



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus 12-page special and Rising Stars



People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 303

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2009

AGRAHAYAN 5, 1416 BS • ZILHAJI 1, 1430 HUIJI

36 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

Justice order of the day

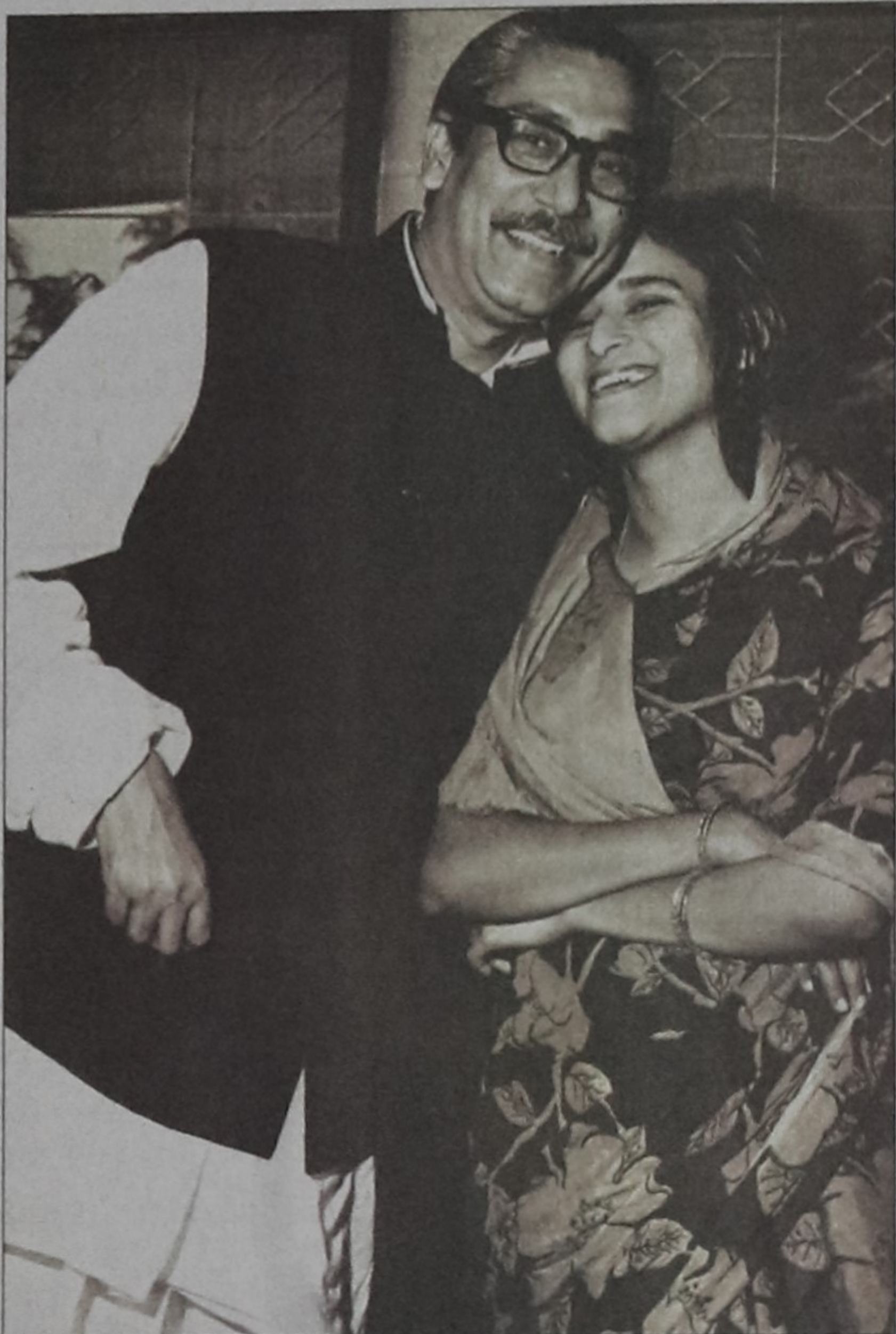
SC delivers Bangabandhu verdict at 11:00am today as nation waits to see culprits behind the horrendous crime get punished

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The nation waits to hear the ultimate verdict today in the Bangabandhu murder case trial with bated breath and also in the expectation that finally justice will prevail. It has been a long, painful journey for the people of Bangladesh. It ought not to have been this way, for the particular reason that the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistani occupation in December 1971 was considered symbolic of a clean break with the past. That Bangalees would see democracy grow in their country, that under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman they would go forth to create Shonar Bangla, a cause the Father of the Nation had consistently espoused since he emerged with his Six-Point programme of regional autonomy in the mid-1960s, was not a misplaced expectation. Indeed, it was a dream that seemed eminently attainable with Bangabandhu as the undisputed leader of this country.

And yet that dream was to be marred by the conspiracies already afoot to undermine Bangabandhu and his government. These conspiracies took form and substance even as the government struggled to provide meaningful leadership to the nation. In the pre-dawn hours of 15 August 1975, the conspirators struck. As the nation slept, the killer squads fanned out across various key points in Dhaka, the pre-eminent one being the residence of the President of the Republic, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In one fell stroke, the assassins put an end to the life of the Father of the Nation and to the lives of most members of his family.

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A MOMENT NEVER TO COME BACK: This snapshot captures an affectionate father - Bangabandhu - with daughter Sheikh Hasina.

STAR FILE PHOTO

I just want justice

Says Hasina

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stated unequivocally that she wants a fair judgment in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case to be delivered today by the Supreme Court.

"I just want justice. I don't want to say anything more about it now," she said while addressing a reception accorded in her honour by the Italy chapter of ruling Awami League at Oriental Hall at Piazza Ri Di of the

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Security tightened around SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has deployed several hundred law enforcers on and around the Supreme Court premises to effect foolproof security for the historic judgment proceedings at the Appellate Division today.

Close-circuit cameras have been installed at different corners. From two monitoring rooms set up at the

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Today's issue of *The Daily Star* contains an additional 12-page Bangabandhu murder case special "Righting the Grievous Wrong".

COMPENSATION NEGOTIATION FOR CLIMATE FALLOUT

Govt focuses on people at risk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will lose 8 percent of its rice and 32 percent of wheat production by 2050 if the sea level rises by one metre engulfing 20 percent of its land and displacing 20 million people.

Fahmida Khatun, additional director of research of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said this yesterday citing an Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in 2007.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh would demand a deal in Copenhagen that would ensure compensation measuring its vulnerability and number of people exposed to the impact of climate change.

"If we negotiate over the vulnerability due to climate change and people exposed to the risk, we will be the most benefited," he said while speaking as the chief guest of the dialogue on "Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change Advancing Bangladesh's Interests" organised by CPD.

The state minister said population of many island countries would not be as many as the population of one coastal district in Bangladesh.

So we should bargain on the basis of people exposed to the impact of climate change.

Members of Bangladesh negotiation team, climate experts and other development workers working on climate change were present. Osman Farruk, former education minister, was present at the dialogue as special guest.

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CONSTRUCTION SECTOR Revenue rises on money-whitening

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Revenue earning from the construction sector increased sharply in the first three months of this fiscal year (FY) as whitening black money was allowed.

But earning from a major sector -- power -- decreased due to a fall in power generation.

This was found by analysing earning from income tax, value added tax (VAT) and import tax in the first three months of the current FY.

During July-September period of this FY, VAT collection from construction firms was 28.33 percent higher than that in the corresponding period of FY 2008-09.

In this year's budget, whitening black money was allowed in different forms. The beneficiaries include those who would buy flats in the capital and other cities, and in these cases the NBR would not question the source of the money.

This led to a substantial rise in sale of flats and their prices, said sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and Real

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Eid-ul-Azha on Nov 28

UNB, Dhaka

Eid-ul-Azha, one of the largest religious festivals of Muslims, will be observed on November 28 as the moon of the Zilhaj month was sighted yesterday.

The decision was taken from a review meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at Islamic Foundation in the city yesterday evening.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and President of the committee Md Shahjahan Mia presided over the meeting.

Religious Affairs Secretary M Abdur Rab Hawlader, Additional Secretary of the Information Ministry M Abu Bakar Siddique, Chief

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Expressway, metro rail set to be knotty

Transport experts oppose projects to be executed without feasibility study

TAWFIQUE ALI

The billion-dollar projects of elevated expressway and metro rail for the capital city without detailed feasibility study is likely to bring about financial and technical debacles, said country's leading transport experts.

The communications ministry on November 18 embarked on a \$2-billion project with invitation for tender bidding to build a 32.5km elevated expressway on public private partnership (PPP) basis.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, a noted civil engineer and transport expert, said the project seems to be the contractor-oriented.

"It is not understandable how the authorities will go for tender for the project without carrying out feasibility study," he said adding, "It will be risky to proceed with such project without conducting detailed feasibility study and defining the project parameters."

The government is interested in pursuing massive projects without exhausting any of the first-phase recommendations made in the twenty-year long Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (2004-2024).

The first-phase recommended projects in the STP include elevated way reviews, regional highway connections, Panthapath to Rampura

highway, Tejgaon airport tunnel, bus route priority measures and mass rapid transit (MRT) preparatory works.

MRT system may be a long-term solution but effective traffic and pedestrian management and recovery of the existing road-width will significantly improve the traffic situation immediately, said Jamilur Reza who headed a 31-member advisory committee on STP.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs on October 20 gave a go-ahead to float open invitations for tenders for construction of a metro rail and an elevated expressway at an estimated cost of Tk 15,000 crore.

The committee also approved exemption from bidding procedures in Private Infrastructure Committee, Major Terms and Conditions Committee and Bangladesh Private Sector Infrastructure Guidelines on a plea of saving time in selection process.

Nazrul Islam, executive director of Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) under Economic Relations Division, who was the team leader of preparing Private Sector Infrastructure Guidelines said, "Such multi-billion projects require adequate attention and care."

Dr M Rahmatullah, policy adviser of

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Hasina talks world peace with Pope

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday met Pope Benedict XVI at the Holy See in the Vatican City.

During the one-to-one meeting, they discussed various issues on global peace and prosperity and also prayed for the universal peace.

The Vatican City received Hasina cordially with ceremonial formalities on her arrival.

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Ensure nat'l interest in Tifa deal

JS body asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry yesterday asked the ministry to ensure country's highest interest before it seals the much-debated Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (Tifa) deal with the USA.

"The discussion between

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Jubo League leader shot dead in city

Housewife murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a ward-level Jubo League leader and injured his companion in broad daylight yesterday in the capital's Maddha Badda area.

The victims, Nazim Uddin Khan, 30, Jubo League vice president of DCC ward-21, and Ujjal Hossain, 28, a cable TV operator, were residents of Badda.

The injured, Ujjal, told reporters that Nazim and he were talking with Hira and Kabil in front of an under-construction building in the area and at one stage of the

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We Mourn

The Board of Directors and Employees of Prime Bank Limited convey their profound condolence to the bereaved family members of **Md. Nurul Haque Sikder** at his sudden demise (Inna Lillahi..... Rajoun).

Md. Nurul Haque Sikder, a Sponsor Director and Former Chairman of Prime Bank Limited was a renowned Industrialist and Businessman of the Country.

May the departed soul of the deceased rest in eternal peace.

Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Bridges Division, Bangladesh Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka

Memo. No. BBA/Sada/Admn./3-1/2009 (Part)-753

Dated : 16/11/2009

INTERNATIONAL NOTICE FOR INVESTORS PREQUALIFICATION FOR DHAKA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) BASIS

Under the authority of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) under the Bridges Division of the Ministry of Communications intends to select potential international Investor(s) for the Financing and Construction of an "Elevated Expressway" in Dhaka. The Project will be implemented on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis. Total cost of the project will be approximately US\$ 2.00 billion.

Background of the Project:

Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh is the largest and most densely populated city, with 13 million people (6200 person/sq. km.) out of the nation's total population of 140 million. Dhaka is the administrative, commercial and cultural centre of the country. The population of the city is increasing rapidly and expected to double in size over the next 20 years. The transport sector in Dhaka City is composed of many different modes - both motorized and non-motorized. These various modes of transports often use the same road space resulting in a high level of operational disorder. Dhaka has yet to develop an integrated Mass Transit System. Funded by IDA, the Louis Berger Group, Inc., USA in association with Bangladesh Consultants Limited (BCL) prepared the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) for Dhaka which had already been approved by the Government in March 2008. To ease these problems, the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), Bridges Division, Ministry of Communications, Government of Bangladesh desires to construct 32.50 km or more of Elevated Expressway in Dhaka City on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

Objective and Scope:

The Dhaka Elevated Expressway will improve road connectivity between the northern part of Dhaka City with the central, south and south eastern part linking important commercial and business centers of the city. In addition to providing a much-needed increase in traffic capacity, the Expressway will be designed to relieve existing overloaded roads. Access and distribution to the Expressway will be designed to avoid adding congestion to existing facilities. Transit and high-occupancy use of the Expressway will be encouraged. Existing roads occupy only 8% of land area of city as against an ideal proportion of 25%.

The Project Investor(s) will be selected through an international competitive bidding process from a pool of applicants who meet the criteria set forth in the Pre-qualification document. The selected Project Investor will be required to arrange the necessary financing and execute the key project documents for the project.

BBA seeks to pre-qualify interested Investor(s) and prepare a short list of pre-qualified firms and with the intention to invite eligible international firms to indicate their interests for participation in the work. The Applicant(s) should have essential experience and requisite qualifications in the financing and construction of expressways, toll roads and bridges on a BOOT/BOT/PPP basis with combined value of not less than US\$500 Million over the last 12 years. The Investor is to take responsibility in design and execution for:

a) Encouragement of public transport and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) use of the Expressway by offering preferential usage rates for

such vehicles and preferably segregated exclusive bus/HOV lanes on the expressway;

b) Mitigation of traffic impacts from the project so that internal congestion is relieved and not worsened by new traffic generation and

c) Environmentally and socially sensitive design, with mitigation works to secure against environmental/social degradation and design for general environmental/social enhancement.

Interested applicants may form consortium with other international firms engaged in the financing, design and construction of road and bridges to enhance their qualification by forming a Joint Venture (JV).

Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the work. Pre-qualification documents should specifically include:

- Background & Registration of the Firm(s)
- Historical Financial Performance of the Firm(s) including Audited Financial Reports of the Firm(s) for the last three (3) years.
- List or summary of Professional Employees with Resume indicating major professional experience and qualification.
- Experiences in the following:

- General construction experiences in the relevant field.
- Experience in construction works of at least 10 Km of Elevated Expressway and project scope.
- Experience in construction of elevated highways/railways in major cities with specific achievements (preferably demonstrated reduction in congestion), in traffic control and diversion and utilities relocation during the execution of construction work with a combined value of more than US\$500 Million completed within the last 12 years.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information and documents for pre-qualification application from BBA Web Site www.bba.gov.bd. Application for Pre-qualification should be submitted in one original and two copies, and should be delivered to the address below not later than 1100 hrs on 20 January, 2010.

Mohammed Abdul Quadir

Joint Secretary/Director (Admn), BBA & Project Director, Dhaka Elevated Expressway
Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka
Tel: 880-2-9888475 Fax: 880-2-9888414
E-mail: dir-admn@bba.gov.bd

Applicant(s) shall bear the cost incurred in preparation and submission of Application for Pre-qualification to BBA. BBA shall not in any way be responsible for the costs incurred by the Applicant(s).

Mohammed Abdul Quadir
16/11/2009

(Mohammed Abdul Quadir)
Joint Secretary/Director (Admn), BBA
&
Project Director, Dhaka Elevated Expressway