Help on way for female victims of river erosion

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will provide training and Tk 15,000 to each of the female victims of river erosion under a project aimed at turning them into small entrepreneurs.

Titled 'Improvement Component of the Vulnerable Group Development Programme', the project got the nod yesterday at the meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The project, which will cost Tk 38.88 crore, will be implemented in upazilas of Sirajganj district. The World Food Programme will provide Tk 29 crore for it.

Some 21,000 vulnerable women will be provided livelihood through the project, according to Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

The women will be given incomegenerating training first and then an amount of cash, he told reporters after the meeting. Through this, the poor families their poverty trap, Kamal said.

Apart from this, Ecnec approved four more projects yesterday. The five projects are together worth Tk 1,355 crore.

One of the projects involves constructing two five-storey halls at the Islamic University for male and female students each and a 10-storey quarter for the teachers to eliminate their housing problems. The project will cost Tk 70.58 crore.

Another project approved was for construction of bridges and culverts in different areas of Khagrachhari district for Tk 190 crore.

The other two projects passed were revised ones: construction of Kushtia town bypass road and improvement of the quality of government colleges at district headquarters.

The former had its budget increased by about 45 percent to Tk 78 crore and the latter by 49 percent to Tk 976 crore.

After the meeting, the planning minister informed reporters that inflation stood at 6.11 percent last month and development spending in the first six of char areas will be able to come out of months of the fiscal year came to 28 percent.

Stocks undaunted by political jitters

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks returned to the black yesterday, powered by investors on a buying spree, despite a countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP-led alliance.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 43.26 points or 0.87 percent, to close at 4,969.67. DSES, the shariah index of DSE, rose 10.19 points or 0.86 percent to finish at 1,186.50.

"Despite the gloomy political situation, the market turned around amid improved turnover and institutional participation," IDLC Investments said.

Turnover, the most important indicator of the market, advanced 56.37 percent to Tk 319 crore, compared to the previous day.

On the macro front, an increased flow of remittance signalled additional comfort in foreign reserves, said the investment bank.

"The market ended in the green zone after a stellar rally," commented LankaBangla Securities.

It said investors' hesitance over the political unrest of the past three days and panic sell-offs created scope for a fresh injection of funds into the equity market, the stockbroker said.

According to Bangladesh Bank, the country's remittance inflow increased by 7.90 percent to \$14.92 billion in the justconcluded year from \$13.83 billion in 2013.

Investors stepped into the new year with a positive economic outlook, it said. All the major sectors closed in the posi-

tive: power rose 2.23 percent, banks 1.04 percent, food and allied 1.27 percent, pharma 0.53 percent and non-bank financial institutions 0.24 percent. Gainers beat losers as 191 advanced, 74

declined and 44 remained unchanged out of the 309 issues traded on the DSE. The market capitalisation on DSE stood at Tk 331,097 crore against Tk 328,802 crore in the previous session.

A total of 0.78 lakh trades were executed with 7.22 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.

Lafarge Surma Cement was the most traded stock for the third consecutive day with 12.89 lakh shares worth Tk 17.64 crore being traded, followed by Desco, Agni Systems, RSRM Steel and Beximco Pharma.

Shahjibazar Power Company was the day's top gainer, posting a rise of 9.94 percent, while Northern Jute Manufacturing Company was the worst loser, plunging 8.61 percent.

South Bangla Bank appoints additional managing director

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AKM Ashraf Uddin Khan has joined South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank as additional managing director, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

He was working as deputy managing director of Janata Bank prior to the new position, it said. He has also worked with Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank and Bangladesh

Krishi Bank. Khan began his banking carrier in 1980.

SIBL gets deputy managing director

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tarik Morshed has been promoted to deputy managing director of Social Islami Bank, it said in a statement yesterday.

Morshed served as senior executive vice president and manager of principal branch of the bank prior to the new assignment.

Morshed has been with SIBL since its beginning in 1995. He began his carrier with Brac.





Adnan Ataul Karim, managing director of Interspeed Group, and Syed Rafiqul Haq, deputy managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, attend the signing of an agreement for a payroll banking solution at a programme in Dhaka recently.

Maruti to hike car prices by 4pc to offset higher taxes

REUTERS, New Delhi

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, the country's top carmaker by volume, will increase car prices by 4 percent following the government's decision to halt tax breaks to automakers beyond Dec. 31, a company executive told Reuters on Tuesday.

A tax break was first granted in February last year to revive sluggish car sales and later extended until the end of 2014. Automakers had been hoping the concession, amounting to 3-6 percent of the price of a car before the imposition of all duties, to continue in the new year.

"Whatever excise duty hike has happened from the government's side we are passing that on to customers," said RS Kalsi, executive director at Maruti, which is majority owned by Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp. The company was planning to increase prices this year to offset rising input costs, but Kalsi said the decision has been deferred because higher excise duty rates have already pushed up prices and another hike would further impact the market.

NBR sets up data forensic lab to catch tax dodgers

FROM PAGE B1

"We have state-of-the-art technology for this. We hope it will act as a deterrent to tax evasion and financial crimes."

Tax dodging is rampant in the country, where less than 1 percent of the population pays income tax, according to NBR's modernisation plan. Bangladesh will be among the few

least developing countries that have state-of-the-art facilities to dig into digital records and analyse data electronically, the official said.

Md Alauddin, a former NBR member, said the lab will be a great help for other government agencies that investigate financial crimes.

But the success of the lab will depend on its proper operation.

"One may have a pen in his pocket but nothing will come out unless the person writes," said Alauddin, also a former director general of CIC.

Abu Saeed Khan, senior policy fellow of LIRNEasia, a Colombo-based ICT thinktank, said while the lab is a step forward, the financial criminals might already be further ahead.

"Cloud computing is rising globally and one can keep information in it. If anyone keeps data in the cloud, it will be difficult to retrieve those by a third party due to different data protection laws in different countries."

BB governor awarded as Asia's best FROM PAGE B1

Rahman, now in his second term as governor, dedicated the award to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the known and unknown martyrs of the Liberation War.

"Bangladesh maintained over 6 percent GDP growth and financial stability amid the global financial crisis, which put many countries in trouble. The affected countries now want to learn from Bangladesh how it managed the economy," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ever since assuming office as the 10th central bank governor in 2009, Rahman has been spearheading initiatives to ingrain socially and environmentally responsible financing ethos, with multipronged facilitation and policy support for inclusive, green financing. The approach has contributed notably

in upholding domestic demand-led growth and stability, with faster poverty decline sustained by employment and income in small and medium enterprises, stable downward inflation, and external sector viability.

Rahman's inclusive, green financing initiatives have earned him a few other recent accolades and awards, like the Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque from India, Gusi International Peace Prize from the Philippines, WHO anti-tobacco award, and membership of an elite small global United Nations Environment Programme advisory panel on designing a sustainable global financial system.

The Gusi Peace Prize foundation Economist in the award citation.

The new award from The Banker is a strong affirmation of the 63-year-old's financial crisis. positive vision driven proactive innovative approach in central banking.

Rahman said he would now focus on his unfinished agenda before his retirement. "I want to give bank accounts to every citizen of Bangladesh."

Rahman won an award titled 'Regulator with Human Face' from the University of Dhaka in recognition to his outstanding contribution to bring un-banked people in the banking sector.

Four years ago, he took an initiative to provide bank accounts at only Tk 10 as deposit to farmers who were shunned by the banking sector. Now more than 10 million farmers have bank accounts.

Rahman said he would also work to bring more funds from banks' corporate social responsibility to the education sector so no poor child has to discontinue studies because of a lack of money. "I will also convince them so banks

introduce more and more scholarships for the meritorious students." Rahman said he would also continue to

promote green financing in the textiles sector and stand by exporters affected by political violence.

He also pushed loans for agriculture and small and medium enterprises.

In 2009, when he took helm of the central bank, there was not even one single taka given as agriculture loans by the private and foreign banks.

The same was also true for the small and medium enterprises sector, where promises were aplenty but nothing of note came through. Now, half of the farm loans are disbursed by private and foreign banks and a third of all loans are going to SMEs.

His passion for SMEs earned him the nickname 'SME Governor'.

Due to banks' serious involvement in termed Rahman as the Poor Man's agriculture and SMEs, domestic demand has gone up significantly, helping the country avoid the onslaught of global

> Under his leadership, Bangladesh Bank has introduced the digital payment system, automated clearing house and mobile financial services. On average, around Tk 263 crore is transacted a day through mobile banking services.

Consider home-grown policies for balanced development: economist

FROM PAGE B1

The latter often advises the government to privatise everything at the prescription of the IMF, World Bank and the WTO, he said.

Barkat, who is also a professor of economics at Dhaka University, came down heavily on independent think tanks. The country has numerous think thanks, he said,

adding that many economists join these think tanks after retiring from the World Bank and IMF. He expressed doubts about the actual benefit the

Barkat also suggested the government rethink about manpower export. "Manpower is the biggest asset for a country. Many developed countries cannot utilise their capital resources due to a lack of labour," he said.

general people are getting from their studies.

In a cost-benefit analysis, exporting workforce does not benefit the economy or the migrant workers, rather it benefits the recruiting agents only, he added. The BEA, an association of around 4,200 econo-

mists, organised the press conference at its Eskaton headquarters to brief journalists about the three-day event that begins in the capital tomorrow. The theme of this year's conference is "rethinking political economy and development".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the event at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, where four individuals will be honoured with BEA Gold Medal-2015. The award recipients are Prof Mosharraf Hossain

(posthumous), Lutfar Rahman Sarkar (posthumous), Ashok Mitra and Prof Nurul Islam. The BEA president said the biennial conference will

immensely benefit the country in adopting the right policies.

A total of 122 research papers will be presented in twelve sessions during the conference. Some of the topics are economics of development,

globalisation, foreign exchange rate management, agricultural development and food security, industrialisation and labour market, natural resource and energy development. The BEA will also hold its annual general meeting during the closing session to elect the association's new committee.

Chevron gets new Bangladesh boss

FROM PAGE B1

Lyon succeeds Geoff Strong, who now assumes the post of vice-president for supply and trading in Chevron's Gas and Midstream organisation based in Houston, Texas, in the US, according to the statement.

"In continuing the collaborative relationship between Chevron and its partners in Government, I look forward to building on the continuity of success we had under my predecessor's leadership, so we can work even closer together for Bangladesh's energy security," Lyon said of his new assignment, in the statement.

Chevron, the largest foreign investor and largest gas producer of Bangladesh, is currently producing natural gas from three onshore fields in the north-east

New debate emerges over rules of origin

FROM PAGE B1

If the rules of origin are relaxed, it might erode competitiveness of the backward linkage industries of Bangladesh, Manoj Kumar Roy, additional secretary to the commerce ministry, said at the discussion.

Businesses will lose interest in investing in backward linkages like spinning and weaving if all exportable items are made of imported goods, he said.

of the foreign trade institute, said, if the rules of origin are relaxed further, it will boost product diversification. Khan said, as the EU relaxed the rules in

January 2011, exports from Bangladesh to the European bloc rose 16 percent on average until 2013. But the growth was only 10 percent types of products.

between 2003 and 2010, meaning Bangladesh was benefitted from the relaxation of the rules, he said in a presentation. After the relaxation of the rules by the us," he said.

EU, Bangladeshi garment exporters started enjoying zero-duty benefit on exports of garment items made even of imported fabrics.

But before the rules were relaxed, ministry.

Bangladesh used to enjoy such a duty benefit only when the garments were made of local fabrics.

Khan said the relaxation of the rules is not enough to ensure a good export growth; the country needs to improve competitiveness worldwide. And for this, Bangladesh should improve infrastructure on a priority basis, Khan said.

"We need to decide whether we are happy However, Mostafa Abid Khan, a director with the existing rules of origin," said Amitava Chakraborty, director general of the WTO cell at the commerce ministry.

> MCCI President Syed Nasim Manzur said the "GSP Plus" benefit offered to Pakistan by the EU has become a threat to Bangladesh, as the two countries are competing in the same markets with the same

> "We need to negotiate with Japan bilaterally, going beyond the WTO measures as this destination is very promising for

> "We feel uncomfortable when people call Bangladesh an LDC. We are fast moving out of the LDC group," said Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, senior secretary to the commerce

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় সিংড়া, নাটোর www.lged.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- এলজিইডি/উঃপ্রঃ/সিংড়া/টি-০১/১৫/০২

তারিখঃ ০১/০১/২০১৫ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০১৪-১৫

(শুধুমাত্র পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের জন্য)

এতদ্বারা সিংড়া উপজেলা পরিষদের ২০১৪-১৫ অর্থ বৎসরে উপজেলা পরিষদের রাজস্ব/রাজস্ব (উদ্বন্ত) তহবিলের অর্থায়নে গৃহিত ৫ (পাঁচ)টি প্যাকেজের (৫টি স্কীম) কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য এলজিইডি (রাজশাহী জোন) এর তালিকাভুক্ত হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী এর নির্দিষ্ট শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রসমূহ নিমুবর্ণিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তর হতে বিক্রয় গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

জিডি-৭২

প্রি-টেন্ডার সভার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

১৮/০১/২০১৫ইং তারিখে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকায়, নিয়ৢস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর। ২৬/০১/২০১৫ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। (ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, এলজিইডি, নাটোর, (খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর

দপ্তর, নটোর সদর, নাটোর এবং (গ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, সিংড়া, নাটোর। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

২৭/০১/২০১৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। (ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, এলজিইডি, নাটোর, (খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর

দপ্তর, সদর, নাটোর এবং (গ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, সিংড়া, নাটোর। ঃ ২৭/০১/২০১৫ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায়, নিমুসাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর। যেকোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, সিংড়া, নাটোর এর অনুকূলে নির্ধারিত দরপত্র জামানত অর্থ

দরপত্রের সহিত অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র খোলার পর ১২০ দিন পর্যন্ত ১নং প্যাকেজ ও ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত ২, ৩, ৪, ৫নং প্যাকেজের দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের মেয়াদ বলবৎ থাকবে। প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের ৫% এর অধিক উর্ধ্ব বা নিম্নদরে দরপত্র দাখিল করলে সরাসরি দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। একই দরে একাধিক সর্বনিম্ন বৈধ দরপত্র পাওয়া গেলে প্রকাশ্য লটারির মাধ্যমে ঠিকাদার নির্বাচন করা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি সংক্ষিপ্ত বিধায় বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি আগামী ২৬/০১/২০১৫ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত উল্লেখিত অফিস হতে জানা ও দেখা যাবে।

উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী সিংড়া, নাটোর টেলিঃ ০৭৭২৬৬৩০৩১ E-mail: ue.singra@lged.gov.bd

RN Paul, a director of RFL, opens an RFL Best Buy outlet on Sher-e-Bangla Road in Rayerbazar, Dhaka recently. Md Gias Uddin Biswas, assistant general manager of RFL Best Buy, was also present.



of the country.