

Metropolitan

IFC executive vice-president observes Bangladesh can make rapid progress thru' development of private sector

Visiting Executive Vice-President of International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Managing Director of World Bank Peter L. Woicke who called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday observed that Bangladesh can make rapid progress through development of the private sector, reports UNB.

The World Bank official said he had visited a number of private sector projects during his four-day stay in the country and felt those should be given more encouragement to boost the economy.

"I found tremendous urge of the people to move forward," Woicke was quoted to have said by the Press Secretary of the Prime Minister briefing newsmen after the meeting.

Woicke said only the growth of private enterprises could reduce the gap between the developed and developing countries.

He suggested giving more emphasis on technological development, including development of software industries, at private level.

He said the technological and software development would also help development of education and create job opportunities. With development of private sector, the process of industrialisation will be hastened.

He also mentioned his meeting with Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and told him that the World Bank's policy was to see the private sector expanded. Development of private sector will generate employment and eliminate poverty.

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Members of the Prokash Sahitya Sangstha reciting poems at a function. The Sammito Sangskritik Jote organised the programme to observe Immortal Ekushey at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

— Star photo

Three books launched

By Staff Correspondent

A S M Abdur Rab, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, observed that the voters need to exert themselves in influencing the nomination by their respective political parties to the election for national parliament and other representative bodies. For this purpose, the NGOs and other similar bodies, may undertake a programme of voters education.

He also called for a change in the process of preparing Five Year Plans for economic and social development. He urged that thana-based five year plans should be prepared first which may be compiled into the National Five Year Economic Plan.

These observations were made while speaking as the chief guest in the publication ceremony of three books compiled by the Centre for Micro Studies (CMS) of the Association of Retired Professionals.

The ceremony was held at the WVA auditorium on Saturday. The books are 1) *Perceptions and Reflections*, 2) *Kola Gachhe Bhot Din* and 3) *Bhoter Katha*. These books were introduced by Abdullah Siddiqui, a retired ILO official, A M Mesbahuddin, president of CMS and a former secretary to the government and A H M Noman, secretary general of Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP).

Among those who spoke on the occasion were Abdullah Siddiqui, A H M Noman, Md Helaluddin and Anwarul Haq.

The ceremony was presided over by A M Mesbahuddin, president of Centre for Micro Studies.

ADMISSION GOING ON WITHOUT ADMISSION FEE FROM 10TH TO 27TH FEBRUARY
NEWCASTLE Int'l School
PLAY GROUP TO STANDARD 'V'
House # 20, Road # 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Tel: 9349907, 018-216202

GMAT SAT GRE TOEFL
By: Saifur Rahman Khan
DU teacher & test specialist
Ph(Res): 506024(9pm to 10pm)

Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department (East Zone)
Re-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No CE/E-7/2000/W(I) Dated: 6-2-2000
Sealed tenders are invited for the following work from the enlisted 'B & C' Class Contractors of Bangladesh Railway/East Zone.

Name of work	Approximate cost	Earnest money	Cost per set of tender documents (un-refundable)
At SZG-MGJN-JUL Section: Repairs to Cess and Bank as per approved plan No CE/E-3928 & CE/E-3929	Tk 4.29 Lacs	2% of the quoted price	Tk 400.00 (Four hundred) only.

- Tender documents will be sold from the offices of the Chief Engineer/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong, Divisional Engineer/IB/Bangladesh Railway/Dhaka on cash payment during office hours up to 22-02-2000.
- Tender documents are to be dropped in the tender box set apart in the aforesaid offices at 13.00 Hrs on 23-02-2000 and the same will be opened publicly at 13.30 Hrs on the same date.
- Railway Administration reserves the right to accept the tender in whole or in part thereof and to reject the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

No Rail/B/27
DFP-2978-9/2
G-263

Nur Mohammed
Addl Chief Engineer/Tr/East
Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project
Agriculture Information Service Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

Memo No: AIS/45 Dated: 20-10-1406 BS/2-2-2000

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide manufacturers, traders, supplier/importer firms for supply and installation of scanner for the undermentioned Computer Unit for the Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project under Agriculture Information Service financed by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during 1999-2000 financial year.

Sl. No.	Description of goods	Number/quantity	Price of schedule
1)	Supply and installation (as per schedule) of scanner for Computer Unit.	1 (one) set	100/=

Interested tenderers can collect tender schedule with specification, detailed description of terms & conditions at the prescribed price (non-refundable) from the Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project Office, First Building, 1st Floor, Room No. F201, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 during office hours on or before 22-2-2000. Application for purchasing tender schedule should be submitted in the tendering firm's own letterhead pad addressing the Project Director, Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project, Agriculture Information Service, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215. Attested photocopy of up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate and trade licence should be enclosed with the application. Original copies of the said papers should be produced at the time of purchasing tender schedule.

Tender should be submitted with earnest money at the rate 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Project Director, Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project.

Tender must be submitted under sealed envelope addressing the Project Director, Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project, Agriculture Information Service, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 in the tender box kept at the above-mentioned address within 2:00 PM of 24-2-2000, which will be opened on the same day at 2:30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any).

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

A F M Shamsul Islam
Project Director
Agriculture Information Service Strengthening Project
Agriculture Information Service
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.

Hasina dubs February 15 'Democracy Killing Day'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday described February 15 as "Democracy Killing Day" and said it is a black chapter in the history of democracy of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

She said the BNP government on this day in 1996 had imposed a farcical and one-party elections upon the people giving a damn to their demand for elections under a caretaker government.

"The then autocrat BNP regime killed democracy on this day by trampling down the desire of the people who ultimately rejected it," she said in her message issued on the eve of the "Democracy Killing Day."

The Prime Minister said the elections held virtually with no participation of the people on that day had in fact tarnished the image of Bangladesh abroad and soon people rose in a mass upsurge to repeal that farcical elections to establish their rights to franchise. As a result, she said, the BNP government had to step down in face of the mass movement.

"That was how an unprecedented example was established in Bangladesh to hold elections under a neutral caretaker government in face of a movement for democracy spearheaded by the mass people," she said paying rich tribute to the memory of those who made their supreme sacrifices during that heroic movement to establish democracy as well as peoples' right to vote.

She expressed her firm confidence that the people of Bangladesh would at any cost uphold the march towards democracy through building a strong resistance against the conspirators to help build a poverty-free Bangladesh.

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