

Delay in reform may affect India's textile growth

ANN/ THE STATESMAN
Delay in initiating the reform process could affect the India's textile sector significantly, industry chamber Assocham feels.
The domestic textile industry, which currently is braving various odds, could attract investment worth US\$55 billion, create job opportunities for 65.4 million people and achieve a growth rate of 22 per cent by 2010, if early reforms were initiated, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) has said.
With continuing bottlenecks in place, the projected investment for 2010 could fall to \$16 billion and job prospects to a meagre lot of 19 million workforce, Assocham noted in a study, Indian Textile: Weaving a Global Spin.
Predictions of a growth rate of 22 per cent by 2010 would slip to six per cent unless vigorous efforts were made to introduce reforms in the textile sector, the Assocham president, Venugopal N Dhoot, said releasing the findings of the study.
The industry attracted an investment of 330 billion rupees (\$7.75 billion) during fiscal 2006-07, up by 51 per cent from 218.5 billion rupees (\$5.13 billion) in the previous year. The total size of the textile sector is \$47 billion with domestic market pegged at \$30 billion and export market at \$17 billion.
Appreciation of rupee is one of factors responsible for the India's textile sector losing its competence as its margins have come down and international competition has become stiffer, Dhoot said.

Thais plan relocating industries to Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Thais are planning to re-locate their labour intensive industrial units to Bangladesh in view of cost effective and trainable labour force available in this country, according to a business delegation of the Bangladesh-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) that visited Thailand recently.
A TCCI press release says the

delegation led by the chamber President Habib Sattar paid a 4-day visit to the neighbouring country and returned home on Sunday.
Thai Ambassador in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Ambassador in Thailand and senior officials of the Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok accompanied the delegation.
The Bangladesh delegation

met with the Thai Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Thai Industries, the Board of Investment - Thailand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Thai Deputy Minister of Commerce.
The business delegation convinced the Thai authorities that a win-win situation can be achieved by taking advantage of its cost effective and productive labour force.

Coal import resumes at Tamabil border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Around 30 coal loaded trucks from the Indian State of Meghalaya arrived in Bangladesh yesterday, signalling an end to the 40 day long border dispute that had halted coal imports through the Tamabil Land customs station.
The dispute, that centered around the role of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in checking trucks, is estimated to have cost the Bangladesh government around Tk22 lakhs per day in lost revenue, according to customs officials. Around 1,500 labourers employed in unloading and loading the trucks also went without work following the outbreak of the dispute on April 16.
The return to normal trade was made possible by discussions between the BDR, Sylhet Chamber of commerce and coal importers at Tamabil last week at which better routines were suggested.

The Coal Importers Group, Sylhet said that the Indian traders engaged in exporting coal to Bangladesh through Tamabil-Dauki borders stopped sending coal due to the 'unnecessary interference' by the BDR. It has been claimed that Bangladesh border guards harass the Indian truck drivers and their helpers in the name of collecting information although such procedures are the responsibility of customs officials.

It is not the first time such incidents have disrupted the coal trade with disputes on both sides of the border causing problems. However traders were especially concerned about the latest suspension of coal imports as the season for importing coal ends with the coming of the monsoon.
Sector Commander of BDR, Sylhet-Colonel Obaidul Ahsan said the matter had been resolved through discussion.

Local eco-friendly motorbikes, auto-rickshaws soon

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Commuters may soon see eco-friendly motorbikes and auto-rickshaws made in Bangladesh.
With a view to saving energy and reduce environment pollution, Bangladesh Diesel Plant (BDP), SIGS International and Lotus Bird will jointly manufacture battery run motorbikes and auto-rickshaws.
Lt Gen Mohammad Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, chairman of

BDP, formally inaugurated the joint project and two sample products yesterday at BDP ground in Gazipur.
No oil, engine or gas needed to run the bike or rickshaw. Highly powerful silicon gel batteries, controller and motor will help the vehicles to run, said the authorities.
A puller will be able to run the auto-rickshaw for 80 to 100 kilometres by charging the batteries for four to five hours, they added.
Battery run vehicles will

bring long-term benefits for Bangladesh, Jahangir said.
A motorbike with 4 batteries will initially cost Tk. 60,000, while the auto-rickshaw will cost Tk 45,000.
Among others, Geng Yong Ding, president, Lotus Bird, Mohammad Abdul Gani, chairman, SICS International, Morshed Alam, chairman, Bengal Group and Rtv and Enayet Ullah Siddique, managing partner, SIGS International also spoke on the occasion.

Trade show in NY in August

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
A major three-day Bangladesh trade show, 'Made in Bangladesh' will be held in New York in August, promoting a broad range of Bangladeshi products, the show's organisers said yesterday.
The show is being jointly arranged by First Multipurpose Services (FMS), a US based company and Mattra, a local communication agency. It will run from the 15th 17th August and it is expected that a total of 109 stalls will exhibit

Bangladeshi products.
"This will be a full-fledged Bangladeshi trade exposition in the USA, arranged by the single largest importer of Bangladeshi products," said Anisur Rahman Mahmud, CEO of Mattra, while addressing a press meeting to announce the show. "This show will create opportunities to explore newer avenues for promoting Bangladeshi products into the US market," he added.
The product and services categories will be varied, ranging from RMG products, home

textile items, ceramic tiles, tileware, melamine and plastic product, handicrafts, furniture, leather, jute goods to recycled glass items.
The CEO of Mattra also informed that the exposition would arrange several seminars on topics that would improve the trade relation between Bangladesh and the USA, such as housing and real estate.
Anwar Farook, joint secretary of Agriculture Ministry, and Hossain Jabbar, president of FMS, were also present at the press meeting.



Raghib Ahsan, event manager of First Multipurpose Services (FMS), speaks at a press conference on **Made in Bangladesh Trade Show 2008** in Dhaka yesterday. The trade show will be organised jointly by FMS, a US based company, and Mattra, a local communication agency, in New York in August.

Berger Paints launches new wood coating product today

Aims Tk3 cr in its annual turnover

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Berger Paints Bangladesh aims to add Tk 3 crore in its annual turnover this year, as the company is going to launch a new wood coating product today, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange website.
The new product branded as 'INNOVA' will also help Berger Paints enhance its market share in the Tk 800 crore painting market from the existing 50 percent, Berger officials said.
"The new product will be available with a competitive price in the market by the end of this month and we expect a turnover of around Tk 3 crore this year from the new product," said AKM Sadeque Nawaj, marketing manager of Berger Paints.

In 2007, Berger Paint's turnover was Tk 360 crore, while its annual growth was 25 percent.
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.
He said the uses of traditional wood coatings is gradually being replaced by the modern wood coating such as polyurethane coating system, which increases the resistance of furniture.
According to industry people, presently around 25 percent of the total furniture market, which is growing at 15 to 20 percent per year, uses modern wood coating system.
To introduce the new wood coating, Berger Paints earlier tied up with a Sweden-based Becker Acroma. Under the strategic partnership, Becker Acroma provides technical support to Berger Paints for

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

Office of the Chief Engineer
University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender

Tender No. Prokousol (Zone-4)/2007-08 Dated: 24/05/2008

01	Ministry/Division	Education Ministry.
02	Agency	Engineering Section.
03	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (Zone-4), University of Dhaka.
04	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
05	Invitation For	Raising of boundary wall (west side) at AF Rahman Hall extension (Shanewaz Hostel), University of Dhaka.
06	Invitation Ref No.	Prokousol (Zone-4)/2007-08.
07	Date	24/05/2008.

KEY INFORMATION
08 Procurement method Open tendering method.

FUNDING INFORMATION
09 Budget and source of funds Revenue.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10	Tender publication date	25/05/2008.
11	Tender last selling date	15/06/2008.
12	Tender closing date and time	16/06/2008 at 12.00noon.
13	Tender opening date and time	16/06/2008 at 12.30pm.
14	Name and address of office(s)	
	Selling tender documents	(a) Treasurer's Office, Dhaka University. (b) Registrar's Office, Dhaka University. (c) Chief Engineer's Office, Dhaka University.
	Receiving tender documents	(a) Treasurer's Office, Dhaka University. (b) Chief Engineer's Office, Dhaka University. (c) Executive Engineer (Zone-4), Dhaka University.
	Opening tender document	Office of the Director of Planning and Development, 16/06/2008, Time: 12.30pm.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer having experience of similar work of amounting to Tk. 1.00 lac in a single work order. VAT registration certificate, up-to-date trade licence, IT, and experience certificate (last 5 years) from an officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer with work order & satisfactory completion certificate must be submitted along with tender.
16	Price of tender document	Tk. 500/- (five hundred) only (non-refundable) to be deposited in A/C No-36000392, Janata Bank, TSC Branch, University of Dhaka.

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
17	01 Raising of boundary wall (west side) at A F Rahman Hall extension (Shanewaz Hostel), University of Dhaka	University of Dhaka	Tk. 5000/-	45 (forty-five) days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

18	Name of official inviting tender	Golam Mohammad.
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Zone-4), University of Dhaka.
20	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Chief Engineer, University of Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	9661920/412.
22	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Public Procurement Law-2006, tender form, schedule of items of work, tender notice and special terms & conditions, etc. will be the integral part of the tender. The tenderer should write the name of the work and their firms' name on the envelope clearly.

Executive Engineer (Zone-4)
University of Dhaka

GD-2530.

Tax hike on tobacco products demanded

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to increase tax on tobacco products drastically to bring a decline in their consumption.
They said increasing tax by 98 percent on tobacco products will augment cigarette price by 33 percent, resulting in a drop-off in tobacco consumption.

Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) organised the press conference in Dhaka, and demanded that the government increase the price of cigarette by 33 percent.
They also said increasing price of cigarette by 33 percent will add to the overall tax of the government by 127.8 percent, and with that money nutritious food can be provided to around one crore malnourished people.

Referring to a research, the speakers pointed out that the government's total earning, including tobacco tax and

employment in tobacco sector, is only Tk 2,480 crore annually. Whereas health hazard caused by smoking is worth around Tk 4,510 crore, they said.
According to the research and government publications, development budget in the country is only Tk 25,000 crore and 25 percent of this budget goes to the treatment cost caused by smoking habit every year.

At the press conference titled 'The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Taxation in Bangladesh' the speakers also said over 10 percent people aged over 33 suffer from 8 tobacco-related diseases that are responsible for 16 percent of all deaths.

Presenting the summery report of the research, Prof Abul Barkat of the University of Dhaka said although the tax and duty on tobacco products increased to 71.35 percent in 2006-07 from 67.3 percent in 2001-02, these should be increased further to reduce consumption.

Pepsi launches promotional campaign

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
One of the country's soft drink brands Pepsi yesterday launched a promotional campaign 'Ek Chumkei Pepsi Star', winners of which will get a chance to co-star with football stars like Messi, Beckham, Ronaldinho in an international advertisement of the brand.
Winners of the campaign will also get a chance to be in a beach party in Barcelona, Spain, and would get MP3 players, mobile phone sets, DVD players and a poster of football stars.
Golam Qudus Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages, said this yesterday at a press conference in Dhaka.
One can participate in the

campaign by buying Pepsi. With every purchase of the soft drink the buyer will get a coded scratch card. The consumers needs to either SMS the code to 6161 or can call at 01732868690, 01732868691 and 01732868692 to know about their lucky prizes.
Of the eight lucky persons, seven will participate in the TV commercial and the remaining one will get a chance to travel Barcelona.
Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, general manager of Transcom Beverages, Ravi Kapoor, general manager of East Region of Pepsi International, and Tahsin Sayeed, executive director of Asiatic Events Marketing Limited, were present at the press conference.

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Dated: 20th May 2008

Invitation for International Tenders

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/agents for supply of the following material as per specification, terms and conditions mentioned in the relevant tender documents:-

01	Ministry/Division	Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).		
03	Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).		
04	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.		
05	Invitation for	Goods.		
06	Invitation tender Ref No. & date	(a) ER/PUR/IT-31/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (b) ER/PUR/IT-32/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (c) ER/PUR/IT-33/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (d) ER/PUR/IT-34/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (e) ER/PUR/IT-35/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (f) ER/PUR/IT-36/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (g) ER/PUR/IT-37/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008 (h) ER/PUR/IT-38/2008 (Re-Tender) dt. 20-05-2008		
07	Procurement method	Open tendering with international competition (OTM).		
08	Budget and source of funds	ERL's own source.		
09	Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in the tender document.		
10	Tender last selling date & time	19-06-2008 up to 16:00 hours BST.		
11	Tender closing date & time	22-06-2008 up to 15:00 hours BST.		
12	Tender opening date & time	24-06-2008 at 15:00 hours BST.		
13	Tender document selling address	(i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong, and (ii) DGM (DLO), ERL, YMCA Bhaban (2 nd floor, west side), 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka.		
14	Tender dropping/submission place	(i) Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong, and (ii) DGM (DLO), ERL, YMCA Bhaban (2 nd floor, west side), 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka.		
15	Opening address of tender	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong.		
16	Brief description of goods:			
	Name of materials	Price of tender document	Tender security (Tk)	Shipment validity
(a)	Various steel pipe fittings	Tk. 400.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 40,000.00 (forty thousand)	90 days
(b)	Scale Inhibitor	Tk. 400.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand)	90 days
(c)	Cast Steel Flanged Gate, Globe & Check Valves	Tk. 400.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 50,000.00 (fifty thousand)	90 days
(d)	Oil Colouring Dye	Tk. 500.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 60,000.00 (sixty thousand)	90 days
(e)	Diesel Engine Driven Welding Machine	Tk. 400.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 30,000.00 (thirty thousand)	90 days
(f)	Diesel Engine Driven Water (Vertical) Pump	Tk. 500.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 1,00,000.00 (one lac)	90 days
(g)	Welding Set-Rectifier Type (For Manual Electric Arc Welding)	Tk. 400.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand)	90 days
(h)	Online Bus Coupling Switch Gear	Tk. 500.00/Set (non-refundable)	Tk. 1,00,000.00 (one lac)	90 days
17	Name of official inviting tender	Md Shafiqul Islam.		
18	Designation of official inviting tender	Asstt. General Manager (Purchase).		
19	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong.		
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88-031-740361-2 Ext.380.		
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.			

GD-2544