

Plan to expand facilities in Mongla Port

By Govinda Shil and Rafiq Hasan

Mongla Port Authority (MPA) plans to expand its existing port facilities to cope with the increased flow of imports and exports and to attract more users in the future.

According to official sources, the Authority has sent a report to different users of the port for their information so that it can take necessary measures.

The report on projection of increasing cargo and port use by the year 2005 has focused on the present cargo handling capacity, warehouse facilities, transit shed, container yards and the available reefer plug points.

The report has suggested the setting up of rail communication with the Mongla Jetty, completion of proposed Rupsha Bridge, initiatives to allow the Nepalese Transit Trade by using port and shifting of Mongla Shukla Bhaban (Customs House) from Khulna to Mongla.

Imports of clinker, zips and salts through the Mongla Port (MPA) may rise substantially while exports of frozen foods and fertiliser may also increase adequately through

this port from the year 2000. All these have been indicated in the report prepared by the Mongla Port Authority.

Meanwhile, the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMB) is also planning to import various machinery and equipment by using this port raising its use and facilities.

The report said annual imports and exports might increase to 35.47 lakh tons from the present 33 lakh tons during the year 1999-2000.

Various business houses, chambers of commerce and industries have been asked to send their suggestions to the MPA which will be compiled and submitted to the government for implementation, sources added.

The Authority is taking up various projects to modernise the port and increase its use, said the sources.

MPA is also implementing a few projects to expand the port facilities. Before ensuring an effective and intensive use of the port, road, rail and air communication with the port must be developed.

added the sources saying the Deputy Commissioner has been asked to acquire necessary lands for the proposed airport.

The port has no gateway with the important commercial centres of the country said the sources adding the traders should be encouraged to use the seaport.

When contacted, an official of the Ministry of Shipping said only 25 per cent of the port facilities are being used.

"Traders are reluctant to use the port because of its poor infrastructural facilities," said the official adding the government is considering to make the port more useable by expanding various infrastructure and developing infrastructure.

The official said some of the exportables like shrimp and frozen foods are mainly shipped from the Mongla Port.

MPA is executing its regular conservation-dredging at the mouth of the Mongla Jetty to maintain a sufficient flow of the Pussur river to anchor high draft ships at the

port.

The report has also put emphasis on introducing a negotiable tariff for the users.

giving a priority berth at the "K" Jetty to the ships interested to unload at the transit shed and warehouse, appointment of merchant labour, decreasing the rent of the godowns, simplifying the customs and duty formalities to deliver goods.

Meanwhile, the Shipper's Council of Bangladesh (SCB) has urged the MPA to reduce present tariff rates, ground rates on containers, to increase free time of containers and construct labour gang. The SCB demanded control helmet and other container handling equipment operators.

The cost of loading and discharging operations at the Mongla Port is higher than that of Chittagong which should be decreased," said Rezaul Karim, Senior Vice-Chairman of the SCB.

He said, Mongla Port needs special attention as cumulative problems have been discouraging the users since long.

Fertiliser stock satisfactory, says BCIC

The present production and ready stock of fertilizer have created a satisfactory situation to meet the demand during the current IRI-Boro season from January to March this year, a BCIC press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

It said the government for helping farmers and boosting agriculture productivity had also reduced the price of urea by Taka 1000 per tonne from Taka 4725 to Taka 3725.

Besides, it said despite very high price in the international market the government had stopped export of urea considering the interests of the farmers in the country.

According to the press release, by now 2222 dealers have been appointed in accordance with new the distribution policy approved by the government and agreements have been executed with about 1400 dealers covering almost all the districts.

These dealers have been selected by a six member committee in each district comprising of the deputy commissioner (convenor), the representative of Directorate of Agricultural Extension, the representative of Bangladesh Fertilizer Association, representative of local chamber of commerce, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.

The newly appointed dealers have started lifting urea from the factories alongside those traders who deposited money earlier for taking the delivery of urea fertilizer.

All the fertilizer factories are now in full operation. Six urea fertilizer factories produced 10,60,240 MT during the first six months of current financial year as against 10,04,997MT during the corresponding period of last year indicating an increase of 55,243 MT.

He called upon the private sector entrepreneurs to come forward with an open mind to transform our population into a human resource by educating them and endowing them with work capacity. The concept that the state and the government alone will carry the burden of social responsibilities is obsolete in this age of free market economy," President Biswas pointed out.

President Biswas said the setting up of a technical institute by the Islami Bank in the country was a timely step. Chaired by Mohammad Ataur Rahman, Chairman of the board of directors of Islami Bank Limited, the inaugural function was also addressed by Prof Abdul Matin Patwary, Director General of Islamic Institute of Technology. M Kamaluddin Chowdhury, Executive President of

President Abdur Rahman Biswas inaugurated Islami Bank Technical Institute at Purana Paltan Line in the city yesterday by pressing computer button.

Biswas opens Islami Bank Training Instt

No alternative to human resources development

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for putting more emphasis on practical, technical and vocational education to survive in this technological age, reports BSS.

President Biswas was inaugurating Islami Bank Technical Institute in Dhaka.

He said to come out of the clutches of poverty and earn a respectable position in the modern world there is no alternative to the development of human resources. The only way to develop human resources is to spread education.

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Trade with Dhaka to grow further, hopes Chandrika

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga Saturday reiterated her commitment to maintain 'most friendly' relations with Bangladesh, reports BSS.

While accepting the credentials of the newly appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Masum Ahmed Chowdhury, in Colombo, President Kumaratunga expressed the hope that trade between the two countries would 'grow further.'

According to a message received here she said that she was happy to note that the governments of the two countries, recently entered into an agreement under which Bangladesh would sell jute bags to Sri Lanka.

She said that Bangladesh and Sri Lanka signed as many as seven bilateral agreements covering "all important aspects of our bilateral relations."



M Ahsanul Haque, Managing Director of Sonali Bank, seen inaugurating the new premises of the bank's Wari branch in the city yesterday.

Mongla Port Authority
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer (M&E)
Mongla, Bagerhat

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are invited from A, B, C licence holder electrical contractors enlisted under Mongla Port Authority for the undermentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Enlisted contractor (electrical) only experienced in undermentioned work	Price of tender	Time limit
1	Testing & commissioning of 5 MVA 03/11 KV Power Sub-Station in permanent port area.	Tk 1,98,141/-	Tk 2,400/-	A to D class	Tk 150/-	30 (thirty) days.

Tender document can be collected from the Mongla Office of the undersigned, office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), Division-4, MPA, Khulna, subject to prior permission, up to 13-2-96 (1-11-1402 BS) during office hours. Tender documents will be received at the above offices up to 12-00 Noon of 14-2-96 (2-11-1402 BS) and the tender documents will be opened at the above offices on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Earnest money should be deposited with the tender document in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Mongla Port Authority, Mongla. Otherwise tender document will be treated as cancelled. Other terms & conditions will be found in the tender document.

As per the decision of the Authority, 0.25 per cent from the value of the executed work will be deducted (non-refundable) for the Officers & Employees Welfare Fund.

Contractor can purchase the tender document himself or his representative producing authorisation letter for the work in question with his signature and photograph properly attested by the contractor. To ascertain validity of licence, the original licence book should be produced at the time of purchasing tender. Prior to purchasing tender document the contractor firms should submit the VAT registration certificate, otherwise no tender document will be sold to them. VAT will be deducted from the bill of the executed work, as per govt rules.

Mongla Port Authority will reserve the right to accept or reject any tender or to reject all tenders, without assigning any reason.

G A Shah Alam Bhuiyan
Deputy Chief Engineer (M&E)
Mongla Port Authority
Mongla, Bagerhat

Investment in Bangladesh ensures big return: USAID consultant

An American financial consultant yesterday advised a group of visiting US entrepreneurs that investment in Bangladesh ensures a big and quick return, reports BSS.

British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Samsom H Chowdhury, Foreign Investors' Chamber President Mahboob Jamil, American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) President Forrest E Cookson, and officials of the US embassy, BOI and the Foreign Office were present at the meeting.

Apprising the US investors of the country's current macro-economic situation, the BOI Executive chief pointed out that the current account deficit was running at a manageable three per cent and the budget deficit at six per cent while the central bank was maintaining a comfortable foreign reserve.

He said Bangladesh economy proved "very resilient" and was growing at around six per cent.

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SAFTA won't do good to Bangladesh: DCCI chief

The newly elected President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry thinks the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement will not do good to Bangladesh heavily dependent on imports.

"SAFTA will not bring any substantial benefit for Bangladesh," Ali Hossain told UNB on Saturday.

Considered one of the remarkable achievements of the decade-old South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAFTA aims at creating a liberalised trade zone in the region. Ratified by all member countries, it went into operation from last December 8.

Hossain, in support of his contention, said Bangladesh which still imports 70 per cent of its requirements would hardly get benefits from the trading arrangement.

Responding to a question, Ali Hossain welcomed the newly planned trade bloc of IOR (Indian Ocean Rim).

SQUARE TOILETRIES LTD
ANNUAL SALES CONFERENCE
HOTEL SHAIBAL, COXS BAZAR.
January 1996

Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, Managing Director, Square Toiletries Ltd, inaugurating the annual sales conference of the company at Hotel Shaibal, in Cox's Bazar on Friday. Executive Director Dr Ali Reza Qader Baksh, Sales Manager S K Das and Senior Executive Mrs Sarwat Ahmed are also seen.

Dhaka gets Tk12cr foreign money orders in Dec

Bangladeshis staying abroad sent Tk 12 crore 42 lakh 17 thousand and 901 last December through 14,323 foreign money orders, an official handout said on Saturday, reports AP.

Bangladesh Postal Department distributed Tk 84 crore 36 lakh 17 thousand and 770 among the recipients of foreign money orders in different parts of the country during the first six months of the current fiscal year (1995-96).

At a meeting over breakfast, arranged by the Board of Investment (BOI) at a local restaurant, Cookson was sharing the experience he gathered during his long stay in Dhaka as a USAID consultant.

The US entrepreneurs are visiting Bangladesh in connection with the US Trade Show that ended in the capital on Saturday.

BOI Executive Chairman Tausif-e-Elahi Chowdhury on Sunday told the US entrepreneurs that Bangladesh offers one of the most competitive incentive packages to foreign investors.

He said the country was following a "very liberal" economic and investment policy and, hence, deserved to be considered for a lucrative destination for investment.

There is neither any restriction on repatriation of profit nor there is any licensing bar on investors," the BOI Executive Chairman said adding that labour was the cheapest and "reasonably efficient."

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ANM Yusuf,

Prior to his present assignment, he was Member (Operation and Maintenance) of the Board. He also served as a member of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission for a long time.

Altaf Ali graduated in Civil Engineering in 1959 from the then Ahsanullah Engineering College, Dhaka, and joined the erstwhile EPWAPDA as an Assistant Engineer the same year.

New members

Engineer Syed Moazzem Hossain joined BWDB as Member (Operation and Maintenance) on Wednesday.

Prior to this posting, he worked in various capacities in the Board including Director General, Training & Staff Development Directorate of the Board.

Engineer Mesbahuddin Ahmed took over as member (Planning) of BWDB Tuesday last.

Prior to his present position, he served in various capacities in the Board including Chief Engineer Monitoring and Evaluation and Member, India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission.