

# Muhith admits lag in execution of district budget, PPP steps

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Finance Minister AMA Muhith has admitted to the lag in government's two pledges for this fiscal year—execution of public-private partnership initiative and district budgets.  
The PPP guideline has not yet been prepared because of bureaucratic tangles, which led to the utilisation of Tk 2,500 crore budgetary allocation for project implementation under such initiative although eight months of the current financial year have already lapsed, the minister pointed out while exchanging views with the new leadership of Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) in the conference room of the Finance Division yesterday.

"By nature bureaucracy does not encourage change.... This sounds harsh but it's something like that," Muhith told the journalists.  
However, he expects some progress in the PPP initiative in the next two or three months. The schemes to be implemented under PPP are power and transport sectors, no projects else.  
Muhith pointed his finger at the existing accounting system of different ministries as the reasons behind the non-implementation of separate budgets for districts, despite announcement for enforcing such budgets during FY 2009-10.  
"Such budget implementation will not be possible right now. The Medium Term Budgetary Framework,

under which resources are usually allocated for different ministry projects, cannot split district-wise budget," Muhith further said.  
In early next month, according to the minister, parliament is expected to sign the insurance bill into a law. The revised budget and a report on macro-economic situation will also be placed in mid-March. The revision of the 2009-10 budget will take place twice in March and June.  
Responding to a query, the finance minister said of the Tk 5,000 crore stimulus package, Tk 3,500 crore has already been allocated.  
Muhith said the package will continue up to June and then a decision on its fate would be taken.

During the meeting with ERF, he listed some measures on implementation of development projects, which include quick processing of the project approval and cautious selection of project directors.  
Muhith expects that the web portals that have been opened in 64 districts and 1,000 unions will help expedite the pace of project execution.  
On another query, the minister made an assurance that there will be no hike in the prices of petroleum products.  
Power price will be hiked to some extent, he added.  
ERF President Monowar Hossain and General Secretary Abu Kawser also spoke.



Geetara Safiya Choudhury, chairman and managing director of Adcomm Ltd, inaugurates the company's new corporate office at Tejgaon in Dhaka yesterday.

## Income difference hurts labour-intensive sectors

**Say analysts at discussion on jobless growth**

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Income inequality between the rich and the poor limits the growth of labour-intensive industries in Bangladesh, as consumption by low-income people cannot create strong-enough demand to help these sectors grow and generate employment.  
"Income distribution and income for the poor are extremely important for the growth of labour-intensive sectors," said Rizwanul Islam, former special adviser, employment sector of International Labour Office, Geneva.  
He was speaking yesterday at a discussion on the challenges of jobless growth in developing countries at the office of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), where economists suggested policies to accelerate growth of labour-intensive industries as well as employment as a means to reduce poverty.  
Mustafa K Mujeri, director general of BIDS, chaired the session, where M Syeduzzaman, former

finance minister, SR Osmani, a professor of School of Economics of University of Ulster, and Quazi Shahabuddin, Zaid Bakht, KAS Murshid, BIDS research directors, also spoke.  
Rizwanul, also visiting research scholar of BIDS, said the pattern of growth in South Asia and China was less conducive to employment growth compared to East and South East Asia.  
Referring to Bangladesh, he said the share of both top five labour and capital-intensive industries, such as readymade garments, increased.  
But the share of labour intensive manufacturing sectors, such as leather and leather products, has declined, he added.  
One of the reasons, he observed, was low demand for the products from labour-intensive industries among rich people. Some labour intensive goods, such as gur and firewood, are inferior goods for the rich, he said.  
"If earnings of the low-income groups increase,

they spend more on products, such as furniture, handloom lungis, shirts and pants," said Rizwanul, adding that income inequality between the rich and the poor has increased in Bangladesh.  
"The share of income of the top 10 percent of population has increased while it has decreased for the bottom 40 percent, causing a decline in the demand for products of labour intensive sectors," he said.  
Citing examples from India and China, the former ILO Special Adviser said stimulus policy support to cushion the negative impacts of global recession was extended to capital-intensive sectors.  
"There has been almost nothing to encourage labour intensive industries," said Rizwanul, recommending positive interventions and specific policies to support growth of labour intensive industries.  
Mustafa K Mujeri of BIDS stressed the need for policies that support employment-led growth and facilitate poverty reduction.



Mahbubur Rahman (2R), president of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), attends the chamber's workshop on 'international trade fraud: prevention, control and remedies' in Dhaka recently. Mamun Rashid (2L), Citi country officer, Bangladesh, P Mukundan (L), director and chief of ICC-International Crime Services, UK, and Ataur Rahman (R), secretary of ICCB, are also seen.

## World trade faces threat from fraud: ICCB chief

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
The main threat to international traders is organised fraud, said Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB), yesterday.  
Such crime includes hijacking of ships and taking crew as hostage at high seas, theft of goods at port and at sea or their business identity, cross-border and road-freight crime, he said.  
Infringement of intellectual property or employee fraud is another risk for them, he added.  
Rahman was speaking at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, where he inaugurated a daylong workshop on 'International Trade Fraud: Prevention,

Control and Remedies', organised by ICCB, the chamber said in a statement.  
The chamber president mentioned that the rise in online trading created new forms of criminal activity, such as new ways of laundering money.  
International trade fraud is not confined to any particular region, country or industry and commercial crime is growing faster than international trade, he said. Frauds are more complex and involve larger sums than ever before, he added.  
He pointed that the internet emerged as a blessing to the present pace of life but at the same time, also resulted in various threats to consumers and other institutions.  
Various criminals like hackers and crackers have

been able to pave their way to interfere with internet accounts through various techniques, including hacking the domain name server, internet provider's address, phishing and spoofing.  
The techniques have been successful in gaining "unauthorised access" to the user's computer system and stealing useful data.  
Bangladesh has been growing fast in international trade with both imports and exports increasing at a substantial rate, the ICCB president said. All parties involved in trade are also more exposed to the risks of international trade finance fraud, he added.  
Mamun Rashid, chairman of ICCB standing committee on banking, technique and practices, said

taking growing piracy and commercial crimes into account, the trade body organised this workshop for the second time in Dhaka.  
He hoped that participants would be able to work more efficiently in combating commercial crime in international trade.  
P Mukundan, director and chief of ICC-International Crime Services, a visiting expert from the UK who conducted the workshop, also spoke on the occasion.  
A total of 93 participants from banks, pharmaceuticals, government export promotion organisations and export-oriented industries attended the workshop.  
ICCB will organise a similar workshop in Chittagong on Monday, added the statement.

## Tk 1,433cr pending in SIM card import tax

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Mobile phone companies owe Tk 1,433 crore to the government in import-related taxes for SIM (subscriber identity module) cards, said the law minister yesterday.  
The minister also said cases involving around Tk 8,000 crore in revenues, including those of SIM cards, are pending with courts.  
Barrister Shafique Ahmed was speaking as chief guest at the annual conference of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB).  
US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty, Transparency International Bangladesh Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan and IBFB President Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury also spoke.  
Barrister Shafique said the government is working hard to settle those cases as early as possible with an arrangement of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).



ATM Rafiqul Islam Taxes Bar Assoc's new chief

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Bangladesh Taxes Bar Association has elected ATM Rafiqul Islam as its president for 2010-11, the association said in a statement.  
Amin Ahmed Montu and Shahidur Rahman have been elected as vice presidents, Md Gias Uddin Chowdhury as general secretary, Md Akbar Hossain as treasurer, Gazi Mamunur Rahman as assistant general secretary, Md Mizanur Rahman as library secretary, Jahangir Alam Khan as sports and cultural affairs secretary, and Md Badiuzzaman as social welfare secretary.



M Ehsanul Haque, managing director of Prime Bank Limited, attends the bank's Tk 850 million syndicated loan deal signing ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The bank arranged the loan for setting up a five-star hotel, Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa Ltd, at Inani in Cox's Bazar. Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of the bank, was also present as chief guest.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
Ministry of Planning/Planning Division			
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics			
Optical Data Archive and Networking Project			
Parishankhyan Bhaban			
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207			
No.-BBS/ODAN/Goods collect-71/2010-admin-310			
Date: 18-2-2010			
Invitation for Tenders			
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Planning/Planning Division	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Oracle 10g database software upgrade, UPS 10 KVA, Printers(Color), Video Projector with Auto Screen and Video Conferencing with Optical Fiber Link (Statistics Bhaban to Statistics Wing, Planning Ministry)	
7	Invitation Ref No	No.-BBS/ODAN/Goods collect-71/2010-admin-310	
8	Date	18-02-2010	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open tendering method	
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GOB)	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	5110	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Optical Data Archive and Networking Project	
14	Tender Package No.	GDB	
15	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Oracle 10g database software upgrade, UPS 10 KVA, Printers(Color), Video Projector with Auto Screen and Video Conferencing with Optical Fiber Link (Statistics Bhaban to Statistics Wing, Planning Ministry)	
16	Tender Publication Date	Date: 25-02-2010	
17	Tender Last Selling Date	Date: 23-03-2010	
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 24-03-2010 Time: 12:00	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 24-03-2010 Time: 12:30	
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project, BBS, Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project, Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka & Office of the Joint Secretary, Statistics Wing, Ministry of Planning, Block-7 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
	- Receiving Tender Document	Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project, BBS, Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
	- Opening Tender Document	Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project, BBS, Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Date: -Do- Time: 11:00	
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderer must be eligible for individual lot.	
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Oracle 10g database software upgrade, UPS 10 KVA, Printers(Color), Video Projector with Auto Screen and Video Conferencing with Optical Fiber Link (Statistics Bhaban to Statistics Wing, Planning Ministry)	
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Supply, Installation & Commissioning.	
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred taka only)	
26	Lot Identification of Lot	Location Tender security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in Weeks / Months	
26	01	Oracle 10g database software upgrade	Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. 120,000.00 2 weeks
27	02	True On-line UPS 10 KVA	-Do- 12,000.00 4 weeks
28	03	Printers (Color)	-Do- 4,000.00 4 weeks
29	04	Video Projector with Auto Screen	-Do- 30,000.00 4 weeks
30	05	Video Conferencing with Optical Fiber Link	-Do- 25,000.00 4 weeks
31	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Jatan Kumar Saha	
32	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director	
33	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director, Optical Data Archive and Networking Project, BBS, Parishankhyan Bhaban, E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.	
34	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. 8125290 9111064 sa2com@bbs.gov.bd	
35	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders		

**পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ**  
**POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka - 1000  
Web: www.pgcb.org.bd  
Ref: 01/PGCB/Sec-OFCL/889 Date: 28 February 2010

**TIME EXTENSION**  
"Tender for Leasing out countrywide one pair of PGCB's dark optic fibre cable"  
The captioned tender that appeared in the Daily Jugantor & The Independent on 10 November 2009 and The Daily Samakal & The Daily Star on 11 November 2009 has been changed as follows:  
The last selling and dropping date for submission of Bid for the above Tender is hereby extended from 01 March 2010 and 02 March 2010 to 31 March 2010 and 1 April 2010 respectively. Dropping and selling times and other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.  
(Md. Ashraf Hossain)  
Company Secretary

**Training for CSE authorised representatives**  
**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE) jointly organised a two-day training programme in Sylhet for the Sylhet-based authorised representatives of CSE member-companies on Friday, said a CSE statement.  
The training is a prerequisite to obtaining the authorised representatives registration certificate from the SEC.  
Muhammad Yasin Ali, member of SEC, inaugurated the programme as chief guest and hailed CSE's effort for organising such event.  
Ali said the commission has already extended the certificate renewal time from one year to five years and it is considering reducing the fine for any delay in the renewal.  
He warned of stern actions against any fraudulent by authorised representatives. Even the punishment would be cancellation of license, Ali said.

Jatan Kumar Saha  
Project Director