

Hundreds of business houses in Chittagong face closure

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 10: Chittagong Port city known as the commercial capital of Bangladesh, has been facing depletion of business over the past 20 years that forced closure of hundreds of business enterprises and shops here.

Trade circles have attributed the depletion of business to the gradual collapse of infrastructural facilities that led to the 'migration' of most of the trade to the capital Dhaka.

Traders sources say, with the shifting of trade to Dhaka most of the business centres here have become dull while hundreds of business firms and shops face closure.

The main business centres which have been badly affected by the business migration included Khatunghata, Korbanjog, Terribazar, Chakatal, Majirhat, Banglabazar, Reazuddin Bazar and Agrabad Commercial Area, reports said.

Khatunghata, one of the busiest business centre during Pakistan period that handled lion's share of import and export, now presents a gloomy picture as all the lucrative business shifted to the capital.

Even most of the country's textile and yarn business which used to be traded at Khatunghata until 1975, gradually moved to the capital and is now concentrated at Islamabad. The business on industrial chemicals and general commodities has also migrated to Dhaka, trading sources said.

Consequently, about 80 per cent of warehouses located at Majirhat, Khatunghata, Banglabazar and other places of commercial importance of Chittagong have either faced closure or converted into real estates, sources added saying that in the early days 80 per cent import and export cargoes passed through Chittagong. Businessmen from various parts of the country in those days used to arrive in this port city to participate in the brisk trading, business circles said.

However, most of the businessmen now flock to the capital where trade and business got concentrated though all the governments after independence had taken measures of decentralisation.

The government representatives and executives on various occasions merely rendered lip services to turn Chittagong into a 'commercial capital' rather than developing its infrastructural bases for business promotion, traders said.

Talking to this correspondent, the leader of Khatunghata business community and Vice President of Chittagong Chamber Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said that most of the business had shifted to the capital as all financial houses buying houses and decision making bodies of the government were located in Dhaka.

Loan processing and all kinds of major business deals including tender bids have now also concentrated in Dhaka, Chowdhury added.

Besides, communication problem between Chittagong and other parts of the country is another reason that led to the business migration from Chittagong, he added.

The Chamber Vice President called upon the government to develop the required infrastructural facilities here in order to restore the business environment in Chittagong.

He suggested for shifting the head offices of all financial organisations including scheduled banks and insurance

companies to Chittagong to help the growth of business activities.

Other business community leaders and traders also echoed the same sentiment and expressed the resentment for the gradual collapse of infrastructures needed for sustaining trade atmosphere in Chittagong.

They said offices of different sector corporations and government departments were functioning within limited capacities which is working against the trade promotion of the port city.

They pointed out that the office of Chief Controller of Import and Export, the principal office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the head offices of the then Eastern Mercantile Bank, Eastern Insurance and other related financial institutions were situated in Chittagong during Pakistan period.

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Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 10/08/92

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Local Agent	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Marglian	GI	String	PROG	7/8	15/8
J/3	Armas	GI	Mong	OWSL	6/8	16/8
J/4	Ocean Earth	Cement	String	Sunshine	19/7	10/8
J/5	Karabeverett	GI	String	EBPL	8/8	14/8
J/7	Silver Lake	GI	Hong	PROG	6/8	12/8
J/10	Kwan Mo Bong	Urea	Mong	SEACOM	5/8	14/8
MPB/1	Optima	Idle	Kara	SSL	15/7	15/8
CCJ	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Col	SSL	6/8	11/8
TSP	Bryansky	Repair	Col	SSL	1/7	15/8
RM/4	Long Khan	Cement	String	BRIGHT	30/7	12/8
RM/6	Fresh Ocean	Cement	String	USTC	5/8	15/8
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	ISC	R/A	14/8	
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/1	15/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Baard	Repair	ISC	R/A	12/8	
RM/9	Banglar Sampad	Repair	ISC	R/A	20/8	

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Al Mohammed	10/8	Mong	KSL	Cont	String
Fong Shin 25/7	10/8	String	BDFShip	Cement	String
Flying Dragon	10/8	-	Bright	Cement	String
Artemis-1	10/8	Mong	SSL	GL	Odesa
Vishva Abha	11/8	Mong	MMI	GL	Abbas
Vellatrix	11/8	Mong	KSL	GL	Abbas
South Shields	11/8	-	KSL	GL	Abbas
Stonewall Jackson	11/8	-	Karna	GL	New York
Pearl One(48)1/8	11/8	Karna	Cross	Bitumen/cotton	-
Yao Sheng	12/8	String	Bright	Cement	String
Andromache 26/7	12/8	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong, Col
Oryx	12/8	Mong	Aqua	GL	Doula
Petr Starostin 27/7	12/8	String	CT	Cont	String
Kota Buana 12/8	12/8	String	CTS	Cont	String
Orang Berani	13/8	-	BEA	GL	String
Mizoram	14/8	Cal	SSI	GL	Fe.E.Japa
Fong Yun 1/8	14/8	Mong	BDSShip	Cont	String
Safina-e-Haider	15/8	Kara	ASL	GL/CL	Karachi
Mitramar	15/8	Mong	KSL	GL	Port Sudan
Andrian Goncharov	15/8	-	CT	Cont	String
27/7	15/8	Mong	RSL	Cont	String
Bewalla 9/8	15/8	Mong	PROG	GI	String
Seyang Acc	15/8	-	PROG	GI	String
Nga Rancer 5/8	17/8	String	BDSShip	Cont	String
Kota Eagle 8/8	17/8	String	CTS	Cont	String
Ultra Sea	18/8	New Orle	LAMS	Wheat	String
Al Tabith	18/8	-	BSI	R.Sulphur in bulk	String
New Jiang	18/8	-	BDSShip	GI	String
Banglar Shobha	19/8	Pena	ISC	GI	String
Ever Cheer 8/8	19/8	String	BDSShip	Cont	String
New Genlor 9/8	20/8	String	BDSShip	Cont	String
Hafez 26/7	20/8	Mong	SSL	E/I	Abbas
Iyeverett	20/8	-	EBPL	GI	Japa. Fe
Vishva Pallav	22/8	-	SSL	GL	Dundee.Ant
A.Megacarrrier	22/8	String	BDSShip	Cont	Cal
Two 9/8	25/8	Col	RSL	GI	Cal
Mehedint	25/8	Col	RSL	GI	Cal
Caravos explorer	25/8	Stock	Alamin	Wheat	Cal

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
T.T. Energy	C Oil	COL	NNL	27/4

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON				
Banglar Asha	Wheat	String	ISC	9/8
Summit Venture	Wheat	String	Ancient	10/8
Banglar Gourab	Urea	Mong	ISC	10/8

VESSELS NOT READY				
Hang Shing	Cement	String	H&H	22/7
Huzam	Cement	Col	Bright	4/8

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Jyoti	Cement	String	ISC	R/A(18/8)
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn Nehaj	Cement	String	Alamin	R/A(18/8)
	Scraping	Col	UMAL	10/6

The above were the Monday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Price Index

August 10		(Chrupa)		3.00-4.00	
Essentials					
RICE	(Taka per kg)	Dal	(Taka per kg)	45.00-50.00	
Aman(1100)	16.00-17.00	Oil	(Taka per litre)	52.00-54.00	
Payam	13.50-14.50	Mustard		38.00-39.00	
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	Soyabean		48.00-52.00	
Potato (local)	10.00-11.00	Cocunut (Columbo)		48.00-52.00	
Brijjal	8.00-12.00	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)		48.00-52.00	
Karola					