

New wood coating product hits market very shortly

Berger Paints, Becker Acroma tie up

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has tied up with the Sweden based Becker Acroma as its strategic ally to launch its new wood coating product in the local market very shortly.

"We hope that the new product will be launched within a very short time," A K M Sadeque Nawaj, the company's marketing manager, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The product will address the wood coating requirements of the whole spectrum of the indoor furniture like home and office furniture, kitchen and baths etc, he added.

According to industry people, around 25 per cent of the total furniture market uses modern wood coating like polyurethane coating system.

Berger Paints holds more than 50 percent market share of the Tk 800 crore local painting market. The annual growth of the sector is 10 percent.

The company has some major decorative, industrial and marine products in the local market, which include Luxury Silk, Robbialac Easy Clean, Acrylic Plastic Emulsion, Robbialac SPD, Weather Coat Long Life, Weather Coat, Robbialac Synthetic Enamel and Berger Colorbank.

These products are sold through the company's 5000



The photo taken yesterday shows containers of Berger brand paint. Berger Paints Bangladesh has joined hands with Sweden-based Becker Acroma to launch a wood coating product in the local market soon.

outlets across the country and there are two production units-one at Savar and the other at Kalurghat Heavy Industrial Area in Chittagong.

According to the company's marketing manager, in 2007 its turnover stood at Tk 360 crore, while its annual growth was 25

percent. Asian Paints, Roxy Paints, Pailac and Elite Paints are some main competitors of the Berger Paints in the local market. The domestic demand for decorative paints is entirely met by the local companies.

The decorative paints mar-

ket is largely dependent on the implementation of the government's Annual Development Programme (ADP), as the product's usage increases with the construction of increasing number of different establishments under the ADP.

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Belgium orders Siemens trains for 1.4b euros

Siemens Mobility Division has received an order from Belgian rail operator Société Nationale de Chemins de Fer Belge (SNCB) to supply 305 multiple-unit trains to be used in Belgium's regional rail service, says a press release.

The contract signed recently is worth more than 1.4 billion euros and marks the biggest order Siemens has ever received in the rolling stock sector.

The first trains will be manufactured at the Siemens plant in Krefeld-Uerdingen in Germany beginning in the summer of 2009 and are scheduled for delivery in the period from 2011 to 2016.

The trains are based on the design adopted for the new Siemens platform for regional trains.

The Desiro ML can accommodate 280 passengers and has a top speed of 160 km/h. With a low boarding height, it also offers easy access for passengers with impaired mobility.

The Desiro ML design meets current European standards and is therefore especially well suited for operation in all European countries. The first vehicles of this new product line are currently in the commissioning phase in Krefeld-Uerdingen.

Ericsson wins SingTel's S\$220m contract

Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel) has announced that it is investing S\$220 million in its 2G and 3G mobile network expansion and enhancement programme and has awarded the contract to Ericsson Telecommunications Pte Ltd, says a press release.

SingTel's 2.57 million mobile customers now enjoy superior 2G and 3G mobile network service and coverage island-wide, both indoors and outdoors.

Ericsson will deliver to SingTel a complete, future-proof IP-based radio and core mobile network, designed to carry large volumes of traffic efficiently and effectively.

TIB chief for detecting income tax law loopholes to stop corruption



TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a discussion on Budget: Restructuring the Taxation System and Ways to Eliminate Corruption at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government can stop corruption and generate more revenue by the enforcement of an effective income tax law, suggested the chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday.

"The present income tax law has many loopholes and often fails to identify the sources of income of a person or a company," Prof Muzaffer Ahmad told a roundtable, pointing to the fact that many politicians and businessmen have taken advantage of this and did not pay duties.

The Bhorer Kagoj, a Bengali daily, organised the roundtable on Budget: Restructuring the Taxation System and Ways to Eliminate Corruption at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

The TIB chief said, "Government should first identify the loopholes of the existing law and make necessary amendments if it wants its anti-corruption drive to be successful."

Muzaffer also urged the government to take all steps necessary to make Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Truth Commission a success.

He said corruption prevails

everywhere in the society that it is not possible to uproot it overnight but mass awareness against this vicious circle of corruption can improve the situation.

The proposed Truth And Accountability Commission (TAC) will have the power to hold closed door hearings on corruption or corrupt practices in certain cases, although those will be public hearings.

"The main objectives of the ACC and the proposed TAC will only bear fruit if existing laws are changed with proper guidelines," he added.

In his keynote paper, Jahangir Alam Choudhury, an income tax lawyer, said government has some drawbacks regarding a successful ACC and Truth Commission due to the lack of manpower and experience.

He suggested that the government may overcome the limitations by involving the income tax department with ACC and Truth Commission to make it more efficient.

Ali Ahmed, member of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), said NBR often fails to function properly in terms of revenue collection due to staff shortage.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, a for-

mer adviser to the caretaker government, and Naimul Islam Khan, editor of the Bengali daily Amader Shomoy, were also present at the roundtable.

KSA seeks to import rice from India

PTI, Dubai

Reeling under shortage of rice, Saudi Arabia, one of the world's top rice buyers, has approached India to discuss issues relating to its supply, including possible lifting of restrictions on exports to the Kingdom.

The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry is in touch with Indian officials on the issue of rice imports, Rajeev Shahare, deputy chief of the Indian embassy in Riyadh, said.

The whole issue of Indian rice exports to Saudi Arabia was discussed during the visit of Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of Planning Commission, to the Kingdom early this month, said Shahare, adding that there was no export ban on high-quality Indian basmati rice.

Intel-Grameen deal on ICT-based business services

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Global computer technology giant Intel has signed an agreement with Grameen Trust to form a new venture dedicated to social and economic development.

Intel Corporation Chairman Craig Barrett announced this while addressing the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2008 in Malaysia on Monday.

The Grameen-Intel joint venture aims to bring about self-sustaining solutions based on information and communications technology (ICT) to help empower the world's impoverished.

The initiative, which will be launched in Bangladesh, is based on the 'social business' model created by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus, who founded Grameen Bank in 1976 to promote

microfinancing and community development.

"Technology offers the means for scaling up our efforts towards global change and progress," said Barrett, who also chairs the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN GAID). "By creating new business models based on ICT, as Intel is doing today with Grameen, we can bring people the tools they need to improve their future."

"I am very happy to collaborate with Intel in this new direction and create opportunities for poor people to rise above social and economic barriers," said Yunus, also the author of the best-seller, Creating a World Without Poverty.

"I believe technology-based services will provide the 'hand up' that people need to discover their full potential. Once we show that this business model works in Bangladesh, we

hope the successes we achieve there can be applied to the rest of the developing world."

Grameen-Intel combines Intel's technology innovation and Grameen's extensive experience in creating economic development and income-generation opportunities at the village level. The new company will use a private sector-based approach to address social and economic problems such as poverty, healthcare and education in developing countries.

Intel and Grameen foresee a number of ICT-based services and entrepreneurship opportunities growing out of such a business model. Examples include remote villagers receiving medical attention through internet connectivity, rural communities being able to order medicine locally instead of having to walk 10 miles to a hospital, and families

being notified of money received from relatives abroad.

According to Kazi I Huque, the Intel manager serving as the CEO of the joint venture, "The creative usage of technology has the potential to make a real impact on people in the developing nations who today are not part of the digital age."

"To narrow the gap, we must address specific needs at the grass-roots level," Huque said.

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক) তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা ঢাকা-১২০৮ গাড়ী ভাড়ার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 2 columns: S.No, Description, Tender No., Tender schedule cost (non-refundable). Contains details for Meghna Petroleum Limited tender.

Table with 2 columns: Yarn Matrix that we regularly source for our valued customers. Lists various yarn types like AIRJET, AUTOCORO, BAMBOO, etc.

Table with 2 columns: গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. Contains details for a government tender for a vehicle.

Meghna Petroleum Limited (A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) 58, Agrabad C/A Chittagong Tender Notice No. Pur: 067 & 094