

High-profile body to identify sick industries

PM tells parliament

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that her government had formed a high-powered taskforce to identify the sick industries and draft a law for resolving the problems they face.

"Production of many industrial units was disrupted because of the political directives of the past government as they were denied loans and other facilities by banks. They were either shut down or turned into sick industries," the premier said.

While replying to lawmakers' queries, Hasina, also the leader of the House, said the government has given a scope for businessmen and industrialists of the enterprises affected during the past government to reschedule their loans by June 30 without downpayment.

In the scripted answers, Sheikh Hasina highlighted positive trends of different economic indicators including growth rate, investment, revenue collection, implementation of Annual Development Programme and disbursement of farm loans.

"A 6 percent GDP growth has been projected in fiscal year 2009-10. I firmly hope the projected growth rate will be achieved for the government's time-efting steps," she said.

She also listed her government's steps to remove anomalies and disorder in the banking sector.

On resolving housing problems of the middle class and lower income group people, the premier said the government has taken steps to build flats in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

"The plots and flats will be allocated to middle income and lower income people through lottery or on the basis of specific policy. The price of each square foot of flats will be in between Tk 2,000 and Tk 2,800."

FBCCI moves on unemployed poor

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The FBCCI Foundation yesterday distributed sewing machines, irrigation pumps, computers and vans to 487 unemployed men and women in a bid to make the jobless poor self-employed.

The foundation has taken the move under its 'One Businessman-One Family' project as part of the apex trade body's corporate social responsibility," said Annisul Huq, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), at a programme in Dhaka.

Also the chairman of the FBCCI Foundation, Huq said if such activities continue, it will be possible to create employment for at least 50,000 unemployed men and women in a year.

The foundation has managed fund from different banks, trade bodies, directors of the FBCCI and business houses to run the CSR project, FBCCI leaders said.

This is for the first time that the FBCCI Foundation has come up with such a project and it will continue, Huq added.

He said there are at least 50 lakh businesspeople in Bangladesh who each can create employment for a family, and this will help the educated, skilled, semi-skilled and non-skilled people to be self-employed.

Primarily, the foundation had a plan to create employment for 10,000 people, but the response from the potential applicants was poor, the FBCCI president said.

"This is why deputy commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) of different districts and upazilas were requested for two times to nominate applicants from their respective areas," Huq said.

Khorshed Alam (25), a farmer from Comilla, who got an irrigation pump, said he



Faruk Khan, commerce minister, hands over a computer to a physically challenged person at a ceremony organised by FBCCI Foundation in Dhaka yesterday. HT Imam, the prime minister's adviser for establishment and administration affairs, and Annisul Huq, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and chairman of the foundation, were also present.

would be benefited from the initiative, as he will be able to irrigate his own land and earn some extra bucks by supplying water to others' lands.

"I am happy. From now I will not need to pay for irrigation," Alam said.

HT Imam, administrative affairs adviser to the prime minister, said the government did not make any commitment to employ a person from each family in its manifestos, but vowed to create field for employment

generation. The government's job is to create entrepreneurs, he added.

"High prices of basic commodities have kept us under pressure. We seek positive responses from the businessmen to keep the prices at tolerable level," Imam said.

He called upon the businessmen to make reasonable profit. Otherwise, the government will not stand beside them at the time of their need, he warned.

"The government believes in partnership

with the businessmen. Please keep the prices of rice, sugar and other essential commodities at tolerable level, considering the plights of the general people," he said.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said the image of the entire business community is tarnished when a section of businessmen increase the prices of basic commodities to make windfall profits.

He said the government move to rein in the price spiral will continue.



Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, chairman of Basic Bank Ltd, attends the bank's first managers conference 2010 in Dhaka recently. AKM Sajedur Rahman, managing director, was also present.

Tourism fair begins today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The three-day international tourism fair, Dhaka Travel Mart 2010, begins at Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today.

The Bangladesh Monitor, a travel and tourism fortnightly, has organised the fair. Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister GM Quader is expected to inaugurate the fair. Engr Mosharraf Hossain, chair-

man of the parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism, will attend the inaugural as special guest.

Various organisations, including airlines, hotels, tour and cruise operators and resorts will take part in the fair with special discount packages valid during the event.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines offers 25 percent discount on tickets and

booking on some specific routes including Dhaka-Kathmandu, Dhaka-Delhi.

Etihaad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, comes up with a 15 percent discount on premium cabin tickets from Dhaka to London, Manchester, Frankfurt, Toronto and Cairo.

Visitors can enter the fair with a Tk 20 ticket everyday from 10 am to 8 pm.

Industrial workers' safety issues ignored: Experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The legal framework for industrial workers' health and safety issues is almost non-functional in Bangladesh, which causes unabated industrial accidents and casualties, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

"The legal framework in its current form is barely functional. This non-functional legal structure keeps away entrepreneurs from investing in health and safety measures," said David Bergman, a human rights and safety expert.

The seminar styled 'Human

Rights and the United Nations Global Compact' was organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its conference room in Dhaka with BEI President Farooq Sobhan in the chair.

Won Young Hong, assistant country director, Democratic Governance Cluster of United Nations Development Programme, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Barrister Nihad Kabir, and Shahamin S Zaman of CSR Centre, also spoke.

Bergman suggested strong monitoring and enforcement of industrial workers' safety rules for non-

compliant factories to reduce casualties.

Hong expressed concern over industrial casualties in the country and said the industrialists should concentrate more on corporate responsibilities.

"If the entrepreneurs pay due attention to the welfare of their workers, the number of casualties will come down," she added.

Shaheen Anam called upon the businessmen to work for setting up socially responsible businesses by investing for the welfare of the stakeholders and workers as a whole.

If the entrepreneurs want to

make their businesses sustainable and earn reputation and profit, they have to invest more in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, she added.

She said Bangladesh has good human rights laws, but the country fails to implement those.

"If the business community can be motivated by the positive side of ensuring and supporting human rights, they will come forward to be compliant in their business activities," she added.

Nihad Kabir said unless and until corporations accept the CSR as the new reality, conversation on CSR will not go forward.



JCI gets new national president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Shahid Uddin Akbar has been elected as the national president of Junior Chamber International (JCI), Bangladesh, for 2010, JCI said in a statement.

Akbar is the chief executive officer of Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development, a private sector initiative to promote the use of ICT as a tool for development.

He is also the secretary general of Bangladesh Telecentre Network, a coalition of telecentre practitioners in Bangladesh.

A post-graduate in finance and banking, Akbar started his career in a private commercial bank and later served a development agency until 2008.

IFIC mutual fund's IPO lottery held

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The initial public offering (IPO) lottery of the IFIC Bank 1st Mutual Fund was held on Tuesday.

The lottery took place at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Of a fund size of Tk 120 crore, Tk 40 crore is being raised through the IPO process. The fund received the largest number of applications for an IPO in Bangladesh and was oversubscribed by more than 17 times.

"The Bangladesh capital market needs more mutual funds to provide stability during periods of volatility," said Dr Hasan Imam, chief executive officer of RACE Asset Management.

"We have already started the investment process and hope to provide our investors with healthy returns over the lifetime of the fund."

Ashim Chowdhury, senior vice president and head of capital market division of IFIC Bank, was also present.



Nazrul Alam (3-R), manager (sales and marketing) of Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd, hands over an award to one of the best salesmen for the company in the northern region at a ceremony in Bogra recently.

International Exhibition on Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy, Poultry, Live Stock and Agriculture Products & Technology Trade Show of Bangladesh.

Visit 4-6 April 2010 Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Organized by: ExpoNet Exhibition (Pvt) Ltd. 01191616803, 01191616805, 01191616806

SUNCO Solar Irrigation pump Presents AgriTECH Bangladesh

Visit International TOURISM FAIR DHAKA TRAVEL MART-2010 March 11-13, 2010, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Win exciting raffle prizes on entry ticket including Int'l & Domestic air tickets ENTRY Tk. 20 only

Avail attractive Discounts on Airfare & Tour Packages

Organised by: The Bangladesh Monitor Premium Partners: Bangladesh Airlines, GMG Airlines

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মংলা কাস্টম হাউস, খালিশপুর, খুলনা।

পুনঃ সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মংলা কাস্টম হাউস, খুলনা'র কেমিক্যাল শাখার জন্য প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। বিভাগ/মন্ত্রণালয়	জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	নথি নং -এস/০৭/জিএল/কেমিক্যাল/মংলা/০৮-০৯, তারিখ ৪ ০৭/০৩/১০ ইং।
৩। বিবরণ	২৪ প্রকার রাসানিক দ্রব্য ও ১৪ প্রকার যন্ত্রপাতি
৪। পরিমাণ	দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত চাহিদা অনুযায়ী
৫। শিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকায়)	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) মাত্র।
৬। শিডিউল বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২২/০৩/১০ ইং দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা
৭। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২/০৩/১০ ইং বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে মংলা কাস্টম হাউস, খুলনা এর জিএল শাখা হতে প্রয়োজনীয় শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য, সরবরাহকারীর ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, জাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ব্যাংক সলভেনসি সার্টিফিকেট ও এসিড বিক্রয়ের লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।

দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ সময়ের পর কোন শিডিউল জমা দিলে তা গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই যেকোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করতে পারে।

কামরুল হাসান
এসপিএস(প্রশাসন)