

NBR chief suspects undercover money smuggling in guise of FDI

UNB, Dhaka

National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abdul Mazid yesterday underlined measures to examine the balance sheet on foreign direct investment as the government's revenue chief suspects undercover money smuggling in the name of FDI.

"It is time we look closely at the balance sheet to study FDI," he said, at a pre-budget meeting with representatives from the computer, ICT and telecommunications sectors in Dhaka.

He alleged that people from abroad came in Bangladesh and took syndicated loans from banks and did business, in the name of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

"Where is the FDI in this? They did business with money from local sources, created employment for a handful of people, but send back huge amounts of foreign currency to the native country," he said, indicating the state of business being done here by a section of foreign investors.

The NBR chairman categorically stated that this type of FDI and investment will not be entertained in the next

budget, as the country is now about to graduate into a mid-level economy, shedding its LDC tag.

He was also against the import of those types of software, which are produced by local software manufacturers. "The government wants to facilitate the local software manufacturers."

Association of Mobile Telecom Operators in Bangladesh (AMTOB) President Fazlur Rahman urged a tax waiver on SIMs (subscriber identity module). "This tax totally blocked the growth of telecommunications in the country," he said.

Bangladesh Computer Samity President Mostafa Jabbar said that information technology is the only tool to provide employment to the educated unemployed people.

He pleaded for a total duty waiver on computer and computer-related accessories, which are still too expensive for the commoners to afford.

The IT sector leader also said the government should consider VAT waiver on internet users, as the present government pledged to build a digital Bangladesh by 2021 in its manifesto.

Mostaf Jabbar, a pioneer in IT,

opened Pandora's Box as he alleged that banks and corporate houses in the country are engaged in "money laundering in the name of software import".

"Higher taxes and supplementary duties should be imposed on the import of software that local software manufacturers are producing," he said.

Monjur Ahmed of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex body of country's business community, corroborated Jabbar's allegations, saying that money laundering is going on in the name of software import.

"This should be stopped. NBR should not allow the import of software that is produced by local companies. Higher supplementary duties can protect the local producers," he said.

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) President Habibullah Karim urged the government to announce the income-tax-exemption facility for the software manufacturing sector till 2017.

"This will facilitate local and foreign investors to invest more in the country and employment opportunities will also increase," he said.



Dhaka Bank gets new MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank Ltd has appointed Khondker Fazle Rashid as the bank's managing director, says a press release.

Prior to this appointment, he was the managing director of Premier Bank.

Rashid, an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University, started his career with Sonali Bank in 1978 as a probationary officer. He also worked with AB Bank from May 1992 to December 1999 and left the bank as senior vice-president.

Rashid also worked for Southeast Bank as senior executive vice-president and head of its credit division from January 2002 to June 2003.

Warid teams up with Air Asia

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Warid Telecom has teamed with Air Asia to launch a special offer for all Zahi post-paid customers, says a press statement.

Under this special offer, the post-paid subscribers of Warid Telecom can avail themselves of discounts up to Tk 2,000 per ticket on the purchase of Air Asia's Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka tickets.

The offer is available for all post-paid customers who will buy tickets until March 5 for travelling to and from Malaysia between March 12 and May 31, 2009.

The subscribers will have to show a rebate short message service (SMS), sent by the telecom to a counter employee of Air Asia for receiving the discount.

Against a single SMS, a subscriber can buy a maximum of four tickets for his or her family members travelling together and thus could save up to Tk 8,000.

The discount, however, is applicable only on regular ticket prices of Tk 20,000, inclusive of all taxes.

Warid says, "The offer would be a great reward for its post-paid subscribers planning to travel to Malaysia for leisure or business."

SEC backs profit, loss sharing

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a move to bring professionalism to the market, the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday decided in principle to allow merchant bankers and retail investors to make joint investments on a profit-and-loss sharing basis.

The existing merchant banking rules, which do not permit such joint investments, will be amended to this effect, said Farhad Ahmed, executive director of SEC.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the commission, chaired by Chairman Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi.

Retail investors contribute more to joint funds, while merchant banks contribute less, the executive director said. "The ratio will

be fixed later."

The merchant banks will choose scrips guided by their professional knowledge and company fundamentals, he said.

During any volatile situation, it was found, that the investors or clients borrowing from merchant banks went into panic sell-offs, even at losses, for loan adjustment. However, the clients were often under pressure from these banks for such sell-offs.

The commission thinks the joint investment system is necessary in consideration of the present perspective of the market. Once the new system becomes effective, merchant bankers who have sound experience and knowledge about the market can give advice to their clients, the SEC executive director said.

The merchant banker's responsibility will not be limited only to providing loans to their clients and realising those, their responsibilities will increase manifold, he added.

The SEC also approved the initial public offering (IPO) prospectus of Asia Insurance, for raising Tk 9 crore from the stock market, at Tuesday's meeting.

The insurance company will raise the amount by issuing 9 lakh ordinary shares of Tk 100 each.

As of March 31, 2008, the earning per share of the company was Tk 52.16, while the net asset value per share was Tk 242.

The SEC executive director also said the commission has cancelled the condition of providing national ID card number while applying for an IPO.

US banks get ready for stress tests

AP, Washington

While the Obama administration begins conducting "stress tests" on the nation's biggest banks to judge whether they can hold up if the recession were to worsen, there was fresh evidence of a weakening housing market with sales of existing homes falling unexpectedly last month to the lowest level in nearly 12 years.

The median sales price plunged to \$170,300, from \$199,800 a year earlier. That was the lowest price since March 2003 and the second-largest drop on record.

Wall Street slumped on the news. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had been down about 85 ahead of the report, lost more than 150 points in morning trading.

And home prices are expected to keep falling this year. That has whittled away Americans' single-biggest asset and figured prominently in consumers' decisions to cut back spending, which has sorely hurt the economy.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is back on Capitol Hill Wednesday for the second straight day. This time he'll appear before the House Financial Services Committee where he's likely to get tough questions about the government's controversial bank-rescue efforts.

Testifying before a Senate panel on Tuesday, Bernanke calmed investor fears that the government was heading down a path of nationalizing troubled banks and

month, from 4.74 million units in December. It was the weakest showing since July 1997 and well below the slight rise in sales that economists expected.

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Wall Street rallied a day after hitting 12-year lows.

"We've always worked with banks to make sure that they're healthy and stable, and we're going to work with them. I don't see any reason to destroy the franchise value or to create the huge legal uncertainties of trying to formally nationalise the bank when it just isn't necessary," Bernanke told senators on Tuesday.

"The outcome of the stress test is not going to be fail or pass," added Bernanke, whose agency is the primary regulator for many of the country's largest banks. "The outcome of the stress test is, how much capital does this bank need in order to meet the credit needs of borrowers in our economy?"

Critics worry the government's rescue actions have the potential to put evermore taxpayers' dollars at risk and encourage "moral hazard," where companies feel more comfortable making high-stakes gambles because the government will bail them out.

It's all troubling to Stan Eden, 48, of Miami.

"If you can't perform, you move to the side," Eden said of companies seeking bailouts. "All the greed and deceit has overtaken common sense in the decision-making process in the country."

Europe must fight protectionism in auto sector: EU

AFP, Brussels

Europe must make a concerted effort to avoid protectionism in the auto sector, which would only hurt the ailing industry's exports, the European Commission warned Wednesday.

"It is essential that state aid and other measures are well directed, working to build the future strength of the industry rather than introducing short-term distortions that will damage long-term competitiveness," the EU's executive warned in a statement.

Brussels called on European capitals to invest in "strategic technologies" and help workers retrain to keep or change their jobs.

Registrations of new cars in Europe fell 27 percent in January compared with a year earlier, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA).

Such figures have prompted countries such as France, Italy and Spain to launch rescue packages, prompting cries of protectionism, especially in central and eastern Europe amid fears that foreign auto factories will be closed and jobs repatriated.

The way to help the industry is through "a determined and concerted effort to combat any move towards



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (L) gestures to former Bank of France chief and IMF director Jacques de Larosiere as they give a joint press conference on a high-level working group report on improving financial supervision across Europe at the EU Commission's headquarters in Brussels yesterday.

protectionism in global markets," the commission said.

EU Industry Commissioner Gunter Verheugen -- considered industry friendly -- presented the "communication" to the press in Brussels alongside EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes, who has a more hardline image and has rallied against countries seeking to "steal" from their neighbours.

Her office is currently examining auto sector aid plans from Britain, France,

Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden, while stressing that she has "red lines" that cannot be crossed.

Both commissioners condemned acts of "economic nationalism," stressing that the short-term national gains were far outweighed by the long-term costs.

"The car industry is European, no company operates and no item is produced in just one country," said Verheugen.

Verheugen stressed that bailout money would not be admissible to deal with

corporate problems and poor management which occurred before the onset of the economic crisis, which has plunged the EU into recession.

The EU executive noted that the European Union itself is threatened by protectionism elsewhere.

"The situation is aggravated by the rising risk of protectionism, threatening reduced access to third country markets for European producers who have thrived on the export market," it said.

Wall Street retreats after big rally

AFP, New York

US share prices fell sharply Wednesday as the market reacted to a weaker-than-expected report on home sales and digested gains from a big rally a day earlier.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 151.49 points (2.06 percent) to 7,199.45 while the tech-dominated Nasdaq fell 25.21 points (1.75 percent) to 1,416.62 at 1535 GMT.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 15.22 points (1.97 percent) to 757.92.

Opening losses accelerated after news that US existing-home sales fell 5.3 percent in January as potential buyers waited to see the impact of the economic stimulus package.

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) said existing-home sales fell to a seasonally adjusted annualised rate of 4.49 million units, from a level of 4.74 million units in December.

"Given so much stimulus package discussion in January, some would-be buyers simply sat out for clarity and certainty on the nature of housing stimulus," said Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist.

Analysts said the disappointing report dashed hopes for a quick recovery in housing, the epicenter of the economic crisis.

"We are faced with a weakening economy that is

only confirmed by this morning's plunge in existing-home sales," said Kathy Lien at Global Forex Trading.

"The housing market remains the Achilles' heel of the US economy as prices fall and demand wanes."

The market was digesting a rally of more than three percent for the main indexes Tuesday, partly in anticipation of President Barack Obama's speech to Congress.

Some analysts said Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke earlier eased fears about nationalisation of banks and maintained his outlook for an economic recovery later this year.

Patrick O'Hare at Briefing.com said the market was energised Tuesday by the notion that bank nationalisation appears to be off the table for now.

"We might get pretty excited about that move, if not for the fact that we have seen monster moves like that before eventually give way to a fresh round of concerns and new lows," he said.

"It's a positive driver for now that the worst-case scenario seems to be off the table. Ultimately, though, nothing changed for the financial sector yesterday from a fundamental standpoint. It's still burdened by toxic assets and the lack of a concrete, credible plan to purge the assets from balance sheets."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তথ্য - ২০০৭ প্রকল্প

পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭ম তলা)

ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

নং-বিবিএস/ব্যক্তিগত-০৭/৫(১৮)/ক্র/অ/সং/২০০৭-১৭১

তারিখ: ১৯-০২-২০০৯

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়/পরিবহন বিভাগ।
২	সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো।
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম	বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তথ্য-২০০৭ প্রকল্প।
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা/নাম	ঢাকা।
৫	যে জন্য দরপত্র আবেদন	মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী।
৬	দরপত্রের নং	বিবিএস/ব্যক্তিগত-০৭/৫(১৮)/ক্র/অ/সং/২০০৭-১৭১
৭	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	উন্মুক্ত বাজেট, জিওবি।
৯	প্রকল্পের কোড নং	৬০৬০।
১০	প্রকল্পের নাম	বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তথ্য-২০০৭ প্রকল্প।
১১	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নং	এপিও-৩ ও ৪
১২	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী।
১৩	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৯ মার্চ, ২০০৯।
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২২ মার্চ, ২০০৯, বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫	দরপত্র বোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২ মার্চ, ২০০৯, বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৬	দরপত্র বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও বোলার স্থান	বাংলাদেশ কৃষি তথ্য - ২০০৭ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭ম তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
১৭	দরদাতার যোগাযোগ	একই প্রকল্পের কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী, আমদানিকারক, ব্যবসায়িক এবং উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ। অগ্রাধিকার প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে কৃষক, কৃষক প্রদত্ত হালনাগাদ বৈধ ফ্রেড লাইসেন্স, ডিআইএনসর হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিসংখ্যান সনদ, ডাউন রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ এবং অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৮	মালামালের বিবরণ	মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী।
১৯	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	লট-০১ এর জন্য ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং লট-০২, ০৩, ০৪ ও ০৫ এর জন্য ৪০০.০০ (চারশত) টাকা।

২০	লট নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	স্থান	জামানতের পরিমাণ	কার্যসম্পাদনের সময়
১	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৩	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৪	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৫	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৬	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৭	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৮	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৯	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১০	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১১	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১২	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৩	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৪	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৫	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৬	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৭	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৮	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
১৯	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২০	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২১	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২২	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৩	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৪	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৫	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৬	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৭	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৮	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
২৯	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৩০	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫
৩১	অনুসন্ধান প্রকল্পের নং	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫	০৮০৫

২১) বিশেষ নথি: ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শালে বাতিল করে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
খ) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।

(স্বাক্ষর)

(জায়েদ আহম্মদ বান)

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

GD-1039

GD-1039

Invitation for Tenders					
1	Ministry/Division	Agriculture.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.			
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Room No.-308, Garage Building (2 nd Floor), NATP: Phase-1, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Car.			
7	Invitation Ref No.	IFB No. GD/PIU-BARC/12/04.			
8	Date	19.02.2009			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	National Competitive Tender (NCT) Opening Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and source of funds	IDA Credit-4386-BD.			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	IDA & IFAD.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	(if)			
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP), Phase-1.			
14	Tender package No.	GD/PIU-BARC/12.			
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Car			
16	Tender publication date	Not applicable.			
17	Tender last selling date	Up to 15.03.2009.			
18	Tender submission date and time	Date: 16.03.2009	Time: 12.00 noon		
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: 16.03.2009	Time: 12:15pm		
20	Name & address of the office - Selling tender document - Receiving tender document - Opening tender document - Pre-tender meeting	Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), NATP: Phase-1 Room No. 308, Garage Building (2 nd Floor), BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.			
21	Date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date: 09.03.2009	Time: 11.00am		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Bidders from all countries other than Israel who have required qualification as per the bidding documents.			
23	Brief description of goods	Car (1500cc).			
24	Brief description of related services	GNG conversion, registration & first party insurance.			
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Taka 1000/- (one thousand) only.			
	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender amount security	Completion time in weeks
26	1	1 (one) Car	Dhaka	BDT 50,000/- (fifty thousand)	Delivery date: Within 8 weeks from date of contract signing.
27	Name of official inviting tender		Dr. Md. Abul Khashem.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender		Director.		
29	Address of official inviting tender		Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Room No.- 308, Garage Building (2 nd Floor), NATP: Phase-1, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 8130756, 9130702	Fax: 8113032	E-mail: reem98k@yahoo.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
GD-1015			Dr. Md. Abul Khashem Director		