

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখার মাধ্যমে জমা দিন

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যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯৯২২

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BUSINESS

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Samson H Chowdhury, an inspiration to all

Speakers tell memorial meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Samson H Chowdhury, the founder of Square Group, reached the pinnacle of success through his devotion to work while his love for society and exemplary contributions show he never forgot his roots, speakers told a memorial meeting.

With his death, Pabna's people lost their guardian while the country a brilliant entrepreneur and an asset, they told the meeting on his life and works organised at Pabna Press Club on Friday to mark his sixth death anniversary.

Samson passed away in Singapore on January 5, 2012 at the age of 86 due to old-age complications. Special prayers were also held attended by his family members.

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Better domestic policies to boost trade

Says former WTO director general Pascal Lamy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Better domestic policies are important for a country to benefit from trade, former WTO director general Pascal Lamy said yesterday.

"I do believe trade opening brings benefit on the number of conditions that has to be made," Lamy said.

"Some of these solutions are international. There is an issue of the fairness of the global trade regime and it is only partially been addressed in the recent decades."

There remain flaws in international role, not all by developed countries, he told a public lecture on "Knowledge to Share, Planet to Care" organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a local think-tank, at Khazana Gardenia Banquet Hall in Dhaka.

But most of the solutions lie with domestic policies, said Lamy, who is now the special envoy of the French government.

He also stressed the need for policies such as competition policy, industrial policy, welfare policy and social security policies to reap benefits from trade.

Lamy is now visiting Dhaka to win support from Bangladesh for France's candidature to host World Expo-2025 which bears the theme of sharing knowledge and caring for the planet.

He said there was consensus that economic development leads to more welfare and brings less social and political conflict.



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From right, Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue; Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman; Pascal Lamy, former director general of WTO, and Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD, attend a public lecture on 'Knowledge to Share, Planet to Care' at Khazana Gardenia Banquet Hall in Dhaka yesterday.

People have been living and acting together in the planet for a long time. "This positive relationship is somehow broken," he said.

He said the world economy faces two major challenges - rise in inequality and environmental degradation.

"We should acknowledge we have not addressed these in recent decades," he said, adding that a rise in inequalities was leading to an increase in social and political tension in many places.

Degradation of the environment also creates anxiety, he said.

Inequality is mostly a domestic issue, he said and suggested for addressing it through policies focusing on education, health, housing and taxation.

There are local problems and solutions should also come locally, he said.

On environmental degradation and climate change, he said it has to be addressed at the national level.

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Exports rise 7pc in Jul-Dec

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Exports rose 7.15 percent year-on-year to \$17.92 billion in the first half of the fiscal year, maintaining the growth momentum largely on the back of garments, jute, jute goods and furniture.

Bangladesh also beat the export target for July-December by 0.23 percent, according to the Export Promotion Bureau.

Alone in December, exports receipts stood at \$3.09 billion, up 8.42 percent over the same month in the last fiscal year. The monthly target was, however, missed by 1.84 percent.

Garments, which account for more than 80 percent of Bangladesh's total exports, logged in \$14.77 billion in the first six months, up 7.75 percent from the same period a year ago.

Knitwear exports went up 11.47 per-

cent year-on-year to \$7.60 billion in July-December while shipment of woven garments rose 4.08 percent to \$7.18 billion.

Home textiles brought in \$407.73 million, growing 15.65 percent year-on-year.

Exports of leather and leather goods, the second largest export earning sector after garments, fell 1.21 percent year-on-year to \$620.27 million in the period. The segment was dealt a blow by a decline in leather shipment which shed 27.84 percent.

Within the same category, exports of leather footwear grew 8.52 percent and leather products 2.81 percent.

Export of jute and jute goods, another top earner, jumped 21.48 percent to \$574.06 million.

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Go for centralised banking to reduce risks, costs

Says an expert

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks in Bangladesh should adopt a centralised banking system as it helps lenders reduce costs as well as credit and operational risks, a top banker said yesterday.

Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury, a former managing director of Prime Bank, said the system also improves efficiency and ensures responsibility and accountability of bankers. He said had Sonali Bank been a centralised bank, the Hall-Mark scam could have been averted.

"A centralised banking system could have detected why a branch had been opening so many letters of credit for Hall-Mark. The malpractice could have been stopped just after one case," he told The Daily Star at a views-exchange meeting at The Daily Star Centre.



Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury

The good thing is that, he said, some local private banks have already adopted global best practices. Brac, Eastern, The City, NRB Bank and Prime have introduced the system. Of the foreign banks, HSBC, Standard Chartered and Citi have been following the system for long.

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The number of visitors swelled at Dhaka International Trade Fair in Agargaon yesterday with residents of the capital seeking to make the most of the weekend going through a myriad of products put on display with lucrative offers.

Global franchise consulting firm opens Dhaka office

FranGlobal to invest \$39m in next two years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Singapore-based franchise consulting and brokerage firm FranGlobal has recently opened its office in Dhaka with an aim to introduce 50 global brands in Bangladesh in the next two years.

The company will invest \$39 million in the country, said Ekansh Kumar Dewan, senior manager for marketing at Franchise India Holdings Ltd, the parent company of FranGlobal.

"FranGlobal will also take initiative to help Bangladeshi brands expand globally," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We help people to start their

business," Dewan said. The company provides the entrepreneurs with the whole ecosystem to help brands expand in other cities and even in different countries, he said.

FranGlobal plans to organise its first ever international franchise and retail expo on February 24, which will actually be a match-making expo of brands and interested investors, he said.

Dozens of global brands along with some Indian and local brands will take part in the show, he said.

In the daylong expo, brands from different industries will showcase their franchise opportunities, Dewan said.

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City Bank gets \$10m from Norwegian lender

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

City Bank has recently secured \$10 million funds from the Norwegian Development Bank (Norfund) to support its offshore banking unit and project financing requirements of customers.

A financial closure ceremony was organised in Oslo, Norway where City Bank Managing Director Sohail RK Hussain and Norfund Chief Executive Officer Kjell Roland signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations, City Bank said in a statement.

City Bank's Head of Wholesale Banking Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, Head of Structured Finance Mahbub Jamil, Norfund Head of Financial Institutions Erik Sandersen, and Senior Investment Manager Marianne Halvorsen were also present on the occasion, it said.

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