

BKMEA seeks steps to tackle India's ban on cotton exports

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) yesterday urged the government to form a monitoring cell to tackle the untoward situation arising from a sudden ban on cotton exports by India. In a statement, it said the government should make the cell comprising of officials from the commerce ministry, jute and textile ministry, BKMEA, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) to fix the yarn

price at a reasonable rate. The price should be locked for at least 90 days after being fixed, said the trade body. It said the price of cotton has been declining in the international market in the last couple of months, which prompted the Indian government to impose the ban on cotton export to Bangladesh. Bangladesh imports 35 percent of its total consumption from India a year. The move will increase the cost of production of knit apparel as cotton is the main raw material. It also urged the spinners of the country to not raise yarn prices as the cotton imported

from India is used to produce saris, lungis and cotton towel. "So it is not logical to increase the cotton price due to the import embargo," said the statement. The Indian government on Monday imposed the ban mainly to build up its domestic stock amid fears of a low yield this year due to unfavourable weather. India is the second largest cotton producer worldwide. The monthly consumption in Bangladesh is 60,000 tonnes, industry insiders said. According to media reports, the Indian decision has also affected prices in international markets.

India to review cotton export ban

AFP, New Delhi
India announced a review of its recent ban on cotton exports Wednesday after outrage among farmers and complaints from the agriculture minister who said he knew nothing about the decision. A panel of ministers will meet on Friday "to urgently review" the ban, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's office said following a meeting in New Delhi with regional leaders. India, the world's second-largest producer of cotton, unexpectedly banned all exports of cotton on Monday, saying it wanted to protect supplies for domestic mills. The new regulation, which took immediate effect, sent cotton prices soaring on New York's commodity markets and was expected to send buyers in China flocking to the US market.

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar lobbied the prime minister for the ban to be overturned after saying he was not consulted about the move, which was announced by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). "Farmers are complaining of falling prices," Pawar told reporters. The move also drew criticism from the chief minister of the cotton-producing western state of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, a member of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. India has already exported 8.5 million bales in the fiscal year ending March 31, more than the government's target of 8.4 million bales. The ban comes just six months after India completely freed cotton export controls. India had banned cotton exports in April 2010 and lifted the ban in the same year.



ROBI
Yohishige Hasegawa, chief strategy officer of Robi, and Shabbir Hussain, executive director of Ezy Communications, sign a deal at the corporate office of Robi in Dhaka yesterday. Ezy in partnership with Flytxt BV will provide new services to Robi.

Citi's new head for global transaction services

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Citibank NA, Bangladesh has recently appointed Md Moinul Huq as its head for global transaction services (GTS), the bank said in a statement yesterday. Huq will be responsible for managing the banks' transaction services business for corporate and institutional clients. He joined the GTS team in Bangladesh in 2006 as trade product manager, according to the statement. Huq has over 14 years of banking experience with local commercial banks and Citi in Bangladesh. A postgraduate in finance from Dhaka University, he has an MBA degree from the Institute of Business Administration under the university.



ASOSAI re-elects Bangladesh's comptroller as member

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Ahmed Aul Hakeem, comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh, was re-elected as a member of the governing board of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for 2012-2015. The election took place at the 12th assembly of ASOSAI at Jaipur in India on March 3, according to a statement of the Office of the Comptroller and Audi-



UTTARA BANK
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands a cheque for Tk 4.8 lakh as financial assistance from Uttara Bank Ltd to the family of a martyred army officer killed in the BDR carnage at Pilkhona, at a programme at Gono Bhaban in the capital recently. The bank's Vice Chairman Iftekharul Islam was also present.



STANCHART
V Anantharaman, managing director and co-head of wholesale banking for South Asia of Standard Chartered Bank; Nirukt Sapru, managing director and head of origination and client coverage for growth markets, pose after conducting a daylong strategy session for wholesale bank clients recently.

Separate pay scales for BB, state banks by June: Muhith

FROM PAGE B1
A committee led by the cabinet secretary scrutinised the two proposals made by the central bank and the state banks and it has been with the finance ministry for all this time. At yesterday's meeting with the chairmen and the managing directors of the state banks, Muhith had a long discussion on the latest performance and problems of the banks. The governor of BB was also present. The state banks presented the issue of huge outstanding loans of government entities, including Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). According to finance ministry statistics, the government institutions outstanding loans to the state banks stood at Tk 30,939 crore up to January 2012. Of the amount, BPC alone owes more than Tk 17,000 crore. Muhith said a number of decisions were taken in the meeting about repayment of the loans. The government institutions will have to provide the banks with clear repayment schedules when opening letters of credit. The minister said the institutions would continue to deposit foreign currency to the banks' accounts on schedule. According to an existing policy, the government institutions will deposit 75 percent of their funds to state commercial banks but many institutions have not been going by the rule, he said. "The policy will be strictly reinforced." Muhith said the government institutions have also been increasing the rate of interest on deposits tactfully. It will be stopped, he said.

Low earnings pull down stocks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Stocks lost 2.38 percent yesterday following poor earnings by listed companies. The benchmark General Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange plunged 2.38 percent or 104.48 points to 4284.54 points. Market analyst said most of the investors are waiting to see how the government's special scheme for small investors will be implemented. The DSE and the SEC's move to monitor the market failed to pull up the market, analysts said. The market declined yesterday following the poor earnings by non-bank financial institutions, said Lanka Bangla Securities in its daily market analysis. "Poor declarations reduced the upward potential of the market," the stockbroker said. The finance ministry on Monday issued a circular, suggesting a 50 percent waiver on the margin loan interest for small investors, in an effort to bring back normalcy in the market. Turnover on the Dhaka bourse stood at Tk 179 crore, the highest in last one month. A total of 0.66 lakh trades were executed where 4.50 crore shares and mutual fund units changed hands. All major sectors declined, non-bank financial institution lost 3.98 percent as the biggest loser of the day. Beximco topped the turnover leader with 8.41 lakh shares worth Tk 7.9 crore changed hands. MBL First Mutual Fund, the biggest gainer of the day, posted an 8.64 percent gain. Pubali Bank fell 27.14 percent to become the worst loser. The Selective Categories Index of Chittagong Stock Exchange fell 2.67 percent or 217.17 points, to 7,897.94.

tax remained lower at import and local levels, although higher VAT at import level was supposed to have been collected due to the devaluation of the taka and growth of import payments," Khan said. "The NBR must investigate whether VAT is being evaded through under-invoicing." To discourage tax evasion, the NBR has asked territorial zones to form monitoring cells to prevent tax evasion. Each zone was asked to detect at least one tax-evision case every month and report to the headquarters.

FROM PAGE B1
The NBR moved to launch an electronic tax payment system and strengthened monitoring, vigilance and audit to accelerate collections. The alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system launched at the Chittagong Customs House last week promises to quickly settle duty disputes. The ADR meant for income tax will be activated this month, Ahmed said. A move is underway to hike duties on a number of luxuries listed by the commerce ministry, the NBR boss said. "Collections of value-added

SEC fines individuals for insider trading

The commission also issued warning letter to five stockbrokers and six individuals for violating some securities rules, the SEC said in a statement. The SEC yesterday approved the rights offer of Trust Bank for 5.32 crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 each at an issue price of Tk 20 with a premium of Tk 10. The bank will raise Tk 106.44 crore from rights shares. It offered one rights share for an existing five. The commission also approved the Securities and Exchange Commission (Research Analysis) Rules, 2012 and Investment Advisory Service Rules. The regulator will publish the rules on its website for public opinion.

Apple expected to unveil next-generation iPad

AFP, San Francisco
Apple was expected to unveil the latest version of the iPad on Wednesday as it sought to tighten its grip on the booming tablet computer market. Apple has offered few hints about what it will show on stage at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco but "all signs point to a new version of iPad," said Gartner analyst Michael Gartenberg. Speculation is that the "iPad 3" will feature a higher resolution display, a faster processor, 4G LTE connectivity and perhaps an improved camera. Rumours have also been circulating that the California company might make its voice-controlled "virtual assistant" Siri available on the iPad. Siri has been a hit on the iPhone 4S. Apple has dominated the tablet market since launching the iPad in April 2010 and few expect that to change anytime soon. IMS Research said Wednesday that Apple is expected to increase its tablet market share to 70 percent in 2012 from 62 percent in 2011 and it will ship 70 million iPads this year, up 71 percent over



HOTEL WELL PARK
MA Salam, administrator of the District Council of Chittagong; Abdus Salam, chairman of Well Group, cut a cake to mark the first anniversary of Well Park Residence, a boutique hotel of the group, in Cox's Bazar yesterday.



EASTLAND INSURANCE CO LTD
Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Eastland Insurance Co Ltd, attends the regional managers conference of the company at Ocean Paradise Hotel in Cox's Bazar on Friday. M Azmal Hoque, managing director, was also present.

GPH ispat Ltd.
COMMITTED TO STRENGTH

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DISTRIBUTION OF REFUND WARRANTS & ALLOTMENT LETTERS

DISTRIBUTION TIME 9.00 A.M TO 4.00 P.M.
This is to inform that Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants of valued IPO Applicants of GPH ISPAT LIMITED are ready for distribution. The valued Investors may collect the same by submitting original Company/Bank acknowledgement slip from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. as per following schedule:-

Date	AGB Colony Community Centre, Dhaka (Opposite Motijheel Ideal School)
14.03.12 (Wednesday) to 15.03.12 (Thursday)	Authorised All Bank all branch, Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB), All Mutual Fund & Portfolio A/C

N.B. No Refund warrants will be issued in favour of the applicants (except NRB) maintaining account with AB Bank Ltd., Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd., Bank Al-Falah Ltd., BRAC Bank Ltd., Citibank N.A., Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, Dhaka Bank Ltd., Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd., Eastern Bank Ltd., Exim Bank Ltd., First Security Islami Bank Ltd., Habib Bank Ltd., HSBC Bank, ICB Islamic Bank Ltd., IFIC Bank Ltd., Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd., Jamuna Bank Ltd., Mercantile Bank Ltd., Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., National Bank Ltd., National Bank of Pakistan, NCC Bank Ltd., One Bank Ltd., Premier Bank Ltd., Prime Bank Ltd., Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd., Social Islami Bank Ltd., Southeast Bank Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank, State Bank of India, The City Bank Ltd., Trust Bank Ltd. and Woori Bank. The refund money shall be credited to the applicant's account by their respective bank.

If the Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants are not collected by hand from the distribution centre within scheduled time, the Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants will be sent by courier services at the respective mailing addresses at applicant's own risk and responsibility.