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UNAUTHORISED OCCUPATION OF PORT SPACE

Ctg port ups penalty rate by four times for reefer containers

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

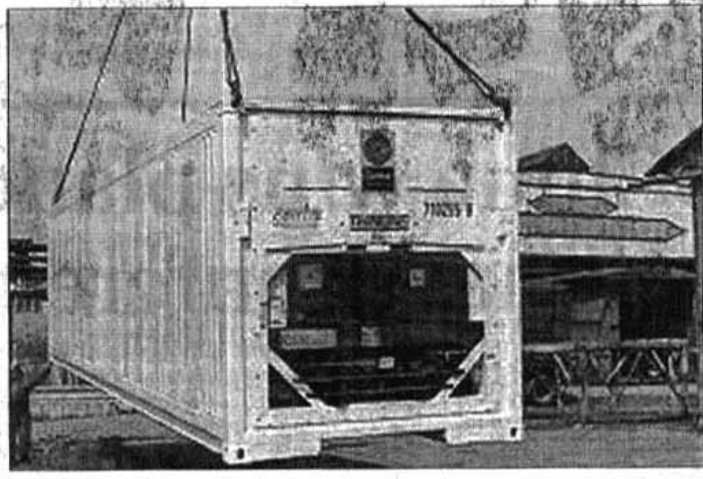
Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has increased the rate of penalty by four times for perishable goods-laden containers lying inside the port for more than four days effective from tomorrow in order to clear container congestion.

The authorities will charge a perishable goods-laden container, known as reefer container, US\$36 a day for unauthorised occupation of port space, said CPA Director (Traffic) Lieutenant Colonel Feroz Ahmed. Earlier, the penalty rate was \$9 a day.

Refrigerated shipping container for transporting perishables is called reefer container.

The CPA at a meeting with importers and shipping agents on Wednesday took the decision to increase the penalty. CPA Chairman Commodore M Faruque presided over the meeting.

Some dishonest importers are not taking delivery of reefer containers loaded with ginger, garlic, fruits and other perishable items in order to create artificial crisis ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, resulting in crisis of storage space for reefer



A file photo of a reefer container, which is used for transporting perishable goods.

containers, port sources said.

The port has been witnessing the reefer container congestions for one month, the sources added. Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) and Yard No 11 now have 317 plug points to supply electricity to reefer containers after they are unloaded from ships. CPA added another 30 plugs recently.

The Chittagong Customs

authorities meanwhile are also preparing to put some 50 reefer containers on auction on Monday to solve space crisis stemming from delay in taking delivery of the containers by some importers.

The Wednesday's meeting also decided to put reefer containers on spot auction after thirty days of their arrival through customs authorities.

Sugarcane crushing begins at Rangpur Sugar Mills

UNB, Gaibandha

Sugarcane crushing at Rangpur Sugar Mills at Mahimaganj in Gobindaganj upazila of the district began yesterday after remaining closed for three years.

Industries Adviser Geetara Safiya Chowdhury formally inaugurated the crushing of sugarcane at the mill.

The mill was laid off as a losing concern on March 31 in 2004, leaving 30,000 sugarcane growers and 1,500 workers and employees in dire straits.

The industries adviser said the present government is making sincere efforts to keep the sugar mills operational.

She also called for united efforts to turn the mill into a profit-making venture.

Managing Director of the mill Shibendranath Sarker presided over the inaugural function.

Bangladesh single country fair begins in Kathmandu

UNB, Kathmandu

Speaker of the legislative Parliament of Nepal Subash Chandra Nemwang yesterday said Bangladesh Single Country Fair would encourage business communities of Nepal and Bangladesh to move ahead and further strengthen the existing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

He made the remark while inaugurating the four-day 'Bangladesh Single Country Fair 2007' at Birendra International Convention Centre in the Nepalese capital.

The Nepalese speaker, who attended the fair as chief guest, called upon all for the expansion of trade, investment, technology, transport and communication, energy, tourism and fisheries to realise huge potential in trade relations between the two countries.

Referring to access of Nepalese agri-products to Bangladesh markets, the speaker urged the Bangladesh government to consider favourable preferential treatment to Nepalese products to further boost the trade relations.

Nepalese Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies Shyam Sundar Gupta called upon all to explore ways to improve trade performance in the context of low volume of trade between the two countries.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Imtiaz Ahmed urged the Nepalese business community to invest in Bangladesh's export processing zones and in joint venture projects.

China halts unsafe US potato chips

ANN/ CHINA DAILY

Potato chip imports containing the banned carcinogenic additive potassium bromate were halted in Shenzhen after failing to pass quarantine in July, the importer in Zhuhai told China Daily on Thursday.

If such chips from the United States had made their way into store shelves, they were probably imported by unauthorised importers, a producer representative said.

The Department of Import and Export Food Safety under the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine recently published a list of unqualified food and cosmetic products imported by China in July and August. The list includes three batches of potato chips imported by Zhuhai Duty Free Enterprises Group.

A 95-kg shipment of Pringles potato chips made by US-based Procter & Gamble (P&G) and two batches of potato chips from Japan-based Bourbon were found to contain the additive on July 10 and July 27, respectively.

"We destroyed all the potato chips" in stock and immediately stopped their importation in July, when we were notified the products were unsafe," a company spokesman named Gu said.

The products were sold in duty-free shops run by the company in Zhuhai before the notification and were quickly pulled from shelves, he said. But sales figures prior to the products' removal from shelves were unavailable.

Job portals thrive as employers, jobseekers getting internet-savvy



The home pages of three job portals -- bdjobs, Prothom-Alojobs and Aiminlife. The number of job portals is on the rise. Over 10 job and career portals are now in operation in Bangladesh, up by more than 100 percent from last year.

SOHEL PARVEZ

Gone are the days for jobseekers to go through traditional processes of submitting job applications, as job portals are offering easy ways to apply online.

The number of job portals is on the rise. Over 10 job and career portals are now in operation in Bangladesh, up by more than 100 percent from last year.

Employers are encouraged to offer more and more jobs online because the system is cost-effective and it gives them an opportunity to examine technological skills of prospective applicants, while jobseekers find it convenient to surf through these user-friendly portals in search of jobs.

"Everyone starting the venture is expecting that the industry has a bright prospect as the number of internet users in our country is rising every day," said ME Chowdhury Shameem, chief executive of Prothom-Alojobs, which received around 3 lakh daily hits on average in November.

According to Shameem, most of the private sector employers, especially the multinational companies, now prefer posting their vacancy announcements online to

advertising in newspapers.

"It's a test of skill too, as many employers now want to check whether or not the prospective applicant has got the ability to apply online," he added.

The job portals display private sectors jobs, including those published in the print media. Many of these portals also offer various other services, such as CV posting, CV banks and training, for the employers as well as for the jobseekers.

Anyone with access to the internet can use these portals to see new vacancies and can apply online. The employers can pick and choose from the CVs posted by prospective candidates.

Shariar Suman, who recently graduated in commerce from the National University, said he now spends at least an hour a day on job searching online.

"Searching jobs and applying for them online are convenient because most of the job offers published in different newspapers can be found here at one place along with the jobs posted only on the portals," said Suman, sitting on his internet-enabled computer.

"Here I can also submit my CV online," he said, adding that he is

soon subscribing to a broadband internet connection to keep himself posted on the new vacancies.

An emerging online advertisement market driven by increased internet traffic is directly contributing to the rapid growth of the industry, according to experts.

Internet usage started to rise in June 1996 after the government allowed private sector to enter the business. Currently, cell phone operators such as Grameenphone and CityCell are also offering internet services.

"The number of internet users in Bangladesh is increasing, but the rate is not that encouraging," said Akhtaruzzaman Manju, former president of the Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh.

He said there are approximately 25 lakh internet users in Bangladesh and the number is increasing.

AKM Fahim Mashroor, chief executive officer of country's first such portal bdjobs, said the number of visitors has increased over the time.

"We used to get only 500-600 visitors a day when we launched the portal in 2000. Now we are getting over 20,000 visitors everyday," he said.

"It costs a lot of money to publish job vacancies in the print media. But job advertisement is cheaper here," said Mashroor, adding that job advertisement through the internet is rising over 20 percent a year.

Mashroor is positive about the rise in the number of such portals.

The number of people visiting online career portals will rise as more companies are entering the market, Mashroor said.

But it is not possible for 10-12 players to sustain in a small market like Bangladesh, he said, adding, "I believe only two-three will survive in the long term."

Shoeb Chowdhury, chief executive of a career portal- Aiminlife, said the number of career and job portals have increased sharply since January this year.

"There were only three companies when we started early this year. The number has increased since June."

He, however, lamented that the job portals had yet to get any support from the government.

"We do not receive government job advertisements," he said, suggesting that the government should publish its advertisements online.

Grain prices remain high despite record output: FAO

AFP, Rome

Despite record production this year, cereal prices remain high, affecting poor countries the most, the UN food agency warned Thursday.

World cereal production will reach a record 2.1 billion tonnes this year, with much of the increase in American maize, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in a report.

"Good crops ... are being gathered in most of the Sahel and Eastern African countries" as well as in Asia "despite floods, landslides and cyclones during the growing season," the Rome-based agency said in its latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report.

But sustained demand, particularly from the biofuels industry, has kept prices high, the report said.

Poor people in developing countries that depend heavily on imports are expected to bear the heaviest burden because their daily energy intake depends more on cereal-based products.

According to the report, 37 countries worldwide are currently facing food crises, including Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Foreign hospitals wooing visitors

Medexpo-2007 ends today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In the face of increasing quality health services offered by some new local hospitals, some foreign hospitals at a three-day medical exhibition in Dhaka are wooing visitors to receive services from them.

"We are participating in the exposition to inform Bangladesh people of our health and medical services," said Judith Wee of KK Women's and Children's Hospital, a member of SingHealth, the largest healthcare group in Singapore.

Wee, who was busy giving information to potential clients at the SingHealth stall yesterday, the second day of the show, hoped that through this exhibition she can persuade some prospective clients to travel Singapore for treatment.

Usually wealthy and middle-class Bangladeshis go to India, Singapore and Thailand for treatment.

However, during the past few years several high profile new hospitals sprang up in the capital

offering a cheaper alternative. Although the quality of the local healthcare service provider is improving, there is still demand for treatment from foreign hospitals, as many visitors were seen in front of the stalls that were representing foreign hospitals or healthcare centres.

"Visitors are enquiring about our treatment and healthcare services," said a representative of Bumrungrad Hospital, Thailand.

When asked if the number of patients from Bangladesh to receive treatment from the hospital is increasing or decreasing, he said the number fluctuates every year.

A total of 45 local and foreign companies are showcasing their products and services at 57 pavilions at the Medexpo-2007, an annual exposition of medical services and equipment, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The foreign companies are from India, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Germany, China and USA.

The Daily Star and Channel i are the media partners of the event, which ends today.



An aircraft of Air Slovakia prepares to take off at Zia International Airport in Dhaka yesterday as the airline started its Bangladesh operations.

Air Slovakia launches Bangladesh operations

UNB, Dhaka

The inaugural flight of newly launched Air Slovakia yesterday left Dhaka for Italy via Slovakian capital Bratislava.

The first Air Slovakia flight, a 757 Boeing aircraft with 200-passenger accommodation, left Zia International Airport at 10:30 am for the European destination.

Air Slovakia officials said the flight would take 11 hours to reach Bologna of Italy with one hour's stay in the Slovakian capital.

They said the new Eastern European airline would operate its

flight regularly once a week for the European destinations, including London. However, the London-bound flight will operate from second half of the current month.

Earlier, the Air Slovakia authorities announced their new flight operations from Dhaka to London via Bratislava with a very competitive ticket tariff.

Air Slovakia will be the second airline after British Airways to operate direct flights from Dhaka to London.

The airline's Chairman HS Sidhu said the carrier would initially operate a flight once a week.

The number of flights might be increased to two or three a week depending on the demand from passengers, he said and expected a huge prospect for the airline, now operating flights from India to different European destinations.

Air Slovakia's flights will also touch some other European destinations, including Vienna in Austria in course of time.

Local firm Aerospeed International is the GSA (general sales agent) of Air Slovakia that has operations in 35 destinations across the world, mostly in Europe.

India's Jet Airways to launch flights to Dhaka next week

AFP, New Delhi

India's largest domestic airline Jet Airways said on Friday it will launch non-stop flights to Dhaka as it continues to spread its international wings.

Jet will operate daily non-stop flights from the eastern Indian city of Kolkata and four flights a week from the Indian capital New Delhi, beginning December 16, a company spokeswoman said.

"There has been a surge in business and leisure travel, especially those visiting friends and family, between the two countries," the company's chief executive officer Wolfgang Prock-Schauer said in a statement.

Dhaka is the latest international destination for the airline, which launched flights this year to New York, Toronto, Brussels and Bangkok as it moves to expand its operations.

Jet already flies to Colombo, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and London. It began flying in 1993, and plies 44 domestic routes.

The airline plans to launch flights to other cities in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Employment rate in Canada hits record high

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's economy added 43,000 jobs in November, Statistics Canada said Friday.

So far this year, 388,000 jobs were created -- an increase of 2.3 percent, and stronger than the 1.8 percent increase seen over the same period in 2006 -- the government agency said in a statement.

But, as more people entered the labour force in November, the unemployment rate still moved up 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.9 percent, it said.

The new jobs boosted the country's employment rate to a record high of 63.8 percent.

According to the most recent international data available, Canada's employment rate was higher than that of the United States and most European countries in the second quarter of 2007.

Among European countries, only Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden had higher rates of employment.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সভার, ঢাকা।
ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
তারিখ : ০৪-১২-২০০৭

নং-জাবি/শিক্ষা/২০০৭ (২)

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০০৭-২০০৮ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে প্রাপ্ত-প্রাচীর ভর্তির অন্তিম সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপভাবে নির্ধারিত করা হলো।

ক্রম নং	বিবরণ	সময়সূচি
১.	লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশ	১৭-০১-২০০৮ তারিখ
২.	লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রাপ্ত-প্রাচীর সাফল্যের গ্রহণ	২১-০১-২০০৮ থেকে ২৩-০১-২০০৮ তারিখ (প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯-০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১-০০ টা পর্যন্ত)
৩.	বিভিন্ন কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন থেকে আবেদন ফরম ক্রয় এবং শিক্ষা শাখায় জমা	২১-০১-২০০৮ থেকে ২৪-০১-২০০৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত
৪.	চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল প্রকাশ (শুধুমাত্র বিভাগীয় নোটিশ বোর্ডে)	২৬-০১-২০০৮
৫.	মেধা তালিকা থেকে ভর্তি	২৯-০১-২০০৮ থেকে ০৫-০২-২০০৮ পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন বাদে প্রতিদিন সকাল ৮-০০ হতে দুপুর ১২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত বিভাগ হতে ভর্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যাবে)
৬.	অপেক্ষা তালিকা থেকে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন ফরম পূরণ ও বিভাগে জমা	০৭-০২-২০০৮ থেকে ১০-০২-২০০৮ তারিখ (ছুটির দিন বাদে প্রতিদিন সকাল ৮-০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১-০০ টা পর্যন্ত বিভাগে আবেদন ফরম পাওয়া যাবে)
৭.	অপেক্ষা তালিকা থেকে ভর্তি	১২-০২-২০০৮ থেকে ১৮-০২-২০০৮ পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন বাদে প্রতিদিন সকাল ৮-০০ হতে দুপুর ১২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত বিভাগ হতে ভর্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যাবে)
৮.	ক্রাস স্তরের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	০৬-০৩-২০০৮ (বৃহস্পতিবার)
৯.	ক্রাস স্তরের ১০ দিন পর শূন্য আসনে ভর্তি (কোনো আসন শূন্য থাকলে)	পরবর্তীতে বিজ্ঞপ্তি মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

স্বাক্ষর/আবু বকর সিদ্দিক
এডিশনাল রেজিস্ট্রার ও
সচিব, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ভর্তি কমিটি

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