

BTRC to issue more NTTN licences if needed Chairman says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) will issue more Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) licences if services to customers are compromised as the regulator prioritises service quality, said BTRC Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Md Emdad Ul Bari yesterday.

"NTTN licences should be limited, but we need to assess whether we have become 'hostage' to them, holding back the entire nation. If necessary, we will issue 10 more licences," he said.

"We can even grant licences on a zonal basis. I am only considering this idea; it is not something I plan to implement immediately. Our main requirement is to deliver services to users," he said.

"Our priority is service, not just sustaining businesses," added Bari.

The BTRC chairman was addressing a discussion styled "The Importance of a Nationwide Telecommunication Network for the Future of Bangladesh", organised by the Telecom and Technology Reporters Network Bangladesh at a Dhaka hotel.

The NTTN guidelines were introduced in 2008.

According to it, the task of NTTN operators in Bangladesh is to build, maintain and manage a nationwide fibre-optic transmission network, providing shared infrastructure for telecom operators and internet service providers.

Bari elaborated on how NTTN licences were introduced and how they have struggled to provide adequate services.

He said Grameenphone solidified its position as a top operator by leveraging the Bangladesh Railway's fibre, which provided a significant advantage.

However, since this fibre was exclusively used by operators and they resisted active tower sharing, a stalemate arose, preventing the telecom sector from reaching its full potential, he said.

The concept of NTTN then emerged to separate the transmission business and bring stability to the telecom market, said the BTRC chairman.

The NTTN was expected to be the backbone of the network, and the government extended substantial support, including granting them the exclusive right to lay the fibre, he said.

They were given a rollout obligation to reach the upazila level within 10 years, and they have met this goal, he said.

However, they primarily built overhead cables in Dhaka, and the high prices they offered discouraged broadband operators from availing their services, said Bari.

Even outside Dhaka, they have not made substantial investments—some areas have their own fibre network while others rely on leasing from Power Grid Bangladesh, said the BTRC chairman.

He questioned whether the NTTN licensees could be considered middlemen, as they provide services without significantly boosting capacity.

"Still, they have invested, otherwise we wouldn't have been able to reach union levels. But 30-32 percent of these investments come from the government through projects like Info Sarker 2 and 3," he added.

Newly formed platform begins lighter vessel allocations

Announces reduced freight rates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Newly formed private platform Bangladesh Water Transport Coordination Cell (BWTC) started operating yesterday reintroducing a single serial system for the allocation of lighter vessels for the transportation of imported cargo through inland water routes from Chattogram.

The development came about through the reconciliation of three organisations of lighter vessel owners, which had been operating separately for around 11 months following a dispute.

The BWTC yesterday also announced a new freight chart with the rates reduced anywhere from 4 percent to 5 percent for vessels plying from the Chattogram port's outer anchorage to over 37 destinations across the country.

Commodore Mohammad Maksud Alam, director general of the Department of Shipping (DoS), launched the BWTC's operations as chief guest through a ceremony at the platform's office in Agrabad Commercial Area of the port city yesterday noon.

Alam hoped for the restoration of discipline in the service, saying that the serial system would make the shipping sector safe, fair, and orderly.

Leaders of the three vessel owners' organisations were present at the ceremony.

According to the new chart, the base freight for transporting cargo from the outer anchorage to Dhaka, Narayanganj and adjoining destinations has been fixed at Tk 550 per tonne.

Previously, the base freight was Tk 574 per tonne. The base freight is applicable for transporting cargo such as clinker, which is



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

a raw material of the cement industry.

BWTC Convener Sayeed Ahmad told The Daily Star that an extra amount of freight is usually charged in addition to the base freight for carrying other goods like food grains such as wheat, lentil, commodities, and fertiliser.

This is due to the fact that a lower volume of such cargo is transported through the vessels, he explained.

The extra freight rates have also been reduced by over 25 percent, Sayeed said.

For example, the extra freight for carrying wheat has now been fixed at Tk 60 per tonne whereas the previous rate was Tk 79 per tonne, he said.

This means there has been a reduction of 24 percent, he added.

Earlier on October 15, the Ministry of Shipping issued a notification regarding a new policy framed by the DoS for the transportation of cargo by lighter vessels over inland water routes.

Through the policy, the BWTC was mandated as the sole authority for maintaining the serial, allocation of lighter vessels and fixation of freights.

AO Smith acquires Pureit for \$120m

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Global water technology company AO Smith Corporation has acquired Pureit, a Unilever PLC business that offers a broad range of residential water purification solutions in South Asia, including Bangladesh.

"This acquisition aligns with our strategy of adding scale and enhances our premium water treatment product portfolio and distribution footprint," said Kevin J Wheeler, chairman and chief executive of AO Smith.

Headquartered in Wisconsin USA, AO Smith announced the completion of acquisition nearly four months after it had signed an agreement to acquire Pureit at approximately \$120 million in cash, subject to customary adjustments.

Pureit has annual sales of approximately \$60 million, primarily in India, AO Smith said in a statement.

Pureit was first launched in 2004 in India's Chennai to provide accessible and safe drinking water to the fast-growing populations of South Asia, and beyond.

Today, it is a leading water purification business operating in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Mexico, among other markets, with a diversified product offering across devices, filters and spares, the press statement reads.

Pureit's history of providing effective water purification solutions has made them a leader in the water industry, said Parag Kulkarni, president of AO Smith India Water Products Private Ltd.

Sarifuddin Nawroz Ahmed, Pureit's head of business in Bangladesh, said: "The acquisition marks an exciting chapter for Pureit in Bangladesh as we leverage AO Smith's expertise to further our commitment to providing safe and pure drinking water to our customers."



Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a relocated CEPZ SME service centre and offshore banking unit at Commercial Complex, Dakshin Halishahar in Chattogram EPZ recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Dhaka Bank opens its relocated services centre

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC opened a relocated CEPZ SME service centre and offshore banking unit at Commercial Complex, Dakshin Halishahar in Chattogram EPZ to provide the best-in-class and advanced services to its customers.

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the services centre as chief guest, said a press release.

ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan, founder vice chairman of the bank, Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO, AKM Shah Nawaj, additional managing director, Akhlaqur Rahman,

deputy managing director, and Sahabub Alam Khan, senior executive vice-president and chief financial officer, were present.

Rayhan Kawsar, in charge, communications and branding division of the bank, Md Waliullah Khan, manager of CEPZ SME service centre and offshore banking unit, Md Abdus Sobhan, executive director of CEPZ, Mustafa Mahmud, managing director of JMS Group, Shakila Sultana, deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (port), along with other senior executives of the bank and local businessmen were also present.

Generation Next

FROM PAGE B1

In the letter, Generation Next informed the stock market regulator about labour unrest and the stoppage of operations at its factory due to a shortage of working capital.

The director also reported that the company's chairman and its managing director, Rajiv Sethi, have remained out of contact and not in the country.

"In the absence of the chairman, managing director and other directors, the company is facing several problems, such as an inability to reach decisions in board meetings due to an incomplete quorum," she added.

Generation Next is also unable to conduct banking transactions as the missing officials were the ones who held signatory authority in this regard. Citing these issues, the director sought advice from the BSEC to overcome the crisis.

In the meantime, the factory was shuttered as per a decision made at a meeting of company officials, labour leaders, and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association representatives.

Workers at Generation Next's factory in Ashulia have been protesting over unpaid wages since early September, leading to clashes with law enforcement.

During one of the clashes, Champa Khatun, a 25-year-old worker, was critically injured and later

died. Her death was not the only one linked to the recent spate of labour unrest in Bangladesh's garment sector.

At present, Tauhidul Islam Chaudhury holds 5.13 percent of the company's shares, AJ Corporation holds 6.97 percent and Rajiv Sethi holds 2 percent. Alvee Azfar Chaudhury, another director of Generation Next, holds a 2.12 percent stake and Shaheen Akther Chaudhury holds 0.04 percent.

Although the company has been struggling to maintain operations, Tauhidul's son Javed Oppenheim spent millions of US dollars on his wedding, which was staged in Paris last year.

BB to lift

FROM PAGE B1

On condition of anonymity, the chairman of one of the crisis-hit banks told this newspaper that the ongoing process of providing liquidity support to them is not "well-designed".

"We need quick and accumulated liquidity support instead of getting it phase-by-phase to tackle the ongoing deposit withdrawal pressure."

The official added that the banks which are providing the support are exploiting their situation by imposing high profit rates.

In response, central bank officials said that the rate was determined by the market and that the regulator would not intervene in this regard.

Denim demand

FROM PAGE B1

He supplies five million metres of denim fabrics to local companies annually, adding that he expects his business in Bangladesh to grow at least 25 percent over the next year.

Manish Chauhan, chairman and co-founder of Noize Jeans, said Bangladesh is irreplaceable because of price and quality.

Chauhan has been doing business in Bangladesh for 20 years and is now running two garment factories that export denim goods worth \$80 million a year.

Mostafiz Uddin, the organiser of the denim expo, said they were seeking better prices from international retailers and brands. However, he said the law-and-order situation should be improved further so buyers have more confidence in

Bangladesh. According to the organisers of the expo, many international exhibitors could not secure visas this year so they could not attend the event. Still, a total of 56 companies from 18 countries are participating in the two-day event.

Stocks jump

FROM PAGE B1

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the CSE All-Share Price Index (CASPI), edged up by 122.03 points, or 0.84 percent, to 14,584 yesterday.

Of the issues that changed hands at the DSE, 257 scrips saw a price hike. Some 107 shares fell and 32 remained unchanged.

The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation emerged as the most traded share, with a turnover of Tk 19.7 crore.

Govt drafts cross-border

FROM PAGE B1

The committee will have representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, National Board of Revenue, Posts and Telecommunications Division, ICT Division, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit. It will also include members of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services.

The policy added that the trade of counterfeit, substandard, fictional or conceptual products through cross-border digital commerce is prohibited. The organisation, issuance, purchase, sale, or exchange of tickets or tokens for online lotteries, gambling,

betting, etc is also prohibited.

The purchase and sale of any products or services that are prohibited under import and export policies is also not allowed.

To conduct cross-border digital commerce activities, the relevant digital commerce institution must obtain a Digital Business Identity (DBID).

In the context of exports through digital commerce, opportunities will be provided through letters of credit or, where applicable, requests or contracts made between the importer and exporter.

Policies will be simplified for cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises to facilitate the export of small parcels through digital commerce.

Necessary operational guidelines will be issued for this purpose.

Financial incentives will be provided for exports


through digital commerce, similar to general exports.

To expedite exports, policy support will be provided for the establishment of necessary processing centres and warehouses, both inside and outside the country, through private initiatives, with appropriate monitoring.

Necessary policy support will be provided for drop shipping, which is the direct delivery of goods from the manufacturer to the retailer or customer.

A sufficient number of digital commerce export zones will be established near the country's ports for processing goods and services for export.

These export zones will enjoy all the facilities available to other export zones and there will also be trainings for small entrepreneurs.



বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

নং সংস্থা/ব-৫৯/রে-২৯৯৫ তারিখঃ ০৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৪

আবশ্যিক

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

শিক্ষক পদ

- পুরকৌশল বিভাগ**
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উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ২৭/১১/২০২৪

সকল পদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বুয়েট ওয়েবসাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

রেজিস্ট্রার

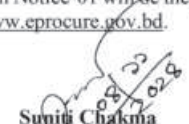
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cumilla
E-mail: gecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.07.001.24-6901 Date: 04-11-2024

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 01
of
Contract No. e-GP/CRD/ADP/4 Nos. District Highway/WD-03, Tender ID No. 1027796 invited by this Office will be as follows:

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	12/11/2024 16:00	19/11/2024 16:00
Opening date & time	13/11/2024 12:00	20/11/2024 12:00
Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	12/11/2024 17:00	19/11/2024 17:00
Closing date & time	13/11/2024 12:00	20/11/2024 12:00
TDS/PDS--C. Qualification Criteria- ITT Clause 15.1 (b) Experience Criteria	b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in successfully completion of Flexible pavement construction with DBS (Dense Bituminous Surfacing) works in a single contract contracts of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least BDT 65.00 (sixty-five) crore only. Moreover, The Tenderer must have the experience of Successfully completion of R.C.C Girder Bridge/P.C Girder Bridge/RCC Box Culvert works in above mentioned contract or in a separate contract with any contract value within the last 10 (ten) years. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]	b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in successfully completion of Flexible pavement construction with DBS (Dense Bituminous Surfacing) works in a single contract or maximum 03 (three) contracts of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least BDT 65.00 (sixty-five) crore only. Moreover, The Tenderer must have the experience of Successfully completion of R.C.C Girder Bridge/P.C Girder Bridge/RCC Box Culvert works in above mentioned contract or in a separate contract with any contract value within the last 10 (ten) years. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of The Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the Tender Document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.


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 Road Division, Cumilla
 ☎: 01730-782641

GD-870