

জীবনে প্রয়োজন আরো বেশি স্বাস্থ্য
 সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সম্বলিত ব্যাকিং সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুস্বাস্থ্য।

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২
 ইসলামী শরীআহ'র মুনাব্বা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Tk 500cr social obligation fund sits idle

Rules are yet to be set to use the money collected from telcos

ABDULLAH MAMUN
 The telecom regulator has so far collected Tk 500 crore from mobile operators for a "social obligation fund", but the government is yet to start spending the money in absence of rules on how to use the fund.

- Govt is yet to start spending the money in absence of rules
- BTRC has been collecting the fund since 2011
- Six mobile operators contribute 1% of their gross revenues to the fund
- Draft rules were sent to the ministry in June 2012

when the rules are ready. The six operators are contributing 1 percent of their gross revenues to the fund on a quarterly basis. Md Feroz Salah Uddin, additional secretary to the telecom ministry, said: "We are now examining the rules so that the amount is not misused."

However, another official of the ministry said the rules do not specify how the fund will be spent. "It is not clear who will approve the budget or who will own the fund," the official said, asking not to be named. "Will the money be disbursed through bidding or given to a firm directly to implement projects?"

The law says: "The maintenance of accounts and operation of the social obligation fund, its administration, procedure for withdrawal of money of the said fund and the rate of subscription for the fund to be realised from the licensed operators, shall be prescribed by rules." A provision has recently been incorporated into the rules to spend a portion of the fund on disaster management initiatives, though there is no mention of the types of disaster.

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Next 5-year plan to boost growth, says minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The next five-year development plan will boost growth and investment and attach importance to the country's impoverished regions, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said yesterday.

"We will have to include the poor living in char, coastal and haor areas in the plan," he said while speaking at a meeting with businesspeople and bankers, at the National Economic Council in the city.

He said the seventh development plan must take into consideration the growing number of population in urban cities.

At present, 54 percent people in the world live in cities, which will soar to 68 percent by 2050, the minister said.

"So, we have to keep that in mind while formulating the plan," the ministry quoted Kamal in a statement as saying.

The minister also said the lending rates have to be lowered to create investment-friendly climate in the country.

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Women face glass ceiling in garment sector

Study says female workers find it difficult to climb to top

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Traditional gender bias limits the career prospects of female production workers in Bangladesh's garment industry, a recent study found.

Around 85 percent of the machines in the garment industry are operated by women, but they hardly have scope to graduate to managerial posts as their male counterparts overwhelmingly dominate those positions.

The findings of the study were shared at a seminar on gender quality and productivity in the garment industry, organised by GIZ, International Growth Centre and Brac Institute of Governance and Development yesterday.

Providing female line operators with vocational training could help women graduate into managerial jobs and at the same time, enhance the skill endowment in factories.

The IGC researchers, Chris Woodruff and Rocco Macchiavello, both professors at the UK's University of Warwick, investigated the hypothesis.

WOMEN IN GARMENT SECTOR

- 80pc of them are machine operators
- Only 5-10pc to become supervisors
- They have 7pc chance of being promoted
- 45pc hold out hopes of becoming line supervisors



They took four female workers and one male worker from 56 factories as the research sample.

The study was part of the GIZ's Operator to Supervisor Training Programme, which trains sewing machine operators to become line supervisors.

Only 0-5 percent of the supervisors were female at the 52 percent of the factories before training.

The study found that vocational training had positive effects on gender empowerment as more than half of the female trainees were promoted after training.

It also found that female trainees significantly outperformed their male counterparts in the training management simulation exercises.

After being trained, female trainees are as much or even more effective than male supervisors and that there are no differences between male and female trainees with regards to line-level efficiency, absenteeism or quality, said Woodruff.

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The poor coming out of food price shock: study

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The poor are gradually coming out of the shock from food price spirals but they remain concerned about the safety and nutritional quality of their diet, a recent study found. The Development Research Initiative, Oxfam and the Institute of Development Studies jointly conducted the study.

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Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) becomes the first-ever best **SME Bank of the Year** and **Women Entrepreneurs' Friendly Bank of the Year** at the 'SME Banking Award 2014' jointly organized by Bangladesh Bank and the SME Foundation.

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We wholeheartedly thank all our valued patrons, customers and well wishers to have supported us for achieving this milestone that has contributed to the development of the country.

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