

Budget banks

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Talking about the overall export scenario, Zaid Bakht, research director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said, "The export sector may show slowing trend until the first quarter of the coming fiscal year, but the situation will begin to change then."

He said export growth of RMG will remain slow in the coming fiscal year while earnings from leather, frozen food and jute exports will not perform well until the last quarter.

But Bakht is still hopeful: "Thanks to cheap labour, export earnings of RMG sector will show positive growth in the next fiscal year and we think the overall export sector will show at least double digit growth," he said, projecting the growth between 12 and 15 percent.

People involved in the RMG sector said the government needs to support them until the global scenario changes to retain the competitive edge in global market.

"We are not asking for constant government support. We need it at present since exports of most factories have been showing downward curves," said Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, first vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

According to BGMEA statistics, around 80 garment factories in the country have shut down in recent months because of poor order placements.

Government statistics say earnings of major export sectors, such as RMG, leather, frozen food and others, have dropped significantly because of the recession fallout.

The RMG sector has shown around 20 percent annual growth, but in recent months the growth has reduced to

around 8 percent. In April, the knitwear sector witnessed only 0.28 percent growth over the corresponding period of previous year.

Export earnings of other sectors--frozen food, leather, jute and jute goods--have also fallen sharply.

According to official statistics for July 2008-April 2009 period, export earning of frozen food has shrunk by 14.28 percent, leather by 36.13 percent, raw jute by 17.65 percent and jute goods 17.78 percent.

Meanwhile, Maksudur Rahman, vice-president of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, told The Daily Star that despite an announcement for a recessionary package for the sector, which received Tk 1,500 crore excluding Tk 500 crore for farm loan recapitalisation.

The export sector received Tk 450 crore to stimulate the much affected leather, shrimp and jute goods sectors.

The recessionary package demand of the apparel sector was, however, quite high at Tk 6,000 crore, but the government kept the sector out of the package, saying RMG was showing growing trend, so needed no recessionary package.

RMG sector people expressed grievance against not getting proper support. They said as earnings from the sector would remain unstable in the next few months the government should provide the sector with some sorts of stimulus package.

Bangladesh Bank recently hinted about giving subsidy on bank loans to export sectors.

Talking about the nature of budgetary support to the RMG sector, Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said,

"We always have expectations regarding budgetary allocation. But this budget is differ-

ent from others because we are undergoing a financial crisis."

BKMEA has proposed a 10 percent export bonus for its producers under the government's recessionary package. Hoque thinks less than 5 percent bonus would not be "visible".

He said export earnings would not come back to its previous level until the beginning of the last half of the next fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Maksudur Rahman, vice-president of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, told The Daily Star that despite an announcement for a recessionary package for the sector, which received Tk 1,500 crore excluding Tk 500 crore for farm loan recapitalisation.

"We cannot buy shrimp because of inadequate money and the central bank could not yet roll out the way of disbursing the money [under the package]," he added.

Talking about the present export situation and required support for the export sector in the next budget, Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said fall in export in April was a worrying incident for the sector.

He stressed the need for supports for the sector in the upcoming budget, such as credit window facility and waiver on interest rates and utilities.

The RMG sector has sought a 10 percent export bonus, but Mustafiz said as the sector's export volume is very big, it would be difficult for the government to bear such a big amount.

Besides the short-term supports, he also suggested that the government give financial incentives as mid-term support to factories that spend money in skill development and technological upgrading.

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Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League (AL), said the opposition party has been given five seats in the front row which is almost double than the last four-party alliance government gave her party in the last parliament.

The premier mentioned that AL was given six chairs against its total seats of 62 while the present opposition party has been given five against its total 30 seats.

Besides, chairmen of the seven parliamentary standing committees have been made from the opposition. And all the parliamentary watchdog bodies were formed in the very first session of the ninth parliament, which is unprecedented in the country's history, she informed the delegation.

The PM also informed that a highly powerful committee led by Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has been formed to fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracks Peace treaty.

Hasina said the government has a plan to establish a public university in Rangamati for the spread of the light of higher education in the hill region.

"We will implement the peace treaty fully as we believe in peace and human rights of people of all walks of life," she was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

The premier said since her return to Bangladesh from exile in 1981, she had been emphasising political solution instead of military way to establish peace in the hilly region for putting an end to the long-running conflict over there.

Hasina reiterated her government's strong commitment to root out corruption from the country and said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) would be strengthened further so that it can create confidence and trust among the people.

She remarked that the ACC

lost its credibility during the immediate-past caretaker government as the institution was "used to harass many innocent persons, thereby destroying people's confidence in the ACC."

Besides during that time, ACC did not have accountability in conducting its activities, including spending public money, she told the EU mission.

The much-talked-about matter of extrajudicial killings also came up for discussion in the meeting.

The PM said the present government and she personally are always against any extrajudicial killing.

Mentioning the last BNP government-sponsored Operation Clean Heart and crossfire system, Hasina said she was the only person, at the time, who always raised her voice against such killings.

The premier said the present government is strongly determined to uphold human rights in Bangladesh.

She thanked the EU as it had sent election observers to help Bangladesh in holding the December 29 polls in a "neutral and acceptable" manner.

She said the general election was held in a free and fair manner as people could cast their vote on the basis of a flawless voter list with photographs made by Bangladesh Army.

"Country's people were very spontaneous in casting their vote in the last parliamentary polls as they had waited long to get a democratically elected government."

The PM urged the European countries to invest more in Bangladesh.

In reply, the EU Troika delegation assured the premier of cooperating with Bangladesh in expediting its development and observed, "If a political situation of a country remains stable, foreign investors are attracted."

The prime minister and the EU delegation had talks also about the disastrous impacts of global warming in Bangladesh.

The PM said though poor countries like Bangladesh contribute little to the increase in the global warming, but these are the worst sufferers by the climate change.

She sought EU cooperation in facing the challenges being posed by the phenomenal global warming.

Hasina informed the Troika that the government has already planned to launch capital and maintenance dredging in the country's major rivers and create forests in the coastal districts to face the challenges of the climate change, including unexpected high tidal surges.

PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and former ambassador Ziauddin were among others present.

Govt wants

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Under the cover of the ongoing drive, Gazipur district administration also removed some makeshift shops from Tongi Municipality Land Office premises.

Two acres of land of the office has been illegally occupied by a non-government high school, some makeshift shops, a small mosque and a private house, officials said.

"We have verbally asked the grabbers of the land including the school headmaster to remove their structures," said senior executive magistrate of Gazipur Md Ameen Uddin.

"We cannot knock down religious infrastructure because of religious sentiment," said BIWTA assistant port officer Abu Bakar Howlader.

The BIWTA authorities and Gazipur district administration intended to complete demolition of the remaining

portions of Masjid Market and Fish Market at Tongi Poura Bazar on the bank of Turag by yesterday.

BIWTA Deputy Director Saiful Islam said that they would go today for demolition of heavily built Shajid Washing and a unit of Ananda Group of Industries near Karmarpura Bridge.

The drive was conducted only on Tongi part of Turag, said Abu Bakar, adding that most of the listed structures on Dhaka part have been knocked down during the drive.

Though BIWTA planned a three-day eviction drive to clear the Tongi part of the Turag, they had to extend the time due to ground realities and the drive would continue till the job is done, said BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Mannan Howlader.

A total of 63 structures have been identified as illegally built on the river in Tongi part while 69 have been identified

as such in Dhaka part.

BIWTA senior Deputy Director Md Abu Zafar Howlader (Narayanganj port) said they are using strong tugboats to pull down heavy construction as there are many structures built illegally along the river Shitalakshya. Around 200 workers were engaged in the demolition drive yesterday.

He said demarcation pillars would be set up to protect the riverbanks after demolition.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: Mayor of Narayanganj Municipality Selina Hayat Ivy arrived at the eviction site with a layout of the river banks and said although she has been fighting for long for saving rivers, BIWTA did not include the municipality for conducting survey.

BIWTA Joint Director Md Abu Bashir said that they would send the survey report to the municipality.

Eviction drive

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the law minister termed the parliament as the centre of all government activities, and hoped that the opposition will play a constructive role there.

Shafique also said the present government filed a prayer with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to disregard the appeals filed by the last BNP-led four-party alliance government against a High Court judgment that had declared illegal the fifth-amendment to the constitution.

The current government's move was sparked by its intention to restore the spirit of the country's liberation war back in the constitution, the law minister added.

Shafique also said his government is quite intent on trying war criminals in a manner which will be transparent and internationally acceptable.

"No politically motivated case will be filed against anybody," he declared.

Only those who were involved in killings, lootings, rapes, and arson during the liberation war will be tried as war criminals, the law minister asserted.

ACC used politically

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the law minister told reporters in his Bangladesh Secretariat office after a meeting with an European Union (EU) delegation yesterday afternoon.

An eight-member EU delegation led by Helena Bambasova, deputy foreign minister of the Czech Republic, met the law minister in his office where State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam was also present.

Replying to a question on whether the cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko were also politically motivated, the law minister said no plaintiff of those cases has yet alleged that he or she had been forced to file the cases.

The law minister also said the NHRC ordinance will be made into a law in the current session of the parliament, ratifying the human rights commission's all activities since its formation.

He told the EU delegation that the Election Commission (EC) of the country is currently very strong and quite independent.

The EC held the December 29, 2008 parliamentary election very smoothly and in a free, fair, and credible manner, he added.

The law minister also said the NHRC ordinance will be made into a law in the current session of the parliament, ratifying the human rights commission's all activities since its formation.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderer for the following works as per terms and conditions stated below.

1. Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2. Agency	Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited.
3. Procuring entity name	Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited.
4. Procuring entity code	None.
5. Procuring entity district	Dinajpur.
6. Invitation for	Works.
7. Invitation Ref No.	BCMCL/11/09/1021.
8. Date	31/05/2009.
9. Procurement method	Open tendering method.
10. Budget and source of funds	Company's revenue budget.
11. Project/programme code	Not applicable.
12. Project/programme name	Not applicable.
13. Tender publication date	05/06/2009.
14. Tender last selling date	21/06/2009.
15. Tender last closing date and time	22/06/2009 11:30am
16. Tender opening date and time	22/06/2009 11:45am
17. Name & address of the office(s)	<p>Tender documents are available in the following offices during office hours:</p> <p>1. Accounts Division, Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.</p> <p>2. Accounts Division, Petrobangla, Petrocentre, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.</p>
18. Eligibility of tenderer	<p>Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation), Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.</p> <p>Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation), Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.</p> <p>1. Having a valid trade licence for the current fiscal year 2008-2009</p> <p>2. Income Tax clearance certificate for the fiscal year 2007-2008 or received copy of submission for tax year 2008-2009.</p> <p>3. VAT registration certificate.</p> <p>4. Other qualification as described in TDS.</p>
19. Brief description of goods or works	<p>1. Package No. SES-01: Collapsible gate, window grill etc.</p> <p>2. Package No. SES-02: Earth work Brick work, plastering, white washing, RCC work, shuttering etc.</p> <p>3. Package No. SES-03: Earth excavation, brick work, plastering, white washing, RCC work, shuttering etc.</p>
20. Price of tender document (Tk)	<p>1. Package No. SES-01 Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred) only.</p> <p>2. Package No. SES-02 Tk. 300.00 (three hundred) only.</p> <p>3. Package No. SES-03 Tk. 300.00 (three hundred) only.</p>
21. Package No.	<p>Location</p> <p>Tender security amount (Tk)</p> <p>Completion time</p>
SES-01	<p>Supplying, fitting and fixing collapsible gate and window grill at ground floor of BCMCL Training Centre site.</p> <p>18,000/- (Eighteen thousand) only</p> <p>30 (thirty) days</p>
SES-02	<p>Construction of toilet at Administration Building of BCMCL.</p> <p>1,800/- (one thousand eight hundred) only</p> <p>30 (thirty) days</p>
SES-03	<p>Construction of toilet at coal yard of BCMCL site area.</p> <p>1,200/- (one thousand two hundred) only</p> <p>30 (thirty) days</p>
22. Name of the official inviting tender	Engr. S M Nurul Aurangajeb.
23. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation).
24. Address of official inviting tender	Barapukura Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.
25. Contact details of official inviting tender	05327-56299.
26. Specific instructions	<p>(a) Rate must be quoted both in figures & in word for each item of works in the attached schedule up to two digits beyond decimal point. The tenderer must fill-up Tender Submission Sheet (From W-1).</p> <p>(b) If the tenderers submit any false, incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited.</p> <p>(c) Attested copy of receipt of purchasing tender document, TIN & VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate etc. must be submitted with the tender.</p> <p>(d) For any unavoidable reason if the office remains closed at the date of receiving & opening, the tender will be received and opened in the next office day at the same time.</p> <p>(e) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.</p>

Engr. S M Nurul Aurangajeb Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Booklet on Ghurnijhar O Abhaor Natun Satarko Sanket

Eabong Ganadurjog Barta

