

Commentary

Private sector development should not be equated with privatisation plans

At the moment serious inefficiency and corruption are prevailing in the would-be privatised units. In many cases the losses are being accelerated in the negative direction.

However, this is an issue, which different from the issue of private sector development. If the latter does not develop, the former will also not be successful to a significant extent.

Private sector in Bangladesh so far failed to come up with any serious stride because of many reasons. For a decade it was barred from taking any worthwhile responsibility in economic field.

From the mid-eighties, the private commercial banks were allowed to operate but they failed to operate as a source of fund, especially for long-term industrial financing.

The capital market also remained in rudimentary stage. It never made a serious attempt to take off.

In the absence of private long-term bank loan and a viable capital market the new

breed of industrialists who were few in numbers looked to government-owned credit agencies again and again for long-term debt financing.

The whole credit operation is now almost totally suspended mostly due to non-availability of fresh funds from abroad.

This old experience again and again remained us not to allow the old method of industrial financing through BSB, ICB or the old BSRs but to adopt a market oriented financing method which will ensure the maximum possible accountability of the loan recipients in our context.

By market-oriented financing method we mean the raising of equity and long-term capital from the capital market by selling stocks and other debt instruments.

Some other public limited companies also raised the fund in the same way. There is no

dearth of funds. The only thing is that people like to keep it in the safe custody of the bank accounts.

However, this is one aspect of private sector development. The other important aspect is to supply technology to the private sector. That too can be bought from markets abroad.

In a liberalised economy where local currency can easily be converted into foreign currencies, the former also can be taken as suitable units to buy technology from abroad.

Another area where government should come forward boldly is the imparting proper kind of training to build an efficient work force.

Finally, the government should further deregulate the economy by opening the energy, transport, and telecommunication sector to private entrepreneurs.

What Bangladesh can provide as mechanism for security of foreign direct investment? We shall have to find some reliable intermediaries for this

purpose. The help of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) can be sought in this respect. This organisation, established in 1988, has already started offering varieties of services including guarantee programmes, promotional and advisory services to many growing economies.

The involvement of IFC and MIGA will push our private sector development a long way. We understand, that the credit line should be kept opened to the private sector.

Private sector also needs proper infrastructure to grow which include among others good transport and communication network, adequate supply of energy, port facilities etc.

Another area where government should come forward boldly is the imparting proper kind of training to build an efficient work force.

Finally, the government should further deregulate the economy by opening the energy, transport, and telecommunication sector to private entrepreneurs. Bangladesh is not the only country in the world which is promoting private sector development.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Table with columns: Berth, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L. Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival, Leaving. Lists various vessels like Artemis-1, Pacific Timur, Kamalverett, etc.

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, Last port call, Local agent, Cargo, Loading port. Lists vessels like Continent-1, Banglar Kakoli, Cattleya, etc.

TANKER DUE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists tankers like Ayon, Esso Nelbourne.

VESSELS AT KUTUBADI

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like T. T. energy, C. oil.

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Shong Chon Gang, Shenton, Ronald.

VESSELS NOT READY

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like S. E. Haider, Johanna-k, Nikoula.

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessel like Banglar Jyoti.

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels like Jang Pyong, Mistril, Avon Delta.

The above were Tuesday's Shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on October 12 and 13.

Table with columns: Currency, Selling, T. T. (C), Buying, OD Transfers. Lists rates for US Dollar, Poundsterling, DM, etc.

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladesh working abroad.

Prices of essentials up

GAZIPUR, Oct 13: Prices of essentials have registered a sharp rise in the local markets over the last few days intensifying the hardship of the common people, reports UNB.

The price of common varieties of rice has gone up by Taka 1.50 to Taka 2 per kg. Coarse flour is being sold at Taka 10.50 per kg as against Taka 9 a few days back.

Soyabean oil, coconut oil, jira and musur dal now sell at Taka 37, Taka 90, Taka 150 and Taka 33 per kg respectively while these items were being sold at Taka 35, Taka 70, Taka 120 and Taka 30 a fortnight ago.

Fish price has also gone beyond the reach of the low income group. The price of kol fish of 20 ranges from Taka 55 to Taka 60 while it was Taka 35 to Taka 40 a fortnight ago.

The price of four medium size magur now ranges from Taka 50 to Taka 60 against the previous price of Taka 30 to Taka 40.

Mutton and beef now sell at Taka 90 and Taka 60 respectively while prices of the same were Taka 80 and Taka 50.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 13, 1992

Star Economic Report

No sign of improvement

Business continued to show poor signs at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday. Both the turnovers fell against Monday's close.

DSE Index also dropped losing 0.545 points from Monday's 356.5463 and stood at 356.0006.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

Table with columns: DSE All Share Price Index, Market Capitalization Tk, Turnover In Volume, Turnover In Value Tk.

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML, Previous price, Closing price, Change (absolute), Change (% over price).

Table with columns: Shares, Company, FV/ML, Previous price, Closing price, Change (absolute), Change (% over price). Lists shares like Beximco Pharma, IFIC, Apex Tannery.

Table with columns: Shares, Company, FV/ML, Previous price, Closing price, Change (absolute), Change (% over price). Lists shares like Modern Dyeing, Beximco, Eagle Star.

Traded at previous rates (09) Shares: Bangladesh Autocars, Singer Bangladesh, Padma Textile, Satham Textile, Bangla Process, Progressive Plastic, The Ibsina, Wata Chemical, Savar Refractories.

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML, Tk, Specialised Jute, Shinc Pakur Jute, Sonali Aarsh.

Table with columns: BANKS (10), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists banks like Al Baraka Bank, A.B. Bank, City Bank.

Table with columns: INVESTMENT (06), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists investment funds like ICB, 1st ICB M.Fund, 2nd ICB Fund.

Table with columns: INSURANCE (04), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists insurance companies like BGIC, Green Delta, Peoples.

Table with columns: ENGINEERING (19), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists engineering firms like Atlas Automobiles, Atlas Bangladesh, Aziz Pipes.

Table with columns: PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (17), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists pharmaceuticals like Ambee Pharma, BCL, Bangla Process.

Table with columns: PAPER & PRINTING (06), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists paper and printing companies like Eagle Box, Monospool Paper, Paper Converting.

Table with columns: FOOD & ALLIED (28), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists food and allied products like A.B. Biscuit, Alpha Tobacco, Aman Sea Food.

Table with columns: FUEL & POWER (06), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists fuel and power companies like HD Oxygen, Eastern Lubricant, National Oxygen.

Table with columns: JUTE (12), Company, FV/ML, Tk. Lists jute products like Ajud Jute, Arowara Jute, Delta Jute.

Accord on quality control of iodised edible salt

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed on Monday an agreement for the quality control of iodised edible salt.

This is an important new step to ensure that adequate amounts of iodine are present in edible salt and that consumers are protected from the health problems caused by iodine deficiency.

Iodine deficiency disorders are a major public health problem affecting more than 10 per cent of the population with such complications as goitre, physical disability, squint eyes, cretinism, deaf-mutism and mental retardation.

By using these techniques, salt factories, wholesalers, re-

tailers and consumers will be able to test the quality of iodised salt.

The government, in collaboration with UNICEF, is working to eradicate this problem through a programme of salt iodisation.

The documents give the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) of BCSIR the necessary agreement to produce a solution for testing the iodine content of salt.

Children's performance in school has been shown to be hampered due to iodine deficiency.

By using these techniques, salt factories, wholesalers, re-

Japan provides \$ 250,000 to CIRDP

The government of Japan has provided 250,000 US dollar to CIRDP for undertaking two research, four action research and one training projects during 1993, reports BSS.

Y Ichihashi, Minister, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh handed over a letter of Japanese grant to this effect to Dr Somporn Hanpongpanh, Director, CIRDP at a simple function held at CIRDP headquarters in Dhaka Tuesday.



Y Ichihashi, Minister, Embassy of Japan handing over the letter of 250,000 US dollar grant for 1993 to Dr Somporn Hanpongpanh, Director, CIRDP on Tuesday at CIRDP Headquarters, Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Third Fisheries Project Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban Park Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka Invitation for International Bids Lot No 9 C: Motor Vehicles

Memo No: TFP-742 Dated: 5 October, 1992 The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Fisheries Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract (s) for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.

Md Liaquat Ali Additional Director (Project Director) Third Fisheries Project DFP (G) 17767-7/10 G-1276

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Munshiganj PWD Division, Munshiganj

Notice Inviting Tenders

- 1. Sealed Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from special Class, Class-I enlisted building contractors of PWD and Class-II enlisted Bldg. contractors under PWD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by all the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka on 25-10-92 up to 12-00 Noon and will be opened on same day at 12-30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

M.A. Mukhtar Executive Engineer Munshiganj PWD Division, Munshiganj DFP (G) 17906-10/10 G-1286