

# WB help sought to revive jute industry

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday sought cooperation from the World Bank in developing the jute industry in the wake of increased demand for jute products.

Dr Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forests, made the request when Pulock Chatterji, World Bank's regional director for Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka,

called on him at his office in Dhaka.

Mahmud said jute industry is fast developing, because jute cultivation requires less fertiliser, according to an official handout.

Reopening of the closed jute mills could vibrate the country's economy and create more job opportunities, he said, adding that the country could also protect its environment.

Chatterji said World Bank will consider the issue with high importance.



Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, chief executive officer and director of LankaBangla Securities Ltd, and Khwaja Arif Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of AA Consultants and Financial Advisers, exchange documents after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. AAA Consultants will act as the issue manager for LankaBangla Securities.

# Japan's jobless rate down

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's jobless rate slipped back below five percent in January, data showed Tuesday, but the government voiced concern that Toyota's recall crisis and deflation could threaten the export-led recovery.

The world's number two economy last year emerged

from its worst post-war recession, growing in the second and third quarters due to rebounding exports, much of it to China, and government stimulus measures.

However, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Masayuki Naoshima expressed concern that the global recall crisis by Toyota,

the country's biggest company and one of its most iconic brands, could dent the rebound.

"Toyota is already suffering declines in sales volume," Naoshima told reporters, following the carmaker's recall of more than eight million vehicles for accelerator and brake system defects.



## New MD for Premier Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Niaz Habib has taken over as managing director (MD) of Premier Bank recently, a statement of the bank said.

He also served AB Bank and United Commercial Bank as deputy managing director.

## Trade thru' Akhaura suspended

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Export and import between Bangladesh and India through Akhaura land port remained suspended since last morning following a transport strike in India.

A customs official here said export and import came to a halt due to transport strike called at Agartala of Tripura state in India in protest against the price hike of fuel.

Many vehicles with goods got stranded at the land port, causing sufferings to the businessmen.



Syed Abu Abed Saher, general sales manager of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, poses for photograph with company dealers during a trip to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia recently.

# Transcom Digital launches membership programme

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Transcom Digital, an electronics retail chain of Transcom Electronics, yesterday launched a privileged membership programme, which consumers can gain access to by purchasing products worth Tk 10,000 at any of its outlets.

A member of the programme, 'Club Digital', will receive additional benefits, such as discounts on purchases at any Transcom

Digital showroom, guaranteed cash back on redemption of accumulated reward points and fast track services at all of its showrooms, according to a press release.

A Transcom Digital-Standard Chartered Card also accompanies the membership programme, which can be used in more than 3,000 outlets across Bangladesh, said a launching programme at the Gulshan-1 outlet of

Transcom Digital.

Shahnaz Rahman, director of Transcom Ltd, inaugurated the membership collection drive under 'Club Digital'. Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Ltd, was also present as special guest on the occasion.

"Club Digital is the first of its kind in the retail industry of Bangladesh. It is a bold endeavour with an aim to redefine the lifestyle of consumers," said Arshad Huq, chief operating officer of

Transcom Electronics Ltd, marketer of brands such as Philips, Whirlpool, Transtec and HP in Bangladesh.

Officials said Transcom Digital has 37 showrooms throughout the country. Transcom expects to increase the total number of electronics outlets to 50 by the end of 2010, according to its website.

Sandeep Bose, regional head of consumer banking of Standard Chartered Bank, was also present.

# Millers blamed for rice price hike

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A market monitoring committee in Kushtia has alleged that price manipulation by millers is one of the main reasons behind the recent price hike of rice in the country.

The committee worked on the sudden price hike of rice across the country and discovered price manipulation by the mill owners.

The nine-member committee headed by Kushtia Additional Deputy Commissioner Nitish Chandra Sarkar carried out an investigation on Saturday and Sunday in the district's Khajanagar, one of the biggest rice trading hubs with 500 rice mills.

The committee submitted a report to Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan who forwarded it to the food ministry yesterday.

The team found that the millers arbitrarily hiked up the rice price on the

pretext of increased price of paddy.

The millers have huge rice stocks at different places countrywide, mostly in the northern region. But they always conceal it, the report said.

But, rice traders in Dhaka and elsewhere set the staple's prices at much higher rates, the report added.

The mill owners sell per maund of Miniket rice at Tk 1,550.

Nitish Chandra Sarkar said the rate is illogical as the millers bought paddy at Tk 600 to Tk 700 a maund and the production cost did not increase much anywhere.

The millers fix the rate comparing with the current price of paddy in the market that is Tk 970 to Tk 980. "Such a price fixation is not acceptable," Sarkar told The Daily Star.

"The price should be set keeping the actual procurement cost in mind."

The price of Aman paddy is now around Tk 760 that was nearly Tk 350

during the harvesting season, he added.

The committee recommended bringing the entire rice production process under continuous monitoring, maintaining day-to-day register of paddy purchase and rice production, and sending the list to local district administration.

The members of the committee also demanded a permanent market-monitoring officer in the district.

However, the Kushtia millers denied the allegation, saying the price of paddy shot up by around Tk 200 to Tk 250 a maund in the recent months.

"We don't hoard. We buy paddy and produce rice daily," said Abdul Mazid Bablu, president of Khajanagar Rice Mill Owners' Association.

District Controller of Food Jahangir Alam, a member of the monitoring committee, ruled out Bablu's claim and said: "If they buy paddy daily, why can't they show the documents?"



## City Bank gets new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The City Bank Ltd promoted Ehsan Khasru to deputy managing director and chief risk officer, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Prior to this appointment, he was the bank's senior executive vice president.

Khasru, starting his banking career in 1983 with National Bank, also served international banks like American Express, Royal Bank of Canada and Bank of Montreal in different capacities.

He joined City Bank as senior executive vice president and head of credit risk management in 2008.



Taufiq Hasan Tausi, managing director of Fiiona Autos, inaugurates the company's first showroom at Monipuripara in Dhaka recently.

## Euro strikes 9-month low

AFP, London

The euro slumped to its lowest level in more than nine months against the dollar on Tuesday as the shared eurozone currency was plagued by concerns about the Greek debt crisis, traders said.

Elsewhere, the British pound pulled back from 10-month lows against the dollar reached on Monday.

**সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন**  
সংস্থাপন বিভাগ  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
৩৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

**মুদ্রণ দ্রব্যাদির দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১. বিভাগ	: সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
২. প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি	: সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন
৩. প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি জেলা	: ঢাকা।
৪. কাজের নাম	: বিভিন্ন রকমের মুদ্রণ দ্রব্যাদি মুদ্রণের দরপত্র।
৫. টেন্ডার নাম্বার	: সাবীক/সববি/প্রকা/মুদ্রণ/২০১০
৬. ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৭. ব্যয়ের উৎস	: সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন-এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।
৮. দরপত্র লট নং	: লট-১ হতে ৩ পর্যন্ত।
৯. প্যাকেজের নাম	: বিভিন্ন রকমের মুদ্রণ দ্রব্যাদি মুদ্রণের দরপত্র।
১০. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	: ০৪/০৩/২০১০
১১. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৪/০৩/২০১০, অফিস চলাকালীন সময়
১২. দরপত্র জমাদানের তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২/০৩/২০১০, দুপুর ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত
১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২/০৩/২০১০, ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময়
১৪. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	: ডেপুটি ম্যানেজার, সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয় (৭ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৫. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর পদবী / ঠিকানা	: জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (প্রশাসন ও সংস্থাপন) এবং চেয়ারম্যান, দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি, সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয় (১০ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৬. দরপত্র যে কর্মকর্তা খুলবেন তাঁর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	: জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (প্রশাসন ও সংস্থাপন) এবং চেয়ারম্যান, দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি, সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয় (১০ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৭. প্রাক দরপত্র সভার স্থান	: প্রযোজ্য নয়।
১৮. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ডিমাই/ডাবল ডিমাই মেশিন, কম্পিউটার, প্রেস্ট এন্ডপোজার, পেপারকাটিং মেশিন ইত্যাদি থাকতে হবে। তাছাড়া, ড্রাম স্ক্যানিংয়ের সুবিধাসহ বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পাবলিকেশন ডিক্লারেশনের সনদপত্র, টিন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সামগ্রিক সনদপত্র ও ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট।
১৯. কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	: প্রদত্ত দরপত্র সিডিউলের বর্ণনা মোতাবেক
২০. দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: ৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র প্রতি সেট (অফেরতযোগ্য)
২১. সরবরাহ কাজ সমাপ্ত করণের সময়	: কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে।
২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	: ডেপুটি ম্যানেজার, সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয় (৭ম তলা), ৩৩ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০
২৩. যোগাযোগ (প্রয়োজনে)	: ফোনঃ ৯৫৬১২৭৩
২৪. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

## EU clears giant mobile phone merger in UK

AFP, Brussels

EU competition authorities on Monday approved a giant merger between France Telecom's Orange UK and Deutsche Telekom's T-Mobile UK to create Britain's largest mobile phone operator.

The European Commission said the two units could merge if they agreed to amend "an existing network sharing agreement with Hutchison 3G UK (3UK), to ensure that there remain sufficient competitors in the market."

The companies would also have to sell off a quarter of the combined spectrum of the merged entity in the 1800 MHz band, which is one of three frequency bands currently used for mobile communications in Britain.

"I am happy that we managed to resolve the competition issues in this case quickly

in close cooperation with the Member State concerned," European Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said in a statement.

The Commission said it identified no direct concerns in reviewing the tie-up for clients but believed that 3UK, owned by Hong Kong-based conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa, would face viability problems and possible elimination.

"With the merger... there will be only four players in the UK, hence the concerns about the fate of 3UK," it said, adding that the merged entity would also dominate the 1800 MHz level spectrum.

"In order to address the competition concerns... The parties concluded a revised agreement with 3UK which will secure its position as a competitive force on the market.

**EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

**LOCAL TENDER NOTICE**

EDCL invites Local Tender for procurement of raw materials for manufacturing of Condom for Khulna Essential Latex Prokolpo at Gilatola, Khulna on urgent basis :-

S/L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	KELP/Local/RM/2010/03 Dated 28/02/2010	Raw materials for manufacturing of Condom : 01. Ammonia 02. Magnesium Carbonate 03. Sodium Hydroxide (All items to be procured within frame out agreement)	Tk. 1000.00/set Non-refundable	Closing : 22/03/2010 at 11.00 AM  Opening : 22/03/2010 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Feroze-ul-Alam)  
Director Operation & Incharge  
Planning & Procurement Deptt.  
For : Managing Director.