

# Bangladesh unlikely to ensure jobs for all by 2015

## UN official tells workshop on industrial policy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a workshop on industrial policy in Dhaka yesterday, a UN official was skeptical over Bangladesh's ability to ensure employment for all by 2015.

"One of the key targets where the country lags behind is the target on full and productive employment of all, including women and young people," said Stefan Priesner, country representative of the United Nations Development Programme.

He said about 60 percent of the country's nearly 16 crore population are in workforce, while women's participation is only 29 percent.

"As 1.2 million people are coming to the labour market each year, the main question is how we can facilitate the absorption through an action plan of the industrial policy," Priesner said.

The Industrial Policy 2010 has to be implemented with priorities to labour-generating growth, he suggested.

The industries ministry and UNDP organised the workshop on 'implementation strategy of national industrial policy 2010' at Sonargaon Hotel.

Chaired by Industries Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui, it was also addressed by leaders of the business community.

Priesner said the structural shift of moving from agricultural society, the increase of the industrial and services sectors' share of growth should also happen in line with policies and priorities of the government.

He said Bangladesh is facing many challenges such as high capital cost, insufficient skill and inadequate supply of energy. "These challenges need to be urgently addressed to unleash the potential of industrialisation programme that will take Bangladesh to higher levels of pro-employment growth."

M Anis Ud Dowla, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed wholehearted efforts from different delivery agencies to reach the government's ambitious targets.

He pointed out that the policy targets that industrial sector will contribute 40 percent to the gross domestic product by 2021 from the present 28 percent and 25 percent of the workforce from 16 percent.

"The policy also aims to attract more foreign and domestic investment, adopt appropriate measures to rehabilitate sick industries, patronise import-substituting industries alongside the export-oriented ones and

encourage setting up of separate economic zones for sectors such as textiles, ceramics and pharmaceuticals."

The MCCI chief hoped that the industrial policy would play a major role in achieving those targets.

The business leader, however, pointed to contradictions in the policy.

He said on one hand, it recognises the role of a vibrant private sector for industrial growth and on the other, it plans to go ahead with state-owned enterprises (SoEs) and calls for raising their profitability.

He further said he favours speedy divestment of such enterprises.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said the government is working relentlessly on providing fiscal incentives, infrastructure facilities and policy supports to raise the industrial sector's contribution to national income and employment generation.

"To do so, we have to ensure improvement in product quality, development of productivity and skills of the workforce, increase efficiency of bureaucracy and productivity-supportive political culture," he said.

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries President ATM Waziullah also spoke.



Akku Chowdhury, fifth from right, executive director of Transcom Foods, hands over a cheque to Christa Rader, WFP country representative, at a ceremony at Pizza Hut in Gulshan yesterday after KFC and Pizza Hut raised funds during the World Hunger Relief campaign. Singers Shakila Zafar and Tishma and actress Sharmin Lucky joined the closing event to show solidarity with the campaign.

# KFC, Pizza Hut raise funds to fight hunger

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KFC and Pizza Hut collected nearly Tk 8.2 lakh for the poor in their World Hunger Relief Campaign, co-organised with the World Food Programme (WFP).

The month-long campaign was launched to raise awareness on hunger and support the WFP efforts to provide meals to schoolchildren and ensure their education.

This year's programme -- the fourth in succession -- involved a network of 35,000 restaurants in 112 countries, under the fast

food brands' parent company Yum! Restaurants International (YRI).

Singers Shakila Zafar and Tishma and actress Sharmin Lucky attended the closing event at Pizza Hut's Gulshan outlet yesterday, to show solidarity with the campaign.

YRI and its local partner Transcom Foods handed over the fund to Christa Rader, WFP country representative for Bangladesh.

"We are very grateful to YRI and Transcom Foods for taking the initiative to encourage others to join the fight against hunger, because each day

25,000 people die of hunger-related causes," Rader said.

Akku Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Foods Ltd, said: "KFC and Pizza Hut are always passionate to inspire people to help the deprived people as part of its corporate social responsibility, because food insecurity affects over 1 billion people worldwide."

"We also promise to render support in raising money and creating awareness in future," he added.

Transcom Foods is the franchisee of international chain restaurants KFC and Pizza Hut.

# Lotto inks licensing deal with Express Leather

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Italian sportswear company Lotto has recently signed a ten-year licensing deal with local Express Leather Products Ltd in Dhaka.

The deal will allow Express to produce, distribute and retail Lotto-branded footwear, accessories in Bangladesh from January. Lotto also plans to give the same authority for apparel to the local company later.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, Italian Ambassador (designate) Giorgio Guglielmino and President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association Abdus Salam Murshedy were present at the occasion.

The minister said it is a win-win situation for the country as Lotto spread its market here and the local partner can benefit from technology transfer.

"I hope Lotto will sponsor the local football and other sports team to develop the standard of games."

"We consider Bangladesh and important emerging market with great potential in the Asian region," said Luca Tomat, business unit director Asia Pacific of Lotto Sports Italia.

Tomat said Lotto started business

in Bangladesh with a target of growing at a rate of 22 percent in the Asia Pacific region.

Kazi Jamil Islam, managing director of Express Leather, said: "I'm confident that the relationship with Lotto will be fruitful."

Kazi Salahuddin, president of Bangladesh Football Federation, also spoke.

Lotto Sports is headquartered in the shoe district of Montebelluna of Veneto region. It sells products to over 80 countries through independent sports-article stores, chain stores and 300 mono brand stores.

# Hyundai Group signs initial deal to take over builder

AFP, Seoul

The Hyundai Group led by Hyun Jeong-Eun signed an initial deal Monday to take over South Korea's largest builder, after trumping a rival bid from car giant Hyundai Motor headed by her brother-in-law.

Korea Exchange Bank (KEB), lead creditor of Hyundai Engineering and Construction, said the final contract is likely to be signed in January.

The takeover battle is part of a family feud over the former Hyundai empire, which was split into separate units after the death of its billionaire founder Chung Ju-Yung in 2001.

Hyundai Motor was hived off almost

a decade ago as a separate entity.

With affiliate Kia Motors, it is now the world's fifth largest carmaker and was far better placed to fund the purchase of the construction firm -- which came under creditor control in a debt-for-equity swap in 2001.

However creditors this month chose Hyundai Group over the automaker to buy a 35 percent stake in the builder for an undisclosed sum.

Dow Jones Newswires quoted people familiar with the matter as saying Hyundai Group offered just over five billion dollars, compared with Hyundai Motor's bid of just over four billion.

Hyundai Group -- which includes a shipping firm, a brokerage, a tour

company that operates projects in North Korea and an elevator maker -- is disputing suggestions it cannot afford the deal.

On Monday it filed a 50 billion won (43 million dollar) lawsuit against Hyundai Motor over its allegations that Hyun's group may have funding trouble.

Hyundai Motor has raised "groundless doubts and leaked such allegations to the media and politicians, which is a clear violation of rules that ban such activities", Hyundai Group said in a statement Sunday.

Hyundai Motor responded Monday by saying creditors should not grant its rival the status of preferred bidder without clarifying its funding plan.

# Fiji Water pulls out of Pacific nation

AFP, Suva

US-owned bottled water giant Fiji Water shut down operations in the military-ruled Pacific nation Monday, branding it "increasingly unstable" and a risky place to do business.

Fiji Water president John Cochran condemned the government's decision last week to hike taxes on the mineral water it extracts at an aquifer on the main island Viti Levu by 5,000 percent, from 0.3 to 15 cents a litre.

"This new tax is untenable and as a consequence, Fiji Water is left with no choice but to close our facility in Fiji," he said in a statement, adding the loss of one of Fiji's main exporters would cost hundreds of local jobs.

Cochran said the government action was effectively "a taking of our business".

"(It) sends a clear and unmistakable message to businesses operating in Fiji or looking to invest there -- the country is increasingly unstable, and is becoming a very risky place in which to invest," he said.

The remarks echo sentiments expressed by News Limited, the Australian arm of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., when the regime introduced foreign ownership restrictions earlier this year which forced it to sell the Fiji Times.

They are likely to rattle military strongman Voreqe Bainimarama, who has sought to increase foreign investment since seizing power in a 2006 coup. There was no immediate comment from the government.

Fiji Water has undergone rapid expansion in the United States in recent years, where it rivals Evian as the top imported bottled water.

Cochran said it generated 70 million dollars in annual exports for Fiji, where the Asian Development Bank estimates 40 percent of the 850,000 population live below the poverty line.

# Kuwait to spend \$90b on oil over 5 years

AFP, Kuwait City

OPEC member Kuwait plans to spend as much as 90 billion dollars on oil projects inside and outside the country over the next five years, a top oil executive said on Monday.

"About 90 billion dollars will be spent over the next five years to achieve our strategy," said Hashim al-Refai, managing director for planning with Kuwait Petroleum Corp. (KPC), the emirate's national oil conglomerate.

More than a third of the amount is earmarked for two major projects to build a new refinery at a cost of 14 billion dollars and upgrading two existing refineries for 16.3 billion dollars, he said.

The expenditure plan envisages raising the Gulf state's output capacity to 3.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2015 from 3.1 million bpd currently, he told the 6th annual conference on Kuwait projects organised by MEED.

The ultimate goal of Kuwait's long-term strategy is to raise its output capacity to four million bpd by 2020 and sustain that until 2030, Refai, who is also chairman of Oil Development Company, said.



Eastern Bank Chairman Mohd Noor Ali hands a microbus to Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed at a programme in Dhaka recently. The bank's Managing Director Ali Reza Iftekhar was also present.

**শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
**Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University**  
 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

**Request for Expression of Interest (Firm)**

Memo No. SAU/Engr.369/9/1544 Date: 24-11-2010

Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) has been allocated public fund from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) toward the cost of the development project of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAUDP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for civil consultancy services of the development project of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

The service include, building plan, design, estimate of different types of functional and residential building, other ancillary engineering and utility services etc as may be required for the project implementation from **January 2010-June 2013**.

Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff etc).

Consultants may associate with other consultants to enhance their qualifications. A consultant will be selected in accordance with "The Public Procurement Regulations 2006/Procurement Bidhimala 2008" and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GOB.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address of the undersigned during normal office hours.

Expression of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned by 19/12/2010 up to 12.30pm and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest" for civil consultancy service for the construction of works of different buildings of development project of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAUDP).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

**Engr Md Azizur Rahman**  
 Executive Engineer  
 Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
 Phone: 8125138

GD-5108