

Cross-border e-commerce platform in the offing

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

The Saarc Development Fund is developing an e-commerce platform for trade in goods and services and plans to fund start-ups, said its chief executive officer Sunil Motiwal.

"A proposal to develop a cross-border e-commerce platform along with a Saarc money card for the common people across the region is under finalisation," he said in a statement yesterday.

He summarised the outcome of the recent two-day Saarc Development Fund Partnership Conclave, an event of strategic and regional importance for growth of the region with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in New Delhi.

Motiwal said the common e-commerce platform has a great potential for enhancing the intra-Saarc trade and services.

For instance, consumers of Bangladesh textile anywhere in the region and beyond can place orders on the platform.

Similarly, a range of commodities, including fruits and vegetables grown in Bhutan, Pakistan or India can be sold and bought online, the CEO said.

On regulatory issues facing e-commerce, Motiwal said: "We will connect with regulators and central banks of all Saarc member-countries and emphasise the underlying potential of online trading."

There is also a proposal to introduce a plastic Saarc money card, which can have denominations of all the currencies in the region, he said.

According to Motiwal, initiatives such as e-commerce platform along with funding start-ups found instant support among international funding organisations.

The start-up programme will include entrepreneurs in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, health

and micro-enterprises.

Motiwal urged young entrepreneurs from the eight Saarc countries — Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan — to take advantage of the proposed e-commerce and start-up projects.

"You can come up with a proposal which will be funded by the SDF, which has a capital base of \$500 million."

The Saarc region has the age profile of 15-24 years, a perfect fit for online business, Motiwal pointed out. Besides, it has a huge pool of skilled and low-cost workforce and abundant natural resources.

Currently, only 4 percent of the total trade of the Saarc countries is taking place within the region. And Motiwal said trade can be increased significantly by the initiatives like e-commerce.

Stakeholders can work on building common facilities for logistics, warehousing and transportation, he added.

Qatar Airways raises Dhaka-Doha flights to 4

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Qatar Airways recently announced increasing flights on the Dhaka-Doha route from three to four from August 1.

An Airbus A330-200 will be used for the additional flight, having 24 seats in business class and 236 in economy, said a statement yesterday of the airline which connects over 150 destinations with Dhaka.

Book on customs tariff published

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Customs Tariff, a compilation of import and export duty and other rates of taxes, has been published for the sixth consecutive year to help businesses, particularly importers and exporters, take decisions on overseas trade.

The paperback records the rate of customs duty, supplementary duty, value added tax, advance income tax as well as regulatory duty separately applicable for every import item for fiscal 2018-19.

It also allows entrepreneurs, importers, exporters and other people engaged in

overseas trade related activities to know the total tax incidence on an import item for the current fiscal. The book added a new list of items on which export duty has been slapped by the revenue authority.

"Inclusion of list of items that face export duty will be helpful for people who are interested to make exports," said Mohammed Ruhul Amin, an official of the National Board of Revenue, who compiled the book published by Liton Publications.

The publication also provides interpretations on various import related notifications alongside naming goods that enjoy duty waiver.



Mostafa Golam Quddus, chairman of Rupali Insurance Company Ltd, presides over the company's 30th annual general meeting in Dhaka on July 4. The bank approved 5 percent cash and 5 percent stock dividends for 2017.

Konica high official in Dhaka



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Osafumi Kawamura, managing director of office equipment distributor Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia Pte Ltd, arrived on an official visit to Dhaka yesterday.

This is the second visit of any Konica chief to meet management and senior officials of its local distributor, Zeeshan International Agencies Ltd. Kawamura assumed his role in January 2018, the distributor said in a statement.

"Asia is one of the world's fastest growing markets for the global industrial printing market and I look forward to meeting our Bangladeshi counterparts to discuss our business plans in the South Asian market," said Kawamura.

"With over 7,000 printing houses, there are a lot of opportunities for the country to set up world-class printing houses," he added.

World's biggest mobile factory opens in Noida

FROM PAGE B1
India overtook the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market after China last year.

"Samsung has provided employment to approximately 70,000 people; the new plant will provide employment to 1,000 more," the Indian prime minister said.

Modi said India's expanding economy and the new-middle class would create unlimited possibilities. There is hardly any Indian middle class household, which does not have a Samsung product, he said.

Banks get battered

FROM PAGE B1

Since January this year, market capitalisation of most sectors declined but the financial sector was hit particularly hard: non-bank financial institutions too shed 21.10 percent.

During the period, telecommunication lost 16.97 percent, pharmaceuticals 4.10 percent, engineering 6.55 percent, cement 15.12 percent, textile 1.89 percent and life insurance 6.30 percent.

Conversely, miscellaneous and fuel and power saw gains of 11.07 percent and 10.09 percent in market capitalisation respectively.

The banking sector lost the most among the major sectors yesterday too, declining 1.35 percent. It was followed by financial institutions at 0.84 percent, life insurance at 0.58 percent and fuel and power at 0.54 percent.

Conversely, mutual funds and

engineering gained 0.68 percent and 0.64 percent respectively.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, declined 24.74 points or 0.46 percent, finishing the day at 5,341.27 points. "The capital bourse closed in the red amid profit booking tendencies," said the daily market analysis of EBL Securities.

Turnover, another important indicator of the market, increased 1 percent to Tk 901.26 crore, with 23.24 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the DSE.

Of the traded issues, 141 advanced, 164 declined and 36 closed unchanged on the premier bourse.

BBS Cables dominated the turnover chart with its transaction of 50.80 lakh shares worth Tk 42.48 crore, followed by Bashundhara Paper Mills, Legacy Footwear, Singer Bangladesh and Ratanpur Steel Re-Rolling Mills.

Legacy Footwear was the day's best performer, posting a gain of 9.95 percent, followed by BBS Cables, Peninsula Chittagong, Pacific Denims, and Dragon Sweater and Spinning Mills.

GQ Ball Pen was the worst loser, shedding 7.49 percent, followed by Asia Pacific General Insurance, Libra Infusions, Agricultural Marketing Company (Pran) and Ratanpur Steel Re-Rolling Mills.

Chittagong stocks fell, with the bourse's benchmark index, CSCX, declining 34.15 points or 0.34 percent to finish the day at 9,958.68.

Losers beat gainers as 121 declined and 102 advanced, while 23 finished unchanged on the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

The port city bourse traded 1.27 crore shares and mutual fund units worth Tk 44.12 crore in turnover.

Mobile VAS providers should have licences

FROM PAGE B1

Local VAS providers said they are happy that the regulator has at last taken an initiative to bring the sector under regulation.

"We think local players will receive some benefits under the regulation compared to the current situation," said Rafiur Rahman Khan Yusufzai, general secretary of the Content Provider and Aggregator Association of Bangladesh.

He said the BTRC's directive on the revenue sharing ratio would help resolve VAS providers' longstanding tussle with mobile phone operators.

Currently, Grameenphone shares 50 percent of revenue with VAS providers while Robi and Banglalink share 20 percent to 40 percent, said Yusufzai.

Mobile phone operators also welcomed the move as the guideline is expected to help

establish a transparent ecosystem.

"However, it could have been more beneficial for customers had mobile phone operators been allowed to provide agnostic service," said Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone.

The guideline said VAS providers would have to obtain registration certificate from the BTRC.

The application fee for the registration is Tk 5,000 and the registration fee for a period of five years is Tk 50,000.

The ratio of revenue sharing depends on service modality, contribution of stakeholders to the VAS value chain, scale of operation, and geographic and demographic characteristics of the target market, according to the guideline.

The revenue sharing model may vary depending on services and networks, it said.



Nihad Kabir, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), opens a new office room of the chamber's Certificate of Origin section on the ground floor of the chamber building at Motijheel in Dhaka yesterday.

Tax-breaks, incentives lure investors

FROM PAGE B1

"This will be instrumental for them to get the market for their products. This is another reason for the firms to show interest," he added.

Mohammad Abdus Samad, adviser of City Group, said easy access to utility services is one of the main reasons behind its interest in establishing economic zones.

The food commodity giant has got licence for the City Economic Zone and is waiting for the licence for the City Industrial Economic Zone.

"Tax benefit is another reason," he said, adding that the company plans

to set up noodle, biscuit and edible oil plants. Aman Group has set up a cement factory, packaging unit and a shipbuilding yard in its economic zone, said Mukter Hossain Talukder, its director of finance.

"We have plans to establish two feed mills, flour mill and seed crushing plant in the zone."

The group, which has operations mainly in textiles and garments, has no plan to relocate its other units to the economic zone, Talukder said.

"Space is not adequate for relocation. Besides, the cost of relocation will be high. We plan to rent out," he

added.

The government should give some time-bound conditions to ensure tangible results, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

"There should be tangible evidence for a certain percentage of land."

He said a certain portion of land should also be allocated for development of planned township to ensure all amenities for workers in the zone.

"That is the industrialisation we would like to see."

Project cost rises as size expands

FROM PAGE B1

The revised project papers say 38 percent of the expenses have been made while physical progress had reached 23 percent.

The Ecne had approved the project in August 2015 and it was scheduled to have been completed last month. Now, the completion date has been extended to December 2020.

The Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh first took up the initiative in 2009 to present the country's products to foreign buyers, said a planning ministry official.

The cost was calculated to be Tk 275 crore while the Old Airport area was selected as the venue. The land was found to be unavailable and the sector 4 of Purbachal's Roopganj side was selected.

On the increase in cost, the planning ministry said the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design has prepared a second design of the project which necessitated the use of more land and new components.

A firm approved by the Chinese government will construct the exhibition centre and

hand it over to the Bangladesh government, said a planning ministry official.

The institute's new design contains 806 booths of nine square metres each in two hall rooms.

There will also be a conference room, press centre, meeting room and business information centre, as well as parking space for 1,500 cars. There will be a maternity corner and crèche on the first floor.

The proposal says the permanent exhibition centre would enable manufacturers and export-

ers to showcase their products year round while the local companies would get ideas from visiting foreign buyers.

Currently, the trade fair is held at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar near the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre throughout the month of January.

Local companies participate alongside foreign ones from countries, including India, Pakistan, China, Malaysia, Thailand, the US, Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Germany.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project-DoE Component Department of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd
Memo No: Paribesh/CASE/Lab/DoE-AF-W3/277/2018/706 Date: 08/07/2018

Invitation for Tender (Re-Tender) (For Works)

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2	Agency	Department of Environment (DoE).
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project, DoE Component.
4	Procuring entity code	45-4541-5030
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Setup central air quality laboratory with modern facilities under Department of Environment (DoE) at Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Paribesh/CASE/Lab/DoE-AF-W3/277/2018/706
8	Date	08-07-2018

KEY INFORMATION
9 Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION
10 Budget and source of funds: Development Budget (IDA Credit No. 5924 BD).
11 Development partners: International Development Association (IDA).

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
12 Project/programme code: 5030
13 Project/programme name: Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project.
14 Tender package No.: DoE-AF-W3
15 Tender package name: Setup central air quality laboratory with modern facilities.

Dates
16 Tender publication date: On or before 11 July, 2018.
17 Tender last selling date: 24 July, 2018 (During office hours).
18 Tender closing deadline: 25 July, 2018, 12:00 noon.
19 Tender opening date and time: 25 July, 2018, 12:15pm.

Name & address of the office(s)
20 Selling tender document: Office of the Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project, E/16, Paribesh Bhaban (3rd Floor), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
21 Receiving tender document: Office of the Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project, E/16, Paribesh Bhaban (3rd Floor), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
22 Opening tender document: Office of the Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project, E/16, Paribesh Bhaban (3rd Floor), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
23 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting: Place: Office of the Project Director, CASE Project, E/16, Paribesh Bhaban (3rd Floor), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Date: 16 July, 2018 time: 11:00am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
24 Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer (Detail as mentioned in TDS)
i) Trade license, VAT registration, TIN registration.
ii) Minimum 3 years of experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor or Supplier of Lab equipment.
iii) Average annual turnover shall be minimum Tk. 80.00 lac (eighty lac) over the best three (3) years in the last five (5) years.
iv) The firm shall have completed at least one laboratory setup work during last 3 (three) years in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous/Private Organization of Bangladesh having minimum value of Tk. 30.00 lac within last 03 years.
v) The firm shall have skilled manpower as mentioned in TDS.
vi) Minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities shall be Tk. 30 (thirty) lac.
vii) See Tender Data Sheet (TDS) for more eligibility criteria.

25 Brief description of works: Setup central air quality laboratory with modern facilities (Wall table, Island Table with rack (shelf), laboratory sink table with sink & accessories, storage cabinet, wall hanging cabinet, lab tool, executive table, chair, glass partition, partition wall, apron cabinet with shoe rack, electrical works).

26 Brief description of physical services: As mention in tender documents.

27 Price of tender document: Tk. 500.00 (five hundred taka only) (non-refundable) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay Order of any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project.

28	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time
	Single lot	Setup central air quality laboratory with modern facilities	Agargaon, Dhaka	Tk. 1,30,000.00 (one lac thirty thousand)	3 (three) months

29 Form of tender security: Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Pay Order of any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
30 Name of official inviting tender: Dr. S. M. Munjurul Hannan Khan.
31 Designation of official inviting tender: Project Director.
32 Address of official inviting tender: Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project, E/16, Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
33 Contact details of official inviting tender: +880 2 8181788 E-mail: pcasedoe@gmail.com
34 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the tenders.

Dr. S. M. Munjurul Hannan Khan
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project
DoE Component

GD-1707