

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
Week on week	As of Friday	As of Friday	As of Friday	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	15,454.92	8,455.35	2,646.35	2,199.42	BUY TK	81.20	103.33	124.02	1.01
▲ 0.48%	▲ 2.10%	\$1,571.60 (per ounce)	\$99.36 (per barrel)	▼ 0.57%	▲ 0.67%	▼ 0.99%	▲ 1.91%	SELL TK	82.20	107.53	128.34	1.11

NCC Bank's **87th** Branch at **Boalkhali** From December 28, 2011

Boalkhali Branch: Kabir Center (1st Floor) East Gornadani, Boalkhali, Chittagong

NCC Bank Ltd. Where Credit and Commerce Integrates www.nccb.com.bd

star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 1, 2012, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net

e-banking rides high on IT

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The financial sector made remarkable progress in adopting electronic forms of payments instead of traditional paper-based ones in the just concluded year.

The use of debit card, credit card, automated teller machine (ATM), internet banking, mobile banking, automated cheque processing and credit information system increased significantly in 2011.

Banks were in the forefront of harnessing technology to improve their products, services and efficiency to rope in customers.

According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, out of 47 scheduled banks 43 are now engaged more or less in electronic operations.

The four banks that are yet to adopt electronic banking are: Ban-

gladesh Krishi Bank, Bangladesh Development Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and Rupali Bank. All these are state-owned.

BB data shows 38 banks were providing online banking facilities and 18 banks internet banking. On the other hand, nearly 40 banks have now ATM or debit card services and 26 banks offer credit card facilities.

Transactions through ATMs increased by more than 50 percent to around Tk 35,000 crore in 2011. Credit card transactions also rose more than 50 percent to nearly Tk 5,000 crore.

The central bank also took steps to make automated cheque processing system and mobile banking more effective. The BB issued guidelines for mobile-based banking services in the same year in a bid to ensure financial inclusion of the non-

banked population.

"It (2011) was a great year for the financial sector in terms of IT adoption," said Tapan Kanti Sarker, head of IT of NCC Bank.

Cheque processing, credit information and fund transfer all have been automated in the just concluded year, he added.

Syed Masodul Bari, head of IT of Al-Arafah Bank, said banking has become much easier due to the use of IT in 2011. He cited an example of remittance transfer, which has now become a matter of a few minutes instead of weeks needed earlier.

He said mobile banking would rise with a huge potential in 2012.

"Banks' activities have become more transparent due to the use of IT," said Bari.

sajjad@thedailystar.net

Hoteliers, florists eye brisk New Year sales

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Hotels, restaurants and florists expect brisk sales riding on people's zeal for a new beginning with the New Year celebrations.

Both big and small hotels based in Dhaka, Chittagong and popular tourist destinations Cox' Bazar and Sylhet decorated their premises for an eventful night and day.

However, the exact sales figures on the night alone were hard to come by. But officials said every hotel and restaurant in the major cities were booked and doing brisk business.

La Vinci in Dhaka offered a barbecue night and live music for its guests, said Tapash Ghosh, marketing and operations manager.

Some hoteliers, however, rented out their venues to private parties to allow them to arrange cultural shows with local and foreign artists.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel rented out ballrooms and pool-side premises to private parties, said MA Awal, director of sales and marketing for the popular hotel.

MORE ON B3

US removes sleeping bags from GSP

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Obama administration has cancelled the GSP facility on exports of sleeping bags from Bangladesh on complaints from US-

based Exxel Outdoors, a sleeping bag maker. The US removed the sleeping bags from tariff reductions, known as the generalised system of preferences, on Thursday.

MORE ON B3

15 years till retirement

2 children to support through university

3 ways to save for their future

ISLAMIC Financial Services Standard Chartered **saadiq**

It's good to have a bank that lets you balance your ambitions without compromising your beliefs

Saadiq Super Savers Premium, Saadiq Savings Account and Saadiq eSavers. 3 Shariah-compliant products to save for that future you always wanted.

SMS 'Saadiq' to 2727 or Call 8332272, 8957272

Here for good

COMMERCIAL BANK

We are there for you even when twilight sets in...

Evening Banking @ Gulshan

Open till 8:00 pm

Chittagong Corporate Branch Dhanmondi Gulshan Mirpur Narayanganj Sonargaon Booth Sylhet Uttara
Tel: 713325-7 Tel: 7114125 Tel: 8652784-5 Tel: 8824275 Tel: 8035808 Tel: 7642288 Tel: 8154838 Tel: 2830035-7 Tel: 8954042

SME Centres: Old Dhaka; Tel: 7111438, Progati Sharan; Tel: 8415164, Shantinagar; Tel: 8312380
Tongi; Tel: 9816863, Jubilee Road; Tel: 2857557, CDA Avenue; Tel: 2551325
www.combank.net

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

নতুন বছরে উৎকর্ষের পথে আরো এক ধাপ

((এসআইবিএল অত্যাধুনিক টেলিযোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত))

০৯৬১২০০১১২২ এখন থেকে এই একটি সহজ হান্ডিং নাম্বারে সোস্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর প্রধান কার্যালয় কিংবা দেশব্যাপি বিস্তৃত যে কোন শাখায় যাকেই প্রয়োজন তার সাথে তৎক্ষণাৎ যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

অবিরাম উৎকর্ষের পথে যাত্রায় আমাদের সাথে আপনার যোগাযোগকে আরো সহজ ও গতিময় করা হয়েছে। এসআইবিএল এর ভূবনে আপনাকে স্বাগত !!

নতুন বছরে আমাদের সকল গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা।

উৎকর্ষ অবিরাম

SIBL সোস্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড SOCIAL ISLAMI BANK LIMITED

www.sibibd.com

VIYELLATEX
Bridging Progress and Sustainability

VIYELLATEX group is a rapidly growing multi-dimensional organization aiming towards a diversified approach to business growth. To accommodate our growth and diversification, we have changed our logos after a decade. The new logos signify our vision, mission and values. For details, please visit: www.viyellatexgroup.com

VIYELLATEX LIMITED ISML FPPL GOTHIC Design LIMITED VIYELLATEX SPINNING LMS your logistic solution ecoCouture Ropal MIDLAND POWER ecoFab