

Slovenia opens consulate office

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Slovenia, a member of the European Union (EU), yesterday opened its consulate office in Dhaka to boost trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed inaugurated the office on Pragati Sarani in Dhaka in presence of Slovenia's Ambassador to India Jozef Drogenik.

Currently, Slovenia does not have a full-fledged embassy in Bangladesh.

Drogenik who is based in Delhi is also responsible for Bangladesh.

The Swedish embassy in Dhaka issues visas to the Bangladeshis who want to travel to Slovenia.

Bangladesh and Slovenia will soon start exchanging business delegations, the minister said after a meeting with Drogenik.

"We will explore the Slovenian markets as we can export a lot of goods, especially garment items," Ahmed said.

Drogenik said the main task would be deepening the bilateral relations between the two countries. "This would be done through exchange of business delegations."

The balance of bilateral trade between the two countries is in favour of Bangladesh. In fiscal 2014-15, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$36.04 million and imported products worth \$1.6 million, according to data from the commerce ministry.

In 2013-14, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$29.05 million and imported products of \$1 million.

Bangladesh has quality to become leading economy: Chinese envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has all the potential to become one of the leading economies in the world and China wants to support it in every possible way, Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Ma Mingqiang said yesterday.

The envoy said the change he has seen on development front in Bangladesh is the sign of a booming economy.

Terming Bangladesh a time-tested friend, he said they just want to see a developed Bangladesh as China believes a well-developed Bangladesh will be an asset for China.

He spoke at a workshop on China-Bangladesh cooperation on human resources development, at a hotel in Dhaka.

The Chinese envoy said Bangladesh has a huge potential market, huge labour force and very strategic geo-location in between three major economies -- India, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia.

So, finance, capital and technology will come into Bangladesh, he said.

He appreciated the government's efforts to set up 100 economic zones in the country and said more Chinese investor will come here through the initiative.

Ma said it is very important to have qualified skilled workforce for development. "Human resource is the core element of development. We wish to share our experience and technology without any reservation."

Citing an example, the ambassador said China sent 50,000 mid-level officials to Singapore to develop expertise.

China wants to carry out more functional cooperation with Bangladesh in the coming days, he said.

Chinese Embassy Commercial Counsellor Li Guangjun said Bangladesh and China have a lot of work to do in the coming days to boost bilateral relation.

Officials from the Prime Minister's Office, industries ministry and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority shared their experience acquired through their participation in programmes held in China.



Chowdhury Tanzim Karim, chairman of Union Capital, presides over the company's 18th annual general meeting at Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Mahmudul Alam, managing director, was also present. The company announced 5 percent cash and 7 percent stock dividends for 2015.

Govt to enforce zero discharge plan for industries by 2030

STAR BUSINESS RECEIPT

The government has moved to implement a "zero discharge" plan for all industries by 2030 to control environment pollution, Environment Minister Anwar Hossain said yesterday. Zero discharge means all wastes are recycled and no pollutants are discharged into the environment.

The government has taken various enforcement measures against the effluent producing industries, Hossain said in parliament.

Between 2010 and March this year, 2,191

industrial units were fined Tk 213.09 crore for polluting the environment, he added.

BIMAN'S NEW ROUTE

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon told the parliament that Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume operations to three suspended routes: Delhi, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Besides, the national flag carrier will also expand its services to three new routes -- Guangzhou, Colombo and the Maldives -- as part of its efforts to make Biman a profitable venture.



Aminul Islam, chairman of Metal Agro, and Sadid Jamil, managing director, attend the dealer conference of the company, at its research and development centre in Kawapukur of Debiganj on Saturday.



Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural affairs minister, and M Wahidul Haque, chairman of AB Bank, pose at an event to celebrate the bank's 34th anniversary.

Foreign aid policy in the works

FROM PAGE B1

The government will discourage offers of foreign assistance where it considers: the transaction costs to be unacceptably high, alignment to the government's priority to be insufficient, conditionality to be excessive and contrary to the country's existing laws.

In case of foreign aid, the ERD will prepare a priority list in consultation with the line ministry and planning ministry.

If the project involves over Tk 30 crore, a feasibility study will have to be conducted, and after completion of the primary work of the project, it will have talks with the development partners about the project aid.

A fund search committee will be formed in this regard.

The draft policy has also proposed bringing in transparency in the foreign aid received by the civil society and nongovernmental organisations.

The policy said the civil society and NGOs can take funds from foreign sources but they must be aligned with the national priority.

The development partners will have to report their commitments and disbursements through non-state stakeholders to AIMS to ensure that the government is aware of their contribution and to avoid overlap or uncoordinated work.

For monitoring at the local and district levels, there will be an institutional body titled Zila Unnayan Samannay Committee, which will regularly inform of the progress through the ERD website.

The policy said the aim of all the processes is quick utilisation of foreign aid.

An inter-ministerial committee under the leadership of the ERD senior secretary developed the policy.

The draft has been uploaded to the ERD website and will be finalised based on public opinions.

Beximco launches satellite TV service

FROM PAGE B1

"RealVU customers will be able to watch 105 channels with our package and enjoy digital quality picture and clear sound," said Dmitry Lapitskiy, chief executive officer of the company.

"The package will involve the most popular TV channels, including five in high definition format. Moreover, the RealVU subscribers will enjoy other advantages such as recording function and smart electronic program guide."

The customers will have to buy a set-top box and a dish antenna from the authorised trade partners while complete set costs Tk 4,499, exclusive of VAT, the company said. "The purchase comes with a two-year warranty for the set-top box." RealVU certified installers of the trade partner will also provide installation services to customers, and the dish antenna can be placed anywhere.

RealVU also has a 24/7 professional customer care to assist all current and potential customers, the company said. The service will cost Tk 300 a month and payment can be made through RealVU scratch cards, as well as through multiple mobile payment systems like b-Kash, DBBL Mobile Banking, IFIC mobile banking and U-Cash. Option to pay online is also available, it said.

Beximco Communications is a joint venture of Beximco Holdings of Bangladesh and the GS Group holding company.

Sweeping amnesty sought for undeclared funds in real estate

FROM PAGE B1

He also called for the withdrawal of advance income tax on import of basic industrial raw materials.

Ahmad demanded reduction of special corporate tax for apparel sector to 10 percent from 35 percent now.

MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning, underscored the need for reforms and simplification of the revenue system.

The FBCCI also proposed raising the tax-free income limit for individuals to Tk 300,000 in 2016-17 from the existing Tk 250,000.

In case of women and taxpayers of more than 65 years of age, the FBCCI suggested increasing the limit to Tk 325,000 from Tk 300,000 now, and for the physically challenged to Tk 400,000 from Tk 375,000.

The FBCCI proposed a uniform minimum tax rate at Tk 3,000 for people living in

and outside city corporations.

The trade body also called for reducing corporate tax for publicly traded companies to 23 percent from 25 percent now, and for non-publicly traded companies to 28-33 percent from 35 percent.

It demanded corporate tax for publicly traded banks, insurance and other financial institutions should be brought down to 38.5 percent from 40 percent now.

For non-publicly traded financial organisations, the rate should be 40.5 percent, down from 42.5 percent now, the FBCCI said.

For merchant banks, the FBCCI proposed bringing down the rate to 35 percent from the existing 37.5 percent.

NBR Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman moderated the meeting, which was also attended by FBCCI First Vice President Md Shafiqul Islam and Vice President Mahbulul Alam.



Mahbubur Rahman, general manager (audit) of Grameen Bank, and Shahadat Khan, chief executive of SureCash, pose at the signing ceremony of a memorandum. Ratan Kumar Nag, acting managing director of the bank, was also present. The bank's members can now use SureCash mobile banking to receive loans, clear payments in instalments and save money using their own phones on a pilot basis.



Somchai Tosomsakul, vice president for food of CP Bangladesh and Pakistan, poses after handing over a cycle to the winner of its consumer campaign for CP Five Star outlets. The campaign will continue till the end of May at all CP Five Star outlets.

Bangladesh emerges as robust market for apples

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh imports the fruit from China, India, South Africa, Brazil, New Zealand, and Argentina. China and India are the largest suppliers of fresh apples, constituting 68 and 9 percent of total market share here, because of geographical proximity.

From 2009 to 2014, imports from countries such as South Africa and Brazil have increased, at a compound annual growth rate of 2.9 and 4.1 percent, according to the report. "Because of this demand, the US industry should consider exploring potential market opportunities for all US apple varieties, especially in more urbanised markets such as Dhaka and Chittagong," said the USDA.

The USDA said high tariffs generally prohibit higher quality, more expensive fruits from entering the Bangladesh market, although as incomes rise, demand for higher quality fruits will also grow.

Job Opportunity- Office Coordinator

A renowned Insurance Company is seeking application for the position of **Office Coordinator for MD & CEO's Office**. The goal is to ensure that MD & CEO's office operations run smoothly.

- Monitoring of appointments/ meetings internally and with external organizations and liaise with all concerned as required.
- Screen all calls and correspondence and appraise the matters to appropriate party promptly and efficiently affecting the office.
- Prepare write ups/presentations/ speech/ case studies/ reports etc.
- Draft correspondence, manage agendas and prepare materials for meetings
- Liaison and coordination with MD's direct reports / associates.
- Organize and coordinate travel service management including visa documentation & processing, airlines, hotel accommodation etc.
- Maintained a database of company's network of contacts in the Insurance, airlines, clients, banks and leasing companies

Requirements:

- Graduate/Post Graduate from a reputed university.
- Minimum 02 to 05 years related working experience in any well reputed company
- Excellent communication Skills in English and Professional Bangla.
- Able to work under pressure, hard working, self-motivating and confident
- Good coordination skill
- Must have good knowledge in MS Office

Salary Package: Negotiable **Reporting:** Dhaka/Head Office/ MD & CEO.

Apply through: Online application only. Interested Candidates are requested to email your updated cv with picture to lookingforarightcareer@gmail.com by **May 7, 2016**.