

# Fresh move for GSP continuation

Govt delegation to leave for Washington next week

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government is sending a delegation to Washington next week in its last-ditch effort to convince the US to continue a trade benefit -- generalised system of preferences -- for Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Islam will lead the team to have talks with all the stakeholders, including the US Trade Representative, about the progress Bangladesh has made so far to improve workplace safety and ensure labour rights.

The delegation comprising representatives from commerce and labour ministries will leave for Washington DC on May 14, Islam

said after a meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The Bangladesh delegation will hold talks with some US officials on May 14-15, he said.

"Those will be informal talks as there is no scope for formal meetings now," the foreign secretary said.

"We discussed with the BGMEA leaders how the foreign ministry can contribute to resolving the recent crisis," he added.

The foreign secretary also asked the garment exporters to send a delegation to Washington.

About the Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (TICFA)

with the US, the official said the process is going on.

"I hope it will be signed soon."

BGMEA President Atiqul Islam said the TICFA issue was discussed at the meeting.

"The government should do whatever is good for the country. If everything is lost then there is no point of signing the deal," he said.

The hearing of GSP review for Bangladesh was held on March 28 and later on the review committee put forward 19 more questions for further clarification.

Officials expect the outcome of the petition, filed by a US-based labour organisation, by the end of May or early June.

## Cement-maker Lafarge doubles loss

AFP, Paris

French cement-maker Lafarge said on Tuesday that its net loss doubled in the first quarter because of bad weather and production mishaps, but maintained its outlook for 2013.

In the January to March period, Lafarge said losses rose to 117 million euros (\$153 million) from 60 million euros in the same period of last year.

Sales in the quarter fell by 6.0 percent to 3.1 billion euros, which the company attributed to "strongly adverse" weather conditions and fewer trading days in key markets.

The company also pointed to non-recurring production incidents in Algeria and Egypt that were now resolved, it said.

In afternoon trading in a Paris market rising slightly, shares in Lafarge jumped 4.38 percent to 51.02 euros.

Investors were comforted by the company's continued commitment to an ambitious cost and debt-reduction programme.

Hit by an uneven world economy, operating profit plunged 26 percent to 380 million euros, though Lafarge said the year-end target of 650 million euros was still within range.

The company said it still expected growth in world demand for cement of between 1.0 and 4.0 percent, essentially outside Europe.

Lafarge said it planned to boost output in North America including through overhauls of major cement plants.



Md Nazrul Islam, chairman of Fareast Islami Life Insurance, attends the company's ninth extraordinary general meeting at its head office in Dhaka on Sunday. The company decided to double its authorised capital to Tk 100 crore. Ekramul Ameen, managing director, was also present.

## Trade resumes through Benapole land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Export-import activities through Benapole land port began yesterday as six associations of port users called off an indefinite strike enforced on Sunday.

Leaders of the associations said they called off the strike at noon following a meeting with a lawmaker and deputy commissioner of Jessore at the office of the Benapole clearing and forwarding agents' association.

Jessore Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Benapole C&F Agent Association, Transport Owners' Association, Benapole Land Port Importers and Exporters Association, C&F Agent Employees' Union and Jhikargacha-Navaran-Benapole Truck Owners' Association called the strike demanding an end to 'extortion' in the name of taking tips by workers, who load and unload goods.

The strike was withdrawn as lawmaker Sheikh Afif Uddin and Deputy Commissioner of Jessore Mustafizur Rahman assured them of meeting their demand, said Shamsur Rahman, president of Benapole C&F Agent Association.



Md Mehmoond Husain, managing director of Bank Asia, speaks at the inaugural session of a day-long seminar on business, management and marketing, at the bank's training institute at Panthapath in Dhaka on Saturday. Badruddin Ahmed, training consultant, was also present.



Arshad Huq, chief operating officer of Transcom Electronics Ltd, and Nahid Sarowar, managing director of Cityscape, exchange documents of a deal to install an air conditioning system on the Cityscape Tower, at a programme in Dhaka recently.

## Gold-hungry China braces for surge in imports

REUTERS, Singapore/Beijing

Chinese gold imports are likely to swell further after rising strongly for a second straight month in March, as investors seek safety from economic uncertainty and after prices plunged to a two-year low last month.

"Physical demand picked up significantly over the last couple of weeks. Consumers and industrial users tend to see price drops as buying opportunities," Zhang Bingnan, secretary-general of the China Gold Association, told Reuters.

"Investment demand should continue to stay strong through the rest of the year because of limited investment alternatives," said Zhang, adding that gold sales and processing volumes both spiked in April.

"April imports will be stronger than March," said Ronald Leung, chief dealer at Lee Cheong Gold Dealers in Hong Kong. "The world was buying gold and China was no different at all."

The drop in gold prices has prompted a gold rush in China, with Chinese shoppers flocking to retailers to buy jewellery and gold bars. A spokesman for Hong Kong jewellery chain Chow Tai Fook, the world's largest jewellery retailer by market value, told Reuters that traffic at its China stores jumped by 50 percent during the May Day holidays.

The surge in Chinese travellers during the three-day May Day holiday also drove gold sales in Hong Kong to rise by an estimated 50 percent, with total gold sales from April 29-May 2 reaching some 40 tonnes, local media quoted Haywood Cheung, president of the Hong Kong Gold and Silver Exchange, as saying.

The jump in Chinese physical demand also prompted some banks to ship in more supplies from London and Swiss vaults, traders said.

## Govt panel begins garment factory inspection

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The panel was formed last week in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza tragedy that killed upwards of 600 and injured thousands, to inspect garment factories for building flaws and recommend steps to correct them.

The committee would submit a report to the prime minister within next three months.

## BGMEA starts disbursing salary to Rana Plaza victims

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Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, a platform of garment workers, said when the BGMEA arrived on site, workers and middlemen started chanting slogans demanding four months' pay instead of three. "Seeing this, they [BGMEA] went back."

The BGMEA will hold a meeting with the workers' representatives today to find the best way to reach out to the real victims to hand over their compensation, Islam said.

## Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank

Head Office, Rajshahi

Common Service Department

### Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the experienced and bona fide Security Printing Firms for printing & supply of Normal Cheques on CBS-1 paper under the following terms & conditions stated in the tender schedule:

1.	Name & address of the procuring entity	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Head Office, 272, Bonolata, Commercial Area, Airport Road, Rajshahi.
2.	Tender schedule No. & date	RAKUB/CSD-14(1)/2012-2013/923 Date: 07.05.2013.
3.	Nature of work	Printing & supply of security items (Normal Cheque) as specified by bank.
4.	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
5.	Source of fund	Bank's own fund.
6.	Name and address of the office for selling tender documents	Local Principal Office (LPO), Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, 272, Bonolata, Commercial Area, Airport Road, Rajshahi & Dhaka Branch, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Amin Court Building (4th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
7.	Last date and time for selling tender document	20.05.2013 within 4.00pm.
8.	Price of tender document	Tk. 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable).
9.	Place, last date and time for submission of tender	Common Service Department, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Head Office, Rajshahi on 21.05.2013 up to 3:00pm.
10.	Place date & time for opening of tender	Common Service Department, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Head Office, Rajshahi on 21.05.2013 at 4:00pm in presence (if any) of the tenderers.
11.	Eligibility of tenderers	Details state in the tender schedule.
12.	Amount of tender security	Tender security money 47,000.00 (forty-seven thousand) (refundable) for printing and supply security items in the form of D.D or P.O purchased from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Head Office, Rajshahi.
13.	Special instruction	The tender will be governed by "PPR-2008" as amended up to August, 2011.

Md. Emdadul Hoque

Deputy General Manager

GD-1817

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কর্তৃ অধিবেশন

৩০/৩, উমেল সড়ক রোড, বকশিরাজার, ঢাকা-১২১১

www.prison.gov.bd

### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর্তৃপক্ষ/মহিলা কর্মসূচির শূরু প্রয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে বারাহী পরীক্ষা আগস্ট ২৪/৫/২০১৩শক্তি তারিখে সমাপ্ত ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে নির্বাচিত হবে।

জাতীয় বেসর ক্ষেত্র ক্ষেত্রে ২০১৩ এর ৪৮০০-২৪০০-১১১০-১১১০-২৬৫১১১-১১১০ ক্ষেত্রভৰে কর্মসূচির বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে নির্বাচিত তারিখে প্রযোজন কর্মসূচির শূরু প্রয়োগের স্বার্থে সম্পূর্ণ ব্যোগাত্মক এসেসেসি পদ অবস্থার সম্মত, খ.। শারীরিক যোগ্যতা (সুরক্ষার জন্য) - (অ) উচ্চতা কমপক্ষে ১.৬৭ মিটার, (ব) বৃন্ত কমপক্ষে ৮০-৮৫ সেমি, (গ) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (হ) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (বি) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (ড) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৯) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১০) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১১) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১২) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (১৯) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২০) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২১) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২২) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (২৯) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩০) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩১) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩২) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৩৯) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪০) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪১) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪২) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৪৯) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫০) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫১) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫২) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৩) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৪) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৫) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৬) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৭) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫৮) পেট কমপক্ষে ১.৫ মিটার, (৫