

India guessing over future of 'rock star' banker Rajan



Reserve Bank of India's Governor Raghuram Rajan drinks water during a press conference.

AFP, Mumbai

Will he stay or will he go? That's the question gripping India as speculation whirls about the future of central bank chief Raghuram Rajan, dubbed "rock star" and "James Bond".

Rajan's three-year term as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor ends in September and the Indian media is abuzz with predictions about whether he will be given a second stint.

The 53-year-old, who enjoys a mass appeal in India not normally associated with a banker, has remained tight-lipped about his intentions while the government has given nothing away.

"As far as the question of me continuing in this position after September 4 goes, it would be cruel of me to spoil the fun the press is having," Rajan told a press conference in Mumbai Tuesday.

"In all such cases the decision is reached after discussions between the government and the incumbent. I'm sure you will know when there is news," he added.

Rajan, who famously predicted the 2008 global financial crisis, has been widely credited with bringing stability to India's economy since

his appointment as RBI governor in September 2013.

But the former IMF chief economist has clashed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government over how quickly the central bank should cut rates.

He's also faced personal attacks from right-wing MPs in India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Rajan took over the reins of the RBI at a time when India's economy was struggling with a ballooning current account deficit, a plummeting currency and decade-low economic growth.

To mark his appointment the Economic Times newspaper mocked up an image of him as fictional British Secret Service agent James Bond pointing a pistol made of Indian rupee notes.

Rajan has successfully taken aim at inflation -- bringing it down from double-digit levels to 5.4 percent currently -- and has been credited for creating a stable environment for the economy to grow.

India's economy expanded by 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015-16, the fastest of any major economy.

Rajan has also been praised for starting to tackle a mountain of bad bank loans.

"Overall Rajan has done a fantastic job and I am optimistic of his second tenure. The government will take a decision which is good for the Indian economy in the long run," Arun Singh, a senior economist at Dun and Bradstreet told AFP.

Rajan's good looks, suave demeanour and habit of providing a colourful quote have seen him amass a huge fan following among the general public.

He sent Twitter users aflutter last year when he told reporters after cutting interest rates that the snip wasn't meant to be a Diwali bonus and he was neither a hawk nor Santa Claus.

"My name is Raghuram Rajan and I do what I do," he declared, smiling.

In a sign of his popularity, almost 60,000 people have signed an online petition calling for him to be given a second term.

Yet his straight-talking has roiled some in India's right-wing government.

He ruffled feathers last year after wading into a debate about intolerance following the killing of a Muslim man suspected of eating beef -- a taboo in the Hindu-majority nation.

Populist politician Subramanian Swamy has been leading a verbal onslaught against Rajan, accusing the former University of Chicago professor of being "mentally not fully Indian", referring to his United States Green Card.

Swamy also accused Rajan of "wilfully and deliberately wrecking the Indian economy" -- a claim most analysts agree is unfounded.

Rajan has slashed interest rates over the past 18 months to their lowest level since early 2011 -- but the BJP wanted deeper cuts to boost economic growth further.

Rajan has maintained a dignified stand against the comments, telling NDTV: "My work shows my love for India".

A decision on Rajan's future is not expected to be announced until August and some investors appear stirred, if not shaken, by the uncertainty.

The Indian stock market was jittery recently after a newspaper reported that Rajan had sent a letter to Modi telling him he wanted to return to the US to continue his academic work.

Rajan denied writing such a note but has admitted openly that he sees his long-term future back in academia.

"Rajan is a good governor but the RBI institution is much stronger than one person," Sujan Hajra, chief economist at Anand Rathi securities told AFP.



Anis A Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, opens an agent banking centre of the bank, at Muradnagar in Comilla. Syed Rafiqul Haq, deputy managing director, was also present.

US jobs slowdown to keep Fed's hand off rate-hike button

AFP, Washington

The unexpected downturn in the US jobs market has once again removed an interest rate hike from the table as the Federal Reserve meets on monetary policy this week.

Analysts say the dismal May jobs report released on June 3, the worst in almost six years, and still-weak inflation will stay the hand of the Federal Open Market Committee, despite strong expectations just three weeks ago that a hike was coming this month or next.

Even Fed Chair Janet Yellen had said on May 27 that an increase in the benchmark federal funds rate, currently at an ultra-low 0.25-0.50 percent, was likely "appropriate" at the FOMC's June or July meeting.

That echoed what several other Fed officials had been saying, and while most of the focus was on the end-July meeting, many thought the June 14-15 meeting was also a real possibility.

Instead, the jobs report showing that just 38,000 new positions were added in May, only one-quarter of what was expected, changed the whole picture. Yellen called it "concerning" and, while insisting she was still confident in steady US economic growth this year, abandoned any calendar reference for a rate increase.

"Given the disappointing employment report for May, the Fed is expected to delay a rate hike until September -- assuming

that the recent weakness in job growth is temporary," said IHS Global Insight in a client note Friday.

"One should never attach too much significance to any single monthly report," Yellen said on June 6, adding that the overall labor market situation has been "quite positive".

But on top of that are more uncertainties ahead. There is the general picture of slower world economic activity: The World Bank just slashed its global growth outlook for this year to 2.4 percent from 2.9 percent.

And inflation, which the Fed wants to see pick up as a sign of firm growth, is weakening even as one key element, the price of oil, is rising.

Inflation expectations, as signaled by the markets, have been falling rather than rising.

"The Fed had until recently taken solace in the stability of inflation expectations. Therefore, the downturn in the latter will not go unnoticed by the FOMC at its meeting next week," said Deutsche Bank in an analysis.

In addition, markets are increasingly worried that the British will vote in favor of exiting the European Union in a referendum on June 23, a week after the FOMC meeting.

Many leading finance officials around the world, including Yellen herself, have warned of turbulence in markets and possible slower growth if Britain goes ahead with Brexit.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
S.B.Nagar P.W.D. Division-II, Dhaka
Phone/Fax : 9110422

Memo No. D-II/ 2015-2016/5621

Dated: 09/06/2016

Invitation for Tender IFT No. 573/2015-2016

1. Ministry /Division	Ministry of Housing & Public Works
2. Agency	Public Works Department (P.W.D.)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, S.B.Nagar PWD Division-II, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
4. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
5. Budget & Source of Funds	GOB
6. Project Name	Special Repair, Renovation, Addition & Alternation Work of BICC ,Dhaka for International Programme 9 th Global forum on Migration and Development to be held on Dec/2016
7. Tender Name	Package- WD2) Around of BICC Road Repair Package-WD3) Renewing Sanitary fittings & fixture and renovation of toilet all floor and marble s tone work at VIP entrance. Package- WD7) Painting ,cleaning& washing of Hall of Fame in the BICC.
8. Work Completion Time	03(Three) Months for each individual Package
9. Eligibility of Tenders	This Invitation for Tender is open to all qualified Tenderers as mentioned below: (a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tendered in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Sub - Contractor or Management Contractor shall be 10 (ten) years. (b) i) For WD2 The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Sub - Contractor or Management Contractor in successful completion of Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road by using Asphalt Plant work in a single contract amounting to Tk. 195.00 (One hundred ninety five) lac in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years ForWD3 The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Sub - Contractor or Management Contractor in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of RCC building construction work including Sanitary work in a single contract amounting to Tk. 160.00 (One hundred sixty) lac in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years. For WD7 The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Sub - Contractor or Management Contractor in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of RCC building construction work including Painting work in a single contract amounting to Tk. 95.00 (ninety five) lac in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years. Tenderer must have above 50 fit height scaffolding materials of minimum coverage area 100 square meter & Submitted declaration along with the tenderer. ii) The work certificate for successful completion of above mentioned work shall have to be issued by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned Department/Organization duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. Prescribed form for "Work Certificate" for this purpose will be available in the tender Document. (c) For(WD2) The Tendered shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk. 1150.00 (One thousand one hundred fifty) lac. Payment certificates for the payments received for contracts in progress or completed contracts under public sector during last 5 (five) years must be submitted along with the tender in support of average annual construction turnover. For (WD3) The Tendered shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk. 950.00 (nine hundred fifty) lac. Payment certificates for the payments received for contracts in progress or completed contracts under public sector during last 5 (five) years must be submitted along with the tender in support of average annual construction turnover. For (WD7) The Tendered shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk. 550.00 (five hundred fifty) lac. Payment certificates for the payments received for contracts in progress or completed contracts under public sector during

		last 5 (five) years must be submitted along with the tender in support of average annual construction turnover.
	(d)	For(WD2)The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit line(s) of the Tendered shall be Tk. 190.00 (One hundred ninety) lac. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. Prescribed form for line of credit for this purpose shall be submitted as per form PW3-7 of tender and contract forms. For (WD3) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit line(s) of the Tendered shall be Tk. 160.00 (One hundred sixty) lac. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. Prescribed form for line of credit for this purpose shall be submitted as per form PW3-7 of tender and contract forms. For (WD7) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit line(s) of the Tendered shall be Tk. 90.00 (ninety) lac. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. Prescribed form for line of credit for this purpose shall be submitted as per form PW3-7 of tender and contract forms.
	(e)	The tender must possess: (i) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate. (ii) Valid VAT registration certificate. (iii) Up-to-date trade license. (iv) Up-to-date ABC category contractor and supervisory license from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh. (v) Attested copies of documents mentioned in Sl.No.i,ii,iii & iv are to be submitted (vi) Original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender.
	(f)	Other required eligibility and conditions of the Tender are shown in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the tender document.
10. Price of Tender Documents		Tk. 1500.00 (one thousand five hundred) for each Package .
11. Amount of Tender Security		For Package (WD2)Tk. 08.00 (eight) lac. For Package (WD3) Tk. 07.00 (seven) lac. For Package (WD7) Tk.04.00 (four) lac.
12. Name & Address Of The Office(s)		-Selling of Tender Documents. Office of the Divisional Commissioner ,Office of the Executive Engineer PWD City Division/Dhaka PWD Division-IV, PWD Division Azimpur Sher-E-Bangla Nagar PWD Division-I/II/III/Mohakhali,Mirpur & Maintenance Division, Dhaka, Chittagong PWD Division-I. Chittagong, Khulna PWD Division-I,Khulna,Rajshahi PWD Division-I, Rajshahi,Sylhet PWD Division,Sylhet,Barisal PWD Division, Barisal. Office of The Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division No-V,Under PWD division-IV, Purta Bhaban, Dhaka. -Receiving of Tender Documents i) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka ii) Office of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dhaka. iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, Mohakhali PWD Division, Sher-E-BanglaNagar, Dhaka. iv) Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Resource Division, Alenbari, Tejgaon,Dhaka. v) Office of the Executive Engineer, S.B.Nagar PWD Division-II, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. -Opening Tender Documents Office of the Executive Engineer, S.B.Nagar PWD Division-II, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
13. Tender Last selling, Date & Time	Date	13 /07/2016 Time: 5:00 P.M.
14. Tender closing Date & Time	Date	14/07/2016 Time: 12:00 Noon
15. Tender Opening Place,Date & Time		Tender will be opened on ... /07/2016 at 2.00 P.M. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar PWD Division-II, Dhaka. Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives may remain present during opening of tenders.
16. Special Instruction.		a) This Tender notice is in brief and the details of the Tender can be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours. b) If the Tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the Tender security may be forfeited. c) The Tender notice can also be available in the official web site of Public Works Department (www.pwd.gov.bd) and Web site of CPTU (www.cptu.gov.bd) (Planning Commission Complex), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
17. Name of Official Inviting Tender		Mohammad Ataur Rahman Siddique, Executive Engineer, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar P.W.D.Division-II, Dhaka. Telephone No. 9110422. Fax No. 88-02-9110422.
18.		The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Mohammad Ataur Rahman Siddique)
Executive Engineer
S.B.Nagar P.W.D.Division-II
Dhaka.