

**SOCIAL COMPLIANCE**

**Bangladesh Round Table on Social Compliance**

Chief Guest: Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Commerce,  
**Adv. Lutful Hai**  
Conveyor: BSCI Organizer: LIFT Standards e.K.  
3rd March 2010, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

**round table**  
গোল টেবল বৈঠক



From left: Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the labour and employment ministry, Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, an economist, Lutful Hai, chief of parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry, Christian von Mitzlaff, managing director of LIFT Standards, and Farid Hossain, bureau chief of The Associated Press, are seen at a roundtable on social compliance at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

# Roundtable points to communication gap for RMG labour unrest

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
A roundtable in Dhaka yesterday pointed to inadequate communications among owners, workers and trade unionists as a major reason for the recurrent labour unrest in the readymade garment (RMG) sector, Bangladesh's prime foreign exchange earner. The workers misunderstand the owners as mid-level management sometimes fails to make them understand properly, the speakers observed.  
Lift Standards, a Germany-based social compliance advisory firm, organised the discussion on 'communication and cooperation among stakeholders in times of unrest' at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where lawmakers and international buyers spoke among others.  
Economist Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad urged all stakeholders to keep themselves away from a 'blame game' so far RMG labour unrest is concerned. "The

issues that led to labour unrest have been identified, now it needs special care from all sides to resolve this problem," Ahmad suggested.  
Pointing his finger at trade unionism, he said, "Formation of trade unions in the industrial sector is a constitutional right of the workers and their representatives. The owners should allow such rights in the RMG sector. But, we must ensure that trade union leaders run those properly."  
Lutful Hai, chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce, hoped that there will be no labour unrest in the RMG sector soon after the establishment of trade unions at all the garment factories.  
"It's true that sometimes some unofficial forces provoke workers to create unrest," the lawmaker said.  
"The rules for formation of bargaining agents at the garment factories are violated," observed Israfil Alam, the chief of parliamentary

standing committee on the labour and employment ministry.  
Lawmaker Sarah Kabori suggested owners arrange open dialogues with the workers on a regular basis in the interest of a better understanding between the two sides.  
"The owners should consider the workers as part of their factories," the actor-turned-politician said, pointing to the communication gap as the main for RMG labour unrest.  
While sharing her experience of such unrest, Kabori said owners seek help from the local influential people and government agencies after the occurrence of any such incident, but they can resolve any dispute through discussion among the stakeholders.  
Shahidullah Azim, a director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, spelt out his bitter experience of trade unions in the RMG sector.  
"So far I know, some 150 garment factories where trade unions were

active have been announced closed now," he said.  
The machinery and apparels worth Tk 2 billion in a composite garment factory of Islam Group have been damaged recently.  
"We feel proud of Islam Group, as it is one of the highly compliant factories, which received Wal-Mart award for six consecutive times," Azim said.  
He said sometimes so-called labour leaders create problems in the factories instead of resolving the issues in a proper manner.  
Maren Boehm, manager, CR-Buying Markets of Otto Group of Germany, said social compliance in Bangladesh is not strong. "Still the labour unrest and fire incidents are taking place in the factories due to problems in management and cooperation," Boehm said.  
Dr Wajed Ali Khan, coordinator of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, also spoke on the occasion.

# Digital Bangladesh on track

## Says international expert

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Bangladesh is on the right track in its way to digitisation, visiting International Telecommunication Union (ITU) General Secretary Dr Hamadoun I Touré said yesterday.  
A country at first needs to have a dream and then provide its private sector with proper support to digitise the country, and Bangladesh is going in the right direction, said Touré.  
He also termed "capacity building" as very crucial for realising the dream of Digital Bangladesh and called upon the govern-

ment to train manpower so they can work properly to reach the goal.  
"Its (Bangladesh's) people can be an excellent tool, but for that it requires capacity building," he told a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where top telecoms officials of the country were present.  
Touré, who hails from Mali, came to Dhaka Monday on a four-day visit.  
The official of ITU, a specialised organisation of the United Nations, said the government should also work sincerely to stop cyber crime and ensure privacy

and freedom of people in using information and communication technology.  
About regulations of the telecoms sector, he said the role of a regulator is like of a referee.  
The regulator should be neutral, and if the government is also a player in the market, it may not be able to play its role neutrally, the telecoms expert said.  
The telecoms rules of a country should be transparent and predictable so foreign investors do not find those ambiguous, he added.  
Besides promoting

global connectivity, ITU also supports to tackle disaster, he said, pledging its support for Bangladesh in case of any emergency and disaster.  
Chief of ITU Asia Pacific region Youn Jo Kim, Post and Telecommunications Secretary Sunil Kanti Bose, Additional Secretary M Rafiqul Islam and BTRC Chairman Major General (retd) Zia Ahmed were present at the press briefing.  
ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has 191 member states and more than 700 sector members and associates.

# FBCCI, Moody's stress efficient credit rating

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Moody's Singapore Pte Ltd discussed a range of issues linked to investment and sovereign credit rating at a meeting in Dhaka on Tuesday.  
Abul Kashem Ahmed, first vice president of FBCCI, presided over the meeting on 'Assessment of Sovereign Credit Rating of Bangladesh'.  
Thomas J Byrne, senior vice president of regional credit offices for Asia and the Middle East of Moody's Singapore, led the delegation with Aninda S Mitra, vice president, and Catherine Bouvier D'Yvoire, director.  
In the absence of sovereign credit rating, Bangladesh is being rated adversely in obtaining loan or investment in both public and private sectors, Ahmed said.  
Any adverse rating increases the cost of fund since lenders charge more on the account of risk premium, he added.  
Ahmed stressed the need for one or two professional and efficient credit raters in the country. He also mentioned that Bangladesh is expected to have its initial ratings by March.  
Byrne discussed the economic situation, potential export sectors and the estimated growth rate of the country and assured the meeting of his company's cooperation.  
Directors of the apex trade body, high officials of central bank and commercial banks and representatives from export sectors were also present.

# Joint venture offers internet services to the masses

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
A joint venture between two Bangladeshi and Japanese companies has started journey to reach internet services to the masses.  
The new entity -- BracNet-DEFTA-KDDI -- was launched at a function in Dhaka on Tuesday.  
KDDI Corporation, the second largest telecommunication company in Japan, acquired 50 percent stake in BRAC BDMail Network Limited (bracNet), a leading internet service provider in Bangladesh.  
Under the joint venture, DEFTA Partner, a US-based funding agency, is providing necessary support to develop network in Bangladesh.



Abul Kashem Ahmed, first vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, presents a crest to Catherine Bouvier D'Yvoire, director of Moody's Singapore Pte Ltd, at a meeting in Dhaka on Tuesday. Thomas J Byrne, senior vice president of regional credit offices for Asia and the Middle East of the company, was also present.

# Hasina lists steps for job skills

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday her government has taken measures to train 7.2 lakh youths in the next three years to make them employment-worthy by developing their skills.  
"Activities of the youth will be enhanced at every upazila level through internet connections. Besides, computer training will be provided to the unemployed through mobile ICT vans under the Commonwealth Youth Programme Technology Empowerment Centre project," Hasina said in parliament.  
Replying to queries made by lawmakers, Hasina said the government would expand national service schemes across the country to provide the educated, unemployed youth with employment in line with her government's electoral pledges.  
The prime minister said the government has taken steps to generate employment for the youth having an education qualification of secondary school and above for two years in Kurigram, Barguna and Gopalganj under pilot projects.  
The premier said the government decided

to set up 30 technical training institutes in those districts that do not have such facilities. Besides, five marine technology institutes will be set up in Munshiganj, Chandpur, Bagerhat, Sirajganj and Faridpur.  
On expansion of the labour market abroad, Hasina said the government has taken various steps to export more manpower.  
Referring to a recently held international labour conference in Geneva, she said bilateral talks took place with labour ministers and their representatives from 14 countries.  
"United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, Romania, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan have expressed interests in importing more labour from Bangladesh," Hasina said in a scripted answer.  
She said efforts were taken to teach people foreign languages like Korean, English, Arabic and Japanese to facilitate overseas employment.  
In response to another query, the premier said a move is on to enact a law for an international mother language institute and prepare an organogram of 180.

# Insurance laws passed

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Parliament yesterday passed two bills to upgrade the insurance acts as well as protect the interests of policyholders and beneficiaries under the insurance policies, as allegations are rife about fraud in the business.  
Finance Minister AMA Muhith piloted the Insurance Development and

Controlling Authority Bill 2010 and Insurance Bill 2010.  
Despite the opposition members' plea for eliciting public opinion before the passage of these important bills, the ruling-coalition-dominated House passed the bills by voice vote.  
Nearly a dozen opposition lawmakers alleged that insurance agents in most cases allure poor people into doing the insurance policy. But after receiving payments of several premiums, the agents wrap up their offices without paying any dividend to the policy-owners.  
Some members criticised the modality of the formation of the Insurance Authority fearing that it might be politicised and turned into a weak regulatory institution.

**Cantonment Board, Chittagong Cantonment**  
**Invitation for Re-Tender**  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry /Division	DML&C under Ministry of Defence	V
2	Agency	Cantt Board Ctg	V
3	Procuring entity name	Cantonment Executive Officer, Ctg Cantt.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Chittagong	V
6	Invitation for	Works	V
7	Invitation Ref No.	CCB/PW/OW/Adv/08/(2)/75.	
8	Date	24-02-2010	V

**KEY INFORMATION**

9	Procurement method	OTM	V	V
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and source of funds	Govt/local/fund	V
11	Development partners (if applicable)	---	

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	--
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	--
14	Tender package No.	07
15	Tender package name	1) Supply of Furniture for newly constructed two rooms of Jahangir Line High School at Ctg Cantt. 2) Supply of Furniture for BMA High School at Ctg Cantt. 3) Construction of cement concrete road in front of Class 2 & 3 Staff Qtrs. at Ctg. Cantt. 4) Repair and Maintenance of CEO's Bungalows at Ctg. Cantt. 5) Repair and Maintenance of Drain on back side of Baizid Line High School & Head Master Qtrs. at Ctg Cantt. 6) Supply of Furniture for newly constructed eight rooms of Baizid Line High School at Ctg. Cantt. 7) Repair and Maintenance of road of Baizid Residential Area & construction of drain north side of this road at Extended Area of Ctg Cantt.

16	Tender publication date	03-03-2010	V
17	Tender last selling date	21-03-2010	V

18	Tender closing date and time	22-03-2010	V	12.00 hrs	V
19	Tender opening date and time	22-03-2010	V	12-30 hrs	V

20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address Cantonment Executive Officer, Ctg. Cantt
	-Selling tender document (principal)	-Do-
	-Selling tender document (others)	-Do-
	-Receiving tender document	-Do-
	-Opening tender document	Cantonment Executive Officer, Ctg. Cantt

21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	-Do-		
	Date	V	Time	V
	None	V	None	V

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. Enlisted contractors of Cantt. Boards/govt/semi-govt & autonomous bodies. 2. To purchase the tender documents, contractors should submit the application alongwith up-to-date enlistment license, Income Tax certificate, trade license, VAT registration certificate. 3. Reputed firm/suppliers can participate the Package No.2 & 3.
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23	Brief description of goods or works --					
24	Brief description of related services --					
25	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Tender price	Completion time in weeks/ months
	1.	Supply of Furniture for newly Constructed two rooms of Jahangir Line High School at Ctg Cantt	Ctg. Cantt	9,000/00	400/-	02 months
	2.	Supply of Furniture for BMA High School at Ctg Cantt	-do-	9,000/00	400/-	02 months
	3.	Construction of cement concrete road in front of Class 2 & 3 Staff Qtrs at Ctg Cantt	-do-	15,000/00	400/-	02 months
	4.	Repair and Maintenance of CEO's Bungalows at Ctg Cantt	-do-	14,000/00	400/-	03 months
	5.	Repair and Maintenance of drain on back side of Baizid Line High School & Head Master Qtrs at Ctg Cantt	-do-	6,000/00	400/-	02 months
	6.	Supply of Furniture for newly constructed eight rooms of Baizid Line High School at Ctg Cantt	-do-	40,000/00	750/-	03 months
	7.	Repair and Maintenance of road of Baizid Residential Area & Construction of Drain North side of this road at Extended Area of Ctg Cantt	-do-	57,000/00	1,000/-	02 months

30	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Shahidul Alam
31	Designation of official inviting tender	Cantonment Executive Officer
32	Address of official inviting tender	Cantt Board Ctg.
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	<Tel. No.> 681505 <Fax No.> 2580779 <e-mail>
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

GD-946  
Mohammad Shahidul Alam  
Cantonment Executive Officer  
Chittagong Cantonment