

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS		CURRENCIES						
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
▲ 1.65%	▲ 1.55%	\$1,541.00 (per ounce)	\$99.72 (per barrel)	▼ 0.62%	▼ 1.69%	▼ 0.39%	▼ 1.40%	73.55	105.40	120.14	0.90	
5,762.70	10,313.68			18,494.18	9,555.04	3,160.6	2,705.18	BUY TK	73.65	105.57	120.33	0.91
								SELL TK				

Money Double Scheme
Deposit One lakh or its multiple
make double in 6 years

NCC Bank Ltd.
Where Credit and Commerce Integrates

www.nccb.com.bd

Business

DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2011, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net

Ministry asks BTRC to open fresh telco audit

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom ministry has asked the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to cancel the bidding process to appoint audit firms for inspecting mobile operators, as the regulator breached rules in recruiting auditors for the task.

The regulatory body did not take permission from the ministry before appointing the audit firms, and violated telecommunication and public procurement rules, alleged the telecom ministry and experts.

The ministry advised the BTRC to comply with the decision of the review panel of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), which cancelled the bidding process.

However, the BTRC denied the allegations, and is continuing the audits.

In a May 24 letter, the ministry said the decision of the review panel was final, and requested the commission to take necessary steps.

The review panel of the CPTU cancelled the bidding process after a participant in the bidding alleged that there were anomalies in the process. The review



panel gave a verdict that the bidding process was not according to the PPR and suggested fresh bidding.

In April, the regulator in the first phase appointed two chartered accountant firms to audit two mobile operators -- Grameenphone and Banglalink -- after short-listing six audit firms.

Later, one of the short-listed firms, which did not get the job, challenged the bidding process, saying there were anomalies.

Now two auditors are inspecting Grameenphone and Banglalink.

According to telecommunication laws, the BTRC needs to take prior approval from the ministry to appoint consultants.

Barrister Tanjib-Ul Alam said the

commission did not take prior permission and has violated the telecom act in appointing the auditors.

He said an auditor is appointed by the shareholders. But when the BTRC appoints audit firms, their role is that of a consultant as envisaged under the telecom law.

Telecom Secretary Sunil Kanti Bose said: "We have advised the commission to abide by the verdict of the review panel."

He said there should be no problem in a fresh bidding to appoint new audit firms.

Bose also said the BTRC is not fully controlled by the ministry. But there are some issues that have to be approved by the ministry. The commission did not inform the ministry before appointing the auditors, he said.

However, BTRC officials said the commission does not need to take such permission.

In a reply to the letter of the ministry, the BTRC said the complaint against the bidding process was not raised at the right time.

The commission also said it will continue the audits.

abdullah.mamun@thedailystar.net

BB governor expects 7pc growth

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman has expressed optimism about the country's economic outlook and said the GDP growth will cross 7 percent in both current and next fiscal years, thanks to better performances by industrial and services sectors.

The central bank chief said Bangladesh's total external trade is on course to exceed \$50 billion in fiscal 2011, a volume nearly half the annual gross domestic product in size.

In an interview with The Daily Star recently, Rahman talked on the overall economic situation on the eve of announcing the national budget for the next fiscal year.

He said the rise in growth (around 40 percent) in external trade and a corresponding boost from the services sector should easily translate into a near double-digit real output in manufacturing and services.



Atiur Rahman

Making an estimate of around 7 percent overall real GDP growth in fiscal 2011 is entirely plausible, the governor said.

He also said most conjectures of various quarters about Bangladesh's likely real GDP growth in fiscal 2011 are putting forward figures somewhat below the 6.7 percent targeted in the budget presumably from caution not to err on the side of over optimism.

Rahman said few dispute the good output performance in agriculture, but most of the forecasts proffer low growth estimates for manufacturing and services, referring to past trends and infrastructure constraints.

The governor said these overlook the progress in remedial efforts and the reality of strong growth in external trade (in both exports and imports).

He said, in the last fiscal year the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in its provisional estimate put the GDP growth at 5.8 percent but the agency has now found it to be 6.04 percent in a final calculation.

In the current fiscal year, the provisional estimate of the BBS is 6.66 percent. But the central bank's forecast is that the GDP growth will cross 7 percent.

The government has already revised the next fiscal year's GDP growth target from an earlier 7 percent to 7.2 percent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

Market regulators close ranks

Joint inspection teams likely for stockmarket

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Money market and stockmarket regulators yesterday vowed to work together to avoid any conflicting situation between the two.

Bangladesh Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission reached a consensus at a meeting at the central bank where representatives of Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) and the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms were present.

The two regulators said they would sit at least once every quarter to discuss policy issues and the stockmarket situation.

A lack of coordination between the central bank and the SEC has been a much-talked-about issue in recent times following the stockmarket debacle in January. The regulators had blamed each other for the crash, while economists, analysts and market experts were also divided on the issue.

"It was a coordination meeting following the restructuring of the SEC and formation of the IDRA," said Jahangir Alam, executive director of the central bank. The meeting was chaired by Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman.

"All parties agreed to work in a coordinated manner so that no conflicting situation arises in the money market or

in the stockmarket, and a market-friendly environment prevails especially in the share market," he said.

The SEC will regulate the stockmarket, while the central bank will try to provide technical support to the SEC, he said.

The regulators discussed how to set up joint inspection teams.

He said the Financial Reporting Act is necessary to check any financial jugglery in the capital market.

Replying to a query on banks' reinvestment in the stock market, he said banks are free to invest or reinvest in the stock market within their limit.

Helal Uddin Nizami, a member of the SEC, said it was unfortunate that no meeting was held between the central bank and the stockmarket regulator in the last one and a half years, although such meetings were scheduled.

"Now, we have agreed to sit together anytime in emergency," said Nizami.

Due to the lack of coordination between the two regulators, conflicting situations often arose at the policy level, he said.

Asked about the progress of modification of securities rules, he said the commission already sat with different market stakeholders such as stock exchanges, listed companies' association and insurance association to get their suggestions on an amendment to securities rules.

India opens new probe into possible telecom scam

AFP, New Delhi

India, reeling from a telecom graft scandal that has forced the resignation of one minister, is conducting an investigation into the actions of his predecessor in the job, police said Thursday.

India's top federal police agency said it was conducting a "preliminary investigation" into the activities of former telecom minister Dayanidhi Maran, who currently serves as textile minister in the embattled Congress government.

THE FAST AND THE FRIENDLY

CIVIC HYBRID

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

12km per liter

Truly Honda by Nature

- * Petrol + Electric Hybrid
- * Fuel efficient & environment friendly
- * Self Charging Hybrid Battery (no external charging required)
- * BDT 33.9 Lac

Showroom:
DHS Motors Limited
11, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka. Tel: 9889600, Cell: 01199833330
www.honda.com.bd

*Call us for test drive

MTB 24/7 **ATM**

Grand Opening tomorrow @ Square Hospitals Ltd.

www.mutualtrustbank.com

মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.
you can bank on us

Elevate your home décor with designer furniture from

KODA
Singapore

242 Gulshan Link Road, Dhaka 1208
t: 8822511-2, m: 01713 186 770-1
www.kubebd.com

The Daily Star

grameenphone

VOICE NEWS SERVICE

Dial 2 2 2 2

for the latest news highlights in English

RAHIMAFROOZ SOLAR

Embrace Mother Nature
Make a difference to keep it green

Best wishes for 5th June **World Environment Day!** e-mail: solar@rahimafrooz.com