

BB starts CIB automation work to give quick borrower info

FE Report

Bangladesh Bank (BB) is going to implement a project to provide credit information report of potential borrowers to banks within a minute, which now takes over a week.

The project for automation of Credit Information Bureau (CIB) of the central bank, launched Sunday, would provide real online service to the banks when they would seek information about the potential borrowers.

An Italian company CRIF will assist in the CIB's capacity building, under funds provided by the Department for International Development (DFID).

Senior business consultant of CRIF Vincenzo Resta said the project will be in operation in June, and manual system will also run in parallel with it for the next four months.

"The company will make the CIB a world-class credit bureau and it will be customised to suit the local context," he said.

He, however, cautioned that quality and performance of the system would largely depend on quality of information provided by the banks.

"We will sit with the technical people of the

banks Wednesday to explain the whole thing and get feedback from them," he also said.

The online system will response within seconds and provide complete historical information of each contract as well as overall summary.

CRIF will also provide training to the central bank officials to run its operations smoothly, he added.

CRIF operations director Lamberto Barbieri said over 1,400 banks and financial institutions along with 20,000 companies in Europe and Americas use his company's solutions.

BB Governor Dr Atiur Rahman in the launching programme said the automation project is very important for expanding the CIB's capacity for storing, handling and delivering credit information.

"Timely availability of reliable credit information is very urgent in maintaining asset quality of the lending institutions. The online system will help Bangladesh Bank to become a digital central bank," he said.

Dr Atiur said the capacity of the existing CIB set up is already under heavy strain for responding to the current volumes of credit information request.

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