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across the world. There is not a single country -- rich or poor -- where the concept of microcredit is not practiced. As a result, many micro-credit specialists have emerged, many university departments on micro-credit have been opened, many research centres have come up, many books have been published in different languages by different publications, and many professors have begun to teach this topic. Many people have earned fame worldwide by taking up this programme. Bangladesh is way ahead in successfully leading this programme better than any other country. In this country reside many such personalities who have earned fame by being contributors to the project. Both nationally and internationally, researches have been carried out, and researched books and articles were published on Grameen Bank. Bangladesh Bank plays a supervisory role over Grameen Bank. Besides, to regulate the microcredit programmes in the country there is a separate regulatory authority, Micro-finance Regulatory Authority. To provide fund to the micro-finance organisations there is an organisation with a longstanding and valuable experience, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation. Thus one is not sure why this onerous responsibility has been laid on these four persons when there are so many researchers, administrators and experts.

The kind of issues the government has placed before the Commission worries me. Maybe, the government wants someone to tell Grameen Bank formally that it is organisationally 'fragile.' Because, the government does not want Grameen Bank to move in the manner it is moving today. They want it to run according to their policy. Opportunities should be made to inculcate the idea of the government in this institution. Current Law does not allow that. Because, according to the current law, an organisation is run depending on how the owner wants to run it. It would require restructuring of ownership to run it according to the decisions of the government. The government is, perhaps, expecting the Commission to recommend something like this. With the change of the ownership the composition of the Board will also change.

Even without changing the ownership, the government may change the law in such a way that the Board would no longer retain its full authority. The Board would remain as it is, but it would have to abide by every instruction of the government.

Such fears arise after reading the terms of reference. I would like to see my fears and worries proved wrong. I am putting this matter before you, convinced that my apprehensions should be shared by all while there was time.

Through a written statement of the Ministry of Finance on April 23, 2011 the people were reassured that: "No initiative has been taken to exercise control of the government on Grameen Bank and will not be done in future." We were assured by this unequivocal statement. But having seen the ToR of the Commission the fear has once again reappeared.

Ownership of Grameen Bank

From the very beginning of Grameen Bank, poor women have been buying shares with their small savings. Considering that this Bank is for their welfare, everyday they are working hard to keep it strong. These women are, today, worried by the fact that questions about their ownership are being raised with commission. An immensely unkind question has been raised to the Commission recently. The people

are as curious as those 84 lakh underprivileged women to know what the Commission's reply will be. All those who are concerned about women empowerment, will be looking forward to the answer the Commission is going to give.

The Commission's opinion has been sought regarding how the quality of the Managing Committee members would be determined. This is an unfortunate question. They are the owners of Grameen Bank, and that is their only qualification. Among Grameen Bank owners, about 80% are non-educated women. Until now, no one can say that any of the Managing Committee members hasn't played her role well. The Managing Committee of Grameen Bank consisted of renowned persons of the country. For instance: Professor Iqbal Mahmud, Professor Rehman Sobhan, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor Kaisar Hossain, Mr. Tabarak Hossain.

I can assure you that not one of you would say that these women are any scale short to lead as a women leader. Out of all the women and members of Grameen Bank, one enthusiastic and important one is Taslima Begum from the Girgacha village of Chapainababganj, who had received Nobel Prize in Oslo.



She delivered an inspirational lecture in Bengali in the Nobel Prize giving ceremony. Bangladesh Television telecast the programme live. I think the ripples she created in the hearts of Bangladeshi women still sustains. Has the Commission been formed to wipeout the Taslimas? It is very normal to wonder about what is going on in the government's mind because it is a crucial question.

The future of Grameen Bank will be shattered

On October2, 1983, a women's gathering of a Grameen Bank project was held at Jamurki High School playground in Tangail where the launching programme of Grameen Bank was held. At the programme the then finance minister and loan recipient women delivered speeches, not government officials.

This Bank never compromises with the identity of poor women's bank. This Bank never varied from this basic principle in its journey from Jobra village to Akur Takur Para to Shyamoli and at last to Mirpur.

To cut off poor women from the ownership and sovereign power of decision making means derailing Grameen Bank from its main goal. If the government

tries to take any step by giving crafted explanation that will transform the Bank into a different organisation. The world winning formula, law, management structure and modus operandi, should be kept intact, following which Grameen Bank become one of the best organisations of the world.

This organisation is maintained by its own money. Grameen Bank does not take any money from the government or any donor agencies. This created a new dimension in the banking system of the world. Numerous bankers are always eager to know about this bank. People all over the world view this model with awe and respect. This bank has created a permanent niche of respect for this country in the world. We all will hope that the government will show its selflessness and do its job sincerely. We should reach a national consensus about Grameen Bank because it is an organisation of national pride.

It is difficult to believe that the Commission will strengthen the organization, which is the product of 35 years of dedication of the hundreds of workers of Grameen Bank and thousands of loan recipients, and make such recommendation that would not weaken it or endanger it.

My strong belief is that if the role of the government is increased in Grameen Bank by changing its rules the future of Grameen Bank will be threatened. The government can establish more banks like Grameen Bank but should leave Grameen Bank alone. It is not a matter of political ideology. It can be a suitable option to keep the Bank under the present ownership and law.

Organisations in many far-flung countries around the world have on their own accord taken up the name "Grameen." They connect to Bangladesh through this word without even knowing what it means. For them, this word begotten from Bangladesh is a word of dreams, a word of many possibilities.

It worries me to think of what lies in store once Grameen Bank is changed into a government organisation. Grameen Bank is a bank of rules and discipline. Transforming it into a government organisation will endanger the bank instantly in many different ways. 24,000 employees of Grameen Bank can walk through the village roads carrying cash worth Tk.30-40,000. It will then be a matter of concern as to how much of that money will be deposited in the bank and

how much of it will disappear. Loans, postings and promotions in return of bribery and "might is right" situations may slowly become the everyday reality. These are all but nightmares. It is possible to turn dreams into realities, and similarly, nightmares too can have their own transformations into realities. We need to take specific steps so that this never happens.

In the past, when state-run organisations saw mismanagement, and after much was written on their inadequacies upon investigations, decisions of handing them over to private ownership were taken. It is frightening to dwell upon the possibility of Grameen Bank being handed over to the government.

Starting from the main office in Mirpur down to the meeting centers (*Baithak*) of every village every member of Grameen Bank is linked with the same idea of discipline and has evolved in the same manner of orderliness. Grameen's achievements of all these years will not take long to vanish if it is ever infected with the government's bureaucratic attitude. The eight and half million subscribers of the Bank have won the hearts of the world by their hard work, having been imbued with the spirit of unity-work-discipline. Will removing them from the ownership or their representation from the executive committee solve the problem? Will the government be able to explain to the eight and half million subscribers why they have been deprived of the ownership of the institution which they have themselves nurtured through their own money and labour?

The people, particularly the poor female owners, would certainly not like their beloved organisation to suffer this fate. The children of the members of Grameen Bank, specially those who have availed education loan and have become professionals like doctors, engineers would certainly not like their mothers' bank to be taken over by the government, or to acquire its control or its ownership, because they themselves in large numbers have established their own business after having obtained loans from the bank as "new sponsors." If we could all together make the government understand that changing the Grameen Bank legal structure would not benefit the poor we may then be able to prevent this. But we have to express our fears and make the government understand it. We have to make the government understand that this would not be beneficial to anybody but will bring bad consequences instead.

Grameen Bank is a brand name for Bangladesh world wide. We should refrain doing anything that might harm it.

Whichever political party you may belong to, and whichever profession you might pursue and of whatever age you may be, and whatever position you may be in, we can make an effort to make the government understand that it would not be wise to change the Bank's legal structure. I am requesting everyone to adopt any idea that might hold back the government. Those who believe in women empowerment, particularly empowerment of the poor, should raise their voice in this regard. I am forwarding this to all the branches of Grameen Bank so that all the subscriber owners of the bank can request the government through the local media to retain their ownership.

All of us will have to make efforts to save Grameen Bank. We have to ensure firmly that Grameen Bank should continue to run in the same manner as is being done at the moment by the female owners for the service of the poor women.

Translation by *The Daily Star*.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়

মানিকগঞ্জ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং- ১৩৬৮/ই

তারিখঃ ২৫/০৫/২০১২খ্রিঃ

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক ২০১২-২০১৩ অর্থ বছরের জন্য মানিকগঞ্জ জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর টেনশনারী দ্রব্যাদি ক্রয়, বিভাগীয় ভাভারে বিবিধ মালামাল ক্রয়, পুলিশ হাসপাতালে ঔষধ সরবরাহ, পুলিশ ফোর্সের পোশাক সেলাই, যানবাহনের কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ ক্রয় এবং মটরযান ও জলযান মেরামত ও জলযান মেরামত।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে ২৪/০৬/২০১২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

২ সংস্থা

৩ দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান

৪ সংগ্রহ করার জেলা

৫ দরপত্রের বিষয়

৬ দরপত্রের সূত্র নং

৭ দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি

৮ বাজেট তহবিলের উৎস

৯ দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ

১০ দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়

১১ দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ ও সময়

১২ দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর ঠিকানা

১৩ দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান

১৪ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

১৫ দরপত্র খোলার স্থান

১৬ দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা

১৭ দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে

১৮ লট নং

কাজের বিবরণ

সিডিউলের মূল্য

দরপত্র জামানত

কাজের সময়

১ পুলিশ অফিসের টেনশনারী দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ

২ পুলিশ লাইন বিভাগীয় ভাভারে বিভিন্ন দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ

৩ পুলিশ হাসপাতালে ঔষধ সরবরাহ

৪ পুলিশ ফোর্সের পোশাক সেলাই

৫ যানবাহনের কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ ক্রয় এবং মটরযান ও জলযান মেরামত

৪০০/-

৪০০/-

৪০০/-

৪০০/-

৭৫০/-

৮,০০০/-

৮,০০০/-

১০,০০০/-

১০,০০০/-

৫০,০০০/-

২০১২-১৩ অর্থ বছর

**দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত সকল বা যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোহাম্মদ আলী মিয়া

বিসি নং-৬৬৯৫০২৭৮-৭৫

পুলিশ সুপার

মানিকগঞ্জ

ফোনঃ ৭৭১০৪০০

জিডি-২৩৫৪

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

Sylhet Gas Fields Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

সূত্র নং-১১.৫১.০৩

তারিখঃ ২৮/৫/২০১২

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১ মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিরেকশন

২ সংস্থা

৩ প্রকিউরিং এজেন্টের নাম

৪ তহবিলের উৎস

৫ কাজের বিবরণ

৬ দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা

৭ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

৮ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

৯ দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সময়

১০ দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়

১১ দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

১২ প্রাইমারি দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য

১৩ বিড সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ

১৪ বিশেষ নির্দেশনা

বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও বনজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানি ও বনজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।

বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও বনজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাগল, সিলেট-৩১৫২।

নিজস্ব অর্থায়ন।

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (এসজিএফএল) এর ২০১১-২০১২ অর্থ বছরের বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন (খামসহ) মূদ্রণ।

অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।

(ক) হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাগল, সিলেট-৩১৫২।

(খ) ঢাকা লিয়ার্স অফিস, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, বাড়ি নং ৪/১০, ইকবাল রোড, ব্লক-এ, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

(ক) ক্রয় শাখা, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাগল, সিলেট-৩১৫২।

(খ) ঢাকা লিয়ার্স অফিস, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, বাড়ি নং ৪/১০, ইকবাল রোড, ব্লক-এ, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

০৫/২০১২ হতে ২৫/৬/২০১২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিনে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।

২৬/০৬/২০১২ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

২৬-৬-২০১২ বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা উপস্থিত দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন)।

২০০.০০ (দুইশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

১২,৫০০.০০ (বার হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা।

১। দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার দিন কোন কারণবশতঃ কার্যদিনসহ ব্যাহত হলে পরবর্তী প্রধান কার্যালয়ে একই সময়ে দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে দরপত্র বৈধতার মেয়াদ ৯০ দিন এবং বিড সিকিউরিটি বৈধতার মেয়াদ ১২০ দিন।

৩। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত রয়েছে।

৪। সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ, যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

জিডি-২৩৪৮

Tender Notice

Tender No. 01/2011-2012

1 Ministry/division

2 Agency

3 Procuring entity name

4 Procuring entity district

5 Invitation for

6 Invitation Ref No.

7 Procurement method

8 Budget and source of funds

9 Project/programme name (if applicable)

10 Tender package name

11 Tender schedule last selling date

12 Tender closing date and time

13 Tender opening date and time

14 Name & address of the office(s)

15 Eligibility of tenderer

16 Brief description of goods

17 Brief description of related services

18 Price of tender document (Tk)

19 Identification of lot

20 Lot No-1

21 Name of official inviting tender

22 Designation of official inviting tender

23 Address of official inviting tender

24 Contact details of official inviting tender

25 Special instruction:

Internal Resources Division, Ministry of Finance.

National Board of Revenue.

Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.

Jessore.

Procurement of Computer 3Ply Paper.

Nothi No. 1(7)2/GL/Com./Bena/94/Part-6.

Open tendering method.

Revenue Budget GOB.

N/A.

Computer 3Ply Paper.

20-06-2012 (during office hour).

27-06-2012

12:00 noon.

27-06-2012

12:15pm.

Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.

Renowned supplier.

Computer 3Ply Paper.

N/A.

1,000/- (one thousand) only.

Location

Tender security amount (Tk.)

Completion time in weeks/months

Benapole, Jessore

3% of tender value

Please see the tender schedule

Computer 3Ply Paper

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Procuring Entity Details

Name of official inviting tender

Designation of official inviting tender

Address of official inviting tender

Contact details of official inviting tender

Special instruction:

a) Tender document may be purchased through application in the letterhead pad along with attested copies of following documents:

i) Current year trade licence.

ii) VAT registration certificate.

iii) Income tax clearance up to 30/06/2012.

iv) Experience certificate 3 (three) years.

b) The tenderer shall submit the tender documents in sealed condition (on envelop).

c) All other terms and conditions as stated in the Public Procurement Act, 2006 and in the Public Procurement Rules, 2008 will remain valid.

d) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sadhan Kumar Kundu

Assistant Commissioner

For Commissioner of Customs

04228-75302

GD-2326