

Transit promises to bring big opportunity to Bangladesh

Say ministers at workshop

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh could benefit by taking advantage from its geographic location, said top policymakers of the government, referring to the recent cooperation agreement with India on broad based issues including transit.

At a workshop in Dhaka yesterday, two ministers pointed out the advantage to make it a transit point for others in exchange for economic benefit and urged all not to create confusion over the issue.

"Transit can create a big opportunity for prosperity and development to Bangladesh," Finance Minister AMA Muhith said, suggesting that the country should take advantage of it through building bilateral and regional cooperation.

He said Bangladesh is by birth a transit country, while its geographic location has made it so since the thirteenth century.

Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) organised the workshop on 'Bangladesh: Accelerating Growth and Poverty Reduction through Regional Cooperation' at its office in the capital. PRI Vice Chairman Dr Sadiq Ahmed presented the keynote paper.

Former diplomats, economists and business leaders also took part in the discussion, moderated by eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman presented a paper titled 'Government Strategy for Regional Cooperation'.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, "It would be unfortunate if the advantageous geographic locations could not be utilised."

She also urged the civil society to work towards implementation of the agreement without serving the vested and political interests.

Dr Mashiur Rahman suggested a

holistic approach to understand the ultimate benefit of the agreement signed with India during the premier's recent visit to the next-door neighbouring country.

Dr Sadiq Ahmed said the biggest challenges for development of Bangladesh are raising per capita income, reducing high poverty rate and helping the vulnerable groups survive the onslaught of natural disaster.

He said inadequate energy, climate change, low skilled manpower and lack of competitiveness in trade stand in the way of development.

Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam, Executive Chairman of Board of Investment Dr SA Samad, former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, former finance adviser to a caretaker government Dr Mirza Azizul Islam, former foreign minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and former state minister for planning Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir were also present.



GM Quader, tourism minister, hands over a Tk 25,000 cheque to Nusrat Khan as the first prize in the Monitor-Malaysian Palm Oil Chef of the Year competition for 2009 at a ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Thursday. Jamaluddin bin Sabeh, Malaysian high commissioner to Bangladesh, and Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, are also seen.

Seminar stresses export diversity

Chittagong apparel fair ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a seminar in Chittagong yesterday stressed the need for proactive policies and capacity-building programmes to help diversify Bangladeshi apparel exports.

The seminar titled "Market Access and Product Diversification" was held at Chittagong Club Auditorium on the concluding day of the three-day Chittagong Apparel, Fabrics and Accessories Exposition, which was organised by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Awami League lawmakers Tofael Ahmed and Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury and BNP Chittagong City Unit President Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury were also present.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy presided over the seminar, where 1st Vice-President Nasiruddin Chowdhury made an address of welcome.

The speakers lauded the role of BGMEA in generating employment and contribut-

ing to the economy of the country.

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, senior research fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Sharmin Chowdhury, research associate of CPD, presented a keynote paper on least developed countries' market access to the rich world.

GTZ Programme Coordinator Dr Dietrich Stotz presented another keynote paper on increased business through capacity development.

The speakers observed that LDC exports are still confined to a limited number of countries and products.

Bangladesh could achieve spectacular growth in RMG exports where preferential market access to major markets was the major factor, while availability of workers, low wages, favourable government policies and a group of dynamic entrepreneurs were other factors contributing to achievement.

But the export structure

remained narrow and undiversified, both in terms of products and markets, said the speakers.

They referred to the new export policy order 2009-12 that re-emphasises increasing market and product diversification.

The government as well as private sector trade bodies should emphasise product development as per buyer requirements and focus efforts on seeking potential markets.

They observed that developed countries should take proactive policies towards product development in LDC quality improvement, strengthen compliances and maintain health and safety standards as per the buyer requirements.

The speakers also underscored the need for extending the initiative for capacity building programmes further towards the enhancement of exports of potential products to potential markets.

Later, a ceremony to wrap up the fair was held at the exposition venue -- CJKS Indoor Stadium.

Experts emphasise transport links for South Asia

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Experts have reiterated that regional transport connectivity in South Asia will make Bangladesh a business hub with enormous potential for trade in services of ports, rail and road.

South Asian countries are losing financially in absence of connectivity, they said at a roundtable discussion on 'Regional Connectivity and Opportunities for Bangladesh', organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) on its premises in the city.

"Trade in transport services will bring in a lot of resources to the country with charges for transit, port, road and rail facilities," said Dr. M Rahmatullah, a transport expert, while making a keynote presentation.

At present, transport connectivity in South Asia remains fragmented and a consignment from Delhi takes around 30 to 45 days to reach Dhaka with a detour of Mumbai, Singapore and Chittagong by sea, which costs 2500 US dollars, he said.

Whereas, it will reach Dhaka in around five days if there is direct rail link at a cost of 850 US dollars.

Regional and sub-regional connectivity by rail and road with India and landlocked Nepal and Bhutan will bring about a win-win situation for both Bangladesh and neighbouring countries, said Rahmatullah, a policy adviser of Transport Sector Management Reform of the Planning Commission.

However, it requires double tracking of the existing railway connection from Chittagong Port and development of high-speed national highways, added the former director (transport) of Escap in Bangkok.

Prof Nurul Islam Nazem, executive secretary of the Centre for Urban Studies, said regional transit is vital for economic and political leverage but it requires removal of Indo-Bangla mistrust.

Regional connectivity will not happen in isolated manner, said speakers, it should be addressed along with the issues of trade deficit, water sharing, tariff and non-tariff barriers with India.

According to Rahmatullah, regional connectivity will make Bangladesh a well-connected and open country with economic integration, greater regional trade and foreign direct investment.

Cross-border movement of goods under transit system is guided by bilateral contracts and international convention and it is not compromising with sovereignty, he said.



Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of Square Group, speaks at the annual sales conference of Square Toiletries Ltd at Tingacha in Pabna on Thursday. Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, managing director of Square Toiletries Ltd, handed over awards for the year 2009 on the occasion.

ANNUAL SALES CONFERENCE
Babur Bagan, Tingacha, Pabna
February 04, 2010

SQUARE TOILETRIES LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

This is for kind information of our esteemed Shareholders that the Securities and Exchange Commission has declared that the Shares of National Tea Company Limited will be settled through the Central Depository System (CDS) in Dematerialized (Demat) form with effect from Thursday, the 25th February '10 under the following time-table:

18th February '10 - Spot trading of National Tea Company Limited Shares on the Stock Exchange.

22nd February '10 - , 23rd February '10 and 24th February '10 - Trading of National Tea Company Limited shares suspended for 3(three) days.

25th February '10 - Startup of demat settlement of National Tea Company Limited shares traded on the Stock Exchanges.

Accordingly, from 25th February '10 onward, all transfer of shares of the Company will take place through the Central Depository System (CDS) operated by Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL). Shareholders will therefore be required to dematerialize (demat) their Share Certificates by opening a Beneficiary Owner (BO) Account in the CDS with any Depository participant (DP) in case of transfer of shares.

Investors who are holding the Company's shares without registration in their own names are requested to do it immediately.

Dated, Dhaka **M.NAUDEL KARIM KHAN**
4th February, 2010. **COMPANY SECRETARY**

IBRAHIM CARDIAC HOSPITAL & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

INVITATION FOR TENDER

01. Procuring Entity Name	Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute
02. Nomenclature of Tender	(1) GROUP-A: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of One Cardiac Echography System (Color Doppler Machine) with the facility of Multi Frequency Cardiac (Adult & Pediatric), Vascular, Carotid etc. (2) GROUP-B: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of One Exercise Tolerance Test (ETT) Machine (3) GROUP-C: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of One Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) Machine (4) GROUP-D: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Thirty (30) PCS of Syringe Pump with Standard Accessories
03. Invitation Ref. & Date	Ibrahim Cardiac/SC (February)/19/2010 dated 07 February 2010.
04. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
05. Budget & Source of Fund	Own Source of the Institute
06. Tender Package Number	Four Packages
07. Tender Schedule for Selling & Closing Date & Time	Tender schedule will be available from 17 February 2010 on all working day (9:00 AM to 12:00 PM) and last date of selling of tender schedules is on 09 March 2010 upto 12:00PM.
08. Tender Opening Date & Time	10 March 2010 at 12:30 PM (in presence of the tenderer's or their authorized agent, if there be any)
09. Place of Selling of the Tender Schedule	Cash Counter (3rd Floor), Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka
10. Address of the dropping of tender schedule	Corporate Office (5th Floor) Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka
11. Designation of official inviting tenders	Prof. Dr. M.A. Rashid Chief Executive Officer, Ibrahim Cardiac
12. Eligibility of Tenderers: (a) The tenderers should be manufacturer or their authorized supplier/distributor or dealer of the brand. (b) Tenderers shall have a minimum five (05) years of experience in the supplying of similar equipment in Bangladesh or in any country of Asia. (c) Tenderers shall submit their price quotation either for individual package or all packages and prices shall be quoted for 100% of the item and quantities specified for each package. (d) The tenderers shall have valid trade license, TIN, VAT & Income Tax Certificate and other conditions as mentioned in the Tender Document.	
13. Price of tender documents	Tk. 4,000.00 (Taka Four Thousand Only)
14. Tender Security	2% of quoted amount will be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Payment Order from any schedule commercial bank in favor of Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute
15. Time for completion of the supply	Three (03) months

Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute (Ibrahim Cardiac) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

Mirza F. Alamgir
Manager Supply Chain

Prof. Dr. M.A. Rashid
Chief Executive Officer

IFIC Bank 1st Mutual Fund

The 1st First-Generation Bank Sponsored Mutual Fund
Initial Public Offering (IPO) of IFIC Bank 1st Mutual Fund
The Abridged Version of the Prospectus was published in the daily Financial Express & Prothomalo on Jan. 11, 2010

SIZE OF THE FUND: Tk.1,200,000,000 divided into 120,000,000 units at par value of Tk. 10 each
SPONSOR'S CONTRIBUTION: 25,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 250,000,000
PRE IPO PLACEMENT: 55,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 550,000,000
PUBLIC OFFER: 40,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 400,000,000
RESERVED FOR MUTUAL FUNDS: 4,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 40,000,000
NON RESIDENT BANGLADESHIS: 4,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 40,000,000
RESIDENT BANGLADESHIS: 32,000,000 Units of Tk. 10 each at par for Tk. 320,000,000

SPONSOR IFIC BANK LIMITED	FUND MANAGER RACE Management PCL	TRUSTEE & CUSTODIAN Investment Corporation of Bangladesh
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The Schedule for receiving Initial Public Offering (IPO) Units Application Forms

	For Resident Bangladeshi	For Non-Resident Bangladeshi (By hand)
Date & Time	Feb. 07, 2010 to Feb. 11, 2010	Feb. 07, 2010 to Feb. 11, 2010 (09:00 AM to 04:00 PM)
Venue	Bankers to the Issue as mentioned in application Form	Dhaka Zilla Krira Sangstha, Jheelper Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. Instead of Company's Head office.

Note: For NRB Applicant Application shall be sent by the applicant directly to the RACE Management PCL within February 11, 2010, so as to reach the Asset Management Company within February 20, 2010. No Application sent after February 11, 2010 or received by the RACE Management PCL after February 20, 2010 will be considered for allotment purpose.

The following Banks and Branches are authorized to receive subscription:

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB)

1. Head Office, NSC Tower, Dhaka	2. Local Office, Naya Paltan, Dhaka	3. Chittagong Branch, Agrabah, Chittagong	4. Rajshahi Branch, Shaheb Bazar, Rajshahi	5. Khulna Branch, Shilpa Bank, Bhaban, Khulna	6. Barisal Branch, Hemayet Uddin Road, Barisal	7. Sylhet Branch, Jail Road, Sylhet	8. Bogra Branch, Baragola, Bogra	9. Dhaka Bank Limited	10. Local Office, Motijheel, Dhaka	11. Bhaban Branch, Dhaka	12. Foreign Exchange Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka	13. Amin Bazar Branch, Savar, Dhaka	14. Imamgonj Branch, Dhaka	15. Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka	16. Islami Banking Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka	17. Islampur Branch, Dhaka	18. Karwanbazar Branch, Dhaka	19. Lalbagh Branch, Dhaka	20. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	21. Agrabah Branch, Chittagong	22. Sylhet Branch, Sylhet	23. Jubilee Road Branch, Chittagong	24. Khasungonj Branch, Chittagong	25. Cox's Bazaar Branch, Cox's Bazaar	26. Truist Bank Limited	27. Principal Branch, Dhaka	28. SEB Branch, Dhaka	29. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	30. Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka	31. Gulshan Branch, Dhaka	32. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	33. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	34. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	35. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	36. Khulna Branch, Khulna	37. Feni Branch, Feni	38. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	39. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	40. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	41. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	42. Khulna Branch, Khulna	43. Feni Branch, Feni	44. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	45. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	46. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	47. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	48. Khulna Branch, Khulna	49. Feni Branch, Feni	50. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	51. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	52. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	53. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	54. Khulna Branch, Khulna	55. Feni Branch, Feni	56. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	57. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	58. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	59. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	60. Khulna Branch, Khulna	61. Feni Branch, Feni	62. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	63. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	64. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	65. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	66. Khulna Branch, Khulna	67. Feni Branch, Feni	68. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	69. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	70. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	71. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	72. Khulna Branch, Khulna	73. Feni Branch, Feni	74. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	75. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	76. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	77. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	78. Khulna Branch, Khulna	79. Feni Branch, Feni	80. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	81. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	82. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	83. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	84. Khulna Branch, Khulna	85. Feni Branch, Feni	86. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	87. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	88. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	89. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	90. Khulna Branch, Khulna	91. Feni Branch, Feni	92. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	93. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	94. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	95. Narayanganj Branch, Narayanganj	96. Khulna Branch, Khulna	97. Feni Branch, Feni	98. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong	99. Mirpur Branch, Dhaka	100. Khatuonj Branch, Chittagong
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RACE Management PCL
Registered Office: Akram Tower (7th floor), Suite G3, 199 Shahed Syed Nazrul Islam Sarani (Old: 15/5, Bijoy Nagar), Dhaka-1000
Phone: +88 02 9360024, 9346005 Fax: +88 02 9338757, E-mail: info@racebd.com Web: www.racebd.com

Software expo kicks off Wednesday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's biggest software and information technology exposition will start at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on February 10.

Habibullah N Karim, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), announced the five-day SOFTEXPO-2010 at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

In association with the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, BASIS will organise the event with the theme 'Digital Bangladesh in Action'.

"Around 150 local and international companies are expected to participate in the fair, and we expect two lakh visitors this year," said Karim.

"We hope SOFTEXPO will be an internationally recognised regional event in three years."

More than 20 seminars and workshops will be arranged as part of the event scheduled to be inaugurated by AMA Muhith, finance minister.

The fair will have six specialised zones, including outsourcing, business, multimedia and animation to cater to customers.

"The event will create wide scope for interaction among software providers, buyers, IT users, professionals, media, policymakers, development partners and students," said Mubin Khan, director of BASIS.

Banglalion will let visitors browse the internet for free under a hi-speed WiFi zone.

A Towhid, chairman of National Events Committee, was also present.

Students can enter the fair for free from 10am to 5pm while the regular entry fee will be Tk 20.