

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
0.21%	0.12%	\$1,211.20	\$34.69	0.34%	0.90%	0.14%	2.37%	77.95	85.20	110.66	0.67
4,577.61	8,599.07	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	23,788.79	16,111.05	2,660.65	2,927.73	BUY TK	77.95	85.20	110.66
								SELL TK	78.95	89.20	114.06
											0.71

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখার মাধ্যমে জমা দিন

* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

SIBL
উৎসর্গ সেবাবিদগ

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Indian firm wins contract to build Rampal power plant

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

India's state-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd or BHEL has won a deal to build the much-debated Rampal coal-fired power plant in Bangladesh.

BHEL has turned out as the lowest bidder for the 1,320-megawatt coal-based power plant, said Anwarul Azim, the spokesman for the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd (BIFPCL), a joint venture set up to build the plant.

"We have already issued the notification of the award to BHEL. There are some formalities that need to be completed before the deal is signed," he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the \$1.48 billion engineering, procurement and construction deal will be signed very soon.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.8 billion.

The construction is expected to start by June. BHEL will have to complete the project in 41 months after the financial closure, which is expected to complete in four months.

China's Harbin Electric International Company Ltd, which

BY THE NUMBERS

Total cost of Rampal project: **\$1.8b**

Engineering, procurement & construction deal: **\$1.48b**

Plant to have two 660MW units

Plant to burn **4.72m** tonnes of imported coal a year

has power projects in Iran, Turkey and Indonesia among others, lost the bid on technical grounds, news agency Reuters said quoting officials.

The Reuters report also said the Indian government's external lending arm, the Exim Bank, has backed up BHEL's offer with nearly 70 percent funding of the project's costs at a soft interest rate of around 1 percent above Libor, the leading global benchmark for pricing transactions.

The proposed power plant will have two units of 660MW that will generate power for local consumption, as nearly 40 percent of the population does not have access to electricity.

The project, however, has raised environmental concerns, with activists warning that the movement of

coal posed a threat to the nearby Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

The project poses significant adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that are diverse and irreversible, said Bank Track, a Netherlands-based coalition of organisations "targeting the operations and investments of private sector banks and their effect on people and the planet" last year.

The government and the BIFPCL said the plant would not harm the Sundarbans as international standards are being followed properly.

Earlier, Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, managing director of the BIFPCL, said the criticisms of the plant are not based on ground realities.

Bhattacharya had said the company is taking the most stringent environmental protection measures. The plant would not harm cultural heritage and biodiversity and living natural resources, he said.

The Rampal plant is located just 14 kilometres upstream of the Sundarbans. The plant, which will be comprised of two 660MW super-critical units, is estimated to burn 4.72 million tonnes of imported coal a year.

BB presses banks to incentivise good borrowers

REJAIL KARIM BYRON

The central bank is set to strictly monitor whether the banks are giving rewards to their good borrowers as many of the institutions are reluctant to do so.

In January next year, the banks will have to forward the specifics of the rebates given during 2015 and 2016, said Anwarul Islam, a spokesperson for Bangladesh Bank.

From then on, the banks will have to routinely send details of the rebates extended to their good borrowers, he added.

The central bank introduced the rebate policy in March last year with the view to incentivising the good customers such that they are encouraged to always repay their loans on time.

The good borrowers will be given a 10 percent rebate on their interest payments, as per the policy.

Many of the banks tried to skip the incentive programme, putting up various excuses.

READ MORE ON B3

D-8 trade agreement to take effect in July

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The D-8 member countries have agreed to implement the preferential trade agreement from July 1, keeping Bangladesh's proposal regarding the local value addition criteria hanging.

D-8, also known as the Developing-8, is an organisation for development cooperation among Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

Bangladesh has been demanding 30 percent local value addition for its goods to be exported to the D-8 nations. In other words, if Bangladesh can add just 30 percent value to the product locally, it will be considered as manufactured in Bangladesh.

The rest of the D-8 countries have agreed on 40 percent local value addition.

The declaration to implement the agreement came at the second Trade Ministers' Council Meeting held in Islamabad last week.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed could not attend the meeting; a technical committee headed by Monoj Kumar Roy, additional secretary of the ministry, represented Bangladesh.

There will be a special meeting in March to discuss Bangladesh's proposal on local value addition, he said. "We hope the dispute on the issue will be resolved at that meeting."

Bangladesh has to send a fresh proposal to D-8 members regarding its demand within a month, Roy said.

The establishment of D-8 was announced officially through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State on June 15, 1997.

But the pact could not come into force in the last 18 years due to the difference among the members on the issue of local value addition, also known as the rules of origin.

To determine the nationality of a product, the rules of origin criteria is used by the World Trade Organisation.

Once the origin of a product is known, the importing country can apply any country-specific or trade area-specific preferences or restrictions to the goods.

"There is no reason that Bangladesh as a least-developed country won't get the preferential trade benefits. The WTO allows an LDC 30 percent local value addition," an official of the Tariff Commission said.

There are talks that LDCs will be given further benefits on local value addition as per a decision on the recently-held Nairobi ministerial conference, he said.

Operationalisation of the agreement would encourage the private sector and other economic actors of the D-8 nations to pursue more trade and economic activities with their counterparts in the member countries, contributing positively to enhancing the intra-trade.

An estimate shows effective collaboration between the D-8 governments, agencies and private sectors can take intra-trade to \$500 billion by 2018.

Two candidates to vie for DSE directorship

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Former president and a former director of Dhaka Stock Exchange have submitted their applications to vie for the post of a director of the premier bourse.

The two candidates are Md Rakibur Rahman, the former DSE president and managing director of Midway Securities, and Minhaz Mannan Emon, former director of the bourse and managing director of BLI Securities.

The election commission of the DSE posted the list of candidates on the bourse's website yesterday, the last day for nomination submission.

The last day for nomination withdrawal is March 7, according to the election schedule.

The election for the post of a shareholder-director of the DSE will be held on March 15, as one director will retire this year in line with the demutualisation scheme.

This year, Sharif Anwar Hossain, managing director of Sahidullah Securities, will retire from the DSE board.

The newly elected director will join the 13-member board at the bourse's annual general meeting set for March 24.

The board consists of seven independent directors, four shareholder directors, one from the strategic investors' category and the bourse's chief executive officer, who would have voting rights only for election of the chairman.

The demutualisation scheme was approved by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in 2013. In 2012, a law on demutualisation was passed in parliament with a promise to bring transparency to the stockmarket.

Demutualisation is a way of separating management of the bourses from ownership.

It transforms a stock exchange into a profit-oriented company, owned by shareholders and ensures alternative business models and operational efficiency.

Prior to demutualisation, Bangladesh's stock exchanges were non-profit cooperative organisations, owned by the exchange members who are usually stockbrokers.

This year, 242 DSE voters are eligible to cast their ballot.



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed poses with the leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association after distribution of appointment letters to 29 residents of former enclaves, at the association's office in Dhaka. The BGMEA trained and then offered them employment under its "skill for employment programme".

Businesses call for an end to harassment by taxmen

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Businesses yesterday urged the government to widen its tax net and stop harassing them for collection of value-added tax.

Of the total 64,000 registered VAT payees, the National Board of Revenue could collect money from only 4,000 small enterprises under the so-called package system, said Matlub Ahmad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The government is mounting pressure on the

businessmen who have already been paying the taxes, whereas the evaders continue to remain out of the NBR officials' reach, he said.

"Paying 15 percent VAT is one kind of burden on the businessmen," he said, adding that if the government widens the tax net the amount of revenue will also increase.

Ahmad's comments came at a discussion on the VAT issue at the FBCCI office in Dhaka.

The FBCCI and the NBR have jointly organised the dialogue, as many businessmen have been complaining of harassment by NBR officials for VAT collection.

Trade body leaders, businessmen from different chambers, traders, exporters, importers, manufacturers and dealers expressed their opinions on the issue at the dialogue. The businessmen complained that the NBR officials audit their financial transactions without prior notices.

The tax officials also collect money from sectors that have been already exempted like house rent for the export-oriented garment sector, they added.

READ MORE ON B3

Stocks open week in the red

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks opened the week lower yesterday as investors adopted a wait-and-see policy. DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, declined 0.04 points or 0.21 percent, finishing the first day of the week at 4,577.61 points.

"Lack of market confidence, slow investment situation and rise in flow of money into national saving certificates and bank deposit despite fall in interest rate muted the stocks movement," said LankaBangla Securities in its regular analysis.

READ MORE ON B3

একসময়ইবিএল ফ্রান্সিস্ট পিএ শিওরক্যাশ

স্বাগত উল্লাহ স্বপ্নসমূহ

FSIB ISLAMIC BANK

ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:

+880197716257
mfs@fsibbd.com
www.fsibbd.com

টাকা পাঠাই ফোনে ফোনে

Midland Bank

Uttara Branch Relocation

New Location

Uttara Branch
ABC Heritage, Plot 2 & 4
Jashimuddin Avenue, Sector 03
Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Contact Centre: (+88) 096 66 410 888 / (+88) 096 11 410 888

midlandbank
bank for inclusive growth

www.midlandbankbd.net

Z Series
Define your own style!

OS UPGRADEABLE

SYMPHONY ZV PRO
• 1.4 GHz Octa Core
• 5" HD AMOLED Display (Gorilla Glass 3 on both sides)
• 13 MP + 5 MP
• RAM 2GB & ROM 16GB
• OTG & OTA
• Free flip cover

Now @ Th. 11,990

SYMPHONY ZVI
• 1.4 GHz Octa Core
• 5" HD AMOLED Display (Gorilla Glass 3)
• 13 MP + 8 MP
• RAM 2GB & ROM 16GB
• OTG & OTA
• 2 free covers

Now @ Th. 11,890

free

6 MONTHS EMI WITH 0% INTEREST APPLICABLE WITH THE FOLLOWING BANKS:

Standard Chartered, zfp, EMI facility is available only from SYMPHONY

A Product of EDISON Group

www.facebook.com/symphonymobile Call center: @ 16272, @ 09666700666 *Call center: 8am - 10pm (except Friday & gov. holidays) www.symphony-mobile.com

ONE YEAR WARRANTY