

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
▲ 0.2%	▲ 0.11%	\$1,743.74	\$97.22	▲ 0.82%	▲ 1.73%	▲ 0.44%	▲ 0.28%	81.79	104.34	130.79	1.04	
4,424.41	8,501.67	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	18,000.03	8,959.96	3,029.66	2,126.55	BUY TK	81.85	104.45	130.91	1.04
								BANGLADESH BANK				
								SELL TK				

star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Build strong network of women entrepreneurs

Analysts speak at roundtable on access to finance and marketing

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Women entrepreneurs should build strong networks among themselves to collectively deal with the various challenges they face and also groom the next generation of entrepreneurs, experts said yesterday.

The comments came at a roundtable on "Connecting and Integrating Women Entrepreneurs" at The Daily Star's conference room in the capital.

The programme was organised by Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BFEW) and The Asia Foundation in association with Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) and The Daily Star.

During her keynote presentation, Nazneen Ahmed, a senior research fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said women entrepreneurs face both formal and informal impediments.

"When they start any business they do not know the rules of the game, they do not have enough money, and they have no market access and product quality. Informal barriers are in the

form of society's reluctance still in accepting women as businesspersons," Nazneen Ahmed said.

Successful women entrepreneurs should not only think about expanding their business beyond their locality and country -- but also think about extending guidance to potential entrepreneurs.

"Young entrepreneurs do not know the basics of business. The successful entrepreneurs can help them flourish. It will also help your business if you are connected with the grassroots-level entrepreneurs," she said.

Women entrepreneurs should not replicate the businesses launched by others in the locality as it would eat into each other's market share," the economist said.

"They should go for product diversification."

Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Swedish ambassador to Bangladesh, said women's participation in the economy is necessary in a bigger way if Bangladesh wants to achieve the 8 percent economic growth needed to become a middle-income country.

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116 get CIP cards



Commerce Minister GM Quader, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Hussain, FBCCI President AK Azad and ABM Abul Kashem, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry, pose with the recipients of CIP status for 2011, at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Full list of CIPs on B3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday awarded 116 businesspeople the status of commercially important persons (CIPs) for their outstanding performances in business, especially in export.

Commerce Minister GM Quader handed over the CIP cards to the businesspeople at a function at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. The commerce ministry and the Export Promotion Bureau updated the CIP status for businesses for 2011.

Seventy-eight people were awarded in export category and 38 from trade bodies in ex-officio category.

The government awards the CIP cards to the businesspeople in line with the guideline of 2006 which mainly focuses on clean bank transaction, regular tax payment and reputation of the companies.

The ministry had a plan to award 125 businessmen, but it could give the cards to 116 as the remaining contestants were disqualified either for bank loan or tax payment problems, said Ruhul Amin Sarkar, additional secretary (export) to the commerce ministry.

Of the 195 applicants, the ministry nominated 127 businesspeople, while the cabinet committee

approved 116, he said.

The recipients will enjoy some privileges. They will get entry into the secretariat without a special pass, and will be invited to national programmes and functions of municipal corporations. They will get priority in Biman ticket booking for overseas travel, and reservation of seats in government transport systems. They will also enjoy special status at domestic airports.

Quader urged the businesses to increase the number of export-oriented industries to create more jobs. "We should diversify exportable products."

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Azad to minister: go on hunger strike for power, gas

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

FBCCI President AK Azad yesterday said the commerce minister and the chief of a parliamentary body should announce a hunger strike in parliament demanding supplies of gas and power to the industrial units and an end to highway robberies.

"Businesspeople work day and night, but sometimes the minister expresses his inability to listen to their problems," said the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The businesses cannot go into production in many industrial units due to a lack of gas and power connections over the last two years, Azad said.

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From left, Nazneen Ahmed, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies; Veronique Salze-Lozach, chief economist of The Asia Foundation; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, director of news for Ekattur TV; Anneli Lindahl Kenny, ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh; Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs; Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank; Hasan M Mazumder, country representative of The Asia Foundation; and Syed A Al-Muti, programme director of economic development of the Foundation, attend a roundtable on "Connecting and Integrating Women Entrepreneurs" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

SEC gives green light to two new IPOs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday gave a go-ahead to the initial public offerings (IPOs) of an insurer and a cement manufacturer.

Using the fixed price method, Sunlife Insurance Company will raise Tk 12 crore, by issuing 1.20 crore ordinary shares at Tk 10 each. Earnings-per share of the insurer was Tk 6.54, as of 2010.

Banco Finance and Investment Ltd is the issue manager of the Sunlife IPO.

Premier Cement Mills will raise Tk 26.40 crore by issuing 1.20 crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 each -- but at an offer price of Tk 22 to include the Tk 12 for premium.

EPS of the cement manufacturer was Tk 4.05, as of 2010-11. Alliance Financial Services Ltd is its issue manager.

The SEC also extended the maturity period up to December 2013 of 1st BSR Mutual Fund and eight mutual funds of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh.

Exports slow in Aug, slightly

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Exports in August declined slightly by 0.38 percent to \$2.44 billion from July due to a slowdown in Bangladesh's major export markets, exporters said.

Exports in July were worth \$2.43 billion.

During July-August of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh earned \$4.88 billion, a 3.63 percent rise from the same period last year, according to data from Export Promotion Bureau.

The exporters said an economic slowdown in the EU and the US is mainly responsible for a sluggish trend in exports.

"Exports might be slow the next month also," said Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, the first vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

"But the trend shows that exports might pick up from November as international buyers are placing more orders," he said by phone.

Bangladesh is performing well in the non-traditional markets, although exports to the traditional markets, including the EU and the US, are showing a sluggish trend.

"Exports will perform better in near future, and the country will be able to achieve the target," said Ruhul Amin Sarkar, additional secretary (export) of the commerce ministry.

In the July-August period, Bangladesh exported knitwear worth \$2.0 billion, a 2.67 percent decline from the same period last year.

During the last two months, Bangladesh exported woven garment worth \$1.99 billion, a 13.24 percent rise compared to the same period last year.