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Washing Machine

TRANSCOM
ELECTRONICS

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LADIES FASHION DESIGNER FAUZIA H. MERCHANT OFFERING BEST COLLECTION OF PAKISTANI UNSTITCHED 3 PIECE LADIES SUITS OF 100% COTTON BAREEZE CHIKEN, PRINTED LAWN, PRINTED CHINON, SHIFFON, GEORGETTE, & ALSO PRINTED & EMBROIDERY SAREE OF VARIOUS DESIGN AND QUALITY WITH DISCOUNTED PRICE AT JOYA FASHIONS: AN EXCLUSIVE LADIES FASHION HOUSE: HOUSE # 15, ROAD # 16, SECTOR # 3, UTTARA, DHAKA. PHONE: 880-2-8961669, CELL: 0173-018590, 0173-018591 E-mail: joya_fashions@hotmail.com TIMINGS: 10 AM TO 10 PM (FOR LADIES ONLY).

Central bonded warehouse to result in drastic fall in export earning

Textile mill owners tell economic reporters

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bonded warehouse facility, a key demand of garment manufacturers and exporters, will result in a drastic decline in export earning in the quota-free era, warned textile mill owners yesterday.

They argued that export of readymade garments made of domestic fabrics will ensure more retention of foreign exchange and quality for EU duty concession under GSP (generalised system of preferences) facility.

Bangladesh exported \$4,912 million woven and knit garments in 2002-2003, of which only \$2,297 million was retained as the export

ers paid the rest for import of fabrics and other raw materials in back-to-back L/Cs. Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association MA Awal said at a meeting with Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) in Dhaka.

He said garment exporters claim that they are the highest foreign exchange earners with 75 percent share in total export. "But the fact is that over half of the earning goes to foreign countries as they depend on imported raw materials."

Providing statistics of Bangladesh Bank and Export Promotion Bureau, Awal said knit and woven garments made of local fabrics attain 75 percent foreign exchange retention while export

with imported fabrics attains only 25 percent retention.

Bangladesh retained \$992 million out of \$1,323 million knit garments made of local fabrics exported in 2002-2003 while \$814 million woven garment made of local fabrics was exported of which \$611 million was retained, he said.

Besides, Bangladesh retained \$611 million out of \$2,444 million woven garment with imported fabrics exported in the same period registering only 25 percent value addition.

The country retained only \$83 million out of \$331 million export earning from knit garments prepared from imported fabrics showing only 25 percent value addition, he said.

Awal further said if local backward linkage industry is not developed Bangladesh garment export will fall drastically as there will be no quota in the US and export also will fail to avail EU GSP facilities if value addition is less than 25 percent.

"So to survive the quota-free challenges, local textile and garment sector have to work in tandem complementing each other," he said.

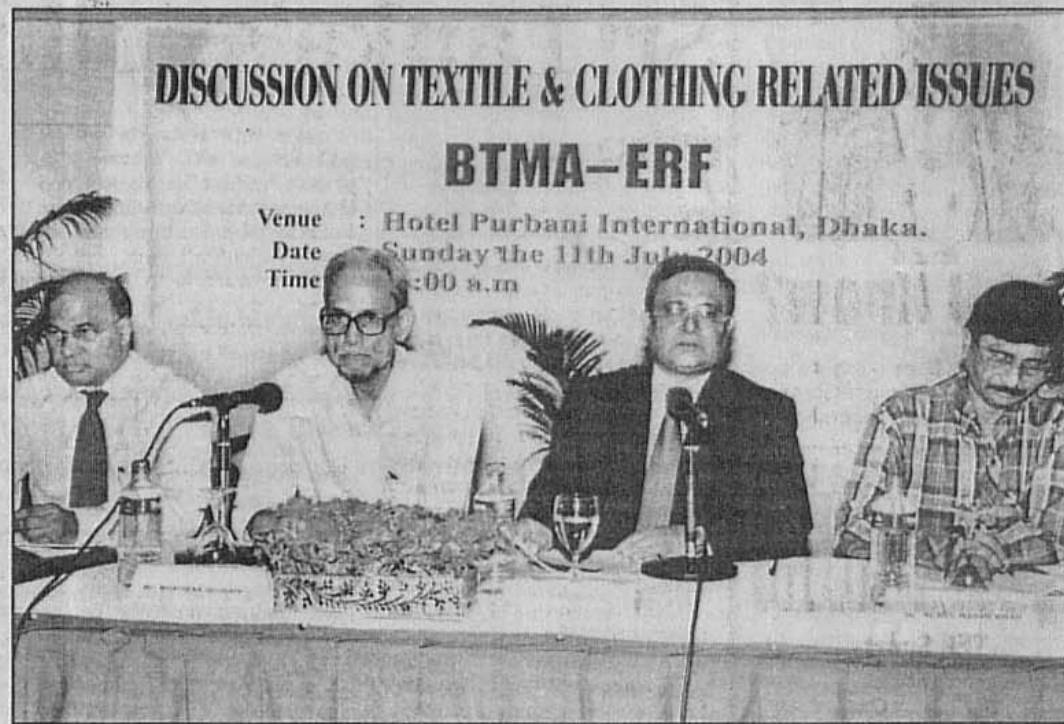
Making a presentation on local textile and clothing related issues, immediate past chairman of BTMA Martin Chowdhury said the central bonded warehouse will destroy the growing textile industry and nip in the bud the self-sufficiency in backward linkage sector, a prerequisite in post-

MFA (multi-fibre arrangement) period.

He said central bonded warehouse will not be viable in the quota-free era from next year. The stocklot will sneak into the local market depriving the government of revenue, he added.

About the proposals of national coordination council's recommendation to the government on setting up the warehouse in export processing zone (EPZ), he said EPZ cannot ensure checking of leakage.

ERF President Monowar Hossain and General Secretary Nurul Hasan Khan also spoke at the function held at Purbani Hotel.



Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) Chairman MA Awal (2nd from right) speaks at a meeting organised by Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) in Dhaka yesterday. ERF President Monowar Hossain (2nd from left) and General Secretary Nurul Hasan Khan (Right) are also seen.

Ten new delicacies at Pizza Hut

New menu to see 4 non-vegetarian pizzas, 3 appetisers, 3 pasta

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pizza Hut, one of the largest pizza-chain in the world, yesterday announced launch of 10 new dishes including four non-

vegetarian pizzas, three appetisers and three different types of pasta to cater to varied tastes of discerning Dhakaites.

Officials said that since launching of the franchise last

December, demand has been on the rise.

"We are confident that the new dishes will appeal and serve the palate of every food connoisseur," hoped Akku

Chowdhury, head of operations of Pizza Hut, at the formal launching.

He said the new pizzas -- seafarer, seafood symphony, the works and beef supremo -- will be added features giving options to customers to try out dishes of their own choice.

The newly introduced appetisers are shrimp cocktail, chicken calypso and spicy garlic mushrooms, and pasta are beef arabbiata, shrimp mushroom and chicken mushroom.

Among the pizzas, seafarer and seafood symphony are made of seafood while the works and beef supremo are prepared by meat.

According to Akku Chowdhury, seafarer is a blend of tuna and shrimps sautéed with herbs and garlic and covered with tomatoes and cheese.

Seafood symphony offers shrimps sautéed with herbs and garlic topped with red paprika and mozzarella cheese. Chowdhury added.

He said 'the works' is a combination of beef pepperoni, chunks of beef, BBQ chicken and chicken topped with onions, mushrooms, black olives, capsicum and mozzarella cheese.

Beef supremo is an item made up of beef pepperoni covered with beef chunks oozing with mozzarella cheese.

Transcom Foods Ltd, a concern of Transcom Group, introduced Pizza Hut at South Avenue of Gulshan-1 last December where pan pizza, Italian pizza, soups, beverages and pasta are already on the list.

The restaurant is open everyday from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

With its roots in the United States, Pizza Hut, flagship brand of Yum Restaurants International, was launched in 1958 and has expanded to 30,000 restaurants across the world.

Business team to visit India to woo more investment

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a bid to reduce trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India through attracting more Indian investment, a high-powered business delegation leaves Dhaka today on a four-day visit.

During the visit, the delegation, headed by Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman, will hold discussions with Indian businessmen in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata.

The team will meet Indian State Minister for Commerce and Industries Evks Elagoven, Maharashtra chief minister, industries minister of the state and Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata, a senior official of BoI told The Daily Star yesterday.

During the discussions, Bangladesh team will focus on attracting Indian investment in textile, ceramic, agro-processing, information and communication technology (ICT), telecoms, power and energy sector, the BoI official added.

Other members of the team include Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Fazle RM Hasan, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Chairman MA Awal, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, Bangladesh Computer Society President SM Iqbal and BCGMEA 2nd Vice-president Alamgir MZ Rahman.

The festival -- A Taste of Thailand -- is drawing 1,000 to 1,500 gourmets everyday, organisers said. Exclusive Thai chefs have come from Pan Pacific Bangkok to prepare 38 dishes of authentic Thai cuisine along with 8 types of sweets.

The menu features curry, barbe-

India's Balmerol lubricants launched in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Balmer Lawrie & Company Ltd, an Indian state-owned enterprise, yesterday launched its Balmerol brand greases and lubricants in Bangladesh market.

The company has set a target to sell 1,000 tons of lubricants in the first year in Bangladesh, said Shantanu Chakraborti, assistant general manager of the company, at a press conference at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

Describing the features of Balmerol products, he said most of the leading automobile companies in India use the products which is testimonial to its high quality.

In Bangladesh, Anik Automobiles, a local company, have

been engaged for marketing the BALMEROL greases and lubricants produced from its Balmer plant located in Kolkata.

Quoting a study, Ananda Sengupta, deputy general manager of Balmer Lawrie, said at present automobile and industries sectors in Bangladesh consume about 70,000 to 75,000 tons of lubricants and greases annually.

The demand for lubricants will increase further in the coming years with the phasing out of the conventional lubricant using automobiles being replaced with environment-friendly modes of transport, he said.

Sengupta said the company will market engine oil, transmission oil, gear oil and hydraulic oil for Bangladesh's core sectors like rail-

way, jute and cement industries.

He said globally the company ranks among the top ten grease producers. It also exports significant quantities of lubricants to other countries. Last year the company's total turnover was estimated at Rs 960 crore.

Anil Chandra Paul and Ashish Kumar Roy Chowdhury from Anik Automobiles, and RN Majumder, manager (Technical) of Balmer, were present at the press conference.

Established in 1867 as a partnership company, Balmer Lawrie became a public limited company in 1936. In 1972, the company became a government enterprise as a subsidiary of IBP Co Ltd, a national oil company of India.



Two attendants show off newly launched pizzas at the local franchise of Pizza Hut, one of the largest pizza-chain in the world, at Gulshan in Dhaka yesterday.

New decoration materials factory in Comilla EPZ

An Italian firm is going to set up a decoration materials manufacturing industry in Comilla Export Processing Zone (EPZ) with an investment of US\$9.26 lakh.

The company, Surface Art & Decoration Limited, will produce 50,000 square metres of decoration materials made of marble, stone, metal, wood, aluminum and terracotta for furniture, floor, roof and wall a year, says a press release.

The company struck a lease agreement with Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) on Saturday in Dhaka to set up the company, which will create employment opportunity for 70 Bangladeshis nationals.

AZM Azizur Rahman, general manager (Investment Promotion) of Bepza, and Claudio Romei, managing director of Surface Art and Decoration, signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations.

EU unveils improved GSP scheme

BSS, Dhaka

The European Commission (EU) has unveiled a system of trade preferences for the next ten years setting out new principles to guide its system of GSP facilities for developing countries.

It is going to be more simple, transparent and objective. The GSP is a key instrument to help developing countries reduce poverty by generating revenue through international trade.

The Commission has proposed to improve the current GSP system in a number of areas.

The simplification of the GSP involves reducing it from five separate arrangements, which now exist to three, focusing the benefits on those developing countries most in need, fostering regional cooperation and strengthening the focus for additional GSP benefits on sustainable development.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said, "the EU is already the

world largest provider of trade preferences in favour of developing countries, representing more than all other developed countries taken together.

But, he said, the EU wants to do

India targets \$10b in biotech

REUTERS, Bangalore

India's fledgling biotechnology sector, seeking to emulate the nation's software companies, hopes to generate one million jobs and investments of \$10 billion by 2010, industry officials said on Sunday.

Executives are betting on low-cost, highly-skilled knowledge workers to tap new opportunities emerging in drug discovery, contract research, clinical trials and bio-informatics, which involves the use of software to analyze genetic codes.

even better by focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries which mostly need trade preferences to have access to the EU market.

In its new move the Commission proposes the guidelines for the period 2006-2015, based on the experience gained from past schemes.

It has proposed targeting the GSP on the countries that most need it, particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and the most vulnerable developing countries such as small economies, land-locked, small island and low income countries.

The three new simplified GSP arrangements include a general arrangement, "everything but arms" giving duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market to the 50 poorest countries, and a new GSP-system giving tariff preferences to countries with special development needs.

Key WTO states open informal Paris meeting

AFP, Paris

Five key World Trade Organisation (WTO) members gathered for an informal meeting here Saturday in search of a fig leaf to hide persistent gaps that scuppered free trade talks in Mexico last year.

At the two-day meeting hosted by the Brazilian embassy, WTO trade representatives from Australia, Brazil, the European Union, India and the United States hope to reach a joint position on agricultural issues, among the biggest stumbling blocks to a round of talks that was launched in Doha in late 2001.

After an embarrassing breakdown in Cancun, Mexico last September, when emerging and developing countries refused to continue negotiations, the Doha round received a boost several months ago.

The EU -- slammed for farm subsidies that critics say depress prices, undermining poor farmers trying to compete on world markets -- declared it was prepared to eliminate such aid.

One condition, however, was that the EU's trade partners -- particularly the United States -- take similar steps to end their own support for farm exports.

The WTO now hopes its 147 member states can reach an understanding by the end of July on a framework for galvanising the talks, which are aimed at freeing up global trade.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Directorate
Hospital Road, Maizdi Court, Noakhali

Memo No. LGED/EE/Noa/T-1(Part-3)/2001/2443

Dated: 22-06-2004

Tender Notice No. 60/2003-04

Itemwise tenders under sealed cover are hereby invited from qualified contractors for implementation of total 7 (seven) projects – 6 (six) under "Rural Development Project: Greater Noakhali & Chittagong District Project" & 1 (one) under "Priority basis Project-3" Part – in Noakhali district of 2003-2004 financial year under Local Government Engineering Directorate.

1.	Financial year	: 2003-2004.
2.	Name of head	: "Rural Development Project: Greater Noakhali & Chittagong District Project" "Priority-basis Project-3" Part".
3.	Date & time of preparatory meeting	: 27-07-2004 at 11.00 AM
4.	Last date, time & name of offices of selling tender schedule	: 03-08-2004 up to 4.00 PM 1. Project Director, Rural Development Project: Greater Noakhali & Chittagong District Project/Priority-basis Project-3rd Part, LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2. Office of Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali/Feni/Lakshipur. 3. Upazila Engineer's Office, respective upazila, Noakhali.
5.	Last date, time & name of offices of receiving tender schedule	: 04-08-2004 up to 1.00 PM 1. Project Director, Rural Development Project: Greater Noakhali & Chittagong District Project/Priority-basis Project-3" Part, LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2. Office of Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali/Feni/Lakshipur. 3. Upazila Engineer's Office, respective upazila, Noakhali.
6.	Date, time & name of office of opening tender	: 05-08-2004 at 11.00 AM, office of the undersigned.
7.	Tender security	: The amount of tender security stated in the schedule of work should be submitted with the schedule in the form of BD/CD/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali by the contractor.
8.	Tender submitted by tenderers shall remain valid up to next 119 days and tender security submitted with tender shall remain valid for further 28 days beyond Tender Validity Period (i.e. total 147 days).	
9.	Detailed notice & other information can be known & seen from the office of the undersigned & respective offices during office hours and through LGED's website (http://www.lged.org).	
10.	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.	

DFP-16388-26/6
G-394

Engr Md Abdul Quader
Executive Engineer