

Check power

FROM PAGE 20
government has ensured empowerment and democratic and fundamental rights of people by bringing an amendment to the constitution.

Hasina made the remarks when leaders of Janmashtami Ujapan Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad called on her at her official residence yesterday.

The premier said, "We want every person of the country enjoy his or her basic rights and perform religious rites without any trouble."

"Avested quarter is trying to halt the trial of perpetrators of crimes against humanity and the persons who siphoned off crores of taka abroad," she told the parishad leaders.

Mentioning the post-2001 election atrocities, the premier said thousands of members of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other communities were brutally tortured by the cadres of BNP-Jamaat after the polls.

In this connection, she called upon all to remain alert so that the "dark chapter" does not reoccur in the country.

Referring to steps taken by her government for maintaining communal harmony in the country, Hasina said all religious festivals, including Eid and Puja, are being celebrated peacefully and in a festive mood.

Mentioning the message of Lord Krishna "punishing the evil and fostering the

good", the premier said her government has been working with this motto to establish peace in the society.

She said the aim of her government is to build a peaceful Bangladesh in South Asia. "We want to build a hunger and poverty-free Sonar Bangla as dreamt of by Bangabandhu," Hasina told the leaders.

Highlighting various steps for the development of the Hindu community, the premier said her government has started the work on implementing the Vested Property Return Act.

"The previous Awami League government enacted the law and the present government has begun work on executing it," she said.

Hasina said her government has ensured the rights of the Harijans and Dalits. "We have taken steps to reconstruct the dilapidated quarters of the Harijans and Dalits."

The premier listed her government's tremendous successes in the fields of agriculture, food security, education, economy and power and energy.

She also greeted the people of Hindu community on the occasion of Janmashtami.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Shajahan Mian, President of Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Okiya Parishad Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

Moon ride

FROM PAGE 20
Since the beginning of the construction of 10-km Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover in June 2012, residents and commuters of the area have been suffering from the battered road. The suffering worsened when four utility service providers altogether started digging the road two months ago, coinciding with the rainy season.

Trucker Ali Hossain, who uses the road every day, said it takes four to five hours to reach the capital from Signboard in Narayanganj which should not take more than 30-40 minutes.

Although the DSCC had been doing some repairing on the road, it did not yield much result as the work was

done in smaller scale, said Azad Hossain, a bus driver who plies on Dhaka-Hajiganj (Chandpur) route.

He said the stretch from Sayedabad to Jatrabari takes around one to one and a half hours to pass which should take only 10 minutes for a bus. Taking passengers out of the capital before Eid would be pretty challenging if the road condition did not improve, added the bus driver.

The battered condition of the road has also put an adverse impact on businesses, he said.

"Four round trips a day has been reduced to only one trip nowadays," said Azad, adding that the number of passengers had also declined thanks to the poor

condition of the road.

Mohammad Moni, a pick-up van driver, said his vehicle frequently got damaged due to the bumpy road. "In the last two months, we had to spend around Tk 4,500 on repairing the van."

About not being able to finish repairing the roads in Jatrabari and Demra, DSCC Chief Engineer Jahangir Alam said rainwater and no way to drain it from the roads had hampered their work.

He said the pervious drainage system fell apart due to the digging by the utility service providers. They were now digging small drains along the road to remove the water and trying to complete the repair work, without carpeting the road, before the Eid rush.

Telcos finally

FROM PAGE 1
the High Court.

Although some of the cases are still pending with the apex court, the operators got the licences at the intervention of the telecom and finance ministries.

Telecom Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju handed over the licences to the carriers at the office of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in the capital yesterday.

BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed, Grameenphone CEO Tore Johnsen, Robi CEO Michael Kuehner, Citycell CEO Mehboob Chowdhury and Banglalink's Chief Technical Officer Ahmed Fady were present.

The four carriers are paying over Tk 7,562 crore to the government as spectrum assignment and renewal fees, while another Tk 1,134.45 crore will have to be paid as VAT.

However, the carriers will get a rebate on the VAT. Each operator will have to pay Tk 5 crore as annual licence fee.

The largest carrier, Grameenphone, will pay Tk 3,241 crore for its 14.6 Megahertz spectrum, Banglalink Tk 1,971 crore for 12.4 Mhz, Robi Tk 1,900 crore for 12.8 Mhz, and Citycell will have to pay Tk 450 crore for 10 Mhz. The amounts exclude VAT.

They will pay Tk 10 crore each as licence renewal fee.

The carriers have already paid 49 percent of their licence renewal charges to the government, and will pay 29 percent of the amount on August 31, and the rest at the yearend.

There has been controversy over the spectrum assignment charges as different operators are paying different charges per Megahertz spectrum. Grameenphone, for instance, is paying more than Tk 220 crore per MHz allocation, while Citycell is paying Tk 45 crore.

The policy for the spectrum charges was suggested by the regulator on the basis of market shares of the carriers and the policy was finally approved by the prime minister.

Last year, the telecom regulator proposed a total of Tk 11,704 crore as spectrum charges for the four carriers. Later, the telecom ministry revised the proposal and sent it to the finance ministry, which again modified the proposal and the Prime Minister's Office finally gave a go-ahead.

The 800MHz, 900MHz and 1800MHz bands have been priced at the same rate.

The carriers now share 5.5 percent revenue with the government and 1 percent more for a social obligation fund (SOF), meant for the development of the information and communication technology sector. The SOF was introduced with a new guideline.

Among the carriers, Citycell's licence was issued in 1989 for 20 years while the other three were given in 1996. The then government did not charge any fee for spectrum allocation and the carriers used to pay \$400,000 and had shared 1 percent of their revenue with the government for the first five years.

For the second five years, the operators paid \$800,000 and shared 1 percent revenue with the government according to the licence conditions. But in July, 2006 the regulator made it mandatory for them to share 5.5 percent revenue until November, 2011.

Of the other two mobile phone carriers in the country, state-owned Teletalk got its licence in 2004 and Airtel (former Warid Telecom) in 2005. Their licences will expire in 2020 and they will follow the conditions of revenue sharing and SOF.

The BTRC chairman said six mobile phone carriers have so far invested Tk 50,000 crore and contributed around Tk 19,009 crore to the state coffers. The telecom minister said he recommended awarding GSM frequency to Citycell, which recently applied for it.

More than nine crore people are currently using mobile phones in Bangladesh.

StanChart in a sticky stew

FROM PAGE 1
in three years, taking their losses to 30 percent since the news surfaced just before Monday's close.

"Even the so-called 'safe' banks like StanChart and HSBC seem to be crumbling, with their reputation in tatters. No one, it seems, is immune," said one institutional investor, who asked not to be named.

"Some of the language used is very disturbing. Of course, it could be that the Americans are exaggerating, but somehow that doesn't seem to be the case here," the investor said.

The bank, which has been in talks with US authorities since early 2010 over the matter, had exposed the US banking system to terrorists, drug traffickers and corrupt states, the DFS said.

The New York regulator described how officials at Standard Chartered, one of the banks least tarnished during the financial crisis thanks to its focus on emerging markets and a conservative approach to capital and liquidity, had debated whether to continue Iranian dealings.

In October 2006, the top official for business in the Americas, whom the regula-

tor did not name, warned in a "panicked message" that the Iranian dealings could cause "catastrophic reputational damage" and "serious criminal liability".

A group executive director in London shot back, according to a New York branch officer: "Who are you to tell us, the rest of the world, that we're not going to deal with Iranians."

The reply showed "obvious contempt for US banking regulations", the regulator said.

At that time the bank had five executive directors: Peter Sands, now chief executive; Richard Meddings, now finance director; Mervyn Davies, a UK Labour Party peer; Kai Nargolwala, who was poached by Credit Suisse and left the Swiss bank last year; and Mike DeNoma, who resigned as CEO of Chinatrust Financial in August.

Standard Chartered's Americas CEO was Ray Ferguson, who is now its Singapore CEO.

None of the people could be reached for comment or else declined to comment.

Standard Chartered said the bank "does not believe the order issued by the DFS presents a full and accurate

picture of the facts".

The loss of a New York banking license would be a devastating blow for a foreign bank, effectively cutting off direct access to the US bank market. Standard Chartered processes \$190 billion every day for global clients, the New York bank regulator said.

Standard Chartered is the third British bank to be ensnared in US law enforcement probes this summer. Barclays Plc agreed to pay \$453 million to settle US and UK probes that it rigged a global lending benchmark in June.

A month later, a US Senate panel issued a scathing report that criticised HSBC Holding Plc's efforts to police suspect transactions, including Mexican drug traffickers.

Standard Chartered said it shared with US agencies an analysis that demonstrated it "acted to comply, and overwhelmingly did comply" with US regulations.

Standard Chartered put the total value of Iran-related transactions that did not follow regulations at less than \$14 million, based on its review of the issue, in stark contrast to the DFS's \$250 billion estimate.

The United States imposed economic sanctions on Iran in 1979, but until November 2008 US banks could process some transactions for Iranian banks or individuals provided they were initiated offshore by non-Iranian foreign banks and are on the way to other non-Iranian foreign banks, known as "U-turns".

Standard Chartered said the DFS's interpretation of the U-turn exemption "is incorrect as a matter of law". It said 99.9 percent of its transactions relating to Iran had complied with a US framework.

The figure alleged by the New York regulator would cover the equivalent of 71 percent of the \$350 billion total Iranian oil export revenues for the seven years of 2001-2007, according to OPEC data.

"The group was ... surprised to receive the order from the DFS, given that discussions with the agencies were ongoing," Standard Chartered said. "We intend to discuss these matters with the DFS and to contest their position."

The bank has to appear before the DFS on August 15.

"Some people were walking around under the illusion that Standard Chartered was the world's first riskless bank, and it's not. We've discovered that Standard Chartered is a mortal bank - as they all are," said Gareth Hunt, financial analyst at Canaccord Genuity, who rates the stock a "sell".

Mike Trippitt, analyst at Oriel, cut his rating to "reduce" from "buy". "The tone and language of the report is quite shocking, but it was equally a very firm rebuttal

from Standard Chartered, to say it was acting lawfully and measuring what they think was outside the rules.

"You can paint a range of scenarios, from storm in a teacup to catastrophe, but it's hard to work out right now," he said.

Standard Chartered is the sixth foreign bank since 2008 to be implicated in dealings with sanctioned countries such as Iran in investigations led by federal and New York law enforcement officials.

Four banks -- Barclays, Lloyds, Credit Suisse and ING -- have agreed to fines and settlements totalling \$1.8 billion. HSBC currently is under investigation by US law enforcement, according to bank regulatory filings.

The New York regulator, headed by former prosecutor Benjamin Lawsky, ordered Standard Chartered to explain why the bank should not lose its state license and the ability to process dollar transactions. Lawsky also ordered the bank to bring in an outside consultant to monitor its transactions.

"Standard Chartered bank operated as a rogue institution," Lawsky said in the order.

Lawsky's investigation is unusual because probes into banks' transactions tied to Iran have been primarily led by the district attorney's office in Manhattan and the US Justice Department.

In an emailed statement to The Daily Star, the bank said it had previously reported that it is conducting a review of its historical compliance and is discussing that review with the different US agencies, including the DFS.

The disclosure appears in the bank's Annual Results of 2010, 2011 and Interim Results of 2012 in the Risk Review section under Regulatory Changes and Compliance, it said.

In January 2010, the bank voluntarily approached all relevant US agencies, including the DFS, and informed them that the bank had initiated a review of historical US dollar transactions and their compliance with US sanctions.

This review focused primarily on transactions relating to Iran in the period 2001-2007, and in particular, their compliance with the U-turn framework established by the US authorities to enable ongoing US dollar trade with Iran by other countries.

Standard Chartered said its review of its Iranian payments also did not identify a single payment on behalf of any party that was designated at the time by the US government as a terrorist entity or organisation.

HC orders Rab probe

FROM PAGE 20
injured in the presence of the police, taking them for robbers.

The CID recently submitted a report to the court on its progress into investigating the two cases. Twelve suspects had been arrested and five of them had confessed to being involved in the killing, according to the report.

The report also named those who had made confessional statements. They are sand traders Abdul Hamid and Abdul Malek and local youths Mohammad Rana, Jamsher Ali alias Nihor and Mohammad Alam.

In response to a petition filed by the victims' parents,

an HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Abdur Rob ordered the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to complete investigations into the cases within four months and submit a report to it.

Recording of the confessional statements in the CID's report had not been done properly, making way for the killers to escape with lesser punishment, the judges said.

The HC bench asked the inspector general of police (IGP) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to transfer the responsibility for the investigations to Rab within seven days of getting the copy of the court order.

Sirajul Haque, additional special superintendent of police (CID), however, prayed to the court for more time to complete the investigations.

The HC earlier directed the CID to finish the task by July 17.

Following the incident, one Abdul Malek and Sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station Anwar Hossain filed the cases. The CID has been investigating the cases since.

The victims' parents yesterday filed the petition with the HC, seeking orders on the authorities to transfer the cases to Rab. In the petition, they said the CID had failed to investigate the cases properly.

Kuwait fails again to swear in new cabinet

REUTERS, Kuwait

Kuwaiti lawmakers boycotted a parliament session yesterday to foil another attempt to swear in a new cabinet - a move that makes the assembly's dissolution likely and throws the US ally into more turmoil.

The dispute centres on a ruling by Kuwait's constitutional court in June that effectively dissolved a parliament dominated by opposition Islamists and reinstated its more government-friendly predecessor, elected in 2009.

Only four members of the 50-seat assembly and five ministers from the 15-member new cabinet turned up for the parliament session.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Artificial Insemination Activities Extension & Embryo Transfer Technology Implementation Project
Department of Livestock Services
Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
No. AIET/Purchase-GD-02/2012-13/565 Date: 06/08/2012

Corrigendum

The Invitation of Tender (IFT) vide No. AIET/Purchase-GD-02/2012-13/520 dated 19/07/2012 for Procurement of AI Gun, Travis & Semen straw is hereby amended as follows:

| Sl No. | Activity | Existing | As amended |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 12 | Tender last selling date | 12.08.2012 up to office time | 28/08/2012 up to office time |
| 13 | Tender submission date & time | Primary place: 13.08.2012 up to 12.00 noon Secondary place: 13.08.2012 up to 12.00 noon | 29.08.2012 up to 12.00 noon |
| 14 | Tender opening date & time | Primary place: 13.08.2012 at 3.00pm | 29.08.2012 at 3.00pm |

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Dr. Md. Belal Hossain
Project Director
Artificial Insemination Activities Extension & Embryo Transfer Technology Implementation Project
Department of Livestock Services
GD-3104 Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

HEQEP
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
For
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Memo no: **UGC/HEQEP/Procurement/BdREN/G-25/2011/587** Date: **06/08/2012**
IFB Title: Supply and Installation of BdREN Network System on Turnkey Basis
IFB No.: **UGC/HEQEP/Procurement/ICB-G25/2012/467** Date: **25-06-2012.**

| Sl. no | Reference no in the original IFB | Text in the original IFB | To be replaced by |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | IFB AT the table | Joint Venture All Partners Combined Each Partner Other than Partner in Charge Partner in Charge | Joint Venture All Partners Combined Each Partner Other than Lead Partner Lead Partner |
| 2 | IFB Sl no- 5 | Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information..... and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. (working days). A pre-bid meetingDhaka, Bangladesh. | Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information..... and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (working days). The bidding document is also available in the website: www.heqep-ugc.gov.bd. A pre-bid meetingDhaka, Bangladesh. |
| 3 | IFB Sl no - 6 | A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of BDT 16000 or in US\$ 200. | A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of BDT 16000 or in US\$ 200 up to 5:00 P.M. on September 9, 2012. |
| 4 | IFB Sl no - 7 | Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before August 12, 2012; 2:00 P.M. Bids need to be secured by a Bid Security. The amount of Bid Security required is: US\$ 0.4 million (four hundred thousand) only or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at August 12, 2012; 2:30 P.M. | Bids must be delivered to the following address: UGC Bhaban, Room no # 521 (4th floor) 29/1, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. at or before September 10, 2012; 2:00 P.M. Bids need to be secured by a Bid Security. The amount of Bid Security required is: US\$ 0.4 million (four hundred thousand) only or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address mentioned above at September 10, 2012; 2:30 P.M. |

The Project Director
Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP),
University Grants Commission (UGC), Bangladesh
Mailing Address:
Dhaka Trade Center (8th floor)
99 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar,
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Telephone: +880-2-8189020
Facsimile number: +880-2-8189021
Electronic mail address: pd_heqep1@yahoo.com,
pd.heqep1@gmail.com

GD-3105