

BB to monitor banks' risk management

Says governor

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The central bank is working to set up a surveillance team to monitor risk management and corporate governance activities of the banking sector, said the Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor yesterday.

"It's important to establish a financial surveillance system for identifying the risk management problems and addressing those beforehand," said Atiur Rahman at a roundtable on "Global Financial Crisis and Corporate Governance: Lessons and Way Forward for the Banking Sector in Bangladesh".

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised the discussion at its office in Dhaka aiming to highlight the importance of good corporate governance practices for the banking sector

of Bangladesh particularly in the context of the global financial downturn.

Speaking as chief guest, Rahman said the central bank is keeping a close eye on public and private banks and monitoring strictly their regulatory structure, said a BEI statement.

He called upon the banks to maintain their own controlling system so that the central bank does not need to regulate those, said the governor.

"Stringent guidelines for the independent directors should be introduced," said Rahman.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is working with the BB to ensure market discipline to bring in more stability in the market and help investors make careful decision in making their investment," said SEC Chairman Md Ziaul Haque Khondker.

Highlighting the asset-liability mismatch and a lack of corporate governance practices in the banking sector, he stressed formulation of guidelines for the banks' independent directors. SEC is working to prepare a list of the independent directors, said Khondker.

Mirza Azizul Islam, former finance adviser to the caretaker government, said risk management system should be strengthened and an early warning system should be introduced through monitoring risks beforehand.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan inaugurated the programme, while Chairman of BRAC Bank Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali and Managing Director of Mutual Trust Bank Anis A Khan, among others, were present.



Md Towhidur Rahman

Shahjalal Bank gets new chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd has recently elected Md Towhidur Rahman as its chairman, according to a press statement released yesterday.

Rahman is also the chairman and managing director of Fresh Foods Ltd, Sea Fresh Ltd, Euro-Trend Ltd, Libas Textiles Ltd. He is a director of Takaful Islami Insurance Company Ltd.

Mohiuddin Ahmed and Md Sanaullah Shahid were elected vice-chairmen, the statement added.

Ahmed is the chairman of Rupsha Trading Corporation, Mohiuddin and Company and Pacific Automobiles. He is a sponsor shareholder of Islami Insurance Company Ltd.

Sanaullah Shahid is the chairman of Electra International Ltd and Electra Telecom (BD) Ltd.

Asian markets higher

AFP, Hong Kong

Markets in Asia were higher Friday as investors continued to buy on confidence that data due out of the United States later will show the world's biggest economy is beginning to recover.

Hong Kong and Tokyo added around one percent and Seoul 1.2 percent.

Sydney put on 0.9 percent helped by miners Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton after the former pulled out of a 19.5-billion-dollar tie up with China Coal of China.

Rio and BHP later announced a multi-billion-dollar iron ore joint venture.

Markets were mostly quiet as dealers awaited the monthly US government employment survey for May, with most analysts expecting employers to have cut 520,000 jobs, down from 539,000 in April.

Resources firms have also been helped by a continuing rise in crude oil, which was close to the 70 dollar mark in Asian trade Friday.

Wall Street gained 0.86 percent.

Govt expects Tk 2,000cr from licensed VoIP

UNB, Dhaka

The government is expected to earn Tk 2,000 crore in revenue this year from voice-over-internet-protocol (VoIP) operations as Tk 1,500 crore has already been earned in the last nine months since the operators were licensed in August 2008.

Before the issuance of VoIP licences to private operators, the government earned only Tk 500 crore last year. The rest of the possible earnings were gobbled up by illegal VoIP operators in the booming business.

According to officials in Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the huge amount of the money was paid by three private operators and the state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) who were issued licences last year.

Among them, Tk 1,200 crore was paid by the three private legal operators - Mir Telecom, Novotel and Bangla Trac Communications, while the state-run BTCL paid Tk 300 crore.

The companies obtained the international gateway (IGW) licences from the BTRC under the International Long Distance Telecommunications Service (ILDTS) Policy 2007.

BTRC officials said before opening the high-tech phoning business for the private operators through the VoIP licensing, the government was being deprived of huge earnings from this sector because of unabated smuggling of international calls.



Deen Mohammad, chairman of Phoenix Finance and Insurance Ltd, presides over the company's 14th annual general meeting in Dhaka on Thursday. The meeting declared 25 percent cash dividend for 2008.

Taskforce recommends continuation of PSI

UNB, Dhaka

The taskforce that was constituted to figure out the future of the pre-shipment inspection (PSI) system suggested continuation of it till building the capacity of customs department.

Director General of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Abdul Mannan Sikdar is the convener of six-member taskforce.

Representatives from business community in the taskforce included Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry First Vice President Abul Kashem Ahmed and Adviser Monjur Ahmed.

"A serious consequences might be evident, which may affect both revenue administration and import-export activities negatively if the PSI scheme is scrapped

without building the capacity of the Customs Department," said the report, submitted to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Thursday.

The taskforce comprising of public-private representatives recommended to the government with short, medium and long term strategies for upgrading the customs capacity and its valuation database and continue the PSI scheme until the recommendations are implemented.

The mandatory PSI system has been in place in the country from February 2000 at the insistence of business community and the current contacts of four appointed PSI companies will expire on December 31, 2009.

The successive governments after 2000 so far cancelled contracts with two PSI agents, Inspectorate

Griffith and Cotecna, for irregularities.

The major responsibilities of the PSI companies included issuing valuation certificates of imported items, ensuring their quality, doing inspection before shipment and classification of goods so that duties at import level are imposed by the customs officials accordingly.

ITS (UK), SGS (Switzerland), Bureau Veritas (France) and OMIC (Japan) have been assigned for PSI activities in five blocks.

"PSI services are supposed to be used only for as long as it necessary to develop gradually the capacity of the customs authorities to administer to WTO agreement on customs valuation," the report said, quoting the position of business community on PSI.

Bangladesh products in Kunming fair attract visitors

UNB, Kunming

Bangladeshi products displayed in Kunming Export and Import Fair that began yesterday attracted visitors, including foreign entrepreneurs.

A Bangladesh business delegation, now on a visit to China, raised several pertinent points to enhance trade with Kunming.

During various level meetings with Chinese counterparts the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs suggested Cargo service and other necessary support for smooth shipping of goods to Kunming, a landlocked province.

A 38-member delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), led by its president Zafar Osman, attended the inaugural cere-

mony of the 17th Export Import Fair & 2nd South Asian Commodities Fair at Kunming International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Governor of Yunnan Province Qin Guangrong inaugurated the two fairs.

Commerce Ministers of Saarc and Asean countries, including Bangladesh Commerce Minister M Faruk Khan attended the inaugural function.

Khan went around all 50 Bangladeshi stalls in the fair and exchanged views with the entrepreneurs.

Bangladeshi products showcased include textiles, apparels, jute and jute goods, leather and leather items, sarees, imitation jewellery, service products like tourism and travel and real estate products, which attracted the visitors.



Mudassir Amray, head of Islamic Banking of Citi Asia Pacific, speaks at a seminar on Islamic Finance: A Global Perspective, organised by the bank in Dhaka on Thursday.

Minister stresses balance between organic, chemical fertilisers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The use of organic fertiliser cannot be made all exclusive suddenly, rather the government should first ensure a balance between organic and chemical fertilisers to help increase farm production, said the agriculture minister yesterday.

"Organic fertiliser, mainly produced by cow dung, cannot be widely introduced to farmers, as it is not viable at the moment. Farmers are now rearing fewer cows, as the use of tractors has replaced ploughing. As a result, the collection of cow dung has also gone down," said Matia Chowdhury.

"Organic fertiliser can be used as a subsidiary to increase agricultural production. At the same time, we have to ensure a balance between the use of organic and chemical fertilisers," she added.

Matia was speaking at a workshop on "Licensing Issues in Bangladesh Organic Fertiliser Market", jointly organised by Shammunay and Katalyst in Dhaka.

She said the government would take measures to help the farmers and safeguard the farm sector. The licensing process will also be strictly monitored and eased, she said.

"We would revive the traditional forms of fertilisers, including compost, green and vermin compost to increase soil fertility that would help enhance local production," Matia said.

"We are going to revive vermin-compost fertilisers, which do not harm the soil like chemical fertilisers. It can induce root and fruit development through its composition," she said. "Simultaneously, we will harvest coriander and poultry waste that are both inputs to the production of organic fertiliser."

Matia said organic fertilisers are universal and can be applied to all plants, on all soil types. It is now used in many countries like India, Pakistan and Japan.

"To fertilise a hectare of farmland on three cropping seasons, one must have 1-2 tonnes of vermi-compost fertiliser," she said. "By using this variety of fertiliser, the farmer will not have to use pesticides to protect the agricultural crops from pests and diseases."

Chemical fertilisers have raised several problems, like reducing soil fertility and demolishing biodiversity. "At the same time, we are using it for hybrid crop production. So we have to ensure a balance in the use of both types," Matia added.

In his keynote paper, M Abu Eusuf, associate professor of Development Studies of the University of Dhaka, cited examples from the Philippines and Thailand, where both types of fertilisers were used, and higher growth in production was found.

He suggested the government produce fertilisers on a large scale and ease the licensing process for entrepreneurs.

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, said farmers should be aware of production, use and the benefits of organic fertilisers.

He also suggested that farmers produce organic fertilisers on a co-operative basis, which would not require licensing, as production would not reach commercial levels.

James Blewett, general manager of Katalyst, said Bangladesh would be able to produce an additional 26-lakh tonnes of rice and two-lakh tonnes of maize by using organic fertilisers.

He said it would also save Tk 7,635 crore a year in fertiliser costs and reduce diesel and electricity costs for irrigation.

Dewan Zakir Hossain, industries secretary, and CQK Mustaq Ahmed, agriculture secretary, were also present at the workshop.



Azharul Islam, chairman of Uttara Bank Ltd, presides over the bank's 26th annual general meeting in Dhaka on Thursday. The meeting declared 100 percent stock dividend for 2008.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh						
Headquarter, Kurmitola, Dhaka						
Tender Notice						
01.	Name of work	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 60 KVA Auto Engine Generating Set at Comilla Airport.				
02.	Source of fund	CAAB (own fund)-(Investment of Fixed Asset), Code No. 100.				
03.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).				
04.	Tender package method	01/2008-2009 (Comilla).				
05.	Invitation for tenders Ref. & date	CAAB/CE/W-486(E/M)/Cap. Exp./Part-2/1881 dt 18-05-09.				
06.	Eligibility of tenderers	CAAB enlisted 'A' and above class (E/M) contractor or bonafide firms of gov't/semi-gov't/autonomous department having valid 'ABC' contractory & supervisory licence from Electrical Licensing Board and who have experience of similar E/M work.				
07.	Name & address of the offices selling the tender document	a. Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka. b. Executive Engineer, EM Division-3, CAAB, Dhaka. c. PA to Member (Ops/Plans) and Chief Engineer, CAAB, Headquarter, Dhaka. d. PA to Director, ZIA, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.				
08.	Name & address of the office receiving tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka.				
09.	Name & address of the office opening tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka.				
10.	Last date and time for selling tender document	21-06-2009 (during office hours).				
11.	Last date of tender submission	22-06-2009 (up to 12.00 hours).				
12.	Date and time for opening of tender	22-06-2009 (at 12.30 hours). (In presence of tenderer representative if any).				
13.	Special instruction	(a) If the total transport and communication systems are disrupted due to unavoidable circumstances on the date of receiving and opening the tender, the tenders will be received and opened on the next office day.				
14.	Brief description of goods & services (works & services)	Lot Number	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document in Taka	Remarks
			Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 60 KVA Auto Engine Generating Set	Comilla Airport	Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable)	Tk 35,500/- (thirty-five thousand five hundred) only to be furnished in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order/irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka.
15.	Special conditions	a) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

CAAB/PR-59/2009/808
Date: 28-5-2009
GD-2829

Sudhendu Bikash Goswami
Superintending Engineer (CC)
P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Dhaka City Corporation	
Office of the Project Director, PIU	
Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project	
Nagar Bhaban (Level 14), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000	
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) (Fresh Advertisement) for Individual Procurement Consultant (National)	
The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit in the amount of US\$ 62.2 million from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project to be implemented by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the provision of consultancy services for the project by hiring Procurement Consultant.	
2. Scope of Task/Service: The services, among others, include the following: • Develop procurement plan for goods, works and services under the project and update the plan as and when needed (at least annually). • Assist the implementing agency to prepare invitation for bids, request for expressions of interest, bidding documents, request for proposals, evaluation reports, contracts, and other documents concerning procurement of works, goods, and consultants' services. • Provide operational advice on concepts, policies and procedures for international and local procurement matters. • Provide assistance on procurement matters of the project to ensure consistent application of the Procurement/Consultants' Guidelines of the World Bank and The Public Procurement Act 2006 (PPA) and/or Public Procurement Rules 2008 (PPR) as laid out in the legal documents between IDA and GOB. • Work as member of the bid/proposal evaluation committee formed by DCC and DTGB as per the PPA/PPR. • Prepare quarterly report on procurement status and procurement risk mitigation framework and arrange submission of the same to IDA for review. • Assist in preparing TORs and associated documents for other consultants, as appropriate.	
3. Qualification and Experience: • Graduate/Post-graduate qualification (at least Bachelors in Engineering or Masters in procurement/finance/business/management/law or suitable equivalency). • At least eight years of experience as Procurement Specialist or have had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area (use of internationally accepted contract documents for works, goods and services, sound understanding of principles underlying good procurement practices and international agencies' procurement guidelines, understanding of Government's Procurement Act/Rules. Analytical capability in identifying and resolving procurement issues). • Specialised knowledge of and significant experience in 2-3 substantive areas/aspects of procurement (e.g. procurement of goods; various forms of construction contracts, selection/contracting of consultant services; preparation of bidding/contract documents for the international procurement of goods, works, services; public procurement policies; practices). • Knowledge and understanding of technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement of the World Bank-financed project will be an added advantage. • Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues. • Ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multidisciplinary team.	
4. The Project Director now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with expected remuneration).	
5. Detailed terms of reference (TOR) will be available upon request from the address provided below either through email or in person.	
6. The consultants will be selected using the selection of individual consultant in accordance with the current World Bank's Consultants Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers May 2004, Revised October 2006."	
7. It is expected that services will be commenced in July, 2009 at Dhaka, Bangladesh and shall be completed on June 2012. Consultant's contract duration of three years will be subject to satisfactory performance to be evaluated annually.	
8. Expressions of interest shall be submitted by 17 June 2009 during office hours on weekdays either in sealed envelope or through email sent to Project Director, and be clearly marked "Expressions of Interest for Procurement Consultant."	
9. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.	
Md Shehab Ullah, PEng Project Director, PIU, DCC Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project Dhaka City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban (Level-14) Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Telephone: 9564436, Fax: 9563514 e-mail: ullah1993@gmail.com, shehullah@yahoo.com	

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