

Sangsad denied changes

FROM PAGE 1
tolerance and allow opposition lawmakers, who are very small in number this time, to play their due role.

On the other hand, BNP-led opposition lawmakers seem to have forgotten their constitutional duties to perform in the parliament as well. Their activities also demonstrate a lack of interest in making the House functional.

They have already boycotted 130 out of total 174 sittings of the ninth parliament, paying no attention to their electoral pledge of ending the culture of boycott. And it is still uncertain whether they will return to the parliament's new-year session which begins today. As if they are afraid that their contribution to making the parliament functional will only brighten the government's image.

The prevailing situation predicts that the current parliament may face the same fate of the previous ones that could not be effective due to successive ruling parties' 'winner takes all' attitude, and frequent boycotts by the main oppositions.

Constituted after more than two years of political disorder, the ninth parliament, which steps into the third year today, was expected to be the main force for change in the political culture.

Against the backdrop of misrule of the previous regime and growing political conflict, the ruling AL's electoral pledges styled "A

Charter for Change" gave rise to a widespread expectation of change in the public mind.

The people seemed to have confidence in the pledges, and they gave AL a landslide mandate in the December 29, 2008 parliamentary polls.

The AL-led government itself also termed the new Jatiya Sangsad a "parliament for change" through the president's address to the inaugural session of the ninth parliament, which was approved by the cabinet.

The then president Iajuddin Ahmed on January 25, 2009 delivered the address in which he said, "The people of this country have given mandate to the newly elected government to bring a massive change in their political and economic lives."

After almost a year, the AL-led government seemed to have acknowledged that the current parliament could not deliver on the people's expectation for change in its first one year.

The ruling party identified confrontational political culture as the major obstacle to change.

Incumbent President Zillur Rahman on January 4, 2010, in his first address to the parliament, stressed the need for changing the political culture to realise the people's dream.

But what happened in the last one year since then?

The situation did not improve, rather the perennial animosity between

ruling AL and main opposition BNP has increased. All signs predict further deterioration unless the ruling party takes bold and sincere steps to salvage the situation. But the objective reality bears little hope.

The AL-led government seems to have forgotten its electoral pledges it made in the run up to the last parliamentary polls.

"The Parliament will be made effective and the government will be made accountable for all its activities," said its electoral manifesto.

It said except for some specific subjects related to the security of the state, the parliament members would be allowed to express differing opinions.

"Tolerance and decency will be developed in the political culture. Efforts will be taken to formulate a code of conduct acceptable to all," the AL electoral manifesto read.

Wealth statement and source of income of the prime minister, members of the cabinet, parliament members, and of their family members would be made public every year, it pledged.

But almost all of the pledges still remain only on paper. No move was taken in last two years in line with the pledges.

Prime Minister also Leader of the Parliament Sheikh Hasina on January 6 in her speech to the nation, marking two years of the AL-led grand alliance government, however claimed that her government made the

parliament the centre for practicing democracy.

The current parliament did witness a good beginning. The parliamentary committees were formed in the inaugural session, and opposition lawmakers were given the helms of three parliamentary bodies -- all for the first time in its history.

But soon the culture of parliament boycott returned, and took the shine off those successes. First the opposition said they were staying away from the House proceedings to protest the seating arrangements, and later they raised a number of other issues as well to justify the boycott.

Similar practice in the past had prevented the parliament from functioning effectively. In the fifth, seventh and eighth parliaments, opposition lawmakers boycotted around a half of the total sittings.

President Zillur Rahman in his first address to the parliament last year observed that the prevailing political practice should be changed first, if the "charter for change" is to be realised. There should be an end to the politics of conflict, he said.

Unfortunately, the practice was not changed; rather the situation has deteriorated to quite an extent.

The president is expected to evaluate last year's political situation in his address to the parliament today. The government's stance will be reflected in his address as the cabinet approved his speech.

Keep stock profit intact

FROM PAGE 1
profits to their reserve instead of distributing those among shareholders.

The central bank issued the directive after a high-level meeting on Sunday with the finance minister to stabilise the share market.

The directive was issued to 11 banks yesterday, and earlier four other banks were given the order, an official of the central bank said.

A central bank high official said the directive will make the financial base of the banks stronger, and merchant banks will be allowed to re-invest in the share market remaining within the legal framework.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith also told journalists on Sunday that the institutional investors such as banks, financial institutions and merchant banks could re-invest a part of their profit in the share market.

These were included in the 14-point bailout package for the capital market prepared by the finance ministry yesterday.

"As an institutional investor, we have been providing support to the capital market. It will continue in future," said Mahmud Sattar, president of Association of Bankers Bangladesh and managing director of City Bank.

"The banks cannot invest more than 10 percent of their liabilities in the capital market. We will try to invest our surplus within the legal limitations."

The 30 private banks currently running in Bangladesh made profit of around Tk 13,000 crore in 2010, up 57 percent from the previous year.

According to central bank data, of the amount, around Tk 1,200 crore came from profit made in the share market. Of the total amount, two banks profited Tk 500 crore.

Different quarters have been blaming the involvement of the banks for the recent overpricing of shares in the capital market. They also say that Bangladesh Bank has failed to monitor properly.

However, a BB high official yesterday told The Daily Star that from the beginning of 2009 they have been warning the banks to invest cautiously in the share market. The banks were advised to form merchant banks for operating in stock market.

Participation of banks in the capital market, however, is not that big.

The market capitalisation of the banks is not much yet. On December 31 last year, the total capital in the share market was Tk 3,50,800 crore of which the exposure of the banks was Tk 12,141 crore.

The BB official said it meant the banks' participation in the share market was 3.58 percent of the total market capital.

JS goes into session today

FROM PAGE 1
The opposition legislators already skipped 48 consecutive sittings since June last year. If they remain absent from 42 more sittings consecutively, they will lose membership as per constitutional provisions.

A number of opposition legislators however had already kept off over 50 consecutive sittings as they were absent when the BNP-led opposition parties last joined the House sitting on June 2 last year.

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) headed by Speaker Abdul Hamid at a meeting yesterday decided that the new-year session with 44 sittings will continue till April 10.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina was present at the

meeting, boycotted by the opposition.

President Zillur Rahman will address the House today amid the opposition lawmakers' continued boycott of its sessions.

Contacted yesterday, BNP legislator MK Anwar said they will decide their next course of action before expiry of the 90-day time limit.

According to the constitution, a member of parliament will lose membership if he remains absent from 90 consecutive sittings without the leave of the House.

Anwar, a national standing committee member of BNP, said they want to join parliament sittings but the atmosphere in the House is not conducive to their return to it.

The opposition lawmakers

belonging to BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party joined the first sitting of fifth session of the House on June 2 last year. They walked out of it protesting arrest of Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh. They did not return to the House and boycotted the rest 32 sittings of the fifth session.

They also boycotted the sixth and seventh sessions which had 11 and five sittings respectively. Thus they have remained absent from 48 consecutive sittings.

Briefing journalists after the BAC meeting, Chief Whip of the Treasury Bench Abdus Shahid said a 40-hour discussion will be held on thanks-giving motion on the president's address.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SEALED TENDERS are hereby invited by Prime Bank Limited from first class enlisted contractors of Prime Bank Limited, BEPZA, PWD, LGED or any other Govt. /Non Govt. Organizations/Autonomous Organizations for the Construction of 3 storied office building with 4 storied foundation who have completed the similar nature of work in a single contract worth not less than Tk. 2.00 (Two) Crore in the last five years. Details for the works are as follows:

Name of Work	Consultant	Time of Completion	Amount of Earnest Money in favor of Prime Bank Limited	Cost of Tender Document (Tk.)
Construction of Three Storied Office Building (Composite Structure: Steel Frame with R.C.C. Slabs) & Exterior Fit Out Work with four storied foundation of Prime Bank Limited for the proposed Karnaphuli EPZ Branch at Karnaphuli EPZ, Chittagong.	DESIGN CLUB Kallaynpur Housing Estate B-12/F-14, Dhaka-1207. Cell No.-01819298614	5 (Five) Calendar Months	2.5% of bided amount in the form of Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.	Tk. 2,000.00 (Per Set) (In the form of pay order favoring Prime Bank Ltd.)

The interested bidders may purchase prescribed Tender Documents applying in their letter head along with attested photocopies of all the following documents and fulfilling the eligibility.

- Valid Enlistment Certificate, TIN, Trade License, VAT registration certificate, income-tax clearance certificate.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association or relevant documents in case the firm is not a private limited company, shall be submitted as supporting documents.
- The firm must have at least one graduate engineer of minimum 10 (ten) years' active construction experience as Director/Partner.
- The bidder must have an annual turnover of not less than Tk.4.00 crore for the last three years of Building Construction.

1. The contractor may purchase prescribed Tender Document from the office of the Logistics & Support Services Division, Prime Bank Ltd, Head Office, 29 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka (Lift Level 2) between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm from 26.01.2011 to 02.02.2011. No Tender Documents will be issued after 02.02.2011.

2. Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned on 09.02.2011, up to 3.00 pm and will be opened on the same day at 3.30 pm in presence of bidder or their representatives who may like to be present. No Tender shall be received after the above designated date and time.

3. A Joint venture or consortium firm shall be allowed to participate in the tender to complete the composite structure.

4. Tenderers must visit the site and get acquainted with conditions of the site, the scope of works and available space or others (if any) before tendering. No objection shall be entertained in this respect later on. The plot is in between existing General Store and Custom Office at Sector-1, Karnaphuli EPZ, Chittagong (Total Area: 107.34 sqm).


5. The technical and financial proposal must be submitted separately in sealed envelopes.

6. Prime Bank Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) (partly or wholly) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Senior Executive Vice President

Logistics & Support Services Division
Head Office, 29 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka
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SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE / INVITATION FOR BIDS

BANGLADESH

IDB/Fael Khair Program: Construction of School-cum-Cyclone Shelters

Contract/Bid Nos. BD1-0013 (Package 1) & BD1-0014 (Package 2)

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Bangladesh newspapers 'The Daily Star' of 04 & 06.11.2010, and 'The Independent' of 05 & 07.11.2010; Websites of UNDB, dgMarket and IDB; 'The Wall Street Journal (Asia)' of 19.11.2010; and Middle East newspapers 'Arab News' and 'Asharq Al-Awsat' (in Arabic).
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has been entrusted with a donation of US\$ 130 million to be utilised for the construction of School-cum-Cyclone Shelters (US\$ 110 million) and for agricultural inputs (\$20 million) for the restoration of livelihoods in the coastal belt of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and IDB have signed a Memorandum of Understanding whereby the IDB will implement the program with assistance from the GoB. The IDB has engaged WSP International Management Consulting to manage construction of the Shelters component. The Shelters will be located on individual sites of existing educational institutions and there are two types of structure, namely 'Killa and 'Stilt', with total floor area of up to 1350 sq.m. The IDB now intends to apply part of the donation proceeds for payments under the first two Contract Packages. Each Package consists of approximately 50 Shelters. The construction period is 18 months, however alternative periods will be considered.
- The IDB through the Program Management Consultants, WSPimc, now invites sealed bids from eligible International and National Bidders for Fael Khair Program: Construction of School-cum-Cyclone Shelters; Contract/Bid Nos. BD1-0013 and BD1-0014.
- Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in IDB's 'Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Works under Islamic Development Bank Financing' (current edition), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at Address (1) below between 09.30 and 16.30hrs, Sunday to Thursday (excluding Public Holidays) from 27 January 2011. A complete set of bidding documents in English for each Contract Package may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to WSP International Management Consulting, from 27 January 2011 to 14 March 2011 (with both days inclusive) from Address (1) below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand Bangladesh Taka) or US\$ 300 (three hundred US Dollars) for each Contract Package. The method of payment will be in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank, drawn in favor of Fael Khair Program. The documents will be sent by courier service.
- Bidders may deliver bids personally or by registered mail or courier service and bids must reach Address (1) below by **12.00hrs (mid-day) on 21 March 2011**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of a minimum amount of 2.50% of bid price in favor of the Fael Khair Program. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at Address (2) below at 15.00hrs on 21 March 2011.
- A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11.00am on 22 February 2011 at Address (2) below and all interested Bidders are requested to attend the conference on time.
- Post-qualification of the Bidders will be carried out as per the criteria of the bidding documents and financial proposals of only substantially qualified bidders will be considered for financial evaluation.
- The IDB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reason.

Address (1)
Purchase of documents & submission of Bids:

Project Director
WSP International Management Consulting
Fael Khair Program Management Consultant
House #9, Road #11, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Tel: +880 - 2 8825761, +880 - 2 - 8811075
Fax: +880 - 2 8823713
e-mail: pmc@wspdhaka.com

Address (2)
Pre-Bid Meeting & Bid Opening:

IDB Bhaban
Begum Rokeya Sharani,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

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