

Afghanistan faces economic time bomb as Nato war ends

AFP, Kabul
The Taliban insurgency may still be raging but the poor state of the economy could pose a bigger threat to Afghanistan's long-term viability, and huge mineral reserves are unlikely to offer a quick fix.

In Kabul's Sarayee Shahzada market, money-changers wave thick bundles of Afghanis, dollars, rupees and dirhams, but the customers are not packing the alleyways like they used to and business is well down on two years ago.

After a decade of near double-digit growth, the Afghan economy has stalled in the last two years, hit by a disputed presidential election and the end of Nato's combat mission, which formally closed on Sunday.

Now the tricky political and security transitions are joined by an equally tough economic hurdle.

The fact is not lost on the moneychangers who deal in "hawala" transactions, an informal system of transferring funds internationally seen as a barometer of economic confidence.

Omiad Khan, sitting in his family business in the market, told AFP more money was leaving Afghanistan these days, and less coming in.



In this photograph taken on December 29, an Afghan money changer (C) sits with his Afghani bank notes and coins at a currency exchange market along the roadside in Kabul.

"As the withdrawal got nearer, investors in Afghanistan moved their money abroad -- they transferred it to Dubai, China, Pakistan, India, Turkey," he said.

A recent survey of more than 9,000 Afghans by the Asia Foundation, a US NGO, found unemployment and a weak economy were the biggest concerns, beating insecurity and corruption.

Since 2002, America has pumped more than \$104 billion into Afghanistan -- a figure that, when adjusted

for inflation, surpasses the Marshall Plan that helped Europe rise from the ashes of World War II, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), a US watchdog.

But the bulk of this money has gone on combat operations rather than reconstruction and while Afghan forces are taking over the fight against the Taliban, their wages still come from overseas support.

The Kabul government is expecting income this year of around \$1.8 billion

dollars -- less than the value of Afghanistan's opium crop, which feeds the coffers of the Taliban.

Without the \$8 billion a year in international aid currently guaranteed until at least 2016, the Afghan government is unable to pay the salaries of the 350,000 soldiers and police on the front line of battling the Taliban.

However, Afghanistan's Nato decade has brought huge economic growth -- GDP has risen from \$2.5 billion in 2001 to more than \$20 billion, according

to the World Bank, boosted by transport, construction, telecoms and media.

Agriculture -- not including opium -- has also boomed to the point where dry fruits have surpassed carpets in the country's principal exports.

That is good news for Haider Refat, the head of a company that produces and exports raisins, figs, pistachios and the like.

"Before, we only exported to two countries (India and Pakistan) but now we export to around 45 countries," he told AFP.

Afghan producers are earning significant money sending dried fruits to the Gulf, Australia and Canada, helping create jobs in a country of 30 million where 400,000 young people join the employment market each year.

Haider says that boosting exports further needs more reliable energy supplies, better financing for factories and more promotion of Afghan goods overseas.

One sector which has caught investors' eyes more than any other is mining. The US Geological Survey has estimated the value of Afghanistan's mineral deposits, including gold, iron and copper, at between one and three trillion dollars.



Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairman of Midas Financing, presides over the company's 19th annual general meeting at Midas Centre in Dhanmondi recently. Shafique-ul-Azam, managing director, was also present.

ECB chief sees 'limited' risk of deflation in eurozone

AFP, Berlin
The European Central Bank cannot entirely rule out the risk of deflation in the eurozone, but that danger is limited, its chief Mario Draghi said in a newspaper interview Friday.

"The risk cannot be ruled out completely, but it's limited," Draghi told the business daily Handelsblatt.

"If inflation is too low for too long, then it can happen that people will bet on a further fall in prices and postpone spending. We haven't reached that point yet. But we have to prepare for that risk," Draghi said.

At just 0.3 percent in November, eurozone inflation is alarmingly low and could even fall further as a result of falling oil prices.

Low inflation or even falling prices may sound good for the consumer. But from a central bank's point of view, they can trigger a vicious spiral where businesses and households delay purchases, throttling demand and causing companies to lay off workers.

The ECB has already rolled out a raft of different measures to try and push infla-

tion back up to the 2.0 percent it regards as economically healthy.

But the risk that the central bank will not be able to fulfil its price stability mandate "has increased compared to six months ago," Draghi said.

As a result, the ECB "is currently technically preparing to adjust the size, speed and composition of our measures at the start of 2015, should it become necessary to react to too long a period of too low inflation," Draghi said.

The ECB's policy-setting governing council "is unanimous about this," he said.

So far, the ECB has cut its interest rates to new all-time lows, made unprecedented amounts of cheap loans available to banks via its LTRO and TLTRO programmes, and embarked on asset purchase programmes (ABSs and covered bonds) to pump liquidity into the financial system.

But given the stubbornly low level of inflation, the ECB has also started considering possibility of large-scale purchases of sovereign debt, so-called "quantitative easing" or "QE".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP)
(IDA Credit No. 5339-BD)
Memo No. LGED/PD/MGSP/V-03/2014/02 Date: 01/01/2015

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
for International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
IFB No.: ICB/2014-15/02

- This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project that appeared in UN Development Business on 25 February 2013.
- The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of following goods:

Package description	Package No.	Quantity
Procurement of 26 (twenty-six) Nos. Tandem Vibratory Roller (3.5-4.5 Ton)	MGSP-10-LPI-B-MGSP/PMU/G-08	26 (twenty-six)
- The Local Government Engineering Department now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for procurement of goods as mentioned above.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of goods, works and non-consulting services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED, E-mail: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- The details of qualifications requirements are provided in the bidding documents. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11am on 27 January 2015 at the Office of the undersigned.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee BDT 5,000 (five thousand) or US\$ 70.00 (seventy). The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm 18 February, 2015. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:15pm. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security amount BDT 3,200,000.00 (three million two hundred thousand) or US\$ 40,500.00 (forty thousand five hundred) in the form of an unconditional and Irrevocable Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Pay Order from a reputable bank in favour of the Project Director, MGSP.
- The address referred to above is: The Office of the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED Bhaban (Level-06), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh, Tel: +8802 9113446, Fax: +8802 9122434, E-mail: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd

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বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
ব্যবস্থাপক (সংরক্ষণ) এর দপ্তর
চট্টগ্রাম বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো
পোস্টঃ বিআইটি, রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম
স্মারক নং: চবি/এম(সংরক্ষণ)-৪৫/১৪/১৮৭০ তারিখঃ ৩০/১২/২০১৪ইং

Invitation for e-Tender

1. Invitation reference No.	CPS/M(Maint)-45/2014/1860 Date: 29-12-2014.
Tender ID (from e-GP Portal)	16828
Name of work	Construction of R.C.C road from south side of Power House to Gate No. 4 and approach road of hydrogen plant, link road of CW Pump No. 1 & 2 at Chittagong Power Station area.
2. Invitation reference No.	CPS/M(Maint)-45/2014/1859 date: 29-12-2014.
Tender ID (from e-GP Portal)	16822,
Name of work	Renovation of Godown No- A, B, C & D (China Godown) at CPS.
3. Invitation reference No.	CPS/M(Maint)-45/2014/1848 date: 27-12-2014.
Tender ID (from e-GP Portal)	16819,
Name of work	Construction of Civil Camp Office of Chittagong Power Station.
4. Invitation Reference No.	CPS/M(Maint)-45/2014/1847 date: 27-12-2014.
Tender ID (from e-GP Portal)	16812,
Name of work	Renovation and waterproofing work of mechanical workshop building (roof slab), Administrative Building (roof slab), hydrogen plant (roof slab), diesel generator house (roof slab) 1 & 2, cooling tower breaker room (roof slab) and Instrument air compressor room (roof slab) at CPS.

Eleven e-Tenders are invited in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of (Described e-Tender Portal No.).

There are four online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) contact number (01762625528-31).

Md. Mizanur Rahman
Executive Engineer
ID No. 01-0820
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Chittagong Power Station
BPDB, Raozan, Chittagong

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP)
(IDA Credit No. 5339-BD)
Memo No. LGED/PD/MGSP/V-05/2014/04 Date: 01/01/2015

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
for International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
IFB No.: ICB/2014-15/05

- This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project that appeared in UN Development Business on 25 February 2013.
- The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of following goods:

Package description	Package No.	Quantity
Procurement of 26 (twenty-six) Nos. Garbage Dump Truck (1.5-2.0 Ton)	MGSP-12-LPI-B-MGSP/PMU/G-26	26 (twenty-six)
- The Local Government Engineering Department now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for procurement of goods as mentioned above.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of goods, works and non-consulting services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED, E-mail: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- The details of qualifications requirements are provided in the bidding documents. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11 am on 27 January 2015 at the office of the undersigned.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee BDT 5,000 (five thousand) or US\$ 70.00 (seventy). The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm 23 February, 2015. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:15pm. The bid must be accompanied by a bid security amount BDT 2,000,000.00 (two million) or US\$ 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand) in the form of an unconditional and Irrevocable Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Pay Order from a reputable bank in favour of the Project Director, MGSP.
- The address referred to above is: The Office of the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED Bhaban (Level-06), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh, Tel: +8802 9113446, Fax: +8802 9122434, E-mail: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd

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