

# BKMEA sells rice for workers under rationing system

UNB, Narayanganj

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) yesterday started selling rice among garment workers under a first-ever rationing system in the country.

The BKMEA started selling rice at a subsidised rate in response to a demand by different quarters to come up with a rationing plan for the workers hit hard by the soaring prices of the staple.

Every worker can buy 4 kgs of rice at Tk 25 per kg from the BKMEA's rationing outlet.

Labour and Employment Adviser Anwarul Iqbal inaugurated the BKMEA's rice rationing programme at its Fatulla office.

Speaking on the occasion, the adviser called upon the BKMEA authorities to take initiatives for raising the salaries of the workers apart from selling rice at a fair price. "This initiative will set an example."

He also urged the other business organisations to follow the BKMEA footsteps to help the workers and said it would take a long time to introduce such a rationing



A file photo shows workers at a garment factory. Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) yesterday started selling rice for garment workers under a rationing system.

programme by the government.

Later, the adviser went round the BKMEA office.

BKMEA President M Fazlul Huq, Vice President Abdur Rashed Rashu, Abdur Rahman, Director Tapas Shah, DC AMA Rahman, SP Sibgatullah, District

Commander of the Joint Forces Lieutenant Colonel Shams and Narayanganj Pourasava Chairman Dr Selina Hayat Ivy were present among others.

Apart from Bscic industrial area, rice would be sold at fair prices once a week at Kanchpur, Savar and other

areas where garment factories are located.

This system will continue till the rice price gets stable, said the BKMEA president, adding that Tk 9 is being given in subsidy per kg of rice.

Workers can buy the rice showing their identity cards, he said.

## Tk 22lakh daily revenue loss on coal import suspension thru' Tamabil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Coal import through Tamabil border remained suspended for the last twenty days, causing much inconvenience to the importers as well as the brick manufacturers of the region and other parts of the country.

The government has incurred a daily loss of at least Taka 22 lakh in revenue due to the suspension of import of coal through the border, a customs official said.

The continued suspension has worried the traders, while about 1500 labourers engaged in unloading and loading of coal on the border have also become jobless.

Office bearers of Coal Importers Group in Sylhet alleged that interference by the BDR forced the Indian traders to stop sending coal from the Indian side of Tamabil-Dauki border.

The Bangladesh border guards often harass the Indian truck drivers and their helpers, they alleged. The Indian trucks are allowed to unload the imported coal inside the Bangladesh territory after completion of customs checking and other formalities.

## 3m tonnes potato may rot

BSS, Dhaka

Three million tonnes of potatoes might rot this year inflicting a heavy loss on the growers, if the present rate of consumption of the vegetable is not increased.

The apprehension was expressed at a press conference organised by Potato Campaign-2008 in Trust Milanayatan in the city on the eve of three-day national level fair to promote potato consumption.

The fair will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre from May 7 to 9.

Addressing the conference, the speakers said an all-time bumper production of potato this year will become a burden for the growers, if the current

consumption rate of consumption of the item was not raised in the country. "A total of eight million tonnes of potato was produced this year. The output is three million tons higher than the yield in recent years and the surplus potatoes will be rotten if not sold within a short time," Anwar Faruque, director general of Seed Wing of Agriculture Ministry, told the press conference.

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed has initiated the campaign for eating more potato. Canteen Stores Department under Ministry of Defense in association with Ministry of Agriculture and FAO will organise the fair.

The campaign has been undertaken not only to promote consumption of the vegetable in the wake of its bumper production in the current year, but also in line with the United Nation's Potato Year-2008.

At the open session of the roundtable, Rina Roy, director (Rights) of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said a lot of people, especially the women, become disabled as a result of domestic violence.

Some disabled students, who were present at the discussion, urged the government to implement its decision to provide separate quota for them in the public services.

## Ctg customs house moves to recover Tk 240cr evaded duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Customs House authorities at a meeting yesterday took an initiative to trace the importers who evaded a total of Tk 240 crore duty through imports reportedly made in violation of Indemnity Bond regulations.

The evaded amount includes Tk 150 crore of 3639 indemnity cases and Tk 90 crore of over 1100 EDS (Extra Duty Section) cases, sources said.

Some 13,000 cases filed against such duty evasion have not been disposed of for the last 37 years.

To track such duty-evader importers, the customs house authorities held the meeting

with the representatives of 37 bank branches concerned with regard to opening of letter of credit (L/C).

As they were directed beforehand, the banks' representatives at the meeting extended support for tracing such importers by giving details about their import and export.

According to sources, there was a duty ranging from 5 percent to 7 percent on imported machinery. But, the authorities exempted the duty on capital machinery or other materials imported against Indemnity Bond for setting up export-oriented industries in the country.

The importers submitted Indemnity Bonds by giving

guarantee that they will put the machinery into operation within a year and export at least 80 percent of their products within three years of the imports.

The importers also pledged to pay the exempted duty in case of any breach of the conditions.

Sources said, of the cases filed so far the customs authorities won some 1102 EDS cases. In the EDS cases the accused importers were ordered to pay the evaded duty of Tk 90 crore.

The accused importers remained absconding prompting the customs authorities to hold the meeting with the bank representatives in presence of taskforce officials.

## Food autarky should be top agenda: ICC-B

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Against the backdrop of food crisis, Bangladesh has no option but to have self-sufficiency in food production as its top agenda, according to International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B).

Bangladesh must draw up a master plan with sufficient investment in agricultural research and provision for appropriate incentives to farmers, ensuring proper management and modernisation of the sector, the chamber said in its quarterly news bulletin released yesterday, adding that through an articulated and coordinated effort of the government and the private sector Bangladesh can achieve its production target to feed the millions in the years to come.

The Chamber's quarterly said, "The expected bumper 'Boro' harvest, as a result of hard work of the farmers and agricultural extension workers, shows that Bangladesh as the 4th largest rice producing country in the world has the capability and potential to meet its own food requirement."

"One should, however, proceed with caution while suggesting revitalisation of agriculture through huge investments especially the ones initiated by the International Financial Institutions. The World Bank has already initiated a project for the revival of the country's agriculture that needs careful review before

implementation. Most importantly, state intervention and public sector investment should be streamlined to restore agriculture as well as food security," the quarterly said.

Referring to a Centre for Policy Dialogue's report, it said the total worldwide rice production till 2010 has already been booked in advance. Besides, India and Thailand have raised the rice price and banned export of rice to meet internal food shortage. Similar moves have taken in Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia. Kazakhstan, one of the global wheat producers, has reduced its wheat export to ensure own food security.

The ICC-B quarterly also said the global food stocks are down to its lowest level in 25 years mainly due to increased demand for food in China and India as well as use of corn, wheat and other crops for production of bio fuel since 2006.

"Other factors that contributed to food price hike include adverse weather conditions, such as an unexpectedly severe cold spell in China, floods in Bangladesh and India as well as droughts in Australia, one of the world's largest grain producers, where wheat harvest fell by 60 percent," the ICC-B publication said.

According to FAO, the publication said, the rising food costs in recent months have led to social unrest in several African countries, Indonesia, the Philippines and Haiti.

## BRAC Bank gets new MD



AEA Muhaimen

AEA Muhaimen has joined BRAC Bank Limited as managing director and CEO recently, says a press release.

Prior to joining BRAC Bank, Muhaimen worked in senior management roles in The City Bank Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank in Bangladesh and UAE and ANZ Grindlays Bank, Bangladesh.

With over 20 years of local and international banking exposure in Asia, Australia and Middle East, he has extensive experience in business and support roles. He had worked as deputy managing director, chief operating officer, and chief financial officer.

His last job was in Dubai as head of Consumer Finance for National Bank of Fujairah.

Muhaimen started his career with ANZ Grindlays Bank in 1986.

## GP introduces electronic settlement of int'l roaming bill

Grameenphone Limited has launched, for the first time among telecom operators in Bangladesh, electronic settlement of international roaming bill or security deposit from Grameenphone centres.

With the help of this service, international roaming subscribers will be able to settle their IR bill or enhance their security deposit instantly, says a press release.

Laszlo Barta, director of Sales, Ahmed Raihan Shamsi, director of Financial Management and Company Secretary of Grameenphone, launched this initiative in presence of high officials at an inauguration ceremony at the Grameenphone Centre in Gulshan.

In the first phase, the service will be available only at 7 Grameenphone centres in Dhaka city.

## Allocate 10pc of budget spending for the disabled

### Govt urged

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday urged the government to take measures to allocate 10 percent of the budgetary expenditure in the next fiscal year for the welfare of the disabled.

They said no development is possible in the country if the country's disabled people are excluded from the country's annual fiscal measures.

Action on Disability and Development (ADD), National Grassroots Disabled Organisation (NGDO) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW) jointly organised the roundtable under the banner "Towards a Disability

Inclusive National Budget" at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

President of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad attended the discussion as the chief guest. Abul Barakat, an economist, presented the keynote paper on 'Disabled People in Bangladesh: Conditions and Future, Government Allocation and Justified Allocation', while ADD Country Director Mosharraf Hossain presided over.

Economist Dr Atiur Rahman and Editor of The Financial Express Moazzem Hossain were also present as special guests.

In his keynote paper Prof Barakat said there are 1.5 crore people in the country with multiple disability and the government should allocate Tk 13,374 crore in the next budget for the development of these disabled people.

"The government should allocate khas land (state-owned fallow land) to the disabled people on priority basis for cultivation and rehabilitation," Barakat said.

Kholiquzzaman said the political leaders failed to formulate the disable inclusive policies in the country over the years, adding that as a result, a major segment of the population has been deprived of their human rights.

The disabled people should be brought into the mainstream economic activities through the budgetary allocation, he added.

Atiur said there should be a national database on the disabled people to facilitate decision making of the government and other organizations for their welfare.

Moazzem Hossain said the government should increase public spending for the benefit of the disabled people.

At the open session of the roundtable, Rina Roy, director (Rights) of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said a lot of people, especially the women, become disabled as a result of domestic violence.

Some disabled students, who were present at the discussion, urged the government to implement its decision to provide separate quota for them in the public services.

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমী  
পুরনো হাইকোর্ট এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১০০০

মেমো নং-প্রকা-৬৯/বারিএ/২০০৮/ তারিখ :

ছাপাখানা তালিকাভুক্তির পূর্বযোগ্যতা  
নির্ধারণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমীর বই, পত্রিকা ও অন্যান্য মুদ্রণ ও বাণিজ্যিক কাজের জন্য ২০০৮-২০১০ মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তির উদ্দেশ্যে প্রতিষ্ঠিত ছাপাখানার নিকট থেকে মুদ্রণ করা বামে আবেদনপত্র আবেদন করা যাবে। আগামী ২১.০৫.০৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ছাপাখানার নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদন করে অফিসের যোগাযোগ (৫০০ পিচ শত) টাকার বিনিময়ে একাডেমীর হিসাব শাখা এবং মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ভবন নং-৬, কক্ষ নং-৩০২ (৪র্থ তলা) থেকে তালিকাভুক্তির সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

আগামী ২৫.০৫.০৮ তারিখ বেলা ১২টার মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমী অথবা মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ে রক্ষিত বাস্তব সিডিউলে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্রসহ আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে।

একাডেমী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোনো কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(শওগী সুনস)  
পরিচালক

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমী  
ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোন : ৯৫৫০৩১৭, ৯৫৫৮১৬২

GD-2144

Directorate General of Defence Purchase  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

**Tender/Re-Tender Notice**

E-mail: info@dgd.gov.bd  
Web: www.dgd.gov.bd

1. Sealed tender is invited in local/foreign currency from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firm) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

| Ser | Nomenclature   | Date of selling | Date of opening | Currency  | Tender No     |              |
|-----|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
|     |  | From            | To              |           |               |              |
| a.  | 1. Base Station for Hand Held Radio Station complete with accessories with 1 Tower, (Qty-25 Nos) | 11-5-2008       | 19-6-2008       | 22-6-2008 | Local/Foreign | 214/2008/P-2 |
|     | 2. Speed Check Radar, (Qty-12 Nos)   |                 |                 |           |               |              |
|     | 3. Robin Brand Generator RGX-2400, (Qty-16 Nos)  |                 |                 |           |               |              |
|     | 4. Intercom Set 10 Line, (Qty-04 Nos)  |                 |                 |           |               |              |
|     | 5. Non Tac Fax Machine T-301, (Qty-04 Nos) (1* Time)   |                 |                 |           |               |              |

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/08/2336  
GD-2132

Major  
For Director General

Heartiest Congratulations  
from all the members of PARAMOUNT INSURANCE to

**K M Rezaul Hasanat**  
Chairman & Managing Director of VIYELLATEX Group

on winning the BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR award at the Bangladesh Business Award 2007. Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman handed over the award to Mr. K M Rezaul Hasanat.

PARAMOUNT family members are proud to be associated with Viyellatex and wishes a stronger bonding in the days to come.

**PARAMOUNT INSURANCE**  
Head Office: Summit Center (3rd Floor) 18, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215  
Phone: 8118982, 9137554, 9116882 Fax: 880-2-8117849  
Email: picl@dhaka.agni.com Website: www.paramountgroupbd.com