

Bogra eyes a big boost

Bankers expect Tk 200cr investment in 2 years after gas supply

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra, once known as an industrial town, may regain its glory soon with prospects for over Tk 200 crore investments in gas-based industries and other businesses.

With gas pipeline laying going on, banks are now alive, preparing and scanning project papers and holding meetings with prospective investors including some reputed business houses.

"Some new industries may come into being within two years if gas is supplied by June as planned", Towfique NK Lodi of Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) said while talking to the correspondent.

Some senior officials of other private sector banks are also pinning high hopes.

Laying of pipeline under the Bogra Town Gas Supply Project is going on in full swing since the inauguration on January 5. The project will be completed at a cost of Tk 184 crore.

The planned gas supply has enlivened some reputed groups of companies including Mostafa Group of Industries, TK Group, Zahangir Group and Elite Group. They have purchased lands besides

the Bogra-Dhaka highway close to the gas pipeline for setting up industries.

Some industrialists have already submitted Project Proposal (PP) to the government and different banks for financial support, sources in banks said.

Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Fazlur Rahman Paiker said owners of some closed industries are also planning to reopen those.

"I am also planning to restart my North Bengal Auto Bricks and to set up a CNG (Compact Natural Gas) filling station", he said.

He said some companies and industrialist are preparing PP for fertiliser factory, dying factory, leather complex, garments, spinning mills and other industries.

Former president of Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Managing Director of Tajma Ceramic Industry Amjad Hossain Tajma said he will reopen the industry, closed three years ago. But he needs Tk five crore to convert furnace oil based factory to a gas-based one.

Officials of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) said once gas is supplied, about 8000 LPG cylinders



ENTHUSIASM ALL AROUND.. Laying of gas pipeline in Bogra town is going on in full swing. The photo was taken from Badur Tola area on Friday.

now needed for Bogra town will be supplied to other districts.

Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP Tariq Rahman inaugurated the pipeline laying work at Silimpur in Bogra town. Deputy Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Khondker AKM Mosarraf Hassain was present as chief guest at the

inaugural function. Lawmakers Kazi Rafiq, Halauzzman Talukder Lulu, Golam Mohammed Siraj, Abdul Momin Talukder and Dr. Zia-Ul-Haque Molla were present among others on the occasion.

Gas supply to Bogra was an election pledge of BNP chief Khalada Zia.

Loading and unloading stop at Akhaura land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Loading and unloading of goods at Akhaura land port is stopped since Saturday following a scuffle between two groups of C&F agents.

Sources at the land port said there is a long-drawn rivalry between two groups of C&F agents.

On Saturday, an agent belonging to one group and having links with a ruling party tried to force port officials for a "discount" in weight for his imported goods in a truck.

The rival group opposed this. This led to an altercation and scuffle, also involving some port employees.

The employees then stopped loading and unloading.

While contacted over phone yesterday, port authorities said they do not know when loading and unloading will resume.

Tk 43cr for 3 Patuakhali bridges

Direct road link with Kuakata in 2007

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The government has allocated Tk 43.36 crore for construction of three bridges on the Patuakhali-Kuakata road.

When completed in 2007, tourist spot Kuakata will have direct road link with rest of the country.

The Roads and Highways Department will construct the bridges. RHD sources here said work will begin soon after selection of contractors. Sources there will be direct road link this will provide Ro. Tenders were floated earlier.

Of the amount, Tk 17.08 will be spent for the bridge at Khepupara on Audarmanik river, Tk 18.42 for Hazipur bridge on Sonatola river and Tk 7.86 for Mohipur bridge on Kapravanga river, according to RHD Executive Engineer Abdul Bari.

Bangladesh should be proud of expats in UK

Former British MP says in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Britain needs expatriates for its own interest and Bangladeshis are doing a good job by contributing to the growth of British economy.

This was stated by Keith Best, Chief Executive of Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) in UK while addressing an annual review meeting of IAS Sylhet office here on Friday.

He also formally inaugurated the new office of IAS at Zindabazar in the city.

Bangladesh can feel proud for their contribution, said Keith, also a former MP.

IAS, a non-profit organisation, opened its office in Sylhet, the lone office outside Britain, in 2001. It is planning to open another office in

Dhaka soon.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Abdul Hakim Mondal chaired the function, attended by IAS External Relations Officer Abu Musa Hasan, Area Manager for Overseas Offices Sabinder Bains and Newham Bengali Community Trust President Abdul Aziz Chowdhury.

Sylhet Press Club President Muktabis Nour, leading industrialist and Awami League leader Mahmud Samad Chowdhury, educationist Dr Kabir Chowdhury, Grameen Janakalyan Sangsad President Jamil Chowdhury, businessman M Muhibur Rahman also attended the function. Mahub Ahsan Chowdhury, Executive Officer of Sylhet IAS, presented a report on its performance in Bangladesh.

Keith said IAS is doing a good job

in Sylhet.

"We now see over 3000 people at our office in a year and more than 1000 of them are new clients. Around 60 per cent of those acting on our advice get visa because IAS has 34 years' experience in immigration work, he said.

The British government consults the IAS on immigration policy, Keith said.

Referring to his personal links with Bangladesh, Keith said, "I am part of Sylheti society since my first visit to Bangladesh in 1972. We want the bilateral ties between the two countries to grow". The IAS plans to open offices in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Nigeria also.

Ninety-five per cent of about five lakh Bangladeshis living in UK are from Sylhet.



Indigenous youths from Bom and Khang tribes performing at a cultural function at Madaripur Mukti Joddha Auditorium on Friday, arranged jointly by two NGOs-Society for Environment and Human Development and Madaripur Legal Aid Association-for exchange of views among different tribes.

SNAPS

Police foil Ctg 14-party meet

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police on Saturday prevented the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition alliance from holding a meeting at the Shaheed Minar here. According to witnesses, opposition leaders and activists started gathering at the meeting venue to protest the price hike of essentials including diesel and kerosene and deterioration of the law and order across the country. But, police dispersed the organisers and captured the venue at around 3pm.

Children's art competition held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A children's art competition was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Art Institute here on Thursday. The competition was organised to mark the 90th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. About 177 school children of different schools took part in the competition. Each participant was awarded a certificate. Principal Md Zainul Abedin Tarafdar of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Art Institute distributed prizes among the winners and certificates among the participants.

Outlaws kill fish trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A fish trader was killed by outlaws at his Kolaishganj shrimp enclosure in Dakop upazila on Friday. The fish trader is Debashish Barkandaj, 32, son of Panitosh Barkandaj. Police recovered the body on Saturday morning. His hands and legs were tied with ropes, according to police. The motive behind the murder could not be known.

'Save children from bidi factories'

ILO assures more help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chief Technical Advisor of ILO (International Labour Organisation) in Bangladesh Pracha Basu Prasad urged Bidi factory owners to desist from engaging children in tobacco industries.

He also urged parents to send their children to schools instead of Bidi factories, and NGOs to build a social movement against engaging children in hazardous jobs.

"He assured of all possible assistance in this regard."

"Allowing children to work in Bidi factory virtually means leading them to death", he said.

Basu was speaking at a

roundtable on "Sending Bidi Factory Children to School", held at Daulatpur, an area in the country known for tobacco cultivation and Bidi factories.

It was organised recently by BTUK (Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro), an organisation working to protect labour rights in Bangladesh.

Basu visited the area to see the progress made by different NGOs in taking children out of Bidi factories and sending them to school.

With ILO Assistant Programme Co-ordinator Ahsanul Haq Nabab in the chair, the roundtable was also addressed by, among others, local Union Parishad Chairman AT Siddique, Akiz Bidi Factory Manager

Khorshed Alam, ILO Social Monitor Jagannoy Projesh Biswas and representatives of suppliers of child workers to Bidi factories.

After the roundtable, the ILO officials visited Mansur Bidi factory and Akiz Bidi Factory in the area.

Mansur Bidi Factory, one of the biggest factories, on March 10 last year signed an agreement with ILO that it would not employ child labourer in the factory anymore.

According to survey made earlier by some local NGOs, at least 5000 children had worked in eight big factories in the district. After ILO initiative, SETU, a local NGO, took away 870 children from different factories and sent them to school.



A partial view of the roundtable held at Daulatpur, organised by BTUK (Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro).

Sanitation hoax!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Baikari union was formally declared 'totally sanitised' at a function held at Baikari Bazaar on December 31 last year. But the situation was far from the reality.

The declaration was made by Jamaat lawmaker Abdul Khaleq hailing from the area. He was present as the chief guest at the function which was attended by Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Elias and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) Executive Engineer MA Hamid.

After the announcement, police was deployed and a fine of Tk 500 was introduced for defecation at public place. The UP leaders announced a reward of Tk 200 for detecting a wrongdoer.

Following announcement of 'total sanitation', a group of journalists visited several villages in the union and conducted a survey on January 8. They found most of the ring slabs distributed among the people was piled up on the courtyards of their houses. A few others placed the slabs latrines but did not erect fences around. Many people erected fence around coconut leaves, palm and banana leaves without making roof. Many others erected latrines but did not use those.

However, the visiting journalists saw a different scene at the house of poor Mohammad Ali at Chowdalipara village. His family

members used the latrine made with ring slabs.

A team of the district administration led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) Humayun Kabir visited different areas of the union on January 2. The team members expressed their dissatisfaction over slow progress of the programme.

Baikari UP Chairman Shahid Hasan admitted that all the villagers were not using hygienic latrines. He along with the Sub-inspector of police visited the area and threatened punishment for defecation at public places.

When contacted, Abdul Khaleq MP, told this correspondent that he did not make the declaration but offered prayer for successful implementation of the programme.

Tk 4 cr RAKUB loans for Dinajpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (Rakub) has undertaken a programme to distribute agricultural loan among farmers.

The bank has a target to distribute Tk 4 crore 36 lakh among 6,564 farmers in seven thanas in the current fiscal, according to bank sources.

Rakub has increased the agricultural loan facilities this fiscal.

Arrest warrant against BCC female ward commissioner charged for toll collection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Arrest warrant has been issued against a female ward commissioner of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) in a case for toll collection and drug peddling.

Accused Ayesha Tawhida Luna, commissioner of ward no. 10, 11 and 12, is the cousin of Mahub Alam Mehdi, city Jubo Dal secretary and commissioner of ward no. 14, who was killed in a shootout with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on October 25 last year. Luna was elected from a seat reserved for women. The warrant was issued on January 14.

Barisal Kotwali Thana Officer-in-Charge Sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman who is the investigation officer of the case, said Luna's nephew Shaidul Islam alias Sohan and two of his associates--Debashish and Shihabul Islam alias Momi-- were caught by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from a slum near Barisal stadium on January 1 when they were sharing money allegedly collected from drug peddlers.

After that one Anwar Hossain filed a case accusing all of them.

Warrant was issued against Luna as she did not appear before court, said OC Mizanur Rahman.

Project govt's successes: Tarique

BSS, Cox's Bazar

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman on Saturday asked the party leaders at grassroots level to suggest remedies of people's problem.

"The party you belong to now leads the Four-Party Alliance government. So you are part of the government too, if not directly," he told the Third Union-level Conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) here. About 1,800 delegates attended the meeting.

Tarique, who chaired the function, also urged the party men to give a comparative projection of activities of the ruling and the opposition parties. There are a few parties inside and outside the parliament, which lost their organisational base line after the last general election.

BNP Standing Committee member and Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed opened the conference at Cox's Bazar stadium after Thakurgaon and Kushtia.

Tarique said when the government under Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was carrying forward different development programmes combating terrorism, a few opposition parties and their leadership were opposing the activities.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Police Super Moulvibazar

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| 01. Tender Notice No | : | 3/2004-2005 (Ration). |
| 02. Description of work | : | a) 11,000 (eleven thousand) kg lentil pulse;
b) 6,000 (six thousand) litre soybean oil.
c) 1,000 (one thousand) kg dalda.
d) 750 (seven hundred fifty) quintal dried hilly fuel wood.
e) 400 (four hundred) quintal wheat crushing.
f) Large gunny bag = 1800 (one thousand eight hundred) Nos. |
| 03. Place of work | : | Police Lines, Moulvibazar. |
| 04. Price of tender schedule | : | Price per item/group per set = Tk 400/- (four hundred) only (non-refundable). |
| 05. Earnest money | : | Against above mentioned works chronologically
a) Tk 17,000/- (seventeen thousand) only.
b) Tk 12,000/- (twelve thousand) only.
c) Tk 3,000/- (three thousand) only.
d) Tk 5,000/- (five thousand) only.
e) Tk 12,000/- (twelve thousand) only.
f) Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only. |
| 06. Place of availability of tender schedule | : | Police Lines, Moulvibazar. |
| 07. Last date of selling tender schedule | : | 26/01/2005 up to office hours. |
| 08. Date and time of receiving tender | : | 27/01/2005 up to 12:00 hours, in the tender box kept at the Police Office, Moulvibazar. |
| 09. Place, date and time of opening tender | : | Police Office, Moulvibazar, 27/01/2005, at 12:30 hours. In presence (if any) of attending tenderers/their authorised representatives. |
| 10. Rate | : | Itemwise rate and total rate should be stated in figures and words. |
| 11. Tenure of work | : | For the period from January/2005 to March/2005. |
| 12. Special terms and conditions | : | Original copies of undermentioned papers/documents should be produced at the time of purchase of tender schedule and attested copies submitted with the tender.
a) Valid trade licence.
b) VAT registration certificate.
c) Up-to-date income tax certificate with TIN.
d) Financial solvency certificate of current year from any scheduled bank.
e) Certificate (if any) of experience in supplying ration goods in regard to ration supply for police force.
f) Bonafide supplier firms/bonafide traders should submit tender in their respective pads and tender schedule with signature in sealed cover. |
| 13. | : | The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender/all tenders without assigning any reason and is not bound to accept the lowest tender under any circumstance. |
| 14. | : | This tender will be conducted as per The Public Procurement Regulations 2003. |
| 15. | : | If it is not possible to receive or open tender on the specified date under unavoidable circumstances, then rescheduled date and time of submitting and opening tender will be notified vide local notice. The tenderers concerned should learn of this matter from this office at own initiative. |

Roushan Ara Begum
Police Super, Moulvibazar
Phone-52235, Fax- 52833
DFP-30395-15/12
G-62



Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Adamjee Court (5th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000

Ref. No. BSFC/PPD-2/All Mills/TSP/2004-2005 Date: 29-12-2004

Re-Tender Notice for Purchase of 6,000 M Tons Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) Fertilizer (Bag)

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide importers by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation for purchase of 6,000 (six thousand) M Tons of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) Fertilizer in bag on free delivery at Mill site basis. Offer for any part quantity will not be acceptable. Tender Security/Bid-Bond/Earnest Money of Tk. 20.00 (twenty) lac must accompany the tender in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation. Tender will be received in the tender box at the Secretariat Division, Adamjee Court (5th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 up to 11.00 AM on 30-1-2005 and the same will be opened at 11.05 AM on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any). Tender documents with detailed specifications and terms and conditions will be available from the (1) Additional Chief Accountant (Cash) of this Corporation at Adamjee Court (4th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, (2) BSFC Shipping Office at Arag Chamber, 68, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong on cash payment of Tk. 1,000/- (one thousand) only per set (non-refundable) on all working days between 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. No tender documents will be sold on 30-1-2005. The Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

S-F-185
DFP-248-5/01/05
G-41

Md Abdul Khaleque
Chief (Purchase)