

Food import highest ever

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Of the estimated food import this year, 4.3 million tonnes have already been imported and the rest is in the pipeline. Of this, 0.2 million tonnes of rice from Thailand and 0.1 million tonnes from Vietnam are in the process of immediate import, the food minister said when contacted yesterday.

Import of food stood between two million and three million tonnes a year since independence except in 1998-99, but the import persistently showed an uptrend from 2007-08 exceeding three million tonnes every year.

Worried over the fat import bill of food grains, both Razzaque and Ahmed Hossain said they are awaiting the outcome of the population census conducted last

month.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury had earlier told The Daily Star that due to a sharp rise in population, it is getting increasingly difficult to match the increased food demand with domestic production.

Matia said efforts are on to further enhance food production but she underscored checking the population boom.

Addressing a seminar in the capital earlier this month, Finance Minister AMA Muhith also cautioned that the country might be in deep trouble if the population boom cannot be controlled. He also said keeping the posts of 29,000 family welfare assistant vacant during the past 10 years was a mistake since it contributed to population growth at a higher rate.

The country reaped well in the two rice seasons -- aus and aman -- and achieved the target output of wheat and expects a good harvest to boro rice. But its total cereal output of 36 million tonnes is likely to fall short of the requirement by over five million tonnes.

Against this backdrop, the government has enhanced its budgetary allocation for food import by 15 percent from the initial sanction of Tk 6,500 crore to Tk 7,500 crore, food ministry sources confirmed.

"With this amount, the government is buying 2.2 million tonnes of food grains -- 1.25 million tonnes of rice and 0.95 million tonnes of wheat," said Ahmed Hossain. He expressed fears that there will be a big mismatch between the coun-

try's present population and production of food grains.

The remaining three million tonnes of food grains -- 2.4 million tonnes of wheat and 0.6 million tonnes of rice -- are being imported through private channels.

Statistics updated till April 7 by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit under the Food Division of the Food and Disaster Management Ministry show that in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, the country imported 1.12 million tonnes of rice (74 percent by the government and

the rest by the private sector) and 3.21 million tonnes of wheat (79 percent by the private sector and the rest by the government).

The unit said food grains import in the last fiscal year (2009-10) totalled 3.46 million tonnes, of which 0.09 million tonnes were rice and 3.36 million tonnes wheat.

Public sector import last year was only one fifth of the total and private sector imported the rest. But this year public sector import of food grains will rise to 40 percent and that by private sector will stand at 60 percent.

No corruption

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countries in this region.

WB Country Director Ellen Goldstein and Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan signed the agreement on behalf of their sides. The much-awaited agreement was signed on-board Bhasha Shaheed Barkat Ferry at Mawa on the Padma.

According to the agreement, Bangladesh will have to repay the loan at 0.75 percent interest in 40 years, including a 10-year grace period.

Immediately after the signing yesterday, the WB country director and Bridge Division Secretary Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan signed another agreement on assistance on the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project.

At the ceremony Finance Minister AMA Muhith urged the locals to be alert so that none involved in the project can indulge in corruption.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, who was also present, assured the World Bank DG that Bangladesh government in this project will have zero tolerance for irregularities and corruption.

He said the government will sign loan agreements with the other financiers of the project, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) by May.

The ADB is loaning \$615 million, JICA \$400 million and the IDB \$140 million.

The 6.15km bridge over the Padma, with 3.68km of land-based approach viaducts on both sides of the

river, will connect the country's 19 south-western districts with the capital.

The bridge will have road traffic on the upper level and rail on the lower level. The main bridge structure would have a dual carriageway, and also provisions for future installation of a broad-gauge rail line as well as other facilities including gas, and telecommunication lines.

The bridge will reduce distance to Dhaka from most districts by about 100km.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Moshir Rahman and Communications Secretary Mozammel Haque were also present on the occasion.

Cancel nod to 30 NGOs

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The parliamentary standing committee on environment and forest ministry also sent back the draft policy on the ship-breaking industry and asked the ministry to review it in line with the Basel Convention and the High Court directives.

According to the Basel Convention, old ships themselves are treated as hazardous waste due to their inbuilt toxic substances.

"Several lawmakers have raised allegations of irregularities and lack of transparency in selecting those NGOs to implement projects under the climate change trust fund. The committee has therefore asked the ministry to cancel the approval," committee chief Abdul Momin Talukder told The Daily Star.

The committee chief said they have also asked the ministry to review the CCTF-backed projects given to 48 government organisations as some of the projects are not climate change related.

Talukder, an MP from the main opposition BNP, was talking to this correspondent emerging from a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"There was not minimum transparency in selecting those 30 NGOs. Besides, pre-qualification and past experiences were not considered during the selection process," a member of the committee told The Daily Star.

"The ministry has misguided the Climate Change Trustee Board regarding selection of the NGOs," said the committee member

from ruling Awami League asking not to be named.

The Tk 700 crore climate change fund was formed in 2009-10 fiscal. As much as 34 percent of this fund will be reserved to face the aftermath of any disasters. The government agencies will get 75 percent of the rest to implement the projects. The rest of the fund amounting to around Tk 100 crore will go to different NGOs.

On the projects given to the government organisations for implementation, the committee chief said there are several projects which have no relation to the effects of climate change.

Citing an example, he said there is a project related to safari park management which the committee thinks unimportant vis-a-vis climate change impacts.

"Another project is related to management of a beach which has no link to climate change," he added.

On sending back the draft policy on ship-breaking industries, he said the provision of taking "toxic free" certificates from the ship selling countries was not included in the rules.

"The committee has asked the ministry to review the policy incorporating that provision," Talukder added.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MJ Fuels Limited (MJFL), formerly Mobil Jamuna Fuels Limited, is a joint venture Company in downstream petroleum sector of the country, is setting up a state-of-the-art Petroleum Oil Storage Terminal in Chittagong. The Company is now looking for ambitious and motivated individual for immediate appointment to fulfill the following challenging role:

TERMINAL MANAGER (Based in Chittagong)

Key Job Responsibilities:

- During construction: actively monitor all activities of the Tank Terminal construction; and act as incident controller to identify and mitigate any untoward incidents;
- Design and maintain technical documentations; ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders of the project;
- During operations: responsible for the efficient operations of the terminal by leading the Tank Terminal Operations team;
- Provide leadership to coach, motivate and engage individual employees of the Team to ensure continuous improvement of performance.

Key Qualifications and Experiences:

- Minimum 10 years professional experiences of which at least 5 years working experience in oil tank terminal or oil depots, or in similar projects;
- Minimum B Sc. /M Sc. Engineering Degree (Chemical or Mechanical) from an reputed university;
- Highly organized, self-directed and able to manage multiple tasks and people simultaneously;
- Excellent team-building, collaboration, English communication and presentation skills;

The challenge and expectations are demanding while rewards are attractive. If you possess the requisite educational qualification, skills and experience, we invite you to send a resume with cover letter to the address given below by **May 9, 2011**, or through Email: career@mobilbd.com

Human Resource Department, MJL Bangladesh Limited, Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview. Selection will be made purely on merit basis. MJFL is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the position of **Capacity Building Specialist (SB-4)** with "Early Recovery Facility" project. Bangladesh

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above position, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than on **Thursday, 12 May, 2011**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH TENDER NOTICE

FABRICATION, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE (EXTERNAL) FOR IUB CAMPUS AT BASHUNDHARA

- Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors for Fabrication, Supply & Installation of Signage (External) of IUB Campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. This Invitation is for Technically-qualifying the contractors and accepting Bid for the scope of works, which include fabrication, supply, & installation of Signage.
- 2.5% of the bid amount must be submitted as earnest money together with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh validated not less than 6 (six) months from the date of submission of tender in favor of the Independent University, Bangladesh without which the tender will be rejected.
- The Tender bidders shall apply in their letterhead to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility to obtain tender documents.
 - Attested copies of documents evidencing several years of experience in supply & installation of external signage.
 - Attested copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer on the above work.
 - Attested copies of the up-to-date Trade License, Income TAX Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate.
- Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non refundable cash of TK. 1,000/- (Taka one Thousand) between 2 May 2011 and 5 May 2011 during office hours.
- The tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned upto 1.30 p.m. of 18 May 2011 and shall be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the same day at the same place in presence of the Tenderers who may like to attend the tender opening.
- The Technical Offers will be opened first and evaluated based on the procedure adopted by the authority. The financial offers of technically qualified firms only will be opened in presence of Tenderers, if any
- The IUB reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tender and not to accept the lowest bidder and can reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Director, Planning & Development
Independent University, Bangladesh
Plot # 16, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka
Tel: 8401645-53

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation** for the Child Health Unit under the Public Health Sciences Division in Dhaka. The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 1 year, which may be renewed depending on performance and availability of funds.

Salary -Annual - Tk.911,250/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities - 14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, children allowance @Tk.1,420/= per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen, daycare facilities.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit an online application by **May 09, 2011**.

Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for the interview.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MJL Bangladesh Limited (MJLBL), formerly Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Limited, is a joint venture Company in downstream petroleum sector of the country. MJLBL, over the years of operation, enjoyed the highest reputation in the country's downstream petroleum industry. The Company takes pride not only in its leadership position in the country's lubricants market, but also in its ability to provide high quality products and unparalleled services to valued customers both at home and abroad.

PROJECT/PLANT MANAGER, LPG (Based in Chittagong)

MJLBL has taken an initiative to set-up a large and the most technologically advanced **LPG Storage and Bottling Plant** in the country. We are looking for ambitious and motivated individual to take-up a challenging position as **PROJECT/PLANT MANAGER, LPG (based in Chittagong)**.

Key Job Responsibilities:

- Coordinating with local Management and overseas Engineering Houses to ensure Front-End and Detailed Engineering packages are developed and delivered meeting the scope and schedule of the Project;
- Responsible for monitoring day-to-day deliverables of the Project Team to ensure all activities are within scope, on budget, and on schedule;
- Ensuring the obligations of the EPC Contractor are met, and project deliverables are achieved as planned;
- Designing and maintaining technical and project documentations; communicate and coordinate to work effectively with all stakeholders in the project;
- Review and verify that all Quality and Safety, Health & Environment procedures and properly implemented;
- Responsible for preparing Project Status Reports for regular review of the Senior Management;
- Coaching, motivating and engaging project team members to ensure the successful completion of the assigned deliverables.

Key Qualifications and Experiences:

- B Sc./M Sc. in Chemical or Mechanical Engineering from any reputed university
- Minimum of 10 years' experience in petroleum industry, preferably in LPG sector, with sound project management experience;
- Highly organized, self-directed and able to manage multiple tasks and people simultaneously;
- Excellent team-building, collaboration, communication and presentation skills.

BRAND MANAGER (Based in Dhaka)

Motivated individual sought for immediate appointment to fulfill the position of **BRAND MANAGER**. Brand Manager will supervise development and management of Brand activities to support the objectives of Sales & Marketing.

Key Job Responsibilities:

- Preparing Long and Short Term Brand Objectives; defines and sets objectives, formulates appropriate strategies to meet those objectives;
- Executing, monitoring and quantifying the effectiveness of planned activities; conduct retail and customer surveys to substantiate the business objectives and also to independently quantify the growth of the brand;
- Responsible for developing and launching of new products within budgeted promotional activities;
- Developing Media and Promotions strategies, and coordinating with outside agencies to execute the plan;
- Evaluating promotional ROI using known analytical techniques, as well as drawing conclusions/insights to make tangible recommendations from the resulting data;

Key Qualifications and Experiences:

- An MBA/Masters Degree in Marketing from any reputed university;
- Minimum of 10 years experience in Brand or Marketing;
- Highly organized, self-directed and able to manage multiple tasks and people simultaneously;
- Excellent team-building, collaboration, English communication and presentation skills;

The challenge and expectations are demanding while rewards are attractive. If you possess the requisite educational qualification, skills and experience, we invite you to send a resume with cover letter to the address given below by **May 9, 2011**, or through Email: career@mobilbd.com

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