

Next budget to focus on GDP growth: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The next fiscal year's budget would focus on increasing GDP growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation, the finance and planning adviser said yesterday.

The budget would also focus on raising revenue collection to reduce dependency on foreign aid, Mirza Azizul Islam said addressing a pre-budget view exchange meeting in Chittagong.

Responding to the call of not preparing a budget as per the prescription of foreign financial organisations such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the adviser said the government would not make any decision with a prescription from outside that might harm the interest of the country.

Rather, he said, the government would make the budget keeping the development of the marginal people in mind.

He said the government is holding series of pre-budget discussions, as the country have not a parliament to reflect the opinion of the common people in the budget.

He said all the recommendations received from the pre-budget meetings would be examined and given on the website to help the public for giving opinion before finalising the budget.

Garment export grows strongly

July-January export up 10pc

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's garment export grew strongly in January on the back of hefty exports to EU and USA markets, said officials of the EPB (Export Promotion Bureau).

Vice Chairman of EPB Shahab Ullah said the total export earning stood 10 per cent higher at \$7,27 million in the July-January period with garments accounting for 82.5 per cent.

He said the export data, which will be formally launched today, shows that the

woven sector has been regaining its top position among the export items.

The January export data shows the earnings from woven garments stood \$492 million, while knitwear fetched \$464 million, posting 49 and 69 per cent growth over January 2007 figures.

Shahab Ullah said the apparel exporters earned 59 per cent more in January than a year-ago period on the back of a huge growth in orders from European countries while demands from USA.

In the first month of 2008,

Bangladesh's exports of readymade garment items worth \$957 million.

Industry people said more-than-expected orders from the EU market boosted the overall export figures, while growth remained static in the single biggest market, USA.

The apparel sector leaders said to sustain the growth in the coming months, Bangladesh needs a congenial production environment backed by a stable political situation and cordial relation between workers and owners.

Prime Finance to manage Confidence Salt IPO

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Finance & Investment Limited, a leading non-banking financial institution and full-fledged merchant bank, recently signed an agreement with Confidence Salt Limited to manage its proposed initial public offering (IPO).

Mohammad Akter Hossain Sannamat, managing director of Prime Finance, and Quadi Shahidul Islam, managing director of Confidence Salt, signed the issue management agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Bibiyana completes one year of operation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bibiyana, one of the largest gas fields in Bangladesh, has completed one year of its operation on March 12.

The Chevron-operated gas field doubled its output within one year of operation, a statement issued by the operator said yesterday.

Chevron Bangladesh organised a field trip to mark the first year of its anniversary, a statement issued by the operator on Wednesday. US Chargé d'affaires in Dhaka Geeta Pasi, Chairman of Petrobangla Jalal Ahmed and Chevron chief in Bangladesh Steve Wilson were present.

Geeta Pasi said Chevron is a key supplier of energy products and services in Bangladesh.

She said: "Chevron is helping to Bangladesh's economic growth."

The statement also said during the construction phase there were no major incidents or days away from work cases during the 11 million workforce hours worked by the company employees.

The statement also said approximately 10 million work hours came from the local people involved in the project through local contractors. Moreover, corporate social responsibility projects were launched in partnership with local community.

CONTAINING PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

Timeframe set for receiving import delivery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government at a meeting with businessmen yesterday set a time frame for receiving delivery of imported goods after purchase of Delivery Order (DO) to ensure uninterrupted supply in the market as well as control the soaring price of essentials.

At the meeting, held with importers, DO traders and godown (depot) owners, the government fixed 15 days for taking delivery of edible oils after issuance of DO, while one month period for receiving

delivery of rice and pulses, and one and half months for wheat.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) also instructed the importers not to release more delivery orders than the quantity of already imported goods.

The government agencies further asked the godown owners to issue notice to the concerned party for taking delivery of goods immediately even after the expiry of the given time and inform the authorities concerned

about the matter.

BDR Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed and DGFI Chittagong region Chief Colonel Mohammad Hossain attended the meeting in Chittagong where some fifty importers, godown owners, contractors, commission agents and DO traders or brokers were present.

"The people, particularly the poor, were suffering miserably due to the price hike and we all have some responsibility (to improve the situation)," said Major General Shakil.

Tour operators seek govt support, easy visa system to flourish tourism

Dhaka International Travel Mart ends

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pointing to the rise in the number of both local and foreign tourists at the end of January, local tour operators have sought proper government support and easy visa system for flourishing the tourism industry.

They were speaking at the closing of 5th Dhaka International Travel Mart at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

"By the end of 2007, the number of tourists was dropped for devastating flood and Sidr, but by the end of this January it started growing again," said Sushanta Chakraborty, marketing executive of Galaxy Holidays, a local tour operator.

Chakraborty said the government needs to secure political stability to woo the sector.

Echoing Chakraborty's

views, Hasan Mansur, president of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB), said if the government takes proper initiative, the number of tourists would rise and make the sector profitable.

Mansur, also the owner of Guide Tours, said infrastructure development would also help flourish the sector.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of the travel journal Monitor and chairman of the fair organizing committee, laid emphasis on proper government planning.

According to organisers, around 15 thousand people visited the fair on the last day. "Main hurdles for developing the sector are the lack of initiatives to highlight the country's wealth and complicated visa system," said Alam.

He suggested 'on arrival visa' for the tourists like Dubai.

Wahidul Alam also demanded privatisation of the

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) in order to run the sector effectively.

Kawsar Chowdhury, marketing and communication manager of Best Air, was happy with the good response from the visitors.

Some 42 organisations from 9 countries including host Bangladesh took part in the fair.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Nepal Tourism Board, Tourism Malaysia, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, GMG Airlines, Emirates Airlines, Jet Air, Malaysia Airlines, Dragonair of Hong Kong, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways and Etihad Airways, also presented their attractive packages and services at the fair.

Mobile phone operator AKTEL was the title sponsor of the event, while The Daily Star, Channel i and Radio Today were the media partners.

\$1.1b foreign aid received in July-Feb

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh received at least US\$ 1,107 million in foreign aid during July-February period of the current fiscal year, which is the highest-ever disbursement by bilateral and multilateral donors during the same period in yesteryears.

The disbursement amount would be higher to some extent as some other releases still remained to be reported, a senior official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) told the news agency.

"It'll be the highest-ever foreign aid disbursement," he said, adding that the commitment for aid is also the highest.

ERD sources said the disbursement of foreign aid in the last fiscal year (2006-07) was only \$1,630 million.



Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BFWE) President Rokia A. Rahman speaks at the opening ceremony of a workshop on women in SMEs in Dhaka yesterday.

Women entrepreneurs seek collateral-free loans

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Women entrepreneurs yesterday urged banks and other non-banking financial institutions to provide collateral-free long-term credit for SMEs run by women entrepreneurs.

Some women entrepreneurs said they could do better if the banks and other financial institutions give long-term collateral-free loans with lower interest rates.

The women entrepreneurs were speaking at a workshop on 'How do Banks Assess Credit Worthiness? Pathfinders 2008: Worthiness in SMEs' at Gulshan in Dhaka.

SouthAsia Enterprise

Development Facility (SEDF) of International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BFWE) jointly organised the workshop.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, President of BFWE Rokia A. Rahman urged the banks to give loans to the women entrepreneurs against their saleable goods.

"These workshops are opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing among women entrepreneurs in various business sectors in the country," she said.

Rokia also expressed her gratitude to the women entrepreneurs of the light engineering sector who shared their success stories with the participants.

Deputy General Manager of the IFC-SEDF Deepak Adhikary said the purpose of organising such an initiative is to initiate dialogue and learning among female entrepreneurs regarding product development, market opportunities and access to finance.

Deputy Managing Director of AB Bank Niaz Habib conducted a session on credit worthiness at the workshop while President of Women Entrepreneurs Association Sabrina Islam also spoke.

Local industry holds potential to meet spare parts demand Seminar told

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh meets 73 percent of its demand for spare parts by import, although there is an opportunity to produce those locally, a seminar in Dhaka was told yesterday.

The annual requirement for spare parts in the country is Tk 1,860 crore, of which Tk 1,360 crore worth parts are imported and the rest or 27 percent of the demand is being produced locally, Abdul Karim, managing director of Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS), said referring to a research.

According to the study, top 23 sectors that use spare parts the most are RMG-woven, RMG-knit, textile, spinning, jute, agriculture equipment and machineries, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, sugar, and agro-processing industries, power plant, railway, and gas transmission plant.

Karim was speaking at a seminar styled 'Potential for Import Substitution of Spare Parts Production for 13 Selected Sectors in Bangladesh' organized by MIDAS in collaboration with the Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC).

According to the study conducted by MIDAS and sponsored by Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the top five problems faced by spare parts producers of the country include inadequate technology, lack of access to finance, raw materials, utilities and skilled labour force.

"If proper initiatives are taken the demand for most of the spare parts for local industries are possible to manufacture locally, but it requires proper government support," SM Al-Husainy, chairman of MIDAS, said.

The seminar was also told that the industry is scattered and very few people know on this kind of activities.

"There are many companies producing spare parts for jute mills but they are very scattered and isolated. When we require spare parts we cannot find the right one," Mahmudul Haque, vice president of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association, said.

BITAC is working to develop import substitute spare parts in the country. "We are receiving more orders for spare parts from local companies this year compared to the previous year," Ashish Kumar Paul, director general of BITAC, said.

Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, resident representative of JICA, Bangladesh Office, was also present at the seminar.

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Tender No. FDC/PP-Import/2007-2008/2/Re/69 Dt. 11/03/2008

International Re-Tender for Import of Digital Colour Film Analyzer Machine (Goods)

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information, Government of Bangladesh.			
02	Agency	Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Dhaka.			
03	Procuring entity name	Managing Director, BFDC.			
04	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
05	Invitation for	Digital Colour Film Analyzer Machine.			
06	Invitation Ref. No.	FDC/PP-Import/2007-2008/2/Re/69.			
07	Dated	11/03/2008.			
08	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).			
09	Budget and source of fund	Revenue.			
10	Tender package No.	1 No.			
11	Tender package name	Digital Colour Film Analyzer Machine.			
12	Tender publication date	Dt. 13/03/2008.			
13	Tender last selling date & time	Dt. 08/04/2008 up to 5:00pm.			
14	Tender closing date & time	Dt. 09/04/2008 up to 2:00pm.			
15	Tender opening date & time	Dt. 09/04/2008 at 2:30pm.			
16	Name & address of office(s)				
i) Selling of tender documents		i) Cash Counter of Accounts Section, BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
ii) Receiving of tender document		ii) Deputy Director (Procurement), BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
iii) Opening of tender document		iii) Director (T&E), Bangladesh Film Development Corporation.			
17 Eligibility of tenderer		The tenderer/local agent should have: (a) Professional capability, technical qualification & personnel, reputation, experience, equipment, financial resources. (b) Agency certificate from the manufacturer to participate in the bid (original). (c) Registration from CCI & E and Bangladesh Bank. (d) Up-to-date trade license issued by Municipal Corporation/ Authentic authority of Bangladesh. (e) Up-to-date income tax GIR/TIN certificate & VAT registration (attested).			
18 Brief description of goods		Digital Colour Film Analyzer Machine.			
19 Price of tender document (Tk.)		Tk. 3,000/- (three thousand) only.			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in weeks/months	
20	1 No.	Digital Colour Film Analyzer Machine	BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208	Tk. 2,50,000/- (two lac fifty thousand) only by Pay-Order/Bank Draft/BG (except Uttara Bank Ltd.)	As per schedule
21 Name of official inviting tender		S M Kaiser Hossain Mallick.			
22 Designation of official inviting tender		Deputy Director (Procurement).			
23 Address of official inviting tender		Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
24 Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 8120204, Fax: 88029137280			
25 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.					

GD-1220 **S M Kaiser Hossain Mallick**
Deputy Director (Procurement)

Zila Parishad, Dhaka
46-47, Johnson Road, Dhaka-1100

Invitation for Tenders
2nd Re-Tender Notice No. 10/2006-07

No. Eng. Sec-46/Tender-5/06-07/774 Date: 6-3-2008

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

1.	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.			
2.	Agency	Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
3.	Procuring entity name	CEO, Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5.	Invitation for	Tender for works.			
6.	Invitation Ref. No. & date	Eng. Sec. ZPD-46/Tender-5/06-07/774 dt. 6-03-2008.			
7.	Procurement method	National open tendering method.			
8.	Source of funds	ADP.			
9. a) Last date & time of selling tender documents		Date: 30-3-2008 Time: 5:00pm and			
b) Places of selling tender documents		1. Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka; 2. Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Dhaka; 3. Office of the Deputy Director, Local Government, DC Office, Dhaka; 4. Office of the Assistant Engineer, Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
10. a) Last date & time of receiving tender		Date: 31-3-2008 Time: 12:00 noon and			
b) Places of receiving tender documents		1. Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka; 2. Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Dhaka; 3. Office of the Deputy Director, Local Government, DC Office, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Assistant Engineer, Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
11. Date & place of pre-tender meeting		23-3-2008 at 12:00 noon, office of the Assistant Engineer, Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
12. Tender closing date & time		31-3-2008 at 12:00 noon.			
13. a) Date & time of opening tender document		31-3-2008 Time: 2:30pm and			
b) Place of opening of tender document		Office of the undersigned.			
14. Eligibility of tenderer		a. All papers including up-to-date valid trade licence, Vat registration certificate & income tax clearance certificate. b. Original tender purchasing money receipt shall have to be submitted. c. Amount of annual turnover, experience & liquid assets from 6-3-2008 to 31-3-2008 specified in TDS shall have to be submitted. d. As per qualification specified in PPR-2003.			
15. Name of official inviting tender		Md Atikul Islam.			
16. Designation of official inviting tender		Assistant Engineer, Zila Parishad, Dhaka.			
17. Address of official inviting tender		Zila Parishad, Dhaka, 46-47, Johnson Road, Dhaka.			
18. Contact details		Assistant Engineer, Zila Parishad, Dhaka, 46-47, Johnson Road, Dhaka-1100, Phone: 7116456 (Office).			
19. Package No.	Name of works	Source of fund	Tender security (Taka)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Taka)
3 (three) projects under 2 (two) packages should be implemented. Detail lists along with tender documents should be known and purchased at the place of selling specified at Sl. No. 9(b).					
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Tender documents in one original and one duplicate (in a separate envelop each) shall have to be submitted.					

GD-1229 **Assistant Engineer**
Zila Parishad, Dhaka