

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2020, BHADRA 22, 1427 BS 🌑 starbusiness@thedailystar.net 📧

Brighter days ahead for Indo-Bangla river trade

SOHEL PARVEZ

If you happen to be on the Padma or Meghna rivers for a cruise or are travelling to the country's southern part, you will in no way miss a sporadic presence of numerous slowmoving small and large vessels alongside their sudden blasts of horns.

Most are engaged in transporting cargo from one part of the country to another. But sure to be among them are some going beyond the border ferrying goods between Bangladesh and India.

And the frequency of their trips between the two neighbouring nations is increasing gradually; so is the quantity of cargo being

Plaudits should be given to the increased use of the 4,000 to 6,000 kilometres of waterways by businesses to transport their import cargoes that has opened up opportunities for local cargo vessel operators.

Cargo transport through inland waterways between Bangladesh and India has just nearly doubled to 27.80 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2019-20 from 14.37 lakh tonnes a decade ago, showed data from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Expansion of cement production to feed the rising number of public and private construction projects was helping the cargo transport through waterways, said vessel operators and BIWTA officials.

This was being facilitated by a Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade between Bangladesh and India as fly ash, one of the key ingredients of cement, was mainly imported through waterways from the neighbouring

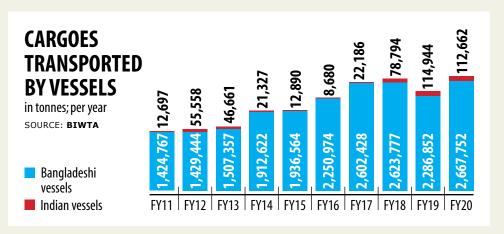
opportunities for more freight transport business are arising.

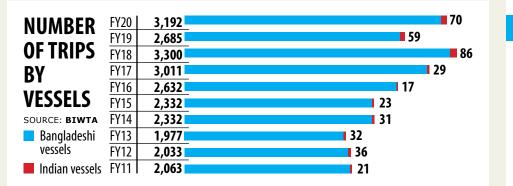
This is resulting from increasing bilateral trade between the two neighbours, opening of new river routes and prospects of an increase in the shipment of goods by India under transit arrangements in the days to come, said

"We see a very good prospect for business," said Syed Bashir Ahmed, managing director of Winship Logistics, one of the leading cargo vessel operators between India and Bangladesh's inland waterways.



f dblceramics Hotline: 01713 656565







MAJOR CARGOES

>>> Fly ash

Steel products

Stone chips Containers

OTHER KEY POINTS

- >> Nearly **300** vessels ply between Bangladesh and India monthly
- Goods are transported through **6** routes
- Two new routes are opening

is a good market for local cement in Northeast India. We will be able to take a higher quantity at a cheaper rate there," said Ahmed.

"We are also trying to ship garment items through containers," he added.

Indian exporters of yarn, motor vehicles and parts are willing to ship their export through waterways, he said.

"We can do that if the National Board of Revenue allows us and creates the facility," he said, urging the NBR to allow movement of more goods through waterways to reduce business costs and facilitate flourishing of the sector.

Trade between Bangladesh and India stands at around \$9.21 billion with the scales heavily tilted towards India as Bangladesh's export amounts to around \$1 billion.

Truckers and cargo vehicle operators transport a large portion of the import-export goods. Transport through waterways will increase revenue generation if the authority allows more products to pass over the rivers instead of roads, said Nazmul Hossain Hamdu, vice president of Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association.

This will reduce the pressure on roads, he said. Cost of freight will also reduce largely for use of waterways, said operators.

Two routes -- Daudkandi-Sonamura and Rajshahi-Godagari-Dhulian, India -- were added as protocol routes in December last year, said BIWTA Director (traffic) Mohammad Rafiqul Islam.

"Prospects of water transport between Bangladesh and India are bright."

More than 300 vessels operate on inland waterways per month between the two nations, annually generating around Tk 300 crore in revenue as freight charge for operators, sector

Even one and a half decades ago Indian vessels dominated the protocol routes, said cargo vessel owners.

Local operators gradually entered and made gains on the market share. Today, local operators grab 99 per cent share of the cargo freight market, according to the BIWTA data.

The number of trips of local vessels increased after 2005 and the frequency went up in the subsequent years as demand for

fly ash to produce more cement rose, said Ahmed.

transported on the waterways mainly between Narayanganj and Kolkata. Steel products, stone chips and containers made up the rest. Though the amount of transit cargo increased in recent years, it still accounts for an insignificant portion.

Only 13,000 tonnes of transit cargo were transported through inland waterways last fiscal year. The amount was 7,300 tonnes in fiscal 2010-11, according to BIWTA data.

Transit and transshipment will increase and local logistics companies will reap its benefits, said Ahmed.

"Our business opportunity will expand. There is not enough vessels in India. Our vessels will be used," he said, expecting the volume of cargo transport over waterways to touch one crore tonnes in the next five years.

Business prospects look good, subject to maintenance of navigability of the rivers, said K Saiful Alam Miru, proprietor of Nexus

"One of the shortcomings is that this is one-In 2019-20, fly ash accounted way traffic. We cannot take anything from here of the Gazaria Builders and Engineers.

"It would be economical if we could transport cargoes both ways. Scope to carry assorted cargoes will enable us to make the business viable," he said.

The two firms together have a fleet of 50 vessels.

"We are trying to ship cement to India. There

Now northeast India connected via new river route

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Premier Cement, a cement manufacturer in Bangladesh, became the maiden exporter to India's north-eastern state of Tripura through a new river route in a development that is expected to boost cross-border trade and connectivity.

The consignment of 50 tonnes of the key construction material loaded onto MV Premier left Daudkandi on Thursday night. from Bangladesh to Tripura through the inland waterways.

The consignment reached Tripura at around 11pm on Friday. The vessel crossed Bibirbazar in the same district through the

The goods will be unloaded in Sonamura in Sepahijala district, 60 kilometres from Agartala, the capital of Tripura.

The export came after the 93-kilometre stretch inland waterways on the Sonamura-Daudkandi route that connects Tripura to Bangladesh was included in the list of India-Bangla protocol (IBP) routes in May.

This is a proud moment as Premier Cement became the first exporter to use the riverine route," said Mohammed Amirul This was the first-ever export consignment Haque, managing director of Premier Cement.

Shipping Secretary Mohammed Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star that through the trial shipment, new the border from Daudkandi in Comilla via opportunities for Bangladesh to do business

with India will open.

READ MORE ON B3

Stock price odd one out? Gambling likely

AHSAN HABIB

How does a stock join the ranks of its priciest peers in a bourse? Undoubtedly pegging on the company's earnings, assets, potentiality and brand value.

However, a blaring exception takes

place at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). That's because many stocks with

low paid-up capital can be found in the toppers' club, not because of the aforementioned qualities but rather for conniving investors engaging in

gambling occurs whenever scamsters are able to get their hands on nearly

all of a company's stocks. A company having low paid-up capital means the number of shares it has in the market is relatively small. Gamblers target these stocks as it is easier to carry out the manipulation.

They strategically time purchases and sales so that the stocks change hands just among themselves. This causes the price to rise even if the company's dividend payout keeps very low while the brand value stays limited.

Once the high prices start attracting investors with poor judgement and analytical skills, the fraudsters dump all that they own and exit the market with the loot.

Renwick Jajneswar is the best example of this in the DSE's trading board. The state-run entity is primarily engaged in the manufacture and trade of sugar products in Bangladesh and

Its presence among the likes of top performing companies such as Reckitt Benckiser, GlaxoSmithKline, Marico and Berger Paints has become quite a

Last Thursday Renwick's stock price stood at Tk 1,590 while that of the not normal, the stock broker pointed four were Tk 3,801, Tk 2,331, Tk 1,975 and Tk 1,464 respectively.

"The stock price of Renwick is bouncing all the time depending on the gamble," said a stock broker preferring anonymity.

Just two years ago Renwick's stock was priced at Tk 800. Within six months it had more than doubled to

It then dropped to Tk 850 within The most common form of one year and then again skyrocketed to Tk 1,650 in the span of the past six

months, the DSE data shows Gambling with the stock is easy as it has a very limited number of shares, said the stock broker.

to the four it sits with, so it should be a no-brainer that its positioning was

Renwick has been annually providing just 12 per cent cash dividend since fiscal 2014-15. Moreover it failed to give any in 2018-

In contrast the renowned four provided dividends of 1,250 per cent, 530 per cent, 950 per cent and 295 per cent respectively last year. And the figures are on a rising trend.

Another eye opener is the net asset value per share.

For Renwick, it was Tk 30.66 on July 31 of 2019. For the four it was Tk 142, Tk 132, Tk 44 and Tk 204 respectively

Top value stocks in DSE						
COMPANY NAME	STOCK PRICE (TK)	DIVIDEND (2019)				
Reckitt Benckiser	3,801	1250%				
GlaxoSmithKline	2,312	530%				
Marico	1,975	950%				
Renwick	1,590	12%				
Berger	1,464	295%				

Paid-up capital of the state-run company is Tk 2 crore and the number of shares 20 lakh, according to the

DSE data. Of the 20 lakh shares, 9.80 lakh, or 51 per cent, are owned by the government. This means only 10.20

lakh shares are available in the market. The company's earnings, assets, and brand value are much lower compared

Renwick is not the lone stock being toyed with. Gamblers have targeted every company with low paid-up capital, said a merchant bank's top official.

Among the victims is Eastern Lubricant, the stock price of which stood at Tk 1,130 on Thursday although its paid-up capital was merely Tk 99 lakh.

> READ MORE ON B3 prices of Indian onion suddenly rose

Onion prices shoot up in Ctg markets

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Onion prices marked a sharp rise in the kitchen markets of the port city in the last two days following a sudden hike in the wholesale market at Khatunganj where traders are citing the excuse of it being a ripple effect from neighbouring India.

Consumers had been happy over the last couple of months with the low prices of onion thanks to an apparent stability in the market.

Now that has turned to worries, with apprehensions of a repeat of last year's ordeals when prices skyrocketed. Meanwhile, sales at different

shops in the wholesale markets of Khatunganj witnessed a remarkable drop yesterday afternoon, with poor demand stemming from the upward trend of wholesale prices in the past three days.

Imported onion from India is the main choice for consumption in Chattogram while demand for the locally produced ones remained poor.

Retail prices of both types rose by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per kilogramme in different kitchen markets within the 24 hours of Friday.

Mohi Uddin, a service holder, bought a kilogramme of the Indian variety at Tk 35 from Karnaphuli CDA

Market on Thursday. "On the following day when I went to the same grocery shop for monthly shopping, the retailer demanded Tk 45 a kg for the same onion," said the

Mohammad Suman, the retailer, said they were forced to charge higher as the prices had been hiked at the wholesale market. At Khatunganj's wholesale markets,

frustrated shopper.

RAJIB RAIHAN

Arrival of such stocks of onion at the Khatunganj wholesale market yesterday did little to appease customers of Chattogram. A sharp price rise in the past three days is stoking fears of a repeat of last year's record highs. Traders say it was a ripple effect of what was happening on the other side of the border in India.

by Tk 7 to 8 to reach Tk 37-38 per kg on Thursday from what was just the day before.

Faruk Ahmed, a commission agent, said the market was witnessing this upward trend in the past three days as prices hovered between Tk 40-41 a kg on Friday and then Tk 42-43 yesterday. The wholesalers blamed a recent

price hike in India. Claiming that onion prices in India

recently rose by Rs 13 to reach Rs 27 a kg, Ahmed said.

Wholesale price of locally grown onion also went up by Tk 10-12 a kg during the period.

Confirming this, Muhammad Idris, general secretary of Hamidullah Mia Market Traders Association of Khatunganj, said traders at different land ports hiked the prices on Thursday prompting wholesalers to do the same. After spiralling for three days

at different wholesale shops and commission agent firms, the prices made a remarkable dive yesterday.

Ahmed, the commission agent, said his shop usually sells 100 to 150 sacks of onion every day but yesterday they were able to sell only 40.

READ MORE ON B3

US unemployment rate drops to 8.4pc but recovery slows

The US economy added 1.4 million jobs in August and the unemployment rate fell to 8.4 percent as the country emerged from pandemic lockdowns, but the data shows the recovery is losing

The drop in the unemployment rate from 10.2 per cent in July as reported by the Labor Department on Friday was welcome news for President Donald Trump, who called it "an incredible number" as he faces a tough fight for a second term in the November

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell also called the report "a good one" in an interview with National Public Radio, but said it would not shake the central bank from its strategy of keeping interest rates lower for longer since the recovery will take time.

"We think that the economy's going to need low interest rates, which support economic activity, for an extended period of time," he

"It will be measured in years. "Nearly a quarter of the August employment gains were in jobs, particularly temporary work for the 2020 census, and employment in the world's largest economy remains 11.5 million positions or 7.6 per cent below the level in February, before the coronavirus pandemic struck.

Without the census hiring, analysts warn that August's report is actually weaker than it appears, with key industries hiring at a



US President Donald Trump arrives to speak outside Mariotti Building

million every week in August.

Congress passed the \$2.2 trillion

CARES Act in the pandemic's

early days to blunt the economic

downturn, but key provisions of

support, this is an emergency

with no end in sight," said

Democratic lawmaker John

Yarmuth, chairman of the House

Budget Committee.Workers have

benefited from state moves to

loosen lockdown restrictions even

as the virus remains rife, and the

employment report showed the

number of people on temporary

layoff decreased by 3.1 million to

6.2 million, well below the peak

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা

of 18.1 million in April.

However, the

"Without additional federal

that law have expired.

increasing, while the White House and Congress remain deadlocked on a new aid package that could get

Products in Old Forge, Pennsylvania.

the economy back on track.Private employers rehired just one million workers, and so far have regained less than half the jobs lost in March and April. "The recovery is rapidly decelerating and we still have

half of the lost jobs to get back. That shouldn't be happening," Adam Ozimek, chief economist at freelancing platform Upwork, said The United States has seen

tens of millions of layoffs since businesses shut down in mid-March to stop the spread of the virus, and new claims for jobless slower pace and permanent layoffs benefits averaged nearly one

by 534,000 to 3.4 million, and Lydia Boussour of Oxford Economics warned that indicates "a trend of slower, grinding growth (that) is worrisome for the broader recovery and points to increased scarring effects from the crisis.

Public sector jobs made up a quarter of the overall gains in the report, with 344,000 new jobs total, 238,000 of which were for the census. The government has hired nearly 600,000 workers in the past two months alone.

The leisure and hospitality sector, one of the hardest hit by the business closures, saw growth of 174,000 jobs, with three quarters of that coming from food service and drinking places. Retail, which has seen a strong recovery from the downturn, added 249,000 in August, but manufacturing jobs increased by just 29,000.

All told, private sector hiring in August was at its slowest pace since May, and it would take 10 months at this pace for employment levels to return to where they were before the pandemic, Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said.Robert Frick, corporate economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, called the August report "a big win for American workers" but acknowledged rehiring will probably occur at a slower rate in the coming months -- if it happens at all. "Now we'll be battling permanent layoffs once thought to be temporary, bankruptcies, secondary layoffs and maybe major layoffs in the airline industry," Frick said.

India open to raising duties on auto imports to boost local production

REUTERS, New Delh

India is open to raising duties on auto imports in a phased manner in a bid to boost domestic production, a minister said on Friday, as the country's car industry set a target to halve imports of components within five years.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said raising duties was "not a bad idea" to discourage automakers from importing car kits, comprised of partially or completely knocked down vehicles,

and using India only as an assembly base to get market share there.

"We may look at something like a phased manufacturing plan. I will be open to suggestions," he said during an event organised by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government wants companies to reduce imports, increase domestic production and play a bigger role in the global supply chain in an effort to make the country more selfreliant.

of components annually.

Mahindra & Mahindra , one of India's biggest automakers, told the same event that SIAM and the Auto Component Manufacturers Association of India had agreed to set a target reduce the total value of imported components by half in the next four to five years.

The focus will be to reduce imports of electronic auto components, which are

sourced mainly from China and other Asian countries, as well as steel, Goenka said, adding these two together account for around \$5 billion of total auto parts

India's auto sector, which was already reeling from a slowdown in demand last year, has been further hit by the pandemic and carmakers are seeking government support to push sales.

Automakers want the government to defer the introduction of stricter fuel



auto sector A Mahindra XUV500 is pictured at the assembly line inside imports \$13.7 billion worth the company's manufacturing plant in Chakan, India.

Pawan Goenka, managing director of efficiency and emission norms and are

seeking a temporary 10% cut in taxes on vehicles.

India's heavy industries minister Prakash Javadekar told the event that while the government may not agree immediately to a tax cut he would take up the request with other ministers. He also reiterated that a long-due vehicle scrappage policy would



নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট



number

হারুকান্দি, ফরিদপুর-৭৮০০,বাংলাদেশ।

River Research Institute, Harukandi, Faridpur-7800, Bangladesh

 $Phone: +88 (0631) 63007, Fax: +88 (0631) 63065, \underline{E-mail-rribd@yahoo.com}, Web \ site: www.rri.gov.bd. \\$

স্মারক নং-৪২.১০৩.০১১.০১.০০.১৪৫৪.২০২০-১৫৮

তারিখঃ ০২/০৯/২০২০খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (RRI) এর নিম্নেবর্ণিত শূন্য পদ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে প্রণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের সংখ্যা

, ,			1	
١.	বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা	টাকা ২২০০০-৫ ৩ ০৬০/= (৯নং গ্রেড)	০৯ (নয়) টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে- (ক) পুরকৌশল, তড়িংকৌশল, যন্ত্রকৌশল, পানি সম্পদ কৌশল, কৃষি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, রিভার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, হাইড্রালব্ধ, হাইড্রালব্ধি, পানি সম্পদকৌশল বা এনভায়রনমেন্টাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে অন্যুন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; অথবা (থ) পদার্থবিদ্যা, ফলিত পদার্থ বিদ্যা, গণিত, ফলিত গণিত, মৃত্তিকা বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি বা অন্যুন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিসহ অন্যুন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের
۷.	ভাভার কর্মকর্তা	টাকা ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= (৯নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে- (ক) প্রথম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্লাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; অথবা (খ) অনৃন্য দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্লাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিসহ অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্লাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
ి.	ভান্ডার রক্ষক	টাকা ১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/= (১৪নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
8.	হিসাব সহকারী	টাকা ১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/= (১৪নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বাণিজ্য বিভাগে অন্যূন স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
¢.	ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান গ্রেড-বি	টাকা ৯৭০০-২৩৪৯০/= (১৫নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ট্রেড কোর্স সনদপ্রাপ্ত; অথবা কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড হইতে ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ট্রেডে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অন্যূন ২ (দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
৬.	মডেল টেকনিশিয়ান গ্রেড-এ	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/= (১৬নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।
٩.	কংক্রিট টেকনিশিয়ান গ্রেড-এ	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/= (১৬নং গ্রেড)	২(দুই)টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।
ъ.	গাড়ী চালক (লাইট)	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/= (১৬নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যুন জুনিয়র কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) হালকা গাড়ী চালনায় বৈধ লাইসেঙ্গধারী।
৯.	ভান্ডার সহকারী	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/= (১৬নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যুন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।
٥٥.	মেকানিক গ্রেড-এ	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/= (১৬নং গ্রেড)	১(এক)টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অটোমোবাইল ট্রেড বিষয়ে ট্রেড কোর্স সনদপ্রাপ্ত; অথবা কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড হইতে অটোমোবাইল ট্রেডে অন্যূন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ;

77	. কাঠমিন্ত্রি গ্রেড-বি	টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/=		(ক) কোনো শ্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন মাধ্যমিক
		(১৬নং গ্রেড)		স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ;
			১(এক)টি	(খ) কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে
				ট্রেড কোর্স সনদপ্রাপ্ত; এবং
				(গ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ২ (দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
23	. ট্রেসার	টাকা ৯০০০-২১৮০০/=		(ক) কোনো শ্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন মাধ্যমিক
		(১৭নং গ্রেড)		স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ;
			১(এক)টি	(খ) কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে
				ট্রেড কোর্স সনদপ্রাপ্ত; এবং
				(গ) সুন্দর হস্তাক্ষরের অধিকারী।
20). পাম্পম্যান (পাম্পচালক)	টাকা ৯০০০-২১৮০০/=		(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন মাধ্যমিক
		(১৭নং গ্রেড)		স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ;
			১(এক)টি	এবং
				(খ) কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে
				ট্রেড কোর্স সনদপ্রাপ্ত।
28	. ডার্করুম সহকারী	টাকা ৮৮০০-২১৩১০/=		(ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অনূন্য মাধ্যমিক
		(১৮নং গ্রেড)		স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ;
			১(এক)টি	এবং
				(খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অনূন্য ১ (এক) বৎসরের
				অভিজ্ঞতা।
20	. গবেষণাগার বেয়ারার গ্রেড-এ	টাকা ৮২৫০-২০০১০/=		কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে অন্যূন
		(২০নং গ্রেড)	৩(তিন)টি	মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায়
				উত্তীর্ণ।

- ১. প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সম্প্রতি তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ৩(তিন) কপি রঙ্গীন ছবি এবং শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার ও অন্যান্য প্রযোজ্য সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ২. নিজ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কপের্ারেশনের মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং <u>একজন প্রথম শ্রে</u>ণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ৩. ০১/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- ৪. প্রতিবন্ধী ও মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/সন্তানের সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে ০১/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩২ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- ৫. আবেদনপত্র আগামী ২৯/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে মহাপরিচালক, নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, হারুকান্দি, ফরিদপুর বরাবরে
- চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন অবশ্যই মহাপরিচালক, নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, হারুকান্দি, ফরিদপুর বরাবরে পৌছাতে হবে ।
- সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত কোটা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ৮. ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা হিসেবে চাকুরি প্রার্থীকে চাকুরির আবেদনপত্তের সাথে তাদের পিতার পিতা/পিতার মাতা/মাতার পিতা/মাতার মাতা (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সার্টিফিকেট, যা যথাযথভাবে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত ও প্রতিস্বাক্ষরিত হতে হবে, এর সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - খ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে এস এস সি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশের ক্ষেত্রে এস এস সি বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট এবং এস এস সি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ না হলে সংশ্রিস্ট শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধানের সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে আবেদনকারী যে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা এ মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর ও পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত সার্টিফিকেট আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
 - য) চ্ডান্ত নির্বাচনের পূর্বে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সার্টিফিকেটের মূল কপি যাচাই করে সত্যতা সম্পর্কে সুনিশ্চিত হরেন।
 - ৬) চাকুরিতে নিয়োগের পূর্বে পুলিশ ভেরিফিকেশন সম্পন্ন করা হবে এবং উক্ত পুলিশ ভেরিফিকেশন ফরমে মুক্তিয়োদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা সম্পর্কিত একটি ঘর/কলাম সংযোজন করতে হবে। পুলিশ ভেরিফিকেশন রিপোর্টের তথ্যে এবং সিটিফিকেটের তথ্যে অমিল পরিলক্ষিত হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিষয়ে নিরপেক্ষভাবে তদস্ত করে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ
- ৯. ৯ম গ্রেড (পূর্বতন ১ম শ্রেণি) এবং ১০ম-১৩তম গ্রেডের (পূর্বতন ২য় শ্রেণি) পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে মেধার ভিন্তিতে নিয়োগ
- ১০. প্রার্থী উপজাতীয় সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রশাসকের নিকট হতে প্রাপ্ত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে
- ১১. সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা থেকে মহাপরিচালক, নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, ফরিদপুর এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক, গোরালচামট শাখা, ফরিদপুর এর উপর ক্রমিক ১ ও ২ এর জন্য ১০০০/= (এক হাজার), ক্রমিক ৩ ও ৪ এর জন্য ৫০০/= (পাঁচশত), এবং ক্রমিক ৫ হতে ১১ এর জন্য ৪০০/= (চারশত) এবং ক্রমিক নং ১২ হতে ১৫ এর জন্য ৩০০/= (তিনশত) টাকার ডিমান্<u>ড ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার</u> আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ১২. বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এ্যাফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

GD- 1390

(খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা

- ১৩. অসম্পূর্ণ/ক্রটিপূর্ণ এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১৪. লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবে না।
- ১৫. নির্ধারিত ফরম নগই এর ওয়েব সাইট <u>www.rri.gov.bd</u> হতে ডাউন লোড করে নিতে হবে অথবা নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, হারুকান্দি, ফরিদপুর হতে অথবা ৭২, গ্রীন রোডস্থ, নগই লিয়াজোঁ অফিস, ঢাকা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
- ১৬. এ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আংশিক/সম্পূর্ন স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন

(যুগ্ম-সচিব) মহাপরিচালক নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট



Bazal Ahmed, vice chairman of United Commercial Bank, presides over the bank's 37th annual general meeting on Thursday through a digital platform. The bank approved 5 per cent stock and 5 per cent cash dividends for the year ending on December 31, 2019. Muhammed Shawkat Jamil, managing director of the bank, was present.



Md Kyser Hamid

BD Finance gets new MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Kyser Hamid has recently been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company Ltd (BD Finance).

Before joining Finance, he served as the deputy managing director and head of retail business at IPDC Finance.

Hamid also worked at Brac Bank, IDLC Finance and Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation in various capacities.

He holds an MBA degree in marketing from had hoped recently," he said. North South University and completed his BBA the University of Dhaka.

German industrial orders rebound decelerates in July

Germany's industrial rebound slowed in July, as the economic recovery from the shock of the coronavirus pandemic started to plateau, according to official statistics released on Friday. Industrial orders increased 2.8 per cent month-on month, driven by Germany's all-important car industry, after much stronger rises in May and June, statistics agency

Destatis said. The index showed that industrial activity was 7.3 per cent below the same month in 2019, and 8.2

per cent below February 2020, before the impact of measures to combat the spread the pandemic. The figures were

disappointment," slight according to Jens-Oliver Niklasch, analyst at German public bank LBBW. "The easily attainable

fruits have been harvested,' Niklasch said, referring to the immediate economic pickup after Germany began gradually easing its lockdown from mid-April. "Now the economic race to catch up will lose momentum. We will not see the pre-crisis

information systems from manufacturing sector.Both are benefiting

levels quite as quickly as one or the other

vehicles, but other branches of the economy are lagging behind, Oxford Economics analyst Oliver Rakau said.

However, car industry statistics released on Thursday showed that demand for new cars slowed in August as consumers held back on new purchases.Finance Minister Peter Altmaier said this week that the economy is in the midst of a V-shaped rebound, but the threat of any further



Caravans of German caravan maker Knaus Tabbert are seen at the consumer trade fair "Caravan Salon" in **Dusseldorf, Germany.**

spikes in coronavirus infections haunts any

Germany recently reported its highest case numbers since April, and is starting to tighten restrictions again. Chancellor July's orders were led higher by the Angela Merkel last week said coping automotive industry, with new orders with the outbreak will become more degree in accounting and rising by 8.5 per cent, and the battery challenging in the coming months as Germany heads into colder weather in from purchase incentives for electric autumn and winter

Pandemic worsens American inequality, Fed chair says

Poor Americans are bearing the brunt of the US coronavirus downturn and may also take longer to recover, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Friday.

"Without question, this event has exacerbated really pre-existing disparities in our economy that were already troubling," Powell said in an interview with National Public

He said help should be given to people who have lost their livelihoods due to Covid-19 through no fault of their own -- comments that come amid an impasse in Washington over a new aid package to offset the economic damage from the virus.

"The burdens of the pandemic have fallen to a greater extent on people at the low end of the income spectrum," Powell said, especially low-wage employees who rent and have little savings, who are "very vulnerable to an extended period of unemployment.

"I think it really does behoove us as a country, as a very wealthy country, to use our great powers to support people who did nothing wrong," he said.The Fed chair specifically raised concerns about families facing the loss of their homes, telling the broadcaster,

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, wearing a face mask, testifies before the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"We shouldn't let those people lose everything they have and have to move out or be evicted." It could have significant macroeconomic effects over time. But it's also just the right thing to do.

Labor Department data released earlier in the day showed the world's largest economy added 1.4 million new

jobs in August and the unemployment rate dropped to 8.4 percent.

However, there were indications of weakness in the monthly report, particularly given the rising share of people being permanently laid off, as well as the large numbers of job gains from temporary hiring to staff the US

Pandemic could be 'kiss of death' for managed trade: WTO candidate or the kiss of death if we don't. on consensus to reach decisions, has

The coronavirus pandemic has heaped pressure on the troubled World Trade Organization, a WTO leadership candidate said, warning the crisis could spell the end of rules-based international trade altogether.

Liam Fox, Britain's first post-Brexit international trade secretary and one of eight candidates vying to become WTO's next director-general, voiced concern that countries might turn their backs on its multilateral trading model. "The reaction of some countries to the Covid emergency will be to seek solace in protectionism and to believe that they will get more resilience by ... closing themselves off, if you like, from the global economy," he told AFP Thursday in an interview. "Exactly the opposite I believe is true," he said during a conversation using the video link Zoom, insisting that countries will find more security by opening up and ensuring diversity of supply. "For the rules-based trading Latin American -- within a few that he could help bring Washington system, Covid could be the kiss of life if we embrace the right policies within the organisation, which relies WTO's appeals system.

"Roberto Azevedo stepped down as the WTO chief this week, a year ahead of schedule. His successor will lead an institution that was already facing multiple crises before the pandemic

The Geneva-based organisation is mired in stalled trade talks and struggling to curb trade tensions between the United States and China. The global trade body has also faced relentless attacks from Washington, which has crippled the WTO dispute settlement appeal system and threatened to leave the organisation altogether.And now the WTO, set to remain leaderless for several more months at least, is struggling to help members navigate a severe global economic slump sparked by the coronavirus pandemic.The WTO has presented a timeline for selecting one of the eight leadership candidates -- three Africans, two Europeans, two from Asia and one political issues facing the WTO, and months.But increasing politicisation back into the fold and rescue the

sparked fears that the process could take much longer.Fox acknowledged 'there is at least a technical chance that that could be slowed down" by the politicised climate. But he said WTO members were eager to settle quickly on a new director-general to help navigate an increasingly complex reality. "All the issues faced by the new DG are super-charged by the Covid crisis," he said. "I think there is an understanding of the urgency in the process" Fox, 58, said that as a politician with

long experience of elections, he found the WTO selection process "highly unusual". It includes elimination rounds during which countries express their preferences in confidential "confessionals". "I would describe it as somewhere between choosing a pope and the Eurovision Song Contest,' he quipped.Fox insisted he was the right person to tackle the numerous

Think out of the box to breathe new life into dead jute mills

Handing over the lands and establishments to the Bepza and Beza

The Bepza is in dire need of land for expansion of export-oriented industries. The lands which are available in Chattogram-based nine jute mills could attract businesses to invest in different industries through nearby seaport. The Beza would be interested to take land available at jute mills located in Dhaka and neighbouring areas for local-market based consumer products.

Similar interest would be there for lands available in Khulna and Jessore. Some of these areas could be developed exclusively for investors of particular countries such as China, Germany and Japan.

In this context, handing over the Adamjee Jute Mills to Bepza and establishing Adamjee EPZ in 2006 was a good example for transforming state-owned jute mills into private sector led industrial economic

Adamjee EPZ has a total land area of 245.12 acres with a total of 229 industrial plots. Till 2019, a total of \$521.5 million

worth of investment has been made in different types of manufacturing The investors include UK, Singapore,

Mauritius, China, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Romania and Bangladesh. The EPZ has so far exported \$4.5 billion worth of local products and employed 62,200 workers.

Export and employment generation have maintained noticeable positive growth in recent years. It is important to note here that Adamjee jute mill while it was closed in 2002 employed 25,000 workers and its accumulated loss was Tk 1,200 crore.

It is expected that the jute ministry and the PMO will come out from its ministrycentric restructuring approach of stateowned jute mill lands towards more broad-based restructuring by handing over those lands to the competent authorities who have shown exemplary evidence in private sector led industrialisation in the

The writer is the research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

UK retailer Debenhams' terminated workers demand arrears

"And so, we want justice and what's due from Debenhams," Asad said.

The former country manager also said around Tk 90 lakh was spent on monthly salary disbursements for employees of Debenhams Bangladesh office and it pressured its suppliers to comply with their demands using legal means. 'Now though, they are not paying us as per

the law. They maintain a double standard in doing business," he added.

As a result, many local suppliers are facing

numerous difficulties because of Debenhams' non-compliant attitude. Debenhams Bangladesh's operations were

conducted under its Hong Kong liaison office in an effort to evade taxes, according to Asad. The company wouldn't consider doing such illegal acts at any of its other international

locations but it does so in Bangladesh as it still takes the country to be a British colony," he The international brand used to spend more

than \$120 million annually to purchase various goods from Bangladesh, particularly highend garment items, said Zahangir Alam, the coordinator of Debenhams Vendors Community in Bangladesh

Currently, Debenhams owes a staggering \$66 million to its vendors in the country.

"The company is probably still purchasing

members should not be deprived. I suggest that if it continues to conduct business here, it should re-employ the previously terminated workers on ethical grounds," said Alam, also the managing director of Design Source, an interior design firm.

"Being a major supplier, I settled a handsome quantity of goods at 25 per cent discount with the company as goods were waiting in ports to be unloaded," Alam told The Daily Star by

Debenhams owed him \$18 lakh, which now stands at \$14 lakh, Alam said, adding that the company recently rescheduled its deadline to settle arrears with its Bangladeshi suppliers to September 15.

Debenhams did not respond to The Daily Star's queries for a comment on the matter. Mozammel Huq, managing director of Liberty Fashions, said his compliant factory was

shut down without any prior notice on May 2013 by another British retailer, Tesco. "I lost everything due to the unethical and

non-compliant approach of Tesco. I am in a big trouble now due to shut down of my factory. "I have been passing my days in a grief. It is an independent and sovereign country but Tesco

did not follow the rules," Hug said. "Tesco hanged me without a trial. Before my factory was shut down, I used to export garment items worth Tk 350 crore in a year, employing with 500 people," he continued. "My factory was fully compliant and I had

dream to employ 10,000 workers and I wanted to export Tk 1,000 crore worth of garments per year," said Mozammel, who has been fighting for justice in this regard for over the past seven years.

"I want constitutional rights. I cannot hold my tears anymore. Tesco has taken away everything from my life," he added.

Nazma Akter, president of the Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said such incidents should not be allowed to occur in this industry and the international buyers should follow the country's rules.

Terminating employees and shutting down factories are illegal and inhuman. We request the ouyers not to terminate any employees illegally.

Onion prices shoot up in Ctg markets

Idris said the buyers were a bit confused with the price fluctuations and were preferring to sit back and wait, assuming that the price would soon fall as a result of poor sales. Informing that new produce of the season in India would start coming to the market in 10 to 15 days, he expected the prices would come down soon.

Stock price odd one out? Gambling likely

FROM PAGE B1

Other pseudo high achievers include Monno Jute Stafflers (stock price Tk 930, paid-up capital Tk 2.48 crore), Ambee Pharmaceuticals (Tk 478, Tk 2.4 crore), WATA Chemical (Tk 365, Tk 14 crore) and Aramit (Tk 272, Tk 6 crore).

The stock market regulator should look into the accounts of these companies because such high prices are not justifiable,

said the official. The companies could be sent to the small cap board which will reduce chances of being targeted for gambling, said the merchant banker.

Another problem is that general investors do not have adequate financial literacy, so they pour money into stocks at the centre of gambling without realising the high risks, he added.

Sending a company to the small cap

board is a complex process as general investors are not allowed to trade in the board, said a top official of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC)

"We have fined gamblers for their wrongdoings many times and we will keep the companies under our scanner to detect whether anybody is trying to play with the stocks," he said.

"On the other hand, general stock investors will have to be cautious to protect their investments and they should first give some thought to the potential of the companies before investing.

The market has a number of good stocks whose prices are undervalued and they can invest into these companies which will safeguard their investment and reduce risks, the BSEC official

Now northeast India connected via new river route

"Both sides need to develop physical infrastructures to continue shipping goods through the route. After this trial we will know what type of infrastructure development is

needed," he said. Chowdhury hopes that the initiative will bring good results towards boosting bilateral trade and the route will become a vital part of the trade with India's north-eastern states.

Biplab Kumar Deb, chief minister of Tripura in a tweet on Thursday night, said, "With the successful run, Indo-Bangla waterways will open up new avenues for economic development in both the countries where Tripura will play an

important role. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) earlier approved the export of goods on a trial basis.

Commodore Golam Sadeq, chairman of the BIWTA, said the trial has been fruitful. "Now is the time to remove obstacles to pave the way for regular commercial vessel movement.

"We will have to conduct dredging in the Gumti river to remove barriers and complete the construction work of a rail bridge over the river,"

A high-level team from the shipping ministry of Bangladesh surveyed the riverine protocol route for viability on August 12.

According to Sadeq, a project proposal has been sent to the planning commission to improve the navigability of the Gumti and to protect the river's banks. The estimated cost of the project is Tk 700 crore.

He is hopeful to operate commercial vessels on a regular basis within the next two years.

Haque said that Indian traders will benefit from the new waterway as carrying costs will come down by 50 per cent. Shipments can also be sent even during the dry season by simply dredging the certain parts of the river on a regular basis.

About 5 per cent of the country's total cement production head to the north-eastern states of India through Akhaura land port.

Md Shahidullah, managing director of Metrocem Cement, said the move would help reduce transport costs in exporting bulk amounts of cement to Tripura and other north-

eastern states. In July, Deb said the project would boost

Indo-Bangla bilateral trade making Tripura a key trade hub in the northeast region.

He predicted that the export volume would increase from 30 crore rupees to 400 crore rupees and the state would import goods worth of 2,000 crore rupees, according to an article of the Hindustan Times.

Currently, goods worth 645 crore rupees are imported.

The All Tripura Merchant Association sees hope in the waterways project, saying that imported goods from Bangladesh would be available at affordable rates, according to the

Hindustan Times Tripura had set up a floating jetty on the river

on July 4 as part of the connectivity project. India's Northeast has secured an outlet through the rivers of Bangladesh in a development that will have far-reaching implications for the economy of the landlocked region, according to The Diplomat magazine.

The arrangement reduced the distance between Kolkata and Agartala from 1,600 to 600 kilometres. Its use would therefore help decrease prices of essential commodities, Deb told reporters, the magazine reported recently.

*BUSINESS

workers' concerns

Stakeholders say at a discussion in the port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A law currently being formulated on Bangladesh's ship breaking industry needs to be worker-friendly to protect their lives and the environment, various stakeholders suggested yesterday.

They were giving their opinion on a draft of the act framed by the Ministry of Industries in a quarterly review meeting organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, at a restaurant in Chattogram.

The draft 'Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act' lacks clarity and needs to be more workerfriendly, said Tapan Dutta, convener of the Ship-breaking Workers Trade Union

Dozens of workers are dying at the ship breaking yards every year while an existing law does not focus on their concerns and was never implemented towards that end, giving rise to apprehensions of a repetition this time around, he said.

The law itself cannot protect the workers unless those tasked with implementing it bear in heart the attitude to bring about a positive change, he added.

It looks like the draft has been hastily penned as it lacks many basic things, said Mohammad Shahin Chowdhury, a professor of the law faculty at the University of Chattogram.

It does not contain anything with the BILS were present during discussions.

regard to the recruitment of labour, age

specifications and training, he said. That means there is scope for the yard owner to recruit child labour, which they always prefer for the associated low wages. The draft must include a provision about child labour to rid the yard of child labour," Chowdhury said.

When it comes to compliance, yard owners always claim to not have the financial capability to abide by the guidelines, said Mohammad Ali Shahin, coordinator of Young Power in Social Action, a non-profit social development

"Interestingly, they do not shift to other businesses. The arrival of scrap ships does not see any drop in numbers, indicating huge profits in the sector. The draft must have provisions about the waste that ships release in the Bay of Bengal as well," he

Obtaining an occupational health certificate must also be made mandatory for yard owners to better protect the workers engaged in the industry, Shahin added.

Dr Fosiul Alam, former vice-chancellor of Feni University; Safar Ali, vice-president of the National Worker League; AS Nazim Uddin, president of the Nationalist Sramik Dal and Rizwanur Rahman Khan, Pahari Bhattachajo, Nurul Absar KM Sahidullah, Mohammad Ali and Fazlul Kabir Mintu of



Upcoming law needs to UK retailer Debenhams' terminated address ship breaking workers demand arrears

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The recently terminated employees of Debenhams' Bangladesh office yesterday demanded full payment of the wages and other monetary benefits owed to them by the Londonbased multinational retailer as per Bangladesh's

"By our calculations, Debenhams owes \$1 million in salaries, allowance and other service benefits," said Bahauddin Mohammed Ataullah, president of the Debenhams Bangladesh Employees Association.

He spoke during a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital's Segun Bagicha.

Citing financial constraints, Debenhams appointed an administrator for its Bangladesh office and eventually terminated 69 staff members in April earlier this year.

Soon after the ongoing coronavirus crisis was elevated to pandemic status, retailers and brands worldwide closed down their operations amid significantly decreased demand for nonessential items.

As such, Ataullah, who was among the terminated workers, said he and his colleagues stopped receiving shipments of goods from many local manufacturers in the name of compliance with the company's directives.

However, Debenhams itself did not comply with the country's regulations when it terminated those Bangladeshi workers.

"Even if you pay me three times my previous salary to return to Debenhams, I won't do it as the company is non-compliant with our rules and seems to think that Bangladesh is still a British colony," he said after the press conference.

Ataullah also urged consumers of the company's products to raise their voice against such misconduct so that it is compelled to

Debenhams does not respect the law of the land and continues to operate while flouting Bangladesh's rules, he added.

The government imposes strict measures and subsequently receives millions in compensation if any local company is found to be non-

Debenhams makes a tremendous profit from the sales of Bangladeshi garment items, however, the suppliers are paid very little in comparison,

Besides, many of the company's previous employees are finding it difficult to maintain their livelihoods amid the ongoing pandemic due to a lack of income and other benefits, he

"But still, Debenhams paid no heed to the

Since Bangladesh is an independent nation, Debenhams must follow the laws as outlined by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), which was known as the Board of Investment back in 2013, when Debenhams



Terminated employees of Debenhams Bangladesh office demand their service benefits from the company at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital yesterday.

first registered its operations in the country.

The London-based multinational retailer has been irregular in making payments to its suppliers. In April earlier this year, the company demanded a 90 per cent decrease in prices due to the Covid-19 fallout, meaning that Debenhams offered \$1 to buy T-shirts that originally cost

"They terminated us illegally. Three months' prior notice is needed before closing an office, which was not given in this case. All dues of suppliers and employees need to be cleared," Akhteruddin Ahmed Asad, the preceding country manager for Debenhams, told The Daily Star over phone.

It should be mentioned that Asad was not present at the press conference but opted to speak with the media after his attention was

drawn to learn about how Debenhams operates in Bangladesh.

"We will go to the court. Debenhams does not have the reputation and should maintain compliance," he said, adding that the termination of workers during the two-month nationwide general holiday aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 was illegal.

Local suppliers call Asad each day to enquire about their due payments even though he is no longer a part of the company.

Currently, Debenhams runs its operations in Bangladesh through a third-party agent.

Since the company continues to take shipments, albeit on a more limited scale, it proves that they continue to operate and have sufficient capital in the bank.

READ MORE ON B3



I'hink out of the box to breathe new life into dead jute mills



KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM

The government closed down 25 jute mills operated under the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) on July 1. It was one of the difficult political decisions taken by the ruling party since it formed the government in 2009. Such a decision hints at the major political shift of the ruling party - from promoting state-owned enterprise development towards private sector led enterprise development.

A high-powered 'Policy-making Committee' led by jute and textiles minister has been formed, which will suggest about the future of the establishments of BJMC jute mills. Till date, a number of decisions have been made which have created confusion about the future of enterprise development under the private sector in those lands.

More importantly, those decisions may futile the whole process of transforming those into private sector led enterprises.

In this backdrop, it is highly important to take forward-looking decisions which will facilitate private sector-led enterprise development. Most importantly, the government's decision should not create a precedence of another faulty privatisation initiative which had been done in 1980s and 1990s. The jute ministry and the Prime Minister's Office should give due attention to the following issues and take appropriate decisions.

Clearing all liabilities and dues of BJMC

At first, the jute ministry should clear all liabilities and dues of different parties of the BJMC. This is highly important since any future initiative under the private sector would be futile if the existing liabilities BJMC are passed on to their shoulders. To complete the process, a proper financial audit and valuation of assets

of BJMC entities are required. This should be done by any of the big four international audit firms—Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers—who are currently in operation in the country.

Such an audit will help the ministry to understand its current state of assets and liabilities, based on which future initiatives could be taken properly. There is a vested quarter within the BJMC at the mill and even outside the mill who are not interested to have a proper financial audit and valuation of

An early audit and valuation is most important particularly to clear the dues of the 25,000 workers as well as to initiate the next course of action on industrialisation in those establishments

The government should allocate necessary fund to clear the dues.

Scaling down the BJMC into a small unit under the ministry

There is no need for operating the BJMC under such a large organogram with staffs at the head offices and the mill offices. In this context, the government's decision to scale down two-thirds of its 2,955 staff members is a positive move. However, the decision is linked with the future operation of the mills.

Even one-third of the staff would not be required to materialise the goal of the PMO to go for private sector led operation in those mills. Very few of the staff members will be required if these lands are handed over to the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority or Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, which are more experienced in operating economic zones.

Overall, the operation of BJMC could be ably done by a small unit under the ministry -- no big office and staff is needed for that. Hence, the government should allocate necessary funds to pay the unnecessary staff who are posted in the head office and mill offices of BJMC.

Refraining from allowing long-term leases

to single parties There is no need to lease these precious lands to a small number of big private sector entities who may create pressure through different channels both within and outside the government. These lands should be made available mainly to local small and medium enterprises and foreign investors who often

struggle to purchase and take land on lease. All mills are well-positioned with ready-



A man works on a machine inside Platinum Jute Mill in Khulna just a few days before its closure. The photo was taken on June 27 this year.

to-use infrastructure such as ready land, electricity and gas supply and available workforce, which could attract both local and foreign investors to set up both medium and large scale enterprises.

Out of these 25 mills, nine are located in Chattogram, seven in Khulna, two each in Dhaka, Jessore and Narshingdi and one each in Narayanganj, Sirajganj and Rajshahi.

In terms of location and infrastructure, mills located in Chattogram, Dhaka, Narshingdi and Narayanganj are well-positioned to attract local and foreign investors.

Mills, which are located in major jute and agro-based zones such as Jessore, Khulna and Sirajganj, would promote jute and other agrobased industries. In this context, the planning committee's decision of using these lands only making it mandatory to use hessian cloths for jute sector is a faulty proposition. Rather these lands should be made open for private investment in different industrial enterprises.

Promoting small and medium scale jute

Jute goods need a captive market at the local level. A proper enforcement of the mandatory packaging act would significantly increase use of jute goods in domestic market.

According to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) 2010, proper enforcement of mandatory packaging act would create a local demand for 80 per cent worth of export jute products.

Similarly, the government may amend the public procurement guideline for construction and rehabilitation of upazila and zila roads by

as a cover over bitumen based carpeting. Such changes in public procurement would create huge demand for hessian cloths in the construction of roads. Overall, future jute sector of Bangladesh

should be led by small and medium scale private sector jute mills. In that case, interested private sector investors could purchase machineries from the closed public jute mills to set up small and medium scale jute mills across the country.

Similar example was found when Adamjee was closed and later a good number of small scale enterprises were established. Most of those are in operation at present.

READ MORE ON B3