

# App launched for better labour management

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
The government yesterday launched a mobile application to ensure quality labour management in the industrial sector.

The Labour Inspection Management Application or LIMA will improve the collection, storage and analysis of labour inspection data.

The development of LIMA has been supported by the International Labour Organisation's Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment Sector programme funded by Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Md Mujibul Haque, state minister for labour and employment, inaugurated the LIMA at an event held at the Amari Dhaka hotel.

Around 250 android tablets were also handed over to the Department of Inspections for Factories and Establishments or DIFE, to be used during inspections.

"LIMA is a milestone in the march towards digital Bangladesh and testament to the commitment of the government to

ensure that every workplace is a safe workplace and that the rights of workers are respected," the state minister said.

LIMA is set to make DIFE's operations more effective by combining its key data gathering and management needs in one platform, International Labour Organisation's Dhaka office said in a statement.

It will also enhance data accessibility and transparency by making certain information available to employers and workers while facilitating day-to-day tasks such as factory licence applications or the submission of complaints, according to the statement.

"The launch of LIMA marks the beginning of a new chapter for the labour inspectorate," said Md Shamsuzzaman Bhuiyan, inspector general of the DIFE.

"It will make our operations more effective and thereby help to enhance the welfare and safety of working people and also improve productivity of industries. It will also help DIFE to generate a variety of reports.

# Taskforce formed to involve NRBs in national dev

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government has for the first time formed a taskforce to increase involvement of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in national development, taking into account the around \$14 billion they remit every year on an average.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) formed the 11-member taskforce to formulate an institution framework and work method specifying ways to achieve the involvement and take it forward.

The taskforce will be dissolved once the framework is formulated, said an ERD circular last week. The additional secretary to the ERD will be the taskforce convener while Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN AK Abdul Momen a member.

Other members include representatives of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), ministries of expatriate welfare and overseas employment, and labour and employment; Finance Division, Financial Institution Division, a2i programme at the PMO, UNDP Bangladesh, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and deputy secretary to the ERD.

The principal secretary and chief coordinator (SDG affairs) at the PMO and the ERD secretary will be advisers. The circular identified a number of government institutions as associate members.

These include the divisions of secondary and higher education, technical and madrasa education, health services, health education and family welfare, and information and communication technology.

The others are the ministries of primary and mass education, and social welfare, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority and Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority.



**Bitopi Das Chowdhury, country head for corporate affairs at Standard Chartered Bangladesh, visits an eye camp in Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The bank and non-government organisation Friendship are jointly performing 400 cataract surgeries for disadvantaged people in remote coastal regions of Bangladesh utilising Friendship's vessel Rongdhonu Friendship Hospital.**

# New top brass for IMCB



**M Zakir Hossain**



**Md Zahidur Rahman**

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

M Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Young Consultants, has recently been elected as the chairman of the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh (IMCB).

The institute also elected Md Zahidur Rahman, director of the Associates for Development Services Ltd, as its president, IMCB said in a statement yesterday.

At the same time, Syed Ahmed Ali and Mohammad Khairul Bashar have been elected as vice presidents and Tofazzul Hussain as treasurer.

The election took place at the institute's 17th annual general meeting at a hotel in Dhaka, according to the statement.

IMCB sets and maintains standards for the management consulting profession in Bangladesh.

# ICCB team off to Tokyo

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

A delegation of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh left for Tokyo yesterday to take part in a 10th ICC Asia Pacific Regional Consultative Group Meeting and fourth ICC Asia Pacific CEO Forum on March 8-9.

The delegation comprises ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, Vice President Latifur Rahman and Secretary General Ataur Rahman.

Latifur Rahman, chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, will also attend another ICC Executive Board Meeting as its member.

The ICC Asia Pacific CEO Forum is scheduled to bring together over 200 high-level global and Asia-Pacific CEOs and leaders of international organizations, Japanese business leaders and key ministers, ICC Bangladesh said in a statement yesterday.

Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever; John WH Denton AO, first vice chair of ICC; and Karien Van Gennip, vice chair will take part in the forum.



**Mominul Islam, CEO of IPDC Finance Ltd, receives a crest from Prof M Shamsher Ali, a fellow of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), during "WALCOM 2018-The 12th International Conference and Workshops on Algorithms and Computation" jointly organised by the BAS and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and sponsored by IPDC Finance at Dhaka Club in the capital on Sunday. Saiful Islam, vice chancellor of Buet, and Quazi Abdul Fattah, president of BAS, were present.**

IPDC

# IDLC seeks \$40m from IFC to offer home loans

**FROM PAGE B1**

"If the proposed financing goes through, it will enable us to extend home loans to middle and lower middle income population of the country, currently an underserved segment," said Arif Khan, CEO of IDLC Finance.

The financing will also pave the way for a viable affordable housing finance product, Khan said.

IDLC is the largest non-bank financial institution in Bangladesh and has a substantial SME portfolio.

As of December 2017, the company held \$1.2 billion in assets and about 20 percent of its loan portfolio was dedicated to housing finance.

Home ownership level in Bangladesh is about 30 percent, whereas it is up to 80 percent in developed countries, according to industry people.

Property prices in Dhaka are more than 10 times the annual income of an average person, whereas the international measure of affordability is about four times the annual income.

# Domino's Pizza to set foot in Bangladesh soon

**FROM PAGE B1**

As the eighth most populous country in the world with the highest population density and a young demographic, the Bangladesh market presents a great growth opportunity for Domino's, said Pratik Pota, chief executive officer of Jubilant FoodWorks.

The deal has been in the works for the last two years, according to Mohius Samad Choudhury, a director of Golden Harvest Group. "We have surveyed the market and found that there will be huge potential for pizza."

The first Domino's store, which would be in Dhaka, is expected to open its doors within the next three months, according to Choudhury.

The pricing would be reasonable, he said, adding that a 30-minute delivery service will also be rolled out.

"We are confident that with Jubilant's strong operational expertise and Golden Harvest's deep understanding of the Bangladesh market, we will be able to carve a strong position in the food services market in the country," Pota added.

Golden Harvest would be providing the pizza ingredients, while Jubilant FoodWorks, which operates 1,128 Domino's restaurants and 43 Dunkin' Donut stores in India, will be in charge of the stores and the other logistics.

"This partnership has huge potential and with Jubilant FoodWorks' support, we are confident that we would be able to deliver a great pizza experience to customers in Bangladesh," said Rajeeb Samdani, managing director of Golden Harvest Group.

The paid-up capital of the joint venture company would be Tk 10 crore and about Tk 15 crore would be spent to set up the joints and other logistics, according to Choudhury.

Shares of Golden Harvest Agro Industries closed 2.46 percent higher at Tk 41.50 yesterday.

# 10 companies not paying dividends for a decade

**FROM PAGE B1**

Savar Refractories, a brick-maker, has only Tk 1.39 crore in paid-up capital, whereas it requires at least Tk 100 crore to Tk 150 crore to return to profitability, said its company secretary Sayed Mohammad Zakaria.

There is a ban on land mining, so Savar Refractories has to import raw materials. With a 10 percent duty on the imported raw materials, the company cannot compete with foreign products, he added.

AKM Delwar Hossain, chairman of the Bangladesh Sugar & Food industries Corporation, which runs Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd and Shyampur Sugar Mills, said sugar price is lower than production cost, so the losses of the two companies cannot be overlooked.

"But we have started to do well recently and the loss is minimising," he added.

Rahima Food Corporation is trying to rearrange its product portfolio, according to the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Officials of Dulamia Cotton Spinning Mills did not respond to requests for comment from The Daily Star.

The telephone number given on the website of Jute Spinners was found to be not in service and there was no response

from the listed email address.

Officials of Meghna Condensed Milk and Meghna Pet could not be reached.

Samata Leather Complex's telephone number available from the DSE website was found to have been deactivated.

"Why are people still putting their money in such stocks?" questioned BSEC spokesperson Rahman.

Yesterday, shares of Dulamia Cotton Spinning Mills lost 4.3 percent to close at Tk 48.9. Meghna Condensed Milk slipped 1.81 percent to Tk 32.5 and Meghna Pet 3.38 percent to Tk 25.70. Rahima Food Corporation crawled down 0.79 percent to Tk 150.20, and Samata Leather Complex shed 0.79 percent to Tk 62.9.

Jute Spinners gained 0.85 percent to end the day at Tk 177, Savar Refractories 1.87 percent to Tk 202, Zeal Bangla 3.41 percent to Tk 69.7, and Shyampur Sugar Mills 0.45 percent to Tk 67. ICB Islamic Bank was unchanged at Tk 5.70.

Khairul Bashar Abu Taher Mohammed, chief executive officer of MTB Capital, said every capital market has these types of companies. Subsequently, he urged the regulator to conduct an inspection into such countries.

# ADP outlay slashed 4pc

**FROM PAGE B1**

As a result, their implementation delays, raising the cost of projects finally.

A list of 1,027 projects has been included in the ADP, but no funds have been allocated to them. These projects will be given a place in the original ADP

with small allocations in the next three months.

According to the original ADP, 411 projects were scheduled to be completed by this fiscal year. But the number was brought down to 300 in the revised one.

# Vietnamese keen to invest in telecom, textile

**FROM PAGE B1**

The businessmen of both the countries agreed to form a Bangladesh Vietnam Business Council to focus on sectors and modalities to promote trade and investment between the two countries, said Shaiful Islam Mohiuddin, president of FBCCI.

At the business forum, three investment agreements were signed in the presence of Iran.

In the first agreement, TBS Group, which counts global brands like Coach, Tory Burch, Skechers and Decathlon as its long-term customers, agreed to invest \$100 million in Bangladesh's leather and leathers goods sector.

The agreement was signed between Saiful Islam, president of Leathers goods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh, and Diep Thanh Kiet, vice-chairman of Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association.

The other two agreements involve setting up two joint venture seafood processing companies in Bangladesh.

"We will seek technologies on shrimp farming from the Vietnamese companies," said Belayet Hossain, vice-president of the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, after signing the agreements.

Vietnam has been performing very well on the export of vannamei variety of shrimp.

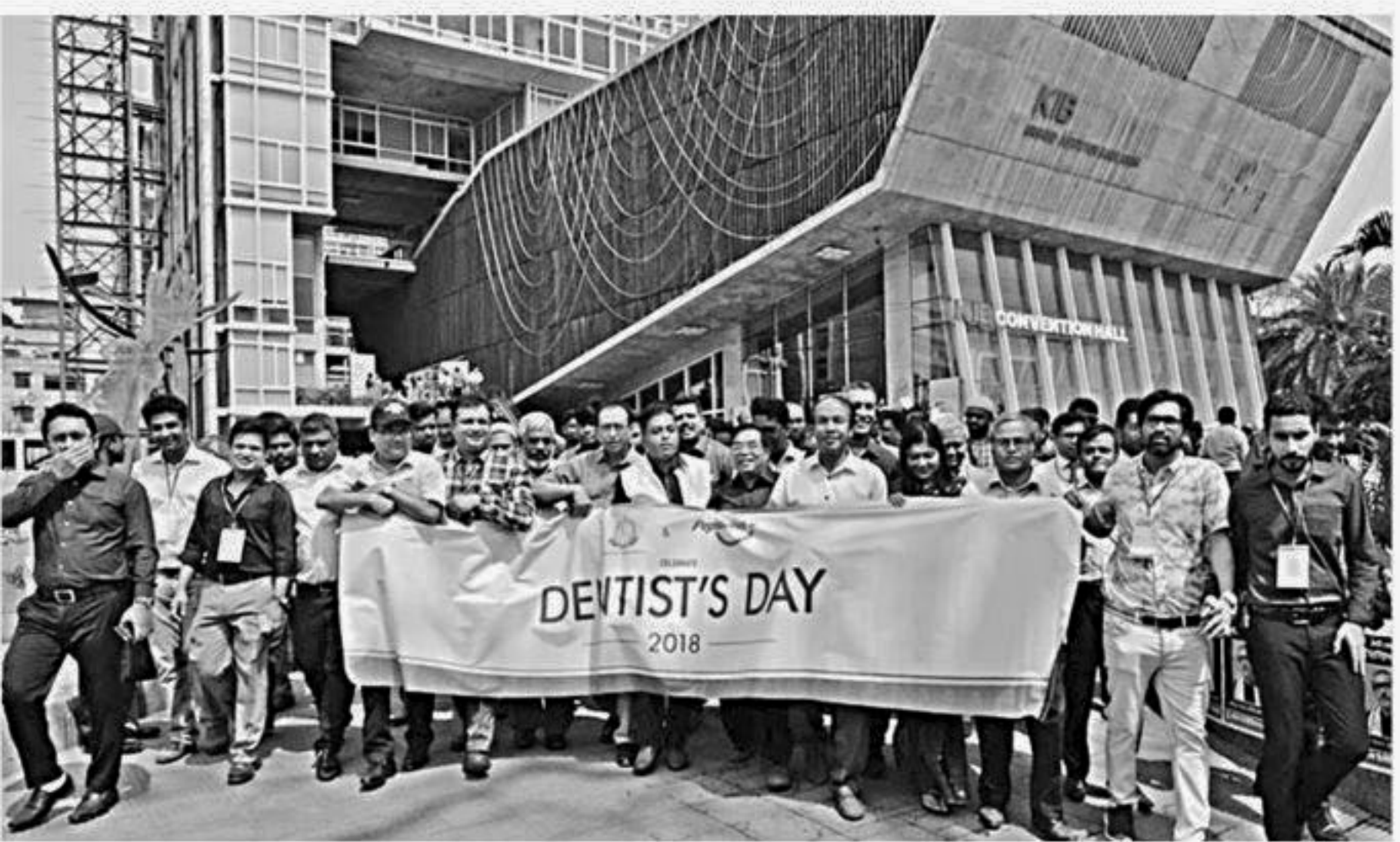
The local fish farmers will also cultivate the vannamei variety of shrimps as this is more profitable than the black tiger and fresh water shrimps that they currently farm.

# Software, ICT need special attention in budget: BASIS

**FROM PAGE B1**

Earlier, the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh also demanded the same.

A 15 percent VAT is charged for internet usage through land connections while a 21.75 percent VAT, supplementary duty and surcharge for usage through mobile phones.



**Md Abul Kashem, president of Bangladesh Dental Society, attends a rally observing "World Dentist's Day" jointly organised by the society and Unilever Bangladesh's oral care brand Pepsodent at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.**

# Allocation for Rohingyas in next budget: Muhith

**FROM PAGE B1**

Fresh infiltrators from Myanmar will also be taken there, according to the minister.

He said the international community has provided generous assistance so far but there is doubt how long it would continue.

The minister also said the UK team was denied entry to Myanmar and he had detailed discussion on the Rohingya issue with the delegation.

Muhith expressed doubt whether the government's move to repatriate the Rohingyas to Myanmar would succeed. Bangladesh would have to bear the brunt of the Rohingya inflow, he added.



**Members of Dhaka Regency's Premier Club and officials of the hotel pose at "Premier Club Members' Celebration Night 2018" at the hotel in Dhaka on March 1.**