

Energy supply listed as top priority

PM's adviser says 350MW power generation to start soon

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has listed energy supply as its top priority to ensure economic growth, said Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, adviser to the prime minister for power, energy and mineral resources yesterday.

"We have taken short-, medium- and long-term measures to address the issue," Chowdhury told a meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) at a city hotel.

As part of the short-term measures, the adviser said: "Some 70 to 80 million cubic feet of gas will be made available at the end of this month for exclusive use in generating around 350 megawatt (MW) power."

The gas will be extracted from Lalalabad field from March 27, said Chowdhury, a former top bureaucrat.

"The government is also discussing with agriculture ministry on diversion of gas for power generation from the fertiliser production," he said.

Power outage has already started lingering as the weather is getting warmer day by day, triggering a demand rise against declining gas-fired power generation. Gas supply shortfall is causing power generation cut.

In addition, demand for power for irrigation has increased significantly.

According to the adviser, Bangladesh now has the capacity to generate 3,700 MW power a day. Captive power plants can generate another 1,000 MW. But Ficci President Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan said the overall

demand is 5,300 MW per day against the capacity of 3,300 MW.

The adviser admitted the severe power crisis in the country although he said power is the basic line for poverty reduction.

"We are an around three-month-old government and can't resolve all the issues overnight," Chowdhury said.

He said the government has plan to address the issue in phases.

About the medium-term measures, the adviser stressed energy conservation and enhancing efficiency.

"We'll distribute some 15,000 to 20,000 energy-saving bulbs free of cost on a specific day in February next year to help people be aware of its efficient use," he said,

adding that the move could save around 10 percent electricity.

On the long-term initiatives, the adviser said the government would welcome foreign investment for power generation.

He said Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (Bapex) would be strengthened further to turn it into a capable entity. "Already Tk 100 crore has been approved for Bapex for improving both its software and hardware," he said.

The government is also discussing introduction of solar and nuclear energy with potential suppliers, he added.

The adviser said there are also talks on developing regional cooperation for

Saarc Grid and purchase of hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan.

The Ficci president urged the government to take quick decision on power issue as frequent outages play havoc on manufacturing and export sectors.

He also requested the government to withdraw Tk500,000 as renewal fee per year for a licence for captive power generation.

Steve Wilson, chief executive of Chevron in Bangladesh and Ficci vice president, said 90 percent of gas here is used for power generation.

"But there was no new discovery in the past 10 years," he added.

Senior foreign diplomats also attended the monthly flagship luncheon meeting of the chamber.



Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, speaks at the chamber's monthly luncheon meeting in Dhaka yesterday, while Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury (middle), adviser to the prime minister for power, energy and mineral resources, among others, looks on.

US will fix banks, win 'economic war': Officials

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama's economic advisors denied Sunday they were moving too slowly to fix the stricken US banking industry, and insisted victory would come in the "economic war."

"On the financial rescue, we have done a tremendous amount," Christina Romer, chairwoman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, said on NBC program "Meet the Press."

"It is an economic war. We haven't won yet. We have staged a wonderful battle," she said, adding that a proposal from Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to clean out banks' bad loans would "come out very soon."

Lawrence Summers, director of Obama's National Economic Council, said the administration would Monday present a program of cooperation between the Small Business Administration and banks.

That would "increase the flow of credit to small business, which is a crucial place where we've been lacking credit. And that's been one of the contributors to unemployment," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

"And we're getting a much closer and better reading on the situation of the banks through the stress tests that are an integral part of Secretary Geithner's financial plan," Summers said.

"The president and Secretary Geithner have laid out the framework. And I'm very confident that, before too long, we'll see the details of the plan emerge."

Analysts say US banks are sitting on at least two trillion dollars of toxic assets, mainly linked to troubled US mortgages, and that these must be wiped off their books for the banks to resume lending.



President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Anisul Huq offers a crest to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as an FBCCI delegation met her at Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Auto fair set for an upbeat start

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The local auto market, apparently untouched by the ongoing global meltdown, is confident about soaring sales at the four-day motor show, scheduled to begin on Wednesday in Dhaka.

Confidence and Exhibition Management Services Ltd (CEMS), an exhibition organiser, is expecting more than 70 companies, including new car importers and automotive component sellers, to take part in the "Lucas Dhaka Motor Show-2009".

Even when auto giants from the US and EU went down one after another due to the global economic recession, Bangladesh's auto market still shines. Last

year, the import of used and new cars went up significantly to a total of 20,000, from the usual yearly imports of 15,000.

"The US, EU and even India have faced the ongoing global economic crisis. But Bangladesh is still far from the bad impacts," said Kazi Javed Islam, general manager of Rahimafrooz, a local automotive components manufacturer.

Echoing him, Yamin Sharif, another official from Rahimafrooz, said the number of cars registered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) increased by 44 percent in 2008, proving the positive impact of the global recession in Bangladesh.

Rahimafrooz is the title

sponsor of the exhibition.

Industry insiders said Bangladesh importers can import cars at a low price because it mainly imports cars from Japan, one of the recession-hit economies.

However, Islam said the global meltdown may hit the local car market if the garments industry is badly affected and remittance inflow decreases. These two sectors are the main buyers of imported cars.

The fourth CEMS motor show will mainly showcase brand new cars and automotive components.

Meherun N Islam, managing director of CEMS, said CEMS is organising the show year after year to provide know-how on the latest innovation in the auto sector.

Total: The French firm the French love to hate

AFP, Paris

Total is France's biggest company and has just made the biggest annual profit in the country's corporate history. Yet the energy giant has long been the firm the French public likes most to hate, and now even the government is attacking it.

"Nicolas Sarkozy wants to make capitalism more ethical? Start with Total!" screamed the front-page headline of the communist daily L'Humanité, referring to France's right-wing president.

The once-powerful French communists have less clout these days, but their anger was shared across the political spectrum after the oil group said last week it would slash jobs despite having just made gigantic profits.

Employment Minister Laurent Wauquiez branded the job cuts "scandalous."

"That a group like Total, which made billions in profits, isn't able to set an example in terms of employment at a time like this sticks in my throat," he said.

Total's announcement Tuesday

that it would shed around 550 jobs came less than a month after its parent group said it had made a French record profit of nearly 14 billion euros (18 billion dollars) last year.

The group insisted that no worker would be forced out and that most cuts would be through retirements.

But the news did little to endear the company, which is present in 130 countries and ranks among the world's top oil producers, to the French public.

An opinion survey that monitors how much the French like their country's top firms puts Total right at the bottom of a list of thirty (with the state-controlled EDF electricity firm at the top).

Six out of ten French have a poor image of the company, according to the survey, conducted by the Ipsos pollsters and the Posternak-Margerit public relations firm before the latest job cuts were announced.

"They have failed to exploit the feelings of pride that being the top French company should inspire," Claude Posternak of Posternak-Margerit said when the poll came out.

The reasons are legion.

The company is currently in the dock in a court in the southwestern town of Toulouse alongside one of its subsidiaries, AZF, over a chemical plant explosion in 2001 that killed 31 people.

Total, whose impressive earnings are due to record oil prices in the first half of 2008, has paid out millions of euros in compensation but has denied any wrongdoing over the blast, which prosecutors say was caused by negligence.

This trial opened just a year after another court ruled that the oil giant was partly liable for a giant oil spill from the tanker Erika that polluted swathes of the coast of the northwestern French region of Brittany.

The 1999 spill was one of France's worst environmental disasters, and an incident that made huge numbers of French people hostile to the oil group.

Total has also come under fire for allegedly cosying up to unsavoury regimes in Africa and Asia.

The most high-profile case was when it was accused of using forced

labour provided by the military regime in Myanmar to build a gas pipeline.

Many commentators agree that the company's public relations strategy has long been ineffective.

But its jobs announcement last week sparked particular ire, coming as it did just days after the French unemployment rate rose to 8.2 percent, with 2.2 million people out of work.

President Sarkozy has responded to the economic crisis with a call for the rules governing businesses to be rewritten make them less beholden to shareholders and more concerned with the welfare of workers.

Sarkozy's defeated rival in the 2007 presidential race, the Socialist Segolene Royal, has called for the state to tax Total's profits and "inject them massively into alternative energies to prepare the growth of tomorrow."

But despite the government's loud protests, it is unlikely to take any action against a company with which it has long worked hand in glove, said Philippe Braud of the Sciences Po institute in Paris.

বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন
বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনে অবিলম্বে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য প্রত্যেক পদের পাঠ্য বর্ণিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতনক্রম	পদের সংখ্যা	৩১/০৩/০৯ইং তারিখে বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১।	উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (হিসাব) ১১,০০০-১৭,৬৫০/- টাকা	১ (এক)	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর।	সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ইন্টারমিডিয়েট সিএ/৩য় পাট আইসিএমএ অথবা ১০ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে স্নাতক।
০২।	উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (অর্থ) ১১,০০০-১৭,৬৫০/- টাকা	১ (এক)	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর।	সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ২য় শ্রেণিতে বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর/এমবিএ ডিগ্রি অথবা ১০ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
০৩।	উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (বস্তু ও বিপণন) ১১,০০০-১৭,৬৫০/- টাকা	১ (এক)	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৩ বছর।	সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অথবা ১০ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
০৪।	উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (বাণিজ্য ও পরিচালনা/আমদানী-রপ্তানী) ১১,০০০-১৭,৬৫০/- টাকা	১ (এক)	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৩ বছর।	সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অথবা ১০ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ রসায়ন/যন্ত্রবিদ্যা প্রকৌশল বিষয়ে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রি বা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর এমবিএ ডিগ্রি।

শর্তাবলী

- ১। পদসমূহের জন্য উল্লিখিত বেতনের সাথে সংস্থার নিয়ম অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য সুবিধাসমূহ প্রদান করা হবে।
- ২। সাদা কাগজে পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত যেমন-নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ৩। প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিক ও বাসিন্দা হতে হবে।
- ৪। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ
(ক) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার এর নামযুক্ত সীলদ্বারা সত্যায়িত সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের কপি, সদ্য তোলা ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি এবং ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নিজ জেলার নাম উল্লেখসহ নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র।
(খ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
(গ) কোন বিশেষ কোটার বিপরীতে আবেদন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট কোটার স্বপক্ষে কোটা সংক্রান্ত উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রদত্ত সনদপত্রের ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৫। দরখাস্তের সাথে বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার ক্রেসড পোস্টাল অর্ডার প্রদান করতে হবে (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
- ৬। সরকার নির্দেশিত কোটা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ৭। সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীগণকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত করতে হবে।
- ৮। খামের ওপর আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- ৯। অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ ও নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে প্রাপ্ত দরখাস্তসমূহ সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ডাক মারফত ব্যতীত অন্য কোনভাবে দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ১০। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সংস্থা কর্তৃপক্ষ এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।
- ১১। প্রার্থীকে কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ১২। দরখাস্তসমূহ সচিব, বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন, চট্টগ্রাম-৪১০০, পোস্ট বক্স নং-২০৫২ এর বরাবরে ডাক মারফত সর্বশেষ ০৯/০৪/২০০৯ইং তারিখের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।

সচিব
বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন
চট্টগ্রাম
জিডি-১৪১৪

Awareness programme for stock investors

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AM Securities and Financial Services has recently organised an awareness programme for the stock market investors, said a statement.

The brokerage house, a concern of Abdul Monem Group, organised the

programme at its Karwan Bazar office.

Prof Mohammad Musa of United University, Mohammad Ahsan Ullah, head of merchant banking division of Trust Bank, and ASM Mainuddin Monem, managing director of AM Securities, were present at the programme.



Sandeep Bose, regional head (consumer banking) of Standard Chartered Bank, hands over a crest to Kaniz Almas Khan, managing director of Persona Beauty Care Ltd, at the launching ceremony of 'Orjon', a business instalment loan especially for the women entrepreneurs, in Dhaka yesterday.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

4950 Square feet of full furnished air-conditioned office space is available for rent in Gulshan-1. The space is located in 3rd floor of a building with direct access to Gulshan Avenue. Two secured parking spaces are also provided. Interested parties are requested to contact

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