

Shrimp exports dogged by environment worries



Commerce Minister Faruk Khan speaks at the opening of a two-day workshop on Shrimp Export from Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Policymakers and diplomats yesterday called on shrimp industry operators to diligently work towards protecting the environment from degradation and ensure health and labour issues for sustainable growth and continued shrimp exports.

"We have attached importance to growth of the fisheries sector in our election manifesto. At the same time, protecting the environment is also a priority for us. We have to do farming, but not at the cost of the environment," said Commerce Minister Faruk Khan.

"We cannot destroy our canals and river systems in coastal areas in the name of shrimp farming. You should try to ensure that the environment is protected," he told industry operators at the opening of a two-day workshop -- Shrimp Export from Bangladesh: Prospects

and Challenges -- at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Fishery Products and Business Promotion Council, Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation and Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association organised the event in collaboration with the commerce and fisheries and livestock ministries.

The programme was organised at a time when freshwater prawn exports from Bangladesh endured a six-month 'voluntary ban' after cancellation of about 50 consignments to Europe, due to a health hazardous nitrofurantoin contamination.

Stakeholders said the voluntary ban, which was imposed in May, was to allow the industry to detect the source of the contamination. The ban will expire in November. Khan expects the problem will be solved by year-end.

According to the industry people, fresh water

shrimps account for over 20 percent of total annual export earnings worth more than \$400 million from the frozen food sector. Shrimp exports to the European and US markets account for remaining earnings.

Khan said the ban affected export earnings. "Necessary steps have been taken to remove the problem. By December, we should have a solution," he said, adding that testing facilities for uncontaminated shrimp exports are being expanded.

"The government is trying to do its best and will do everything to see the sector flourish, provided environment and compliance issues are addressed properly," said the commerce minister.

US Ambassador James F. Moriarty said the shrimp industry is now the second largest export earner of Bangladesh and provides hundreds of thousands of jobs. "This is not a small

achievement and it is difficult to overstate the importance of the sector, both locally and nationally," he said, expecting the sector to continue growth in the coming years.

"Growth should however not come at the expense of environmental degradation. Following environmentally safe shrimp industry practices, with an eye towards sustainability, is critical for the industry," said Moriarty.

"The environment should be seriously considered and protected, as businesses and the government work to develop the shrimp industry."

He also suggested producers adhere to international standards, particularly in regard to health, environment and labour standards.

"The good news is, meeting with health, safety and environmental standards will ensure increased demand for Bangladeshi shrimp," he said.

Stefan Frowein, head of European Commission Delegation to Bangladesh, stressed the need for producing safe shrimps to ensure entry into the European market.

"We seek guarantees that products are hygienic and safe for consumption. Whenever we have concerns, it is because of the legitimate expectation of our consumers to have safe food."



Aftab ul Islam

AmCham elects new president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) elected Aftab ul Islam as president for 2009-10 in its 13th annual general meeting (AGM) in Dhaka yesterday.

Islam, director and chief executive officer of ATAZ Bangladesh Ltd, started his career at a US-based multinational IT company and was previously elected as president for AmCham in 2001.

He has also been elected as a director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry for two periods -- 2005-07 and 2008-10. The government recently also appointed Islam as chairman of the SME Foundation.

Khalid Hasan, managing director of The Nielsen Company Bangladesh Ltd, was elected as vice president of AmCham at the AGM at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.



MS Ahsan, first vice chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd, presides over the bank's fifth extraordinary general meeting in Dhaka yesterday. A proposal for raising the bank's authorised capital from Tk 300 crore to Tk 800 crore was approved at the meeting.

Draft of telecom law finalised: Minister

BSS, Dhaka

The draft of the amended Telecommunication Law-2001 has been finalised with a provision to realise a maximum of Tk 300 crore in fine for setting up illegal voice over internet protocol.

The amendment of the existing law is required to make it updated and make the process of foreign investment in the telecommunication easier, Post and Telecommunication Minister

Rajjuddin Ahmed Raju told the news agency yesterday.

He said they have proposed to amend some clauses of the law keeping most of the law intact.

The minister also said they would give more licences of international gateway (IGW) and interconnection exchange (ICX) to discourage VoIP.

"The tariff of the incoming and outgoing rate of the international calls will be reshuffled phase by phase," he said.

"The illegal VoIP business will be discouraged, if we are able to increase the number of licences of legal VoIP and rearrange the tariff," the minister said.

In the final draft, the amount of fine for illegal VoIP is proposed to be reduced in line with the request of privet operators. According to the draft, anyone can appeal against the allegation of setting up illegal VoIP, the minister said.



Mercedes-Benz's compact sedans, the C-Series, will now get the Blue Efficiency, a package of measures that reduce fuel consumption rather than a new driving technology. Offered with two engine versions, the models come with a lighter glass and lightweight alloys and tires with 17 percent less rolling resistance. The car also has revised engine bay, closed under body and redesigned mirrors for slicker aerodynamics.

International Re-Tender Notice for Supply of Lubricating Base Oil

Ref No. 23.02/(1/2009)LBO-69(RT)

Date: 27 September, 2009

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from reputed suppliers for supply of Lubricating Base Oil in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereinafter:

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5	Invitation for	Supply of Lubricating Base Oil.
6	Invitation Ref No and date	Ref No. 23.02/(1/2009)LBO-69(RT) Date: 27 September, 2009.
7	Delivery schedule and place	Delivery: 06-09 December, 2009, C&F Chittagong basis. The supply of the product should be made in one shipment, partial shipment may allowed provided the total supply must be completed within the delivery schedule.
8	Price	Price shall be in US dollar/Metric Ton on C&F Chittagong basis on the average of mid point of last two weeks quotes of SN-150, SN-500 & SBS-150 FOB Asia Export Spot Prices published in the ICIS-LOR Base Oils (Asia Pacific) Report, Singapore immediately prior to B/L date plus/minus a Premium/Discount.
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
10	Budget and source of funds	BPC Revenue Budget.
11	Tender package name	International tender for supply of Lubricating Base Oil.
12	Tender publication date	28 September, 2009.
13	Tender last selling date	26 October, 2009.
14	Tender closing date and time	Date: 27 October, 2009 Time: 1200 hours (BST).
15	Tender opening date and time	Date: 27 October, 2009 Time: 1205 hours (BST).
16	Offer validity time	Date: 19 November, 2009 Time: 1800 hours (BST).

Name and address of the office(s)	
17	Selling tender documents (principal)
18	Selling tender documents (others)
19	Name and address of the office receiving offers
20	Name and address of the office opening offers
21	Qualification of the suppliers
22	Brief description of goods/items
23	Tender documents price
24	Bid bond/bank guarantee

Procuring Entity Details	
25	Official inviting tender
26	Designation of official inviting tender
27	Address of official inviting tender
28	Contact details official inviting tender
29	Bidder(s) must submit along with their offer the original money receipt for tender document purchased in Bangladesh and original/photocopy of money receipt for those who purchased tender document outside Bangladesh.
30	Other terms and conditions will be as per BPC's tender document for supply of Lubricating Base Oil (Ref. No. 23.02/(1/2009)LBO-69(RT) Date: 27 September, 2009). All bidders must specify the source of supply mentioning the name of the country/countries. Any conditional offer will not valid. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

GD-4409

Rice price shoots up in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Rice price has marked a drastic rise in food-surplus Sherpur district, ranging up to Tk 150 per maund over the week.

Acting Police Super Anisur Rahman told the news agency that teams of intelligence agencies are in the field to find out the reasons of the price hike.

Rice mill owners attributed the rise in price to two factors -- unusual bulk buying of rice from the district by traders from Kushtia, a district bordering drought-hit India, and the tendency of hoarding by a section of traders in view of the lean season.

Bengali months of Ashwin and Kartik are the lean season when the period is known as Monga that hits the northern region of the country.

Traders here said supply of paddy from the growers has declined because of 'odd season'. This has given a rise

to the rice price.

Dealers at Bat Tala, the biggest rice trading centre of the district, said price has increased up to Tk 150 per maund over the week. Before Eid, coarse rice was selling between Tk 700 and Tk 720 per maund, which was priced at Tk 780-Tk 800 on Tuesday.

Similarly BR-28 variety of rice now sells at around Tk 1,100, BR-29 at Tk 1,020 and quality rice Nazir sells at Tk 1,600 per maund.

Price is increasing every day although adequate stocks are found in rice selling centres and husking mills.

Dealers say the traders of Kushtia are buying BR-28 rice in bulk amount.

They claim this coarse variety of rice is put into sorting machine and transformed to look as Miniket, a fine variety, which is marketed in different cities including Dhaka at higher price.



Iqbal Atahar Khan, regional sales manager (retail) of Transcom Electronics Ltd, inaugurates a Transcom Digital showroom in Narayanganj recently.

Correction

In a news item headlined "New MD for Green Delta Insurance" that was published yesterday, it was inadvertently mentioned that Waqar A Choudhury has been appointed managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd. Actually, he was appointed as MD and CEO of Green Delta Financial Services Ltd, a subsidiary of the insurer. Nasir A Choudhury is the MD and CEO of Green Delta Insurance Company. We regret the mistake.

Citi urged to expand in China

AFP, Beijing

A top Chinese banking regulator said US investment bank Citigroup should "absolutely" be expanding its operations in the Asian giant, according to a media report Wednesday.

Citigroup's China unit was "very prudent and careful" during the global financial crisis and now should extend its network here, Yan Qingmin, director of the Shanghai branch of the China Banking Regulatory Commission told the Wall Street Journal.

Tourism fair starts today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A three-day international tourism fair organised by Tour Operators' Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) begins today.

GM Quader, civil aviation and tourism minister, is scheduled to inaugurate the show styled Bangladesh Travel and Tourism Fair (BTTF) 2009 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"The main objective of the fair is to create awareness about local tourist destinations and potentials

of the country among other participants," said Taufiq Uddin Ahmed, president of TOAB.

"We have beautiful tourist spots in the country, but we lack sufficient infrastructure. We need more investment, both local and foreign, to develop the sector further," he added.

The TOAB chief was speaking at a press conference yesterday to announce the exposition.

Ahmed said more than 100 foreign delegates would attend the fair that include

tour operators and travel agents from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Myanmar.

Travel agents, airlines, financial institutions, training institutions, souvenir shops, cruise lines, hotels and resorts from home and abroad are likely to take part in the fair.

The fair will remain open from 10am to 8pm every day with an entry fee of Tk 20 per person.

BPDB's Local Tender Notice					
<div>“বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চয়ী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন”</div>					
1	Ministry/Division		Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.		
2	Agency		Bangladesh Power Development Board.		
3	Procuring entity name		Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
4	Procuring entity code		Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district		Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for		Procurement of Different Types Conductors.		
7	Invitation for tenders Ref No.		Pur-123/EREUDP/Raj/2009.		
8	Date		24/9/2009.		
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method		Open Tendering Method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and source of funds		GOB.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)		Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)		Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)		Emergency Rehabilitation & Expansion of Urban Areas Power Distribution Project under BPDB, Rajshahi Zone.		
14	Tender package No.		2G (FY: 2009-2010).		
15	Tender package name		Procurement of Different Types Conductors.		
16	Tender publication date		24/9/2009.		
17	Tender selling date		01/10/2009 to 8/11/2009.		
18	Tender closing date and time		9/11/2009 at 11.00am.		
19	Tender opening date and time		9/11/2009 at 11.30am.		
20	Name & address of the office		Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motiheel.		
	Selling tender document (principal)		Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motiheel.		
	Selling tender document (other)		Not applicable.		
	Receiving tender document		Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motiheel.		
	Opening tender document		Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motiheel.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)		N/A		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer		As per tender document.		
23	Brief description of goods or works		Procurement of Different Types Conductors.		
24	Brief description of related services		N/A.		
25	Price of tender document (BDT)		Tk. 6000/- (six thousand) only.		
26	Lot	Identification of lot	Location of delivery	Tender security amount in Tk.	Completion time in weeks/months
	1	Supply of Different Types Conductors	BPDB's Project Store at Rajshahi	BDT. 7,50,000/-	3 months from the date of contract signing
27	Name of official inviting tender		Md Abdul Wahed.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender		Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
29	Address of official inviting tender		WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.		
30	Contact details of official inviting		Tel: +88 02 9550532, 7120089 Fax: + 88 02 7126151.		
31	Special instruction		Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected, and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders at any time prior to contract award.		
32	This tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Rules-2008.				
Md Abdul Wahed Director Directorate of Purchase BPDB, Dhaka					
Biddyt/Jana-262(4)/29/09/09 GD-4418					