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DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
3.38%	2.99%	\$1,401.00 (per ounce)	\$93.40 (per barrel)	0.77%	1.78%	1.68%	2.62%	72.20	96.00	114.62	0.85	
6,173.38	11,227.67			18,296.16	10,664.70	3,019.12	2,855.52	BUY TK	73.20	101.52	120.19	0.93
								SELL TK				

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DHAKA WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2011, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net

## ADP efforts fall far short of target

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the first seven months of the current fiscal year was only 33 percent of the total allocation due to the government's failure to use foreign aid properly.

The government took an ambitious ADP target of Tk 38,500 crore this fiscal year (FY), but the implementation rate has so far remained less than the last fiscal year's 35 percent.

The planning ministry and Economic Relations Division (ERD) held several meetings with the ministries concerned to discuss the issue, and the ministries and divisions said the implementation was delayed due to strict conditions imposed by the development partners.

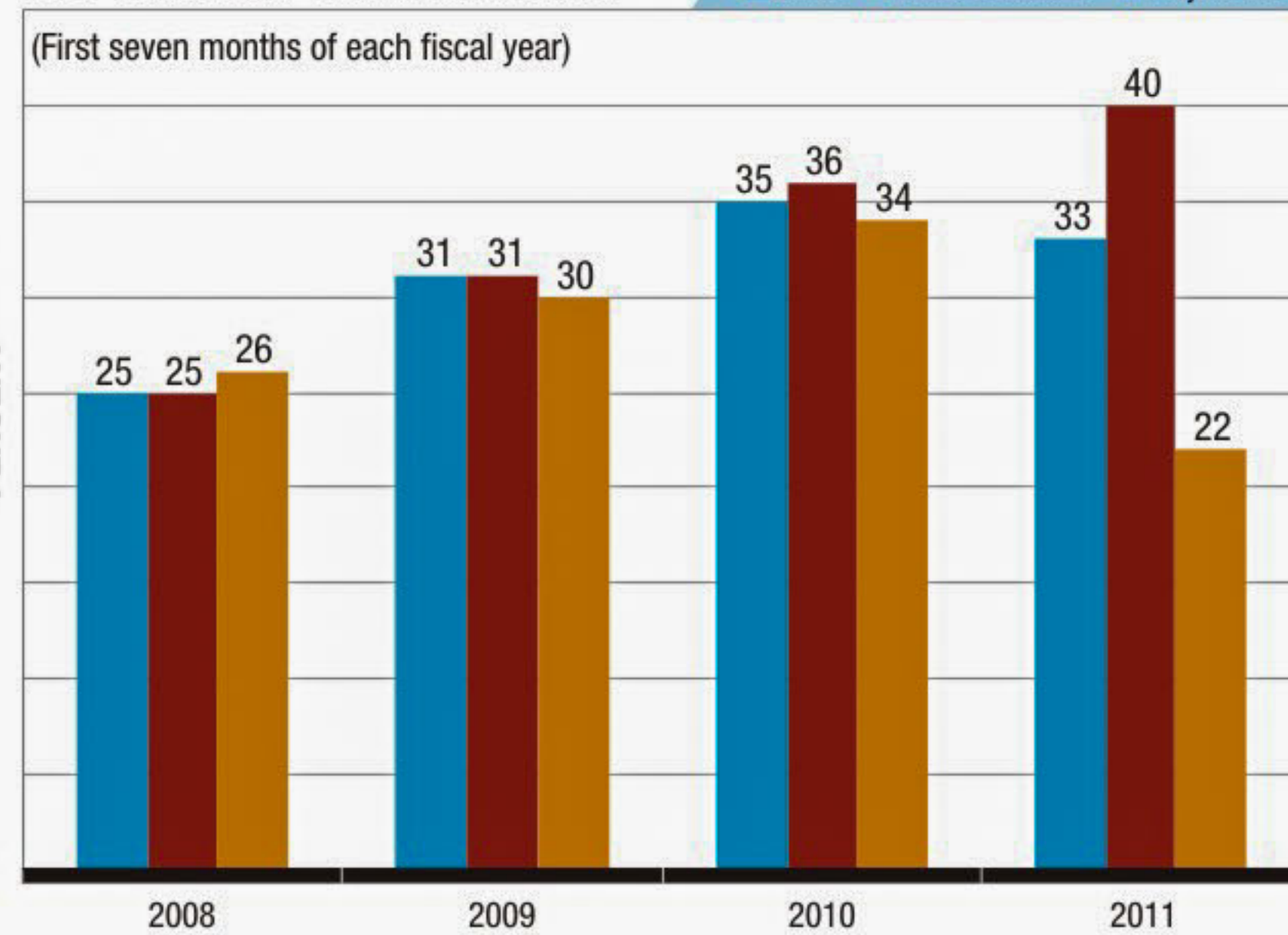
However, an official of the planning ministry told The Daily Star that it was easy to blame the donors' conditions for the low implementation as it helps exempt the ministries and divisions from their responsibilities.

The official said inefficiency, practice of collusion, and the delay in bidding are standing in the way of improving the ADP implementation rate.

An official of the ERD said they will arrange a review meeting next month with the finance minister in the chair, where the ministries concerned will have to answer for their failures.

The size of the current fiscal year's ADP is 36 percent higher than the last year's revised one. In the first seven months of the current FY, Tk 12,641 crore has been spent, whereas it was Tk 10,707 crore in the same period of the

### ADP IMPLEMENTATION RATE



last FY.

The utilisation of local resources increased by 46 percent and the ministries spent Tk 9,214 crore, but the project aid utilisation was Tk 3,427 crore -- 22 percent lower than the last fiscal year.

Important ministries and divisions including power, health and family welfare are lagging behind the average implementation rate.

Ten ministries and divisions spent 80 percent of their total ADP allocation. According to planning ministry statistics, the highest achievers in the utilisation were the local government division at 43 percent, primary and mass education ministry at 55 percent, education ministry at 44 percent, and agriculture ministry at 39

percent.

Of the low performers, the power division utilised 25 percent, health and family welfare ministry 24 percent, roads and highways 24 percent, water resources ministry 20 percent, bridge division 11 percent and energy and mineral resources division 16 percent.

Due to the low utilisation, the government will soon revise the ADP and will take decision on slashing the ADP in the meeting of the National Economic Council.

Officials said, though project aid will see a big cut, the local resources allocation will get a boost as the number of projects has shot up. Economists said small number of projects should be taken and emphasis should be given on their quick implementation.

## Law to safeguard regional products

SOHEL PARVEZ

Fazli, a mango variety, and Rajshahi, a district in the north, are almost synonymous, since the region is famous as the sole origin of the delicious summer fruit.

The words -- Fazli of Rajshahi, curds of Bogra and Jamdani sari of Sonargaon -- give the customers a feeling of assurance, as the items speak of genuineness and high quality when those are tagged with the names of the places.

But if the sellers try to play a trick, it will be difficult for a new buyer to get the right product of the specific region.

Here comes the government to help out, and now frames a law to safeguard the products that give unique identity to their birthplaces.

The new law is expected to protect consumers from the deception of buying counterfeit products. It will also allow the real producers, artisans and weavers of the regions to get fair prices.

The draft of the new law is at the final stage and may be put in place this year, according to Md Enamul Hoque, registrar of Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT).

It is the first time Bangladesh is going to frame such a law to recognise the producers or community of different geographical locations, which have earned fame by making products with special

qualities and characteristics.

Sari of Tangail, Rash Malai of Comilla, and Kachagolla of Natore are some of such products.

After the enactment of the law, these products along with many others produced or made in certain locations will bear the marks of their Geographical Indications (GI).

Officials at DPDT said GI is a type of intellectual property in line with the provisions of TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement.

They said international protection of GI has become an important marketing tool for branding products in the global economy following the TRIPS agreement.

Already many countries including neighbouring India have framed laws to protect products that originate from particular locality and have earned popularity due to certain qualities and characteristics.

Compared with other countries, Bangladesh is late in recognising these products.

Hoque said Bangladesh has a lot of GI products and these products will be registered after the enactment of the law.

Already DPDT has begun collecting information about GI products across the country. "We have received some information from different districts," he said.

He cited Hazari Gur (molasses)

of Manikganj and different types of sweets that are made in certain locations. These include: Cham Cham of Porabari, Tangail, Manda of Muktagachha, Kachagolla of Natore and honey of the Sundarbans.

Already, on the global market, various consumer goods from certain countries have earned brand value and popularity.

"We will be benefited if we can promote our GI products internationally," said Hoque, adding that Dilmah tea of Sri Lanka and coffee of Ethiopia have earned brand value.

"If we can build a brand image of our GI products, our export earnings will increase," he said.

According to the DPDT registrar, the law to be named as 'The Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act', will open scope for community or producers of these areas to register the names of these products for GI authorisation.

For commercial purposes, the producers of that region will be able to use the GI identity or registration mark on their products.

"It will safeguard consumers from being cheated as it will help stop counterfeiting of products of specific geographic region," he said.

According to Hoque, the law will have provision of punishment for infringement of rights.

sohel@thedailystar.net

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