

# High cotton waste prices dim denim prospect

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Cotton waste prices have soared on the local market, as the item's export prices went high and production by spinners fell so drastically, which industry insiders say put the denim and terry-towel industry at stake.

The item is the raw material of yarn that is used in making denim and terry-towels.

The cotton waste was selling at Tk 75-Tk 125 a kg yesterday, according to JA Ansari, vice president of Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Association. Just six months back, the rates were Tk 60-Tk 80.

Ansari pointed out that some manufacturers prefer exporting the item at the government rate of \$1.60 per kg to selling it in the local market at a comparatively low price. The fixing of price

in June 2008 was aimed at protecting the local industry.

Moreover, he said, the power and gas crunch forced many spinning mills to go below its production capacity.

"And the prices of the waste cotton have gone up in the local market putting the denim and terry-towel industry under strain," said the sector's trade body leader.

Bangladesh is losing the opportunity of more value addition through exporting the raw waste cotton.

The terry-towel is sold at \$4 a kg whereas a kilogram of waste cotton is exported at \$1.60 and in some cases even at lower prices, Ansari added.

Nurul Islam Chowdhury, managing director of Narayanganj-based Chowdhury Spinning Mills Ltd said it is difficult to find the cotton waste because its demand has

increased, but supply declined.

Spinners blend virgin cotton with waste to produce 10 to 20 count varieties of yarn, used mainly for manufacturing jeans and terry-towel.

Chowdhury said higher cotton price worldwide has also contributed to the price hike of the waste cotton in the local market.

The daily demand for waste cotton in Bangladesh is 7.50 lakh kilograms, said Abdul Hai Sarker, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association. "The local spinning mills meet majority of the requirement," he said.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau, terry towels worth \$17.95 million were exported in July, registering 9.85 percent growth over the exports in the same month a year earlier.

Reefat@thedailystar.net



Navid Anwar, extreme left, chief executive officer of AIT Consulting, an integral unit of Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, shakes hands with SK Lala, managing director of Concord Group, after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. AIT will help Concord in the field of sustainable construction to avoid the risks of earthquake. SM Kamaluddin, middle, chairman of Concord Group, is also seen.



United Commercial Bank Ltd Chairman MA Hashem speaks at the bank's extraordinary general meeting and 25th, 26th and 27th annual general meetings for 2008-2010 at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The Board of Directors has approved 50 percent stock dividend for 2007, 25 percent stock dividend for 2008 and 30 percent stock dividend for 2009.

# Govt's bank borrowing declines

BSS, Dhaka

The government's borrowing from the banking sector maintained a downward trend throughout the last fiscal year (2009-2010), as the country's net credit to the government marked a fall by Tk 3,792.90 crore or 6.52 percent.

But borrowing by the private sector marked a rise by Tk 52,833.30 crore or 24.24 percent during the period, indicating a favourable business environment.

Central bank figures show the country's overall domestic credit recorded an increase of Tk 51,623.70 crore or 17.89 percent in the last fiscal due to major jump in the private sector credit.

But credit to the 'other public sec-

tors' increased by Tk 2,583.30 crore or 20.77 percent during the year, according to Bangladesh Bank.

The rise in overall credit, however, was Tk 39,875.10 crore or 16.03 percent in FY 2008-09.

In May 2010, net credit to the government went down by Tk 8,735.8 crore or 15.01 percent compared to an increase by Tk 7,463.2 crore or 15.91 percent in May 2009.

The credit to other public sector in May this year, however, increased by Tk 2,360.5 crore or 18.98 percent compared to an increase by Tk 1001.3 crore or 8.61 percent during the same period of the previous year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

Broad money recorded an

increase of Tk 66,531.40 crore or 22.44 percent in FY 2009-10 against the increase of Tk 47,704.90 crore or 19.17 percent in FY 2008-09.

Of the components of broad money, currency outside banks rose by Tk 10,107.90 crore or 28.04 percent and deposits increased by Tk 56,423.50 crore or 21.66 percent; of which, demand deposits increased by Tk 11,453.60 crore or 37.70 percent and time deposits increased by Tk 44,969.90 crore or 19.55 percent.

Outstanding borrowing of the government through NSD certificates as of end June, 2010 stood at Tk 61,381.42 crore, recording an increase of Tk 11,590.63 crore or 23.28 percent against Tk 49,790.79 crore as of end June, 2009.

# Intel guru: future phones will sense your mood

REUTERS, San Francisco

Ultra-smartphones that react to your moods and televisions that can tell it's you who's watching are in your future as Intel Corp's top technology guru sets his sights on context-aware computing.

Chief technology officer Justin Rattner stuffed sensors down his socks at the annual Intel Develop Forum in San Francisco on Wednesday to demonstrate how personal devices will one day offer advice that goes way beyond local restaurants and new songs to download.

"How can we change the relationship so we think of these devices not as devices but as assistants or even companions?" he asked.

Handheld devices could combine already common geographic location technology with data from microphones, cameras, heart and body monitors and even brain scans to offer their owners advice that today only a friend or relative could give.

"Imagine a device that uses a variety of sensory modalities to determine what you are doing at an instant, from being asleep in your bed to being out for a run with a friend," Rattner said. "Future devices will constantly learn about who you are, how you live, work and play."

Rattner also demonstrated a television remote control that figures out who is holding it based on how it is held, and then learns the viewer's entertainment preferences.

The world leader for decades in microchips for servers and desktop

computers, Intel is hurrying to catch up in the lucrative market for smartphones like Apple's iPhone and Research in Motion's BlackBerry.

Telephones with email, global positioning and media players are pointing the way to a future where ever more functions are packed into ever smaller mobile devices.

The smartphone industry, including technology giants like LG and Samsung, is likely to sell 270 million phones this year and grow 25 percent in 2011, according to market research company IDC.

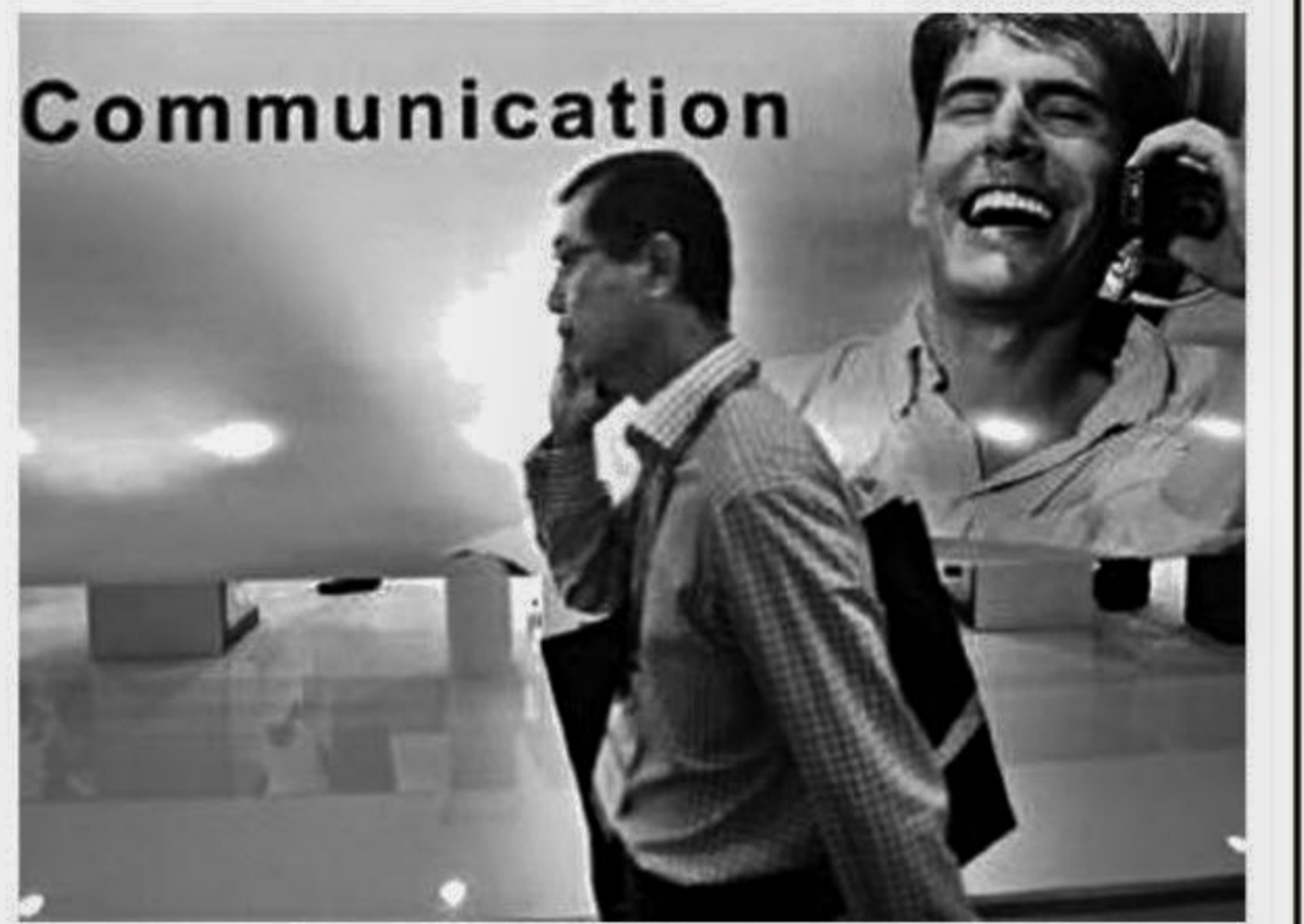
"I think you can expect to see features that support context-aware computing starting to appear in Intel products in the not-too-distant

future," Rattner said.

But analysts say Intel faces an uphill battle getting its microchips into new phones as Nvidia, Marvell and Qualcomm have already made headway with cheap, lower-power processors based on designs by ARM Holdings.

Rattner conceded that questions about privacy and people's willingness to be intimate with their computers will have to be resolved before the future generation of smartphones he described takes off.

"If you think identity threat is a problem today, imagine when your whole context is readily available on the Net," he said.



A man speaks on a mobile phone as he walks past a poster at the CommunicAsia trade show in Singapore.

# Korean tiny computer unveiled

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD

Korean venture firm Ocosmos' collaboration with international giants Intel and AT&T has resulted in the development of a revolutionary new tiny computer.

The device called "OCSI1", was unveiled at the Intel Developer Forum in San Francisco this week. It has a 4.8 inch screen slightly larger than the Samsung's 4-inch smartphone Galaxy S and it runs on the Windows 7 mobile operating system.

"It is the world's first tiny computer that provides the same experience of playing online games on personal computers," said Oh Eu-jin, president of Ocosmos. "Young people will fall in love with the tiny computer, which has more capabilities than smartphones."

With an integrated controller developed

by Ocosmos, indicating a few buttons could serve keyboard and mouse functions, it is Wi-Fi enabled and has a PC-level capacity through technology engagement with Intel's Oaktrail chip.

It also features a camera which permits improved web searching and additional game services.

Ocosmos, a start-up company which focuses on the development of new technologies, was selected as a partner by global chip maker Intel.

Observers, however, say it will take time to see if the company can create a new trend in the industry and win the support of larger companies to go with the company-invented new platform.

Ocosmos is planning to make further efforts to market the product to the US, China and other overseas markets.

# Ericsson, Telenor join hands

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Ericsson went into an agreement with Telenor for more cost-efficient fixed voice production, said a statement.

Ericsson will transform Telenor's fixed network into one IP-based converged network (IMS), which will provide cost efficiency and prepare the ground for new revenue streams.

Telenor secures a future-proof path to converge their mobile and fixed networks, while preparing for 4G (fourth generation).

The communication service would allow the users to see the status of friends and contacts on any phone or device and connect easily on voice, video or chat.

Telenor, Norway's largest fixed and mobile telecommunications service provider, is constantly seeking new ways to provide additional value for their customers.

By transforming its fixed network into one IP-based converged network and by gradually migrating all of its subscribers to a common IP-based service platform, Telenor secures a future service offering high quality voice and multimedia services. The platform has also been made ready for the introduction of 4G voice.

Ericsson will also consolidate all mobile and fixed subscriber data into a centralised user database based on a Data Layered Architecture.

This will allow Telenor to integrate its fixed and mobile services while providing a flexible service package serving the specific needs of the entire households and businesses.

Robert Puskarić, head of region (Northern Europe and Central Asia) of Ericsson, said: "Because our solution is designed to allow cost-efficient rich communication, it provides a future-proof way to consolidate Telenor's existing networks and get the most out of the new multimedia services entering the market."

"We are proud to drive the evolution of the network for an innovative and forward looking operator like Telenor, starting with the fixed voice services."

Rolv-Erik Spilling, chief technology officer of Telenor Norway, said the solutions would modernise the production systems and reduce the cost for fixed voice services.

# India to produce record wheat, no exports

REUTERS, New Delhi

India is expected to produce a record 82 million tonnes of wheat next year but has no immediate plans to lift a three-year old ban on exports, the farm minister said on Friday.

Farm ministry officials say better soil moisture, a result of plentiful monsoon rains, will help India, the world's second-biggest wheat producer, exceed this year's all-time high harvest of 80.71 million tonnes.

"This will be one of the most favourable years for wheat and other crops," Sharad Pawar told reporters.

India grows only one wheat crop in a year, with planting from October and harvests in March-April.

"We will easily achieve that target of 82 million tonnes," Farm Secretary P.K. Basu said.

The 2010 output is expected to be the fifth in a row to exceed domestic demand. Overflowing grain bins have forced the government to store large quantities of wheat under tarpaulin in open fields, leading to rot and decay.

The country's top court recently asked the government to free stocks for the poor. Early this month, a panel of ministers decided to release 2.5 million tonnes of grains from government stocks to supply to the poor through state governments.

Higher wheat output may put some downward pressure on benchmark prices in Chicago.



Mohammad Ali, general manager of Pubali Bank, and Pradip Bhowmick, executive director of PricewaterhouseCooper, exchange documents after signing an agreement at the bank's head office in the capital recently. Under the deal, PricewaterhouseCooper will evaluate the bank's integrated banking system. Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, is also seen.



Mohammad Abdul Mannan, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, speaks at a conference of the bank's employees from Dhaka south zone at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka on Saturday.