

# Sonamasjid land port lags behind revenue target

Tk 89.46cr earned in six months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The government earned Tk 89.46 crore in revenue through Sonamasjid land port, the country's second largest one, in the first six months of the current fiscal (2009-2010) against the target of Tk 170.89 crore.

Less imports and other problems caused such decline in the revenue income.

"We experienced a drop in imports during July-December," said Fazlul Haque, assistant commissioner of Sonamasjid Customs.

However, the port surpassed the 2008-09 revenue target by earning Tk 230.80 crore.

Sonamasjid, which started as a LC station in 1991, was upgraded to a full-fledged land port in 2006 under private management. Panama Port Link

Limited is the company that has been assigned for its handling for a span of 25 years.

Meanwhile, some businessmen alleged that following pre-inspection of the imported items and price fixing by India, the port customs officials force the importers to bear the burden of extra tariff, which ultimately harmed their business interest.

"Now, many importers opted for using Hilli land port of Dinajpur to do business," a trader said.

Recently, in protest of extortion by Sramik Samonnoy Committee, a workers organisation, clearing and forwarding agents at Sonamasjid enforced a three-day strike. There are allegations that these workers used to slap tolls on each of the trucks laden with goods imported from India.

Pointing their fingers at internal

conflicts among owners of the private leasing company, some businessmen said such feud disrupted the import-export trade.

A businessman preferring anonymity said a local Awami League leader now controls the port activities which also led to their loss of interest in trading through Sonamasjid.

Ruhul Amin, former president of Sonamasjid land port C&F agents association, said earlier 200-250 trucks from the neighbouring country entered Sonamasjid every day on an average, but now the number of trucks does not cross 70.

Shamiul Haque Liton, the incumbent president, suggesting addressing the problems the land port now faces in the interest of tapping Bangladesh's bright prospect of border trade with India.

## New additional MDs for AB Bank



M Fazlur Rahman



KAM Majedur Rahman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

M Fazlur Rahman and KAM Majedur Rahman have been promoted to additional managing director of AB Bank Ltd, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Fazlur Rahman will head the bank's Investment Banking Division.

Rahman, a fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh with an MBA degree, joined AB Bank on

September 1, 2002.

KAM Majedur Rahman will be responsible for the Business and Commercial Banking Division's operations.

He had also served at Grindlays Bank, Mashreq Bank (UAE), ANZ Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka Bank, IPDC and as the country head of Bank Alfalah Limited, Bangladesh.

Prior to the new assignments, both were deputy managing directors.

## Seminar stresses IT for rural people

UNB, Chittagong

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday underscored the need for reaching out information technology to the doorsteps of rural people to build Digital Bangladesh.

They said it will not be possible to ensure national development if the government cannot make the IT available for the rural people.

The seminar on Development of Information Technology: Transparency and Digital Bangladesh was held at the auditorium of Social Science Faculty of Chittagong University (CU) in the morning.

The Department of

Communication and Journalism of the university organised the seminar marking the death anniversary of its faculty member and columnist Dr Andru Alok Kumar Dewari.

CU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf Alam inaugurated the seminar.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique spoke on the occasion as chief guest.

Siddique said, "We need to utilise the opportunity of information technology to build real Digital Bangladesh, free it from corruption, poverty and hunger. We can ensure transparency and accountability in all sectors by properly utilising the IT."



S Prabagar, country manager of Commercial Bank of Ceylon, is seen with the participants of the first training programme for the bank's corporate banking officials on the fundamentals and prospects of DIBOR, in Dhaka recently.

## IFC teams up with Energypac

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has partnered with Energypac Agro-G Ltd to increase production and supply of stress-tolerant rice and vegetables seeds, IFC said in a statement.

Development Facility, managed by IFC, in partnership with the UK's Department for International Development and the Norwegian Agency for Development, will provide advisory support to Energypac on the project.

The facility aims to build the private sector's capacity to produce, promote, and dis-

tribute better seeds in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

"This collaboration will greatly assist our expansion in the southern belt of Bangladesh and other stress-prone regions," said SB Naseem, vice president of Energypac.

"We expect this will have a positive impact on farmers in affected regions."

"Farmers are often hardest hit by adverse environmental conditions such as floods and droughts," said Ian Crosby, head of IFC Advisory Services in Bangladesh.

"While this can lead to a dire situation for food security, it also creates business opportunities for companies like Energypac to help respond to the nation's needs."

## DESCO Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)

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### Enlistment of Panel of Retainer Lawyers

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO), a leading Public Limited Company engaged in distribution of electricity in the Capital City intends to appoint/enlist panel of retainer lawyers on contract basis for conducting its legal affairs.

Candidates who fulfill the following requirement are encouraged to apply.

- Applicant must be a citizen of Bangladesh.
- Applicant having an LL.B degree with at least 10 (ten) years of experience or LL.M (final) degree with at least 08 (eight) years of experience or Bar-at-Law degree with at least 05 (five) years of experience in legal profession in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh may be considered for appointment as Retainer Lawyer.
- Applicant should have certificate of enrollment as an advocate in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.
- The age of candidate should be not less than 40 (Forty) years as on 15.01.2010.

The Retainer Lawyers will be entitled to monthly retainer fees. In addition, other legal fees/charges will be allowed on case-to-case basis as per approved rate schedule of DESCO.

The deserving candidates fulfilling the above requirement are requested to collect prescribed forms (To be filled in by the Applicant) from the Administration Division of DESCO and submit the application with attested copies of all academic certificates along with the certificates of enrolment as advocate and attested 03 (three) copies of recent passport size photograph in a closed envelope marked with the name of the position applied for should reach the office of the undersigned by 31.01.2010.

Only short listed candidates will be invited for discussion with the authority regarding their selection.

DESCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever. Any kind of persuasion will be treated negatively.

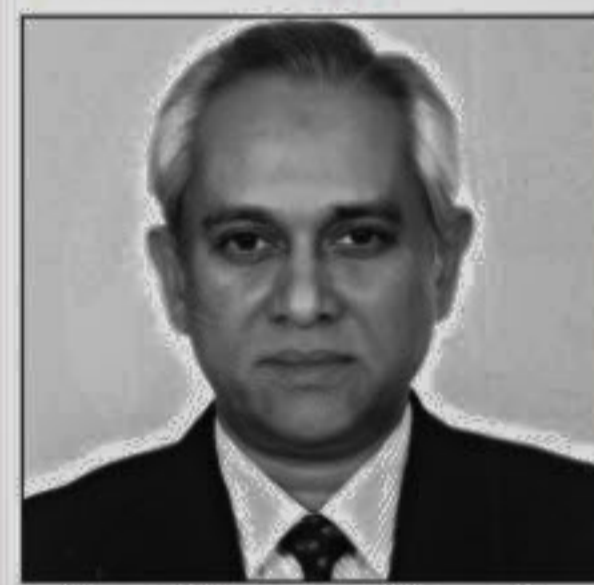
Date: January 14, 2010.  
Memo No. DESCO/Admin-22(A)/2010/160

S.M. Habibur Rahman  
Dy. General Manager (Admin.)



AM Faruque (middle), managing director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, attends the annual business conference 2009 of its Agrovet division at Nazimgarh Resort in Sylhet on Monday. Dr Motiar Hossain (left), marketing manager, and AR Sardar (right), general manager, are also seen.

## Malaysia chamber gets new chief



Syed Moazzam Hossain  
STAR BUSINESS DESK

Syed Moazzam Hossain, managing director of SMH Group, has been elected president of Bangladesh Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) for 2010-11, the chamber said in a statement yesterday.

He was also the president of Bangladesh Indenting Agents Association and director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ashraf ul Haq Chowdhury, general manager of Warid Telecom International Ltd, has been elected secretary general of the chamber for the same period.

## Euro slips

AFP, London

The euro eased Thursday against the dollar as investors awaited an interest rate announcement from the European Central Bank.

In London morning deals, the euro dipped to 1.4503 dollars, from 1.4509 late in New York on Wednesday.

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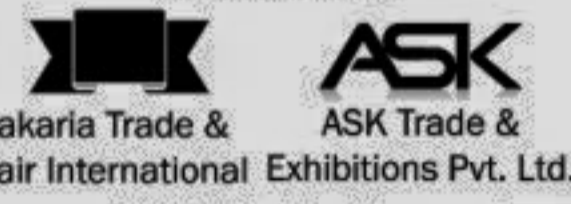
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In London morning deals, the euro dipped to 1.4503 dollars, from 1.4509 late in New York on Wednesday.

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## DAI CALL FOR RESUMES

### COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMME OPPORTUNITY IN BANGLADESH

DAI works at the cutting edge of international development, combining technical excellence, professional project management, and exceptional customer service to solve our clients' most complex problems. Since 1970, DAI has worked in 150 developing and transition countries, providing comprehensive development solutions in areas including crisis mitigation and stability operations, economic and democratic governance, public sector management, agriculture and agribusiness, private sector development and financial services, economics and trade, HIV/AIDS, avian influenza control, water and natural resources management, and energy and climate change. Clients include international development agencies, international lending institutions, private corporations and philanthropies, and host-country governments.

DAI is currently seeking to fill multiple positions to support an anticipated Community Legal Services Programme in Bangladesh. The objective of this programme is to increase access to accountable and speedy dispute resolution and legal services for the poor and vulnerable, particularly women, children, ethnic and religious minorities and marginalized communities.

Long- and short-term positions under the programme will be based mainly in Dhaka, Bangladesh and will be filled by experts in the following technical areas with the following skills:

- Legal Advisors
  - Knowledge of Bangladeshi legal and Judicial Systems
  - Experience of providing legal services to poor and marginalised groups
- Civil Society Advisors
  - Strong knowledge of Bangladeshi CSOs and networks
  - Understanding of the role CSOs play in service provision
  - Knowledge of the key regulatory issues pertaining to CSOs in Bangladesh
  - Understanding of the capacity constraint and strengths of CSOs
- Capacity Building Specialists/Trainers
  - Experience of developing skills within CSOs
  - Experience of conducting organisational needs assessments and designing organisational development strategies
- Social development advisors
  - Understanding of the specific issues encountered by marginalised groups in accessing legal services
  - Experience of working on gender and social development programmes on behalf of international donors
  - Experience working with policy makers and political parties to develop policy, particularly in the area of security and justice
- Public Advocacy Specialists
  - Experience of developing communications tools and strategies for the purpose developing public support for policy initiatives
  - Understanding of access to justice issues in Bangladesh
  - Experience of working with NGOs to influence public policy debate
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists
  - Experience of undertaking M&E activities on donor funded programmes

Previous experience working on donor funded projects, particularly with DFID, is also encouraged and we actively encourage applications from candidates with a mixtures of experiences outlined above. Of particular interest are individuals with extensive knowledge and experience working with NGOs in the area of legal service provision.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their resume by e-mail to: [CLSBangladesh@dai.com](mailto:CLSBangladesh@dai.com)

Application deadline: January 31, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. No phone inquiries, please. More information about DAI can be found on the DAI website ([www.dai.com](http://www.dai.com)).