

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
0.57%	0.80%	\$1,788.20 (per ounce)	\$107.07 (per barrel)	0.92%	Flat	0.82%	0.95%	BUY TK	81.60	107.54	127.85	1.00
4,695.40	8,628.80			17,743.4	9,723.24	2,994.06	2,428.49	SELL TK	82.60	111.53	131.86	1.07



BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Economy on track: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country has been able to maintain the desired economic growth despite deepening global financial worries.

“Despite the global economic downtrend, the country has achieved the expected economic growth due to various pragmatic steps taken by our government,” she told the newly elected office bearers of Officers Club.

The office bearers, led by its ex-officio Chairman and Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and General Secretary Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, met the Prime Minister at her office.

Hasina said the government is moving ahead foiling all the conspiracies against the country by vested quarters. “Our path towards progress is not smooth, it’s rather bumpy,” she said.

Hasina asked the government officials to work with honesty and sincerity for quick implementation of development programmes.

She said every government takes development programmes in line with its election manifesto and the role of government officials is important in implementing those.

State banks reluctant to pay fuel import bills

BPC dues pile up to Tk 17,000cr

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) owes state-owned banks more than Tk 17,000 crore as of January 12, making the banks reluctant to open further letters of credit meant for fuel import.

The banks have already conveyed their stance on LC opening at a high level meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Tuesday night.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, officials of the four banks, and other senior government officials were present at the meeting.

Officials of the banks said the BPC's overdues to the banks have gradually been rising in the recent times. As a result, the banks are facing a liquidity dearth.

On December 31, 2010, the state-run BPC owed the banks Tk 8,780 crore, and the amount more than doubled in just one year.

A finance ministry official who attended the meeting said they have requested the finance ministry to arrange the BPC's overdues in cash, not in bond.

Earlier the BPC made its payment in bond but it was not helpful in solving their liquidity

BPC'S DUES TO STATE BANKS

SONALI TK 5,368CR

JANATA TK 4,785CR

AGRANI TK 6,605CR

RUPALI TK 407CR

BASIC TK 135CR

crisis.

However, the finance minister told the banks that the Finance Division is working on their accounts and will take a step soon for repayment.

An official of the energy ministry said the BPC's losses were three times higher last fiscal year than the previous year.

The amount of losses stood at Tk 7,208 crore last fiscal year due to a big difference between BPC's purchase price of fuel and selling price in the local market, he added.

The official also said fuel prices were hiked several times in the current fiscal year, but the amount of losses did not decrease due to a huge depreciation of the taka against the dollar.

To offset the losses, fuel prices

need to be increased further, he said.

The meeting also discussed the issue of taking credit for the BPC from a foreign lender, Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

The ITFC has decided to raise the credit limit for the BPC to \$2.5 billion from this year.

Of the amount, \$500 million will be taken for this year through special arrangement, and the amount will have to be repaid in nine months.

In line with the new conditions of the ITFC, it will now open LCs worth \$500 million.

Usually the state banks open the LCs under the ITFC credit limit.

At the meeting, the state banks were also told that they will have to repay \$500 million credit. However, the banks set three conditions for paying the loan.

The conditions are -- the BPC will have to pay the amount in local currency; the BPC will inform the banks about the repayment date at least 15 days ahead of the payment; and if the banks have a dearth of foreign currency at that time, the central bank will supply the foreign exchange.

Setback to e-trading on DSE

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Introducing e-trading on the Dhaka bourse is facing a setback as complexities arise from the use of omnibus accounts for share transactions.

Although Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is ready in principle to launch e-trading using MSA-Plus software, the non-execution of securities rules on omnibus accounts holds back the bourse from going for a virtual marketplace.

READ MORE ON B3

BB warns banks on interest rates

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday asked all banks not to offer any interest rate on deposits beyond the declared rate.

Some banks offered depositors interest rates beyond the declared ones, the central bank said in a letter to banks. The BB asked the banks to forward the interest rate on deposits every week in order for BB to monitor.

The interest rate on deposit and lending can be changed only once a month, according to the letter.



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World Marketing Summit opens today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The first-ever World Marketing Summit begins today at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

The three-day summit will discuss how marketing philosophies, ethos and insight can be used to find innovative solutions to some global challenges.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the summit as the chief guest, organisers said in a statement.

The summit, a global initiative of the world's most influential marketer professor Philip Kotler, is being held in association with the foreign affairs ministry of Bangladesh, with an aim to create a better world through marketing.

Over 60 speakers from the private and government sector will deliver lectures on a number of issues such as human resources development, health, food security, environment and climate change.

The summit will feature leaders from diverse sectors such as science and technology, marketing, entrepreneurship development, academia, health, media communication and environment.

The uniqueness of the summit lies in the proposed 'incubators'. A total of seven incubators will be set up for the experimental projects that will come out of the discussions.

Each incubator will be spearheaded by an academic institution of the country selected for field execution and will be supervised by another academic institution.



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