

Govt must ensure equitable ICT

Analysts suggest at roundtable



Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad speaks at a roundtable on 'progressing Bangladesh towards an information society', co-organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and Nokia in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should ensure equitable access to new communication technologies to both rural and urban areas simultaneously, speakers said yesterday.

"It is essential that the government commits to the goal of developing a truly inclusive and equitable national and global infrastructure," said Farooq Sobhan, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

"Global infrastructure must reach rural people as well as urban, poor as well as wealthy, and those in developing and developed nations," said Sobhan. "Industry leaders and the government must work together to ensure equitable growth."

Technology revolutionised on a large scale in Bangladesh since the 1990s with introduction of the mobile phone and internet.

In Bangladesh, more than 50 million people are now using mobile phones while more than a million are using landline phones. The number of internet users presently stands at 0.5 million.

However, a debate remains on whether the introduction of technology brings the mass

under the digital net.

The roundtable on 'Progressing Bangladesh towards an information society' was co-organised by BEI and Nokia.

The discussion mainly focused on one of the present government's election pledges to create a Digital Bangladesh by 2021.

Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice chancellor of BRAC University, presented a keynote paper. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present as the chief guest.

Choudhury said the whole country should be covered by information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure.

"The government should start implementing a plan of action in line with the ICT policy-2009 as soon as possible," he said.

The information minister urged ICT entrepreneurs to come forward with private partnership programme (PPP) ideas to disseminate new communication technology to the mass at affordable costs.

"New entrepreneurship is needed to resolve the existing ICT sector problems," the minister said, adding that there is no alternative to developing the ICT sector to ensure good governance.

"If any one comes forward with a plan to develop ICT under PPP, the government will definitely assist the entrepreneur," the minister said.

Prem Chand, general manager of Nokia Emerging Asia, Bangladesh, said there is no alternative to mobile internet.

Bangladesh's internet penetration rate is only 0.3 percent, the lowest among Asian countries.

"Introducing new communication technology through fibre optic cables makes no economic sense in the present technology growing market," Prem said, adding that mobile internet can narrow the digital divide.

According to him, 50 percent users prefer access to the internet on their mobiles.

Zakiul Islam, president of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, suggested reducing the tax structure so that more people come forward to develop the ICT sector.

Habibullah N Karim, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Service, and Munir Hasan, former consultant of Access to Information Programme, Prime Minister's Office, also spoke.

China-EU summit set for November 30 in Nanjing

AFP, Beijing

China and the European Union will hold their annual summit on November 30 in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, with climate change and the global economy topping the agenda, the EU said Tuesday.

"As the summit will focus on the new China-European Union strategic partnership, climate change and the global financial crisis will certainly be on the agenda," the EU's Beijing-based spokesman William Fingleton told AFP.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, who holds the EU's rotating presidency, and China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao are expected to attend the meeting, he said.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman declined to confirm details on the meeting, saying preparations were still underway.

European officials have increasingly become concerned that the rising value of the euro is harming the continent's exports and giving an advantage to global competitors the United States and China.

The chairman of the Eurogroup of finance ministers, Jean-Claude Juncker, said on Monday that finance chiefs from the 16 countries that use the euro will travel to China in the coming weeks seeking to calm currency movements.

MEDEXPO in Dec

STAR BUSINESS DESK

MEDEXPO 2009, the seventh international medical equipment and healthcare services exposition, will begin at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from December 10, says a statement.

The three-day event, organised by Triune Exhibition and Event Management Services, will be participated by a number of organisations including hospitals from home and abroad, manufacturers and distributors of medical

furniture, surgical equipment and accessories.

Companies offering laboratory equipment, rehabilitation equipment, laboratories and diagnostic centres, tele-medicine as well as hosts of other organisations involved in the medical sector will also take part in the exposition.

On the sidelines of the MEDEXPO-2009, a number of seminars will be organised for consumers as well as medical professionals.

The show will be open to all, from 10 am to 8 pm during the period.



BRAC EPL gets new CEO

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Khaled Farazi has joined BRAC EPL Investments Ltd as chief executive officer and Aminul Haque as head of capital markets, says a statement.

Farazi, a BA Honours from London Guildhall University and MBA from Oxford Brookes University, worked for Standard Chartered Capital Markets with particular focus on syndication and project finance prior to joining BRAC EPL.

Aminul Haque, an MBA from Georgetown University and is a qualified chartered financial analyst, previously served as the head of research for Wolverton Securities, a Canadian investment banking firm. He also worked for MasterCard International in New York and PricewaterhouseCoopers in Washington.

Execs for leasing assoc



Mafizuddin Sarker



Asad Khan

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mafizuddin Sarker, managing director of LankaBangla Finance Ltd, has been elected chairman of Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association for a two-year term (2009-11), says a press release.

The association also elected Asad Khan, managing director of Fareast Finance & Investment Ltd, as the vice chairman for the same period.

The nine members of the executive committee are: GM Salehuddin Ahmed, managing director of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Co Ltd, Saifuddin M Naser, managing director of Union Capital Ltd, Mastafuz Rahman, managing director of International Leasing & Financial Services Ltd, Enamul Hoque, chief executive officer of First Lease Finance & Investment Ltd, Kazi Emdadul Hoque, managing director of Premier Leasing & Finance Ltd, Md Akter H Sannamat, managing director of Prime Finance & Investment Ltd, Md Abdur Rob, managing director of National Housing Finance & Investment Ltd, Prasanta K Halder, managing director of Oman Bangladesh Leasing & Finance Ltd, and Shafique-ul-Azam, managing director (current charge) of MIDAS Financing Ltd.

UK deficit up

AFP, London

Britain recorded a public deficit of 19.4 billion pounds (21.2 billion euros, 31.8 billion dollars) in September as the economy buckled under the weight of recession, official data showed Tuesday.



BANK ASIA

A Rouf Chowdhury, director of Bank Asia, and Zakia Rouf Chowdhury, executive vice-chairperson of Rangs Group, jointly inaugurate an ATM booth of the bank on Eskaton Garden Road in Dhaka yesterday.

বড়পুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবালাৰ একটি কোম্পানী)

চোহাটি, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর।

সালফার মুক্ত কয়লা ব্যবহার কৰণ

পৰিবেশ বাঁচান

অধিক জ্বালানী ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন দেশীয় কয়লার

ব্যবহার বাড়ান

কয়লা বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বড়পুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর খনি হতে উত্তোলিত সালফার মুক্ত উন্নতমানের কয়লা আগামী ১ নভেম্বর ২০০৯ তাৰিখ হতে নিম্নোক্ত দৱে বিক্রয় কৰা হবেঁ।

প্রতি মেট্রিক টনের মূল্য(ভ্যাটসহ) ১৭,৭২৯.১০ টাকা।

লোডিং চার্জ

(ক) ট্রাকের ক্ষেত্ৰে-প্রতি মেট্রিক টনে পে-লোডার বাবদ ২৫.০০ টাকা ও লেবার চার্জ বাবদ ১৭.৫০ টাকা মোট ৪২.৫০ টাকা (লেবার চার্জ কম-বেশী হতে পাৰে)।

(খ) ট্রেনের ক্ষেত্ৰে-প্রতি মেট্রিক টনে পে-লোডার ও ড্রাম্প ট্রাক বাবদ ১৯.২৭ টাকা। এৰ অতিৰিক্ত লেবার চার্জ ক্রেতাকে পৰিশোধ কৰতে হবে।

সৰ্বনিম্ন ৫০ মেট্রিক টন।

প্রয়োজন নেই।

বিত্তন্যের পৰিমাণ

আনেষ্ট মানি

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা

নেয়াজুর রহমান
কোম্পানী সচিব
টেলিফোন-০২-৮১১০১৯০
মোবাইল নং- ০১৭১১-৮৩৮৯২

কোম্পানী কৰ্তৃপক্ষ কয়লার পৰিমাণ, দৰহাস/ বৃক্ষ এবং কয়লা বিক্রয় বক্ত কৰার সম্পূর্ণ অধিকাৰ সংৰক্ষণ কৰে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (অৰ্থ ও হিসাব)

মোঃ সাইদুর রহমান
সহকাৰী ব্যৱস্থাপক
মোবাইল-০১৭২১-৫৭৬৬৫৮

Janata Ins chairman re-elected



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Janata Insurance Company Ltd has re-elected Rubel Aziz as its chairman, says a press release.

The election took place at the company's 23rd annual general meeting in Dhaka yesterday.

Aziz is also the chairman of Bangladesh Electronic Payment Systems Ltd, managing director of Partex Beverage Ltd and director of The City Bank Ltd.

Toyota unveils new sedan

AFP, Tokyo

Toyota Motor Corp. unveiled Tuesday a new hybrid luxury sedan, the "Sai", aiming to keep its pole position in environmentally friendly vehicles.

The new vehicle, which will go on sale only in Japan from December 7, is a compact sedan with a 2.4-litre engine and fuel economy of 23 kilometres per litre, against 38 kpl for the third-generation Prius.

Eastern Refinery Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Post Box No. 35
Chittagong-4000
Bangladesh

Dated: 12 October 2009

Invitation for International Tenders

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/agents for supply of the following material as per specification, terms and conditions mentioned in the relevant tender documents: | | | |
| 01 | Ministry/Division | Power, Energy & Mineral Resources | |
| 02 | Agency | Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) | |
| 03 | Procuring entity name | Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) | |
| 04 | Procuring entity district | Chittagong | |
| 05 | Invitation for | Goods | |
| 06 | Invitation tender Ref No. & date | a) ER/PUR/IT-43/2009(Re-Tender) dt 12-10-2009 b) ER/PUR/IT-44/2009 dt 12-10-2009 (c) ER/PUR/IT-45/2009 dt 12-10-2009 | |
| 07 | Procurement method | Open tendering with international competition (OTM) | |
| 08 | Budget and source of funds | ERL's own source | |
| 09 | Eligibility of tenderer | As stated in the tender document | |
| 10 | Tender last selling date & time | (a) 15-11-2009 up to 16:00 hours BST (b) 22-11-2009 up to 16:00 hours BST | |
| 11 | Tender closing date & time | (a) 16-11-2009 up to 15:00 hours BST (b) 23-11-2009 up to 15:00 hours BST | |
| 12 | Tender opening date & time | (a) 18-11-2009 up to 15:00 hours BST (b) 25-11-2009 up to 15:00 hours BST | |
| 13 | Tender document selling address | (i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong and (ii) DGM (DLO), ERL, YMCA Bhaban (2 nd floor, West side), 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka. | |
| 14 | Tender dropping/submitting place | (i) Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong and (ii) DGM (DLO), ERL, YMCA Bhaban (2 nd floor, West side), 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka. | |
| 15 | Opening address of tender | Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong | |
| 16 | Brief description of goods: | | |
| | Name of materials</ | | |