

Committee on shipbuilding set to make recommendations

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
A 14-member committee led by Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda is set to recommend assistance, including banking facilities, for the shipbuilding industry.

The immediate past caretaker government formed the committee on the last day of its rule. The committee is set to hold a meeting this week and make recommendations in a month from now.

After garments, the shipbuilding industry boasts a huge potential of earning foreign exchange, which prompted the government to form the committee, Bangladesh Bank (BB) officials said.

The recommendations the committee is likely to make include:

The central bank will ask commercial banks to issue bank guarantees at a minimum rate to the owners of shipbuilding companies.

BB will ask the commercial banks to open L/Cs at a minimum of 1 percent annual commission in case of importing raw materials for shipbuilding.

Banks will be asked to give loans as working capital for two years at a 7 percent interest rate to the industry -- a rate the garment industry enjoys.

"The garment industry takes four months to make and supply products.

On the other hand, a shipbuilder takes two years to build a ship," the government observed.

Shipbuilders must open FC accounts to deposit money in a profitable way.

The conditions of raising funds from the capital market through IPO after three years of successful operations may be relaxed for the ship building industry.

Bangladesh has become a new destination for international companies seeking construction of small ocean-going vessels as traditional shipbuilding nations such as South Korea and China now focus on building large ships.

Citycell launches inter-standard global roaming service

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Citycell, the country's only CDMA mobile operator, has introduced the first inter-standard global roaming service in Bangladesh, allowing customers to roam in both CDMA and GSM networks of over 450 operators in more than 200 countries around the world.

The CDMA-GSM dual standard roaming service has been facilitated by an alliance with Vodafone Netherlands and Syniverse Technologies Company (USA), Citycell said in a press statement yesterday.

The global roaming service also provides revolutionary satellite coverage even in places where no mobile operator's network exists.

The service also provides in-flight and maritime coverage, enabling customers to use their phones inside airplanes and on ships.

Citycell has CDMA roaming coverage through bilateral agreements with operators in the US, Canada, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand and India among others.

Coordinated industrial policy soon

Minister says
UNB, Dhaka
Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday said the government is going to formulate a coordinated industrial policy to attract local and foreign investment in the country by creating an investment-friendly environment.

"Opinions of the entrepreneurs of heavy, medium and small scale industries, chamber, political and labour leaders, bank and financial institutions, members of the civil society and all stake holders will be included in this industrial policy," said the minister at a meeting with the leaders of Foreign Investor's Chamber and Commerce and Industry (Ficci) at his ministry office.

Barua requested the Ficci leaders to come forward to invest in the tourism, ICT and agriculture-based small and medium scale industrial sectors. He also referred that the government would take initiatives in infrastructural development to attract local and foreign investment.

The Ficci leaders requested the government to fix the weekly holiday on Sunday instead of Friday to take advantage of international trade.

They also drew attention to the minister to take their (Ficci) opinion before finalising the new industrial policy.

Joint Secretary of the ministry SM Golam Faruq, Ficci President Wali Bhuiyan, general secretary MA Matin and the executive members were present.

Later, leaders of National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) met the minister at his office.

NASCIB President Sheikh Mohammad Abdus Sobhan, vice president Shawkat Ali, Reza Shah Faruq and Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury were present.

Pakistan eager for stronger business ties

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Pakistani High Commissioner in Dhaka Alamgir Babar announced that a meeting between the Joint Business Council and the Joint Economic Council of Pakistan and Bangladesh would soon be held in Islamabad, according to a press release.



High Commissioner of Pakistan Alamgir Babar receives a bouquet during his visit to the 14th Dhaka International Trade Fair 2009 in the capital yesterday.

He said this during his visit to the 14th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2009 in the capital.

Bangladesh could use Pakistan as a transit point for its exports to Afghanistan and other central Asian countries, the Islamabad envoy said, pointing out that Bangladesh knitted fabric and sweaters could have a good market in central Asian countries, if the opportunities are availed by Bangladesh exporters.

Babar went round several pavilions and stalls and appreciated the variety and quality of the products on display.

Abdul Rahman, director of the Export Promotion Bureau, received the envoy at the fair and briefed him about the salient features of the fair.

More than sixty Pakistani companies are participating in the DITF-2009.

Asian currencies mixed

AFP, Hong Kong
Asian currencies ended the week mixed against the dollar, on concerns about the health of the global economy and a turbulent performance by world stock markets.

JAPANESE YEN: The yen strengthened during the week, as continued worries about the health of the global economy supported the safe-haven Japanese currency.

The yen rose to 90.36 to the dollar compared with 91.12 a week earlier.

The yen was sold at the start of the year as hopes grew for economic stimulus steps from US president-elect Barack Obama, said Tetsuhisa Hayashi, head of

forex dealing at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

"But expectations alone aren't enough to spark a lasting recovery in US stock prices," Hayashi added, referring to several days of losses on Wall Street.

The yen is likely to remain strong against the dollar on expectations the ailing US economy will continue to feel the fallout from the financial crisis.

"In the near term, this is going to be the theme," said Emmanuel Ng, an analyst with Singapore's OCBC Bank.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Australian dollar closed on Friday at 67.43 US cents, down from the previous week's close of 70.81 cents.

ANZ Economics said heavy selling had brought

the Australian dollar closer to fair value, and there was strong support for it to hold at around 64 US cents.

"We expect a wide trading range with intra-day volatility to dominate, but for the overall direction of the Australian dollar to remain on a downward bias," ANZ said in a market note.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: The New Zealand dollar ended the week at 54.70 US cents in local trading, sharply down from 59.19 the previous week.

Sentiment was soured during the week by the negative outlook of the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research's quarterly survey of business opinion.

CHINESE YUAN: On the

over-the-counter market, the Chinese yuan ended at 6.8374 Friday to the dollar, compared with 6.8356 a week before.

The central bank had set the yuan central parity rate at 6.8383 to the dollar Friday. The People's Bank of China allows a trading band of 0.5 percent on either side of the midpoint.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The US-pegged Hong Kong unit was at 7.759 to the dollar, from 7.757 a week earlier.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The rupiah ended at 11,225 to the dollar, down from 11,000 the week before.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The Philippine peso weakened to 47.20 to the dollar on Friday compared to 47.15 to the dollar on January 9.



Md Tarikul Hasan, acting chief executive officer and head of consumer business of Citycell, launches the "Global Roaming Service" at Citycell's Head Office on Sunday.

Global crisis to hit China toy exports

AFP, Beijing
China's toy exports have taken a beating from the global financial crisis, with demand shrinking in the key US and European markets, state media reported Sunday.

In the period from January to November of last year, China's shipments of toys abroad totalled eight billion dollars, an increase of just 2.5 percent from the same period a year earlier, the People's Daily said on its website.

This compares with the first 11 months of 2007, when toy exports had increased by a blistering 20.3 percent, the paper said, citing customs authorities.

In November alone, toy exports declined 8.6 percent from the same month a year earlier, according to the paper.

Registered toy exporters plunged by nearly half last year to 4,211, the paper said, reflecting how weakening overseas demand is wreaking havoc on China's domestic economy.

The paper quoted customs officials as saying that apart from the global slowdown, toy exports had also been impacted by a series of recent product quality scandals.

For example, in mid-2007, US importers of Chinese toys issued recalls after some were found to be coated with toxic lead paint. Similar products were later banned in several countries.

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.	
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Supply of Gross Beak Conductor & ACSR DOG Conductor.	
7	Invitation for tenders Ref. No.	Pur-102/EREUDP/CTG/Zone/2009.	
8	Date	12/1/2009.	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Emergency Rehabilitation & Expansion of Urban Areas Power Distribution System Project under BPDB, Chittagong Zone.	
14	Tender package no.	UM-3 & UM-10 as per APP FY 2008-2009.	
15	Tender package name	Supply of Gross Beak Conductor & ACSR DOG Conductor.	
16	Tender publication date	12/1/2009.	
17	Tender selling date	15/01/2009 to 24/02/2009.	
18	Tender closing date and time	25/02/2009 at 11.00am.	
19	Tender opening date and time	25/02/2009 at 11.30am.	
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
Selling tender document (principal)			
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
Selling tender document (other)			
Not applicable.			
Receiving tender document			
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
Opening tender document			
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Gross Beak Conductor & ACSR DOG Conductor.	
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.	
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Non-refundable BDT 4,000.00 (four thousand) only in the form of Pay Order in favour of Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Identification of lot	Location Tender security amount Completion time	
Lot-1: Gross Beak Conductor-80KM (Package-UM-3)			
PDB's Central Store, Fauzderhat, Chittagong			
BDT 4,00,000.00 90 days (75 days for Manufacturing and 15 days for testing & delivery)			
Lot-2: ACSR DOG Conductor-100KM (Package-UM-10)			
BDT 1,60,000.00			
27	Validity of tender and tender security	120 (one hundred twenty) days and 148 (one hundred forty-eight) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
30	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting	Tel: + 88 02 9550532, Fax: + 88 02 7126151	
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected, and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.	
33	This tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Rules-2008"		

Biddyt/Jana-691(4)/13-1-09
GD-292

Md Abduhu Ruhullah
Director
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka



Badiur Rahman, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, inaugurates the bank's brokerage house at Dilkusha in Dhaka on Thursday.

Taiwan hands out vouchers to lift faltering economy

AFP, Taipei
Taiwan started handing out shopping vouchers to each of the island's residents on Sunday, as part of a 2.5-billion-dollar scheme aimed at boosting the island's flagging economy.

Every one of the island's 22.7 million citizens is entitled to the coupons, worth 3,600 Taiwan dollars (107 US) per person, regardless of age, and they can be spent on goods ranging from food and clothing to electronic appliances.

Government employees began distributing them at more than 14,000 locations island-wide early in the morning.

Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou said the scheme would give people extra spending power ahead of the Lunar New Year on January 26, and encouraged them to go out and shop.

"Hopefully, the money will provide a boost to retailers," he told reporters after picking up his own set of vouchers near his residence in Taipei.

"So if you are in a position to shop, please spend as much as you can. It could be very helpful to the economy."

Many other countries were monitoring the success of the scheme, he added.

Supporters of the plan

have said it should give the island's sagging economy a much needed shot in the arm, while critics have labeled it a waste of money, with the cost estimated at 85 billion Taiwan dollars (2.53 billion US).

Peng Tsun-chang, 53, a security guard working in Hsintien outside Taipei, was unhappy with the scheme.

"The money should be given to people who really need it, people who have lost their jobs. It shouldn't be done like this, with everyone getting something," he said.

Taiwan's unemployment rate in November hit a four-year high of 4.64 percent largely on business closures and downsizing amid the deteriorating economic climate.

Among other moves to prop up the island's economy, Taiwan's central bank has cut the cost of borrowing six times in the past three months.

Taiwan's exports -- the major engine of the economy -- in December plunged a record 41.9 percent year on year to 13.64 billion US dollars on weakening demand as the global financial slump worsened.

Exports in December declined for the fourth consecutive month and compared with the 23.30 percent fall in November to 16.78 billion dollars, it said.

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.	
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Supply of 250KVA & 100KVA, 11/0.4KV Distribution Transformer.	
7	Invitation for tenders Ref. No.	Pur-101/EREUDP/CTG/Zone/2009/	
8	Date	12/01/2009	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Emergency Rehabilitation & Expansion of Urban Areas Power Distribution System Project under BPDB, Chittagong Zone.	
14	Tender package No.	UM-16 & UM-18 as per APP FY2008-2009	
15	Tender package name	Supply of 250KVA & 100KVA, 11/0.4KV Distribution Transformer.	
16	Tender publication date	12/01/2009	
17	Tender selling date	15/01/2009 to 24/02/2009	
18	Tender closing date and time	25/02/2009 at 11.00am.	
19	Tender opening date and time	25/02/2009 at 11.30am.	
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Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
Selling tender document (other)			
Not applicable.			
Receiving tender document			
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
Opening tender document			
Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of 250KVA & 100KVA, 11/0.4KV Distribution Transformer.	
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.	
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Non-refundable BDT 2,000.00 (two thousand) only in the form of Pay Order in favour of Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Identification of lot	Location Tender security amount Completion time	
Lot-1: 11/0.4KV, 250KVA Distribution Transformer-25 Nos (Package-UM-16)			
PDB's Central Store, Fauzderhat, Chittagong			
BDT 2,25,000.00 90 days (75 days for manufacturing and 15 days for testing & delivery)			
Lot-2: 11/0.4KV, 100KVA Distribution Transformer-15 Nos (Package-UM-18)			
BDT 80,000.00			
27	Validity of tender & tender security	120 (one hundred twenty) days & 148 (one hundred forty-eight) days respectively from the tender opening date.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
30	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting	Tel: + 88 02 9550532, Fax: + 88 02 7126151	
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected, and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.	
33	This tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Rules-2008"		

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GD-291

Md. Abduhu Ruhullah
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka