

# Food rationing for RMG workers within a month

Says BKMEA chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The BKMEA will introduce food rationing system for the garment workers within one month, said the association's president in Dhaka yesterday.

The association will also fix the prices of some basic exportable items.

President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Fazlul Hoque was speaking at a seminar on developing owner-worker relationship for improved productivity in the knitwear factories.

Dr Kamal Hossain, a prominent lawyer, attended the function as the chief guest. Labour

leaders, representing their respective trade unions, were also present on the occasion.

Fazlul Hoque said since an unhealthy competition prevails in the export of RMG products in the local market, BKMEA decided to fix the prices of some basic export items to ensure fairness to every local manufacturer.

"Sometimes many foreign buyers take advantage of our unhealthy local competition," he said.

BKMEA has already completed almost all formalities in connection with price fixing of basic export items and hopes to launch the new price fixing system within next one month,

he said. With prices of essential commodities soaring in the local markets, BKMEA will launch its token rationing system for the workers at the factory level very soon, Fazlul Hoque said.

"Good days are waiting for Bangladesh's RMG sector in the backdrop of a changing global scenario. As a result, Bangladesh is set to become a popular destination for many buyers, he added.

"We must utilise the opportunity by ensuring a better working atmosphere through establishing good relationship between owners and workers," he said.

Demanding a hike in their monthly salary package, the labour leaders urged the directors of the BKMEA to arrange regular talks with them to resolve the issue.

Montoo Ghosh, a veteran labour leader urged the owners not to harass but to negotiate with the workers and their leaders for the resolve of any dispute.

Dr Kamal asked the owners to agree to pay attention to the reasonable demands of the workers as they are directly related with the production. He also asked the owners to resolve any dispute through negotiation with the workers and their leaders.

New chairman, vice chairman of Dhaka Bank



Altaf Hossain Mohammad Hanif

Altaf Hossain Sarker and Mohammad Hanif have been elected chairman and vice chairman of Dhaka Bank Limited, says a press release.

They were elected at a recent board meeting of the bank.

Sarker is also the CEO of the different units of Rahmat Group, which includes Rahmat Textiles Limited, Rahmat Spinning Mills Limited, Rahmat Plastics & Accessories Limited, China Plastics (BD) Limited and Rahmat Composite Mills.

Hanif is the managing director of Hanif Steel Mills Limited, Hanif Spinning Mills Limited, National Foundry and Engineering Works (Pvt.) Limited and Asif Enterprise.

More over, Abdul Hai Sarker, ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan, Khondoker Monir Uddin, Md Amirullah, Aminul Islam, Abdullah Al Ahsan, Jashim Uddin, MNH Bulu and Hona Ara Shahid have been elected as new members of the Board of Directors of Dhaka Bank.

## BGMEA seeks Tesco initiative to raise workers' wage

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Tuesday sought the world's 3rd largest retailer's initiative to mobilise support of the apparel buyers to raise the wages of the workers hit hard by the price-hike of essentials.

President Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury requested visiting Tesco Chairman of David Reid and his delegation at a meeting at the BGMEA office to take necessary initiative in this regard in consultation with other RMG buyers.

He said Tesco, being the world's third largest and Europe's biggest retailer, could easily take the initiative.

Reid assured the BGMEA of trying to take the initiative, said a press release.

Anwar apprised the Tesco delegation that keeping the RMG industry in Bangladesh aloft has become difficult due to high operating cost for lack of developed infrastructure and excessive bank charges.

Under the circumstances, he feels that the buyers need to come forward and provide support for better livelihood of the RMG workers.

## Subprime-hit German bank posts loss

AFP, Frankfurt

Troubled German business lender IKB posted Tuesday a net loss of 965 billion euros (1.5 billion dollars) for its fiscal first half after pulling back from the brink of bankruptcy.

The specialist in loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises, which had postponed the release of results for the period from April to September 2007, had made a profit of 89 million euros in the same period a year earlier.

The bank has suffered very heavy losses in portfolio investments, largely on securities backed by high risk, or subprime, US mortgages on which borrowers have defaulted in large numbers.

IKB reiterated Tuesday its outlook for a loss of 200 million euros in the full year which ended March 2008.

## Rajshahi businesses seek separate industrial policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Business leaders from Rajshahi division yesterday demanded a separate industrial policy for the region.

They also demanded proper supply of gas and electricity in the region for its economic development.

The regional business leaders were speaking at a seminar titled 'Unlocking the Potential of Rajshahi Region and Creating Better Business Environment' in Rajshahi. Board of Investment (BoI) organized the seminar.

Anisul Huq, the newly elected president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who attended the seminar,

expressed solidarity with the demands.

Anisul said the government should not hope investment without ensuring proper supply of gas and electricity.

A separate policy for industrial growth of the north is necessary, he added.

Anisul also observed the NGOs which are engaged in profit-making businesses should be brought under tax-net.

He asked chamber leaders of Rajshahi division to chalk out short, medium and long term plans for industrial growth of Rajshahi region.

BoI Executive Chairman Kamaluddin Ahmed was present at the meeting as the chief guest.

## BGMEA gets new vice presidents



M Harun-Ar-Rashid



Shahidul Islam Mahmud Hasan

M Harun-Ar-Rashid assumed the position of the vice president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Along with him, Md Shahidul Islam and Mahmud Hasan Khan assumed the positions of second vice president and vice president (finance), respectively, of the association, says a press release.

Apart from being directors of the association, Md Shahidul Islam is engaged as the managing director of Rupa Apparels Ltd, while M Harun-Ar-Rashid and Mahmud Hasan Khan are the managing directors of East West Fashion Garments Ltd and Rising Fashions Ltd, respectively.

## PRE-BUDGET MEET WITH NBR DCCI seeks policy on tax holiday, PSI system cancellation

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry sought a clear-cut policy on tax holiday for next ten years in the coming budget, as the caretaker government envisages incentive packages for industrialization.

The DCCI also placed their plea for raising the non-taxable ceiling to Tk 2.5 lakh from Tk 1.5 lakh in view of the present context, when inflation eats up much of one's income.

DCCI President Hossain Khaled placed the demands at

a pre-budget meeting with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid in the chair.

Hossain Khaled expressed DCCI opinion for cancellation of Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI), saying this system was just an interim measure.

He said that it is possible for the Customs Department of the NBR to create a database with its own workforce to make transparent customs valuation.

The business leader pointed out that the importers are paying Tk 1700 crore each

year to the PSI companies in commission, and this extra cost is ultimately borne by the consumers.

"As such, there should be a straight announcement of the government when the PSI system will be abolished. It is necessary to announce this in the upcoming budget," he said.

He also called for harmonizing the HS Code system to avoid hassle on part the importers and corruption of NBR officials.

The chamber suggested empowerment of the Tax

Ombudsman, vesting in him the power for announcement of final decision.

It recommended exempting raw materials of those items which are not produced in the country from import duty.

The DCCI gave suggestion for reconstructing the duty slab as 5 percent (for essential items, machinery and raw materials), 10 percent (for intermediary goods) and 15 percent (for luxury items and imported readymade consumer products which are produced in the country).

### Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Sadar Road, Mohakhali  
Dhaka - 1206

#### Price Sensitive Information

The Directors of the Company are pleased to notify that in addition to the existing GLS electric bulb manufacturing facilities, a new CFL (Energy Saving Lamp) production line has been set-up.

This facility will go into commercial production from May 2008. Addition of CFL is expected to increase turnover of the Company by 20% approximately.

By order of the Board

*Abdullah Ismail*  
Abdullah Ismail  
Company Secretary

Dhaka  
29-04-2008

Official Licensee of Philips Electronics N. V.  
for lighting products.



PHILIPS

## Gender-friendly transportation needed for women

Workshop told

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Urban women need safe and gender-friendly transportation system to ease their suffering, a workshop was told yesterday.

Speakers said women are increasingly entering the urban labour market in recent years, but they lack badly safe and reliable transportation system.

"To achieve the millennium

development goals (MDGs) and encourage the women to work, we have to ensure a safe and gender-friendly transportation system for them," environment and forest secretary AHM Rezaul Kabir told the workshop on "Gender Issues in Urban Transport" at the BIDS auditorium.

Director general of BIDS (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies) Dr Quazi

Shahabuddin chaired the discussion, which was addressed among others by Mohi Uz Zaman Quazi, senior transport engineer of World Bank.

Salma Chaudhuri Zohir, research fellow of BIDS presented a keynote paper at the workshop.

"From readymade garments to corporate businesses, constructions worker and to news presenter, in all sectors the

number of working women has increased," Salma said.

She noted women are adding value to the national economy.

In her keynote paper she observed Bangladesh urban women have less access to the public transport and suffered a lot from social insecurity.

She asked the government to ensure at least 25 percent reserve seats in public trans-

ports for women.

Quazi Shahabuddin said the government should encourage more women to enter the economic activities. But, he said, women need easy access to all social services, including transportation.

Mohi Uz Zaman Quazi urged the government to buy more two-door buses so that the women could use the front door.



মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

68 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, Phone: 02-717 0138 (auto Hunting)

### Notice of the 9th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 9th Annual General Meeting of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. will be held at CARNIVAL (Committee Room-I) of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka on Thursday June 05, 2008 at 11:00 am to transact the following businesses:

1. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended December 31, 2007 and the Reports of the Auditors and Directors thereon
2. To declare dividend
3. To elect Directors
4. To appoint Auditors and fix their remuneration

Dated: 30 April, 2008

By Order of the Board  
Sd/-  
Quamrul Islam Chowdhury  
Company Secretary

Note:

- a) May 05, 2008 is the 'Record Date'.
- b) The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date will be entitled to attend the AGM.
- c) The Proxy Form duly stamped with revenue stamp of Tk. 8/- must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not later than 48 hours before the meeting.



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### Notice of the 10th Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all members of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. that the 10th Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 10:30 am at CARNIVAL (Committee Room-I) of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka to transact the following business and if deem fit to adopt the following resolution as Ordinary Resolution:

RESOLVED "that, 5:1 R i.e, 1 (one) right share for every 5 (five) shares held be issued to the Members, at par i.e at a price of Tk. 100/- as recommended by the Board of Directors subject to approval of Securities and Exchange Commission."

Dated: 30 April, 2008

By Order of the Board  
Sd/-  
Quamrul Islam Chowdhury  
Company Secretary

Note:

- a) The "Record Date" is May 5, 2008.
- b) The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date will be entitled to attend the EGM.
- c) The Proxy Form duly stamped with revenue stamp of Tk. 8/- must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

### Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Sadar Road, Mohakhali  
Dhaka - 1206

#### Price Sensitive Information

Based on annual accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2007, the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Lamps Limited, at its meeting held on 29-04-2008, decided to recommend a cash dividend @ Tk.30/- for every existing ordinary share of Tk.100/- each.

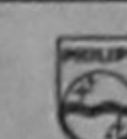
The date of 47th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Lamps Limited has been fixed to be held on Thursday, 29 May 2008 at 11.00 a.m. at the National Shooting Federation Auditorium, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. The register of members and share transfer book of the Company and the depository register of CDBL will remain closed on 14-05-2008, as Record Date.

By order of the Board

*Abdullah Ismail*  
Abdullah Ismail  
Company Secretary

Dhaka  
29-04-2008

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