

## Myanmar urges exiles to return

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's president has urged the nation's millions-strong diaspora to return, state media reported yesterday, as the country seeks skilled workers to help smooth the passage of reform.

Several million people fled Myanmar's corrupted economy and political repression under army rule, leaving the nation desperately short of professionals to help it manage massive economic and political change.

Pledging to help emigres establish businesses as resource-rich Myanmar braces for a surge of foreign investment and an expected economic boom, President Thein Sein asked migrants who left for "various reasons" to return.

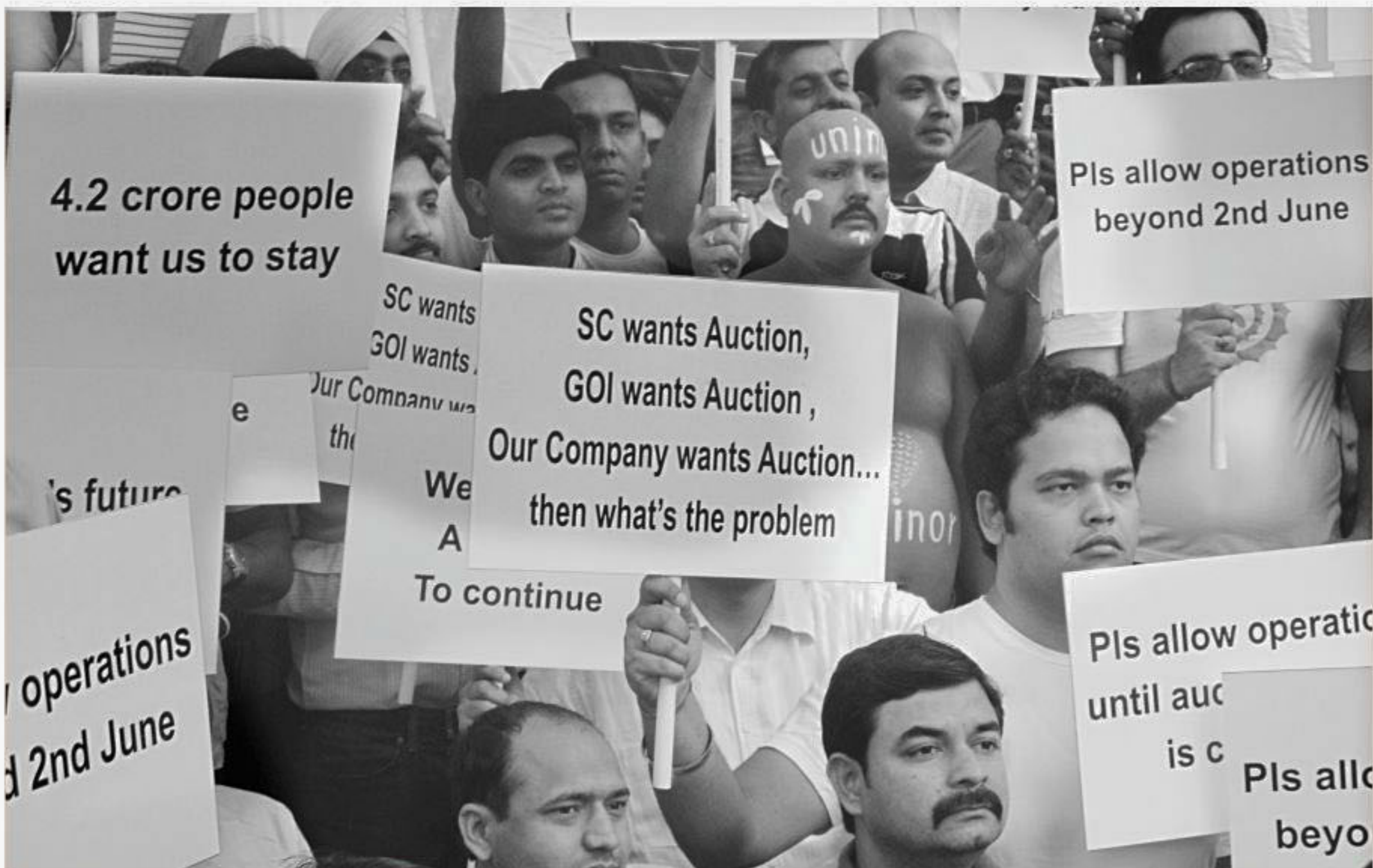


PHOTO: AFP

In this photograph taken on April 18, 2012, telecommunications employees hold up placards during a demonstration in New Delhi. India will lose vital foreign investment if state-run Norwegian telecom giant Telenor has to exit the country nursing multi-billion-dollar losses, a Norwegian minister warned yesterday. Telenor can absorb the \$3 billion investment write-off it would face if it quits India due to telecom licensing problems.

## ROW OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA

# China denies war preparations

AFP, Beijing

China has denied it is increasing combat readiness in response to a tense territorial row with the Philippines in the South China Sea which has dragged on for more than a month.

The stand-off erupted last month after Philippine authorities detected Chinese ships fishing near the Scarborough Shoal.

They tried to arrest the crew, but were blocked by Chinese surveillance vessels deployed to the tiny rocky outcrop in the South China Sea about 230 kilometres from the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

The two nations have stationed non-military vessels at the shoal since April 8 in an effort to assert their sovereignty over the area.

But China's defence ministry denied military units were getting ready for war, despite warnings in state media that China is prepared to fight to end the stand-off.

"Reports that the Guangzhou military region, the South China Sea fleet and other units have entered a state of war preparedness are untrue," the ministry said in a brief statement on its website late Friday.

The Guangzhou military region in southern China has

### South China Sea

Focus of disputed claims by the Philippines and China



responsibility for the area.

It gave no source for the reports, but rumours on Chinese microblogs say China has ordered some military units up to level two of its four-level scale of war preparedness, one notch from the top which indicates full readiness.

China claims virtually all of the South China Sea, which is believed to sit atop huge oil and gas reserves, as its historical territory, even waters close to the coasts of other Asian countries.

The Philippines says the shoal is part of its territory because it falls within its exclusive economic zone. On Friday, around 300 protestors demonstrated outside the Chinese embassy in the Philippines to denounce "bullying" by Beijing.

Chinese citizens responded by holding far smaller protests outside the Philippine embassy in Beijing on Friday and yesterday, but police have not allowed sustained demonstrations.

A Chinese state-backed newspaper on Saturday accused the Philippines of whipping up nationalism, but it added military conflict in the South China Sea was possible.

Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam and Malaysia also claim parts of the sea. The rival claims have for decades made the waters one of Asia's potential military flashpoints.

## Four coalition troops killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Four coalition soldiers were killed in three separate incidents in Afghanistan yesterday, Nato's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

Afghan sources said at least one British soldier died and another was wounded when two Afghan policemen turned their weapons on their allies in a joint base in southern Helmand province.

ISAF said it could not confirm this, but was investigating the reports.

In terse statements, ISAF said two soldiers died following an insurgent attack, one was killed in a bomb blast and another died as a result of a "non-battle related injury" -- all in southern Afghanistan.

The statements gave no further details and did not identify the soldiers' nationalities.

Helmand province police spokesman Farid Ahmad Farhang told AFP that "two Afghan policemen opened fire on British soldiers inside a joint military base in Nahre Saraj district, killing one British soldier and wounding another".

# US says will respond to Myanmar reforms

REUTERS, Washington

The United States is matching Myanmar's tentative steps toward democracy after decades of harsh military rule with a calibrated re-engagement, aware of the potential for setbacks, a senior US diplomat said on Friday.

Patrick Murphy, the State Department's deputy special representative for Myanmar, said Washington is deepening its engagement with the reformist government, looking at easing more sanctions and likely to appoint a US ambassador "in coming weeks."

"We embrace these changes that are taking place with eyes wide open," he said in remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank.

Washington was pleased so far with dramatic developments over the past year that have seen the freeing of hundreds of political prisoners, a more liberal media environment and the seating in parliament of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and her

fellow National League for Democracy lawmakers, said Murphy.

But he said the nascent reform process in the former British colony also known as Burma remained a work in progress.

"What it's not, however, is a change that is guaranteed. It's fragile and it's incomplete," said Murphy.

Experts note that poverty is widespread in the resource-rich Southeast Asian country, hundreds of political prisoners remain in jail, the army that ruled the country for 50 years is still at war with some ethnic minority groups, notably in the Kachin state in the north.

"Anything less than stable, prosperous, freer spells trouble for the region and it spells trouble for the country's population of roughly 60 million," said Murphy.

Under an "action for action" policy, Washington has gradually peeled back some of the economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar since 1990, allowing technical assistance by international financial institutions and authorizing financial transactions for selected non-profit projects.

## Special force responsible

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Club playground in Ghagutia of Kapasia.

Warning the police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel, Khaleda said, "If you try to make the government happy, you will make a mistake. This government has only a few days left. Who will save you after that?"

The former premier alleged that this government did not sack any minister because it feared disclosure of information about corruption.

This was why the government transferred former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain to another ministry and retained Suranjit Sengupta in the cabinet, she added.

"Suranjit told the prime minister that he would reveal all secrets about the government and that's why he has been made a minister without portfolio," mentioned Khaleda.

She said the country had been under a reign of killings and disappearances and that the government had prepared a list of senior BNP leaders to make them disappear.

The leader of the opposition said the government had shown disrespect to Tajuddin Ahmed and his family. It even did not accept Sohail Taj's resignation from parliament fearing he might disclose information about corruption.

"No one is safe in the country. A total of 14 journalists have been killed during this government's tenure. A journalist couple was murdered, but no arrest has been made so far. They [the couple] had important information about corruption by the prime minister and her relatives," the BNP chief told the rally.

To cover up the railwaygate scandal, she claimed, the government had made BNP leader Ilias

Ali disappear.


"The government has worsened the relations with foreign countries. The Indian finance minister has told me that they don't want to keep relations with any particular party, rather they want to maintain relations with people," Khaleda continued.

She said that people close to the prime minister had made quick buck in the name of quick rental power plant.

The BNP chief further alleged that construction of Padma bridge had been halted due to the government's corruption. She vowed to build two bridges over the Padma if her party is voted to power.

Thousands of people joined the rally that began around 3:00pm.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member ASM Hannan Shah spoke, among others.



**Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Chittagong, Bangladesh

**জালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার**

**Invitation for International Tender (OTM)**

01.	Ministry/Division	:	Energy & Mineral Resources Division, M/O Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
02.	Agency	:	Petrobangla.
03.	Procuring entity name	:	Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited.
04.	Procuring entity district	:	Chittagong.
05.	Invitation for	:	Procurement of Calibration Equipment for Different Bulk Customer Metering Station.
06.	Invitation Ref. No.	:	KGDC/FP/CFE-01/2012.
07.	Date	:	08.05.2012.

**KEY INFORMATION**

08.	Procurement method	:	Open Tendering Method. (Single Envelope Tendering Procedure).
09.	Budget and source of funds	:	KGDC Own Fund, Cash Foreign Exchange Resource.
10.	Time limit to selling tender document	:	15.05.2012 to 25.06.2012.
11.	Tender last selling date	:	25.06.2012.
12.	Tender closing date & time	:	26.06.2012 11-30 am.
13.	Tender opening date & time	:	26.06.2012 11-45 am.
14.	Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender documents	:	Tender documents will be available in the following KGDC offices during office hours: a) Finance & Accounts Sub-Division, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. b) Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla, Petrocentre (13 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 3, Kwaran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
15.	Receiving tender document	:	Purchase Sub-Division, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong Bangladesh.
16.	Opening tender document	:	Purchase Sub-Division, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong Bangladesh.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

17.	Eligibility of tenderer	:	Manufacturer(s)/supplier(s) must have overseas track records/experiences of the similar works/supply for at least 05 (five) years and related evidences must be submitted along with the bid.
18.	Brief description of goods	:	Hydraulic Dead Weight Tester, Pneumatic Dead Weight Tester, Dry Block Temperature Bath for Temperature Calibration, Digital Pressure Calibrator, Pneumatic Hand Pump, Hart Communicator, Digital Thermometer.
19.	Price of tender document	:	US\$25.00 or Tk. 2,000.00 (non-refundable).
20.	Single lot	:	Calibration Equipment for Different Bulk Customer Metering Station.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

21.	Designation of official inviting tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase).
22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Tel: 031-2557460, Fax: 088-031-656090.
23.	Special instruction	:	a) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day. b) KGDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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## Foreign investors

FROM PAGE 1

third of the total FDI here, said CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman while presenting a paper on Bangladesh-EU relations.

"Except for the UK and Netherlands, FDI from EU countries has tended to remain low," said Rahman.

Participants said an increased investment from EU companies will benefit both the trading partners since Bangladesh and the EU together make a market of 65 crore (650 million) people.

Saiful Islam, former president of Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the EU should encourage its investors to put money in businesses here, as Bangladesh has the potential to become a regional trade and economic hub.

On the government initiative to establish special economic zones, he said the EU should offer assistance for SEZ's infrastructure development and other issues.

Md Fazlul Hoque, former president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said European companies can get a huge market in the region by investing in Bangladesh.

Discussants also underscored the need for an increased EU support for skills development of Bangladeshi workers, mitigation of the impacts of climate change, and addressing the problems of malnutrition and gender disparity.

They proposed that the EU should hire more Bangladeshi workers. The bloc is the third biggest source of remittances for Bangladesh to date, mainly for the migrant workers in the UK.

"Remittance inflows from the EU are not very encouraging. Bangladesh's dependence on EU aid can be reduced if it gets more remittance," said former ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman.

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of footwear exporter Apex Adelchi, said the EU spent \$21 million to help Bangladesh develop infrastructure. "If you [the EU] want Bangladesh to create more jobs and cut poverty, you need to support infrastructure development."

Manzur feared that Bangladesh might face tough competition in the Eurozone market in the future, as the EU is cutting average tariffs and signing free-trade deals with different countries.

Prof Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, said the eastern border will be important for Bangladesh, as issues of regional connectivity, ethnicity, and maritime boundary will revolve around the eastern part.

William Hanna said Bangladesh has taken the advantage of zero-duty export facilities provided by the EU.

He said the EU will continue to work closely with Bangladesh to support its development, strengthen democracy and ensure human rights. The two sides should talk about mutual interest and engage at global forum.

Rehman Sobhan said the EU should support Bangladesh for agrarian reforms and distributing khas land to the landless.

He proposed that the EU should link the issue of market access with the benefit of workers, and said the EU can have provisions



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Police  
Rapid Action Battalion Forces Headquarters  
Kurmitola, Dhaka

**Invitation for Tender**

01.	Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs.		
02.	Agency	Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).		
03.	Procuring entity name	DG RAB.		
04.	Invitation for	Tender	Goods	02 (two) Lot
05.	Invitation Ref. No.	Memo No. RAB HQ/Procurement/795.		
06.	Date	08/05/2012.		

**KEY INFORMATION**

07.	Procurement method	OTM.		
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

08.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget.		
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

09.	Project/programme name	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School.		
10.	Tender package No.	G-58(d)/2011-2012.		
11.	Tender last selling date	23/05/2012 (17.00 hrs).		
12.	Tender closing date and time	Date	Time	
		24/05/2012	12.00 hrs	
13.	Tender opening date and time	24/05/2012	12.30 hrs	
14.	Name & address of the office	Director (Admin & Finance), RAB Forces Headquarters, Dhaka.		
15.	Selling tender document	Procurement Section, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.		
16.	Pre-tender meeting	Name/Address	Date	Time
		Procurement Section, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	17/05/2012	11.00 hrs
17.	Name & address of the office receiving tender document	Director (Admin & Finance), RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.		
18.	Opening tender document	Conference Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.		

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

19.	Eligibility of tenderer	The bidders should have valid trade license, current bank solvency certificate, income tax certificate, VAT registration certificate, drug license & the legal capacity to enter the contract. Bidder should not be blacklisted by any govt. organization in Bangladesh. A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidder on the submission of a written application on their own pad to the addressee below.		
20.	Brief description of goods or works	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School.		
21.	Tender document price & type of payment	BDT 500.00 (five hundred) only in cash payment.		
22.	Tender validity	30 June 2012.		
23.	<b>LOT INFORMATION</b>			
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Tender security amount in Taka	
	Lot-01	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School (Medical items)	16,000.00 (sixteen thousand) Taka only.	
	Lot-02	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School (Surgical items)	4,000.00 (four thousand) Taka only.	

**Special instructions**

- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender prior to acceptance.
- Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the Director (Admin & Finance).
- No tender document will be sent by courier or mail.

**Md. Mofazzal Hossain**  
Wing Commander  
Director (Admin & Finance)  
For Director General  
7913104

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