

17,990 poultry farms now closed

Govt assessment finds

MAHBURA ZANNAT

Sharp price hike of poultry feed, bird flu panic and lack of insurance coverage have pushed as many as 17,990 poultry farms out of business since July 2007 to January 31 this year, according to a government assessment.

The government officials concerned and poultry farm owners say the number of the poultry farms that were to suspend their business is roughly one-third of the total farms.

Till January 31, 41,653 farms have registered with the government, while the number of unregistered farms stand at around 27,757, the sources in the Livestock and Fisheries Directorate confirmed.

According to Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, secretary general of the Poultry Industries Coordination Committee, the amount of loss the poultry sector has incurred so far is Tk4,100 crore and around 5 lakh people have faced joblessness due to the debacle.

The poultry farms, an industry that was flourishing and employed around 40 lakh people, contribute 4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP).

This industry may face a ruin on the least interest farmers now showing in doing poultry business, apprehended Mohammad Fazlay Rabbi Mondal, veterinary surgeon at the Upazila Livestock Office in Savar,



pointing to the fact that 250 out of the 700 registered farms in the area have so far been closed.

"Had the commercial poultry been brought under an effective insurance coverage, small farmers would have overcome the debacle," said Mondal, suggesting reforms in the insurance system to avert any sort of irregularity.

A survey by the Poultry Industries Coordination Committee found that around 50 percent of the closed farms were forced to suspend operation on surge in the prices of poultry feed, while 35 percent were closed on bird flu panic. The coordination body also alleged that the government took much time to give a go-ahead to the affected farms to raise new poultry, which led the owners to shift their business.

Arifuzzaman said the price

of maize has soared now to Tk1,150 a bag of 74kg from Tk700 a bag in 2006.

Soybean meal is now selling at Tk 34-36 a kg, which was Tk14 a kg a few days back, while rice polish is selling at Tk 650-700 a bag of 55kg and protein concentrate Tk 2100-2200 a bag.

"The caretaker government has imposed 10 percent duty on import of poultry feed, especially on the protein concentrate, resulting in a rise in overall poultry feed price," he said.

Syed Haque, owner of Deepa Poultry at Kuturia area in Savar, started his poultry business in 2002. On culling of all 7,800 birds at his farm, he gave up the business.

Haque said, "My farm was not infected with Avian Influenza and the fowls were quite healthy. But I am unfortunate as H5N1 virus was identified in a poultry in the locality and mine was within the reach of one kilometre of that particular poultry farm."

"I am not in a position to do anything now and do not think of starting this business again as I can foresee a poor prospect," the frustrated farm owner said, adding that he has calculated that a layer lay eggs 22 months at a stretch and within this cycle two winters fall when the outbreak of any disease is frequent.

When contacted, Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Ataur Rahman said the government is continuing parleys with

poultry farm owners and feed traders to find out a positive solution to the present crisis.

"The National Revenue Board (NBR) has recently responded positively to our request for exempting the imported poultry feed items from the 10 percent tax," he said.

On the issue of insurance coverage for commercial poultry, Ataur said the government is not considering it now.

Members of the Poultry Industries Coordination Committee asked for such an insurance coverage to save the industry where around 15,000 crore taka has been invested.

Economists also feared an adverse impact of the present crisis in the poultry industry on the country's economy.

"As the poultry farms created an opportunity of self-employment in the country, closure of the farms will lead to further unemployment. At the same time, food security will be at stake and the rate of protein intake will reduce," Dr Ataur Rahman, a renowned economist, who teaches Development Studies at the University of Dhaka.

As of 7 February 2008, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock reported that culling of poultry has taken place in 202 farms in 38 districts. Of these, 121 farms have confirmed H5 virus infection. A total of 494,370 chickens have been culled. However, no human case has so far been reported.

TRADE TALKS

LDCs' strength lies in their united voice

Says Debapriya

There may be diversity among the LDCs, but their strength lies in their number and united voice, and recognition of indivisibility of the LDCs' interest is crucial for any global outcome in favour of these countries, said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh in Geneva.

He was making the inaugural statement as the chair of the Coordinating Council of the LDCs at the opening session of a two-day High Level Workshop on African LDCs in Izmir, Turkey on March 4, 2008, according to a press statement.

Debapriya also reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to protect and promote LDCs' (least developed countries) interests in the ongoing global trade and development negotiations.

The workshop was organised as a pre-conference event for the Unctad XII, the quadrennial ministerial conference of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (Unctad) to be held in April in Accra, Ghana.

The envoy said the main political message of the recently concluded LDC Trade Ministers meeting in Lesotho underscores the imperative of addressing the developmental concerns of the weak and vulnerable economies for successful completion of the faltering WTO trade negotiations.

DSE shares rally on AB Bank's disclosure

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

DSE stocks' rally since AB Bank's disclosure on its plan for authorised capital enhancement on Wednesday continued yesterday.

The AB Bank informed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) that it, with permission from the central bank and other regulatory authorities, will increase its authorised capital to Tk400 crore from existing Tk200 crore.

Market insiders said the announcement has encouraged the investors to put their money in the bank's shares.

A total of 1,19,910 shares, worth Tk41.13 crore, of AB

Bank were traded on the prime bourse.

The DSE General Index rose by 33.88 points or 1.14 percent, ending yesterday at 2991.37 points, while the DSE All Share Price Index increased by 26.43 points or 1.05 percent, finishing at 2528 points.

The rally also pushed the turnover up yesterday that crossed the Tk300 crore level for second consecutive day. The total turnover at the bourse stood at Tk325.06 crore.

Of the issues traded, 171 advanced and 65 declined with eight remaining unchanged. A total of 2,30,53,496 shares changed hands.

Thai food festival begins tomorrow at Westin Dhaka

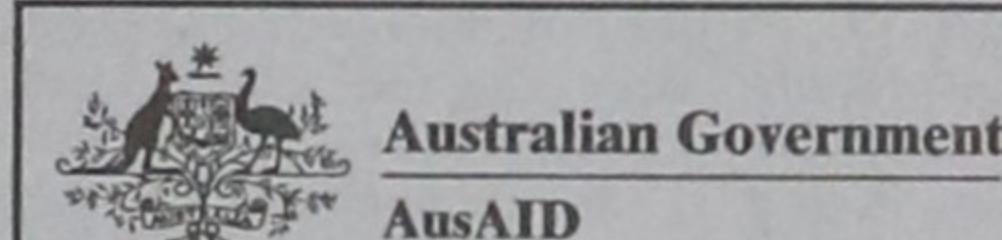
An eleven-day Thai food festival begins tomorrow at The Westin Dhaka, a five-star hotel in the capital, says a press release.

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam is expected to inaugurate the festival styled "Taste of Thailand" that will offer Thai cuisines and cultural performances.

On the eve of the festival, Thai Ambassador in Dhaka Chalermphol Thanchitt said, "At the inaugural dinner on March 8, you can enjoy the finest selections of Thai dishes exclusively prepared by a group of talented Thai chefs as well as sweets and fruits directly imported from Thailand. You will also be entertained by a live cultural show and demonstration of traditional Thai ways of life."



Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Chalermphol Thanchitt speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday, on the eve of an eleven-day Thai food festival that begins tomorrow at The Westin Dhaka, a five-star hotel.



Announcement for the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) 2009 Intake

Under the 2009 Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) program the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is pleased to invite applications from interested candidates who are committed to contribute towards the development of Bangladesh.

The Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) are the principal mechanism by which Australia provides scholarship assistance for individuals from developing countries to undertake studies at Australian education institutions. The goal of the scholarships program is to help meet the human resource development needs of developing countries. Scholarships also play an important role in fostering and sustaining Australia's relations with developing countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) are open to candidates from the following institutions:

- Government of Bangladesh* (Application will be received by AusAID, Dhaka)
- ICDDR,B (Applications will be received by ICDDR,B)

* Candidates from all government departments such as autonomous, public service commission, corporate and constitutional institutions are also eligible to apply for the ADS scholarship. All GOB applicants should provide a forwarding letter from the relevant attached Ministry or Government Department with the completed application form.

All female candidates and indigenous candidates from the above organisations are especially encouraged to apply.

NOTE: Public University employees are not eligible to apply for ADS. However, the Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) and other streams of Australian Scholarships are open for ALL. Please visit the Australian Scholarships website <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar> for more details regarding Australian Scholarships.

Eligibility Criteria

- You must be less than 40 years old at the time of the application.
- You must complete a university level qualification which is at least equivalent in standard to an Australian Bachelors degree. Candidates with high level academic results in one or more university level degrees are encouraged to apply.
- You must nominate only one field of study from the list provided in the Australian High Commission website (www.bangladesh.embassy.gov.au). The field of study can not be changed once you have been short-listed.
- You must have at least two years of work experience relevant to the field of study for which you are applying.
- You must submit the results of IELTS Academic Test. The overall test score must be at least 6.5 and the exam date should not be earlier than 1 November 2006. IELTS exam taken earlier than 1 November 2006 will not be accepted and the application will be disqualified.

In addition to the above, the short listing process will include of the following criteria:

- Fifty percent of scholarships will be awarded to female candidates and fifty percent will be awarded to male candidates.
- Favourable consideration will be given to candidates with disabilities; candidates of tribal descent; candidates who have not previously undertaken post-graduate studies abroad; and candidates who are not dual nationals of an OECD country.

You will not be eligible if you:

- Are holding or have been nominated to receive another scholarship;
- Are a permanent resident or have applied for permanent residency in Australia;
- Are married or engaged to be married to a person who holds or who is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence status.

If you meet all the eligibility criteria and are working with any of the organisations listed above, kindly visit the official website of the Australian High Commission: www.bangladesh.embassy.gov.au for detailed instructions and to download the application form. Hard copies of the instruction and application forms are also available at the Australian High Commission, 184 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Please carefully read the instruction and other relevant information before sending your application.

The deadline for submission of application is 31 May 2008

Please Note: The ADS-Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) component for 2009 is also open. Details of the program are available in the newspapers and the Australian High Commission website. The selection process for the ADS-CHT intake is managed by UNDP. Please contact UNDP for further information.

NOTE: THE PREVIOUS ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON 15 FEBRUARY 2008



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উত্তরায় ৩য় পর্বে ৬০ফুট রোডের উত্তরমুখী একাঠার পুট, ৪০০বিঘা, ২০০বিঘা, ১০০বিঘা ময়মনসিংহ ও চাঁদমা রোড এবং ১০০বিঘার বাগান বাড়ী বিক্রয় হইবে। ফোন : ৯৩৪৪১০, ৯৩২২৯৯, ০১৮১২৫১৪৯৮।

পাছপথে রেডি ফ্ল্যাট
রাজউক অনুমোদিত নকশা দেখে যেইন রোড সংলগ্ন পাছপথে ১১৩০, ১২৫৫ ও ১৬৩৫ বর্গফুটের সম্পূর্ণ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বরাদ্দ চলছে। যোগাযোগ : ০১৭১৪০৭৩১০১, ০১৫২৩৬০৩৫।

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রাজউক অনুমোদিত সেন্ট্রাল এসি শপিং সেন্টার 'পলওয়েল কার্বেশনে' অল্প সংখ্যক মডি, বুটিক, চশমা ও জুয়েলারীর রেডিদোকান বরাদ্দ চলছে। যোগাযোগ : ০১৯১৪৮৭৮০৫১।

LEGAL NOTICE

This is for the general information of all concerned that my client M/S. SATURN TEXTILES LTD. having its Office at 13/1, Abdus Sattar Master Road, West Gazipur, Tongi, Gazipur has reached to a "BUYNA NAMA" Agreement to buy the following land assets bearing-particulars and owners as shown below:

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

District - Gazipur, PS & Sub Registry Office-Sreepur, 31 Mohal, Gazipur,

S.No.	S.A. Khatian	S.A. Dag	R.S. Khatian	R.S. Dag	Nature of Land	Total Area in Decimal	Name of the owners
01.	537 & 695	1856 & 1572	712 & 710	3600	Chala	40%	Jahiruddin
02.	689, 591	1859, 2199, 2198, 2196, 2218, 2192, 2195 & 1852	1005, 1060,	1713, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1758, 1754, 1729	Shail & Chala	105	Jamun Ali,
03.	174,	1842	135	3669, 3672, 3675, 3676	Shail	27	Mrs. Jahanaara, Rejia, Rahela
04.	746, 568	1864 1858 2148	372	1060, 1713, 1689, 1516	Shail Chala	56	Shamsuddin, Shafia, Sifia
05.	633, 2176		695, 1698		Shail	17%	M.A. Samad
06.	689	1853 & 1854	1005	1721, 1722, 1724 & 1723	Shail	7	Akbar Ali, Akram Ullah
07.	689	1850	135	1737 & 1669	Shail	70	Md. Shajahan
08.	863	2168	315	1533	Shail	5.50	Md. Akkas Ali
09.	746, 568	1864 1858 2184, 1336	135, 402, 372	1727, 1734, 1733, 1714, 1689, 1516, 1735, 1713, 1737, 1768	Shail & Chala	213	Mrs. Anwara, Abdul Karim Rahiuddin, Jahangir Alam, Alamgir Hossain
10.	746	1841, 1842	436	3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3669	Shail Chala	157%	Azizul Haque
11.	833, 582, 709	2168, 1869, 2182, 2178, 2179	315, 976, 695, 922, 136	1532, 1523, 1694, 1693, 1691	Shail	105	Mofizuddin Master
12.	689	1852	1005	1729 & 2952	Shail Chala	70	Abdur Rashid, A. Mutaleb
13.	689, 591	1859, 2199, 2198, 2196, 2218, 2192, 2195 & 1852	1005, 1060	1713, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1758, 1754 & 1729	Shail & Chala	70	Abdul Aziz, Nazimuddin,
14.	787, 582	1851, 1869	241, 976	3668, 1506	Shail	52	Yasin Ali
15.	746, 568, 308	1864, 1858, 2184, 1336	135, 402, 372	1727, 1734, 1733, 1714, 1689, 1516, 1735, 1713, 1737, 1768	Shail	70	Mozammel Haq
16.	746, 568, 108,	1864, 1858, 2184, 1336, 1718	1060, 372	1713, 1689, 1516	Chala	48	Moniruzzaman
17.	746, 568	1864, 1858, 1336,	135, 402, 1060	1713, 1733, 1727, 1718, 1516	Shail	57	Moniruzzaman
18.	746, 568, 108	1864, 1858, 2184, 1336, 1718	1060, 372	1713, 1689, 1516	Shail	10%	Abdul Wahab, Jamaluddin
19.	869,	2177	226	1696	Chala	26	Md. Anwar Ali
20.	786,	1860			Shail	52%	Yasin Ali
21.	487	2177	315	3679	Shail Chala	105	Muhammed Ali
22.	746, 568, 308	1864, 1858, 1336, 2184	135, 402, 372	1727, 1734, 1733, 1714, 1735, 1737, 1768 & 1689	Shail & Chala	105	Mvi. Nayeb Ali
23.	879, 582,	2177, 1843	226, 976	1695, 1557, 1555 & 1680	Shail	105	Harunor Rashid
24.	582, 584	1869, 1870	329, 428	1507, 1505	Shail Chala	26%	Baby Akhtar
25.	582,	1869	211	1509	Shail	22.50	Abdul Kashem Hossain Ali
26.	591	1859	1060	1713	Shail	47.75	Papia Gong

Including all above the Total 1671.25 decimals of land is under "Buyna Nama" of which on the North is Metal Road, on the South-Others land, on the East Internal Road and on the West - Other's land. If any one having any valid documents of ownership objection on the above mentioned landed properties, are requested to contact with the under signed company lawyer with all of their valid documents for settlement of any disputes if arises, within 7 days from the day of publishing this notification in the Daily news papers. After 7 days, if no claim received, we will treat all above properties are free of disputes and can be registered in the name of M/S. Saturn Textiles Ltd

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