

Dhaka seeks US zero tariff facility

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday sought duty and quota free access of Bangladeshi products including readymade garments to US market.

Mahmud made the request when former US assistant secretary of state for South Asia Karl F Inderfurth met with him at the Foreign Ministry.

They discussed Bangladesh-US bilateral relations focusing on development cooperation, trade, education and cultural exchange programmes.

On duty and quota free access of Bangladeshi products, Inderfurth who held the office of the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia from 1997-2001 assured the state minister of his cooperation in this respect.

Mahmud said US is an important development partner of Bangladesh and an excellent bilateral relation exists between Dhaka and Washington.

Next budget to facilitate poverty cut: NBR chief

UNB, Dhaka

The government will formulate the next fiscal budget to facilitate poverty reduction and employment generation.

Winning over poverty as the prime target, employment generation is the way to reduce poverty. To facilitate this, industrialisation that creates employment will be the prime philosophy for the next year's budget," said NBR chairman M Abdul Mazid at the first pre-budget meeting held at the NBR conference room yesterday.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) started the month-long pre-budget meeting to get ideas and information from the major stakeholders.

Representatives from agriculture and poultry sectors were also present in yesterday's meeting.

The NBR chairman said the government would give facility in duty and tax to any investment in the business.

He said the import process of raw materials and capital machineries would be restructured with a view to have expansion of national capital and a well-balanced welfare economy.

"There will be re-structuring of import duty on the basis of economical logic and we'll show reluctance for importing luxury and less-important items in the next budget," Mazid said.

He further said that the duty structure would be balanced on the basis of sector-wise items in the next budget and the implementation process will be introduced in right time and in the time when it is necessary.

The government, he added, will formulate an easier process to imposing tax, paying tax and collecting tax, and make the process pro-taxpayers and investment-friendly.

Mazid also mentioned that the philosophy of the next fiscal budget would be amendment of change in duty and tax related rules, regulations and policy. "Next year, the budget will be knowledge based, towards digital Bangladesh and charter for change."

He said the budget would be for ensuring social and distributive justice, participatory, client friendly and pro-business and SMEs, minimising cost of doing business to curb price-hike.

The NBR chairman said they would expand the tax net next year not by imposing enhanced tax to generate revenue, chasing tax evaders not by harassing but intellectually motivating taxpayers and collectors to change the mindset and environment.

"We'll strengthen our monitoring, supervision and cross-checking system to net tax evaders," he said.

China vows rural support amid crisis

ANN/CHINA DAILY

China will plough ahead with tough measures to develop rural areas and agriculture in 2009 despite expectations that this year will witness the hardest challenges of the last decade, the central government said Sunday.

A global resource market slump, increasing public concern about food safety and a fast-diminishing labour pool for rural migrant workers are among the most critical issues facing the Chinese countryside, according to the document, which was discussed at an annual central work conference in December and released Sunday.

As the first policy document of the year, it was issued jointly by the State Council and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to highlight the significance of agriculture to the nation.

"The development of agriculture and rural areas in 2009 is of special significance," it said.

Transcom Beverages holds Nepal conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Transcom Beverages Ltd held an annual conference recently in Kathmandu, Nepal, according to a press release released yesterday.

Saifur Rahman and Arshad Walir Rahman, directors of Transcom Beverages Ltd, Golam Kuddus Chowdhury, chief executive director, Tejindar Khurana, country manager of Pepsico International, Sarikul Islam, residential executive director, and Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, general manager, were present at the conference.

The conference distributed 'Best Performance Awards' in different fields. Md Gaznabi Chowdhury received the 'Best Territory Development Manager 2008' award, and Sohel Rana, received the 'Best Customer Executive' award.

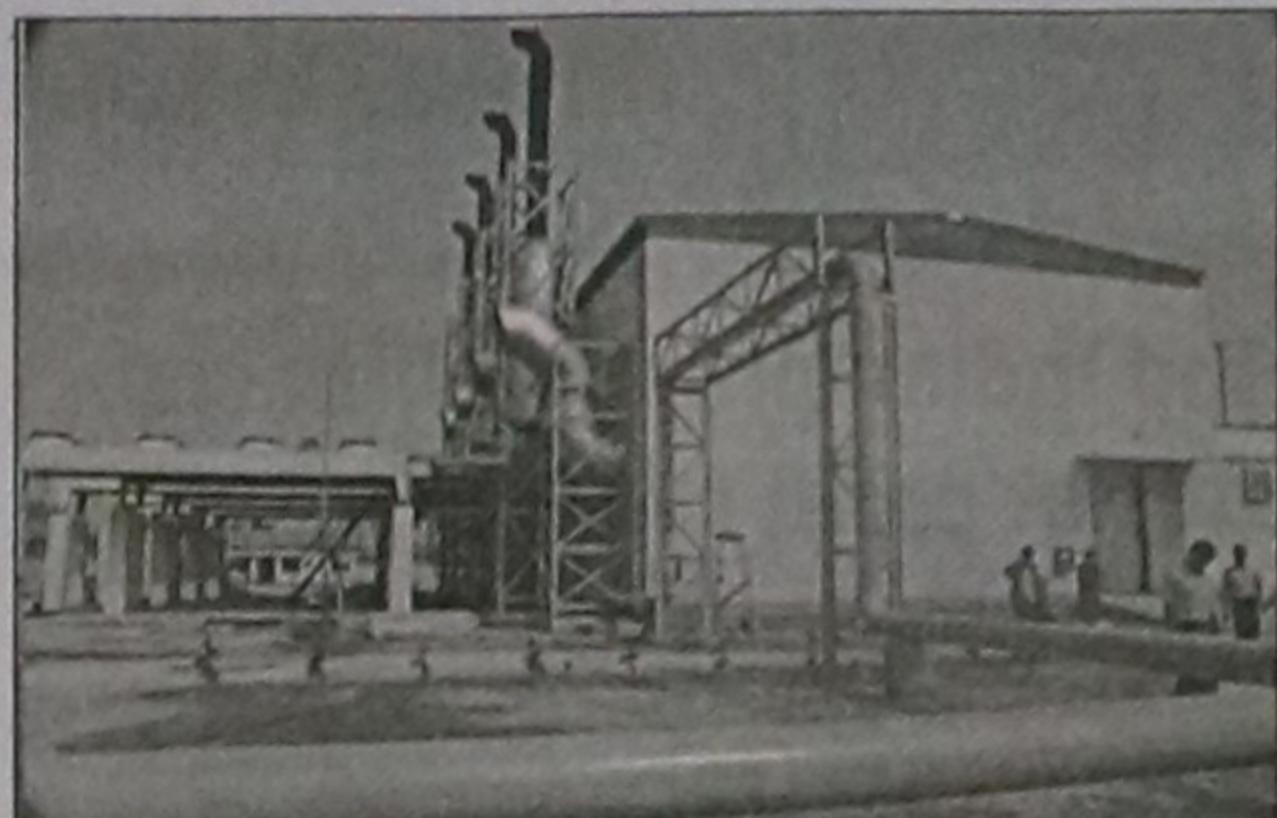
Sirajganj power plant goes into operation today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Summit Uttaranchal Power Company Ltd, an 11-megawatt power plant at Ullapara in Sirajganj district, is to commence its experimental operations from today.

The company completed all required procedures to begin operations. The plant will be operated by gas, sources said.

Dr Towfiq Elahi, adviser to the prime minister, and Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku, state minister for power, recently visited the



A view of Summit Uttaranchal Power Company Ltd, the 11-megawatt power plant at Ullapara in Sirajganj district. The plant is expected to begin its experimental operations today.

Shahzadpur upazillas.

Humayun Kabir, deputy commissioner of Sirajganj, told The Daily Star that this power plant would contribute to the industrial development in the two upazillas.

Laptop fair begins tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A three-day laptop fair will begin tomorrow at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

Maker Communication will organise the show styled 'Zoom Laptop Fair 2009' where top laptop brands like HP, Compaq, Dell, Fujitsu, Hasee, Gigabyte, Asus, Lenovo, Toshiba, Acer, Great Wall, BenQ and Apple will be available.

Special discounts will be on offer at the fair, which will remain open from 10am to 9pm.

A total of 10 pavilions and 6 stalls will be at the fair. The entry fee will be Tk 20 per person but students up to the regular post-graduate level will enjoy free entry by showing their ID cards.

A part of the money generated from ticket sales will be donated, while the remaining will be used to develop a welfare fund for



Organisers of 'Zoom Laptop Fair 2009' are seen at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

the ICT journalists of the country, the organisers said.

Mobile phone operator Citycell is the title sponsor of the exposition, while Acer, Asus, Hasee and Toshiba are co-sponsors.

The organisers at a press conference yesterday said laptops are gradually taking over desktop computers in Bangladesh.

"Last year's show

With around 5,000 laptop sales taking place every month, the current growth rate of laptop users in the country is around 8 to 10 percent, they said.

Muhammad Khan, strategic planner for Maker Communication, said more than 600 laptops were sold at the last year's fair, the first of its kind in the country.

Fashion show, puppet show, raffle draw and quiz competition will be held on the sidelines of the fair, Khan said.

received an overwhelming response. Hopefully sales will increase this year," he added.

Khan also said students and young professionals are the main target groups of the fair.

The conference distributed 'Best Performance Awards' in different fields. Md Gaznabi Chowdhury received the 'Best Territory Development Manager 2008' award, and Sohel Rana, received the 'Best Customer Executive' award.

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organised by the WIEF Foundation in cooperation with Indonesian government, aims to strengthen business cooperation between Muslim and non-Muslim businesspeople worldwide.

Over the recent years there has been an increase in trade and investment among Muslim countries initiated by forward thinking business communities, the statement said, adding that these countries are playing a proactive role in the global market.

Experts at the two-day forum will address such issues as basic necessities, energy, technology, sustainable environment, global SMEs and banking.

The forum, which will be



Executives of Transcom Beverages Ltd pose for photograph at the annual conference of the company, held in Kathmandu, Nepal recently.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

Headquarter, Kurmitola, Dhaka

Tender Notice

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.
02	Agency	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.
03	Procuring entity name	Chief Engineer, Headquarter, CAAB, Dhaka.
04	Invitation for	Providing installation, testing and commissioning of air-conditioning duct and insulation works, electrical cable, supply and installation of new compressor etc. complete with all related works in Passenger Terminal Building of Osmani International Airport, Sylhet.
05	Invitation Ref No.	CAAB/W-481(E/M)(E-3)(Cap.Exp)/1242.
06	Date	18-01-2009.
KEY INFORMATION		
07	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
08	Budget and source of funds	CAAB own fund Code No. 100 (Investment of fixed asset).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
09	Tender package No.	05/2008-2009(Sylhet).
10	Tender package name	Providing installation, testing and commissioning of air-conditioning duct and insulation works, electrical cable, supply and installation of new compressor etc. complete with all related works in Passenger Terminal Building of Osmani International Airport, Sylhet.
11	Tender last selling date	25-02-2009.
12	Tender closing date and time	26-02-2009 at 12:00 hrs.
13	Tender opening date and time	26-02-2009 at 12:30 hrs.
14	Name & address of the office(s) -Selling tender document (principal)	Chief Engineer, Headquarter, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
	-Selling tender document (others)	a. Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka. b. Executive Engineer, E/M Division-3, CAAB, Dhaka. c. Airport Manager, Osmani International Airport, Sylhet. d. PA to Member (Ops/Plans), CAAB, Headquarter, Dhaka. e. PA to Director, ZIA, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. f. Cash Section, CAAB, Headquarter, Dhaka.
	-Receiving tender document	Chief Engineer, Headquarter, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
	-Opening tender document	Chief Engineer, Headquarter, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
15	Eligibility of tenderer	CAAB enlisted "A" and above class (E/M) contractor or equivalent govt/semi-govt/autonomous department having valid "ABC" electrical & supervisory license, 5 (five) years experience as a contractor and having experience of similar works amounting to Tk. 16.00 (sixteen) lac in a single work order within last 5 (five) years supported by completion certificate issued not below the rank of Executive Engineer from any govt/semi-govt/autonomous department.
16	Brief description of goods or works	1. Sheet Metal Ducting: i) 24-Gauge Sheet Duct. ii) 20-Gauge Sheet Duct. 2. Duct Insulation. 3. Air Terminal: 50 Nos. ceiling mounted diffuser/grill. 4. Cable works for AC system. 5. Supply and installation of compressor. i) 3j-Compressor 5 ton = 2 Nos. ii) 3j-Compressor 6 ton = 2 Nos.
17	Price of the tender document	TK. 1,00,000 (one thousand) only (non-refundable)
18	Lot No.	Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in week/months/days
1	Providing installation, testing and commissioning of air-conditioning duct and insulation works, electrical cable, supply and installation of new compressor etc.	Osmani International Airport, Sylhet Tk. 1,25,00,000 (one lac twenty five thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft/Order/Bank Guarantee drawn from on any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka 30 (thirty) days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19	Name of official inviting tender	Harunur Rashid Bhuyan.
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Engineer.
21	Address of official inviting tender	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.
22	Contact detail of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 911023.
23	a) Tenderers shall have to produce the original work completion certificate at the time of purchasing the tender document. b) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason.	

CAAB/PR-88/2008/78

Date: 28-1-2009

GD-603

Harunur Rashid Bhuyan

Chief Engineer (CC)

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

Oil falls under \$45

AFP, London

Oil prices dropped Monday, falling below 45 dollars a barrel in London, as weak energy demand steered the market.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in March slid 1.26 dollars to 44.62 dollars a barrel on London's InterContinental Exchange.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for March, shed 1.30 dollars to 40.38 dollars a barrel.

"The demand really isn't there," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director of Hudson Capital Energy, adding there was a "supply glut" in US energy reserves.

Oil prices had edged higher on Friday following a milder than expected economic contraction in the United States and fears of a

strike crippling American refineries and pipelines, traders had said.

Government data last week showed the economy in the United States -- the world's biggest energy consumer -- had shrunk by 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008.

The economic contraction between October and December 2008 was the worst performance in 26 years and marked a sharp downward acceleration in economic activity after a 0.5 percent drop in the third quarter.

The United Steelworkers union meanwhile on Sunday agreed to extend talks on a new contract for thousands of workers at US refineries, averting a potentially crippling strike for now.

Deputy General Manager (Administration)