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RECESSION PACKAGE

MCCI for right policy support, tariff regime

Says cash incentives should be given only to the affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The MCCI yesterday recommended a supportive monetary policy and conducive tariff regime rather than direct cash incentive to exporters as stimulus package as part of the government's effort to tackle the recession.

If necessary, the cash incentive, as he said. demanded by different chambers and president the of Metropolitan Chamber BGMEA and BKMEA as bailout packages.

of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

First of all, the government should identify the real affected businesses from the recession and then should take action to address the problems. If the analysis suggests that supportive monetary policy and conducive tariff regime would work, then direct cash incentive is not needed,"

The government has not so much the banking sector. trade bodies, can be given after a thor- capacity right at this moment to give cash ough analysis by the government, only to incentive as demanded by the apex trade sale rate, said Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, cash incentive against the export by the submitted a set of recommendations to

According to Choudhury, the supportive monetary policy and conducive tariff regime include reviewing and keeping the exchange rate stable and competitive, keeping interest rate supportive to export and production, ensuring priority distribution of bank credit to agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors and limiting government's borrowing from

Choudhury told these to The Daily Star after a meeting with Prime Minister the affected businesses, not as a whole- body FBCCITk 6,000 crore and 10 percent Sheikh Hasina at her office. The MCCI | released yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



The chiefs of the three services pay tributes to Major Milon Ahmed Azizul Hakim, killed during BDR mutiny, after his namaz-e-janaza at the Army Stadium in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

JS RESERVED SEATS

results today

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) will declare 45 woman candidates as elected MPs today, the last date for withdrawal of candidature for reserved seats in parliament, as their nominations were found valid.

Among the 45 reserved seats for women, the ruling Awami League (AL) will get 36 while the BNP five and Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) four as the three political parties had nominated their candidates for the reserved seats in parliament.

The commission will declare the candidates elected after 2pm, at the end of the deadline for withdrawal of SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Tanbir urges party to lift expulsion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled BNP leader Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky yesterday urged the party leadership to reconsider and withdraw the decision of his expulsion from BNP for violating party discipline.

"Democracy and morality will win if the decision is withdrawn," he told journalists at his Gulshan residence.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing March 19		
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source:	Islamic Foun	dation

EC to declare No plan to clip CJ's powers, says Gilani

Sacked judges reinstated in previous status

DAILY TIMES, Islamabad

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday dispelled the impression that the government was considering measures to curtail the powers of the chief justice, saying "such negativism" would take all political parties on board in its should be discouraged".

By reinstating Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, the prime minister said the government had amicably resolved the national issue of independence of judiciary "in accordance Zardari's promise".

Meanwhile, the government notified the reinstatement of all sacked judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts on their

pre-November 3, 2007 positions. Two separate notifications from the Law and

Justice Division were read out by Federal Law Secretary Agha Muhammad Rafique at a press conference and later faxed to the media.

Gilani said that the governor's rule in Punjab would be lifted soon and the government efforts for reconciliation.

"The federal government is against governor's rule in Punjab. I am against governor's rule in Punjab. It will end it as soon as possible. It is the government's top priority," Gilani told with Benazir Bhutto's vision and President Asif reporters after attending an event at a private school.

> The prime minister said his government wanted national reconciliation and the strengthening of democracy and national institutions in line with the Charter of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Half of by-polls candidates businessmen

31pc woman MP aspirants millionaire, reveals Shujan study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 50 percent of aspirants for the April 2 by-election in six constituencies are businessmen, revealed a report of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday.

The report based on the candidates' information states that 31 percent of the women nominated for the reserved seats in parliament are millionaire and sources of income of most of them come from their businesses.

Shujan presented the report at a press conference titled 'Information Disclosure of Female Candidates in the Ninth Parliament and By-election to Reserved Seats for Women' at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium.

Nominating candidates mostly from business orientation proved that political parties could not come out of the business SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

6 killed as bus rams 3-wheeler

UNB, Mymensingh

Six people were killed and three others injured yesterday evening as a bus hit an autorickshaw at Ragamara bazar in Trishal upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Two of the deceased were identified as Mokammel, 35, and Nilufa, 25. The identity of the others could not be known immediately.

Police said a Dhaka-bound bus rammed the autorickshaw from behind, leaving four of its passengers dead on the spot and five others injured. Of the injured, Mokammel

and Nilufa succumbed to their wounds at Trishal upazila health complex. Three other injured were

rushed to the Mymensingh

The bus driver fled the scene.

Medical College Hospital.

Independence | DayAward goes to four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four eminent personalities have been nominated for the Independence Day Award 2009 in recognition of their glorious role at national level.

The selected persons are: Abdul Goffar Chowdhury (literature), Abdul Matin (culture), Professor A M Harun-or Rashid (science and technology) and Ivy Rahman (posthumous --social wel-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will honour the dignitaries in a programme at Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital on March 25, according to an official handout

RU VIOLENCE Fresh case filed against 41 Shibir men

RU CORRESPONDENT

A fresh case has been filed with Motihar Police station against 41 Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres in connection with an attempted murder during their clashes with Bangladesh Chhatra league (BCL) at Rajshahi University (RU) on March 13.

Police said Motihar Jubo League Vice-President Ruhul Amin filed the case Tuesday around 11.00pm against 20 identified and 21 unnamed local Shibir cadres for assaultinghim.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

new foreign workers. Besides these workers, some others who the airport, sources said.

returned from Saudi Arabia while 120 from

450 more workers back home

Fate of 348 stranded at KL airport uncertain

There is no positive sign of receiving 348 Bangladeshi workers, stranded in the Kuala Lumpur (KL) International Airport, by their Malaysian employers or agents following Malaysian government's efforts not to recruit

arrived at KL airport from Bangladesh after enjoying vacation were also restricted entry to their workplace, sources close to the trade in Malaysia said without mentioning their total ers is now uncertain."

Meanwhile, at least 450 Bangladeshi workers yesterday returned home from abroad with special travel passes as their employers neither provided them with regular jobs nor renewed their work permits in time. Of them, 256

Malaysia and 80 from the United Arab Emirates

184 out of 532 stranded workers in Kuala Lumpur Airport were allowed entry to the country after confirmation of their jobs by their

employers before the immigration at the airport, The outsourcing agents or employers of the rest 348 workers, however, are yet to be found in

"It is most probably they do not have jobs in Malaysia," a businessman close to the trade said adding, "So, the fate of the stranded work-

Many returnees were in jails abroad for different terms for not updating their work permits, said officials at Zia International

Isahak who returned from Malaysia yesterday said at least 76 of the returnees from SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Donors keen to fund N-power plant: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday donor countries and agencies have expressed interest in funding nuclear power : plants, which would help solve the lingering electricity crisis in : gas on Tuesday and the country.

the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI): Member Alamgir Kabir. at her office yesterday. MCCI President Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, who led the 19-: 70-80MW with this additional

member delegation, told The Daily Star, "The prime minister; gas supply," he added. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

No respite from power

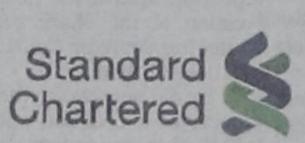
outage UNB, Dhaka

No improvement in power supply is visible, as additional gas supply for power generation remains negligible. "We received barely 15

million cubic feet additional : Wednesday," said Power The issue came up at the PM's meeting with a delegation of : Development Board (PDB)

"We could generate hardly

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7





The Baily Star

Celebrating Life 2009 A Film, Photography & Lyrics Contest



Celebrating Life 2009 is a composite competition, inviting films, photographs and lyrics entries. This year's theme is "Celebrating Womanhood". Contestants are allowed complete freedom to explore within this theme, however, we do strongly encourage contestants not limit themselves to urban settings. So pick up your tool of choice start directing your creative energy towards showcasing women from all walks of lives in Bangladesh.

About the Film Contest Film Categories: Length of Films: Awards:

Documentary and Short Fiction 20 - 45 minutes

Tk. 100,000 for the two Best films from each category Tk. 50,000 for two Best Debut films from each category

Crests and Certificates

Winning films will be broadcasted on Channel I and screened in a touring festival program in twelve districts across Bangladesh

About the Photography Contest

Maximum Number of Entries

Awards:

Three photographs per participant Tk. 40,000 for Winning Entry, Tk. 30,000 for 1st runner's up entry, Tk. 20,000 for 2nd runner's up entry. Crests and Certificates

Nine additional entries will receive honorable mention awards and certificates. Selected photographs shall be feature in 12 district level festivals all around Bangladesh Maa (Mother)

About the Lyrics Contest Lyrics Theme Language

Maximum Number of Entries

Three Entries per participant Awards shall given to winning entries from each language Tk. 15,000 each for the winning entries

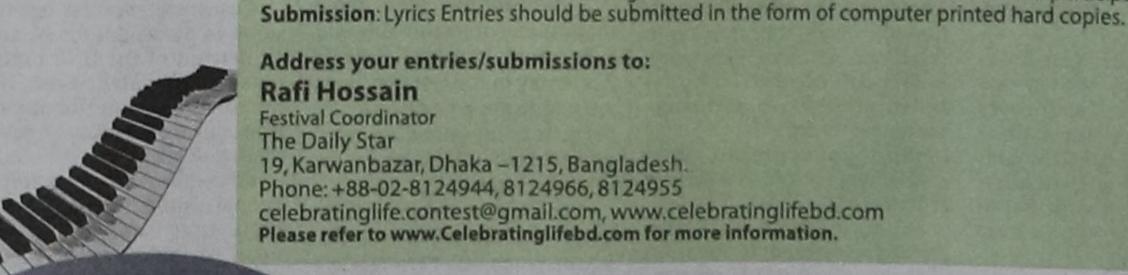
Tk. 10,000 for 1st runner's up entries, Tk. 7,000 for 2nd runner's up entries. The 4th and 5th entries from both language catagories will receive Tk. 3,000 each.

Opportunity to work with renowned music directors and singer. Songs shall be featured on the Celebrating Life Audio CD and 12 District Level festivals around Rules and Regulations: 1. How to submit: All entries must reach the Daily Star office by 30th June 2009.

English or Bangla

No entries will be accepted after the last date of submission. 2. Write your name, address, email address and cell phone number clearly in block letters on the envelope and on the back of each submission. In case of CDs/DVDs please ensure that all contact information is written on both the CD/DVD Cover and the CD/DVD itself. 3. Please retain a copy with yourself, because no entries will be returned to the participant. 4. The results will be published in The Daily Star after the Awards Giving Ceremony. Keep reading the leading English daily! 5. Personal calls are strictly discouraged. Any persuasion, verbal or written, will result in immediate disqualification. Read the website thoroughly for any queries. If you have a query, please send it to us through our website, we will reply as soon as possible. 6. The same person can take part in more than one or in all three contests. 7. There is no age limit. Any Bangladeshi citizen or any foreigner residing in Bangladesh is eligible. 8. Film Submission: The submissions must be in DVD format for preview purposes. Winners will be asked to provide master copies of their awarded films in DVCAM master format. Submissions must be original and unpublished work of the filmmakers. 9. Photography Submission: Only digital pictures will be accepted in CD format, the minimum acceptable resolution is 1500 pixels. Once the preliminary selection is finalized, the participants shall print out the chosen photographs and re-submit. The organizers have the right to disqualify any entry without any prior notification due to non-adherence to technical guidelines, or unaccept-

able nature of the content of the images. No submission can be returned to the participant. 10. Lyrics



Address your entries/submissions to: Rafi Hossain

Festival Coordinator The Daily Star

19, Karwanbazar, Dhaka –1215, Bangladesh.

Phone: +88-02-8124944, 8124966, 8124955 celebratinglife.contest@gmail.com, www.celebratinglifebd.com
Please refer to www.Celebratinglifebd.com for more information.

Media Partner:









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