

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

Emranul Huq, managing director and

The five-day card usage campaign for the period of October 12 to October 16 of 2023 offered as reward match tickets for Bangladesh's World Cup campaign.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The bank's managing director

Abdul Aziz and Muhammad Mustafa Khair, additional managing directors of the bank, and Md Masudur Rahman Shah, deputy managing director, along with divisional heads of head office and other officials were present.



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank PLC, poses for photographs with high officials, divisional heads and other officials of the bank at its head office in Dhaka yesterday, celebrating its 24th founding anniversary.

FROM PAGE B4

However, there are also challenges to be considered.

From Axiata's perspective, Robi contributes significantly to its financials, accounting for one-fifth of its revenue and one-third of its customer base.

"This has had an incredible impact," he said.

“However, the challenge, as I mentioned, is multifaceted. Firstly, this market demands substantial

For instance, the imposition of a minimum turnover tax is counterproductive for investment as it does not consider the profits earned but is based on revenue.

He also spoke about the country's decision on entering the 5G era.

According to him, the challenge with 5G is the lack of well defined use cases and a slow evaluation of its practical applications. He said Bangladesh represents a market where there is substantial room for the development of 4G as data consumption lags behind international standards.

In this context, it is important to emphasise that 5G should not lead to the proliferation of multiple, separate

However, the current licensing framework restricts significant fibre investments, which has been a challenge even for 4G operations.

With this backdrop, he opined that the government should strike a balance between encouraging 5G adoption and ensuring affordable devices for the people.

In his perspective, regulatory bodies should first focus on readily available services that could be potentially developed further in the 4G domain.

Second, a comprehensive policy framework should be established that encompasses infrastructure development, fibre optics deployment, device availability, spectrum pricing, and the prevention of multiple network constructions, which can significantly drive up implementation costs.

FROM PAGE B1

“Otherwise, the bank will not be sustainable.”

He said the government has prioritised lending to the agriculture sector at a lower interest rate and this has been a good initiative. At the same time, the government needs to support the bank so that it can continue its operations.

To meet capital shortfall, BKB can issue redeemable zero-coupon bonds, he added. AB Mirza Azizul Islam, a former finance adviser to a caretaker government, said BKB should be careful in giving out loans and extend funds to genuine borrowers.

Islam backs the idea of giving subsidies to the bank so that it can adjust the loss. "The government is providing subsidies in many sectors. It can give some subsidies to Krishi Bank considering its contribution to the agriculture sector."

BKB is also paying the price of loan irregularities, said a former top official of the bank.

“Sometimes, officials of the bank would borrow funds under the name of

farmers. But later, it was found that the farmers didn't know anything about the loans. Many of these loans became NPLs." It is true that disbursing loans in the agriculture sector is relatively costlier, said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"But Krishi Bank still could make a turnaround if it can enhance its efficiency. Then the volume of bad loans will go down and it will benefit the farmers."

Atiur Rahman, a former governor of the central bank, thinks BKB needs to go through major reforms to make itself relevant and efficient.

"It should be allowed to concentrate only on agriculture and agri-processing industries without overburdening it with many other non-agricultural funding activities."

He said the bank would have to be heavily recapitalised once and for all and allowed to operate freely like an independent commercial enterprise.

"If the government wants to give low-cost funds to the agriculture sector, the rate of interest must be subsidised from the budget through the central bank. The bank can't give low-cost funds from its own sources."

The noted economist said the bank may be encouraged to go for partnerships with mobile financial services and digital banking windows to collect repayment instalments more cost-effectively.

“The bank can also go for

He said the board of BKB should be made more robust with a chairperson from among the independent directors drawn from academia and entrepreneurs.

FROM PAGE B1

who face challenges in visiting traditional banks for various reasons.

“We also aspire to provide loans at a single-digit interest rate to individuals and that so without collaterals,” he said, adding that the digital bank will address the day-to-day needs of the common people.

Nagad is a mobile financial service provider in Bangladesh with more than 8.5 crore customers.

The sponsors of Kori Digital Bank include conglomerates ACI, Ispahani, Transcom and Technohaven Company Ltd. Karim is the founder and CEO of Technohaven.

Three committees of the BB assessed 52 applications for digital banks.

Abu Farah Md Nasser, a deputy governor of the BB, Mohammad Shahriar Siddiqui, a director of the banking regulation and policy department, and others were present at the event.

| Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Chattogram District E-mail: ee_chi@eedmoe.gov.bd Invitation for e-Tender (OTM) | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tender Notice No. EE/EED/Ctg/e-Tender/2023-24/20, | | | Date: 25.10.2023 | | |
| Sl. No. | Package No. | Name of works | Tender ID | Last date & time of selling documents | Last date & time of submission documents |
| 01 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-10 | WD-10: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT MIR NOWABUL HOQUE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, HATHAZARI, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-01) | 882215 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 02 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-09 | WD-09: CONSTRUCTION OF 6-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 6-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT PURBA BAKALIA CITY CORPORATION GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BAKALIA, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-02) | 882214 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 03 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/G-08 | WD-08: CONSTRUCTION OF 6-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 6-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT HASNE HENA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, BAKALIA, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-02) | 882213 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 04 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-06 | WD-06: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT HATHAZARI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, HATHAZARI, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-01) | 882212 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 05 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-05 | WD-05: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT SITAKUNDA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, SITAKUNDA, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-06) | 882211 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 06 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-04 | WD-04: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT MADHYAM HALISHAHAR BEGUMJAN HIGH SCHOOL, BANDAR, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-02) | 882210 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 07 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-03 | WD-03: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT JOARA BISWAMBER CHOWDHURY HIGH SCHOOL, CHANDANAISH, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-01, PILE) | 882209 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 08 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-02 | WD-02: CONSTRUCTION OF 6-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 6-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT PUBLIC SCHOOL, HALISHAHAR, CHATTOGRAM. (CATEGORY-02) | 882208 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |
| 09 | EED/CTG/3000School/2023-24/SL-01 | WD-01: CONSTRUCTION OF 4-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT BARA DAROGA HAT A. R MEMOREAL HIGH SCHOOL, SITAKUNDA, CHATTOGRAM (CATEGORY-06) | 882207 | 26-Nov-2023 16:00 | 27-Nov-2023 12:00 |