

Getting Bangladesh ready for LDC graduation

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on a four-day tour as part of her Asia trip, cited two areas that pose substantial risks to the economy and need much attention: revenue mobilisation and the financial sector.

At around 9 percent of GDP, Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio -- at around 9 percent of GDP -- is one of the lowest in the world.

"We think it can be considerably increased by looking at tax exemptions," she said, while calling for modernisation of the tax system and improvements in revenue collection.

Not making sincere, proactive efforts on the revenue mobilisation front will make the going difficult for the government as it looks to meet its critical spending needs in the areas of social protection, health, education and infrastructure to create a conducive environment for growth.

In a similar vein, not fixing the financial sector will have a similar undesirable outcome in the form of crowding out private sector credit allocation.

"Bangladesh needs a more efficient financial sector to improve credit allocation to the most productive economic sectors."

The vulnerabilities in the banking sector, particularly in the state-owned bank (SoBs), were exacerbated by the COVID-19 shock, said Sayeh, who was a finance minister in post-conflict Libya.

Structural weaknesses in supervision, regulation and governance, coupled with high defaulted loans and low capital in SoBs could be a drag on medium-term growth prospects.

The risk of defaulted loans is increasing and the authorities need to be very alert to that and take action regarding the matter.

Some key reform priorities include strengthening the corporate governance of banks including the

role of independent directors; resetting the classification and provisioning requirements in line with Basel standards, including the treatment of rescheduled and defaulted loans; stronger enforcement of the current prudential framework by the central bank.

Legal features that allow delayed loan repayment should be addressed and legal measures should be instituted to support stronger enforcement of creditor rights and debtor incentives to repay.

Reforms in monetary and financial policies such as a review of directed lending and regulated interest rates

have air conditioners, these people who are better off are benefiting the most from those subsidies."

Currently, a significant part of the budget is spent on subsidies and some of those subsidies are not benefiting the poor very much.

"Paring down those subsidies to give the government an opportunity to have more resources to spend on targeted social safety nets, to safeguard the impact of price increases on the poor is a big part of what we are looking at to make for better spending on education and health and to benefit the poor."

The IMF programme is aimed at making more

efforts already taken by the authorities, we expect very strong support."

The programme will lay the foundation to unlock Bangladesh's growth potential, harness its demographic dividend and support long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth.

"Well, I am coming away from this visit very energised by the clear dynamism you see out there and the huge potential that Bangladesh has. I was very enthused by the energy I saw and the clear commitment to taking forward the reform efforts. We think that 2023 is going to see a deepening of the reform effort."

This year is posing to be a difficult one with the IMF's growth forecast for the global economy being only 2.5 percent. So for an open economy like Bangladesh's, preserving macroeconomic stability while preventing disruptive adjustments to protect the vulnerable would be imperative.

Policy priorities must focus on containing inflation, softening the impact of these economic disruptions on the vulnerable and building external resilience through continued exchange rate flexibility.

"This will be a year that is somewhat new for Bangladesh in the course of the last 10-plus years."

Sayeh said now is the time to now start taking forward Bangladesh's efforts on the climate side, which are also "macro critical".

Bangladesh also needs to strengthen institutions to meet climate objectives, for instance, to be able to mobilise additional climate financing and support large-scale climate investments.

"Which is why the programme also includes the IMF's new Resilience and Sustainability Facility that will support this effort. In fact, Bangladesh is the first country in Asia to request IMF financing under this new facility."



Antoinette Monsio Sayeh, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), second from left, along with other members of a visiting IMF delegation, rode the Dhaka metro rail on Monday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

will support the necessary strengthening of the banking sector.

Developing further the bond markets should also be a priority to meet the growing financing needs, especially after Bangladesh graduates from the LDC status in 2026.

Further reforming the National Savings Certificates system and developing a secondary market for government securities will be important, she said.

Another area where the government needs to retrench is in handing out subsidies to ensure sustainable and equitable growth.

"If you look at the fuel prices, it is the people who drive cars, people who

fiscal space and giving the authorities an ability to address the needs that are clearly important and to better serve the poor.

The programme also focuses on modernising the monetary policy framework, which will promote greater macroeconomic stability and help better manage inflation. Increased exchange rate flexibility will help rebuild external resilience.

The authorities and IMF staff have worked closely on a programme that is most relevant to Bangladesh's current economic and social dynamics, she said, adding that the IMF executive board will take a call on the loan proposal on January 30.

"With the significant

6 die as 'drowsy' ambulance driver rear-ends truck

FROM PAGE 1
The front part of the ambulance went under the truck, said Abu Nayeem Mohammad Mofazzal, inspector of Shibchar highway police.

The spot is around 400 metres away from the Padma Bridge toll plaza in Jajira, he added.

"The ambulance driver might have fallen asleep at the wheel as he had been driving for over 26 hours without a break. This might have caused the accident. Besides, there was poor visibility due to

fog," the police officer said. Suruj Uddin Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Padma Bridge (South) Police Station, said, "Visting the spot and analysing the circumstances, we think that the driver was operating the ambulance recklessly and the vehicle's speed was around 120kmph."

Ambulance owner Noore Alam, who lives in the capital, said Rabiul began his journey for Bhola around 11:00pm on Sunday after taking a

patient from a clinic of the capital's Dhanmondi.

But Rabiul had to wait at Laharhat ferry terminal in Barishal Sadar upazila for a while as ferry service was disrupted due to dense fog. He reached Bhola around 10:00am on Monday, Alam added.


Rabiul reached Barishal city around noon and was looking for a Dhaka-bound patient. In the early hours of yesterday, he got the patient and started the journey towards Dhaka, the ambulance owner added.

Talking to this paper over phone, Rabiul's brother-in-law Al Amin Sarder said Rabiul lived in the capital's Khilgaon area with his wife. The couple has a five-year-old son and the wife is expecting.

"I do not know how my sister will lead the rest of her life ...," said Al Amin.

Police said the victims' bodies were handed over to their families.

[Our correspondents from Shariatpur, Barishal and Patuakhali contributed to this report.]



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
Pabna University of Science and Technology
Office of the University Engineer
www.pust.ac.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Consulting Firm

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education
Agency	: Pabna University of Science and Technology
Procuring Entity Name	: Pabna University of Science and Technology
Procuring Entity Code	: N/A
Procuring Entity District	: Pabna
Expression of Interest for Selection of	: Consulting Firm (National) (Lump-Sump)
Title Of Service	: Development of office automation and computerized accounting system
EOI Ref. No.	: PUST/DOAS & CASD/22/006 18/12/2022
Date	: 18/12/2022

KEY INFORMATION

Procurement Sub-Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection(QCBS)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

Budget and Source of Funds	: Non-Development
Development Partners	: N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

EOI Closing Date and Time	: 01/02/2023 1.00 PM
Publication Date	: 16/01/2023

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Brief Description of Assignment	: The assignment is to provide following Operational Support, Management, Training and Maintenance: Controller of Examination Module: Exams management, Tabulation management, result processing, bill collection and generation, grading, degree/record verification, evaluation, certificate issue and verification(And Customize) Academic Module : Admission management, curriculum management, course enrollment and management, student fees management, routine management, registrar office, User management, Student management, (or Student and Teacher portal) (and Customize) Accounting and Finance Module: Budget Management (code wise), Financial Payment and Receipt from different entities and stakeholders, payables and receivables of student, teachers employees, and other stake holders, Procurement, etc. (and Customize) HR and System Admin Module: Recruitment to retirement process management, Employee attendance and leave management, payroll, training and evaluation, Store and backup all module data, Employee History update, HR setup, Credential management. Post Graduate study/study leave and research collaboration module: Enrollment process, supervisor and co-supervisor assign system, study leave management, research collaboration, etc. Inventory Management System, Training, support and maintenance plan, Server, Server Racks, Online UPS, and others installation (Air-Conditioner, Computer setup, KVM and network Switch, support etc.) Conveyance and others
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	: Eligibility/Qualification/Experience Criteria: Tenderers shall possess the minimum requirements to perform the contract, which entails setting pass/fail criteria, which if not met by the Tenderers, will result in consideration of its Tender as non-responsive. 1. Required software as service / software services on a long term basis; 2. The Tenderer / Bidder shall have a minimum 08 (eight) years of general experience in relevant field with 10 universities of which at least 5 public universities and should include special academic and administrative modules. 3. The satisfactory completion of supply of similar Goods in 10 Bangladeshi Universities of which at least 05 public universities successfully completed within in the last 04 (Four) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of this tender. 4. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 01 (Single) contracts completed within the last 03 (Three) years with a total value of at least Tk. 30,00,000.00 (Thirty Lacs). 5. Integrated IMS including BackOffice, large user handling capacity. 6. Bank Solvency Certificate. 7. BASIS membership of bidding identity.
Other Details (if applicable)	: Please visit www.pust.ac.bd or https://cput.gov.bd
Association with foreign firms is	: Not Encouraged


Eoi Detail Information


Ref No	Phasing Of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
PUST/DOAS & CASD/22/006 18/12/2022	N/A	PUST, Pabna	N/A	N/A

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

Name of Official Inviting EOI	: Engr. Farid Ahmed
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Chief Engineer (Acting)
Address of Official Inviting EOI	: 3 rd Floor, Administration Building, Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	: Phone : +8802588845405, Fax : 0731-65173, Email : chiefengineer@pust.ac.bd, ictdirector@pust.ac.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders


 Engr. Farid Ahmed
 University Engineer(Acting)
 Pabna University of Science & Technology



Bangladesh Bank
Common Services Department-1
(Equipment Section)
Head Office
Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka

1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable.
2	Agency	Not applicable.
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used a present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 200 PCs 80A toner of HP Laser jet pro 400 M401dn printer.
7	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1(Equipment)/69(3)/2023-105
8	Date	16/01/2023

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Own source.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	
14	Tender Package No.	
15	Tender package name	
16	Tender publication date	16/01/2023
17	Tender last selling date	Not applicable.
		Date Time
18	Tender closing date and time	30/01/2023 02:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	30/01/2023 02:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Receiving tender document	BB website and hard copy of Tender Security.
	- Opening tender document	Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 3 (three) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years.
22	Brief description of goods	Supply of Three Hundred (200) PCs Original HP Black Print Cartridge (80A) for HP LaserJet Pro 400 M401dn Printer of Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.
23	Brief description of related services	N/A
24	Price of tender document (Tk)	N/A
25	Identification of item	Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing/award of contract
	Original HP Black Print Cartridge 80A for HP LaserJet Pro 400 M401dn	CSD-1 70,000.00 8 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Shafayet Arefin.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director.
28	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148 Fax: 9530120 E-mail: shafayet.arefin@bb.org.bd
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে সহায়তার শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Shafayet Arefin
Director
Phone: 9530148
E-mail: shafayet.arefin@bb.org.bd

DCP: 48/2023-192
Date: 17-01-2023
GD-87

AG office

FROM PAGE 2
The Appellate Division expressed dissatisfaction at the AG office for providing the apex court with false information about the HC bail, Mujibur Rahman, another defence counsel, told this newspaper.

Assistant Attorney General Tamanna Ferdous, who represented the state before the apex court yesterday, could not say anything specifically on this issue.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told this correspondent that he would not make any comment without examining the relevant files.

The then deputy attorney general, who moved the stay petition before the SC chamber judge on December 21, 2021, could not be reached for comments as he has been appointed a judge of the HC.

Al-Shabaab launches deadly attack on Somali military base

AFP, Nairobi
Al Shabaab launched a deadly attack on a Somali military base yesterday, just a day after the government claimed a "historic victory" over the jihadists with the capture of a strategic coastal town.

There were conflicting reports about the death toll after the Islamist fighters stormed the camp in the town of Hawadley north of the capital Mogadishu.

Army chief Odowaa Yusuf Rage said on national radio that five soldiers including a senior officer had died in the attack claimed by the Al-Qaeda-allied militant group.

A clan militia commander near Hawadley, which lies in the central Hirshabelle state, said 11 soldiers had died.