

Shipbuilders may change Bangladesh economy

Barua says at Stella Moon handover ceremony

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said yesterday shipbuilding, which is a very labour-intensive industry, has the potential for generating a huge foreign currency and developing extraordinary skills in the field of engineering.

The country has skilled and semi-skilled professionals as well as necessary ingredients to be a shipbuilding nation. So the industry holds the potential for transforming Bangladesh into a middle-income country in near future," Barua said.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function organised by Ananda Shipyard and Slipways Ltd, one of the leading local shipbuilders, as it formally handed over its eighth ship, Stella Moon, at \$7.5 million to a Danish buyer, Stella Shipping P/S.

The function took place at the company's office at Meghnaghat in Sonargaon under Narayanganj district.

"The company has so far secured export orders for 34 ships at \$373.50 million. It



Dilip Barua, industries minister, formally hands over the Stella Moon, a ship built by Ananda Shipyard and Slipways Ltd, to Stella Shipping P/S of Denmark in Narayanganj yesterday.

has received export proceeds and advance payments of \$48.54 million. Denmark, Germany, Norway and Mozambique have placed the orders," said Ananda Group Chairman Dr Abdulfahel Bari at the ceremony.

"We hope to deliver the ships within the next three years as the construction works are going on in full swing," said a company official.

Earlier Ananda exported its first ship Stella Maris to another Danish company at \$6 million on May 5 last year and six others to the Mozambique government at \$6.2 million on November 13, said the company officials.

The officials also said

they are now building 10 ships of which six have been ordered by Komorowski and four others by Wessell, two German companies.

"We hope to deliver the ships within the next three years as the construction works are going on in full swing," said a company official.

Stella Moon has 64 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) container carrying capacity with 2,950 dead-weight tonnes.

Deadweight tonnage, also known as deadweight (DWT), is a measure of how

much mass or weight of cargo or burden a ship can carry safely.

Abdullah-al Kaiser Hasanat, a lawmaker from Narayanganj-3 constituency, Einar Hjensen, Danish ambassador, Bea M ten Tusscher, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, Hassan Farazandeh, ambassador of Iran, Afruja Bari, managing director of the company, and Abu Nasser Muhammad Abdus Zaher, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, among others, were present at the function.

Fodder cultivation on roadside, fallow land stressed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Planned green grass plantation on roadsides, embankments and fallow lands can meet much of the fodder requirement that is vital to boost milk and meat production in the country, agricultural experts said yesterday.

"We can't fulfil the minimum requirement of milk for our population although we have the potential for developing livestock farming," said Dr KA Fattah, livestock coordinator of a project of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an umbrella organisation for microcredit.

Fattah, speaking at a workshop on fodder cultivation and artificial insemination, linked the low production of milk to a lack of supply of green fodder due to a low rate of cultivation. Cattle are dependent on the supply of straw, which is falling down in line with declining grazing and cultivated lands.

"Land for fodder cultivation is on the wane, as an increasing portion of land is reserved for cereal cultivation and other purposes. But we can use fallow land, roadsides, railways and embankments to grow fodder," he said at the programme organised by PKSF at its office.

Speakers at the workshop said Bangladesh has a 2.28 crore cattle population. But a majority of these cattle are indigenous or 'deshi'. Only 8 lakh cows are crossbred.

Experts said the domestic production of milk remains far below the requirements. The total milk production stands at 22.8 lakh tonnes, while the remaining demand is met by imported powder milk.

According to analysts, ensuring green grass for cows and increased artificial insemination can boost milk production.

"We have the highest density of cattle in Asia but the production of milk is low compared to other countries. It's mainly because of a lack of green grass," said Prof M Ali Akbar of the Department of Animal Nutrition, Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Akbar also observed that the high cost of feed pushes up the price of milk in the country. But good fodder can reduce the costs, he said.

WiMax, International Gateways tech soon

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The telecom watchdog is likely to open the WiMax and International Gateways technology shortly, said the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission chairman yesterday.

"Anyone can apply for a licence to operate the WiMax and IGWs, as there is huge demand in the market for the technologies," Zia Ahmed said.

"The licence will be made available within three months, after revising the present International Long Distance and Telecommunications Services (ILDS) policy," he added.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a workshop on 'Recent Trends in IP Telephony' at Sheraton Hotel, he also said the new

licensing fee for both the technologies will be lower than the previous rate. REVE Systems, a leading IP Telephony solution provider with customers in more than 50 countries, organised the workshop.

Private sector stakeholders now hold three IGWs and two WiMax licences. The WiMax licence acquisition fee was fixed at Tk 215 crore through an auction by BTRC last year.

However, questions arose as to how the former high cost of licence would be justified, if BTRC reduces licence prices. Ahmed said in response, "The government is considering whether the existing hefty licence fee would be repaid to the licensees. But everything will be settled after revising the ILDS policy."

Ahmed also supported

the idea of opening up the VoIP (voice over internet protocol) technology. "Like others, I want to say that VoIP must be opened. But for that, a suitable environment is required."

The past caretaker government issued three licences to the private sector to handle international calls to and from Bangladesh. The operators are handling more than 20 million minutes calls a day, with a revenue sharing of 6.25 percent with the government.

Among the two WiMax licence holders, no one is yet to go for service operation. The Tk 215 crore hefty licence fee has become an obstacle for the operators to start.

The BTRC chief's idea to float more IGW licences is making the existing private sector operators anxious.

Facilitate SME business

Says FBCCI chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should facilitate the small and medium enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs to bring dynamism in the economy, FBCCI president said yesterday.

Annisul Huq said the government should impose taxes on the import of certain goods, as local SME entrepreneurs are now able to supply the same products to meet local demand.

Huq was speaking at a press conference at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) office, on the eve of the fourth SME fair, due on May 24-27 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre where various SME entrepreneurs would showcase their products in about 100 stalls.

Huq said Standard



Annisul Huq, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), speaks to the press in Dhaka yesterday, on the eve of the SME Fair 2009 beginning Sunday.

Chartered Bank would award seven SME entrepreneurs under seven different categories at the fair.

He said agro based industrial products, light engineering products, ceramic and melamine products, dairy and dairy feed products, fisheries and fish feed, poultry and poultry hatchery and poultry feed, diversified jute products, electric goods, vegetable and fruits, and furniture would be put on display at the fair.



Samsul Alam Mallick, managing director of New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Ltd, speaks at a scientific seminar on specialty of milk and its need for human health, organised by the company in Dhaka recently.

US new jobless claims dip

AFP, Washington

New jobless claims by American workers fell to 631,000 in the past week, the Labor Department said Thursday in a report slightly worse than expected by most analysts.

The agency said seasonally adjusted initial claims in the week to May 16 dropped by 12,000 from the previous

week's revised figure of 643,000.

Analysts had expected the number of requests for weekly unemployment benefits to be around 625,000.

A labor official said the newly unemployed were mostly from the troubled auto industry, where top players General Motors and Chrysler were undergoing

major restructuring as a prolonged recession took a heavy toll on the world's largest economy.

The weekly initial claims data, a snapshot of the labor market, has shown new claims above the 600,000 level for about three months as the country grapples with a severe recession but is down from a peak of 674,000 in late March.



Mokbul Ahmed, marketing director of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, and Ahsan Afzal, general manager (unsecured loans and consumer transaction banking) of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), sign an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, all customers of the bank will enjoy a range of benefits at Singer showrooms.

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Chinilipha Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tenders

Ref No. BSFIC/PD-2/Bag-3(1)/2009-10

Sealed tenders are invited only from the bona fide govt./non-government, private manufacturers of polypropylene bag for supply of 50kgs capacity polypropylene bag with 50 micron inner liner on free delivery at sugar mills site basis as defined in the tender document under the following terms and conditions:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ministry/Division | Ministry of Industries. |
| 2. Name of procuring entity | Bangladesh Sugar & Food Ind. Corporation. |
| 3. Procurement method | Open tendering method. |
| 4. Source of fund | Own source. |
| 5. Tender No & date | BSFIC/PD-2/Bag-3(1)/2009-10 dated 17-5-2009. |
| 6. Time for completion of delivery | From 1st November to 31st December, 2009. |
| 7. Eligibility of tenderers | Must be manufacturer. |
| 8. Price of tender document | Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) only (non-refundable). |
| 9. Amount of tender security | Tk. 8.00 (eight) lac (refundable). |
| 10. Name and address of the office for selling tender documents | DGM (Cash), BSFIC, 7th floor, Chinilipha Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. |
| 11. Name and address of the office for dropping & opening of tender | Secretariat Division, BSFIC (5th floor), Chinilipha Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. |
| 12. Last date & time for selling tender documents | All working days up to 24-6-2009. |
| 13. Last date and time for submission of tender | Up to 11.00am on 25-6-2009. |
| 14. Date and time for opening of tender | At 11.10am on 25-6-2009. |
| 15. Name & designation of official inviting tender | Md Abul Kalam Azad, Chief (Purchase). |
| 16. Special condition | The corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. If there is govt. holiday or unavoidable situation arises on the date fixed for tender dropping/opening, in those cases, the next normal working day will be considered valid date for dropping/opening of the tender at the same time. |
| 17. Name & quantity of goods | 50 kgs capacity 9,00,000 (nine lac) pc. (\pm 15%) at buyers option polypropylene bag with 50 micron inner liner. |

Md Abdul Kalam Azad
Chief (Purchase)

S-F-429
GD-2600

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ঠিকানা: ভাৰতীয় পার্কে কার্যালয়

বঙ্গবাদি হাসপাতাল, ফোজুলুর রাহত, ঢাক্কা।

টেল: ১১০০/০৯১১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| ০১ | মুক্তিপত্র | শাহী ও সরবরাহ কলাম মুক্তিপত্র। |
| ০২ | জনসংগ্রহকাৰী | সন্তোষৰ হাসপাতাল, ফোজুলুর রাহত, ঢাক্কা। |
| ০৩ | জনসংগ্রহেৰ স্বত্ত্বাকারী | চাঁচা। |
| ০৪ | দৰপত্ৰেৰ কাজেৰ নাম/ধৰণ | ক) বোর্দেনেৰ পথা সামৰ্থী সৰবৰাহ। ব) কেন্দ্ৰীয় ও বিবিৰ সামৰ্থী সৰবৰাহ। গ) লিঙ্গৰ বোৰ্দেন। |
| ০৫ | দৰপত্ৰ আহনকারী | স্থানক নং-১৫৪ তাৰিখ: ১১/০৫/২০১১। |
| ০৬ | জনসংগ্রহেৰ পক্ষতি | তেনুজ দৰপত্ৰ পক্ষতি (OTM)। |
| ০৭ | বাজেট | ১০০৮-১০১। |
| ০৮ | দৰপত্ৰ আহনকারীৰ তাৰিখ | ১১/০৫/২০১১ ইঠেক। |
| ০৯ | দৰপত্ৰ বিতৰণৰ শ্ৰেণী | ০৭/০৫/২০১০৯ই (বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকা)। |
| ১০ | তাৰিখ ও সময় | ০৮/০৬/২০১০৯ই বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘৰ্ত। |
| ১১ | দৰপত্ৰ খোলৰ তাৰিখ ও সময় | ০৮/০৬/২০১০৯ই বেলা ১২.১৫ মিনিট। |
| ১২ | দৰপত্ৰ আহনকারী | চিৰকালীন পত্ৰ পত্ৰিকা, চাঁচা, বিভাগ, চাঁচা এৰ কাহিলগুলি। |
| ১৩ | দৰপত্ৰ মাহল ও খোলৰ অভিস | পত্ৰিকাল পথা সামৰ্থী, চাঁচা, বিভাগ, চাঁচা এৰ কাহিলগুলি। |
| ১৪ | দৰপত্ৰ মাহল ও খোলৰ অভিস | হাসপাতাল পথা সামৰ্থী, চাঁচা, বিভাগ, চাঁচা এৰ কাহিলগুলি। |
| ১৫ | কাজেৰ বৰ্ধন | পুল পুষ্টি সিডিউলে বৰ্ধন মত। |
| ১৬ | দৰপত্ৰ মালিকৰ মূলা ও নিৰ্বাচনৰ আমানত | ১৫০০/- টাকা। |
| ১৭ | কাজেৰ বৰ্ধন | ১৫০০/- টাকা। |