

# Ctg apparel expo starts tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh seeks to capture up to 9 percent of the global apparel market to reach an export income up to \$18 billion in the next couple of years, sector leaders yesterday.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) leaders revealed the target at a press conference in Chittagong, ahead of the three-day seventh Chittagong Apparel, Fabric and Accessories Exposition (CAFAXPO)-2009. CAFAXPO begins at the

Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) in Chittagong tomorrow.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan is set to inaugurate the exposition as the chief guest. Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Annisul Haq will attend as special guests.

The country's export earnings from the apparel and fabrics sector, now at \$10 billion, account for 5 percent of the \$200 billion global apparel market, said the BGMEA leaders.

To come in the range of \$15-\$18 billion in the next three years, BGMEA emphasises improving quality and diversified products, image-building and developing an efficient workforce.

As the economic recession hit the apparel and fabric market in the US, the largest market for Bangladeshi exports, as well as in European countries and elsewhere, the readymade garments sector here experienced a 14 percent decline in export growth in the first three months last year.

However, the overall reforms, particularly dynamism in the port

activities, improved the law and order situation and business-friendly atmosphere, helped the scenario start changing since July.

The BGMEA leaders described the steps to develop the garments and textiles industries in Chittagong, which takes up 40 percent of exports.

BGMEA First Vice President MA Salam read out a written statement to the press. Khalilur Rahman, Mahbub Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Rana, Md Ferdous and Syed Ahsanul Haq Shamim were also present.

# ADB renews uplift pledge

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The visiting vice president of the Asian Development Bank, Xiaoyu Zhao, said yesterday his agency would extend strong support and cooperation to help Bangladesh sustain progress on the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The lending agency promises to help Bangladesh become a middle-income country by 2021 as pledged by the new government,

ADB said in a statement. "We look forward to working more closely with the new government to secure further development of the country and to help realise its vision for development," said Zhao, after completing his two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Zhao who met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other senior ministers and officials, said: "ADB stands ready to support the government to overcome any

adverse effects of the global financial crisis and achieve a more inclusive socio-economic development by raising investment in health, education, and agriculture, among other sectors."

"We are also firmly committed to assist the government in scaling up the pace of infrastructure development, increase power production, promote regional cooperation and continue governance reforms," he said.

# Toyota to lay off all temporary workers

ANN/THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

To cope with shrinking auto sales, Toyota Motor Corp will eliminate all temporary workers on fixed-term contracts at its 12 domestic plants as early as summer this year, sources close to the company said.

Japan's biggest automaker had already announced it would slash such temporary worker numbers from 4,500 as of the end of 2008 to 3,000 by the end of March.

In light of slumping auto sales amid the global economic downturn, Toyota decided to eliminate surplus labour by taking a further step, according to the sources. The latest decision will eliminate the company's current 3,000 workers on fixed-term contracts.

Honda Motor Co also recently said it planned to reduce its number of non-regular workers to zero. Such recent moves in the auto industry are expected to significantly affect the employment situation in the country.

After peaking in the first half of 2005 at about 11,000, the number of Toyota's nonregular workers on fixed-term contracts stood at about 9,000 at the end of March 2008.



German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank Meyke attends the launch of TÜV SÜD Bangladesh (Pvt) Limited in Dhaka on Tuesday.

# German company TÜV SÜD launches operation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

TÜV SÜD Bangladesh (Pvt) Limited, a concern of Germany based TÜV SÜD, a major international service group, has launched its operation in Bangladesh on Tuesday.

The company is 140 years old and now it operates over 41 countries of Europe, America, Africa and Asia, with more than 13,000 employees and over 600 locations.

German Ambassador in Dhaka Frank Meyke inaugurated its operation formally in the capital. He hoped that the company would be able to improve quality and efficiency of local products and production units.

TÜV SÜD is a very well

known group in Germany and its presence in Bangladesh would certainly help the local service providers and manufacturing units, said the German envoy.

Exports from Bangladesh to Germany are increasing and it is expected to increase further in near future, said Meyke.

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said local garment factories have recently progressed to a great extent in terms of quality and compliance issues.

He, however, pointed to the dearth of skilled manpower the local companies are now facing.

"There has been a 25 percent shortage of skilled manpower in the sector," said the BGMEA chief.

He expressed his happiness that the country had witnessed a huge export growth in RMG sector in the first five months of the current fiscal year despite the on-going global recession.

Welcoming Tuv Sud Bangladesh, Parvez hoped that the company would be able to help the local RMG units.

According to TÜV SÜD officials, the services of the company in Bangladesh will include quality management certifications, social compliance audits, testing and inspection services for textiles, food and others and training services.

# Indonesia launches Batam free trade zone

ANN/THE JAKARTA POST

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has officially launched the much-delayed free trade zone for Batam, Bintan and Karimun in Riau Islands.

The launching, ending five years of legal uncertainty for businesses, was marked Monday with the issue of government regulations on customs, tax and duties for goods entering the three islands.

Companies operating in the islands will no longer pay value-added tax (VAT), import duties and luxury tax, spurring hope that more foreign businesses will invest in the islands to tap low production costs.

"All necessary legal supports are now there to turn the islands into a free trade zone," said Yudhoyono, accompanied by Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu and Investment Coordinating Board chairman Muhammad Luthfi.

"If you hear there are still obstacles to doing business here, including illegal fees, please informed me directly. I will take stiff action against those who dare to disturb the business community here," he said.

President Yudhoyono also inaugurated eight projects in the manufacturing sector worth US\$604 million, three in the tourism sector valued at Rp 250 billion (US\$22.3 million) and one port project worth Rp 1.2 trillion, as well as two hotel expansion projects worth \$30 million.

These projects will create more than 12,000 new jobs. Riau Islands governor Ismeth Abdullah said that legal uncertainties for foreign investors, who had been reluctant to come in before, were now settled.

Ismeth said investment in the Riau Islands now exceeded \$11 billion from more than 1,150 foreign companies.

Riau Islands attracted in 2007 about \$1 billion in new investment, more than double the \$484 million received in 2006. Karimun alone attracted \$700 million last year.

"We are upbeat that with all the legal hurdles cleared, foreign investment will significantly rise," he said. Batam, Bintan and Karimun are just 30 minutes from Singapore by ferry.

Indonesia and Singapore have already signed a deal for massive investment in the three islands.

However, Singapore businessmen had been hesitant to invest heavily in the islands until they were sure of clarification of past uncertainties concerning governance, administration and management of the free trade zones.

Under new government regulations, loading and unloading of all imports and exports can only be in five ports; Batu Ampar, Kabil and Sekupang in Batam, Loban in Bintan, and Parit Rompak in Karimun.

# Financial fears send Asian stocks tumbling

AFP, Tokyo

Asian stocks fell in early trade Wednesday after a plunge on Wall Street, where financial fears eclipsed hope that US President Barack Obama will move quickly to resuscitate the stricken economy.

Investors were alarmed about the problems of teetering banks in the United States and Europe that are expected to require further bailouts, or even nationalisation, which will pile additional pressure on government finances.

Stocks fell "on rising concerns over the solvency of banks in the developed world, in particular in the US," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist at SJS Markets in Hong Kong.

"The bloodbath resulted from a combination of negative earnings announcements and downgrades of outlook by brokerages, which highlighted the fact that future bank losses will by far exceed recent estimates," he added.

With no Obama rally overnight on Wall Street, Tokyo dropped 1.93 percent by lunch while Hong Kong slumped 3.3 percent. Seoul shed 3.5 percent and Shanghai 1.2 percent.

Stocks fell 2.0 percent in Singapore, where the government said the economy shrank an annualised 16.9 percent in the fourth-quarter, the worst performance on record.

Singapore's economy will contract between 2.0 and 5.0 percent this year, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said, meaning the city-state could be on

course for its worst performance since independence in 1965.

On Wall Street Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 4.01 percent, slipping below the key level of 8,000, despite high hopes for Obama's tenure as the 44th president of the United States.

Obama told cheering crowds that an era of economic "greed and irresponsibility" was over and pledged swift and bold action to kickstart the world's biggest economy.

The carnage on Wall Street was concentrated in the financial sector, with Citigroup plunging 20 percent on worries it may require a new bailout or nationalisation.

"Unfortunately things don't look that different from last year," Bryon Burke, adviser at ABN Amro in New Zealand, told Dow Jones Newswires. "Now that everyone is back from holidays, markets are facing up to the same problems."

In Europe, London's FTSE 100 index lost 0.42 percent Tuesday. In Paris the CAC 40 fell 2.15 percent while in Frankfurt the Dax dropped 1.77 percent.

Banking shares dragged down markets worldwide due to concern that further losses will lead to more nationalisation. Concern was focused in Britain where Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds are in trouble again.

In Sydney, BHP Billiton dropped 2.4 percent after the world's biggest miner said it would cut about 6,000 jobs because of the global economic downturn and weakening demand for its products.



# Islami Bank's new executive VPs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited recently promoted five of its officials to the post of executive vice president, says a press release.

The officials are: Md Rafiqul Islam, director of the bank's training and research academy, Md Shamsuzzaman, the zonal head of Comilla, Md Abdul Jabbar, head of foreign remittance services division, Md Shafiqur Rahman, head of foreign exchange department and Md Kabir Hossain, head of Gulshan branch.

Md Rafiqul Islam, an MSC in Psychology from Dhaka University, joined the bank in 1983 as an officer.

Md Shamsuzzaman, an MSS in Political Science from Chittagong University, started his career by joining the bank as a probationary officer.

Md Abdul Jabbar, an MA in Accounting and MBA from IBA, joined the bank in 1984 as probationary officer.

Md Shafiqur Rahman, a double MA in Accounting and Management from Dhaka University, joined the bank in 1985 as probationary officer.

Md Kabir Hossain, an MSC in Chemistry from Dhaka University, joined the bank in 1985 as probationary officer.



Enthusiasts sign the signature board of the 'Road Show and Signature Campaign for BASIS SOFT EXPO-2009' yesterday. The exposition starts at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka on January 27.

# Barua wants rate cuts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday sought a cut in the bank interest rate saying that the existing rate did not facilitate industrial expansion.

"We need to convince bankers to cut interest rates to boost industrial expansion. I personally feel that the interest rate should be cut to allow entrepreneurs to establish more industrial units and create jobs," he said.

Barua's remark came at a meeting with the representatives of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB), which sought government support including interventions in bringing down the interest rate against loans.

Barua said industrialists should be awarded easy term-loans, unlike other sectors like trade, as an industry requires time to secure profit.

The high lending rate issue comes back to the new government, with its pledge to boost growth. Bangladesh Bank last

year urged banks to reduce the interest rate spread, especially by cutting the interest rate on lending, since the high-cost of borrowed funds adversely affect private sector investment and economic growth.

Quarterly data by the Bangladesh Bank showed that the weighted average lending rate had been on the decline since early 2007-08. In July-September of the fiscal year 2008-09, the weighted average lending has increased but the spread between the lending and deposit rate stood at 5.18 percent, down from 5.34 percent in April-June of 2008, due to an increase in the rate of deposits.

Referring to China and India, IBFB President Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury said the interest rate in those countries is below 10 percent, whereas it is about 15 percent in Bangladesh.

Barua said industrialists should be supported to allow growth of local capacity. "We should encourage local industries to manufacture high-quality products," he said.

# GM warns it will run out of cash without rest of govt loan

AFP, Detroit, Michigan

The largest US automaker, General Motors Corp., said Tuesday it will run out of cash if it does not get the second part of the federal bridge loan next month.

GM President Fritz Henderson said the the troubled carmaker, which received a four-billion-dollar emergency loan last month and is due to collect another installment of the bridge loan in February.

"If we don't get our second installment of funding, we'll run out of cash. It's just that simple," Henderson said at a conference sponsored by the trade publication Automotive News.

"We have finalized the documentation with the second draw and frankly we anticipate receiving it," Henderson said.

"But it's critical we receive it," he added, noting that GM would run out of cash well before March 31.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED  
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)  
Biddul Bhabon (3rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000

### Invitation for Re-Tender

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power & Mineral Resources/ Power Division		
2. Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC)		
3. Procuring Entity Name	DGM, Network Operation & Customer Service, Circle Ramna, DPDC		
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5. Invitation for	Yearly (2008-2009) Emergency Repair and Maintenance of 11/0.4 K.V. 0.4 K.V Overhead Line & Distribution Transformer under NOCS Division, Basabo		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
7. Budget and Source of Fund	Revenue Budget		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
8. Tender No	DGM(Tech)/NOCS/Ramna/DPDC/Tender/2008/03	Date	15/01/2009
9. Last Selling, Closing, Opening Date & Time of Tenders	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time
	04-02-2009 (up to 5.00 pm)	05-02-2009	12.00
			12.30 pm
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDER</b>			
10. Name and Address of the office for selling, receiving & opening of Tender Documents	Selling	Receiving & Opening	
	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Tech.) NOCS, Circle Ramna, DPDC New Ramna 33/11 KV S/S, Fulbaria, Dhaka	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Tech.) NOCS, Circle Ramna, DPDC New Ramna 33/11 KV S/S, Fulbaria, Dhaka	
11. Eligibility of Tender	The Tenderer shall have experience for repair and maintenance of 11/0.4KV, 0.4 K.V overhead line & Distribution Transformer of 2 (two) similar works for over last 5 (five) years in any organization of Power sector in Bangladesh.		
12. Price for the tender Document	TK 1000.00 only non-refundable through Pay order/ Bank Draft issued by any schedule Bank in favour of DGM, NOCS, Circle Ramna, DPDC.		
13. Tender Security Amount (TK)	TK 24000.00 have to be submitted with Bid in favour of DGM (Technical), NOCS, Circle Ramna, DPDC in form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft from any schedule Bank.		
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
14. Name & Designation of the Official Inviting Tender	Md. Salahuddin Jahangir, DGM(Tec.) NOCS Circle Ramna, DPDC		
15. Address of the Official Inviting Tender	New Ramna 33/11KV Sub-Station, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000		
16. Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. 7162301	Fax No. 7160744	e-mail: dgmramna@dpdc.org
17. Special Instructions	01. The Tenderer shall have to apply in their original letter pads for purchasing tender document. The Tenderer shall have to show up-to-date valid original copies of Trade license, Income Tax Certificate, Vat Registration Certificate and ABC license (Electrical) while purchasing the tender document and submit the attested copies of above documents with the tender Document. 02. All documents/ Certificates must be attested by an officer of DPDC not below the rank of Manager. 03. The Tenderer shall have to submit the experience certificate from not below the rank of Manager or equivalent Officer for similar type of works in a single contract which will not less than taka 250000.00 along with work order as a supporting. 04. Procuring agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in any stage without assigning any reason thereof. 05. If it is not possible to receive /Open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received / opened on the next working day at the same time. 06. The tenderer shall have to satisfy the other criteria laid down in the tender Document.		
	DGM NOCS, Circle Ramna, DPDC		

## EDUCATION WORLDWIDE EXPO 2009

22 ~ 25 January 2009  
@ Bashundhara Expo Centre, Level - 7  
Bashundhara City, Panthapath, Dhaka

Participating Countries  
UK, Scotland, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, South Africa, Korea, Germany, Russia, Finland, Malaysia, Ireland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and Host Bangladesh.

Special attraction for visitors : 5 laptop & 2 millions scholarships in different courses  
Offered by : Future Group

Organised by CEMS  
Seminar on 'Career and Education Guidance'  
on 24 January, 2009 (Saturday) at 3:00 pm, organized by Prothom Alo Jobs

Partners: ATN, Today, Samakal, acer, Jobs, saifur's, CEMS