

FTA TALKS WITH DELHI

Dhaka to assess India's export subsidy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is going to study Indian export subsidy as part of groundwork before it starts bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) talks with Delhi.

The commerce ministry yesterday sent a letter to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi to make the assessment as soon as possible, ministry sources said.

Asked, a high official of the ministry confirmed the government will start negotiations with India after getting the export subsidy assessment results.

"Bangladesh needs to fix

its strategy against Indian subsidised exports otherwise Bangladesh will lose its market," Feroz Ahmed, commerce secretary, said.

He said the country will focus on the products that have been included in the Safta negative list.

Golam Moazzem, senior research fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the country should focus on "Safta Plus".

As the country has gained a little from many multilateral and regional deals the government should improve its two ways trade with major trading partners, he said.

The government earlier

eyed bilateral free trade agreements with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Myanmar and China.

Many countries across the world are going for bilateral free trade agreements although they have many regional and multilateral trading agreements in place, Shishir Dev, a trade expert, said.

The implementation process of bilateral free trade agreement is very simple and results of such agreement are very effective for which Bangladesh needs to consider signing FTA," he added.

Bangladeshi import from India was recorded at

US\$21.10 billion in 2006-07 fiscal.

Bangladesh exported only \$350 million goods to India in the same period.

An government expert on international trade negotiation said FTA has some risks for smaller countries as how long the special and differential treatments (S&D) remains under the FTA the smaller countries can gain but when it ends the big countries continue gaining alone.

Preferring anonymity, he said FTAs have some benefits like it provides for duty free entry for all goods except those included in a short negotiated negative list.

Warid offers 89 paisa per minute call rate

All new and existing subscribers of Warid's 'Zem 24 hours' tariff plan will enjoy the lowest call rate of 89 paisa per minute for making calls to any operator round the clock, says a press release.

Any prepaid Warid subscriber can switch to this plan or any of the different tariff plans from the same single Zem SIM.

About the new call tariff, Senior Manager Marketing of Warid Telecom Zeeshan K. Huq said, "Calling any operator, anytime at a flat call rate is the demand of the day by mobile phone users."

Warid Telecom expanded its network to 61 districts within six months of its launch in Bangladesh.

Residents for relocation of Feni EPZ site

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

hoped that the government would set it on the unused air port."

The residents of the area also proposed some possible locations for the EPZ. These are: west side of Dhaka-Chittagong highway of Mathiara, South Kashimpur, Ratanpur, Nikunjara and Lemua, Chhaura, Pathanagar, and Muhuri dam area.

Mohammad Nurunnabi, on behalf of the residents living in the proposed EPZ area, said, "We were glad to know that an EPZ is to be established in Feni and we

Grain price hike can benefit European, third world growers

AFP, Athens

Soaring grain prices that sparked protests in several countries could be a good thing for farmers in both Europe and the developing world, the European Union's top agriculture official said Friday.

"I think it is to the benefit of the European agricultural sector and also in the developing world, those countries that have exports, they now earn more money," said EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel.

Speaking in Athens after meeting Greek Agriculture Minister Alexandros Kontos, Fischer Boel said better harvests expected in the EU, Ukraine, Russia and Australia this year could bring "more normal" supply levels.

Govt may simplify yarn import thru' Benapole land port

UNB, Dhaka

The government is likely to simplify the yarn import procedure through Benapole land port in the next budget or before the budget.

After a series of meetings with the stakeholders, National Board of Revenue (NBR) made a summary in this regard and will send the same to the finance adviser for approval.

An NBR official told the news agency that they are giving priority for making the proposed procedure effective from the next budget.

"If it is done in the budget,

we will have to issue just an SRO. Otherwise, we'll have to issue several SROs," the official said.

Knitwear manufacturers repeatedly demanded for procedural simplification in case of yarn import from India through Benapole land port amid rising prices of the item in the local market.

"We are hopeful the government will consider our plea for the greater interest of the sector," said Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Fazlul Huq.

At present, hardly anyone imports yarn through Benapole land port due to procedural problems in respect of customs, bond license and transportation, although the government lifted ban on import of yarn using this land port two years ago.

BKMEA said Bangladesh's position as a knitwear exporting country would be more advantageous in the international market with the easing of the procedures for importing yarn using Benapole land port like Chittagong Port.

BJMC in red due to officials' inefficiency

Says jute adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Jute Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal on Saturday said Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) have been incurring loss since 1972 due to inefficiency of the corporation's high officials.

The fact is that many high officials built up their fortunes and established big industries, although the BJMC continued to incur losses since last 36 years, the Jute adviser observed while speaking at the cheque distribution ceremony at the Khulna Circuit House.

Emphasising the urgent need for reforms in the BJMC, the Jute adviser said the government is determined to protect the interests of jute mill workers and employees. In return, the officials and workers must do their duties sincerely.

He directed project directors of the seven state-owned jute mills to complete the VRS payment within next two days.

He handed over 14 cheques

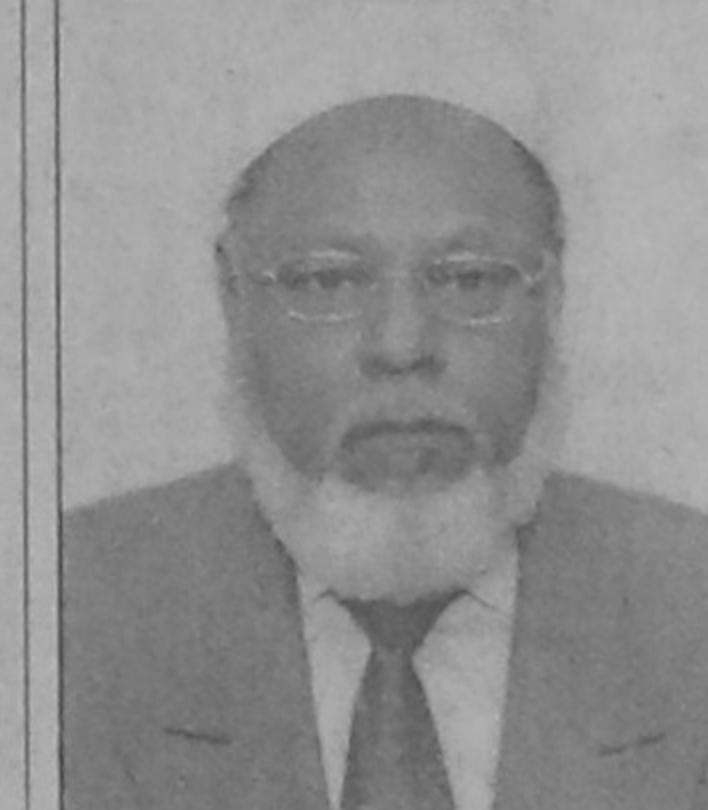
of arrears to 14 workers of state-owned jute mills who retired at the age of 57 under the Labour Act 2006, while remaining cheques will be distributed by the managements of the jute mills from today.

He said a total of Tk 54.75 crore will be paid to 1,117 retired workers in the Khulna-Jessore industrial belt. Payment of their all arrears will be completed by April 30, he added.

He also said a total of Tk 26.75 had been allocated by the government for payment of provident fund and gratuity to 3,998 workers of seven jute mills in Khulna and Jessore who quit their jobs under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

He directed project directors of the seven state-owned jute mills to complete the VRS payment within next two days.

Mercantile Bank gets new chairman, vice chairmen



Chairman



1st vice chairman 2nd vice chairman

Beijing Auto 2008 opens amid boom in car sales

AFP, Beijing

The world's top car-makers descended on China in force Sunday for the eight-day Beijing Auto Show 2008, which is expected to attract up to 600,000 prospective buyers.

Top manufacturers are hoping to cash in on China's booming market which rose by 20 percent to 1.85 million vehicles in the first quarter of 2008 as sales around the world slumped, organisers said.

Nearly 900 cars will be on display at this year's show with car-makers rolling out their newest models, including environmentally friendly hybrid and electric vehicles, they said.

Big-name companies like General Motors, Volkswagen, Ford and BMW have announced new plans to expand facilities in China to meet growing demand and further localise production.

General Motors is aiming to raise its China sales by 50 percent over the next three years with new products to feed increasing private demand, GM China group president Kevin Wale said.

Feroz is the chairman of Eco Inamori Fashions Ltd, a Japan-Bangladesh joint venture company. He is also the vice chairperson of Premier Leasing International Ltd.

Tanzeen is one of the directors in Aman Spinning Mill, Arena Industries Ltd, and Mousumi Enterprise Ltd.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিচালক ও অধ্যাপকের কার্যালয়

জাতীয় অর্থোপেডিক হাসপাতাল ও পুর্ববাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

নং-জাত্যর্থের্হাস/জেনাঃ টেক্সার/২০০৮-২০০৯/৮১৩

তারিখঃ ১৬/৪/০৮

১।	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	২।	জাতীয় অর্থোপেডিক হাসপাতাল ও পুর্ববাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।
২।	আর্থিক বৎসর	৩।	২০০৮-২০০৯।
৩।	ঠিকানা/ব্যবসায়ী	৪।	প্রকৃত ঠিকানা/ব্যবসায়ী ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৪।	দরপত্র বিতরণের স্থান	৫।	পরিচালক ও অধ্যাপকের কার্যালয় ও পুর্ববাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান, শেরে বাংলা নগর এবং ভিত্তিগত কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
৫।	দরপত্র বিতরণের সময়	৬।	অফিস চলাকীন সময় সকাল ৯.০০টা হিতে দুপুর ১:০০টা পর্যন্ত।
৬।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	৭।	পরিচালক ও অধ্যাপকের কার্যালয় ও পুর্ববাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা এবং কার্যালয়।
৭।	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	৮।	রেজিস্ট্রেশন পথ, লিলেন বোর্কোর্গ, লিখ ও বেস ওয়ার্ক প্রয়োজন বিবিধ ও সাধারণ দ্রব্যাদি, বেন্যুত্ব ও প্রাপ্তি দ্রব্যাদি ইত্যাদি।
৮।	দরপত্র বিতরণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৯।	০৪/০৫/২০০৮ইং হিতে ১১/০৫/২০০৮ইং অফিস চলাকীন সময় সকাল ৯.০০টা হিতে ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
৯।	দরপত্র ক্রমাগত ও ক্ষয়ের শর্তব্যবলী	১০।	গ্রন্থাবলী পথ ক্রমাগত ও ক্ষয়ের শর্তব্যবলী।
১০।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	১১।	১২/০৫/২০০৮ইং তারিখ ১২:৩০ মিনিট।
১১।	দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার তারিখ	১২।	ক) আর্থিক পরিবারের সনদপত্র (২০০৬-২০০৭ইং সত্যাগ্রহ ফটোকপি।
১২।	দরপত্র এবং সহিত অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত ধারণকৰ্ত্তার পদবী প্রদর্শন করতে প্রতিক্রিয় প্রক্রিয়ে প্রক্রিয়ে করা হবে।	১৩।	খ) মেডিসিনিপ্যাল ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২০০৭-২০০৮ইং সত্যাগ্রহ ফটোকপি।
১৩।	আর্থিক পরিবারের সনদপত্র	১৪।	গ) বাক্স রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র।
১৪।	আর্থিক পরিবারের ক্ষেত্রে বেকারী লাইসেন্স ও বিএসটাইআইএ (সিএম) সার্টিফিকেট মার্কিস লাইসেন্স ফটোকপি।	১৫।	ঘ) চালানের মূলকপি।
১৫।	আর্থিক পরিবারের সনদপত্র।	১৬।	ছ) অভিজ্ঞার সনদপত্র।

ক্রমিক নং	ফ্রেম নং	বিবরণ	আর্থিক পরিবার	সিভিউটিরিটি মানি
১।	(১)	তকনা রেশন ও মসল্লাদি	৬৪,০০০/-	কার্যালয়ের ১০%
২।	(২)	পটুরটি	২৬,০০০/-	কার্যালয়ের ১০%
৩।	(৩)	মাছ, মাসে মুরগী ও ডিম	৮৩,০০০/-	কার্যালয়ের ১০%
৪।	(৪)	ফলমূল, উত্তিরকারী ও শাকসবজি	৩৭,০০০/-	কার্যালয়ের ১০%
৫।	(৫)	লিখ ও বেস ওয়ার্কস দ্রব্যাদি	১৫,	