

# Tk 450cr textile machinery imports in July

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Textile machinery worth Tk 450 crores was released from customs in the month of July after a reduction in duties on the import of capital machinery and spare parts and the introduction of 1 percent procedural fee.

The government, in its current budget for the fiscal year (FY) 2008-09, reduced the duty on import of capital machinery from 5 percent to 3 percent and introduced a 1 percent procedural fee on import of such machinery instead of the previous indemnity bond system.

According to Bangladesh Textile Mills Association's

(BTMA) estimate, a total of 175 units of machinery, mainly for spinning mills, were imported in July.

After the introduction of 1 percent procedural fee for releasing capital machinery from customs, an importer of such machinery has to collect a certificate from the BTMA.

Of the total machinery imported, 90 percent was imported for spinning mills, the BTMA data revealed.

Simplifying procedures and reduction in duty on import of capital machinery helped increase the import of machinery, said Managing Director of Noman Group Nurul Islam.

Islam, who is a major importer of textile machinery, said he is setting up 10 new industrial units as the demand for local textile products is increasing worldwide.

At present, he has 12 textile production units from which he exports \$180 million annually. "If I can start production of the newly set up factories within this year, the total export of Noman Group will cross \$280 million by the next year," said an optimistic Nurul Islam.

Noman Group is setting up dyeing, weaving, spinning, finishing and a fashion house, Nurul Islam said.

Similarly, almost all textile entrepreneurs are importing

machinery to initiate expansion as the demand for Bangladeshi made textile products has increased sharply, especially after the appreciation of Chinese currency against the US dollar.

The rising import of textile machinery proves the strength of the country's backward linkage industries. At present, the knitwear sub-sector can obtain 80 percent raw materials from the local market and the woven sub-sector gets 40 percent raw materials, industry people said.

According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, letters of credit (LCS) worth \$1.39 billion were settled for importing

capital machinery in FY 2007-08 against \$1.92 billion in FY 2006-07.

Of the total imported capital machinery, 70 percent are textile and ready-made garment (RMG) machinery, industry insiders said.

When asked to comment on the issue, BTMA President Abdul Hai Sarker said the import of textile machinery would go up significantly if the government can ensure a smooth supply of gas and power to the factories.

"Majority of the machinery were imported for newly set up factories," he said.

reefat@thetidystar.net

## NRBs urged to contribute to economic uplift

UNB, Dhaka

Non-resident Bangladeshi (NRBs) have been urged to contribute more than they are doing for quite a long time to help develop the country's economy in a homegrown fashion.

High-ups in the government gave the call at a function to honour the commercially important persons (CIPs) at Osmani Auditorium in the city yesterday.

"We can meet the budget deficit in terms of local currency through internal borrowing, but the deficit in foreign currency is hard to meet," Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam told the function, calling upon the NRBs to send more remittances.

Internal Resources Division (IRD) of the Ministry of Finance organised the function in honour of five NRBs selected as CIPs for the year 2008. Each of them has invested over one million dollars in the US Dollar Premium Bond and US Dollar Investment Bond introduced by the government.

NRBs have so far invested equivalent to around Tk 90

million (900 crore) in the investment instruments, the meeting was told.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder and one of the five CIPs, AK Anwaruzzaman, also spoke at the programme, chaired by IRD Secretary and NBR Chairman Mohammad Abdul Mazid.

Other four CIPs of the year are AKM Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Golam Mostafa, Mohammed Nurul Hoque and Kazi Giasuddin.

"If the NRBs remit money in a bigger way, the budget deficit in terms of foreign currency can be met," Aziz said, adding that the budget suffers from a wide gap of foreign currency.

He, however, welcomed the NRBs for sending foreign currencies equivalent to around US\$ 8 billion, which is much more than the net export earnings of the country.

In response to a demand from CIP Anwaruzzaman, the finance adviser said the government has already decided to set up a special economic zone and it would be finalised through promulgating an ordinance.

NRBs would be able to avail the investment incentives under the ordinance.

He further informed the NRBs that the government had initiated measures to improve the situation at the airport, while the current budget made some amendments to the baggage rules considering the sufferings of the NRBs.

CIP AK Anwaruzzaman urged the government to give the NRBs such investment incentives as accorded to the foreign investors and stressed the need for allowing tax holiday for a certain period so the NRBs take interest in investing here.

He also mentioned harassment inside and outside of the airport when they come back to the country.

Bangladesh Bank governor called upon the NRBs to invest their hard-earned money in Bangladesh like the five CIPs have already done.

"It'll reduce our dependence on the foreign aid and we'll be able to carry out development programmes in our own fashion," he told the function.

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner Stephen Evans said his country's businessmen are eager to invest in Bangladesh's telecommunications sector, which has a huge potential to grow.

The British envoy disclosed this during a meeting with Special Assistant to Chief Adviser on Post and Telecommunications Ministry Brigadier General (retd) MA Malek at the latter's office yesterday.

Evans hoped that the

mutual relations of Britain and Bangladesh would improve day by day during his tenure. He assured continued cooperation of his government in the development activities of friendly Bangladesh.

The special assistant said, "The government will welcome any foreign partnership for expanding simple and easy communications technology for grassroots people."

He told the envoy that the government is ready to extend "all-out cooperation to encourage all investors".

## AKTEL's initiative to boost usage in August

Offers upto 25pc bonus on recharge



Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AKTEL Jefri Ahmad Tambi speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

AKTEL, country's third biggest cell phone operator, yesterday announced up to 25 percent bonus on recharge in the month of August, termed as 'friendship month' by the company, to attract its prepaid customers into making calls more frequently.

The customers will be able to enjoy the bonus throughout the month of August, provided they recharge within August 15.

"Our customers are our best friends. We want them to enjoy the whole month as friendship month. Let's greet our friends and family and be with them. Let's talk, dedicate song, send SMS, MMS and share the moments," said Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AKTEL Jefri Ahmad Tambi at a press conference in Dhaka.

Under the promotional campaign, AKTEL's prepaid customers will enjoy 15 percent bonus by recharging Tk 50 and Tk 100, while 25 percent on recharging Tk 300 and Tk 600.

The bonus will be applicable to 5 FNF (Friends and Family) numbers to any operator, the mobile operator said, adding that customers will also enjoy one month free subscription to its welcome tune 'GoonGoon' upon recharge. Users can also greet their friends by SMS and MMS, the company said.

AKTEL of TM International Bangladesh (TMIB) with major

stakes controlled by Telekom Malaysia moves to tap the potential for increased usage at a time when it has been struggling to maintain its position in the extremely competitive Bangladeshi market.

The operator is yet to regain its second position lost to Banglalink last year.

In the six months to June 2008, AKTEL's total subscribers rose 22 percent to 7.85 million.

While its nearest competitor Banglalink recorded a 33 percent rise to 9.46 million subscribers during the same period.

By the end of June this year, total mobile phone subscribers stood at 43.7 million, nearly half of which is controlled by GrameenPhone, according to official data.

With an aim to fight back, the AKTEL and its would be partner NTT DoCoMo last month said it would bring in the 3G (3rd generation) technology to compete in the Bangladeshi market.

In mid June 2008, the NTT DoCoMo, one of the leading operators in Japan, said it would buy the Bangladeshi AK Khan and Company's 30 percent stake in AKTEL for \$350 million. The deal is expected to get closed by the end of 2008, the DoCoMo said.

AKTEL said over 90 percent of its total subscribers constitute prepaid users with whom the company wants to share 'the joy of friendship' during this month.

## Month-long fair in Panchagarh begins

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A month long small and cottage industries and handicrafts fair began at Boda High School premises in Boda upazila in Panchagarh on Wednesday.

Sarwar Alam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), formally inaugurated the fair while Amir Hossain, head master of Boda High School and Mominul Islam, officer in charge of Boda police station attended the ceremony as special guests.

Following the inauguration a discussion was held at the fair ground. Khorshed Alam, gen-

eral secretary of the Boda Press Club, said such fair can encourage people to use locally produced goods. Boda Press Club President Nazrul Islam presided over the meeting.

Other speakers urged people to avoid buying foreign made goods and save the local industry. Every year a large amount of money is spent to import foreign goods when the same quality goods are available locally, they observed.

Boda Press Club organised the fair and 60 stalls have been set up to promote locally made goods.

Brand fair begins

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A three-day fair styled "BSB Youth Brand Fair 2008" began in Dhaka yesterday at the Bashundhara Expo Centre. Hossain Khaled, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, formally inaugurated the fair, said a press release.

A total of 50 stalls have been installed for the local and internationally renowned companies participating in the fair with their products and services aimed at the youths.

The fair will remain open for visitors from 10 am till 8pm until Saturday. Grmaks, in association with MediaPro, organised the fair. Etv, Radio Today, The Daily Star and Daily Shamokal are the media partners while BSB Global is the title sponsor.

The customers will be able to enjoy the bonus throughout the month of August, provided they recharge within August 15.

"Our customers are our best friends. We want them to enjoy the whole month as friendship month. Let's greet our friends and family and be with them. Let's talk, dedicate song, send SMS, MMS and share the moments," said Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AKTEL Jefri Ahmad Tambi at a press conference in Dhaka.

Under the promotional campaign, AKTEL's prepaid customers will enjoy 15 percent bonus by recharging Tk 50 and Tk 100, while 25 percent on recharging Tk 300 and Tk 600.

The bonus will be applicable to 5 FNF (Friends and Family) numbers to any operator, the mobile operator said, adding that customers will also enjoy one month free subscription to its welcome tune 'GoonGoon' upon recharge. Users can also greet their friends by SMS and MMS, the company said.

AKTEL of TM International Bangladesh (TMIB) with major



Hossain Khaled, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, inaugurates BSB Youth Brand Fair 2008 in Dhaka yesterday at the Bashundhara Expo Centre.

## Restriction on import of reconditioned vehicles goes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government on Wednesday lifted a restriction on import of reconditioned vehicles after four years of manufacture and relaxed the bar on import of vehicles over 1649CC.

The Commerce Ministry in a circular removed the restriction and allowed the import of vehicles within six years of manufacture. In the same circular the government also allowed import of such vehicles of any CC.

Sources in BARVIDA claimed

people in the Middle Eastern countries, Japan and Korea frequently change vehicles. Once imported such vehicles can be used for up to 25 years without much difficulty.

The restriction on import of reconditioned vehicles had an adverse impact on revenue earning. Besides, increase of tax on large vehicles, particularly on microbuses with up to nine seats, reduced import of such vehicles as well as the revenue earning significantly.

### National Housing Authority

Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Dhaka Circle  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
Website: www.nha.gov.bd

### Invitation for Tenders (Works)

Tender No: W (NHA)/DC-02 (2008-2009)

/D.C.

Date: 29-07-2008

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per 'The Public Procurement Rules-2008' from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for undermentioned work(s) as per terms & conditions stated below:

01.	Ministry	:	Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MOHPW).
02.	Agency	:	National Housing Authority.
03.	Procuring entity name	:	Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Circle, National Housing Authority, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
04.	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka.
05.	Invitation for	:	Works.
06.	Invitation Ref. No.	:	Memo No-3/7/1162/D.C, Date: 29-07-2008.
07.	Date	:	29/07/2008.
08.	Name of project	:	Construction of 16 (sixteen)-storied residential building having 1020 Nos. flats (800.00 & 1000.00) sale to the limited income group of people at Block-F, Mohammadpur Housing Estate, Mohammadpur, Dhaka (self-financed).
09.	Source of funds	:	Self-financing (through NHA).
10.	Procedure of tender	:	Open tendering method (OTM).
11.	Tender package No.	:	W (NHA)/DC-02 (2008-2009).
12.	Eligibility of tenderers	:	The invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: (a) Reputed contractors/construction firms/developer (REHAB member only) who have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in the construction of at least 12-storied building works. (b) Having experience in successful completion of at least 01 (one) No. minimum 12-storied similar type of work including basement floor, sanitary, water supply, electrical works etc, amounting Tk 1500.00 (fifteen hundred) lac in a single tender in government/semi-government/autonomous organisation/developer (REHAB member) in Bangladesh during last 10 (ten) years for each group in package. The work certificate for successful completion of a building work shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent officer of concerned department/organisation duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of NHA/PWD of that district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. In case of developer the work experience certificate should be issued by REHAB, President/Secretary. Work certificate must be enclosed along with the tender in prescribed format as shown in tender and contract forms section (Form-A). (c) The required minimum average annual construction turnover during last 05 (five) years of Tk 1000.00 (one thousand) lac. (d) The minimum amount of current asset/liquid asset or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of the successful tenderer shall be Tk 275.00 (two hundred seventy-five) lac. (e) Up-to-date valid trade licence, VAT registration certificate with TIN No. and income tax certificate and valid A, B & C category electrical contractor's licence and supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh. (f) Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderer are shown in tender data sheet of tender documents. (g) All other conditions as mentioned in the tender documents must be fulfilled.
13.	Name & address of the offices selling tender documents	:	(a) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Circle, National Housing Authority, Gribhyan Bhaban, 2nd