



ICCB

From left, Lee George Lam, vice chairman of UN ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC); Mahbubur Rahman, chairman; Hongjoo Hahn, deputy executive secretary of UN ESCAP, and Marc Proksch, chief for investment and enterprise development section of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division at UN ESCAP, attend the 13th meeting of EBAC at UN ESCAP office in Bangkok, Thailand recently.

Next Asia Pacific business forum will be held in Hong Kong: UN ESCAP

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) of the United Nations has decided to hold the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2018 in Hong Kong on April 10 next year.

The decision came at the 13th meeting of the council at UNESCAP office in Thailand, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh said in a statement yesterday.

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of EBAC and ICC Bangladesh, presided over the daylong meeting.

The theme of the forum has been set at "Linking business with SDGs

through technology and financing", according to the statement.

"Considering the present global scenario, the private sector has to join hands with international bodies and governments to agree on a mechanism for business engagement," Rahman said.

"In this aspect, EBAC and ESCAP together can make a difference for the region," he said.

"Today's meeting is important as we are going to discuss a restructuring of the way ESCAP engages the business sector. It will set the direction of the role of business in partnering with ESCAP to achieve the SDGs."

The progress of the ongoing and

new projects/initiatives of 10 ESNB Task Forces were presented during the meeting.

The task forces are: banking and finance, digital economy, green business, innovation and competitiveness, trade and transport facilitation, disaster and climate risk reduction, young entrepreneurship, agriculture and food and pacific issues.

Some 50 members representing various businesses from the Asia Pacific countries were present at the meeting.

ICC Bangladesh Vice President Rokia Afzal Rahman, Member Asif Ibrahim and Secretary General Ataur Rahman also attended the meeting.

Internet business in pause mode

FROM PAGE B1

He said they requested the government to tend to the pending issues but that has not happened.

Right now there are 600 licences for internet business. Of them, 129 are for running business nationwide, 146 for specified zones and a

good number for districts and upazilas, according to a BTRC report.

Besides, hundreds of business entities are also running operations illegally, said Haque.

He said the telecom regulator has limited capacity to monitor the busi-

ness and that also created a lot of concerns over cyber security.

There are about 70 lakh active internet connections linked to ISPs as of August, using over 250 Gbps of bandwidth, according to the BTRC. The country's total bandwidth consumption is about 450 Gbps.

German industrial orders rise on strong eurozone demand

AFP, Frankfurt

German industrial orders, a key indicator of the health of Europe's biggest economy, rose unexpectedly in September, driven by booming demand for German-made goods in the eurozone, data showed on Monday.

German industrial orders grew by 1.0 percent in September from August, after already rising by 4.1 percent the previous month, the federal statistics authority Destatis said in a statement.

Analysts had been forecasting a drop in orders of 1.3 percent for September.

"In the last two months, orders outstripped the volume that was reached at

the end of 2007, before the outbreak of the economic and financial crisis," Destatis said.

The September increase was wholly attributable to a bumper rise in orders from Germany's eurozone neighbours, the statisticians calculated.

Industrial orders from the single currency area grew by 6.3 percent month-on-month, while orders from the rest of the world fell by 1.0 percent and domestic contracts shrank by 0.1 percent.

The economy ministry in Berlin predicted that improving business confidence in the manufacturing sector "suggests growth in industrial orders will continue."

Indian ministries clash over rail imports

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's steel and rail ministries are at loggerheads over the state-run network's proposal to buy much-needed rails from overseas, a move that would undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to build key infrastructure in India.

India's Ministry of Railways, which manages the world's fourth-largest rail network, has grappled with a spate of accidents. Modi's government wants to overhaul the country's aging tracks, but shortages of steel produced by state-run Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) have slowed progress.

The clash highlights the dilemma the government faces as it tries to promote local production through the "Make in India" campaign at the same time it faces resistance from some state buyers who need to procure goods as quickly and cheaply as possible.

Indian Railways issued a tender seeking 717,000 tonnes of steel rails on Oct. 18, which was the first time the state-run railroad operator sought overseas rails. The tender could be worth an estimated 30 billion rupees (\$464 million) for global steel majors such as ArcelorMittal and Thyssenkrupp.

ADB wants to offer funds

FROM PAGE B1

Muhith said the government was yet to submit any formal request to the ADB. He said they would go slow.

He said, earlier the government had an impression that the Rohingya crisis would put huge pressure on the budget. But through assessment they have found that there would be no big pressure for now.

The minister said he has already told the finance secretary to prepare an estimate of the money required for addressing the Rohingya problem in the current fiscal year.

The government wrote a formal letter to the WB last month seeking financial assistance for the Rohingyas.

A six-member WB mission arrived in Dhaka late last month to have a need assessment, which ended on Saturday.

Oimex Electrode makes flying debut on DSE

FROM PAGE B1

Oimex Electrode's earnings per share declined to Tk 2.09 in the year ending on June 2017 from Tk 2.19 in the same month a year ago, according to the company's declaration posted on the DSE website.

Set up in 2005, the company declared 10 percent stock dividend in the last fiscal year.

Daily Market:

Stocks at the DSE finished in the green amid buoyant transactions.

The benchmark index, DSEX, rose 31.52 points to 6,104.51. Daily turnover increased 24.79 percent to Tk 671.98 crore.

The market started the session on a flat note and the activity received a boost in the last hour. Banking equities helped pull the market, said UCB Capital Management.

Banking shares posted a gain of 1.48 percent, while fuel and power sectors shed 0.15 percent.

HSBC pledges \$100b to help combat climate change

STAR BUSINESS DESK

HSBC pledges to provide \$100 billion in sustainable financing and investment by 2025 to help tackle climate change and support sustainable growth in the communities it serves.

The bank will intensify its support for clean energy and lower-carbon technologies, as well as projects that support the implementation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

HSBC also pledges to source 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, with an interim target of 90 percent by 2025.

By signing long-term agreements with suppliers, the bank aims to support the development of new renewable power facilities, it said.

The bank plans to reduce its exposure to thermal coal and actively manage the transition path for other high-carbon sectors. This includes discontinuing financing of new coal-fired power plants in developed markets and of thermal coal mines worldwide.

HSBC will adopt the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures to improve transparency.

It will lead and shape the debate about sustainable finance and investment. This includes promoting the development of industry-wide definitions and standards.

Group Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said: "For more than a decade, HSBC has helped clients break new ground in the green bond markets in Europe and Asia, and to finance some of the biggest climate-friendly infrastructure projects in the world."

"The \$100 billion commitment that we are announcing today acknowledges the scale of the challenge in making a transition to a low-carbon future. We are committed to being a leading global partner to the public and private sectors as they make that transition."

Peter Wong, deputy chairman and chief executive for HSBC Asia-Pacific, said: "Asia will play a critical role in driving the global transition to a low-carbon future."

"The fast-growing economies, thriving businesses and increasingly prosperous consumer segments in this region stand to significantly benefit from a conscious shift to sustainable choices, practices and investments, Wong said.

"With HSBC's new commitments, which include \$100 billion of sustain-

able financing and investments, as well as the proactive management of the bank's own environmental footprint, policies and practices, we hope to help our customers, partners and the communities we support, respond to the enormous challenges posed by climate change and capture opportunities that sustainable growth can offer to all."

The pledges build on HSBC's long-standing involvement in green and sustainable finance, Wong added.

Over recent years, it has played a leading role in developing voluntary standards for issuers of green bonds and social bonds, issued its own €500 million green bond and won recognition for the quality of its research into climate change.

HSBC announced the new commitments in an update on the action it is taking to meet its social, environmental and governance responsibilities.

The bank has continued to improve its own environmental performance in key areas. Over the past year, HSBC has reduced water usage by 9 percent, carbon emissions by 9 percent and energy consumption by 13 percent.

It has also signed agreements with clean energy producers to source 24 percent of its electricity from renewable sources.



NCC BANK

Md Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of NCC Bank, attends the opening session of a two-day "Periodical business conference for managers and executives" organised by the bank at its head office in Dhaka on Friday. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, CEO, also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

'Ecosystem-based Development, Management and Conservation of the Saint Martin Island' Project
Department of Environment (DoE)
E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

No. 22.02.0000.039.14.048.17.78

Date: 02/11/2017

Request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).
2	Agency	Department of Environment (DoE).
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director of 'Ecosystem-based Development, Management and Conservation of the Saint Martin Island' Project.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	NGO/Consulting firm as implementation partner of this project.
7	Title of service	Expressions of Interest (REOI) for NGO/Consulting firm for the project as an implementing partner.

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method/sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	GoB
10	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/programme code (if applicable)	5004
13	Eoi closing date and time	Date: 30/11/2017 Time: 02:00pm

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

14	Brief description of assignment	Under the Guidance and Supervision of the Project Director, the selected consulting firm or the NGO will be responsible for discharging the following activities on conservation management and community development activities to implement the St. Martin project towards management of the very Ecological Critical Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All activities assigned on conservation, such as, conservation of turtle, migratory birds, coral habitats, other natural habitats, prevention of waste with implementation of waste management system and plantation; etc. Revitalize the Village Conservation Group (VCG) & other committees working in the Saint Martin; Conduct Awareness raising activities with an approved plan; Assist DOE to organize training for local communities on institutional capacity enhancement, biodiversity conservation, plantation of <i>Keya</i> and other indigenous species, Turtle Hatching and Hatchling Release, Waste Management, Eco-tourism, AIGs, etc; Assist DOE on annual bird census; Develop baseline for water quality, sea flora and fauna and endangered species; Refurbish/Repair of the Museum with an approved Plan for preservation of Marine Specimen in the Marine Park Centre and after refurbish regular O&M with collection of specimen; Ensure community-based waste collection and disposal system; Assist participatory enforcement activity; Operation of Information Centers in St. Martin Island; Demarcate critical habitats with description of the habitats; Assist DOE to implement the activities on coral regeneration; Assisting operation and maintenance of turtle hatchery and hatching grounds, and ensure surveillance on Turtle Egg Laying and Hatching on the Beach, establishment of Plant Nursery; Ensure surveillance to protect Corals, Turtles, <i>Keya</i> Plants/Fruits, and new plantation made by the project; Organize beach cleaning activity on a daily basis to keep the beach clean with an aesthetic look; Regular monitoring of Water Quality, Flora and Fauna, Coral Species, etc. in around the Saint Martin Island; Implement the sustainable options of biodiversity conservation to be done under the project; Any other activity of the project to be instructed by PD.
15	Qualification & experience required	Interested Consultants/NGOs should provide a cover letter indicating why the firm is competent for the assignment with brochures of organizational strength, legal documents like: trade license/NGO registration, certification of VAT/Tax, description of experiences of similar assignments, experiences in similar operating conditions in competitive proposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least ten years of working experiences, preferably, in similar natural resources management activities.

GD-2393

Mohammed Solaiman Haider
Project Director



UNILEVER BANGLADESH

High officials of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd and Dhaka Dynamites attend a deal signing ceremony on Thursday. Lifebuoy, the health soap brand of Unilever Bangladesh, became sponsor of Dhaka Dynamites for the fifth edition of Bangladesh Premier League.