

# Poverty map unveiled Economists suggest 'flexible' budget

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A poverty map of Bangladesh, estimating poverty at district and upazila levels, was launched yesterday with the aim to enable the government and policymakers to identify the poorer areas and allocate resources for pulling the distressed out of the curse.

"It will help us spot areas where the extent of poverty is high. The map will allow us to take programmes and policies for alleviating poverty prioritising the most vulnerable areas," said Planning Minister AK Khandker at the launching ceremony in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the World Bank in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) updated the poverty map, completed in early 2009.

The poverty map was prepared on the basis of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of 2005 and the Population Census of 2001.

The map comes as



Planning Minister AK Khandker speaks at the launch of poverty maps in Dhaka yesterday. World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu, among others, was present at the programme.

Bangladesh suffers from high-level poverty with the 2005 poverty data showing that around 40 percent or 6 crore people are poor.

Economists and various multilateral donor agencies said the number of poor people increased in the recent years due to price hike of essentials.

"Although the poverty rate came down over the years, the number of the poor remains the same as the population is increasing day by day," said the planning minister.

"So for poverty reduction we shall also have to give attention to population growth," he said.

Since 1990 poverty rate dropped by 17 percentage points to 40 percent in 2005. But according to analysts, the recent reduction in the national poverty rate shows uneven progress among different areas and communities as there are many areas where poverty is much extreme than the national figures suggest.

The latest poverty map will enable policymakers to recognise the geographical and regional variations and spatial inequality as well as provide guidance for effective policy interventions and programmes based on local conditions.

"Household income and

expenditure survey cannot provide actual data on poverty at district and upazila levels. The map will be very helpful for the government to monitor poverty and plan strategies," said Xian Zhu, country director of World Bank.

The WB country chief however suggested updating the map on a regular basis to evaluate the gains and inequalities created by the economic growth or the external shocks stemming from natural disaster.

Referring to poverty rate, WFP Representative in Bangladesh John Aylieff said the poverty map would be a critical input for WFP's own planning, targeting, and allocation of resources.

"Behind the map, there is statistics. And behind the statistics, there are mothers and children and many more faces," he said.

"Let's use the map as a means for concerted actions," he said, adding: "It's the poor hungry people to whom we are accountable."

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economists yesterday advised the government to adopt a flexible budget for the next fiscal year so it could include priorities later to safeguard the economy from the impacts of the global economic crisis.

At a pre-budget consultation meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith, the economists also advised the government to review the budget quarterly and do "everything possible" to keep domestic demand up.

"Now flexibility is more important than discipline in the budget. It could help reset priorities," Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud told the meeting at the National Economic Council.

"Uncertainty is looming (over the economy)," said Prof Mahmud. No budget was prepared in the country's history under such uncertainty, he added.

"The budget must be flexible to the highest extent."

Muhith chaired the discussion designed to take opinions from the economists to lay out the next fiscal year's budget. Dr Mashiur Rahman, prime minister's economic

adviser, was also present.

Economists raised different issues, including the whitening of black money, implementation of annual development programme, resource mobilisation, revenue collections, subsidy and domestic demand.

"There should be flexibility in the next budget so it can adopt policies based on global economic changes," said Mustafa K Mujeri, former chief economist of the central bank.

Former finance secretary Dr Zakir Khan echoed him. "Flexibility in the budget will help adopt a mechanism, if necessary,"

Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman said the budget should be reviewed quarterly.

He also told the finance minister to undertake some sort of austerity measures to reduce the revenue expenditure.

"Revenue expenditure must be less than revenue income," he added.

The former finance minister said the government should take a positive approach to use resources from foreign sources.

On the whitening of black money, Syeduzzaman said it should go through the bank-

ing channel.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said legalising "black money" would not add additional money because it is already in use.

On domestic demand, Prof Mahmud said: "The budget should be target-based and employment-oriented."

Dr Atiur Rahman suggested the government spend more through the local government to keep local demand up.

Former caretaker government adviser Akbar Ali Khan opposed any new subsidy because it is tough to get it back.

Khan also said tax breaks should be given to the industries, which would list on the capital market.

Dr Mahub Hossain said subsidy should go for selective industries and areas.

Prof MA Taslim asked the finance ministry and Bangladesh Bank to work closely to maintain a balance in demand and supply and inflation.

He believed the country's financial sector is performing quite well. "The sector is likely to continue its good performance if there is no policy blunder," he added.

Citi Country Officer for Bangladesh Mamun Rashid

and former adviser Hafizuddin Khan were also present.

In another development, the International Monetary Fund also suggested that the next budget be formulated with a view to creating fiscal space that may be deemed necessary for contingent action to ease economic challenges.

Masato Miyazaki, IMF adviser for Asia Pacific, at a press briefing in Dhaka said, "Next fiscal year's budget will be critical. No politician can ignore the potential fallout from global recession. So the government will want to manifest its thinking and its ideas into the budget."

Miyazaki observed that overall Bangladesh's economy so far remained relatively robust and the domestic economy retained momentum from a favourable agricultural performance.

IMF's Miyazaki said the new government should consider carefully revenue reforms to support the spending for infrastructure and social investment that, in turn, will boost the economy's medium-term growth potential and accelerate poverty reduction.



## MIDAS gets new chairman

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

MIDAS Financing Ltd has appointed Rokia A Rahman, a director, as its chairman, says a press statement.

The appointment was made at the company's 150th Board meeting, held on Monday. Her tenure will span a period of two years with effect from March 30, 2009.

## Seminar stresses further boost to farm sector

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should focus on further developing the agricultural sector and consider local realities while formulating economic policies to improve the condition of the poor in Bangladesh, a seminar in Dhaka was told yesterday.

Speakers also pointed out the government needs to immediately start work on the issues over land reforms and develop human resources to make ways to eradicate poverty.

"The government should start working on land reforms

to ensure an access to capital for poor people. This would help them to be more productive and increase their participation in the national economy," said Robin Burgess, an Economics professor at the London School of Economics and co-director of the International Growth Centre.

The seminar on 'Operationalising Pro-Poor Growth' was organised by the Institute of Microfinance (InM) at its auditorium in Dhaka.

Burgess conducted a study on the state of the Indian pro-poor people and

related that study to the economic condition of Bangladesh, due to the geographical closeness and quite similar economies of the two countries.

He pointed at the limited growth of the agricultural sector in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar in the last few years and said, "In this situation, if Bangladesh doubles its efforts to develop the agricultural sector, it would help the country reduce its dependency on India for food items."

"The government should also formulate a long term policy to turn the burdens of a large population to skilled human capital. They should also ensure better access to technology as well," he said.

"In addition, the government should ensure high quality education and training, in order to develop skilled human resources," he added.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist and president of InM, and Professor Baqi Khalily, executive director of InM, were present at the seminar.



## New MD for IPDC

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Ltd has appointed Humaira Azam as its new managing director and chief executive officer, says a press release.

Azam has 19 years of experience in diverse fields like corporate banking, debt restructuring, special asset management, institutional banking and risk with Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC and ANZ Grindlays.

## Tourism sector to be modernised: Quader

### UNB, Dhaka

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Golam Mohammad Quader said the government has taken necessary steps for modernising the country's tourism sector.

It would be possible to generate employment facilities, brighten the country's image abroad and make country's economy prosperous if the potential tourism sector is made attractive and acceptable to local and inter-

national tourists, he said. The minister was addressing a seminar and open discussion on tourism at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University Thursday.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Planning, Programming Division  
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project:  
Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU)  
Block # 13, Room # 32, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Invitation for Tenders			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Planning	
2	Agency	Programming Division	
3	Procuring entity name	Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (PCMU)	
4	Procuring entity code	1401	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Procurement of one Sedan car and two microbus.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	PC/PD/PCMU/Pro-Vehicle/13/35	
8	Date	29/03/09	
<b>Key Information</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM)	
<b>Funding Information</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	The World Bank	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	The World Bank	
<b>Particular Information</b>			
12	Project code	IDA Credit No. 4507 BD	
13	Project	Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project: Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU)	
14	Tender package No.	ECRRP-PCMU-G2	
15	Tender package name	Procurement of one Sedan car and two microbus.	
16	Tender publication date	31-03-09	
17	Tender last selling date	26/04/09	
18	Tender closing date and time	Date	Time
19	Tender opening date and time	27/04/09	2:15pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address	
- Selling tender document			
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project: Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU), Planning Commission, Block # 13, Room # 32, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.			
- Receiving tender document			
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project: Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU), Planning Commission, Block # 13, Room # 32, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.			
- Opening tender document			
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project: Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU), Planning Commission, Block # 13, Room # 32, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.			
21	Pre-tender meeting will be held on	Not to be held.	
Place/date/time of			
Date			
Time			
N/A			
<b>Information for Tenderer</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Manufacturer or authorised dealer from IDA member countries except Israel.	
23	Brief description of goods	One 5 seated Sedan car minimum having 1300cc; one 12 seated microbus having minimum 1900cc and one 15 seated microbus having minimum 2400cc with all standard accessories.	
24	Brief description of related services	After sales service & availability of spare parts must be for at least 5 years.	
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	BD Tk. 1000/- (non-refundable).	
26	Lot	Identification of package/lot	Location
1	Minimum 1300cc, 5 seated car with all standard accessories	ECRRP- MGPU Office, Dhaka	Tenderer can participate in any number of lot. Tender security (to be submitted in separate envelope) amount will be minimum 2% of quoted price
3	Minimum 1900cc, 12 seated microbus with all standard accessories	ECRRP-MGPU Office, Dhaka	3 weeks after work order issued
2	Minimum 2400cc, 15 seated microbus will all standard accessories	ECRRP- MGPU Office, Dhaka	3 weeks after work order issued
27 Name of official inviting tender			
Md. Abdur Rouf			
28 Designation of official inviting tender			
Director (Training, Coordination and Procurement)			
29 Address of official inviting tender			
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project: Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit (ECRRP-PCMU), Planning Commission, Block # 13, Room # 32, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.			
30 Contact details of official inviting tender			
Tel. No. 01824826575 Fax No. 91345579 e-mail: rouf83@yahoo.com			
31 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
<b>Md Abdur Rouf</b> Director (Training, Coordination and Procurement) Tel.: 9134150/101			

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
আরকাইডস ও গ্রাহাগার অধিদপ্তর  
৩২, বিচারপতি এসএম মোর্শেদ সরণী  
আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর  
ঢাকা-১২০৭  
নং-এফ-২-১/৩০ (অংশ-২)-আগারগাঁও/০৩/৪২০ তারিখঃ ২৯/৩/০৯

### বই ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক নং	সংগ্রহক সত্তা	আরকাইডস ও গ্রাহাগার অধিদপ্তর, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।
১.	সংগ্রহক সত্তা	আরকাইডস ও গ্রাহাগার অধিদপ্তর, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।
২.	কাজের বিবরণ	২০০৮ সালে প্রকাশিত দেশী-বিদেশী বই ক্রয়।
৩.	দরপত্র তফসিল	১৫০/-, গ্রুপ-৪ঃ ২০০/- পরিচালক, আরকাইডস ও গ্রাহাগার অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর বরাবরে কোড নং-১-০৪৩৩-০০০০-২৩৬৬ বাতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক জমা দিয়ে চালানের ফেরিফাইট মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করে নিজস্ব পেটারণে আবেদনপূর্বক।
৪.	জামানতের পরিমাণ	পরিচালক, আরকাইডস ও গ্রাহাগার অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে ক-গ্রুপ ৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা, খ-গ্রুপ ৩০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/অর্ডার আকারে।
৫.	দরপত্রের সাথে যা জমা দিতে হবে	২০০৮-২০০৯ বৎসরে নবায়নকৃত পুস্তক ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর ফটোকপি, ২০০৮-২০০৯ আয়ের পরিশোধের প্রত্যায়নপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও ২০০৯-এর ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরিত প্রত্যায়নপত্র।
৬.	সম্মতের পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭.	তফসিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান ও শেষ তারিখ	অধিদপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা (দোতাল), ২১-০৪-০৯, তারিখ সকাল ১০টা থেকে বিকাল ৩টা পর্যন্ত।
৮.	দরপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ, স্থান ও সময়	২৬-০৪-০৯, দোতালয় প্রশাসন শাখায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাগে, বেলা ২.৩০ মিনিট।
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময়	পরিচালকের কক্ষ, বিকাল ৩.০০টা, তাং ২৬/০৪/০৯।
১০.	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়	কার্যাদেশ ইস্যুর তারিখ থেকে সুনির্দিষ্ট ৪০ দিনের মধ্যে।
১১.	মূল্য পরিশোধ পদ্ধতি	এজিবি এর মাধ্যমে।
১২.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	যে কোন দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক গ্রহণ/বাকিদের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।

ম লতিফুর রহমান  
পরিচালক (যোগা-সচিব)



Nurul Aktar, director of Energypac Power Generation Ltd, and Jashim Uddin, managing director of Mirapad Real Estate and Development Ltd, exchange documents after signing a contract recently in Dhaka to supply low-voltage electric products.

Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet  
Engineering Office, Sylhet

## Invitation for Tender (OTM)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Public Procurement Act-2006 for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2.	Agency	Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST), Sylhet.
3.	Procuring entity name & district	Office of the University Engineer, Engineering Office, SUST, Sylhet.
4.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 8+200 lines (Expandable up to 20+500 lines) Digital/IP based PABX System.
5.	Invitation Reference No. & date	Eng/118(08)/17-08-09 Date-30/03/09.
6.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (PW-1).
7.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Fund (GOB).
8.	Tender package No.	01 (one).
9.	Tender package name	

Package No.	Description of work	Earliest money (Tk)	Value of tender schedule (Tk)	Completion time	Liquid asset/credit facility/cash flow (Tk)	Average annual turnover of last 5 (five) years (Tk)
01.	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 8 + 200 lines (Expandable up to 20 + 500 lines) Digital/IP based PABX System	25,000/- (twenty five thousand)	500.00 (five hundred)	60 (sixty) days from the date of agreement	10.00 (ten) lac	60.00 (sixty) lac

10	Tender publication date	Within 07 (seven) days.
11	Tender last selling date & time	Date-20/04/2009, Time: During bank hour.
12	Tender receiving date & time	Date 22/04/2009, Time: 12.00 noon.
13	Tender opening date & time	Date 22/04/2009, Time-12.10 pm
14	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	a) Sonali Bank Ltd, SUST Branch, Sylhet. b) Pubali Bank Ltd, Kawan Bazar Branch, Dhaka.
15	Name, designation and address of the office(s) inviting & opening tender document	Al-Nasir Khaled, University Engineer, Engineering Office, SUST, Sylhet.
16	Place of tender receiving	a) Treasurer Office, SUST, Sylhet. b) University Engineer Office, SUST, Sylhet. Phone No. 0821-716123, 717850/Ext. 216 Fax No. 880-821-715257.
17	Contact details of official inviting tender	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 8+200 lines (Expandable up to 20+500 lines) Digital/IP based PABX System.
18	Brief description of work	
<b>Eligibility of tenderer:</b>		
Tenderer must meet the following qualifying and other eligibility criteria stated in the tender documents:		
(a) The tenderer shall be a manufacturer/supplier/agent/dealer of PABX (documents necessary).		
(b) The tenderer should have a proven record of minimum 05 (five) years of supplying, installation, testing & commissioning of minimum 8+150 lines PABX system including maintenance.		
(c) The tenderer shall have to submit the following papers along with the tender document.		
(i) Receipt of schedule purchase, (ii) Up-to-date trade license, TIN and VAT registration certificate, (iii) Minimum 01 (one) year warranty certificate, (iv) Guarantee certificate for availability of spare parts for 10 (ten) years.		
<b>Special Instructions:</b>		
(a) The tenderer should submit the tender document in sealed condition, writing the name of work on the top of envelope, (b) The tenderer is to submit a declaration that he is and was not involved with the tender preparation, (c) This tender notice is brief and the details of the tender can be seen/know from the office of the undersigned during office hours, (d) All other terms and conditions as stated in the Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Public Procurement Act-2006 will remain valid, (e) If the tender is not submitted within the mentioned day and time, it will be directly rejected. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender can't be received and opened in the schedule date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time as mentioned office(s). (f) Any corrigendum (if any) will also be a integral part of the tender document and it will be binding upon the bidders/tenderers, (g) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

Al-Nasir Khaled  
University Engineer