

Set targets to create social protection for the poor

BB chief says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should formulate specific safety net strategies to safeguard poor communities in the country, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor yesterday.

"Social safety net programmes play an important role in equitable and sustainable economic development by shielding the poor from slipping into vulnerability. It would help turn their potential into valuable human capital, contributing to economic growth and stability," said Dr Atiur Rahman.

"To eliminate poverty, the government should undertake specific strategies and targets to create social protection for the poor and disadvantaged," he said.

"We should analytically look into the issue and formulate home-grown strategies to deliver effective results," he said. "The issue should be contextualised in political discussions to find ways to effectively reduce poverty."

He was speaking at a book launching ceremony, jointly organised by the World Bank and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) at Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka.

Two books -- "For Protection and Promotion" by Margaret Grosh, lead social protection economist, and "Conditional Cash Transfer" by Ariel Fiszbein, chief economist of human development network of World

Bank, -- were uncovered at the ceremony.

The central bank chief said the state is supposed to take responsibility of the socially and economically disadvantaged people and create a 'social ladder' for them through social safety net programmes.

"The institutional setup or governance structure of a country plays a pivotal role in effective implementation of social protection, which should have panacea for providing long term benefits," said Rahman.

He said Bangladesh is one of the pioneer countries to introduce the social safety net programme in 1997. Presently, the government spends less than one percent of its GDP on social safety net programme. However, the amount is increasing gradually.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, former BB governor, suggests the government and international organisations restructure the safety net programme methods and extend it directly to the disadvantaged people for long-term poverty reduction.

He said the government should introduce social insurance programmes in addition to other programmes, like vulnerable group feeding (VGF) and vulnerable group development (VGD). The safety net programme should also include the urban unorganised labourers, Ahmed said.

He also said the government

should better monitor and coordinate the social safety net to make it effective.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government and executive director of PPRC, suggested the government take a 100-day programme that will include creating new employment and school meal programmes.

In a keynote paper, Margaret Grosh said social safety net requires better administrative systems for better monitoring and implementation.

She said the social safety net programme is gaining popularity in developing and underdeveloped nations in recent years.

She revealed in her book that in 1997, Brazil and Bangladesh were the only two nations that introduced the social safety net programme. It has now spread to around 40 countries in the world.

Ariel Fiszbein said the conditional cash transfer (CCT) facility also gains popularity among the developing and underdeveloped nations, as it directly helps families to improve household condition.

He said the programme would not only help reduce consumption poverty, but also the scenario of the entire community.

Xian Zhu, country director of World Bank, and Dr M Mujeri, director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, were also present at the ceremony.

Commerce minister off to Istanbul

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday left Dhaka for Istanbul to attend the Turkey World Trade Bridge and 1st Istanbul Trade Ministers Summit.

Khan is leading a 5-member delegation.

Trade and commerce ministers from 150 countries will participate in the 7-day meeting, scheduled to begin today, to discuss potential bilateral, trilateral and multilateral business issues.

The other members of Bangladesh trade delegation are Shahab Ullah, vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Monoj Kumar Roy, joint secretary of the commerce ministry, Shawkat Ali, director of EPB, and Shafkat Haider, director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Handloom fair kicks off in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A month-long clothes and handicrafts fair began in Pabna on Saturday.

The Bangladesh Benarashi Tant Foundation organised the fair at the Pabna Stadium. Handloom and handicraft products from different parts of the country are being displayed at the fair. Organisers say there are 90 stalls at the fair.

RCC announces Tk 222cr budget



Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton announces budget for fiscal 2009-10 for the city corporation yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton announced yesterday a Tk 222 crore budget for fiscal 2009-10 for the first time in an open rally of citizens.

Insisted by Concerned Citizens' Committee, run by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the RCC this time organised the budget announcement programme openly at Green Plaza of Rajshahi City Bhaban.

"No new tax has been imposed," said the mayor, urging citizens to pay their taxes regularly for smooth civic services.

RCC's own income from taxes, rates, fees, rents and profits was shown at Tk 46 crore.

In the proposed budget, Tk 3.17 crore has been allocated for infrastructure development and road repair and development, Tk 52 lakh for education and culture, and Tk 3 crore for public health, mosquito control and water supply.

As expenditure for salaries of the mayor, councilors and staff, Tk 22 crore has been allocated.

Replying to questions of the citizens, the mayor said he would take steps for establishing a day-care centre for children of working women, increasing schools for persons with

disabilities and bearing educational expenses of poor but meritorious students.

The mayor also announced the revised budget for the current financial year at Tk 87.56 crore that is over two and a half times higher than the proposed budget.

RCC Member Akbarul Hasan Millat conducted the programme.

Among others, first RCC mayor Abdul Hadi, Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Abu Bakkar Ali, Rajshahi University teacher Prof Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, TIB Programme manager Rofikul Islam and other RCC officials were present.

Remittance fair begins in Comilla on July 23

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day remittance fair will be held in Comilla on July 23-25 aiming to gear up the remittance inflow through the banking channel.

Dhaka International Exhibition Company Ltd will organise the fair, said a press release.

The fair will include a road show, a number of seminars, an anti-hundi awareness programme for remitters as well as remittance beneficiaries and prevailing remittance facilities of different banks.



Mian Ahmed Kibria, managing director of Magnum Marketing Ltd, and Takeshi Haruki, deputy general manager of Hitachi, launch World First Ultra Thin LCD TV from the Japanese company at a ceremony in Dhaka recently.

Sugar sector counts losses

BSS, Dhaka

The sugar sector is incurring huge losses due to absence of a long-term plan and effective measures.

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) officials said it had made profits in 16 years and incurred losses in 21 years since its inception 37 years ago.

On average, the officials said, the losses amount to Tk 250 crore every year. However, due to domestic production, the country does not have to import sugar.

"Measures will be taken to reduce the losses," said

BSFIC Chairman Tariq-ul Islam.

Referring to the guidelines of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he said various proposals had been made to protect the sugar industry.

The proposals include modernising the machineries at the sugar industries.

Also, programmes are being undertaken to refine raw sugar at the sugar mills as per the guidelines of the prime minister, he said.

The proposals that have been sent to the Planning Commission include a recommendation for the sugar industry to be declared an agro-based

sector.

According to the BSFIC, the four state-run sugar mills have the capacity of producing 210,440 tonnes sugar a year against the country's demand for 12 lakh tonnes. The production of sugar at these sugar mills last year was 163,843 tonnes.

During the current crushing year, the production of sugar at the mills was 79,922 tonnes due to a shortage of sugarcane.

Four private sugar refinery mills have the capacity of producing nine lakh tonnes of sugar, but they have to count huge losses due to an inadequate supply of sugarcane.

In fiscal 2008-09, the sugar mills incurred losses of Tk 217.57 crore as they produced 79,922 tonnes sugar by crushing 11,83,950 tonnes sugarcane.

Besides higher production cost of locally made sugar, there is scarcity of agricultural products, an unusual price hike, unavailability of sugarcane are the reasons for losses in the sugar industry.

The production of sugarcane is declining as its competitive crops such as rice, wheat, oilseeds and vegetable are becoming attractive due to higher prices.

Dhaka City Corporation

Computer Cell, Level-11
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka
www.dhakacity.org

Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives/Local Govt. Division.
2.	Agency	Dhaka City Corporation.
3.	Procuring entity name	System Analyst, Computer Cell.
4.	Procuring entity code	None.
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6.	Invitation for	Supply of Computer, Printer, UPS and Software Development & Maintenance in DCC.
7.	Invitation Ref. No	comp/818/05/09
8.	Date	28/05/09.
Key Information		
9.	Procuring method	Open tendering method.
Funding Information		
10.	Budget and source of funds	DCC's own fund.
11.	Development partner (if applicable)	None.
Particular Information		
12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	None.
13.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	None.
14.	Tender package No	None.
15.	Tender package name	None.
16.	Tender publication date	On or before 31/05/09.
17.	Tender last selling date	14/06/09.
18.	Tender closing date and time	15/06/09 up to 12:00 hours (noon).
19.	Tender opening date and time	15/06/09 at 14:00 hours (2:00pm). Tenderers and their representatives are allowed to attend.
20.	Tender validity time	120 days.
21.	Name & address of the office(s)	Computer Cell, Level-11, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka City Corporation.
- Selling tender document (principal)		
- Selling tender document (others)		
- Receiving tender document		
- Opening tender document		
Accounts (Bill Income & Expenditure), Account Section, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka City Corporation.		
Computer Cell, Dhaka-1000.		
Computer Cell, Dhaka-1000.		
Information for Tenderer		
22.	Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: a) The provision laid down in the "Public Procurement Regulations-2008" must have in strict compliance. b) The bidder must submit attested up-to-date income tax certificate, VAT registration certificate, trade licence & bank statement (last 6 months). c) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years of overall experience in doing similar kind of work.
23.	Brief description of goods or works	
Identification of lot		Location
Supply of Computer, Printer, UPS, Software Development & Maintenance in DCC		Dhaka City Corporation
Price of tender document in Taka (non-refundable)		500/- (five hundred) only non-refundable, payable in DCC's Current Account No-10-30-1 Sonali Bank, Nagar Bhaban Branch, Dhaka.
Tender security amount in Taka		10,200/- (ten thousand two hundred) only honorable Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation.
Completion time in days		One month after work order
Procuring Entity Details		
24.	Name of official inviting tender	Omer Al Sayeed Mohammed.
25.	Designation of official inviting tender	System Analyst, Computer Cell, DCC.
26.	Address of official inviting tender	System Analyst, Computer Cell, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.
27.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without mentioning the reason and is not bound to accept the lowest tender.	
28.	Special terms & conditions	Described in the TOR.

DCC/PRD/485/08-09
GD-2811

Omer Al Sayeed Mohammed
System Analyst
Computer Cell
Dhaka City Corporation

ICT investment can cut CO2 emissions

Says Ericsson CEO

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Investments in information and communication technology (ICT) could cut CO2 emissions by 15 percent by 2020, said Carl-Henric Svanberg, chief executive officer of Ericsson.

"With an innovation-driven climate agenda, the percentage could be even higher," he said in a recent meeting with UN Secretary Ban-Ki Moon in Copenhagen, Denmark, according to a press statement.

Svanberg also urged the global communities to move away from dealing with emissions after they have already occurred, and focus instead on moving ideas, not people, with broadband being society's new highways.

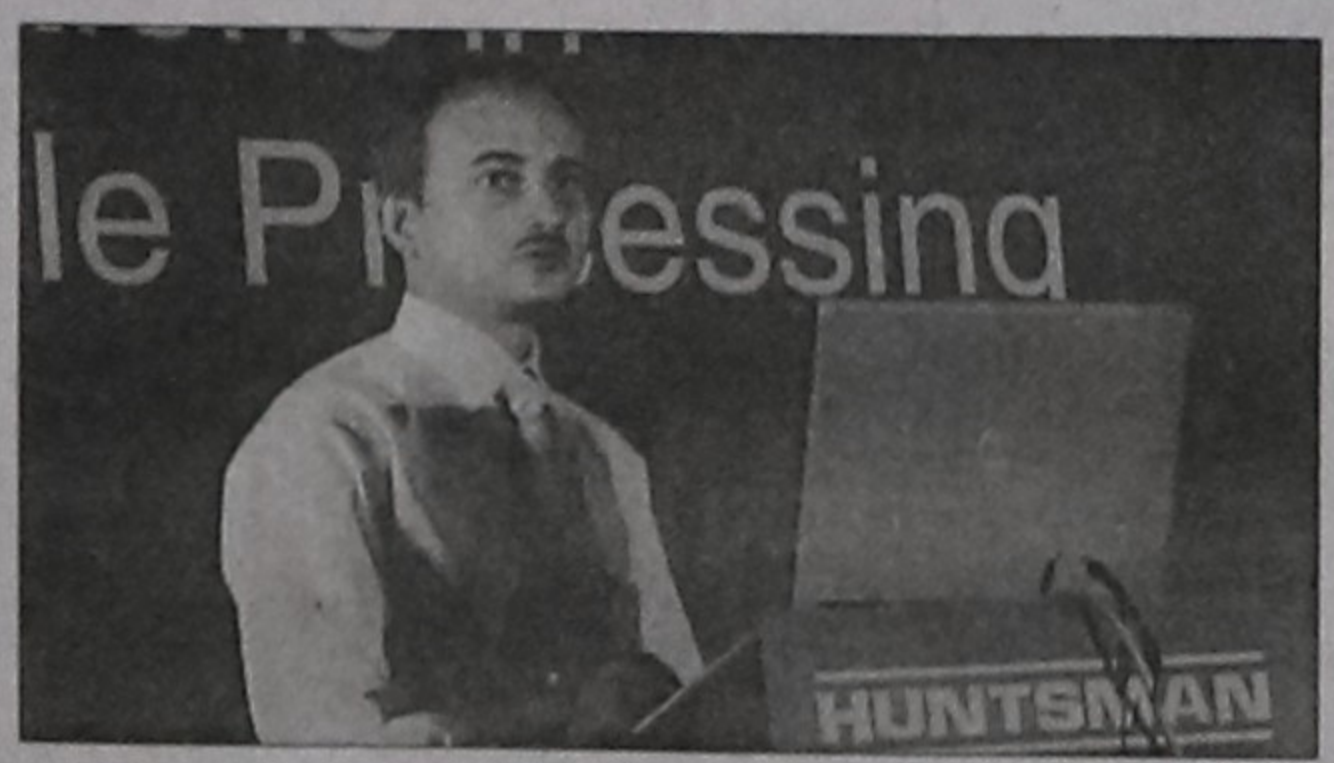
"A large-scale offset-

ting of CO2 emissions will require new ways of conducting business and new ways of living, and will also require large scale investments in ICT," he added.

The Ericsson boss also spoke at the first plenary session of the World Business Summit on Climate Change, addressing industry and government leaders.

To the global business community, his message was that companies could turn the climate challenge into a profitable opportunity and make a significant contribution to combating climate change.

He also advised governments and regulators around the world that effective legislative and regulatory frameworks should make markets work for the climate.



Vasudesh Potti, technical resources manager of Huntsman, speaks at a seminar on innovations in textile processing, organised by Swiss Colours Bangladesh Ltd, Huntsman's appointed agent for the country, in Dhaka recently.

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Tender No. FDC/PD-Import/2007-2008/7/84 Dt. 28/05/2009

International Re-Tender for Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film

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	Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film.
06.	Invitation for Ref No.	FDC/PD-Import/2007-2008/7/84.
07.	Date	28/05/2009.
08.	Procurement method	Open tender method (OTM).
09.	Budget and source of fund	Revenue.
10.	Tender package No.	1 No.
11.	Tender package name	Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film.
12.	Tender publication date	30/05/2009.
13.	Tender last selling date & time	28/06/2009 up to 5.00pm.
14.	Tender closing date & time	29/06/2009 up to 2.00pm.
15.	Tender opening date & time	29/06/2009 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) Office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
iii) Opening of tender document		iii) Office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
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 licence 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	Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film.
19.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 2500/- (two thousand five hundred) only.
Lot No.		Identification of lot
1 No.		Import of 35mm Color Picture Negative Film
Location		BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Tender security amount (Tk.)		Tk. 8,00,000/- (eight lac) only by Pay-Order/Bank Draft/BG (except Uttara Bank Ltd)
Completion time in weeks/months		As per schedule
20.	Name of official inviting tender	SM Kaiser Hossain Mallick.
21.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director (Procurement).
22.	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
23.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 8120204, Fax: 88029137280
24.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

GD-2814

S M Kaiser Hossain Mallick
Deputy Director (Procurement)
On behalf of Managing Director of BFDC