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GBP	105.99 / 106.06
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SOURCE: BANGLADESH BANK

BKMEA awards 10 labour-friendly garment factories

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association yesterday awarded 10 labour-friendly garment factories.

The winners are Aboni Knitwear, Iris Fabrics, Interstoff Apparels, Grameen Knitwear, Ragadi Textile, Viyellatex, Knit Concern, Fakir Apparels, Four H Lingerie and Benetex Industries.

Each awardee was given a crest and a certificate for better labour management, at a function at Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka.

"Like every year, BKMEA has awarded 10 garment factories this year for their reputation in labour management," said BKMEA President Fazul Hoque.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at the function unwrapped the first anniversary issue of 'Shramabarta', a quarterly publication of the BKMEA where mainly the workers write.



Russian acrobatic dancers perform at the relaunch of GMG Airlines at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on Saturday.

Makeover for GMG

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Private carrier GMG Airlines that has rebranded itself aims to raise operations to international standards to grab a 10 percent stake of the local \$5 billion aviation industry by 2011.

The airline rebranded its logo on Saturday and is set to raise funds from stockmarket and overseas sources to introduce jumbo jets for new destinations.

"We will invest about Tk 500 crore in the next two years to implement all our plans, so that GMG will be recognised as an internationally reputed carrier," Salman F Rahman, the key figure behind the GMG relaunch, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the company plans to go public in the next three to four months to collect a portion of the funds needed for the planned expansion.

Rahman said it is pathetic that 22 foreign carriers account for about 85 percent of the domestic \$5 billion annual aviation market, where local companies should dominate.

As part of the aggressive expansion plans, GMG will add eight large aircraft by 2011 to fly uninterrupted on the busy routes, Rahman added.

The airlines will soon fly to four popular destinations in the Middle East -- Dubai, Doha, Riyadh and Jeddah -- with the newly introduced aircraft. Other Middle

Eastern destinations will also be added by 2011.

The airline took delivery of a Boeing 767-300ER at Shahajal International Airport in Dhaka and formally launched its new logo at Radisson Water Garden Hotel.

Rahman, also vice-chairman of Beximco Group, Civil Aviation Secretary Shafique Alam Mehedi and GMG Managing Director Sahab Sattar were present at the airport when the new plane arrived.

GMG got a shot of adrenaline in July 2009 when Beximco Ltd, a subsidiary of local business conglomerate Beximco Group, acquired a 50 percent stake of the financially ailing GMG with Tk 70 crore -- Tk 30 crore in equities and Tk 40 in loan refinancing.

GMG's financial crisis emerged in the second half of 2008 due to operating losses amid high fuel prices.

Since July 2009, GMG acquired ground-handling equipment, introduced fully automated ticket compliant reservation systems, and modernised its flight operations and engineering establishment to ensure safety.

It also hired professionals at key positions, including a chief executive officer, chief operating officer and chief commercial officer, who have experience with different foreign airlines.

GMG started operations in April 1998.



Fake TINs go unchecked

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The tax administration is yet to take punitive measures against alleged forgeries in submission of certificates of tax identification numbers (TINs) by a huge number of credit card holders.

There are allegations from different bank officials that the certificates that were submitted to the banks concerned by around three lakh clients for getting credit cards have been found fake.

The officials also point out that such malpractice goes unabated because of the non-enforcement of a law relating to such offence.

They argue that the banks are not in a position to probe such forgery, even though it is found after receiving the TIN certificates from the clients as per rules of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Md Bashir Uddin Ahmed, NBR's member (administration and monitoring), said: "We have information that people are purchasing credit cards, cars and flats with fake TIN certificates. These frauds are supposed to face legal actions."

A survey, conducted by the Directorate of Inspection (taxes) during the immediate past caretaker government's rule, reveals that over 50 percent of TIN certificates used for obtaining credit cards were fake, followed by 33 percent in the case of purchasing motor vehicles.

Kanan Kumar Roy, director general of tax inspection directorate, also pointed to the fact that the NBR had not gone tough on the offenders although they sent a survey report to its chairman.

According to the banking industry, besides the three lakh credit card holders, currently in existence, the purchasers of around 20,000 cars and

10,000 flats that are sold out a year on an average have to show TIN certificates at the time of buying.

On TIN certificate forgery, Mashukur Rahman, sales executive of the Credit Card Department at Standard Chartered Bank, said, "We have sent a the TIN certificates to NBR for verification in line with its directives, but it did not respond to us."

StanChart's Head of Corporate Affairs Bitopi Das said: "We only receive the main documents the NBR provides to us. We're not in a position to crosscheck those documents."

Antar Zaman, in-charge, Credit Card Department at Eastern Bank Limited, said his bank is aware of such forgery and follows the NBR directives regularly.

The NBR last year asked the fake TIN holders to regularise their TINs by paying Tk 3,000, but only 594 TIN-holders responded.

Besides, it made payment of Tk 1,000 mandatory for obtaining a TIN in a bid to check any duplication, but this move also turned futile.

The NBR member said the board is now developing a Central Data Centre to collect and manage all taxpayers' information.

Once the centre is in place, Basir Uddin hoped, such forgery will come to a halt.

The NBR top official also pointed to Section 165 (a) of the Income Tax Ordinance that can send a person having fake TIN in jail, ranging from three months to three years, or imposes fine or both.

However, the NBR never awarded punishment to any of its clients for TIN forgery.

NBR has 22 lakh registered TIN holders, of which about seven lakh submit tax returns regularly.

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Thai fair begins Wednesday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A four-day exhibition of Thai products begins at Sonargaon Hotel on Wednesday.

About 47 Thai manufacturers and exporters will participate in the fair.

The Department of Export Promotion of the Thai commerce ministry is organising the fair, Thailand Trade Exhibition Dhaka 2010. Commerce Minister Faruk Khan is scheduled to inaugurate the fair.

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Organized by: **DEP** Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Thai Government

Supported by: **THAI 50th ANNIVERSARY 1960-2010**

Date: **5-8 May 2010**

Time: **Trade: 10.00am-3.00pm**
Public: 3.00pm-8.00pm

Venue: **Pan Pacific Sonargaon Grand Ballroom, Dhaka**

THAILAND TRADE EXHIBITION Dhaka 2010

THAILAND'S BRAND
A SIGN OF QUALITY THAI BRANDS

Look for Thailand's Brand, a logo owned by the Department of Export Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce.

It is an assurance that Thai brand names for products and services are of the very highest quality and meet world-class standards. It allows Thai brands to move forward and enjoy great success in the global marketplace through better marketing opportunities.

Diversity & Refinement
The words Diversity & Refinement captures the distinctive image of Thailand as a land of diverse goods and services created with originality, quality, refined craftsmanship and outstanding excellence.

Enhancing Market Opportunities
Thai brands that carry the Thailand's Brand Symbol not only enjoy the recognition of international consumers but also benefit from superior marketing opportunities. This includes the comprehensive database that lists Thai manufacturers and exporters and connects them with international importers. Business people and consumers around the globe recognize and have faith in the campaign, created and owned by the Thai government. Thus Thai brands carrying the Thailand's Brand symbol are likely to be the very best of their kind in Thailand and round the world.

PRODUCT LIST:

- Agro
- Chemicals
- Electrical product
- Food & Beverages
- Garment & Fashion
- Gems & Jewelry
- Gift & Decorative Items
- Health & Beauty
- Household & Kitchenware
- Ladies Bag & Footwear
- Machinery
- Plastic
- Stationery & Others



THAILAND TRADE FAIR PROGRAM 2010

Organized by Department of Export Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Thai Government. DEP reserves the right to change the program without notice. Please find updated information and others details at the DEP's Website: www.dpep.go.th

Event	Venue/Date
THAIFEX-World of Food Asia 2010	IMPACT Trade: 30 Jun-2 July 10 Public: 3-4 July 10
Made in Thailand 2010 (MIT)	IMPACT Trade & Public: 2-11 Jul 10
Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair 2010 (BGJF Sept 2010)	IMPACT Trade & Public: 8-12 Sept 10
Thailand International Logistics Fair 2010	BITEC Trade & Public: 7-10 Oct 10
Thailand International Education Fair 2010 (TIEE 2010)	QSNCC Trade & Public: 8-10 Oct 10
Bangkok International Gift Fair & Bangkok International Houseware Fair (BIG + BIH - Oct 2010)	BITEC Trade: 19-22 Oct 10 Public: 23-24 Oct 10

H.E. Ms. Tassanawadee Miancharoen Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh said, The trade value between Bangladesh and Thailand was approaching 650 million US\$ with exports from Thailand accounting for more than 90% of this amount. The royal Thai Embassy, along with the Thai Trade Center in Dhaka, are doing our utmost to promote our bilateral trade so that it could surpass 1 billion US\$ threshold by 2013. Having said that, it is not only exports from Thailand to Bangladesh that concern us, but we are willing to promote Bangladesh exports in the Thai market as well.

Ms. Usa Wijarun, Director of Thai Trade Center, Royal Thai Government has said, "Thailand Trade Exhibition on **May 5-8, 2010 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh** have much more than 52 stalls of about 47 Thai Exporters who produce high quality and diversified products including Food & Beverage, Gift & Decorative, Health & Beauty, Garments & Fashion, Gems & Jewelry, Household & Kitchenware, Stationary, Electrical, Agro & Machinery, Chemicals, Ladies Bag & Footwear, Plastic & Others."

The inaugural program of this Exhibition at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel will be kicked off on **5th May 2010 at 11:00 am** by Lt. Col (Rtd.) Muhammad Faruk Khan, The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Government who has already kindly consented to inaugurate the Thailand Trade Exhibition 2010 as Chief Guest and H.E Ms. Tassanawadee Miancharoen, Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh will be present as special guest at the opening program and Ms. Usa Wijarun, Director of Thai Trade Center, Royal Thai Government will be present in the occasion."

During exhibition; there is an instant opportunity for the business people to have one to one business meeting with the Thai exporters during the exhibition at the exhibition premise. The interested parties are requested to **contact: 8820364, 9861821 or 01713 386063.**

Furthermore, during **5-11 May 2010**, we are co-organizing with Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel a weeklong food promotion namely **'Thai Food Festival 2010'** with supported by Thai Airways International PLC to promote Thai cuisines worldwide to spread the real taste of authentic Thai foods to the customers.

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