	29/03/2009	
17 Tender closing Date & Time	Date	30/03/2009	
	Time	11:00 AM	
18 Opening Date and Time (if different from 18)	Date	30/03/2009	
	Time	11:30 AM	
Name and Address of the Office			
20 Selling Tender Document	Room no. 218, Administrative Building, SPARRSO, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.		
20 Receiving Tender Document	-do-		
20 Opening Tender Document	Meeting Room (1 st floor), Administrative Building, SPARRSO, Agargaon Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional and technical capability to deliver & have fulfilled the obligations of all tax requirements.		
22 Brief Description of Goods	Complete ground station for acquisition, archiving, processing, analysis and distribution of meteorological satellite data.		
23 Brief Description of Related Services	Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Training of the above supplied goods.		
24 Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk 2000/- (Two thousand)- Non Refundable		
25 Lot No.	1	Identification of Lot	Location
	1	Procurement of Satellite Ground Station with Standard Product.	Dhaka
25	1	Procurement of Satellite Ground Station with Standard Product.	Completion Time in Months
			Tk. 20,00,000/- or equivalent to US \$ 30,000/- in the currency of the Tender Price.
26 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Syed Umar Khyyam		
27 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director		
28 Address of Official Inviting Tender	SPARRSO, Mohakash Bigyan Bhaban Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
29 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 880-2-8144332; Fax: 880-2-8113080; E-mail: edremos@sparrso.gov.bd		
30 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

Project Director
EDREMOS Project
SPARRSO

GD-6059