

Star

BUSINESS

Chattogram's Ramgarh land port, which will serve as a connection with India's northeastern states, is set to be inaugurated this week

Story on B3



Ramesh Chandra Ghosh

'We are helpless'

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bus operators have become helpless after repeated blockades not only dented their businesses but also created worries of losses owing to vandalism and arson attacks on their vehicles, said a top inter-district bus operator.

"This is the sector which suffers the most due to political unrest as vehicles are most susceptible to vandalism and arson attacks. Given these risks, we are finding no way," said Ramesh Chandra Ghosh, managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan, one of the country's oldest and largest long-distance bus operators.

The reaction came at the end of last week when countrymen were witnessing the blockade enforced by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and like-minded parties, demanding the resignation of the current government and the formation of a neutral government ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

After a two-day pause during the weekend, BNP called a 48-hour countrywide blockade from Friday.

Ghosh, also chairman of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association, said the blockade had forced bus

READ MORE ON B3

KEY POINTS

Investment rising for setting up data centres
Investment so far Tk 5,200cr
Over Tk 1,500cr foreign and local investment in the pipeline
Investment is low compared to peer nations

SERVICES A DATA CENTRE PROVIDES



Data storage and processing



Supporting cloud services



Backup services



Delivering scalable computing resources



High-speed network connectivity



Playing a key role in hosting websites

PRIVATE SECTOR

Felicity IDC Limited (Tier-III)
Investment: Tk 250cr
RedDot Digital Limited (Tier-III)
Investment: Tk 150cr
Dhaka Colo Limited (5 centres)
Investment: Tk 100cr
DataHub Asia
Investment: Tk 50cr
CoLoCity,
NRB Telecom and other players
invested about Tk 100crore

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Jatra International
Investment: Tk 800cr
DCC Data Park (Yotta)
Investment: Tk 2000cr
Saudi company DataVolt plans
to invest Tk 1,000 cr
National Data Centre (Tier-IV)
Investment: Tk 1,500cr
BCC Data Centre (Tier-IV)
Investment: Tk 250cr

DATA CENTRES ESTABLISHED IN BANGLADESH

PUBLIC SECTOR

Investment pouring into data centres

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Private investment in data centres is on the rise in Bangladesh to serve the growing demand for storing, processing and managing digital data generated thanks to the boom in internet use and digitalisation of services.

Local players have channelled funds into setting up data centres while the sector is also attracting foreign investments.

Private, public and foreign entities have already invested or are in the middle of injecting more than Tk 5,200 crore, with half coming from overseas.

The exponential growth of data, driven by online services, e-commerce, and the Internet of Things, has created an urgent need for data storage and processing capabilities in Bangladesh.

According to industry people, organisations in various sectors, including

banks, government agencies, and healthcare, education, and technology service providers, use data centres and cloud services, which enable data storage, processing, and scalability, and facilitate efficient operations and digital innovation.

Fiber@Home Ltd, the first nationwide telecommunication transmission network provider in Bangladesh, founded Felicity IDC Limited, which is building two data centres at the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech

City in Gazipur's Kaliakoir and the Sheikh Hasina Software Technology Park in Jashore.

At the Kaliakoir's data centre, 250 racks have been set up with full operational capability and it is a highly accredited tier III centre.

"This demonstrates our commitment to the highest standard of quality, environmental management and information security," said Moynul Haque Siddiqui, chairman of Fiber@Home.

Some top banks are taking

services from the centre.

Fiber@Home has invested more than Tk 275 crore and plans to put in another Tk 350 crore to Tk 400 crore in two data centres, which will have a total of 1,250 racks.

At a data centre, a rack is a vertical storage frame for servers and networking equipment, designed for efficient organisation and space optimisation.

Robi Axiata Ltd, the second-largest telecom network operator, has established a tier IV data centre in Jashore at an investment of around Tk 155 crore.

The tier classification system, developed by New York-based Uptime Institute, certifies sites for reliability and redundancy ranging from tier I to tier IV.

"Our data centre is strategically located outside the seismic-zone areas of the country to cater to the growing

READ MORE ON B2

Sugar price records fresh hike despite duty cuts

SUKANTA HALDER

Sugar prices have gone up in Bangladesh in the past one week owing to its spike in the global markets and higher US dollar costs and supply crunch at home.

The increase came even after the import tariff on raw and refined sugar was halved by the National Board of Revenue on November 2 in an attempt to contain prices in the domestic market.

Owing to the tax cut, importers now need to pay Tk 1,500 as the specific duty to buy each tonne of raw sugar from international markets, down from Tk 3,000 earlier.

Similarly, the specific duty on refined sugar was slashed to Tk 3,000 from Tk 6,000.

Sugar was selling at Tk 140 to Tk 145 per kilogramme, up from Tk 130 to Tk 135 a week earlier

Yesterday, retailers and wholesalers said both refiners and dealers have increased the price of sweetener.

Sugar was selling at Tk 140 to Tk 145 per kilogramme, up from Tk 130 to Tk 135 a week earlier, according to data compiled by state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

This means the price has increased by 7.55 percent in the past week.

The NBR, however, retained the 15 percent value-added tax and the 30 regulatory duty on raw and refined sugar imports.

Sugar was sold at Tk 6,900 per 50-kg sack yesterday, which was Tk 6,400 a week ago, according to Tanvir Hossain, a wholesaler in the capital's Karwan Bazar, one of the biggest kitchen markets in Dhaka.

"When dealers were asked about the reason for the price increase, they said that it has gone up mainly because of the shortage of the US dollar. Besides, the increase in the price of sugar in the international market has affected the local market."

READ MORE ON B3

STOCKS		WEEK-ON-WEEK
DSEX	CASPI	
0.06%	0.11%	
6,271.84	18,593.60	

COMMODITIES		AS OF FRIDAY
Gold	Oil	
\$1,937.99	\$77.35	
(per ounce)	(per barrel)	

ASIAN MARKETS				FRIDAY CLOSINGS
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
0.11%	0.24%	0.91%	0.47%	
64,904.68	32,568.11	3,106.68	3,038.97	

1.19cr people face acute food insecurity: FAO

Despite paddy production forecast at record level

SOHEL PARVEZ

About 1.19 crore people in Bangladesh experienced high levels of acute food insecurity from May to September this year despite record cereal harvests in 2022 and 2023, said the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in a report on Friday.

This was up 34 percent from 89 lakh in March-April, according to the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture Country Brief of the UN agency.

Acute food insecurity is a situation when a person's inability to consume adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger.

The higher food insecurity came although cereal production in the country stood at a four-year average of 6.09 crore tonnes in 2022 and 2023.

Bangladesh bagged 6.34 crore tonnes of cereal, including the staple rice, last year. And it is forecast to produce 6.42 crore tonnes of grains in 2023, registering a 1.2 percent increase over the previous year, thanks to higher production of rice and maize.

Paddy production is forecast to rise to 5.85 crore tonnes, a record, in 2023. The amount of production would be 1.2 percent higher year-on-year.

READ MORE ON B3



People queue to buy subsidised essentials under the operations run by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh as the buying capacity of low-income groups has declined sharply amid higher inflation. Food inflation stayed above 12 percent for the third straight month in October. The photo was taken from the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium gate in Khulna on October 25.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's industrial belt to see first 5-star hotel

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh will see the opening of the country's first 5-star hotel in an industrial zone thanks to Marriott International Inc USA.

Marriott Bhaluka, a chain of Marriott International, will be the hotel located beside the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The hotel, which is expected to see the soft launch in March next year, targets mainly to host the industrialists and foreign buyers who come to the industrial zone to place export orders.

Best Holdings Ltd, the owing company of Le Méridien Dhaka, is constructing the hotel located 50-kilometre north of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The company has already received go-ahead from

READ MORE ON B3

Turn your travel dreams into reality with
PRIME BANK CREDIT CARDS

Scan to experience
Prime Bank world in AR