

Industry-friendly tax, tariff structure sought

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chamber leaders and industrialists yesterday called upon the government to formulate an industry-friendly tariff and tax structure in the upcoming national budget for fiscal 2010-2011.

They were speaking at a workshop on "Tariff and Non-tariff Structures in the Upcoming National Budget: Expectations in the Industrial Sector" with Industries Minister Dilip Barua in the chair at his secretariat in Dhaka.

M Anis Ud Dowla, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), termed the higher tariff and tax structures as the main obstacles to industrialisation in the country.

"If the government wants to increase revenue, it should also smooth the industrialisation process," the MCCI chief said.

He urged the government to increase gas and power supply to the industrial sector at any cost.

He also said the government should take a quick move to import electricity from India to meet the growing

demand for power in the industrial sector.

Aftab Ul Islam, president of American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AmCham) in Bangladesh, suggested the government rationalise duty on imports of spare parts of the electronics goods that are assembled in the country.

He also called upon the government to revive Progoti Motors, the state-owned vehicle assembling company, so dependency on imported vehicles is reduced.

"It's possible to save Tk 300 crore a year if Progoti is revived as, in that case, we will not need to import compressed natural gas (CNG)-run three-wheelers," the AmCham president said.

Abul Kashem Khan, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), stressed strengthening the tariff commission for better management of tariff structures to ensure growth in industrialisation.

"We need to increase value addition of jute as this product has a lot of export potential. But, we need adequate power and energy in the industrial

sector for achieving the expected economic goals," the DCCI president said.

He also recommended that the government import liquefied natural gas from India and reduce wastage in gas consumption by the state-owned power generating company, Power Development Board.

Manzur Ahmed, a representative from Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said the changes those the government wants should be positive.

"The government should launch safeguard measures to help grow the local industries," he said.

The government should prioritise micro-industrial sector, so industrialisation becomes sustainable, said Obaidur Rahman, a businessman from aluminium industry.

The industries minister asked the businesspeople to improve their efficiency and productivity, and said it is difficult to protect the local industries through imposing higher tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Barua said his ministry will arrange such workshops for the industrialists and chamber leaders on a regular basis.



New DMD for UCB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank (UCB) promoted Md Shahed Jalal Chowdhury as deputy managing director, the bank said in a statement.

At present, he heads the bank's internal control and compliance division.

With 30 years of banking experience, he started his career in 1979 as probationary officer of Pubali Bank Ltd.

Samsung's new mobile set hits market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Samsung Electronics yesterday launched GenoA, the newest member of the touch series mobile phones, at a function at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

"The set is specially designed to tempt the youngsters aged between 15 to 35," said KH Lee, managing director for Dhaka branch office of Samsung Electronics Co Ltd

A presentation at the launch depicted that with a single touch, one can easily navigate the 92-gram set's simplified menus to access the dedicated links for six social networking services

like Twitter, Facebook etc and many more.

By moving fingers through the 2.8" screen of the Samsung GenoA (C3510), priced Tk 9,990, left or right, a user can enjoy a three-page extended menu with different options.

The set has call conversation recording facility for one hour that helps people record their conversation, including all other common features. Its FM recording allows copying songs off the radio and even converting them to ring tones and alarm rings.

The mobile printing-enabled set has 32MB built-in memory with a special microSD card slot that is

expandable to 8GB and it has the ability to play music continuously for 25 hours.

With 3.5mm ear-jack in the set, one can now use their personal favourite headphones to check out the amazing musical experience delivered via Samsung's innovative Digital Natural Sound engine in a 3D ambience.

Yubeom Won, general manager of Samsung Electronics' Dhaka branch office, and Md Zakiullah Shahid, managing director, Electra Telecom (BD) Ltd the sole distributor of Samsung Mobile in Bangladesh, were also present on the occasion.

India's Reliance eyes new prey after Lyondell snub

AFP, Mumbai

Indian energy giant Reliance Industries will look for other global acquisitions after being snubbed by Rotterdam-based takeover target LyondellBasell, a company source told AFP Tuesday.

Bankrupt Lyondell rejected Reliance's 14.5-billion-dollar bid on Monday, saying it had opted to follow through on its own restructuring plan instead.

A deal would have created one of the world's biggest petrochemical groups and its failure is a blow to Reliance owner Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man, who plans to turn the India-focused cash-rich group into an international giant.

"Lyondell made it clear that they were not interested in our bid. It is time to look ahead for other global acquisitions," a source at Reliance said on condition of anonymity. "We will consider all options."



Jamil Ahamed Khan, executive chairman of Bepza, and Martin Trust, president of Brandot International USA, exchange documents after signing a lease agreement in Dhaka recently. The leased plot in Adamjee EPZ will be used to set up a joint venture company -- T&S Buttons Bangladesh Ltd from T&S Buttons HongKong and Ananta Group.

Minister sees brighter days for RMG

UNB, Dhaka

Textile and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui said yesterday there is a huge potential for the country's readymade garments and textile sectors as China is shifting focus to hi-tech from RMG and textile.

"China is putting more emphasis on hi-tech than RMG and textile. We can avail ourselves of this advantage."

The minister made the remarks while addressing a seminar on 'Italian Textile

Technology', organised by Italian Trade Commission (ICE), at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Italian Ambassador to Dhaka Itala Maria Occhi, ICE representative Erica Di Giovancarlo, President of Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers Sandro Salmoiraghi and President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Abdul Hai Sarkar also spoke.

An Italian business delegation came to Bangladesh on Monday on a three-day visit aimed at offering Italian

new technology to Bangladeshi companies and boost exports of Italian textile machinery.

Abdul Latif Siddiqui said Bangladesh could meet demand for machinery and accessories for RMG and textile and develop the sectors by maintaining good business links with Italy. The country has been using Italian products for long.

Salmoiraghi said Bangladesh is the third largest market for Italian textile machinery and accessories.

Hong Kong council to host trade fairs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council is set to host seven international trade fairs in Hong Kong in the next eight months.

The council aims to offer trading opportunities to vendors and buyers from countries like Bangladesh as they have significant trade potential with Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong's intrinsic geographic, economic, political and social competitiveness makes it the best trade destination for Bangladeshi companies," said the

council's Sales Manager Candy Kwan at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

The seven trade fairs are Hong Kong International Home Textiles Fair, Hong Kong Houseware Fair, Hong Kong Fashion Week for Spring/Summer, Hong Kong International Tea Fair, Food Expo, Hong Kong International Printing and Packaging Fair and Eco Expo Asia.

The first two fairs will be held on April 20-23, while the third, fourth and fifth fairs will continue from July 5-8, August 12-14 and August 12-16

respectively.

The sixth event will start on April 27-30 and the seventh one will take place on November 3-6.

In terms of trade between Hong Kong and Bangladesh, fabric is an important item, said Kwan. "Thus, we encourage Bangladeshi companies to come to the inaugural Hong Kong International Textiles Fair as well as to the Fashion week."

"Bangladeshi tea planters can take advantage of the Tea Fair to promote their tea and explore business opportunities in the international market. Printers and publish-

ers in the country can participate in the Printing and Packaging Fair," she added.

The show organisers said the total trade value between the two nations reached \$710 million in 2009, while bilateral trade value recorded a 1.4 per cent increase in January 2010 over the same period last year.

Fairs in Hong Kong present opportunities for companies in Bangladesh to find quality products, gain market intelligence, make alliances and business contacts for expansion and development into new markets, Kwan added.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, second from right, founder and chairperson of Brac, speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday while Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, extreme left, chairman of BRAC Bank Ltd, Luis Felipe Derteano, second from left, president of Grupo ACP from Peru, and Laurie J Spengler, right, president of ShoreBank International, look on.

Banking alliance vows to reach 1b people by 2020

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) yesterday vowed to reach banking services to one billion people by 2020.

The GABV, an alliance of 11 global banks and microfinance institutions, made the pledge, marking the close of its second meeting in Dhaka. The members brainstormed in a three-day conference to build a viable financial industry.

Representing seven million customers in 20 countries, the GABV members said the alliance would be able to reach one billion people as they think more banks will join the network in the years to come.

"The reason we have planned to do that is we feel that this type of banking needs to grow. We also plan to grow in terms of size," said Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, co-founder of the GABV, at a press conference at Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

He also expected that more banks would join the

alliance of 'sustainable value-based bankers'.

"Hopefully, by 2020 we will have 100 members," he said.

"So our calculation is based on reasonable assumptions and I think we can reach the target of touching one billion people," said Abed at the press meet organised to share the outcomes of the GABV meeting that ended on Monday.

Laurie J Spengler, president of ShoreBank International of USA, Luis Felipe Derteano, president of Grupo ACP of Peru, and Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chairman of BRAC Bank, also spoke at the briefing.

Launched in March 2009, the banking alliance held its second meeting in Dhaka. At the conference, the members of the alliance, having a combined balance sheet of over \$14 billion, focused on working together to help grow sustainable banking and increase its impact globally.

It also stressed joint capital raising efforts and

building an infrastructure to support the development of a new generation of sustainable bankers.

The alliance members have also planned to promote and demonstrate the impacts of business models, which focus on solutions to the world's most urgent social and environmental problems, the press conference was told.

In September 2009, the GABV made a commitment of raising \$250 million to support the Clinton Global Initiative. Former US president Bill Clinton established the CGI in 2005 to turn ideas into action and help the world move beyond the current state of globalisation to a more integrated global community of shared benefits, responsibilities and values.

Abed said the target to raise \$250 million fund has already been in sight. Out of the commitment, \$140 million will be raised from Europe, while more than \$100 million will be from the US, he added.

"I think attaining the

target will not be a problem," he said. "Once the GABV is well-known and become a world player, it will be easier to raise funds. We are really upbeat in terms of prospects of this alliance."

Asked why investors will put their money to support sustainable banks, Laurie J Spengler said investors have already started supporting the GABV activities as they take care of value of their returns focusing on more financial returns with powerful development returns.

"Moreover as we look at the landscape globally in response to the crisis and reassessment of the root of the crisis, we believe there is opportunity to work with new investors who are looking for opportunity for sustainable returns," she added.

"It's beyond monetary returns and they look at how their money is being utilised to improve the lives of other people of the planet."

Euro slips

AFP, London

The euro fell against the dollar in European deals on Tuesday as investors awaited fresh details on Greece's plans to resolve the nation's debt crisis, analysts said.

In morning deals here, the European single currency slid to 1.3592 dollars from 1.3631 dollars late in New York on Monday.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar sank to 89.76 yen from 90.27 yen on Monday.

Persistent uncertainty over Greece's debt crisis weighed on European currencies as investors waited for specific measures on tackling the eurozone member's public deficit woes, dealers said.

Traders were cautious before talks between Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou and US President Barack Obama, after the Greek leader raised concerns that speculators were undermining efforts to overcome a debt crisis.

Papandreou urged the United States to crack down on currency speculators amid reports that some US funds have placed big bearish bets against the euro.

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বিষয় বা কাজের নাম: ক) প্রস্তাবিত নগরপাড়া Rental Power Plant (RPP) হইতে নগরপাড়া ১৩২/৩০ কেভি বিদ্যুৎ উপকেন্দ্র পর্যন্ত ১৩২ কেভি পোল লাইন নির্মাণ কাজ। খ) নগরপাড়া ১৩২/৩০ কেভি বিদ্যুৎ উপকেন্দ্র বে-সম্পন্নকার্য কাজ।

২। বায়না বা আমানত: ক) কাজের জন্য টাকা ১,৮০,০০০/- এবং খ) কাজের জন্য টাকা ৭৫,০০০/- মাত্র, যে কোন তফসীলি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুমতিতে দেয়া।

৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ: ক) মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকল্প), রেজিষ্টারসহ কনকর্ট টাওয়ার (৭ম তলা), ১৭, মহাশালা, ঢাকা। খ) প্রকল্প পরিচালক, প্রকল্প-২, পিজিসিবি, বড়ি-৬, রোড নং-২০/৫, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২। গ) নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।

৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য: ক) কাজের জন্য টাকা ২,০০০/- এবং খ) কাজের জন্য টাকা ১,০০০/- মাত্র (অনেকতমোধ্য) পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুমতিতে তফসীলি ব্যাংক এর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দেয়া।

৫। ঠিকাদানের যোগ্যতা: ক) কাজের জন্য (১) পিজিসিবিতে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অথবা বিউবো/ডিপিডি/ডেসকো এর ১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং এভিসি ইলেকট্রিক্যাল লাইসেন্সধারী। (২) ১৩২ কেভি সফলান লাইন এবং তদূর্ধ্ব ভোল্টেজ লাইনের টাওয়ার নির্মাণ, Testing & Commissioning কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে এবং স্বপক্ষে মূল সনদ থাকিতে হইবে। (৩) কমপক্ষে ২০,০০,০০০/- টাকার অনুরূপ কাজের সম্ভাব্যজনক কার্য সম্পাদনের সনদ পর থাকিতে হইবে।

খ) কাজের জন্য (১) পিজিসিবিতে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অথবা বিউবো/ডিপিডি/ডেসকো এর ১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং এভিসি ইলেকট্রিক্যাল লাইসেন্সধারী। (২) ন্যূনতম ১৩২/৩০ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র বা তদূর্ধ্ব ভোল্টেজ লাইনের টাওয়ার নির্মাণ, Testing & Commissioning কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে এবং স্বপক্ষে মূল সনদ থাকিতে হইবে। (৩) কমপক্ষে ২০,০০,০০০/- টাকার অনুরূপ কাজের সম্ভাব্যজনক কার্য সম্পাদনের সনদ পর থাকিতে হইবে।

৬। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ৫/৪/২০১০ ইং বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা।

৭। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান: ৬/৪/২০১০ ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা অবধি নং ৩-এ উল্লিখিত যে কোন দপ্তরে দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৮। দরপত্র খাম বোলায় তারিখ ও সময়: ৬/৪/২০১০ ইং দুপুর ১২:১৫ ঘটিকায় নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে সকল দরপত্র একত্র করিয়া দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে, যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন সকল দরপত্রের খাম খোলা হইবে।

৯। দরপত্র গ্রহণের পূর্বে দপ্তর প্রধানের নিকট ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্তির ও মালিকানা দলিল, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, আয়করের হালনাগাদ সার্টিফিকেট, VAT রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স প্রদর্শন এবং দপ্তর প্রধানের অনুমতি গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে প্রযোজ্য হইবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা পিজিসিবি কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করে।

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আইয়ুব হক, উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
মেম্বারসিটি-আমিনাবাজার ৪০০ কেভি সফলান লাইন প্রকল্প
পিজিসিবি, ৮০, মহাশালা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২।