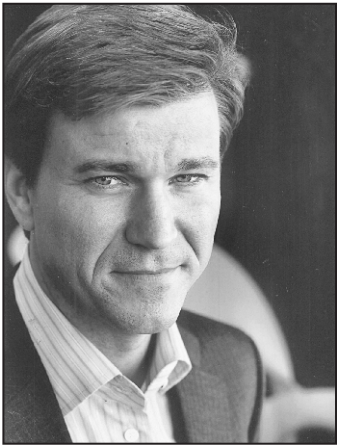


Star BUSINESS

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Anders Jensen

Grameenphone gets new CEO

The Board of Directors of leading mobile phone operator Grameenphone Ltd yesterday appointed Anders Jensen as the company's new chief executive officer (CEO). Jensen who succeeds Erik Aas will take over the post on October 1, 2007, says a press release.

He served as chief marketing officer and head of Consumer Market in Telenor Sweden from 2005. Jensen has eight years of work experience in internet and telecommunication industry with Europolitan, Vodafone and Telenor, in addition to several years of experience working with fast moving consumer goods.

"We are delighted to appoint Anders Jensen as Grameenphone's new CEO. Jensen's track record as a manager and his international experience as well as his personal characteristics make him an excellent choice for bringing this successful company even further," said Arve Johansen, chairman of the Board of Directors of Grameenphone.

"Being appointed to this position is an honour for me, and I am excited to serve a company that plays a key role in the development of the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh. I am impressed by the achievements made by the company so far, and I am looking forward to getting to know the employees of Grameenphone and the people of Bangladesh," said Jensen, a 38 years old Swedish national.

Aarong rewards card launched

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Country's leading fashion house Aarong has launched 'My Aarong Rewards Card' for the customers in an effort to make shopping more rewarding ahead of the peak Eid season.

'My Aarong Rewards Card' will bring a new dimension of 'value added' services for the Aarong enthusiasts around the country, said Tamara Abed, director of the company, while addressing the launching ceremony in the city yesterday.

'My Aarong Rewards Card' will be available in three categories; Lifestyle, Gold and Platinum. Customers will be awarded redeemable bonus points on the purchases made through these cards, said Senior Marketing Manager Farheen Khurum.

The benefits of the card will be available to customers from Friday. Md A (Rumee) Ali, managing director of BRAC Enterprises, was also present.

RMG SECTOR

Poor implementation of minimum wage leaves scope for unrest

Adviser fears

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

As many days passed after expiry of the latest deadline August 31, the labour and employment adviser has expressed dissatisfaction over poor implementation of minimum wages in readymade garment (RMG) industries, fearing chances of unrest in the sector again.

"Chances are there to emerge labour unrest again because many factory owners are yet to comply with the tripartite agreement they signed to enforce minimum wages for their workers," Md Anwarul Iqbal told the launching ceremony of BKMEA's social compliance monitoring programme yesterday.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) in collabora-

tion with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) organised the programme at a city hotel.

The adviser asked the RMG makers for creating congenial atmosphere at workplaces through regular payment of workers' wages and other benefits so that uninterrupted production is ensured in the sector.

To reduce so much dependence on European and USA markets, Anwarul Iqbal said, RMG makers should look for alternative and diversified markets for their products.

He also stressed capacity building of the workers through extensive training programmes.

Later, the adviser inaugurated the social compliance programme which mainly aims to ensure workers' rights, efficiency and to increase

productivity.

Under the project, it is mandatory that garment factories must have alternative stairs, basic fire fighting equipment and should be free from child labour. Besides, the factory plans must be approved from the concerned authority and all workers be group insured.

Also, in line with the monitoring programme, the BKMEA will arrange unannounced visits to different factories and prepare a filled data at sophisticated software.

Commerce Secretary Firoz Ahmed, BKMEA President Fazlul Haq, BGMEA President Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez also spoke on the occasion.

Three television advertisements on social compliance were also screened at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Post and Telecommunications Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam (2-R) speaks at the launching ceremony of international roaming and international SMS services of Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd, the state-run mobile phone operator, in Dhaka yesterday.

Delhi says no delay for duty-free package for LDCs

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India has dismissed reports of delay in announcing its duty-free and quota-free package to Least Developed Countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and said the matter would soon be considered by the cabinet for clearance.

Commerce and Industry Minister

Kamal Nath said the cabinet would take up the matter possibly next week. "There is no delay. There is a consultation process going on in the Ministry".

Addressing a conference jointly organised by United Nations Industrial Development and the Indian government, he said the package for LDC was independent of current negotiations at the World Trade Organisation.

Under the proposed package, India is likely to allow duty-free and quota-free import of a host of products from countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The package, which has been in the making for several months now and has been periodically reviewed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, was to have to come up for consideration by the cabinet at its meeting last week but was deferred.



PHOTO: STAR

BRAC Enterprises Managing Director Md A (Rumee) Ali, Aarong Director Tamara Abed (L) and Senior Marketing Manager Farheen Khurum (R) display 'My Aarong Rewards Card' at the launching function in Dhaka yesterday.

Teletalk launches int'l roaming, SMS services

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd, the state-run mobile phone operator, yesterday launched international roaming and international SMS services for its customers.

Under the services, the more than one million customers of the operator will be able to get roaming facilities from 288 operators in 184 countries.

The subscribers will need to have international credit cards and postpaid connections to receive the services.

Post and Telecommunications Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam launched the new service at a function in Dhaka.

Referring to the launching of the new services, the adviser told the function that there has been a perception that state-owned enterprises are synonymous to inefficiency, but Teletalk has proved it wrong.

XIUS, the telecom division of Megasoft Ltd of India has implemented the project under a deal with Teletalk signed in October 2006.

XIUS will also provide SMS Auto Correct, Power Roam, Smart Route, Welcome Notification services soon under the deal.

Shaikh Khurshid Alam, secretary to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication, also spoke.

Warid starts cricket quiz

Warid Telecom has launched a cricket quiz to mark the ICC Twenty20 World Championships 2007, which will reward winners with Samsung handsets everyday!

Titled the "SIM Genie Cricket Quiz", the contest is an SMS based competition that will run throughout the duration of the Twenty20 World Cup, says a press release.

Apart from the daily winners, the contest will also reward the top 3 'run scorers' (i.e. the top 3 contestants who have provided the highest number of correct answers) for the competition with latest Samsung handsets as grand prizes.

All Warid users (prepaid and postpaid) are eligible to join this competition. A user who wants to participate and receive the cricket quizzes can do so from the Warid menu in his/her handset, by clicking on the menu options: Entertainment>Games>Quiz. Or, he/she can send a reply SMS to the short code 3114 by typing "YES" to receive the cricket quiz.

New body to resolve Sona Masjid problems

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A 10-member committee was formed at a meeting yesterday for speedy resolution of the problems at Sona Masjid land port to make it dynamic in handling cargoes.

The meeting arranged by the joint forces at the Circuit House was presided over by LT Col Anwar Sohel. An officer of the joint forces will head the committee.

The problems of tariff collection, weighing machine, illegal intrusion, power connection, infrastructure, truck parking, bank facility, illegal structures came under lengthy discussion.

Easy access to energy key to achieving MDGs

Workshop observes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Although energy is not an explicit target of the millennium development goals (MDGs), it may not be possible to attain all the goals without easy access to energy, speakers at a workshop in Dhaka observed yesterday.

Energy is necessary to help achieve the MDGs, they added at the workshop titled 'Energy for Millennium Development Goals'. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with Power Division of Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources organised the workshop, which was moderated by UNDP Deputy Country Director Larry Maramis.

Energy facilitates the achievement of the MDGs, said Abul Barkat, professor of economics at Dhaka University.

Failure to include energy considerations in the development philosophy of the MDGs will severely limit the ability to achieve the goals, Barkat said presenting a keynote paper on 'Energy for MDGs: Challenges and Doable'.

Referring to International Energy Association's assessment, he said during 2003-2030 the world energy sector needs investment of US\$16 trillion, of which \$9.6 trillion, or 60 percent, for electricity, \$3 trillion for oil, \$3

trillion for gas and \$0.4 trillion for coal.

Bangladesh needs \$16 billion investment to ensure electricity for all by 2020, he said, adding that with the present economic growth rate Bangladesh has the ability to invest the amount in local energy sector.

Replying to a query, Barkat, also the general secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association, said, "It's not possible to attain the MDGs without promoting renewable energy."

BD Rahmatullah, director of Rural Electrification Board, said energy is essential for development of productive activities in rural areas to raise the income of the poorest.

Power Secretary M Fouzul Kabir Khan time has come to look for alternative energy sources such as renewable energy.

Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development are the targets of MDGs by 2015.

In September 2000, 189

nations accepted it in a joint declaration (The United Nations Millennium Declaration).

Int'l anti-piracy team happy over Ctg port security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The three-member team from RECAAP (Regional Cooperation and Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia) on a mission to assess the security and safety of ships in and around Chittagong port arrived here yesterday.

On the first day of its visit in Chittagong, the team of the Singapore-based international organisation inspected observance of ISPS (International Security for Port and Ships) codes and held meeting with the port officials.

The visiting team, led by Singapore Port Chief Executive B Ranjan, expressed satisfaction over the strategy taken by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) for safety and security at the port.

The team suggested opening up a website to highlight the port's safety and security situation, said the meeting sources.

US trade deficit dips

AFP, Washington

The US trade deficit fell marginally in July to 59.2 billion dollars, after a revised 59.4 billion in June, the government reported Tuesday.

The Commerce Department report showed US exports rose by 3.6 billion dollars in the month, outpacing a 3.4-billion-dollar rise in imports.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed speaks at the inaugural function of an 'Education Support Programme' of Prime Bank Foundation in Dhaka yesterday.

Int'l wastewater treatment tech show kicks off

A three-day international trade show of water and wastewater treatment technology began in Dhaka yesterday to facilitate the adoption of sustainable effluent treatment plants and environment management by local factories.

The objective of the show is to help mitigate challenges facing Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) industry.

Adviser to the Ministry of Environment and Forest CS Karim inaugurated the fair at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, according to a press release.

Khandaker Rashedul Haque, director general of the Department of Environment, Deepak P Adhikary, deputy general manager and head of South Asia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF), Mir Nasir Hossain, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), president of

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, were also present.

SEDF, in partnership with the Department of Environment is organising the show, where around 40 local and foreign companies are taking part. Workshops and seminars are being held on the sidelines of the fair.

A BSS report adds: Leaders of Shyampur Kadamtoli Shilpa Malik Samity (SKSMS) yesterday called for setting up locally-made common effluent treatment plants (ETPs) in the greater interest of the country's industry.

They made the call while addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

The SKSMS and Bangladesh Textile Dyeing and Printing Industries Association jointly organised the press conference.

General Secretary of the SKSMS Saifuddin Ahmed and Chairman of Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh (CLNB) Harunur Rashid, among others, spoke at the conference.