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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2011, e-mail: [business@thedailystar.net](mailto:business@thedailystar.net)



**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall of the Dhaka International Trade Fair that started at Sher-E-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday. The commerce ministry and the Export Promotion Bureau co-organised the month-long event.**

PMO

## Trade fair sets off cheery mood

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Local and foreign participants at the 16th Dhaka International Trade Fair 2011 hope the exposition will help them woo both overseas and domestic buyers.

A total of 531 national and multinational companies from 14 countries, including Bangladesh, are showcasing products at the event, the country's largest trade fair that began at Sher-E-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the month-long fair co-organised by the commerce ministry and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

The exposition will afford local producers who lack opportunities and capacity to participate in international fairs, an opportunity to display products to buyers from abroad, said an organiser.

The overseas participants similarly will be able to display products to Bangladeshi consumers and a market of about 16 crore people, where the domestic market of consumer goods is expanding, he said.

Robiul Islam, general manager of Bengal Textiles, which set up a large pavilion with its silk saris, salwars and kameezes, said the event boosts their sales.

"Sales of silk items are always good. We hope there will be no exception in this regard this time," he said.

Jamal Jamour has come from Turkey to sell various jewellery and showpieces. This is the third time he has made to the fair. More merchandise items are on the way, which will be arriving soon, he said.

"I'm happy with the arrangement. I hope I will be able to sell more products this year," Jamour said.

Some government agencies have also set up pavilions to promote their respective sectors. The ministry of textiles and jute, for example, has set up Jute Diversification Promotion Centre, where stalls are selling jute products.

The DITF 2011 is also accessible on the website at [www.ditf2011.com](http://www.ditf2011.com), where viewers will be able to see activities of the fair live online and read news on the event, said Md Mahbub Ullah, chief executive of Geoplan Bangladesh, which has developed the website in association with NewsNet, an online newspaper.

The news of the fair will be also available on popular social networking sites, Facebook and Twitter, he said.

Although most stalls and pavilions have completed their preparatory activities, some were still seen attending to the last-minute cosmetics. An EPB official at the Information Centre, however, said she knew of no such stalls, which were not ready yet.

The fair includes a park for children where five rides are available.

The fair is open to visitors from 10am to 10pm everyday, with an entry fee of Tk 15 for adults and Tk 10 for children.

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## Banks log hefty profit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Private banks logged as high as 90 percent growth in their operating profit last year, riding on a boom in stockmarket and an upward trend in external business.

Most banks marked a rise in profit, ranging from 50 percent to 90 percent, and a few posted more than Tk 1,000 crore profit.

On the last day of 2010, Friday, they sat to count the last one year's

Bank and AB Bank logged more than Tk 1,000 crore each.

Managing Director of Shahjalal Islami Bank Abdur Rahman Sarker told The Daily Star that the banks are involved in the stockmarket business in different ways -- they have opened their own brokerage houses and are also doing portfolio investment. As a result, a big amount of income is accruing to them from the share market.

Sarker said the banks' income

the central bank also pulled down the banks' classified loans, increasing their income.

From January 3 to December 30, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange went up by 3,754 points, or 82 percent, to 8,290.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) data shows that the banks' total holdings in the share market were Tk 25,000 crore as of October 31 last year.

Many banks earned a big portion of their profit from the stockmarket, bankers said. A bank involved in Islamic banking made a profit of about Tk 400 crore last year. Of the amount, Tk 100 crore came from its brokerage business.

The external trade of the banks also started going up last year, with the world economy recovering from the recession.

According to BB data, import increased by about 34 percent in July-October of the current fiscal year, against a fall of about 15 percent in the same period last year.

On the other hand, export went up by 36 percent during the July-November period of the current fiscal year, whereas the country witnessed a fall by about 7 percent in such external trade in the same period a year ago.

The banks' non-interest income increased in line with the rise in import and export.

In the first six months of the last fiscal year, the non-interest income shot up by 39 percent.



profit. Primary data of all these 30 private banks shows that their combined profit soared by 57 percent to Tk 13,203 crore last year, against Tk 8,000 crore in 2009.

Islami Bank Bangladesh, this year also, made the highest profit at Tk 1,143 crore. Besides, National

from external business also went up as the world economy shook much off the recession jitters.

Senior Executive Vice President of Mutual Trust Bank AKM Shamim said the banks' income on account of fees and commission has increased. The strict monitoring by

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## Apparel tech show starts Jan 12


STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The tenth edition of Garmentech Bangladesh show will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka from January 12-15, showcasing the latest machinery and technology in the garment sector.

Zakaria Trade and Fair International and ASK Trade and Exhibitions Ltd will organise the event, said a statement yesterday.

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