

Body to be formed to find cause of rod price hike

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is set to form a high-powered committee to find out the reasons for recent price hike of mild steel (MS) rod.

The committee is scheduled to submit its report April 25, said Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman in Dhaka yesterday.

Hossain Zillur Rahman said, the government's preliminary findings for the price hike of rod in the local market, adding, the government will not only take punitive action against the unscrupulous businessmen, responsible for the unusual price hike of rod, but also try to find a solution to bring the prices of rod down to a tolerable level.

He said implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) is largely dependent on rod prices.

Zillur said the government officials concerned would visit mills and factories to ascertain the current stock of scrap, adding that letters will be sent to owners of large industrial units soon, informing them about the forth coming visits of the officials as per the VAT laws.

He said the government would allow the re-rolling mill owners to import breakable ships, a privilege that is presently being enjoyed by only 22 ship breakers, and remove the existing bias in favor of the ship breakers concerning the import duty of scrap.

He said the government would construct a weighing bridge at Chittagong Port for weighing the imported rod, adding, the re-rolling mill owners agreed to donate Tk 45 lac to construct a weighing bridge at Chittagong Port.

Another team will work on the formulation of a long-term policy for the sector after



File photo shows a track load of rods being carried. The government has decided to form a high-powered committee to find out the reasons for recent price hike of mild steel (MS) rod.

receiving the reports of the fact-finding committee, he said.

He hinted at the probable fixing of MS rod price by the government.

Two weeks earlier, a detective branch of the government fixed the cost of 40-grade rod between Tk 58,500-Tk 60,000, while the price for 60-grade rod and re-rolling scrap were fixed

at Tk 62,000 and Tk 52,000, respectively, after discussion with ship breakers and rod manufacturers in Chittagong, but the move was unsuccessful.

BB chief firm on appointment of depositor directors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Central bank governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said he is determined to implement the decision to appoint two depositors in each of the private commercial banks as directors.

"Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided to appoint two directors from the depositors to uphold the interest of the depositors," BB governor Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters after a meeting with a delegation of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), a platform for the private bankers.

Bangladesh Bank has asked BAB to submit a final report in this regard within two weeks, Salehuddin said.

Bank owners, however, objected to the decision to appoint two directors from depositors, which they said would be very tough to implement, as there are thousands of depositors.

BAB Chairman Nazrul Islam

Majumder said, "It would be very difficult to make a list of 25 persons from several thousand depositors."

The bank owners proposed for appointing two independent directors instead of two depositor directors within the next two weeks.

Another meeting in this regard will be held between BAB and the central bank after two weeks.

Earlier, the BB in a circular had asked private banks to appoint two directors from their depositors. The central bank has also prepared a draft policy on how the two directors should be selected.

The draft policy states that those depositors who have had transactions with the bank for at least two years will be eligible to become its director. To qualify for the position, the candidate must have an undergraduate degree from a recognised university with a proven track record in his/her respective profession.

Loss-making govt jute mills to be privatised

Says draft jute policy

UNB, Dhaka

State-run jute mills incurring heavy losses will be privatised in phases, said a draft jute policy-2008 discussed at a daylong workshop in the city yesterday.

Jute and textile Adviser Anwarul Iqbal opened the workshop at the International Jute Study Group office that was participated by jute experts, private mill owners and farmers.

"Efforts are underway to revive the past glory of jute," assured the adviser. Jute is environment friendly and has demand across the world.

The draft policy envisaged incentives to jute growers in the shape of easy loan, improved seeds and necessary inputs for intensive cultivation.

This is intended to reduce the cost of jute production. Besides, interests of workers of the offloaded mills will be protected.

The adviser assured that investigation committee would be formed soon to probe into alleged corruption and mismanagement resulting colossal loss and closer of state-run jute mills one after another.

The world's largest jute mill, Adamjee Jute Mills, that had earned fame and huge foreign exchange was closed down under the pressure of donors when it incurred heavy loss.

The draft policies also envisaged promotion of extensive research in jute for multifarious use of the golden fibre and

create demand of its goods in the world market.

Iqbal informed the workshop that cultivation of jute and production has declined. He estimated the last year's production at around 55 lakh bales as against 70 lakh bales in 60s.

Laying significance of jute a recent UNCTAD report said one dollar earned from jute sector is equivalent to four dollars earned from readymade garments.

Farmers present at the workshop blamed the government indifference for the debacle of the jute sector. Large-scale corruption by officials has ruined the mills. Growers were deprived of fair price. State run jute mills still owe millions of taka to jute suppliers.



JCI World President Graham Hanlon met Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and discussed social business issues during his Bangladesh visit on Tuesday. Officials of JCI Bangladesh were also present during the meeting.

Windows of employment for Bangladeshis opening up in Canada: Adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Advisor Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said new windows of employment of Bangladeshi workers are opening up in Canada.

Iftekhar who is also in charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment said the International Organisation of Migration, the concerned ministry and employers will sign a tripartite agreement for detailed collaboration.

Initially a number of 100

placements would be made in the meat-processing factories. They will be tested on basic English skills and physical fitness, the advisor added.

A spokesman of the ministry said Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd is processing cases for employment of 1150 workers in Canada in mainly construction sector.

Meanwhile, the advisor has directed the ministry and the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training to take steps to upgrade skills of workers for possible employment

in more developed countries.

"The Government will do all it can to implement the 7-point strategy to expand markets and increase workers' capabilities", he said.

In the meantime, 250,000 workers have been provided clearance for overseas employment in different countries this year so far.

"At this rate we should be able to match and even exceed the record numbers that we achieved during the previous year", Iftekhar said.

Start guaranteed rural job scheme

CPD urges govt in budget proposal

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday suggested that the government introduce a guaranteed employment scheme for the rural poor to reduce their vulnerability to poverty in the lean season.

The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme may seek to provide guaranteed employment to one member of every household below a threshold income level (hardcore poor) for at least 100 days a year, especially in the lean (Monga) season.

The minimum wage could be Tk 150 per day and the scheme could be introduced in three divisions -- Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal -- considering the regional disparity in income and development, according to a CPD press statement.

The CPD also suggested continuation of zero tariff import facility for essential commodities, expansion of coverage and entitlement under safety net programmes to mitigate the sufferings of the poor people, about 40 percent of the country's population.

The local research organisation placed the recommendations to Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam who is set to frame the next budget

for the fiscal year 2008-09 starting from July.

"Adequate allocations will need to be made to cover the difference between procurement price and OMS (open market sale) price. Higher allocation is also needed for greater coverage and higher entitlement under various safety net programmes," the CPD said in its proposal submitted by a delegation led by its Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman.

The think tank also recommended setting up of a Backward Region Development Fund to narrow regional disparity in income and development, special allocation for assured supply of quality seed, and increasing subsidy for fertiliser.

The CPD suggested raising the tax exemption limit, introducing dearness allowances for government employees in view of the price hike of essentials.

The CPD, referring to tax holiday facility set to expire in June 2008, said it should be extended for industries by another five years.

"Given the current depressed investment situation, the NBR (National Board of Revenue) may like to consider for an extension of tax holiday facilities for industries by another five years," the CPD said in its proposal.

After five years the decision may be revised on the basis of a comprehensive assessment on the impact, the CPD proposed.

On individual income tax, it said tax exemption limit may be revised upward to Tk 200,000 from the existing Tk 150,000 considering the current inflationary pressure in the economy. The minimum threshold could be kept at Tk 2,000.

The CPD also suggested reduction of customs duty on capital machinery and intermediate goods.

It favoured abolishment of supplementary duty on raw materials and components to safeguard the interests of the local industries.

"For providing incentives to the backward linkage domestic textile sector and to enhance competitiveness of the apparel sector in the international market, the existing 5 percent cash incentive may continue," the CPD said.

The CPD also proposed fund allocation for establishing an integrated textile park so entrepreneurs get world-class infrastructure facilities to set up textile units.

It also recommended bonded warehouse, tax exemption on raw materials and cash incentive facility to encourage shipbuilding industry.

Microfinance needed for marginalised in capitalist societies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Microfinance will be necessary in capitalist societies to support people who become marginalised by capitalism, a seminar was told in Dhaka yesterday.

The microfinance is also needed in Bangladesh even if the country turns into a moderate economy, as frequent natural disasters create many new poor people every year, the seminar was told.

Institute of Microfinance (InM) organised the seminar on 'How Far Can Microfinance Take Us to Economic Growth' at Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation auditorium.

Speaking at the seminar, Professor MA Baqui Khalily, executive director of PKSF said since the inception of microfinance a lot of social changes have been made and most of the changes are not documented.

Anwara Begum, research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said, "Poor people are not homogeneous rather they are heterogeneous, as many of the poor people cannot come under microfinance umbrella for taking micro credit. We have to find out that what can be done for the ultra poor people."

"In every capitalist society there are two groups -- one is winner and another is loser and microfinance is necessary for giving support to the loser segment," Salim Rashid, professor of economics at Illinois University in the USA, said presenting a keynote paper.

Microfinance also helps to a better society through ensuring sanitation, schooling for children and discouraging early marriage, but it cannot lead the economic growth, he said.

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা			
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, অঞ্চল-৯			
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন			
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।
২।	এজেন্সী	:	ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	:	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, অঞ্চল-৯ (ভলশান), ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা।
৪।	তহবিল ও খাত	:	ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নিজস্ব তহবিল।
৫।	দরপত্র আহ্বান নং ও তারিখ	:	অঃ-৯/প্রবিঃ/দরপত্র/০৭-০৮/১০, তাঃ-০৯-০৮-০৮ইং।
৬।	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	:	"The Public Procurement Regulations-2003"। এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের জন্য প্রণীত দরপত্র দলিলের বর্ণনামুতাবী।
৭।	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির স্থান	:	ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগ (কেন্দ্রীয়) ও নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তর।
৮।	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	:	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, অঞ্চল-৯ (ভলশান), ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৯।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, অঞ্চল-৯ (ভলশান), ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
১০।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	তারিখ-০৫/০৫/২০০৮ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	তারিখ-০৬/০৫/২০০৮ইং সময় ১২.০০টা।
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	তারিখ-০৬/০৫/২০০৮ইং সময় ২.০০টা।
১৩।	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	
ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	দরপত্রের তফসিলের মূল্য
১।	১৮নং ওয়ার্ডের আগতাবান (বীপতলা) আবর্জনার টেইলরের পাকাকরণ কাজ।	৳ ১০,৭১৫/-	৳ ৫০০/-
পর্তাবলী ক) দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক হতে মেয়র, ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূলে শে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে জমা দিতে হবে। খ) টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তর থেকে সজ্ঞাহ করা যাবে। গ) দরপত্র খোলার সময় দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধিগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন। ঘ) নির্বাচিত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বীকে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হওয়ার পূর্বেই যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে অগ্রদায়ারযোগ্য (চুক্তিবদ্ধ কাজ সমাপ্ত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত) ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি হিসাবে উক্ত দরের শতকরা ১০ (দশ) ভাগ হারে Performance Guarantee নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তরে জমা দিতে হবে। ঙ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			
		নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, অঞ্চল-৯ ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন	
ডিসিনি/পিআরবি/৩১১/০৭-০৮ জিডি-১৮০৬			

BCIC Tender Notice

- Name of organisation: Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.
- Invitation for tenders reference No. & date: (a) CCCL/PUR/A/267/07-08 Dt. 08-04-08 (b) CCCL/PUR/A/262/07-08 Dt. 09-04-08 (c) CCCL/PUR/B/RT/178/07-08 Dt. 08-04-08.
- Brief description of goods: (a) Lamila Plate, (b) Shell Liner, (c) Lab Chemicals & Instrument.
- Time for Completion of Jobs: (a) 30 days (b) 60 days (c) 21 days (for each tender).
- Eligibility of tenderers: Following documents must be submitted along with the offer: Attested photocopy of a) Trade Licence b) TIN Certificate c) Agency Certificate (if agent) d) VAT Registration Certificate.
- Price of tender documents: For (a) 750/-, (b) & (c) 400/- per set.
- Amount of tender security (earnest money): (a) Tk. 33,000/- (b) 21,400/- (c) 4252/- per set.
- Name & address of the office(s) selling tender documents: (a) Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (b) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong (c) Accounts Deptt., Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak Sunamganj.
- Name & address of the office(s) receiving & opening tenders: GM(Comm) Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.
- Last date & time for selling tender documents: 06-05-08 at office hours.
- Last date & time for submission of tenders: 07-05-08 at 3:00pm.
- Date & time for opening of tenders: 07-05-08 at 3-15pm.
- Special instructions: The CCCL management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason.

S M Shariful Dulal
Chemist (Purchase)
For Managing Director

GD-1818