

Tax overhaul on cards to protect industries

Minister says no more EPZ

UNB, Dhaka

The government has planned to restructure the current taxation system to protect domestic industries and ensure their expected growth in the changed context, instead of handing out cash stimulus in temporary bailout, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said yesterday.

"We must have to protect native industries and we've already discussed tax restructuring which will hopefully be reflected in next budget," he said during a meeting with the leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at the ministry.

FBCCI President Annisul Huq led the delegation, while First Vice President Abul Kashem Ahmed, Vice President Abu Alam Chowdhury and directors were present at the meeting, where they placed a package of suggestions for helping businesses.

Barua told the business leaders that there is no alternative to industrialisation and domestic industries must be protected for the sake of labour. "Industry is the principal and basic agenda of the incumbent government," he said.

He feels that the interest rates on bank loans should come down to single digit for the growth of local industries. "I've already made comments in favour of single-digit bank-loan interest publicly and it would be better than stimulus package."

The minister said no new



Industries Minister Dilip Barua speaks as a delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) led by its President Annisul Huq called on him in Dhaka yesterday. Additional Secretary of the ministry ABM Khorshed Alam, FBCCI First Vice President Abul Kashem Ahmed and directors were present.

EPZ (export processing zone) would be set up in the country as foreign investors become the highest beneficiaries of such industrial zones.

"We've discussed it with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the issue and decided to set up special economic zones in the country for better industrialisation," he said.

Barua said the government would formulate a law for sick industries and wished a balance in the 'Financial Credit Law' through bringing necessary amendment to it.

The minister predicts that the global financial crisis may prolong over the next five years, which might

create possibilities for Bangladesh in many respects as a blessing in disguise.

He said the government is highly concentrating on local market expansion. It would provide logistic and financial supports to farmers for ensuring better production.

On the upcoming industrial policy, he said they are giving priority to three sectors - small, cottage and light engineering - in the policy.

The minister said the government is in favour of simplifying visa process for smooth business dealings worldwide.

He said the government has already finalised the

waiver of license fee (Tk 5 lakh) for operating captive power plant in mills and factories, which was illogical.

He urged all to work unitedly so that none could create anarchy in industrial sector like educational institutions. "The government will not tolerate it if anybody wants to create problem in this sector," he said.

Earlier, the FBCCI leaders placed a set of recommendations before the minister, including immediate steps for solving power crisis, decision over sick industries, decreasing bank-loan rate, decentralisation of administration and setting up more EPZs.

Bangladesh to export bricks to Tripura

Says IBCCI president

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh will export 40 crore bricks worth Tk 200 crore to Tripura in the north-eastern province of India, said the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) president yesterday.

Abdul Matlub Ahmed said the primary price of each brick has been fixed at Tk 5, but the amount may be more as demand for construction materials in the province is increasing because of higher economic growth in India.

"There is immense potential to export bricks to the region as the private sector of the seven-sister region is thriving rapidly to keep pace with the high Indian economic growth," Matlub said.

Bangladesh has an opportunity to export bricks worth billions because the terrain in the Indian region that do not favour the production of bricks, Matlub said.

The IBCCI chief was speaking at a press conference at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). He recently led a business team from IBCCI to Tripura to seek more business opportunities with India.

Matlub said Bangladesh had earlier exported a good number of bricks to India, but it was later discontinued due to some problems.

He said Bangladesh has immense trade opportunity in tourism and education, as the two countries are geographically close. He said Tripura is now importing

large quantities of stone chips and cement from here.

Matlub said he would inaugurate the "Bangladesh Market" in Tripura soon as the Tripura government recently allocated a piece of land to construct the building.

"We target to cross the billion mark in exporting goods to India within 2011, to minimise the trade gap with the neighbouring country," he said. At present Bangladesh exports goods worth \$400 million to India.

On the other hand, the formal export of goods to Bangladesh from India is near \$3 billion annually.

Matlub urged the government to improve road communications at the Akhaura border in Bangladesh, to expand tourism and other business ties between the two countries.

New chairman for Asia Ins



Yussuf Abdullah Harun

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Asia Insurance Ltd has recently re-elected two of its sponsor directors, Yussuf Abdullah Harun and Mohammad Jamal Ullah, as the company's chairman and vice chairman respectively, says a press release.

Harun was a former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chairman of Southeast Bank Ltd, vice president of Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other vital capacities in various organisations. He is currently an adviser of Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Jamal is a leading entrepreneur of the country.

United adds 3 int'l routes in July

UNB, Dhaka

Private carrier United Airways plans to start operation on three new international routes in next July.

These routes are: Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka, Dhaka-Kathmandu-Dhaka and Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka.

"We are waiting for our new 170-seater aircraft that is scheduled to arrive here in June," United Airways Manager (public relations) Kamrul Islam told the news

agency yesterday.

He said that the procurement process of MD 83 is at the final stage and the aircraft will be available in June ready to fly.

United Airways is now operating on Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Chittagong-Kolkata-Chittagong routes as their international routes.

The airlines have two 37-seater Das-8-100 in its fleet.

United Airways, a venture of non-resident Bangladeshis

(NRBs), recorded a turnover of about Tk 41 crore in 2008 and targets a Tk 140 crore turnover this year.

United Airways, which entered the local aviation market in July 2007, has some 500 shareholders. 95 percent of them are NRBs living in the UK.

It started domestic passenger flights on July 10, 2007. The airlines entered into the international arena on September 24, 2008 by launching its Dhaka-Kolkata flight.

Pizza Hut, KFC observe Earth Day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) are revitalising their business model to cope with the challenges of climate change.

"We all are responsible for tackling the challenges of climate change. For that, we are revitalising our business model," said Akku Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Foods Ltd, the franchisee of Pizza Hut and KFC in Bangladesh, yesterday.

"At Pizza Hut and KFC, we are trying to reduce carbon emissions by procuring a maximum number of ingredients from local markets," he said.

"As part of this, we are procuring all KFC chickens from BRAC poultry," Chowdhury told the press while launching a campaign creating awareness on global warming and the possibilities of Bangladesh's being submerged by 2100. Transcom Foods Ltd observed 'Earth Day' at KFC in Dhaka.

If food ingredients do not have to travel far, there is less carbon released from the trucks that ship those, Chowdhury said, adding that global warming is a major threat to the planet, as temperature and sea level are rising.



Akku Chowdhury (extreme right), executive director for Transcom Foods Ltd, is seen as the company observed 'Earth Day' in Dhaka yesterday.

Germany takes aim at tax havens

AFP, Berlin

Germany agreed a draft law Wednesday aimed at cracking down on tax dodgers and clamping down on those doing business with tax havens abroad.

According to the draft legislation, drawn up in a cabinet meeting after weeks of wrangling within Germany's uneasy "grand coalition," people earning over 500,000 euros (647,000 dollars) annually will have to keep tax documents for six years.

Moreover, individuals and businesses parking capital in countries that do not respect international rules could see tax advantages withdrawn, according to the draft obtained by AFP.

"The recent cross-border tax evasion scandals have demonstrated ... the threat posed by the massive loss in tax receipts," the draft said. Earlier in April, world leaders pledged at a Group of 20 summit in London to crack down on tax havens and tasked the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to draw up a list of countries that did not adhere to international tax reporting standards.

Indonesia keen to import more medicines

STAR BUSINESS DESK

An Indonesian parliamentary delegation, now in Dhaka on an official visit, has expressed interests to import more pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh.

The six-member team, led by Maryamah Nugraha Besoes, an Indonesian lawmaker, showed their keenness when they had visited Eskayef's Tongi plant yesterday, according to a press release.

The delegates also expressed their satisfaction over the plant's latest

machinery, equipment and overall quality system.

The plant won accreditation from the United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (UK MHRA) in 2008.

Indonesia is one of the potential pharmaceuticals market has a strict regulation for pharmaceutical products, said AM Faruque, managing director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd.

During the visit, Zet Mirzal Zainuddin, the Indonesian ambassador to Bangladesh, was also present.



AM Faruque, managing director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, left, presents a souvenir to Maryamah Nugraha Besoes, head of an Indonesian parliamentary delegation, during a visit to Eskayef's Tongi plant yesterday. Zet Mirzal Zainuddin, the Indonesian ambassador to Bangladesh, right, is also seen.

বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
পোস্ট বক্স নং-৮, বিরাসার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া
"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ"- এর অপচয়
রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।		
২	সংস্থা	পেট্রোবাংলা।		
৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (বিজিএফসিএল)।		
৪	কাজের ধরন	পুর-নির্মাণ কাজ।		
৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	সিডি/এইচও/৩(৫)/২০০৯, তারিখঃ ১৬-০৪-২০০৯।		
৬	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।		
৭	বাজেট তফসিলের উৎস	বিজিএফসিএল এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।		
৮	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	২২-০৪-২০০৯ হতে ০৫-০৫-২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন কাশ লেনেদেন সময়ে (৮:৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৩:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।		
৯	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬-০৫-২০০৯ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
১০	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬-০৫-২০০৯ তারিখ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকায়।		
১১	দরপত্রের নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ	ক) হিসাব বিভাগ, বিজিএফসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিরাসার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া; খ) লিয়ার্সে অফিস, বিজিএফসিএল, বাড়ি নং ৭৫, রোড নং-৬, ডিওএইচএস (পুরাতন), বনালী, ঢাকা।		
	দরপত্র গ্রহণ	ক) পুরকৌশল বিভাগ, বিজিএফসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিরাসার ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া; খ) নিরাপত্তা অফিস, তিস্তা লোকেশন-এ, বিজিএফসিএল, ঘাট্টা, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।		
	দরপত্র খোলা	পুরকৌশল বিভাগ, বিজিএফসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিরাসার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।		
১২	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	- প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; - বিগত ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় একক কার্যাদেশ কমপক্ষে নিম্নে বর্ণিত মূল্যের পুর-নির্মাণ কাজ সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে ক) গ্রুপ নং ক এর জন্য টাঃ ১৪.০০ লক্ষ; খ) গ্রুপ নং ব এর জন্য টাঃ ১.৬০ লক্ষ; Tender Data Sheet (TDS) এ উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতার শর্তাবলী পূরণ করতে হবে।		
১৩	কাজের নাম ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলীঃ			
গ্রুপ নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	ব্যাধকৃত সময়
ক)	প্রধান কার্যালয়স্থ আনুষ্ঠানিক ভবন ও অন্যান্য স্থাপনাসমূহের রকেবন কাজ, বিরাসার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।	টাঃ ২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার)	টাঃ ৫৫,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার)	৯০ (নব্বই) দিন
খ)	তিস্তা লোকেশন-এ ও বি এর মধ্যবর্তী স্থানে ট্রেন্স কাটিং ও টেলিফোন, ক্যাবল স্থাপন কাজ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।	টাঃ ২০০.০০ (দুই শত)	টাঃ ৬,০০০.০০ (ছয় হাজার)	৪৫ (পঁয়তাল্লিশ) দিন
১৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোঃ তৌফিকুর রহমান তপু।		
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পুরকৌশল)।		
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুরকৌশল বিভাগ, বিজিএফসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিরাসার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।		
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফ্যাক্স নং-০৮৫১-৫৮১৪১, ৫৮৪২৮ এলঃঃ ১১৩		
১৮	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্বন্ধে বাস্তবিক তথ্যের অনিবার্য অথবা ছুটি মোমবার কারণে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্বন্ধে না হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।		
১৯	কর্তৃপক্ষ কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের পূর্বে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।			

পিআরএস-০৯/০৯/১৯(সিডি/এল)
জিডি-২০০৯

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পুরকৌশল)

Bangladesh Lamps Limited
Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1206

NOTICE OF THE 48TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, 19th May 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the National Shooting Federation Auditorium, Gulshan-1, Dhaka** to transact the following business:

AGENDA

1. Consideration and adoption of the Directors' and Auditors' reports and the audited accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2008.
2. Declaration of dividend for the year 2008.
3. Election of Directors.
4. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2009 and fixation of their remuneration.

By order of the Board
Abdullah Ismail
Abdullah Ismail
Company Secretary

Dhaka, 23-04-2009

NOTES

1. **04-05-2009 is the Record Date.** The shareholders whose names will appear in the share register of the Company or in the depository register on that date, will be eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting.
2. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place. The proxy form, stamped with a revenue stamp of Tk. 8, should be submitted at the Head Office of the Company 48 hours before the meeting, i.e. by the close of business on 17th May 2009.
3. For the sake of convenience, shareholders are requested to submit their queries on the Directors' report / Audited accounts for the year 2008, if any, at the Head Office of the Company preferably 7 days before the day of the General Meeting.

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