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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 demanded by different chambers and trade bodies, can be given after a thorough analysis by the government, only to the affected businesses, not as a wholesale rate, said Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, president of the Metropolitan Chamber

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," he said.

The government has not so much capacity right at this moment to give cash incentive as demanded by the apex trade body FBCCI Tk 6,000 crore and 10 percent cash incentive against the export by the BGMEA and BKMEA as bailout packages.

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 the banking sector.

Choudhury told these to The Daily Star after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office. The MCCI submitted a set of recommendations to

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Independence Day Award 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 welfare).

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 released yesterday.

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 assaulting him.

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450 more workers back home

Fate of 348 stranded at KL airport uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 new foreign workers.

Besides these workers, some others who 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 numbers.

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 returned from Saudi Arabia while 120 from

Malaysia and 80 from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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 the airport, sources said.

"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 workers is now uncertain."

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

Ishak who returned from Malaysia yesterday said at least 76 of the returnees from

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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

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 the country.

The issue came up at the PM's meeting with a delegation of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at her office yesterday.

MCCI President Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, who led the 19-member delegation, told The Daily Star, "The prime minister

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 gas on Tuesday and Wednesday," said Power Development Board (PDB) Member Alamgir Kabir.

"We could generate hardly 70-80MW with this additional gas supply," he added.

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JS RESERVED SEATS EC to declare 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

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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 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 with Benazir Bhutto's vision and President Asif 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 would take all political parties on board in its 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 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

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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.

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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

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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 ramed 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 others injured were rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The bus driver fled the scene.

Prayer Timing		
March 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
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 Foundation

Standard Chartered | Celebrating Life | The Daily 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: Documentary and Short Fiction
Length of Films: 20 - 45 minutes
Awards: 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 1 and screened in a touring festival program in twelve districts across Bangladesh

About the Photography Contest
Maximum Number of Entries: Three photographs per participant
Awards: 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

About the Lyrics Contest
Lyrics Theme: Maa (Mother)
Language: English or Bangla
Maximum Number of Entries: Three Entries per participant
Awards shall given to winning entries from each language
Awards: 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 categories 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 Bangladesh

Rules and Regulations: 1. How to submit: All entries must reach the Daily Star office by 30th June 2009. 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 of 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 DVCAV 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 unacceptable nature of the content of the images. No submission can be returned to the participant. 10. Lyrics Submission: Lyrics Entries should be submitted in the form of computer printed hard copies.

Address your entries/submissions to:
Rafi Hossain
Festival Coordinator
The Daily Star
19, Karwanbazar, Dhaka -1215, Bangladesh.
Phone: +88-02-8124944, 8124966, 8124955
celebratinglifecontest@gmail.com, www.celebratinglifebd.com
Please refer to www.CelebratingLifebd.com for more information.

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