

Mirza Aziz stresses internal resource mobilisation

The outgoing finance adviser, Mirza Azizul Islam, has emphasised internal resource mobilisation to lessen dependence on foreign aid.

He was talking to the high officials of National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday at the NBR conference room.

It was his farewell meeting with the NBR officials. Mirza Aziz expressed his satisfaction that the target of revenue collection during the last fiscal year and the months to December was achieved, despite two devastating floods, cyclone Sidr and the global financial crisis.

Help Bangladeshi migrants

Recruiting agents urge govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) has urged the government to take cautious measures to check the possible loss of jobs of Bangladeshi workers in the Middle East in the wake of the global financial crisis.

"We have already come to know that many employers are unwilling to recruit workers for overtime and to bear the cost of various facilities, which may result in a decrease in remittances," BAIRA said in a letter to the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment adviser.

A remarkable fall in oil prices has created a situation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Saudi

Arabia, which has prompted those nations to either slow mega-construction projects or stop work halfway or are not approving any new projects.

A lot of Bangladeshis are working for these projects as skilled or semiskilled workers, said the letter signed by BAIRA President Ghulam Mustafa.

BAIRA fears that the countries affected by the global turmoil may backtrack on hiring workers despite the demand letters already sent to Bangladesh.

"If the workers' services are terminated and they do not get new valid jobs, they may work illegally," said the letter dated December 22 last year.

BAIRA emphasised that Bangladesh

missions in the Middle East must watch the situation closely and find ways to ease the dire circumstances, in which the workers may be forced to leave jobs, come back home or work there illegally.

"Bangladesh missions may persuade the employers of those countries on the grounds that they may not find workers immediately after the financial crisis is over and that they should not terminate the workers," the letter said.

More than 15 lakh Bangladeshis are employed in Saudi Arabia and around 10 lakh in the UAE.

In the last one year, the UAE alone employed over four lakh Bangladeshis, which is around half the total workers employed abroad.

Tamim suggests coal, offshore bidding in six months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The outgoing chief adviser's special assistant for power and energy has suggested that the new government should reach a decision on coal and offshore bidding within the next six months to attain a double-digit economic growth in near future.

"Since power and energy are considered as basic requirements for development, the country is in need of a strong policy on coal and gas, two vital sources of primary energy," Prof M Tamim told the launch of a 'national campaign on conservation and efficient use of renewable energy' at the Petrobangla auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Tamim also pointed out that the generation of a few hundred megawatt of electricity by the outgoing caretaker government (CG) will make the new government feel comfort for at least a period of one year.

He said every consumer should have a personal commitment to conserve power and energy protecting the environment.

"We have taken initiatives

to create awareness among consumers through motivational programme to conserve power and energy," the special assistant added.

At his valedictory speech, Tamim also pointed to the fact that the CG prioritised the gas and electricity supply for the industries in Chittagong, the commercial capital.

He disclosed that a renewable energy policy would be gazetted very soon to fulfil the consumers' long-awaited demand.

Power Secretary M Fouzul Kabir Khan said, "Primary fuel constraint still exists and it is at least seven years required to set up nuclear power plants. So, consumers should focus on how they conserve energy and use it efficiently."

According to a survey up to November 2008, there were 300,000 household installations of renewable energy countrywide with having 15 megawatt of electricity generation capacity.

The campaign that began yesterday will continue for six months.

Int'l fair on garments, accessories from Jan 13

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 8th international garments and allied machinery and accessories trade show styled 'Zak Garmentech Bangladesh' will begin from January 13 in Dhaka, according to a press release.

To held at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, the 4-day fair will jointly be organised by Zakaria Trade and Fair International Bangladesh and Zak Trade Fairs and Exhibitions Pvt Ltd of India.

It is expected to attract more than 250 international companies and more than 30,000 visitors from the region.

The latest technology in sewing, knitting, embroidery, laundry, finishing, dyeing, cutting, CAD/CAM and fabrics and accessories would be the main attraction of the fair.

Tipu Sultan, general manager of Zakaria Trade and Fair International, said, "Our country's main export product is garments and the trade is rapidly progressing. If we want to make a mark in the international market, we need newer technology. For this reason, we are holding the apparel and technology fair, Garmentech."

The main objective of the fair is to provide the Bangladeshi garments industry a form to develop new alternate sources of suppliers, make new contracts, and to discover and capitalise on new opportunities.

The fair also plans to hold international seminars and workshops on the issue with the help of technologists and consultants.



SMA Mannan, chairman of Atlas Bangladesh Limited, presides over the company's 24th annual general meeting in Tongi on Saturday. The company that earned a pre-tax profit of Tk 12.88 crore in fiscal 2007-2008 declared 100 percent cash dividends.

World stocks climb on US revival hopes

AFP, London

World stock markets rose on Monday, with Tokyo hitting the highest level for almost two months as investors hoped that the US economy would start to recover this year after a dire 2008.

Investors took their cue from Wall Street, where shares soared on Friday on expectations that US president-elect Barack Obama's massive stimulus plan would help to revive the recession-hit economy.

"Stocks are gaining support

from the stronger stock market in the United States and expectations of a recovery in the US economy this year," said Makoto Sengoku, a market analyst at Tokai Tokyo Securities.

In late morning trade, European markets extended their New Year rally with modest gains. London rose 0.32 percent, Frankfurt gained 0.47 percent and Paris edged up 0.02 percent.

"Despite those bumper gains on Wall Street at the end of last week and a solid start to New Year's trade in Japan, European

equities are looking at a rather modest start to the week," said CMC Markets dealer Jimmy Yates.

Tokyo's Nikkei-225 index closed 2.07 percent higher in a half day of trading, its first of 2009, ending above the 9,000-point level for the first time since November 10.

A weaker yen gave a boost to Japanese exporters, which have been hit hard by the recent strength of the Japanese currency, he said.

Dealers said they were also encouraged to buy shares as fears

of a collapse of the US auto industry receded after the US government approved a financial rescue package in December.

But "there still remain concerns over corporate profits and the overall economy both in the United States and in Japan," said Ryuta Otsuka, a strategist at Toyo Securities.

"In the longer term, stock prices may remain fragile," Otsuka said.

Stocks jumped 3.5 percent in Hong Kong and gained 3.29 percent in Shanghai. Taipei ended 2.3

percent higher but Sydney slipped 0.7 percent.

Stock markets in the United States, Europe and much of Asia had risen sharply on Friday on hopes for a brighter year ahead after a horrendous 2008 that saw Wall Street's Dow Jones index plunge 33.84 percent, the worst loss since 1931.

"Equity indexes should end 2009 substantially higher across the globe," predicted Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist at CFC Seymour.

"However, in the short term,

volatility is likely to persist, and the recent surge in optimism is likely to be tested severely in the first quarter by very negative macroeconomic data," he added.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rallied 2.94 percent on Friday.

Obama, who takes office on January 20, has already pledged to step up efforts to revive the moribund economy in the face of the worst global financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Some analysts questioned how long the New Year rally would last.

**Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Development Division

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন। শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস, গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী।

### Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3.	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL).

**KEY INFORMATION**

4.	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

5.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

6.	Date and time for selling tender document	11-01-2009 to 01-02-2009 during office hours.
7.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
-Selling tender document	Accounts Department, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-4), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.	
-Receiving tender document	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.	
-Opening tender document	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.	

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

8.	Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for tenders is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned in Instruction to Tenderers (ITT) and Tender Data Sheet (TDS).			
9.	Tenders' name and other related information:				
Sl. No. & Invitation Ref No.	Description of works	Price of tender document (Tk)	Amount of tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Tender submission and opening date & time
9.1) GTCL/Dev/Const/J-B/28/01/2008-2009	Construction of retaining & boundary wall, approach road, internal road, guide wall and land development works at Hatikurnul Scraper Trap Station, Sirajganj.	2,000.00 (two thousand)	5,80,000.00 (five lakh eighty thousand)	240 (two hundred forty)	Date: 02.02.2009 Submission time: Up to 12.00 noon. Opening time: 12.15pm on the same date.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

10.	Name of official inviting tender	Construction Department, Development Division.
11.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Construction).
12.	Address of official inviting tender	Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-5), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
13.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No: 9355613 Fax No: 9358100
14.	The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
15.	All activities in connection with the said procurement of works will be guided as per 'The Public Procurement Rules-2008'.	

GTGP-23/08-09 GD-34

HSBC opens Vietnam's first fully foreign-owned bank

AFP, Hanoi

Banking giant HSBC has set up a wholly foreign owned bank in Vietnam, the first to do so under the communist-ruled country's opening of its financial services sector, the company said Monday.

The new entity, HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd, based in Ho Chi Minh City, reported registered capital of 3,000 billion dong (172 million dollars) and is 100 per cent owned by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.

The chief executive of HSBC Vietnam, Thomas Tobin, said the new bank's opening on January 1 demonstrated "our strong growth in developing markets and commitment to the development of Vietnam's financial and banking sector."

"Despite the turbulent market conditions in 2008, we see the underlying potential of the Vietnam economy with its dynamic workforce, stable pro-growth government, and rich natural resources," Tobin said in a statement.

HSBC, which had already operated several branches here, said all contracts, accounts and records of its customers, partner banks,

suppliers and other parties had been automatically transferred to the new bank.

It said it would soon open a branch in southern Binh Duong province and planned, subject to approval, seven more outlets in the first quarter of 2009.

HSBC also holds 20 percent of the Vietnam Technological and Commercial Joint Stock Bank (Techcombank) and 10 per cent of insurance firm BaoViet Holdings.

Vietnam pledged to open its banking sector to foreign banks when it joined the World Trade Organisation in early 2007, and last September the central bank granted HSBC permission to set up a fully foreign-owned one.

Vietnam, a country of 86 million people, has only a short tradition of retail banking, with families traditionally storing their wealth in gold and other assets, but the sector is now crowded with more than 80 banks.

The International Monetary Fund last month warned of the risk of bad loans in the Vietnamese banking sector and said there were "signs of strain emanating from deteriorating asset quality" which could intensify.



Mahbubur Rashid, managing director of Bay Leasing and Investments Ltd, and Md Habibus Samad, managing director and chief executive officer of Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL), exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their respective organisations recently in Dhaka. Under the deal, the IPO shares of Bay Leasing will be issued in dematerialised form in the Central Depository System.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Custom House (Export), Chittagong

Tender No: 02/2008-09

### Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced, skilled and established contractors/suppliers/manufacturers or their authorized agents for the undermentioned goods and works as per the terms and conditions stated below:

1.	Ministry/department	Ministry of Finance, IRD.			
2.	Agency	National Board of Revenue.			
3.	Name of procuring entity	Custom House (Export), Chittagong.			
4.	Procurement method	OTM.			
5.	Source of fund	GOB.			
6.	Date of tender invitation	31/12/2008			
7.	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer must meet the following qualifying and other eligibility criteria stated in the tender documents: a) Two years of specific experience in the respective field. b) Current year trade licence. c) VAT registration certificate. d) Income tax clearance up to 30-06-2007. e) All other as stated in the tender documents.			
8.	Name & address of tender selling office	SPS (Head Quarter), Custom Houses (Export), Chittagong.			
9.	Name & address of tender receiving office	Asstt. Commissioner of Customs (Purchase), Custom Houses (Export), Chittagong.			
10.	Name & address of tender opening office	Asstt. Commissioner of Customs (Purchase), Custom Houses (Export), Chittagong.			
11.	Tender last selling date	19/01/2009 during office hour.			
12.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 20/01/2009 Time: 12:00noon			
13.	Tender opening date and time	Date: 20/01/2009 Time: 12:30pm			
14.	Brief description of goods and works				
	Lot No. and identification of lot	Location	Price per schedule (non-refundable)	Amount of tender security	Completion time
	Lot No. 1: Supply of Miscellaneous Goods	Custom House (Export), Chittagong	Tk. 500.00	Tk. 10,000/-	Three weeks
	Lot No. 2: Supply of Uniform	Custom House (Export), Chittagong	Tk. 500.00	Tk. 9,000/-	Three weeks
	Lot No. 3: Supply of Chemical Reagent	Custom House (Export), Chittagong	Tk. 500.00	Tk. 2,000/-	Three weeks
	Lot No. 4: Supply of Periodical & Books	Custom House (Export), Chittagong	Tk. 500.00	Tk. 3,000/-	Three weeks

**15. Special instructions:**

- Tender document may be purchased through application in the letterhead pad of the respective tenderer mentioning the "Lot No. and Identification of Lot" along with attested copies of following documents:  
i) Current year trade licence.  
ii) VAT registration certificate.  
iii) Income tax clearance up to 30-06-2007.  
iv) Experience certificates.
- The tenderer must purchase separate tender document for each lot and submit it for the same lot with all necessary documents.
- The amount of tender security for the respective lot shall be in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh, in favour of the "Commissioner of Customs, Custom House (Export), Chittagong."
- The tender notice is in brief and the details of the tender can be seen/know from the office of the undersigned during the office hours.
- All other terms and conditions as stated in "The Public Procurement Rules-2008" and "The Public Procurement Act-2006" will remain valid.
- If the tender is not received within the mentioned date and time, it will be directly rejected and shall be returned to the tenderer as unopened. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender cannot be received and opened in the scheduled date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time at the mentioned office.
- Any corrigendum (if any) will also be part of the tender and it will be binding upon the tenderer.
- The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Md. Mahbubuzzaman**  
Joint Commissioner of Customs  
Custom House (Export), Chittagong  
For Commissioner of Customs  
Fax: 031-725331

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