

Taliban to allow girls' education

Says Pak education minister

BBC ONLINE

The Taliban are ready to drop their ban on schooling girls in Afghanistan, the country's education minister has said yesterday.

Farooq Wardak told the UK's Times Educational Supplement a "cultural change" meant the Taliban were "no more opposing girls' education".

The Taliban - who are fighting the Kabul government - have made no public comment on the issue.

Afghan women were not allowed to work or get an education under the Taliban regime overthrown in 2001.

Mr Wardak made his comments during the Education World Forum in London.

He told the TES: "What I am hearing at the very upper policy level of the Taliban is that they are no more opposing education and also girls' education."

"I hope, Inshallah (God willing), soon there will be a peaceful negotiation, a meaningful negotiation with our own opposition and that will not compromise at all the basic human rights and basic principles which have been guiding us to provide quality and balanced education to our people," the minister added.

Across the country agreements have been struck at a local level between militants and village elders to allow girls and female teachers to return to schools, the BBC's Quentin Sommerville in Kabul reports.

Mr Wardak's words suggest the negotiations have gone beyond issues like the release of prisoners to touch on areas of government policy, correspondents say.

However, the education minister admitted historical opposition to schooling extended beyond the Taliban to the "deepest pockets" of Afghan society.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, left, and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan pose for cameras before a meeting in Ankara yesterday. Hariri was in Ankara for talks expected to focus on the political turmoil in his country, news reports said.



PHOTO: AFP

EU gives two mln euros in aid for Sri Lanka floods

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission decided yesterday to release two million euros in emergency humanitarian aid for the victims of devastating floods in Sri Lanka.

The assistance will be distributed through international aid agencies to provide emergency food aid, water and sanitation, and emergency relief items.

"I feel that it is the EU's duty to make it possible for thousands of people to receive emergency relief," said European aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva.

The number of people killed in Sri Lanka's monsoon flooding and mudslides has risen to 27 with more than a million still displaced by the devastating disaster.

Myanmar planning large-scale privatisation

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar could undergo a major economic upheaval following controversial elections last month, as local media reported the country plans to privatise the majority of state-owned industries.

Deputy minister of industry Khin Maung Kyaw was quoted in Sbiweekly Eleven journal as saying reform in Myanmar, which is about to form parliaments after its first poll in 20 years, was in line with "other democratic countries".

"While we transform as a democratic nation, we will privatise 90 percent of state-owned industrial businesses," he said.

India to cut Kashmir forces by 25pc

AFP, New Delhi

India plans to reduce its security forces by a quarter in the Himalayan region of Kashmir to ease conditions for people in one of the world's most militarised areas, a top official said yesterday.

The unexpected announcement on Kashmir by Home Secretary G.K. Pillai is intended to rebuild fractured public goodwill after a violent uprising by young people in the Muslim-majority region last year.

New Delhi faced one of the biggest challenges to its grip on the divided and disputed territory last summer when more than 100 people were shot dead by security forces during violent demonstrations.

Speaking at a university seminar on Kashmir in the Indian capital, Pillai said the aim was "to pull out 25 percent of troops from populated areas in the next 12 months as a confidence-building measure."

The presence of hundreds of thousands of paramilitary and army troops in Kashmir --

India does not disclose official troop figures -- is seen by local politicians and observers as fuelling anger against rule from New Delhi.

Deaths due to the violence are at their lowest level in more than a decade.

Hardline Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani rejected the government's plan and demanded the full withdrawal of Indian forces from the region.

Residents of Kashmir who spoke to AFP in the main city Srinagar had a mixed response to the withdrawal plan.

Farooq Ahmed Butt, a schoolteacher, said: "This is a positive step as it will pave way in building a conducive atmosphere for resolution of the Kashmir issue."

The majority of militant groups active in the Indian-administered part of the region favour its secession from India to neighbouring Pakistan.

In December 2009, the Indian army said it had pulled out 30,000 troops from Kashmir, one of the biggest military drawdowns in a decade.

Five killed in Pak-Afghan border shelling

AFP, Miranshah, Pakistan

Five civilians were killed and six wounded when mortar shells fired from Afghanistan hit a border village in north-west Pakistan's rugged tribal region, military officials said yesterday.

"Five mortar shells fired from the Afghan side landed in Teti Madakhel village," in the Mir Ali district of North Waziristan region late Thursday, a military official said.

He said the mortars hit houses located just three kilometres from the border. "As a result, five civilians - three women and two men -- were killed and six injured," he said.

Intelligence officials confirmed the mortar attack.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka- 1208

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply & Installation of Pharmaceutical Machinery & Laboratory Equipment(s) for EDCL, Dhaka factory on C & F Chittagong by Sea/Dhaka by Air basis-

S.L. No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the item	Cost of Tender schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/Machinery & Lab. Equipment/SEM/33/2010-2011 Dated: 12/01/2011	Supply & installation of following Machinery & Laboratory Equipment: 01) HPLC- gradient System. 02) Gas Chromatograph. 03) KarlFischer titrator. 04) Water Bath. 05) Flask Shaker. 06) Certified Reference Weights. 07) Single Die punch. 08) Instrument for Endotoxin test (LAL kinetic Analyzer). 09) Automatic Microbial Identification System. 10) Microbial Air Sampler. 11) Thermostatic Contron Water Bath with Circulator for Refractometer & Viscometer. 12) Electronic Balance. 13) pH Meter. For Industrial Research Laboratory 14) Rota evaporator. 15) High speed vacuum pump. 16) Cooler. 17) Centrifuge bench. 18) Centrifuge rotor swing bucket.	Tk. 1,800.00/Set Equivalent of US \$ 26.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 14/02/2011 at 11.00 AM Opening : 14/02/2011 at 11.15 AM

Tender Schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B : Detail information is available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

(Md. Ali Mukarram)
Manager, Planning & Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority

Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communication.
2 Agency	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.
3 Procuring entity name	Director (Engg.), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.
4 Invitation for	Supply, installation and commissioning of High Security Driving License Card, Enrollment System, Register System and Personalization System with related logistics, services and training on turn-key basis.
5 Invitation Ref. No.	BRTA/3E-ITD/HSDL-719/2011-33, date: 06 January, 2011.
6 Date	06 January 2011.
KEY INFORMATION	
7 Procurement method	OTM (International).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
8 Budget and source of funds	GOB funds.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
9 Tender package No.	BRTA/ITD/HSDL/2011.
10 Tender package name	Supply, installation and commissioning of High Security Driving License System.
11 Tender publication date	06 January 2011.
12 Tender last selling date	27 February 2011.
13 Tender closing date and time	28 February 12.00 hours BST.
14 Tender opening date and time	28 February 12.30pm BST.
15 Name & address of the office(s)	Address: Account Section, BRTA, Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
-Selling tender document	Director (Engg.), Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
-Receiving tender document	Director (Engg.), Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
-Opening tender document	Director (Engg.), Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
16 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Place Date Time Conference Room of BRTA (2 nd Floor), Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. 2 February 2011 11.00am BST
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
17 Eligibility of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall experience of supply of goods and related services for five years minimum; Experience of supplying similar goods and related services in the last 3 (three) years. Satisfactory completion/ongoing similar project of minimum 5.00 million USD or equivalent BDT under maximum 2 (two) contracts in last seven years or minimum 3.0 million USD under a single contract in the last 5 (five) years. The minimum available amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility shall be USD 4.00 million or equivalent BDT. ISO 27001:2005 certified company for data security;
18 Brief description of goods or works	Production and Supply of High Security Driving License on turn-key basis.
19 Brief description of related services	
20 Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 10,000 (ten thousand) to be paid through treasury challan in Bangladesh Bank to the account code No-1/5043/0000/2366 in favour of Chairman, BRTA.
Item No.	Description of lot/item Location Tender security amount Completion time in weeks/months
21 1	Turn-key supply of High Security Driving License System BRTA HQ, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 USD 100,000.00 or equivalent BDT 5 years
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
22 Name of official inviting tender	Md. Saiful Hoque.
23 Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Engineering), BRTA.
24 Address of official inviting tender	BRTA, Allenbury, Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
25 Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9115544 8154770
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.
GD-209	Md. Saiful Hoque Director (Engg.)

SRI LANKA FLOODS Rains cause havoc

AFP, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

Fresh rains yesterday compounded the misery of the million-plus victims of Sri Lanka's deadly floods, as relief workers struggled to bring crucial supplies to the worst-affected regions.

After a brief respite overnight, renewed downpours battered the island's central and eastern districts where 27 people have been killed by the flood waters and mudslides.

"The situation is clearly worsening," said Paula Alvarado, a regional spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross.

"Landslides continue to occur in the hilly provinces and many dams are threatening to burst. We already have over one million people affected and that number is likely to increase quickly," Alvarado said.

Some 3,000 soldiers have been deployed to help with the relief efforts, along with trucks and air force helicopters, as UN convoys have battled to bring supplies in by road.

A large number of those forced out of their homes had only recently been resettled after decades of ethnic conflict between Tamil Tiger rebels and government forces.

And many had also seen their livelihoods wrecked before by the December 2004 Asian tsunami.

"Many families were just returning home after years of displacement," said Reza Hossaini, country representative for the UN children's agency, UNICEF.

"They were rebuilding their lives, children were returning to their community schools, and now they all face this latest severe setback," Hossaini said.

WikiLeaks gives \$15,000 to soldier's defense fund

AFP, Washington

A legal defense fund for the US soldier suspected of leaking secret US documents to WikiLeaks said Thursday it has received a 15,000 dollars contribution from the website.

US Army private Bradley Manning, 23, has been held in a military brig in Virginia since July on suspicion of leaking secret US military documents and State Department cables to WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks has repeatedly said it does not know whether Manning was the source of the documents but has pledged to help with his defense.

The Bradley Manning Support Network said in a statement on Thursday published at bradleymanning.org that WikiLeaks had transferred 15,100 dollars on Monday to the legal trust account of Manning's attorney.

"This donation from WikiLeaks is vital to our efforts to ensure Bradley receives a fair, open trial," said Support Fund founder and steering committee member Mike Gogulski.

The group said the WikiLeaks contribution brings the total funds raised and transferred to Bradley's civilian legal defence team to over 100,000 dollars, just short of the 115,000 dollars needed "to mount a vigorous defence."

Manning, who worked as a low-ranking army intelligence analyst in Iraq, was arrested in May and later transferred to the US Marine Corps base at Quantico in Virginia.

BASIC Bank Limited
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Head Office: Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Phone: 7125027, 9568190, 7175691-2, Fax: 9564829, Email: basicho@citechco.net, Web: www.basicbanklimited.com

NOTICE FOR ENLISTMENT

Companies/Firms/Suppliers/service provider/Manufacturers are invited for the enlistment with BASIC Bank Limited for 2011-2012 for the following assigned works:-

Group	Category	Assignment of Works
A	Architectural firm	For interior decoration work
B	Consultant firms	For design, drawing and supervision of interior works
C	Printing press	For printing & supplying printing stationeries
D	Air Conditioner Suppliers	For Supplying, Installing and maintaining Air Conditioners
E	Wooden & others Furniture Suppliers	For Supplying, Setting and repairing of Wooden Furniture
F	Steel Furniture Suppliers	For Supplying, Installing and repairing of Steel Furniture
G	Office Equipment suppliers	For Supplying, Installing and repairing of Fax/Photocopier/Note Counting Machine/CCTV camera/ Stand Fan/Table Fan etc.
H	Telephone/Electric Accessories suppliers	For Supplying installing and repairing of all kinds of Telephone/Electric Accessories
I	Office/Table Stationeries suppliers	For Supplying and maintaining of all kinds of Office/Table Stationeries
J	Sign Board/Name Plate suppliers	For Supplying, Installing and repairing of all kinds of Sign Board/Name Plate/artwork
K	Motor Workshop	For repairing/maintenance of bank's motor vehicles and supplying of spare parts
L	Courier Services	For delivering of all parcel and documents of the bank
M	Event Management Firms	For the arrangements of all events of the bank
N	Liveries suppliers	For supplying of liveries(shirt, pant, shoes, shocks belt etc)

TERMS & CONDITIONS :

- Tender schedule for each category with detailed specifications and terms and conditions may be collected from Banks Head Office (Sena Kalyan Bhaban-5th floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka against payment of Tk.1,000.00(Non-refundable pay order) up to January 23, 2011 on any working day between 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at the Head Office of BASIC Bank Limited (Sena Kalyan Bhaban-5th floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on or before January 27, 2011 by 3:00 P.M.
- DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH APPLICATION FORM:**
 - Valid municipal trade license, Vat registration, up to date income tax clearance and bank solvency certificate.
 - Performance certificate for at least 3 (three) years in respective Field/Trade from any Bank/Financial Institution/reputed organization.
 - Membership certificate/License from concerned Authority/Chamber/Trade body/Business/Syndicate /Association/Board.
- OTHER CONDITIONS:**
 - No firm will be allowed to apply for enlistment more than 2 (two) groups.
 - Architectural firm should have its own architect and at least 5 years experience.
- Bank authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all applications for enlistment without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

N.B: Name of the group applied for must be mentioned on the top of the envelope.

Mohammed Mosharrif Hossain
Deputy General Manager
Branch Control and Establishment Division