Home textile exports miss target

Global recession, energy crunch blamed

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Home textile exports lag nearly 10 percent behind the target in July, which industry insiders say is a consequence of global recession and the energy crunch in the country.

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Export Promotion Bureau data shows Bangladesh fetched \$42.41million from the item's exports in the first month of the current fiscal year against the monthly target for \$46.88 million.

The home textile export target fixed for the entire fiscal 2010-11 is \$563.50 million. A year earlier, the earning was \$402.49 million.

Meanwhile, growing domestic demand for the item has prompted many manufacturers to market the product locally.

Nurul Afsar, the company secretary to Noman Group, Bangladesh's largest home textile maker, pointed to global recession, price pressure from international buyers, hikes in the prices of cotton, yarn and other raw materials as the main reasons for the declining trend in home textile exports.

HICARE HEARING CENTER

Afsar also said an inadequate supply of gas and power to industrial units severely hampers production, which forced many to generate energy by alternative means resulting in a rise in raw materials. the cost of production.

"The profit margin has declined, but the production cost has increased significantly over the last few years. As a result, many small players have already stopped exporting the item and started selling the products in the ready domestic market," he said.

Losing competitiveness on the global market, home textile makers are paying more attention to the marketing of the product at home, the Noman Group official said.

The company, with a production capacity of 5 lakh metres of home textile a day, has also diversified the product for enhancing price competitiveness.

Noman Group exports more than \$15 million a month, but the profit margin is low nowadays, Afsar said.

However, Edward Mokronosov, business development manager of Swedish retail chain IKEA Bangladesh,

BRAC BANK

said he has increased both the price and purchase volume of home textile from Bangladesh to adjust with the increased demand and higher cost of

"Such increase is 12 percent in a period between September 2009 and August 2010," he said.

The demand for quality home textile from Bangladesh is higher in the exporting countries, but the problem lies in the production level for energy crunch, he added.

"We could have purchased the item two to three times higher than from the present purchasing level, provided an uninterrupted supply of gas and power to the industrial units and good water treatment plants are ensured."

The IKEA place orders to the factories that are able to supply the products on time and has good water treatment facilities, Mokronosov said.

According to Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, more than 469.7 million metres of home textile are now produced a year.

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Advocate Lutful Hai MP, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry, takes a tour of ELECTROTECH Bangladesh, a four-day exposition of electric products and machinery, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Electric products fair kicks off Yarn price hike worries BGMEA, **BKMEA**

UNB, Dhaka

Apparel sector leaders yesterday expressed concern over the recent price hike of yarn and urged leaders of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and spinning mill owners to rein in the price hike.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and **Exporters Association** (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufactures & **Exporters Association** (BKMEA) stressed the need for a coordinated initiative to fix the yarn price at a rational level.

They suggested a tripartite meeting among BGMEA, BKMEA and BTMA.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT A four-day exposition of electric products and machinery began at Bangabandhu International

yesterday. The fair, known as ELECTROTECH Bangladesh, showcases electronic goods and merchandise, raw materials and capital machinery -- both local and foreign.

Conference Centre in the capital

Co-organised by Bangladesh **Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers** Association (BEMMA) and Ask Trade and Exhibitions Private Limited of India, it is the fourth international electric products and technology fair.

Sixty-seven companies from home and 26 from abroad are participating in the exhibition.

Advocate Lutful Hai, MP, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry, inaugurated the show.

Hai called for greater investment in the electric merchandise industries,

highlighting the advantage of the low labour cost and growing domestic market in Bangladesh. It will also generate considerable employment opportunities, he added.

The burgeoning domestic market, now Tk 20,000 crore, has the potential of touching the Tk 50,000 crore mark in five years, Hai predicted.

"Electric products makers could tap into this budding market by combining skills with modern technology," he added.

The parliamentarian also called for exploring ways to penetrate deeper into the international market for increased exports of local electric products, noting the cost advantage the country enjoys over its developed counterparts.

"Understanding the potential of the sector, the government has offered special privileges to the electric products makers in the 2009 export policy," Hai said.

Md Jasim Uddin, acting president of the Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in his speech underscored the need to provide incentives to realise the potential of the sector.

Citing examples of other developing nations, he called for setting up special economic zones for the electric goods manufacturers and other associated sectors.

"Due to the highly integrated nature of this industry, electric goods assembling is closely associated with the manufacturing of steel, plastic and other materials," he said.

Here comes the need for special economic zones or industrial cities exclusively for this sector to address its special needs, he said.

"Huge foreign investments can come to this sector, both from home and abroad through developing the backward linkages and the subcontracting," he added.

Leaders from Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers Association and other organisers and participants were present on the occasion.

Golden Son to market solar Inflation softens lights, computer casings

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer of BRAC Bank, and

Ashfaque A Khan, secretary general of HICARE, a voluntary organisation dedicated to hearing-

impaired people, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. The

bank will extend support to the organisation's 11 centres around the country.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Golden Son Ltd will start marketing solar lights and computer casings from early next

The company has already started producing light emitting diode (LED) modules for solar lights and central processing unit (CPU) casings for computers, said Belal Ahmed, managing director of Golden Son.

"We will start marketing the LED modules and CPU casings from early next year."

The company has got approval for raising an additional capital of around Tk 145 crore through issuing rights share. Golden Son will also offer one rights share

for every one share at a price of Tk 30, including Tk 20 as premium.

It makes an array of products -- aerosols, household items, perfumes, body sprays,

air-fresheners, garment accessories, toys, fans and fan accessories.

"We will sell 3-watt to 100-watt solar lights at reasonable prices," said Ahmed.

The price of a three-watt solar module, capable of running one bulb and one mobile charger, will be Tk 4,000.

The company says the lifespan of the bulbs will be 50,000 hours and that of the module 25 years.

"We want to cater to the local and world markets," said Ahmed, adding that Golden Son aims to make up to 10 lakh pieces of such LED lights in the first year of produc-

He also said the company would produce five lakh pieces of computer casings of different sizes and two lakh pieces of solar fan annually.

Each Golden Son share was traded between Tk 112 and Tk 116.30 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

in July

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Inflation on a point-to-point basis fell substantially in July, thanks to an adequate supply of boro rice on the market, though inflation went up in recent months.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the overall inflation fell by 1.44 percentage points in July, compared to June, and stood at 7.26 percent.

Food inflation dropped by 2.16 percentage points, while non-food inflation by 0.37 percentage point.

In July food inflation came down to 8.72 percent from 10.88 percent in June. The non-food inflation in July was 4.87 percent, down from 5.24 percent in June.

According to the BBS statistics, the fall in inflation was steeper in urban areas than in rural areas.

A BBS official said boro rice was available on the market during the time and import through government and private sectors was more. Availability or otherwise of rice on the market contributes much to the rise or fall in inflation.

The BBS official said low rice price helped ease inflation.

সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম:

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ প্রকৌশল ডিপার্টমেন্ট প্রধান কার্যাল্য় ঢাকা

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রকৌশল

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9	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি :		সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, এর নিজস্ব "দি প্রকিউরমেন্ট/ পারচেজ ম্যানুয়েল" এ বর্ণিত Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
8	বাজেট ও ফান্ড প্রাপ্তির উৎস সোনালী ব্যাংক			মটেড, এর নিজস্ব ফান্ড।			
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		কাজ (সিভিল, বৈদ্যুতিব	চ ও এয়ারকুলার)।					
	গ্রুপ নং-৩ কৃষ্টিয়া শাখা এবং রাজশাহী কপোরেট শাখায় এটিএম বুথ নির্মান কাজ (সিভিল, বৈদ্যুতিক ও এয়ারকুলার)।			টা= ৩০,০০০/- টা= ১,৫০০/- ৬০ দিন				
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৬	দরপ	রপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান। এক্সিকিউটিভ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার, প্রকৌশল ডিপার্টমেন্ট, সংস্থাপন ও প্রবে বিভাগ, সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ প্রধান কার্যালয় (৬৯ তলা), ঢাকা।						
٩	দরপ তারি	ত্র দলিল বিক্রির শেষ খ ও সময়।	তারিখ : ২৪-১০-২০১০ ই	ইং, সময়: অফিস সময় পর্যন্ত।				
ъ	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান এবং তারিখ ও সময়।		সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ প্রধান কার্যালয় ভবনের ৬ষ্ঠ তলাস্থ সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগে রক্ষিত টেভার বাক্স, তারিখ : ২৫-১০-২০১০ ইং, সময় : ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।					
৯	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়।		সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ প্রধান কার্যালয় ভবনের ৬ষ্ঠ তলাস্থ সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ-এর TOC & TEC কক্ষ। তারিখ : ২৫-১০-২০১০ ইং, সময় : ১৫.১০ ঘটিকা।					
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৮.০০ লক্ষ টাকা বয়েছে। ১১ দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজ পত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

i) Tender/ TDS এ বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী সকল কাগজ প্রাদি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে iii) দরপত্রের সাথে টেভার সাবমিশন শীট (TSS, Form-1) ও টেভার ইনফরমেশন শীট (TIS) এ বর্ণিত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজ পত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।

চৌধুরী আব্দুল হান্নান, ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার, (০২) ৯৫৫৫১৩৯ ১২ দূর্পপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী ও টেলিফোন নম্বর।

১৩ কোন কারণু দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোনু বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক/সম্পূর্নরূপে গ্রহনের অধিকার ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত। চৌধুরী আব্দুল হান্নান ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

Seminar points to PPP potential

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday said that the publicprivate-partnership (PPP) initiative could be implemented in a widespread manner not only in the IT sector but also in the education, health and agriculture sectors.

They also emphasised building skilled manpower, from both the private and government sides for successful implementation of the projects to be taken under PPP. They made the remarks at a national dialogue on 'Strategic

Priorities of Digital Bangladesh: Public Private Partnership for E-Service Delivery' held at the NEC conference room.

Organised jointly by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission and UNDP supported Access to Information (A2I) Programme under the Prime Minister's Office, the discussion was presided over by Finance Division Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareque.

The finance secretary said the PPP guidelines have been formulated in such a flexible way so that the private sector gets interested.

Later, in another dialogue on 'Vibrant ICT Industry' at the same venue, the speakers stressed more accessibility to the IT sector.

Ekramul Hoque, managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, and Manzurul Islam, chair-

man of Bengal Development Corporation Ltd (BDCL), exchange documents after signing a deal

in Dhaka on Tuesday. BDCL will construct the bank's 16-storey head office in the capital.