

Businesses suspend boulder stone imports through Burimari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Businesses have suspended boulder stone imports from India and Bhutan via Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat since February 1, demanding lower prices from exporters.

For the last two months, importers have been incurring losses as India and Bhutan have gradually increased boulder stone prices, Abu Raiyan Ashari Rachi, president of the Burimari Landport Importers and Exporters Association, told The Daily Star.

Local businesses now seek a return to the prices from two months ago when they imported Torsha boulder stone from Bhutan at \$15 per tonne, Sami stone at \$14 per tonne, and Indian Torsha stone at \$10 per tonne, he said.



For the last two months, importers have been incurring losses as India and Bhutan have gradually increased boulder stone prices. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Currently, the prices of each stone variety have increased by approximately \$1 for every tonne, he added.

Ha-Meem Group

FROM PAGE B1

It plans to install another 15MWp rooftop solar power plant at its textile division factories by June 2026, bringing the total capacity to 27.2MWp.

"However, this will reduce our total carbon emissions by only 6 percent," Chokroherty noted.

"To offset all our emissions and achieve net-zero status, we will need an additional 300MWp, which we plan to implement on the ground at our tea garden in Moulvibazar," he added.

The latest initiative will ensure an average of four hours of power supply to the group's garment and washing factories per day, said Mustafa AK Khan, founder and managing director of FloSolar Solutions.

The engineering and commissioning were completed last July, while the inverters, which convert direct current into alternating current, are being procured from Dubai-based company Powernsun, as they are known for their stability and reliability, he said.

The solar system is expected to significantly reduce electricity costs, generate a substantial amount of clean energy annually, and cut carbon emissions, he added.

"As foreign buyers encourage increased use of renewable energy, more factories are expressing interest in adopting similar solutions," he said.

"Completing the 4.4MWp solar rooftop project at Ha-Meem Group Industrial Park is a testament to our commitment to accelerating the global transition to renewable energy," said LK Verma, founder and CEO of Powernsun, in a press release.

"We are proud to have partnered with FloSolar Solutions on this initiative, showcasing the efficiency and reliability of the Sungrow inverters in industrial applications," he said.

Olympic

FROM PAGE B1

Olympic Industries reported a marginal increase in profit, reaching Tk 59.89 crore in the second quarter of the financial year 2024-25, up one percent year-on-year, according to the company's financial statement.

"More over, the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar has aided this development, as workers in international markets are finding official channels more attractive," he said.

As things stand, remittances should reach approximately \$30 billion in FY25, which will support economic stabilisation by boosting local demand within the economy, he added.

Shares of Olympic declined by 1.69 percent to close at Tk 151.10 yesterday on the DSE.

Big firms close to govt

FROM PAGE B1

Moinul Khan, chairman of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, said, "We have discussed with the traders and they have confirmed to us that the price of edible oil will not increase during Ramadan. The current price will remain the same."

He also said that the price of sugar has decreased. Although the tariff on dates was reduced before last year's Ramadan, its benefits were not much realised.

However, this time the government has taken measures in advance. The dates will be cleared from the port before Ramadan, he added.

The government has taken all necessary measures to keep the prices of food products affordable during Ramadan, Khan further said.

Brigadier General Mohammad Foyshol Azad, chairman of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), said that many consumers are still unaware of the subsidised products offered by the TCB.

He said that last year, the TCB purchased products worth Tk 3,500 crore and this year, they plan to purchase more products compared

to the previous year.

Umama Fatema, spokesperson for the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said that for the past five or six months, they have been observing that the prices of essential goods are increasing.

"We need to verify why the prices are rising now. The government must have a proper and comprehensive plan to solve the issues the country is facing," she said.

"We do not know what the prices of goods will be like during the upcoming Ramadan," she added.

"In the past, we have seen that the prices of essential products increased in anticipation of Ramadan. The government needs to ensure proper supervision in this regard," she said.

Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of Shwapno, a subsidiary of ACI Limited, said, "If the VAT is increased further, customers will shift from the formal market to the retail market, where there is no VAT."

"But we will have to pay 5 to 7.5 percent VAT now. As a result, customers will move to the retail market. This way, businesses are being discouraged. We are concerned about the consumers," he said.

Remittance crosses \$2b

FROM PAGE B1

The informal flow of remittances faced some setbacks after the political changeover in August. As a result, there was a surge in the flow. However, the robust remittance growth could prove to be a one-time phenomenon, he added.

But we should not expect such high growth to continue. This phenomenon could be observed only in this fiscal year. To sustain the growth, we have to focus on sending skilled migrant workers and diversifying the market," he said.

Mustafiz said the authorities need to retain this trend and ensure that remittances are not channelled through the informal market. There should be strict monitoring of the kurb market, he added.

The economist said the increased flow of remittances has helped stabilise the country's foreign exchange reserves and support imports.

"We should also note that a large

amount of subsidy is spent to attract remittances," he said, suggesting a gradual move towards a market-based exchange rate to reduce the subsidy pressure. The government pays a 2.5 percent incentive on remittance sent from abroad.

Ashikur Rahman, senior economist at the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh, said remittance growth has shown real positive momentum in FY25 and helped stabilise the pressure on the country's balance of payments by boosting foreign reserves.

"Moreover, the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar has aided this development, as workers in international markets are finding official channels more attractive," he said.

As things stand, remittances should reach approximately \$30 billion in FY25, which will support economic stabilisation by boosting local demand within the economy, he added.

Shares of Olympic declined by 1.69 percent to close at Tk 151.10 yesterday on the DSE.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Narsingdi.

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

e-Tender Notice No: XEN/EED/NAR/13/2024-2025

Date: 02/02/2025

Memo No: XEN/EED/NAR/109

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work, details is given below.

SI No	Lot No & Name of Works	Tender ID No.	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time (BD Time)	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
01.	Construction of Boundary Wall, Gate & Repair Works of MONOHARDI GOVT. COLLEGE at Monohardi Upazilla, Narsingdi District.	1070806	17-Feb-2025 16:00:00	18-Feb-2025 14:00:00
02.	Construction of Semi Pucca Room on 2-storied Academic Building of PALASH SHILPANCHAL GOVT. COLLEGE at Palash Upazilla, Narsingdi District	1070805	17-Feb-2025 16:00:00	18-Feb-2025 14:00:00
03.	Repair and Renovation Works at Administrative Building of NARSINGDI POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE at Sadar Upazilla, Narsingdi District.	1068914	17-Feb-2025 16:00:00	18-Feb-2025 14:00:00
04	Repair and Renovation Works at 5-Storied Academic Building of NARSINGDI POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE at Sadar Upazilla, Narsingdi District.	1068913	17-Feb-2025 16:00:00	18-Feb-2025 14:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches as mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Golam Muttakin)
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Education Engineering Department
Narsingdi.
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prices, imports through Burimari will remain suspended, Rachi stated.

Earlier in mid-January, importers sent letters to Indian and Bhutanese exporters, requesting price reductions, as they are struggling with rising bank interest rates and import costs, he said.

"But no boulder stone exporter has responded so far."

Meanwhile, Farooq Hossain, president of the Burimari Land Port C&F Agents Association, said they have met with their Indian and Bhutanese counterparts to negotiate stone prices, but no decision has been reached.

"No boulder stone will be imported through Burimari if exporters from India and Bhutan refuse to supply stones at the prices set by Bangladeshi businesses," he said.

Ecneec approves Tk 4,068cr project to uplift Mongla Port

BSS

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved a Tk 4,068.23 crore project for the expansion and modernisation of Mongla Port facilities.

The approval came from the 7th meeting of the Ecneec in this fiscal year (FY25) and the 6th of the interim government, held at the NEC Conference Room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Ecneec Chairperson and Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus presided over the meeting.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud said that the day's meeting approved a total of 13 projects involving an overall estimated cost of Tk 12,532.28 crore.

"Of the total project cost, Tk 4,097.23 crore will come from the government of Bangladesh's portion, Tk 7,328.95 crore as a loan, while the rest of Tk 1,106.10 crore will come from the related organisation's own fund," he added.

Of the approved 13 projects, nine are new, while four are revised projects.

The Mongla Port Authority under the Ministry of Shipping will implement the expansion and modernisation of Mongla Port facilities project by December 2028.

Sri Lanka records highest deflation in 65 years

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's consumer prices fell by 4.0 percent in January, the highest deflation rate since July 1960, official data showed Friday, as the South Asian nation emerges from its worst economic meltdown.

January was the fifth consecutive month of deflation, according to the Colombo Consumer Price Index.

Inflation hit a record 69.8 percent in September 2022 at the height of the country's economic crisis.

ACI ventures into herbal medicine market

FROM PAGE B1

annual revenues of about Tk 2,500 crore, accounting for roughly one-tenth of the overall pharmaceutical sector.

Currently, leading pharmaceutical companies such as Square Pharmaceuticals, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Incepta Pharmaceuticals, and ACME Laboratories cater to about 30 percent of the herbal medicine market, generating a total of Tk 800 crore in annual

revenues.

In spite of the expansion decision, ACI Ltd reported a loss of Tk 17.68 crore in the October-December quarter of the current financial year, marking a 50 percent improvement year on year.

The company's loss per share stood at Tk 3.17 in the second quarter, down from Tk 5.51 a year ago.

Shares of ACI Ltd dropped by 1.61 percent to close at Tk 147 on the DSE yesterday.

SUNDARBAN GAS COMPANY LIMITED (SGCL)

(A Company of Petrobangla)

218, M.A. Bari Sarak, Sonadanga, Khulna.

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ
করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/ Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)
3	Procuring Entity	Sundarban Gas Company Limited, Sonadanga, Khulna
4	Procuring Entity District	Khulna
5	Invitation for	Supply of non-consulting services (Outsourcing Manpower) under Category-1 : Imam, Electrician, Caretaker Category-2 : Plumber, Office Assistant (Dispatch), Driver(Light), Category-4 : Junior Technician (Pipeline Infrastructure & Gas Connection Related), Cook, Gardener, Category 5: Helper, Patrolman, Attendant, Cleaner and Security Guard for Sundarban Gas Company Ltd (SGCL)'s different offices (Dhaka, Khulna, Jashore, Bhola, Kustia and other areas of SGCL's franchise area)
6	Invitation Ref No and Date	28.21.0000.120.11.004.19/967, Dated : 03/02/2025
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM). Single Stage Two envelope.
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Company's own Fund.
9	Tender Name	Supply of non-consulting services (Outsourcing Manpower) under Category-1 : Imam, Electrician, Caretaker Category-2 : Plumber, Office Assistant (Dispatch), Driver(Light), Category-4 : Junior Technician (Pipeline Infrastructure & Gas Connection Related), Cook, Category 5: Helper, Patrolman, Attendant, Cleaner and Security Guard for Sundarban Gas Company Ltd (SGCL)'s different offices (Dhaka, Khulna, Jashore, Bhola, Kustia and other areas of SGCL's franchise area)
10	Tender Selling Date	From 03/02/2025 to 04/03/2025 (During Office Hour)
11	Tender Closing Date and Time	05/03/2025 at 12:00 PM
12	Tender Opening Date and Time	05/03/2025 at 12:30 PM
13	Name & Address of the office Selling Tender Document	a) Accounts Department, Sundarban Gas Company Limited, Head Office, 218, M.A. Bari Sarak, Son