

# MCCI stresses price watch

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday urged the government to strengthen the price-monitoring cell and bring the market manipulators to book for exemplary punishment.

The chamber leaders also suggested the government improve the monitoring capacity of the cell and maintain a close relation with Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) in order to ensure a sound demand-supply situation.

"A timely intervention by increasing supply of essentials will stabilise the market. We also suggest that the hoarders or syndicates should be given exemplary punishment. In this respect, the definition of 'hoarding' and 'artificial crisis' should be made clear so businessmen can distinguish between what is allowable and what is not," said newly elected MCCI President M Anis Ud Dowla at a meeting with Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at his office.

A delegation of the MCCI met the

minister to present their observations about the government under the purview of the commerce ministry on completion of one year by the incumbent government.

Dowla suggested the government turn the TCB into a public limited company and give it enough autonomy to function independently.

About the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009, the MCCI boss urged the government to incorporate private sector in the consumer protection council and implement the act in phases preferably starting from the divisional headquarters.

"We feel that a Business Development Council should be formed with the members from Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) and private sector trade bodies and associations," Dowla said.

The government should immediately sit with different sectors like jute, frozen foods, leather, food-processing, ship-building industries and make a

concrete time-bound plan to ensure diversification of country's export basket as the export is heavily dependent on readymade garment sector, he added.

He also suggested the government call a meeting with the exporters to remove different non-tariff barriers in bilateral trade with India and other neighbouring countries under the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta).

At the same time, the government should continue negotiations with the Bimstec (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries for signing free trade agreements, he said.

The MCCI also suggested digitising the World Trade Organisation (WTO) cell under the commerce ministry.

The chamber boss said all the commercial wings abroad, EPB, Bangladesh Tariff Commission (BTC), Board of Investment (BoI), BFTI, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and the MCCI should be linked together through web.



New office bearers of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka meet Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at his office yesterday.

# BRAC Bank launches business equity loan

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank introduced Business Equity Loan for small and medium entrepreneurs yesterday.

The loan aims to help in faster expansion of businesses or to purchase commercial space by mortgaging residential or commercial premises.

Businessmen in Dhaka and Chittagong can borrow an amount ranging from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 3.5 crore under the new facility.

Customers can pay back the loan through monthly instalments over a period of up to 10 years.

Marking the start of its journey, Syed Faridul Islam, head of SME Banking of BRAC Bank, handed over the first loan sanction letter to Syed Atiqur Rahman, chief executive officer of Inquisitive Chemical Services, at a ceremony in the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

AEA Muhaimen, managing director and chief executive officer of BRAC Bank, and M o h a m m a d Mamdudur Rashid, deputy managing director, were also present.



Jamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, attends the carrier's second annual general meeting in Dhaka recently.

# Nippon workers protest for pay

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Several hundred laid-off workers of Nippon Garment Industries Ltd barricaded Panthapath Link road in Dhaka yesterday for two hours, demanding pay and reopening of the factory.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Mursheedy held a meeting with the workers and assured them of his efforts to get them three months arrears.

Ramna police said they removed the barricades in front of the BGMEA office around 3:00pm with the help of police and eased

trafficjam.

Nippon Garment closed on October 31 without serving any prior notice on the closure, setting off protests on the day, which left three people dead.

Agitated worker Amena Khatun said: "BGMEA leaders asked workers to come to the BGMEA office to receive their arrears."

"But we found no BGMEA officials there until 1:00pm. We reached the spot around 9:00am."

BGMEA officials said the authorities of the garment factory in Tongi were scheduled to come to the BGMEA

office yesterday to hold a meeting with sector leaders to settle the matter.

Mursheedy said the owners of the garment factory could not dare to enter the premises as the agitated workers took position in front of BGMEA.

He spoke to the owner of the factory over phone and held a meeting with the workers accordingly.

Officer-In-Charge Shibli Noman, quoting Mursheedy, said the BGMEA authorities would go to the garment compound in Tongi on January 15 to disburse arrears over three months.

# Indian minister due tomorrow



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

The visit is mainly aimed at gaining more insight into the operations of social business initiated by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus in the country, according to a press statement from Yunus Centre.

Pawar, also president of the Nationalist Congress Party, will be accompanied by Jayant Patil, state minister for rural development of Maharashtra, Rajesh Ankushrao Tope, state minister for higher and technical education in the same state, and Supriya Sule, member of parliament (Lok Sabha).

The delegation will hold a daylong meeting with Prof Yunus on January 8 at Grameen Bank's headquarters in Mirpur.

Pawar and his team are exploring the possibilities of introducing social business in India, particularly in Maharashtra.

This visit comes as a follow-up of Prof Hiren Mukerjee Memorial lecture, Social Business: A Step Toward Creating a New Economic and Social Order, delivered by Prof Yunus at a joint meeting of Lok Sabha (the lower house of India) and Rajya Sabha (upper house) on December 9, 2009.

# New SEC instructions for bourses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday formally instructed both Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) authorities to calculate the index point of a debutant company from the second day of trading on the bourses to put the practice on international standard.

Recently, SEC, DSE and CSE were criticised by different quarters and stock market experts for counting the index points, the market barometer, in a wrong method.

The fresh decision came after a meeting of SEC Chairman Ziaul Haque Khandker with the chief executive officers (CEOs) of the two bourses at its office to explain the complexities arisen with regard to index counting.

According to the new rules, the bourses will count the index point on the basis of first day's last trading

price of the debutant company with the average index points of the second day to remove any complexities in such counting, said SEC Executive Director Farhad Ahmed.

He said both CSE and DSE will follow the rules from now on, meaning the next debutant company's index counting will be brought under the new method.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Ziaul Haque Khandker said the first day of a company's trade on stock market does not provide a benchmark from where the points could be counted for the next day.

The SEC chief said if the bourses count a company's trading debut with the previous day's average benchmark points, the index rises "very high", which is a wrong calculation.

The result is, the investors -- especially the new comers -- feel tempted to invest, influenced by the higher position of the index.

On the debut day of

Grameenphone, the DSE counted in the face value of Tk 10 instead of Tk 70 per share. As a result, the index point increased manifold.

DSE General Index (DGEN), the benchmark index, skyrocketed by more than 764 points, or more than 22 percent on Grameenphone's debut. The lone telecom company on stock market added more than 700 points alone.

With the landmark jump in the key indices, the DGEN crossed the 4,000-mark for the first time and finally closed at 4,148.11 points.

In another development, the SEC yesterday formed an enquiry team to trace out the persons who are spreading rumour about stock market and price influencing opinions by using such social network services as Facebook.

The team headed by SEC Executive Director ATM Tariquzzaman has been asked to submit its findings and recommendations by January 25.

# Fertiliser stock enough: Barua

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The industries minister said yesterday there is a surplus stock of urea fertiliser for the Irri-Boro season as the government has ensured adequate supply of the important agro-inputs before the season starts this month.

"We have the highest stock of urea fertiliser than the previous years", which also exceeds the present demand for this agro-input for the Irri-Boro season. We have tried our best to ensure enough supply of fertiliser before the massive rice-farming activities start," said Dilip Barua.

"The local production of fertiliser has increased, while the imports and dealers' stocks are also satisfactory," he added.

He was speaking at a meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh Fertiliser Dealers' Association and importers at his ministry.

At present, the local demand for urea fertiliser

stands at 12.75 lakh tonnes for the January-March period, while the local manufacturers would produce 3.95 lakh tonnes during this period. At the same time, the dealers have a stock of 2 lakh tonnes, shows industries ministry data.

"The government has a stock of over 7.21 lakh tonnes now," the minister said.

The demand for urea fertiliser would be around 4.44 lakh tonnes in January, of which around 1.35 lakh tonnes would be met from local production, while the government has an allocation of 5.84 lakh tonnes for the month.

The government will also import 2.34 lakh tonnes for the season.

Barua said the demand for Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) would be 6.7 lakh tonnes, while the demand for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is 2.63 lakh tonnes for this year.

He said the government

would import around 8.51 lakh tonnes of urea fertiliser from three Middle East countries through international tenders this year. At the same time, around 8 lakh tonnes of urea fertiliser would be procured through government-to-government negotiations and Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd.

The minister stressed the need for proper and transparent distribution of fertiliser at the field level by increasing transport facilities.

Kafil Uddin Ahmed, adviser to the association, said the government should ensure better transport facilities and modernise the Mongla seaport, which is essential for proper and timely distribution of imported fertiliser across the country.

The association leaders also demanded the government ease the loan repayment conditions to help them continue support for the agriculture sector.



Faruk Khan, commerce minister, hands over the 1st position (banking) of ICAB National Award-08 for the best published accounts and reports, to M Ehsanul Haque, managing director of Prime Bank Ltd, at a ceremony organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) in Dhaka recently.

# DSE investor awareness programme in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A daylong awareness programme for stock market investors will be held in Barisal on January 9.

Dhaka Stock Exchange will arrange the programme for the first time at Barisal Club auditorium.

ICB Securities Trading Company Limited, a subsidiary of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, is locally organising the programme with assistances from other private brokerage houses in the city.

# Euro inflation accelerates

AFP, Brussels

Inflation shot up across continental Europe in December, but analysts insisted on Tuesday that lagging effects of oil price rises are not about to destabilise consumers and central banks.

Prices in the 16 eurozone countries climbed by 0.9 percent. That was a loosening from the 0.5 percent revised reading for November which marked the first time that prices, on a 12-month basis, had risen since April.

**এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
 ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা  
 ঢাকা-১২০৮।

**সংক্ষিপ্ত স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ইউসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট ইইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আর্নেট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/লোকাল/ টেন্ডার/২০১০/০২ তারিখঃ ০৫/০১/২০১০ইং	1. Essence of Orange Sweet Ph. Gr. 2. Orange Oil BP 3. Orange Flavour Powder Ph. Gr. 4. Banana Flavour Powder Ph. G. (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৩০০.০ লিটার ২০০.০ পিটার ২০০.০ কেজি ১০০.০ কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৮/০১/২০১০ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৮/০১/২০১০ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/লোকাল/ টেন্ডার/২০১০/০৩ তারিখঃ ০৫/০১/২০১০ইং	প্রিন্টেড অ্যালুমিনিয়াম ব্লিষ্টার এক্ ট্রিপ ফয়েল (Printed Alu. Blister & Strip Foil) (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	১,০৫০.০ কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৯/০১/২০১০ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৯/০১/২০১০ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্য্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, বাহাদুরে ভ্যাকু রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(মোঃ ফিরোজ-উল-আলম)  
 পরিচালক অপারেশন ও ইনচার্জ,  
 প্রসিডিং এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ  
 পক্ষে ঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

**বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড**  
 (বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়)  
 বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট  
 নরসিংদী

**প্রশিক্ষণার্থী ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট, নরসিংদীতে "Strengthening and Expansion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training" শীর্ষক কর্মসূচির আওতাতে ৬ মাস মেয়াদী সার্টিফিকেট অন গার্মেন্টস টেকনোলজি (ড্রেস মেকিং এন্ড টাইলারিং) কোর্সে প্রশিক্ষণার্থী ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে আশ্রয়ী ব্যক্তিদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। কোর্সটি গার্মেন্টস ইন্ডাস্ট্রিতে চাকরীর ক্ষেত্রে সহায়ক হবে। ভর্তির জন্য নির্বাচিত প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের মাসিক ১৫০০ টাকা ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে।

আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ	১২/০১/২০১০ইং
ভর্তি পরীক্ষা	১৫/০১/২০১০ইং
ফ্রাস শুরু	১৭/০১/২০১০ইং
ভর্তির শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	ন্যূনতম নবম শ্রেণী পাশ, তবে এস, এস, সি উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য বলা হল।

**অধ্যক্ষ**  
 বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট  
 নরসিংদী  
 ফোন- ০২-৯৪৬২৬৯৮, ০১১৯১-২৮০০৫৬