

# Boon for millers

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decided to purchase nine 9 lakh tonnes of milled rice and 1.5 lakh tonnes of paddy. Contacted, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Research Director Dr Binayak Sen said the present arrangement for public procurement of rice has some trickle down effect on its market price, but major beneficiaries of the policy are rice millers.

"This has been the system almost for the last 20 years. Of course, it is because the system has no risk for the government," he said. But there is no reason for the authorities to continue a policy just because it is risk-free for them, he added.

Asked about this, Badrul Hasan, director (procurement) of the food directorate, said the government buys paddy with a certain

moisture level, which the farmers cannot always ensure as they are in a hurry to sell paddy during the peak harvest to meet their financial needs.

Moreover, the government has a storage capacity of 15 lakh tonnes of food grains. If it buys paddy, it virtually stores less quantity of rice. The authorities, therefore, prefer the present arrangement, he explained.

Another official of the food directorate said that before 1993-94, the government used to have contracts with rice millers that they would buy paddy at the government-fixed price, dry, mill and supply that to it. The government, however, used to pay the millers 60 percent of the money in advance and the rest after rice was supplied.

"But irregularities crop-

ped up. Many of the millers took money, but did not supply rice," he said, adding that the system gradually discontinued. The official, however, sought anonymity.

Former food secretary Abdul Latif Mandal said there is a nexus between a section of food officials and rice millers. This is a major reason why the government is not changing the rice procurement policy although farmers are being badly affected by it.

Paddy price is now low, but not rice price. Coarse rice now sells at Tk 28-32 a kg, he mentioned.

Latif told this correspondent that in 2010 rice millers forced the government to increase the price of rice to Tk 28 a kg although they had signed agreements to supply it at Tk 25 a kg, which only proved how influential they

were.

He said if the government wants to ensure sustained growth of food production, farmers must get fair price of their produces. Farmers' cooperatives could be an effective tool in this regard, he said, citing the example of Thailand.

Badrul Hasan said there are small farmers' cooperatives in Thailand that have go-downs built jointly by the government and the cooperatives. They store paddy in the go-downs, but the government pays 50 percent of its price during peak seasons.

Later, when the government needs, it buys paddy from them at the given market price, he said.

"In Bangladesh, we can follow the system," Badrul said.

# Govt borrowing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
in revenue collection and increases the number of taxpayers," FBCCI President AK Azad said in his reaction to the proposed budget.

"Thus the government can reduce its dependence on the banking system," he said at a press conference at the chamber's office in Dhaka.

The government's target for borrowing from banks was set at around Tk 19,000 crore for the current fiscal year, but within the first half of the year borrowing exceeded Tk 21,000 crore, leaving the private sector entrepreneurs in a liquidity crisis, he said.

"The tendency of this type of borrowing should stop," Azad said.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the government's target for borrowing from banks is Tk 23,000 crore.

The FBCCI also opposed the scope to legalise undisclosed money as the government has taken a stance to allow money whitening through the payment of a certain amount of tax.

The trade body said the scope will give rise to uneven business practices.

Azad also said raising tax at source to 1.2 percent from the existing 0.60 percent on all kinds of exports would have a negative impact on overseas trade as export earnings were already on the decline due to some internal and external factors.

Moreover, the proposed rise in the "advanced and loan fund" for the government employees to Tk 19,568 crore from its current amount at Tk 9,413 crore would also have a negative impact on liquidity in banks, he said.

"Considering all these factors, we think it will be difficult for the government to achieve the targeted GDP (gross domestic product) growth at 7.2 percent," Azad said.

However, the FBCCI welcomed the move of giving Tk 100 crore for the development of women entrepreneurship.

The trade body also appreciated the government for reducing duty on import of equipment for setting up effluent treatment plants at export-oriented industries and the proposal of imposing zero duty on import of capital machinery.

The FBCCI also hailed the proposal to continue zero duty on import of food stuff, fertilisers, seeds, cotton and medicine.

**MCCI: BUDGET BOLD BUT CHALLENGING**  
The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) termed the proposed budget a bold and challenging one, and said financing and implementation of the budget would be a tough job for the government.

The huge bank borrowing to meet deficit financing will result in crowding out of private sector credit growth and cause liquidity problems for the primary dealer banks and financial institutions.

"There must be a cap on the government's borrowing from the banking sector and instead, it should improve its ability to use foreign funds, thereby reducing bank borrowings to that extent," MCCI said in a statement.

The chamber also expressed disappointment over the continuation of legalising undisclosed income, saying the scope will discourage the real taxpayers.

The MCCI said the budget, which was framed against the backdrop of the global economic slowdown, attempts to stimulate rural growth, mobilise revenue, support infrastructure development, and deliver social safety measures.

The budget also focuses on high growth rate of GDP, export, import, remittance and investment, the chamber said, adding that special attention was needed on specific measures to contain inflation.

The MCCI said the government has taken a bold step by increasing the subsidies for agriculture, electricity, petroleum and state-owned enterprises, in spite of advice of the International Monetary Fund to cut subsidies.

"To maintain a sustainable growth, we have no alternative choice at hand."

However, the chamber expressed its concern whether the existing level of subsidies would be manageable and sustainable within the ambit of the current budget, with a high deficit financing component.

The chamber urged the government to be cautious about the volume of subsidies and its sustainability, and to formulate a sound subsidy policy for effective implementation.

It said the government's implementation capacity also needs to be developed to accelerate the development of human resources and energy sectors.

"In particular, the coal

policy needs to be immediately announced with appropriate mining methodology identified to harness a valuable resource the country already possesses."

The MCCI expressed dissatisfaction at increasing advance income tax on export earnings for all exporters, and for not raising the minimum ceiling of personal income tax.

The chamber opposed the move of imposing new tax on mobile phone bills.

It also expected a cut in the corporate income tax rate.

The chamber, however, hailed the government for giving priority to the development of the energy sector. "Any significant growth of the economy is inconceivable without high and sustained growth of energy and hence, it deserves high priority in the allocations."

"Top priority should also be given to exploration of gas. The way the energy crisis is progressively increasing, the country needs to be able to harness the domestic resources," it said.

On the targeted GDP growth of 7.2 percent, the chamber said: "We strongly feel that as time progresses, this should be raised to 8 percent in the upcoming years in order to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country."

**FICCI STRESSES STRONG MONITORING**  
The proposed budget is somewhat bold and challenging against the backdrop of global economic meltdown, said Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The chamber said the budget would require further improvements in governance and strong monitoring to achieve the goals.

It said in a statement that the projected borrowing from the banking sector would impact private sector credit and might cause a liquidity problem.

FICCI also expressed concern over the imposition of 2 percent tax on mobile phone bills, saying the move would affect around nine crore people.

The chamber, however, appreciated the initiatives in the energy, power, communication and education sectors. It also hailed measures meant for improving the stockmarket by reducing tax on merchant banks and brokerage houses.

**CCCI FOR RAISING TAX-FREE INCOME LIMIT**  
Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) urged the government to increase the tax-free income ceiling to Tk 3 lakh from Tk 1.80 lakh now.

The income tax threshold should be increased considering a number of reasons such as soaring inflation, rise in livelihood expenditure and depreciation of the taka against the dollar, said CCC President Morshed Mura Ibrahim in a statement.

He also said increasing the minimum income tax payable at individual level to Tk 3,000 from Tk 2,000 will have a negative effect on the general taxpayers.

Ibrahim, however, appreciated the government for "attaching top priority to human resources development, increased use of ICT at the government level and initiative to expand small and medium enterprises."

He thanked the finance minister for undertaking refinancing schemes through the Bangladesh Bank such as various tax rebates and easy loans for environment-friendly industrialisation.

"Though an ADP of Tk 55,000 crore is adequately hopeful, it will be a tough challenge for the government to meet the Tk 52,068 crore budget deficit."

It would be difficult for the government to get Tk 18,584 crore from foreign sources, Ibrahim added.

The CCCI president said taking loan of Tk 23,000 crore from banking sources - out of the total Tk 33,484 crore needed - would fuel inflation.

"It will also reduce investment in the private sector."

**WOMEN CHAMBER HAILS TK 100CR BOOST**  
Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BWCCI) hailed the allocation of Tk 100 crore as grant for women entrepreneurs.

Chamber leaders said the allocation would help them flourish. "It will empower more women and develop more women entrepreneurs," the BWCCI said in a statement.

The chamber also urged the government to raise the income tax threshold to Tk 3 lakh for women.

It also suggested a 15 percent quota in the equity and entrepreneurship fund and a separate quota in economic zones and industrial parks for the women

# Ctg police stations

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construction.

In each of these stations, more than 20 police officials work in a small room.

"We have one table for four officers here," said Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain of Pahartali Police Station, adding that people often got puzzled seeking service there as there was always noise and crowd around the table.

In all the police stations, policemen use a portion of the building for living, since there is no barrack. More than 30 policemen live in a room of each police station.

According to sources, officials of not only the six police stations but of the other CMP stations are also suffering from acute accommodation problem.

On top of that, the canteens are unhygienic, alleged officials of the police stations.

"The problems have become part of our life and we are left to adjust with it," an official of Bayezid Police Station told The Daily Star.

The older police stations like Kotwali, Double-Mooring, Panchlaish, and Chandgaon are relatively in better condition, the sources added.

"We have only two pick-up vans for duty, but both of them are too old to use," said Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman of Bayezid Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge of Khulshi Police Station Mafiz Uddin said, "My duty vehicle is so old that it breaks down just after a run every day. In

rainy season, rain drips from its roof."

Shortage of drinking water is also a big problem in these six CMP stations.

"We collect water from distant places using our duty van as there is no source of water nearby," said Assistant Sub-inspector Monirul Islam of Karnaphuli Police Station.

The condition of police outposts under the six stations is even more pathetic. Lack of water supply and toilet facility has made the work environment horribly challenging there.

Officers-in-charge of these police stations said they had informed the higher authorities of the problems who assured them of solving those.

Shafiqul Islam, commis-

sioner of CMP, said, "We are trying to mitigate the problems as early as possible. We have already talked with Chittagong Development Authority about allocation of land for the police stations and they have formed a committee. Once the allotment is done, we will be able to solve the space and accommodation problems."

On transportation problem, he said they had purchased some pick-up vans but due to the creation of high posts in CMP the vehicles were allotted to the high officials.

"We are working amid many limitations due to lack of resources. This is compelling us to carry on with the situation even after having the desire to improve the police stations," he said.



## সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন

### প্রশাসন বিভাগ

### প্রধান কার্যালয়

৩৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

[www.sbc.gov.bd](http://www.sbc.gov.bd)

## বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশনের সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক এবং জুনিয়র অফিসার পদে পদবী ভিত্তিক নিম্নোক্ত রোল নম্বরধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে নিয়োগের জন্য নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে। নিয়োগপত্রে উল্লেখিত কার্যালয়/অফিসে আগামী ১৮-০৬-২০১২ হতে ২৮-০৬-২০১২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে যোগদানের লক্ষ্যে ইতোমধ্যেই উল্লেখিত প্রার্থীদের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা বরাবরে রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকে নিয়োগপত্র প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে।

উল্লেখ্য, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোর্টায় নিয়োগের জন্য বিবেচিতদের ক্ষেত্রে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের পরিপত্র অনুসরণে যথাযথ প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করতঃ পরবর্তীতে তাঁদের নিয়োগপত্র দেয়া হবে।

**সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (সাধারণ ও প্রকৌশল) পদে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর (মোট ৮১ জন) :**

১০২৮, ১০৩৮, ১০৪৭, ১১৪৯, ১১৭১, ১২৯৬, ১৪১২, ১৪৩০, ১৪৯১, ১৪৯৩, ১৫৮৬, ১৫৯২, ১৬৩৩, ১৬৮৬, ১৬৯৯, ১৭৩৭, ১৭৫৪, ১৭৫৫, ১৮০৫, ১৮৯৪, ১৮৯৬, ১৯৪২, ১৯৯০, ১৯৯৭, ২০০৭, ২০২৮, ২০৬১, ২০৬৫, ২০৯৫, ২১০৫, ২১৪৫, ২১৫৪, ২১৬৫, ২৩০৮, ২৩৫০, ২৩৫৩, ২৩৭৭, ২৪২৫, ২৬১৫, ২৬২১, ২৬৪৪, ২৮২৮, ২৮৮১, ২৮৯৪, ২৮৯৬, ২৯২৫, ৩০৩১, ৩০৮৬, ৩২০২, ৩২১৯, ৩২৩১, ৩২৮৮, ৩৩৫৩, ৩৪০৩, ৩৪৬০, ৩৪৭৪, ৩৪৯৬, ৩৫১২, ৩৫৩১, ৩৬৯৮, ৩৭০৯, ৩৭৪৩, ৩৮৮৫, ৪০০৭, ৪০৩৪, ৪০৫২, ৪১৭৬, ৪১৮৯, ৪২২১, ৪২৩৭, ৪৩৬৯, ৪৪০৪, ৪৪৮৫, ৪৪৮৯, ৪৫২১, ৪৫৩৯, ৪৬২০, ৪৬৯৩, ৫০৭৬, ৬০৮০, ৭০০৩।

**জুনিয়র অফিসার (সাধারণ ও প্রকৌশল) পদে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর (মোট ৩৮ জন) :**

৮২৮৯, ৮৩৭৯, ৮৪১৬, ৮৪১৯, ৮৪৩৭, ৮৪৪২, ৮৪৪৪, ৮৪৪৯, ৮৫৭৩, ৮৫৮৫, ৮৮১১, ৯০৩৬, ৯১৬৫, ৯৩৪৯, ৯৬৬১, ৯৭২৭, ৯৮১৭, ৯৮৩৭, ৯৮৮৬, ৯৯৯০, ৯৯৯১, ১০০৪১, ১০১৯৮, ১০৩৭৭, ১০৮৪৫, ১০৮৫২, ১০৮৬০, ১০৯৪০, ১১১৪১, ১১২৭১, ১১৫৯৩, ১১৭২২, ১২০৯০, ১২১৩১, ১৩০০৯, ১৩০৬৬, ১৪০৪৮, ১৪০৫২।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি: বিজ্ঞাপনটি সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েব সাইটেও প্রদর্শিত হচ্ছে।

**মোঃ ফজলুল হক**  
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (চঃ দাঃ)

সাবীক/টেভার-০৯/১২  
তাং-০৭/০৬/২০১২

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ ৩৩, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, প্রশাসন বিভাগ (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ। ডাক বক্স নং-৬০৭, তারঃ 'বীমা' ঢাকা  
ফোন নং ৯৫৫০০৪৩, ৯৫৫১২২৬, পিকবিল্ডিংঃ ৯৫৫৩১০৫-১০৯ এম্বলিডেন্সনঃ ৩৫৯, ৩৬৯, ৩৭১, ৩৭২, ৩৭৩, ৪৪৯ সফটওয়্যার নং-৯৫৫৪১৯৭, e-mail: [sbc@btb.net.bd](mailto:sbc@btb.net.bd) F/R/IOM.doc S. & S.

**Memo No. PC/12/119/ 543** **Date: June 06, 2012**

**Power Sector Development Technical Assistance Project (PSDTA)**  
**Credit No. 3913-BD**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR**  
**BID PROCESS CONSULTANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ANOWARA-MEGHNAGHAT 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND AMINBAZAR-MAOWA-MONGLA 400 KV & MONGLA-KHULNA (S) 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE**

- This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business online on April 22, 2004. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Agency in the amount of US\$7.1 million equivalent towards the cost of the Power Sector Development Technical Assistance (PSDTA) Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the Contracts for Consulting Services for bid process consultant for construction of Aminbazar-Maowa-Mongla Transmission Line and Anwara-Meghnaghat Transmission Line and related substations.
- The expected duration of the contract will be 2 (two) years. The scope of services include (i) review the prepared bid documents on the above two mega projects, (ii) assist PGCB in pre-bid meeting and (iii) assist PGCB in the evaluation of the bids received (iv) drawing /design approval (v) supervision of field work.
- Power Cell on behalf of Power Division now invites eligible consultants (companies) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. EOIs should include brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, summaries of firm's capability, availability of appropriate skills among key staff with short biographies (one paragraph), availability of resources, and snapshots of relevant transactional experience. The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following:
  - Registration of firm.
  - Age of firm.
  - Availability of key professionals.
  - Availability of resources.
  - Experience of the firm in similar task.
  - Experience of the firm in other works.
  - Support services of the firm.
- Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "joint venture" or "sub-consultancy".
- A consultant will be selected under QCBS method in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information including TOR from the following address from 0900 to 1700 hours, local time:  
General Manager (P&D), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), IEB Bhaban (4th Fl), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, Tel: +880-2-9567012, Fax: + 880-2-9567012, E-mail: [gmpnd@pgcb.org.bd](mailto:gmpnd@pgcb.org.bd), [pgcb@citechco.net](mailto:pgcb@citechco.net), Website: [www.pgcb.org.bd](http://www.pgcb.org.bd)
- The EOI shall be submitted in two sets (one original and one copy), separately in sealed envelopes, to Power Cell, Power Division, Bidyut Bhaban, 1-Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, by 15.00 hours local time on or before 10 July, 2012.

**M. S. Sarwar**  
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