

Private sector urged to help achieve MDGs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged private sector entrepreneurs to extend their support to the government's initiatives to help them achieve all the millennium development goals (MDGs) of the country.

It is quite impossible for the government alone to achieve the targets within the set timeframe, Chairman of Unnayan Samunnay Atiar Rahman said at the meeting.

Unnayan Samunnay in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and

Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Department of Development Studies and Department of Marketing at the Dhaka University organised the discussion on 'Achieving Millennium Development Goals' at the seminar room of the IBA.

Atiar, a renowned economist, said some multinational companies have already started some social programmes as part of their corporate social responsibilities (CSR) practices. But several local industrial groups expand their business activities to many sectors, but do

little for the development of the society.

He said local corporate houses should also join hands to help achieve targets in the sectors of education, health and environment issues of the MDGs.

Bangladesh has already displayed acceleration in per capita income growth, reduction in population growth, decrease in child mortality, improvements in child nutrition, expansion of primary and secondary education and reduction of gender inequality in education.

But the above-mentioned success stories are running the

risk of slippage, he said, requesting all to cooperate with the government to sustain them.

Tayyibur Rahman, chairman of the Department of Development Studies, presided over the discussion where Harun-ur-Rashid, dean of the Social Sciences Faculty of Dhaka University, attended as chief guest.

KAM Morshed, assistant country director of UNDP, Khaleda Rosi, research fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, and Golam Sarwar from the Department of Marketing of Dhaka University also spoke on the occasion.

Japan machinery orders slip

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese orders for machinery dropped for a second straight month in July, government data showed Thursday, raising further concern about the outlook for the world's second largest economy.

Core private-sector machinery orders, which exclude particularly volatile demand from power companies and for ships, are regarded as a leading indicator of corporate capital spending.

Orders fell 3.9 percent in July from the previous month, the Cabinet Office said, following a 2.6 percent fall in June.

While the latest figure was better than the market's forecast of a 4.3 percent fall, analysts said it showed companies are wary of boosting capacity at a time of high material costs and slowing exports.

"Demand overseas keeps falling, and considering the current economic situation, the trend (in machinery orders) is likely to continue," Kyohei Morita, chief Japan economist at Barclays Capital, told Dow Jones Newswires.

Orders by manufacturers, such as machinery makers that buy engines and tools, tumbled 10.4 percent in July, the data showed.

Machinery orders from non-manufacturers such as farmers and telecommunication firms were down 2.4 percent.

Many economists suspect that Japan's economy, Asia's largest, may have slipped into recession after some six years of almost continuous growth.

A global economic slowdown, coupled with higher commodity prices, has hit the Japanese economy.

Sun to provide core banking solutions to City Bank

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sun Microsystems, a US-based technology developer, has won a deal to provide core banking automation support to local City Bank.

Sun defeated the market's two other major players IBM and HP in the bid.

Aamra Technologies, the local technology partner of Sun Microsystems, announced the deal at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Sun Microsystems provides an array of software, systems, services and microelectronics that power consumer electronics, developer tools and the world's leading data centres.

Its core brands include Java

technology platform, Solaris operating system, MySQL database management system, StorageTek and UltraSPARC processor.

Under the deal, City Bank will purchase and deploy Sun SPARC enterprise M5000, Sun SPARC enterprise T5220 server, Sun StorageTek 6540 modular array and Sun StorageTek SL24 autoloader to support its automation.

"City Bank's choice of Sun Microsystems over the competition is a testament to Sun's commitment to proven performance and enterprise-class capabilities," said Alex Tay, sales director of Sun Microsystems for Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and

the rest of South Asia, at the press meet.

Syed Farhad Ahmed, managing director of Aamra Technologies, at the press meet said, "Sun and Aamra are continuously leading the way in introducing state-of-the-art technology to the government, business and education community of Bangladesh."

The installation is designed to strengthen City Bank's credit card base from 10,000 to 30,000 by early next year. Sun's support will also reduce the bank's administrative costs, officials of Aamra hope.

Sun conducts business in more than 100 countries and its revenue stood at around \$3.26 billion as of March 2008.



ABM Reazuddin Mosharaf, managing director of Windmill Education Services Ltd, the master franchise of Hero Mindmine Institute Ltd, exchanges documents with Prof MA Hannan Feroz, president of Stamford University Bangladesh, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently in Dhaka. Under the MoU, Hero Mindmine will set up a career training centre in Dhanmondi.

Asian stocks down

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian stocks tumbled Thursday after ailing US investment bank Lehman Brothers hit investor sentiment by posting more hefty losses due to the global financial crisis and credit crunch.

The bourses in Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan and Singapore all slumped more than three percent. Japan, Asia's biggest bourse, and Australia each shed almost two percent.

Taiwan fell even though the government announced an economic stimulus package of 5.6 billion US dollars. South Korea slid around 1.5 percent as its central bank kept interest rates steady.

Lehman announced plans

Wednesday to sell off key assets to shore up its finances as it posted big losses linked to the US subprime real estate crisis.

The beleaguered Wall Street firm, seen as in desperate need for a capital injection, lost an estimated 3.9 billion dollars in its fiscal third quarter amid fresh writedowns on mortgage assets.

The bank's results put the focus back on the meltdown in the subprime, or higher risk, mortgage sector, which sparked a global credit squeeze that has hit world economic growth.

Among smaller Asian markets Thursday, India and Malaysia tumbled around two percent, while Thailand and the Philippines fell 1.3 percent.

Australian joblessness falls unexpectedly

AFP, Sydney

Australian unemployment fell unexpectedly in August to 4.1 percent, its lowest level in five months, despite a slowing economy and rising prices, official figures showed Thursday.

Economists had widely expected the country's jobless rate would rise slightly from 4.3 to 4.4 percent in August, but the Australian Bureau of Statistics instead said the rate had fallen.

The number of people employed also rose by a seasonally adjusted 14,600 to 10,744 million, including a 7,500 increase in full-time employment, the bureau said.

Thinking Qualitatively

A short course on "Theory & Practice of Qualitative Research Methodology"

Organised by the Centre for Qualitative Inquiry (CQI) James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
Cooperating site for the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta, Canada

Why Qualitative Research?
Research in general has been dominated by quantitative methodology for many decades. It has overshadowed alternative and complementary research approaches. Yet there are questions that are neither possible nor appropriate to address with a single methodology. What cultural assumptions hinder or facilitate communication with members of the community? What are the needs of the people from different age groups and socio-economic strata? Which social and cultural factors should be taken into account before implementing all ambitious plans to improve health, health care or any other development or education programme? These are only some of the questions that confront the professionals and planners. Research scholars are beginning to realize that qualitative research methodology leads us to explore underlying behaviours, attitudes, and perceptions that determine a particular phenomenon; it helps us explain social and programmatic barriers to informed choice or the use of services; it sheds light on the success of particular interventions; and it facilitates better understanding of the policy, social and legal contexts in which people make choices.

Why a short course on Qualitative Research Methodology?
There is yet to be a clear and systematic attempt to conduct QRM training and qualitative research. The Centre for Qualitative Inquiry (CQI) hopes to fill in this void by providing a short course on theory and practice in qualitative research methodology. This field-based course will focus on participatory learning, covering both theory and practical aspects of qualitative research methodology with a focus on health related disciplines.

Who should apply?
Any researcher, student, development practitioner interested to learn the basic concepts and tools of qualitative research as well as how to apply these tools in their respective disciplines with special focus on health. Teachers, training instructors and other professionals in various institutes will also benefit from the course.

- Course contents**
The different modules in the short course will address:
- Theory & introductory concepts of Qualitative Research
 - Qualitative research tools & techniques
 - Ethnographic interviews
 - Focus group discussions
 - Observation techniques
 - PRA (participatory rapid appraisal)
 - Ethical issues in qualitative research
 - Qualitative data analysis
 - Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Softwares
 - Reporting qualitative findings

Duration 2 (two) weeks	Timing 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Date October 26 to November 6, 2008
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Course fee BD Tk. 10,000 (excluding food, travel and accommodation)

APPLICATION DEADLINE October 13, 2008 (limited seats available). Short course application form may be downloaded from <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/> or collected from the Administrative office, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212.

Applications should be sent to: Nasima Selim, Lecturer, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. Or, e-mail to nselim@bracu.ac.bd
Please mention "Thinking Qualitatively" on the top of the envelope.

For further information, contact:
Shahaduz Zaman, Ph.D; CQI Coordinator; E-mail: zaman.s@bracuniversity.ac.bd

RAB Forces Headquarters
Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building
Kurmitola, Dhaka.

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
2	Agency	Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Forces
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director General, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Forces
4	Source of Funds	GOB Revenue
5	Tender Package No	S(G)-02/2008-2009
6	Tenders Invitation Ref No & Date	RAB HO/Admin (Supply)/508/11/Part-1/1200 date - 10/09/2008
7	Tender Name	Tender for Supply of Uniform & Uniform related Items for RAB Forces.
8	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
9	Eligibility of Tenderers	Adequate Experience in Supply of Uniform & Uniform related Items to any Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous Organization or reputed Agency with satisfactory performance.
10	Time for Completion of Delivery	Within 90 days from the notification of contract award.
11	Name and Address of the office Selling, Receiving & Opening the Tender Documents	RAB Forces Headquarters (Admin & Finance Wing) Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building, Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka
12	Last date and time for Selling Tender document	19-10-2008 at 17:00 hours
13	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders	20-10-2008 at 10:30 hours
14	Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	20-10-2008 at 11:00 hours (Tenderers or their authorized representatives may attend.)
15	Date, Time & Place of Pre-Tender Meeting	Date: 29-9-2008 at 11:00 hours. Place: Conference Room, RAB Forces Headquarters, Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
16	Brief Description of Items, Price of tender schedule & Tender security money are to be given below:	

Item No.	Description of Item	Unit of Supply	Quantity of unit required	Price of tender schedule	Tender Security Money
16.1	Blanket Woollen	Piece	600	500/-	12,000/-
16.2	Barrette Cap (Black)	Piece	3,000	500/-	7,000/-
16.3	Web Belt (Black) Nylon	Piece	3,000	500/-	10,800/-
16.4	Black Tropical Cloth Cotton	Meter	30,937	2,000/-	1,23,800/-
16.5	Shoe Brass	Piece	17,500	500/-	10,500/-
16.6	Towel Turkish	Piece	17,500	1,000/-	59,500/-
16.7	Nylon Socks (Black)	Pairs	17,500	500/-	17,500/-
16.8	Boot D.M.S	Pairs	6,400	2,000/-	1,57,500/-
16.9	Net mosquito White Polyester	Piece	5,500	750/-	49,500/-
16.10	Shoulder Letter RAB	Pairs	1,200	100/-	500/-
16.11	Rank Badge Ph. (5,000) Bar (1,000)	Piece	6,000	150/-	3,000/-
16.12	Cap Badge	Piece	3,000	100/-	1,800/-
16.13	Vest Cotton White	Piece	35,000	750/-	31,500/-
16.14	Black T-Shirt	Piece	7,000	750/-	30,100/-
16.15	Line Bedding	Piece	9,000	150/-	3,600/-
16.16	Poplin/Voile Cloth for Scarf	Meter	2,000	150/-	2,600/-
16.17	Utility Jacket (Special)	Piece	650	150/-	2,600/-
16.18	Socks Cotton (Black)	Pairs	17,500	750/-	24,500/-
16.19	Shoe Polish (Black)	Piece	17,500	500/-	10,500/-
16.20	Field Cap	Piece	6,000	300/-	6,000/-
16.21	Name Plate	Piece	8,700	150/-	2,700/-
16.22	Mug Melamine	Piece	8,700	500/-	11,400/-
16.23	Ground Sheet	Piece	1,500	500/-	12,000/-
16.24	Sun Glass	Piece	8,700	1,000/-	87,000/-
16.25	Drawers Cotton White	Piece	35,000	750/-	35,000/-
16.26	Canvas shoe (Black)	Pairs	8,000	1,000/-	61,600/-
16.27	Winter Jacket	Piece	300	300/-	5,700/-
16.28	Hanging Badge	Piece	4,000	300/-	8,800/-

17. **Special Instructions**

- Each of the above items shall be consider as a single lot.
- Tenderers should be allowed to submit their tender for single or more of the above items.
- Tenderers shall submit at least 03 (three) in numbers sample (according to approved sample) at the time of submitting tender documents.
- Tenderers shall submit the Laboratory test report from SGS/ITS/IGS&C/ College of Textile Engineering & Technology or any International reputed Laboratory for the Items No. 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.6, 16.8, 16.13, 16.14, 16.16, 16.17, 16.18, 16.25 & 16.26 at the time of submitting tender document.
- Without assigning any reason the Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any of all tenders.

(Aftab Uddin Ahmed)
Director (Admin and Finance)
RAB Forces Headquarters
Phone-8961107