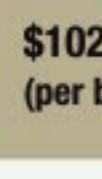
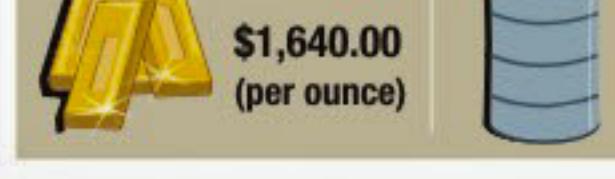


DGEN  
2.06%  
5,367.52CSCX  
1.92%  
10,028.70Gold \$1,640.00 (per ounce)  
Oil \$102.98 (per barrel)MUMBAI 0.64%  
17,503.71TOKYO -0.82%  
9,588.38SINGAPORE 0.25%  
3,008.21SHANGHAI Flat  
2,378.63USD 81.25  
EUR 104.71  
GBP 127.36  
JPY 0.99BUY TK 82.25  
SELL TK 108.71  
131.34 1.05

Send money from Japan through JRF

Japan Remit Finance Co. Ltd. &amp; receive from NCC Bank instantly

The only official channel for remitting TAKA from Japan to Bangladesh

www.nccbank.com.bd



# BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY APRIL 20, 2012, e-mail:business@thelaststar.net

## Financial access widens for poor

World Bank report says Bangladesh stands second in financial inclusion in South Asia

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh stands second after Sri Lanka in financial inclusion indicators among the South Asian countries, according to a World Bank report released yesterday.

The report -- Global Financial Inclusion Database or Global Findex -- shows 40 percent of Bangladesh's adults have accounts in formal financial institutions, which is 35 percent in India and only 10 percent in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka is well ahead of its South Asian peers with 69 percent of its adults having bank accounts. Findex provides the most comprehensive picture of how people around the world save, borrow, make payments and manage risks.

The report has been made on four sets of indicators drawing from survey data collected over the 2011 calendar year, covering more than 150,000 adults in 148 economies and representing about 97 percent of the world's population.

The first set of indicators focuses on formal accounts, the mechanics and the purpose of the use of these accounts and receipt of payments from work.

The second set of indicators focuses on savings behaviour. This relates to the use of accounts, as people often save at formal financial institutions. Other indicators explore the use of commu-

nity-based savings methods and the prevalence of savings goals.

The third set focuses on sources of borrowing and purposes of borrowing (mortgage, emergency or health purposes, and the like). The fourth stresses use of insurance products for healthcare and agriculture.

The report shows 33 percent of Bangladesh's poorest-income people and 35 percent women have an account at formal financial institutions. It is 21 percent and 26 percent respectively in India. Only 5 percent poorest income quintile and 3 percent women have accounts in Pakistan.

Fifty-two percent of poorest people and 67 percent women in Sri Lanka have accounts in formal financial institutions.

Seventeen percent adults in Bangladesh saved in the past one year using a formal account, which is 12 percent in India, just 1 percent in Pakistan and 28 percent in Sri Lanka.

Financial inclusion started to get momentum when central bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman took charge in May 2009. His efforts helped nearly one crore (10 million) farmers to open accounts in banks. Rahman has also brought the sharecroppers and the poorest segment into the banking services for loans and subsidy distributions.

READ MORE ON B3

## Garment makers oppose FDI in apparel sector

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Garment makers yesterday expressed their reservation about the inflow of foreign direct investments in apparel and textile sectors as they said local players are strong enough to cater to customers worldwide.

"The FDI could be allowed into certain segments of the RMG sector, as currently Bangladesh is graduating from basic garments to high-end items," said Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Mohiuddin led a business delegation to a meeting with Industries Minister Dilip Barua at the latter's office in Dhaka.

The government can allow FDI into specialised textile products so that the garment makers can purchase fabrics from the local market: BGMEA chief

A vested quarter in collaboration with its foreign associates is trying to destroy the country's strong RMG sector as Bangladesh has become the second largest apparel exporter in the world after China, he alleged.

"We want protectionism about FDI in the RMG sector, as protectionism is practised worldwide to protect local industries," he said.

The BGMEA chief also urged the government to solve the prevailing gas and power crisis in industrial units that hampers production immensely.

Urging garment entrepreneurs to start producing high-end products instead of basic garment items, the industries minister said the government will protect the local industries at first in its policies.

Barua suggested the garment makers produce more value-added items to create more employment opportunities in the country.

"We want to create an industry-based economy. We are also in favour of protectionism for the sake of the local industries," he said.

The minister suggested the garment entrepreneurs diversify both markets and exportable products for industrialisation.

The government has already finalised five special economic zones across the country where garment entrepreneurs can establish factories in need, he said.

## SEC opens probe into insider trading

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday formed a panel to investigate alleged insider trading by the daughter of a bank's sponsor.

Shahina Ferdous, daughter of Nazmul Ahsan, a sponsor director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, was prohibited from transferring her stocks for a certain time, but she did so, according to an investigation by the Dhaka bourse that detected the case.

In line with rules, no sponsor or director or their relatives can buy or sell or transfer or obtain shares during the prohibition period.

Insider trading is a form of share transaction carried out for profit on the basis of price sensitive information that has not been disclosed in public.

The SEC asked the two-member committee, led by Md Khaliduzzaman, manager of Dhaka Stock Exchange, to submit a report on the case of Shahina Ferdous to the commission in 30 workdays.

## Stocks end week in the red

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks finished the last trading day of the week in the red, as investors continued to book profits.

The investors also stayed cautious about investments, as the political scenes are becoming nervy over the disappearance of a BNP leader, stockbrokers said.

The DGEN, the main gauge of Dhaka Stock Exchange, finished the day on 5,367 points, after falling 112 points or 2 percent.

USD 81.25  
EUR 104.71  
GBP 127.36  
JPY 0.99BUY TK 82.25  
SELL TK 108.71  
131.34 1.05

Send money from Japan through JRF

Japan Remit Finance Co. Ltd. &amp; receive from NCC Bank instantly

The only official channel for remitting TAKA from Japan to Bangladesh

www.nccbank.com.bd

Beximco to raise \$350m through bonds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Beximco plans to raise \$350 million from foreign sources through issuing convertible bonds by appointing Barclays Capital Plc as the lead manager.

A Bangladesh Bank panel approved the Beximco proposal yesterday at a meeting, chaired by Governor Atiur Rahman.

A convertible bond is a security that will be converted into shares after a certain period of time.

The committee also approved JMS Holdings' foreign loan proposal for \$15 million, \$20 million by Color City, \$17 million by Nestle Bangladesh, \$5.3 million by Confidence Salt, \$3.6 million by Crown Polymer Bagging and a revised proposal of \$15 million loans by Natore Agro.

Two deferred payment proposals -- Banglalion's \$9.45 million and Energyprima's \$4.1 million -- were also approved.

The committee has approved foreign currency loan proposals worth \$593.3 million from July 2001 to March 2012.



Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, middle, energy adviser to the prime minister, attends a symposium on renewable energy at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Jahangir Saadat, president of Korean EPZ Corporation, Urs Herren, ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, Mahboob Sarwar-E-Kainat, director general of Power Cell; and Haider Ahmed Khan, senior vice president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, are also seen.

Bangladesh, which will gradually be connected with other research institutions and universities in the world to foster more research on energy.

Chowdhury spoke at a symposium on renewable energy at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. Korean EPZ (KEPZ) Corporation organised the event in association with Rahimafrooz Solar and ABB Group.

The energy adviser said Bangladesh's energy strategy is basically

determined by the overall growth strategy the country wants to pursue. The state has also special obligations to give energy services to the poor.

"These goals will continue for the next 20 years."

He said the government is preparing an energy strategy paper for the poor, who still rely on millennium-old means to cook food and light their houses.

READ MORE ON B3

## House panel wants SIM tax to go

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the government to withdraw the Tk 600 tax on SIM cards to increase mobile subscription.

The parliamentary standing committee on the telecom ministry also recommended the government lift the existing 12 percent import tax on mobile sets and impose a flat tariff of Tk 100 for each imported handset.

The government should follow the recommendations if it wants to increase the number of mobile users in the country where around 8.5 crore people now use mobile phones, said Chairman of the committee Hasanul Haq Inu at a press briefing after the meeting.

He said, although the initial income of the government will face a

setback if the duties are reduced, the earnings from the sector will rise in the long run as revenues of the operators will be increased.

If the finance ministry responds to the recommendations, the vision of the government for a 'digital Bangladesh' will get a boost, Inu said.

He also said the committee has been recommending the same issues for the last three years, but the government did not pay heed to these.

Responding to a question on the third generation (3G) mobile technology in Bangladesh, Inu said the 3G experiences in Bangladesh and India would not be the same.

Recently the telecom regulator has sent a draft guideline on 3G licensing to the telecom ministry for approval.

Mr. Latifur Rahman  
Chairman & CEO, Transcom Group  
Winner of the prestigious  
Oslo Business for Peace Award, 2012.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING BANGLADESH TO THE WORLD

It's a privilege to know you, it's an honour to work with you. We are proud of you as a company, as a people and as a Nation.

Bitopi Group

misami garments limited tarasima apparels limited baridhi garments limited stellent washing limited remi apparels limited tara shipping limited

Romi Farms Ltd. fish farming

Platoon Event Management, Activation, Distribution

CITADEL Imports & Services Limited