

Bring all banks under BB to ensure accountability: WB

BSS, Dhaka

Experts in a World Bank assessment report have recommended to bring all banks under effective supervision of Bangladesh Bank to ensure their financial accountability and transparency.

They said the four nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) containing about half of the deposits as well as loans of the country's entire banking system are run by their own acts beyond the main provisions of Banking Companies Act.

Hence, they said, these NCBs do not fall under the full jurisdiction of the central bank.

The study mentioned that poor governance is responsible for problems faced by the NCBs, which are also criticised for insider lending, fraud and mismanagement.

Moreover, gross interference in management by the government and labour unions compounds the problems, it said.

A Task team comprising experts from the World Bank's South Asia Region and the UNDP prepared the report on financial accountability and good governance, covering Ministry of Finance, Comptroller and Auditor General's office, Ministry of Local Government, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance and other national stakeholders.

Regarding the banking sector, the World Bank experts also recommended enforcement of international accounting standard in Bangladeshi banks to check "enormous unrecognised losses" on the loan portfolios and avoid high risk of liquidity in the Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs).

It referred to recent studies, which showed that the NCBs were not complying with Bangladesh Bank's requirements for provision against loss on their classified loans, nor the capital adequacy requirements.

According to a 1997 study about 45 per cent of their loan portfolio was classified as non-forming against which the provision shortfall amounted to Tk 38 billion in 1999-2000 fiscal year.

The World Bank study found that "bank financial statements give a misleading picture, and come down heavily on auditors saying "audit standards are low".

It said the bank branches may not be audited at all partly due to bad choice of auditors and partly due to inadequate terms of reference (TOR) of audit. For instance, the study said, the TOR should require at least 20 per cent of branches to be audited, as in India.

Bangladesh Bank list of competent auditors includes 68 firms, many of which do not have the special skills or capacity, the report said.

But no legal case had ever been brought against an auditor by a depositor or a shareholder, nor had the Bangladesh Bank ever disqualified an auditor.

The selection of auditors, their terms of reference and follow-up of audit reports should be tightened, the experts observed.

Arrangements for the appointment of over 1,500 teachers at the government colleges through 21st and 22nd BCS examinations have almost been finalised.

This was revealed at a meeting held in connection with the appointment of teachers at government colleges against vacant posts.

The meeting was told that 3,245 posts of teachers remained vacant in the government colleges now. The posts, which will remain vacant after recruitment of 21st and 22nd BCS batches, will be filled by the 24th BCS batch.

Over 1500 college teachers to be appointed

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The students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) staged a token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Sabequn Nahar Sony and immediate reopening of the university.

DU fells trees to beautify campus

ABDUL KADER

The Dhaka University authorities have chopped down about 50 trees on the campus in the last two months to make room for new buildings and in the name of beautification of the campus.

Some other old trees will also face the axe in the next winter as the Arboriculture office of the DU is identifying those as 'predatory trees', sources said.

As many as 15 trees have been cut down in the university's bus stand area on the first week of June where a multistoried building 'Senate Bhaban' is under construction.

However, the new construction has created a new problem for the transports occupying the parking area. Now, buses and other vehicles are being parked haphazardly in the Mall Chatter area, obstructing the students' movement.

On June 26, the authorities felled 15 old trees to make room for another multistoried building, Persian Language Studies Centre, triggering strong protests.

The general students under the banner of 'Students Unity Against Unplanned Installation (SUAAUI)' raised their voice against the decision to construct the centre at the open space between the central library and the Dhaka University Centre for Students' Union (DUCSU).

They along with 14 teachers, who expressed solidarity with the students, repeatedly tried to prevent the construction by arranging rally and human chain and submitting memorandum. They said the site selection was not a well thought-out plan and the felling of trees will destroy the ecological balance.

But the DU authorities are yet to respond to their logical demand for the relocation of the construction site. Rather, they said that they would plant trees in a planned way after constructing the centre.

To the surprise of the students, the SM hall authorities chopped down 11 more trees on the hall premises on June 26 in the name of beautification. Their plan is to plant new saplings in front of the hall's main gate soon.

Said hall provost Prof. M Nurul Islam: "The trees were cut down according to the plan of the arboriculture office. But before felling the trees, we had planted some new saplings in front of the hall's main gate".

It is alleged that the new saplings are of Jackfruit trees. When asked how jackfruit trees will enhance the beauty, the provost denied planting such saplings.

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No devastating flood this yr

LK Siddiqi tells journalists

BSS, Dhaka

Water Resources Minister L K Siddiqi yesterday ruled out the possibility of devastating flood this year like the country experienced in 1988.

"If the flow of flood water to the down stream or the sea from the three main rivers Brahmaputra, the Ganga and the Meghna at a time and if the full moon coincides with it, then the devastating flood occurs," he said. "But this time there is no possibility of such occurrence," he said at a press conference at the ministry.

He said there is nothing to be worried about the current flood situation as it is still within normal limits, and occurred only on 20 per cent of the country's total area. The normal flood covers 25-30 per cent of the country, and we term it devastating when 50-70 per cent of mainland goes under water, he added.

"Flood has not yet taken any serious turn that might cause the nation worry," he said.

The government has already undertaken precautionary measures to face any eventuality arising out of flood, he said. Early monsoon flood caused by heavy rainfall and onrush of waters from the hills of upstream is a normal phenomenon in this part of the world.

The water resources minister said, "The government has changed the concept of flood control to flood management."

"Flood control is not possible, and sometimes it is necessary and beneficial for us to maintain ecological balance, protect environment as well as make the agricultural lands more fertile," Siddiqi said.

"Better and effective flood management is essential rather than try to control it," he said.

Siddiqi said, "We lose at least 10,000 hectare of land every year due to flood, and an equal number of area arises after the flood which is needed to rehabilitate the homeless due to erosion."

The government has taken flood management programme in the coastal areas of Mirsarai, Hatiya and char areas of Noakhali under the assistance of the Dutch government.

The government has planned to revive the "Canal-digging programme," introduced by late President Ziaur Rahman 25 years back.

"The subsequent governments had suspended the programme causing water-logging here and there, and also causing flood from rain waters," he said.

The programme is expected to resume in December next to continue till February or March, the minister said, adding around 1.31 lakh metric tons of wheat would be allotted under flood for works for canal-digging.

High-speed trains to be introduced

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway has decided to introduce magnetically levitated trains initially to run between Dhaka and Chittagong.

"This will be the first modern and high-tech railway system in entire South Asia having per hour speed of 300 to 500 kilometres," a senior railway official told the news agency yesterday.

According to the plan, the system in the first phase would be introduced on Chittagong-Dhaka-Narayanganj route to be extended subsequently to other major cities like Sylhet, Khulna, Bogra and Rajshahi.

They said the system eventually is expected to be connected with the regional and international high-speed networks.

A railway official said the government was likely to invite proposals "very shortly" from internationally reputed competent firms to install the high-speed railway systems on "Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) or "Build, Operate and Own (BOO) basis to avoid the financial burden of the project.

The bidding would be followed in a two-stage process -- in the first phase the intending firms would submit proposals elaborating their technical, investment and business plans.

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Arsenic-hit areas Directive to supply drinking water thru' pipes

BSS, Dhaka

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday directed to supply drinking water through pipes from deep tubewells on priority basis to every household in the country, including the arsenic affected areas.

He also stressed the need for supplying of surface water after proper purification in the arsenic contaminated areas, an official press release said.

The minister was addressing a presentation meeting on installation of deep tubewells in the arsenic affected areas at the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry here.

Mannan Bhuiyan directed the officials concerned to integrate officials and employees of the Public Health Engineering Department in installation of deep tubewells, examination of arsenic, maintenance and other activities.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after the namaz-e-janaza of ANM Mohiuddin, father of Bahauddin Nasim, at his village home in Madaripur yesterday.

Govt to protect wetlands: Khoka

BSS, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister and Mayor of Dhaka Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday said the government would make efforts to protect wetlands across the country as these are inalienable part of the livelihood of millions and source of rich flora and fauna.

"We have to follow proper wetland management practices to halt dwindling of aquatic resources, including fish species, for future generations," he said while inaugurating a conference on wetland, water and fisheries management.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Bangladesh Wetlands Network (BWN) jointly organised the two-day conference titled "Wetlands: People, Land, Water and Fish" at JBB Bhaban in the city with sponsorship from DANIDA, MACH project, DFID, ICLARM and IUCN.

Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Dr Zahurul Karim presided over the inaugural session. Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forest Sabihuddin Ahmed, Dr Atiq Rahman of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), IUCN country director Dr Aunur Nishat and BWN leader William J Collis also spoke on the occasion.

The minister said rethinking about wetland management is needed not only for boosting the level of fish intake but also for sustainable management of those sites.

He said the non-government environmental groups in Dhaka created massive awareness about inter-relationship between the wetlands and ecological balance.

Describing medical profession as noble, Mir Nasir said it was the duty of doctors to rise to the expectations of people who needed proper healthcare.

Doctors urged to serve poor

BSS, Ctg

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin has called upon doctors to dedicate themselves to the service of humanity, particularly for the less-privileged rural people.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of "Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Reference Library" at BMA Bhaban here Friday night.

Chaired by BMA Chittagong Unit President Dr Shahadat Hossain, the function was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof A J M Nooruddin Chowdhury, Prof Nurun Nabi, former director general of Health Dr Imran Bin Yunus, Dr A K Fazlul Haq and Dr Khurshid Jamil.

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Bangladesh satellite Cable TV Owners' Association president Mir Hossain Akhter speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

PM for expansion of Dhaka-Ankara economic cooperation

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday underlined the need for promotion of economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey.

She said this when the outgoing ambassador of Turkey Erdinc Ulumlu paid a farewell call on the Prime Minister at her office here.

Khaleda hoped that the next meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC), scheduled to be held in Ankara soon, would open up further cooperation in different fields between the two countries.

They underlined the need for regular sitting of the JEC and recalled the historical relations between the two countries.

The meeting laid emphasis on regular exchange of trade teams between the two countries for further improvement and expansion of economic cooperation.

Khaleda gave a brief resume of various steps taken by her government in the field of education, particularly female education and hoped that Turkey would increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshi students. At present about 15 to 20 students get Turkish scholarships annually.

While emphasising the need for more trade and commerce with Bangladesh, the Prime Minister hoped that Turkey would avail the investment opportunities now available in Bangladesh.

The ambassador recalled the cooperation and support that he had received from the government and the people during his four-year stay. The Prime Minister thanked him for contributing to the promotion of ties between the two countries.

The ambassador said that on his return to Turkey he would also work for further promoting and strengthening relations between the two countries.

In this context, he said the names of roads and establishments after the name of Kamal Ataturk demonstrate the deep-rooted close relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister's principal secretary Dr Kamal Siddique was present.

UNB adds: Turkish Ambassador Erdinc Ulumlu also made a farewell call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office and reaffirmed his government's commitment to further strengthen socio-economic and cultural cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey.

During the meeting, the Turkish envoy emphasised the need for more bilateral visits at the high level.

Erdinc Ulumlu thanked the government, the Foreign Minister and the people of Bangladesh for their cooperation in discharging his duties in Bangladesh.


The Foreign Minister appreciated the Turkish Ambassador for his role in promoting bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Turkey.

He said Bangladesh attaches importance to its relations with Turkey which is based on common bonds of tradition, culture and religion.

Morshed Khan expressed satisfaction over various agreements between the two countries in the fields of defence, culture, civil aviation, health, maritime and transport.



Students of the Jabanpur Halim Orphanage, Daudkandi, formed a human chain in the city yesterday demanding an end to repression on them.



বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট

স্বাধীনতা ভবন
শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ
৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
ঢাকা-১০০০

বিষয় : আন্তর্জাতিক পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	দ্রব্যের নাম	আবেদনম্যানি মোট মূল্যের উপর	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অধিকতম/নিম্নতম)	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১	পিই/টিএ/আইএনটি/টিআর-৩০৮/পুনঃ/২০০১-২০০২ তাং-১০-৭-২০০২ ইং।	(১) ২৫০ গ্রাম গ্রাস বোতল	২%	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা	০৮-৮-২০০২ বেলা ০৩-০০ ঘটিকা	০৮-৮-২০০২ইং বেলা ০৩-১৫ ঘটিকা
০২	পিই/টিএ/আইএনটি/টিআর-৩৪০/২০০২-২০০৩ তারিখ-১০-৭-০২	(১) পরিশোধিত সাদা চিনি	২%	৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা	১৪-৮-০২ বেলা ০৩-০০ ঘটিকা	১৪-৮-০২ইং বেলা ০৩-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩	পিই/টিএ/আইএনটি/টিআর/৩০৪/০১-০২, তাং-১০-৭-০২	(১) পরিশোধিত সাদা চিনি (হানীয়ারভাবে তর)	২%	১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা	২৯-৭-০২ বেলা ০৩-০০ ঘটিকা	২৯-৭-০২ইং বেলা ০৩-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৪	পিই/মিমি/আইএনটি/টিআর-৩০৫/পুনঃ/০১-০২ তাং-১০-৭-০২	(১) কোকা পান্ডার	২%	৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা	০৮-৮-২০০২ বেলা ০৩-০০ ঘটিকা	০৮-৮-২০০২ইং বেলা ০৩-১৫ ঘটিকা

উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে টেন্ডারসমূহ ফেলতে হবে। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত টেন্ডার সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-এর অর্থ বিভাগ থেকে প্রতি কার্য দিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকেল ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাবে। টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রি হবে না।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল টেন্ডার বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোঃ আজিজুর রহমান)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য।