

# Muhith stresses workers' interest

## Textiles, garments machinery fair begins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday urged textile and garment factory owners to properly facilitate the workers as they are the main drivers of production.

The minister also asked the industry leaders to have greater coordination among the related associations so that the sectors prosper.

"Two important issues should be taken care of -- one, providing proper facilities to the workers and second, greater coordination among Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and their related associations."

Muhith was addressing the inauguration of the four-day ninth Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

He said the government identified three Special Economic Zones and is working on four more to be announced soon to provide industrial plots to the domestic entrepreneurs.

At the inauguration, AK Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said many spinning mills cannot go into operation for a lack of gas connections, although those were built years ago.

"The government should convene a special committee soon to resolve the gas crisis in the industrial sector," Azad said.

He said many factories in Japan, Germany and Turkey want to relocate their units to Bangladesh. "But we cannot ensure adequate gas connections to facilitate them."

"Tighter monetary policy, high inflation, higher import of cotton yarn and fabrics from our competing countries and stockpiles of finished products caused serious concerns and strains for our textile mills," said BTMA President

Jahangir Alamin.

Externally, the global economic downturn, debt crisis in Europe, recession in the US, fall in the value of the euro and slumping demand of apparel by large corporate houses in Europe and the US have put the primary textiles sector in a difficult situation, he said.

Organisers said a total of 800 companies from 31 countries are showcasing garment machinery and accessories in 1,020 booths.

Garment machinery manufacturing companies from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK and USA are participating.

BTMA and Hong Kong based event management company Yorkers Trade and Marketing Services Company Ltd organised the fair.

# Vitamin A fortified cooking oil soon

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Consumers are likely to get Vitamin A fortified cooking oil soon as three companies have started adding the nutrient in edible oil to support a government initiative of reducing Vitamin A deficiency in the country.

The companies are: TK Group, S Alam and Mostafa Group. Three more firms -- Bangladesh Edible Oil, Elias Brothers and Nurjahan Group -- are also set to join the foray.

This was told at a programme where a logo, symbolising the fortification with the Vitamin A, was launched at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

Refiners, who joined the government initiative, will use the logo on packaged or bottled oil to help consumers identify the Vita-

min A enriched cooking oil that is expected to reduce morbidity and mortality especially among children and pregnant mothers.

"It's (logo) an indication mark that will ensure your oil is Vitamin A fortified," said Industries Minister Dilip Barua at the launch.

The government took the initiative as 22 percent of pre-school children and 23.7 percent pregnant mothers suffer from Vitamin A deficiency, a major cause of night blindness.

To address the deficiency, the government undertook a \$3 million project to fortify edible palm and soybean oil with Vitamin A.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and Unicef provides technical and financial assistance to the government to implement the scheme.



Mahatabuddin Ahmed, chairman of PRAN RFL Group, opens the RFL Best Buy Outlet of the company at Mouchak in Dhaka recently.

## New DMDs for City Bank



Sheikh Mohammad Maroof Badrudduza Choudhury

STAR BUSINESS DESK

City Bank has recently appointed Badrudduza Choudhury and Sheikh Mohammad Maroof as its deputy managing directors, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Choudhury started his career with IFIC Bank as a probationary officer in 1984. He joined City Bank in 2002 and worked as head of credit.

He is a postgraduate in public administration from Dhaka University.

Maroof joined City Bank in 2007 as head of treasury and market risks, according to the statement.

He started his career as a management trainee with American Express Bank in 1995. He also served Eastern Bank as head of treasury.

## Syngenta's move for farmers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Grameen Krishi Foundation on Tuesday signed a deal with Syngenta Bangladesh under which the latter will provide agronomic knowledge and inputs for cultivation of mungbean to farmers under Grameen's social business initiative.

M Ehsanul Bari, managing director of Grameen Krishi Foundation, and Sarwar Ahmed, managing director of Syngenta Bangladesh, signed the deal, Syngenta said in a statement yesterday.

The main goal of the deal is to create employment opportunities for rural farmers through mungbean production.



Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, and Captain Tasbirul Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman and managing director of United Airways, sign a deal to organise Dhaka Travel Mart 2012, at a programme on Tuesday. The three-day fair will take place at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on April 6.

# Japanese company wants to set up automobile plant in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Kantoku Corporation of Japan wants to set up an automobile assembling plant in Chittagong for manufacturing trucks and lorry, said officials yesterday.

Jun Matsumoto, a representative of the Saitama-based company, disclosed the information during a meeting with leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at its office in the port city.

The Japanese businessman said available and cheap manpower, competitive capability and advantageous geographical location of Chittagong are working as motivating factors behind the move.

Acting President of CCCI Mahbubul Alam requested for relocating Japanese sunset industries to Bangladesh in order to utilise the country's investment-friendly environment, market priority and huge internal demand.

The Japanese company will conduct a feasibility study before taking the final decision on the plant, said officials of the chamber.

Matsumoto said that Japan is highly impressed at the business-friendly environment of Chittagong as well as its strong network for business expansion. The proposed plant will enable them to capture more global market share.

# Stocks bounce back on a buying spree

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks gained 5.27 percent yesterday as investors rushed to purchase shares and mutual fund units to take advantage of low prices.

The benchmark General Index of the Dhaka bourse, DGEN, closed at 4,010.79 points, after adding 201.02 points.

Market analysts said most investors went on a buying spree as market prices hit a three-year low, which is a lucrative market to invest in.

Retail and institutional investors regained their confidence as the Association of Bankers Bangladesh took a decision to offer an interest rate of 12.5 percent on deposits and charge 15.5 percent for industrial term loans and working capital, said analysts.

Shakil Rizvi, president of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), said: "The recent share prices attracted investors to invest in the market."

The ABB initiative also

boosted investors' confidence, said Rizvi.

"It is not expected that all share prices will gain or lose in a day," said Ahmed Rashid, a director of DSE.

He said investors should consider the company's financial situation, instead of the index, before making an investment decision.

Turnover on the premier bourse gained Tk 229 crore from the previous day. A total of 0.92 lakh trades were executed, with 5.88 crore shares and mutual fund changing hands.

Of 259 issues traded on the DSE, 250 advanced and eight declined. One security remained unchanged.

Among the major sectors, banks gained the most by 5.56 percent, followed by the power sector with 5.21 percent.

Pharmaceuticals and telecommunications both advanced by more than 4 percent while non-bank financial institutions gained 3.71 percent.

# BB signs deal for national payment switch

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A contract to create a common platform for the country's commercial banks for electronic payments was signed at the premises of Bangladesh Bank recently.

The deal will implement the National Payment Switch (NPS) under the Central Bank Strengthening Project of the World Bank.

The switch will connect all child switches already in place in the private sector, including the mobile operator switches and the internet banking solutions of the banks enabling banks inter-bank mobile and internet banking transactions respectively.

The commercial banks having an ATM/POS/e-payment gateways/mobile payment switches or being connected to any other shared switch network will be able to send inter-bank payment instructions to the NPS for clearing and settlement purpose.

# Citi launches awards for microentrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Citi Foundation yesterday launched the Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards programme in Bangladesh to recognise leadership, entrepreneurial skills and best practices of individual microentrepreneurs.

Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, a noted economist and chair of the programme's advisory council, announced the launch at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka.

The award, in its seventh year, is aimed at recognising the successes of local microentrepreneurs who have helped improve the economic fortunes of their communities, said Mahmud.

This year the awards will be presented in four categories: Best Microentrepreneur of the Year in Agriculture, Best Women Microentrepreneur of the Year, Best Microentrepreneur of the Year and Best MFI of the Year.

Each winner will be awarded Tk 350,000. The final award ceremony will be held in August or September, said Citi Country Officer Rashed Maqsood.

The Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards is supported by the Citi Foundation and managed by Citibank NA Bangladesh, and Credit Development Forum (CDF) as the local partner.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, said: "We have seen an award-winning microcredit borrower, who used to farm vegetables, has opened a clinic."

CDF Executive Director Md Abdul Awal also spoke.

Leading English daily The Daily Star and private television station Channel 1 are the media partners of the programme. The Citi Foundation is implementing the programme in 30 countries.

## Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) From Companies in Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) are conducting a feasibility study to establish a \$100 million private equity fund in Bangladesh. The study is focused on identifying companies interested in developing and/or scaling business ventures with low income populations as suppliers, employees, distributors or consumers.

**Expression of Interest**  
Innovative companies interested in finding out more about the private equity fund are invited to send an email to [snvadbstudy@betterstories.asia](mailto:snvadbstudy@betterstories.asia) no later than **25 February 2012** to receive the EOI Document.

**Enquiries**  
BetterStories Limited  
E-mail: [snvadbstudy@betterstories.asia](mailto:snvadbstudy@betterstories.asia)  
Phone: 88 02 9103446-8 Fax: 88 02 9130859  
<http://www.betterstories.asia/snv-adh-study>



MM Enamul Haque, chairman and managing director of AMIN Mohammad Group, opens a 15-day real estate fair organised by the company at its corporate office in Dhaka on Wednesday.

### Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.

A company of **LAFARGE** and **CEMENTOS MOLINS**

**JOIN THE WORLD LEADER**

The world leader in building materials Lafarge of France and renowned Spanish cement manufacturer Cementos Molins have jointly set up a state-of-the-art integrated cement plant at Chhatak, Sunamganj. With raw materials sourced from its own Quarry in Meghalaya, India and transported to the cement plant by a 17 km long belt conveyor, this unique dry process plant is manufacturing renowned brand **SUPERCRETE**. We require the following professionals to fill out vacant positions:

**DEPARTMENT: PLANT – ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION**

**In-charge – Instrumentation & Control:** The incumbent will be based at the Plant site at Chhatak and report to the Manager – E&I. S/he will be responsible for completing instrumentation and control resources to meet total plant automation and control system availability and reliability for achieving annual targets. Ensure completion of instrumentation and control systems' maintenance jobs with the highest level of quality, safety and effectiveness.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelors in Electrical and/or Electronics from a recognized University.
- 6 - 8 years experience in maintenance of heavy equipment & modern instrument & control system of large process plant, especially in ABB PLC System.
- In-depth knowledge of maintenance of all process instruments used in heavy industry (however cement industry experience will be preferred), maintenance management methods, predictive inspection tools and computer based maintenance management systems
- Good interpersonal and communication skill
- Knowledge on Safety rules and regulations.

**Engineer-Electrical:** The incumbent will be based at the Plant site at Chhatak and report to the Manager – E&I. S/he will be responsible for Implementation of Preventive Maintenance, shut down maintenance schedules, troubleshooting, condition monitoring & upkeep for electrical equipment of the section assigned & ensure their reliability & availability.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelors in Electrical and/or Electronic Engineering from a recognized University
- Minimum 3-5 years of related experiences in maintenance of heavy equipment of a large process plant
- Basic knowledge of Electrical equipment used in heavy industry.
- Knowledge of Cement Industry will be preferred.
- Knowledge of repair, rewinding and testing of motors, transformers and other electrical equipment.
- Good Interpersonal and communication skill and a Team Player
- Knowledge on Safety rules and regulations

**DEPARTMENT: PLANT – METHOD**

**Inspector-Mechanical:** The incumbent will be based at the Plant site at Chhatak and will report to the Methods Manager. S/he will be responsible for measuring and monitoring equipment conditions, analyses trends, and identifying the needs for maintenance (mechanical, mobile equipment, and civil works), taking into account production constraints.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University
- Minimum 3-5 years of related experiences in a large process plant
- Strong technical knowledge of mechanical equipment
- Technical knowledge of preventive, predictive and systematic maintenance (databases, CMMS, Project Software)
- Knowledge of cement process will be preferred
- Knowledge of Lubrication Analysis, Ultrasonic test, Oil analysis will be an added advantage.
- Good Interpersonal and communication skill and a Team Player
- Knowledge on Safety rules and regulations

**DEPARTMENT: PLANT – MECHANICAL**

**Engineer - Mechanical:** The incumbent will be based at the Plant site at Chhatak and will report to Mechanical Manager. S/he will be responsible for ensuring stable operation of plant by ensuring continuous availability of reliable machinery through execution of maintenance activities and for implementation of preventive and shut maintenance schedule & repair of all mechanical equipment of plant section in line with Lafarge Maintenance Philosophy.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University
- Minimum 3-5 years of related experiences in a large process plant.
- Knowledge of cement process will be preferred
- Knowledge on breakdown maintenance & repair/replacement/rectification jobs
- Good Interpersonal and communication skill and a Team Player
- Knowledge on Safety rules and regulations

**DEPARTMENT: PLANT – CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**Assistant Manager- Government Relations:** The incumbent will be based at the Plant site at Chhatak and will report to the Plant Head. S/he will be responsible for liaising with local authority, regulators and Government officials to obtain various licenses and approvals for meeting regulatory standards. The incumbent will also be responsible for maintaining relationship with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders to ensure smooth business operations, particularly in the area of plant operation, raw material procurement and logistics operations.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum Bachelors degree in any discipline from a recognized University
- Minimum 5-6 years of related experiences in relevant area
- Good knowledge of regulatory issues and reporting.
- Good Interpersonal and communication skill and a Team Player
- Knowledge on Safety rules and regulations

If you meet the requirements, please send your application along with a recent passport size photo to the following address within February 19, 2012. Please mention on the envelope the position you are applying for. You can also email your application at [recruitment@bd.lafarge.com](mailto:recruitment@bd.lafarge.com) (Please mention the post you are applying for in the subject line)

Human Resources Department  
Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.  
Suvasu Imam Square  
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*Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview*