

# US decision defies logic

FROM PAGE 1  
Big Labour has petitioned since 2007 to strip Bangladesh of its privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which allows lower tariffs for goods from developing countries. The collapse of the Rana Plaza textile factory building in April killed more than 1,100 people, while giving the Administration a political excuse to do the bidding of the AFL-CIO and its allies in Congress.

textile industry, and higher tariffs on other products will squeeze those factories' profit margins and possibly force them to cut corners on safety. Textile tariffs merely slow the ability of Bangladesh and similar countries to get on the first rung of the development ladder. Sewing work is well suited to migrants from the countryside with few skills, and because it requires dexterity rather than strength, it gives opportunities to women.

So while Bangladeshi workers earn some of the lowest wages in the world, the experience of countries like China that have trod this ground suggests that on the current trajectory this is temporary. In the last two decades, the proportion of the Bangladeshi population living in poverty has fallen to less than 40 percent from 70 percent. As the pool of underemployed labour is

exhausted, investment in technology and higher skills boosts productivity and wages. The safety problems in Bangladesh are a tragic side effect of an industry growing quickly while government and society struggle to keep up. Dhaka needs help to improve its capacity to regulate industry and fight corruption. But that should not obscure the fact that the factories are fundamentally a blessing to be encouraged.

# Problem in Grameen name

FROM PAGE 1  
But supporters of Grameen Bank said the documentary offered the government an opportunity to remove Prof Yunus from the bank. The government succeeded in this in about three months. The government did not stop there, however. It formed a review committee to look into the Grameen Bank and 48 other legally independent organisations, but found nothing wrong.

But the Bangladesh Bank said it had nothing to do with these organisations set up under the Company Law. The banking division is now seeking opinions from the Grameen Bank Commission. A finance ministry official said the commerce ministry needed no opinions from any ministry or the central bank, and that the ministry itself could decide on the matter because the changes were minor.

to limit the service terms of their chairman to three years, with a clause for extension. Currently, board chairs of the two organisations can serve for an indefinite period. Prof Yunus is the chairman in both the companies. Grameen Shakti is the largest single off-grid system in the world, delivering solar power to rural people in Bangladesh since 1996.

# Kishoreganj

FROM PAGE 16  
Lawmaker from the constituency, Abdul Hamid, then speaker of parliament, was elected President on April 22. The ruling Awami League nominated candidate Rejwan Ahmed Toufiq, eldest son of President Abdul Hamid, is contesting the election.

His opponent, "rebel" party candidate Syed Mahitul Islam Asim, is contesting as an independent candidate. "We would like to conduct a fair election. All kinds of measures have already been taken," said Jahid Hossain, returning officer of the by-polls.

Around 6,000 law enforcers, including members of police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Rab, and Ansar, have been deployed in the three upazilas. A 27-member team comprised of police and Ansar personnel will be deployed at every polling centre during the voting.

# Ershad

FROM PAGE 1  
Mannan's claim is quite confusing. Ershad reportedly had told Ajmat the day before that the Jatiya Party would back neither of the two mayoral aspirants as it was a local government election.

"There is also no logic for the banking division to seek opinions from the commission," he told The Daily Star. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing retribution, said the issue remained pending as the government had strong reservations about Grameen Bank and its associated organisations.

Among some major changes, the two organisations sought to bring down the number of members of its general body from 25 to 12-15. They also want to fix terms of service for all directors of the board at three years. At present, the board members, who are not nominated by Grameen Bank, serve for two years while the term for the bank's nominees is not specific.

Grameen Kalyan was established in 1996 to help members and employees of Grameen Bank take up various activities, finance various associated organisations, implement programmes aimed at poverty alleviation and creating jobs.

# 3 journo's hurt

FROM PAGE 16  
bombs targeting the law enforcers during the clash. Gulbar received five pellets in his abdomen and elbow while Abdullah and Mahfujur received one pellet each in their back and abdomen.

on Monday, saying it would go for tougher agitation programme from today if their leaders were not released. Gazipur City Corporation areas and Kishoreganj district would remain out of the purview of hartal due to city corporation polls campaign and by-polls, said a statement of Shibir.

and blasted crude bombs and vandalised vehicles. Golam Sarwar, OC of Paltan Police Station, said, "We heard that pro-hartal activists vandalised glasses of two cars in Paltan area and Dainik Bangla intersection around 12:30 pm."

The ruling AL high command had expected that the Jatiya Party, a key component of the AL-led grand alliance, would extend its support to Ajmat in the race against Mannan. But things took an opposite turn as Ershad did not issue any directive to party leaders and supporters in Gazipur asking them to work for Ajmat.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has sought opinions from the banking and financial institution division of the finance ministry, which in turn asked for views from the central bank. Local leaders of Gazipur district and city units of Jatiya Party have been divided over backing Ajmat and Mannan.

While the AL is desperate for the Jatiya Party's full support at the Gazipur election, which is being considered a "matter of prestige" for the government after the white-wash defeat of AL favourites at the June 15 polls to four city corporations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Ershad in her parliament office on June 27 sought the JP's support for Ajmat. But Ershad remained silent.

# 2 brothers

FROM PAGE 16  
septic tank adjacent to the house. He fell into the tank and started shouting for help. Sohail came to his brother's rescue and tried to pull the boy up. But He, too, plunged into the tank.

Locals rescued the brothers, who were in an unconscious state, and rushed them to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. As their condition deteriorated, the two were referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. They died on the way to Rangpur around 2:45pm, police said.

Ershad said the documentary offered the government an opportunity to remove Prof Yunus from the bank. The government succeeded in this in about three months. The government did not stop there, however. It formed a review committee to look into the Grameen Bank and 48 other legally independent organisations, but found nothing wrong.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Ershad in her parliament office on June 27 sought the JP's support for Ajmat. But Ershad remained silent. Against this backdrop, Ajmat along with some leaders of Gazipur AL and JP went to Ershad's Baridhara residence on Monday.

Forest Minister Hasan Mahmud, however, claimed that he had not violated the electoral rules. "I didn't say anything on the basis of assumption. What I have said [about Mannan] is established truth," he added.

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# Hasan bashes Mannan

FROM PAGE 1  
the designation of professor. Departmental action was taken against him (Mannan) when he was a lecturer, Hasan told a discussion programme at the Jatiya Press Club.

Reacting to the allegations, senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said it was a violation of electoral rules and the Election Commission should take immediate action against the minister as per the rules.

No minister had made any such remarks about any candidates in the recent polls to four city corporations, he told The Daily Star, referring to Section 69 of the City Corporation (code of conduct) Rules, 2010.

Whatever Hasan has said about Mannan is false and baseless, insisted Moudud. Forest Minister Hasan Mahmud, however, claimed that he had not violated the electoral rules.

Section 69 of the city corporation rules completely prohibits any derogatory comments against any candidate or his or her relatives that might influence the election. If anybody is found guilty of violating the

administrative interference by the government in the polls. The election will be held in a fair and neutral manner, he said at a programme organised by Bangladesh Jati Kalyan Samity at the Jatiya Press Club.

Quader, a presidium member of the AL, asked opposition politicians to make reasonable comments. Speaking in parliament, Moudud Ahmed alleged that the government was "trying to rig" the Gazipur city polls.

# Suranjit bashes Prothom Alo

FROM PAGE 1  
Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta yesterday criticised the Prothom Alo for an editorial over a decision of the Speaker during the passage of 2013-14 budget in parliament on Sunday.

The editorial titled "Speaker's surprising decision" criticised the Speaker for not allowing discussion over Padma bridge project and power sector when the budget was being passed. Speaking on a point of order, Suranjit demanded that the Prothom Alo should send a letter to parliament apologising for this editorial so that the House does not have to take any action in this regard.

The ruling party lawmaker said the newly elected Speaker is running the House in a very fair and neutral manner. On the other hand, the BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday lauded the Prothom Alo for the editorial.

Briefing journalists at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre after the House sitting yesterday, BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed said Suranjit's remarks reflected the government's direct interference in the media.

# Thai govt reverses rice price cut

AFP, Bangkok  
Thailand's premier yesterday reversed a decision to cut the price it gives farmers for rice, a fortnight after stoking anger from its rural heartlands by announcing a 20 percent reduction in the fee.

The so-called rice-pledging scheme has dogged the government since its introduction shortly after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's election victory in 2011. Critics say the scheme is a costly sop to her government's rural voters, is riddled with corruption and has caused the commodity's price to surge, knocking the kingdom from its place as the world's top rice exporter.

# NBR freezes

FROM PAGE 1  
found that Mannan had not paid tax worth Tk 22 lakh for the year 2007-08 as the managing director of Capital Property Development (pvt) Ltd.

# তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ  
কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫

তারিখঃ ২৪-০৬-২০১৩খ্রিঃ

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য কোম্পানির তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম নং	লোকেশন	দরপত্র মূল্য (টাকা)	বায়নার টাকা (পে-অর্ডার/ডিভি আকারে)	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
ক্রম-১	জোবিন্দ-গাজীপুর এর আওতাধীন এলাকাসমূহ	৪০০০.০০ (চার হাজার)	১,৮৯,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ উনসত্ত্বই হাজার)	কার্যক্রম প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০১৪ পর্যন্ত
ক্রম-২	জোবিন্দ-চন্দা এর আওতাধীন এলাকাসমূহ	৪০০০.০০ (চার হাজার)	১,৫৭,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ সাতাত্ত্ব হাজার)	ঐ
ক্রম-৩	জোবিন্দ-টঙ্গী এর আওতাধীন এলাকাসমূহ	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার)	১,০৪,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ চার হাজার)	ঐ
ক্রম-৪	জোবিন্দ-চাঁদাইল এর আওতাধীন এলাকাসমূহ	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার)	৮৭,৫০০.০০ (সাতাত্ত্ব হাজার)	ঐ
ক্রম-৫	জোবিন্দ-সাতার (অংশ-ক) সাতার, মেহায়েতপুর ও তদসংলগ্ন এলাকা	৪০০০.০০ (চার হাজার)	২,৪৩,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ তেতাত্ত্ব হাজার)	ঐ
ক্রম-৬	জোবিন্দ-সাতার (অংশ-খ) নবীনগর, আওলিয়া ও তদসংলগ্ন এলাকা	৪০০০.০০ (চার হাজার)	২,৫৬,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ ছাপ্পাত্ত্ব হাজার)	ঐ
ক্রম-৭	জোবিন্দ-মানিকগঞ্জ এর আওতাধীন এলাকাসমূহ	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার)	১,০৭,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ সাত হাজার)	ঐ

৬। টিকাদারের যোগাভা

৭। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়

৮। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থানসমূহ

৯। দরপত্র দাখিল ও গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

১০। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থানসমূহ

১১। দরপত্র দাখিল ও গ্রহণের পদ্ধতি

১২। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়

১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখে কোন দরপত্র দাখিল করা হবে না।

১৪। কোন দরদাতার মোট উদ্ধৃত দর যদি কোম্পানির নির্ধারিত আবেদনমিত ৩১ (একত্রিশ) গুণের কম এবং ৩৮ (আটত্রিশ) গুণের অধিক হয়, তবে তার/তারের দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল করে নেয়া হবে।

১৫। দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে অন্য সকল তথ্য সংযুক্ত আছে। কোন তথ্য সম্পর্কে কোন জিজ্ঞাসা থাকলে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে নিম্নবর্ণিতকারীর কাছে এর ব্যাখ্যা পাওয়া যাবে। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র কিংবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

১৬। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন অকস্মিক পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে একই স্থানে একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

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তারিখঃ ২৪-০৬-২০১৩খ্রিঃ

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২। কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫  
৩। হিসাব শাখা, আবিভি-গাজীপুর এর কার্যালয়।

৪। পেট্রোবাংলা (হিসাব বিভাগ), পেট্রোস্টেশনার, ৩, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

৫। বাণেশ্বর (হিসাব বিভাগ), শাহজালাল টাওয়ার, ৮০/এ-বি, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী সার্কুলার রোড, ঢাকা।

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১১। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ সময় পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন অকস্মিক চলাকালে এবং দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও শেষ সময়ের পূর্বে মহাব্যবস্থাপক (আবিভি-গাজীপুর) এর কার্যালয়ে হাতে বিলি, ডাকযোগে বা ফুরিয়ার সার্ভিসযোগে দরপত্রসমূহ প্রেরণ করতে হবে। এ ছাড়াও উপরিবিধিত অনু-১০ এ বর্ণিত স্থানে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাণেশ্বর দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।

দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ সময়ের পরে গ্রাহক দরপত্রসমূহ না খুলেই সরদাতাকে ফেরত দেয়া হবে।

১২। ১৭-০৭-২০১৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১৪:৩০ ঘটিকায় তিতাস গ্যাস ভবন, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এর দ্বিতীয় তলায় কনফারেন্স রুম উপস্থিত দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) গ্রাহক দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
আবিভি-গাজীপুর  
ফোনঃ ০২-৯২৬২১১৮

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১৫৫/২০১২-১৩  
জিডি-২৫২৭

# Mega project

FROM PAGE 16  
tableted PCs will be distributed at Bangladesh Secretariat and other government offices, the state minister said. Yesterday's Ecneq meeting approved another project, "Rural Employment

and Road Maintenance Programmes" aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of about 60,000 ultra poor people of 4,548 unions through employment generation. The project, involving Tk 1,102 crore, also aims to

keep around 1,00,000 kilometre long rural roads in good condition with proper maintenance throughout the year. The Ecneq meeting approved 7 other development projects involving Tk 1,753 crore.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Proposals from interested Companies for Hiring Consultancy Firm for Identification of Ethnic Minorities of Bangladesh through Comprehensive Ethnographic Survey.

# 2 brothers

FROM PAGE 16  
septic tank adjacent to the house. He fell into the tank and started shouting for help. Sohail came to his brother's rescue and tried to pull the boy up. But He, too, plunged into the tank.

Locals rescued the brothers, who were in an unconscious state, and rushed them to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. As their condition deteriorated, the two were referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. They died on the way to Rangpur around 2:45pm, police said.

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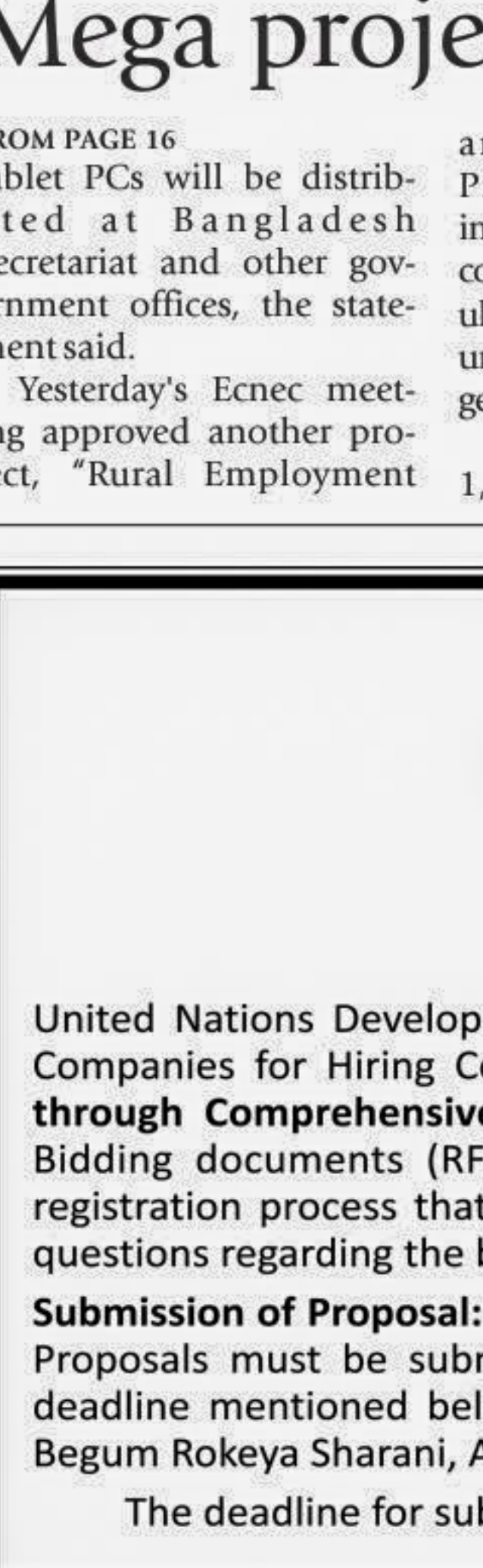
# Request for Proposal

Hiring Consultancy Firm  
Reference: RFP-BD-2013-041

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Proposals from interested Companies for Hiring Consultancy Firm for Identification of Ethnic Minorities of Bangladesh through Comprehensive Ethnographic Survey. All interested companies may download the Bidding documents (RFP) from [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php) through a formal registration process that will register bidders into the participants list, so any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

**Submission of Proposal:** The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Proposals must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the RFP document by the deadline mentioned below to the **Registry Unit, UNDP Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.**

The deadline for submission of Proposals is **Sunday, July 21, 2013, 3:30 p.m.** Local time.



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