

DHAKA SUNDAY AUGUST 15, 2010



Stocks	
DGEN	1.48% 6,672.96
CSCX	0.93% 12,764.23 (Week-on-week)
<b>Asian Markets</b>	
MUMBAI	0.52% 18,167.03
TOKYO	0.44% 9,253.46
SINGAPORE	0.44% 2,939.97
SHANGHAI	1.21% 2,606.70 (Friday closings)
<b>Commodities</b>	
Gold	1,214.25 (\$ per ounce)
Oil	\$76.73 (\$ per barrel) (Midday Trade)

Monga-prone women to get jobs in garment industry

BSS, Dhaka

Around ten thousand women, vulnerable to the cycle of poverty in the country's Monga-prone areas, would now find work in the garment industry.

A project -- Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative (NARI) -- will focus on the empowerment of women through employment opportunities in Export Processing Zones (EPZs), with a funding of \$20 million from the World Bank.

'Monga', occurring mainly in the months of October to November of each year, is when food stocks run out and job opportunities dry up in some northern districts before the main harvest season in December, as a result thousands of people go without foods for weeks.



Visitors browse through saris on display at an exhibition organised at Bengal Café in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, to celebrate the 12th anniversary of fashion boutique Sholpik yesterday. The exhibition will remain open from 11am to 8pm every day until August 20.

SHAWKAT JAMIL

## Food exports to India hit a rough patch

SOHEL PARVEZ

said customs officials and exporters.

Exports through other land ports such as Sheola-Sutarkandi are continuing, but on a limited scale after some Indian importers were able to comply with the bonded warehouse rule.

"We are unable to book orders for exports after the customs authorities of North East India imposed the rule of keeping food products in bonded warehouse instead of importers' warehouse," said Khurshid Ahmad Farhad, manager (export) of Square Consumer Products Ltd (SCPL).

The official of SCPL, a new entrant to the Indian northeast, said the sanction has forced the company to stop exports for the last few months.

To comply with the bonded warehouse condition, an importer needs to show bank solvency certificate of up to Indian Rs 50 lakh (Tk 74.42 lakh), according to the exporters.

"It is discouraging for our

importers. The volume of their trade with us is not too big to deposit such an amount," said Farhad.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Pran-RFL Group, also expressed concern over the new rule.

Before the imposition of the new rule, the importers in North East India were allowed to store imported items in warehouses till the receipt of the lab test reports.

Due to geographical proximity, the northeastern states have become a captive market for Bangladesh's goods.

Fruit-flavoured drinks and snacks such as chanachur are the main export items.

"Our products enjoy competitive advantage in the northeastern region due to its remoteness to mainland India. But this bonded warehouse rule hurts competitiveness of our products," said Farhad.

At present, two-way trade favours India heavily.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director

of marketing for Pran-RFL, a leading food products exporter to India, has said various rules are affecting exports of Bangladeshi food products to the northeastern states.

"Our exports have been suspended for almost two months," he said.

Kamal claimed that their food products face newer rules such as coding and recipe requirement by Central Food Laboratory (CFL), Guwahati.

In addition, in absence of any authorised food lab near the land ports in the northeast, the traders wait for three to six weeks to get the test results from the CFL.

The introduction of rules to send test results by post instead of fax has also widened the time period. The customs authorities of the ports in northeastern India do not clear products until receiving the test results from the central food laboratory.

sohel@thendaystar.net

## Govt to pick operator for Akhaura port

REZAUL KARIM

The government has moved to appoint a private operator to run a land port on the eastern frontier of Akhaura.

It will soon finalise the appointment of the operator through bidding to facilitate trade in and out of seven Indian northeastern states.

The government on Friday opened a full-fledged land port at Akhaura in Brahmanbaria.

"This land port will play an important role in reducing our trade deficit with India, and the government will do everything that is needed to develop the export-oriented port," said Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan.

Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan are also currently working out mutually beneficial arrangements under which Bangladesh will have and provide access to the three South Asian neighbours for trade, transit and communication.

For Akhaura land port, the shipping ministry has already short-listed 21 private firms through a pre-qualification bidding process, officials said.

The port has been constructed over 15 acres at a cost of Tk 8.75 crore (\$1.2 million). It will be operated on a BOT (build, operate and transfer) basis.

With the launch of Akhaura port, Bangladesh now boasts 14 land ports that ensure better connectivity with India.

According to official estimates, Bangladesh exported around 442,955 tonnes of products and imported 557 tonnes through Akhaura in the last fiscal year.

The exports through the port include cement, battery, furniture, glass, plastics, soybean oil and tiles. Bangladesh imports bamboo, turmeric, ginger, marble slabs, fish, leather, textiles, machinery and fruits.

Akhaura land port earned record revenue of more than Tk 214 crore in 2009-2010, up from Tk 168 crore a year ago.



new  
concept pickup  
role of SUV



MITSUBISHI  
Sportero

2500/3200 CC, Full power, Turbo diesel, Double cabin, Manual / Automatic, Sunroof, Leather seats, Alloy rims



Canopy & accessories are optional



Sole distributor

**RANGS LIMITED**

Visit our showroom : 215 Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka.

Call: 01713016592, 01713142045, 01713142056(ctg)



Purchase and sale of foreign currencies

Remittance services

Internet Banking

PHILIPS

42" LCD TV  
at BDT 105,000/-

Take home a Philips LCD TV at Tk. 4,675/- per month\* through Standard Chartered InstaBuy scheme (Interest free payment available at 0% interest.)

TRANSCOM

think electronics... think TRANSCOM