

No deal with India that hurts country's interest

Reiterates commerce minister

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday reiterated that the government would not sign any agreement with India that goes against the country's interest.

"This is, you know, a democratic government and so far everything has been done in a transparent manner. Nothing will be done keeping people in the dark," he told a delegation from the Dutch Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DBCCI) at his office.

Khan informed the delegation that either in June or July they would discuss various features of the Indo-Bangla Trade Agreement, which saw a three-year expansion recently, as a 'whole package'.

Replying to a query, he said they would discuss the export-import policy within this month to simplify it.

"We'll look into it so that the importers can import drug without prior permission from Livestock Department," he said when a delegation member raised



A delegation from the Dutch Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Rakesh Mohan, meets Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

the problems in having double permission for drug imports.

He said the government would take all necessary steps so that the impact of global financial crisis in Bangladesh could be kept at the minimum level.

"A taskforce in this regard will be formed this month in a bid to keep Bangladesh away from the fallout of the global financial crisis," he told the delegation led by

Rakesh Mohan, the chamber's president.

Referring to the ailing power and gas sectors, the commerce minister said the government is sincere about improving gas and power situation but it will take time. "The government will soon go for gas exploration from new wells," he added.

He assured the delegation of simplifying visa procedure for the businesspeople and all-out government

cooperation to them saying: "The government is really business-friendly."

The meeting was attended, among others, by DBCCI Vice President Hassan Khaled and Joint Secretary General Sarafat Chowdhury.

Earlier, the minister had a meeting with the leaders of Leather Goods, Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association at his office.

City IT Computer Fair begins Thursday

UNB, Dhaka

The 8th City IT Computer Fair - with the slogan 'IT leads the flow of change' - will begin Thursday at the BCS Computer City in Agargaon.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan will inaugurate the nine-day fair.

A total of 156 business establishments will take part in the fair that will remain open daily from 10am to 7pm.

The entry-fee for the fair is Tk 10 per person, but entry will be free for school students and the disabled.

Organisers said the last year's Computer City IT Fair had a turnover of more than Tk 100 crore.

Premier Bank gets new MD



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Premier Bank Limited has recently appointed M Shah Alam Sarwar as the bank's managing director, says a press release.

Prior to joining Premier Bank, he was the acting managing director of United Commercial Bank.

Sarwar, an MBA from Victoria University, Australia, is the founding member of World Literature Centre and founder general secretary of University Debating Society, Dhaka University.

Language stating tax laws to be simplified

NBR chief tells lawyers



NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid exchanges views with a delegation from Bangladesh Tax Lawyers Association in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will form a committee to simplify the language stating the tax laws, in the greater interest of the mass.

"The present government's manifesto stated that it would take steps to simplify the language used in laws. As a result, the NBR is going to take steps to simplify the tax laws for the benefit of the regular people," said NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid.

Mazid was exchanging views with the leaders of the Bangladesh Tax Lawyers Association in Dhaka yesterday.

"So we will form a committee, comprising of NBR officials, taxpayers and tax lawyers, to modify the tax law language," he said.

The NBR chief said he will also undertake measures to bring transparency in the tax payment system. Around 51 percent of the tax-identification numbers (TIN) are claimed to be fake.

At the discussion, Golam Sarwar, president of the Bangladesh Tax Lawyers Association, said the government should amend some clauses in the tax laws, so that people can easily understand those.

Kashem Ahmad, vice president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said NBR officials, taxpayers, and tax lawyers have a bad impression among each other. To bring about positive changes, the three sides have to cooperate with each other.

Tax lawyers from across the country were present at the discussion. Sobhan Khan, a tax lawyer from Rajshahi, said in addition to lawyers, the NBR has to take the responsibility to educate people about paying income taxes.

The sooner the hassles over income taxes are reduced, revenue income will increase, said senior advocate Rezaur Rahman.

Lankan trade deficit widens by 60.6pc

ANN/THE ISLAND

The trade deficit widened by 15.1 per cent to US\$ 367.9 million in December 2008 compared with December 2007, while the cumulative trade deficit for 2008 increased by 60.6 per cent to US\$ 5.8 billion as against US\$ 3.6 billion in 2007.

The overall current account is in deficit raising concerns that there is a foreign exchange crisis.

However, there is optimism in the central bank that the overall current account, which is in deficit, will be restored to a surplus of about US\$ 450 million during the year.

The central bank said in its monthly statement that gross official reserves as at end December 2008 stood at US\$ 1.7 billion, enough to finance import bills for about two and a half months.

The bank said exports declined by 19.1 while imports declined by 9.7 per cent in December 2008 (as against December 2007).

Overall export earnings for 2008 increased by 6.5 per cent to US\$ 8.1 billion and imports recorded a 24 per cent increase during the year to US\$ 14 billion, as against 2007.

The country is facing a foreign exchange crisis, which Deputy Finance Minister Dr Sarath Amunugama confirmed at a seminar last week when he said, "There is a foreign exchange problem we cannot get out from."

Worker remittances have buoyed the overall current account, which has been in surplus since January 2008.

The central bank published the current account balance throughout the year when it released the external sector performance indicators for each month (which gave the trade account balance) and the size of the gross official reserves as well.

Green Delta Ins gets new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Green Delta Insurance Co Ltd has appointed N o a z e s h Choudhury as the company's deputy managing director, according to a press release.

Prior to this new appointment, he was the finance and management consultant of Shell International UK.

Choudhury, an MBA from London Business School, is also a full member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK and a fellow member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK.

World stocks mostly rally

AFP, London

Global stock markets mostly rebounded Monday on the back of a report that the US government was poised to take a 25-40 percent stake in troubled banking giant Citigroup.

Equities had plunged before the weekend as investors fretted over the struggling financial sector and a spreading economic downturn, analysts said.

Hong Kong jumped 3.8 percent higher on Monday, tracking a rally on the Shanghai bourse, dealers said.

And nearing the half-way stage in Europe, Frankfurt

was up 1.09 percent, Paris 1.01 percent and London 0.25 percent.

On the downside, Tokyo sank to a near four-month low as the failure of a Japanese money-lender and the poor health of US banks depressed sentiment.

"It looked as though markets would begin this week in the red but sentiment turned quickly following a press report that the US government could take a stake of as much as 40 percent in Citigroup," said Callyon analyst Mitul Kotecha.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed people familiar with the situation, said US

President Barack Obama's administration was in talks that could boost its Citigroup holding from 7.8 percent in return for fresh capital.

London shares were also lifted by weekend reports that Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) would axe 20,000 jobs worldwide and sell off various assets this Thursday when it is due to post a record 28-billion-pound loss for 2008.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, সিলেট সদর দপ্তর, মৌলভীবাজার

দরপত্র বাতিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র দপ্তরের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১২/নির্মাণ ও পূর্ত-২০০৮-২০০৯ তাং-২৯/০১/২০০৯তে মূলে টারিস্ট শপ টয়লেট, টিকেট কাউন্টার নির্মাণ কাজের দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়। তদনুযায়ী বর্গিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি বিপত ০৩/০২/২০০৯ তারিখে 'দৈনিক ইনকিলাব' পত্রিকায় এবং বিপত ০৫/০২/২০০৯ তারিখে 'দি ডেইলি স্টার' পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত হয়। বর্তমানে অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ বর্গিত দরপত্রটি এতদ্বারা বাতিল করা হইল।

মোঃ মাহবুবুর রহমান

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা

বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, সিলেট জিডি-৯৮৩ সদর দপ্তর, মৌলভীবাজার

BCIC Tender Notice

- Name of organization : Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.
- Invitation for tenders Reference No. & date : (a) CCCL/PUR/A/258/08-09 dt. 18-02-09, (b) CCCL/PUR/A/261/08-09 dt. 18-02-2009, (c) PUR/C/232/08-09 dt. 18-02-2009.
- Brief description of goods : (a) Volute Liner, Frame Plate Liner, (b) Rotor Balde, (c) Control Transformer, Dosing Pumps etc.
- Time for completion of jobs : (a) 60 days, (b) 90 days & (c) 21 days.
- Eligibility of tenderers : Following documents must be submitted alongwith the offer: Attested photocopy of a) Trade licence b) TIN certificate, c) VAT registration certificate.
- Price of tender documents : Tk. 400/- (four hundred) each set (For A, B&C).
- Amount of tender security (earnest money) : (a) Tk. 45,000/- (b) Tk. 23,500/- (c) Tk. 20,000/- only.
- Name & address of the office(s) selling tender documents : a) Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (b) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, (c) Accounts Deptt., Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamganj.
- Name & address of the office(s) receiving & opening tenders : GM (Comm.), Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamganj.
- Last date & time for selling tenders documents : 15-03-09 at office hours.
- Last date & time for submission of tenders : 16-03-09 at 3:00pm.
- Date & time for opening of tenders : 16-03-09 at 3-15 pm.
- Special instructions : The CCCL management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason.

S M Shariful Dulal
Chemist (Purchase)
For Managing Director

GD-1000

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited

Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2-9814747, Fax: 880-2-9812700
Web Site: www.tss.com.bd, E-mail: mdtss@btcl.net.bd

Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Joint Collaboration/ Partnership with TSS

Proposal for invitation from interested investors for submitting offer of joint collaboration/partnership with Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) Limited.

- Background:** Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) Ltd. is a government owned company established in the year 1973 with under a joint venture agreement between the Government of Bangladesh and M/S Siemens AG, West Germany.
- Highlights:**
 - Authorised capital : Tk. 120.00 million.
 - Paid up capital : Tk. 86.824 million.
 - Total No. of shares of Tk. 1,000/- each : 86,824 shares.
 - (Shares held by the MoPT in favour of Govt. of Bangladesh)
 - Building area : 60,800sqft.
 - Total floor area (shed hall & others) : 1,16,680sqft.
 - Total land : 29.03 acres (Uttara and Tongi).
 - Machineries/equipments : About 200 workshop machineries for manufacturing fabricated parts of telephone exchange equipment. These can be converted for other productive purposes.
 - Total employees : 266 (two hundred sixty six).
 - Board of directors : Officer: 29, Workers/Staffs: 237
 - Consists of eight members of which currently six nominated by the Bangladesh Govt.

3. Expression of Interest (Eoi): With the approval of Board of Directors, Managing Director, TSS Ltd. is pleased to invite applications from interested investors both local/foreign for joint collaboration/partnership/supplier with TSS by using its existing infrastructure i.e. land, buildings and manpower in the following field:

- Assembling/manufacturing/marketing/maintenance of the followings:
 - Normal & Cordless Caller ID Telephone Sets, CDMA/WLL Cordless Fix Telephone Sets, CDMA/GSM Cellular/Mobile Sets.
 - Maintenance Free Battery, Industrial/Exchange Battery, Mobile Battery and Mobile Battery Charger, Rectifier, etc.
 - Solar Power Energy System.
 - Safety Locking Devices (software based) for office/BTS room/other system.
 - Software based electric/electronic any item related to telecommunication field (Switching, M/W, Radio, BTS equipment, etc).
 - Supply of Siemens & NEC brand PABX along with spare parts & software.
 - Optical Fibre Cables.
 - Prepaid/Post-paid Digital Meters (Electricity, Water & Gas), Switch Gear, Control Panel, etc.
 - Any type of iron fabrication/manufacturing works (Pole, Tower, DP/CT Box, etc.)
 - Manufacturing/Repair/Maintenance of Railway Carriage, Wagon, Locomotives & related spares.
 - All types of chip cards that includes SIM cards, credit cards, ATM cards, scratch cards, etc. This required a high class security printing systems.
- All interested parties are invited to submit a preliminary proposal preferably from related companies both local and foreign. The proposal should include brief information about the following:
 - Company profile of the applicant and all its partners or joint venture associates.
 - Business proposal with prospects.
 - Sales and marketing strategies.
 - Trade licence, VAT, IT clearance and financial solvency
 - Tentative time frame.
- Proposal should be submitted to the Managing Director, TSS in duplicate at the latest 22 March, 2009 at 17:00 hours (Bangladesh Time). Final proposals will be invited after the evaluation of the Eoi. All interested parties are requested to contact for any query by e-mail to mdtss@btcl.net.bd or by phone + 880-2-9814747/880-2-9802324 or by fax + 880 2 9812700.
- All interested parties may visit the web site or physically visit Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd. before submitting the Expression of Interest (Eoi).
- Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director
Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd
Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh

C-379

Naval Headquarters
Banani, Dhaka-1213

SPECIAL SAFETY WARNING

- Bangladesh Navy will carry out live firing at Chittagong Outer Anchorage from the 'Coastal Defence Battery (CDB)' at Naval Academy, Patenga on Thursday, 26 February 2009, from 8 AM to 4 PM. The firing will be conducted in the area bounded by co-ordinates A, B, C and D and in line 'E' and 'F' as shown in the sketch (also mentioned below):

MAP OF CDB FIRING AREA

- All types of ships, craft and aircraft are hereby warned and requested to refrain from entering, plying or any other activities in the area during the said period. Danger height for the firing area during the period will be 20,000 (twenty thousand) ft.
- Cooperation of all concerned is solicited in this regard.

Director
Naval Operations

ISPR/NAVY/09/7/11
GD-1020