

China to ramp up fiscal support for consumption next year

China will ramp up fiscal support for consumption next year by raising pensions and medical insurance subsidies for residents as well as expanding consumer goods trade-ins, its finance ministry said on Tuesday.

The country will boost the basic pension for retirees and for urban and rural residents and raise financial subsidy standards for urban and rural residents' medical insurance to help "vigorously" boost consumption, the ministry said after concluding a two-day national fiscal work conference.

China will also intensify support for consumer goods trade-ins and expand effective investment and drive more social investment through government investment, the ministry said.

The measures will improve people's livelihoods and the policy system to support population growth as well as strengthen the social security network and health care system, it said.

Fiscal spending will enhance technological innovation capabilities and fully support the research and development of key core technologies and promote industrial upgrading, the ministry added.

At an agenda-setting meeting this month Chinese leaders pledged to increase the budget deficit, issue more debt and loosen monetary policy to maintain a stable economic growth rate as it girds for more trade tensions with the US when Donald Trump returns to the White House.

Malaysia has a strong interest in increasing investments in Bangladesh, according to Mohd Shuhada Othman, the high commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh.

He made this comment at the 23rd annual general meeting of the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) at a hotel in Dhaka recently, as per a press release.

Othman highlighted the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on October 4, during which he expressed a strong interest in increasing investments in Bangladesh.

Othman also reiterated his commitment to working closely with the BMCCI, backed by the full support of the Malaysian high commission in Dhaka.

Expressing his confidence, Othman said the BMCCI would support him on every step of the way, serving as a vital link between the Malaysian business community and Bangladeshi enterprises.

He emphasised his desire to see more Malaysian business entities join the BMCCI, highlighting the benefits of collaboration and shared goals of economic growth and prosperity.

The envoy concluded his speech by expressing optimism for the future, urging all stakeholders to work together and create a thriving business environment.



PHOTO: BMCCI

BMCCIPresident Shabbir Ahmed Khan presented their activity report for 2024 to members through a comprehensive visual presentation, emphasising the chamber's critical role and reaffirming its commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

remarkable progress in fostering business growth and maintaining the chamber's vibrancy, he said.

Key achievements included a successful fact-finding mission to Malaysia, where the board re-established vital relationships with key stakeholders such as MDEC and MATRADE.

The board also participated

in the SEMICON SEA summit, marking a significant entry into the semiconductor and integrated circuit sectors, accompanied by plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with respective organisations for talent development.

Among others, former presidents and members of the BMCCI were also present.

Walton Group in association with Safe, one of the largest electronic appliance brands in Bangladesh, recently organised two conferences, styled “Walton Electrical Appliance Annual Distributors Conference-2024” and “Safe Electrical Appliance Annual Distributors Conference-2024”.

SM Shamsul Alam, chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and SM Mahbubul Alam, managing director, inaugurated these events at the Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa in Cox's Bazar, said officials of the conglomerate at a press conference.

"Walton and Safe are producing and marketing products according to your [customer] demands every year, ensuring international standard and quality," he said while citing how their distributors submit the names of new products sought by customers.



PHOTO: WALTON

He also invited the distributors to visit the Walton headquarters and production plants in Gazipur to know details of the production process of Walton and Safe.

Pointing to distributors and partners, Walton Managing Director Alam said that they are skilled in the business sector.

"Walton and Safe are both moving forward through your skilled operations and activities," he added.

Suggesting increased branding activities, he also requested the business partners of Walton and Safe to analyse the market more extensively in a bid to grab larger portions of it.

Unilever Bangladesh Limited, in partnership with Kewkradong Bangladesh (KB), country coordinator of US-based non-profit Ocean Conservancy, conducted a coastal cleanup campaign at Saint Martin's Island recently.

A total of 350 volunteers took part in the programme and removed 1,500 kilogrammes of marine debris, including food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, bottle caps, plastic bags, utensils, and lids, from the island's beach and ensured safe disposal in the mainland, according to a press release.

Shamima Akhter, director of corporate affairs, partnerships and communications at the multinational company, said, "We must collaborate to design scalable systems and interventions that will reduce our environmental



Unilever Bangladesh Limited, in partnership with Kewkradong Bangladesh, conducts a coastal cleanup campaign at the Saint Martin's Island recently.

footprints and protect vulnerable ecosystems, such as St. Martin's Island."

"This year, the St. Martin Coastal Cleanup, in partnership with Kewkradong Bangladesh,

engaged youth volunteers and the local community to foster a sense of shared responsibility and demonstrate our commitment to improving the ecosystem," she added.

The Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) has declared a 20 percent cash dividend for the year that ended on June 30, 2024.


The declaration came at the company's 24th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually recently, said a press release.

Azam J Chowdhury, a director of the CDBL, presided over the meeting.

Syed Manzur Elahi, Naser Ezaz Bijoy, Md Shakil Rizvi, AKM Habibur Rahman, Md Harun-Or-Rashid, and Nasir Uddin Ahmed, directors of the CDBL, and Md Abdul Mutaleb, managing director and CEO (current charge), among others, were present.



Azam J Chowdhury, director of the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited, presides over the company's 24th annual general meeting, which was held virtually recently. The meeting declared a 20 percent cash dividend for 2024.



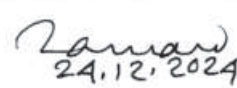
ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজোপাডিংকো)
WEST ZONE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
Office of the Project Director
Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I project
website: www.wzpdcl.gov.bd, e-mail: wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com, pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd

Memo no: 22.22.4785.700.50.001.24.210

Dated: 24/12/2024

Invitation for Prequalification (ICT)

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources		
02	Agency	West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL), Khulna		
03	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project, WZPDCL, Khulna.		
04	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
05	Procuring Entity District	Khulna		
06	Invitation for	Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Twelve (12) 33kV AIS Bays and One (1) Switching Station with Substation Automation System on turnkey basis (GD-4).		
07	Invitation Ref No.	22.22.4785.700.50.001.24.210 BMZ No: 201667971 Procurement No: 33kV Bay Extension/Construction - 512180		
08	Date	24/12/2024		
KEY INFORMATION				
09	Procurement Method	Two Stage Tendering Method (ICT)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget & Source of Funds	Development Budget (Project Aid and GOB)		
11	Development Partners	KfW Development Bank, Germany		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project / Programme Code	224365300		
13	Project / Programme Name	Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project		
14	Tender Package No.	GD-4		
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Twelve (12) 33kV AIS Bays and One (1) Switching Station with Substation Automation System on turnkey basis (GD-4).		
16	Prequalification Publication Date	24/12/2024		
17	Prequalification Last Selling Date and Time	Date: 16/02/2025; Time: During Office Hour (9:00 AM- 05:00 PM) Bangladesh Time.		
18	Prequalification Closing Date and Time	17/02/2025; 11:30 AM, Bangladesh Standard Time.		
19	Prequalification Opening Date and Time	17/02/2025; 12:00 PM, Bangladesh Standard Time.		
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)			
	Selling Prequalification Document (Principal)		Office of the Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project, Bidyut Bhaban, Boyra Main Road, WZPDCL, Khulna.	
	Selling Prequalification Document (Others)		1. Office of the Director of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 2. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from www.wzpdcl.gov.bd website. But, for participating in this ICB, the prequalification document has to be purchased by interested bidders from the above addresses.	
	Receiving Prequalification Document		Office of the Director of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
	Opening Prequalification Document		Office of the Director of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
21	Place/Date/Time of Prequalification Meeting		Place	Date Time
			Not Applicable	
INFORMATION FOR Applicant				
22	Eligibility of Applicant		As per Prequalification Document	
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works		Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Twelve (12) 33kV AIS Bays and One (1) Switching Station with Substation Automation System on turnkey basis.	
24	Brief Description of Related Services		As per Prequalification Document	
25	Price of Prequalification Document (Tk)		BDT 15,000 (Tk. Fifteen Thousand Only) as non-refundable demand draft (for other districts)/pay order (for Khulna district) in favor of Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project, WZPDCL, Khulna for each set of tender documents.	
26	Package No	Identification of Lot	Location	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
	GD-4	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Twelve (12) 33kV AIS Bays and One (1) Switching Station with Substation Automation System on turnkey basis.	Magura, Rajbari, Khulna, Jhenaidah, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Pirojpur & Shariatpur Districts of Bangladesh.	Shall be mentioned in the Tender Document
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS				
27	Name of Official Inviting Prequalification		Md. Saifuzzaman	
28	Designation of Official Inviting Prequalification		Project Director (Superintending Engineer)	
29	Address of Official Inviting Prequalification		Office of the Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project, WZPDCL, Khulna.	
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Prequalification		Phone: +8801700709721 Fax No: N/A	e-mail address: pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com
31	The Tender Process is subject to KfW's "Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries."			
32	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Applications or annul the Application proceedings.			


(Md. Saifuzzaman)
Project Director
Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project
WZPDCL, Khulna.