



Azim Uddin Ahmed MA Kashem

Southeast Bank gets executive, risk management committee chairmen

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank has recently witnessed the appointment of two new chairmen for its executive committee and risk management committee at its 636th board of directors meeting.

Sponsor director Azim Uddin Ahmed will head the risk management committee. He is the chairman of Mutual Group, Mutual Trading Company, AD Holdings and Arla Foods Bangladesh, says a press release.

Ahmed is a partner of Mutual Agro Complex, Mutual Departmental Store and Mutual Distribution and Sionia Agencies, managing director of Mutual Food Products and a managing partner of Mutual Logistics Service.

He obtained a graduate degree from the University of Dhaka.

Meanwhile, founding chairman and director MA Kashem will head the executive committee. He is the chairman of Rose Corner.

HC asks mobile network providers to address slow internet

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the country's mobile network operators to resolve any problem regarding slow internet speeds.

The request came during a hearing on a writ petition that sought directives to ensure high quality internet and network services to subscribers.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in a notice said it had already taken remedial measures, Assistant Attorney General Golam Sarwar Payel told The Daily Star.

The HC bench then suspended the hearing for two months, saying it would pass an order if the problems regarding mobile network or internet speed were not resolved by this time.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, president of the Mobile Phone Subscribers Association, Md Mahidi Hasan Dalim, a journalist, and Md Rashidul Hasan, a Supreme Court lawyer, placed the writ petition on June 8 this year as a public interest litigation.

The secretary to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, BTRC chairman and chief executive



officers of mobile network operators Grameenphone, Robi Axiata, Banglalink and Teletalk Bangladesh have been made respondents to the petition.

The petitioners said being subscribers of different mobile network operators, they were continuing to experience slow internet as well as poor network coverage.

It is shocking and frustrating that

even after imposing high charges for data packages, network operators failed to provide quality services till date, they said.

The HC bench comprised Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah. Ishrat Hasan represented the writ petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury represented the state.

Drought squeezes Brazil's electricity supply

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazil's worst drought in almost a century is threatening electricity supply and critical crops, pushing up energy and food prices at a time the country was hoping to start recovering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

The country of 213 million people relies on hydropower for two-thirds of its electricity, but crucial dams are at near-record lows of less than a quarter full.

Last week, President Jair Bolsonaro urged Brazilians to "turn off a light at home" to conserve power, and on Tuesday the government hiked electricity prices by an average of seven per cent, partly to cover new power plants and energy imports.

"We are the limit of the limit," said Bolsonaro, who is gearing up to seek reelection in 2022 amid record low popularity ratings, widespread disapproval of his handling of the Covid-19 crisis, and now also confronting extreme climate conditions that show little sign of abating.

Brazil's water levels will likely continue to deteriorate in September, according to electric grid operator ONS.

And the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANA) has declared a "critical shortage of water resources," effective until November, for the Parana river basin at the heart of Brazil's hydroelectric capacity.

In a bid to stay ahead of demand and avoid outages, Brazil this week added one new biomass power station, three photovoltaic generators, and four wind farms to its power grid. But much of the cost has fallen on consumers already contending with high unemployment and surging inflation in the country with the world's second-highest pandemic death toll.

Investors grow wary as stocks hit new highs

REUTERS, New York

Investors are girding their portfolios for potential stock market volatility, even as equities hover near fresh highs after logging seven straight months of gains.

Utilities are the S&P 500's best-performing sector so far this quarter with a 10.2 per cent gain. They have been followed by other popular destinations for nervous investors, including real estate and healthcare.

In derivatives markets, the gap in price between the front month Choe Volatility Index futures contract and the VIX index itself is higher than it has been about 85 per cent of the time over the last five years.

This suggests some investors expect the calm in stocks to give way to more pronounced price swings in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, the Japanese yen and Swiss franc - viewed as havens during

uncertain times - have outperformed most G10 currencies this quarter. "It's been a year of positive market returns, but it's a bull market which has pretty defensive undertones," said Saira Malik, head of global equities at money manager Nuveen Investments.

The demand for downside protection illustrates a conundrum that has bedeviled investors at various times during the market's post-pandemic surge.

Ultra-low yields on fixed income have left few alternatives to equities, and betting against stocks has been a disastrous strategy in the last year-and-a-half.

Stocks demonstrated their resilience on Friday, when the S&P appeared to shrug off a big miss on August US employment data, as some market participants bet a weaker economy could undercut the case for the Federal Reserve to unwind its market-supportive easy money

policies in coming months.

The benchmark index is up nearly 21 per cent this year.

At the same time, many have grown antsy in a market that has gone 292 calendar days without a decline of 5 per cent or more, nearly three times the average since World War II, according to data from CFRA's Sam Stovall. Rising valuations, ebbing economic growth and signs of speculative excess have only added to their concerns.

"It's been a wonderful ride for US equities ... but moving forward we think it is going to be a little bit of a different picture," said David Gresek, managing director in investment strategy and research and partner at Aspiriant, which manages about \$14.5 billion.

Concerns over equity valuations have prompted Gresek to take profits in some of his equity positions and shift some money into non-US stocks, including emerging markets.

Stock market climbs to new peak

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Still, there were many high-performing companies whose stocks were underpriced, he said. "The market is not overvalued, but some stocks are overvalued."

Bangladesh Monospool Paper and Packaging topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent, followed by ADN Telecom, Apex Spinning, Samata Leather, and Paper Processing and Packaging, SEML FBLSL Growth Fund shed the most, losing 9.84 per cent, followed by SEML Lecture Mutual Fund, SEML IBBL Shariah Fund and Fareast Islami Life Insurance.

Stocks of Beximco Limited traded the most, worth Tk 183 crore, followed by LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, LankaBangla Finance, and Doreen Power.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also rose yesterday as the CASPI, the general index of the bourse in the port city, edged up 234 points, or 1.15 per cent, to 20,563. Among the 327 stocks traded, 198 rose, 100 fell, and 28 remained unchanged.

BSEC gives nod to largest banking IPO

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A zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value, according to Investopedia.

The BSEC also approved Krishibid Feed's plan to raise Tk 22 crore by offloading 2.20 lakh shares at a face value of Tk 10 for investors.

It said Krishibid Feed fell under the small and medium enterprise category and would raise funds from qualitative investors through secondary trade under the SME platform.

With the qualified investor offer (QIO) proceeds, the company would construct a factory building, repay bank loans and buy machineries, a diesel generator and a delivery van, according to the press release.

NRB Commercial Bank fined for breaching stock investment ceiling

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The central bank now scrutinizes the issue to rein in aggressive investments made by banks in the capital market. This will help protect the interest of depositors as well, they said. The Dhaka bourse surged to a new height yesterday, with its key index crossing 7,000 points.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, jumped 71 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 7,052 -- the highest since its inception in 2013.

US offshore oil recovery begins with ports, refineries restarting

REUTERS, Houston

The US Gulf Coast Energy Company was boosted on Saturday by the reopening of the port and the restart of the refinery closed by Hurricane Ida, but damage to key facilities continued to curb oil production.

Compared to any of the eight named storms that hit the US Gulf Coast last year, the ninth named storm in the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season cut even more US oil and gas production. After making landfall in Louisiana last Sunday, Ida rushed to the northeastern United States, causing deadly floods.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, the largest producer on the US Gulf Coast, is still assessing the damage to its West Delta-143 offshore platform, which transfers approximately 200,000 barrels of oil and natural gas from three offshore oil fields during operation.

Shell said that Shell is continuing to work on replacing heliports required for maritime transport. Damage to its original facility prevented offshore workers from returning to the platform.

Several heliports in Louisiana were damaged or out of power, and fuel was not available, which slowed the return of crews of several major oil producers.

Shell's 230,611 barrels per day (bpd) oil processing plant in Norco, Louisiana

is also still affected by the storm. The company stated that the refinery continued to suffer damage, and the assessment of its condition and the Geismar chemical plant in Louisiana continues.

The White House agreed this week to provide refiners with a total of 1.8 million barrels of oil from the National Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Exxon Mobil and Placid Refining Company produce gasoline.

Nine refineries shut down due to Ida's wind and utility power losses. Robert Campbell, head of petroleum products research at the consulting firm's energy sector, estimates that five including Exxon Mobil, Placid and Marathon Petroleum may be back online within two weeks.

Government data on Friday showed that about half of the initially evacuated offshore platforms remained unused, and 93 per cent of oil production and 89 per cent of oil production were offline.

Analysts said that some oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico may be closed for several weeks, and that oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico account for about one-fifth of US production. The Coast Guard said that the lower Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans have reopened traffic and freight operations. Reopening will allow the restoration of food, metal and energy transportation.

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বিশেষজ্ঞ ফার্ম আগ্রহ প্রকাশ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ইওআই)

নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যের জন্য প্রকৃত ভবন নির্মাণ বিশেষজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সিলমোহরসহ আগ্রহ প্রকাশের আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
২	আহ্বানকারী সংস্থার নাম	: বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট (বামুকট্টা), ঢাকা।
৩	যে কার্যের জন্য আহ্বান	: ডেভেলপার কর্তৃক শেয়ারিং ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন জমিতে নির্মিত বাণিজ্যিক ভবন চুক্তিপত্র, দরপত্র সিডিউল ও বিস্তৃত কোড অনুযায়ী নির্মিত হয়েছে কিনা যাচাই কাজ।
৪	আহ্বান স্মারক নং	: ৪৮.০১.০০০০.২০২.১৪.৩৯৩.২১.০৬ তারিখ ০৫/০৯/২০২১ খ্রি:
৫	আহ্বান পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬	বাজেট ও ফান্ডের উৎস	: বামুকট্টা-এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	প্রকল্প/কার্যক্রমের নাম	প্যাকেজ নং-১ বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন চট্টগ্রামের আগ্রাবাদস্থ ৩৬নং প্লটের ২৪.০৯ শতক জমিতে ডেভেলপারের মাধ্যমে নির্মিত ০২টি বেইজমেন্টসহ ১৯ তলা (২বি+১৭) 'জয় বাংলা' বাণিজ্যিক ভবন। ট্রাস্টের শেয়ার অংশ ৫০%। প্যাকেজ নং-২ বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন চট্টগ্রামের আগ্রাবাদস্থ ৭১নং প্লটের ১৯.২৭ শতক জমিতে ডেভেলপারের মাধ্যমে নির্মিত ০৪টি বেইজমেন্টসহ ২৯ তলা (৪বি+২৫) টাওয়ার-৭১' বাণিজ্যিক ভবন। ট্রাস্টের শেয়ার অংশ ৫০%।
৮	আগ্রহ প্রকাশের আবেদন (কারিগরি ও আর্থিক) গ্রহণের কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা এবং তারিখ ও সময় :	(ক) আগামী ২৬/০৯/২০২১ তারিখ বিকেল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (ক) পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)-এর কার্যালয়, প্রকৌশল শাখা (২য় তলা), বামুকট্টা, ৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকায় আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে। বি:প্র: আর্থিক অফার অবশ্যই আলাদা খামে সিলমোহরসহ নাম-ঠিকানা লিপিবদ্ধ করে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৯	আবেদনকারী ফর্মের যোগ্যতা :	(ক) সকল প্যাকেজের জন্যই আবেদনকারী ফর্মের সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের নকশা তৈরি ও তদারকীর কাজে ন্যূনতম ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (খ) আবেদনকারী ফর্মের বহুতল ভবনের ইলেকট্রোমেকানিক্যাল কাজ ও বিস্তৃত কোড সম্পর্কে অভিজ্ঞতা, তদারকীর কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১০	আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান পেশাদার কর্মীদের ন্যূনতম প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতা:	(ক) স্নাতক সিনিয়র স্থপতি ০১ (এক) জন স্থাপত্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনের) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (খ) স্নাতক স্থপতি ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (গ) স্নাতক সিভিল প্রকৌশলী ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং (ঘ) স্নাতক ইলেকট্রিক্যাল প্রকৌশলী ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং এবিসি ক্যাটাগরির বৈদ্যুতিক লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।
১১	আবেদনকারীকে নিম্নরূপ কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে:	(ক) ভবনের নকশা অনুযায়ী ও বিস্তৃত কোড অনুযায়ী নির্মাণ কাজ হয়েছে কিনা; (খ) ডেভেলপার প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে সম্পাদিত চুক্তিপত্র, দরপত্র সিডিউল/ট্রাস্টের অনুমোদন অনুযায়ী ভবনের সিভিল, প্লাসিং, সেমেন্টারি এবং ইলেকট্রোমেকানিক্যাল (লিফট, জেনারেটর, সাব-স্টেশন, ফায়ার ফাইটিং ইত্যাদি) কাজসহ আনুষঙ্গিক সকল কাজ সম্পন্ন হয়েছে কি না; (গ) শেয়ার অনুযায়ী ট্রাস্টের অংশ পরিমাপ করে বুঝিয়ে দেয়া।
১২	কার্যসম্পাদনের সময় : ১৫ (পনের) দিন।	
১৩	ইওআই আহ্বানকারীর নাম	ড. মো. জাহেদুল হাসান
১৪	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবি	পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)
১৫	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০১
১৬	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার বিস্তারিত যোগাযোগ	টেলিফোন: ৯৫৬২০৪০ ফ্যাক্স নং: ৯৫৫৬২২৫৮
১৭	কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে ক্রয়কারী সত্তা ইওআই এর সকল বা যে কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।	

(ড. মো: জাহেদুল হাসান)
পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce
 Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
 Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayan Bhaban
 Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.07.032.21-697 Date: 05/09/2021

Re-Invitation for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Firm)

Name of the Service: **Consultancy/Research firm for Review of Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements suggested by Ministry of Commerce in FY 2021-22 (National).**

Name of the Project: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1, Ministry of Commerce
 Credit No.: 60020; Project ID No.: 154580
 Reference number: BRCP/MOC/SD-27

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project.

The review of various existing bilateral and regional trade agreements with the important trading countries will provide policy feedback to the government to enhance cooperation in trade, transport and transit facilitation of Bangladesh. These will also promote policy advocacy for important issues related to export promotion, trade facilitation and opportunities and challenges of LDC graduation. Total No. of independent review/study/agreement under this assignment will be limited to approx. 20 (twenty), whereby 10 (ten) topics have been decided and the other 10 (ten) will be decided later on.

The interested consulting firm should provide evidence of the following in their applications: The Consulting firm shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract; The firm should have at least 10 years of general experience in providing consulting services out of which at least 02 years of experience in national and international trade related research or studies for public and private sector; The firm should have successfully completed at least three (03) study contract related to national and international trade/ trade facilitation/ export promotion within last 10 years for the public sector/private sector/development partners; Proven experience with Economic Modeling/ simulation/analysis for analyzing bilateral and regional trade agreements/policies will be an added advantages; The firm should have experience in working with development partner's funded projects. Necessary, Documents/evidence of work Experiences must be provided. Details of other qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Fixed-budget Base Selection (FBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available in the office of the undersigned and also at www.mincom.gov.bd and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd/>. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours). Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form 2 (two) copies (one original and one copy) in sealed envelope to the address below (in person, or by mail) by **3.00pm on 21/09/2021**.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

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