

NCC BANK'S **89<sup>th</sup>** Branch  
**Rayer Bazar**  
Mymensingh  
From September 25, 2012  
**Rayer Bazar Branch:**  
Rayer Bazar, Ishwarganj  
Mymensingh

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

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2012, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net

## Bangladesh again says no to TICFA

### The country disagrees with US over labour issues

REFAYAT ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh again declined to sign a TICFA as the country cannot immediately set much higher labour standards pressed by the US as a precondition for the trade and investment cooperation deal.

The US wants immediate elimination of child and forced labour from all sectors and permission for trade union at factories, but Bangladesh wants to implement these conditions in phases.

The latest proposal for signing the Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (TICFA) was presented at the launch of US-Bangladesh partnership dialogue in Washington during September 19-20.

"The US again proposed signing the TICFA deal at the partnership dialogue, but we responded by saying that Bangladesh's stance [over the matter] remained the same," said a senior official of the commerce ministry, asking not to be named.

The US government wants Bangladesh to set much higher labour standards following the rules of the US Department of Labour, said another official of the commerce ministry, who did not want to be named.

"The US wants more compliance at the factory level, meaning elimination of child and forced labour from all sectors and permission for trade unions at factories," the official said.

*The US wants more compliance at the factory level -- immediate elimination of child and forced labour from all sectors and permission for trade unions. But Bangladesh wants gradual elimination of child labour and gradual improvement of trade union*

Bangladesh, on the other hand, wants gradual elimination of child labour and gradual improvement of trade unionism at the factory level, the official said.

The garment sector, however, has been declared child labour-free by

the US Department of Labour.

Bangladesh is now following the labour standards of both International Labour Organisation and Bangladesh labour laws, and is currently in the process of implementing ILO's 'better work programme' at the factory level.

The TICFA is a proposed platform for Bangladesh and the US to discuss bilateral trade issues, including the trade barriers and opportunities in the two countries.

Four core factors -- security, protection of investment, intellectual property rights and standard of labour -- have been the widely discussed issues in the negotiations.

Bangladesh, however, has agreed on some major issues of the deal, said the ministry official.

Ahead of US Secretary General Hillary Clinton's visit to Bangladesh in May, the Bangladesh government finalised a draft of the TICFA.

Although many issues were discussed, the draft was not signed during the visit.

The TICFA is now on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's table for her final approval.

"We also raised the issue of duty-free access of Bangladeshi garment items to the US market during the dialogue," the official said.

READ MORE ON B3

## Tax offices to remain open Saturday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will keep tax offices open on Saturday to give payers one more day to submit returns.

The NBR also urged Bangladesh Bank to keep the major branches of all banks open in divisional cities and district towns.

The move comes as the deadline for tax return submission ends on September 30 while many taxpayers are yet to submit returns facing difficulties in finding their respective tax circles.

Taxpayers faced troubles after the NBR expanded its tax circles to 649 from 303 by increasing its zones to drive more people into the tax net.

"We are sympathetic to the problems of taxpayers. That's why, we have asked offices to remain open on Saturday," said MA Quader Sarker, member in charge of NBR's tax administration and monitoring.

The tax offices will remain open from 9am to 5pm on Saturday. The offices will also stay open until the evening of September 30.

## SEC gives nod to draft demutualisation law

### Bourses to turn into public companies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday approved a draft of the Demutualisation Act, which will separate the bourses' management from ownership to ensure transparency and accountability in the market.

The stockmarket regulator prepared the draft as part of assisting the government to enact a law in parliament on the demutualisation of the country's twin bourses.

The SEC will now forward the draft of the Demutualisation Act to the ministry concerned for the next course of action, the regulator said in a statement after a meeting.

After the demutualisation of the stock exchanges, majority of the board directors will be selected from independent directors.

The bourses will also be able to raise funds from the market through initial public offering. The stock exchanges can also sell shares to strategic investors.

The bourses will have to submit their demutualisation scheme within 90 days from the enactment of the act and the SEC will give consent to the demutualisation process within the next 60 days.

Demutualisation transforms a stock exchange from an entity owned by stockbrokers into a public company owned by shareholders.

The process is conducive to sound corporate governance and operational

efficiency.

Bangladesh's stock exchanges are now non-profit co-operative organisations, owned by exchange members who are predominantly stock-brokers.

After the stockmarket debacle in January last year, market experts were advocating demutualisation of the stock exchanges for greater transparency and accountability.

Also a probe committee, led by Khandker Ibrahim Khaled, in its report on the stockmarket debacle had recommended demutualisation of the bourses.

Conflict of interest occurs if businessmen take the role of regulators, which results in shirking of regulatory duties, the probe report had said.

"It is necessary to demutualise the stock exchanges. Market players and regulators should be separated," it had said.

The Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges submitted their plan on demutualisation of their bourses to the finance ministry and the SEC in the first week of July this year.

Following an instruction from the finance ministry, the SEC later formed a three-member panel to look into demutualisation and prepare a draft on the demutualisation act.

The committee, headed by SEC Executive Director Farhad Ahmed submitted the draft on demutualisation act to the commission recently.

## Revenue receipts up 10pc

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tax collection grew 10 percent in the first two months of the current fiscal year, buoyed mainly by income tax receipts, according to the data released by the National Board of Revenue yesterday.

The tax administrator logged Tk 12,728 crore in July-August, up from Tk 11,558 crore in the same period a year ago.

Income tax collection rose 17 percent to Tk 2,846 crore in the two months, while duty from imports and exports slipped.

"It appears that people's motivation to pay tax has increased, as we run awareness campaigns and organised fairs," a senior official of the NBR said.

At domestic level, collection from value-added tax improved. But supplementary duty at local level dipped 19 percent to Tk 1,361 crore in July-August from Tk 1,693 crore a year ago.

Collection rose 4 percent to Tk 6,305 crore in August from Tk 6,027 crore in the same month last fiscal year.

## Minister calls for a fight against dishonest realtors

### Three-day construction show begins in Dhaka



Middle, Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing, opens a fair for construction materials -- 15th Con-Expo Bangladesh 2012 Int'l Expo -- at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. CEMS Bangladesh organised the show. Aftab ul Islam, president of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, was also present.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan yesterday called upon the realtors to join the government's fight against the unscrupulous players in the sector.

"The dishonest realtors are cheating people through lucrative advertisements. They are violating laws in the name of business," said Khan.

He said the government will not compromise with the dishonest and opportunist businesses, who are tarnishing the image of the honest realtors.

He spoke at the inaugural session of a three-day international exhibition --

15th Con-Expo Bangladesh -- of building materials, and other construction-related products and services.

"We are trying to bring back discipline in the sector," said Kahn.

Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS), an event management company, organised the show at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

"The exhibition will reveal to the country the rapid developments in the industry and newer technologies in the construction sector," said Meherun N Islam, managing director of CEMS Global in the USA and Asia.

READ MORE ON B3

## Global Heavy gets green light for IPO

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday approved the IPO prospectus of Global Heavy Chemicals Ltd, which will raise Tk 24 crore from public.

The approval to the initial public offering (IPO) of the sister concern of Opsonin Group came at a meeting presided over by SEC Chairman M Khairul Hossain.

Global Heavy will float 1.2 crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 at an offer price of Tk 20 each, including Tk 10 as premium, the SEC said in a statement.

As per the latest financial report,

earnings per share of the company are Tk 3.71. BMSL Investment Ltd and AFC Capital Ltd are the issue managers of the IPO.

At yesterday's meeting, the SEC also gave a go-ahead to Fiber @ Homes Ltd, Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (Idcol) and National Feed Mill Ltd, the non-listed firms, to increase their paid-up capital.

Fiber @ Homes will raise its paid-up capital to Tk 64.50 crore from existing Tk 44 crore through issuing 2.05 lakh ordinary shares of Tk 10 each.

Idcol will issue 33 lakh ordinary shares of Tk 100 each to raise its paid-up capital to Tk 120 crore from Tk 87

crore now.

National Feed will raise its paid-up capital by Tk 15 crore through giving stock dividends to existing shareholders and issuing new shares to others.

The company will give 20 percent stock dividends, or 50 lakh shares of Tk 10 each, to the existing shareholders, while it will issue one crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 each to others than existing shareholders.

The SEC also warned Swadesh Investment Management Ltd, an issue manager and underwriter, for making delays to subscribe the undersubscribed portion of the rights issue of Saiham Textile Mills.

**এমটিবি কোর্পোরেশন**  
মাসিক সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প

মাসিক কিস্তি	বছর	মেয়াদপূর্ণ প্রদেয়
৬২,০৬০.০০	৮	১০,০০০,০০০.০০
৪০,৯৭৫.০০	১০	১০,০০০,০০০.০০
৩৯,৯৬০.০০	১২	১০,০০০,০০০.০০
৩৯,৯৭০.০০	১৬	১০,০০০,০০০.০০
৩৯,৯৭৫.০০	১৮	১০,০০০,০০০.০০
৩৯,৯৬০.০০	২০	১০,০০০,০০০.০০

জমাকৃত টাকার ৯০% পর্যন্ত ছাড় সুবিধা রয়েছে।

নিউয়াম্প ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
**Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.**

16219 or +88 096040 16219

www.mutualtrustbank.com

## Time not ripe for Twitter IPO: CEO

AFP, New York

Twitter is not readying a public offering nor is it seeking to be sold to another group, chief executive Dick Costolo said Wednesday.

An initial public offering (IPO) "is not something we're focused on right now," Costolo said in an interview with the financial network CNBC.

"There will come a time when we need to start talking about what's the best way to finance the future growth of the company and then we'll have that conversation."

The leading financial service provider of the country EBL, with high quality banking products and services, is now in

## Brahmanbaria

**62<sup>nd</sup> Branch**

Another milestone in EBL history

We are even closer to you  
The door of our 62<sup>nd</sup> branch opens to business today at  
Abil Mia Plaza, 106, T.A. Road  
Brahmanbaria

Eastern Bank Ltd.  
Simple Math™