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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2006 E-mail: business@thelystar.net

## IRREGULARITIES IN EEF

# Govt orders impact study

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has been assigned to conduct an impact assessment study on the Equity Entrepreneurship Fund (EEF) following allegations of financial irregularities.

The IMED under planning ministry was given the task early this month to look into allegations of corruption, nepotism and political interference in the allocation process of EEF under the central bank.

"Fresh projects under the EEF depends on the IMED report scheduled to be submitted by March," an official of the central bank said.

The board of directors of the fund will only consider fresh projects if the IMED report finds the fund is making positive impact on economy, the official explained.

The official said the government also may bring changes in the operational policy of the fund to bring transparency and accountability.

Meanwhile, the central bank has appointed seven audit firms instead of the Department of Banking Inspection (DBI) to inspect the irregularities in allocation of EEF.

The audit firms will conduct inspection of the projects under EEF and fund will be released as per reports of the audit firms.

Earlier, central bank officials under EEF unit used to conduct the inspection of EEF. But the duty was shifted to DBI following allegations of irregularities against the BB officials.

Following the allegations, approval of new projects under EEF remains suspended since June 8, 2005.

The government created the

fund in 1999 by allocating Tk 100 crore to give collateral and interest free loans to innovative projects.

The BB has so far disbursed Tk 303.65 crore for 324 projects under EEF while around Tk 928 crore has been sanctioned.

In the 2005-06 fiscal year, the government allocated Tk 150 crore.

Under the existing provisions, the central bank will provide entrepreneurs with 49 percent fund of the total cost of the project.

The central bank earlier relaxed some conditions relating to the sanctioning of the fund in line with trade body recommendations to help entrepreneurs establish their industrial units.

When asked, a high official of the BB said officials are not involved in any malpractice. But some entrepreneurs lobby brokers, who have no relations with the EEF management.

## CSR key to sustainable development: President

### StanChart-Financial Express CSR Award 2005 announced

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon corporate houses to make contribution to economic development by improving the quality of life of their workforce.

"Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a crucial need for promoting sustainable development and long-term advancement of business," the president said at the Standard Chartered-Financial Express Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2005 ceremony.

"The regulatory agencies have incorporated many of the relevant issues into their respective operational framework and the process is still on," he added.

Wahiduddin Mahmud said companies worldwide are increasingly paying attention to CSR in their business approaches by attempting to address social issues and engaging themselves in not-for-profit community welfare activities.

Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, and Shahed Norman, managing director of Dhaka Bank, received the awards.

Bangladesh, and Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, also spoke.

The president also said CSR is a growing demand, businesses competing in the global economy can no longer afford to ignore the issue.

Iajuddin said Bangladesh has been making relentless efforts to adopt operational principles of corporate governance in line with the international best practices.

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Unilever Bangladesh Ltd and Dhaka Bank Ltd have been adjudged this year's winners in manufacturing and services sector categories.

Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud, chairman of the Standard Chartered-Financial Express Corporate Social Responsibility Award Trust, chaired the programme. Osman Morad, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, and Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, are also seen.



Award 2005

PHOTO: BENCHMARK

President Iajuddin Ahmed speaks at the Standard Chartered-Financial Express Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2005 ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud, chairman of the award trust, Osman Morad, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, and Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, are also seen.

## Media can play role to attract investors: Workshop

#### BDNEWS, Chittagong

Chittagong business community has said media can play a vital role in flourishing business and attracting investors.

The growth of business and business journalism is inter-linked, they said as they were speaking at a workshop on 'Bridging Corporate Sector and Media' organised by the Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) held at a local hotel in Chittagong on Tuesday.

Moazzem Hossain, editor of the Financial Express, moderated the workshop.

First Vice-president of BGMEA SM Abu Tayyab said business news is getting good coverage in the media that proves media are giving importance to business sector.

AKM Belayet Hossain, deputy managing director of Purabi

General Insurance Company Limited, said there is a gap between media and the corporate sector, which needs to be narrowed.

Jashim Chowdhury Sabuj, bureau chief of the Daily Jugantor, said corporate houses should provide media with relevant data for objective news coverage.



Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre Date: 30th January, 31st January & 1st February, 2006

## 'High growth rate needed to create adequate jobs'

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's present economic growth rate is not enough to generate adequate number of jobs, economist Wahiduddin Mahmud said yesterday.

He also said corruption has slowed the pace of poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.

He however said in Bangladesh one percent GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth generates 0.6 percent employment compared to

0.1 percent employment in China.

He was speaking as chief guest at a workshop on Improving Institutions for Pro-poor Growth in Bangladesh in Dhaka. Unnayan Shamannay, a local NGO, and CUTS, India jointly organised the workshop.

Bipul Chatterjee, director of CUTS, India, and M Abu Eusuf, assistant professor of Department of Development Studies of Dhaka University, presented two separate key note papers on RMG and poultry sectors in Bangladesh.

AKM Belayet Hossain, deputy managing director of Purabi

Professional relations between media and business sector is needed, headed.

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