

WB economist backs fiscal safeguard against recession

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A senior economist of the World Bank said yesterday Bangladesh must create additional fiscal space to stimulate demand focused on job creation to deal with fallout from the global financial crisis.

"This fiscal measure is necessary as part of a preparation to chase the decline in export and remittance income," Sadiq Ahmed, acting chief economist for World Bank's South Asia region, told top bankers at a meeting in the WB's Dhaka Office.

Ahmed however said that there is nothing to get panicked.

"You have to prepare on the basis of the trends. No doubt, there are some dark clouds and let us get prepared," Ahmed said.

Of the other measures he advised to take are: Public spending should be re-prioritised to infrastructure, agriculture and safety nets and enhancing export competitiveness.

The economist stressed the need to carry out reforms



Sadiq Ahmed, acting chief economist for World Bank's South Asia region, speaks at a meeting at WB's Dhaka Office yesterday.

for a strong banking and financial sector.

Ahmed presented a paper titled "Impact of global financial crisis in South Asia" at the beginning of the discussion.

In the paper, he showed the short- and long-term impacts of the global crisis and, accordingly, made suggestions.

He said the financial meltdown slowed the growth of exports, investment, remittance and consumption.

"After several years of strong growth, remittance flows to South Asia are expected to slow down in 2009," Ahmed said.

"Industrial production will also go down."

But Ahmed sees an increase in agriculture productivity in South Asia, especially in Bangladesh, as a big challenge. He said the price of food that is at the lowest level might shoot back up.

"Although Bangladesh's agriculture sector has

increased its productivity since 1971, it is still lower than in many other countries," Ahmed said.

He said export sectors have to be given incentives to weather the crisis period.

The economist who wrote more than 30 books, policy research papers and articles on various development issues, also said the financial sector must be well-regulated.

WB officials at Dhaka office and senior bankers were present at the meeting.

City IT 2009 kicks off

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should make available necessary infrastructure and ICT equipment to the masses to realise the "Digital Bangladesh" dream, said the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry president.

The government and educational institutions, both public and private, should concentrate on the development of both the final product and human resources behind the sector, said Annisul Huq.

He inaugurated the eighth annual computer fair styled "City IT 2009" at the BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, in Dhaka yesterday.

"Digital does not refer to only computers. It also consists of mobile technology, access to digital media and information, communication and out sourcing. To transform Bangladesh into Digital Bangladesh by 2021, the government has to transform its administration and institutions into a digital structure," said Mustafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Computer Society.

"There is a need for the formation of a 'Digital Chamber of Commerce and Industry' in the country to support ongoing and future projects under ICT," added Jabbar.

The nine-day fair, taking place over 1.25 lakh square feet, with 160 participating concerns, will also organise special programmes to honour noted personalities, and various other social activities.

Govt, businessmen to tackle recession risks together: Minister

US trade fair starts in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government and businessmen will work together to overcome the impact of the global financial meltdown on the economy, said the commerce minister yesterday.

"The government and the country's business community will jointly fight the effects of the global financial crisis," said Faruk Khan.

The government monitors the exports of readymade garments and overseas employment that can be hurt by the global recession, Khan said as he launched a three-day US trade fair, co-organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh and the US Embassy at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The minister said local

entrepreneurs could have a "great opportunity" to exchange business ideas and compare American and Bangladeshi markets from this trade exposition.

"One of the objectives of a fair is to improve trade relations and we expect more US investment in the country," Khan said.

James F Moriarty, US ambassador to Bangladesh, said the global financial meltdown would not affect bilateral trade relations between the US and Bangladesh.

"Although we are facing tough times because of the recession, we hope the bilateral trade relations between the two countries would remain unaffected," he said. Bangladesh has showed resilience against the global financial crisis, he said.

The US envoy stressed

ensuring a business-friendly environment to attract foreign investment to the country that would help overcome the effects of recession.

Fifty-six US companies, including Boeing, Coca-Cola, IBM, Microsoft Corporation, Pepsico Inc, Intel Corporation, American Air and Harvard University, are participating in the show.

The show will remain open to the public from 10am to 8pm. The entry fee has been fixed at Tk 10 a visitor. Students in uniform and carrying identity cards will be exempted from the entry fee.

Syed Ershad Ahmed, president, and A Gafur, executive director, of AmCham Bangladesh, were also present at the ceremony.



Industries Minister Dilip Barua poses with Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh President Nasir Uddin Ahmed and his delegation during a courtesy call at the minister's office in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Global economic woes eroding IT spending

AFP, San Francisco

Industry trackers on Wednesday slashed projections of global spending on information technology (IT) and said computer chip makers could be hit with an unprecedented plunge in revenue.

IDC predicts worldwide IT spending will rise a meager half percent in 2009 because of economic turmoil and says that if exchange rate trends continue US technology exporters will take financial beatings.

"The sharp economic downturn which began in 2007 is now affecting consumer and IT spending in a significant way," IDC said in a release.

"The semiconductor market, which was one of

the first industries to be affected, remains in a state of turbulence."

Gartner technology research firm on Wednesday painted a bleak picture, saying it expects worldwide semiconductor revenue to drop 24.1 percent this year to 194.5 billion dollars (US).

"We believe that the financial crisis has reset the semiconductor market," said Gartner research vice president Bryan Lewis.

Broad declines in shipments of semiconductors that are integral parts of nearly all electronic devices signal that manufacturers will be pumping out fewer gadgets for the market, according to IDC.

IDC forecasts that the semiconductor market will erode 22 percent this year after sliding two percent in

2008. The "abrupt slowdown" in chip shipments is likely to affect Asia, Europe and the United States, according to IDC.

Gartner expects worldwide semiconductor revenue to fall by at least 17 percent in the first three months of 2009, with a "strong possibility" of even lousier performance in that quarter.

Gartner analysts warn that the situation might continue to worsen through the year and the industry could be pounded by a record-breaking revenue drop of 33 percent in 2009.

"Semiconductor suppliers should prepare for Gartner's negative scenario of a 33 percent decline in 2009 revenue," Lewis said.

"Tight control of expenses is essential, but suppliers should reconsider

dropping their overall research and development budgets because focused R&D investments in the recession will help determine the winners in the upturn."

Gartner advises companies to use outsourcing and partnerships to extend R&D budgets.

Makers of DRAM computer memory lost more than 13 billion dollars in 2007 and 2008, leaving some facing bankruptcy and others cutting back on production, according to analysts.

Reductions in supplies of that kind of memory are expected to drive up prices later this year, which would increase costs of making many electronic gadgets.

IDC and Gartner don't expect the worldwide semiconductor market to recover until 2010.

"After the 2001 recession, in which semiconductor sales plummeted by a record 32.5 percent, semiconductor sales took about four years to get back to 2000 levels," Lewis said.

Dollar hits 3-month high

AFP, Tokyo

The dollar rose to a more than three-month high against the yen in Asian trade Thursday on renewed hopes of action by Washington to help banks hammered by the credit crunch.

Investors were also selling the yen because of deepening fears about the health of the Japanese economy, dealers said.

The dollar touched 97.98 yen at one point, a level last seen on November 14. In late Tokyo trade it was at 97.77, up from 97.37 in New York Wednesday.

The euro slipped to 1.2717 dollars from 1.2721 but gained to 124.31 yen from 123.89.

The greenback rose against the yen after the US authorities unveiled so-called stress tests on the health of troubled banks.

Crisis hits copycats in Chinese art enclave

AFP, Dafen, China

With his long hair and crumpled shirt, Chen Honglin looks every inch the budding artist, but these days he thinks less about expressing himself and more about surviving in China's fake art capital.

The 24-year-old, who has spent the past year making meticulous copies of famous paintings at the Dafen Art Village in southern China, asks himself how much longer he can last as orders drop sharply amid the economic crisis.

"It's something we talk about among ourselves," said Chen, who hails from northwest China's destitute Shaanxi province. "I'd be lying if I said we weren't somewhat worried."

The craft of copying, a vital element in China's economic rise, has literally been turned into an art form in this

laid-back enclave in the middle of the nation's most thoroughly industrialised region.

Vincent van Gogh-style sunflowers and Jackson Pollock-esque drip paintings are to be had for just a little over 100 yuan (14.5 dollars), and to the untrained eye it is not immediately obvious that these are just replicas.

This is the work of hundreds of creative 20-somethings who have gravitated from across the vast nation to Dafen, where a decent income could be combined with a Bohemian lifestyle in a pleasantly warm climate.

But as foreign interest has weakened, a slightly jittery atmosphere has set in among the hundreds of artists who live here, many of them highly trained even if they mainly occupy themselves with reproducing other people's work.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Police Headquarters
Dhaka

Local Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the manufacturers/suppliers/local agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion, Formed Police Unit (FPU) and other projects.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3. Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Invitation for	Tender to procure goods.
7. Invitation Ref No	E&T/Eq/22(2008-2009).
8. Date	23/02/2009.

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget	GoB.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11. Tender publication date	25/02/2009.	
12. Tender last selling date	17/03/2009.	
13. Tender closing date and time	18/03/2009 12:00 noon.	
14. Tender opening date and time	18/03/2009 12:30 pm.	
15. Name & address of the office(s)		
- Selling tender document	AIG (E&T), Room No. 220 (1st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.	
- Receiving tender document	AIG (E&T), Room No. 220 (1st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.	
- Opening tender document	Operation Conference Room (1st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.	
16. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Operation Conference Room (1st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000	
	Date	Time
	09/03/2009	15:00pm

INFORMATION OF TENDERER

17. Eligibility of tenderer	As shown in tender document.				
18. Brief description of goods or works	Shown at SI No. 20.				
19. Nature of purchase	Framework agreement.				
Lot No	Identification of lot	Quantity (may vary)	Price of tender document	Tender security in Taka	Completion time in month
1	Driving Simulator	4 nos.	750/-	1,50,000/-	02 (two)
2	Paint Shop	4 set	750/-	70,000/-	do

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

21. Name of official inviting tender	Md Sibgat Ullah ppm.
22. Designation of official inviting tender	AIG (E&T).
23. Address of official inviting tender	AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
24. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9564779, Fax: 7176129 E-mail: aige_1@police.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Md Sibgat Ullah ppm-seba
AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
E-mail: aige_1@police.gov.bd

GD-1063

Khulna University, Khulna
Management and Business Administration School
Evening MBA Program

Invitation for Application

Management and Business Administration School, Khulna University invites application from prospective candidates (both Fresh and Executives can apply) in its Evening MBA Program for admission of 40 students in 2008-2009 session (2nd Batch). Detail information in this regard is as follows:

- Application form collection and submission:** Application forms will be available (on payment of Tk. 100) from office of the Dean, Management and Business Administration School, Ground Floor, Academic Building-1 of Khulna University during office hours in the weekdays (except Friday, Saturday and other government holidays) from 01 March 2009 to 01 April 2009.
- Important dates:** a) Written examination: 24 April 2009 (10.00am-12.00noon)
b) Commencement of classes: Mid June 2009 (expected)
- Minimum qualifications for application:** Executive candidates must have at least 2-year Bachelor degree in any subject plus two years working experience after graduation in the position(s) equivalent to 2nd class government officers, while fresh candidates must have at least four year bachelor degree.
- Duration of the program:** 20 months.
- Total Cost:** Tk. 81,000 (approximately).
- Class time:** Evening (3 days a week).

For further information please contact office of the Dean, Management and Business Administration School, Ground Floor, Academic Building-1, Khulna University. Telephone: 0444432383.

Professor Md. Mizanur Rahman
Dean, Management and Business Administration School and Chairman, Evening MBA Admission Committee, 2008-2009 (2nd Batch)

GD-1081

ঢাকা পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন কর্তৃপক্ষ

ঢাকা ওয়াটার সাপ্লাই সেক্টর ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট
ঢাকা ওয়াসা, ওয়াসা ভবন (৯ম তলা)
৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাতরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ঢাকা ওয়াটার সাপ্লাই সেক্টর ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট এর নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে লোক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ওয়াসার ঢাকা ওয়াটার সাপ্লাই সেক্টর ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট এর সিনিয়র অর্থ ও হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা, প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী ও কম্পিউটার অপারেটর পদের শূন্য পদ পূরণের লক্ষ্যে গত ২৮ নভেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখে বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ম্যানেজমেন্ট (বিআইএম) এ অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্রমিক নম্বর ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান নিম্নে দেয়া হ'ল:

সাম্বন্ধকার গ্রহণের তারিখ	লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্রমিক নম্বর	সময় ও স্থান
০৫/০৩/২০০৯ (বৃহস্পতিবার)	সিনিয়র অর্থ ও হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা- ২, ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬, ৭, ৮ = ৭ জন। প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা- ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬, ৭, ১০, ১১, ১২, ১৩, ১৫, ২৬, ৩৩, ৩৯, ৪১, ৪৩, ৪৫ = ১৬ জন।	বেলা ৪.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ওয়াসা ভবন, ৩য় তলা, বোর্ড সভা কক্ষ।
০৬/০৩/২০০৯ (শুক্রবার)	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী- ১, ৩, ৪, ১১, ১৫, ২২, ২৫, ২৬, ২৯, ৩০, ৩৪, ৩৬, ৪০, ৫২, ৫৩, ৫৪, ৫৫ = ১৭ জন। উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী- ১, ২, ৩, ৭, ১০, ১৫, ১৬, ২৩, ২৪, ২৭, ৩৩, ৩৮, ৪৫, ৪৯, ৫৪, ৫৫, ৫৬, ৫৮, ৬৯, ৭০, ৭৩, ৮৪, ৮৫, ৮৭, ৯১, ৯৩, ৯৭ = ২৮ জন।	সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ওয়াসা ভবন, ৩য় তলা, বোর্ড সভা কক্ষ।
০৭/০৩/২০০৯ (শনিবার)	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী- ৯৮, ১০৩, ১১৩, ১২৪, ১২৬, ১৩১, ১৩৫, ১৩৬, ১৪১, ১৪৩, ১৫১, ১৫৩, ১৫৬, ১৬১, ১৬২, ১৬৮, ১৭১, ১৭২, ১৭৩, ১৭৪, ১৮৬, ১৮৭, ১৯১, ১৯৬, ১৯৭, ১৯৮, ২০৭, ২১১, ২১৪, ২১৫, ২২১, ২২২, ২২৩, ২২৪, ২২৫, ২৩৩, ২৩৫, ২৩৬, ২৪১, ২৪২, ২৪৩, ২৪৪, ২৪৭ = ৪০ জন।	সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ওয়াসা ভবন, ৩য় তলা, বোর্ড সভা কক্ষ।
০৮/০৩/২০০৯ (রবিবার)	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর- ৯, ১০, ১১, ১৬, ১৭, ১৮, ২১, ২৬, ২৮, ২৯, ৩২, ৩৫, ৩৬, ৩৭, ৫১, ৫৪, ৬১, ৬২, ৬৫, ৬৮, ৬৯, ৭২, ৭৬, ৮১, ৮৫, ৮৬, ৮৭, ৮৯, ৯২, ৯৫ = ৩০ জন।	বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ওয়াসা ভবন, ৩য় তলা, বোর্ড সভা কক্ষ।

লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের বর্তমান ঠিকানায় ইতোমধ্যে Viva Card প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষাকালে প্রার্থীগণকে দরখাস্তের সাথে দাখিলকৃত সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি সংসদে আনতে হবে এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখে ৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ওয়াসা ভবন, কাতরান বাজার, ঢাকায় প্রার্থীগণের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সৈয়দ কামরুল আহসান
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

ঢাকা ওয়াটার সাপ্লাই সেক্টর ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট
ঢাকা ওয়াসা, ওয়াসা ভবন (৯ম তলা)
৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাতরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ওয়াসা-পিআই-১৬৪/০৯
তারিখ-৯৯৮