

# Duty-free access to US hinges on labour rights

CPD seminar told



PHOTO STAR  
CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan (2-L) speaks at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday. Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman (2-R), President of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh Mahbubur Rahman (L) and President of Karmojib Nari Shirin Akther are also seen.

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's chances to get duty-free access to the US market largely depend on how Bangladeshi addresses issues such as democracy, labour rights and human rights, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said yesterday.

The US Congress is currently considering the New Partnership for Development Act of 2007 (NPDA) under which least developed countries (LDCs) will be given duty-free access.

The adviser said the government is conducting a study on ensuring standard labour practices in industrial production units, political stability and democracy.

The Congress will consider a country's stand on such issues for its inclusion in a new trade facility.

Bangladesh needs to diversify its exports to get more benefits from the duty-free facilities, the adviser also told a seminar on 'The New Market Access Initiatives of US Congress Concerns and Interests of Bangladesh' in Dhaka.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the seminar where CPD Executive Director

Mustafizur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the seminar, which was participated by President of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B) Mahbubur Rahman, and experts, academics, labour leaders and scholars from home and abroad.

President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury said 99.10 percent garment factories have been paying their workers minimum wage, 83 percent owners have given the appointment letters to the workers and maternity leave has been ensured in 98.0 percent garment factories.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) President Farooq Sobhan called for the involvement of more and more NGOs and personalities like Dr Yunus for the passage of the bill.

President of Karmojib Nari Shirin Akther urged the government to give more freedom to the workers to form associations and unions to protect labour rights in the country.

"We will urge the US government not to take any unilateral

decision in this connection as Bangladesh is an LDC. We are working with other LDCs, including African LDCs, for the passage of the bill," he said.

The SCP executive director said the bill should be passed before the Bush administration expires, as a huge change to the bill is apprehended after the shift in US government.

The goal of the SCP is to help governments address threats to national security, economic strength, and public safety more efficiently and effectively through cooperative projects and information sharing.

## Dollar drifts

AFP, London

The dollar slid against the euro and yen on Monday after finance chiefs from the world's richest nations warned of slowing global economic growth.

In European trade, the euro gained to 1.4535 dollars from 1.4505 dollars in New York late on Friday.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar fell to 106.56 yen from 107.32.

World stock markets also dived lower on Monday, with heavy losses in Asia, after finance chiefs from the Group of Seven industrialised nations warned that the global economy faced growing threats from a US housing slump and squeeze on credit, dealers said.

## Microsoft holds session on cyber security

Cybercrime foundations and best practices event for public sector officials in Bangladesh was organised by Microsoft on Sunday, says a press release.

The programme was held under the Security Cooperation Program (SCP), introduced last year in Bangladesh.

Through the SCP, Microsoft provides a structured way for governments and Microsoft to engage in cooperative security activities in the areas of computer incident response, attack mitigation, and citizen outreach.

The goal of the SCP is to help governments address threats to national security, economic strength, and public safety more efficiently and effectively through cooperative projects and information sharing.

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PHOTO: CONCORD COMMUNICATION

The Metal (Pvt) Ltd and Concord Communication Company Ltd, a concern of Concord Group of Companies, have recently entered into an agreement under which Concord Communication will work solely as the advertising agency for The Metal. Senior officials from both the sides were present at the signing ceremony.



PHOTO: IOM

Md Rezaul Karim, director of IOM (International Office Machine) Ltd, the sole distributor of Toshiba brand notebook PC and copier in Bangladesh, gives a Toshiba Satellite L-40 A502 notebook PC to Shifat Shahriar, winner of the recently concluded Toshiba Lucky Draw Campaign, at a function in Dhaka.



PHOTO: CONTINENTAL INSURANCE

The Annual conference-2008 of Continental Insurance Limited was held recently in Dhaka. Md. Musa Meah, chairman of the company, is seen attending the conference as the chief guest, while A.K.M. Azizur Rahman and Tehsin Rashid, directors of the company, are seen as special guests.

## STOCK

### TRADED ISSUES February 11, 2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price (Tk.)	Pre Day Change (%)	Turnover (Tk.)	Price (Tk.)	Pre Day Change (%)	Turnover (Tk.)	Last EPS <th>EPS<br %)<="" ((tk.)="" cdps<br="" th=""/><th>Other Info</th></th>	EPS <th>Other Info</th>	Other Info
<b>BANK</b>										
AB Bank*-A	100/5	291.00	-0.39	247,075	74208	2900.75	-1.28	2,665.00	29730	Desh Garments -Z
Gon Bank*-A	100/5	60.00	-0.55	247,075	3315	635.00	-0.57	640.75	24209	Dulmania Mills-B
IFC Bank*-A	100/5	2805.00	0.48	279,510	24642	2797.50	1.07	2,535.00	25107	Dulmania Mills-B
Islam Bank BD*-A	100/5	579.25	0.09	579.25	2502	576.00	-0.03	577.00	2933	Dulmania Mills-B
National Bank*-A	100/5	100.00	-0.25	100.00	24209	100.00	-0.25	100.00	24209	Dulmania Mills-B
Pubali Bank*-A	100/5	971.25	-0.13	972.50	10867	969.75	-0.15	971.25	2110	Dulmania Mills-B
UCBL*-Z	100/5	330.75	-1.56	336.25	25782	330.25	-1.67	338.50	4879	Dulmania Knitting*-B
Urgent Finance*-A	100/5	180.75	-0.25	180.75	34136	1831.00	-12.19	1632.00	30783	Mita Textiles-Z
DLC Finance*-A	100/20	184.25	1.13	184.25	34136	1831.00	-12.19	1632.00	30783	Summit Power Ltd-Z
United Leasing*-A	100/20	66.50	-0.25	66.50	32021	725.00	-0.52	66.50	32021	Deva Textile-A
Utara Finance*-A	100/50	27.75	-0.87	27.75	19300	46,159	-2.20	27.75	19300	Aga Weaving-A
Al Arabi Islamic Bank*-A	100/50	403.00	-0.68	405.75	9020	401.75	-0.56	404.00	2050	Sonagami Textiles-A
Prime Bank Ltd*-A	100/50	870.00	0.46	876.00	32760	878.00	-0.24	875.50	29337	Square Textile*-Z
Souqia Bank*-A	100/50	100.00	-0.25	100.00	32760	100.00	-0.25	100.00	32760	Metrie Spinning-A
Dhaka Bank*-A	100/50	651.00	-0.12	652.00	25050	650.00	0.23	648.50	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
N N C C Bank*-A	100/50	453.25	-0.42	454.25	15369	452.75	-0.77	455.50	5557	Modi Knitting*-B
Bank Al-Mashayekh*-Z	100/50	27.75	-0.87	27.75	19300	27.75	-0.87	27.75	19300	Modi Knitting*-B
Dutch Bangla Bank*-A	100/50	914.25	-0.37	915.75	34136	838.00	-9.00	914.25	29337	Modi Knitting*-B
Mida Finance*-A	100/50	362.50	-0.57	342.75	15920	370.00	-11.45	322.00	30783	Modi Knitting*-B
Mutual Trust Bank*-A	100/50	560.00	-0.57	560.00	32021	560.00	-0.57	560.00	32021	Modi Knitting*-B
First Leasing*-A	100/50	100.00	-0.25	100.00	24209	100.00	-0.25	100.00	24209	Modi Knitting*-B
Standard Bank*-A	100/50	325.00	-0.15	325.50	25050	326.00	-0.23	326.75	5574	Modi Knitting*-B
One Bank*-A	100/50	520.25	-0.50	520.25	15920	525.00	-0.50	520.25	15920	Modi Knitting*-B
Bank Al-Mashayekh*-A	100/50	520.25	-0.50	520.25	15920	525.00	-0.50	520.25	15920	Modi Knitting*-B
Mercantile Bank*-A	100/50	411.75	-0.42	413.50	1875	410.00	-1.52	410.00	850	Modi Knitting*-B
Export Import Bank*-A	100/50	390.75	-0.13	391.25	18749	389.50	-0.19	390.25	6050	Modi Knitting*-B
People's Leasing*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
Premier Leasing*-A	100/50	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
Islamic Finance*-A	100/50	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
Jamia Bank*-A	100/50	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	218.50	-0.50	218.50	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
LankaBangla Finance*-A	100/50	101.25	-1.84	103.20	281000	102.50	-1.78	102.00	44500	Modi Knitting*-B
TFC*-Z	100/50	240.50	-6.50	240.50	32550	240.75	5.13	240.50	2050	Modi Knitting*-B
First Leasing*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
Bank Al-Mashayekh*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
AIMS M F*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
IBBL M F*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	Modi Knitting*-B
IBBL M F*-A	100/50	180.75	-0.25	180.75	1875	180.75	-0.2			