

Shipbreakers up for legal fight

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shipbreakers yesterday vowed to take legal measures against environmental organisations for tainting the sector's image both at home and abroad.

They blamed the environmental organisations for exaggerating every little negative thing in the ship dismantling yards.

Shipbreakers also alleged these environmental organisations joined hands with global conspirators to destroy the vibrant industry and shift it elsewhere.

"We will first take the issue to the government to know whether these environmental organisations have the right to spread propaganda against us," said Master Abul Kashem, a member of the Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association (BSBA), at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

"If necessary, we will take legal measures." The association said it organised the news conference to urge people and the government to save the industry from "local and international conspiracies".

While the shipbreaking yards along the stretches of Sitakunda, Chittagong were notorious in the country and abroad for not applying required safety measures for the workers and for dumping hazardous waste into sea, leaders claimed they are taking all safety measures.

However, they could not give a convincing reply to journalist's queries on why human casualties were high on shipbreaking yards.

According to a 2008 report, at least 1,000 workers died in the shipbreaking yards in the last 20 years.

At the function, they also claimed that shipbreaking on the yards did not

harm the environment on the coast and adjacent areas. "Rather, fish production in the adjacent sea has increased in the last five years," claimed Kashem.

In a written statement, BSBA President Jafar Alam said the ship-breaking sector meets 70-80 percent of the annual iron demand of the country, while some 450-500 re-rolling mills depend on the scrap supply from the shipbreaking sector.

He also said the annual steel consumption demand of the country is around 30 lakh tonnes.

Shipbreakers also said the recently issued statutory regulatory order (SRO) that bars entrance of any breakable ship into the country's territory without pre-cleaning certificate was meant to destroy the sector.

They said an evil quarter might have misled the government into issuing the SRO.



Md Shakil Rizvi, president of Dhaka Stock Exchange, inaugurates an operation centre of City Brokerage, the stock brokerage arm of City Bank Ltd, in Dhaka recently. Aziz Al Kaiser, chairman, K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, are also seen.

City Bank's three new brokerage centres open

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The City Bank has opened three new operation centres at Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Nikunja in Dhaka yesterday to provide capital market services for the investors.

Md Shakil Rizvi, president of Dhaka Stock Exchange, attended the function as chief guest. City Bank Chairman Aziz Al Kaiser was also present.

Rizvi said, "Opening of three brokerage operations in the capital will play a vital role in augmenting investment activities."

Aziz Al Kaiser said City Bank has taken the initiative to provide brokerage services to the general investors.

K Mahmood Sattar, managing director of the bank, said City Bank aims to establish a one-stop capital market service centre in Bangladesh.

BEA conference kicks off today

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Contemporary economic and socio-political issues will be brought to light in the three-day biannual conference of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) beginning today.

"Recent issues, including recession, financial institutions, market economy, inequality, digital Bangladesh, regional cooperation and energy will be discussed at different sessions of the conference," BEA President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad told a press conference at its office in Dhaka yesterday.

Questioning the role of market economy, he pointed out that the ongoing recession is the outcome of the uncontrolled market economy.

"We want a welfare-oriented economy for sustainable development," said the economist.

"Rural economy must be brought to the mainstream economy."

Theme of the 2010 con-

ference is 'Economy of the independent war's golden jubilee: How we want to see Bangladesh'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the conference at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

BEA General Secretary Prof Abul Barkat credited Bangladesh's economists for their crucial role during the Pakistan regime and post-liberation period.

"Economists successfully

prepared the first five-year plan for the war ravaged Bangladesh," said Barkat. After that the country's politics and society were criminalised, he added.

This year the BEA will award three persons (posthumous) gold medal for their extraordinary performance in their respective fields. They are Dr Sawdesh Ranjan Bose, SAMS Kibria and Bazlur Rahman.

Over 100 papers will be presented at the 12 sessions of the conference.



Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, speaks at a press meet yesterday to announce its three-day biannual conference in Dhaka.



Nasir A Choudhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd, attends the company's 24th annual business conference, at Cox's Bazar recently.

Gazprom agrees to explore areas of cooperation with Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Russian energy giant Gazprom has agreed to establish joint working expert groups to explore possible projects of cooperation with Bangladesh.

The announcement came when a Bangladeshi delegation led by Syed Abdus Samad, executive chairman of the Board of Investment, met Alexey Miller, chairman of the management committee of Gazprom, in Russia.

They also agreed to start drafting a memorandum of understanding between Gazprom and Petrobangla.

Later, the Bangladeshi delegation visited the main production body of Gazprom -- Central Production and Control Department.

Dr Mashur Rahman, the prime minister's economic affairs adviser, and Dr Hossain Monsur, chairman of Petrobangla, were also present.

Alexander Medvedev, deputy chairman of the management committee and director general of Gazprom Export, and Zarubezhneftegaz Valery Gulev, director general of Gazprom, also represented the Russian side.

Earlier on Monday, Alexey N

Borodavkin, deputy foreign minister of Russia, called on Mohammad Ziauddin, special envoy of the Bangladesh prime minister.

During the meeting in Russia, Ziauddin handed Borodavkin a message from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which was addressed to Russian President Dmitry A Medvedev.

They also discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest concerning development of the Russia-Bangladesh trade and economic cooperation, said the Russian embassy in a statement here on Tuesday.

Stocks bounce back after choppy trade

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks returned from losses yesterday, buoyed by a rise in shares of non-bank financial institutions, fuel and power and banking sectors.

But turnover plunged to a new low amid a lack of participation of both retail and institutional investors in trade.

Lack of confidence and uncertainty about the regulatory environment quickened the fall, market analysts said.

Turnover on the main bourse, Dhaka Stock Exchange, stood at Tk 506.41 crore from Tk 593 crore a day ago, much below daily average turnover in the last three months.

Daily average turnover, which hit the highest of Tk 1,315 crore in February, slumped to Tk 795 crore in March, according to DSE data.

Intra-day volatility defined yesterday's session. Opening downbeat, the market bounced in the following hour

only to dive again before starting a slow recovery.

The benchmark DGEN or General Index added 13.23 points or 0.24 percent to 5515.97. The DSI or All Shares Price Index gained 9.84 points or 0.21 percent to 4515.63. The DSE-20 or blue-chip index added 7.93 points or 0.27 percent to 2866.25.

Of the issues traded, 141 advanced, 100 lost and five ended unchanged.

Bank stocks, a lifeline to the market, ended marginally up after losing in the previous three sessions. NCC Bank, the third biggest issue on the turnover board, guided the recovery. NCC edged up 2.90 percent to Tk 531.50.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), a non-bank financial sector major, accelerated the gain in the NBF sector amid buying pressure.

ICB climbed 6.38 percent to Tk 3691. A rise in Prime Finance shares extended gains in the sector.

The fuel and power sector advanced, supported by gains in DESCO, Jamuna Oil and Eastern

Lubricants on expectations of gains.

Mutual funds snapped a losing streak on anticipation that the regulator would consider asset management appeals to relax margin rules.

Telecom, pharmaceuticals and general insurance ended down.

Grameenphone, which accounts for a fourth of market capitalisation, lost for a second day. GP shed 0.88 percent to Tk 359.20 amid profit-taking.

Pharma stocks finished marginally lower despite a rise in the shares of sector heavyweight Square Pharma.

Square Pharma gained 0.13 percent to Tk 3,495.25 after it said its board had approved an agreement with RAK Pharmaceuticals for toll manufacturing for its three products to meet increasing demand.

Beximco Pharma, a second top issue on the turnover board, slipped 0.43 percent to Tk 181.20.

All indices on Chittagong Stock Exchange ended higher with gainers beating losers 96 to 50. Four issues finished stable.



Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, president of International Business Forum Bangladesh (IBFB), attends a stakeholders' meeting on the International Finance Corporations' Doing Business Indicators for Bangladesh, organised by IBFB in Dhaka yesterday.

Government of the People's of Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Kalapara, District: Patuakhali
Invitation for Tenders (IFT for works)
Tender Notice No: 02/2009-2010

Memo no: LGED/UE/Patua/Kala/2010/ 164 **Date: 06 /04/2010**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the under listed works as per terms & conditions stated below.

Sl. No.	Package No	Name of Works	Amount of tender Security (Tk.)	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Time for completion
01	UP/KAL /MDG-01	Construction of Common room for Female Students with attached women friendly toilet & deep Tube- Wells at Umedpur Islamia dakhil Madrasa Under Nilgonj UP, Kalapara Upazila.	32,000.00	750.00	60 days
02	UP/KAL /MDG-02	Sinking of DeepTube- Wells Near H/O Nasir Uddin at Anipara, Near H/O Harun Biswash at Gamurbunia, Near H/Oshahid Mridha at Newapara, Near H/O Nasir Uddin at Itbaria, Near H/O Abdul Majid Master at Badurtali, Near H/O Kajol Talkers at Paschim badurtali, Near H/O Ibrahim Mia at Uttar Tiakhali, Near H/O Md Iktar Faraji at Daskhin charpara, Near H/O Abdul Malek Fakir at Aliganj, Near H/O Md. Arefin at paxmipara Sluice Under Chakamaiya, Teakhali & Mithaganj UP, Kalapara Upazila.	15,000.00	500.00	45 days
03	UP/KAL /MDG-03	Sinking of DeepTube- Wells Near H/O Abdur Razzaque at Chandupara, Near H/O Abdul Berek Talukder at Madhupara, Near H/O Idrish Biswash at Munshi para, Near H/O Sekendar Ali Khan Chandupara, Near H/O Reazuddin Mirdha at Debpur, Near H/O Fakruddin Talukdar at Machuakhali, Ghatola GPS at Ghatola, Near H/O Md Muzilbor Rahman at Machukhali, Near H/O Julfikar Ali at Nayakata, Near H/O Abdul Khaleque at paschim Dhulasar, Under Lalua, Dhankhall & Dhulasher UP, Kalapara Upazila.	15,000.00	500.00	45 days
04	UP/KAL /MDG-04	Sinking of DeepTube- Wells Near H/O Abul BaShar Khan at Saidpur, Near H/O Abdul Malek Sharder at Naobhanga, Near H/O Md. Jasim Uddin at Gamurbunia, Near H/O Abdul Hashem Sharder at Latifpur, Near H/O Nazrul Howlader at Puraton Mohipur, Near H/O Jahangir Sharder, at ward-6 Khaprabhangha UP, Near Kachikata Jame Mosque at Jamalpur, Near H/O Sahadat Ali Mirdha at Matibhanga, Near H/O Shahid Chowkidar at Kuakata, Near H/O Md. Ashed Master at Hasnapara Under Nilgonj, Khaprabanga, Latachpli UP & Lalua UP, Kalapara Upazila.	15,000.00	500.00	45 days
05	ADP-01	Construction of Pond Stair near Baro Baliatoli Pandit bari Jamay Mosque under Mithaganj UP, Kalapara.	4,000.00	150.00	45 days

4 Date, Time and place of Pre-tender Meeting: Date: 15/04/2010, Time 11.00 AM Place: Office of the undersigned

5 Last date, time and places of selling tender documents: Date: 25/04/2010 Time: upto 5.00pm Places: (a) Office of the undersigned (b) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist: Patuakhali (c) The Upazila Engineer Upazila: Sadar, Dist: Patuakhali

6 Last date, time and places of receiving tender: Date: 26/04/2010 Time: upto 12.00pm Places: (a) Office of the undersigned (b) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist: Patuakhali (c) The Upazila Engineer Upazila: Sadar, Dist: Patuakhali

7 Date, time and place of opening of tender: Date: 26/04/2010 Time: 3.00pm Place: Office of the undersigned

8 Tender shall be valid for a period of 60 days after tender opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in cash /treasury chalan /bank draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.

(Md. Rafiqul Islam)
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Kalapara, Patuakhali.

GD-1673