

Shrimp exporters yet to reach latent heights

Seminar told

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's second largest export earner, the shrimp industry, is unable to tap the full potentials of this sector due to a number of problems including a lack of knowledge on global standards, according to a study released yesterday.

"Bangladesh must comply with all the hygiene issues so that the export of shrimps increases. However, it is not an easy job because of the involvement of numerous players," M Asaduzzaman, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), told a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

The seminar, chaired by BIDS Director General Quazi

Shahabuddin, was organised to exhibit the preliminary findings of a study on the country's shrimp industry, which is now affected by falling prices in the global market.

The \$45.7 crore worth export earning industry is now facing various compliance issues such as sanitary measures from buyers, especially from the European Union (EU), the main destination of the country's shrimp.

The industry is also facing difficult times in their efforts to export to the US on grounds of child labour. However, the government turned down the charges and said child labour does not exist in the shrimp processing plants.

The industry sprang up over

the last three decades on the coastal belt of the country and now employs about 12 lakh people at various stages of production, marketing and processing.

People involved with the sector are less aware of the global standards, especially about sanitary measures, which they have to abide by to woo importers, according to the study.

The study also observed that the shrimp business, despite having the potentials to be highly profitable, is risky due to numerous technical factors, lack of observance of basic hygiene factors and lack of knowledge on world standards.

Risks also arise due to the fragile market linkages

between the hatcheries and the 'ghers' (enclosure) and also between the 'ghers' and the processing plants.

The BIDS research director said adequate investments are needed to minimise these risks and to boost the exports. "It will help us attain a competitive edge in the global market," he said.

Syed Ataur Rahman, secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, said the EU is now laying emphasis on issues such as proper laboratory tests, 'Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points' (HACCP) and trace ability, while the US is focusing on workers' rights.

"We have to address all these issues to boost this sector even further," he said.

Jamil flies to US to finalise deal on purchase of 10 Boeing planes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A three-member high-powered delegation yesterday flew to USA to finalise the deal signed earlier to purchase 10 new aircraft for Biman from US plane maker Boeing.

The delegation led by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil will also work on restoring the Dhaka-New York flight, which has been suspended since 2006 due to heavy loss incurred by Biman, the national flag carrier.

Biman on April 22 signed the deal with Boeing to buy eight new-generation aircraft -- four 777-300ER and four 787-8 -- at a cost of \$1.26 billion (Tk 8,728 crore).

The deal includes an option on the purchasing rights of buying four more planes -- two 777-300ER and two 787-8.

The same day the national flag carrier also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the plane maker to buy two 737-800 aircraft. The MoU also has the option on the purchasing rights of buying two more 737-800.

The other two members of the delegation are Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, member of Biman's Board of Directors, and Dr MA Momen, managing director and CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.

The Boeing authorities have invited Mahbub Jamil as the chairman of Biman's Board of Directors to attend a function for finalising the deal in Washington DC.

The State Department of US is likely to arrange the ceremony on June 25, said a government press release.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, officials of US Chamber of Commerce and US-based Exim Bank, among others, will be present at the ceremony.

This is the first time Biman independently decided to buy aircraft without any political and government interference since its inception in 1972. Biman became a public limited company in July last year.

Biswa Shahitto Kendro, djuice launch 'Know Bangladesh' programme

Biswa Shahitto Kendro (BSK) and mobile phone operator Grameenphone's youth brand djuice are organising a programme styled 'Know Bangladesh'.

The programme is a bicycle tour across Bangladesh by the youth to learn more about the lifestyle and the hardships of the rural and semi-urban people of the country, says a press release.

Participants will comprise a three- to ten-member group, each with a group leader, who will also serve as the correspondent to BSK, and a captain, to lead from the front.

All trips will start from Dhaka by bicycles on specified routes. Different groups may travel to different places at the same time and the duration of each trip may vary from 5 to 15 days. However, the trip cannot exceed 300 miles.

The participant groups will be given some tasks to get better acquainted with Bangladesh. They will be asked to analyse the geographic terrain, flora and fauna of the places visited. They will have to gather information on the area and visit schools, colleges and universities, and encourage the students to read books and participate in future programmes of the BSK.

The participants will also submit write-ups on their tour experience and the best write-up and photograph will be published in BSK's annual magazine and some newspapers.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of Bangladesh Better Business Forum (BBBF) in Dhaka yesterday. The CA at the meeting has directed the ministries and departments concerned to implement the BBBF's recommendations, which are under implementation process, in next two months to attain desired dynamism in trade and economy.

Titas Gas trading debuts Sunday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, with the largest-ever public issue in the history of country's stock market, will make its debut on bourses next Sunday, officials said.

The state-run gas company will join the country's two bourses under direct listing rules with offloading of shares worth Tk 214.11 crore, which is 20 percent of its paid up capital Tk 856.47 crore.

Almost all formalities have been completed for offloading shares of the company.

Titas will sign a listing agree-

Thursday, DSE officials said.

The face value of each Titas share is fixed at Tk 100. As on June 2007, earning per share (EPS) of Titas Gas was Tk 539. The current EPS stands at Tk 30.07 following the enhancement of the company's paid up capital to Tk 856.47 crore in April of this year, up from Tk 238.88 crore as on June 2007. The authorised capital of Titas amounts to Tk 2000 crore.

Titas, which distributes gas in Dhaka and greater Mymensingh region, will be the first state-run company to be listed on the stock exchanges under direct listing rules.

Earlier, Jamuna Oil Company and Meghna Petroleum

offloaded 30 percent shares each in January this year, and Dhaka Electric Supply Company and Power Grid Company Bangladesh shed 25 percent shares each in 2006.

Under the direct listing rules, trading of Titas will be held in spot market up to 12 noon for the first two working days. First ten minutes of the first trading day will be considered as price building period and thereafter from the 11th minute the ICB Securities Trading Company will start selling it at best market price.

Trading will remain closed on the third day to allow the market to distribute the shares traded on the first two days.

Benapole land port activities disrupted

UNB, Benapole

Export-import activities through the Benapole land port came to a halt for nearly one and half hours on Sunday over the return of eight Indian trucks seized about five years ago.

However, the standoff over the issue was resolved following a meeting by officials from the two countries.



Senior officials of Computer Source Ltd and HP pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently. Under the deal, Computer Source will distribute HP servers and storage products in Bangladesh.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Absence of govt-donors coordination blamed for mismanagement

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance and Planning Adviser Dr A B Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday blamed the absence of policy coordination between government and development agencies for mismanagement in public procurement process.

He said sometimes the government faces difficulties in joint venture projects with its development partners due to lack of policy harmonisation.

"It would have been better if different countries and development partners harmonized

their policies," he said

The Finance Adviser was speaking at the Asia Regional Workshop on Implementing Procurement Reforms and Improving Performance in Dhaka.

At the workshop, Country Director of World Bank (WB) Xian Zhu said procurement reform is clearly a crucial building block in improving governance, public sector management and accountability.

"In case of Bangladesh, there remain several overlapping institutional and governance constraints. Clearly,

much more needs to be done to make public procurement sustainable through contribution from public officials and bidding community," he said, adding that experience shows that involvement of civil society and NGOs in procurement monitoring has been important in ensuring that procurement processes have accountability with desirable outcomes.

Such participatory monitoring would help deter leakages of funds, he said.

Xian Zhu said introduction of electronic government procurement (e-GP) has

proved to be a cost and time-saving tool in many countries of Asia and Pacific.

Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Hua Du said the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2006, which has been in effect since January 2008, was formulated with the aim to overcome the deficiencies of the Public Procurement Regulations (PPR) of 2003.

"We hope that through efficient implementation of the PPA 2006, these deficiencies could be eliminated," Hua Du said.

Acer India MD due today



WS Mukund, managing director of Acer India Pvt Ltd, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today on a three-day tour by the invitation of Acer's business and service partner Executive Technologies Ltd (ETL).

During the visit, he will inaugurate ETL's two new 'Acer Malls' on Gulshan Avenue and at Multiplan Centre on Elephant Road, says a press release.

Mukund, who has been the Acer India MD since 2001, started his career with Blue Star where he handled sales. He then became a partner with Meera Dynamics, a distributor for ICIM and DCM Data. He later became the general manager at Pertech Computers before moving to Acer in 1998 as the marketing director of Acer Middle East.

Grameenphone reaches 20m subscribers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Grameenphone, the country's leading mobile phone operator, crossed the 20 million subscribers' mark yesterday.

"Grameenphone's premium brand image for providing the best quality network, innovative and useful products and services, and ensuring committed customer service are the main pillars of our success," said Anders Jensen, chief executive officer of the company adding, "And we will continue to deliver on these promises in years to come."

The Norway based Telenor, which owns 62 percent of Grameenphone's shares, believes it will grow more in the coming years and now planning to concentrate in the rural areas.

"We are humbled by the trust placed on Grameenphone by more than 20 million subscribers," Jensen said.

According to figures released by the Bangladesh Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the total number of mobile phone subscribers currently stands at 42.04 million.

The six mobile phone operators of the country added 1.7 million new customers in May 2008, of which, Grameenphone alone added 980,000.

According to BTRC, Banglalink and AKTel's subscription reached 8.99 million and 7.71 million respectively, as of May 2008.

Starting its operations on March 26, 1997, the Independence Day of Bangladesh, Grameenphone has the largest network coverage in the country. It currently has more than 11,000 base stations in operation in over 6,200 locations, bringing almost the entire country under its coverage.

The company has so far invested more than Tk.111 billion to build the network infrastructure since its inception in Bangladesh, including Tk 35.8 billion in 2007 alone.

Grameenphone is also the biggest taxpayer in recent years with the cumulative contribution to the national exchequer standing at over Tk 101 billion, including Tk 34 billion in 2007.

High oil prices slash German business confidence

AFP, Frankfurt

Germany's key business climate index fell to an 18-month low point in June, with high oil prices pulling the rug from under the feet of Europe's biggest economy.

The index calculated by Munich-based economic research institute Ifo dropped sharply to 101.3 points from 103.5 points in May, underscoring the results of a separate eurozone purchasing managers' index that showed activity contracting for the first time in almost five years.

শর্তাবলীঃ

আবেদনকারীর নিজ হস্তে লিখিত আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে অথবা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে আগামী ১০/০৭/২০০৮ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন শাখা-৩, পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ, ব্লক নং-৮, কক্ষ নং-১৪, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ এই ঠিকানায় অবশ্যই পৌঁছাতে হবে। সরাসরি দাখিলকৃত কোন আবেদনপত্র এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখ উত্তীর্ণের পর ডাকযোগে বা অন্য কোন ভাবে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(খ) আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে সচিব, পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। পোস্টাল অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

(গ) আবেদনকারীর পুরা নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, ০১/০৬/২০০৮ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স, জাতীয়তা, নিজ জেলা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পর্কিত সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি; সদা তোলা ৩ কপি সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট সাইজ রঙিন ছবি, ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র এবং স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

(ঘ) আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত ছবি এবং অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার স্বাক্ষরের নীচে নামসহ সীল না থাকলে কিংবা সীলটি অস্পষ্ট হওয়ার কারণে কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী পঠনযোগ্য না হলে আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(ঙ) জেলা কোটা প্রাপ্যতা না থাকায় নিম্নবর্ণিত জেলার প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেইঃ ঢাকা, গাজীপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ, মুন্সিগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, রাজবাড়ী, গোপালগঞ্জ, মাদারীপুর, শরিয়তপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, কুমিল্লা, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া, চাঁদপুর, নোয়াখালী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, কুষ্টিয়া, গাইবান্ধা, পাবনা, বাগেরহাট, মেহেরপুর, বরিশাল, ভোলা, বালকাঠি, পিরোজপুর ও পটুয়াখালী। তবে সকল জেলার সরকারি, বেসরকারি স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানকারী নিবাসী ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

(চ) ০১/০৬/২০০৮ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটা আবেদনকারীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়স ৩২ বছরের অধিক হবে না।

(ছ) চাকুরীকৃত প্রার্থীদের (অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর বয়সের) স্ব স্ব কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে।

(জ) নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিদ্যমান কোটানীতি অনুসরণ করা হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান, মহিলা, আনসার ও ডিভিডি, উপজাতীয়, এতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সার্টিফিকেট এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে তাঁর পিতা/মাতার অনুকূলে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে।

(ঝ) উল্লিখিত শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা কিছু বাড়তে বা কমতে পারে। আবেদনপত্র হাছাই এবং শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগ প্রদানের বিষয়ে বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি/কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ঞ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সম্পূর্ণ বা অংশবিশেষ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ট) লিখিত পরীক্ষা/বাহ্যিক পরীক্ষা/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

(ঠ) নামের উপর পদের নাম, জেলার নাম এবং বিশেষ কোটা (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে ৪ (চার) টাকার অব্যবহৃত ডাকটিকিট সশর্তিত ১০ x ৪ ১/২ মাপের নিজ ঠিকানা লিখিত ১টি ফেরত খাম পাঠাতে হবে।

(ড) যে কোন ধরনের সুপারিশ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

(ঢ) উপরে যে কোন শর্তের লঙ্ঘনে আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

আব্দুল কাদির
সহকারী সচিব
প্রশাসন শাখা-৩

জিডি-২৯৫০