

German ambassador Troster meets ICCB president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troster held a meeting with members of the executive board of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB) at the ICCB secretariat in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

ICCB President Mahbubur Rahman and members of the executive board, including Ashraf Ahmed, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Omar Hazzaz, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Mohammad Ali Khokon,

president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Mir Akhter Hossain, managing director of Mir Nasir Hossain Ltd, Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), managing director of Evince Group, and Simeen Rahman, chief executive officer of Transcom Group, attended the meeting.

They discussed the promotion of bilateral trade and investment between the two countries during the meeting.

Among others, Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, chairman of Banking Commission at ICCB, Ataur Rahman, secretary general of ICCB, and Ajay B Saha, general manager of ICCB, were also present.



German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troster holds a meeting with ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman (5th from left) and members of the executive board of the ICCB at its secretariat in Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC BANGLADESH



Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to the prime minister, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the pavilion of Remark-Herlan at the 29th US Trade Show 2024 held at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: REMARK HB

Remark-Herlan products draw visitors at US Trade Show

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Remark-Herlan emerged as a prominent player at the 29th US Trade Show 2024, captivating attendees with its array of authentic products crafted using modern technology.

Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to the prime minister, inaugurated the pavilion of Remark-Herlan at the trade show, which was held at the InterContinental Dhaka, according to a press release.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas, and Zunaïd Ahmed Palak, state minister for information and

communication technology, were among those present.

Organised jointly by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) and the US Embassy in Dhaka, the Remark-Herlan pavilion drew significant attention from visitors. It offered a wide range of products of renowned brands like Nior, Siodil, Lily, Blaze O' Skin, Herlan, Cavotin, Max Beu, Acsol, Orix, Sunbit, and Tylox.

The company is enticing visitors with discounts, including a 25 percent discount for cosmetics and skincare products and a 15 percent discount for home and personal care items.



Nuruiddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, hands over a cheque to grassroots farmers from the bank's CSR fund at its head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

Southeast Bank provides financial aid to farmers from CSR fund

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Southeast Bank recently provided financial assistance to grassroots level farmers across the country from the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund to help their cultivation and facilitate purchases of agri-based machinery.

The financial assistance was channeled to farmers through Gram Bikash

Kendra, a non government development organisation of the country.

Nuruiddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, handed over the financial aid to the farmers at the bank's head office in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Md Masum Uddin Khan and Abidur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy managing directors of the bank, attended the programme.

Govt decision on power

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"This is because most of the economic zones are yet to be ready for the setting up of industrial units since no water and electricity supplies and other infrastructures have been put in place."

On March 21, the cabinet committee on economic affairs took the decision not to provide electricity and gas supply to new factories if they are set up in any other places except in government-designated economic zones or industrial enclaves.

The Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to this effect on April 8. The central bank also directed banks to ensure mandatory clearance certificates from utility service providers before approving loans.

In 2020, the energy and mineral resources ministry issued a circular to stop providing new gas connections to industries

outside economic zones and industrial parks from April 2021. However, the government did not implement the decision strictly in the last three years.

Kochi held a meeting with the leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association to discuss the pressing issues in the garment and textile sectors at the BGMEA office on Wednesday, according to a press release.

It said the garment industry, the main foreign currency earning sector of Bangladesh, is at a crossroads due to the current geopolitical crisis, which is disrupting global trade.

The leaders said many garment factories set up outside the designated economic zones or areas are undergoing expansion

and new factories are under construction.

Therefore, implementing the circular would exacerbate the crisis in the garment industry, hindering its growth and discouraging entrepreneurs from setting up new factories.

The leaders urged the government to exempt the garment industry from the provision for at least five more years and reiterated the demand for uninterrupted power and gas supply.

The issues of customs, VAT, and income tax linked to the garment industry were also discussed at the meeting, the press releases said.

The business leaders urged the National Board of Revenue to make customs, VAT, bonds, and tax-related processes faster, easier and hassle-free to facilitate the sustainable industry development and

help it attain the target of exporting goods worth \$100 billion by 2030.

Garment exports stood at a record \$47 billion in 2023.

The association leaders recommended reducing the tax at source from 1 percent to 0.5 percent to mitigate the impacts of the spike in the production cost and retain competitiveness.

They expressed their optimism that their demands would be considered in the upcoming budget scheduled to be unveiled in June.

The leaders also talked about Bangladesh's graduation from the category of least-developed countries and possible strategies to retain competitiveness in the post-graduation era and emphasised the importance of policy support to attract more investments in promising sectors.

PM asks state-run firms

FROM PAGE B1

"It is an important decision which will make the companies competitive," said Planning Minister Abdus Salam.

After getting listed, the companies will try to reduce their operating costs of their own accord, he said.

The minister cited the example of state-run Chhatak Cement Company in Sunamganj, which has been incurring losses for a long time.

The nearly 90-year-old company's ageing machinery has an annual production capacity of just 200 to 300 tonnes. In contrast there are now 37 private cement factories in Bangladesh, all established in the past two decades or so, having a total annual production capacity of 58 million tonnes against a demand of 35 million tonnes.

Getting listed will help turn state-run companies into responsible, efficient

and competitive entities, Salam said, adding that if the companies can grow, they can take up upgradation projects using their own earnings.

At present, there are 22 state-owned entities listed in the country's stock market.

The last to get listed was Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company in 2012.

Last year, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission identified 29 state-run companies which were eligible to go public.

Over the years the government has intermittently tried to get state-run companies listed, to little effect, due to opposition from officials and even the boards of directors of the companies.

Stock market analysts have been demanding that profit-making state-run companies get listed for a long time. For one thing, it will ensure good stocks in the market alongside funds for the government through the sale of shares.

Reforms needed

FROM PAGE B4

Rahman said that if the local currencies of countries from which Bangladesh imports products can be used for bilateral trade, then the pressure on the country's US dollar reserves will decrease.

"Increasing the price of the dollar will have a great impact on imports, but remittance income and export-oriented industries will also benefit," he added.

Zunaïd Ahmed Palak, the state minister for post, telecommunications and information technology, said the local information technology (IT) companies have built up amazing

capacity over the last 15 years.

He said IT entrepreneurs can now proudly present their achievements, having created around 2 million jobs over the last 10 years.

According to him, just during the last decade, around \$2 billion was invested in this sector.

"Now is the perfect time to invest in this sector as skilled manpower is available in Bangladesh," he said, adding that around 700 freelancers are contributing to American companies.

Palak claimed that US companies source around 60 percent of their

outsourced workforce from Bangladesh.

AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed said the US is one of Bangladesh's most significant and flourishing business partners, with growing opportunities in various sectors.

According to statistics, the US is the largest single-country investor in Bangladesh.

According to Ahmed, since the inception of the US Trade Show in 1992, when bilateral trade was worth just a few million USD, the event has played a pivotal role in fostering trade, which now exceeds \$10 billion.

"We are confident that

this show will serve as a gateway for American businesses to tap into the fast-growing Bangladesh market across diverse sectors, including energy and power, agriculture, heavy industries, consumer goods, healthcare and medical equipment, and various services," Ahmed said.

At the event, a total of 44 exhibitors are showcasing more than 100 top-tier US products and services across 79 booths. The trade show will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day.

The entry fee is Tk 30 per visitor, but invitees and students can enter for free.

Nasir becomes Shwapno's new MD

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Sabbir Hasan Nasir has recently been appointed as managing director of Shwapno, a subsidiary of ACI Limited.

Nasir was serving Shwapno as an executive director at ACI Logistics prior to his new role, according to a press release.

He joined ACI in 2012 as an executive director of Shwapno.

Under his leadership, Shwapno has become a leading a household name in Bangladesh.

Arif Dowla, group managing director of ACI, commended Nasir for his transformational leadership at Shwapno.

During his over 28-year professional career, Nasir has held various management positions in multinational companies as well as leading local companies.

After graduating from BUET in mechanical engineering in 1996, Nasir began his professional career at Bata Shoe Limited.

He later obtained his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at the University of Dhaka and moved on to work at IDE and Gollrate H&PC Limited in Angola, where he oversaw the manufacturing operations of Unilever.

	PRICE (MAY 9, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 64-Tk 76	-7.9 ↓	3.70 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 54	1.96 ↑	8.33 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 35-Tk 45	-8.05 ↓	-30.43 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	13.16 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 145-Tk 150	1.69 ↑	-16.67 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 55	6.32 ↑	34.67 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 65-Tk 75	16.67 ↑	12.00 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 45-Tk 47	12.20 ↑	-3.16 ↓

SOURCE: TCB

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo no: 02 P and D/CCC/2024 Date: 09/05/2024

E-Tender notice -DRIIDARP/2023-24/15

"Different Roads and Important Infrastructural Development including Airport Road under Chattogram City Corporation."

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Package/ Lot No.	Tender ID	Identification of Lot	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W09/L-2/B	960526	Development of Boro dighir par muluk chand bari, Costruction of Durga bari and satyananda asram retaining wall, Construction of Ram thakur dham to Shoilobala school main gate drain with slab, Development of Nondir hat syam sundor bari road, Bhaiyari link roadto Shahjalal R/A, nisorgo-2, Nur mohammad bari to shah md bari connecting road at 1 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W10/L-4/A	960527	Development of Mohammed ali road , Masum company, Amzad ali, Matuir rahman shah, Mohammad iqbal road at noya mazar road, Sher-e-bangla road, Kulgaon college (northside of Mr. Farid's house), Mr. Hasan's farmhouse at Chowdhury nagar at 2 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W2/L-1/C	960528	Construction of Footover bridge at City gate, Monsurabad and SherShah (Ruby gate)	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W2/L-1	980198	Construction of footover bridge at 1) Alongkar mor, 2) A.K Khan mor,	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W2/L-1/B	980196	Construction of footover bridge at 1) BNRBB, 2) Barek building mor	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W3/L-2/C	980197	Construction of Boropool bridge over mohesh khal at 26 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W37/L-1/A	980189	Development of Old D.T road with drain (Part-2) at 29 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W31/L-4	980199	Development of Sayed Shah Dorgah road, Najirpool kolabagan and hazi shah ahmed comissioner bari road, Kadamtoli road (Kadamtoli rail crossing to posterpar), Development of Pathantuly road at 23 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W38/L-2/B	980200	Development of Sadarghat road with drain & north nalapara kashem sowdagor bari culvert at 30 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W38/L-1/E	978453	Development of Majhirghat road with drain at 30 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W15/L-2/B	980192	Development of Tripura khal adjacent road, Nabinagar R/A road, sadarkhal adjacent road, Khotiber hat area, Chandmia sowdagor road, Burma colony R/A at 7 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W15/L-1/C	980193	Development of Hillview R/A road & footpath, Development of Hillview adjacent rangpur colony & Residential area roads at 7 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W15/L-1/C	980194	Widening of Bayezid thana road with footpath construction , Widening of roufabad & paharika R/A with footpath construction at 7 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W15/L-1/B	980190	Development of Bangladesh co-operative housing society and somobay R/A road, Hamzarbag colony road, Shahjahan R/A Hamzarbag mor to tripura khal badamtol road with drain at 7 no ward	06-June-2024 12.00	06-June-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W27/L-1/B	957880	Development of Osmia road and Re construction of Tonmia setu & Neel mahal at 19 no ward	30-May-2024 12.00	30-May-2024 14.00

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and offline hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

C.C.C/PRD-155/23-24
Size-11"X4 Col

(Tasmiah Tahseen)
Executive Engineer (P&D),
Chattogram City Corporation.

GD- 763