

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

**Political future**  
The crimes committed by the high-profile people are known to everyone. What will happen if these people come to power again? Election is not far away and we should know who is good and who is not.

We should elect our next leaders from among the good souls.

Shafiqul Islam

One-mail

**Airport issue**

What is this rubbish about Tejgaon Airport we keep hearing all the time? High-rise buildings have been constructed within a certain distance of it, floors must be chopped off, it is quite ridiculous! The government has changed its mind over whether the Tejgaon Airport is obsolete or not several times over the years, it is not the fault of the builders of high-rises; they probably got their permissions during one of those "obsolete" times. This is again the fault of our government agencies not agreeing with each other. Let's declare Tejgaon Airport obsolete once and for all

and sell off the land and get some revenue, let the businesses and high-rises be there, let them work. Our economy has suffered enough damage. Whatever little training Tejgaon is doing is being done by someone we cannot identify today.

As for Zia International Airport, many other countries have relocated their airports outside the city centre. We should learn from this. We should look towards moving our airport further away and making it a world class airport with shops, transport links, parking and all the things you would expect from a country trying to attract tourism and investment from abroad.

S. Choudhury  
Dhaka

**BNP's rebirth?**

I would like to differ with Brig (rttd) Hafiz's analysis of the BNP's position today and its future prospects (Oct 1). In my opinion a remodeled BNP; tutored and headed by a pliant party head is in the offing. This person is going to lead BNP in the future political scenario. I appreciate the writer for cor-

rectly depicting the formative history of the party, and its efforts to recruit discarded and unsavoury political persons. However the rebirth of the BNP; possibly in the Zia mould, will be done by someone we cannot identify today.

All party policies and strategies will come from the unknown person pulling the strings from behind and backed by powerful quarters!

The only problem is containing the AL; and steps in this direction are already taking place; under a well thought out plan. The AL's unity and credibility is fairly fragile today, and its political capability banking on mirroring a quarter century old figure is getting eroded. They are overestimating their potential; and may be in for a surprise!

The key actor in the forthcoming BNP drama may well be the hastily expelled Mannan Bhuyian. The party's top executive's reconciliation is probably now being engineered; and it may possibly include the expelled ex-president too! The stage is being set for the Bangladesh (New Model)

Simon McRae  
Senior campaigns officer  
London, UK

## Return of polythene

Polythene has returned to our market again. It seems very few people are aware of the consequences of using polythene. The most dangerous thing that I noticed is that the people carry warm liquid such as Dal with polythene which may contaminate the liquid with carcinogenic substance (cancer causing agent).

Another important thing I must mention is use of plastic container for soft drinks. It is simply polluting the environment. Moreover, all the drinks are either acidic or alkaline which may result in the release of possible dangerous chemicals into the liquid we drink. This nation survived thousands of years without polythene and plastic bottles but now it seems inevitable. If we want a healthy generation we must reduce the use of polythene and plastic to a minimum level; otherwise we have to wait for epidemics of cancer and of other diseases. We must not forget that our irresponsible activities may kill our innocent next generations.

I would request the government to stop the use of polythene effectively.

Dr. Mahboob Hossain  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Pharmacy  
The University of Asia Pacific  
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR



**BASIC Bank Limited**  
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Email: basicho@ctechco.net, Web: www.basicbanklimited.com

## TENDER NOTICE

### For purchase of computers, peripherals and accessories

01. Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide suppliers for supplying following computers and peripherals:

**Group - 1**

- a) PC with CRT Monitor
- b) PC with LCD/TFT Monitor

**Group - 2**

- a) Line Interactive UPS
- b) Online UPS

**Group - 3**

- a) 24-pin Dot Matrix Printer
- b) 9-pin High Speed Dot Matrix Printer

**Group - 4**

- a) Network Laser Printer
- b) Scanner

**Group - 5**

- Networking Accessories

02. The participating company must have at least 3 (three) years' proven experience in supplying computers/peripherals in any scheduled bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying computers/peripherals to BASIC Bank. Copy of previous work order(s) must be supplied along with the tender as proof in this regard.

03. The participating company must be an authorized dealer/distributor of the items offered in the tender.

04. 2.5% of the quoted price has to be submitted with the tender through PO/DD in the name of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka as earnest money. Failing to deliver items as per terms and conditions of the tender schedule will result in forfeiture of earnest money.

05. The participating company may submit tender for the items in any or all groups and must offer all the items in that/those group/groups. Partial offer for any group will not be accepted.

06. The tender schedule may be obtained from IT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban - 5th Floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A) of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. and 01:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk. 1,000/- only. No schedule will be sold after 01:00 P.M. of October 23, 2007.

07. Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at Head Office (Sena Kalyan Bhaban - 6th Floor, 195 Motijheel C/A) of BASIC Bank Limited on or before October 25, 2007 by 03:00 P.M., and the tenders will be opened at 03:00 P.M. on the same day in presence of bidders, if any.

08. Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

Deputy General Manager  
IT Division

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agricultural Extension  
Project Management Unit  
Greater Rangpur Agriculture & Rural Development Project  
1st Building, 6th Floor, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215

## Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm

EOI Ref. No: GRARDP/28/07/409 Date: 03/10/07

The Project Coordinating Director, Greater Rangpur Agriculture and Rural Development Project, Department of Agricultural Extension has been allocated IDB funds from the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh towards the cost of the Greater Rangpur Agriculture and Rural Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these fund to payment under the contract for the provision of Consultancy service (baseline survey) for the project by the consulting firms.

The services include baseline survey through PRA to assess:

a) Present status of crop production, productivity, soil fertility, input use including credit, scope of diversification and intensification of cropping.

b) Socio economic profile of target farmers (landless, marginal and small).

c) Knowledge base and skill of target farmers (Men and Women) for homestead gardening.

d) The existing status of training the target farmers and future needs and.

e) Gender issues and equity concern of target farmers households and Income Generation Activities (IGA).

The experiences, resources and delivery capacity required are: reputed and adequate consulting firm with required manpower and logistics to conduct the survey and produce a comprehensive report.

The Project Coordinating Director now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, etc.).

Five consulting firms will be selected for conducting 5 (five) baseline survey in Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat & Gaibandha districts. Consulting firms will be selected using the selection sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations-2003 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GoB. It is expected that the services will be commenced on December/07 and shall be completed on April/08 (approximately 4 months).

Interested applicants may obtain further information by applying to the address below during normal office hours.

Expressions of interest shall be submitted by 5.00pm on 15/11/07 in sealed envelope delivered to Project Coordinating Director, Greater Rangpur Agriculture and Rural Development Project, Department of Agricultural Extension, 6th Floor (Front Building), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 and be marked as "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm."

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Md Abu Taher  
Project Coordinating Director  
Greater Rangpur Agriculture and Rural Development Project  
Department of Agricultural Extension  
Khamarbari, 6th Floor (Front Building)  
Dhaka-1215

## Traffic problem

Nationalist Party to announce its arrival at an opportune moment.  
S.A. Mansoor  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### RMG sector

The unnamed exporter's claim that War on Want encourages Britons not to buy clothes made in Bangladesh cannot be allowed to go unchallenged (Multiple factors blamed for sluggish RMG sector, 1 October). War on Want does not support clothes boycott campaigns as this may lead to job losses for current workers. Instead, we are working with our Bangladeshi partner organisations to improve the working conditions and livelihoods of garment workers and their families. War on Want has stressed this point in meetings with two major retailers, Tesco and Asda, and would be dismayed if they ducked keeping their ethical promises by moving production elsewhere.

Simon McRae  
Senior campaigns officer  
London, UK

Dhaka is a city that has grown without any master plan. The result is unbearable traffic congestion, transformation of residential areas into commercial ones and so forth. Many have expressed their concern that Dhaka is destined to be the world's largest slum.

I would like to concentrate only on the traffic situation of the city.

Dhaka city is surrounded on three sides by rivers. This unique situation has forced the city to grow longitudinally northward from the river Buriganga. All major roads run south to north, with extremely negligible number of interconnections between these south-north main arteries. This is a major cause of traffic congestions and it is not easy to solve this problem without demolishing large tracts of built up area to make requisite numbers of east-west interconnections.

More importantly, the proportion of road surface area to built up area amounts to a paltry 7% approximately as against 25% recommended for a good city planning. Let us not ignore the fact that this 25% is recommended taking into account a well established network of public transportation system, which is virtually in a pathetic state in Dhaka.

There have been many seminars, discussions and talk shows on the subject. Unfortunately, nothing has changed for the better. Even the much touted internationally funded urban transportation improvement project that was completed a few years ago is already outdated. We are now spending more time on the road due to gridlocks every day. We are not only wasting valuable work hours, we are also burning up costly imported fuel just waiting at the same spot for an indefinite period every day. Or should I say every hour? No one has so far calculated the financial loss due to this, but it could be assumed to be astronomical.

There are talks occasionally of building elevated motorways, elevated monorails and subways (underground train). I have a feeling from the frequency of media appearance that elevated motorway and/or elevated monorails get the greater preference amongst the three options. This to me seems that we might be going for another blunder if we go for the elevated options. In my view, we must go for subways (underground trains). This system will be more expensive than the elevated

options, but will be more effective in terms of solving our problem.

The reason I am in favour of a subway is the inherent character of the city and its road system. It has already been described that our long city has a number of south to north roads with scant interconnections in between. These interconnections are extremely important. Without those commuters have to use the roads more than they would need to if adequate interconnections were there. I guess an example would explain my contention more realistically. Suppose I want to go from Farm Gate to BG Press in Tejgaon. Currently I would have to go up to Jahangir Gate, then to Mohakhali and then back

southward to BG Press. If there were a road connection in-between, I would not traverse such a roundabout way. This will not only save my time and fuel, I will spare the road not needed for my journey for others.

This is primarily the reason I feel elevated road or rails would be futile. All elevated roads or railways have to be constructed over existing roads or over empty space that would not be or cannot be used for future construction.

Since we do not have such empty space, our only option would be to build those over existing roads. This will again leave us with a number of long south to north roads with negligible interconnections. We will see some improvement initially but pretty soon we would be back to square one.

Subways, on the other hand can run across the city, underneath buildings and other structures. Thus we can take care to a large extent the lack of east-west interconnections.

Building subway system is very expensive.

Economic analysis of simple cost of construction vis-à-vis possible income

will make the project look uneconomical.

I have a feeling that more rigorous analysis accounting for the savings on man hours (currently lost by commuters of all kinds) and fuel would make it viable.

My real time experience is a car with EPA rating of 10 kmpl for city cycle does only about half of that in Dhaka.

However, even with subways, we must first have a long term master plan for the city first. Then plan as judiciously as possible, a subway network. And finally start building subways in sections according to funds that can be mobilised. Moving forward without a master plan projecting the city after at least 50 years from today would lead to a failed project again.

Omar Rabbani

One-mail

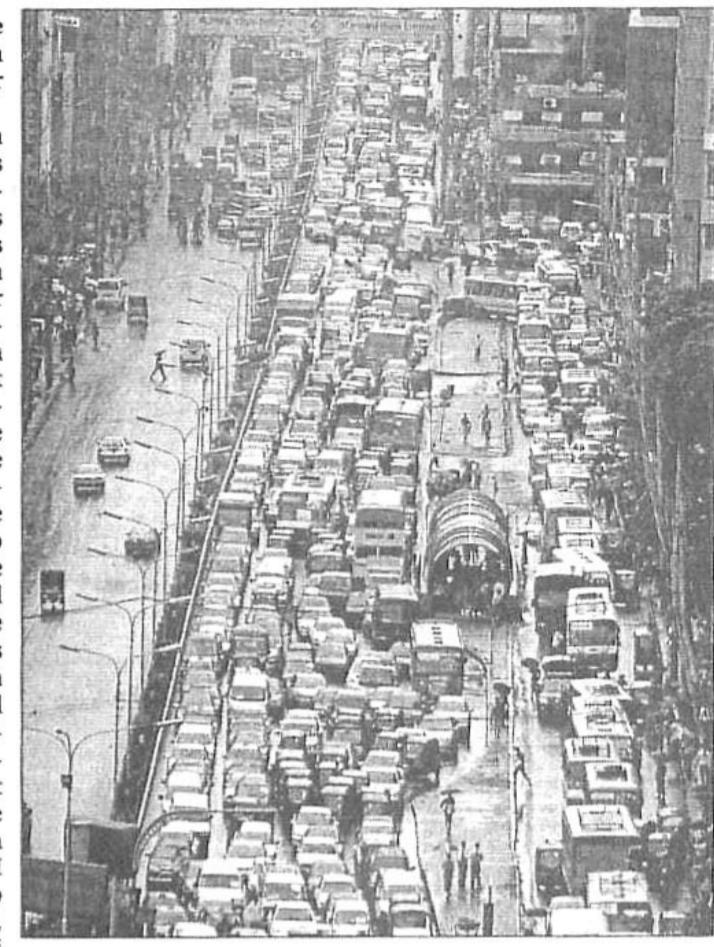


PHOTO: STAR

## Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

## Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army".

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	1. Cloth Rexin Green, Qty-2,500 Metre	17-10-07	30-10-07	31-10-07	Local	214/2626/H-2/DGDP/Ord/P-5(B)
2.	Tendered schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. Then tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).		</			