

At last 2 panels in BGMEA polls

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ending all speculations, two panels are contesting in the upcoming Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) elections scheduled for January 26.

On the last day of withdrawal of candidature, both panels yesterday announced names of their candidates and the BGMEA election board published final list.

One panel -- Sammiita Parishad-Forum -- is jointly led by Kazi Moniruzzaman and Anisul Huq while another panel is led by Engineer Fazlul Azim under Oikkyajote banner.

A move to have a consensus BGMEA leadership faltered as a new panel named Oikkyajote wanted to contest in the upcoming elections. The new alliance was formed with some members from other groups -- Sammiita Parishad, Forum, Members Council and Progressive Forum.

According to leaders of Sammiita Parishad and Forum, the main objective of the joint panel is to share the responsibility for preparing the country's largest export-oriented sector to face the chal-



Anisul Huq

Kazi Moniruzzaman

Fazlul Azim

lenges of the open market after 2004.

"As we have different problems at home and our competition with other countries is going to be intensified, the BGMEA leadership needs to be more dynamic," a joint panel leader told reporters earlier.

On the other hand, according to Oikkyajote leaders, the main objective of the alliance is to build up a strong progressive leadership in the BGMEA.

"Such an alliance would also help face the post MFA (multi fibre arrangement) challenges under a powerful and effective leadership," a leader of Oikkyajote told journalist earlier.

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru

Mahmud Chowdhury recently said the government does not want to intervene in the polls of the largest export-oriented trade association.

But a number of garment exporters say they preferred to have a consensus body. "Leaders of both panels said they want a strong leadership to face the post MFA challenges. If leaders of both panels feel so, what made them to fight against each other?" asked a garment exporter.

The candidates of Sammiita Parishad-Forum include M Jinnat Ali Mian, Abdus Salam Mursheedy, Murad Hossain (Shohel), Lutfur Rahman (Matin), Faruque Hassan, Ferdous Amin, Quazi Moniruzzaman, Shafiqul Islam

(Mohiuddin), Mohsin Uddin Ahmed (Niru), SM Nurul Haque, ANM Saifuddin, Ishtiaque Rahman, Helal Uddin Chowdhury, Annisul Huq, Alamgir MZ Rahman, Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), M Ghulam Faruq, Ferdous Perves Bivon, Shafiqul Islam, Faisal Samad, Golam Kabir Chowdhury, Shahidul Islam, ABM Shamsuddin, Engr Aminur Rahman Khan, Shamsul Alam, Mohd A Salam and Syed Ahsanul Hoque (Shamim).

On the other hand, candidates of the Oikkyajote are Obaidul Qudus Chowdhury, Nasir Uddin, Mahmud Ali, Moinal Huq Refat, Saiful Islam, Nowsha Ahmed, Akbar Hossain, Mohammad Fazlul Azim, Abul Quasem Haider, Abdus Salam SK, Engr Mohammad Abu Taher, Muzaffar Siddique, Iqbal Ahmed, Zainul Abidin Farroque, Ramzul Seraj, Saiful Islam, Zuber Ahmed Chowdhury, Syedul Haque Majumdar, Abu Zafar Md Akram, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Ashrafur Rahman, Shibir Mahmud, Ali Ahammed, Hasan Abdullah, Fazlur Rahman, Col (rt) M Anwarul Azim and Iftekhar Tafazzal Hossain.



PHOTO: ESKAYEF

Latifur Rahman, managing director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, speaks at the annual marketing and sales conference of the company at a city hotel yesterday.

Eskayef sets Tk130cr sales target for 2003

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Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, a pharmaceutical company, has set a Tk 130 crore sales target for the current year.

The company beat its Tk 100 cr sales target last year reaching 100.23 cr.

This was stated by Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd Managing Director Latifur Rahman at the annual marketing and sales conference of the company at a city hotel yesterday.

Speaking at the conference, Rahman said the company sold Tk 100.23 crore only of pharmaceutical finished products in 2002 and achieved 26.33 per cent growth over the previous year.

"With this sales achievement, it has become the seventh company of the elite club selling Tk 100 crore or more in a single year," Rahman said.

He said the company has the potentiality to reach a turnover of Tk 250 crore within 2005.

Speaking at the conference, General Manager (marketing) M Mohibuz Zaman said the company is going to begin marketing in Nepal and Sri Lanka this year.

A US based ophthalmic producing company Allergan has become a partner to Eskayef in Bangladesh, he said. "Under this partnership Eskayef will market five Allergan

ophthalmic products in the country." Eskayef Directors Saifur Rahman and Atiqur Rahman and Executive Director AM Faruque were also present at the occasion.

BGMEA-UNFPA workshop held

Bangladesh Garments and Manufacturing Association (BGMEA) under the auspices of United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) recently organised a three-day training workshop, a press release says.

The project officials of 'family welfare and reproductive health education and service of garments workers', BGMEA officials, health centre officials and clinic managers attended the workshop held at BGMEA. The underway project is being jointly conducted by Bangladesh Government, BGMEA and UNFPA.

UNFPA Assistant Resident Representative Nurul Amin and BGMEA Director Lutfur Rahman were present at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

Aslam Beg, Asma Akhter, Nilufar Ahmed Karim, Pradip Kumar and Mahmuda Khan were also present at the session.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
59.1500	59.2000	USD	58.2300	58.0614	57.9929
62.6469	62.7338	EUR	59.8114	59.6280	59.5514
96.0698	96.1118	GBP	93.0297	92.7632	92.7086
34.4251	34.4496	AUD	32.3405	32.2481	32.1680
0.4976	0.4978	JPY	0.4818	0.4816	0.4806
42.6279	42.6524	CHF	41.2918	41.1973	41.1128
6.8397	6.8449	SEK	6.6402	6.5866	6.5706
38.0290	38.0536	CAD	37.0281	36.9344	36.8512
7.5920	7.5933	HKD	7.4619	7.4442	7.4268
34.064	34.0853	SGD	33.2404	33.1966	33.0820
16.2366	16.2542	AED	15.7166	15.6947	15.6762
15.8985	15.9169	SAR	15.4101	15.3734	15.3552

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
47.98	58.135	96.6	42.995	6.9515	0.52865	3.8000

ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadyCash Raffle draw was held at ReadyCash Bangladesh office at Dhanmondi in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Prizes	Name of the winner	Card No
Saintmartin free domestic package tour for two	Sk. Rubayet Hassan	504798000023729
YMCA free computer/English course	Shubrata Dhar	5047980000200683
Best Western La Vinci Hotel free one night stay	Jony	5047980000024145
ACE Workshop & Service Center	Md. Rajib Khan	5047980000033817
Shares Complex Free Gift Box	Md. Osman Momin	5047980000040098
M/S Mukta Enterprise	Md. Emdadul Islam	5047980020000010
M/S Mukta Enterprise	Md. Eakub Ali	5047980000030544
M/S Mukta Enterprise	MA Samad	5047980000020394
M/S Mukta Enterprise	Aliya Sultana	5047980000034066
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Syed Joydul Shans	5047980010001992
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Miraj Rahman	5047980000019821
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Zakir Husain	5047980000013023
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Dr. Ehteshamul Hoque	5047980000015543
Soina Free Lunch/Dinner for two	Jahangir Alam	5047980000038765
Soina Free Lunch/Dinner for two	Munzura Begum	5047980000031211
Soina Free Lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Jasim Uddin	5047980000010180
Soina Free Lunch/Dinner for two	Farzana Begum	5047980000030171
Sticky Fingers free meal for two	Babul Boidya	5047980000031058
Sticky Fingers free meal for two	Abdul Gani	5047980000023803
Sticky Fingers free meal for two	Md. Ashaduzzaman	5047980000036579
Sticky Fingers free meal for two	Mehedi Hasan Khan	5047980000023225
FedEx free shipment	Md. Shahidul Haque	5047980000023304
FedEx free shipment	Md. Younus	5047980000000026
FedEx free shipment	ASMI Humayun Khan	5047980000001175
FedEx free shipment	Naeavaz Uddin Bhy	5047980000044324
Liton's Snacks free meal for two	CM Nahid-AI-Hasan	5047980000008773
Liton's Snacks free meal for two	Shafiqur Rahman	5047980000026873
Liton's Snacks free meal for two	Arif Ur Rahman	5047980000025148
Liton's Snacks free meal for two	Mohammad Elias	5047980000025086

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive of Promotions of ReadyCash within 30 days of this news circulation. ReadyCash encourages its cardholder to read The Daily Star and The Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday for a new listing of card winner or call our Customer Service at 8125294-7, 8130497, and 8123850.

SAARC alliance on WTO issues sought

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Speakers at a dialogue yesterday suggested that the government should form an alliance with other South Asian countries on WTO issues.

The country is going to face a very difficult situation in the post-MFA era unless export items and markets are diversified and proper steps are taken to ensure quality products, they cautioned.

Chaired by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) President Matiur Rahman, the dialogue on 'Business Implication in respect of WTO-TBT Agreement: Market Access Perspective' was organised by DCCI in cooperation with UN-ITC World Trade Net Programme, Switzerland held at the DCCI auditorium in the city. Dr

Toufique Ali, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Mission in Geneva attended the dialogue as chief guest.

Speaking at the dialogue, Dr Toufique Ali said Bangladesh has not developed its capability to face different WTO issues like Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

"We have been actually left out," he observed adding chambers need to be more active in the present context.

Referring to his own experience, Dr Ali stressed the need for developing institutional capacity rather than training up individuals. "Only a fraction of people who were trained on this particular issue are contributing. Of the rest, majority of them were either transferred or retired."

In his welcome speech, DCCI

president Matiur Rahman mentioned that important decisions would be taken in the commerce ministers' meet in September 2003. He said business in developing countries like Bangladesh should make effective contribution to the formation of national negotiating position.

Without ensuring quality and standard of products up to the need of markets like EU, Japan, Canada, China which have allowed preferential market access, it would be impossible to succeed in popularising and marketing Bangladeshi products, the DCCI leader added.

DCCI Director MA Momen presented the keynote paper before the dialogue where he said export earnings would be seriously threatened unless export items and markets are diversified.

A full-fledged inquiry point of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) should be set up and a comprehensive national strategy with regard to technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment should be adopted, Momen recommended.

A Rouf Chowdhury, FBCCI director, said the country's present position is at stake. He recommended forming of alliance with other South Asian countries.

Dr Salauddin Ahmed of North South University said Bangladesh should form an alliance with other countries to deal with the WTO issues. Referring to India and Pakistan, he said these two countries maintain good relation on WTO issues.

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