

Conference on human resource next month

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A daylong international conference on human resource will be held in Dhaka on March 11 under the theme 'HR transformation for national development'.

Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management or BSHRM will arrange the conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, where US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat will attend as chief guest.

"We hope participants at the conference can enrich their knowledge on global human resource management practices, as international experts will share their experiences and views," Mashequr Rahman Khan, chairman of the conference, said at a press meet in Dhaka yesterday.

Reiterating the demand to set up a separate human resource ministry, he said many developed and developing countries, such as India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Europe and America, have their own human resource ministries to create and develop skilled manpower for the corporate sector.

"Often we consider our population of 16 crore as a problem. But if we can transform it into human resource, Bangladesh will not only be a middle-income country within a few years, but also a rich country," he said.

Business management experts and corporate leaders from 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region will attend the conference, which is going to be the fifth of its kind. Metlife is the title sponsor of the event: BSHRM Metlife International HR Conference 2016.

The experts include Lyn Goodear, chief execu-



Officials of Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management (BSHRM), the organiser of an upcoming international conference on human resource transformation, are seen at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

utive officer of Australian Human Resources Institute; Ernesto G Espinosa, immediate past president of World Federation of People Management Associations; Somesh Dasgupta, national president of National Institute of Personal Management of India; and Erman Tan, president of Singapore Human Resources Institute.

Experts will also include David Lee, president of Hong Kong Institute of Human Resources Management; Yuji Mishiro, overseas relationship director of Japan Society for HR Management; Rohitha Amarpala, president of the Institute of Personnel Management of Sri

Lanka; Aresandiran J, president of Malaysian Institute of Human Resource Management; and Md Musharraf Hossain, president of BSHRM and Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resources Management (APFHRM).

The board meeting of APFHRM will be held a day after the conference on March 12 at the Westin Dhaka that will be presided over by Md Musharraf Hossain, the first Bangladeshi president of the association.

Other partners of the conference are The Daily Star, Pragati Life Insurance, Unique Group, Bdjobs.com, Dainik Amader Shomoy, Radio Foorti, the Westin and NTV.

12 Bangladeshi companies to join garment fair in Paris this week

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Twelve Bangladeshi fabric and garment makers will showcase their products at the 38th Texworld, a four-day garment exhibition beginning on February 15 in Paris.

Bangladeshi companies are taking part in the exhibition under the auspices of the Export Promotion Bureau, Messe Frankfurt, the organising company, said in a statement yesterday.

A total of 791 companies participated in the exhibition in 2015.

Exhibitors will display fashion products

from the major garment manufacturing countries: Bangladesh, China, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Pakistan.

The Bangladeshi companies include Adury Apparels, Amtranet, ANS Clothing, Boys Apparels, Cozier Ti, Fabian Industries, Fiat Fashion, Gerard Fres, Meek Sweaters, Monno Fabrics, Silken Sewing, and Thermax Yarn Dyed Fabrics.

One of the main attractions of a visit to Texworld in Paris is the range of associate trade fairs, taking place at the same place and on the same dates.

Exim Bank promotes two as deputy managing directors

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Shah Md Abdul Bari and Md Humayun Kabir have been promoted as deputy managing directors of Exim Bank.

Bari was senior executive vice president and head of internal control and compliance division of the bank prior to the promotion, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Bari has previously worked with National Bank and Prime Bank. He completed his BSS and MSS from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of University of Dhaka, it said.

Kabir was also a senior executive vice president and served as chief financial offi-



Shah Md Abdul Bari

Md Humayun Kabir

cer of Exim Bank before the promotion, the statement added.

He began his banking career with National bank, and holds a masters in management.



Abdullah Al Mahmud, managing director of Hamid Fabrics, and Asanga Marasinghe, managing director of IFS Bangladesh, pose after signing an agreement. Hamid Fabrics has selected IFS Applications as its central business solution to increase efficiency and improve planning.

NRBCB reappoints managing director

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Dewan Mujibur Rahman has been appointed as managing director and chief executive of NRB Commercial Bank for another term, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Rahman has served in the position since the bank's opening, it said.

Rahman began his banking career with Agrani Bank in 1976, and holds an MBA from IBA.



Usha Ananthasubramanian, managing director of Punjab National Bank, opens the representative office of the bank in Banani, Dhaka.

ATM frauds rattle banks, customers

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Many banks claim that the use of NPS left their systems vulnerable to card frauds.

The NPS is the common platform through which electronic payments originating from different channels like the ATMs, points of sales, internet and mobile devices, take place.

Of the 56 banks operating in the country, 48 are connected with the NPS, according to Bangladesh Bank.

At present, there are 98 lakh cards that are used in ATM and point-of-sales centres in the country.

"Soon after detecting the fraud on Friday, we have switched off our NPS line," said Karim, adding that EBL had written to the central bank mentioning the risks of the NPS.

"Our own ATM system is on. But we have stopped transactions through the NPS," said Abul Kashem Mohammad Shirin, deputy managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank that has the largest network of ATM booths in Bangladesh.

The bank has around 3,000 ATM booths across the country. Some other banks have also taken similar measures to avert further ATM frauds.

But Prime Bank, which is one of the largest private banks, thinks there is nothing wrong with the NPS.

"This is no way an NPS issue. Fraudsters hacked customers' information and took away their money," said Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury, managing director of Prime Bank. Saha refuted the allegations of weaknesses in the NPS. "We are continuously upgrading the NPS system and will keep on doing it."

He said all ATM booths have CCTV cameras installed in them, through which the banks can monitor the transactions closely.

If the fraudulent activities were taking place due to the banks' negligence, they have to pay back the customers' money, Saha said.

EU wants end to 500 euro note tainted by corruption, terror

AFP, Brussels

Europe's 500 euro note is so tainted by its association with money laundering, the black market and terrorist financing it should be withdrawn from circulation, EU finance ministers said Friday.

The colourful violet 500 euro note is the largest eurozone unit but Europol, the EU's police agency, has long suspected that criminals find it a useful way of moving large sums of money around without the authorities knowing.

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said the note was "used more for hiding things than buying them."

"It is used more to facilitate transactions which are not honest than to allow you and me to buy food to eat," Sapin said as he went into a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels.

Ministers discussed plans drawn up to curb terrorist financing pushed especially by France in the aftermath of the bloody series of attacks in Paris in 2015 but which the European Union has been mulling for some time.

Ministers backed the proposals which included a call to the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, to consider what could be done.

"The Commission (should) explore the need for appropriate restrictions on cash payments exceeding certain thresholds and to engage with the European Central Bank to consider appropriate measures regarding high denomination notes, in particular the EUR 500 note," a statement said.

The Commission should take account a recent Europol analysis and present its findings by May, the statement said.

Terrorism thrives on smuggling: Muhith

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He said the seizure of three tonnes of smuggled gold is not the total amount; rather, it is 10-20 percent of the total gold smuggled into Bangladesh. "So there is no room for complacency."

Abdul Matlub Ahmad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry, said smuggling cannot take place without the help from the people in government agencies.

He suggested going to the root of smuggling.

MA Mannan, state minister for finance, said the use of technology should be increased to curb smuggling.

Bangladeshi handicrafts get global recognition

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Prokritee supports more than 1,500 artisans in rural areas to make goods from renewable sources of materials such as recycled sari, waste jute, silk, handmade paper, natural fibres and leaves.

The WFTO certifies organisations operating in any part of the supply chain -- from producers to retailers.

An entity needs to respect the international fair trade standards to be recognised as a guaranteed fair trade organisation.

The WFTO label, the first of its kind, was unveiled in Frankfurt, Germany yesterday.

With the fair trade label, consumers will be able to identify products in the international marketplace that meet high economic, social and environmental sustainability criteria.

"There are no international public regulations for the certification of fair trade products. Private entities can deliberately set up their own criteria and certify a single product without considering the practices of the company that sells these products," said Rudi Dalvai, president of the WFTO.

"That is why, it is of utmost importance to have a label that allows consumers to clearly identify the organisations who are 100 percent committed to fair trade," he said in a statement.

"It's a big achievement for handicraft producers in Bangladesh," said Samantha Morshed, founder of Hathay Bunano.

She said, for some years now there has been a labelling system for commodities such as coffee and chocolate. "It's great that the World Fair Trade Organisation is now introducing a label for handicrafts as well."

The German organisation said, by buying products carrying the new

label, traders and consumers can make a concrete contribution to creating a world that will fight poverty, social injustice and discrimination, and support economically disadvantaged small producers.

The principles of fair trade include creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers, transparency and accountability, no child labour, women's economic empowerment, and freedom of association.

At present, there are about 50 fair trade organisations around the world, according to the WFTO website.



Muhammed Ali, chairman of SMC and SMC Enterprise, attends the annual conference of the company at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka on Thursday.