

# TSS plans big, but faces cash crunch

**ABDULLAH MAMUN**  
State-own Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) plans to go for large-scale assembling of its Doel laptops this month to meet its growing demand.  
But the telecom gadget manufacturing and assembling company is suffering from an acute fund crisis.  
TSS needs around Tk 50 crore for the large-scale production, said Abu Sayed Khan, acting managing director of the company.  
The company needs to import parts for assembling the laptops, as it got huge orders from different government institutions, he said.  
"We are in talks with banks to get loans," Khan said.  
He said the signing of an agreement between his company and the US software company Microsoft Corporation is under process to use Microsoft's computer operating software for Doel laptops at cheap rates.  
TSS signed its non-disclosure agree-

ment with a wing of Microsoft recently but the final agreement would be signed by the end of this month, said AA Md Moyashir, general manager (plant and commercial) of TSS.  
Moyashir said the company plans to assemble more than 10,000 laptops a month.  
The company has 8,500 laptops in its stock and so far sold 10,000 laptops to government and individual buyers.  
The company predicted that it had to produce at least 30,000 to 40,000 Doel laptops by June with the growing demand of the gadgets.  
The education department is also waiting to procure 20,000 laptops from TSS with approval from the cabinet division, said a TSS official.  
The company aims to assemble one lakh laptops by 2012, said Sunil Kanti Bose, telecom secretary and chairman of TSS.  
The board of TSS will take decisions on how the required fund for such production will be collected, he said.  
Doel laptops first hit the market in October 2011.

# Expedite construction of Dhaka-Chittagong highway: BGMEA

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Garment makers yesterday urged the government to expedite the construction of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway as traffic congestion slowed cargo transfer between the two important cities.  
While the work to expand the important highway into four lanes is in slow progress, the apparel exporters also demanded upgrading it to six lanes to make it time-befitting.  
The requirements demand a six-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway, but the government is elevating it to four lanes from two, said Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.  
Mohiuddin spoke after a meeting with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader at his secretariat office in the capital.  
"The delay in construction affects

cargo movement from Dhaka to the port city," he said.  
"We want the government to complete the construction of this important highway as soon as possible as the exporters need constant communication with the port city," he added.  
He also urged the minister to set up foot over bridges in industrial areas like Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur-Barabaria to prevent frequent road accidents of garment workers.  
"I also urged the minister to upgrade Tongi-Mymensingh highway and Ashulia-Baipail roads to four lanes to reduce traffic congestion in those industrial areas."  
It is needed to evacuate illegal structures from both sides of the roads in Zirabo and Zamgorah areas in Savar to reduce traffic congestion, as the areas have hundreds of garment factories.  
The minister assured the garment makers of improving the communication system through different measures.

# Bangladesh can become a key player in global economy: US ambassador

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong**  
Bangladesh has immense potential to become a key player in the global economy, said US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena yesterday.  
Mozena said Bangladesh and USA have a strong bilateral trade and business relation, and the USA is working together for the development of Bangladesh.  
He spoke in a meeting with the Board of Directors of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and business community of the port city at the chamber's premises.  
Mozena said Bangladesh has a very prospective shipbuilding, information, leather, readymade garment and pharmaceutical sector that can turn the country into a middle income country within this decade.  
He said corruption and political instability are the main enemies of its economic development.  
Inadequate infrastructure, power and gas crisis are the main challenges in this respect that can be faced by ensuring good governance under dynamic leadership, he added.  
The United States is a massive trade partner of Bangladesh where 25 percent of its export was destined in 2010-11 fiscal year amounting to \$4.23 billion, including 90 percent RMG, said Murshed Murad Ibrahim, president of Chittagong Chamber.  
Though some Bangladeshi products get preferential treatment in the US market, he requested the ambassador to take steps for duty free access of all Bangladeshi products to the US market under the GSP programme.  
Ibrahim emphasised making a roadmap based on mutual cooperation in respect of economic relation and its development.  
The chamber's Senior Vice President Mahbubul Alam requested the US envoy to make US visa process easier for the businesspeople involved in trade with the country.  
CCCI Vice President Md Nurun Newaz Salim and former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud



**STANCHART**  
Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Swedish ambassador to Bangladesh, and Jim McCabe, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, hold a dummy visa fees deposit slip at the launch of Visa Fee Collection Centre at the bank's Gulshan branch in Dhaka yesterday. The bank will be exclusively collect visa application fees for the Embassy of Sweden.



**BANK ASIA**  
Md Mehmood Husain, president and managing director of Bank Asia, poses with the participants of the 25th foundation training course of the bank at its training institute at Panthapath in Dhaka recently.

# Exports to EU defy global crisis

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Despite the global economic crisis, Bangladesh's exports to the European market are on the rise and total exports were about 6.6 billion euros in the first nine months of 2011.  
Bangladesh's exports registered 38 percent growth in the nine-month period compared to the same period in 2010, European Union's Head of Delegation in Dhaka William Hanna said yesterday.  
Hanna came up with the observation while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day international workshop at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.  
Not only the duty-free access to the European market, but the qualitative standards of Bangladeshi products helped achieve the growth, he said adding that opportunities are there to further expand Bangladesh's market in Europe.  
The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) jointly arranged the two-day international workshop, 'Conformity Assessment for Asian Developing Economies'.  
Dilip Barua, industries minister, said Bangladesh needs conformity assessment for goods and services both at the time of import and export to ensure benefits to everyone, consumers, manufacturers and suppliers, in the supply and demand chain.  
"We need a group of professionals with highly technical expertise and skills on conformity assessment to mitigate the growing challenge and demand for

export and import," he said.  
Barua hoped that the workshop would be able to depict a concrete roadmap for strengthening and upgrading standardisation infrastructure to achieve regional and international recognition.  
He said the government is ensuring the rights of citizen, by introducing Citizen Charter and one stop service centre at almost all government offices.  
"Telemedicine, e-commerce, e-service, e-learning, e-governance, e-banking, e-trade are now open with access to all citizens. All of these steps have been taken by the government in order to ensure optimum quality of life through upgrading the quality of products and services," Barua said.  
By exchanging knowledge and sharing expertise and ideas in this technical workshop, the participants will certainly be able to enhance their knowledge base and expertise on different issues of conformity assessment, he added.  
He appreciated the leadership of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for extending all-out support and cooperation for the successful arrangement of the workshop.  
Sixty-five participants representing different specialised areas, such as accreditation officials, policymakers and regulators, industrialists, laboratory professionals, academicians and telecom sector specialists from eight Asian countries, are participating in the workshop.

# ArcelorMittal to cut over 1,000 jobs in Poland

**AFP, Warsaw**  
ArcelorMittal, the largest steelmaker in the world, will lay off more than 1,000 workers in Poland by the end of 2012, the company said Wednesday, amid a Europe-wide downsizing drive.  
"ArcelorMittal Poland plans to reduce its workforce across seven plants to 11,300 by December 2012 from its 12,300 employees at the end of 2011," company press officer Sylwia Winiarek told AFP.  
The Polish branch of the company will also let go approximately 300 so-called interim employees, or workers hired from external firms, over the course of the year, Winiarek said.  
Union officials at ArcelorMittal Poland have suggested that overall, nearly 1,500 jobs could be lost at the company this year.  
The cuts in Poland come on the heels of ArcelorMittal reductions across Europe.  
Last month, the global steel giant confirmed it was cutting 630 of the 6,000 jobs at its Czech plant in the western city of Ostrava to boost competitiveness under a voluntary redundancy programme offering employees the equivalent of 11 to 24 months' salary depending on seniority.  
In Spain, where ArcelorMittal employs 11,000 people, protests were sparked last month over the closure of a steel factory in

# EU blocks Deutsche Boerse, NYSE tie-up

**AFP, Brussels**  
The European Commission said Wednesday it had "no alternative" but to veto a transatlantic tie-up of the Frankfurt and New York stock exchanges, a decision slammed in Germany as a "dark day" for Europe.  
The European Union's senior competition regulator Joaquin Almunia confirmed in Brussels the

long-anticipated decision to block the planned merger on the grounds the combined company would control 90 percent of a key sector.  
The trade in certain derivatives products on such exchanges and whose values are dependent on underlying European economic fundamentals, Almunia said, would become skewed because the joint company would dominate the global market there.

"We could only have allowed a merger if the parties had offered sufficient remedies," Almunia said in reference to conditions involving disposals by both set down by the Commission last year for the EU to give its green light.  
"Unfortunately they only offered remedies limited in their scope," he said.  
As a result, "in the end, we had no alternative other than to prohibit the merger."



**SONARGAON HOTEL**  
EJ Mac Ewan, general manager of Sonargaon Hotel, poses with the participants of a two-day seminar on "Everyone is a sales person" at its Grand Ballroom in the capital on Monday.

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