

# Star BUSINESS

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## Loading, unloading of goods at ports Local ships get priority over foreign vessels

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Foreign ocean-going cargo ships, primarily feeder vessels, will now have to take permission from the government before loading and unloading goods at any Bangladeshi port.

Permission will be given in the form of a waiver certificate to load and unload goods provided that there are no local ships waiting to do the same, according to sources.

The Department of Shipping in an order on Thursday cancelled the general waiver notice previously issued and asked all ship owners and shipping agencies to obtain a waiver certificate for every ship at the time of arrival.

The general waiver had been in effect since November 2001 allowing all foreign ships to load and unload goods at Bangladeshi ports without permission.

It was issued considering the appeal of feeder vessel operators plying on Chittagong-Colombo, Chittagong-Singapore and Chittagong-Malaysia routes.

However, QC container Lines Limited had been exempted from taking this waiver certificate for 60 per cent of its goods till April 8 this year because of a two-month stay order by the high court following a petition by the company.

The notice followed a supreme court verdict, on February 8 this year, upholding a high court judgment declaring the general waiver illegal and without lawful grounds.

The supreme court gave the judgment following a petition by the HRC group alleging that the general waiver notice was contrary to the Bangladesh Flag Vessel Protection Ordinance 1982. The recent notice has been issued in line with this judgment, Director General of Shipping Commodore Ghulam Rabbani, told The Daily Star.

According to sources, this matter was also discussed at a high powered meeting at the Prime Minister's office on Wednesday where the PM asked concerned officials to follow the existing law in this regard.

The government has also decided to form a high powered committee to examine whether export-import businesses will be affected by the cancellation of the general waiver, sources said.

President of Bangladesh Ocean Going Ship Owners Association (BOGSOA) Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury claims that trade will not be affected in any way by the cancellation of the general waiver system.

"We do not feel that export import trade will be affected since local ships are capable of carrying all goods up to mother vessels anchored at deep sea ports in Singapore, Colombo and Malaysia".

The monthly container carrying capacity of 13 local ocean going ships is approximately 16,000 TEUs as opposed to a total requirement of 14,200 TEUs, he said.

Sayed said cancellation of the general waiver will only mean that local ocean-going ships will receive preference for cargo loading and unloading at our ports.



PHOTO: ICMAB

A delegation of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) headed by its President Md Abdur Rashid called on Chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Shoaib Ahmed at his office in Dhaka yesterday. ICMAB Vice-president AKM Delwer Hussain, Secretary Ruhul Ameen, Treasurer Md SR Khan and Executive Director Muhammad Nazrul Husain were present.

## ICMAB seeks changes in income tax, VAT laws

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) has proposed some changes in the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 and the VAT Act 1991 in the next budget.

The proposal was submitted to the National Board of Revenue when a delegation of the ICMAB led by its President Md Abdur Rashid called on NBR Chairman Shoaib Ahmed at his office in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Rashid told the NBR chairman that the government's revenue income would be increased considerably if it takes the assistance from the cost and management accountants in auditing income tax and VAT.

ICMAB Vice-president AKM Delwer Hussain, Secretary Ruhul Ameen, Treasurer Md SR Khan and Executive Director Muhammad Nazrul Husain were present in the meeting.

## Three-day Thai trade fair begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-day Thai trade fair began at Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre here yesterday.

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurated the fair, Thailand Exhibition 2003.

Thai government organised the fair with a view to enhancing bilateral trade and investment between Bangladesh and Thailand.

While inaugurating the fair, the commerce minister said the fair will help Thai manufacturers and exporters to know about the demand for Thai products here. Besides, consumers will be offered with a wide range of choices, he added.

The show will also create competition between exporters and manufacturers of the two countries, the minister said.

Interaction between traders and entrepreneurs of the two states will inspire joint venture projects, the minister hoped.

Chittagong Chamber and Commerce and Industry (CCCI)

President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury attended the inaugural ceremony as special guest while Phannee Suttiwaree, director of Department of Export Promotion (DEP), Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, spoke on behalf of the organisers.

## Siemens website launched

Siemens Bangladesh Limited has launched its corporate website in a bid to further fortify its presence and to facilitate business in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The website, www.siemens.com.bd, provides detailed information about Siemens, including corporate overview, business portfolio, jobs and careers and history.

In addition, the website also features a vast array of available product ranges, services and solutions with "pop-up" icons of products.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency	Buying
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean
58.8500	58.9000	57.9000
64.1465	64.2010	61.2582
92.8065	92.8853	89.5713
36.1457	36.1764	34.0568
0.4948	0.4952	0.4780
42.7876	42.8239	41.4341
6.9249	6.9308	6.6872
40.1597	40.1938	39.0846
7.5529	7.5593	7.4162
33.2580	33.2862	32.4643
16.1538	16.1675	15.6372
15.8186	15.8321	15.3179

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak. Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Norwegian Kroner	NZ Dollar	Malaysian Ringgit
47.39	57.775	96.95	43.085	7.2352	0.5400	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading:

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued Saturday. Dollar ended weaker against Bangladeshi taka amid increased supply of US currency in the market.

Local Money Market:

Demand for call money was moderate. Call money rates eased slightly as liquidity condition of the market improved. At the close, call rates ranged at 7.75-8.25 per cent. The central bank accepted repo bid for BDR 400 million on Saturday.

## ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadCash Raffle draw was held at ReadyCash Bangladesh office at Dhamondi on Thursday, says a press release.

Prizes	Name of Winners	Card No
Sentra Travels and Tours free Dhaka Cox's Bazaar Dhaka Biman Ticket	Farjana Rahman	504798000010413
Saint Martin free Domestic Tour for two	Md. Shamsul Karim	504798000003401
YMCA free Computer/English Spoken Course	Sk. M. Rahman Firoz	504798000005355
Drk.net free 100 Browsing	Diba Nargis	504798000018411
Longla free Panjabee	Anwar Ismail	504798000027080
Sharee Complex free Gift Box	Syed Sajedul Haque	5047980010009785
Step and Shop free Gift Box	Archana Sharma	5047980010009160
M/S Mukta Enterprise free Gift Box	Kakoli Das	5047980010000028
M/S Mukta Enterprise free Gift Box	Syed Ismat Ara	5047980000017697
M/S Mukta Enterprise free Gift Box	Dr Md Abu Sayed Khan	5047980000004159
M/S Mukta Enterprise free Gift Box	Md Saedur Rahman	5047980000018328
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	M Enamul Kabir	5047980000011869
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Amzad Ali Nadeem	5047980000028546
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Reza Yusul Khan	5047980000004760
FedEx free shipment	MA Samad	5047980000020394
FedEx free shipment	Dr Ehteshamul Hoque	5047980000015543
FedEx free shipment	PN Chakraborty	5047980000031329
FedEx free shipment	A. Motlab Choudhury	5047980000009837
FedEx free shipment	Md Reazul Kabir	5047980000043383
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Masood Hassan	5047980000020954
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Mohd Nadeem Akbar	5047980000007312
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Emarat Hossain	5047980000030116
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Rafiqul Islam	5047980010006407

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive, Promotions of ReadyCash within 30 days of this news circulation. **ReadyCash encourages its cardholder to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday for a new listing of card winner or call our Customer Service at: 8125294-7, 8130497 and 8123850.**

## AOB becomes corporate client of CityCell

Association of Baptists (AOB) has become a corporate client of CityCell Digital, says a press release.

Adit Husain, executive director of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd, James E Long, director of administration of AOB, signed an agreement in this regard at a ceremony in Chittagong recently.

Karim Iqbal Bhuiyan, AVP (Sales), and Khaled Rizvi, executive (Corporate Sales) of PBTL were also present at the ceremony.



PHOTO: PBTL

Officials of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd, the owning company of CityCell Digital, and Association of Baptists (AOB) sign an agreement in Chittagong recently. Under the agreement, AOB becomes a corporate client of CityCell.

## STOCK