

China's textile sales hit \$407b in 2005

AFP, Beijing

China's textile sales reached 3.3 trillion yuan (407 billion dollars) in 2005, surging 115.7 percent from 2001, the official Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

Apparel exports reached 116 billion dollars in 2005, up 118.9 percent from five years ago, Xinhua said, citing China's key economic planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The report did not provide year-

on-year comparative figures. China's textile exports surged after the abolition of a global quota system on January 1, 2005.

The United States and European Union have blamed China for flooding their markets with low-cost goods and have imposed curbs on clothing and fabric imports from China.

In September, the EU had to renegotiate the terms of a deal with Beijing to limit Chinese textile imports after quotas originally agreed by the two sides in June

rapidly filled, leaving millions of Chinese-made garments stranded at EU customs points.

The United States and China hammered out a deal which provides for a progressive increase in Chinese imports until 2008 but still caps their growth at far less than that in 2005. Some imports, such as cotton trousers, had surged by more than 1,000 percent.

China had over 19 million textile workers in 2005 and over 70 percent of them had migrated from the countryside, the report.

Malaysian, Saudi firms strike deals worth \$800m

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian and Saudi Arabian companies have signed deals worth some 800 million dollars, in unprecedented economic activity between the two Muslim countries, a business council said Wednesday.

"There is increased investment on both sides and it's never been done on a scale like this before," Malaysia-Saudi Business Council executive member Zainal Abidin Ahmad told AFP.

The agreements were inked Tuesday after meetings between Malaysian business people and their Saudi counterparts, who were accompanying Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah on his visit here.

Zainal hailed the agreements as a sign of a new openness under King Abdullah, who became the Gulf country's leader in August.

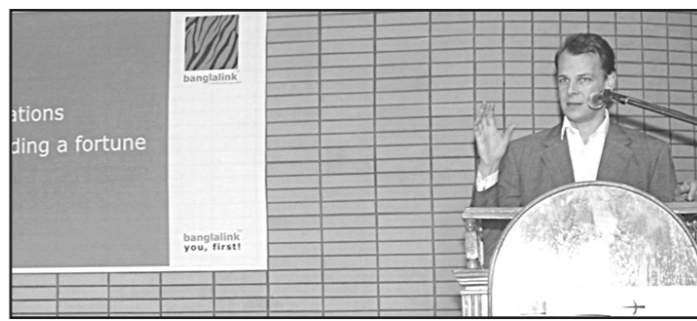


PHOTO: BANGLALINK

Lars P Reichelt, chief executive officer of mobile phone operator Banglalink, speaks at a discussion organised by the company for leading finance officers and corporate houses on the sidelines of the three-day 'Corporate Bazaar' on Monday in Dhaka.



PHOTO: BANGLADESH MONITOR

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, a local travel journal, and B Vijay Kumar, managing director of Premier LP Gas Ltd (Totalgaz), pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony on Monday in Dhaka. Under the MoU, Totalgaz will be the title sponsor of the 'Monitor-Totalgaz Chef of the Year Competition 2006'.

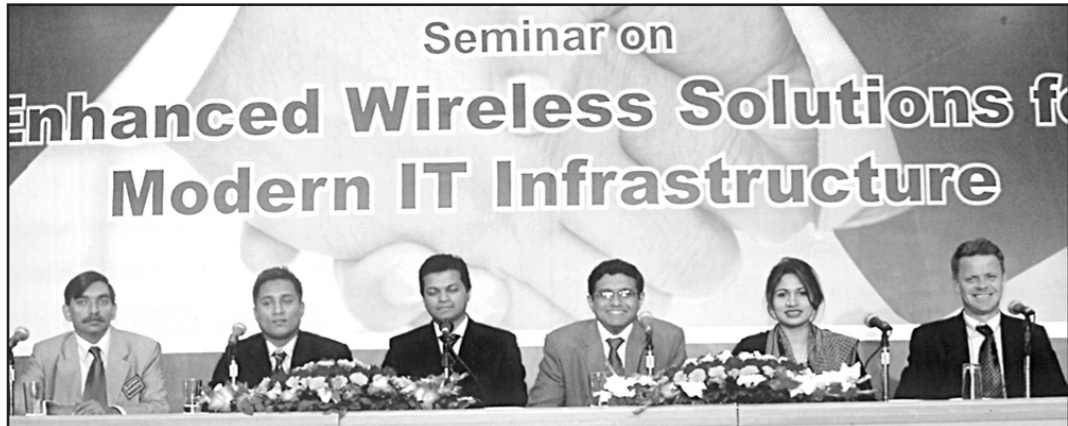


PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Stein Naevdal, director of Information Technology of GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, Rubaba Dowla Matin, acting head of Marketing, and other GP officials are seen at a seminar on 'Enhanced Wireless Solutions for Modern IT Infrastructure' organised by the company on Tuesday on the sidelines of the three-day 'Corporate Bazaar' in Dhaka.



PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS DHAKA

Richard Larison, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Sayyed Husain Jamal, managing director of LankaBangla Finance Ltd, exchange documents after signing a corporate agreement recently. Under the deal, the hospital will provide medical services and special corporate benefits for the staff of LankaBangla Finance.

Monitor, Totalgaz sign MoU on chef of the year competition

Premier LP Gas Ltd (Totalgaz) will be the title sponsor of the 'Monitor-Totalgaz Chef of the Year Competition 2006' scheduled for April.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between The Bangladesh Monitor, a local travel journal, and Premier LP Gas Ltd (Totalgaz) on Monday in Dhaka, says a press release.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, and B Vijay Kumar, managing director of Premier LP Gas Ltd (Totalgaz), signed the MoU on behalf of their sides.

Correction

In a January 25 photo caption, it was mentioned that Emirates SkyCargo carried a consignment of measles vaccines for United Nations Children's Fund, as mentioned in the press release. In fact, the consignment was meant for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (Feb 1, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell						Buy		
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer			
69.2200	69.2500	USD	68.2000	68.1773	68.1318			
85.0091	85.0459	EUR	81.8264	81.7991	81.7445			
123.8069	123.8606	GBP	120.0525	120.0124	119.9324			
53.4794	53.5026	AUD	50.8158	50.7989	50.7650			
0.5981	0.5984	JPY	0.5780	0.5778	0.5774			
54.7583	54.7821	CHF	52.8314	52.8137	52.7785			
9.4934	9.4975	SEK	8.6401	8.6372	8.6315			
61.3489	61.3755	CAD	59.2271	58.2074	59.1679			
8.9425	8.9463	HKD	8.7704	8.7674	8.7616			
43.5894	43.6083	SGD	41.9176	41.9037	41.8757			
18.9998	19.0080	AED	18.4185	18.4124	18.4001			
18.6060	18.6141	SAR	18.0428	18.0368	18.0248			
11.7414	11.7464	DKK	10.6708	10.6672	10.6601			
233.5005	233.6039	KWD	232.0602	231.9852	231.8352			

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.95	59.86	102.175	38.945	6.6423	0.6877	3.75

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was active on Wednesday. Demand for USD remained high in the market.

Local Money Market
Money market was active on Wednesday. Call money rate was almost unchanged and ranged between 10.00 and 12.00 percent.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 1/02/2006.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	DI of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Blue Star	GI	Pipa	BSL	28/1	4/2	1470
J/2	Royal Crystal	GI(St. C)	Vitor	Allseas	29/1	3/2	5271
J/3	Maritime Peace	Wheat(p)	Ukra	Mutual	23/1	7/2	2432
J/4	Freedom Wave	Wheat(p)	Novo	Jnship	18/1	6/2	284
J/5	Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	27/1	3/2	157
J/6	Red River	GI St. scrap	Sant	MMSL	22/1	3/2	581
J/7	Banglar Moni	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	25/1	--	--
J/8	Piran	GI	Busa	Prng	29/1	2/2	2655
J/9	Dae Gak Bang	Gr. Urea	Chin	PSL	25/1	3/2	170
J/10	Xpress Nuptse	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	27/1	1/2	311
J/11	Phu Tan	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	28/1	3/2	254
J/12	Qc Dignity	Cont	Sing	QCSL	27/1	2/2	344
J/13	Coastal Express-1	Cont	Viza	BSC	27/1	1/2	62
Jetty							

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Wana Naree	1/2	Sing	Seacon	R. Phos	--
Oel Wisdom	1/2	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Col
Banglar Shikha	1/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
San Yang	3/2	Mund	ASA	GI(st)	--
Kyaw Yadanar	4/2	Yang	MTA	GI(y. M/pu)	--
Germana	2/2	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Ks Harmony	3/2	Kant	ASLL	C. Clink	Anw
Orionis	5/2	Viza	PML	GI	--
Fraternity Wisdom	2/2	--	Everett	GI(St. C)	--
Yaad-e-mohammed	4/2	Kand	Cia	GI(S/ash)	--
Banga Bonik	3/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col

Tanker Due

Jag Preeti	3/2	Chen Haid	SLL	HSD	--
Euro Viking	4/2		ML	Ammonia	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:				
Oel Enterprise	Cont	Col	PSSL	27/1
Romy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	28/1
Mir Damad	Cont	Col	Seacon	28/1
Banga Bodor	Cont	Ptp	Bdship	28/1
Royal	Urea	Sing	PSAL	24/1
Reunion	Cont	Sing	Apl	29/1
Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	29/1

Vessels not ready:

Hk Deqin-201	GI/Sp. TSP	Sing	Kdsa	R/A (1/12)
Cheng Hao	GI (maize)	Sing	Cosco	29/1
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	K. Dia	BSC	R/A (30/1)
Pacific Onyx	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	31/1

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Dragonis	--	--	Seacom	R/A(10/11)
Xpress Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Xpress Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Yasmina	--	--	PML	R/A (9/1)

Vessels not entering:

Feliz-1	--	Tunis	SSST	10/12
Asia Atlas	Ballast	Gwada	Barwil	16/1
Madre	Salt	Kand	USL	22/1
Salamat-3	--	--	Nishat	R/A (27/1)
Markovo	Urea	Sing	Seacom	27/1
Silver Sen	C. Clink	Sing	Move	28/1

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

STOCK