

Pesticide overuse threatens haor fisheries
Adviser says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Haor fishery resources are under threat due to the excessive use of pesticides and herbicides in agriculture, said Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akther.

She made the remarks as the chief guest at a view-exchange meeting with registered fishermen from the Itna, Mitham, and Ashtagram upazilas of Kishoreganj district, held yesterday at the Mitham Upazila Parishad hall.

The event was jointly organised by the district administration and the Department of Fisheries, Kishoreganj, according to a press release.

The adviser said a national committee has been formed to limit the use of pesticides in agriculture to protect fish and livestock in the haor areas.

"Work is underway on strategies to reduce pesticide use in agriculture while simultaneously increasing production and safeguarding fish and livestock," she said.

"Everyone must comply with any announcements issued in this regard," she added.

US still working on trade deals despite court ruling: USTR

REUTERS

The Trump administration is continuing its talks with trading partners despite a US appeals court ruling that most of President Donald Trump's tariffs are illegal, US Trade Representative Jamieon Greer said on Sunday.

"Our trading partners, they continue to work very closely with us on negotiations," he said in an interview on Fox News' "Fox & Friends" program. "People are moving forward with their deals, regardless of what this court may say in the interim."

Greer did not say which countries the United States was still in talks with, but said he had spoken with one trade minister on Saturday morning.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington's 7-4 decision on Friday addressed Trump's so-called reciprocal tariffs set in April as well as tariffs imposed against China, Canada and Mexico in February, but does not impact those issued under other legal authority.

Stocks hit 11-month high

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Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh, said the market is suffering from a shortage of quality companies.

"There is no shortage of demand from investors in Bangladesh. The problem is on the supply side," he said.

He warned that if better-performing companies are not brought to the market, weaker ones will continue to dominate trading.

This, he added, is already happening, with so-called "junk" or loss-making firms regularly topping the daily gainer's list.

Yesterday was no exception. Bay Leasing and the National Tea Company, both categorised as junk stocks, rose by the maximum daily limit of 10 percent.

Evince Textile, a B-category stock with weaker fundamentals than leading firms, also advanced 10 percent. Shyampur Sugar Mills and Orion Pharmaceuticals, both

BTRC sets 10 Mbps as minimum 4G speed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has approved a revised Quality of Service (QoS) benchmark, setting the minimum 4G download speed at 10 Mbps.

The new standard is higher than the 7 Mbps benchmark set in 2018 but lower than the 15 Mbps proposed in a draft QoS benchmark published in January.

Since 2022, the BTRC has also been citing 15 Mbps as the standard 4G download speed in various programmes and official documents.

The revised benchmark also reduces the minimum 4G upload speed to 2 Mbps, half of what was earlier proposed.

The new regulation was finalised at last week's commission meeting, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the telecom and ICT ministry, said in a Facebook post yesterday.

For the first time, the QoS framework will also apply to National Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) operators and internet service providers (ISPs), in addition to mobile operators.

The benchmarks introduce stricter requirements for both voice and data services. Call setup success rates must remain at 99 percent nationwide and 98 percent at district and upazila levels. Call drop rates in 2G networks must not exceed one percent nationally and 1.5 percent in upazilas.

Drive tests will be carried out to ensure compliance, with operators required to maintain at least 98 percent success in voice call setups and limit call drops to two percent. For data services, 4G connection success must be at least 99 percent nationwide and 98.5 percent at district level.



Through the new initiative, greater transparency and accountability will be ensured regarding the quality of services provided by operators, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the telecom and ICT ministry.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

The revised policy also introduces mandatory monthly reporting. Operators will now have to submit detailed performance reports under three categories: accessibility, retainability, and network integrity.

Breaching any of these regulations shall constitute an offence, and the person responsible shall be liable for administrative fines under the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001, according to the draft.

"Through this initiative, greater

transparency and accountability will be ensured regarding the quality of services provided by operators," Taiyeb said.

At the same time, he continued that weak coverage areas can be identified quickly, making it possible to resolve problems more effectively.

"The requirement of mandatory monthly reporting will create additional pressure on operators to maintain service quality, especially in rural and suburban areas where complaints about weak networks and frequent call drops remain high," he added.

KONA, Islami Bank join hands to localise card issuance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

KONA Software Lab Ltd, a payment and security solutions company in Bangladesh, launched the Kona Card Personalisation System (K CPS) for Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC. This will enable the bank to issue EMV-compliant debit, credit, and prepaid cards for TakaPay, a domestic scheme, as well as for global networks including Visa, Mastercard, and UnionPay International.

Arief Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank; Siraj Siddiquey, chief business officer of KONA Software Lab Ltd; and Md Mosharraf Hossain, executive vice-president and head of the digital banking wing at Islami Bank, jointly inaugurated the service at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

"With K CPS, KONA Software Lab Ltd has demonstrated that Bangladesh is no longer merely a consumer of foreign technology, but a provider of world-class solutions underpinned by fully local innovation and support. This will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of digital payments in the country," said Siddiquey.

Congratulating KONA, Islami Bank, and other stakeholders on delivering Bangladesh's first CPS, Khan stated: "This achievement has inspired us and laid a strong foundation for building a cashless Bangladesh." Hossain highlighted Islami Bank's positive experience with the solution provided by KONA Software Lab.

Building on this milestone, KONA SL is preparing to establish a card manufacturing facility and a personalisation bureau. It is also expected to launch its own Card Management System and scheme certified tokenisation service.

These initiatives, KONA SL believes, will further strengthen Bangladesh's payment ecosystem, enabling secure digital issuance and empowering banks to offer modern payment experiences.

One in four stocks trades below face value

FROM PAGE B1

he said. "It is a good sign that investors can differentiate which banks are in good health and which are not."

NBFIs account for another major portion of low-priced shares. Most of the non-banks have been crippled by unpaid loans, with bad debt exceeding 95 percent of total lending at many firms.

The central bank has moved to liquidate nine NBFIs, eight of which are listed, but trading in their shares continues. "So, there is no reason to hold the shares of most of the NBFIs," Islam said.

Mutual funds have also lost value, due mostly to poor management in the past.

Ideally, their unit price should be close to net asset value (NAV), but most now trade at half that figure.

"Because investors do not trust the financials of the mutual funds, the question of reliability remains here," he said.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh

(DBA), said, "A stock market having many junk stocks cannot be attractive to foreign and institutional investors."

"When we are trying to attract foreign investors and urge to ensure compliance and availability of good stocks, these huge numbers of stocks that are not performing well do not show a good indication," said Islam.

The DBA president called on the government to focus on bringing stronger companies to market and urged regulators to decide which weak firms should be delisted and which could be merged or acquired.

The central bank announced that nine NBFIs will be closed, but their stock trading is still active in the stock exchange. At least, trading of these stocks should have been suspended," he said.

"If the regulator finds that any company has enough assets, they can be sent for merger and acquisition," said the DBA president.

unchanged.

Among the better-performing A-category companies, 105 rose, 83 fell, and 31 remained flat. In the weaker B-category, 38 rose and 33 declined. No shares were traded in the N category, which includes newly listed firms.

Looking at different investment products, the picture was mixed. Mutual funds had seven gainers against 17 losers. In the bond market, one corporate bond fell, while among government bonds, one rose and one declined.

On the individual front, Bay Leasing & Investment was the day's biggest winner. At the other end, People's Leasing and Financial Services fell by 6 percent, making it the worst performer of the session.

The CASPI, the key index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange, surged 1.51 percent, or 232 points, to 15,598.

At the port city bourse, 160 stocks advanced, 70 dropped and 30 remained unchanged.

considered junk shares, gained almost 10 percent as well.

"This is not a good sign," said Islam, adding that small investors are usually the ones who buy such shares and eventually suffer losses.

If this trend continues, it could undermine confidence in the entire market.

The regulator should continuously monitor what is happening in the trading of poorly performing companies," he said.

Meanwhile, turnover, the total value of shares traded and a key indicator of how active the market is, stood at Tk 1,296.43 crore, up from Tk 1,132.31 crore the previous day.

More than 325,000 trades were executed in yesterday's session, including block trades, which are large transactions carried out privately between big investors, worth Tk 36.67 crore across 31 scrips.

Overall, market breadth was positive, with 201 issues advancing, 141 declining, and 56 remaining

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environment is very good. Blanket

penalties have been imposed to stop manipulation, and some specific actors have been identified. Hundreds of accounts have been frozen."

He said the reforms initially unsettled the market, but he believes confidence is returning.

"In the last one and a half months, we have seen the market moving around fundamentally strong and large companies, and funds are flowing in. The current tax policy has also played a role here, as the

government has reduced the tax rate for merchant banks as well as for brokers' trading. This will significantly increase liquidity."

As a further step, Tayub suggested the introduction of a rating system for merchant banks, similar to the CAMEL ratings for commercial banks.

"This will help investors identify strong intermediaries. In my opinion, the time has come to implement this. Among 68 merchant banks, it is hard for ordinary people to understand their financial strength," he added.

He said governance had long been a challenge, but recent reforms had given him hope.

"It is true that governance was a big issue in the capital market for many years. But now I am very hopeful because the current regulatory

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া।

“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

তারিখ- ৩০/০৮/২০২৫খ্রি।

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোর্টেরের (আক্তোবর/২০২৫ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৫পর্যন্ত) জন্য রেশন সম্মতীর মতবাদল ও স্বার্থিত তেল দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে দ্রুত এবং নিমিত্তে দি পাবলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৬ ও ২০০৮ অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলনোহরকৃত খামে উন্মত্ত দরপত্র আহরণ করা যাচ্ছে।

১ মুক্তালয়/বিভাগ

ব্রাক্ষণ মুক্তালয়/ জননিরপত্তা বিভাগ।

২ সংস্থা

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।

৩ দরপত্র সম্পাদকারী প্রধান

পুলিশ সুপার কার্যালয়।

৪ কি কারণে দরপত্র আহরণ

জেন্টা পুলিশের রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়।

৫ দরপত্র নং

০৩/২০২৫-২০২৬খ্রি।

৬ তারিখ

২৪/০৮/২০২৫খ্রি।

কাজের বিবরণঃ-

৭ দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি

উন্মত্ত দরপত্র।

অর্থের উৎসঃ-

৮ বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত

রাজব খাত।

তথ্যাদিঃ

৯ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের তারিখ

০১/০৮/২০২৫খ্রি তারিখের মধ্যে

১০ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

২০/০৯/২০২৫খ্রি, বিকাল ১৭.০০ ঘটকা।

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