

Productivity stressed for RMG industry

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Textile experts yesterday advised Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to take initiatives to enhance productivity and the quality of goods if they want to exploit potential for the garment industry.

The apparel industry has flourished in Bangladesh, but real gains will erode if the industry does not address a few crucial issues such as low productivity, inconsistent quality and social responsibility, said Rajesh Bheda, principal of Rajesh Bheda Consulting, India.

In a presentation on "Competitiveness through Productivity and Quality" at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at Sonargaon Hotel, Bheda said the productivity levels of Asian apparel industry, especially in Bangladesh, had been low compared to the global benchmark performance.



Professor Nasrin Khondaker, research director of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, speaks at a seminar on productivity and quality of RMG yesterday. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association organised the seminar at Sonargaon Hotel.

Referring to a "competitiveness enhancement programme" by BGMEA, he said the programme would improve the productivity levels in the BGMEA member factories.

The pilot phase of the programme showed that labour productivity in five factories was up to 30 percent higher than the previous productivity level.

"Based on our limited exposure to the Bangladesh apparel industry, we see tremendous scope of improvement in the area of quality in

the manufacturing units here," Bheda said.

He said Bangladesh's apparel industry had tremendous untapped potential in the areas of productivity and quality.

In another presentation, Vandana Bhandari, professor of the National Institute of Fashion Technology in India, stressed diversification of designs. She asked the businessmen to invest more in designs to invent new designs.

Professor Nasrin Khondaker, research director of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, emphasised industrial relations in the garment sector saying it had always been a "joint industry".

She said industrial relations in Bangladesh were deteriorating and stressed more investment in training for workers.

Nasrin asked the garment owners to provide workers with more incentives and share profits with them.



Regency gets new chief of marketing

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Regency has appointed Neena Ahmed as head of marketing for the hotel, according to a press statement released yesterday.

Ahmed worked for 23 years in hospitality industry in North America. She began her career in 1986 with TAJ International Group of Hotels in the US.

Prior to joining Dhaka Regency, Ahmed was the director of sales at Watergate Hotel in Washington DC.

Distribution of resource to ease Monga

Study suggests

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Redistribution of resources to ensure ownership of land to landless people in the northern region of the country can resolve the near-famine situation known as Monga, said Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP).

"Most people in the region don't own land, which generates joblessness leading to severe Monga every year," Kholiquzzaman said at the launch of a study report in Dhaka.

Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled, former deputy governor of the central bank, Haradon Ganguly, co-coordinator of Monganukta Bangladesh Prochar Obhijan Daptar, also spoke.

The survey was jointly conducted by BUP and ActionAid Bangladesh.

The low-income generation forced people to migrate from the areas and take up odd jobs such as day labour and rickshaw pulling.

The survey revealed that flood, river erosion and fertiliser crisis are the other problems that add to the food crisis in the northern region.

A lack of savings practice among people in the region also worsens the crisis, the survey found.

The report suggested the government initiate some income-generating activities in the period.

Industrialists should set up some agro-processing plants to generate employment in the region, it suggested.

Commodity prices mixed on recession fears

AFP, London

Commodity prices saw mixed fortunes this week, with crude oil falling in value and metals switching between losses and gains on world markets as recession fears intensified.

The US unemployment rate rose to its highest level since 1994 in October as it touched 6.5 percent, official data showed Friday, while analysts forecast it to increase further in Barack Obama's first year as president.

Meanwhile the economy of the 15 nations sharing the euro will "very probably" be in recession next year, the chairman of the eurozone finance ministers, Jean-Claude

Juncker, said on Friday.

On Thursday the Bank of England slashed British borrowing costs by a massive 1.5 percentage points to 3.0 percent, a sign that Britain was set for a deep recession of its own, according to economists.

OIL: Oil prices slumped to 21-month low points below 60 dollars a barrel on prospects of sliding energy demand because of a global economic slowdown, traders said.

"Demand is starting to wane quite considerably," Robert Montesfusco at Sudden brokers told AFP. "We are not seeing any good demand," he added.

Fears of the sharp global downturn have intensified

after the International Monetary Fund on Thursday warned that advanced economies would contract in 2009 for the first time since World War II.

The IMF said advanced economies would now shrink by 0.3 percent in 2009. The organisation had previously predicted 0.5 percent growth.

Oil prices have plunged in recent months as a global economic slowdown dampens demand for energy worldwide, coming off record highs above 147 dollars in July when fears of supply disruptions had sent them rocketing.

The International Energy Agency said Thursday that it expected the price of oil to rebound above 100 dollars a

barrel and eventually reach 200 dollars by 2030.

In a report on the global energy outlook, the agency said it predicted the price to average 100 dollars from 2008 to 2015.

A decline in oil prices meanwhile gained momentum on Wednesday after US figures showed US gasoline (petrol) stockpiles had jumped 1.1 million barrels last week, confounding market expectations for a drop of 600,000 barrels.

Crude reserves held steady, instead of rising the 1.2 million barrels forecast by analysts.

US energy demand continued to decline as Americans consumed 6.7 percent less crude in the past four weeks compared with the same

period a year ago, the government data showed.

In a volatile week's trading, oil prices soared six dollars on Tuesday to above 70 dollars in New York as the US currency weakened against the euro and on evidence that OPEC crude exporters were cutting production as promised, analysts said.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold led precious metals higher as it benefited from dollar weakness.

A weak US currency stimulates demand for dollar-priced commodities because they become cheaper for investors holding stronger currencies.

On the London Bullion Market, gold rose to 735.25 dollars an ounce at Friday's late

fixing from 730.75 dollars a week earlier.

Silver gained to 10.41 dollars an ounce from 9.28 dollars.

SUGAR: Sugar prices extended gains.

By Friday on LIFFE, the price per tonne of white sugar for delivery in December rose to 339.80 pounds from 337.80 pounds the previous week.

On NYBOT, the price of unrefined sugar for March increased to 12.21 US cents per pound from 11.88 cents.

GRAINS AND SOYA: Grains and soya prices dropped.

"We are near a bottom" for prices said Allendale analyst Joe Victor.

By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, maize for delivery in December slid to 3.84 dollars per bushel from 4.02 dollars the previous week.

January-dated soyabean meal -- used in animal feed -- retreated to 9.18 dollars from 9.33 dollars.

EU, US on common ground ahead of finance summit

AFP, Washington

The White House said Saturday it believed there was common ground between the European Union and United States on reform of the world financial system ahead of a summit in Washington next week.

"We believe there is a great deal of common ground among our approaches to address the turmoil in the financial markets," said spokeswoman Dana Perino after EU leaders agreed their approach at a summit on Friday in Brussels.

The summit next weekend in Washington will see leaders from the Group of 20 rich countries and major developing economies meet to discuss a common approach to solving problems in the financial system, which was on the brink of

meltdown last month.

As well as highlighting common ground and shared commitments, Perino said the summit would also "reaffirm a commitment to free market principles, including open and competitive economies, expanded trade, and increased investment and capital flows."

The 27-nation bloc, under its current French presidency, has led calls for a broad overhaul of the global financial architecture, prescribing a stiff dose of tougher regulation to fix the system's ills.

EU leaders agreed Friday that a second summit should be called early next year and said the intervening period should be used to draft concrete reform proposals, focusing on tightening oversight worldwide of the financial sector.

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Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling From To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
a.	Tea Black 100 Metric Tons	13-11-2008 11-12-2008	14-12-3008	Local	979/P-8

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/08/2587
GD-5055

Maj
For Director General

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Chittagong Division, Jubli Road, Chittagong
Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/CTG-DIV/GOB (REV)/R&PM/BID-1/2/Amend-2008-09/3279 Dated: 02-11-2008

Amendment Notice

The Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Routine and Periodical Repair & Maintenance Works of different Health and Family Planning Facilities under GOB Revenue Budget in Chittagong Division for the FY: 2008-2009 circulated vide this office Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/CTG-DIV/GOB (REV)/R&PM/BID-1/2008-2009/3233 Dated: 16-10-2008 & Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/CTG-DIV/GOB (REV)/R&PM/BID-2/2008-2009/3234 Dated: 16-10-2008 is amended as follows:

Ref. Tender Notice No. & date	Sl. No/ Clause No.	Subject	Amendment
MOHFW/CMMU/CTG-DIV/GOB (REV)/R&PM/BID-1/2008-2009/3233 Dated: 16-10-2008	13	Amount of tender security	As per stated in package list in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft or Unconditional Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Chittagong Division.
	14	Name and address of the office(s) for selling tender documents	Adding office: (v) Office of the Superintending Engineer, CMMU, Circle-1, 105/106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 (All Packages).
MOHFW/CMMU/CTG-DIV/GOB (REV)/R&PM/BID-2/2008-2009/3234 Dated: 16-10-2008	12	Amount of tender security	As per stated in package list in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft or Unconditional Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Chittagong Division.

2. All other terms and conditions as laid down in the original invitation for tenders (IFT) will remain unchanged.
3. The amendment notice will also form a part of the tender documents and will be binding upon the tenders.

Gulam Haider Khan
Executive Engineer
CMMU, Chittagong Division
Chittagong

GD-5118



Dealers of Asian Paint Bangladesh Ltd (APBL) pose for photograph in front of a historic place in Greece. APBL took them to Greece as part of the annual foreign trip scheme.

Obama will be positive for Asia: Economists

ANN/THE STRAITS TIMES

As the election euphoria from Senator Barack Obama's historic United States presidential election victory subsides, more sober questions are emerging.

For instance, what does the return of the Democrats to the White House after eight years' absence signal for Asia? Will trade protectionism take hold in the US?

Broadly, economists that The Straits Times spoke to agreed Obama's win is a positive outcome for Asia as he is seen to symbolise the change required to turn around the flagging US economy. The world's No 1 economy is a key export market for Asia.

Roman Scott, resident economist at the Singapore British Chamber of Commerce, said most Asians believe Obama will lead a "less belligerent, more consensus-driven White House that is willing to listen and talk".

"His win has a geo-political significance. And economics is tied to geo-political stability, so this is positive for Asia."

However, pre-election campaign talk has fuelled anxiety in Asia that Washington under Obama will embrace more protectionist trade measures.

He has pledged to use US trade laws to press China to allow its currency to revalue, prompting concern on US-China ties.

Beijing was quick to spell out what it expects from an Obama administration. "We hope that the policy of free trade will continue to be adhered to. We must prevent trade protectionism, which is no good for either side," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang was quoted by AFP saying.

Obama has also openly opposed a US-South Korea free trade agreement.

Seoul's chief free-trade negotiator Lee Hye Min on Thursday urged Obama to honour the agreement. "To try to renegotiate the text when it's been signed and awaiting ratification...you would damage the balance that was achieved when the deal was reached," he told a news briefing, Reuters reported.

Malaysia said it was not yet clear whether a US free-trade agreement will be achievable under Obama, after it failed to reach a deal with the Bush administration, Bloomberg reported.

"We will have to see the policy direction of the new US administration," finance minister Najib Razak said.

An aide on Obama's foreign policy team told The Straits Times, "From an Asean perspective, trade is going to be the big issue. He is a free trader but he also has a domestic constituency that needs to ensure there are safeguards for American workers".

ঢাকা পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ওয়াসা-এর জন্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদে ৩ (তিন) বৎসরের জন্য চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (পরিচালন, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, চলাচল ও সরবরাহ এবং অপচয় নিরোধ বা নিয়ন্ত্রণ) - ১টি পদঃ

- প্রার্থীদের স্যানিটারী/পুর/পরিবেশ স্বচ্ছন্দ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বাণিজ্যিক অথবা পাবলিক ইউটিলিটিস-এর অধীনে পরিচালিত পানি সরবরাহ, পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন এবং স্টর্ম ওয়াটার ও নদমার ফ্যাসিলিটিসমূহের অপারেশন এবং রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ-এর ক্ষেত্রসমূহে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিধারীদের কমপক্ষে ১৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং স্নাতক ডিগ্রিধারীদের ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ১৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। উপরোক্ত বিষয়সমূহে গ্যাজেটে প্রাধিকারক অবশ্যই ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্যায়ে এবং নেতৃত্বদানের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণিত গুণের অধিকারী হতে হবে। "কম্পিউটারের জ্ঞান" বাড়তি গুণ হিসেবে গণ্য করা হবে। বড় শহরের পানি সরবরাহ, পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন ও ড্রেনেজ সংক্রান্ত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। আবেদনকারীগণকে কমপক্ষে একজন স্থায়ী তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী অথবা তৎসমমর্যাদার যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের বয়স ৪৮ হতে ৫৬ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে (বিশেষ যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ২ (দুই) বৎসর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য)। বয়সের প্রমাণস্বরূপ এসএসসি সার্টিফিকেটের কপি প্রদান করতে হবে।
- উক্ত পদের জন্য বেতন-ভাতা ও সুবিধাদি সর্বসাকুল্যে মাসিক ৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার) টাকা হবে। এছাড়া প্রচলিত বিধি মোতাবেক সার্বক্ষণিক ব্যবহারের জন্য ড্রাইভার ও জ্বালানিসহ একটি গাড়ি ঢাকা ওয়াসা হতে প্রদান করা হবে।
- উক্ত পদের জন্য নিজেদের উপযুক্ত বিবেচনা করেন একজন প্রার্থীগণ বিস্তারিত তথ্য সম্বলিত জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ চেয়ারম্যান, ঢাকা ওয়াসা বোর্ড এর নিকট আবেদন করতে পারেন। আবেদনপত্র আগামী ০৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। আবেদনকারীদের মধ্য হতে প্রণীত শুধুমাত্র স্বল্প তালিকাভুক্ত প্রার্থীদের সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য আহবান করা হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য কোন চিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- আবেদনকারী সর্বশেষ যে প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত আছেন বা ছিলেন সেই প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান অথবা তাঁর নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হতে তাঁর চাকুরীকাল সত্যায়নকৃত -- এ মর্মে প্রত্যয়নপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণ অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত দাখিল করবেন এবং চূড়ান্ত নির্বাচিত হলে তাঁর মূল সংস্থা/কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট থেকে ঢাকা ওয়াসায় যোগদানের জন্য ছাড়পত্র নিতে হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে লিয়নে ঢাকা ওয়াসায় যোগদানের পূর্বে তাঁর মূল সংস্থা/কর্তৃপক্ষের লিয়োনেশন দাখিল করতে হবে।
- কোন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে বরখাস্ত (ডিসমিসড) বা কোন ফৌজদারী আদালতে সাজাপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি উক্ত পদের জন্য অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন।

আব্দুল্লাহ হারুন পাশা

চেয়ারম্যান

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বোর্ড

ওয়াসা ভবন (৩য় তলা)

৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ

কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ওয়াসা-জরজ-৭০২/২০০৮

জিডি-৫১৮৬