

Minister stresses financial transparency

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday called on cost accountants to provide effective ideas for ensuring transparency in the financial matters of both public and private entities.

"It's important to introduce cost-audit practice in both public and private bodies for establishing accountability and good governance. Accountants can suggest ways to ensure transparency in the use of people's money," he said at an international seminar.

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organised the seminar on 'Cost audit-an effective tool of corporate governance' at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC).

He termed cost audit as an effective tool to examine whether public money is spent on right way and said



Commerce Minister Faruk Khan speaks at a seminar, organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh, in Dhaka yesterday.

this system should be introduced in both public and private sectors soon.

The minister said the government would extend cooperation in adopting the cost audit practice.

Chaired by ICMAB President ABM Shamsuddin, Federation of Bangladesh of Chambers

and Industry (FBCCI) President Annisul Huq also spoke.

Meanwhile, an eight-member delegation of UK Bangladesh Business Council (UKBBC) expressed interests to invest in various sectors of Bangladesh when the delegation called on the commerce minister, said a

press release.

Faruk said the government has created a congenial environment to attract foreign investment.

Highlighting the potentials of pharmaceuticals, ICT, shipbuilding and tourism sectors, the minister urged foreign entrepreneurs to invest.

Venezuela oil takeovers may leave 22,000 jobless

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelan unions estimated that nearly 22,000 oil contractors stand to lose their jobs after President Hugo Chavez's government seized the assets of 60 local and foreign-owned oil firms.

"This law does not benefit us," Bernardino Chirinos, leader of the Union of Oil Workers in the western state of Zulia, told El Nacional newspaper.

"There are 35,000 workers on the east coast (of Zulia state) and only 8,000 will be absorbed. There are 22,000 workers without guarantees."

Venezuela, the Americas' largest oil exporter, began Friday to expropriate some oil service providers, a day after the National Assembly passed a law extending the state's control to all activities related to the oil industry.

Some 8,000 workers there were confirmed to become PDVSA employees.

LTU of NBR wants more areas under its jurisdiction

UNB, Dhaka

Apprehending a continued declining trend of tax elasticity, the Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) has urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to assign more companies under its jurisdiction.

LTU Tax Commissioner M Alauddin on May 5 sent a letter to the NBR in this connection and sought administrative directions.

The LTU commissioner said it would not be possible in future to increase revenue collection through audit and prevention of tax evasion.

It also said the companies under the LTU in the last couple of years paid their taxes after the risk factors were identified. As a result, the scope to evade taxes became limited for the LTU companies and their directors.

The LTU tax commissioner urged the NBR to include such large companies under their jurisdiction, where there is scope to collect more revenue through audit.

He said the time has come to think afresh about the manufacturing companies, as it is easy to find about the revenue risk of a company in the same group through audit.

The commissioner said that within a short time they would be able to start internal audit and to eliminate the weaknesses of the wings under the LTU.

There will be an 'intelligence committee' for the LTU apart from the formation of 'revenue risk identification' and 'analysis' teams. These teams will provide input with additional information to further strengthen the audit team.

The revenue earnings of LTU in fiscal 2007-08 was Tk 4,042 crore while the amount was Tk 3,104.41 crore in FY 2006, Tk 2,250.62 crore in FY 2005 and Tk 1,475.61 crore in FY 2004.

Currently, 51 banks, 61 insurance companies, 33 investment and leasing companies, six cell-phone operators, nine cement companies, 11 pharmaceutical companies, 107 manufacturing companies, four newspapers and 706 directors of the above mentioned companies are under the LTU jurisdiction.



Parjatan's new boss

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Additional Secretary Mizanur Rahman has recently taken over as the chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, says a press release.

Prior to joining the Parjatan Corporation, he was the joint secretary in Local Government Department Division. He was also the chief executive officer of the District Council of Sylhet, deputy commissioner of Tangail, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka, upazilla nirbahi officer of Gazipur Sadar and Keraniganj.

Rahman, a graduate in Political Science and a post graduate in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka, joined the BCS regular Admin cadre in 1982. He received 'Atish Dipankar Award' in 1999 as a prominent organiser.

US banks freshen hope of 'green shoots'

AFP, Paris

Analysts saw more green shoots poke through the world economic freeze this week, hailing the "stress tests" for big US banks as an encouraging sign that a recovery was gaining momentum.

"We view the (stress test) results highly positively," said economists from UBS bank in a report. "They bring us much closer to balance sheet stability that in turn will help restore confidence in the banking system."

The tests, in which US regulators used their own special formulae for analysing assets and risks, showed that 10 big US banks need a total of 74.6 billion dollars in extra capital to help them ride out the financial crisis.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke

said that nearly all of the banks had sufficient capital to absorb higher losses should the economy worsen, and that the Treasury stood ready to provide more.

The results boosted stock markets since they were seen as an indication that the health of the US banking sector, the source of much of the financial turmoil that spread worldwide over the past year, was better than feared.

"These results produced a collective sigh of relief heard around the world," said Patrick O'Hare of Briefing.com.

"It has been the market's conclusion that these collective results are much less worrisome than had been thought weeks ago."

Japanese share prices hit a six-month high following the news and a huge recovery

of European stocks over the past two months extended.

Share prices in London have rebounded almost 30 percent in less than two months. Frankfurt's main index has risen by a third and Paris's by more than a quarter.

A US jobs report also appeared to offer comfort to investors: losses eased in April with 539,000 jobs axed, while the unemployment rate hit 8.9 percent, suggesting the economy remains weak but may be stabilising.

Germany, Europe's biggest economy which is in a deep recession, logged better-than-expected production data and a slight rise in trade in March.

"It is time to say goodbye to an unprecedented brutal recession in the industrial sector," UniCredit chief

German economist Andreas Rees said.

"Optimism has spread," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, equity information chief at Daiwa Securities SMBC.

"Investors now believe that the (global) economy is coming out of the worst and that a repeat of the financial meltdown is unlikely."

UBS analysts also pointed to a recent lowering of the interest rates that banks charge each other -- a sign that they were becoming less reluctant to provide the "interbank" lending that is crucial for the credit system.

Brian Bethune at analysts IHS Global Insight sounded a note of caution, warning that "credit markets are a heck of a long way from functioning normally and in a manner that would be constructive for economic recovery."

Some economists have said over recent weeks that the world is entering a twilight zone of conflicting signs, with key indicators lighting the way to a recovery even as grim company earnings statements and job cuts continue.

The United States, the source of much of the financial turmoil at the root of the downturn, is widely seen as the place to look for signs of economic turnaround which may filter through to other economies.

But Howard Wheelton, top analyst at BCG Partners, warned that the United States still faced challenges due to its high deficits and debt.

"Recovery for the US economy is an imperfect science," Wheelton said. "Solve one problem and another occurs."

Citi holds financial quiz for the youth

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Quiz competitions and debates help build the mental strength and agility of the young generation, said the finance minister yesterday.

"Competition enhances mental growth and helps creativity of young minds flourish, which would help them nurture abilities to lead the nation in future," said AMA Mubith.

The minister was speaking at the Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2008 grand finale that was jointly organised by Citibank NA Bangladesh and North South University in Dhaka.

"Companies should organise more of these competitions, so the young would get a chance to take

part," he added.

A team from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of the University of Dhaka clinched the first prize and was awarded \$3,000 in prize money, while a team of Chittagong University became the runner-up and won \$1,500.

A total of 16 teams from leading public and private universities in the country participated in the competition.

Channel I was the media partner for the event for the second consecutive year.

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of the quiz advisory committee, and Mamun Rashid, managing director and country officer of Citi Bangladesh, were also present.

Businesses in China brace for swine flu impact

ANN/ CHINA DAILY

While confirmed human cases of swine flu have not been found on the mainland so far, the business community here is preparing for the worst and introducing precautions against the potential outbreak of the disease.

Travel agencies and hotels have been among the hardest-hit sectors of the business community and many in Shanghai are now beefing up their hygiene management and emergency controls to ensure the safety of customers after experiencing a drop in bookings.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Military Engineer Services
CMES (Army) Savar
Savar Cantt

Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.		
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services.		
3. Procuring entity name	CMES (Army) Savar.		
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
5. Invitation for	As per SI No. 17.		
6. Invitation Ref No. & date	3012/Tender/13/E-3 dated 04 May 2009.		
7. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).		
8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget & Govt. of Bangladesh.		
9. Project/programme name	Project/Maint Works.		
10. Tender publication date in newspaper	17 May 2009.		
11. Tender last selling date and time	01 June 2009 (During office hours only).		
12. Tender closing date and time	02 June 2009 at 12.00 hours.		
13. Tender opening date and time	02 June 2009 at 12.30 hours.		
14. Name & address of the office for selling, receiving and opening tender documents	CMES (Army) Savar, Savar Cantonment.		
15. Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted 'D' & 'E' class contractors and contractors who have security clearance from DGFI may also participate.		
16. Brief description of goods/works	As per SI No. 17.		
17. Name of goods/works	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
a. Manufacture & Supply of Furniture for Construction of Isolation ward (2-storey with 4-storied foundation) including Internal/External Services and Furniture for Officer's JCO's, OR's and their family at CMH Area, Jessore Cantt (1 st Phase)	Jessore Cantt	Tk. 21,000/-	03 (three) months.
b. Supply of Goods for Polishing/Painting of Furniture under F/S Sub-Divn at GE (Army) Jessore Cantt (Yearly)	Jessore Cantt	Tk. 17,500/-	12 (twelve) months
c. Supply of Goods for Residential Bldgs under B/R-IV Sub-Division at GE (Army) Jessore Cantt (Yearly)	Jessore Cantt	Tk. 13,700/-	12 (twelve) months
d. Supply of Goods for Office & others Bldg under B/R-II Sub-Divn at GE (Army) Ghatail, Shaheed Salahuddin Cantt (Yearly)	Shaheed Salahuddin Cantt	Tk. 12,500/-	12 (twelve) months
18. Name of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Savar.		
19. Designation of official inviting tender	Lt Col.		
20. Address of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.		
21. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 02-7791583.		
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
23. If the date of selling, submission and opening is disturbed under unavoidable circumstance next working day at same time and same place will be applicable for the tendering procedure.			

ISPR/Army/09/2327
GD-2382

CMES (Army) Savar

Upfront costs complicate Obama's healthcare plan

AP, Washington

Costs are emerging as the biggest obstacle to President Barack Obama's ambitious plan to provide health insurance for everybody.

The upfront tab could reach \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, while expected savings from wringing waste and inefficiency from the health care system may take longer to show.

Details of the health legislation have not been written, but the broad outlines of the overhaul are known. Economists and other experts say the \$634 billion that Obama's budget sets aside for health care will pay perhaps half the cost.

Obama is hoping the Senate comes up with a bipartisan compromise that would give him political cover for disagreeable decisions to raise more money, such as taxing some health insurance benefits. In the 2008 campaign, Obama went after his Republican presidential rival, Arizona Sen. John McCain, for proposing a large-scale version of that idea.

Concerns about costs could spill over in the coming week when the Senate

Finance Committee holds a hearing on how to pay for coverage. Committee leaders hoping to have a bill before the full Senate this summer must first convince their own members that it won't break the bank.

"You go to a town meeting and people are talking about bailout fatigue," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "They like the president. They think he's a straight shooter. But they are concerned about the amount of money that is heading out the door, and the debts their kids are going to have to absorb."

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., said cost control has to come ahead of getting more people covered. "Unless we halt skyrocketing health care costs, any attempt to expand coverage will be financially unsustainable," he said.

Obama wants to build on the current system in which employers, government and individuals share responsibility for health care. He says his plan would make health insurance more affordable, particularly for small businesses and individuals. The government would subsidize coverage for low-income people and some in the middle class.



Satyajit Sen, managing director of Zenith Optimedia from India, speaks while demonstrating a presentation at a workshop on media trends and current media practices in Dhaka recently.



Muneer Farooqi, 3-L, chief executive officer of Warid Telecom, speaks to the press at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday to mark its two-year operation in Bangladesh. The telecom operator announced a 50 percent discount on its services for the next two days. (Story B1)

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Comilla, Bangladesh

গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিল পরিশোধ করুন

Invitation for International Tender (Re-Tender)

01. Ministry/Division	Energy & Mineral Resources Division, M/O Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.		
02. Agency	Petrobangla.		
03. Procuring entity name	Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited.		
04. Procuring entity district	Comilla, Bangladesh.		
05. Invitation for	Procurement of High Pressure Line Pipe.		
06. Invitation Ref. No.	BGSL/FP/CFE-04 (Re-tender)/2009.		
07. Date	04-05-2009.		
08. Procurement method	Open tendering method.		
09. Budget and source of funds	BGSL own fund, cash foreign exchange resource.		
10. Time limit for selling tender document	18-05-2009 to 21-06-2009.		
11. Tender last selling date	Date	Time	
12. Tender closing date & time	22-06-2009	11-30am	
13. Tender opening date & time	22-06-2009	11-45am	
14. Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender document	Tender documents will be available in the following BGSL offices during office hours: a) Finance & Accounts Department, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh. b) Accounts Section, Revenue Department, Marketing Division, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. c) Dhaka Liaison Office, House No. 222, Lane No. 15, Lake Road, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh.		
15. Receiving tender document	Purchase Department, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.		
16. Opening tender documents	Purchase Department, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.		
17. Eligibility of tenderer	Manufacturer(s)/supplier(s) must have overseas track records/experiences of the similar work/supply for at least 05 (five) years and related evidences must be submitted along with the bid.		
18. Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of High Pressure Line Pipe.		
19. Price of tender document	US\$ 60.00 or Tk. 4000.00 (non-refundable).		
20. Lot No. Identification of Lot	Tender security amount	Time for completion of delivery	
20.1 Single Lot	US\$ 2,600.00 or Tk. 1,85,000.00	60 days from the date of receipt of letter of credit.	
21. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Tel: 081-68681.		
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited, Head Office: Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.		
23. Special instruction	a) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day. b) BGSL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

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