

BEA asks govt to keep promise to cut graft

Organisation rolls out budget proposals

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The government is falling short of its target to curb corruption, in line with its promise in the election manifesto, said the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) chief yesterday.

BEA President Abul Barkat urged the government to take measures to make public the wealth statements of ministers and bureaucrats.

"We want the government to make the statements public shortly after the budget for fiscal 2010-11," said Barkat.

The organisation has put forward its recommendations to the government ahead of the national budget for the next fiscal year.

In its 73-point proposal, BEA emphasised the power sector, rural economy, agriculture and social safety. It asked the government to remove

scope for people to legalise undisclosed money and opposed any move to take primary and secondary education as well as primary healthcare under public private partnership (PPP).

On the poor implementation of the annual development programme (ADP), BEA stressed steps to fast-track implementation.

BEA observed that some provisions in the public procurement rules (PPR), red tape and lack of participation by local government and people set back ADP implementation.

"One of the main barriers to ADP implementation is PPR," said Barkat.

It also suggested the government give reports on infrastructure projects including Padma Bridge, Karnaphuli Bridge, four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway and an elevated expressway in Dhaka.

Barkat said the government should

attach importance to PPP to attract large investments to develop infrastructure.

"But we think primary and secondary education as well as primary health care should not be brought under PPP. These are the constitutional responsibilities of the state," said Barkat.

BEA suggested the government take steps to cut regional disparity, encourage investment and reduce the costs of doing business.

It made a proposal to strike a balance between monetary and fiscal policies and raise supplementary duty on imports to cushion domestic industries against competition.

"Those who are telling us to liberalise our market are yet to liberalise theirs. We will open up our market if you (developed countries) fully liberalise your labour markets," he said.



NCC Bank Chairman Yakub Ali Montu and Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman cut a cake at the 17th anniversary of NCC Bank at Golf Garden in Dhaka recently. NCC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Nurul Amin is also seen.

Electro Mart launches sales campaign

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Electro Mart Ltd, an importer and marketer of electronic home appliances, has launched a new campaign for the upcoming FIFA World Cup Football 2010, the company said in a statement yesterday.

Under the campaign, Konkra-Haiko Striking, customers will get a scratch card against every purchase of a Konkra or Haiko television and fridge and can get gifts such as motorcycle, fridge, microwave oven, mobile phone, and bread toaster or discount up to 100 percent.

The offer will be valid at the showrooms and dealer sales centres of Konkra.

Faruk courts greater Malaysian investment

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan has called upon Malaysian investors to undertake new investment ventures in the country's fast growing manufacturing, services and infrastructure sectors, according to a message received yesterday.

The minister made the plea while addressing the Sixth World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

Khan said Malaysia is the fifth largest investor in Bangladesh after Norway, UK, USA and South Korea. There is enough scope for further investment although some 70 Malaysian companies have already invested in Bangladesh, he added.

"Relocation of labour-intensive industries such as textile and accessories, furniture processing, and agro-processing from Malaysia to Bangladesh might be the most promising options," Khan said.

He also said investment in the service sectors like tourism, healthcare and infrastructures like toll roads, bridges, power and gas generation could also be an attraction to Malaysian investors.

Khan said he expects Bangladesh would attain a high rate of economic development making Bangladesh a middle-income country by 2021 on the golden jubilee of its independence.

"The Bangladesh government looks forward to expand its export basket and invite more foreign direct investments."

Faruk Khan said that the country's GDP grew 5.9 percent in 2008-09 and the current budget forecasts a 5.5 percent annual growth for 2009-10.

"Apart from GDP, other key economic variables have shown minimal fluctuations in recent months, when most of the Asian

economies registered negative growth."

He said the country's imports and exports expanded by 4.06 percent and 10.31 percent compared to 2007-08 while the textile and readymade garment sector projected a lower growth.

Sectors leaders expect that within the next five years, Bangladesh exports in textile and RMG will be around \$20-25 billion as her competitors are losing their edge due to higher labour cost and Bangladeshi improvisation in the quality and marketing.

He said remittance is the second-most important source of foreign exchange earnings after textiles. "We expect around \$12 billion earnings from remittances this year."

The Bangladesh minister said Chittagong port could easily serve as an entry port and business gateway to South Asia, especially for Nepal, Bhutan, seven northeast Indian states (Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura) and Myanmar.

"Bangladesh's trade with OIC member countries still remains insignificant, at \$3.1 billion (export of \$600 million with import of \$2.5 billion) for 2008-09."

Besides, foreign investment is also desired for high technology products to help import substitution or industries that will be labour and technology intensive.

Infrastructure development is another area where Bangladesh requires a massive investment apart from electricity generation.

"Bangladesh also wants to improve its rail transportation, widen its national highways and modernise operations of its two seaports at Chittagong and Mongla to facilitate its cargo movements," he added.

The commerce minister also invited the Malaysians for visiting Bangladesh with a multi-sector business delegation and to evaluate the investment potentials in the country.



Md Abdur Rahman Sarker, managing director of National Bank Ltd, hands over a certificate to one of the participants of a foundation course for the bank's probationary officers in Dhaka recently.

Easy loans for agri-tool makers demanded

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should provide soft loan and mid-term credit facilities for the entrepreneurs engaged in manufacturing agri-tools and machinery, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

They also demanded that Bogra and Jessore be declared a special 'agri-tools production zone' as the districts make 70 percent of the total agricultural machinery in the country. Now the size of the industry is Tk 5,000 crore annually.

They said the agriculture sector is booming and the size of the agri-

machinery market has increased three folds in the last five years. Most of such machinery are made locally, they added.

They were speaking on the seminar on 'Engineering Interventions for Sustainable Agricultural Development of Bangladesh' organised by Agricultural Engineering Divisional Committee in Dhaka.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the banking facilities for the farmers and the agri-tools producers should increase.

"The farmers should take the banking facilities the government has tailored for them. They have to

be used to proper banking," she said while speaking as the chief guest.

The minister said the government has taken a pilot project and is giving 25 percent subsidy to the farmers to help them purchase machinery under the project.

Also, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will help the farmers get loans, she added.

Md Manjurul Alam, who presented the keynote paper at the seminar, said most of the centrifugal pumps being used in shallow tube wells and low-lift pumps are manufactured in the country.

He said paddy and wheat threshing machines, maize shellers, sprayers, weeders, and spare parts are also made locally.

There are around 50 foundries, 500 agri-machinery manufacturing workshops, 450 spare parts making units and 1,000 repair and maintenance workshops in the country, Alam said.

He recommended policy options for removal of multiple VAT (value added tax) on imported raw materials and strengthening regulations to stop illegal hoarding of raw materials for the growth of agri-machinery sub-sector.



Yasir Azman, director for sales of Grameenphone Ltd, and Shaheen Khan, chief operating officer of Meena Bazar, sign an agreement in Dhaka recently. The superstore chain will showcase products and services of the mobile operator through all outlets.

Emirates signs content deal with Travelport

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates Airline and global distribution system (GDS) provider Travelport signed a global content deal to provide the access to all Galileo, Apollo and Worldspan-connected travel agents to the airline's full inventory of flights and fares, said a handout of Emirates recently.

Bryan Conway, president and managing director for Middle East and Africa of Travelport GDS, and Nabil Sultan, divisional senior vice-president for revenue optimisation and distribution of Emirates, signed the deal in Dubai.

"We have worked hard with Emirates to reach a cost-effective deal that will truly benefit our customers worldwide," said Conway.

The five-year deal ensures rate parity for Travelport's extensive worldwide network of travel agency users, providing them with access to the most up-to-date routes and fares from Emirates, including the airline's web fares.

"This deal continues on our strategy of securing full content programmes across the globe and demonstrates the continued value of our distribution channel."

Travelport is represented by Galileo Bangladesh Ltd, a sister concern of MGH Group, in Bangladesh.



Tasbirul Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman and managing director of United Airways, and Kazi Wahidul Alam, chief operating officer of Interface Communications, sign an agreement in Dhaka on Sunday. Interface will publish an in-flight magazine for the airline.

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়
শেরে বাংলা নগর
ঢাকা-১২০৭
নং-নিকস/সা-১/অকেজো/১(১)/২০০৯/১৪২ তারিখঃ ১৭ মে ২০১০

পুরাতন গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়ের অকেজো ঘোষিত ৩৩টি গাড়ি (মাইক্রো-২ ও কার-১) [বর্তমানে নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয় চত্তরে আছে] নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে এতদ্বারা ইচ্ছুক ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট-এর মাধ্যমে নিলামস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে দরপত্রে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১৫% টাকা জামানত/আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসাবে অবশ্যই জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ১০-০৬-২০১০ইং বেলা ১২-০০টা পর্যন্ত নিলামস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস কক্ষের সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে এবং ঐদিন বেলা ১২-১০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। নগদ ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য) আগামী ০৯-০৬-২০১০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্র সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি থাকবে।

গাড়ির বিবরণ	৪৩০২-মাইক্রো	০৫৫৭-মাইক্রো	২৮৩২-কার
প্রস্তুতকাল	১৯৯৪	১৯৯৬	১৯৯৪
মডেল নং	৯৪	৯৬	৯৪
চ্যাসিস নং	WHGE24-015968	CHZP13WTA-00355	C96SNRSB-762037
ইঞ্জিন নং	Z20-896407	4663SU-1353	4G13P-CX1043
সিলিভারের সংখ্যা	৪ (চার)	৪ (চার)	৪ (চার)
ইঞ্জিন সিসি	২০০০ সিসি	২০০০ সিসি	১৩০০ সিসি
আসন সংখ্যা	১৪ (চৌদ্দ) চালকসহ	১২ (বার) চালকসহ	০৫ (পাঁচ) চালকসহ
দরজা	০২ (দুই)	০২ (দুই)	০৪ (চার)
রং	সাদা	সাদা	সাদা

মোঃ আবুল কাসেম
উপ-সচিব (স্বাধারণ)
নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
জিডি-২৪০৯

Biman teams up with SITA on service upgrade

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and SITA, a specialist in air transport communications and IT solutions, have signed a deal to improve facilities at the country's two international airports, according to a statement.

The airports are Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong and Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

Damina Kickey, regional vice president for South Asia of SITA, said they have introduced both 2D bar coded boarding passes and the capability to use RFID for baggage management.

"We upgraded and automated the passenger services to international standards making it much more attractive to fly to the two important destinations."

Muhammad Zakiul Islam, chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said SITA would assist Biman to materialise the government's digital vision for 2021.

"Passengers will now receive world-class treatment as they check-in as the process has been automated to the highest possible degree."

SITA's airport connect check-in platform has been running successfully since 2003 for both the national airline and foreign carriers at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka that handles almost two million passengers a year.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
"সময়মত পৌরকর পরিশোধ করুন"
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত করদাতাদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, হোল্ডিং করসহ অন্যান্য পৌরকর যেমন- ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ফিস, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন মালিকানাধীন দোকান ভাড়া ও সালামী পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে ৮ মে, ২০১০খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০ জুন, ২০১০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবস ছাড়াও সাপ্তাহিক সরকারি ছুটির দিন শনিবার সকাল ৯-০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের রাজস্ব বিভাগের ১০টি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়সহ নগর ভবনস্থ প্রধান কার্যালয়ের রাজস্ব বিভাগের শাখা অফিসসমূহ খোলা থাকবে।

২। উল্লেখ্য যে, বর্তমানে কর বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী ক্রোকের মাধ্যমে বকেয়া কর আদায়ের প্রক্রিয়া চলমান রয়েছে। ক্রোকের মত অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত কার্যক্রম এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে খেলাপী করদাতাগণকে নিজ নিজ হোল্ডিংয়ের পৌরকরসহ অন্যান্য কর পরিশোধের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

সচিব
ডিসি/পিআরডি/৪৩৬/০৯-১০
জিডি-২৩৫৭
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন