

No more such fire tragedy

FROM PAGE 1
"Bangladesh's apparel industry has earned global reputation through the public-private initiative. It is the responsibility of all to uphold the goodwill."

"I would like to request all concerned including workers, employers and officials to remain alert so that any tragic incident like that of Ashulia does not occur in future," she said.

The premier made the remarks while inaugurating a two-day international business conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

She mentioned that the goodwill earned through rigorous efforts over a long period can be destroyed within a moment owing to some negligence or fault, reports BSS.

"There must not be the slightest compromise in this regard," she told her audience.

Stressing the need for conducting proper research for identifying the country's possibilities and their proper projection, Hasina also urged the private sector to come forward to supplement the government efforts in this regard.

She said the country's image in the global arena is extremely important for its prosperity, which is strongly correlated with its relationship, trade and other engagements with the rest of the world.

The premier mentioned that her government is pledge-bound to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country through implementing its election manifesto Vision 2021.

"To achieve the goal, the role of private sector is very important," she observed.

Hasina said Bangladesh is now the fifth emerging economy in the world, while the World Bank ranked Bangladesh at the 20th position in terms of protecting investors' interest.

"At this moment Bangladesh is one of the most attractive destinations for investment in the world. We have taken effective steps to ensure transparency, accountability and rule of law," she told her audience.

At a panel discussion of the conference, US Ambassador Dan W Mozena described the labour rights issue as a serious threat to branding Bangladesh.

He emphasised the need to

enact legislation to reform the labour law and to start registering legitimate unions in accordance with existing regulations, according to a US embassy release.

The envoy said "Bangladesh is at a crossroads today. It can choose to let the Ashulia fire fade into history and ignore GSP review process currently underway in Washington and revert to business as usual in regard to workplace conditions and workers' rights to associate."

"This approach, in my view, would seriously tarnish Brand Bangladesh and discourage American buyers and consumers from choosing the Bangladesh brand."

But the country could heed the call to action from the Ashulia fire and engage creatively in dealing with the underlying issues of workplace safety and workers' rights to associate, he told the audience.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Initiative leading Development, Catalyst and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Service jointly arranged the conference titled "Positioning Bangladesh: Branding for Bangladesh".

Loan negotiations

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start by the end of the current fiscal year. The scheme was delayed by three years due to change of route twice.

Loan negotiations for the \$25.5 billion BRT project will begin on December 12 and are likely to end within this month.

Of the costs, Asian Development Bank and France will provide \$20.63 billion to construct 20-kilometre BRT route from Joydebpur of Gazipur to Dhaka airport.

The World Bank, mentioned Quader, is conducting a study on the airport-Sadarghat BRT route.

The metro rail and BRT projects are crucial for reducing the perennial traffic congestion and facilitating quick movement of commuters in the capital.

Meanwhile, the government is scheduled to sit with the Jica for a final round of discussion about

funding the construction of the three new bridges. Japan has primarily agreed to finance the scheme.

The minister claimed to have achieved many successes over the year, though some of those were not visible yet. He also admitted his failure in some areas.

The Gulistan-Jatrabari and Banani-Mirpur flyovers will be opened for traffic during the tenure of the present government, he added.

Asked about the fate of the Padma bridge, Quader said he would talk about the issue tomorrow (today) in a briefing at Shetu Bhaban.

Acting communications secretary MAN Siddiquee and senior officials of Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority were present.

Wal-Mart nixed paying

FROM PAGE 1
The comments from a Wal-Mart sourcing director appear in minutes of the meeting, which was attended by more than a dozen retailers including Gap Inc., Target Corp. and JCPenney Co.

Details of the meeting have emerged after a fire at an Ashulia factory that made clothes for Wal-Mart and Sears Holdings Corp. killed more than 100 people last month. The blaze has renewed pressure on companies to improve working conditions in Bangladesh, where more than 700 garment workers have died since 2005, according to the International Labor Rights Forum, a Washington-based advocacy group.

At the meeting in Dhaka in April last year, retailers discussed a contractually enforceable memorandum that would require them to pay Bangladesh factories prices high enough to cover costs of safety improvements.

Sridevi Kalavakolanu, a Wal-Mart director of ethical sourcing, told attendees the company wouldn't share the cost, according to Ineke Zeldenrust, international coordinator for the Clean Clothes Campaign, who attended the gathering.

Kalavakolanu and her counterpart at Gap reiterated their position in a report folded into the meeting minutes, obtained by Bloomberg News.

"Specifically to the issue of any corrections on electrical and fire safety, we are talking about 4,500 factories, and in most cases very extensive and costly modifications would need to be undertaken to some factories," they said in the document. "It is not financially feasible for the brands to make such investments."

PVH Signature PVH Corp. (PVH), which owns the Tommy Hilfiker brand, and German retailer Tchibo signed the memorandum earlier this year. Gap, which has pledged funding for safety

improvements and hired a chief fire safety inspector, had been in negotiations to sign the agreement.

The retailer eventually declined, objecting to higher prices, publicly disclosing Bangladesh factories and to making the memorandum contractually enforceable, said Scott Nova, executive director of the Washington-based Worker Rights Consortium, who attended the meeting.

Gap decided against signing the document in October, Bill Chandler, a spokesman, said in a telephone interview. He declined to discuss the negotiations.

"We made a good-faith effort to participate, and for any agreement to be successful, it has to be acceptable to many parties," Chandler said. "Our investment of time shows how committed we are."

CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT
Kevin Gardner, a Wal-Mart spokesman, declined to discuss the Dhaka meeting or what was said there.

"We know that continued engagement is critical to ensure that reliable, proactive measures are in place to reduce the chance of factory fires," he said.

WAL-MART'S POSITION "SHOCKING"

"You know it is extremely important, and they say: 'There's no way we're going to pay for that,'" said Zeldenrust, whose Amsterdam-based organization pushes for improved working conditions in the global garment industry.

UNDERPRESSURE
Fifty percent of the Bangladesh's garment factories don't meet legally required work safety standards and those that have improved working conditions have done so under pressure from Western apparel makers, said Kalpona Akter, executive director of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity,

a non-governmental organization founded by two former garment child workers to promote safer factories.

On November 26, two days after the fatal fire at the Tazreen factory, Akter witnessed the aftermath of a blaze at a Dhaka garment warehouse. Workers were forced to climb down a bamboo pole because they couldn't exit through the stairs, she said. Graffiti on a restroom wall at the warehouse read "Work here and your life is a livinghell."

HC scraps case against MK Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday quashed a corruption case against Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The erstwhile Bureau of Anti-Corruption on May 13, 2002, had filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on charge of attempted misappropriation of public money worth Tk 81.60 crore when he was the state minister for planning in 2000-2001.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed handed down the verdict after hearing a petition filed by the home minister for quashing the proceedings in the case.

In October, 2002, the HC had stayed the proceedings in the case and also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the case proceedings should not be quashed.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the anti-graft body was yet to decide whether it would move an appeal before the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam appeared for the home minister.

AL wary of rebels

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the party high command has started gathering information about the potential rebel candidates. The AL high-ups are also working on the matter to neutralise them with hopes that they would be evaluated in the election thereafter.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam has been working in this regard for several months, the insiders add.

Against this backdrop, the AL yesterday submitted a proposal to the Election Commission to introduce a new electoral law. The AL proposed that the EC should declare disqualified the expelled leaders of any party from contesting two consecutive national polls from the

day of their expulsion.

The insiders say a good number of AL leaders are taking preparations to contest the next parliamentary polls independently if they are not given party tickets. These leaders include former lawmakers, incumbent chairmen and vice-chairmen of different upazilas across the country, former nomination aspirants, and former top leaders of AL's different associate bodies, they add.

Talking to The Daily Star, some of these leaders said they would seek nomination from the party ahead of the next polls. If they are not given nomination, they would go for contesting the polls as

independent candidates, the leaders added.

Asked if not given nomination, a former lawmaker who did not get party ticket in the last parliamentary polls, said, "I want to take part in the next election at any cost."

On the party's stance on its rebel candidates, AL president member Obaidul Quader said he supports his party proposal placed before the EC regarding the potential rebel candidates.

Termining the rebel candidate issue a premature concept, he said: "I can say that if there is any rebel candidates anywhere, measurers will be taken against them as per the party constitution."

Voyager-1 set to exit

FROM PAGE 20

The probe, launched 35 years ago to study the outer planets, is now about 11 billion miles from Earth.

At that distance, it takes radio signals travelling at the speed of light 17 hours to reach Earth. Light moves at 1,86,000 miles per second.

Scientists believe Voyager 1 is in an area where the magnetic field lines from the sun are connecting with magnetic field lines from interstellar space.

The phenomenon is causing highly energetic particles from distant supernova explosions and other cosmic events to zoom inside the solar system, while less-energetic solar particles exit.

"It's like a highway, letting particles in and out," lead Voyager scientist Ed Stone told reporters at an American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco on Monday.

Scientists do not know how long it will take for the probe to cross the so-called "magnetic highway".

But they believe it is the last layer of a complex boundary between the region of space under the sun's influence and interstellar space.

"Our best guess is it's

likely just a few months to a couple years away," Stone said.

Voyager 1 hit the outer sphere of the solar system, a region called the heliosphere, in 2004 and passed into the heliosheath, where the supersonic stream of particles from the sun -- the so-called "solar wind" -- slowed down and became turbulent.

That phase of the journey lasted for 5.5 years. Then the solar wind stopped moving and the magnetic field strengthened.

Based on an instrument that measures charged particles, Voyager entered the magnetic highway on July 28, 2012. The region was in flux for about a month and stabilised on August 25.

Each time Voyager entered the highway, the magnetic field strengthened, but its direction remained unchanged.

Scientists believe the direction of the magnetic field lines will shift when the probe finally enters interstellar space.

Voyager 1 and a sister spacecraft, Voyager 2, were launched 16 days apart in 1977 for the first flybys of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

বৌদ্ধ ধর্মীয় কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ধর্মরাজিক বৌদ্ধ মহাবিহার, অতিথি দিপংকর সড়ক
বাসাবো, সবুজবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৪, ফোন-৭২৭২৬৪৭

গাড়ি ক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বৌদ্ধ ধর্মীয় কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের জন্য একটি রিকভিশন ডি মাইক্রোবাস ক্রয় করা হবে। ক্রয়ের যাবতীয় তথ্যাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থার সচিবের দপ্তর থেকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আগামী ৯/১২/২০১২ইং হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

জয়দত্ত বড়ুয়া
সচিব
বৌদ্ধ ধর্মীয় কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি করপোরেশন
ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্যে জানানো যাইতেছে যে- ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি করপোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন নিম্নে উল্লেখিত কাঁচা বাজারটি কার্যাদেশের তারিখ থেকে ১ (এক) বৎসর মেয়াদে ইজারার নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ৩১/১২/২০১২ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তরসহ ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং এদিন বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। প্রস্তাবিত দরের উপর ৩০% হারে জামানত হিসাবে প্রশাসক, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুকূলে ঢাকা মহানগরীর যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে- অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি করপোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগ (নগর ভবন) এবং প্রতিটি অঞ্চল থেকে সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। এই বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত তথ্য, শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সম্পত্তি বিভাগ হইতে জানা যাইবে। বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্রের অংশ হিসেবে গণ্য হইবে। আগামী ৩০/১২/২০১২ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে- স্থিরকৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% হারে মূল্যসংযোজন কর ও ৫% হারে আয়কর পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষের যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ক্রঃ নং	বাজারের নাম	সিডিউল মূল্য
১	৬৫নং ওয়ার্ডস্থিত ইসলামবাগ কাঁচা বাজারের খোলা অংশের মাছ-মাংস ও তরিতরকারীর দোকান হতে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে বাৎসরিক ইজারা প্রসঙ্গে	৫০০/-

মোঃ তাজুল ইসলাম প্রধান
(উপ-সচিব)
প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৫৯৮৬

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/১০৭/১২-১৩
জিডি-৪৭৫৩

Bangladesh Betar
121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information.
02. Agency	Bangladesh Betar.
03. Procuring entity name	Director General, Bangladesh Betar.
04. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
05. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
06. Invitation for	Vehicle physical service for carrying staff.
07. Invitation reference	15.53.00000.015.26.004.12-
08. Date	
KEY INFORMATION	
09. Procurement method	OTM (Open Tendering Method).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget & source of funds	GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
11. Tender package/lot No.	01.
12. Tender name	Hiring for vehicle (52 seats bus).
13. Tender publication date	2.12.2012.
14. Tender last selling date	20.12.2012 during the office hours.
15. Tender closing date & time	23.12.2012 at 12:00 noon.
16. Tender opening date & time	23.12.2012 at 12:30pm.
17. Name & address of the office(s)	Bangladesh Betar, 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
Opening tender documents	"
18. Price of tender document	Tk 1000/- (one thousand) (non-refundable), Treasury Challan code No. 1/3351/0000/2366, on the account of Director General, Bangladesh Betar, 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
19. Eligibility of tenderer	As mentioned in the tender document.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
20. Name of official inviting tender	Md Mizanur Rahman, Director (Admin & Finance).
21. Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Admin & Finance) on behalf of Director General.
22. Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Betar, 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
24. Special instruction:	
a)	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
b)	The provisions laid down in the "Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) 2008".
c)	If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender will be outright rejected.
d)	If the last date of selling, closing and opening date of tender is disturbed by any holiday, unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.
Md Mizanur Rahman Director (Admin & Finance) Bangladesh Betar	
GD-4746	

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Project Director, Central Zone Power Distribution Project, BPDB
Biddiyut Bhaban (12th Floor), 1 No. Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

“বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রমী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন”

Memo No. PD/CZPDP/BPDB/Pkg-12/280 Dated: 03/12/2012

Invitation for Bids
Loan No: BD-P 59
Bid No: PD/CZPDP/BPDB/Pkg-12

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as the JICA), in the amount of 9.715 million Japanese Yen toward the cost of Central Zone Power Distribution Project, Mymensingh, BPDB, Loan Agreement No. BD-P 59 signed on March 01, 2009, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for Procurement of Conductor (the "Goods"). Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JICA will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JICA ODA Loans". No party other than Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will take appropriate measures for finance.
- JICA requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, under contracts funded with JICA ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JICA;
 - will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
 - will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JICA, to be awarded a contract funded with JICA ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JICA ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
- The Bangladesh Power Development Board, hereinafter "the Purchaser", now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the goods for the purpose of the project.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Project Director, Central Zone Power Distribution Project, Bangladesh Power Development Board, Biddiyut Bhaban, 12th Floor, 1 No. Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Fax: +880 2 951 3166, Phone: +880 2 955 1433.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 15,000.00 (BDT fifteen thousand) or US\$ 180.00 (US Dollar one hundred eighty) in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of the Project Director, Central Zone Power Distribution Project, Bangladesh Power Development Board from Dec-05, 2012 to Jan-15, 2013 during office hour.
- The estimated date of award is 30-04-2013 subject to the approval of RDPP.
- The signing of the contract will depend on approval of the RDPP.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Taka 3,500,000.00 (Taka three million five hundred thousand) or US\$ 43,000.00 (US\$ forty-three thousand), and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 11.00am on 16 January, 2013 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.
- The Bangladesh Power Development Board will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- BPDB reserves the right to accept or reject all the bids without assigning any cause.

Md. Mahbubur Rahman
Project Director
Central Zone Power Distribution Project
BPDB, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Biddiyut/Jana-579(5)/3/12/12
GD-4773