



Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna shakes hands with his Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar prior to meeting with the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday. India was committed to rebuilding its relations with South Asian nuclear-armed rival Pakistan through dialogue, Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna said.

PHOTO: AFP

US to blacklist Haqqanis

AFP, Vladivostok

The United States yesterday decided to designate the Pakistan-linked Haqqani network as a terrorist group, stepping up pressure despite concerns over the impact on ties with Islamabad.

In a report ordered by Congress, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that the Haqqani network -- known for bloody attacks in Afghanistan -- was a terrorist group, an official said.

Hillary "signed a report to Congress this morning stating that the Haqqani Network meets the statutory criteria for designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization," the official told reporters travelling with her on a tour that saw her leave Brunei on Friday to her next stop in Vladivostok, Russia.

President Barack Obama's administration while pressuring the Haqqani net-

work, had previously stopped short of declaring it to be a terrorist group due to concerns over relations with Pakistan.

Admiral Mike Mullen, the former head of the US military, said before stepping down last year that the Haqqani network had become a "veritable arm" of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence.

Meanwhile, any decision by the United States to blacklist the Haqqani network as terrorists will negatively impact future relations with Pakistan, a senior Pakistani security official said yesterday.

"Frankly speaking, any decision by the US to declare the Haqqani network a terror group will not be a good sign for future Pakistan-US relations," the official told AFP.

"Any such decision will take the relationship back to square one, ruining the improvement seen in ties between the two countries during the last couple of months," he said.

Agrani's dicey deal with Beximco

FROM PAGE 1
of it into consideration.

The bank will then settle for whichever amount of the two is less: half of the six-month average or half the face value of the share.

Even then some banks want additional assets as collateral since shares are seen as volatile assets.

But in Beximco's case, Agrani Bank did nothing of the kind. The bank even ignored the fact that the face value of Beximco shares was less than the six-month average price.

Agrani sanctioned the Tk 244-crore loan to the company in two phases -- Tk 194 crore on August 17, 2010 and

extended it by Tk 50 crore on February 24, 2011.

In so doing, the bank considered the then market price of Beximco shares and accepted the company's shares as collateral at Tk 233 per share.

During April-October of 2010, when the first loan was given, the average price of Beximco Ltd's share was Tk 150 a piece, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange data. The share was last traded at Tk 71.7 on Thursday and its face value was Tk 10 each.

So by accepting the share at Tk 233, Agrani gave Beximco Tk 158 more than it could give against each

share as collateral.

As for the extension, the bank took Beximco Textiles' (known as Bextex) share as collateral at Tk 65 per share. Here too the bank gave Beximco undue benefits without considering the share's average market price.

Later, Bextex got merged with Beximco at an exchange ratio of five Bextex shares for one Beximco share, which means the textile's share price now stands at around Tk 14 only.

The result is clear. The collateral value of the shares was Tk 283.15 crore when the loan was approved. The

share value fell to Tk 84 crore on August 11 this year. As a result, the loan has become insecure by Tk 200 crore.

Although Beximco utilised the full loan by 2011 it has neither paid back the loans (except for only Tk 5 crore this year) nor provided additional securities sought by the bank to make up the gap between the loan it took and the price of shares the bank got as collateral.

Even more alarming is that the bank has failed to sell off the Beximco shares even amid a continuous slide in price. Sources inside the bank say they tried to recoup the loss by selling the

shares but failed to do so because of interference from a "top man" of the company.

The "top man" is politically very influential, the sources added without naming any.

"We attempted several times to sell off the shares we hold as collateral, but we could not do it because of influence," said a senior bank official, preferring anonymity.

But Beximco's story does not end here.

A central bank report on August 25 this year says the principal branch of Agrani Bank opened 16 local letters of credit (LC) worth Tk 228.9 crore to help Beximco Ltd buy yarn from Beximco Textile.

Here too, Agrani breached the central bank rules by not paying Tk 89.87 crore bills to other state-run banks against seven bills even after they had matured.

As Beximco did not pay back the loans, Agrani was forced to create a Tk 125.3-crore demand loan (forced loan) against the company.

However, the bank took a long time to create the demand loan, says the BB report.

During inspection, the central bank team assessed that Beximco would not be able to pay Tk 89.87 crore without Agrani Bank having created the forced loan.

Syed Abdul Hamid, managing director of Agrani

Bank, said the issue was within his knowledge, but he declined to elaborate.

When asked about the central bank's inspection and detection of irregularities, he said: "I can't comment without verification."

Contacted by The Daily Star, Beximco in a written statement said letters of credit were opened as per rules and such operations were not unusual for any bank or company engaged in similar business.

"We could not make payments on due dates, as our buyers delayed in making payments. So this is a temporary cash-flow mismatch which will correct itself as the economic scenario has improved and we are expecting payments from our buyers which will enable us to repay Agrani Bank," it said.

The company added when the LCs were opened the bank took collateral to cover the liabilities fully, as per the business norms.

Regarding the loan against shares, it said: "The collateral value appears low now as the value of share prices has gone down due to the current market situation."

"It may be mentioned here that the company's net worth as of June 30, 2012 is Tk 4,534 crore and all the directors have given their personal guarantees to the bank. So the banks cannot be said to be at risk due to these loans."

NEWS IN brief

Palestinian PM 'ready to resign'

BBC ONLINE

The Palestinian Authority's prime minister has said he is willing to resign, after protests in the West Bank against rising living costs.

Protesters burnt an effigy of Fayyad in Hebron on Tuesday after the price of fuel and food increased. President Mahmoud Abbas said their demands were "justified" and that a "Palestinian Spring" had begun.

With foreign aid levels falling, the Palestinian Authority is facing a funding crisis, with debts of

Iran presidential poll on June 14

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran will hold presidential elections on June 14 next year, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, the first such vote since a violent crackdown on protests over Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election in 2009.

The 2013 presidential vote is expected to be a contest between candidates representing Ahmadinejad's allies and his more conservative opponents. Ahmadinejad himself cannot run for a third term due to a constitutional limit.

"The next presidential election will be held at the same time as municipal elections," the official IRNA

Man fined for Mugabe

death joke

AFP, Harare

A Zimbabwe court fined a man \$150 for joking that President Robert Mugabe had died, a daily newspaper reported yesterday.

Cleapas Manangazira, 34, was convicted for undermining the authority of the president in a court in central city Gweru.

Manangazira joked to police about Mugabe's death when the bus he was traveling in stopped at a tollgate on the road to Gweru, according to the privately-owned NewsDay.

Reports surface often on arrests for slandering

Revenge attack kills 12 in Kenya

REUTERS, Mombasa

Armed raiders killed 12 villagers and set fire to houses in Kenya's Coastal region, police and the Red Cross said yesterday, in a revenge attack that is part of a long-running dispute over grazing land and water.

The attackers targeted a village in the Tana Delta inhabited by Pokomo farmers late on Thursday, less than three weeks after 100 Pokomo tribesmen armed with spears and machetes attacked an Orma settlement and killed more than 50 people.

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৪৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

তারিখঃ ০৫.০৯.২০১২

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	দরপত্র নম্বর	পিডি/২০১০/ডিজিএম/নোট কাউন্টিং মেশিন/প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০৬/২০১২
২.	দ্রব্যের নাম	জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, রংপুর বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়ের আওতাধীন ১০ (দশ)টি শাখায় ১০ (দশ)টি Spindle Type (with Built-in UV detection) ডুয়াল ডিসপ্লে নোট কাউন্টিং মেশিন (ডোন্টেজ ষ্টেবিলাইজারসহ) সরবরাহ ও সংস্থাপন।
৩.	অর্থের উৎস	ব্যাংকের নিজস্ব মূলধন বাজেট।
৪.	দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞ প্রকৃত/প্রতিষ্ঠিত সরবরাহকারী/আমদানীকারক ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ যাহাদের নোট কাউন্টিং মেশিন সরবরাহের অতীত অভিজ্ঞতা আছে এবং বাংলাদেশের সকল স্থানে বিক্রয়োত্তর সেবা প্রদানের অবকাঠামোগত সামর্থ্য বিদ্যমান। অগ্রহী দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রাদি থাকিতে হইবে: ক) হালসন নাগাদ (২০১১-২০১২)ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। খ) ভ্যাট/টার্নওভার ট্রান্স রেজিস্ট্রেশন এর সনদপত্র। গ) আমদানীকৃত মেশিনের সার্টিফিকেট অব অরিজিন। ঘ) মেশিন আমদানী সংক্রান্ত বিল অব লেডিং/এয়ার ওয়ে বিলের কপি। ঙ) টি আই এন সহ হালসন নাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট। চ) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সির সনদপত্র। ছ) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র।
৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	প্রতিটি ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা, (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৬.	আর্নেস্টমানি	২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা, (ফেরতযোগ্য)।
৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	প্রকিউরমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৪৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, (৫ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
৮.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	প্রকিউরমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৪৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, (৫ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	প্রকিউরমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৪৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, (৫ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪.০৯.২০১২ তারিখ (সাপ্তাহিক ও সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	২৫.০৯.২০১২ তারিখ দুপুর ২:১৫ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫.০৯.২০১২ তারিখ দুপুর ২:৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র সমূহ উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা ও স্বাক্ষর করা হইবে।
১৩.	কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়	চূড়ান্ত সম্পাদিত হওয়ার তারিখ হইতে সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ (ষাট) দিন।
১৪	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	ক) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। খ) প্রয়োজনে দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত মেশিনের সংখ্যা কমবেশী হইতে পারে। গ) অনিবার্য কারণবশত নির্ধারিত সময় ও তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে নির্ধারিত স্থানে ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। এ বিষয়ে আলাদা কোন নোটিশ প্রদান করা হইবে না। ঘ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত কোন তথ্যাবলী নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে জানা যাইবে। ঙ) দরপত্রের কার্যক্রম 'পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর বিধান অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হইবে। চ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতার দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন।

পিআরডি-এইচও-৪৭/১২

মোঃ আব্দুল মান্নান
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক