## 34 items gain Seoul's zero-tariff facility

STAR BUSINESS DESK

South Korea has expanded its zero-tariff facility for Bangladeshi products from this year. Under the scheme, 34 additional Bangladeshi items, including RMG, ceramic tableware and jute carpet, will receive duty-free access to the Korean market, according to a press statement issued by the country's embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Seoul has already provided a duty-free treatment for many items from the least developed countries (LDCs). However, its dutyfree programme did not cover many items in which Bangladesh enjoy comparative advantage, the statement further said. The Bangladesh government last year submitted a list of items to the Korean authorities for inclusion in the Korean duty-free scheme.

The most important aspect of the expansion is that as many as 31 categories of RMG products (at 6-digit HS code) will henceforth enjoy zero-tariff entry into the South Korean market.

So far, South Korea showed reluctance to open its market for RMG as the country itself is a major producer of apparel. The items that have gained dutyfree access also include ceramic tableware and jute carpet.

## Samsung reports first loss in 8 yrs

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD

Samsung Electronics has posted its first quarterly in eight years in a sign that even the mighty technology global economic downturn. And the worst is yet to come.

A Samsung executive warned The Korea Herald that the company will likely see its worst quarter in the January to March period, as consumer demand is worsening.

The company reported a wider-than-expected operating loss of 740 billion won (US\$531.99 million) in the fourth quarter of 2008, driven by poor demand for memory chips, flat-panels, flat-panel TVs and mobile phones, all markets in which Samsung is a leading player.

This is the first time that Samsung has posted a quarterly loss since it started to announce its quarterly earnings in 2000.

Many analysts described the results as "an earnings shock" and presented a grim outlook.

"We expected Samsung's earnings to bottom out in the fourth quarter, but now I am worried that the company will remain at the bottom in the first and second quarter," Kim Hyun-wook, an analyst at KB Asset Management, said.

Samsung's semiconductor business--once a cash cow--posted an operating loss of 680 billion won as weak demand battered chip prices.

Samsung's liquid crystal display business also turned into the red due to sluggish consumer spending on TVs, monitors and notebook PCs. The LCD business posted an operating loss of 230 billion won.

Its telecommunications unit that covers handsets and other products posted a lower-than-expected operating profit of 170 billion won, hit by sluggish demand. But the division posted record quarterly sales for mobile phones. The company's handset shipments jumped 14 per cent, while the global handset market shrank by 5 per cent during the September-December period.

Samsung expected the sluggish demand will continue in the current quarter due to the recession and low seasonal demand. But the company said it seeks to widen its gap with its competitors to "become a major beneficiary" when the economy bounces back in the second half of this year.

## Diversify exports to bypass recession: Japan envoy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should diversify export destinations and products to ride out the impact of global recession, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue said yesterday.

At a seminar on the "study of export diversification" by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Dhaka, the envoy also stressed developing green industry to stay "strong in the recession period".

"In that sense, the jute industry ... is eco-friendly and is expected to achieve high potential growth in the future," Inoue said.

On how to increase foreign direct investment (FDI), he suggested Bangladesh take lessons from Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

Thailand, an Asean member, had of business with Japan." conducted a large-scale FDI invitation campaign, which encouraged all Japanese automobile companies to operate there, Inoue said.



Masayuki Inoue

On Bangladesh-Japan bilateral business relationships, the diplomat tion. said: "So far, Bangladesh could not have fully harnessed the opportunities

"Therefore, I would like to request centwent to the US and Japan. both public and private sectors to successfully to tap into the business opportunities," Inoue added.

Despite significant export growth in the last few years, the country's export basket is vulnerable as readymade garments take up 76 percent of export earnings, Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed told the func-

Local exports are vulnerable also in terms of market diversification as only EU and US markets buy 79 percent garment products from Bangladesh, he added.

In a study titled "Potential Subsector Growth for Export Diversification in the People's Republic of Bangladesh", the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) said jute and software industries could contribute a lot to export diversifica-

In fiscal 2007-08, the country exported computer software worth \$24.8 million of which around 64 per-

Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, resident representative of Jetro, was also present.

## Govt slashes sugar price

UNB, Dhaka

....... The government cut down the price of sugar at dealer level by Tk 3,000 per tonne for nine days "in public interest".

In an official announcement yesterday, the government said the cut price would also apply to distribution under the quota system.

According to the reset rate, the ex-mill price of sugar will be Tk 30,000 coming down from the present price of Tk 33,000 a tonne.

"The new price will remain effective for nine days from January 28," it

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Industries Minister Dilip

As the cut-down price will now come down to Tk 30 per kg at dealer level, the government hoped that the measure would also help reduce sugar prices at consumer

## Govt sets sights on deeper regional partnership: Minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has initiated negotiations with its regional partners to benefit more from the trade in services agreement, the commerce minister said yesterday.

"Many countries all over the world are now liberalising their trade in services at regional and bilateral levels to make their services sectors more competitive," Faruk Khan told a workshop on the "General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at a city hotel.

Commerce ministry officials also confirmed that Bangladesh is moving towards a regional agreement under a South Asia Framework Agreement to boost the trade in services among them.

GATS is a treaty of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that came into force in January 1995 as a result of the Uruguay Round negotiations. The treaty was created to extend the multilateral trading system to services sector.

Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) and the Ministry of Commerce have jointly organised the three-day training workshop both for the public and private sector people. WTO is providing technical assistance for the work-

BFTI Chairman Prof MA Taslim chaired the inaugural

Services are playing an increasingly significant role in promoting national economies and global trade. Services currently account for 60 percent of global production and employment. The sector represents almost 20 percent of global trade in goods and services.

The commerce minister said services sector is the largest contributor to the Bangladesh's GDP with its share rising to around 50 percent in recent years.

"Trade in services accounts for only about 13 percent of Bangladesh's total trade, which indicates that the sector is less integrated with the international market than the goods sector," Khan pointed out.

"It is not possible to benefit from the liberalisation of trade in services without a detail knowledge on the issue," he said.

Prof MA Taslim however said regional or bilateral agreements have lacking in mechanism, which multilateral ones don't have.



Lauren Therond, managing director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, speaks at the "Sales Convention 2009" at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka recently.

## FBCCI team off to Tripura to explore business

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A business delegation that yesterday will explore release. prospects for local products are in huge tinue until February 6. demand.

from the Federation of led by Obaidur Rahman, a ing state. director of the federation giant has succumbed to the Bangladesh Aluminium team's itinerary. Manufacturers Association, is also sched- Friday.

AFP, Hong Kong

employment news.

uled to attend the Tripura Industries and Commerce Fair beginning today, left Dhaka for Tripura according to a press

The fair, which is Bangladesh's more expected to be inauguexports to the Indian rated by Chief Minister north-eastern state where Manik Sarkar, will con-The Bangladesh delega-

The five-member team tion will have talks with the chief minister and the Bangladesh Chambers of commerce and industries Commerce and Industry, minister of the neighbour-

Visiting different indusand president of the tries there is also in the

They will return home

Conference 2009" at Jamuna Resort in Tangail on Saturday.

Asian stocks rose in quiet trade Tuesday as

dealers took a lead from a jump on Wall

Street and some rare positive economic data

from the United States amid a slew of grim

for the Chinese New Year holiday and many

traders staying away for the same reason,

there was some bargain hunting as investors

took advantage of a poor end to the previous

hitting a three-year low Monday.

global economic meltdown.

Tokyo jumped nearly five percent after

The Nikkei was helped by a weaker yen,

which boosted exporters, as well as an

announcement from the government that it

will inject public money into companies

other than banks to help them through the

tentatively awaiting a raft of miserable cor-

porate news over the coming days and

The news cheered investors who are the financial crisis.

With half the region's markets still closed

Asian stocks rise

Regional/Branch Managers' Conference

EASTLAND INSURANCE र वेष्टेलाान्ड वेन्त्राद्वन्त्र

COMPANY LIMITED काम्भानी निमित्रेष

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Eastland Insurance Co Ltd, speaks at the company's "Regional/Branch Managers"

The dollar traded at 89.56 yen in Tokyo, up

Sydney added three percent due to stron-

ger resources stocks, while Mumbai gained

3.8 percent despite the central bank lower-

ing the country's growth forecast for this

cent rise in New York, which had rallied on

hopes for a stimulus plan from US President

Barack Obama that is going through

of a surprise jump in existing US home sales

in December, while an index of leading

economic indicators rose 0.3 percent, defy-

from firms including Caterpillar, IBM, Pfizer

and General Motors highlighted the depth of

New Zealand advanced 1.11 percent,

Bangkok 1.85 percent and Manila 0.6 per-

cent, while Jakarta added 1.6 percent.

However, tens of thousands of job losses

Markets also took confidence from news

The markets were helped by a 0.48 per-

euro firmed to 118.31 yen from 117.46.

financial year to March.

ing expectations of a drop.

Congress.

## Tourism numbers may fall by 2pc: UN

AFP, Madrid

World tourism will stagnate in 2009 with numbers dropping by up to two percent as the economic downturn bites, the United Nations' tourism agency said on Tuesday.

The World Tourism Organisation "expects 2009 international tourism to be in a range of zero to two percent decline," according to a statement released by its Madrid headquarters.

"Along with the Americas, Europe will be the most affected region in terms of overall tourism results as most of its source markets are already in or entering into recession," the statement said.

## **Bailout for Thai** farmers likely

ANN/THE NATION

Thai Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij promised on Monday that he would seek an extra 17.5 billion baht (US\$501.07 million) for the 2010 state budget to help tackle farmers' debts.

He said the government was already looking for the funds and expected the Cabinet to endorse the plan. He added that they by September they should know how much funding for the plan could be acquired. The minister also said he

would propose to the Cabinet today that 600 million baht from the recovery and development fund for farmers be spent on purchasing poor farmers' debts.

Korn made these promises after meeting with representatives of indebted the banks.

farmers who gathered outside Government House asking for help to alleviate their financial woes.

Following talks with the minister and relevant authorities, Watcharapong Kongyuen, a leader of the Network of Thai Farmers, said the group was "satisfied to an extent". However, he said, the group would not be calling off their demonstration immediately but would instead gather at the nearby Royal Plaza to hearthe Cabinet's decision on the matter.

Charin Duangdara, an adviser to the group, said that thousands of farmers were unable to pay back the loans they took to invest on their farms and more than a 1,000 were unable to buy back their collaterallised assets that were seized by

মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

পরিকল্পনা কমিশন সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ

ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্ল্যান (ওপিপিপি)-প্রকল্প নং পক/সাঅবি/ওপিপিপি-88(অংশ-১)/২০০৮/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০১/২০০৯খ্রিঃ

## পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়/পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ

| 2.         | সংস্থার নাম                     | পরিকল্পনা কমিশন।  |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 9.         | ক্র্/সংগ্রহকারী সন্তার নাম      | প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্রান<br>(ওপিপিপি)-প্রকল্প।  |
| 8.         | যে জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান           | কম্পিউটার, ইউপিএস, স্ক্যানার, লেজার প্রিন্টার, কালার লেজার প্রিন্টার, ল্যাপটপ,<br>ক্রিনসহ মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর এবং কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও চেয়ার ক্রয়ের জন্য।  |
| a.         | দরপত্রের স্মারক নং              | পক/সাঅবি/ওপিপিপি-৪৪(অংশ-১)/২০০৮।  |
| <b>b</b> . | সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি                   | উনুক দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।   |
| 9.         | বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস            | জিওবি (মূলধন বাজেট)।  |
| b.         | প্রকল্পের নাম                   | ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্র্যান (ওপিপিপি)-প্রকল্প।  |
| ð.         | প্রকল্প কোড নং                  | 0-2802-90501  |
| 30.        | দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নম্বর            | ক্রমিক নং ১৭ দুষ্টব্য।  |
| 22.        | দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম            | কম্পিউটার, ইউপিএস, স্ক্যানার, লেজার প্রিন্টার, কালার লেজার প্রিন্টার, ল্যাপটপ,<br>ক্রিনসহ মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর এবং কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও চেয়ার ক্রয়ের জন্য।  |
| 25.        | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ      | বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২ সপ্তাহ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।   |
| 30.        | দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ১৫তম দিবস (দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।   |
| 18.        | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়       | বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ১৫তম দিবস (দুপুর ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যস্ত)।   |
| 30.        | অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা             |   |
|            | ক) দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান       | ব্লক # ১৪, কক্ষ # ২১, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা কমিশন, শেরে বাংলা<br>নগর, ঢাকা।  |
|            | খ) দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান         | ব্রক # ১৪, কক্ষ # ২১, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা কমিশন, শেরে বাংলা<br>নগর, ঢাকা।  |
|            | গ) দূরপত্র খোলার স্থান          | ব্লক # ১৪, কক্ষ # ২৪, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা কমিশন, শেরে বাংলা<br>নগর, ঢাকা।  |
| ১৬.        | দরদাতার যোগ্যতা                 | সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী, সরবরাহকারী এবং আগ্রহী দরদাতাদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিনসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সার্টিফিকেট, প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের অন্ধীকারপত্র এবং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। |
| 10         | राजाशास्त्रज जिल्लाक            |   |

সিডিউলের মূল্য न्यादक क মালামালের বিবরণ জামানতের পরিমাণ কাজ সম্পাদনের সময় (ফেরতযোগ্য) (ব্যাংক (অফেরতযোগ্য) ড্রাফট, পে-অর্ডার) ২টি কম্পিউটার, ১টি ল্যাপটপ ও ২টি PU-3 000/-কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ১০ b.000/-ইউপিএস (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে ১টি লেজার প্রিন্টার, ১টি কালার লেজার 0.000/-কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ১০ প্রিন্টার ও ২টি স্ক্যানার (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে ১ সেট ক্রিনসহ মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেরর 200/-0,000/-কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ১০ (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে निह-8 ২টি এয়ার কুলার 200/-কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ১০ 0,000/-(দশ) দিনের মধ্যে ২টি কম্পিউটার টেবিল ও ২টি 200/-3,000/-কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির ১০ কম্পিউটার চেয়ার (मन) मित्नत्र याथा দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম একেএম খোরশেদ আলম। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী যুগা-প্রধান ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্র্যান (ওপিপিপি)-প্রকল্প দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী ঠিকানা রক # ১৪, কক্ষ # ২৪, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা কমিশন, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।

বিশেষ দুষ্টব্যঃ

জিডি-৪৯৭

আলোচ্য দৱপত্ৰ "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008 এর 31 ধারা মোতাবেক Open Tendering Method (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি) পরিচালিত হবে।

যুগা-প্রধান ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্ল্যান (ওপিপিপি)-প্রকল্প, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা কমিশন, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা এর বরাবরে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটার প্যাডে লিখিত আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিনসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, ব্যাংক সলভেপী সার্টিফিকেট, প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের অঙ্গীকারপত্র এবং ২ বছরের সরকারি কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে र्व।

দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য এবং দরপত্র জামানত যে কোন ভফসিলি ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/লে-অর্ভার আকারে আয়ন ও ব্যয়ন কর্মকর্তা, 'ফরমুলেশন অফ আউটলাইন পার্টিসিপেটরী পারস্পেকটিভ প্ল্যান (ওপিপিপি)'-প্রকল্পের অনুকৃলে প্রদান করতে হবে। দরপত্র খোলার নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে কোন কারণে দরপত্র খোলা সম্ভব না হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে নির্ধারিত সময়ে খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো বাতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

> একেএম খোরশেদ আলম যুগ্য-প্রধান ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক ওপিপিপি-প্রকল্প

## on positive German data from 89.07 in New York late Monday. The

The European single currency on Tuesday advanced against the dollar as data revealed an improvement in German business confidence during January, traders said.

currency, the dollar increased to 89.64 yen from 89.07 yen on Monday.

Germany, Europe's biggest economy, improved slightly in January, the closely watched Ifo indicator suggested on Tuesday.

83 points in January from 82.7 points in December, its lowest ever reading, the Munich-based Ifo institute said. Economists polled by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast a fall to 81.3 points.

"January's small increase in the German Ifo index provides only limited encouragement given that it remains close to a record low," said Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown.

### Notice

Our regular "Biz Letters" could not be published for unavoidable reasons. We regret inconveniences to readers.

# Euro climbs

AFP, London

The euro climbed to 1.3271 dollars from 1.3186 dollars in New York late on Monday. Against the Japanese

Business confidence in

The Ifo indicator rose to

# DILOENIA FINANCE & INVESTMENTS LIMITED

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR CREDIT RATING

CINE Credit Rating Information and Services Limited

SM Intekhab Alam, managing director of Phoenix Finance and Investments Limited, and Muzaffar Ahmed, chief executive officer of Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL), exchange documents after signing an agreement on Thursday. Under the deal, CRISL will perform credit rating and overall evaluation for Phoenix Finance.