

Seminar stresses legal framework for e-commerce

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Absence of any legal support has kept away Bangladesh's SME (small and medium enterprise) sector from adopting information technology. Although some big enterprises are becoming tech-friendly, as observed by speakers at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

As there is no legal framework on how e-commerce users will settle if any dispute arises during online transactions, stakeholders are in dilemma about the prospect of online-based business.

However from the government side, Industries Minister Dilip Barua assured his audience at the function of enactment of a law for proper utilisation of online transaction through e-commerce, which is expected to launch by mid-2010.

He also said, "Banks should think about whether they lend software

makers at zero to 2 percent interest."

The central bank already gave directives to banks and other related bodies to introduce e-commerce, liming transaction inside the country.

But making technology a user-friendly one for more than seven lakh SMEs could be a challenge, as small entrepreneurs have no clear idea about what benefits they are likely to get by adopting online payment system.

"Weak integration of information and communication technology with business process is a big challenge in Bangladesh," said M. Rokonuzzaman, associate professor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Independent University Bangladesh.

Rokonuzzaman made his presentation at the seminar on 'e-Commerce Readiness for SMEs,' jointly organised by Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) and SME Foundation on the sidelines of Softexpo-2010 at Bangabandhu

International Conference Centre.

BASIS President Habibullah N Karim chaired the seminar.

Zeeshan Mahbub, joint secretary general of BASIS, raised the legal aspect and said, "Before introducing e-commerce, we have to have a legal framework that can help settle any dispute during online transaction through e-commerce system."

More than 90 percent entrepreneurs belong to the SME sector. "Unless making them technology-friendly, we cannot achieve something big by introducing e-commerce," said Aftab ul Islam, chairman, SME Foundation.

He said to become a paperless society, digital signature has to be introduced as soon as possible.

The industries minister said, "The government will take steps to formulate laws regarding e-commerce". Setting up of a SME IT park is also under government's consideration, Dilip Barua added.



Abdullah Al Mosaddeque, executive director of Apex Adelchi Footware Ltd, inaugurates the company's Mirpur branch in Dhaka recently.

Potato price-drop worries Rajshahi farmers

UNB, Rajshahi

Potato growers of the district are worried as the price of the vegetable continued to fall in the beginning of the season.

Farmers have been apprehending losses from the cultivation as potato now is selling at Tk 8-9 a kg in the local markets.

Raisuddin, a farmer of

Kanisahar village of Bagmara upazila, said, "We will not even get our production cost if the potato price doesn't rise."

Farmers cultivated potato on vast tracts of land in the district this season, as they earned windfall profit from potato cultivation last year.

The Department of Agricultural Extension

sources here said some 37,340 hectares of land were brought under potato cultivation this year against 28,570 hectares a year ago.

Farmers achieved bumper potato production this season due to favourable weather.

When contacted, Abdul Aziz, a farmer of Puthia upazila, said he had cultivated potato on 10 bighas

of land. Although he got bumper potato production, he could not recoup the production cost by selling potatoes in the markets.

Md Akkas Ali, a farmer of Chandpur village in Mohonpur upazila, said he has cultivated potato on 90 bighas of land and is passing days with anxiety as its price has decreased abnormally.

China's economic rise has silver lining for Japan

AFP, Tokyo

China is on the verge of unseating Japan as the world's number two economy, but student Shi Minfei is one reason why Beijing's rapid growth is not all bad news for its deflation-hit neighbour.

With Japan's consumers keeping a tight hold on their purse strings, leaving the country as reliant as ever on exports, Chinese tourists like Shi are a rare example of good news for the country's long-suffering retailers.

The 20-year-old engineering student from Shanghai said she had splurged about 300,000 yen (3,300 dollars) on clothing, bags, shoes and cosmetics during her visit to Japan.

"I'm going mostly to shopping malls," Shi said as she hopped aboard a tour bus in downtown Tokyo, adding

that the Japanese capital still has an edge over Shanghai when it comes to splashing cash.

Another visitor, a 42-year-old housewife from Beijing, said she had spent 200,000 yen on "Gundam" combat robot toys for her 12-year-old son, out of a shopping budget for the trip of up to 500,000 yen.

It is a welcome boost for a Japanese economy that has suffered two decades of malaise after its stock market and real estate bubble burst in the early 1990s, ushering in years of deflation and sluggish economic growth.

Government data due out on Monday are expected to show Japan's economy suffered a brutal contraction in 2009, possibly as much as six percent, leaving its status as the world's second largest economy hanging in the balance.

Average income per person in urban China was less than 3,000 dollars in 2009, still a far cry from nearly 48,000 dollars for a Japanese salaried worker, official figures show.

Even if Japan kept its number two rank last year, economists say it is inevitable it will soon be overtaken by China, which has a population of more than 1.3 billion and an economy that grew a blistering 8.7 percent last year.

While its relegation in the global economic rankings will be a blow to Japan's prestige, its economy might be in an even worse state if it were not for the boom in China, now its biggest trading partner and top export market.

With markets in Japan, North America and Europe in the doldrums, Japan's top carmakers and other manufacturers are increasingly relying on emerging economies including China.



Barrister Fazle Noor Tapash MP and Abdullah-al-Islam Jacob MP inaugurate the second branch of Fridays Fast Food at Dhanmondi in Dhaka recently.



Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of MIDAS Financing Ltd, presides over the inaugural ceremony of the company's booth office at Madhabdi in Narshindi recently. Shafique-ul-Azam, managing director (current charge), was also present.



Md Nazrul Islam

New chairman for Fareast Islami Life Ins

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd elected Md Nazrul Islam as its president, says the insurer in a statement.

Nazrul, one of the founder directors of the insurance company, is also the vice-chairman of Intimate Properties and Just International School and College, managing director of Surmi Cold Storage Ltd, and the secretary of Aziz Cooperative Society Ltd.

The election, which took place at the insurer's 128th board meeting, also elected M Tajul Islam as vice-chairman, Iffat Jahan as executive committee chairman, MA Khaleque as audit board committee chairman, Md Helal Miah, policy and claims sub-committee chairman, and Md Mokaddes Hossain as investment and real estate development sub-committee chairman, added the release.



Uttara Bank gets new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Fazlur Rahman has been promoted to deputy managing director of Uttara Bank Limited, the bank said in a statement.

Rahman, also the bank's former executive general manager, joined the bank as probationary officer in 1977.



New DMD for DBBL

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Sayedul Hasan joined Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) as deputy managing director on Thursday, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Hasan was in the same post at First Security Islami Bank for the last two years before joining DBBL.

He started his career with IFIC Bank in 1984 as probationary officer and later joined DBBL in 1996.

New industrial policy likely to be finalised by Feb: Barua

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday hinted that a new industrial policy is likely to be finalised this month for development of the industrial sector.

"A research and development cell of the industries ministry has been formed to provide necessary assistance identifying the existing impediments to industrialisation," the minister told a meeting of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industries (Ficci) in the city.

He hoped a visible development in the power and energy sector would take place soon with the initiatives taken by the govern-

ment.

Barua said the government is emphasising direct foreign investment to build Bangladesh into a medium industrialist country. "The government will ensure all-out measures to protect the investments of expatriate entrepreneurs."

Apart from generating power through coal-fired units, 250MW electricity would be imported soon from India to meet the power shortage, he said.

Ficci President AM Hamim Rahmatullah and General Secretary MA Matin and members Laurent Therond, M Abdul Awal, MN Alam, Nur Muhammad were present at the meeting.

The business leaders made recommendations on

increasing power and energy supply to boost direct investment, developing law and order and making coordinated industrial and financial policies.

They said the foreign investors are facing multifarious problems for frequent changing of financial guidelines.

The leaders also urged the government to keep the tax policy consistent and stable for at least five years for the sake of the foreign investments.

Drawing attention to the minister, they demanded re-fixing of weekly holidays on Saturday and Sunday instead of Friday and removing VAT from the commercial space for the foreign investors.

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Office of the Executive Engineer
Sales & Distribution Division
Kalurghat, Sunnia Madrasa Road
Bibirhat, BPDB, Chittagong
Phone: 031-682628

"বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রমী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

তারিখ: ০৯/০২/২০১০

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3. Procuring entity name	: Executive Engineer, S & D Division, Kalurghat, BPDB, Chittagong.
4. Procuring entity code	: N/A.
5. Procuring entity district	: Chittagong.
6. Invitation for	: বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, কালুরঘাট এর আওতাধীন চট্টগ্রাম ওয়াসা কর্তৃপক্ষের জন্য নির্মিত ১১ কেভি এলসেস ফিডারের সহিত ১০ (দশ) টি গভীর নলকূপের ১১ কেভি সংযোগ লাইন নির্মাণ (জমা ভিত্তিক) কাজ।
7. Estimated cost	: ২০,৭১,৪৩৩/৭০ টাকা।
8. Invitation Ref. No.	: 5.1477
9. Date	: 09/02/2010.
KEY INFORMATION	
10. Procurement	: Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
11. Budget and source of funds	: GOB.
12. Development partner	: N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
13. Project/programme code	: N/A.
14. Project/programme name	: S & D Division Kalurghat, BPDB, Chittagong.
15. Tender package No.	: N/A.
16. Tender package name	: Lot-1.
17. Tender publication date	: 09-02-2010.
18. Tender last selling date	: 10-03-2010.
19. Tender last receiving date	: 11-03-2010 at 12.00 noon.
20. Tender opening date & time	: 11-03-2010 at 12-30pm.
21. Name & address of the office Selling tender document	: 1) Chief Engineer, Southern Zone, BPDB, Chittagong. 2) Superintending Engineer, O & M Circle (East), BPDB, Chittagong. 3) Executive Engineer S & D Division, Kalurghat, BPDB, Chittagong. 4) Manager, Rupali Bank, Bibirhat Branch, Chittagong.
Receiving tender document	: 1) Executive Engineer, S & D Division, Kalurghat, BPDB, Chittagong.
22. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	: N/A.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER (IFT)	
23. Eligibility of tenderer	: Enlisted contractors of BPDB/govt/semi govt/autonomous public organizations having electrical ABC licensees, experienced of construction/renovation of 33/11/0.04 KV line's works as deposit & all tenderers those are qualified as per TDS.
24. Brief description of goods or works	: As mentioned in Sl. No. 26.
25. Price of tender document in Tk	: Tk. 1000 (one thousand) only (non-refundable) for each tender document in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Deputy Director, RAO, CES, BPDB, Chittagong.
26. Package/ Lot No.	Identification of lot/package Location Tender security amount Completion time in weeks/ months
1) PW-05	বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, কালুরঘাট এর আওতাধীন চট্টগ্রাম ওয়াসা কর্তৃপক্ষের জন্য নির্মিত ১১ কেভি এলসেস ফিডারের সহিত ১০ (দশ) টি গভীর নলকূপের ১১ কেভি সংযোগ লাইন নির্মাণ (জমা ভিত্তিক) বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, কালুরঘাট এর আওতাধীন মুরাদপুর ৩৩/১১ কেভি উপকেন্দ্রের ৮নং এলসেস ফিডার এবং কালুরঘাট ৩৩/১১ কেভি উপকেন্দ্রের ১৬ নং এর আওতাধীন 58000/- (fifty eight thousand) only 60 (sixty) days
27. Type of payment of tender security	: Pay Order/Bank Draft from schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Deputy Director, RAO, CES, BPDB, Chittagong.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
28. Name of the official inviting tender	: Engr. Uday Shekhar Dutta.
29. Designation of official inviting tender	: The Executive Engineer.
30. Address of official inviting tender	: Office of the Executive Engineer, S & D Kalurghat, Sunnia Madrasa Road, Bibirhat, Chittagong.
31. Contact detail of official inviting tender	: Tel No: 031-682628
32. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	