

# No new gas connections in northern region until December

**HASIBUR RAHMAN BILO, Bogra**  
No new gas connection will be offered to the northern region of the country until December due to gas shortage.

Talking to The Daily Star, PGCL officials said the Petrobangla letter has instructed them to inform the applicants that new connections cannot be approved now due to shortage of gas. When contacted over telephone on Wednesday, Jalal Ahmed, chairman of Petrobangla, admitted the gas shortage, but declined to comment on issuing the order to stop gas connection.

The PGCL officials said they are receiving only 82 million cubic feet per day (mcfpd) against the demand for 97 mcfpd gas for three power stations, 10 CNG filling stations, 38,385 residential and several other commercial connections. Ten new CNG filling stations, which have received PGCL approval, need more 3 mcfpd gas. Applications of 12 more CNG filling stations are

pending with the PGCL, the officials added. "We were informed in February that it was not possible to provide us with more than 81 mcfpd gas," said a PGCL official. At present, the process to offer more than 3,000 residential connections has been stalled due to supply dearth and lack of spare parts, PGCL officials in Bogra said.

# 2nd generation entrepreneurs need to be encouraged

## Workshop told

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The second generation entrepreneurs should be encouraged and trained to boost their businesses, a workshop was told yesterday.

"The country now needs to motivate and boost up the second generation business successors to run effectively and be successful in business to enhance the economic growth of the country," said Abrar A Anwar, director and head of Global Commercial Banking, Citibank NA Bangladesh.

He was addressing the workshop on "Recent Banking Trends for Business Successors of the Country", organized by the Citibank, NA Bangladesh, in the capital yesterday.

Around 28 participants from different reputed companies,

such as Viyellatex, Partex, Nitel group, Summit, RAK ceramic, PNR groups, Malek spinning, United group.

The objective of the workshop is to accustom the young entrepreneurs and the business successors with recent banking trends and the management of financial factors, he added.

The workshop integrated topics ranges from recent changes in the Bangladesh economy, overview of banking, financial management and capital market, modern treasury management to trade solutions.

Abrar said the bank arranged the workshop to motivate the successors and second generation of family business in the country, which is the first time ever of its kind in Bangladesh.

"The workshop will also

# In'l trade fair in Khulna kicks off Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A month long International Trade Fair (ITF) will begin in Khulna from Sunday.

Jute Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal will inaugurate the fair, jointly sponsored by the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Bangladesh Muslim and Jamdani Society, at the khulna circuit house maidan.

The ITF will help expand trade and commerce in Khulna and other districts in the southwestern region of the country.

Such a trade fair will have an impact on economic development and provide facilities to open new businesses, creating employment opportunities, said KCCI President Saharuzzaman Mortuza.

The trade fair will have 16 pavilions and 150 stalls.

Pakistan, Iran, China, Thailand, Korea, Indonesia and some multinational companies have confirmed their participation in the trade fair, the KCCI president said.

# DHL opens Leipzig hub in Germany

DHL, world's leading express and logistics company, has opened its new European air freight hub at Leipzig/Halle Airport in Germany.

Chief Executive Officer of DHL Express John Mullen inaugurated the hub recently, says a press release.

Dr. Frank Appel, chairman of the managing board of Deutsche Post World Net, Scott Price, chief executive officer of DHL Express Europe, and several German ministers including the federal minister for foreign affairs and vice-chancellor Frank-Walter Steinmeier were present at the opening ceremony.

The hub expands DHL's international network providing greater connectivity to global growth markets and enabling the company to improve its overall customer service.

In his remark John Mullen said: "Demand for express services is growing worldwide and we took the decision to invest in our international network in order to meet this need."



Abrar A Anwar, director and head of Global Commercial Banking, Citibank Bangladesh speaks at a workshop on "Recent Banking Trends for Business Successors of the Country", in the capital yesterday.

familiarize the successors with the critical role of the financial market and the operations of the financial institutes in the country," he added.

The workshop also discussed the recent price hike of the essential commodities such as rice and oil.

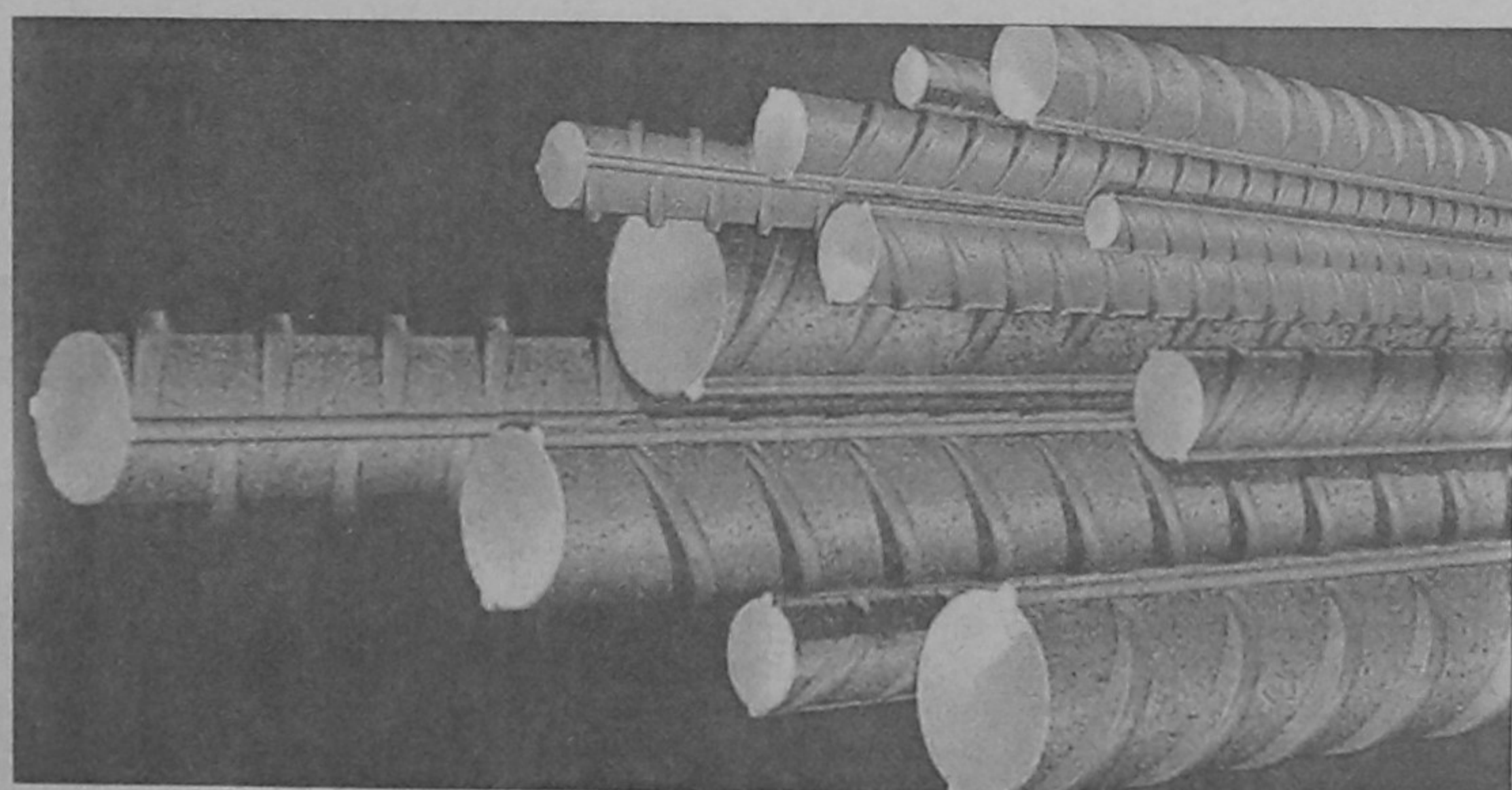
"The price soar in essential commodities reduced the purchasing power of the middle and lower income groups people, which resulted more people to live below the poverty line in recent years," said Fahmida Khatun, senior research fellow of Center for

Policy Dialogue. She said the price soar and the increasing inflation rate makes a bad imprint on the country's economy that also causes a trade gap in bilateral and multilateral trade relations in recent times.

She also noted the per capita income of the country has increased to US\$ 530 at the same time.

Mamun Rashid, MD and Citi country officer, Bangladesh, and Rashed Maqsood, director and head of global transaction services of Citibank, were also present the workshop.

# BSRM launches 500-grade rod



**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
BSRM Group, the largest steel manufacturer of the country, introduced a new kind of construction rod in the local market, which, the manufacturer thinks, will reshape the domestic construction market.

BSRM Steel, a concern of BSRM Group, has manufactured the new product, commonly known as '500-grade bars'. The product would reduce the use of steel in construction by 15 percent, thus reducing the construction cost by Tk 54 per square feet, Aameir Alihussain, managing director of BSRM Steel, said in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

The rod is more durable than grade 60 bars, as a result of which 15 per cent less quantity of steel is needed for construction using the new rod com-

pared to the quantity of steel that would be required in construction using the 60-grade rod.

"The new grade rod is selling at Tk 72,000 per tonne in the local market which is as much as the cost of per metric tonne 60-grade rod. Hence with 15 per cent less use net cost of the product stands at Tk 62,000 per tonne, he added.

Elaborating on the issue, he said if the requirement of 60-grade rod were 150 tonnes for a construction work, with the use of 500 grade bars only 128 metric tonnes would be required, saving as much as 22 tonnes of steel.

As the cost of per tonne of 60-grade rod is Tk 72,000, it will save Tk 15.84 lakh per tonne, he added.

Another benefit of the product is that it is weldable, whereas the 60-grade bars are

not, as a result the new product will help in saving wastage of steel.

The factory, established at Fouzderhat in Chittagong with a cost of Tk 370 crore, is now in production and will be launched formally on June 14.

"The technology in use at the plant is better than many plants in the world. Tata has established a similar plant in India very recently," said Aameir.

While the total annual production capacity of the factory is 3.7 lakh metric tonnes, it will take two years for the factory to be running in full capacity. Presently the plant is in the learning phase and producing 1.8 lakh metric tonnes annually.

The consumption of quality steel products in Bangladesh is between 1.5 and 1.6 million tonnes, sector people said.

# Frequency allocation among 3 main mobile operators next week

MD HASAN

Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is now at final stage to determine charges for new frequency to be allocated sometime next week among the three main mobile operators.

"We are working on fix up prices of new frequencies", said a high official of the telecom regulator, pointing to the fact that the existing price is nominal. "Spectrum price could be increased rationally," he hinted.

The mobile operators have long been demanding more frequency from the BTRC because they faced massive network jam.

At present the mobile operators share around 80MHz on the frequency spectrum, but in a move aimed at resolving the problem the BTRC will announce next week the share

of additional 20 MHz for the three operators on the basis of the companies' subscription base.

However this allocation of new frequency spectrum was scheduled to be complete in early April.

In terms of subscription, Grameenphone is the number 1, while Banglalink possesses the second position, and AKTEL the third.

During the past year, mobile operators claimed that lack of frequencies, or spectrum, was one of the main reasons for the deterioration in quality of services, with increased number of dropped calls and network busy signals.

They lamented that it enhanced costs as operators were forced to build more base stations to compensate the situation.

"We feel that the lack of frequencies hinders the growth of mobile communica-

tion. We have already succeeded in recovering unused frequencies and perhaps additional spectrum will be allocated by next week," BTRC Chairman Major General (ret'd) Manzurul Alam told The Daily Star.

There are allegations that the present allocation of spectrum is not rational.

Teletalk, the state-run mobile operator, with 0.99 million subscribers now enjoys 15.2 MHz spectrum, while Grameenphone with 18.60 million subscribers gets only 14.5 MHz.

One senior official at a mobile operator said: "Whatever spectrum the BTRC has, it should be allocated in a way that reflects its economic value and ensures that it is efficiently used."

As of April 2008, the total number of mobile phone customers reached 40.34 million.

# Receive VAT from small traders once annually: CCCI

BSS, Chittagong

President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Saifuzzaman Chowdhury yesterday requested the government to receive the value added tax (VAT) and other taxes from small traders and shopkeepers once annually as per the previous rate and provision.

He also urged the authorities concerned to review the decision of introducing Electronic Cash Register (ECR) at small and medium business firms considering their limitations and the current sluggish economic trend, a CCCI press release said.

The chamber president made the plea while speaking at a views sharing meeting with the representatives of small traders and shopkeepers held in CCCI conference room this afternoon.

During the meeting, leaders of the different small and medium trade groups referred to the problems that might arise out of the introduction of ECR.

The National Board Revenue (NBR) at a notification recently made mandatory the introduction of ECR at all small and medium business firms and shops from July 1 to make transparent the VAT payment system.

Addressing the occasion, the

other chamber leaders called upon the government to make the VAT and taxation system transparent and business-friendly and reduce the discretionary power of tax officials as per earlier announcement.

Leaders of the small and medium trade groups told the

CCCI leaders that they are at present not in a position to pay VAT and other relevant taxes as per enhanced rate and under new system as they have been facing serious hardship due to a slowdown in business as people's average purchasing capacity has been decreased.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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[www.bureauveritas.com](http://www.bureauveritas.com)

## TENDER NOTICE

Prime Bank Limited is going to purchase generators for its different Branches at different locations of the country. Sealed Quotations are hereby invited only from the genuine generator suppliers/vendors who must have ready stock & can deliver within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issuance of work order for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 27 (twenty seven) units of Diesel Generators of capacity 30-35 KVA (Prime) & of origin preferably European country/U.S.A./Japan.

The interested bidders shall submit the following papers along with their offers:

1. Updated and Valid Trade License
2. Valid TIN Certificate
3. List of 10 big/reputed clients & the capacity of the generators installed
4. Minimum 5 years of Experience
5. Experience of supplying the same system in Banks/ Financial Institutions, if any.

The tenders must be dropped in the Sealed Tender Box kept at 29 Rajuk Avenue (1<sup>st</sup> floor), Dhaka-1000 on June 5, 2008 between 9.30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. which shall be opened at 3:00 P.M. on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any.

Prime Bank Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers in full or part with or without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.

Senior Executive Vice President

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আসন সীমিত। আসে এলে আসে পাবেন ভিত্তিতে।

মুনতম শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা: এইচ.এস.সি. / সমমান।

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(শনিবার - বৃহস্পতিবার)

কোর্সের মেয়াদ: চীনা, ফরাসী ও স্প্যানিশ ভাষা ৬০ ঘণ্টা।  
জাপানী ভাষা ১৫০ ঘণ্টা।

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ফরাসী ভাষা: কক্ষ ১০৫ এবং জাপানী ভাষা: কক্ষ ১২৯  
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(ডিইডব্লিউ) লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ  
বাংলাদেশ নৌ বাহিনী  
সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ  
ফোনঃ ৭৬৬১০২৬/৭

ডিইডব্লিউ/প্রশা-১৩৬/২৯৬ ২৮ মে ২০০৮

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

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ম্যানুজিঃ ডাইরেক্টর