



Dr SA Samad, 3-L, executive chairman of Board of Investment, is seen at the report presentation of "BICF Business Confidence Survey Highlights 2009-10: A Reflection on Business Sentiments" organised by Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund and ICC-B at the DCCI auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, former caretaker government adviser, and Mahubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B), also attended the programme.

Business confidence picking up

IFC survey finds investment on the rise

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Business confidence and investment have been picking up since October last year, according to a survey conducted by International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group.
"Business confidence improved in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2009 and is expected to sustain in Q1 of 2010. Investment also picked up during the period," it reveals.
The report said investment confidence also marked a boost in Q1 of 2010.
The Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (BICF), managed by IFC, conducted the survey in partnership with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Union (EU).
The report, 'IFC-BICF Business Confidence Survey, Q4'09-Q1'10: A Reflection on Business Sentiments,' was released yesterday at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (DCCI). BICF and International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B) jointly organised the programme.
The survey covered about 1,440 businesses across the country to measure their investment, employment, profitability and overall performances during July-September and October-December, 2009 quarters, and their expectations for the January-March, 2010.
BICF conducts the survey on a quarterly basis to check the pulse of the business environment.
The report shows that the firms surveyed performed better in Q4'09 and it is expected to improve further in Q1'10 with similar pattern across sectors and sizes.
Overall performances tended to be better in Sylhet, Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal compared to Rajshahi and Khulna, while outlook for Q1'10 shows promising for all locations, it said.
Business leaders, prominent economists, key private sector play-

ers, civil society representatives and government officials were present at the function to share the results of the survey and stimulate discussions on how to broaden the appeal of business reforms.
Business leaders however said energy and infrastructure constraints pose a potential threat towards development.
ICCB President Mahubur Rahman said industrial sector has to grow further to foster the country's economic growth.
"But smooth supply of energy is a basic requirement for boosting up the industrial growth," said Rahman. "Energy and infrastructure constraints have now become a major problem for the country's industrial development."
Former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said the survey result will help the businesses know what is happening currently and subsequently it will be conveyed to the policymakers.

The economist also echoed the businesses regarding energy shortage that poses a great threat to the investment scenario.
Addressing the function as chief guest, Board of Investment Executive Chairman Dr SA Samad said shortage in the energy sector has paved the way for the businessmen to come up with investment.
Samad said Bangladesh could easily grow by 8-9 percent rate by exploring its huge untapped resources.
ICCB President Mahubur Rahman informed the gathering that the chamber is going to hold an international conference on 'energy for growth' in April this year considering its importance.
BICF Head James Crittle, SME Foundation Chairman Aftab ul Islam, BKMEA President Fazul Hoque, DCCI President Abul Kasem Khan and BFTI CEO Prof MA Taslim also spoke.

Muhith urges changes in global economy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Structural changes in the global economic management system are needed to strengthen the local economy and help it overcome the effects of financial meltdown worldwide, said the finance minister yesterday.
"Poor and developing countries have to take the lead to find out qualitative and innovative changes that will replace the present economic structure, since it has failed to safeguard the global economy," said AMA Muhith.
He was speaking at a book launching ceremony organised by Onno Prokash, a publishing house, in Dhaka.
Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of Citibank NA, has authored the book -- 'Egiye Jaowar Orthoniti' (Economy for advancement).
"And in countries like ours, systematic reforms are

necessary to rein in corruption and accelerate the economic growth," Muhith said, adding: "We have to develop the country's infrastructure and encourage more use of information and communication technology as part of the reforms."
The minister also stressed increasing revenue earning so the government can enhance its public expenditure, which also contributes to curbing corruption by widening social safety net.
AB Mirza Azizul Islam, former finance adviser to the caretaker government, suggested the government improve the monetary policy and public expenditure to contain inflation.
"Often the government has a little to do to reduce inflation, as the factors of global economy are strongly involved with the local economy. But the government can perk up its monetary policy and public expenditure

to check inflation," he said.
"The monetary policy indirectly plays a role in reducing inflation. So the government needs to take steps to make it effective. At the same time, the government should ensure better public expenditure."
The former adviser also suggested the government should be cautious about allowing private companies to take loans from foreign sources. "If the government has no or less control over allowing private companies to manage capital from foreign sources, it will affect the local economy."
Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government and former chairman of Regulatory Reforms Commission, chaired the function, while the author of the book, and Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, CEO of LankaBangla Securities, also spoke.



Mamun Rashid (2-R), managing director of Citibank NA, poses at the launch of his book titled 'Egiye Jaowar Orthoniti' at a programme organised by Onno Prokash, a publishing house, at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka yesterday. AMA Muhith (3-R), finance minister, Dr Akbar Ali Khan (3-L), former adviser to caretaker government, and AB Mirza Azizul Islam (2-L), former finance adviser to caretaker government, are also seen.

Commodity prices rebound

AFP, London
Metals and oil prices recovered this week on expectations of higher demand but gains were capped by concerns over Greece's debt problems.
OIL: Crude futures rose this week as the International Energy Agency forecast that world oil demand would rise this year compared with 2009, driven by

strong growth in emerging economies.
By late Friday, New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in March, rose to 73.38 dollars a barrel from 72.80 dollars a week earlier.
London's Brent North Sea crude for March climbed to 72.24 dollars from 71.44 dollars.
PRECIOUS METALS: By Friday on the London

Bullion Market, gold rose to 1,082 dollars an ounce from 1,058 dollars the previous week.
Silver climbed to 15.74 dollars an ounce from 15.33 dollars.
On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum advanced to 1,505 dollars an ounce from 1,475 dollars.
Palladium grew to 416 dollars an ounce from 395

dollars.
SUGAR: Sugar prices dropped after reaching a 30-year high of 30.40 US cents a pound the previous week.
By Friday on the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT), the price of unrefined sugar for delivery in May fell to 26.49 US cents a pound compared with 27.31 cents for the expired March contract the previous week.
GRAINS AND SOYA:

Grains and soya prices rose.
By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, maize for delivery in March climbed to 3.59 dollars a bushel from 3.51 dollars the previous week.
March-dated soybean meal -- used in animal feed -- gained to 9.29 dollars from 9.13 dollars.
Wheat for March advanced to 4.83 dollars a bushel from 4.73 dollars.

Govt should help banks give easy loans to poor farmers: PM's adviser

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman has urged the government to provide fund from the budget or offer income tax rebate to the banks so they can give interest-free loans to marginal farmers.
He was speaking as the chief guest at the annual conference of Janata Bank in Dhaka yesterday.
Janata is now giving interest-free loans to marginal farmers on experimental basis. Rahman lauded the bank's step and said other banks should follow it. He said all the banks should discharge their social

responsibilities.
The PM's adviser said the government and Bangladesh Bank should provide support to such lending so the poor and marginal farmers are benefited.
Janata Bank Chairman Prof Abul Barakat said the poor should be brought under the credit programme to help implement the government's Vision 2021. He said the farmers must get loans at easy terms, and the government will have to take steps to involve people living below the poverty level in income generating activities.
Managing Director of the bank SM Aminur Rahman said the bank made the

highest profit at Tk 860 crore among all the banks in 2009. He said the bank also succeeded in bringing down the classified loans to a single-digit level, which is the lowest among the state-owned banks.
The MD said the bank made a fund of Tk 2.50 crore in 2009 for corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, and of the amount Tk 1.9 crore has already been spent. In the areas hit by Aila, monga and Sidr they have disbursed interest-free loans among the marginal farmers.
Janata Bank gave Tk 15 lakh as grant to indigenous woman and freedom fighter Kakon Bibi.

পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
প্রধান কার্যালয়: নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ

দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি
দরপত্র নং ৭৭.০৩.২২(১৩)/৫৯

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।
২।	এজেন্সি	: পেট্রোবাংলা।
৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	: পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সত্তার জেলা	: সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৫।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিষয়	: মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহ।
৬।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	: ৭৭.০৩.২২(১৩)/৫৯ তারিখ: ০২/০২/২০১০।
৭।	দরপত্র আহ্বান পদ্ধতি	: জাতীয় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান।
৮।	অর্থায়নের উৎস	: পিজিসিএল-এর ২০০৯-১০ অর্থ বৎসরের রাজস্ব বাজেট।
৯।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির তারিখ	: ১৪/০২/২০১০ ইংরেজি ২৮/০২/২০১০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ০১/০৩/২০১০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ০১/০৩/২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ১২.১০ মিনিট।
১২।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির স্থান	: (ক) অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগ, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী, লি., নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ। (খ) বগুড়া আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লি., সিলিমপুর, বগুড়া। (গ) ঢাকা লিয়াজে অফিস, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লি., পেট্রোসেন্টার (লেভেল-১৩), ৩, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৩।	কার্য সম্পন্ন করার সময়সীমা	: ক্রয়াদেশ ইস্যুর তারিখ হইতে ৩৫ (পঁয়ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে।
১৪।	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	: প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লি., নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
১৫।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: আর্থিকভাবে স্বচ্ছল, পেশাগত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ও স্বনামখ্যাত অফসেট প্রেস-এর মালিক হইতে হইবে। দরদাতাকে সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বয়তশাসিত/আধা-স্বয়তশাসিত সংস্থা/খ্যাতনামা বেসরকারী সংস্থায় বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের মধ্যে অন্তত একটি ক্রয়াদেশের বিপরীতে ন্যূনপক্ষে ৫.০০ (পাঁচ) লক্ষ টাকা মূল্যের মুদ্রণ সরবরাহের পূর্বে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন হইতে হইবে। দরদাতার এরূপ যোগ্যতা প্রদর্শনের স্বাক্ষর প্রমাণস্বরূপ ইতিপূর্বে সম্পাদিত মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী সরবরাহ কার্যের অনুকূলে সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্রেতা প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক দরদাতাকে প্রদত্ত ক্রয়াদেশের কপি দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১৬।	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (অফসেটযোগ্য)	: টাকা ৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা মাত্র) প্রতিসেট।
১৭।	দরপত্রের জামানত (কেন্দ্রযোগ্য)	: টাকা ১৯,০০০/- (উনিশ হাজার টাকা) মাত্র।
১৮।	দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন আহ্বায়ী দরদাতাগণ নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের লেটারহেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করিতে পারিবেন।
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	: মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান।
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	: উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)।
২১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তরের ঠিকানা	: প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লি., নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
২২।	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	: পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরপ্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিতে দায়ী থাকিবে না এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)
পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

পিপিআর-১৫/২০০৯-২০১০
জিডি-৭০১

Finance ministers failed to heed Greek crisis: Juncker
AFP, Berlin
Eurozone finance ministers failed to pay enough attention to Greece's economic crisis, Eurogroup chairman Jean-Claude Juncker said Saturday, calling it "quite a serious error."
He also told the German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung that "uncontrollable" consequences would result if Greece were to quit the eurozone, and pledged to keep Athens up to the mark in its efforts to reduce its yawning deficit.
Juncker, the prime minister of Luxembourg, said the Eurogroup, the panel of finance ministers whose countries use the single European currency, would monitor "much more intensively and severely" the performance of its members.
"We are not going to let the Greeks alone," he said. "We are going to ask them constantly where they are at in their reform programmes."

Summit's new vice-chairman
STAR BUSINESS DESK
Summit Power Ltd has appointed Md Latif Khan as its vice chairman, the company said in a statement yesterday.
Before the current appointment, he worked at Prudential Insurance in America as a stockbroker and financial analyst and at Wells Fargo Bank in California as financial officer.
Khan completed his BA in public administration from Dhaka University and went to United States in 1981 for higher studies.
He had joined Summit Group as its director and worked for Summit Shipping Ltd as managing director.

China raises bank reserve

AP, Beijing
China moved to curtail bank-lending Friday for the second time in a month in the latest effort to cool down its supercharged economy.
Chinese leaders worry that a stimulus-driven torrent of lending is fueling a dangerous bubble in stock

and real estate prices. They also are concerned that the flood of money surging through the economy is adding to inflation.
Beijing declared China had emerged from the global crisis after economic growth rebounded to 10.7 percent in the final quarter of 2009. But authorities say the global

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Kamrul Ahsan, managing director of Inpace Management Services Ltd, speaks at a press meet at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Thursday for the three day Zoom Chittagong ICT Fair 2010 that starts on Tuesday at Woodland Park in Chittagong.