

IMF foresees bright economic

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He was speaking at a press briefing for the IMF Asia Pacific Department Regional Economic Update -- Regional Economic Outlook Update -- on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank semi-annual meetings in Tokyo.

Bangladesh is now implementing IMF's three-year external credit facility programme to avail \$1 billion to maintain macroeconomic stability.

Anoop Singh, IMF Asia and Pacific Department director, praised the government's efforts in implementing the reform agenda. "They [the government] are also planning the kinds of fiscal reform

that the country needs. They are trying to change the focus on spending from subsidies to infrastructure."

Singh also said in some countries across Asia, there had been a big drop in exports to Europe due to the debt crisis in the continent. But it had not been the case as much as in case of countries like Cambodia and Bangladesh.

"We have to look more carefully at the composition of exports and it is possible that the higher value-added export products from some countries have been more affected by the slowdown in Europe. But this has not affected other countries, including Bangladesh and also Cambodia, as much,"

said Singh.

Bangladesh mainly exports low-end products to its export destinations.

Finance Minister AMA Muhih, who is in Tokyo now to attend the meetings, met Singh yesterday. They discussed VAT Act and Bank Companies Act.

During the talk, Singh suggest the government increase petroleum prices by Tk 10 per litre to cut spending on subsidies, said an official of the finance ministry, who was present at the meeting.

The official said Muhih had agreed to the proposition, but did not commit the amount to be hiked.

BNP responsible

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festivity for the last three and a half years. It seems they [the BNP] do not like this. Thus, they attacked the Buddhists in Ramu," she said.

Addressing the 43th founding anniversary of Jatiya Sramik League at Gono Bhaban with its President Shukur Mahmud in the chair, the premier said the attack on Buddhist temples and houses were like the atrocities of the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

Hasina said Islam does not allow attacking people of other religions.

She asked why BNP's local lawmaker was sleeping

when the attack was being made and why he did not respond when the army and the local administration urged to come forward and help.

Meanwhile, BNP's team probing the attack on Buddhists in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong found the government's indirect instigation in the mayhem, said BNP standing committee member and probe body chief Moudud Ahmed, reports UNB.

"Despite being informed repeatedly, the police superintendent did not take any action

for 2-3 hours allowing the violence to escalate. The administration's inaction manifests the government's tacit support and its indirect instigation at the attack," Moudud claimed before reporters.

Presenting the 67-page report of his party's eight-member probe team at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapaltan office, he demanded formation of a judicial commission led by a retired chief justice to investigate the matter.

However, Hasina, refer-

ring to the BNP's probe, said a person who was sentenced to jail for corruption, was pardoned by the president, and had 20 bank accounts in different names was heading the committee.

"I wonder if people would believe the probe conducted by him," she said.

She said the BNP had blamed the Awami League for the grenade attack on the Awami League rally in 2004, the bomb blasts in three cinema halls after the 2001 elections and the Ramna Batamul blasts in 2001.

She said when the probe reports came out during the last caretaker government's tenure, it was found that BNP men were involved in all the incidents.

She claimed that everyone knew BNP's nature is to put blame on others.

Frenzied mobs destroyed 12 pagodas and more than 50 houses in Ramu, Cox's Bazar, on the night of September 29. The violence was apparently triggered by a Facebook posting of a photo derogatory to the holy Quran.

Sahara's New Dhaka in limbo

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Fahim said once the projects were finalised within July, Sahara's initial investment would formally start flowing in through the Board of Investment within this year. But it was subject to the size of the project.

He said a delegation was expected to meet the government within a short time to discuss possible schemes.

Two Sahara teams visited Bangladesh in September and met private real estate developers to seek their cooperation in land procurement and scheme implementation.

On September 27, Fahim, however, said the expected land procurement and the schemes were yet to be finalised. As for the registration of the company, he said it had been deferred, as the proposed schemes could not be finalised.

repay its 30 million investors as much as \$4.5 billion within three months.

The court declared the finance schemes run by two Sahara companies in India illegal.

Sources said Matribhumi was observing how Sahara dealt with the situation, as it entailed a credibility concern.

The move complies with the MoU between the Bangladesh government and Sahara Pariwar, a business empire that possesses assets worth \$26 billion.

THE MoU
According to the MoU, the government and Sahara can work together for developing the satellite township around Dhaka with affordable housing for the low-income groups, as the government intends to decongest the capital.

Sahara, with business experience in infrastructure and housing development, financial services, media and entertainment, commodity sales and retail chain, consumer products and manufacturing, is capable of implementing government-envisaged projects in infrastructure and housing sector.

It reads that Sahara will submit project proposals for urban development like satellite housing-township to the government through its local representative. Once an agreement is signed, Sahara would reserve the right to refuse it first.

The understanding, however, is not legally binding. It will expire after three years unless a specific agreement is reached.

PROJECTED BUSINESS AREAS
Sahara is primarily interested to invest and do business in real estate development, tourism and hospitality services, healthcare and communications facility, said Fahim, adding that Sahara's official sponsorship for the Bangladesh national cricket team is also underway.

While it intends to set off with a real estate scheme, it is also exploring other business opportunities, he said.

Sahara would affiliate itself with both the government and private sector schemes, he said.

It proposed to develop a tourism city in the Sundarbans of Bangladesh. It backtracked from a similar attempt in the Indian-side of Sundarbans in the face of protests by environmentalists.

LOCAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS WORRIED
Local real estate leaders in a press conference early June expressed worries that giving Sahara the opportunity would create an uneven business competition for the local developers.

Nasrul Hamid Bipu, president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh, later told The Daily Star that it was not clear why the government had opted for foreign investors without assessing the potential of local entrepreneurs.

"The sudden decision of the government to invite a foreign developer surprised us," he said, "The local developers are capable of implementing such schemes."

He apprehends that the government as a partner may procure the land required at acquisition rate and provide it to Sahara under Public Private Partnership basis.

Bipu said the government took the initiative when it had failed to provide a piece of land and adequate utility services to the local realtors for years. If this move succeeds, the foreign investor would take the profit home.

The real estate leaders demanded that the government hold a dialogue with them before going ahead with the Indian conglomerate.

LOCAL PARTNER'S ROLE
Fahim said their foremost job, in partnership with Sahara, was to find and develop business opportunities in real estate sector in Bangladesh.

"We are a strategic working partner of the company

while Sahara is the investor and developer," he said.

HOW CONNECTIONS EVOLVED
General trading company Obsidian, which is owned by Fahim and mainly imports electromechanical products, contacted Sahara a year ago and has been working with it on launching business partnership in Bangladesh, as Sahara is expanding its business globally.

The Time magazine rated Sahara as the India's second largest employer after the Indian railway.

"A common friend initiated the linking up in June last year," said Fahim, adding, "More than eight delegations from both the parties have visited each other since then."

About the criticism that his father Sheikh Selim provided Sahara the political assurance for business in Bangladesh, Fahim said his father, who just had a "personal contact" with Sahara, had not used his political position in this regard.

Fahim's profile
A graduate in economics from St Edwards University in the United States, Fahim served in an investment bank in Austin Texas for a year and came back home in 2002, after a 12-year stay abroad. He has been running Obsidian since then.

He initiated a real estate company around seven years ago but it did not take off, neither did he revive it in the past years.

Local critics on Sahara proposals and political connections

Prof Sarwar Jahan, a teacher of urban planning at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, termed the proposed satellite township risky and unplanned, as the Detailed Area Plan for Dhaka did not allow it.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development, said if the amount of land Sahara asked for was procured by any means, it would inevitably displace people from their livelihood and ancestral homestead, and destroy croplands and wetlands.

"The move is conceptually flawed and politically suspicious," said Hossain Zillur Rahman, an economist and former adviser to a caretaker government.

Government response
Md Nurul Huda, chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha that represents the government in the MoU, said any scheme development by Sahara and the government would require a detailed agreement on the terms and conditions.

Sahara India has to purchase 80 percent of the land required for the satellite township while the government would provide the rest as per the private housing development rules.

The one lakh-acre land Sahara had asked for was not even available in the city's periphery, said Nurul Huda.

Asked why then the government had signed the MoU, he said they could not rely on the "defiant local developers", who did not comply with the real estate laws. Sahara could do business as a private entrepreneur and in compliance with relevant laws, he added.

EU gets Nobel Peace Prize

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"It is a great honour for all 500m citizens of Europe, for all the member states, and for all the European institutions," Barroso said at a hastily-called news conference. "Through its transformative power, the EU was able, starting with six countries, to reunite almost all the European continent."

The emotion was shared by Martin Schulz, president of the European Parliament, "The EU is a unique project that replaced war with peace, hate with solidarity. Overwhelming emotion for awarding of Nobel prize to EU," Schulz commented on Twitter right after the news broke.

The critics however were quick to point out that the award is playing down the impact of the raging financial crisis, as well as the role of Nato for preserving the peace in Europe.

"I think it's an absolute disgrace. I think it brings the Nobel Prize into total disre-

pute," commented Nigel Farage, head of Britain's euroskeptic UK Independence Party.

"Nobel prize for the EU. At a time Brussels and all of Europe is collapsing in misery. What next? An Oscar for Van Rompuy?," fumed Dutch euroskeptic lawmaker Geert Wilders, referring to Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union, obviously playing down the impact of the raging euro zone debt crisis.

In announcing the award early yesterday, the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo said the EU had helped to transform Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace.

The EU and its predecessors "have over six decades contributed to peace and reconciliation, democracy and human

rights," Nobel Committee president Thorbjørn Jagland said in Oslo.

Jagland acknowledged the EU's current financial problems and social unrest.

But he said the committee wanted to concentrate on the body's work over six decades of advancing "peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights".

The last organisation to be given the award outright was Medecins Sans Frontieres, which won in 1999.

Online backlash
The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to EU sparked a stunned Twitter backlash, many reacting with derision and anger, although some netizens came to its defence, reports AFP.

"Let's forget about #Malala & peers, brave community workers, prisoners of conscience, & give the Nobel Peace Prize to, drumroll, the EU," one person from Egypt named @RawahBadrawi said.

Many on Twitter won-

dered why the prize was given to a union of states currently wracked by a severe financial crisis, which has led to high unemployment and violent protests in some countries.

"Anti-austerity protests in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy & France, Nationalism, Fascism, unemployment and poverty. Yeah EU deserves it!" @AnonOpGreece said on Twitter.

Some netizens however leapt to defend the Nobel committee, including one netizen from the Maldives, which has been racked by political turmoil and violent demonstrations over the past year.

On a more practical level, many on Twitter wondered who would be picking up the prize money and where the eight million Swedish kronor (\$1.2 million, 930,940 euros) would go.

"Does the prize money go to the EU? Perhaps they can use it toward the Spanish bailout," @jbarro said.

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ
সূত্র নংঃ জারকানইবি/রেজিঃ/জনি/৫৪/০৭/১০২৪(৮) তারিখঃ ০৮/১০/২০১২খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

বিগত ০৪/০৯/২০১২ইং তারিখে স্বাক্ষরিত জারকানইবি/রেজিঃ/জনি/৫৪/০৭/৪৮৫৩(৭) সূত্র মূলে জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নরূপভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো।

- ১। লোক প্রশাসন ও সরকার পরিচালন বিদ্যা বিভাগে একটি স্থায়ী প্রভাষক পদ অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হলো যার শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা প্রভাষক-এর জন্য নির্ধারিত কলামে বর্ণিত রয়েছে।
- ২। সকল প্রকার আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ সময়সীমা আগামী ১১/১০/২০১২ইং তারিখের পরিবর্তে ২২/১০/২০১২ইং তারিখ পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করা হলো।
- ৩। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।
- ৪। এটি পূর্বে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অংশ হিসাবে গণ্য হবে।
- ৫। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.jkniu.edu.bd ভিজিট করুন।

কৃষিবিদ মোঃ হুমায়ুন কবীর
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ
ফোনঃ ০৯০৩২-৫৬২৭২

জিডি-৩৯৩১

BANGLADESH BANK
COMMON SERVICES DEPARTMENT-2
Head Office
Dhaka
website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tender Through Web

Tender No. CSD(MES)-5/1(AC)-167/2012
Date: 08/10/2012

Tenders through electronic media (e-Tenders) are invited from the bonafide contractors/firms/reputed suppliers or their local agents of internationally reputed manufacturers for repairing of Cooling Tower with replacement of necessary spares and making return duct for Central Air Conditioning System of Bangladesh Bank Training Academy at Mirpur, Dhaka Necessary information are given below:

01	Procuring entity	: Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
02	Source of Funds	: Bangladesh Bank
03	Invitation for Tender No.	: CSD (MES):5/1(AC)-167/2012
04	Method of Procurement.	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
05	Eligibility of Tenderer	: i) Tenderers having 05(five) years overall business experience and valid electrical ABC contracting and supervisory license and also having specific experience in Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning /Repairing of Central Air Conditioning System including Cooling Tower in any Govt./Semi-Govt./ Autonomous organization/Limited Company in Bangladesh in the last 03(three) years. ii) The tenderer shall have to furnish certificate in this respect from the user issued by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer and shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in tender document.
06	Name & Address of the Office Receiving Tender Document	: Submit in web: www.bangladeshbank.org.bd www.bangladesh-bank.org (e-Tender)
07	Name & Address of the Offices Receiving Tender Security & Other Documentary Evidence	: General Manager, Common Services Department-2 (6th floor of 2nd Annex Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
8	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Document through web	: 06/11/2012 up to 3:00 P.M.
9	Last Date and Time for Receiving Original Tender Security	: 06/11/2012 within 3:00 P.M.
10	Date, Time and Place for Tender Opening	: All Tenders will be opened at Common Services Department-2 (6th floor of 2nd Annex Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 06/11/2012 at 03:30 P.M (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the Tender Opening).
11	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	: Chamber of General Manager at Common Services Department (6th floor of 2nd Annex Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 04/11/2012 at 03:00 P.M
12	Brief Description of Works	: Repairing of Cooling Tower with replacement of necessary spares and making return duct for Central Air Conditioning System of Bangladesh Bank Training Academy at Mirpur, Dhaka.to be completed on package job basis. The contractor shall also be responsible for providing after sale service i.e. 12 (twelve) months free maintenance under warranty obligations from the date of successful Commissioning & official hand over of the Cooling Towers.
14	Time for completion of the works	: 01(one) month from the date of issue of Contract Award.
15	Tender Security	: Taka 15,000.00(Taka Fifteen thousand only).
16	Special Instruction	: i) The Tenderer shall submit tender through Bangladesh Bank web site (e-Tendering) & must have valid e-mail address for participate trough e-Tendering. ii) Original POBD as Tender Security must reached at General Manager, Common Services Department-2, as per stipulated date and time of TDS. iii) Tenderer should submit attached documentary evidence etc. (attested or original whichever necessary) when requested, failing which the Tender may be considered as non-responsive. iv) The Tenderer shall duly fill in the FormG-1 (Tender Submission Letter) and FormG-4 (Tenderer Information) as per format given in Tender Document. v) G-1 form should be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter-Head Pad, attached by scanning during submitting tender and original will send with signed Tender & attached documentary evidence to General Manager (CSD-2) at scheduled time as per TDS. vi) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg 127 of PPR 2008/ Reg 12 of BBPR 2004. vii) Bangladesh Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Land
Strengthening Access to Land and Property Rights for all Citizens of Bangladesh
Department of Land Records and Surveys
Tejgaon, Dhaka

Cancellation of a Supply Tender Procedure "Promote Access to Land in Bangladesh"

1. Publication Reference
EuropeAid/133147/C/SUP/BD 03/Access_to_Land/2012-2015
2. Date of publication:
24th June 2012.
3. Programme:
DCI
4. Contracting authority:
The Ministry of Land.
5. Other information

Owing to no technically compliant offers being received for the abovementioned local open tender procedure, the tender has been cancelled as of 25th September 2012.

Notes:
Should a new tender procedure be launched for this project, a new procurement notice will be published.
Natural or legal persons interested should not therefore send proposals or requests for information at this stage.

BM Enamul Haque
National Project Director
Strengthening Access to Land and Property Rights for all Citizens of Bangladesh