

# Minister stresses changes in poverty measurement

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Changes are needed in the methods of poverty measurement to strengthen the government's social safety net programmes, said the food minister yesterday.

"We are trying to reduce the social disparity among people in different regions of Bangladesh by strengthening the social safety net programmes. For this, the food ministry is going to initiate a comprehensive study to determine poverty soon," said Dr Abdur Razzaque.

"At present, we have several such poverty measurement reports prepared by different researchers and think-tanks, but neither the methods nor findings are flawless."

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Regional Differences in Poverty Levels and Trends in Bangladesh: Are We Asking the Right Questions' that was jointly organised by the Institute of Microfinance (InM) and Save the Children, UK, at the LGED Auditorium.

He said the government sets priorities in allocating safety net funds on the basis of a region's population, area and intensity of poverty.

The minister stressed the need to enhance economic activities in the poverty-ridden regions, especially in

the northern and southern parts of the country, to generate employment on a large scale.

"Increasing economic activities and thus creating employment on a large scale is the only way out from extreme poverty in those regions," he said. "For that, we need huge investment from both local and foreign entrepreneurs."

"Simultaneously, we are trying to improve infrastructure, including better communication systems, to increase connectivity," he adds.

The coastal belts of the country, including Khulna and Barisal regions, will be connected to more economic activity, once construction of the proposed Padma Bridge is completed by 2013.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government, said the government should widen the social safety net according to the need of the various parts of the country.

"There are four frontiers to poverty in the country. The Monga areas, the Haor areas, the coastal belts and the urban areas experience different types of poverty."

"The government should improve the growth process further to eradicate poverty," he suggested. Criticising the traditional methods of measuring

poverty, he said often these surveys do not include indirect causes of poverty, such as a low entrepreneurial culture, which is a main cause of poverty in Sylhet and the Haor areas.

Abul Barakat, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said poverty is not just about per capita income. "Rather, it is more about the three Ds -- distress, deprivation and destitution."

Shamsul Alam, member of Planning Commission, asserted that the Anti Corruption Commission should be strengthened to reduce corruption, as corruption eats up one percentage point of GDP growth each year.

He emphasised the importance of increasing exports in order to increase economic growth and development.

In his keynote paper, Sajjad Zahir, director of Economic Research Group, said the government should encourage investment on developing human capital to eradicate poverty.

He also stressed the need to bring serious changes in the traditional methods of poverty identification, as flaws in those affects government policy in bringing them under the social safety net.

Mohammad Mosleh Uddin Sadeque, executive director of InM, and Suman Sengupta, country director of Save the Children, UK, also spoke.



Frans Schiereck, country co-ordinator of PUM Netherlands for Bangladesh and Nepal, and Rubina H Farouq, director of Institute of Hotel Management and Hospitality (IHMH), exchange documents at an agreement signing ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. Rizwan Bin Farouq, chairman of IHMH, was also present. The institute will receive technical assistance for three years from PUM Netherlands to improve its capabilities.

# Local hospitality institute to get foreign expertise

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Vocational training is important to develop the country's unskilled or semi-skilled workforce to support the private sector, speakers said at a function in Dhaka yesterday.

The ceremony was organised to mark the signing of a cooperation agreement between PUM Netherlands and the Institute of Hotel Management and Hospitality Ltd (IHMH) in Bangladesh.

The institute will receive technical assistance for three years (2010-12) from PUM Netherlands to improve its institutional capabilities to international standards to meet the growing need of professionals in the hotel and hospitality sector of Bangladesh.

Frans Schiereck, country co-ordinator of PUM Netherlands for Bangladesh and Nepal, and Rizwan Bin Farouq, chairman of IHMH, signed the agreement.

The assistance, which will be provided under PUM's Vocational Education for Higher

Categories and Labels programme, will help the institute upgrade its present curriculum to meet the world standard demands in the hotel management and hospitality sector.

PUM Netherlands offers skills and expertise to around 2,000 small and medium enterprises or training institutes annually on a voluntary basis.

Michiel Reynders, second secretary for economic affairs and private sector development at Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka, Rubina H Farouq, director of the institute, Abdul Karim, managing director of MIDAS, Francis Dilip de Silva, adviser (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) to International Labour Organisation, and Mashir Rahman, PUM representative in Bangladesh and general manager of MIDAS, were also present.

Approved by the civil aviation and tourism ministry and affiliated with Bangladesh Technical Education Board and City & Guilds, UK, IHMH has trained over 1,800 students since 2004.

# Benapole trade resumes

UNB, Benapole

Export-import operations between Bangladesh and India through Benapole land port, which remained on hold since Tuesday morning due to a strike in West Bengal, resumed yesterday.

Aminul Islam, deputy director of the port, said export and import through the port resumed at 9am yesterday.

Traffic built up at the port as hundreds of goods trucks were left stranded on both sides of the border due to the strike.

Traffic jam also caused sufferings to travellers on both sides of the border.

Export-import operations between Bangladesh and India through the port remained halted because of the strike called by 13 political parties, including CPM and CPI (M), in West Bengal.



Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, general manager for sales and marketing of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, and Bulbul Ahamed, managing director of Ceramic City, exchange documents after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. City Ceramics will promote Berger Home Décor services from all of its outlets.

# US businesses keen to invest in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on Tuesday American businesses are keen to invest in Bangladesh.

Albright, also chairperson of Albright Stonebridge Group, said this when she received Speaker Abdul Hamid and his delegation in a roundtable in Washington DC.

The former secretary, together with business executives from Chevron, Coca-Cola, Asia Society and Albright Capital, expressed satisfaction at the current state of affairs in Bangladesh, according to a message

received here yesterday.

Wendy Sherman, the vice chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, and Jack Ganity of Asia Society, were also present during the meeting.

Speaker Abdul Hamid assured the US businesses of his good offices, if required, to facilitate their investment in Bangladesh.

Raza Ali MP said changes are being implemented in the Board of Investment of Bangladesh.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, Abdul Momin Talukder MP and Israfil Alam MP also attended the session.

# \$5.47m Japanese investment in Adamjee EPZ soon

UNB, Dhaka

Yokohama Labels and Printing (BD) Company Limited, a Japanese company, will set up a garment labels and accessories manufacturing unit in the Adamjee Export Processing Zone.

The company will invest \$5.47 million in setting up its unit and will produce labels, tags and packages.

It will also create employment opportunity for 552 Bangladeshi nationals.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and Yokohama in Bepza Complex here yesterday.

# Eurozone summit on Greece next month

AFP, Tokyo

Eurozone heads of state and government will meet around May 10 for a summit on the Greek debt crisis, EU president Herman Van Rompuy said in Tokyo on Wednesday.

He also stressed "there is no question about restructuring" Greek debt with aid negotiations under way and "well on track".

Van Rompuy's comments came amid turmoil on global markets after Greece's debt was downgraded to "junk" status by major ratings agency Standard & Poor's as it raced to secure desperately-needed emergency loans to avoid a default.

Fears of the fallout spreading across the eurozone were heightened after Portugal also saw its rating slashed by the agency, although it remained at investment grade.

# Seoul to hire 4,500 skilled workers a year

UNB, Dhaka

South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Taiyoung Cho yesterday said his country would recruit 4,500 skilled Bangladeshi workers each year under a quota system.

He said different sectors of South Korea now need a large number of skilled and unskilled workers.

Cho showed eagerness to recruit the Bangladeshi workers when he called on Labour and Employment Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain at the latter's

Secretariat office.


During the meeting, they discussed different bilateral issues, especially manpower export to South Korea.

The South Korean ambassador assured the minister of appointing more Bangladeshi workers in his country in future.

Praising the Bangladeshi workers employed in South Korea, he said they are industrious, sincere and law-abiding.



Employees and stakeholders of TOTALGAZ Bangladesh celebrate the company's worldwide safety awareness programme -- World Day for Safety at Work -- in Dhaka yesterday.



## Janata Bank Limited

Head Office  
Information Technology System Department  
110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.  
Tel: 9553339, 9567442, Fax: 88-02-9564644, Telex: 675840 JBD BJ  
Website: www.janatabank-bd.com

### INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited under the provisions of the public Procurement Rules-2008 for the Goods and related Services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:

- Tender Ref: JBL/ITSD/OTM-02/FP-2010-110Br/10
- Tender Name: Tender for procurement of Computer Hardware, Software, Accessories and electrical Equipment for Head Office Departments, Controlling Offices, Branches and 110 Branch Computerization of Janata Bank Limited On Turn-Key Basis.
- Brief description of Goods/Services: The items shall be internationally renowned brand item while the UPS must be at least BST/ISO certified. No clone/Assembled items will be accepted:

		Package-A	
Lot/Group-1	i)	Server	146 Units
	ii)	Computer Workstation	960 Units
	iii)	LAN Switch	140 Units
	iv)	MS Office	320 Units
	v)	Bangla Software	320 Units
	vi)	NOS	145 Units
	vii)	RDBMS	60 Units
	viii)	Antivirus Software	500 Units
	ix)	Electric Fittings	110 Units
	x)	LAN Setting	110 Units
Lot/Group-2	i)	Laser Printer	5 Units
	ii)	Printer Medium Duty (Dot Matrix)	450 Units
	iii)	Scanner	130 Units
	iv)	On-Line UPS 2 KVA	155 Units
Lot/Group-3	i)	Line Interactive UPS 100 VA	1000 Units
	ii)	AVS 2000 VA	155 Units
	iii)	AVS 1000 VA	760 Units
	iv)		
		Package-B	
Lot/Group-1	i)	Banking Application Software	40 Units
	ii)	Implementation of Banking Application Software (Data Entry)	40 Units
Lot/Group-2	i)	Banking Application Software	40 Units
	ii)	Implementation of Banking Application Software (Data Entry)	40 Units

- Time for completion of delivery: 10 (ten) weeks from the date of contract signature.
- Eligibility of Tenderers:
  - The Tenderers shall be the developer/manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/bona fide supplier having minimum 2 (two) years of overall business experience and at least 1 (one) year specific experience of supplying, installing, commissioning, operating of similar goods and providing support service to different organization/banks in Bangladesh in multi-user environment.
  - Must have strong presence and support office in Dhaka City with well equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Preference will be given for such offices in other major cities in Bangladesh. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices.
  - For Package -A: the participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots/groups of this package and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s) group(s). Evaluation will be done Lot/Group by Lot/Group basis and contract will also be awarded Lot/Group by Lot/Group basis. Partial offer for any lot/group will not be accepted.
  - For Package-B: The participating company may offer proposal for only 1 (one) Lot/Group in this Package. Evaluation will be done Lot/Group by Lot/Group basis and contract will also be awarded Lot/Group by Lot/Group basis. Partial offer for an Lot/Group will not be accepted.
  - The participating company may offer proposals for both the packages also following the above mentioned conditions.
  - The offers should have validity for at least 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the date of opening the tender.
- Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender document: Information Technology System Department, Janata Bank Limited, Head Office (22nd Floor), 110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh between 10.00 AM and 4.00 P. M. on all working days. Interested Tenderers may view the document at the website of the Bank (Website: www.janatabank-bd.com)
- Price of Tender document: Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) only (non-refundable) payable in the form of Pay Order favouring "Janata Bank Limited" from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.
- Amount of Tender Security: A tender security favouring "Janata Bank Limited" shall be required for: Package A: Lot/Group 1: 20,000,000 (Twenty Lack) only. Lot/Group-2: 5,00,000.00 (Five Lac) only. Lot/Group-3: 4,50,000.00 (Four Lac Fifty Thousand) only. Package B: Lot/Group 1: 1,50,000.00 (One Lac Fifty Thousand) only. Lot/Group 2: 1,50,000.00 (One Lac Fifty Thousand) only. The tender Security should be valid till 28-10-2010.
- Last Date and Time for Selling tender document: 01-06-2010 within 4.00 P.M.
- Last Date and Time for Submission of tenders: 02-06-2010 within 12.00 Noon
- Date of Pre-Tender Meeting: 16-05-2010 at 11.00 A. M. at ITS Department, Head Office, Dhaka.
- Name and address of the Office (s) receiving tender: As at SI No.-6
- Name and address of the Office opening tender: As at SI No.-6
- Date and Time for Opening of Tenders: 02-06-2010 at 12.15 P.M. Tenderer/s authorised representative(s) are allowed to attend, if any
- Special Instructions:
  - The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without showing any reason.
  - The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.

JBL-PRS-NO-HO-21/10

Deputy General Manager  
Information Technology System Department