

Lift Sylhet's economic growth thru agriculture, tourism

Experts say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Speakers at a workshop, styled "Local Level Stakeholders Consultation on Inclusive, Smooth and Sustainable LDC Graduation", yesterday called for reaping the full potential of local agriculture, tourism and geographic location to enhance economic growth in Sylhet.

They also urged for creating a business-friendly environment to attract investment from non-resident Bangladeshis.

"Bangladesh successfully tackled various global challenges in the past and so, we will be able to maintain the development momentum even after graduating from a least developed country (LDC)," said Sharifa Khan, secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

"Building awareness about the country's LDC graduation at the grassroots level would help make the development process more inclusive."

The event was organised by ERD in collaboration with the district administration of Sylhet, and Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"LDC graduation is a matter of pride for the country," she added. Md Mozibur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said that building awareness about the country's LDC graduation at the grassroots level would help make the development process more inclusive and sustainable.

Tahmin Ahmed, president of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emphasised on the need for training and skill enhancement of the local population to prepare the country for LDC graduation.

Farid Aziz, additional secretary of the ERD and project director of the Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP), emphasised on sensitising local private sector representatives, especially export-oriented industries, about the opportunities to be created by LDC graduation.

Md Anwar Hossain, component manager of the SSGP, Ferdous Ara Begum, chief executive officer of BUILD, Alhaj Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of Sylhet sadar upazila, Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Baraka Power Ltd, and Subrata Das, associate professor of the department of architecture at Shahjalal Science and Technology University, also addressed the workshop.



Production and retail costs of poultry meat and eggs should be reduced to achieve the goal of improving food security in Bangladesh, experts say.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Reduce costs, disease in poultry industry

Experts say at world veterinary poultry assoc meeting

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government aims to improve food security in Bangladesh by increasing the availability of poultry meat to 160 grams per person each day and eggs to 208 pieces per person each year but to achieve this goal, the production and retail cost of these items should be reduced.

Monjur Mohammad Shahjada, director general of the Department of Livestock Services, made this comment during the opening ceremony of the 5th World Veterinary Poultry Association (WVPA) Asia Meeting-2022 in Dhaka yesterday.

"Our main concern now is to reduce production costs. If we can reduce the disease load, then we can reduce costs. For that matter biosecurity should be strictly followed at the farm level," said Abu Luthfi Fazle Rahim Khan Shahriar, executive member of the Bangladesh Poultry Industries Central Council.

"If we cannot control diseases and ensure food safety, we will have to

face hurdles to enter the competitive international market," he added. Shahriar went on to say that the poultry industry in the rural economy plays a big role in reversing migration from villages to big cities.

"Our main concern now is to reduce production costs. If we can reduce the disease load, then we can reduce costs. For that matter biosecurity should be strictly followed at the farm level."

Nicolas Eterradosi, president of WPVA (global), said new diseases are emerging in poultry industries across the world and combating them is a big challenge for the sector.

"Scientists and veterinarians will have to play a vital role in this regard," he added.

French scientist Christophe Cazaban said significant improvements have been made in the ability to simultaneously detect several pathogens from one given sample, opening a new venue in epidemiological surveys, disease management and risk awareness for every veterinarian.

"If you know the enemy and yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither, you will succumb in every battle," Cazaban added.

Rafiqul Islam, president of WVPA (Bangladesh), and Dr Bishwajit Roy, secretary, urged scientists and veterinarians to come forward in combatting emerging diseases in the poultry sector.

Over 300 delegates from home and abroad, including poultry veterinarians, allied professionals, and other public and private sector stakeholders joined the meeting.

Going Green exhibition by Danish embassy comes to an end

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Embassy of Denmark in Bangladesh has hosted a five-day exhibition, called 'Going Green', at Bay's Edge Gallery in Dhaka to highlight green solutions that can support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The exhibition and related events focused on sustainable and green development, digital and physical connectivity to energy as well as resource-efficient services, the embassy said in a statement. The right combination of green technologies, knowledge transfer, and capacity building helps foster innovation for a greener future, it said.

These are key for a climate-vulnerable country like Bangladesh for productivity, economic growth, and quality of life.

"The 'Going Green' exhibition promotes and exhibits Denmark's understanding of sustainability. We are pleased to share with Bangladesh a holistic approach to sustainable living that includes social goals like responsible business, good governance, equality, and inclusion," Danish Ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen said.

Denmark has grown its economy for the past four decades while simultaneously reducing carbon dioxide emissions and resource consumption.

Thus, proving that a green economy does create jobs. As such, Denmark is leading in green economic growth and clean technologies, making the country well positioned to serve as a knowledge partner for Bangladesh on its journey towards a greener and more sustainable society.

The exhibition, that took place over the October 16 to October 20, was enriched with four panel discussions highlighting key challenges and opportunities within a green transition for the Bangladeshi public and private sectors.

The panel discussion on the first day, titled 'Sustainable Transition & Resource Efficiency Perspectives', led by Bay Developments Limited and including other private sector companies, discussed what practices they undertook as steps to move towards greater sustainable practices and an interchange of ideas took place.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (OCT 22, 2022)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 65-Tk 75	3.7 ↑	12.19 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 55	6.19 ↑	10.75 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 58	7.62 ↑	68.18 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	-3.94 ↓	9.55 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 162-Tk 166	-5.48 ↓	15.9 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 24-Tk 28	-1.89 ↓	44.44 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	26.51 ↑	-14.63 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 45-Tk 50	-2.6 ↓	31.94 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Members of a delegation from the Asian Trade Promotion Forum along with high officials of Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau and Walton pose for photographs during a visit to the Walton headquarters in Chandra, Gazipur recently.

PHOTO: WALTON

Asian Trade Promotion Forum delegation visits Walton headquarters

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A delegation from Asian Trade Promotion Forum (ATPF), a 23-member platform of the region's trade promoting organisations, visited the Walton headquarters in Gazipur on the outskirts of the capital city recently.

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh organised the visit as a part of the ATPF's 35th CEO Meeting. It was led by AHM Ahsan, vice chairman of the EPB, said a press release.

The visitors lauded Walton's research and innovation centre, manufacturing plants and product diversification and affirmed the potential of Bangladesh's export-oriented industries.

The delegation members included Yuta Ichinose, deputy director of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Ryo Takahama and Yu Kaneko, representatives of the

JETRO, and Yuya Usuki, assistant manager of JETRO Dhaka Office.

Krishan Kumar, senior manager of India Trade Promotion Organization, Eileen Lee, regional director of Enterprise Singapore, Kosal Kao, director general of Cambodia's General Directorate of Trade Promotion, Sharimahton Mat Saleh, deputy chief executive officer of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, and Ahsan Ali Mangi, secretary of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, were also present.

Md Humayun Kabir, deputy managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and SM Zahid Hasan and Easir Al Imran, senior executive directors, welcomed the delegates.

Mahbubur Rahman, director general of the EPB, Iftikher Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary, Mohammad Abdul Halim, assistant director, and Md Minhaz Uddin, investigator, were also present.

AB Bank cardholders to get discounts at GD Assist

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AB Bank and GD Assist, a subsidiary of Green Delta Insurance Company, signed an agreement recently offering the lender's cardholders up to 10 per cent discount on different services under the latter's health package.

Cardholders can also enjoy up to 25 per cent discount on sample collection from home.

Syed Mizanur Rahman, deputy managing director of the bank, and Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, managing director of GD Assist, signed the deal at the former's head office in Dhaka, said a press release.

Tarique Afzal, managing director of the bank, and Wafi Shafique Mehnaz Khan, managing director of Green Delta Securities, were present.

Dinajpur BSCIC estate

FROM PAGE B4

"Such roads will be built in the industrial area if given the allocation," he added.

Reza Shamim Humayun Kabir, president of the Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said pollution at the BSCIC area is abnormally high but the use of modern technology could reduce it.

"Also, the government should come forward to build the required infrastructure," he added.

Kabir, also a former president of the Dinajpur Rice Millers Association, then said the peoples' suffering is getting worse each

year.

There are around 234 automatic rice mills in the district, half of which are located in the BSCIC industrial estate while the rest are based in surrounded areas.

"In a word, the situation is grim," Kabir said.

Another issue is that since there is a lack of available land in the area, the authorities have no scope to allocate space for emerging entrepreneurs in the district.

However, BSCIC officials said they are preparing a project to start an industrial park on around 200 acres in Kaharole upazila of Dinajpur.

Rancon extends Tk 2cr

FROM PAGE B4

To Abdul Moteleb's son Rakib; Tk 20 lakh to Mujibur Rahman, father of sailor Md Abul Bashar; Tk 20 lakh to Mina Begum, wife of greaser Pradeep Chowdhury; Tk 20 lakh to Zobaida Akhtar and Rakibul Hasan, wife and son respectively of fish master Zahir Uddin; Tk 50 lakh to second engineer Zahirul Islam's wife Ferdous Begum, and Tk 50 lakh to chief officer Saiful Islam's wife Ayesha Akhtar.

At the programme, Romo Rauf Chowdhury, group managing director of Rancon Group; Roman

Rauf Chowdhury, director of Rancon Oceania; Farhana Karim, managing director of Rancon Holding; Mashid Rahman, divisional director; Tanvir Shahriar Rimon, executive director; Giyas Uddin, principal officer of Mercantile Marine Division; Commodore Syed Ariful Islam, president of Marine Fisheries Ex Cadet Association; Tarekuzzaman Sarkar, Rancon Oceania's general manager and head of operations, and Naveen Anwar, general manager of Rancon Sea Fishing, were also present.



Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, deputy minister for education, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's (HSBC) newly relocated Sky branch at Sanmar Tower One on CDA Avenue in East Nasirabad, Chattogram recently. Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, and Tanmi Haque, country head of wealth and personal banking, were present.

PHOTO: HSBC



Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash, and Tobias Fischer, co-founder and chief executive officer of wagely, signed a memorandum of understanding at the former's head office in Dhaka recently to provide "Earned Wage Access" to garment workers receiving salaries through bKash's payroll solution. Amrita Vir, head of strategy and interim country head of wagely, Sagir Ahmed Robin, head of channel partnerships, and ATM Mahbub Alam, head of payroll business of bKash, were present.

PHOTO: BKASH



ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury, managing director of Union Bank, inaugurated a quarterly "Business Review Meeting-2022" for Chattogram yesterday. Md Nazrul Islam, deputy managing director, and Golam Mostafa, senior executive vice-president, were present.

PHOTO: UNION BANK