

Hit by 22-day ban, hilsa fishers seek increased govt assistance

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali Local fishermen have sought increased assistance amid the bans on hilsa fishing, claiming that the rice provided to them as support under the government's vulnerable group feeding (VGF) scheme is insufficient to sustain them during the restriction period.

November 3 none will be allowed to for hilsa fishing, the only source of earning for many. But Islam Howladar, a fisherman of Kuakata area of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, said 25 kgs of rice is not enough to feed his family for 22 days.

fishermen and 64,770 of them are listed as hilsa hunters, who are provided with 25 kg rice each for the 22-day ban, said Md Kamrul, district fisheries officer. "We are working relentlessly to make the 22-day ban successful. We go for raids at night to implement the ban and distribute VGF rice during the day."

Some unregistered fishermen requesting anonymity said some of them go for hilsa fishing defying the ban, as the support government provides is not enough for them. "We hunt hilsa at night and sell those secretly at low rates to make a living," one of them said.

Gov to buy two cargoes of LNG from spot market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The advisory committee on government purchases yesterday approved the import of two cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market. Switzerland-based MS TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd will supply each million British thermal units (MMBtu) of the first consignment at \$13.94 and the second at \$13.57.

Meeting \$100b garment export target by 2030 tough

FROM PAGE B1 However, current political uncertainties have compounded the existing energy situation and increased production costs. Hassan said that with adequate gas and electricity supply, fresh investment would flow into the sector and many entrepreneurs would invest or expand their operations in high-value-added garment items like man-made fibre garments, jackets, activewear, jerseys, skiwear and sports items.

European Union (EU), it is possible to achieve the target," added Hassan, also the managing director of Giant Group. The former BGMEA president also said that international retailers and brands have solid confidence in Bangladesh due to improvements in workplace safety and labour rights after the Rana Plaza garment collapse in 2013.

for Bangladesh's apparel shipments. "Achieving the target will be challenging, but it is still possible," said Hossain. "We have the potential and we must utilise it." Shams Mahmud, managing director of Shasha Denims, said the country's garment exports have steadily increased over the past decade.

However, Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), expressed a different view on achieving the target on time. "When the target was set, the country's business environment was different and it has now changed," Razzaque said. "With the current business environment, achieving \$100 billion might be challenging, but the country may reach \$70 billion \$80 billion if a better business environment is ensured."

RMG units struggle

FROM PAGE B1 in the whole supply chain is very important. Transparency will improve buyer confidence and suppliers can get a premium, he said. Ikramul H Sohel, senior programme officer, market development cooperation section, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, said there are many requirements for implementing GRI

standards. Skilled manpower is also needed, he added. Sadril Shahjahan, senior research associate of the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development at BRAC University, said three should be a data repository for the garment sector. It is required because it will allow those who wish to comply with and adopt GRI initiatives to learn more

about it and understand the challenges, he said. Tanzila Tajreen, senior policy adviser at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, said Bangladesh still has a long way to go as only 33 factories have implemented GRI standards. "Is this an extra burden for the factories?" she asked. Ishrat Fatema, team leader at Swisscontact,

said they have multiple projects in the garment sector and some will be coming soon. Mujibur Cezanne Hasan, country director at Swisscontact, said GRI standards are quickly becoming a requirement. It has associated costs but should be treated like an investment, Hasan added. Sahela Akter, deputy secretary to the Ministry of Industries, also spoke.

Global risks buoy gold

REUTERS Gold prices firmed on Thursday as the bullion remained in demand in the face of ongoing geopolitical risks, while palladium jumped 8 percent to a near 10-month peak on fears of supply sanctions on top-producer Russia. Spot gold rose 0.7 percent to \$2,736.30 per ounce by 0958 GMT after pulling back from the record high of \$2,758.37 on Wednesday.

BB eases rules

FROM PAGE B1 obligations. Moreover, foreign lenders are permitted to issue LCs, standby letters of credit (SBLC) or guarantees to suppliers, with repayment for both the principal loan amount and any associated interest according to mutually agreed terms. Besides, the central bank has granted general approval for corporate, personal or third-party guarantees to assist with short-term import credit, offering importers greater flexibility in managing their financial commitments.

support to industrial enterprises engaged in international trade. According to industry insiders, this new rule will facilitate imports under sales contracts and eliminate confusion surrounding "third country imports" and "third country LCs". It will enable smoother transactions with suppliers with whom importers have established relationships, they said.

Stocks witness

FROM PAGE B1 notched gains while 272 closed lower and the remaining 40 did not witness any fluctuation. Daily turnover at the country's premier bourse, which measures the total value of shares traded, decreased by 4.96 percent from the day before to stand at Tk 306 crore yesterday. The banking sector dominated the turnover chart, contributing 25.07 percent. Block trades, meaning high-volume securities transactions that are privately negotiated and executed outside of the open market, also made a significant contribution of 4.8 percent.

said most sectors closed in negative territory, with paper and printing, services and real estate, and food and allied being among the top three to witness losses. Likewise, all sectors of the account for large amounts of market capitalisation showed negative performances, as per the daily market update of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage. Market capitalisation refers to the total value of a company's outstanding shares owned by stockholders. The food and allied sector lost the most (2.03 percent) followed by telecommunication (1.79 percent), pharmaceuticals (1.33 percent), fuel and power (1.13 percent), engineering (1.10 percent), non-bank financial institutions (0.47 percent) and banking (0.17 percent).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Pabna Road Circle, Pabna. Memo No: 35.01.7600.191.07.001.24-1372 Date: 24-10-2024. e-GP Tender Notice. Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after closing time.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Madaripur. Memo No. 35.01.5400.442.07.006.24-1697(21) Date: 24.10.24. e-Tender Notice. 1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal. 2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. 3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট। ০২৪৭৭৭৫১৬৪২ ০২৪৭৭৭৫১৬৪৪। ই মেইল- cebegrhd@gmail.com. স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.০১০৮.৪০০.১৬.২০৯.২৪-১০৮৬ তারিখঃ ২৩/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ। সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন (৩য় বার) বিজ্ঞপ্তি- Invitation for Enlistment (IFE) No: Enlistment-03/BRD/2024-25 Date: 23/10/2024. এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সওজ বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮-এর আওতায় সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতাধীন সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের অভ্যন্তরীণ কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের (৩য় বার) জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন করা হবে।