Shipping corporation to purchase 2 bulk carriers

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, *Ctg*

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is finally going to add two new ships to its fleet after a wait of almost seven years.

On Tuesday, the cabinet committee on government purchase approved the purchase of two bulk carriers, each having a carrying capacity of 63,500 deadweight tonnage (DWT).

The purchase would be made from US-based firm Hellenic Dry Bulk Ventures LLC at $76.69 million, equivalent to Tk 935.71 crore.

The state-owned shipping company is expecting to sign a contract with the US supplier within this month.

The two ships are now being constructed at Nanyang Shipyard in China and are expected to be available by November.

This is the first time that the BSC is spending its own fund for such a purchase.

At present, the BSC owns five vessels—two bulk carriers and three chemical and oil tankers.

The BSC floated an international tender under open tender method on June 4 for purchasing two bulk carriers. A total of eight tender schedules were sold.

The bid submission deadline was July 16 and the BSC got three offers from two US suppliers and an India-Singapore joint venture firm.

The BSC sources said the two US suppliers Hellenic Dry Bulk Ventures LLC and Norvik Energy Navigation LLC met all the requirements and specifications.

The tender process was under the single-stage two-envelope bidding procedure, which involves bidders submitting two separate sealed envelopes simultaneously.

One envelope contains the technical proposal, and the other the financial proposal. Initially, only the technical proposals are opened and evaluated. If a bidder's technical proposal meets the requirements, their financial proposal is then opened and evaluated.

A technical team of the BSC led by its managing director visited the shipyards in China last month to conduct the technical evaluation.

"Ultimately, after technical and financial evaluation, Hellenic Dry Bulk Ventures LLC's proposed price per ship was $38.349 million," read a BSC press release.

This was 4.60 percent lower than the official estimated price, it said.

BSC Managing Director Commodore Mahmudul Malek said there is often a concern about possible US sanctions on ships made in China. But if the supplier of a vessel made in China is a US company, there is no such concern, he said.

Malek said they took the decision of purchasing the under-construction ships aiming at getting the delivery within a short period.

"If we place an order with any shipbuilder, it takes two to three years or more to complete the purchase process and build a ship," he said.

Mentioning that almost 90 percent of the ships have already been constructed, Malek hoped for the first ship to be delivered by next month while the second by November.

The government has a plan to buy three more ships, including two bulk carriers and a medium range oil tanker for the BSC by this December.

The government decided to provide a loan to the BSC for the purchase of those three vessels.

The BSC managing director said the Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Company (IIFC) under Economic Relations Division has been given the task to conduct a feasibility study and prepare a draft development project proposal for the purchase of the three ships.

The report would be finalised soon and is expected to be submitted to the ministry by next month, he added.

After selling off aged and unfit vessels, the BSC fleet was reduced to just two ships by 2018.

In 2018 and 2019, six new vessels were acquired with Chinese government financing worth over Tk 1,500 crore.

However, MV Banglar Samriddhi, one of those six ships, was abandoned after a Russian rocket attack at Ukraine's Olvia port in March 2022.

In October 2024, two ageing oil tankers, MT Banglar Sourav and MT Banglar Jyoti, were severely damaged in fires and subsequently scrapped for Tk 55 crore, leaving five ships in the fleet.

Oil steady as market awaits inventory data

REUTERS, *Singapore*

Oil prices were little changed on Wednesday as investors awaited US inventory data, while eyeing an upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Brent crude futures dipped 3 cents, or 0.05 percent, to $66.09 a barrel at 0711 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures edged down 8 cents, or 0.13 percent, at $63.09. Both contracts settled lower on Tuesday.

Trump and Putin are due to meet in Alaska on Friday to discuss ending Russia's war in Ukraine that has shaken oil markets since February 2022.

Oil investors are in a "wait-and-see mode" ahead of the meeting, said ING commodity strategists.

"The outcome could remove some of the sanction risk hanging over the market," the ING strategists added. Investors also awaited further cues after an industry report showed US crude stockpiles climbed last week.

Crude inventories in the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer, rose by 1.52 million barrels last week, market sources said, citing American Petroleum Institute figures on Tuesday. Gasoline inventories dropped while distillate inventories gained slightly.

Should the US Energy Information Administration data later on Wednesday also show a decline, it could indicate that consumption during the summer driving season has peaked and refiners are easing back their runs.

BTRC seeks

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The commission warned that requiring prior approval in such matters could be "self-contradictory" and undermine its role.

BTRC noted that accountability measures already exist in the law, suggesting that parliamentary committees or expert bodies could periodically review its activities if needed.

The regulator stressed that without full autonomy in core areas, particularly licensing, enforcement, and market oversight, it cannot ensure fair competition, protect consumers, or support a modern digital economy.

Taiyeb had earlier said the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology will always have a stake in telecom policy, as it serves as the gateway to all other ministries.

Stating that monitoring coverage, mobility, and environmental compliance is important, he said, "That's why we refer to the Rules of Business and Allocation of Business, which define the scope and mandate of a ministry. This mandate, including inter-ministerial coordination, is outlined in those rules, the core governance framework of the Government of Bangladesh."

He added that protecting the strategic interests of state-owned companies requires ministry oversight.

"Giving full autonomy to an institution without accountability could lead to abuse. During the Awami League's 15 years in power, BTRC issued 3,573 licences. That legacy of mismanagement still exists. If we now give full independence to such a structure without constitutional or administrative accountability frameworks, it will create a disaster," Taiyeb warned.

Ensure governance, stop violence

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Eventually, when the pandemic struck, the stock exchange was shut for over one month in 2020. "So, investor confidence took a hit," he said.

Moreover, the market once suffered from regulatory measures on an entity which had significant influence on the market, he said.

There are some issues in the banking sector, but there are companies in the consumer segment with very stable fundamentals. Bangladesh has great companies and there is a lot of potential for pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, consumers and a large young population, said Desai.

"If you can't create stability and confidence within not just foreign investors but within your own domestic economy, the economy won't take off," he said.

"What will really drive more confidence among investors is once the elections happen or there's more political clarity next year," he said.

"That could potentially be a turning point...not only for the stock market, potentially for the country as well," he said.

The next five to six years should be good for Bangladesh if there is a stable environment of politics and policy because the platform has been set, he added.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, gave a detailed presentation on the Bangladesh economy, reforms and its prospects.

Its strategic geographic location makes it a doorway to a wider South Asian market, so investors can take advantage of it, he said.

Bangladesh proves it is a shockproof country which knows how to navigate turbulence, and its smart labour indicates that it is a sweet spot for manufacturing for the coming decades, he said.

Its economic recovery and reform activities to improve governance are giving encouragement to investors, added Reaz.

There are many countries which experienced revolutions, and afterwards their output or gross domestic product slumped and inflation soared, said Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, a special assistant to the chief adviser.

However, Bangladesh saw resilience as inflation dropped recently after the fall of the previous government, he said.

He gave examples of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, Iran, Russia and Nicaragua, where the GDP fell and people experienced high inflation.

However, Bangladesh stands alone by not having to experience a decline in output and high inflation. So, this shows the remarkable resilience of this country, said Chowdhury.

Bangladesh is investable, the opportunity is here, its capital market is getting ready to support and absorb long-term productive investment, and these are not just hollow claims, he told the inaugural session as chief guest.

BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said Bangladesh's economy was recovering very fast, as the economy's foundation was very strong.

It lays emphasis on the private sector, and they are the only ones who can drive the economy. This was the faith of economic planners of Bangladesh, and that has paid dividends, with the private sector coming up in droves, he said.

The reform policies towards deregulation also pay dividends, he said.

Bangladesh's social indicator is about the best in South Asia now, which reflects how the economy has also taken care of the people, said Chowdhury.

"Believe me, we are all focused on the economy right now. And for the economy, the capital market is inevitable. I can assure you, a turbocharger is going to be in place in Bangladesh," he said.

"We are fully committed to addressing all the issues of the capital market because we didn't have enough blue-chip companies," he said.

The stock market does not have institutional investors in proper numbers. So, the depth of the market is not what it should be, said Chowdhury.

In the last decade, the economy was dependent on debt and the printing of money, which is not sustainable, he said.

"Now, it needs to move from the debt-based economy and printing money into an investment-based economy; we are ready to work on it," he added.

Zahid Hossain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka Office, invited foreign investors to invest in the stock market and to retain the investments for long periods.

"You can invest, but it should be kept for three to four years," he added.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh, moderated the event.

Mohammad Mohsin Chowdhury and Md Saifuddin, commissioners of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Mominul Islam, chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange, AKM Habibur Rahman, chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange, Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of BRAC Bank, and Ahsanur Rahman, CEO of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage, also spoke at the event.

Gold rises on increasing Fed rate-cut bets

REUTERS

Gold rose on Wednesday as expectations of a US Federal Reserve interest rate cut in September gained traction following mild inflation data, while a weaker dollar bolstered bullion's demand.

Spot gold gained 0.3 percent to $3,354.77 per ounce, as of 0802 GMT. US gold futures for December delivery inched up 0.1 percent at $3,403.20.

"Market participants are starting to debate if the Fed will do a 50 basis point cut at its September meeting following the comments from US Treasury Secretary Bessent yesterday.

No real relief

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HIGH PRICES, RISING POVERTY

In July, overall inflation stood at 8.55 percent, up from 8.48 percent the previous month, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Food inflation rose to 7.56 percent from 7.39 percent, reversing a seven-month decline since November last year, when it was 13.8 percent.

Wages have failed to keep up. Real wage growth has been negative for 42 consecutive months. In June, wage growth was 8.19 percent against the 8.55 percent inflation.

In a report, the World Bank projected that national poverty of Bangladesh will rise to 22.9 percent in 2025, from 18.7 percent in 2022. Extreme poverty, living on less than $2.15 a day, is expected to almost double to 9.3 percent, pushing 30 lakh more people into destitution.

Globally, Bangladesh ranks fourth for the highest number of people facing severe food insecurity, according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2025.

It cites climate shocks, high import costs and weak social safety nets as key drivers.

"The challenge of food security in Bangladesh has been there for quite a long time," said Selim Raihan, an economics professor at the University of Dhaka. "If you look at the indices over the past decade, including hunger indices, Bangladesh has not performed well."

He said market availability of food alone does not ensure security. "People need jobs and rising real incomes."

"From these angles, there is no doubt that food security has deteriorated. Over the past two to three years, surveys and estimates from international organisations all show the same. Food security for the poorest has worsened," said Raihan, also the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).

During the fiscal year 2024-25, the government distributed around 32.5 lakh tonnes of subsidised grains, which was almost the same the previous year. The government targets to distribute 36.61 lakh tonnes in FY26, which is higher than the total distribution in the previous year.

In July this year, food distribution dropped to 1.15 lakh tonnes from 1.65 lakh tonnes a year earlier. The open market sale (OMS) of rice fell sharply, with beneficiaries reduced from 1 crore to 55 lakh after reports of irregularities.

Raihan said inflation has eased, it remains uncomfortably high.

"Even if headline inflation has cooled off a bit, food prices stay high."

He pointed out that India's inflation is below 5 percent, Sri Lanka's is negative, and Pakistan's and Nepal's are lower.

"Despite global food prices, including rice, falling significantly, this has not shown in our domestic market. While headline inflation has eased, prices of rice and other essentials have not cooled, keeping food security under threat with no major improvement over the past year," added the Sanem executive director.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
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Memo No. 4480 Date: 13/8/25

e-Tender Notice (NCT)

e-Tender is in the e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procuring of following goods.

Tender ID	Name of Tender	Package No	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Remarks
1136303	Supply of Medicine (General) (Code No. 3252109); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/11	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM
1136304	Supply of Chemical Reagent (General) -Lot-1 for Biochemistry (Code No. 3252110); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/12	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM
1136305	Supply of Chemical Re-agent (General) Lot-2 for Immunology & Hormone assay (Code No. 3252110); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/13	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM
1136306	Supply of Chemical Reagent (General) for serology-Lot-3 (Code No. 3252110); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/14	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM
1136307	Supply of Chemical Reagent (General) Lot-4 for Dialysis (Code No. 3252110); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/15	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM
1136308	Supply of Chemical Reagent (General) -Lot-5 for Hematology (Code No. 3252110); APP ID : 215532 at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura during the FY: 2025-26	SZMCH/TENDER/2025-2026/16	10/09/2025	11/09/2025	OTM

03. This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
04. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
05. Detail about the Tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Colonel Md. Mohsin
Director,
Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital,
Bogra.

GD-1796

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন
এস্টেট শাখা, রাজস্ব বিভাগ
টাইগারপাস, চট্টগ্রাম
www.ccc.gov.bd

স্মারক নং ঃ ৪৬.১১.১৬০০.০০৩.১৮.২০৭.২৫.৮১৩ তারিখ ঃ ১৩ আগষ্ট ২০২৫

লীজ প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন ফিরিঙ্গী বাজার মৌজাস্থ ৬ একর জায়গায় আন্তর্জাতিক মানের আধুনিক থিম পার্ক নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে নিজ খরচে তৈরীপূর্বক লীজ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক অভিজ্ঞ পার্ক পরিচালনাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে এককালীন জামানত প্রদান ও মাসিক ভাড়ার ভিত্তিতে প্রাথমিকভাবে ২০(বিশ) বছরের মেয়াদের জন্য লীজ প্রদান করা হবে। লীজ গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি / প্রতিষ্ঠান / সংস্থাসমূহকে তাদের সুনির্দিষ্ট লীজ প্রস্তাব (পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার প্রোফাইল ও আর্থিক সামর্থ্যের প্রমাণকসহ আর্থিক ও কারিগরী প্রস্তাব দ্বি-খাম বিশিষ্ট) আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলী ঃ

১। নির্ধারিত শর্ত সম্বলিত দরপত্র ফরমের সাথে প্রস্তাবের অনুকূলে জামানত বাবদ ২,০০,০০,০০০/- (দুই কোটি) টাকা "মেয়র, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন" বরাবর পে-অর্ডার কর্পোরেশনের এস্টেট শাখায় রক্ষিত বক্সে আগামী ২৮.০৮.২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হতে বেলা ১.০০টার মধ্যে দাখিল করতে হবে।
২। ধার্য তারিখ দুপুর ১.৩০ ঘটিকায় কর্পোরেশন মিলনায়তনে দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বক্স খোলা হবে।
৩। দরপত্র ফরম প্রতিটি ২০,০০০/- টাকা, পে-অর্ডার, মাননীয় মেয়র, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুকূলে (অফেরতযোগ্য মূল্যে) ২৭.০৮.২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র ফরম বিক্রয় করা হবে না।
৫। নির্বাচিত দরদাতাকে বরাদ্দ দেয়া হবে। নির্বাচিত দরপত্রদাতা ব্যতীত অন্যান্যদের পে-অর্ডার বিধি মোতাবেক ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।
৬। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে লিমিটেড কোম্পানী হতে হবে এবং কমপক্ষে ৩(তিন) বছর রিসোর্ট পরিচালনার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
৭। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের অর্থ বছর ২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ এবং ২০২৩-২০২৪ এ বার্ষিক গড় টার্ন ওভার কমপক্ষে ৪০ (চল্লিশ) কোটি টাকা এবং বার্ষিক গড় মূসক পরিশোধ কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) কোটি টাকা হতে হবে।
৮। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয় হতে নূন্যতম ৪(চার) তারকামানের লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।
৯। নির্বাচিত দরদাতাকে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আয়কর, ভ্যাট, ভূমি উন্নয়ন কর ও অন্যান্য ইউটিলিটি বিল (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
১০। উন্নয়ন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কাজ চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের তত্ত্বাবধানে সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
১১। যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

চসিক/জস-২০/২৫-২৬(৭"x৩)

(এস এম সরওয়ার কামাল)
প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (উপসচিব)
চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন

GD-1799