

Next govt to continue CG's fiscal measures

Aziz, ADB's visiting official hope

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday expressed the hope that the next elected government would continue the financial and fiscal policy measures taken by the caretaker government (CG) in the last two years.

"I've not received any opposition from the political parties to the reform measures we brought during this period. So, I hope, they will continue with the reforms," he told reporters after a meeting with

visiting ADB senior executive Kunio Senga at the Planning Ministry.

The adviser stressed that there had been no difference between the CG and political government on basic development strategies.

The finance adviser shared the view with Asian Development Bank Director General for South Asia Kunio Senga, who inquired about how the ADB would engage in enhanced budgetary support to Bangladesh during the next political regime.

Aziz said the ADB executive was particularly interested whether the policy measures would continue during the next elected government

as the development bank found that the policy support helped Bangladesh receive substantially increased development credit.

During the last two years, the ADB credit to Bangladesh increased to US\$ 2 billion, which is 50 percent higher than the corresponding period of previous years.

65m still grapple with food insecurity: WFP

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's 65 million (6.5 crore) people still struggle for the basic food requirements partly because of high price and lack of access to resources, a senior UN official said yesterday.

"It's an astounding number. But it isn't just the number unfortunately. Behind the number there are mothers and fathers, uncles and cousins, sons and daughters. There are senior citizens and newborn babies," said John Aylieff, World Food Programme (WFP) representative in Bangladesh.

His remarks came as WFP Bangladesh handed over its 2008 Media Award to six reporters in print and electronic media for reporting on food security, hunger and nutrition issues at a function in Dhaka.

Kawser Rahman of Bangla daily the Janakantha won the first prize, while Md Ashraf Ali of another Bangla daily Nayadiganta and Khaza Main Uddin of New Age clinched the second prize jointly.

Mahmood Moni of Chittagong-based Bangla newspaper the daily Azadi received a special award in dai-

lies category published outside Dhaka.

In electronic media category, Sharmeen Riny of Bangla Vision and Keramatullah Biplob of Channel 1 won the first and second prizes respectively.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud handed over the awards, while Editor of The Financial Express Moazzem Hossain and Citigroup Country Officer in Bangladesh Mamun Rashid were present among others.

WFP organised the programme at a time when food prices in international market are on the decline, thanks to the global recession and US financial turmoil that helped calm down the prices of commodities, including food items.

Earlier World Bank warned that higher prices of food after cyclone Sidr and recurrent floods in 2007 might push over four million (forty lakh) people into poverty.

Officially 40 percent of Bangladesh's population cannot meet their daily calorie requirement.

"Hunger is the number one killer in the world today. In every six seconds a child dies of hunger," said Aylieff, urging media to focus more on develop-

ment issues.

Wahiduddin Mahmud termed hunger one of the biggest problems in the world, having abundant wealth.

"A large number of people, mainly mothers and children, are deprived of required amount of food even in the abundance of wealth," he said.

He stressed mass awareness of nutrition need for children and pregnant mothers.

Referring to a recent criticism against the donors, particularly multilateral lenders WB and IMF, Mahmud said: "Excessive criticism of donors' activities is not good. We should also have the responsibility for recognising their good works."

He cited a WFP move of packaging vitamin-rich flour for distributing among Bangladesh's poor, and said it helped stop wheat theft.

Mamun Rashid said food insecurity could be a trigger for aggression.

"The effects of food crisis will reduce incentives for reforms, undermine business environment, increase political risk and induce policy changes towards export restrictions and subsidies," he said.



Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam speaks at the launch of Capital Market Journalists' Forum at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Seminar stresses new market exploration

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should explore new export markets to reach its US\$ 25 billion annual export target by 2012, suggested the commerce adviser yesterday.

"The country should take a new strategy 'All markets matter' instead of relying on a few traditional markets to achieve the export target as set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," Hossain Zillur Rahman told a seminar in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) organised the seminar titled "Duty Free Market Access in Korea: Potential for Bangladesh Exports" where Suk Bum Park, South Korean ambas-

sador in Bangladesh, Md Shahidul Islam, Bangladesh ambassador to South Korea, and MA Taslim, chief executive officer, BFTI, spoke.

The adviser pointed out that South Korea, Turkey, India and Brazil could be the potential markets for Bangladeshi products, as these nations are providing duty- and quota-free market access to the least developed countries (LDCs).

Korea has been providing a duty-free access to all LDCs on 87 tariff lines since January 2000 and it is gradually improving the coverage year after year.

Mostafa Abid Khan, research fellow at BFTI, said to avail of the Korean duty free access, Bangladesh needs to

convert the Korean tariff data to six digit HS codes as Korea is maintaining 10 digit HS code.

Despite the fact that coverage of the scheme in terms of current export is very insignificant, the initiative has opened a door to enter the Korean market with a \$40 billion import demand, Abid said in his paper presented at the seminar.

He said the Korean duty-free access is unlikely to usher any substantial openings for Bangladesh unless the country increases its production capacity.

Bangladesh's annual exports reached US\$141 million in fiscal year (FY) 2007-08, against \$95 million in FY 2006-07.

Stock market diversification underscored

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday called upon the capital market stakeholders to diversify the market with products to raise it to the same level as in neighbouring countries.

"The capital market of Bangladesh presently constitutes 20 percent of GDP, as the market has gained increasing prominence in the economy," he told a function in Dhaka, marking the launch of Capital Market Journalists' Forum.

The share of the country's capital market rose to the level in only three years from 10-11 percent of GDP in early 2006 and only 4-5 percent in 2003-04.

"We're still well behind

the capital markets of our neighbouring countries," said the adviser.

He stressed increasing capital market derivatives and intermediaries as the market still dependent, almost 100 percent, on shares and lacks brokers and merchant bankers.

The adviser said the recently corporatised NCBS will offload shares soon while Grameenphone CEO said GP's shares of \$125 million are underway to hit the market soon.

Dhaka-based working reporters, who report on Bangladesh capital market, formally launched the forum to protect their interests and enhance the professional skill of its members.

Govt set to brand Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will launch the first-ever country branding for Bangladesh tomorrow to present a brighter image of the country in the global market.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will unveil the logo and slogan to brand the country, at a function at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

The authorities hope that country-branding will help Bangladesh increase tourism, foreign investment and present a positive image of Bangladesh to the world.

After the launch, the government will take initiatives to "properly" present the country via international media and the country's foreign missions, Shafique Alam Mehdi, chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), said in a pre-event press briefing at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

The press conference was co-organised by BPC, the sole tourism development body of the country, and Banglalink, partner of BPC, to promote tourism, under the mobile operator's CSR (corporate social responsi-

bility) platform.

A special country branding committee, comprising personalities, has developed the theme and logo for the country in accordance with the demands of time, the function was told.

The BPC chairman told the function that though BPC was responsible for implementing the country branding campaign, the contribution of all other stakeholders was also needed to achieve this.

"Not only the government or the tourism sector, but other sectors, such as, corporate, business, art and culture, media, sports, all sectors need to take the country's brand forward," he told the function.

Country branding is a long-term process and needs to be carried out with integrated efforts of different government and private agencies, said Solaiman Alam, head of communications of Banglalink.

The logo and slogan were not disclosed at the press conference, but the BPC chairman said it would be attractive and be able to represent the country and its culture.

BTRC publishes draft licensing guideline for submarine cable

UNB, Dhaka

The draft regulatory and licensing guidelines for invitation of proposals for issuing licenses to build, operate and maintain two more submarine cable systems have been published seeking views from stakeholders.

The Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has urged the stakeholders and others to send their comments on various issues discussed in the guidelines by December 18.

BTRC Chairman Major General (retd) Manzurul Alam said the country needs to remain uninterrupted on the information super highway to develop its ICT sector.

"We'll be able to remain risk free in this regard if additional submarine cable connections are established. It'll also help increase the internet speed," he said.

Bangladeshi made Asian packaging fed VP



STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 57th board of administration and general assembly meeting of the Asian Packaging Federation (APF) elected Safiullah Chowdhury as the first vice president of APF for the year 2009 from Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Members from sixteen countries from Asia and the Pacific region participated in the election, held on November 24 in China.

This federation is the apex body for all the packaging associations of Asia and the Pacific region countries. Chowdhury is also the president of the Bangladesh Corrugated Carton and Accessories Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

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বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(অর্থক্ষণ আদালত আইন ২০০৩ এর ১২(৩) ধারা অনুযায়ী)
ইউনাইটেড লীজিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
প্রধান কার্যালয়: কামিলিয়া হাউস, ২২ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ।
টেলিফোন: পিএফএক্স: ৯৬৬৯০০৬, সারসারি: ৯৬১০৪২৬, ফ্যাক্স: ৯৮০-২-৯৬৬২৫৯৬
ই-মেইল: webmail@ulc.com.bd তারিখ: ০৫/১২/২০০৮ই

ইউনাইটেড লীজিং কোঃ লিঃ এর স্বপ্ন গ্রহীতা মেসার্স রিকু মটরস, সন্ধানিকারী, মোঃ সাইফুদ্দিন সিদ্দিকী, ৩৬, আর, এন, রোড, যশোর, বাংলাদেশ এর স্বপ্নের বিপরীতে বন্ধকদাতা মোঃ সাইফুদ্দিন সিদ্দিকী, পিতা-মৃত আলহাজ্ব সুলতান মাহমুদ, ৩৬, আর, এন রোড, যশোর, বাংলাদেশ এর নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি দায়বদ্ধ আছে যাহা বিক্রয়ের সম্পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা ইউনাইটেড লীজিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড বহন করে। উক্ত স্বপ্ন গ্রহীতার নিকট বর্তমানে খেলাপী পাওয়ার পরিসরান সুদসহ ৬১,৬৩,১২,৪৯৯/= (এক কোটি ত্রিশটি লক্ষ বার হাজার চারশত নিরানব্বই টাকা) মাত্র (০৪/১২/২০০৮ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত হিসাব অনুযায়ী)। যাহা হাল নাগাদ সুদসহ পরিশোধের জন্য বাব-বার তাগিদ দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও সংশ্লিষ্ট দেয়াদার তার নিকট প্রাপ্য স্বপ্নের বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করিতেছে না। এই প্রেক্ষিতে অর্থক্ষণ আদালত আইন ২০০৩ এর ১২(৩) ধারার বিধান অনুযায়ী অর্পিত ক্ষমতায় নিম্ন তফসিলে বর্ণিত দায়বদ্ধ জামানত/সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় পূর্বক পাওনা টাকা আদায়ের নিমিত্তে নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্তে দরপত্র (টেন্ডার) আহবান করা যাইতেছে:-

- ১) দরপত্র নিজস্ব প্যাডে/সাদা কাগজে টাইপকৃত হইতে হইবে।
- ২) প্রত্যেক দরপত্র দাতাকে জামানত স্বরূপ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২৫% এর সমপরিমাণ অর্থের জন্য ইউনাইটেড লীজিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড প্রধান কার্যালয় এর অনুকূলে একটি ব্যাংকে ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ১০ (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে (সর্বশেষ ১৫/১২/২০০৮ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে) দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিয়া শাখায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অথবা রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- ৩) দরপত্রদাতাকে জমির তফসিল অনুযায়ী প্রতিটির মূল্য পৃথকভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।
- ৪) জমির পরিমাণ শাখার রেকর্ড অনুযায়ী উদ্ধৃত করা হইয়াছে। বাস্তবে পরিমাণ কম বা বেশি হইলে মূল্য সেই অনুপাতে সমন্বয় হইবে।
- ৫) সফল দরপত্র দাতাকে দরপত্র গৃহীত হইবার সর্বশেষ ৭(সাত) দিনের মধ্যে টেন্ডার মূল্যের ১০০% এর অবশিষ্ট ৭৫% মূল্য পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। বাকীভাগ জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
- ৬) অসফল দরপত্র দাতার জামানত ফেরত দেওয়া হইবে।
- ৭) কম জামানত প্রদানকারী দরপত্র/ক্রিপূর্ণ দরপত্র সারসারি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
- ৮) দরপত্রে প্রদত্ত সম্পত্তির মূল্য অপ্রাসঙ্গিক কম হইলে বা অন্য কোন কারণে গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত না হইলে কোম্পানী তাহা গ্রহণে বাধ্য থাকিবে না।
- ৯) সম্পত্তির রেজিস্ট্রেশন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় খরচ ও ক্রয়কৃত সম্পত্তির ট্যাক্সসহ অন্যান্য যাবতীয় খরচ ক্রেতাকে বহন করিতে হইবে।
- ১০) সর্বোচ্চ দর বা যে কোন দর সম্বলিত দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল এর ক্ষমতা কোম্পানী সংরক্ষণ করে।
- ১১) নির্ধারিত ১৫/১২/২০০৮ ইং তারিখে বিকাল ৪ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।

তফসিল
জেলা- যশোর, থানা-কোতালী, মৌজা-এ-৮৮, সি.এস. খতিয়ান নং-১০৮, সি.এস. দাগ নং-৮৮, এস.এ. খতিয়ান নং-১০৮, এস.এ. দাগ নং-২৪৯ এবং ২৫০, বারিগা খতিয়ান নং-৯৩০, হাল জরিপ খতিয়ান নং-৮৩১, হাল জরিপ দাগ নং-১০৪১ জমির পরিমাণ-৮.২৫ শতাংশ। জমির চৌহদ্দি- উত্তরে- ৩ ফুট চলাচলের পাকা রাস্তা, দক্ষিণে- আব্দুল বালেক, পূর্বে- জালাল মিস্ত্রি এবং পশ্চিমে পৌরসভার রাস্তা।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ইউনাইটেড লীজিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

Company Secretary of British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh Md Mahbubur Rahman and Managing Director of Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd Aly Zaker exchange documents after signing an agreement on Thursday at BAT headquarters in Dhaka. Under the agreement, Asiatic will be the corporate brand communication agency for BAT. Other senior officials were also present.

Aarong launches powder milk

STAR BUSINESS DESK
BRAC Dairy and Food Project adds Aarong Full Cream Milk to its product line, according to a press statement.

At a function in Dhaka on Tuesday, the new product was launched where Siddika Kabir, nutritionist and cuisine consultant, was present as the chief guest.

BRAC Enterprises Managing Director Rumea Ali, Aarong Director Tamara Abed and other high officials were also present.

Siddika said as Aarong is one of the largest organisations, it would help meet the scarcity of milk in the market.

Ali said Aarong is working on the development of the poverty-stricken people of Bangladesh.

Tamara Abed said her organisation's new initiative will also encourage millions of poor peasants to come in milk cultivation and save huge foreign currency.

Aarong Full Cream Powder Milk will be available in grocery shops in Dhaka in 500-gram poly packs.