

# Rajshahi rallies for tax

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Abdul Hai, a small cloth-shop owner in Rajshahi, has never submitted any income tax return since the mid-80s. He thought he was no longer running a profitable trade.

Hai, the president of Haragram Bazar Babosayee Samity, who had attended only primary school, believes only those who earn sizeable profits should open tax files.

On the other hand, Abu Bakkar Ali, president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pays tax regularly. He believes very few people are able to pay taxes without harassment.

"Businessmen often complain that they are to spend an extra Tk 1,500 for paying a minimum tax of Tk 1,800," Ali said.

Sahabuddin Sabu, co-chairman of Rajshahi district unit of Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, says: "To me, income tax means paying off lawyers and tax officials alongside the taxes. The tax payment system should be made easy to make sure it

is no more than what it takes to get a trade licence."

Amid such responses caused either by lack of awareness or fears of harassment among businesspeople in the northwestern zone, the Income Tax Department observes the National Income Tax Day today in Rajshahi.

Although the day has been observed since 2008, this is the first time Rajshahi division is marking the day.

The Income Tax Department says it is committed to taking the campaign to the grassroots to increase taxpayers' trust and encourage new taxpayers, especially those in rural areas.

"Many village farmers earn higher incomes than smalltime town businessmen, but they do not pay taxes for lack of awareness and fears," said Rokeya Khatun, commissioner of Rajshahi Income Tax Region.

"The main goal of our campaign is to emphasise a service-oriented mindset of tax officials. Under the new system, there is little or no scope of harassment and corruption by the tax officials," she said in a press briefing.

Some 2,778 new taxpayers out of 1.63 crore people in Rajshahi region were included in fiscal 2009-10.

The number of tax payers in eight districts in Rajshahi region increased by 32,000 in the last five years while the amount of money collected through income tax returns increased by Tk 65 crore.

In fiscal 2009-10, 1.42 lakh people paid Tk 185 crore in income tax, compared to Tk 120 crore paid by one lakh people in 2005-06.

To sensitise people about income tax, a colourful rally will be held this morning, accompanied by elephants and horse-drawn carriages carrying festoons, placards and posters.

The rally will be followed by an awards ceremony for 45 big, long-term taxpayers from the eight districts.

The winners include five of a family from Pabna district. Samson H Chowdhury of Square Group and his sons Tapan Chowdhury and Anjan Chowdhury were adjudged to be the highest taxpayers of 2009-10.

## Regional chef competition set for Sept 24

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The regional final round of the Monitor-Malaysian Palm Oil Chef of the Year 2010 competition kicks off in Khulna on September 24.

The event to be organised at Khulna Club will have top 10 competitors from Khulna and Barisal divisions. The grand finale will be held at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on November 27.

The event, sponsored by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), is being held for the sixth time by The Bangladesh Monitor, a travel and tourism publication.

Md Mashiur Rahman, divisional commissioner of Khulna, will be present at the regional finale as the chief guest.

## Nokia unveils three new smartphones



REUTERS  
Nokia C6 smartphone. Cellphone maker Nokia unveiled three smartphones to win back market share from Apple and BlackBerry.

REUTERS, London

Nokia, the world's largest cellphone maker, unveiled three new smartphone models on Tuesday, trying to claw back market share at the lucrative top end of the sector.

Nokia is in the middle of a major management revamp, with the departures of its chief executive and chairman announced last week and its top internal candidate for the CEO post resigning on Monday.

The new models -- E7, C7 and a new version of the C6 -- all come with large touchscreens and use the latest Symbian software. They were unveiled in London.

Nokia still controls around 40 percent of the global smartphone market volume, but has lost out to Apple and Research in Motion's BlackBerry in the fatter-margin market for the most expensive cellphone models.

"The products are a clear improvement from the N97 but we know they are not where Nokia needs to be yet, and any other

promise around 'we are working on it' would have not convinced anyone," said Gartner analyst Carolina Milanesi.

"A new CEO and the old guard stepping down might give investors more confidence that things are really changing."

Last week, Nokia announced it was hiring Stephen Elop, a Microsoft executive with Silicon Valley credentials, to replace embattled chief executive Olli-Pekka Kallalvasuo and renew its drive to compete with Apple.

On Monday, Nokia's smartphone and services chief Anssi Vanjoki -- an outspoken and respected figure in the mobile phone industry who had been considered the most likely internal candidate to replace Kallalvasuo -- announced his resignation.

Underlining the scale of the change, chairman Jorma Ollila, who led Nokia's transformation from a rubber boots-to-TVs conglomerate into a mobile phones giant in the 1990s, said last week he would step down shortly.

# Liquefied gas import from Qatar likely

## Deal to be signed this month

UNB, Dhaka

A deal is likely to be signed with Qatar this month to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the gulf country, energy ministry officials said.

The two countries have already reached an understanding last month on supply of LNG by ship.

As per the understanding, Qatar will supply about 3.5 billion cubic feet natural gas per week in liquid form to meet Bangladesh's demand.

A senior official said Bangladesh has requested Qatar through the diplomatic channel for a tentative date of signing the LNG import deal.

"Now, we're waiting for response from Qatar government of a date for signing the deal for importing LNG. We hope, we'll receive a date soon and a high profile delegation will visit Doha this month to sign an MoU [memorandum of understanding]," the official told the news agency.

A copy of draft agreement was also sent to the Qatar government after completion of the law ministry's vetting. The gulf country initially proposed the draft agreement during the visit of a Bangladesh delegation.

A Bangladesh delegation led by Energy Secretary Mohammad Mesbauddin visited Doha in June and completed initial negotiation with the Qatar government.

Bangladesh has been exploring the ways to overcome the nagging energy crisis that badly affected the power and industry sectors.

According to the state-owned Power Development Board (PDB), power plants having about 700MW remained idle because of gas shortage. On the other hand, more than 300 new industries could not come into operation for want of power despite installation of machinery.

In such a situation, the government moved for the import of LNG to meet its demand.

At present, Bangladesh produces about 1,900 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) against its daily requirement of 2,500 MMCFD.

Official sources said initially Bangladesh and Qatar will sign an MoU and later experts of both the countries will determine terms and conditions of the deal.

They said the price of LNG will vary from \$7-9 per unit (1,000 cubic feet). However, the price of Qatar LNG has not yet been settled.

During the visit of the Bangladesh delegation to Doha, both sides discussed other pre-requisites like development of infrastructure for import of the LNG and transport the bulk natural gas to the countryside.

According to Petrobangla, Bangladesh would need around 6 to 7 million US dollars to import 500 million cubic feet of LNG per day.

The energy ministry officials are now considering some options of

LNG infrastructures, which include floating storage and degasification facility, floating barge with LNG storage facility and on-shore store and degasification unit.

They said it will take about two years to develop such LNG infrastructure and also five-six years to develop an LNG terminal.

Moheshkhali of Chittagong has been identified as the possible site for developing the LNG infrastructure on long-term and short-term basis.

Qatar has expertise in developing such infrastructures.

Besides developing the LNG infrastructure, the government is planning to set up the long 90km gas pipeline from Moheshkhali to Chittagong for transportation of gas.

To facilitate this, the government has created a LNG Cell in Petrobangla and former chairman of Petrobangla has been appointed as coordinator of the cell.

রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ঢাকা-১০০০					
তারিখঃ ০৮/০৯/২০১০					
স্মারক সংখ্যা/স্টোর/১২/২০১০/১২৬৯৯-৭০০					
টেন্ডার নোটিশ					
ক্রঃ নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেন্ডার বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
ক)	ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন সরবরাহ	২৭-০৯-২০১০ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	২৮-০৯-২০১০ দুপুর: ১২:০০	২৮-০৯-২০১০ দুপুর: ১২:৩০	রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস কেন্দ্রীয় স্টোর শাখা, নোটিশ বোর্ড, ঢাকা বিঃ।

রেজিস্ট্রার  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
জিডি-৩৮৮২

## Anthrax hits hide trade in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Anthrax left an adverse impact on hide business in Khulna city, as cow and goat slaughtering fell drastically due to the phobia.

On the other hand, prices of poultry birds have soared as most consumers stayed away from buying red meat before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Hide trader Golam Kibria of Sheikhpara bazar in the district said he had already incurred a loss of Tk 6 lakh. "I made advance payments to red meat traders to buy cattle hides. But none came to my shop to sell those due to the huge fall in the number of slaughtered animals."

Manu Mia, proprietor of Maa Leather House on Sher-e-Bangla Road, said he failed to purchase more than two pieces of cow skin from September 1 to Thursday, while the number was 20 to 25 a day before anthrax broke out.

There are some traders like Md Amanullah -- proprietor of Aman Leather Complex at Khalishpur industrial belt -- who took bank loans for buying hides, also counted huge financial losses. Amanullah also predicted a setback in exports of tanned skins to Europe, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Brazil and Spain.

Poultry bird retailers hiked fowl prices. The media reports on the disease also prompted a big portion of consumers to prefer buying broiler meat and non-farmed hens and cocks, rejecting cow meat.

A kg of farmed poultry was selling at Tk 200, much higher from Tk 135 to 150 a week ago.

"I bought farmed poultry without any hesitation to avoid any risk of anthrax from beef," said contractor Mohammad Ali of Khulna City Corporation.

Beef seller Mehedi Hasan on Ahsan Ahmed Road said he could not sell even one kilogram of meat on the Eid day and the day before. "I may lose my capital investment this year."

Khulna unit President of Poultry Farm Owners Association Md Anisuzzaman said retailers are taking advantage of the rising demand for farmed and non-farmed poultry in the wake of the scare.

## Govt takes steps for high-yielding sugarcane

BSS, Dhaka

The government is taking steps to explore the opportunity of producing hybrid sugarcane variety in the country.

A team, led by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, will leave for Thailand next month to see the scope of sharing Thai experience in producing the sugarcane.

Thailand, one of the top five sugar producing countries, produces huge sugar from hybrid sugarcane.

Bangladesh earlier had discussions with the Thai authority to get technical assistance for such production. The agriculture ministry team will now discuss the next steps to adopt the high-yielding sugarcane variety.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan told reporters yesterday that the sugar production could be doubled with the new crop variety as the Thai variety takes six months to grow, less than three months from the local variety.

**"PRE-QUALIFICATION CLOSING DATE" EXTENSION NOTICE**

FOR  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF 300 - 450 MW DUAL FUEL (FURNACE OIL/GAS) COMBINED CYCLE POWER PROJECT UNDER THE GOB'S PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROGRAMME ON A BUILD OWN OPERATE BASIS AT SIRAJGANJ, BANGLADESH**

Reference No: PC/04/119-5/1719 Date: September 08, 2010

Reference: Invitation Ref. No. PC/04/119-5/1386, Date: July 07, 2010 and Amendment Notice Ref. No. PC/04/119-5/1416, Date: July 19, 2010

The Qualification Statements Submission Date (the "Pre-qualification Closing Date") has now been re-fixed at or before 12.00 Noon [BST] on September 30, 2010 instead of September 15, 2010. The time extension notice is posted in the Power Cell's website: <http://www.powercell.gov.bd>.

All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged or as amended.

Director General  
Power Cell, Power Division

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Disease Control Division  
Directorate General of Health Services  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

### Job Vacancy

Memo : DGHS/DC/GFATM/Expert/2007/1091 Date : 13-09-2010  
Position : Monitoring and Evaluation Expert.

Salary : 65,000.00 per month (Consolidated) and salary will be increased after reviewing the GFATM salary structure.

Responsibilities : Under the guidance of Director, Disease Control and Supervision of Deputy Programme Manager, Malaria Control Program, DGHS, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Expert will provide technical support.

- To assist National Malaria Control Programme in designing and implementing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for GFATM Malaria Control Programme based on the "Monitoring and Evaluation Tool kit"
- To develop monitoring tools, identify programme level indicators and collect data to monitor performance.
- To monitor the implementation of Programme against performance indicators.
- To provide technical support and guidance to staff concerned for collecting complaining and reporting.
- To assist in reporting of programme performance to GFATM.
- To undertake any other activities assigned by the authority.

Educational Requirement : Post graduate degree in Public Health (Having MBBS degree will be given preference)

Required Experience : Minimum 5 (five) years experience in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation in public health program, high level analytical skills, computer software application (MS office, SPSS etc.)

How to apply : Application addressing to undersigned, along with a complete CV, two passport size photo, photocopy of all academic, experience and National certificate on or before **September 30, 2010**.

Only short listed candidates will be notified.

(Prof. Dr. Moazzem Hossain)  
Director, Disease Control  
Lake Road, Lane # 17, House # 239, New DOHS,  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)  
BARC Complex, New Airport Road, Farmgate  
Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

APPOINTMENT NOTICE  
Applications are invited from citizen of Bangladesh for filling up the following post.

Designation	Qualification, Experience and Age
Senior Finance Officer Post - I	M.Com/MBA/CA with at least 5 years relevant experience or BBA (Finance /Accounts) with at least 8 years experience in line with the job requirements. Competent to handle financial matters independently using computer software, including budgetary control, fund release and desk monitoring. Experience with foreign/donor agency and large government enterprise will be of added advantage. Preference will be given to persons having work experience in related field in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) / Extension service. <b>Age: Maximum 45 years</b>

Job requirement: Should be able to work in a mixed culture and in a team. Should have inter-personal skill, excellent command over written and spoken English and proven knowledge and skill in computer use. Must obtain minimum 2nd class/ division in all stages of academic records. Application in English with complete "Curriculum Vitae" stating name, father's name, present and permanent address, date of birth, nationality, qualifications and experiences shall have to reach the Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 by **7th October, 2010**. Two copies of recent passport size photograph duly attested and character certificate from a Class - I Gazetted Officer, attested photocopies of certificates and testimonials are to be submitted along with the application. No T.A. and D.A will be paid for appearing in the test/interview. Selection will be made as per approved criteria by a SAARC level selection committee constituted by the SAARC Secretariat. A few selected deserving candidates may call for interview. Age and qualification may be relaxed for highly deserving candidates. The Centre reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof. *Canvassing of any form will disqualify the candidature.*

Director  
SAARC Agriculture Centre

GD-3910