



Rahel Ahmed, chief executive officer of Prime Bank, attends the bank's annual strategy and budget meet at Brac CDM Rajendrapur in Gazipur.

India moves to stub out tobacco industry rights

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian government is pushing the Supreme Court to apply a rarely used doctrine that would strip the \$11 billion tobacco industry's legal right to trade, an effort aimed at deterring tobacco companies from challenging tough new regulations.

New Delhi has for the first time asked the top court to classify tobacco as "res extra commercium", a Latin phrase meaning "outside commerce," according to a Reuters review of previously unreported court filing by the Health Ministry on Jan. 8.

If applied, the doctrine - which harkens back to Roman law - would have far reaching implications: in denying an industry's legal standing to trade, it gives authorities more leeway to impose restrictions.

For example, the Supreme Court's application of the doctrine to alcohol in the 1970s paved the way for at least two Indian states to ban it completely and allowed courts to take a stricter stance while regulating liquor - something constitutional law experts say could happen with tobacco if a similar ruling was made.

"The effects of tobacco are much more than even alcohol ... It will be a fillip to this drive against tobacco," said government lawyer R. Balasubramanian, who is acting on behalf of the Ministry of Health in pursuing the designation.

Balasubramanian, however, said the government is not discussing banning tobacco and the goal of invoking the Roman law doctrine was only to curtail the industry's legal rights.

With an aim to curb tobacco consumption - which kills more than 900,000 people each year in India - the government has in recent years raised tobacco taxes, started smoking cessation campaigns and introduced laws requiring covering most of the package in health warnings.

But a court in southern Karnataka state last month quashed those labelling rules after the tobacco industry successfully argued the measure was "unreasonable" and violated its right to trade.

The government this month appealed the ruling in the Supreme Court which put on hold the Karnataka court order. The top court will next hear the case on March 12.

In its filing, the government included "res extra commercium" because it wants to stop the industry from pursuing such arguments again, said Balasubramanian.

Seeking to apply the doctrine to tobacco, the government argued it should have the power "to regulate business and to mitigate evils" to safeguard public health, the court filing showed.

Sajan Poovayya, a senior lawyer representing top Indian cigarette maker ITC Ltd and Philip Morris International Inc's Indian partner, Godfrey Phillips, said the industry's legal rights would be severely limited if the court applies the doctrine to tobacco.

Poovayya said he would fight the government's argument "tooth and nail" and make a case that taking away the industry's right to trade would imperil millions of Indian farmers who depend on tobacco for their living. The industry estimates 45.7

million people in India depend on tobacco for their living.

"India is a tobacco growing country and there's a need to look at the interest of those people who are already in the sector," Poovayya said.

"Tobacco is not destructive to health. If tobacco is, sugar is as well."

ITC and Godfrey Phillips, as well as India's health ministry, did not respond to requests for comment. India's tobacco labelling rules, which mandate 85 percent of a cigarette pack's surface be covered in health warnings, have been a sticking point between the government and the tobacco industry since they were enforced in 2016.

That year, the industry briefly shut factories across the country in protest and filed dozens of legal cases challenging the rules.

The federal health ministry says stringent health warnings on packages help reduce consumption of tobacco by making people aware of its ill-effects. A government survey last year found 62 percent of cigarette smokers thought of quitting because of warning labels on the packets.

Mary Assunta, a long-time tobacco control advocate and a senior policy advisor at the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, said she had never heard of a country applying the "res extra commercium" doctrine to tobacco, but hoped India would set a precedent.

"Such a classification will help protect tobacco control measures from being challenged, particularly for developing countries where the bulk of the smokers are," Assunta said.

Doing business in S Korea getting harder

EU firms say

REUTERS, Seoul

More than three in five European Union executives say doing business in trade-dependent South Korea -- Asia's fourth-largest economy - has got harder, a survey showed Tuesday.

Respondents to the EU Chamber of Commerce in Korea cited rising labour costs, ambiguous rules, market access, and inconsistent application of regulations as issues, urging more transparent policymaking and improved rule of law.

"Initiatives to support business such as deregulation seemed to have phased out," the organisation said in its Business Confidence Survey.

President Moon Jae-In came to power last year promising reforms in several areas.

But the ECCK said: "Not much progress has been made in terms of substantial changes referring to improvements in business and international trade."

A total of 108 company executives, representing a combined workforce exceeding 30,000 employees and a total turnover of EUR 28 billion, answered the survey in November.

The Korean market was increasingly strategically important, said 44 percent.

But 61 percent "feel that doing business in Korea has become more challenging than two years ago", the ECCK said.

Progress in Nafta talks, but very slow: US trade official

AFP, Montreal

Talks aimed at revamping the North American Free Trade Agreement have advanced slowly, a US trade official said Monday, while holding out hope for breakthroughs in the next round of talks.

Negotiators from Canada, the United States and Mexico bore down on key issues in week-long talks in Montreal, averting a feared collapse of the bloc, which binds together nearly 500 million consumers.

With Washington accusing Canada of intransigence, Ottawa changed tack and presented new proposals on several key sticking points.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer slammed a few of those proposed compromises including on the auto sector, but agreed to keep talking.

A next round of Nafta negotiations has been scheduled for the end of February in Mexico, before moving to Washington.

"We finally began to discuss some of the core issues. So, this round was a step forward. But we are progressing very slowly," Lighthizer told a news conference.

"We'll work hard between now and the beginning of the next round (in Mexico at the end of February) and we hope for major breakthroughs during that period," he said.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said she was "pleased with the progress that has been achieved here this week."

"Canadians do not view trade as a zero-sum game in which one side must lose in order for the other to win," she said.

"We've also said from the outset, last August, that we believe that Nafta must be updated and improved and that the benefits of trade must flow more broadly to more people in order for that trade to be sustainable."

Their tone was markedly more optimistic than at the start of the round when Canadian officials expressed concern the United States would pull out of Nafta.

To protect itself from such an eventuality, Ottawa had even announced last week that it was joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership along with 10 other Asia-Pacific countries.



Mohammad Akher, head of sales, treasury and trade solutions at Citibank NA Bangladesh; Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam, head of Tanjib Alam and Associates, and AKM Fahim Mashroor, founder and CEO of Ajkerdeal.com, an online marketplace, attend a discussion on "Next wave of treasury digitisation: Looking ahead" at The Westin Dhaka recently.

BANGLADESH FREEDOM FIGHTERS' WELFARE TRUST

Under the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
Swadhinata Bhaban, 88, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka- 1000.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Sealed Pre-qualification applications are hereby invited from the bona-fide Developer / Firm / Contractor for the under mentioned works. Developers / Contractors who already pre-qualified for any particular project, need not to submit the documents further.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.		
2. Name of invitation Agency	Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust (BFFWT), Dhaka.		
3. Invitation for	Pre-qualification for Construction of Market / Commercial Complex / Multipurpose Building at different places of BFFWT's owned lands on sharing basis.		
4. Invitation Ref. No.	48.01.0000.202.14.388(4).16/420	Date-	31/01/2018
5. Method of invitation	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
6. Budget and Source of Funds	Developer / Company's own fund.		
7. Project / Programme Name	Package no.-1	Construction of (3B+25) 28 storied Commercial Complex at Mimi Chocolate Ltd. 255, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka	
	Package no.-2	Construction of (3B+25) 28 storied Commercial Complex at Old Tabani Beverage Company Ltd. 257, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka.	
	Package no.-3	Construction of Multi-storied Market / Commercial Complex Building on sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land at 1018, Chatterwari Road, Chittagong.	
8. Name & Address of the office(s) and Date & Time of Selling and Receiving of P.Q Document			
	Place	Date	Time
(i) Selling of Schedule	a) Finance Division, BFFWT, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. b) Eastern Chemical Industries Ltd. (ECI), 20 Mohara I/A, Chittagong.	Upto 11/03/2018	9.00AM to 5.00 PM every working day
(ii) Receiving	a) Office of the Director Industries & Commerce, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. b) Eastern Chemical Industries Ltd. (ECI), 20 Mohara I/A, Chittagong.	12/03/2018	Upto 3.00 PM
9. Place / Date / Time of Pre-bid Meeting.	Office of the Director (Industries & Commerce), 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 05/03/2018 11.00 AM.		
10. Eligibility of Applicants	As stated in the P.Q Document. Interested Developer / Firm / Company will provide information including that they are qualified to perform the work (Brochures, Description of Similar Assignments and Experience in similar working conditions. Availability of appropriate qualification and experience among staff with signed Curriculum Vita).		
11. Pre qualification Document price:	TK. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand) only (Each set). (Non refundable).		
12. Completion time :	48 months (Package no.-1, 2 & 3)		
13. Package no./Area in Acre	Brief Description of works.		
1	1.00	Construction of (3B+25)=28 storied Commercial Complex of highest height and area as fit to be approved by RAJUK / concerned authority in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with three basements with related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works at Mimi Chocolate Ltd. 255, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka.	
2	1.00	Construction of (3B+25)=28 storied Commercial Complex of highest height and area as fit to be approved by RAJUK / concerned authority in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with three basement and related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works at Old Tabani Beverage Company Ltd. 257, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka.	
3	0.6599	Construction of Multistoried Market / Commercial Complex of highest height and area as fit to be approved by CDA/concerned authority in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with required numbers of basements, Cineplex in suitable floors/with related electrical, water supply & sanitary and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land of Delwar Pictures Limited (DPL) at 1018, Chatterwari Road, Chittagong.	
14. Name of official inviting pre-qualification application	Mir Md. Nazrul Islam		
15. Designation of Official Inviting pre-qualification	Director (Industries & Commerce) BFFWT.		
16. Address of official inviting pre-qualification	88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.		
17. Contact details of official inviting pre-qualification.	Telephone: 9562340 Fax No.: 9562258 E-Mail: di@bfffwt.gov.bd		
18. The entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all pre-qualification applications without assigning any reason.			

N.B: Special Instruction -
(1) This notice will be available on the web site of BFFWT (i.e. www.bfffwt.gov.bd) and CPTU (www.cptu.org.bd).
(2) Interested applicant may obtain further information from the phone no. 9558521 & 9561813 also.
(3) The applicant shall be allowed to submit the application to the place fixed for the submission of the same by post, by courier service or in person at any day (during office hours) during the period fixed for the preparation and submission of the application. In case of submitting P.Q documents by secured post service must be addressed to Director (Industries & Commerce), BFFWT, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and it must be reached within the time mentioned in Sl. No. 8.
(4) In the event of unavoidable circumstances / uncontrollable reason if the selling and receiving of the P.Q documents cannot be done on the above mentioned dates, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid date of selling and receiving of the same respectively. Time and place shall remain unchanged.
(5) A particular Developer / Firm / Company may participate in tender of three projects simultaneously and even if incidentally a particular firm / company becomes highest bidder in both, he must be awarded only one of his choice, in other words no particular Developer / Firm / Company will be awarded more than one project.
(6) Land litigation (if any) will be met up by the BFFWT authority.
(7) In applicable cases "The Public Procurement act 2006" and "The Public Procurement Rules 2008" shall be followed.

(Mir Md. Nazrul Islam)
Director (Industries & Commerce), BFFWT.

বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ

ই-১২/এ, আগারগাঁও, ডাক বাঙ্গা নং-২৪০, ঢাকা-১২০৭
Phone: 88-02-9124846
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সূত্র নংঃ ৩৯.০৭.০০০০.০০১.০১৮.১৮৮.১৭-০০১

তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০১৮খ্রিঃ

ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	দরপত্রের নাম	ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক এর মাধ্যমে কর্তৃপক্ষের দাপ্তরিক কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য যাবতীয় মালামাল সরবরাহ।
২.	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী।
৩.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ (বাপশনিক), আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
৪.	দরপত্র সংগ্রহ	খোলা দরপত্র।
৫.	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব।
৬.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	০১ (এক)টি।
৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের সংখ্যা	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০২/২০১৮ইং তারিখ দুপুর ০১.৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৬/০২/২০১৮ইং তারিখ দুপুর ০১.৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	উর্ধ্বতন প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, কক্ষ নং-৬০৫, অথরিটি ভবন, বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ (বাপশনিক), আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ ঠিকানায় তার দাপ্তরিক কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেবিল বাস্কে।
১১.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করার তারিখ, সময় এবং স্থান	২৬/০২/২০১৮ইং তারিখ দুপুর ০২.০০ মিনিট। অথরিটি ভবনের ৪০১নং কক্ষ।
১২.	দরপত্রদাতা/ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রদাতাকে কোন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/ষায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (ক) চলতি অর্থ বছরের বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (খ) টিআইএন সনদপত্র (গ) ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র (ঘ) ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতার মূল সনদপত্র এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
১৩.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	হিসাব বিভাগ, কক্ষ নং-৬১২, অথরিটি ভবন, বাপশনিক, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
১৪.	দরপত্রের শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী	সিডিউলের বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী।
১৫.	নির্দেশনা	কর্তৃপক্ষের কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ
০১। নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাকেজ আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে হবে।
০২। যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
০৩। দরপত্রের সাথে প্রযোজ্য সকল দলিলাদি দাখিল না করা হলে ঐ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৪। নির্বাচিত দরপত্রদাতাকে প্রযোজ্য মুসক ও অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

বিঃ দ্রঃ
দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ দিবসে এবং খোলার দিবসে যদি কোন ছুটি থাকে অথবা অন্য অনিবার্য কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে ঐ দিবসে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবস প্রযোজ্য হবে।

Special Instruction:
ক) নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল না করলে তা সরাসরি বাতিল করা হবে এবং তা না করেই অংশগ্রহণকারীর নিকট ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।
খ) কোন কারণের দরপত্র কার্যক্রম বাতিল/বিলম্বিত হলে দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরদাতা/দরদাতাগণ কোনরূপ ক্ষতিপূরণ দাবী করতে পারবেন না। নির্ধারিত সময়ে সরবরাহ বার্থ হলে পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি মোতাবেক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। নির্বাচিত রেসপনসিভ সরবরাহকারীকে নিজ দায়িত্বে সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
গ) দরপত্রের কোনরূপ সংশোধন হলে তা ঐ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অংশ হিসেবে গণ্য করা হবে এবং দরপত্রদাতা তা পালনে বাধ্য থাকবে।

মোঃ আফছার উদ্দিন
উর্ধ্বতন প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা
বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ
ফোনঃ ৮৮-০২-৮১৮১০৪০

জিডি-২৭৫