

MA Rouf, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank, attends a programme to celebrate the first anniversary of the bank's agent banking department, at its headquarters in Dhaka. Anis A Khan, managing director, was also present.



MTB

GE begins testing drones to inspect refineries, factories

REUTERS, Seattle

General Electric Co has begun testing autonomous drones and robotic "crawlers" to inspect refineries, factories, railroads and other industrial equipment with an eye on capturing a bigger slice of the \$40 billion companies around the globe spend annually on inspections.

In trials with customers, aerial drones and robots are able to move around and inside remote or dangerous facilities while photographing corrosion or taking temperature, vibration or gas readings that can be analyzed by computer algorithms and artificial intelligence, Alex Tepper, head of business development at Avitas Systems, a startup GE formed for this business, told Reuters.

GE is expected to announce the new business, which is focused on the oil and gas, transportation and power sectors, as early as Tuesday at a conference in Berlin, Germany.

GE is not the first to combine artificial intelligence with robots to inspect industrial facilities or processes. IBM Corp said it has been working on systems connected to its Watson artificial intelligence capability for about a year and launched some projects March.

Tests IBM has been conducting include coupling cameras to Watson so they can recognize defects in electronic components zipping through assembly lines in China and Taiwan. Other projects involve acoustic sensors, or training Watson-enabled drones to spot frayed power lines on remote electrical towers. IBM and partner ABB Ltd, the Swedish-Swiss conglomerate, are combining visual inspection with ABB robots.

"This is one of the hottest areas within IoT (Internet of Things) manufacturing," said Bret Greenstein, vice president of IBM Watson internet of things. He declined to cite a potential market size. GE said its Avitas business will combine computer analytics and artificial intelligence with its knowledge of the industrial systems it builds and its existing inspection business.

"We know this equipment very well so we can program the robots, regardless of type, to gather the information we need for an inspection," Tepper said.

Companies spend about \$40 billion annually inspecting plants and equipment within the oil and gas, transportation and power generation sectors, Tepper said. He expects robots will not replace humans, but will extend their reach and lower costs.

Automated crawlers and drones also address shifting demographics. Many inspection engineers are nearing retirement, and few young workers are interested in the field, he said.

Uber loses key executive as inquiry report looms

AFP, San Francisco

A key Uber executive left the company Monday as the ridesharing giant prepared to release results of a far-reaching independent inquiry into misconduct and unethical practices.

A source familiar with the matter said Emil Michael, a senior vice president reported to be close to chief executive Travis Kalanick, was out at Uber, without providing details.

Uber was bracing for more turmoil -- with some news outlets saying Kalanick himself may take a leave of absence -- as a report prepared by former US attorney general Eric Holder was to be given to employees Tuesday.

Uber's board met Sunday with Holder and consultant Tammy Albarran to discuss the findings and "unanimously voted to adopt all the recommendations" of the report, according to the source.

The recommendations were not immediately known, but Uber is facing pressure to rein in its no-holds-barred management style led by Kalanick and to reform a workplace culture criticized for discrimination and cutthroat practices.

Uber also faces questions about its covert use of law enforcement-evading software and tactics apparently aimed at disrupting rivals in the ridesharing business.

As part of the revamping at Uber, Nestle executive Wan Ling Martello was named as an independent board member, according to the source close to the company.

British inflation jumps to four-year peak

AFP, London

British inflation soared close to a four-year high in May, official data showed Tuesday, boosted by the rising cost of energy, food and recreational goods.

Consumer Price Index inflation unexpectedly hit 2.9 percent last month, which was the highest level since June 2013 when it last stood at that level.

The reading compared with a rate of 2.7 percent in April 2017 and overshoot market expectations for no change.

Inflation had held close to zero throughout 2015 -- but has surged since then as a weak Brexit-hit pound raises import costs.

"Rising prices for recreational and cultural goods and services -- particularly games, toys and hobbies -- was the main contributor to the increase in the rate," the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement on Tuesday.

"There were smaller upward contributions from increased electricity and food prices.

"These upward contributions were

partially offset by falls in motor fuel prices, and air and sea fares, the latter two influenced by the timing of Easter in April this year."

British inflation remains stubbornly above the Bank of England's 2.0-percent target.

That could raise the pressure on the central bank's rate-setting monetary policy committee when it considers a rate hike later this week.

However, the outlook remains clouded by ongoing political uncertainty in the wake of Britain's election last week -- and by looming Brexit negotiations.

"Inflation continues to push higher, but political and economic uncertainty mean the Bank of England is likely to tread carefully," said ING economist James Knightley.

"We do not expect a BoE rate hike until there is much greater clarity on the outlook."

The outlook is heavily dependent on what sort of divorce terms Britain reaches with the European Union and whether it can secure a trade deal.

Terror attacks dent visitor numbers at London sights

AFP, London

Terror attacks in Britain have lowered visitor numbers at London attractions and theme parks run by Merlin Entertainments, the company said on Tuesday.

Merlin, which runs the London Eye and Madame Tussauds and a string of theme parks, said the Westminster attack on March 22 in which five people were killed initially led to "a softer domestic, day-trip market".

Two subsequent attacks in Manchester and London which killed 30 people and injured dozens more "resulted in a further deterioration in domestic demand," the company said in a stock market trading update. "Given the typical lag between holiday bookings and visitation, we are also cautious on trends in foreign visitation over the coming months," the company said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training

"Establishment of Dhaka Technical Teachers Training Institute" Project

Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre Campus,
Darus Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Memo No. 49.01.0000.327.11.001.17-14

Date: 11.06.2017

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Pooled Individual Consultants: 1 (One) Procurement Specialist and 1 (One) Technical Teaching Specialist of PIU

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received credits from the Islamic Development Bank towards the cost of "Establishment of Dhaka Technical Teachers Training Institute" Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the provision of individual consultant services of one "Procurement Specialist" and one "Technical Teaching Specialist" for PIU of the Project.

Name of position, qualification & experience, duration, and scope of work/duties and responsibilities of the positions are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of position	Qualification & experience	Scope of services/Duties and responsibilities
1.	Procurement Specialist'- 1 No.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized Institute/University. Should have minimum 10 years experience job Should have training course on PPR-2008 of government organization. Should have minimum 04 years experience in dealing with the procurement activities of works (building) goods, teaching & learning materials and services, preferably the IDB funded projects in Gov. organization sector statutory organizations Sound experience in Contract Management and Conflict Resolution would be a strength Procurement of Supervision Consultant, Audit Consultant as per IDB guideline and IDB format. Preferable experience of Foreign training especially IDB related. Preferable experience of international workshop conducted and funded by IDB. Should have experience of liaison with IDB Preferable experience of disbursement of IDB funded project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of Requests for Expression of Interest (EOI), Invitation for Bids, Pre-qualification Notices; General Procurement of Notice (GPN), Special Procurement of Notice (SPN) as per IDB, PPR 2008 Bangladesh Guideline & CPTU (Central Procurement Technical Unit); Pre/post-qualification of contractors/bidders, short listing of consultants and submission on requisite IDB's format; Preparation of Bill of Quantities, Bidding Documents, Request for Proposals (RFP) & Open Tendering Method (OTM) and national tendering process; Conducting pre-proposal/bid meetings, responding to the queries and amendments to the bidding documents, RFPs; Covering technical and financial proposal opening and maintaining record; Evaluation of Profiles, technical responsiveness of bids, technical proposals and preparing requisite submissions on IDB's format for concurrence of IDB and addressing queries if any; Evaluation of Commercial Bids, Rates against Bill of Quantities, Financial Proposals and preparation of requisite submissions on IDB's format; Convening contract negotiation meeting and drafting minutes issuing notification of award (NOA); Updating procurement plan and keeping track of procurement events and timely advising the Project Director for effective contracts' management; Preparation of RFQs, OTM & NTM Evaluation of Quotations and issuance of supply orders; Get well acquainted with the Operation Manuals and all the strategic documents to understand the project objectives, concepts, designs and implementation mechanisms; Maintaining close liaison with all the implementing wings/partners (IDB) regarding updation of Procurement Manual/Plans on regular basis and to foster smooth communication and efficient procurement & contract management. Facilitate the preparation of Bill of Quantities, Terms of Reference (TOR), Specifications, Evaluation Criteria etc. by the respective end-user wings; Manage the complete procurement cycle for agreed/planned procurement activities; Keeping regular coordination with the representative of Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah office in order to process/conduct the procurements according to the laid down procedures of the Bank; Liaise and coordinate with the Islamic Development Bank and its supervision missions; Developing procurement database in close consultation with the implementing wings. This database envisages the entire range of procurement related aspects of the project including quoted prices of goods, contract cost, charge rates, performance of consultants, issues arising during implementation and procurement cycles, updating contract rosters, etc. Develop a computerized Asset-data base of the items procured under the project; Formulate procurement and contract management/administration related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in conformity with Islamic Development Bank's Guidelines ensuring effective management; Assesses procurement implications of project design, evaluates institutional capacities, develops suitable procurement plans and employs appropriate methodologies for handling simple and complex procurement tasks and/or issues; Resolves procurement and contract related issues and suggests corrective measures; Supports the project team in any other related matters pertaining to

2.	Technical Teaching Specialist'-1 No.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A University degree in education and experience in technical and vocational education & training, informal sector development or related field; Five years' experience in TVET at different levels of responsibility; Experience in conducting studies, data analysis and report-writing. Knowledge of Bangladesh TVET sector development and familiarity with Asian countries particularly vocational education and workforce development; Excellent personnel management, interpersonal, networking and team building skills; Effective writing and organisational skills to prepare reports, complete analyses and make presentations; Excellent written and spoken English; and Computer /Software skills, including the use of MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint; An applicant having these preferred qualifications will receive additional consideration: Previous position in the field of vocational education or workforce development; Knowledge of Bangladesh vocational and workforce development in recent years; Ability to adapt to changing needs and evolving concerns; Knowledge of data collection techniques including questionnaire administration, Observational methods and facilitating focus group discussions for low literacy groups with issues of efficiency in educational and training projects. Sound experience in Contract Management and Conflict Resolution would be strength. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support for planning and designing of the courses. Support for identification of skills training courses. Support for identification of pedagogy courses. Facilitate developing curriculum for the above courses. Conduct Training Need Assessment (TNA) of teachers (Tech & Non-tech). Support further courses needed in the future. Support monitoring first stages of implementation of the training programme. Support preparation of different reports. Work closely with PSC & PIC for implementation of the project. <p>Maintaining close liaison with all the implementing wings/partners (IDB) regarding updation of manual/plans on regular basis and to foster smooth communication and efficient procurement & contract management.</p>
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Project Director of the Project titled "Establishment of Dhaka Technical Teachers Training Institute" now invites eligible applicants to express their interest (EOI) in providing the services. Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV in prescribed form with other details as applicable), The Softcopies of TOR, application form and CV format are available in the website of www.bmet.gov.bd. Detailed required academic qualification, experience and scope of work are given in TORs. Softcopy of TOR, application form and CV format may also be obtained from the office mentioned above during office hours on all working days up to June 30, 2017. The individual consultants for the above-mentioned positions will be selected following the method of Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC) of the Islamic Development Bank Guidelines and PPR-2008 whichever is applicable as per recruitment rule of the project. Duration of service contract of the successful applicants will be for the period as mentioned against the position of 'Procurement Specialist' and 'Technical Teaching Specialist'. Expressions of Interest (EOI) in one original and 02 (two) hard copies and softcopy must be submitted by the applicants on or before June 30, 2017 by office hour in a sealed envelope delivered to the address given above and be clearly marked "Expression of Interest for (name of the position). Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. Persons who are in service should submit their application through proper channel. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without showing any reason whatsoever.

D. Eng. Md. Sakawat Ali
Project Director
"Establishment of Dhaka Technical Teachers Training Institute" Project