

Journalism ethics row grips India

BBC ONLINE

Senior editors in India are considering putting in place systems to ensure ethical practices in journalism.

The move follows a scandal involving high-profile journalists after tapes of revealing phone conversations with an influential lobbyist were leaked.

At the centre of the controversy are two well-known journalists, Vir Sanghvi and Barkha Dutt. Critics say they acted like deal-makers, not journalists.

Neither denies the conversations took place, but they deny any wrongdoing.

Ms Dutt is heard on tape offering to relay messages from the corporate lobbyist to politicians to influence the process of forming a cabinet.

Columnist Vir Sanghvi is heard offering a businessman a "rehearsed" interview.

"Journalists need to exercise their judgement and verify everything that is said by a source. There are no grey areas, it's black and white," Vinod Mehta, editor of Outlook magazine which published the tapes, said.



People join a rally to protest an extension of tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans on Thursday in New York City. The protest called the tax cuts "millionaire bailouts" and vowed to pressure Democratic senators to oppose the cuts, which Congress is currently considering extending.

PHOTO: AFP

India wants Bhopal compensation doubled

BBC ONLINE

India is seeking to more than double to \$1.1bn (£700m) the compensation paid by a US chemical company for the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

The Supreme Court confirmed that the attorney general's office had filed a case to increase the \$470m settlement reached in 1989.

The petition coincides with the 26th anniversary of the disaster. Thousands of people died after the leak from US company Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal.

In June, an Indian court finally convicted seven former managers at the plant, handing down minor fines and brief prison sentences.

But many victims and campaigners have felt justice has still not been served against Union Carbide, which is now owned by Dow Chemicals.

The Indian government says some 3,500 people died within days of the gas leak and more than 15,000 in the years since.

Campaigners put the death toll as high as 25,000 and say the horrific effects of the gas continue to this day.

The Indian government petition states: "The Supreme Court determined the \$470m settlement on 14th/15th February 1989."

"The settlement is based on certain assumptions of truth and if these assumptions of truth are unrelated to the realities, then elements of the settlement's justness would be seriously impaired."

Correspondents say this is being viewed as a serious attempt by the government to redress the settlement, although it is not clear how long the petition will take to be ruled upon.

A lawyer from the attorney general's office on Friday told AFP news agency on condition of anonymity: "This time we are seeking maximum compensation for the victims of the gas disaster."

Lankan protesters try to storm UK embassy

BBC ONLINE

Demonstrators have tried to storm the British embassy in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo over Tamil protests that marred President Mahinda Rajapaksa's UK visit.

A Sri Lanka government minister led the rally outside the high commission, accusing Britain of supporting Tamil Tiger separatists.

Mr Rajapaksa's speech to the Oxford Union had to be cancelled this week because of the Tamil protests.

Sri Lanka denies war crimes during its defeat of the Tamil Tigers last year.

Both sides have been accused by human rights groups of crimes against humanity during the final phase of the 26-year insurgency, which ended in May last year.

Hundreds of flag-waving protesters tried to push down police barricades outside the British high commission on Friday and advance on the building, but they were held back by police.

Yunus' letter to ambassador

FROM PAGE 1

HE Ambassador Hans Fredrik Lehne

Royal Norwegian Embassy House No: 9, Road No: 111 Gulshan, Dhaka

Blagadesh

Subject: Agreement between Grameen Bank and Grameen Kalyan

Dear Ambassador Lehne:

This refers to your letter dated December 15, 1997 and January 5, 1998, on the above mentioned subject expressing your concerns about entering into such an agreement.

We are very grateful to NORAD for taking active interest in Grameen's developments. The agreement was made so that Grameen's financial resource & assets could be more professionally and efficiently managed, so as to maximize the benefits to the Grameen's clientele. We are furnishing the following information so that you may fully understand the rationale of our management decision.

1. The reasons for the establishment of Grameen Kalyan.

"Grameen Kalyan" (meaning "Grameen Wellbeing") was established as a separate legal entity in order to accelerate the pace of social and economic development of Grameen's targeted clientele,

and also to ensure continued access to loans and other financial services that they have been getting from Grameen Bank (GB).

2. The concept of revolving fund and its application.

The Agreement to transfer funds from GB to "Grameen Kalyan", which is a "Not for Profit Company" (under the Companies Act 1994, i.e. non-stock company limited by guarantee; the profit of the company will not be distributed to any members of its Board, but will be recycled into its operation to maximize its stated objectives) was to ensure maximum transparency and responsible use of the revolving fund. This is simply creating a "Trust" for the revolving fund. In the earlier system the money would have been owned by GB, which would use it on a revolving basis.

Under the changed situation, the money will be used for the same purpose but GB will now receive it as a loan from a separate legal entity. This will compel the user to be more responsible in handling it, because of the pressure to pay the money back to its owner.

The idea of revolving fund was to ensure its continuous re-use for the same purpose and to harness the maximum benefit in terms of servicing more

clients. But since in the earlier approach the fund was available within the same management structure, in spite of the policy compulsion to revolve it, there remained the possibility that the required financial discipline to recover the money and exercise appropriate caution to effectively monitor the loan operation, may not be enforced.

This apprehension encouraged us to find an alternative method through "Grameen Kalyan", a member of Grameen's family of enterprises, to implement the intention and the spirit of the revolving fund concept. Revolving fund now gets an institutional structure, so that it can never be absorbed by multifarious other demands of the bank. "Grameen Kalyan" can be viewed as a management company set up exclusively to manage the revolving fund. We believe that the new arrangement does not in any way violate any of the clauses of the agreement between Norway and GOB, rather it strengthens professionally the financial operation of GB for eradication of poverty.

3. Informing or consulting the Embassy.

The Board of Directors of Grameen Bank, being the highest policy making organ, takes organisational and

management decision in the interest of the Bank and of course its clientele. We feel that the decision taken by the Board has been taken within the scope of the agreement with the donors. It no way, threatened to interfere with the successful utilisation of the grant, that is why we did not think of informing the donors. Now that you wish to be informed about it, we are happy to provide all the information you ask for.

4. Charging of Interest and terms of repayment.

The Kalyan management has consciously decided to avoid charging of interest for the housing portion of the loans given to GB, with the intention to keep the interest burden low on the ultimate borrowers. Adding interest on this loan would have made the fund costly for GB to transfer it to the borrowers at the existing rate of eight percent. The question of adding interest on the loans for housing purpose can be reviewed, if it is deemed appropriate by the lending and the borrowing organizations. The agreement to this effect is subject to review as and when required.

The existing agreement did not stipulate any repayment date for the loans. We are working to include this clause in the loan repayment.

5. Non-inclusion of revolving fund account in the Annual Report of 1996.

Due to the change of the management technique of fund i.e. creating a separate organization to handle the money and loans that go out to GB, the revolving fund account within GB was rendered irrelevant. Instead, the amount has been shown as borrowing in the liability portion and as loans and advance accounts in the asset portion of the balance sheet in 1996.

6. Reduction of the owners equity.

In the Board of Directors of the Bank nine out of thirteen members are the elected representatives of the borrowers. The Board while taking any decision gives utmost priority to the interest of the owners. The decision, to transfer this money, instead of adversely affecting the owners, have enhanced their interests by ensuring more efficient and prudent fund management and accountability on the part of GB, by way of an institutional compulsion to repay the loan to the leading organization. This process of mutual obligation and accountability on the part of two separate organizations have enhanced the immunity of the fund from being eroded due to lack of accountability if handled by a single organization as was done prior to its transfer to "Grameen Kalyan". The grant money received from different donors, has increased the liquidity of the loanable fund for GB. It was never reckoned as equity of the owners as would be evident from the annual reports of previous years.

It is to be noted that the establishment of "Grameen Kalyan" with endowment fund from GB, has broadened the scope for us to address the issue of eradication of poverty and hunger by undertaking different projects and activities that have the potential to generate income for the borrowers of the bank and offer opportunities to diversify our efforts for poverty reduction. The profits that will be generated or the income that will be earned by "Grameen Kalyan" offer the scope for such initiatives to be

undertaken for the poor. This was the initial purpose of creating the social advancement fund (SAF). Now SAF becomes legal entity with a management structure of its own.

7. Use of the loan from Grameen Kalyan.

The use of the loans from "Grameen Kalyan" may kindly be seen in section-3 of the relevant agreement.

8. Tax consideration.

Stipulation in the donor agreement was that Grameen will pay at least 2% interest on the loans for income generating activities from the revolving fund. This rate may be gradually raised to the level of market rate to bring Grameen Bank to the level of financial viability.

At the present level of 2%, Grameen pays almost a million dollar as interest to the Social Advancement Fund. After Grameen's tax exemption status is withdrawn this year, this one million dollar cannot be transferred to Social Advancement fund, as an expenditure of Grameen Bank. Tax authorities will not recognize Grameen "paying" interest to an external revolving fund as an "expenditure". It will consider the whole amount of one million dollar as income and impose a tax of 40%.

By creating "Grameen Kalyan" Grameen Bank avoids that. Now this interest payment becomes a valid payment, and "Grameen Kalyan" can keep the entire interest income for Social Advancement activity.

With gradual higher interest rate charged on the revolving fund, more and more money will have to be paid out as taxes in future, if the revolving fund remained within Grameen.

We thought "Grameen Kalyan" is an excellent legal device to not only keep the money for the social advancement of our borrowers, but

also gradually enlarge the fund size.

If we had created "Grameen Kalyan" just to give institutional structure to SAF alone (without any loan agreement with GB), in the eyes of the tax authority "interest" payment from GB's internal revolving fund would be considered as a gift, hence taxable.

9. Licence to operate as a financial institution.

We have discussed the issue with Bangladesh Bank. Normally, for lending out to outside organizations this sort

of licence as required.

"Grameen Kalyan" is an associate company of Grameen Bank for which the conditions applied to other financial institutions are not applicable. "Grameen Kalyan" has strictly confined its loan operation to Grameen's sister organizations only. We have been assured that since GK is not doing business with "public", this license requirement will not apply to us.

I hope, the above information will adequately clarify the issues which have been raised.

We firmly believe that this initiative by GB will have far reaching consequences in our efforts towards alleviation of poverty and maximizing the uses of resources at our disposal. We appreciate NORAD's continued interest in Grameen's activities and look forward toward more collaboration in future.

With my warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours
(Signature of Muhammad Yunus)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh M/o Health and Family Welfare Job Vacancy

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has received a grant from Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization (GAVI) for Health System Strengthening (HSS) of Bangladesh. MOHFW invites applications from experienced Bangladeshi nationals for the post of **National Coordinator (NC)** for GAVI- Health System Strengthening proposal implementation in Bangladesh. The incumbent will be responsible as well as to provide support for wide range of activities, which include: Planning, Monitoring, Financial Management, Training, Audit, Preparation of Periodic and Annual Reports, Development of Training package and Financial management handbook etc. The incumbent requires extensive field visits to hard-to-reach and remote areas of the country. The incumbent should have following **skills and competencies**:

- Ability to lead strategic planning, result-based management.
- Good communication skills- writing, presentation, networking, negotiation and advocacy.
- Plan, prioritize and deliver tasks on time.
- Awareness and sensitivity to cultural and political environment.

Proficiency in the use of computers and especially word processing, spreadsheets etc.

Eligibility: Masters in Public Health from a recognized university and at least 5 years working experience in planning, program management and program review of health sector. Highly skilled candidates having experiences of work at the senior/managerial level with government financial management background may get preference.

Send application to: Applicants should submit a brief CV (maximum 4 pages with a cover page) along with a one page statement giving reasons for being suitable for the post and a photograph. Application should send to: Joint Chief, (Planning), MOHFW, M&E unit, Janasankha Bhaban (2nd Floor), Azimpur Road, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205 within 20 days of publication of the advertisement. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Dr. A.E.M Muhiuddin Osmani
Deputy Chief (Health), MOHFW
Tel: 7160205

C-1671

Telephone
Shilpa Sangstha Limited
(A State-Owned Company)
Tongi, Gazipur
Phone: 9814747, 9802703-04, Fax: 880-2-9812700
Website: www.tss.com.bd, email: mdmtss@btcl.net.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Post & Telecommunications |
| 2. | Agency | Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd (A State-Owned Company) |
| 3. | Procuring entity name | Managing Director, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd |
| 4. | Procuring entity district | Gazipur |
| 5. | Invitation Ref. No. | TSS/FP/Solar Plant/2010/10-1, Date: 01.12.2010 |
| 6. | Invitation for | Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Assembling Plant of Solar Panel as a Comprehensive Package. |

KEY INFORMATION

| | | |
|----|--------------------|---------------------|
| 7. | Procurement method | OTM (International) |
|----|--------------------|---------------------|

FUNDING INFORMATION

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------|
| 8. | Budget and source of funds | Own fund |
|----|----------------------------|----------|

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 9. | Division name/project | Solar Panel Assembling Plant |
| 10. | Bid publication date | 08.12.2010 |
| 11. | Place for tender selling/receiving | a) TSS, Tongi, Gazipur b) GPO, Room No. 7 (1st Floor), Dhaka-1000 |
| 12. | Last date & time for selling of tender document | 23.12.2010 at 3:00pm (BST) |
| 13. | Pre-bid meeting | 25.12.2010 at 11:00am in TSS, Tongi, Gazipur |
| 14. | Tender closing date & time | 26.12.2010 at 11:30am |
| 15. | Tender opening date & time | 26.12.2010 at 02:30pm |
| 16. | Place of tender opening | TSS, Tongi, Gazipur |

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 17. | Eligibility of tenderer | Bonafide manufacturers/suppliers or their authorised agents in our country |
| 18. | Brief description of goods | Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Assembling Plant of Solar Panel as a Comprehensive Package |
| 19. | Price of tender documents | Tk 20,000/- cash (non-refundable) |
| 20. | Procuring entity details | Managing Director, TSS, Tongi, Gazipur |
| 21. | Address of official inviting tender | Deputy Manager (Prefabrication), Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd, Tongi, Gazipur |
| 22. | Special instruction | a) Amount of bid security in favour of TSS shall be Tk 7,50,000/- for Solar Panel and shall be valid for 148 days from the date of submission. The bid security shall be in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee issued by any schedule bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly endorsed with full obligation and liabilities by any schedule bank in Bangladesh located in Dhaka b) The tender notice will also be available at TSS website www.tss.com.bd. |

23. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or full of any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Mofizul Hoque
Dy. Manager (PP & Prefab)
Mob: 01552-389329, Tel: 880-02-9802705

C-1672

এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
২৬৫-২৬৭, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর
(বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশনাবীন)

টেডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৪-শ্রৌক ইঞ্জিনের হোডা মটরসাইকেল ব্যবহার করুন, পরিবেশ দূষণমুক্ত রাখতে সহায়তা করুন

এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লি., টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৌশলকর্মী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে মিস্তক তৈরীর মালামাল, সরবরাহের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে :

| টেডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- | সামগ্রীর বিবরণ | জামানতের টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) | খোলার তারিখ ও সময় | টেডার সিডিউলের মূল্য |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| এবিএল/ক্রয়/২৪৯ তাং-২৯-১১-২০১০ খ্রি: | মিস্তক তৈরীর জন্য বিভিন্ন রকমের বানিজ্যিক মালামাল। ৪৫ রকমের | প্রস্তাবিত মূল্যের ১% তবে ২০০০/- টাকার কম নহে। | ২০-১২-২০১০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় বন্ধ এবং একই দিন দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে। | প্রতি সেট ২০০/= টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)। |

- অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা এবং বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশন, "বিএসইসি ভবন", ১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এডিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা হইতে নগদ মূল্যে টেডার সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
- টেডার খোলার দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।
- এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লি. এবং বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশনের ক্রয় বিভাগে রক্ষিত টেডার বাস্তব দরপত্র ফেলা যাইবে এবং দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে টেডার বাস্তব খোলা হইবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
- খামের উপর দরপত্র নম্বর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখিতে হইবে।
- অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ টেডার গ্রহণের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উভয় অফিসে টেডার গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন একটি বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোঃ আনোয়ার হোসেন)
উদ্ধৃতন ক্রয় কর্মকর্তা
পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।