

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
▲ 0.15%	▲ 0.38%	\$1,629.40	\$101.84	Closed	▼ 0.81%	Closed	▲ 0.19%	81.25	105.14	127.34	0.97	
5,106.72	9,515.78	(per ounce)	(per barrel)		9,688.45		2,306.545	BUY TK				
								SELL TK	82.25	109.10	131.33	1.04

**NCC BANK'S ATM**  
 BOOTH NOW AT BARALEKHA MOULBAZAR

**NCC BANK**  
 NCC Bank Ltd.  
 Where Credit and Commerce Integrates  
 www.nccbank.com.bd

# star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 9, 2012, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net



M Nasir Uddin, managing director of Pacific Jeans Group, speaks at a roundtable at the Chittagong office of BGMEA yesterday. The Daily Star and Chittagong Research Initiative organised the event with support from BGMEA and AK Khan Foundation.

## Ctg businesses count costs of Dhaka-centric pull

### Analysts say the port city deserves more attention

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Chittagong entrepreneurs find business climate in the port city unfriendly for investment as they have to depend on Dhaka for taking decisions that costs them time, money and ultimately competitiveness.

From registering a company to getting bank loans, Chittagong has to wait for Dhaka's green light that sometimes wrecks havoc on the businesses.

The views came at a roundtable on "business climate: challenges for growth" at the Chittagong office of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday.

The Daily Star and Chittagong Research Initiative organised the event with support from BGMEA and AK Khan Foundation as part of the leading English newspaper's 12-day Odommo Chattagram festival.

Poor governance and infrastructure, including a lack of gas and electricity connections and unavailability of land, further complicate the situation and hinder the prospect of Chittagong to become a regional economic hub, analysts said.

"Chittagong is a haven for investment. But we, the entrepreneurs, have to suffer. We have to go to Dhaka

frequently to complete formalities even for simple matters," said Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, BGMEA first vice president.

"It seems that Chittagong has been treated as the country's commercial capital for political gains. Actually the city gets little attention."

There is no office of the commerce ministry in Chittagong while public offices and branches of banks do not have the authority to take decisions, he said.

The head office of the shipping ministry is also in Dhaka although the port city is a maritime hub, he added.

The BGMEA leader said many entrepreneurs in Chittagong sit idle in the absence of industrial plots and electricity and gas connections. Investors become victims of bureaucratic tangles and poor governance, he said.

Chowdhury said the city has many quality entrepreneurs, but no industrial cluster in the suburbs of Chittagong has yet been developed.

Such cluster could be developed under public private partnership (PPP) to ease pressure on the city and save workers from paying extra house rents for staying in the city, Chowdhury added.



READ MORE ON B3

## Explain shareholding notice: HC directs regulators

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The High Court yesterday asked regulators to explain why a directive for directors to hold at least 2 percent stakes in companies should not be declared illegal.

The HC's rule came after a writ petition filed by Sheikh Abdul Momen, husband of the late Masuda Begum, a sponsor of National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank Ltd.

The Securities and Exchange Commission made it compulsory for sponsors, directors and promoters of listed companies to hold individually at least 2 percent stakes in their own companies.

The court directed the finance secretary, commerce secretary, Bangladesh Bank governor, managing director of NCC Bank, registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, and Dhaka and Chittagong bourses to explain within four weeks as to why the directive will not be declared illegal.

A bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued the rule after hearing the petition.

The regulatory directive on shareholding, issued by the SEC on November 22 last year, will, however, remain effective, as no stay order came from the court.

According to the SEC, those who will fail to hold minimum 2 percent stakes in their own firms by May 22 will have leave their sponsorship or directorship from the company.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Riaz Uddin said Abdul Momen's wife was a sponsor of NCC Bank and after her death on November 2 last year Momen intended to become the sponsor of the bank.

Meantime, as the SEC on November 22 last year issued the directive on sponsor shareholding, NCC Bank asked Momen to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the regulator. But the SEC refused to give the certificate.

Riaz Uddin said the SEC cannot impose any condition on a company's sponsorship or directorship. Sponsorship or directorship of a bank is a matter of Companies Act or Banking Companies Act or the central bank.

"We challenge the SEC order regarding 2 percent holdings," he said.

Rakibur Rahman, president of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, said the bourse officials would sit with the attorney general on the issue today.

## Fridge importers want duty cut

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Refrigerator importers yesterday urged the government to reduce duty on import so that they can compete with the local manufacturers.

The government should also withdraw the recently imposed 20 percent regulatory duty on import of refrigerators, said Chairman of Bangladesh Electronics Merchants Association Amir Hossain Khan at a press briefing at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka.

He said the total duty on imported refrigerators is 136 percent, including 20 percent regulatory duty, whereas the duty for the locally made refrigerators is only 14 percent.

Recently, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) set 20 percent regulatory duty on import of luxury items and classifying refrigerators as a luxury, although the home appliance is rather a daily necessity, Khan added.

The government should not impose any illogical tariff on imported refrigerators in the name of luxury items, Khan said.

"As a result, we have to fight a 122 percent duty gap with the local products, for which the importers are facing an uneven competition," he said.

Moreover, the government does not realise any value-added tax from the local manufacturers, he said.

"We must not have such a big difference between importers and local manufacturers," he said.

Khan also criticised the government for giving undue favour to a local refrigerator maker.

READ MORE ON B3

**জনসচেতনতামূলক বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অনুমোদনবিহীন প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে আর্থিক লেনদেন না করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের আহ্বান

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দেশের বিভিন্ন জেলায় বিভিন্ন নামে কতিপয় প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অনুমোদন না নিয়ে ব্যাংক-ব্যবসার অনুরূপ ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করছে। এ ধরনের প্রতিষ্ঠান অস্বাভাবিক উচ্চ হারে সুদ ও আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফার লোভ দেখিয়ে জনসাধারণ থেকে অর্থ সংগ্রহ করছে। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনবিহীন এসব প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে অস্বাভাবিক উচ্চ হারে মুনাফার লোভে বিনিয়োগ করলে প্রতারণিত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা থাকায় এ ধরনের প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে আর্থিক লেনদেন না করার জন্য জনসাধারণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**

বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা পরিদর্শন ও ডিজিটেল বিভাগ  
 ফোন: ৯১২৫৮৪৮, ওয়েব: www.bb.org.bd

জিডি-১৫২০

## BPC gets \$855m from Islamic Trade Finance for fuel imports

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bangladesh signed an \$855 million agreement with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) yesterday to finance imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

A deal was signed among ITFC (a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group), the Energy and Mineral Resources Division and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka.

Bangladesh urged ITFC to disburse the money during April-May, a period of irrigation, when the nation burns fuel worth \$500 million, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, energy secretary, told reporters.

ITFC will provide a total of \$2 billion loans to Bangladesh in 2012, said Abubakar Siddique, chairman of BPC.

The agreement brought together 28 financial institutions in the largest syndication by ITFC for a single client, the lender said in a statement.

Bangladesh needs \$6 billion a year to import crude and refined petroleum products while ITFC is providing a third of its requirement, he said.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the prime minister's energy adviser, said a frequent fuel price hike has become a burden on the countries such as Bangladesh.

**Standard Chartered**  
 Here for good

**8 Minute Service Pledge**

60 minutes to spare  
 8 minutes at bank  
 52 minutes to bond with your loved ones

**It's good to have time on your side**

Our 8 Minute Service Pledge means you spend less time at our branches and more where you'd rather be. And if we don't serve you in 8 minutes for cash transactions, we will donate BDT 50 to charity. Go ahead and spend time on the things that really matter.

Call 16233 or 8332272

**For any paint related query**  
**09666-775533**  
 Berger Care Line  
 Call now

Sat-Thu | 08:30 AM-06:30 PM

**BERGER**  
 Trusted Worldwide

**CALL THAT'S**