

No new in energy

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while the \$4.5 billion Matarbari project secured Japanese funding earlier this year, a major breakthrough.

But soon after Matarbari got its funding, a new reality popped up. The project would be delayed by an additional 19 months because of land filling and development. Matarbari is close to Maheshkhali island and the piece of land would need a lot of development before a heavy power plant could be installed there.

And this land development issue had not yet been considered by the policymakers before they rolled out plans for other large coal power plants.

Thus the finance minister yesterday did not hesitate to mention four 1,200MW coal plants to be built in Maheshkhali with financing from China, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore and another 1,200MW plant in Paira of Patuakhali.

The Daily Star gathered from its sources that building coal power projects in Maheshkhali so far remains a far cry. The land there requires to be filled up by eight to 10 metres at places and then more time would be required for the soil to properly compact before heavy machinery could be installed.

Such land filling may require up to two years, once the authorities decide on the matter and determine from where this soil would be supplied from -- sand of the Bay of Bengal or the government to send thousands of truckloads of soil from mainland.

Nobody knows since nobody thought of it yet.

However, the government earlier this year hired a consultant to make a master plan for the coal projects in the island, perhaps the consultant would

come up with a solution.

The government has additionally signed contracts with private and public companies to build several other coal power plants totalling 1,411MW capacity in different places. Except for acquiring land and doing some paperwork, there had been no visible progress in constructing the plants.

Muhith also mentioned building 2,000MW nuclear power from 2022 in Rooppur and then increase the country's nuclear power capacity to 4,000MW by 2030.

The Daily Star gathered that the cost of the 2,000MW Rooppur plant would be at least \$10 billion, three times the initial estimate of the government. The government has not yet struck the financial deal with Russia, which is now designing the plant. It is not known if the government would be able to afford such high cost project.

There were great elements of vision in the finance minister's speech regarding the country's energy future. He envisaged a diverse source of primary fuel so that the country's growth would not be affected if there was a shortage of one kind of fuel.

In that line, he talked about significant increase of renewable power so that it goes up to 2,000MW by 2020. To make it happen the government has created a Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority.

But once again, Muhith repeated last year's commitment of taking up a 500MW solar power development programme, which has not seen much progress in the last one year.

In the same vein of diversifying country's energy, the government plans to import 6,500MW power from neighbour-

ing countries -- Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and north-east India by 2030. This great plan is being updated every year.

Bangladesh has been importing 500MW power from India since 2013 and is currently in the process of importing another 600MW.

Muhith also mentioned oil and gas exploration in 26 blocks in the Bay of Bengal, as the maritime boundary dispute with India and Myanmar had been settled.

But these disputes were all settled last year.

He in his speech said the government continues the work for signing of production sharing contract and three-dimensional geological survey for exploration. The minister yesterday could have said when these blocks would be explored.

The paperwork for bidding has not yet been completed.

The finance minister mentioned that the government has made the decision in principle to stop giving domestic gas connections, which is a policy the government has been following by and large since 2010. He should have mentioned how the government plans to ensure domestic cooking gas more efficiently, not relying on expensive and cumbersome gas cylinders.

Home is peoples' ultimate place and instead of just saying that domestic gas supply should be stopped, the minister should first addressed how the home cooking gas supply problem could be better handled. People would not care about how the industries produce better with more gas if they cannot cook at home and have to pay more to buy food from restaurants.

The power and energy sector has been allocated Tk 18,540 crore.

Thousands rally in Hong Kong for Tiananmen vigil

AFP, Hong Kong

Thousands of people streamed into a park in central Hong Kong on Thursday evening for a candlelit vigil to mark the 26th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown, with the city deeply divided ahead of a vote on how to choose its next leader.

Hong Kong is the only location on Chinese soil to see a major commemoration, with residents gathering in Victoria Park to mark the military's brutal crushing of pro-democracy protests in central Beijing in 1989.

Burdened

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families like his.

But after listening to the whole speech, he had the impression that the upcoming budget would hardly benefit the middle-income group.

In fact, in his hours-long speech, the minister uttered the word "middle" just twice -- once to say the government would arrange daycare centres for lower and middle-income working women and then to announce Bangladesh would be a middle-income country by 2021.

Rezaul, a father of two children one of whom studies in a private university, was literally shocked to know he would have to pay more for his son's education as the government is set to increase duty on private universities.

Also, the duty imposed on raw and refined sugar will mean a rise in prices of many commodities.

And as the government is going to waive the tax holiday on incomes from poultry and shrimp sectors while imposing tax on poultry and fish feed, the price of poultry chicken and farm fish might increase as well from next month.

Many belonging to the middle-income group would find the proposed budget unfriendly also because prices of construction materials would go up.

Imposing higher duty on bikes and cars run by electric batteries looks to be a good initiative as it would decrease traffic jam and nuisance caused by reckless bikers. But it would also push up the price of CNG-run auto-rickshaws. As a result, auto-rickshaw fare is likely to go up.

While sipping at a cup of black tea, another item to get pricier, Rezaul tried to think of something that would cost him less in the next fiscal.

The first thing that came to his mind is garment products, and then plastic products, mosquito coils, aerosols, jams, jellies, toilet papers, tooth brushes and frames of spectacles.

But ironically, people don't buy any of these items very often.

Talking costs you!

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value-added services.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday issued a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) to this effect, shortly after the finance boss's budget speech was over.

Mobile phone operators received the order in the evening. Immediately complying with the SRO, they started updating their billing system.

Around 11:40pm yesterday, operators were found to be working on the issue.

"We are working on it though some technical challenges are there," said Ekram Kabir, vice president of communications and corporate responsibility at Robi, last night.

Some operators have decided to run advertisements in media to make users aware of the extra money they will be charged.

In the early hours of this morning when this story was being filed, many users who used their phones around that time complained they were charged extra money for various services including outgoing calls.

Previously, if a customer spent 100 takas s/he had to pay 15 takas more due to the existing 15% VAT on those services. As per the new duty, a customer will have to pay 20.75 takas more, according to sources.

They also said the government will now earn more through this new duty.

"The government is likely to earn Tk 1,000 crore more through this new supplementary duty," a chief executive officer of a mobile phone operator said, wishing anonymity.

He, however, said it will badly impact the sector.

"We expected a total elimination of the SIM tax, which would help us more to achieve the government's vision of Digital Bangladesh. However, we are concerned that imposition of 5 per-

cent supplementary duty on mobile services is likely to be burdensome on our valued subscribers, which may eventually dent the total revenue of the industry," said Ekram Kabir.

SIM TAX REDUCTION

Although tax reduction on SIM cards from Tk 300 to Tk 100 has come as a boon for mobile operators, the proposed budget for the next fiscal year has not mentioned anything about relaxing corporate taxes.

"With a view to ensuring the continued development of this mobile sector, making the IT service easily attainable through mobile phone and thus ensuring sustainable growth of this sector, propose to levy Tk 100 as SIM tax for both the instances of issuance and replacement of mobile SIM cards," the minister said.

Mobile operators are generally upbeat about the SIM tax reduction. SIM tax was first introduced in the sector in 2005 at Tk 800, which was reduced to Tk 600 in 2011 and to Tk 300 in 2013.

Earlier in a pre-budget discussion, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB) appealed to the revenue regulator for complete withdrawal of SIM tax and VAT on internet uses, and a significant reduction of corporate taxes.

About tax regulation, Abu Saeed Khan, senior policy fellow of Colombo-based ICT think-tank LIRNEasia, said, "The budget talks about taxes which are only collected by the NBR, but it never shows the hidden tax imposed by the telecom regulator which has been hindering the development of the country."

Last year a new Tk 100 tax on every SIM card replacement and 22.5 percent VAT and tax were also introduced for buying mobile handsets, which already have affected the industry heavily.

Online shopping free no more

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and established as a popular mode of trade.

"Although the sector is not exempted from VAT at the moment, no exact definition of this service is currently present in the existing VAT system."

On the other hand, the finance minister proposed an income tax holiday up to June 2024 to attract foreign investment in Information Technology Enabled Services and Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network.

Industry insiders termed this situation as conflicting to building a Digital Bangladesh.

"We are mostly happy with the proposed budget but the tax on online trading will not bring any good for the industry," said Shameem Ahsan president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

In their budget recommendations, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) and BASIS had sought withdrawal of VAT from all sorts of e-commerce products for three to five years.

Currently, there are different tax slabs for different products in online shopping.

This tax will be an obstacle to the sector, said Razib Ahmed, president of e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh. "The e-commerce indus-

try of the country has just started and this will be a huge burden."

The finance minister also proposed 5 percent customs duty on imported computer software, with exceptions to database, operating systems and development tools.

He also proposed increasing the duty on LCD/LED panels for televisions and fibre optic cables. But the rate was not mentioned.

On the other hand, he proposed reducing the duty from 25 percent to 10 percent on digital camera imports.

Mustafa Jabbar, former president of BCS, said a reduction in the tax on cameras will benefit the country, but he opposed the VAT on online shopping.

"I am also frustrated that there was no mention on the VAT on internet use."

The finance minister proposed to fully exempt the existing VAT on electricity bills, procurement service providers and investors of the developers associated with building the High Tech Park.

The government increased allocations for the telecom and information communication divisions.

For the post and telecommunication division, the allocation has been proposed at Tk 2,371 core for fiscal 2015-16, rising from Tk 1,289 crore for 2014-15.

For the ICT division, allocation for the next fiscal year has been proposed

at Tk 1,213 crore, rising from Tk 1,028 crore in 2014-15.

The numbers are satisfactory in terms of allocation, said Jabbar.

"We began with an allocation of only Tk 76 crore in 2009 for ICT and now, it has come close to Tk 3,500 crore -- this is an achievement for the industry."

In his budget speech, Muhith said the government expects to establish 8,500 'Post e-Centres' by June 2017.

To provide internet to all, 11,000 kilometres of optical fibre cables are being laid in 1,006 unions in all the districts, he said in parliament.

A project has also been undertaken to establish networks to provide broadband internet services to the entire country, he added.

"We will soon increase the bandwidth capacity from 200 Gbps to 1,300 Gbps by connecting the country with the second submarine cable," said the finance minister.

He also expects Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to be launched into space by 2016.

Min Tk 3,000

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a local research organisation, said the number of people having wealth worth Tk 2 crore or more would be 1.05 percent or 10,500 of 10 lakh active taxpayers.

It's time to give

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the cost of production will go up for the measure.

Muhith said considering special circumstances last year, the tax rates on export of readymade garments and all other export items were reduced to 0.30 percent and 0.60 percent respectively.

"Our textile and garment industry, and other export items are enjoying various incentives. The aforementioned tax benefits were allowed just for one year," the minister said. "I therefore propose to withdraw the existing facilities and as such impose one percent tax on all export items including garments, terry towels, cartons and accessories, jute and jute goods, frozen foods."

"I would also propose to consider this tax deduction at source as final tax liability for all export sectors. Our garment industry has also produced a significantly rich business class," he added.

Regarding the TDS, Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the garment makers' platform, said proposing one percent tax at source on export value is

discouraging for the garment exporters.

"We will lose our competitiveness for this imposition of increased tax at source. We want the restoration of the previous rate at 0.30 percent," Islam said in his reaction to the proposed budget.

"Our cost of production will increase further due to the proposal. We will meet the prime minister as well as the finance minister soon for reducing the tax at source," he said. "We are receiving low prices from the international retailers, as our competitors could also supply the clothing items at competitive prices."

Islam also said the garment makers are in trouble now as two international inspection agencies -- Accord and Alliance -- have been monitoring the progress of the corrective action plans for improving safety conditions in the factories.

The inspection has increased the operational cost of the garment makers, and many small and medium-scale factories might face closure for higher costs of production for increased inspection and devaluation of US dollars and Euro, he said.

Pay more for education

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huge amount of money," he added.

Nowadays a lot of middle class families send their children to private institutions. It would be a huge burden for them if the tuition fees go up further, mentioned Emdad.

Ishita Azmi, a student of Daffodil International University, said private universities increase tuition fees quite often.

"We'll be in trouble if we have to pay an additional amount to the university on top of tuition fees."

Leaders of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) said the government would pursue a "dual policy" of declaring private universities as a non-profit organisation and imposing VAT on them.

"If the private universities are non-profit organisations, how can

the government impose VAT on them?" questioned Abul Quasem Haider, a member of APUB.

The students' tuition fees would be hiked if VAT was finally levied on the private universities, he mentioned.

"Public universities can't ensure seats for tens of thousands of students who pass the HSC exams each year. But the government wants to increase the financial burden of the students," said Quasem, also the founder of Eastern University.

Around 4.5 lakh students are currently studying at 85 private universities and 64 private medical colleges in the country, according to the University Grants Commission.

A private university student now spends around Tk 3 lakh to Tk 7 lakh for completing a four-year graduate course.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh.
Telephone: 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com

"Invitation For International Tenders"

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	: Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCl)
03. Procuring Entity Name	: Managing Director, APSCl
04. Procuring Entity Code	: Not used at present.
05. Procuring Entity District	: Brahmanbaria
06. Invitation for	: a) Supply of Water-Wall Tube for Boiler Maintenance Division of APSCl. b) Supply of Generator Excitation Diode for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.
07. Invitation Ref No	: Memo No. APSCl/Pro-01/2015/891
08. Date	: June 02, 2015

KEY INFORMATION

09. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (International)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of Funds	: APSCl's Own Fund.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11. Tender Last Selling Date	: July 26, 2015 during office hour
12. Tender Closing Date and Time	: July 27, 2015 at 12.00 BST.
13. Tender Opening Date and Time	: July 27, 2015 at 12.15 BST.

14. Name & Address of the Offices:

Selling Tender Document (Principal)	: Manager (Finance), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
Selling Tender Document (Others)	: Director(Purchase), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan (9 th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Receiving Tender Document	: Office of the Manager (Procurement), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
Opening Tender Document	: Office of the Manager (Procurement), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.

15. Place/Date/ Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional): : N/A

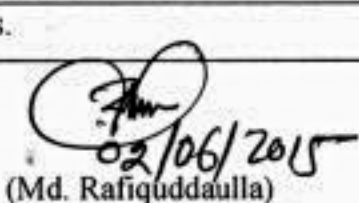
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

16. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Renowned Manufacturer/Supplier having experience of supplying materials as specified in the Tender Document.
17. Brief Description of Supply:	: a) Supply of Water-Wall Tube for Boiler Maintenance Division of APSCl. b) Supply of Generator Excitation Diode for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.
18. Brief Description of Related Services	: Custom Clearance (C&F Agency), Local Transportation and others.
19. Tender Document Price	: BDT 1,500.00 for each lot in the form of Pay order/DD in favor of Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh (Non refundable).

20. Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion time
a) Supply of Water-Wall Tube for Boiler Maintenance Division of APSCl.	At APSCl Site, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.	BDT 1,15,000.00 or USD 1,500.00	120 days from the date of L/C Opening.
b) Supply of Generator Excitation Diode for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.	At APSCl Site, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.	BDT 45,000.00 or USD 600.00	90 days from the date of L/C Opening.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

21. Name & Designation of official Inviting Tender	: Md. Rafiquddaula, Manager (Procurement)
22. Address of official Inviting Tender	: Ashuganj Power Station Company. Ltd. Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
23. Contact details of official Inviting Tender	: Tel: +88 08528 74033 Fax: +88 08528 74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com, Website : www.apscl.com
24. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	


 (Md. Rafiquddaula)
 Manager (Procurement)
 APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh.
 Telephone: +88 08528-74033

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Director, Stores & Supplies
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka

Tender for Goods (Single Lot)

Ref. No.: CMSD/PSE-1402/NCB/14-15/D-6/1	Dated: 01/06/2015
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KEY INFORMATION

1. Procurement method/document	NCT open.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

2. Source of funds	Development Budget (Aid Grant/Credit).
3. Development partner	International Development Association (IDA) and other development partners under the Pool Funds.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

4. Project/programme code	4954-BD
5. Project/programme name	HPNSDP
6. Tender package No.	PSE-1402
7. Tender package name	Audiovisual Equipment.
8. Tender publication date	04/06/2015
9. Tender last selling date	17/06/2015
10. Tender closing date and time	18/06/2015, 11:00am.
11. Tender opening date and time	18/06/2015, 11:30am.

12. Name and address of the office(s)

- Selling tender document (principal)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka. Bidding documents will be delivered from the counter of CMSD.
- Selling tender document (others)	CMSD.
- Receiving tender document	Do
- Opening tender document	Do

13. Place/date/time for pre-tender meeting: Central Medical Stores Depot, 11/06/2015, 11:30am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

14. Eligibility of tenderer	The bidder should have at least 02 (two) years experience of trading in similar product(s).
15. Brief description of goods or works	Audiovisual Equipment.
16. Brief description of related services	After sales service facilities.
17. Tender document price	BDT 4,000/- only in the form of Pay Order from any schedule bank in Bangladesh.

18. Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender security amount in Taka	Completion time in weeks/months
Single lot	Audiovisual Equipment	CMSD	BDT 1,25,000.00	To be delivered on or before 8 weeks after signing of contract. Bids offering delivery beyond 8 weeks will be treated as non-responsive.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19. Name of official inviting tender	Brigadier General Md. Golam Rasul.
20. Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Stores & Supplies & Line Director, Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
21. Address of official inviting tender	30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No.: 9129231, Fax: 88-2-9126547 E-mail: cmsdstore@yahoo.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

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