

# Gulf oil exporters should cut spending, diversify: IMF

AFP, Dubai

Gulf oil exporters must reduce spending, including subsidies, and diversify their economies to cope with lower revenues caused by the sharp drop in crude prices, the International Monetary Fund said.

The wealthy monarchies, however, should "not react in a knee-jerk way to lower oil prices", the IMF Middle East and Central Asia chief Masood Ahmed told AFP in an interview Monday.

"They would be better off to 'adjust gradually' using the large financial reserves they have accumulated during several years of bumper oil receipts," he said in Dubai.

But as oil prices have dropped lower than budgeted breakeven levels, "it is important that they gradually, but in a determined way... reduce their spending (and) consolidate their fiscal position," Ahmed said.

Oil prices have shed half of their value since June 2014, and are expected to be lower than the breakeven point for Gulf countries in the next three to four years.

The Gulf Cooperation Council includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- economies all heavily dependent on energy revenues.

A combined budget surplus for 2014 of \$76 billion (68.5 billion euros) is expected to turn

into a deficit of \$113 billion this year, the IMF said in its latest regional report.

"They need to act to reinforce their efforts to diversify their economies to become less dependent on oil," said Ahmed, pointing out that many have already taken such measures.

"The UAE is more advanced in terms of diversification. The others also are in varying degrees trying to encourage private sector activity outside the oil area."

GCC countries were also urged to cut energy subsidies in a bid to minimise public spending and trigger a change in consumer behaviour.

"Most GCC countries still have the domestic sale price for energy products below the international prices... We think that over time it is important to tackle the issue of energy subsidies to reduce them," Ahmed said.

Gulf states should also contain salary growth in the public sector, which usually employs nationals as opposed to the private sector that depends on millions of foreigners.

In addition, GCC countries would need to prioritise investment projects that "most advance the development agenda," said Ahmed.

Oil-export revenues for GCC countries are forecast to be \$280 billion lower this year than a year ago.

With the exception of gas-rich Qatar and Kuwait, all GCC states are expected to face budget deficits this year, said Ahmed, adding this

could persist for two or three years.

"The important thing to recognise is that GCC countries have built up financial buffers that put them in a very strong position to be able to use these savings to finance expenditure and to have a gradual decrease in spending over the coming years," he said.

This in turn would minimise the economic impact of the drop in oil prices.

GCC states are estimated to have foreign reserves of about \$2.5 trillion.

"The impact on (economic) growth is quite limited," said Ahmed.

The IMF has forecast GCC countries to grow as a group at 3.4 percent in 2015, one percent down from earlier predictions, mainly because of a slowdown in non-oil growth in response to lower oil prices.

The forecast did not account for fallout from the conflict in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition launched in March an air campaign against Iran-backed Shiite rebels in support of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

Ahmed said it was too early to assess the impact of the campaign on Saudi Arabia, which is leading daily air strikes, but said the kingdom's financial buffers will help meet the cost.

"It will be one source of additional pressure," he said, adding however that the "Saudi government has the financial reserves to be able to underwrite the budget deficit."

# Pay more for Bangladeshi garments

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Prinz, who arrived two months ago, said he will focus on economic possibilities and development cooperation between the two countries during his time in Bangladesh.

Trade between the two countries has developed exceedingly well in recent years, and now stands at 4.5 billion euros, according to the diplomat.

While the bilateral trade volume increased by more than 12 percent last year, it is not balanced at present, he said.

Last year, Bangladesh exported goods worth 3.8 billion euros to Germany and imported goods worth 0.6 billion.

Garment products accounted for 92 percent of the exports to Germany, followed by seafood at 2.5 percent and leather and leather goods at 2 percent.

"I see huge potential for further development. Not only by scaling up but also by diversification," he said, while highlighting the potential of the country's shipbuilding and IT sectors.

German exports to Bangladesh mainly consist of machinery (46 percent), electro-technical items (16 percent) and chemicals and related products (15 percent), according to Prinz.

"Here as well there is potential for development," he said, while calling for reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

"New services and new German products can increase Bangladesh's productivity. For modernisation of Bangladesh's economy new instruments are needed."

On investment, Prinz said German investment in Bangladesh has for years remained at a modest level, owing to problems such as bureaucracy, corruption, energy shortage, land scarcity, political turmoil, among others.

The ambassador hopes that BGCCI will soon be a part of the main German Chamber of Network, as the trade body has already clocked up over 650 members.

BGCCI President Sakhawat Abu Khair and Executive Director Daniel Seidl also spoke.

In another programme, Sarazeen Bratzler, managing director of SS Solutions and gold partner of SAP, a business management software, said they will set up a training academy in the country soon to train the youth on information technology.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Prinz were also present at the SAP programme at the same hotel.

# WB gives \$200m to improve livelihoods of rural poor

FROM PAGE B1

"The project will mobilise the poor and extreme poor people, who often remain left out from micro credit schemes, by building and strengthening community institutions, including Nuton Jibon Community Societies."

In addition, the project will raise nutrition awareness, share agricultural knowledge and focus on enhancing youth skills so that they can take advantage of employment opportunities, the World Bank said. It will also fund small scale rural infrastructure.

"While Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in reducing poverty over the past four decades, poverty remains more pervasive in rural areas than in urban areas in Bangladesh," said Christine Kimes, acting country head for World Bank Bangladesh.

"The project will scale up the activities of predecessor programmes to improve economic wellbeing and empower the poorest households, especially poor women."

The Nuton Jibon project builds on earlier projects - Social Investment Programme

Project (I & II) - which started as a pilot in Jamalpur and Gaibandha and has now expanded to 16 of the poorest districts in Bangladesh.

The monitoring and evaluation data showed significant improvement in the incomes and living standards of project beneficiaries. The project will cover around 2,500 new villages in 12 districts in addition to the around 3,200 villages supported under the earlier projects.

"The project is a testament to the government's continued commitment for accelerating pro-poor growth," said Kazi Shofiqul Azam, additional secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

"Following a community driven approach, the project will increase income and create employment opportunities for the poor and extreme poor population in the rural areas."

Azam and Kimes signed the agreement at the ERD. The credit from IDA has a 38-year term, including a six-year grace period and a service charge of 0.75 percent.



BANGLADESH LAMPS

From left, Directors of Bangladesh Lamps Ltd Saifur Rahman, Shahzreh Huq, Simeen Hossain, Arshad Waliur Rahman, Shamsur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman, Latifur Rahman, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Atiqur Rahman, Anis-uz-Zaman Khan, Chief Operating Officer Arshad Huq, Chief Financial Officer AKM Moinuddin and Company Secretary Mohammad Ruhan Miah attend the 54th annual general meeting of the company at Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall in Dhaka yesterday. The company declared a cash dividend at Tk 2 per share. The meeting also approved the annual report and accounts of the company for the year ending on December 31, 2014.

**Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh.

Tender No: 28.16.9100.095.83.012.15.209  
Date: 04 -05- 2015

জালালাবাদ গ্যাসের পৌরবোঝস ২৫ বছর :  
উত্তম গ্রাহক সেবার সেরা শাকর।

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রী যেন এবং  
সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

## INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Minerals Corporation (Petrobangla).
3	Procuring Entity Name	Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd.
4	Invitation for	Procurement and Supply of all Materials (Line pipes, Coatings & Wrapping, Induction Bends, Miscellaneous fittings, Pig Traps etc.), and Construction of 8-inch 1000 psig 12 KM High Pressure Gas Transmission Pipeline from Shajibazar TBS to Nasratpur DRS at, Hobiganj.
5	Invitation Ref No.	28.16.9100.095.83.012.15. 209
6	Date	04 -05-2015
7	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (Single Stage Single Envelop)
8	Budget and Source of Funds	JGTDSL own Fund
9	Tender Package No.	Single
10	Tender Start Selling Date:	Date : 07-05-2015 During normal office hour
11	Tender Last Selling Date:	Date : 25-05-2015 During normal office hour
12	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 26-05-2015 Time: 12:00 hrs.
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 26-05-2015 Time: 03:00 hrs.
14	Name & Address of the office(s) Selling Tender Document	i) Cash Counter (1st floor), Finance Department, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet. ii) Liaison Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., House No. 23/A, Apartment No.1/D, (1st Floor), Road No-2, Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka.
15	Place of Receiving Tender Document	i) Committee Room (4th Floor), Head Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet, Bangladesh. ii) RDD Moulvibazar Zone, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Moulvibazar.
16	Place of Opening Tender Document	Committee Room (4th Floor), Head Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) Tenderer(s) can participate either individually or in Joint Venture. In case of joint tendering there must be a partner in-charge with whom Contract will be signed. The partner in-charge must have experience as specified in serial no. 17(ii) and the other partners must have valid and up to date (2013-2014) enlistment under category 1.4 with Petrobangla or JGTDSL or any company of Petrobangla and have experience of construction of 300 psig or above gas transmission pipeline. (ii) Gas pipeline contractor(s) having current and valid enlistment under category 1.4 with Petrobangla or any company of Petrobangla and having experience of construction of at least 4 km. long 8 inch or higher nominal diameter cross country high pressure (300 psig or above) gas transmission pipeline in a single project as proprietor/partner/joint venture within the last 10 (ten) years. (iii) The Tenderer shall have also the experience of completing of procurement and construction of 8 inch or above dia gas pipeline having actual cost of minimum Taka 6(Six) crore or above in a single contract/work order within last 10 (ten) years. (iv) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facilities is 70% of the total quoted price. (v) Detailed eligibilities are given in tender documents.
18	Brief Description of Works	Procurement and Supply of all Materials (Line pipes, Coatings & Wrapping, Induction Bends, Miscellaneous fittings, Pig Traps etc.), and Construction of 8-inch 1000 psig 12 KM High Pressure Gas Transmission Pipeline from Shajibazar TBS to Nasratpur DRS at, Hobiganj, as well as Testing & Commissioning thereof on Turn-Key basis.
19	Price of Tender Document (Tk.) (Non refundable)	Tk. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand)
20	Identification of Lot/Group/Section	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk.) Completion Time
	Single	Shajibazar to Nasratpur, Hobiganj 25,00,000.00 (Twenty Five lakhs) Two hundred forty (240) Days
21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Mahub Alam
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Planning)
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager, Planning Division, Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd., Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100.
23	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 0821-712935 Fax: 0821-716964 E-mail: dgm.pl.jgtdsl@gmail.com
24	If the Tender cannot be received and opened due to any unavoidable circumstances or holiday on scheduled date and time, the same shall be received and opened at the same venue and time on the subsequent working day.	
25	JGTDSL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reasons.	
26	All activities in connection with said procurement of Goods and Related Services will be guided by "PPA-2006 and PPR-2008."	

**Microcredit Regulatory Authority**  
Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak  
Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217

Ref.: 53.01.0000.002.06.005.15-2733(a)  
Date: 27/04/2015

## Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Bank & Financial Institutions Division.		
2.	Agency	Microcredit Regulatory Authority.		
3.	Procuring entity name	Microcredit Regulatory Authority.		
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6.	Invitation for	Tender	Goods	Multiple Items
7.	Invitation Ref No.	MRA-20/2015		
8.	Date	27/04/2015		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9.	Procurement method	NCT	Open	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10.	Budget and source of funds	GoB		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
		Date	Time	
11.	Tender last selling date	13/05/2015	04:30pm	
12.	Tender closing date and time	14/05/2015	12:00 noon	
13.	Tender opening date and time	14/05/2015	12.15pm	
14.	Name & address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>		
	Selling, receiving & opening tender document	Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak, Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years of overall business experience and 3 years of specific experience in supply of similar goods and related services and also having experience in supply of same items of goods in at least 2 (two) govt./semi-govt./autonomous/semi-autonomous organizations or Corporations in Bangladesh in last 3 years may participate in the tender. Tenderers must meet the legal and commercial eligibilities as required by Rules 48 & 49 of PPR 2008 and ITT Clause 3 of the tender documents.		
16.	Brief description of goods	i) 08 (eight) low height cabinet ii) 08 (eight) steel office almirah iii) 06 (six) steel file cabinet & iv) 12 (twelve) slotted angle rack.		
17.	Brief description of related services	Setup, testing & commissioning at the final destination including after sale services.		
18.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk.300/- (Taka three hundred only)		
19.	Item No.	Name of goods	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	1.	Low Height Cabinet (8 Nos.)	Dhaka	2,500/-
	2.	Steel Office Almirah (8 Nos.)	- Do-	4,000/-
	3.	Steel File Cabinet (6 Nos.)	-Do-	2,000/-
	4.	Slotted Angle Rack (12 Nos.)	-Do-	2,500/-
20.	Name of official inviting tender	Laila Bilkis Ara.		
21.	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Vice-Chairman (Acting).		
22.	Address of official inviting tender	Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak, Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217.		
23.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 8332772	Fax No. 8333257	e-mail: evc@mra.gov.bd
24.	<b>The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.</b>			

Laila Bilkis Ara  
Executive Vice-Chairman (Acting)