

# Govt keen on services in FTA with Malaysia

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh will sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) if Malaysia agrees to include the services sector in the deal, said a senior official of Bangladesh Tariff Commission (BTC) yesterday.

In an exchange of documents with the South-East Asian country in August, Malaysia did not show an interest in including the services sector in the deal, although Bangladesh's main interest in signing the FTA was to include it.

Bangladesh is interested in including 'MODE 4' in the agreement as the country's export basket is limited to apparel only, said the official requesting anonymity. Mode 4 refers to the presence of persons of one World Trade Organisation (WTO) member

in the territory of another for the purpose of providing a service.

It does not concern persons seeking access to the employment market in the host member, nor does it affect measures regarding citizenship, residence or employment on a permanent basis.

Moreover, the balance of bilateral trade is heavily in favour of Malaysia, as Bangladesh imports many consumable items like palm oil, he said.

If the services sector is not included in the agreement, the trade balance will go further in favour of Malaysia, the official said, adding that Bangladesh is approaching the deal in a win-win spirit.

"We have already asked the Malaysian government to include the services sector in

the agreement," he said.

On the basis of a study conducted by BTC, National Board of Revenue (NBR) has been assigned to scrutinise different duty structures to prepare the documents for the government so that the FTA can be signed, the official said.

Earlier, BTC submitted a report on the deal to the commerce ministry in May on the basis of FTA guidelines prepared last year, he said.

Upon receiving suggestions from NBR, the commerce ministry will hold meetings with different stakeholders like chambers and trade body leaders for their opinions.

The recommendations from stakeholders will be compiled and the commerce ministry will send the documents to the Prime Minister's Office for

approval, the official said.

Under two-way trade, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$29.84 million to Malaysia in fiscal 2010-11 (July-March) and imported goods worth \$1.23 billion at the same time, said data from the commerce ministry.

In fiscal 2009-10, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$62 million and imported goods worth \$1.23 billion, data showed.

Currently, Bangladesh gets a duty-waiver facility on the export of 497 products as Malaysia added 300 garment items in the duty-free list on October 15 last year.

A senior commerce ministry official said the country is also conducting a study on signing an FTA with India, but the process is still in its primary stages.

## RMG makers worried over gas crisis in Narayanganj

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Industry owners yesterday expressed their concerns as gas supply to the industrial units in Panchabati-Mukhtarpur industrial belt in Narayanganj district remained suspended from Saturday.

A statement of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) said gas supply to the industrial units of the belt was suspended suddenly from Saturday without prior notice.

As a result, production in at least 400 industrial units including knitting, dyeing and finishing plants has remained suspended.

The statement also said workers' unrest might grow in the area as many workers are employed in the sweater factories on a wage-per-piece basis.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company could not give the industry owners any assurance in this regard.



**Great Wall Motors Service Campaign**  
October 16th - 20th, 2011  
Meet The Press  
GREAT WALL MOTORS  
Ace Autos, exclusive distributor of Great Wall Motors (GWM) in Bangladesh, has recently announced the second Nation Wide Service Campaign, at a programme in Dhaka. Ace Autos will offer free services along with gift items to all GWM customers during the campaign that ends on Thursday starting from yesterday.

## CBC chief due today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AL Gooneratne, managing director of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today for a four-day official visit, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Gooneratne will meet the officials of the regulatory authorities and attend different programmes of the bank in the capital, the statement added.

He will also meet different branch officials of the bank in Dhaka.



## Delcot gets distributorship of Arntz Optibelt Group

STAR BUSINESS DESK

German transmission belt manufacturer Arntz Optibelt Group has recently appointed Delcot Limited as its distributor for Bangladesh.

The Optibelt brand is known for its V belts and timing belts. These belts are used in the textile industry -- especially in the spinning, knitting and weaving units, the company said in a statement recently.

The group said Delcot will visit customers and sell to them directly. Delcot will inspect the products regularly and send the report directly to Germany, Arntz Optibelt added.

"Any belt drive that lasts less than a year should be inspected by our distributor and our own engineer. A lifetime of less than that is not acceptable to us," said Torsten Seifried, managing director of Optibelt Asia Pacific Singapore.

Delcot is a solution provider for industrial machine consumables. It is the distributor for Klueber Lubricants, OKS Lubricants, FAG Bearings, Optibelt, Loctite Adhesives, Pellizzari wax rolls and Rexnord transmission products.



**Grameenphone Chairman Sigve Brekke, centre, speaks about the mobile operator's stance on the government's claim on paying Tk 30 billion in unpaid tax and revenues, at a press meet at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Story on B1.**



**Imran Karim, managing director of ECPV Chittagong Ltd, a joint venture of Confidence and Energypac; Islam Sharif, chief executive officer of Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL); and Selim RF Hussain, CEO of IDLC Finance; have recently inked a deal at a programme in Dhaka. IDLC and IDCOL will jointly raise a term loan facility worth \$45 million to set up a 108 megawatt HFO-based power plant in Chittagong.**

## Tourism fair begins Thursday

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The three-day Bangladesh International Tourism Fair (BITF) 2011 will kick off on October 20 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines, which is the official carrier of the show, will give a discount of 25 percent on tickets for its routes from Dhaka to Hong Kong, Bangkok, New Delhi, Karachi, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Kathmandu and Kolkata.

The discount will be available for 180 days from purchase of the tickets, said a statement.

Bangladesh Foundation for Tourism Development, and Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry will jointly organise the show to be participated by 12 countries in South Asia.

Tourism authorities of different countries, airlines, tour operators, travel agents and hotels and resorts will display their products and services at 250 stalls at the show, which will remain open from 10am to 8pm.

Biman will hold a raffle draw every day for the visitors.

## World Standards Day observed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Speakers yesterday expressed their grave concern over the growing trends in adulteration that seems to include everything from water and food to vegetables.

They made the observation about the contaminated and dangerous elements mixed particularly with foodstuff at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) at its office in the city, to mark the World Standards Day 2011.

"There is a competition of adulteration. It is evident almost in every food items," said Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, a lawmaker from the ruling Awami League. "I am shocked. It gives me pain," he said.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua also admitted the presence of the menace. "We want it (adulteration) to go," said Barua.

Food adulteration seems to cross all its limits nowadays. Unscrupulous businessmen now tamper food in order to boost their profits. The use of toxic chemicals like formalin, pesticides, industrial dyes and urea in different food and foodstuffs has grown significantly throwing the human health into great risk.

But a businessman at the programme claimed they do not adulterate and

demanding postponement of BSTI drive against adulteration.

"No businesses were fined for adulteration, rather it was for infrastructural weaknesses," said Mohammad Jalaluddin, president of Bangladesh Bread and Biscuit Manufacturers Association.

He said they start a business with a trade licence and no one gives them training on how to produce food and its safety measures.

Jasimuddin, vice president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the anti-adulteration drive should include representatives from the business sector.

The industries minister also said infrastructural weaknesses are the faults of the businessmen and they should address it. "We'll give them policy support only," said Barua.

He expressed hope that accreditation by Indian authority would help increase Bangladesh's exports to the neighbouring country.

India's national Accreditation Board for Calibration and Testing Laboratories has allowed accreditation to BSTI's food, microbiology, cement and textile labs for a period of two years.

BSTI Director General AK Fazlul Ahad and Industries Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui also spoke on the occasion.

## Jiban Bima, Banglalink ink deal

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Policyholders of state-owned insurer Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) will now be able to pay their premiums through Banglalink connections as the two companies have recently signed a deal.

The insurance premiums can also be paid through Banglalink cash point marked outlets.

A service named "Banglalink Mobile Cash Insurance-Pay" was launched for the JBC policyholders at a programme at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

"It was beyond imagination to pay policy premium through mobile phone, but it is a reality now," said Telecom Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju.

JBC Chairman Mohammed Sohrab Uddin said field level policyholders will now be able to get the service easily.

JBC Managing Director Parikshit Datta Chowdhury and Banglalink's acting Chief Executive Officer Mohamed Osman also spoke.

## WorldFish signs MoU with Mega Feed

STAR BUSINESS DESK

WorldFish Centre has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Spectra Hexa Feeds Ltd (also known as Mega Feed) as part of the USAID funded expansion of the 'cereal systems initiative for South Asia in Bangladesh (CSISA-BD)'.

Under the MoU, the CSISA-BD project will use the existing distribution networks of Mega Feed for wider dissemination of improved technologies in CSISA working areas.

Mega Feed will also participate in demonstration and adaptive research trials conducted by WorldFish under the CSISA-BD project.

WorldFish in turn will provide technical assistance for developing extension material and staff skill improvement.

Khan Md Aftabuddin, group chairman of Spectra Hexa Feeds, Mohammad Akramuzzaman, chairman, and William (Bill) J Collis, chief of party of CSISA-BD, among others, were present at the signing ceremony at the office of Spectra Hexa Feeds in Gulshan 2 recently.

# IELTS Test Venue (BD040) and Registration Centre

## Registration Going on for Nov. 17th, 19th & 26th



**FutureEd English Language Center**  
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**Test venue & Reg. Centre:** House-01, Road-08, Block-J, Progoti Shoroni, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212.

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**Reg. Centre :** IDP Education Pty. Ltd. (Bangladesh), House-4A, Rd-54/A, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

**Phone :** 8821067, 9895913, 9883545.

**www.futureed.org**

## Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1206

### NOTICE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held on **Wednesday, 16th November 2011, at 11:00 a.m. at the Emmanuella's Banquet Hall, House No. 04, Road No. 134-135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka** to transact the following business :

#### 1. Special Business:

To approve the change in denomination of share value (Face Value) from Tk. 100.00 (Taka one hundred) to Tk. 10.00 (Taka ten) each as well as market lot from **5 (five) shares to 50 (fifty) shares** of the Company through amendment in the relevant clauses of the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Company and adopt the following special resolution:

**"Resolved** that the change in denomination of share value (Face Value) from Tk. 100.00 (Taka one hundred) to Tk. 10.00 (Taka ten) each be and is hereby approved and accordingly clause 5 of Memorandum of Association and the article 4 of Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby amended to read as follows:

#### Clause 5 of the Memorandum of Association

"The Authorized Share Capital of the Company is Taka 500,000,000/- (Taka five hundred million) divided into 50,000,000 ordinary shares of Tk.10 (Taka Ten) each."

#### The article 4 of the Articles of Association

"The Authorized Share Capital of the Company is Taka 500,000,000/- (Taka five hundred million) divided into 50,000,000 ordinary shares of Tk.10 (Taka Ten) each."

#### 2. Ordinary Business:

To approve the change in market lot from 5 (five) shares to 50 (fifty) shares of the Company.

By order of the Board

*Abdullah Ismail*  
**Abdullah Ismail**  
Company Secretary

Dhaka,  
15-10-2011

### NOTES

- 24-10-2011 is the Record Date.** The shareholders whose names will appear in the share register of the Company or in the depository register on that date, will be eligible to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place. The proxy form, stamped with a revenue stamp of Tk.8.00, should be submitted at the Head Office of the Company not later than 48 hours before the meeting, i.e. by the close of business on 14-11-2011.
- Change of address, if any, should be notified to the related Depository Participant/ Registered Office of the Company.

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