

Hartal spawns fresh container congestion at Chittagong port

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

Transport of export and import goods to and from Chittagong port was badly hit during the 84-hour country-wide hartal imposed by the BNP-led 18-party alliance as violence on the streets and highways disrupted vehicular movement.

The port is now suffering from fresh container congestion, as the shutdown hampered timely delivery of import goods from the port a lot.

None of the 17 private inland container depots (ICDs) located in and around the port city received any truck or covered van laden with export goods from the factories at different parts of the country in the last four days.

The export goods are usually received at the ICDs to be stuffed into containers before sending to the port.

During the shutdown, some of the ICDs were able to send around 800 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export containers to the port in the night time while around 2,400 TEUs of export containers got stranded in the depots.

Six container carriers of KDS Logistics, an ICD at Sitakunda area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, faced vandalism of the hartal supporters while carrying goods to the port on Monday.

A total of 4,112 TEUs of containers laden with imported goods brought from the port earlier for unloading also

remained stockpiled in these ICDs, as the importers failed to send trucks or covered vans for them, said Ruhul Amin Sikder, secretary of Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association.

Activities in the ICDs were directly disrupted due to the shutdown, he said.

Departure of a feeder vessel, Smiley Lady, scheduled to leave the port yesterday was delayed by a day, as most of the export cargoes bound for the ship could not reach the port in time, said an official of PIL Bangladesh, local agent of the ship.

On an average, 400 TEUs of containers were delivered from the port during the hartals, much lower from its regular delivery of around 2,000 TEUs.

According to the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), the port's import container storage exceeded its capacity of 23,375 TEUs on the second day of the hartals, while around 24,000 TEUs of import containers were lying in the port yards till yesterday afternoon.

The congestion is not creating any problem in the yards now, but the situation would get worse if new shutdown is enforced in the next couple of weeks, officials of shipping agents said.

CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed, however, hoped the situation would come back to normalcy with the end of the hartals yesterday.

Dhaka, Kunming join hands to promote precious metal exchange

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka Stock Exchange and Kunming Pan Asia Gold Exchange Co have signed a letter of intent (LoI) to promote joint development of precious metal's market such as gold based in Dhaka and Kunming.

The LoI was also aimed at jointly analysing the trading feasibility in both exchanges to trade the gold and its derivatives denominated in RMB, Taka and US dollar, the DSE said in a statement yesterday.

It was signed on the sideline of a three-day event on Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor Connectivity Forum held at Fuzhou in China.

At the event, DSE President Ahsanul Islam highlighted economic and financial growth and opportunity of foreign direct investment in Bangladesh.

He also proposed some innovative financial products to provide financial support for the construction of BCIM constituents' countries.

The products include infrastructure development fund for the BCIM forum, Islamic financial products like Sukuk, BCIM 50 Index, currency swap (BDT versus RMB) based on gold standard and regional commodity exchange like gold exchange.

The DSE president also sat with China government high ups to discuss various aspects for the development of the corridor connectivity among the BCIM constituent's countries especially between Dhaka and Kunming.



NRB GLOBAL

Muklesur Rahman, managing director of NRB Bank; Aftab Mahmud Khurshid, head of brand and communications, and Md Mustafizur Rahman, vice president of retail banking, attend a roadshow organised by the bank in London recently.

Govt to set up solar equipment testing lab

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Such a situation adds to the cost, creates uncertainty in performance and quality of the products, and reduces global competitiveness for the domestic industry, he said.

On average, around 70,000 families are now installing solar home systems each month to meet their daily electricity requirements. Till September, IDCOL has installed 2.57 million units.

In September alone, some 88,945 units were installed, up 20.55 percent from August, according to IDCOL's statistics.

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British MPs recommend broader reforms in garment industry

FROM PAGE B4

The collapse of Rana Plaza, one of the worst industrial accidents in recent history that resulted in the loss of over 1,100 lives, exposed the profound flaws in the garment industry.

It prompted the founding of and scrutiny by the APPG, which conducted a fact-finding mission in Bangladesh to discuss policy recommendations with stakeholders from the apparel industry.

Six MPs participated in the visit: Simon Danczuk, Rushanara Ali, Jonathan Reynolds, Nick de Bois, Shabana Mahmood and Main.

The rapid economic development and urbanisation that Bangladesh has experienced in the last few decades has led to strains on the ability of any government to meet infrastructural and regulatory needs, the report said.

GDP growth has been averaging 5-6 percent per year since the turn of the century and Bangladesh's urban population has been growing by 6 percent; a trend that is expected to continue.

As a result, Bangladesh needs to be supported by brands and the international community in their efforts to build up local capacity and reform the garment industry, Main added.

In order to prevent a loss of future investment, the report recommended that the Bangladesh government, aided by brands and the international community, establishes a long-term strategic plan to address these pressing concerns.



AIRTEL

Rajnish Kaul, chief operating officer of Airtel Bangladesh, and Mashrur Arefin, deputy managing director of The City Bank, shake hands after signing a deal for exclusive promotional offers for the customers of the two companies, at Airtel's corporate office in Dhaka yesterday.



EBL

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank, and Ari Sarker, MasterCard's division president for South Asia, attend a press briefing to announce EBL-MasterCard partnership at the Westin Dhaka recently.

A land of 'rice and fish' turns into an industrial hub

FROM PAGE B4

CSR Electric Locomotive, which is located in Zhuzhou, produces different types of locomotives for China and other countries. It is now manufacturing speedy locomotives for subway and metro rails.

Since 2010, the company witnessed 30 percent sales growth per year. In 2010, its revenue stood at 160 million RMB (\$2.43 billion) from a mere 10 million RMB in 2000.

"Our products are less costly, energy efficient and durable," said He Enguang, deputy president of the company and a professor of engineering.

Changde and Yueyang cities also have similar heavy industries. But these cities are better known for environmental protection, cultural heritage and green transportation systems.

Changde is also famous for excellent transportation management, hygiene and tourism. More than 300 enterprises have been set up in Changde Economy and Technology Development Zone. Of them, 100 are large-scale industries.

Yueyang city, which is better known for Dongting and South lakes, has become a hotspot for tourists.

Chinese leaders who interacted with the visiting reporters said they have been making these cities environment friendly and energy efficient. They said they are making two types of society -- for economic development and environmental protection, in Changsha, Zhuzhou and Xiantan, under a government project approved in 2007.

"We are not to make business at the cost of environment," said Zhou Xiang, director general at the informa-

A living wage in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

A basic diet that meets the needs of a family of three alone costs about \$67 a month, according to a recent analysis by the Center for Policy Dialogue, a respected research organisation based in Dhaka. At the same time, the garment industry, second to China's in exports, has grown at a stunning rate in recent years and can afford to pay workers more. Bangladesh exported \$19 billion in clothes last year, up more than 50 percent from two years earlier.

Government officials and industry executives say a big increase in the minimum wage might force some factories to close if they are not able to pass the costs to customers in the United States and Europe. That concern may be overblown. Several Western companies have made commitments to increase factory inspections and pay for safety improvements after a building collapse killed more than 1,100 garment workers near Dhaka earlier this year. Some businesses like H&M already support a higher minimum wage. Raising the minimum—and indexing it to inflation—would help workers and boost productivity by

Cautious trading helps stocks gain marginally

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks ended marginally higher yesterday amid cautious trading with the prime index, DSEX, closing the day at 4,212.72 points after gaining 15.01 points or 0.36 percent from the previous session.

"Volatility has become a key idiosyncrasy of daily trading, reflecting the day-to-day mixed participation of investors and dubious swings in large cap stocks," observed LankaBangla Securities in its analysis.

The string of political strikes over the last few weeks subdued the resilient economic data released in recent time, making the investment scenario uneven, the stockbroker said.

"Though, market cap of bank and power sectors suffered 0.4 percent and 0.2 percent losses, all other large and mid-cap stocks enjoyed a buying spree that held up the benchmark index above 4,200 points level."

As the surge in bank sector sedated, investors scrambled seeking superior return from other undervalued investment opportunities, said IDLC Investments in its daily market analysis.

Alongside, scrip-wise swings were also observed in the day's session, resulting from recent mixed earning declarations, the merchant banks said.

Much of the extensive search ended in

textile, pushing its turnover to Tk 125 crore and generating a 2.47 percent return, it said.

Turnover, the most important indicator of the market, advanced 23.69 percent to Tk 471 crore from the previous day.

A total of 1.22 lakh trades were executed with 14.26 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.

Gainers took a strong lead over the losers, as 188 issues gained, 71 declined and 19 remained unchanged out of the 278 traded.

Among the major sectors, non-bank financial institutions and pharma edged up by 0.34 percent and 0.37 percent.

Generation Next Fashions featured in the most traded stocks chart with 16.51 lakh shares worth Tk 47 crore changing hands.

Anlima Yarn was the highest gainer of the day, posting a rise of 10 percent while Rahim Textile was the worst loser, slumping by 13 percent following its price adjustment after record date.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also ended marginally higher yesterday with its selective categories index, CSCX, closing the day at 10.99 points higher at 8,223.94 points from the last session.

Gainers beat losers 122 to 77 with 11 issues remaining unchanged on the port city bourse that traded 1.92 crore shares and mutual fund units with a turnover value of Tk 51 crore.

Hartal fears grip shop owners as sales go down

FROM PAGE B1

Earlier this year, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated that retailers and wholesalers lose sales worth Tk 600 crore a day.

"Customers hardly come for fear of violence," said Mohammad Neel, owner of traditional sari store Aanchal in Gulistan, on the second day of hartal this week.

He said sales dipped to Tk 500 on the first day of hartal this week from Tk 16,000 on Saturday. On Monday, he barely logged Tk 1,500.

"It is a terrible situation. Sales are so low that I become tense every time I look at the accounts," he said.

He fears it would be difficult for him to

manage the monthly fixed cost for the store of Tk 45,000.

In addition to retailers, hawkers and roadside vendors have also taken a hit for the recent political situation.

Mahmudul Hasan, a roadside shoe vendor at Sonargaon intersection, said he did not open his makeshift store during last week's hartal. But this week, he could not afford to sit idle.

Sales have fallen by half, said Hasan, who buys shoes on credit from suppliers and footwear makers.

"Payment to the factory owner will be delayed this time, although they have already started giving me reminders."

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

বঙ্গবন্ধু রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।

প্লেজকৃত মালামাল (পাট) বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বঙ্গবন্ধু রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ-এর সিসি প্রেজ (পাট) ঋণ গ্রহীতা মেসার্স পাল এন্ড কোং, স্বত্বাধিকারী বাবু মাধব চন্দ্র পাল-এর প্রেজ গুদামে রক্ষিত নিম্নবর্ণিত গ্রেডের পাট ব্যাংকের নিজস্ব ব্যবস্থাপনায় বিক্রি করা হবে। অতএব, অগ্রণী ক্রেতাগণের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অগ্রণী ক্রেতাগণ বর্ণিত সকল গ্রেডের পাট ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন। এ বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য শাখা প্রধান-এর সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। যোগাযোগের জন্য ফোন নং-৭৬৩০০৯০ এবং মোবাইল নং-০১৭২৭৪৭৪৩৩। অতএব, নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

- অগ্রণী প্রত্যেক দরপত্রদাতাকে বেলের পরিমাণ, পাটের গ্রেড এবং প্রতিবেল পাটের মূল্য উল্লেখ করে নিজস্ব ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে লিখিতভাবে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে সর্বশেষ ০১-১২-১৩ ইং তারিখ বেলা ৩-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বঙ্গবন্ধু রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে বা রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন।
- দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্র মূল্যের ৫% জামানত বারদ পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বঙ্গবন্ধু রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ-এর অনুকূলে যেকোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করতে হবে।
- সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্র গৃহীত হওয়ার সর্বশেষ ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে ১০০% মূল্য পরিশোধপূর্বক পাট ডেলিভারী নিতে হবে। অন্যথায় ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ জামানতসহ দরপত্র বাতিল করতে পারবে।
- মালামাল ডেলিভারী নেয়াসহ অন্যান্য যাবতীয় খরচ ক্রেতাকে বহন করতে হবে।
- সর্বোচ্চ বা যেকোন মূল্যের দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল-এর ক্ষমতা ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- নির্ধারিত ০১-১২-১৩ ইং তারিখে বেলা ৩-০১ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
- সর্বোচ্চ গৃহীত দরপত্রদাতা দরপত্রের শর্তানুযায়ী অর্থ পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ পরবর্তী সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্রদাতার দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচনা করতে পারবেন।

বিভিন্ন গ্রেডের পাটের বিবরণ :

CUT JUTE

ক্রম নং	পাটের গ্রেড	বেলের পরিমাণ	মজুতকৃত মালামালের অবস্থান
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০৬	B.T.B	১০২	
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০৪	B.T.B	৪২৬
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০৬	MASTA-B	৪৫
০৭	MASTA-C	৬৩০
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(মোঃ আবদুস সালাম মিয়া)

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

বঙ্গবন্ধু রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।

(৯'X ৩)