

Committee formed to review labour law

BSS, Dhaka

Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said yesterday the government formed a tripartite committee to review the Labour Act 2006 to make it effective.

"The committee is working to propose amendments to reduce the shortcomings of the act and recommend corrective measures."

He said this while speaking at the launching ceremony of a five-day tripartite training workshop on assessing and addressing the effect of trade on employment (ETE) in Dhaka.

"We have adopted a number of measures to benefit the workers."

The national child labour elimination policy 2010, formulation of the sixth five-year plan to generate productive employment opportunities for

growing workforce and formation of a tripartite committee to formulate a new labour policy are part of the measures, the minister said.

"The government has formed a committee to look at ways and means to form trade unions to address the problem of industrial relations in the garment industry."

"We favour the concept of decent work but however, our efforts towards promotion of decent work should take into account the socio-economic realities of our country, the characteristics of the labour force, legal framework and institutions, which are entrusted with the task of promoting welfare and protection of the workforce," he added.

Dr Stefan Frowein, ambassador of the delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Shah Md Abu Zafar, chairman of the national coordination

committee for workers' education, and Gagan Rajbhandari, director of International Labour Organisation to Bangladesh, among others, also spoke.

Rajbhandari said the growing international trade and increased foreign direct investment have significant effects on employment and working conditions.

"Macroeconomic, trade and financial policies should be consistent with full and productive decent employment goals of developing countries," he added.

In 2009, International Labour Organisation launched the ETE project with funding support of the European Union, covering four countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Benin and Guatemala.

The main objective of the project is to develop global knowledge tools that can support the formulation of coherent trade and labour market policies at the national level.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, inaugurates Aarong's 10th outlet at Mirpur in Dhaka on Saturday. Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, extreme left front row, managing director of Brac Enterprises, Tamara Abed, second from right front row, director of Aarong, are also seen.



Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman attends the certificate giving ceremony for a renewable energy financing training course in Dhaka on Thursday. Keystone Business Support Company Ltd organised the two-day course, attended by 30 officials from banks, financial institutions, renewable energy companies and foreign embassies.

ICAB seeks access to policy making

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) yesterday demanded that the government ensure its participation in policy making on issues like taxation and other monetary systems.

It also demanded removal of bureaucratic tangles to implement different projects that might play a significant role in economic growth.

The ICAB members placed their demands at a press meet at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Addressing the meet, ICAB President

Jamaluddin Ahmed said they will organise the International Conference of Chartered Accountants-2010 at the same hotel today.

The chartered accountants attending the conference from the Saarc countries will share their views, ideas and professional experiences.

President Zillur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the event with the theme, 'role of chartered accountants in the mobilisation of national resources'.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman will present the keynote paper. Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will remain present at the programme as special guest.

Etihaad's 'all economy' service from Oct

UNB, Dhaka

Etihaad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of United Arab Emirates, is set to introduce its first 'all economy' class aircraft into its fleet in October.

The two Airbus A320s will be configured to carry 162 economy class passengers, an increase of 42 from the current economy capacity, said a press release.

"Etihaad has grown at a remarkable pace in the past six and a half years. We have built a strong brand and a robust business, and it is the right time to challenge the way we serve our various markets and segments," said James Hogan, Etihaad Airways' chief executive officer.

The all economy cabin aircraft will operate to short haul destinations of the airline, which have high demand for economy traffic and low demand for premium traffic.

Initially, prime destinations for the two economy cabin aircraft include Alexandria, Calicut, Colombo, Damascus, and Doha.

Japan holds out hope for Bangladesh apparel

Seminar spotlights exports

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Japan could be a bright spot for apparel exports from Bangladesh if the quality of products and lead-time are adhered to strictly, speakers said.

At a Saturday seminar on the quality control and inspection of apparels for the Japanese market held at Hotel Lake Shore in Dhaka, Harumitsu Hida, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Japan, said Japan's adoption of the China+1 policy is a great opportunity for Bangladesh.

"We should work toward further strengthening relationships between the two countries in a positive manner," Hida reiterated.

That Bangladesh has received the signal and initiated widening its niche in the Japanese market was evident from its performance last year compared with the earlier figures, the speakers said.

Bangladesh exported knitwear worth \$21.98 million in fiscal 2008-09, registering 203.9 percent growth, com-

pared to 2007-08.

From woven product exports, Bangladesh earned \$52.39 million in fiscal 2008-09, a 151.9 percent rise from fiscal 2007-08, according to Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) data.

Takashi Suzuki, Dhaka representative of JETRO, said Cambodia has demonstrated productivity improvement and achieved competitiveness despite high labour costs at home.

"Although Bangladeshi manufacturers enjoy relative cost advantages, yet its total size has been shrinking due to little or no productivity growth. While new entrants registered good performances, efforts of the existing firms need to be geared up to survive in the competition," Suzuki said.

Cambodian firms bagged increased profits by improving productivity significantly whereas the profit earnings of the Bangladesh firms fell, because of a rise in wages and modest growth of productivity. "But the profits are still not negligible, thanks to low

labour costs," he added.

On the recent increased apparel import from Bangladesh by Japan, he said this has been mostly due to the Japanese giant Uniqlo's expansion, and many other Japanese companies are also looking for good suppliers in Bangladesh, he said.

Akihiro Miyata from Konoike-Euro Logistics (Bangladesh) Ltd said timely shipment and transport of goods are important for Japanese buyers.

He said if the consignments are at all delayed, buyers will have to be notified in advance along with detailed reports dispatched for such failures.

The packing materials -- cartons and boxes -- are also part of the goods and the exporters must take strict care about not wetting or damaging the cargoes while shipping goods for the Japanese importers, he said.

Akhtaruzzaman, managing director of Pacific Quality Control Co Ltd, and Hisao Nishiyama, general manager of QTEC Dhaka Lab, also spoke.

Dawn trade on hold again

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The trading activities of Dawn Securities were suspended again after the High Court yesterday scrapped a stay on the Dhaka bourse's suspension order for the stockbroker.

The Dhaka Stock Exchange appealed to the court to vacate the stay order, DSE officials said.

With the latest court move in place, the trading activities of Dawn will remain on hold for an indefinite period.

Earlier on August 2, Dawn resumed trade after the court stayed the DSE's suspension order upon a writ petition by the stockbroker.

The DSE suspended the trading activities of the brokerage firm on July 19 for the alleged manipulation of Tk 9.5 crore from its clients.

The stockbroker received the money from its clients to purchase shares for them, but financial statements on its back-office soft-

ware show that no shares were purchased for them, according to a probe by the DSE.

The prime bourse authorities had also asked the brokerage house to pay back all the dues to its clients within 15 days.

The DSE warned Dawn of cancellation of its membership licence, if the brokerage house fails to pay back the dues in time.

Dawn now runs a shortfall of Tk 5.55 crore for a full payback, a DSE investigation has found.

The probe also reveals that banks have bounced some cheques that were issued by the brokerage house in favour of its clients for payback.

In 2005 and 2006, the DSE suspended five brokers for similar irregularities and sold out their membership licences to repay clients their dues.

The brokers were: Capital Roops, JR Capital Company, MR Company, T Mushfu and Company and SPMLtd.

OMS takes off tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

The government is set to start two programmes during Ramadan to ensure food security for the poor.

The open market sale (OMS) programme starts tomorrow while food distribution with fair price cards will be launched on August 16, said Food Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

Under the programmes, the government will distribute about 1.26 lakh tonnes of rice benefiting about four crore people, the minister added.

Under OMS programme, rice will be sold at Tk 24 a kg in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Joydebpur, Tongi and Savar and in every divisional and district town.

The upazilas in Sylhet, Habiganj, Sunamganj, Netrokona and Kishoreganj affected by flash floods during last Boro season will also come under the OMS programme.

In Dhaka, the OMS programme will be operated from 150 places and 20 centres in every division. Rice will be sold in Narayanganj, Gazipur, Joydebpur and Savar in 15 trucks.

Under the fair price card programme, around 13 lakh people across the country, including four lakh in the capital, will get 20 kg of rice a month at a price of Tk 23.

As economy recovers, Germans eye a pay rise

AFP, Berlin

After years of agreeing to moderate pay hikes to safeguard jobs, Germany's powerful unions are gearing up for a dramatic change of strategy, bidding for wage gains that bosses say could derail the recovery.

Heavily dependent on exporting quality German-made products, the economy, Europe's biggest, was hit harder than most by the global crisis but now appears to be recovering faster as demand across the globe picks up.

Foreign orders are booming, the country's low unemployment has been hailed as a "jobs miracle," top firms are reporting strong profits and consumer and business confidence levels are soaring.

And having contributed, they say, to this performance by not pushing for pay rises during the tough times, trade unions want a slice of the pie now the recovery is setting in.

"In this first wage round after the crisis, we want to ensure employees get their fair share of the upswing," Berthold Huber, head of IG Metall, one of Europe's biggest unions, wrote in the Rheinischer Merkur daily.

"That is good for the employees, good for the economy and secures jobs."



Md Abdul Kuddus, deputy managing director of First Security Islami Bank Ltd, opens the bank's Ranir Haat branch at Rangunia in Chittagong recently.

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন	
২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০	
অযোগ্য ঘোষিত ০৯(নয়)টি বাস বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: যোগাযোগ মন্ত্রণালয়/সড়ক ও রেলপথ বিভাগ।
২। বিক্রয় সন্ধান নাম	: চেয়ারম্যান, বিআরটিসি।
৩। বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৪। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	: বিআরটিসি/০৯/২০১০
৫। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	: বিআরটিসি, পাটenga বিভাগ, ৯ম তলা, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৬। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	: ১০/৮/২০১০ ইং হতে ২৪/৮/২০১০ ইং পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
৭। দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: দরপত্রের প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অক্ষরযোগ্য) কর্পোরেশনের হিসাব বিভাগে (বাস) জমা দিয়ে যানি রশীদ গ্রহণ করতে হবে। উক্ত যানি রশীদ পাঠে বিভাগে প্রদর্শনপূর্বক দরপত্র খোলার পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত সিডিউল সন্ধান করা যাবে।
৮। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৫/৮/২০১০ ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৯। দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ২৫/৮/২০১০ ইং দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার পাটenga বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০। দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত (আর্নেস্টমনি)	: মোট উন্মুক্ত মূল্যের ১০% জামানত "চেয়ারম্যান, বিআরটিসি" অফিসে যে কোন রক্ষিত/সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে প্রদত্ত ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা করতে হবে।
১১। বিক্রয়ক্রমে মাল্যমানের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিবরণ	: কর্পোরেশনের চেয়ারম্যানসাহাব বাস ডিপোর অযোগ্য ঘোষিত ০৯(নয়)টি বাস।
১২। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	: মোঃ হাবিব আলী।
১৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	: ডেপুটি চেয়ারম্যান ম্যানেজার (পাটenga)।
১৪। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর অফিসের ঠিকানা	: বিআরটিসি, পাটenga বিভাগ, ৯ম তলা, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৫। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর অফিস টেলিফোন নং	: ৯৫৫৯১৩।
১৬। কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা	: কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
১৭। নির্দেশনা	: অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিমুক্ত ও জামানতবিহীন (আর্নেস্টমনি) দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।



Moiuddin Ahmed, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, inaugurates the bank's brokerage house at Mouchak in Dhaka yesterday. Muhammad Ali, managing director, was also present.