

Far East Knitting holds roadshow for IPO

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Far East Knitting and Dyeing Industries Ltd, a Gazipur-based garment company, is set for the stockmarket to raise Tk 150 crore from investors to expand operations. The company held a roadshow at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday for price discovery under the newly introduced book-building method. Managing Director of Far East Knitting and Dyeing Asif Moyeen said the face value of each share has been fixed at Tk 10 and the proposed premium at Tk 40. "We will offload three crore ordinary shares to raise the amount," Moyeen said. Of the total fund, Tk 80 crore would be spent on establishing a spinning mill at Nouhati, 124 kilometres north-east of Dhaka on Dhaka-Sylhet highway under Habiganj district, Moyeen said. "I have a target to go into production at a 26,000 spindles capacity spinning mill

within October 2012," he said. The company will spend Tk 30 crore on expansion of units such as printing, embroidery and dyeing. The rest of the money will go into paying off the company's liabilities. The company established in 1994 has exported garment items worth Tk 130 crore in fiscal 2009-10, the company managing director said. Moyeen said his company sends 65 of his products to UK's Tesco, Newlook, Kevinham and Mackay. Monoprix and Promode, two brands of France, import 25 percent of his products. The paid-up capital of the company is Tk 6.4 crore. It received approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 29 last year for floating an initial public offering under the book-building method. IDLC Finance Ltd is acting as the Issue manager for the IPO.

Steel millers warn of looming 'crisis'

UNB, Dhaka
Steel and re-rolling mill owners yesterday pressed a number of demands on the government to resolve in what they said was to save their business. Lifting of restrictions on gas and electricity connections to new industrial units and housing tops the list. Withdrawal of the PSI system in the import of raw materials, reducing duty on import of raw materials and ensuring stability in the ship breaking industry were some other demands made by the owners. Speaking at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Sheikh Masudul Alam Masud, president of Bangladesh Auto Re-Rolling and Steel Mills Association, said the steel sector is facing a major crisis. "If the government does not resolve our problems, many companies will face closure leaving thousands of workers

unemployed," Masud said. Abdul Quasem Majumder, secretary general of the association, and other leaders were also present. Masud said sales of apartments suffered a steep fall in recent months due to the government's embargo on gas and electricity connections. "This has ultimately put the steel sector in a crisis as real estate developers are not taking any new construction project. Consequently, our production has suffered due to a fall in demand for MS rods," he said. Referring to realtors' claim, Masud said 30,000 apartment units remained unsold, as they are not getting electricity and gas connections. An uptick in prices of raw materials on the international market has increased production costs for local millers, he said. "If the duty is reduced on the import of raw materials, it will help the industry survive," said Majumder.



FICCI
Zhang Xianyi, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, speaks at the monthly luncheon meeting of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. AM Hamim Rahmatullah, president of the chamber, was also present.

New DMD for Prime Bank

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Md Golam Rabbani was promoted as deputy managing director of Prime Bank recently. Prior to this assignment, he was the senior executive vice president of the bank, said a statement.



Rabbani started his career in 1977 in Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha

Europe meets under pressure

AFP, Brussels
Eurozone finance ministers head into a meeting Monday under pressure to ramp up the firepower of a debt rescue fund even after markets backed off pressure on vulnerable nations. Europeans are divided over how quickly they need to act and how much added muscle they should give to the financial safety net that was created last year to provide cover to weak countries, following a huge bailout of Greece. European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso, who heads the European Union's executive arm, urged leaders to take a decision by their next summit on February 4 to appease markets nervous about the fate of Portugal and Spain. The EU's rescue mechanism was used to pull Ireland from the abyss last November after a banking disaster, but analysts have repeatedly warned it would be too small to rescue Spain if it ever needs a bailout. Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders called this week for the safety net to be doubled to 1.5 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) and said he hoped to raise the issue at the eurozone ministers' monthly meeting in Brussels. "I think that doubling the resources would be a reasonable objective," Reynders said. But German counterpart Wolfgang Schaueble said a debate on increasing the size of the pot was



GP
Nepal Chandra Sarker, secretary of Information Commission, and Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone, exchange documents of agreement on cooperation to ensure free flow of information in Dhaka yesterday.

GP signs deal on RTIA

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Grameenphone signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Information Commission to help raise citizens' awareness by sending free text messages yesterday. Grameenphone (GP) will now disseminate public awareness messages under the Right to Information Act (RTIA) to the 70 million mobile clientele and help implement the act. Under the MoU, GP will also distribute messages as footnotes in newspaper commercials, and in scrolls along with TV commercials. GP-sponsored scroll bar will also show messages during TV channels' news programmes. Nepal Chandra Sarker, secretary of Information Commission, and Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer of GP, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisation at the commission office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka. Informative text messages, and voice messages for those who cannot read, will be sent to mobile users, said Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir.

"This initiative will help ensure good governance and transparency, as more people will become aware of their right to information, which eventually will make the governmental organisations more accountable," he said. Subsequent steps may include call centres where people can call for information, he added. Grameenphone Chief Executive Officer Oddvar Hesjedal said the effort is part of the company's commitment to corporate social responsibility. "We are happy to assist the commission in ensuring free flow of information consistent with RTIA. We also hope this initiative will help government's plan to ensure good governance in every level," he said. "It would accelerate the quality of government services when people start asking questions, since they are allowed to ask questions now," he added. GP will support the commission in further development of its website, so that it becomes more user-friendly and functional, said Hesjedal. Range Birte Lund, ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh, and Sadaka Halim, information commissioner, also spoke.



NOKIA
Oviggota, a career initiative by Nokia, closed at a function at Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka yesterday. University teachers, students and officials from the corporate sector were present.

Nokia provides intern platform

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Nokia Emerging Asia has wrapped up a project, Oviggota, which helps prepare final-year students of universities for their career. The project is seen as a head-start for the target groups as they learn what is needed to start their corporate journey, Nokia said in a statement. After a successful few months, the project came to a close at Spectra Convention Centre yesterday. Individual workshops were held in five universities such as Brac, EastWest, Stamford and Dhaka University. Managers of top corporate houses such as HSBC, Grameenphone, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Nokia and Asiatic 360 Ltd conducted sessions where they shared their own experiences. They gave insights on important topics such as interview techniques, corporate communications, business development and leadership skills. The workshops were followed by CV writing training moderated by BDJobs.com, the largest jobsite in Bangladesh.

The aim of the campaign is to gather the top minds from both public and private universities and train them through extensive development workshops and motivational speeches for a taste of the corporate world. Thirty teams, each consisting of three members, participated in the case competition; 15 of the "brightest and best-equipped" participants were selected for yesterday's gala event. Five individuals got an opportunity for a three-month internship with different corporations. Neaz Ahmed, a professor for IBA of Dhaka University, said: "This is a great opportunity for the students. Offering an internship through such an intensive process gears the students up for the challenge they have to take in their respective careers." Abu Daud Khan, the country manager of Nokia Emerging Asia, handed over crests and Nokia C3 to all the finalists at the closing event. "We are all about connecting people, connecting lives and dreams into the reality and doing so bring a sustainable change in the lives of consumers," Khan said.

Oil price over \$100 not unrealistic: Iran

AFP, Tehran
Oil prices crossing the 100 dollars a barrel mark is possible but would not merit an emergency meeting of Opec, Iran's Oil Minister Masoud Mirkazemi who currently heads the cartel said on Sunday. "The price of 100 dollars is not unrealistic in this situation," Mirkazemi told reporters. "Even if the oil price crosses 100 dollars a barrel there is no need for an emergency Opec meeting. Some Opec members believe there is no need for an emergency meeting even if oil reaches 110 or 120 dollars a barrel." At the New York Mercantile Exchange, a barrel of light sweet crude for delivery in February closed at 91.54 dollars on Friday. The rise in global oil prices has been attributed to a harsh winter hitting Europe and parts of North America, as well as growth in China and other developing nations. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has said speculation was also fuelling the price rise. At its last meeting at Quito, the 12-nation cartel decided to leave production quotas unchanged, stressing the looming risks to the fragile global eco-



NCC BANK
NCC Bank celebrated 25 years of operations at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka on Friday. M Haider Chowdhury, founder chairman of the bank, Mohammad Nurul Amin, managing director, and directors were present.



ESQUIRE
H Tai, managing director of Sharp-Roxy sales, Singapore, unveils the Sharp aquos quattron 3D TV at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on Saturday. Mofazzal Hossain, chairman of Esquire Group, and Ehsanul Habib, managing director, were also present.

Fitch cuts Greece rating to junk grade

AFP, Paris
Fitch ratings agency on Friday said it had cut Greece's long-term debt rating by one notch to BB+ from BBB-, dropping the eurozone member's debt from investment grade to speculative or "junk" level. "The downgrade acknowledges that while Greece's economic and fiscal performance under the EU-IMF programme has in many respects exceeded expectations, its heavy public debt burden renders fiscal solvency highly vulnerable to adverse shocks," Fitch Ratings said in a statement. Fitch warned further downgrades were possible. Greece said the fresh downgrade by Fitch, despite major economic reforms, was proof that Europe ought to keep a closer eye on the rating agencies. "Today's downgrade ... highlights once more the need for a new framework on rating houses at the European level," the Greek finance ministry said.