

Govt wants WB to focus on infrastructure in next country programme

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh will seek more support from the World Bank to fix its weak infrastructure during talks with a top official from the multinational lender this week.

The vice president of the World Bank for its South Asia region, Annette Dixon, arrived in the capital yesterday on a five-day visit.

Officials said the WB's involvement in the country's infrastructure sector is not so prominent compared to its significant presence in the areas of poverty eradication, health and education.

The WB is now preparing the Bangladesh Country Partnership Framework that will guide its engagement in the country over the next few years.

An official of the finance ministry said the government wants the issue of infrastructure financing to feature prominently in the framework.

Last year, the government sought about \$500 million from the WB as a budgetary support, and will request the vice president to speed up the process so the fund can be available next fiscal year.

In a statement, Dixon, who assumed her current position on December 15 last year, said: "I am coming for my first visit to Bangladesh to learn about its development experience, as it is a global success in reducing poverty and increasing shared prosperity, with advances for women, increased life expectancy, literacy, and improved nutrition."

During her visit, she will meet top government officials including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, among others.

Dixon may travel to Barisal to see projects run by the WB and visit Chittagong port and Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

Stocks pass a slow week as political unrest lingers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks fell last week as investors offloaded shares and mutual fund units amid implications of the long-drawn political strife across the country.

DSEX, the benchmark general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, fell 53.49 points or 1.10 percent, to close at 4,788.23.

DSES, the shariah index of DSE, slid 21.69 points or 1.89 percent, to finish at 1,128.29.

Stagnancy on the political front and its probable impact on macro-economic landscape put a negative impact on the overall market, IDLC Investments said.

Investors were busy realising gains and no significant fresh funds flowed into the market, keeping overall market turnover lethargic, it said.

Daily average turnover of the week declined 9.64 percent to Tk 264 crore, compared to the previous week.

A few investors bought some fundamental scrips at lucrative prices, but it was not enough to change overall anatomy of the market, the investment bank said.

Investors remained focused on upcom-

ing yearly corporate declarations of the bank stocks, which helped the sector gain 1.5 percent in market cap.

"Investors could not fully avoid the political tension prevailing since January 06, so that they went for sell-offs and remained on the sideline to observe the market," commented LankaBangla Securities.

Of the 318 issues that traded on the Dhaka bourse, 123 advanced, 178 declined and 17 remained unchanged. Among the major sectors, food and allied gained the highest market cap of 2.25 percent followed by pharma's 0.94 percent.

Conversely, telecoms lost the most with 4.61 percent followed by cement's 4.33 percent, engineering 3.89 percent and power 3.05 percent.

Beximco featured in the most traded stocks' chart with 1.18 lakh shares worth Tk 41.06 crore changing hands, followed by Ifad Autos, Aamra Technologies, Grameenphone, Lafarge Surma Cement and Shahjibazar Power Company.

Bangas was the highest gainer of the week with a 12.91 percent rise, while Bangladesh Shipping Company was the worst loser, plunging 13.31 percent.

US ports dispute taking toll on economy

AFP, Washington

Federally mediated talks to end a grinding labour dispute at US West Coast ports entered their third day Thursday as complaints mounted from businesses feeling pain on both sides of the Pacific.

Massive container ships were backed up around key ports from Long Beach in southern California to Tacoma, Washington as some 20,000 longshoremen continued their work slowdown to pressure port owners to agree a new contract.

The port of Oakland, the key container terminal for the San Francisco Bay area, was completely closed for the seventh day this month as dockworkers held a union meeting.

US businesses from potato producers to online retailers complained of mounting costs from the port slowdown, while in Japan automakers said they were being forced to air-freight crucial parts.

The head of Nintendo said deliveries of its hot new game console were being held up at the ports. There was no news of progress in the talks Thursday from the Pacific Maritime Association, representing management for 29 West Coast ports, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Without a deal, businesses worry the situation could turn into a full-blown strike with nothing moving through ports which handle about half of the country's trade, most of it to and from Asia.

The impact could roll across the already sagging global economy.



REUTERS

Transport trucks line up to drop off their shipping containers at the Port of Long Beach as a back-log of over 30 container ships sit anchored outside the port in California on Wednesday.

After being ordered into the fray by President Barack Obama, Labour Secretary Thomas Perez spent a third straight day in talks Thursday to resolve the impasse.

Both sides say the other is asking for too much in terms of concessions.

"They need to understand that a very quick solution is needed here," said John Keeling, chief executive of the National Potato Council, which has seen a sharp drop in sales to Asia. If Perez cannot mediate a solution, he said, "The president

should step in and become a part of this."

While negotiations have gone on for nine months, the work slowdown that caused ships and containers to back up began in late October and has progressively worsened.

Adding their own pressure, port management shut down operations on two recent long weekends, aiming to hit workers' holiday and overtime pay.

The net effect is that the ports are processing much less freight than they did a year ago: down 13 percent in January in Tacoma

and Seattle, nearly 20 percent in Long Beach, and down 32 percent in Oakland.

"We have been strongly urging the two parties to come to an agreement on a new contract, so that we can clear the backlog of cargo on the docks and the ships anchored off the coast," Port of Long Beach chief executive Jon Slingerup said.

The costs were mounting for a broad range of industries. Giant retailer Walmart warned Thursday that the slow unloading of imports could hurt its ability to fully stock its stores in the upcoming spring season.

Honda Motor reduced shifts in its Greensburg, Indiana plant due to parts shortages. "The continuing strike action is slowing down cargo shipments and the company has not been able to supply enough parts in North America," Honda spokeswoman Yuka Abe told AFP.

Keeling said that the potato industry is losing \$50-75 million a month in sales to Asia, mainly of frozen french fries.

"It's a big deal" that is giving the advantage to European competitors. "The market for potato products is very competitive."

In Japan, the top three automakers said Wednesday that they were resorting to expensive air freight to keep their US plants running.

The overall cost to the US economy has not been totted up. But Tom Derry, chief executive of the Institute for Supply Management, which surveys a broad range of industries, said the impact remains limited because businesses were better prepared than in previous port labour disputes.

Mamata: form joint business council to end disputes

FROM PAGE B1

India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI), the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) co-organised the meeting with support from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

"Let us work together. If you accept me as a sister, please forget the relationship of 'give and take'. You (Bangladesh) have a lot of things to receive from me."

She also proposed developing the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans to attract more tourists from all over the world.

On the two major disputes between the two countries -- land boundary agreement and Teesta water sharing -- she said the land boundary agreement is at its final stage, while the Teesta deal will also be solved in near future.

The Teesta deal with Bangladesh will take a little more time as both countries have to resolve some domestic issues before signing anything, she said. "But trust me, the Teesta deal will be signed."

The chief minister also suggested forming a business channel between Bangladesh and the Indian states of Kolkata and Siliguri as those areas are considered as the gateway to business with Nepal, Bhutan and the "seven sister" region of North-Eastern India.

Construction of the Phulbari check post will also be completed in three months, to check trade through illegal channels, she said.

"We can form the Bangladesh-India business centre jointly to regularly exchange views and celebrate achievements by the businesspeople, like the joint cultural event celebration," the chief minister said.

Tofail Ahmed, commerce minister of Bangladesh, said many people complain that the balance of trade between the two countries is heavily in favour of India. "But we should remember that we import goods from India to meet our own demand."

"Two important issues -- the land boundary agreement and water sharing of Teesta -- should be finalised soon," Ahmed said.

Matlub Ahmad, founder presi-

dent of IBCCI, said many Indian industrial conglomerates have already invested in Bangladesh, while many others are expressing their interest in doing so. Recently, Indian Hero Motor invested in a joint venture plant worth Tk 43 crore in Bangladesh, he added.

On removing the hurdles in overseas investment by any Bangladeshi company, Ahmad said the government has assured them that it will allow foreign investment when the central bank's reserves cross \$25 billion, which is \$2 billion away from the target at present.

Roopen Roy, president of ICC, a body of business and industry in Eastern and North-Eastern India, proposed to remove the barriers to trade with the joint effort of the business community and the government.

He also proposed setting up a Saarc Park where the industrial enterprises of the member countries will be established.

A deal has been signed between ICC and IBCCI to identify the challenges in bilateral trade between the two countries, he added.

Urging removal of the tariff and

non-tariff barriers in bilateral trade, FBCCI President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed also requested Mamata to improve infrastructure along the Indian bordering areas, and accept BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution) certification as this is one of the major barriers to exports from Bangladesh.

One more border haat will be launched soon, to add to the three that are already in operation, to develop bilateral trade through formal channels, said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran.

During July-May of fiscal 2013-14, Bangladeshi exports to India stood at \$456.63 million, while imports were \$5.51 billion.

In 2012-13, Bangladesh imported goods worth \$4.78 billion and exported goods worth \$563.96 million, according to data from the Indian High Commission.

It is believed that Bangladesh imports goods worth more than \$5 billion through informal channels a year.

IBCCI President Mohammad Ali also spoke.

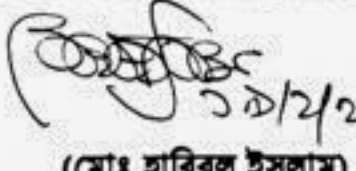
The private banks' year-on-year credit growth in January was 16.92 percent, dropping from 17.51 percent in the previous month.

Of the total credit, private banks account for a 70 percent share. Islami Bank accounts for 12 percent of loans given by private banks; its outstanding loan figure also dropped 1.19 percent in January.

Foreign banks' loans during the time went down 0.96 percent to Tk 23,299 crore.

However, the foreign banks witnessed a 2.17 percent year-on-year decline in loans in January, which was almost the same in December.

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বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ (আইএমইডি)-এর আওতাধীন বাস্তবায়নাধীন 'স্ট্রেংদেনিং মনিটরিং এন্ড ইভালুয়েশন ক্যাপাবিলিটিজ অর আইএমইডি (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্পের আওতাধীন ১টি এসি মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়ায় সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. এজেন্সী	বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ (আইএমইডি)
৩. সংগ্রহক সত্তা	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, স্ট্রেংদেনিং মনিটরিং এন্ড ইভালুয়েশন ক্যাপাবিলিটিজ অর আইএমইডি (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প, বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ।
৪. যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	ভাড়ায় ১টি মাইক্রোবাস (মডেল ২০০৮ সাল বা অপরবর্তী সময়ের, আসন সংখ্যা ১২-১৫, তুয়েল এসি, ইঞ্জিন ১৮০০ সিসি বা তদুর্ধ্ব)
৫. প্যাকেজ	VS/S8/14-15
৬. দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	২১.০৬.০২,০৬.০০.০০.০০২.২০১৩/১৯০ ; তারিখ: ১৯.০২.২০১৫
৭. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৮. বাজেট ও তহবিল সূত্র	উন্নয়ন বাজেট, বাংলাদেশ সরকার
৯. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২২.০২.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ
১০. প্রাক-দরপত্র সভার তারিখ	০১.০৩.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা এবং স্থান : এসএমইসিআই প্রকল্প দপ্তর (রক-১২, কক-৩০), বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা
১১. দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	০৮.০৩.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১২. দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৯.০৩.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১৩. দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	(এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প দপ্তর, রক-১২, কক-৩০, বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা
১৪. দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৯.০৩.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
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১৬. দরপত্রের মেয়াদকাল	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ১২০ দিন
১৭. দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর	প্রকল্প পরিচালক -এর দপ্তর, (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প, রক-১২, কক-৩০, বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা
১৮. দরপত্রের নম্বর	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	মোঃ হাবিবুল ইসলাম, প্রকল্প পরিচালক, (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প, রক-১২, কক-৩০, বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা। ফোন ৯১১৮০৭০।
২০. কাজের সময়কাল	কার্যাদেশ অনুযায়ী
২১. টেনার সিকিউরিটি	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা। উক্ত টাকা বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে 'প্রকল্প পরিচালক, (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প, রক-১২, কক-৩০, বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা' হতে জমা দেওয়া হবে।
২২. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	পাতি ভাড়া প্রদান ব্যবসার ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের জন্য প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
২৩. এ দরপত্র The Public Procurement Act, 2006 & The Public Procurement Rules, 2008 (সংশোধিত) বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকরে সংগ্রহক সত্তা এ নোটিশ বাতিল বা পরিবর্তন বা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাখ্যান/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	


(মোঃ হাবিবুল ইসলাম)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

স্ট্রেংদেনিং মনিটরিং এন্ড ইভালুয়েশন ক্যাপাবিলিটিজ অর আইএমইডি (এসএমইসিআই)(১ম সংশোধিত) প্রকল্প
বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন বিভাগ
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