

Businessmen call for priority berthing

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Businessmen yesterday urged the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to allow priority berthing to those shipping lines that do not impose congestion surcharges on exporters.

Exporters said they paid about Tk 40 crore in surcharge in August to different shipping lines.

Since July, all major shipping lines have levied \$50 in surcharge per twenty-foot equivalent unit for congestion and high turnaround time.

In an effort to discourage surcharge, the CPA prioritised berthing to some shipping lines, including France-based CMA-CGMA and China-based CSC, but eventually stopped it apparently under pressure from other shipping lines.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said businessmen get financially penalised often by shipping lines because of their frequent imposition of surcharge. "We have no alternative to paying the additional amounts. We failed to realise those from importers."

AK Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said the traders have to deal with the congestion surcharge themselves. He said the CPA might regulate 'this surcharge business'. He, however, welcomed the move for priority berthing.

Nasir Uddin, a leader of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (CCCI), said the chamber asked the

CPA to allow priority berthing again.

"We requested the CPA to introduce priority berthing again but it seems to be in a dilemma over the issue," he added.

Contacted, CPA Chairman RU Ahmed said he is trying to find ways of putting the system back in place.

The CPA can, in line with regulations, introduce preferential berthing at the discretion of the chairman under special arrangement.

The Chittagong port that accounts for 90 percent of the country's external trade handles more than 1.2 million containers a year.

In a joint statement, leaders of BGMEA, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, FBCCI and CCCI urged the CPA to approve priority berthing.



Faisal Abdul Quadir, country manager for Qatar Airways Bangladesh, and Hassan O Rashid, acting head of consumer banking for Standard Chartered Bank, exchange documents after signing a deal recently. The bank's international credit cardholders (Platinum and Gold) will receive exclusive discounts up to 15 percent and 5,000 extra 'bonus miles' using the Qatar Airways Booking Engine.



Md Moyjuddin Ahmed, member for investment promotion of Bepza, and Che Chit Meng, general manager of Utara Sweater Manufacturing Company Ltd, ink a deal in Dhaka yesterday. The Hong Kong-based company has increased its investment from \$5.4 million to \$8.67 million at Utara EPZ.

Green banking comes to focus

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks should focus on environment-friendly initiatives by providing innovative financial products to help offset the impacts of climate change and ensure sustainable development, senior economists and bankers said yesterday.

They were speaking at a seminar on "Green Banking Initiatives: Opportunities for Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) in Dhaka.

"We have to change our mindset about environmental issues for making a better future through greening our mind," said Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman.

Green banking involves pursuing of financial and business policies that are not hazardous to environment and help conserve environment. The broad objectives of green banking are to use resources with responsibility avoiding waste and giving priority to environment and society.

"It is time to focus on protecting our planet through initiating green bank-

ing," said Mamun Rashid, managing director of Citibank NA.

"Because the main objective of green banking is to protect environment through pursuing environment-friendly financing policies."

"We need to focus on sustainable development approach because it has a close link with the development of other sectors, says Bandana Saha, director general for BIBM.

Banking sector can play a vital role to encourage other industries to go green through promoting eco-friendly financing schemes, Saha said.

"The banks should prioritise loaning the sectors that promote environmental practices," said Shah Md Ahsan Habib, director (training) of BIBM.

The banks can also launch green initiatives with their own business operations through pursuing cost cutting, recycling of materials and equipment and waste minimisation strategies, he said.

Habib said the financial institutions should initiate 'green office guide' to help protect the eco-system.

Use of online communication in

stead of printed documents, installation of energy efficient equipment, use of filtered water in place of bottled water and encouraging usage of energy efficient cars are some of the examples of practising green business, he said.

"We are facing a negative impact of climate change though we contribute little to global warming, said Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation.

"So, we have to focus on adaptation and mitigation process to cope up the adverse impacts of global warming. And green banking initiative can facilitate this process."

However, there is an argument that green banking causes extra cost for a bank.

But, socially and environmentally responsible banks can also be financially successful and have growth rates similar to, or even better than that of the conventional ones, said Habib.

Green banks can also ensure effective utilisation of resources through initiating cost cutting and recycling processes, Saha said.

India hikes interest rates for fifth time

AFP, Mumbai

India's central bank raised its main interest rates more than expected on Thursday, springing the fifth hike in six months as it tries to tame inflation in Asia's third-biggest economy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its main repo rate -- the rate at which it lends to commercial banks -- by 25 basis points to 6.0 percent, in line with analysts' forecasts.

But it hiked the reverse repo rate -- the rate it pays to banks for deposits --

more aggressively than predicted, increasing it by 50 basis points to 5.0 percent.

"Inflation remains the dominant concern in macroeconomic management," the bank said in a statement, adding that the new rates would not disrupt break-neck economic expansion, which was clocked at 8.8 percent last quarter.

Inflation, which had been in double figures earlier in the year, dipped to a seven-month low in August to 8.51 percent, but analysts say part of

the dip was due to changes in the main inflation index.

The Wholesale Price Index -- the government's preferred inflation indicator -- was tweaked to take into account more modern goods as indicators of the cost of living.

Even at 8.5 percent, however, inflation is far above the bank's target level of 6.0 percent and the government is under pressure to curb the rising cost of living that has hit India's hundreds of millions of poor particularly hard.

Food prices pinch Asian households

AFP, Singapore

Singaporean housewife Nursiah Sabada could only shrug in resignation as she shopped for food ahead of the holiday weekend marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

"It's the same price being quoted everywhere, and I don't have much choice because of the festive season," she told the news agency after purchasing three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of beef for the Eid al-Fitr celebrations.

She was not alone in feeling the pinch, and the rise in beef prices in import-dependent Singapore had little to do with the festival itself.

Millions of Asians like Nursiah are spending more to put food on the table as a result of supply disruptions from floods and drought, while changing patterns of consumption are expected to put long-term pressure on prices.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will hold a special one-day meeting to discuss rising world prices in Rome on September 24.

While analysts say the situation is less severe than the one experienced in Asia in 2008, when soaring food costs triggered social unrest in poorer parts of the region, chances of prices easing anytime soon are remote.

"In the immediate future, it's not

going to go up to what we saw in 2008 but the trend is of course on the upside," said Shikha Jha, principal economist with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank.

Erratic weather patterns, better nutrition amid rising affluence and shrinking supply of arable land are seen as the main factors behind the rising food costs.

"We expect another multi-year food price rise, partly because of burgeoning demand from the world's rapidly developing and most populated economies where diets are changing towards a higher calorie intake," Nomura analysts said.

"The supply side of the food equation is being constrained by diminishing agricultural productivity gains and competing use of available land due to rising trends of urbanization and industrialization," they said in a report.

The FAO's food price index in August reached its highest level since September 2008, rising by five percent to an average of 176 points with the spike caused mainly by drought-hit Russia's restrictions on wheat exports.

Kevin Grice, a London-based economist with Capital Economics, said consumers in Asia's poorer economies would feel the pain more acutely.

"I think probably the most vulnera-

ble would be Thailand, India and the Philippines," Grice said.

Devastating floods in Pakistan have sent prices soaring with inflation set to hit 20 percent, and wiped out 80 percent of farmers' wheat stock and seeds in breadbasket provinces such as Sindh and Punjab, according to the government.

Major floods have also affected China's agricultural output with food prices up an annual 6.8 percent in July after rising 5.5 percent on-year in the first six months of 2010, the latest official data show.

In India, food inflation rose 11.47 percent year-on-year in the week to August 28 compared with 10.86 percent in the previous week.

Indians saw food prices rise by nearly 18 percent last year after the worst monsoon rains in three decades hit farming output, sparking protests and fiery parliamentary debates.

Food prices in the Philippines, which has a sizeable agricultural sector, are also on the up with sugar particularly affected.

Blaming "irregular weather", Roberto Amore of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry said: "Areas that need a lot of water for irrigation don't have water. Areas that need less water have a lot of water, they are inundated."

Urea Fertilizer Factory Limited
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation)

Re-Tender Notice
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1) Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2) Agency	Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)
3) Procuring entity Name	Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi
4) Procuring entity District	Narsingdi
5) Invitation for	Procurement of 151.00 M.T. Liquid chloroline
6) Invitation Ref. and Date	UFFL/pur-2.002/2010-2011/127, Dated: 13-09-2010
Key Information	
7) Procuring Method	Opening Tendering Method (OTM)
Funding Information	
8) Budget and source of Fund	UFFL's own source
Particular Information	
9) Tender Publication Date	Date: 17-09-2010
10) Tender Last selling date	Date: 26-09-2010
11) Tender closing date and time	Date: 27-09-2010 Time: 11.00AM
12) Tender opening Date and Time	Date: 28-09-2010 Time: 11.00 AM
13) Name and Address of the Officer's	
Selling Tender Documents(Principal)	Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (6th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
Selling Tender Documents(Others)	1) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong 2) General Manager (A&F), UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi.
Receiving Tender Documents	1) Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. Administration Bhaban, Local Purchase office. 2) Purchase office, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
Opening Tender Documents	General Manager (Commercial), Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi (In presence of the bidders or their authorized agents who would wish to be present).
Information for Tender	
14) Eligibility of Tender	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the Tender Documents
15) Brief Description of goods	Procurement of 151.00 M.T. Liquid chloroline
16) Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 1000/- Per set.
17) Lot no Identification Location Tender Security Amount (Tk.) Completion time/Delivery Schedule	N/A 01(One) UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi Tk. 90,000/- As per terms of Tender schedule
Procuring Entity Details	
18) Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Salah Uddin
19) Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Managing Director
20) Address of Official Inviting Tender	Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi.
21) Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone No: 880-038994-85076, 88058 Fax No: 880-2-9352550, E-mail No: uffl42@yahoo.com

Special Instructions: (1) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof. (2) Due to unavoidable circumstance in the tender will not be received/opened in the date & time the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time.

(Mohiuddin Ahmed)
Manager (Commercial)
For Managing Director.

Geithner signals US impatience on yuan

REUTERS, Washington

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner sought to convince lawmakers on Thursday he was taking a tougher line on China's currency and trade policies, but Beijing warned that pressure from Washington could backfire.

Striking his sharpest tone yet in what has long been a flashpoint in US-China relations, Geithner planned to tell a Senate hearing that the yuan was strengthening too slowly and he was looking for ways to get Beijing to move faster.

Geithner's testimony could be critical to whether lawmakers, who say China hurts US jobs and corporate profits by keeping its currency artificially cheap, decide to push ahead on legislation targeting Beijing's policies before November elections, which are being shaped by voter anguish over the economy.

"China needs to allow significant, sustained appreciation over time to correct this undervaluation and allow the exchange rate to fully reflect market forces," Geithner said in prepared remarks for the first of a pair of Capitol Hill appearances.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Memo No: DPDC/CS/Local Tender/Sub-station/2010/ Dated: 16/09/2010

"TIME EXTENSION NOTICE OF DPDC'S LOCAL TENDER"

The tender submission /opening date of the following tender is hereby extended as shown below:

Sl. No.	Invitation for Tender No.	Material	Last Date of Tender buying		Tender Submission /Opening Date	
			Original	Extended	Original	Extended
1.	DPDC/CS/Local Tender/Sub-station/2010/207 Dated: 25/02/2010	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2 nos. new 33/11 KV substations on turnkey basis.	21/09/2010	28/11/10	22/09/2010	29/11/10

Except above all other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Company Secretary
DPDC