

Protests disrupt rice supply

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Traders at major wholesale rice markets in Dhaka yesterday protested the killing of a fellow trader, which disrupted the supply chain of rice.

Wholesale traders of Badamtoli and Babu Bazar, the two biggest rice trading markets in the city, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Kachukhet Wholesale Rice Market, Madartek Wholesale Rice Market and Jatrabari Wholesale Rice Market suspended operation for the day, protesting the murder of Afil Uddin.

Many retail rice traders from in and around the city were unable to purchase rice as the wholesalers were on strike, businessmen in old Dhaka said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hazi

Nizamuddin, secretary general of Badamtoli and Babubazar Wholesale Rice Traders Association, said they demand immediate trial of the murderers.

Some unidentified miscreants killed Afil Uddin, owner of VIP Rice Mill in Kushtia, at Babu Bazar on Tuesday.

"We will submit a memorandum to Home Minister Sahara Khatun today (Thursday), demanding immediate trial of the killers of Afil Uddin," Nizamuddin said.

He said 190 shop-owners at Badamtoli and Babu Bazar demanded security of their lives and businesses.

They also demanded a permanent police outpost at Babu Bazar to provide security to the businessmen.

To express solidarity, business-

men of Mitford Road and its adjacent areas also kept their wholesale medicine shops closed, Nizamuddin said.

The Daily Star correspondent in Kushtia added that rice mill owners in Khajanagar in Kushtia yesterday kept their mills shut.

As a result, no rice production took place in the 500 rice mills at Khajanagar, one of the biggest rice trading hubs, where 1,500 tonnes of rice are produced a day.

The mills will reopen today, the correspondent added.

The mill owners under the banner of Khajanagar Mill Owners Association yesterday brought out a procession at about 4.30 pm that paraded through the Kushtia-Chuadanga highway.

Simplification in US business visa likely

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

US visa procedures for Bangladeshi businesspeople will be simplified in order to enhance business ties between the two countries.

"We're trying to make visa process simple for the businesspeople. Besides, visa instructions will be provided in both Bangla and English languages to make it more comfortable for them," said Sandra J Ingram, consul general of the US Embassy in Dhaka, yesterday.

Sandra was speaking as guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh held at a city hotel.

Business leaders Anisud-Dowla and Rokia A

Rahman attended the meeting where AmCham president Aftab ul Islam coordinated it.

Pointing his finger at the increased volume of US-Bangla trade, the US official said the embassy trebled the number of business visas in the last five years, compared to that of the previous years.

"During the period Bangladesh exports to the US has doubled, while its imports increased to 40 percent compared with the corresponding five years," Ingram said.

She put emphasis on raising the exchange of visits by businesspeople in line with the US government's National Export Initiatives, which eyes directly connecting with new customers.

During the meeting, a number of demands were raised from local entrepreneurs, which include relaxation in stringent rules for visas and issuance of more visas to company executives side by side the entrepreneurs.

"The US embassy issues visa mainly to entrepreneurs, but it frequently refuses visa applications for company executives, which remains a hindrance to smooth communication between businessmen," said Dr Sikder M Zakir, managing director, Telemedicine Reference Centre Limited.

Aftab ul Islam echoed Zakir's views saying that such refusal leads to an embarrassing situation for the businesspeople.

FBCCI seeks easy China visa

UNB, Dhaka

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) requested China to further liberalise the visa processing for Bangladeshi businesspeople.

The proposal was placed when the FBCCI leaders had a meeting with a Chinese business delegation here on Tuesday. The 12-member Chinese economy and trade delegation from Sichuan provincial government was led by Huang Xiaoxiang, vice-governor of Sichuan.

Abul Kashem Ahmed, the first vice-president of FBCCI, presided over the meeting attended by the directors, the secretary general and different industrial sector representatives.

"Attractive investment incentives are being provided by the government," Ahmed told the Chinese business leaders and invited China's businessmen to invest in composite textiles, leather, leather-goods, light-engineering products, food processing and electronics.

T-shirt festival starts today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The four-day Bangladesh T-Shirt Festival 2010 starts today at Aziz Cooperative Super Market at Shahbagh in Dhaka.

This year around 71 fashion houses will participate in the event.

"Inspiring from last year's huge response, we organise the festival this year in a much bigger scale," said Bahar Rahman, convener of the festival, at a press meet in the market's premises yesterday.

Customers will enjoy 20 percent discount on each shirts in the event that was organised for the first time in 2009 with 41 fashion houses Channel I, Ananda Bhuban, Canvas and Radio ABC are the media partners of the festival.



Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Ltd, unveils the Shahbagh foot over bridge financed by the bank in Dhaka recently. M Ehsanul Haque, managing director of the bank, is also seen.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Division
Office of the Project Director
Policy Support Unit (PSU) of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector (Phase-II)
DPHE Building (ground floor), 14 Shaheed Capt. Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. LGD/WS-3/PSU/2010/474 Date: 04/02/2010

Request for Expression of Interest for the Position of Communication Officer

The Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Denmark have agreed to support the Sector Programme Support (SPS) of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh. This phase comprises eight projects and is expected to have a total value of BDT 420 crores. Overall coordination, monitoring and steering of the SPS take place through SPS Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, Local Government Division (LGD) and SPS Co-ordination Group chaired by the Joint Secretary (Water Supply), LGD. The Sector Policy Support Unit (PSU) provides support to the LGD in Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. PSU is inviting qualified candidates for the position of **Communication Officer**.

The qualification and experience required for the position are i) Master Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism/Social Science/English; ii) minimum 4 years of working experience which should include communication coordination, writing skill in newspapers/journals and proficiency in computer skills on MS-Office, graphics software and web related tools; iii) experience in maintaining filing system (manual and digital); iv) excellent communication skills, both oral and written in Bangla and English, personal discipline and the ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures; v) age limit maximum of 45 years.

Remuneration package will be in accordance with the salary structure and service rules of Danida for locally recruited staff.

Selection of candidate will be in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008. Interested candidates may request for soft copies of ToR for the position and Standard Request Form of Application (SRFA) through E-mail: info@psu-wss.org or download the same from the www.psu-wss.org website.

The expression of interest (EOI) shall be submitted in accordance with the SRFA on or before 9 March 2010 to:

The Project Director
Policy Support Unit (PSU)
DPHE Bhaban (Ground Floor)
14 Shaheed Capt. Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000

Women are highly encouraged to apply



Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud (2-L, seated), professor of economics at Dhaka University, poses with participants of Training of Trainers on business journalism at a 'certificate giving ceremony' organised by Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. (From right, seated) Farid Hossain, bureau chief of AP, Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, Syed Ishtiaque Reza, chief of news for Baishakhi TV, and Shahroz Jalil, director for Services Group of Katalyst, are also seen.

Business journalism in focus

Wahiduddin asks journalists to cut through the fog of info

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said business and economic journalists must have clear knowledge of the subject they write on and remain alert to filter out misconceptions. He asked the journalists to clearly explain jargons to readers.

Wahiduddin was addressing a certificate giving ceremony to the journalists who received training of trainers (ToT), at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the training programme in association with Katalyst, a

market development project.

Wahiduddin said business and economic journalism is gaining momentum both in quality and area in Bangladesh. The economist said the development of business journalism was a "big achievement".

He however advised journalists to learn more and use numbers and statistics with a sense of proportion and avoid confusion of data and information.

Citing an example, he said if Tk 7,000 crore was being spent on an elevated

expressway, it will make more sense if a reporter expresses the figure as a percentage of the annual

development outlay or gross domestic product.

Wahiduddin, also a former adviser to caretaker government, asked business journalists to understand nominal and real GDP and its growth to avoid misconceptions.

Nominal GDP measures the value of all the produced goods and services in current prices. On the other hand, real GDP -- calculated in constant prices -- measures the value of output by adjusting for inflation.

Farid Hossain, bureau chief of The Associated Press and the course facilitator for the training programme, and Shahroz Jalil, director

(services group) of Katalyst, also spoke.

Syed Ishtiaque Reza, head of news of Boishakhi TV and a director of MRDI, moderated the function.

For the first time in Bangladesh, 15 business journalists of print and electronic media were developed as trainers. They were given a weeklong residential training in Savar in August and a three-day follow-up training in January.

Martin Mulligan, a senior journalist in the Financial Times, UK, and Robert Powell, financial journalist at BBC World Service Trust, were the core trainers of the programme.

Call for introducing Canadian expertise in renewable energy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh can introduce expertise from Canada to develop renewable energy in the face of environmental crisis, said Maria Minna MP, a former Canadian minister, yesterday.

Minna, the current chairperson of Canada Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group, was speaking at the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the Canada-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CanCham) in Bangladesh at Dhaka Club.

At the meeting, Masud Rahman, president of the chamber, pointed out that trade between Canada and Bangladesh crossed the \$1 billion mark in 2009, despite recession.

The volume of bilateral trade was \$956

million in 2008, of which Bangladesh exported goods worth \$642 million and imported goods worth \$314 million, he added.

Rahman invited Canadian investors to invest in Bangladesh's promising sectors, such as power, energy, textiles, garments, food processing and packaging, IT and public services, as the investment atmosphere is by and large favourable.

He said the presence of the Canadian private sector in Bangladesh is growing.

Canadian companies have already made their mark in textiles, infrastructure, telecommunications and energy projects and are recognised in Bangladesh for the high quality products and services, Rahman said.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert McDougall also spoke on the occasion.



Maria Minna MP, a former Canadian minister, hands over an honorary membership certificate to Masud Rahman, president of Canada-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Dhaka yesterday.

Dhaka keen on more trade with Delhi

Barua tells Tripura businessmen

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday said Bangladesh is very much keen to strengthen its trade with neighbouring India.

He hoped that the existing barriers to enhancing trade with the northeastern Indian State of Tripura would go soon.

"The bilateral cooperation should be enhanced to capitalise on the huge internal facilities of these two countries," the minister told Tripura business leaders.

He was addressing a meeting with businessmen, entrepreneurs and civil-society leaders of Tripura at the Circuit House in Agartala, against the backdrop of recent Indo-Bangladesh accords struck during Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina's India tour.

Mentioning that there is a very good scope for Bangladesh to increase its trade with Tripura, one of the landlocked seven-sister states in India's northeast, the visiting Bangladesh minister underscored the need for immediate capitalisation of this facility.

In the meeting, according to a release received in Dhaka, the business community leaders of Tripura urged Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to invest in labour-intensive industries over there using available gas, rubber and other natural resources.

They said that the entrepreneurs of Bangladesh, especially in the readymade garment, plastic, cement, CNG, furniture, hotel and tourism sectors, could avail themselves of the opportunity.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ রাস্তার নামফলক উন্মোচন অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণের সাদর আমন্ত্রণ।

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মাননীয় মেয়র জনাব সাদেক হোসেন খোকা মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে অসামান্য অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ একমাত্র বিদেশী বীর প্রতীক খেতাবপ্রাপ্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা নেদারল্যান্ডের (জন্ম-সূত্রে) নাগরিক (পেরবর্তীতে অস্ট্রেলিয়ান) জনাব ডব্লিউ এ. এস. ওডারল্যান্ড, বীর প্রতীক-এর নামে নামকরণকৃত "বীর প্রতীক ডব্লিউ এ. এস. ওডারল্যান্ড সড়ক" (পুরাতন সড়ক নং-৮৪, গুলশান-২) এবং সমাজসেবামূলক কাজের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ জনাব মরহুম জহুরুল ইসলাম এর নামে নামকরণকৃত "জহুরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ" এর নামফলক নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী উন্মোচনে সাদর সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করেছেন।

ক্রমিক নং	উন্মোচনের তারিখ	সময়	বিদ্যমান রাস্তা/অবকাঠামোর অবস্থান	রাস্তা/অবকাঠামোর নতুন নামকরণ	উন্মোচনের স্থান/নামফলক উন্মোচনের স্থান
১।	১১/০২/১০ বৃহস্পতিবার	বিকালঃ ৪.০০ ঘটিকা	রোড নং-৮৪, গুলশান-২।	"বীর প্রতীক ডব্লিউ এ. এস. ওডারল্যান্ড সড়ক"।	শহীদ মেজর নাজমুল হক এবং পূর্বের গুলশান-৮৪ নং সড়কের সংযোগস্থলে।
		বিকালঃ ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	পল্লবী শপিং সেন্টার হতে সেকশন-৭ এর এল/৭ হোল্ডিং এর ইন্টারসেকশন পর্যন্ত।	জহুরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ।	পল্লবী শপিং কমপ্লেক্স সংযোগস্থলে।

উক্ত নামফলক উন্মোচন অনুষ্ঠানে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাসহ সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হল।

ডিসি/পিআর/ডি/৩১৮/০৯-১০
জিডি-৬৭৫

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা