

Organic products can be big forex earner for Bangladesh: minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh can easily earn \$640 million a year by exporting organic products, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said yesterday.

The minister spoke at a workshop organised by Bangladesh Organic Products Manufacturers Association and the Agro Products Business Promotion Council, at the auditorium of the Department of Agricultural Extension at Khamar Bari in the capital.

Majority of the 164 countries which export organic products are least-developed, a statement of the planning ministry quoted the minister as saying.

An agriculture-based country like Bangladesh has huge potential in export of such products, he said.

In 2012, organic products worth \$64 billion were exported worldwide, from \$15

billion in 1999, and the amount may reach \$138 billion in the next few years, Kamal said.

Around 10 percent of Bangladesh's total land area is suitable for producing organic products, he said.

Many countries use only 1 percent of their arable land for producing organic products and earn huge amount of foreign currencies by exporting those, said M Asaduzzaman Sarker, an associate professor at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

There is good demand for organic products in the developed countries as those are safe for health, Sarker said.

Bangladesh presently exports various organic products, including organic tea, lentil and soybean, he said.

Andre Leu, president of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, said his organisation is ready to help Bangladesh in producing organic products.



KS Tabrez, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, opens the bank's 137th branch in Kapasila, Gazipur yesterday.

Big steel companies displace small ones

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"We are toddling. One-fourth of our 130 factories have already been shut down for want of business," he said.

Though Bangladesh is an emerging developing country and has been growing at over 6 percent on average for the last one decade, its per capita consumption of steel is well below the world average of 217 kg.

Bangladesh's current per capita finished steel consumption stands at 26 kg, which was 57 kg for India in 2012.

Businesses said steel industry tracks the overall economic growth in the long-term.

Also, since steel demand is derived from other sectors like construction buildings, roads, consumer durables and infrastructure, its fortune is dependent on the growth of these user industries.

They said a slump in demand in the last two years has further affected the business of the steelmakers. They said the drop in demand has reduced the price of metal by Tk 4,000-Tk 6,000 per tonne in a year.

The government has to speed up its spending on building infrastructure, which will push up the demand for steel, said Alihussain Akberali, chairman of BSRM, citing the Dhaka-Chittagong four-lane highway that has been in construction for years but is yet to be completed as a case in point.

BSRM, the largest steelmaker in the country, currently produces around 6 lakh tonnes of steel a year, with plans to scale up production capacity by 3 to 4 lakh tonnes a year, he said.

AKS's re-rolling mill is the single largest steelmaker in Bangladesh, with the capacity to produce 12 lakh tonnes of graded steel bars per year.

"We are in the process to further increase our capacity to strengthen our foothold in the steel market," said a senior official of AKS wishing not to be named.

After BSRM and AKS, KSRM is the biggest steel miller with an ability to produce 4 lakh tonnes of iron metal a year.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, জেলা কারাগার, কুত্তিয়াম	
jails.surukirgram@yahoo.com	
স্মারক নং ৪৪০৯০৯০০১৬৭০৮০০১১৪০১৬৭	তারিখ: ০৮-০৮-২০১৪ খ্রিঃ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১। এজেন্সি/সংস্থা	১। কারা অধিবাসন, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
২। দরপত্রের নাম	২। কুত্তিয়াম জেলা কারাগারের বিভিন্ন প্রকার ডাল সরবরাহের জন্য কারা টিকাদার নিয়োগের দরপত্র।
৩। দরপত্রের প্রাক্কেজ নং	৩। ০৪১৪
৪। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বরাত	৪। রংপুর বিভাগীয় কারা দণ্ডের স্মারক নং-৪৪০৯০৯০০১৬৭০৮০০১১৪০১৬৭০১(১) তারিখ: ২২-০৭-২০১৪ খ্রিঃ।
৫। দরদাতাদের মুন্তম যোগ্যতা	৫। দরপত্র সিডিউল এর সাথে সংযুক্ত ডকুমেন্টে উল্লেখিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
৬। বাণিজ্য ও কানুন প্রাপ্তির উৎস	৬। জাতীয় রাজস তথ্যবিল।
৭। দরপত্রের প্রকৃতি	৭। সীমিত দরপত্র প্রকৃতি।
৮। টেক্সের সিকিউরিটি	৮। বিভিন্ন প্রকার ডাল প্রস্তাবিত দরের উপর ৩% হারে তেভার সিকিউরিটি।
৯। দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	৯। জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, জেলা কারাগার, কুত্তিয়াম, কারা উপ-মহাপ্রদেশৰ্ক, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা ও রংপুর বিভাগ, সদর দণ্ডের রংপুর।
১০। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	১০। টাকা ৭৫০/- (সাম্পত্তি পর্যাপ্ত)।
১১। দরপত্র দলিল বিতরের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১। ২৫-০৮-২০১৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ২০.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। মন্তব্য ডাল= ১৩৪ কুইঁঁ। ছোলা ডাল= ১৮ কুইঁঁ।
১২। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১২। (১) প্রধান কার্যালয় জেলা কারাগার (২) সদর থানা, কুত্তিয়াম (৩) জেল সুপার, জেলা কারাগার, কুত্তিয়াম।
১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৩। ২৬-০৮-২০১৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৪। ২৬-০৮-২০১৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫। মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়সীমা	১৫। ২৬-০৮-২০১৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১৬। কার্যালয়ের সময়সীমা	১৬। ০১-১০-২০১৪ হতে ৩১-০৩-২০১৫ইং পর্যন্ত।
১৭। দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ	১৭। দরপত্র সিডিউল এর সাথে সংযুক্ত ডকুমেন্টে শর্তানুসৰি পাঠ্যশাবলী প্রযোজ্যতা দেখানোর প্রয়োজন করতে হবে।
১৮। দরদাতাদের আবাসনকারীর নাম	১৮। জেল সুপার, জেলা কারাগার, কুত্তিয়াম।
১৯। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কার্যক ব্যক্তিকে যে কেন্দ্র স্কুল/টেক্সের বাতিল/ঘোষণ করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
এছাড়া এ বিষয়ে আরো কেন্দ্র তথ্য জানার প্রয়োজন থাকলে নিম্নাধিকারীর ডালের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। দরপত্রাত বা মনোনিত প্রতিনিয়গ ইচ্ছা করলে দরপত্রের বাক্স খোলার সময় উপরিত থাকতে পারবেন।	
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জেল সুপার	
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China inflation rises in July

AFP, Beijing

China's annual inflation rose 2.3 percent in July, official data showed Saturday, remaining stable and allowing authorities space to further stimulate growth in the world's second-largest economy if needed.

The country's consumer price index (CPI) -- a main gauge of inflation -- also rose by 2.3 percent in the first seven months of the year from the same period in 2013, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

The CPI had risen 2.3 percent in June, marking a slowdown from a four-month high of 2.5 percent in May.

July's result matched the median forecast of 2.3 percent in a Wall Street Journal survey of 15 economists and remained well below the 3.5 percent annual target set by the government in March.

The stable inflation figures came as China's economic growth has accelerated since authorities introduced measures to boost activity after gross domestic product (GDP) slowed at the beginning of the year.

Moderate inflation can be a boon to consumption as it encourages shoppers to buy before prices go up, while falling prices encourage them to delay purchases and companies to put off investment, both of which can weigh on growth.

BGMEA asked to form emergency fund

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Khan said the Tuba Group owner will pay the festival bonuses, which is still outstanding, to workers later.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnu said the government arranged for Hossain's bail in the workers' interest.

If Hossain was still in jail, it would have taken six months or more for the workers to get their arrears, he said. "We created pressure on Delwar Hossain and on the BGMEA to pay the workers," Chunnu said.

Meanwhile, Khokon Mia, an operator at one of Tuba Group's factories, said every worker received a month's salary and overtime payment yesterday. But, in many cases, the overtime amount was not calculated properly and workers did not get the exact amount.

Khadiza Akter, an operator of Bugsan Fashion, a unit of the Tuba Group, said she got the right amount of salaries.

Sirajul Islam Rony, member of the minimum wage board for garment workers, said every worker got their salaries properly. "I have not noticed any problem in payment to the workers."

Start-ups to get collateral-free loans at low interest

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"The initiative from the central bank has been taken as part of the policy efforts to create additional employment opportunities."

Rahman said banks cannot limit themselves to signing the participatory agreement only; they will have to be active in finding out new entrepreneurs.

"Bankers have to lose sleep over realising money from large borrowers. But that is not normally seen in case of small entrepreneurs. So, I hope banks will be interested to invest in this segment of clientele even if the profit margin is a bit low."

The governor also praised DCCI whose initiative to create 2,000 new entrepreneurs has acted as a catalyst behind the central bank initiative.

He said more initiatives would be taken if this one succeeds.

Abul Kashem, a deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, said DCCI would make a list of small entrepreneurs after providing them training.

"Banks and other financial institutions will lend as per the list. However, the lenders will still follow their due diligence in lending money to the entrepreneurs."

Ali Reza Iftekhar, chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh; Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, vice chairman of ABB; Selim RF Hussain, vice chairman of Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association; and Shahjahan Khan, president of DCCI, were also present.

HC asks govt to explain why Destiny officials won't get bail

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The commission on May 4 this year pressed charges against the Destiny Group MD, Destiny 2000 President Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid and 49 others in the cases.

They were charged for misappropriating funds through Destiny's tree plantation project and from DMCSL, according to charge sheets.

The HC in October 2012 granted bail to Harun in the two cases on condition that he will no longer be involved with the group, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Two appeals filed by the ACC against the HC order of bail to Harun are now pending with the Supreme Court, he said.

M Badiuzzaman argued for the Destiny officials.



Nazneen Sultana, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, presents a certificate to a participant of EBL Women Leadership Programme, at the Westin Dhaka on Saturday. Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank, was also present.



Shiro Shadoshima, Japanese ambassador, leads an investment delegation, including representatives of JCID, JETRO and JICA, to meet with Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, at the central bank yesterday. Officials of BBL, Bepza, NBR and the commerce ministry were also present. The meeting discussed ways of resolving various investment issues before the Japanese premier's planned visit to Bangladesh.



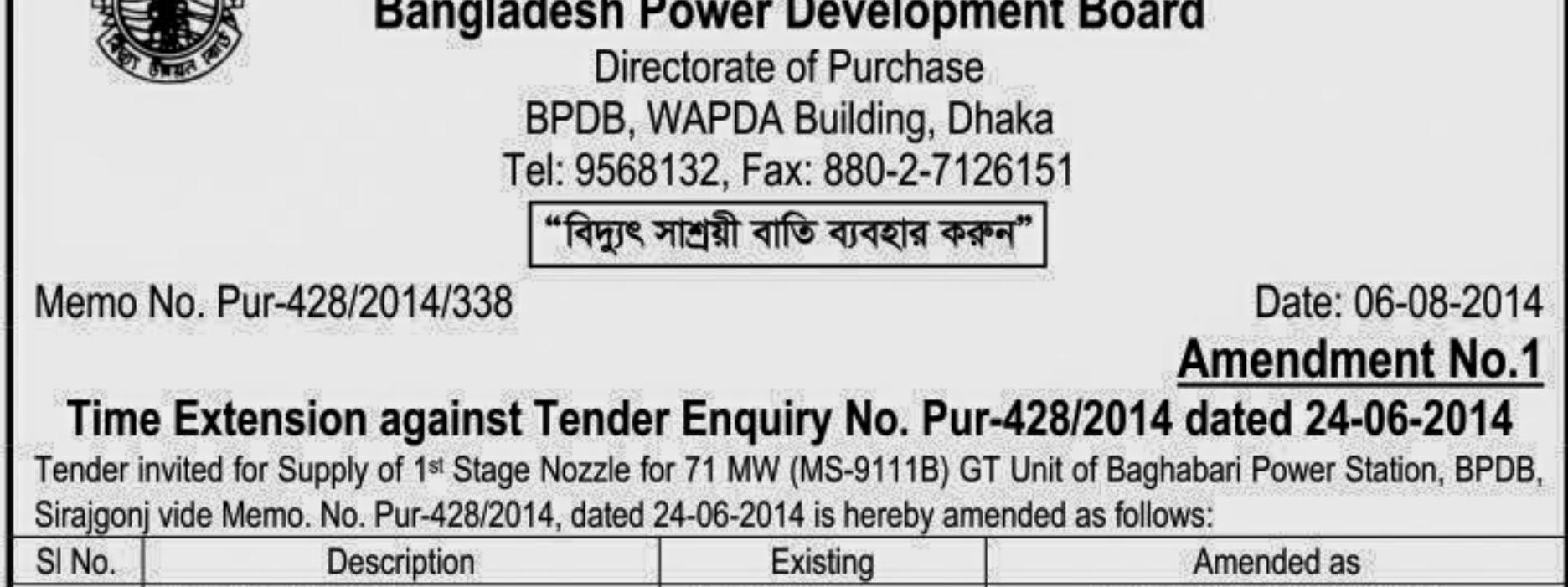
Adam Gilchrist, former Australian cricketer; Pablo Kang, Australian ambassador to the UAE and Qatar; Liza Harvey, Western Australian tourism minister; Peter Baumgartner, chief commercial officer of Etihad Airways; and Brad Geatches, chief executive of Perth Airport, pose at the launch of the airline's Perth-Abu Dhabi services at Fraser's State Reception Centre in Perth recently.



Nazir Ahmed, executive vice president for sales and service at developed market for Robi Axiata, and Gopal Debnath, managing director of Mediasoft Data Systems, attend the signing of an agreement for enhanced recharge experience for the customers of the mobile operator, at Robi's head office in Dhaka yesterday.



Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of Dhaka Bank, attends the business review meeting of the bank at the Peninsula Chittagong in the port city on Saturday. Niaz Habib, managing director, was also present.



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্য