

Farm subsidy inadequate

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farm sector.
In the last national budget, the amount was Tk 4,500 crore, which was later revised to Tk 6,500 crore.
Experts found the amount quite inadequate given the fact that diesel price rose by 40 percent and key chemical fertiliser urea by 66 percent making farming costlier for around 18 million farmers in the country.
Dr M Asaduzzaman, research director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said that given the

fuel-fertiliser price scenario, the proposed subsidy for the farm sector would not do.
Dr Quazi Shahbuddin, former director general of BIDS, agreed with Asaduzzaman. "In our country we adopt an ambitious ADP [Annual Development Programme] and then we cut it at the end of the financial year. But the reverse happens when it comes to agricultural subsidy. So it is expected that the finance minister will have to revise this subsidy at around Tk 8,000 crore at the end of the next fiscal year."

If more money were injected in the rural farming economy by enhanced farm credit, it could offset the shortage of subsidy, he mentioned.
But he didn't find it encouraging as the finance minister proposed just a paltry rise of Tk 330 crore in farm credit from Tk 13,800 crore (2011-12) to Tk 14,130 crore (2012-13).
"A rise by Tk 1,000 crore in farm credit could have some effects on the farming community in managing increased production costs," opined

Asaduzzaman.
If the agricultural credit is adjusted with inflation, it will show that it has not grown in real terms, observed experts.
On the policy front, the government had made empty promises as it for the third straight fiscal year continued saying it would prepare a National Agriculture Policy since the earlier version, drafted in 1999, has long been outdated.
In his 2010-11 budget speech, Muhith had said formulation of the National Agricultural Policy 2010 was underway, while in his following budget speech he had mentioned that the policy would be completed by December 2011.
But the reality is the policy had not been finalised till yesterday.
Dr Quazi Shahbuddin found it disturbing while Dr Asaduzzaman recalled that the draft for such a policy had long been exercised since the days of the last caretaker government.
Most surprising of all, the finance minister put high hopes on an "endowment fund" in pursuing agricultural research in the country. But people concerned said not a single penny of the Tk 350 crore fund had been spent on farm research since the fund's inception in 2008.
Dr Asaduzzaman said the fund now had been fuelled to over Tk 500 crore, thanks to bank interest. But he expressed frustration over the failure to use the fund.
Dr Quazi Shahbuddin termed the failure "pathetic," particularly when Bangladesh is known as a bad investor in agricultural research and development in South Asia, though it is an agrarian economy.
Experts noted that when the country's predominantly poor farmers were doing fantastic by offering the nation back to back bumper rice productions, they were not always backed up properly by policy and research support.
Dr Wais Kabir, who heads the country's national agriculture research system (NARS) in the capacity of chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, acknowledged the failure in using the agriculture research fund.
He, however, expressed firm confidence in things moving positively soon.
Dr Kabir referred to the passage of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Act, 2012 in April and hoped that funds would be fast-tracked through strengthening the NARS.

Time to say bye

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share their opinion on the budget.
"What's up! You have made the room murky," he hurled the greetings at his friends who had already gathered at the flat.
He found Rashidul reading a copy of the budget he had downloaded from the internet and chatting on facebook while banker Hasan, accountant Subir and contractor Sazzad were watching the budget speech on television.
"Worry not my friends. Soon we will all have to quit smoking as the price of cigarettes is going to go up," said Subir.
"Sounds good," Abid said, "Is there any other good news?"
"For the beggars I guess. The government has allocated Tk 10 crore to rehabilitate some 2,000 selected beggars," replied Shahidul raising his head from a game

of solitaire.
Abid sat before the television.
"Mr Speaker," the finance minister was saying, "We are determined to improve the living standards of this huge number of people through planned urbanisation."
"Yeah and that's why Indian company Sahara is here," said Sazzad as if he was completing the minister's line.
"Guys look at this," Rashidul drew everyone's attention, "Look at this facebook status. Someone wrote -- Fish, fillets, oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapes, melons, apples, pears, apricots, black tea, liquid glucose, jam, jelly, juice, sauce, ice cream, jackets, blazers, trousers, baby suits, bedsheets, toilet paper, cleaning tissues, sanitary and kitchen utensils, laundry soap and undergarments," he read out loud.
"What sort of a status is

this?" asked Momen as he entered the room with some snacks and beverage for his friends.
"The government has imposed subsidiary duty on all these. This means all these items are going to be pricier," said Rashidul.
"Let's incorporate cement, cosmetics, melamine and playing cards in the list," he said and his friends laughed out loud.
Their chit-chat was interrupted as Abidur's mobile phone rang. His wife Shahana called to remind him to bring some fruits and jelly for their school-going son and daughter and sauce for the family.
"Don't you know dear they preserve fruits with formalin? God knows how they make sauce and jelly. We should not feed these to the children," Abid told his wife while his friends overhearing his response burst into laughter.
"Yeah, the way the prices

of commodities are spiralling up it would be hard to buy fruits for the children," said Hasan.
Finally the budget speech ended and it was time to go home. Shahana rang again.
"Tell your wife to give up this habit of calling over the mobile phone so frequently. The call charge has gone up too," Subir said.
Abid then asked Momen if he had seen his bike on the way up to the flat. "I did not use the extra lock," he said.
"It's there alright," replied Momen, "Buy a good lock because its price has been reduced. Once you lose the bike you won't be able to buy another as duty has been imposed on motorbikes as well."
Abid kick-started the bike and headed for home with the worry how he would manage the extra expense.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

A large well reputed organization involved in the Sales, Marketing and Production of health care products and implementation of social programs wishes to recruit for the following senior level management positions. The incumbents will work in the factory located at Bhaluka, Mymensingh. The incumbents may commute to work or avail of the free housing facility within the factory premises.

POSITION TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER, FACTORY

The professional we are looking for will be positive, hands-on Manager with a background in pharmaceutical manufacturing and industrial matters. S/he will be result oriented and possess high level of energy and analytical skills. S/he must demonstrate strong leadership and motivational skills and be able to communicate effectively at all levels from workers to senior management.

Qualification and Experience

- Post graduate degree in Pharmacy/ Biochemistry/ Chemistry/ Applied Chemistry.
- 15 (fifteen) years of experience in the relevant field where at least 5 (five) years at senior management level position with a track record of accomplishments.
- Capable of effectively managing diverse functions in a factory setting that include providing directives and guidelines for production, ensure optimum productivity, conformity to specifications, quality control, environment control, employee welfare and safety matters.
- Possess sound knowledge in the deployment of resources like manpower, materials management, machines and methods.
- Capable of working under pressure and extended hours whenever necessary.
- Between 40 - 50 years of age.
- Excellent computer skills.

POSITION TITLE: HEAD OF MAINTENANCE

The professional we are looking for will be responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of all machinery & equipment to achieve the yearly production & supply target and timely implementing of yearly preventive maintenance plan. S/he will identify the fast moving & critical spare parts of all machinery & equipment and ensure availability of necessary stocks in due time.

Qualification and experience

- B.Sc Engineering in Electrical & Electronic/ Mechanical
- At least 10 (ten) years of experience in Engineering or Maintenance services in any well reputed organization where at least 3 (three) years at Managerial level position.
- Between 35 - 45 years of age.
- Hard working and ability to work under pressure.
- Excellent communication skills both in English and Bangla.
- Excellent computer skills.

Selected candidates will be offered an attractive salary and benefits package.

Interested candidates may apply in confidence with a detailed CV with names and contact information of three references, a cover letter supporting the qualification of the candidate for the position and two copies of recent passport size color photographs to "The Advertiser" C/O, The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Box No. A-16.

The deadline for the submission of the application is June 17, 2012.

Please mark the position applied for on the top of the envelope.

* We are an equal opportunity employer.

Govt hopes to end

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Since then apprehension surfaced whether this government would be able to complete the trial of the war criminals within its tenure. The government, however, set up the second tribunal in March this year to step up the process.
Against this backdrop, a formal hope came from Finance Minister AMA Muhith in his budget speech. "Hopefully, we will see the end of the trial within the tenure of the present government," he said.
However, writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir, a leading researcher on war crimes, doesn't have much confidence on the hope of the finance minister.
"I consider it as a wishful thinking of our finance minister. We also want to be hopeful like him but can't, because the ground reality is different," said Kabir.
Explaining the ground reality, Kabir said the BNP-Jamaat's opposition and propaganda against the trial and tribunal are external challenges for the government.
"But there are also some internal challenges such as lack of manpower in the tribunal, lack of security for witnesses, lack of skilled fulltime

prosecution, absence of research cell, archive, library and many other logistics," Kabir observed.
"The finance ministry has a role to remove incompleteness of the tribunal. Without addressing these challenges, it is not possible to be optimistic about completing the trial of the war criminals within this tenure," he continued.
"We, moreover, have to keep in mind that the tribunal is not the last step for completing the trial. There is provision of appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court after verdicts of the tribunals, so the appeals have to be disposed off within this tenure to complete the trial."
Rana Dasgupta, a prosecution lawyer for the war crimes cases, is partially optimistic.
"If the trial proceedings continue at the current pace, we expect judgement in some of the cases, but it may not be for all cases from the tribunals as well as from the Appellate Division within the tenure of the present government," said Dasgupta.
Tajul Islam, a leading defence counsel of the accused Jamaat leaders, termed the finance minister's

comment "intervention to the trial process" and "beyond his jurisdiction".
"Even we [those are involved in the trial process] cannot predict the completion of the trial. How can he say that the trial would be completed within the tenure of this government?" Tajul asked.
As per the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, a convict or the government will have the right of appeal to the Appellate Division against the verdict within sixty days from the date of delivering judgment.
The prosecution have so far accused eight people of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.
Of them, six have already been indicted by the two tribunals and the trial has started against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee and BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.
The second tribunal has fixed June 11 and June 21 for passing the order on framing charges against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim and Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed respectively.

3 shots

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Rakibur Rahman said the new incentives would have a positive impact on the market as well as the investors.
"Tax exemption on dividend income will attract new investment in the market that now faces a severe liquidity crisis. And the tax rebate on the IPO will encourage non-listed companies to get listed with stock exchanges," he said.
Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, however, said in the past, the revenue policy had only short-term impacts on the capital market, not long-term impacts.
"Though the tax exemption on dividend income is a good initiative, the question is how much it will benefit the investors or the market." Similarly, it is uncertain how many companies will take the tax rebate opportunity through the IPO, he said.
"Many incentives, including lower corporate tax for listed companies, are already there."
He said the reduction in income tax of merchant banks was a good step, as it would increase their profitability.
"Again, there is a doubt about how much it will benefit merchant banks when their profitability is suffering in the current market situation."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions:

Vacancy No.	Post Title	Category	Duty Station:	No of Position
Job ID 12-07	National Program Officer (Gender)	Fixed Term (NO-B)	Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-08	Personal Assistant to the Representative	Fixed Term (GS 6)	Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-09	GBV Officer (Gender Based Violence)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-10	BCC Officer (Behaviour Change Communication)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-11	Technical Officer (Population Planning and Research)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-12	Project Technical Officer (Reproductive Health)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	DGHS, Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-13	Project Technical Officer (Fistula & Cervical and Breast Cancer)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	DGHS, Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-14	Project Technical Officer (Family Planning)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	DGFP, Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-15	Project Technical Officer (Parliament Secretariat)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Parliament Secretariat, Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-16	Project Technical Officer (MOWCA)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Department of Women Affairs, Dhaka	1 (One)
Job ID 12-17	Field District Officer - Reproductive Health (RH)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Different Field Based Positions	3 (Three)
Job ID 12-18	Field Officer (Gender)	Service Contract (SB 4 Level)	Different Field Based Positions	4 (Four)
Job ID 12-19	Project Finance and Admin Officer	Service Contract (SB 3 Level)	Dhaka Based (8) Field Based (2)	10 (Ten)

How to Apply:
For Details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, Please visit our website: <http://www.unfpabgd.org>. Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNFPA's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant. Application should be received no later than **17:00 PM, Saturday, 16 June 2012**.

'FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY'
'UNFPA IS A NON-SMOKING WORKING ENVIRONMENT'

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the following position with "Community based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation in Bangladesh" project:

1. Community Development Assistant — 3 (three) positions (Service Contract, SB-2 Level)

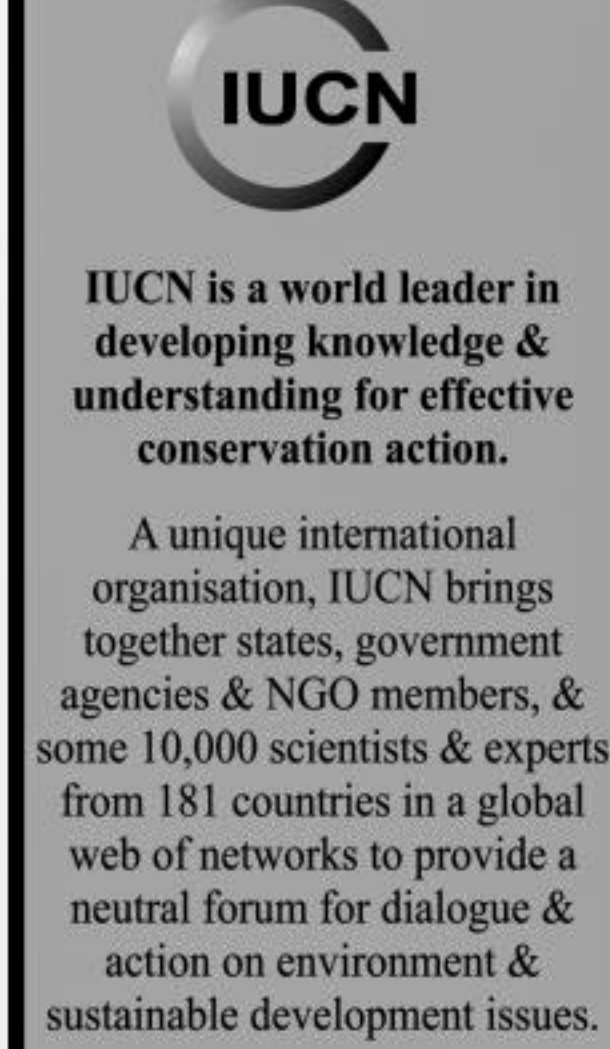
The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above position, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than on **Thursday, 21 June, 2012**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Vacancy Announcement

Community Based Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor project, IUCN Bangladesh



IUCN Bangladesh Country Office provides technical support to the Community Based Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor Project of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh. The third phase of the project starts from July 2012 with financial support of the development partner, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Dhaka.
IUCN Bangladesh is now seeking applications from the qualified candidates for the following positions based in Sunamganj, Bangladesh:

1. Project Manager
2. Thematic Coordinator (Institutional Development and Legal Support)
3. Thematic Coordinator (Monitoring & Evaluation and Knowledge Management)
4. Thematic Coordinator (Ecosystem Improvement and Governance)
5. Assistant Project Officer (Ecosystem and Livelihood)
6. Assistant Project Officer (Knowledge Management and Institutional Development)
7. Project Associate

Salary scales: Project Manager BDT 145,098 - 217,647
Thematic coordinators BDT 85,984 - 128,976
Assistant Project Officer BDT 53,740 - 80,610
Project Associate BDT 44,604 - 66,906

Interested candidates are requested to visit <https://hrms.iucn.org> and then click on "open vacancies" Applications will be received till 15 June 2012 through IUCN HRMS