

Ctg Port yards crammed with imported cars again

Container yards now used for keeping cars; CPA goes for new sheds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is now forced to keep imported vehicles in the container yards as the port sheds for vehicles have already been crammed with around 5,000 cars against the capacity of only 2,800.

An increase in car import and a comparatively slow delivery rate has led to severe congestion in the port sheds.

The CPA is building a new and larger shed to accommodate imported vehicles and ease the congestion.

In the past, the CPA imposed penal rents several times higher than the normal rate on different occasions to ease congestion of vehicles but that did not ease the situation.

Sources said imported vehicles started overflowing the port since the government lifted restrictions on import of reconditioned vehicles. Vehicles older than four years and with over 1.65 litre engines are allowed to be imported since July 30 last year.

The CPA is now building a larger shed, replacing the existing "A" and "B" sheds, which will be able to accommodate an additional 2,500 vehicles.

The development work began in December last year and is expected to be completed within three to four months more, CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Chowdhury said.

Alongside the new shed, the authority is also exploring the possibility of setting up a multi-storey car park inside the port, he added.

CPA Terminal Manager Motahar Hossain confessed that the slow rate of delivery is causing the congestion at the port.

"At present, 120 vehicles are delivered from the port on a daily average. Delivery of 250 vehicles a day could have eased this congestion," he said.

He also added that the ongoing construction of a new shed was also creating a pressure on the two other existing sheds, he said.

Sources allege that the situation has

been worsened by importers' and dealers' preference to keep the vehicles inside the port, as it is more secure and costs less.

Meanwhile, CPA was ready to impose a penal rent—double the normal amount—on vehicles after the first four-day time limit with effect from January 31 last.

However, the port authority decided not to impose the penalty following a request from Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicle Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida).

Hossain said, "The CPA always tries to cooperate with the traders unless situations force otherwise." He added that since the development of the new shed would be complete soon and ease the situation, the authority had decided not to go tough on importers at this moment.

The congestion at the port also marked a little improvement with the number of vehicles inside the port coming down to around 4,600 on Saturday last after the figure stood over 5000 over the previous weeks, sources at the CPA said.



Hundreds of imported reconditioned vehicles are kept in the new container yard at Chittagong Port as the vehicle sheds are already crammed with cars.

PHOTO: STAR

Sahara admits

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city-dwellers would get its benefit within two to four days.

Sahara observed that without the help of law enforcement agencies, it is not possible to control militants, criminals and extortionists.

"We need your united efforts to tackle the situation," the home minister said.

Echoing her anxiety, Sohel Taj who was also present in the function told reporters that law and order has been deteriorating as members of the law enforcement agencies were busy doing election duties, one after another.

"Because of massive mobilisation for national election and upazila election, members of the law enforcement agencies were busy," he said.

Taj said he had meetings with

the IGP and the police commissioners and ordered conducting a special drive in the capital, which already started on Monday night.

The state minister said that the drives would be extended gradually across the country. "Law and order situation is a continuous process. We are trying to go one step forward," said Taj adding that recovery of illegal firearms also increased besides a rise of shooting incidents in the capital.

Law enforcement agencies went on a hunt for perpetrators of crime in the capital on Monday night in the wake of a sudden fall in law-and-order situation after the general election.

A batch of 20 superintendents of police is participating in the three-month-long course.

60,000 Mros made gypsies of the hills

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"nomadic" but in reality whenever and wherever we wanted to settle, we were always forced away, gradually towards the remote hills and jungles," says Ranglai sitting on the bed of a clinic in the capital.

Ranglai, also the chairman of Sowalok union under Thanchi upazila of Bandarban, was arrested on February 24 last year although no case was lodged against him. Later he was charged in an arms case and an ammunition case and convicted to 17 years' imprisonment.

Interestingly, the police probe reports of the cases stated that the pistol recovered from Ranglai's house was non-functional and the bullets were used.

During his detention Ranglai was tortured so severely that he could hardly stand when he was produced in the court. Because of the torture internal haemorrhage blocked two of his arteries and needed stenting. Ranglai merely survived a senseless state for three days at the coronary care unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital before being sent to jail.

He was released on bail on January 13.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ranglai describes how his community is lagging behind because of the negligence of the government, which is run by chiefly Bangla-speaking people, and also the larger indigenous communities.

Only 60-70 persons in the Mro community are in the government service, that too as police constables. Only three Mro students went to a university last year for the first time.

Ranglai says the Mro community did not get any position in the Chittagong Hill Tracts regional and district councils even after the peace accord. "We were given only one membership in the Bandarban District Council during the rule of the last Awami League government just a couple of months before the national election to attract Mro votes," he says. The Mro community has 20,000-25,000 voters.

"We are not asking for much. We have been living in remote hills but we are being driven away even from there. We want to settle somewhere," says Ranglai. "But

the state is not helping us. We are being rather pushed away again and again towards the border of the country."

Earlier, the Mro people were evicted from Kaptai when the Kaptai dam was built. Then they shifted to Bandarban.

"The Mro are peaceful people. We do not have the ability and mentality to fight against the state policy. What can we do if the government wants us to move from our village?" Ranglai says.

"People of my community asked how they would pay tribute to their ancestors at the new place since they had to leave behind the crematorium in the village. I could not answer them. Don't we have the rights to pray for the departed souls of our ancestors?" says Ranglai, tears rolling down his cheeks.

He demands proper demarcation of the 11,500 acres of land the government acquired for establishing a training centre for the artillery in Sowalok union during the 1990s. Many indigenous and Bangalee people got compensation for that but the 11,500 acres of land was not demarcated at that time.

"Now after 16 years, they again tell us to move from our village without arranging any rehabilitation," Ranglai says.

This time more than 200 indigenous and Bangalee families had to leave their villages including Devapara, Goyalpara, Bhaggyakul, Muslim para, Hindu para, Hati Dera, Pora Para, Dewai Headman para, Chini para, Kasabatali, Chhing-chhong para, Ramri para, Sankhai para, Baitya para and Udar Bonyia para in Tongabodi and Sowalok unions under Thanchi upazila.

"It was just ahead of harvesting. They just drove away all the villagers who ended up under the open sky during winter," he says.

Ranglai bargained with civil and military officials for not evacuating those villagers. "I protested that incident and I believe it was the reason for my arrest," he adds.

Where are those villagers now? "Some people of my village and Dewai Headman para made houses near Y Junction on the way to Ruma Bazar from Bandarban. Others went to the jungle and hills," says Ranglai.

Priyanka visits Brac schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Priyanka Gandhi, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, visited Brac schools and is likely to finalise discussions with the NGO to introduce its education programme in India.

On her arrival at Zia International Airport around 4:00pm on a two-day visit, Brac Executive Director Mahbub Hossain, director Ahmed Nazmul Hossain and high officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka received her.

Priyanka, daughter of India's ruling Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, visited Brac Pre-Primary School at Charabagh, a primary school at Kumkumari village and Brac Training and Resource Centre in Savar. She went there directly from the airport.

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Secretary Gyanendra Bagdaiya and trainer Sonia Phillip are accompanying Priyanka who is visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of Brac.

Kids and teachers of the pre-primary school and Brac officials welcomed Priyanka with flowers at Charabagh. She visited the places amid tight security arrangements.

Priyanka talked with the teachers and kids in a school-room fenced with iron sheet and wanted to know how the school runs.

"She took me on her lap and asked me how I am. Well was my reply," Sajida Akhter told The Daily Star after Priyanka left the school.

There are 24,000 pre-primary Brac schools where the students, mainly from those of the poor families, are taught in interesting ways for one year before their enrollment in primary school, said Dilar Begum, regional manager of Brac.

Priyanka, a trustee board member of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, is scheduled to discuss today with the high officials of Brac and likely to finalise terms of reference to introduce Brac Education Programme in India, according to a press release of Brac.



Priyanka Gandhi spends time with teachers and students of Brac Pre-primary School at Charabagh in Savar, Dhaka, yesterday. Her two-day visit to Bangladesh ends today.

Food rationing mulled

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Razzak also said the government will publish a whitepaper on the corruption in allocating relief materials during the last BNP-led coalition government.

He told the parliament that Awami League-led current government will prepare a list mentioning the amount of relief materials allocated to each lawmaker of the previous parliament, and whether the relief materials were misused.

The commerce minister informed the House about various government measures for reducing prices of rice including increasing rice supply to the market, controlling market prices, and stopping extortion in the transport sector.

The government already directed all district commissioners concerned to monitor markets to observe the grain reserve and public demand ratio, and to send reports on it every week, he added.

He also said steps have already been taken to hold regular meetings with importers, wholesalers, and retailers.

Faruq Khan said a meeting of the authorities concerned will be held in March to fix the rice procurement price of the government during the upcoming boro season, and to set a target.

A high powered committee has also been formed to make Trading Corporation of

Bangladesh (TCB) more active, he said.

The commerce minister said if any specific allegation is found against any dishonest food grain trader, stringent punitive measures will be taken against the person according to the law.

Similarly if such allegations against any government official or employee are found to be true

through investigations, similar tough punitive actions will be taken against them too.

He said in the past, allegations of increasing prices of essentials through syndication were reported against a few unscrupulous entrepreneurs, adding that a few importers remain in a convenient position to manipulate market prices of some essential commodities.

BNP to wait on

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parliamentary party meeting. "Our parliamentary party will sit again tomorrow to discuss the issue," Faruq told reporters after the two-and-a-half-hour-long meeting in the parliament building complex.


"We had been waiting the whole day for a positive response from the speaker regarding our demand but we are sorry to inform you that we did not get any positive answer from him," Faruq said. "We are still waiting for a positive initiative from the speaker," he added.

Asked about the speaker's comment on a private TV channel that he is unable to increase the number of seats for the opposition in the front row, Faruq said, "The speaker did not tell us anything like this."

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia was scheduled to preside over the parliamentary party meeting but she was not present. Faruq said she is feeling insecure as Special Security Force, which was deployed for her security, was withdrawn and therefore did not attend the meeting.

Demanding three more seats in the front row on the left of the speaker's podium, the BNP-led opposition lawmakers started boycotting the House proceedings from Wednesday.

Former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar unilaterally allocated 10 seats in the front row for the opposition lawmakers. The newly elected Speaker, Abdul Hamid, rearranged the seating plan allocating four seats of the front row to the opposition.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following positions:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Position | : Assistant Representative – Reproductive Health. |
| Level | : ICS 10 (NO-C) |
| Duty Station | : UNFPA, Dhaka. |

Duties & Responsibilities:
Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Representative and the direct supervision of the UNFPA Deputy Representative, the Assistant Representative is expected to play a leadership role in the area of Reproductive Health and human rights-based approach to Programme development. The Assistant Representative manages the UNFPA-supported activities in the areas of Reproductive Health and Maternal Health. Acting as an analyst/advisor, the Assistant Representative proactively provides the Representative/Deputy Representative with information on achievement of results in the implementation of UNFPA programmes in the areas of Reproductive and Maternal Health and the empowerment of women.

The Assistant Representative establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with counterparts in government, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and civil society to address emerging issues and to facilitate programme delivery in the above-mentioned areas of UNFPA's Programme.

- Creates substantive knowledge of Maternal Health, Reproductive Health and gender issues in the country, assesses technical assistance needs in these areas and advises on the suitability of programmes and projects to meet these needs. Addresses policy issues and provides substantive inputs to facilitate policy dialogue and the incorporation of these policies into national plans and strategies, UN systems initiatives and development frameworks (CCA, UNDAF, PRSS, SWAPs, JCSs, CAPs, MDGs).
- Provides substantive leadership and inputs into the design and formulation of programmes and projects translating UNFPA's mandate and strategic priorities in Reproductive Health initiative into local interventions, and responding to Government plans and priorities. Introduces into the project formulation process the results of Programme and project reviews and evaluations, best practices, as well as innovative strategies, approaches and policies.
- Advise and reports on achievement of Programme and project results, proactively measuring substantive progress and the effective utilization of financial and human project resources using appropriate monitoring and measuring mechanisms and tools. Leads Programme and project implementation guiding and orienting executing agencies and project personnel introducing effective modalities and practices of implementation.
- Oversee, monitor and analyze on a continuous basis, substantive Programme implementation, including preparing substantive Programme and financial reports on the Reproductive health issues.
- Provide support to the process of technical/annual and financial reviews of RH strategic plan through the preparation of internal documents to assess progress of implementation.
- Creates and documents knowledge by evaluating programmes, projects and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices and replicable strategies and approaches and actively shares and applies this knowledge. Creates mechanisms to collect and share knowledge.

Please visit www.unfpa-bangladesh.com for Detailed TOR, functional, corporate, and competency requirements.
This is a summarized version of the TOR. Detailed TOR will be discussed with the sort-listed candidates.

Qualifications & Competencies:
Must have a Post-graduate or advance university degree or equivalent (preferably PhD) in public health, medicine, sociology, health systems/economics, or other field directly related to the substantive area identified in the title of the post with 10+ years of increasingly responsible professional experience in the substantive area, of which 7 years at senior management level. The incumbent also need to possess fluency in oral and written English with proficiency in office software applications.

Interested candidates are requested to apply along with a detailed CV/P11 form and a passport size photograph on or before **26th February, 2009 by 4:30 pm** to **The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207**. Alternatively, CV/P11 can be send via e-mail to the following address: hr@unfpa-bangladesh.org. Detailed Terms of Reference and P11 form can be obtained from UNFPA website www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/vacancy.php

"ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED"

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
শাখা-১৯

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-শা:১৯/১-২৩(টান)/২০০৮/৫৬ তারিখ: ২৮/০১/২০০৯

চীন সরকার প্রদত্ত "Chinese Government Scholarship Programme in 2009-2010" (আভাস্যাজুয়েট, পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট, Chinese language students, General Scholars, Senior Scholars) এর জন্য বাংলাদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের নিকট হতে নব্বাং আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রার্থীদের নিম্নলিখিত শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে:

- আভাস্যাজুয়েট বৃত্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের-এইচএসসি তে "GPA 4" গ্রেডধারী হতে হবে, বয়স ২৫ বছরের কম হতে হবে।
- মাস্টার্স (পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট) বৃত্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের-১ম শ্রেণীর ব্যাচেলর ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে, বয়স ৩৫ বছরের কম হতে হবে।
- ডক্টরেট (পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট) বৃত্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের-১ম শ্রেণীর মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে, বয়স ৪০ বছরের কম হতে হবে।
- Chinese language বৃত্তির প্রার্থীদের-এইচএসসি-তে "GPA 4" গ্রেডধারী ও অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর বয়স্ক হতে হবে।
- General Scholar বৃত্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের ২ বছর আভাস্যাজুয়েট কোর্সে অধ্যয়ন করেছেন এমন হতে হবে এবং বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৪৫ বছর বয়স্ক হতে হবে। Senior Scholar বৃত্তির জন্য প্রার্থীদের মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে এবং অনূর্ধ্ব ৫০ বছর বয়স্ক হতে হবে।

বিষয় উন্মুক্ত। প্রার্থীদের সফটওয়্যার ওয়েবসাইট হতে বিষয় ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া হল।

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- "Foreigner Physical Examination Form" (ওয়েবসাইট হতে ভাইজিংকার্ড) এর ফটোকপি।
- সকল সার্টিফিকেট ও ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট এর নোটোরাইজড ফটোকপি (ইংরেজীতে অনুবাদকৃত)।
- বিখ্যাত শিক্ষায়তন থেকে প্রাপ্ত সাক্ষ্য ও চাকুরীজীবীদের অধ্যয়ন ও চাকুরীর সার্টিফিকেট।
- মাস্টার্স, ডক্টরেট এবং সিনিয়র স্কলার বৃত্তি প্রার্থীদের ২টি Recommendation letters এবং ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক চীনের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে Admission Notice or Invitation Letter.
- বিসার্ফ প্রায়ন/স্টাডি প্রায়ন (পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ও স্কলারদের জন্য ৫০০ শব্দের বেশী এবং আভাস্যাজুয়েটদের জন্য ২০০ শব্দের বেশী) (অবশ্যই ইংরেজীতে অনুবাদকৃত)।
- নিউজিক বা ফাইন আর্টস বিষয়ে যারা পড়তে ইচ্ছুক তাদের একটি C,D (যাতে প্রার্থীর নিজস্ব কাজ বেরকর্ক হতে হবে), ফাইন আর্টসের ক্ষেত্রে C,D তে দুটি ক্রেড, দুটি কালার পেন্সিল, দুটি অলা কাল অকর্ক থাকবে।
- প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে সাদা কাগজে নিম্নলিখিত ছক পূরণ করতে হবে।

| Name of Examination | Institution & year of passing | Secured Grade/Class/Division |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| অগ্রাধী প্রার্থীদের ওয়েবসাইট http://www.csc.edu.cn হতে আবেদন ফর্ম, "Foreigner Physical Examination Form" ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। আগামী ০১/০২/২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে লিখি করতে হবে। | | |
| রাহানা আহমদ সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব ফোন: ৯১৫৫০৩২ | | |

জিডি-৬০৪