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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

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BGMEA seeks govt steps as woven garment export dips

Batexpo-2005 kicks off Thursday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Downward trend in woven garment export especially to the EU market is becoming a real worry for the country, said BGMEA President Annisul Huq.

The woven products witnessed a 22 percent fall in export to the EU only in this July and the downward trend continues, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday while announcing Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (Batexpo) 2005 schedule. The three-day annual show begins on Thursday at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka.

To make the woven goods more competitive in the liberalised market, Huq urged the government to take steps regarding the demands, the BGMEA earlier placed to the government.

Woven export to the EU countries and Canada has been witnessing a gradual fall since the quota phase-out, Huq added.

During the first six months of this year, woven export to Europe fell by 19.61 percent and 15.63 percent to Canada compared to the same period of last year, he said.

"The EU's reluctance to impose protection clause of WTO against Chinese apparel is a reason for the declining woven export of Bangladesh. Besides, our lead-time, inadequate infrastructure, poor compliance issues are other major causes for the fall," said the BGMEA chief.

The recently introduced two-day weekly holiday will also contribute to export fall, he added.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is scheduled to inaugurate the 16th



Annisul Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

annual display of readymade garments and accessories while Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the closing ceremony, the press meet was told.

A total of 65 companies from four countries including Pakistan, China, Japan and host Bangladesh are participating in the fair to showcase their products in 82 stalls.

Like the previous years, special arrangements have also been made this year to exhibit ready stock lot apparels for on-the-spot sales at the fair. The BGMEA has already opened a Buyers Reception Cell at the Zia International Airport to receive buyers on their arrival and help them in the immigration process as well as reaching hotels.

A Buyers' Corner will also be set up at the fair venue for the foreign

guests. Internet facilities and other logistic supports such as phone, fax will be available there.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, four separate seminars on different issues related to the garment industry and its upcoming challenges will also be held.

On the first day of the extravaganza two seminars titled 'Bangladesh's RMG export to EU and USA: post-MFA dynamics and imperatives' and 'Role of mobile telecommunications in increasing efficiency of RMG business' will be held.

Other two seminars titled 'Building Code for Design and Construction of RMG Factory Building' and 'The Role of Politician, Civil Society, Government Official and Media in the Open Market Economy' will be held on the second day.

In the last seminar, Health

Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Awami League Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed and Asaduzzaman Nur MP will speak.

Buyers and representatives from buying houses from the USA, the UK, Canada, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the European countries came to see the display of different products at the last year's Batexpo, the BGMEA president said.

"We expect even more buyers this year as the annual show will focus on the industry's development in technology, quality and productivity," he hoped.

At the Batexpo last year exporters received spot orders worth US\$40 million.

High-profile regional seminar on stock market begins today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a bid to identify areas of mutual co-operation to pre-empt any repeat of Asian financial crisis, a two-day high-profile regional seminar on 'Capital Market Development: Asian Experiences' begins today in Dhaka.

President Iajuddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the seminar at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel while Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, SEC Chairman Mirza Azizul Islam, ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman and ICC-B Vice President Latifur Rahman will also be present.

International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B) is the organiser of the seminar, which aims to reinforce the market and draw a roadmap for a long-term sustainable development of regional markets.

Around 200 delegates including top executives from Karachi, Mumbai, Nepal, Thailand, Tokyo, Malaysia, Korea and Singapore bourses will brainstorm at the seminar.

Some business sessions will also be held on the sidelines of the seminar. According to ICC-B schedule, Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed, managing director of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation and former governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Hua Du, country director of Asian Development Bank, will chair two discussions titled 'Country Experiences and Current Issues' and 'Country Experiences, Privatisation and Investment' on the first day.

On the second day, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mirza Azizul Islam, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue Debapriya Bhattacharya, and ICCB-B President Mahbubur Rahman will chair separate sessions titled 'Country Experiences, Foreign Investment, Share pricing and Role of Media', 'Country Experiences, Corporate Governance, Legal and Accounting Standards' and 'Market Regulation or Promotion'.

Govt considers keeping EPB open on Saturday

UNB, Dhaka

The government is actively considering keeping the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) open on Saturdays to help businesspeople facilitate export-related activities.

Following a plea made by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to the government through EPB, the commerce ministry is dealing with the matter and a decision in this regard is likely to come within a couple of weeks, sources said.

Petrol pump owners threaten to stop fuel trade from tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Petrol pump owners and dealers yesterday reaffirmed their threat to stop petroleum fuel trading from tomorrow if their demands are not met before the deadline.

Leaders of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners Association on August 31 threatened to stop collecting fuels from the government.

"In fact, we will not purchase petroleum from depots from tomorrow. So, there will be no available stock of petroleum fuel at the pumps," Mohammad Nazmul Haque, president of the association, said at a press conference in Dhaka.

The government holds the legal authority to take lawful action against the petrol pump owners if they call a strike.

Petrol pump owners' 12-point demands include hike in sales commission and compensation for operational loss due to storage leakage and evaporation of petroleum fuel.

Setting up a monitoring committee, issuing licences for light firearm for the petrol pump owners, establishing testing labs in the government oil depots to prevent fuel adulteration and framing a guideline to establish petrol pumps and CNG stations are some other major demands.

The petrol pumps operators reported 1,100 incidents of attacks on petrol pumps last year. "So, it is very important to issue us arms licence for our safety," Haque said.

Usually, demand for petroleum fuels rises by 10 percent every year, but the demand rose by 18 percent

last year. And the extra eight percent fuel was smuggled to India through border areas, as prices of fuels are almost double there, he added.

Besides, the petrol pump owners have to face all allegations of fuel adulteration without any proof. The traders, however, have long been alleging that the government depots distribute adulterated petroleum fuels.

The association leader also urged the government to immediately form nine vigilance teams, proposed earlier to stop fuel adulteration.

Mizanur Rahman, secretary general, and Jayed Ahmed, joint secretary general of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners Association, among others, were present at the press conference.

Bimstec trade experts start talks in Dhaka next month

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Trade experts of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) will meet in Dhaka next month to settle difference on two core issues -- rules of origin and sensitive lists.

The meeting will be held in Dhaka from October 10-15, said Fazlur Rahman, deputy secretary of the commerce ministry.

Earlier, the trade negotiating committee had its 7th meeting in Thai capital Bangkok from September 12-16.

"The member countries are yet to reach a consensus on the two core issues -- rules of origin and sensitive lists," said a negotiator of

Bangladesh. Although a detailed discussion was held on a proposal placed by Thailand on the sensitive list, the members failed to agree with the proposal, he noted.

"Dhaka meet will be very crucial considering the deadline (December) of the negotiation," a Tariff Commission official told the news agency.

The meeting will also discuss other sectors including fisheries, trade and investment, technology, energy, transportation and communications and tourism.

According to sources, the developing countries - Thailand, India and Sri Lanka proposed changes in customs tariff. Along with such change, India and Sri Lanka

favoured 35 to 40 percent value addition. But the least developed countries (LDCs) -- Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan -- want to fix the rules of origin criteria only on value addition basis.

Trade experts of Bangladesh, however, expressed optimism of an end to the stalemate on the rules of origin issue in the next round of talks to be held in Dhaka in October.

Bangladesh has submitted a list of 1,326 sensitive items, a source in the commerce ministry said.

The seven-country forum aims to achieve its own free trade area by the year 2007.

Earlier, Bimstec was set up in 1997 with a view to fostering socio-economic cooperation among the member countries.

Malaysia to build 3 biodiesel plants

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia said yesterday it will build three plants to produce biodiesel from palm oil, as part of efforts to reduce its dependency on petroleum as oil prices continue to soar in the world market.

"Palm biodiesel is set to become a viable alternative to petroleum diesel," Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Peter Chin Fah Kui told an international palm oil congress in Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Bank loan fair begins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

With a view to introducing different loan products to the customers, a three-day loan fair of Prime Bank Ltd started in Dhaka yesterday.

People can get loans for different purposes and purchase their preferred products from the show styled 'Prime Bank Easy Loan Fair' being held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Qazi Saleemul Huq MP, chairman of Board of Directors of Prime Bank, inaugurated the fair while M

Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director of the bank, was present.

The loan scheme offered by the bank includes home loan, loan against salary, marriage loan, hospitalisation loan, car loan, education loan, any purpose loan, doctors loan, travel loan, CNG-conversation loan and consumer loan.

Prime Bank also offers one percent less interest rate than the usual ones on retail loans and free credit card to the customers who will take loan during the show.

Speaking at the inaugural cere-

mony, Qazi Saleemul Huq said the aim of the bank is to provide banking services for the lower income people.

The bank has already disbursed Tk 400 crore among its 25,000 customers, said M Shahjahan Bhuiyan.

Around 41 companies including furniture, electronics, home appliance firms and some educational institutes are also showcasing their products at the fair, which will remain open from 10am to 8pm every day without any entry fee.



Qazi Saleemul Huq MP, chairman of Prime Bank Ltd, inaugurates a three-day loan show styled 'Prime Bank Easy Loan Fair' at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director of the bank, among others, was present.

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MANAGER (FINANCE)

- The incumbent should be MBA, major in Finance & Banking with 7 / 8 years post Qualification experience in any Industrial Organization.
- Experience to prepare Bank proposal, fund mobilization, handling of Bank/Financial Institution.
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- Self motivated, hard working and organized ability to take challenge to establish the objectives of Goal.
- Age not exceeding 35 years.

MANAGER (MERCHANDISING/PACKAGING)

- Masters in any discipline preferable MBA, major in marketing.
- Minimum 7 / 8 years experience in Merchandising / procurement of Packaging and Accessories items of any Garments / Textile Industry.
- Strong Communication skill in English is a must and Computer literacy is essential.
- 2 (Two) Separate positions are available in Merchandising & Packaging Section.
- Age not exceeding 35 years.

MANAGER (HUMAN RESOURCE)

- Masters in any discipline preferable MBA, major in Human Resource / Public Administration.
- Minimum 7 / 8 years experience in the related field.
- Well conversant with rules and regulation of employment and welfare, personnel Management & HR information system.
- Strong communication skill in English is a must and Computer literacy is essential.
- Age not exceeding 35 years.

MANAGER (STORE)

- The incumbent should at least Graduate/ Post Graduate in any discipline.
- Minimum 7 / 8 years practical experience in Modern store of inventory management in any Manufacturing Industry.
- Candidate having experience in Garments / Textile sector will be given preference.
- Candidate must have familiar with the Quality and pricing of store items and sound knowledge in computerized background.
- Age not exceeding 35 years.

OFFICER (ADMIN)

- Masters in any discipline preferable English/Public Administration.
- Minimum 3 years experience in Office Administration.
- Well conversant with rules and regulation of employment and welfare, personnel Management.
- Strong communication skill in English is a must and Computer literacy is essential.
- Age not exceeding 30 years.

MANAGER/ASST. MANAGER (QUALITY CONTROL) DYEING, FINISHING & PRINTING SECTION.

- B. Sc in Textile Engineering/ Diploma in Textile Engineering.
- Minimum 5 / 7 years practical experience in quality control department of any large Industry / Garments / Reputed Buying house.
- Knowledge of quality control system in Printing/ Dyeing Finishing/Export related activities.
- Capacity to Monitor orders as per buyers specification.
- Capacity to run and control a large number of Quality Inspectors.
- 4 (Four) Separate positions are available in Dyeing, Finishing, Printing & Export section.
- Age not exceeding 40 years.

PRODUCTION MANAGER/QUALITY MANAGER GARMENTS SECTION.

- Masters in any discipline or MBA, relaxable incase of exceptionally experience candidate.
- Degree/Diploma/Foreign training will be given preference.
- Minimum 7 / 8 years experience in production / quality control and inspection with any large Industry / Garments / Reputed Buying house.
- Capacity to Monitor orders as per buyers specification.
- 2 (Two) Separate positions are available in Production & Quality control in Garments section.
- Age not exceeding 40 years.

SECURITY-IN-CHARGE (FACTORY)

- Retired Commissioned Officer.
- Minimum 5/7 years experience in the security management.
- Fluency in English speaking and writing essential.
- Age not exceeding 45 years.

Attractive salary package and benefit will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Candidates who full-fill above requirements are requested to apply with complete CV and one copy passport size photograph within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement to the following address:



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