

Finance adviser sees no effect of US recession on local economy

Supports power tariff hike move

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the country's economy, having no major stress at present, is unlikely to be affected largely due to the near recession in the United States and elsewhere.

"This is because we're mostly dependent on the multilateral donors, more than what we're dependent on the bilateral donors," he told reporters at his planning ministry office.

Aziz said the replenishment of foreign aid from the multilateral donors has not been in declining trend while they would not fall back on their commitment.

Because, he added, the major portion of their replenishment commitment was from the internal resources

(profits from earlier funding) of the main donors like Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

He said the aid from bilateral donors would depend on how the economic recovery efforts affect their respective budgets.

The finance adviser was talking to reporters on his meeting with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Ahmed Muhammed Ali on September 24 in Jeddah, during his personal visit to Saudi Arabia where he performed 'umrah'.

Aziz left here for Saudi Arabia on September 21 and returned home on Sunday night.

Replying to a question, he said the effects of the US economic situation depends on how strong the economic recession. Here, he said, "our case is like that of the 'im-

portance of being unimportant'."

The adviser said the country's exports, particularly the readymade garments (RMG), still remained in the lower end of the prices. "I don't think the US economic situation will adversely affect our RMG exports."

About integration of the country's economy with the global economy, he said Bangladesh has to be cautious about the major sources of foreign exchange earnings like exports and wage earners remittance to avert any major threat from the global economic recession.

The adviser said the next government would put their efforts as much as possible to widen and enhance the duty-free and quota-free market access.

"But, they (next govern-

ment) will have to be more proactive in dealing with bilateral labour issues and try to develop skilled and semi-skilled manpower," he said, replying to a question about possible option for the upcoming government.

He, however, thought that the US recession is unlikely to be very deep as the US government was trying to take a bail-out measure for their financial crisis. "It would increase their budget deficit, but improve the confidence level of the market," he said.

Aziz said the impact of the financial crisis was not also acute in other parts of Europe, other than the United Kingdom.

"I don't think we've reasons to be scared. What we'll have to do is to ensure that the economic management works properly," he said, stressing the

need for maintaining adequate social protection and proper utilisation of public resources in addition to general maintenance of law and order situation.

Replying to a question, the finance adviser said he has not yet received the economic data of the first quarter of the current fiscal year ending today (Tuesday). But, he said: "I don't see any signs of stress in the economy at present."

Replying to another question, he said that the problem of energy and power is a major economic concern of the country. He, however, added that the Power Division was still confident that some 300-350 megawatt power would be added by the end of this year.

"There are other proposals that remained under consideration, but you know they are time consuming projects," he said.

About possibility of adjusting fuel price, Aziz said the energy ministry was working on it. Asked about the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) proposal to raise power tariff by 16 per cent, he said: "This was probably a necessity."



People queue at Bangladesh Bank in Motijheel to take new banknotes yesterday. The pressure of exchanging old notes for new ones mounts as they are used as Eid 'gifts'.

Govt moves to amend law to stop sales of toxic milk

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday took a move to amend the breast milk substitute regulation of marketing ordinance to prevent sales of health hazardous contaminated milk in the local market.

It (the government) will also form a taskforce involving high-ups from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce, Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) to determine future measures about the emerged situation.

The taskforce will also suggest taking punitive actions

against importers, dealers and wholesalers who were involved in import of contaminated powdered milk from China.

Health and Family Welfare Adviser AMM Shaukat Ali said these to the newsmen at a press conference at his secretariat office.

Shaukat Ali said in the proposed amendment to the Breast Milk Substitute Regulation of Marketing Ordinance-1984, it has been suggested five years' jail and Tk 1 lakh fine as punishment for the offenders.

The draft copy of the amendment will be submitted to the law ministry soon for verification and after the vetting the proposal will be placed before

the Council of Advisers for its final approval, he said.

The taskforce will find out how the unregistered powdered milk entered the country and who were involved in the incident, the health adviser said.

The taskforce will also instruct the Customs Department so such unregistered powdered milk cannot enter the country, he said.

He said the government has imposed ban on sales of powdered milk of three brands, as those may be a threat to public health.

Shaukat Ali said powdered milk worth Tk 575 crore was imported in 2007 and Tk 748 crore in 2006.

India's SMEs to contribute to GDP's 22pc

ANN/THE STATESMAN

With the improvement in technology, India's small and medium enterprises' contribution to the GDP of the country is likely to go up by at least 5 per cent and touch 22 per cent by 2012, a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) has said.

Since over 55 per cent of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are aggressively upgrading themselves technologically to reduce their input costs and increase production and exports, this sector is optimistic of achieving this goal, according to a paper brought out by the Assocham.

Currently, SMEs share in national GDP stands at around 17 per cent.



Samson H Chowdhury (L-3), chairman of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, inaugurates its 31st branch at Taanbazar in Narayanganj recently.

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level 4-6)
71-72, Old Elephant Road
Eskaton, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh.

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস
গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালান।

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে
জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

Invitation for Bid

Ref No.: GTCL/B-KP/MP(BV&PV)/006-7 Date: 23 September 2008
The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received loan (Loan No: 2188 BAN-Part-A-GTDP) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to meet up the cost of the Gas Transmission and Development Project and it is intended that a part of the fund will be utilized to eligible payments under the contract for which these bidding documents have been issued.

The Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) (hereinafter called purchaser) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of the ADB for the supply and delivery of pipeline (a) Ball Valves and (b) Plug Valves for the construction of 508mm (20") OD 165.00 km high pressure (1135 Psig) Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline from Bheramara to Khulna (detail is given in the bidding document).

Delivery and services under the contract shall be completed as per time mentioned against the following IFB(s) counting from the date of issuance of Commitment Letter by the ADB.

International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with the ADB's Single-Stage: Two-envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.

Sl. No	IFB No.	Description of goods & related services	Delivery period (days)	Price of the bidding document BDT/US\$	Bid closing date and time	Bid opening date and time	Bid security BDT/US\$
1.	GTCL/B-KP/MP(BV)/006	Procurement of Pipeline Ball Valves	210	5,000/75.00	19-11-08 10:30 hrs	19-11-08 11:00 hrs	11,00,000/= (16,000.00)
2.	GTCL/B-KP/MP(PV)/007	Procurement of Pipeline Plug Valves	210	5,000/75.00	19-11-08 12:00 hrs	19-11-08 12:30 hrs	8,00,000/= (12,000.00)

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information relating to the bid as well as inspection of the bidding document at the following address:

Project Director
Bheramara-Khulna Gas Transmission Pipeline Project
Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level-5)
71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2-9355390, Fax: 880-2-9358100
E-mail: gtcl@citech.net

The bidding document, in English, may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of non-refundable above-mentioned fee in the form of Pay-Order/Demand Draft in favour of Gas Transmission Company Limited from October 05, 2008 during office hours on all working days. No bidding document will be sold on the closing date of bid.

Bid must be delivered to the above-mentioned address, on or before the date & time in accordance with the instruction to bidders for each bid.

Bid must be accompanied by a bid security mentioned in the above table and must be delivered to Project Director, Bheramara-Khulna Gas Transmission Pipeline Project, GTCL. Late bid shall be rejected. Bid will be opened as per date and time stipulated in the respective IFB. If the bid cannot be received and opened due to any unavoidable circumstances or holiday(s) on scheduled date and time, the same shall be received and opened at the same venue and time on the subsequent working day.

The purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bid.

GTCL-09/08-09
GD-4420

BSTI resumes special drive against adulteration

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) is set to kick off a special drive across the country to check the sales of adulterated food and other commodities that caused serious public health concern.

The decision was taken at a meeting at the industries ministry Monday, chaired by Mahubul Jamil, special assistant to the chief adviser.

"The sellers of adulterated commodities will be fined and punished in an effort to restrain them from committing such acts," the government said in an announcement.

Activities of the anti-adulteration drive will be widely publicised in the media as part of a massive public-awareness campaign.

The government step came in the wake of news reports that the market is awash with adulterated goods because of a mindless marketing strategy by a section of businesspeople.

\$540m ejected from Pak market in only 3 months

ANN/THE NATION

Foreign investors have ejected US\$540 million from the Pakistani stock market in only three months from July to September amid prolonged political uncertainty, burgeoning insecurity in the tribal belt of the country coupled with global and local economic slowdown.

So far this month, foreign investors have withdrawn \$96 million, reflecting an increase of US\$68 million versus US\$28 million outflow witnessed in a month earlier.



BASIC Bank Limited

(Bangladesh Small Industries and Commerce Bank Limited)

IT Division: Peoples Insurance Bhaban (5th floor), 36, Dilkusha C/A
PABX: 9562960, 9555087 (Ext. 105) Fax: 880-2-9555518
Head Office: Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Phone: 9568190, 9564830, 7175691, 7175692, Fax: 88-02-9564829
Email: basicho@citechco.net, Web: www.basicbanklimited.com

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

- Agency : BASIC Bank Limited
- Procuring Entity Name : IT Division
- Procuring Entity District : Dhaka
- Invitation For : PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS
- Invitation Ref No. : BASIC/HO/ITD/2008/PCP/001
- Date : 29/09/2008

- Key Information
- Procurement Method : Open Tendering Method (OTM)

- Funding Information
- Budget and Source of Funds : BASIC Bank's Own Fund

- Particular Information
- Tender Last Selling Date : 21/10/2008 within 3:00 PM
- Tender Closing Date and Time : 22/10/2008 at 3:00 PM
- Tender Opening Date and Time : 22/10/2008 at 3:05 PM
- Name & Addresses of the Offices : Selling Tender Document:

IT Division, BASIC Bank Limited, Peoples Insurance Bhaban (5th floor), 36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on all working days.

Receiving Tender Document: BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Opening Tender Document: BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

- Eligibility of Tenderer
 - For Lot 1-4 the participating company must have at least 3 (three) years' proven experience in supplying items mentioned in those lots in any scheduled bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying those items to BASIC Bank. For Lot 5 and 6 the participating company must have at least 3 (three) years' proven experience in supplying licensed software in any scheduled bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying licensed software to BASIC Bank. Copy of previous work order(s) must be supplied along with the tender as proof in this regard.
 - The participating company must be a renowned Manufacturer/Distributor/Agent/Authorized Dealer of the items offered in the tender.
 - The participating company must have strong presence and support office in Dhaka City, Bangladesh for minimum 3 (three) years with well equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices.
 - The participating company may offer proposals for the items of any or all lot(s) and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s). Evaluation will be done lot by lot basis and contract will also be awarded lot by lot basis. Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted.
 - The offers should have validity for at least 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the date of opening the tender.
- Brief Description of Goods : Supply of 96 Nos. Internationally Reputed Brand Personal Computer with Licensed OS, 115 Nos. Line Interactive 600VA UPS, 6 Nos. Dot Matrix Printer, 23 Nos. Network Laser Printer, 25 Units Licensed Microsoft Office Professional Software (2007 or Latest Version) and 250 Units Licensed Internationally Reputed Antivirus Software (Latest Version)
- Price of Tender Document : Tk.1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred) only (non refundable) in cash.

Lot No.	Identification	Location	Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time
1	Personal Computer with Licensed OS (96 Nos.)	Dhaka	Tk.1,20,000.00 (One Lac Twenty Thousand Only)	6 weeks
2	Line Interactive UPS 600VA (115 Nos.)	Dhaka	Tk.12,000.00 (Twelve Thousand Only)	6 weeks
3	Dot Matrix Printer (6 Nos.)	Dhaka	Tk.8,000.00 (Eight Thousand Only)	6 weeks
4	Network Laser Printer (23 Nos.)	Dhaka	Tk.35,000.00 (Thirty Five Thousand Only)	6 weeks
5	Microsoft Office Professional Software (25 Units)	Dhaka	Tk.25,000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand Only)	6 weeks
6	Antivirus Software (250 Units)	Dhaka	Tk.10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Only)	6 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

- Name of Official Inviting Tender : Hasan Tanvir
- Designation of Official Inviting Tender : Deputy General Manager, IT Division
- Address of Official Inviting Tender : BASIC Bank Limited, IT Division, Peoples Insurance Bhaban (5th floor), 36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
- Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender: PABX: 9562960, 9555087 (Ext. 105), Fax: 88-02-9555518, Email: basicho@citechco.net
- a. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.
b. The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest priced quotation.

Deputy General Manager
IT Division