



BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2016, AGRAHAYAN 29, 1423 BS

Telecom Division adopts online file tracking system

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Post and Telecommunication Division yesterday rolled out the online file tracking system, as part of the government's efforts to accelerate the work process.

The system will help detect any file's position within the division, said Tarana Halim, state minister for telecom, at its inauguration in a ceremony held at the division's office.

The move is part of the promises Tarana had earlier made when she assumed her current role.

"Earlier I promised to introduce a new system to make the working process faster -- and I have done it."

The system will help save time and the work process will be faster as a result, she said. A giant monitor will be placed in the division and it will show the file's position.

"I can easily track the file from my mobile through an app. This is a fully secure process that will speed up the work process," she added.

Telecom Secretary Md Faizur Rahman Chowdhury said they have a plan to share the idea with the other government offices.

The ICT Division had introduced e-filing process for its offices two years back.

Tax receipts rise 18pc on political calm

SOHEL PARVEZ

Tax receipts rose 18 percent year-on-year to Tk 49,874.68 crore in July-October, spurred by taxmen's efforts, political stability and increased imports.

Tax collection soared 20 percent to Tk 13,439 crore in October from the same month last year, according to data compiled by Bangladesh Bank that cited preliminary statistics from the National Board of Revenue. The NBR is yet to release its latest collection data.

"We had a healthy beginning. Various indicators of the economy advanced positively. A reflection of that will be seen in all areas," said NBR Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman, citing economic growth at over 7 percent last fiscal year.

REVENUE COLLECTION (TK IN CRORE)



Rahman expects growth will be faster at the end of the fiscal year.

"Commissioners are sharpening their strategies. All are hopeful that growth will be higher," said Rahman, adding that tax collection efforts have been rising.

Tax receipts will also increase in the coming months due to higher

implementation of the annual development programme or ADP, he said.

"ADP implementation is rising," he said, expecting revenue receipts to rise further thanks to higher credit flow.

"We have also seen growth in exports and imports."

Bangladesh imported goods worth \$14.39 billion in July-October, up 8 percent year-on-year, according to central bank data.

Exports grew 6.3 percent in July-November, according to the Export Promotion Bureau.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute, said growth in tax collection can be attributed to import growth, political stability and higher commodity prices in the

international market. "It's an improvement over last year."

Tax collection growth was 13 percent in July-October last fiscal year.

Low commodity prices had an impact on import and revenue collection last year, Mansur said.

Strikes and blockades affected the economy last year, but 2016 has been marked by political calm that helped sustain domestic demand, he said.

A senior official of NBR said collection of value-added tax soared, particularly from cigarettes this fiscal year, owing to a supplementary duty hike.

Rahman said the NBR focuses on VAT collection while it also aims to broaden the tax net.

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EU, ILO announce €20m project for skills

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The European Union and the International Labour Organisation yesterday announced a €20 million project to build Bangladesh's vocational education infrastructure as there is a big mismatch between supply and demand for skilled workforce.

Training the young people in different sectors is not the main purpose of the initiative, known as the Skills 21 Project, said Pierre Mayaudon, the EU ambassador in Bangladesh.

The project is designed to further allow the Bangladesh government to develop its own effective and efficient vocational training

model, which does not exist today.

For instance, there are tried-and-tested vocational training models in Germany and Switzerland but those cannot be applied to Bangladesh, Mayaudon said at the launch of the Skills 21 Project at a ceremony held at the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

"They need to be customised to the Bangladeshi reality. This is not a simple process at all."

Mayaudon said the EU has identified the priorities in Bangladesh -- education and skills development.

Of the total project cost, the EU will provide €19.5 million and the ILO will chip in with the remaining amount.

Mayaudon said the ILO will bring its expertise for implementation of the project.

The UN agency will implement the four-year project starting in January next year, with the ministries of education and labour being the beneficiaries.

The project will cover all sectors and not for any specific sector like the garment. The ILO will strengthen the vocational training institutions that the government owns.

After proper implementation of the projects the labour force of Bangladesh will no longer be cheap, but, Bangladesh will have a more trained and skilled workforce, Mayaudon added.

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Graduates dominate decent jobs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

University graduates account for 55.78 percent of the decent jobs in Bangladesh, according to a World Bank study released yesterday.

More than 30 percent decent jobs are held by the people who passed the SSC and HSC levels, the study said.

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Gold falls to over 10-month low on Fed rate hike bets

REUTERS

Gold prices touched their lowest in over 10 months on Monday, dragged down by expectations that a possible US rate hike this week would curb demand for the safe-haven asset.

Earlier in the day, spot gold hit its lowest since Feb. 5 at \$1,153.93 an ounce, before partially recovering to \$1,158.29 an ounce by 0656 GMT. It fell about 1 percent in the previous session.

Coca-Cola's Kinley drinking water launched

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Coca-Cola Company yesterday launched its drinking water brand Kinley in Bangladesh, making a foray into the fast-growing segment of the beverage market.

The water brand is already available in India, Pakistan and Nepal, said the US beverage company in a statement.

"The brand comes with the assurance of safety and purity from the Coca-Cola Company which is introducing Kinley with state-of-the-art technical capability along with their stringent quality norms, to ensure utmost purity of the product."

The company plans to roll out a campaign over the next few months.

At the launch, Shadab Khan, managing director of Coca-Cola Bangladesh, said: "Kinley is a brand trusted around the region, and we are excited to bring it to the consumers in Bangladesh."

Khan said internal researches suggested that packaged drinking water in Bangladesh is a fast growing category and is considered the second largest in the non-alcoholic ready-to-drink beverage category after sparkling products.

A 500ml bottle of Kinley water will cost Tk 15, said the statement.

PPP opens path for skills development: economist

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An economist yesterday called for public-private partnership between the government and employers for training -- a must for skills development, especially for apprentice and mid-level employees.

"PPP was a good idea, but the government couldn't move ahead much with the idea. I don't know where the problem is," said Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation.

Ahmad was speaking at a technical session on an employer-led initiative for promoting inclusive youth employment, organised on the sidelines of a three-day Dhaka Summit on Skills, Employability and Decent Work at Sonargaon Hotel.

"Maybe there is a lack of trust between the government and employers. If there is any lack of trust, it should be eliminated for the interest of the country, its people and the future of the country -- we should make the PPP more effective."

The finance minister keeps a big amount of money for this purpose, but at the end of the year that money is not spent, he said.

The government puts in efforts but somehow it does not work. "But the PPP is very important in the context of training."

The economist also said training should be given in such a way that it can bring in the expected results. "It has to be appropriate at each level."

He also suggested taking a "strategic approach" by doing a survey on what types of skills are needed within the country. "It's the duty of the government as well as the employers," he added.

Begum Shamsunnahar, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment secretary, requested all the skills development councils and other industry associations to come up with proposals on training.

"We have the ability to accommodate your proposals, and we can solve the problems in public-private partnership," she added.

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Congratulations!



Jamuna Bank congratulates Mr. Sakhawat, Abu Khair Mohammad on being re-elected as the President of Gulshan Club.

He is also the hon'ble Director of Jamuna Bank Limited, Chairman and Managing Director of Robintex Group having its three sister concerns - Robintex (Bangladesh) Ltd., Comptex Bangladesh Ltd., Robin Knitwear Ltd., Chairman of Australian International School (in Dhaka) & International Holdings Ltd., Trustee Board member of Eastern University, President of Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BGCCI).

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* প্রি অনলাইন সেবা
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