

STOCKS	COMMODITIES	ASIAN MARKETS	CURRENCIES
DGEN 0.53% 4,458.57	Gold \$1,732.02 (per ounce)	MUMBAI 0.58% 18,682.31	USD 81.69 EUR 108.87 GBP 132.32 JPY 1.10
CSCX 1.41% 8,661.00	Oil \$92.00 (per barrel)	TOKYO 0.22% 9,002.68	BUY TK 81.70 SELL TK 108.88 132.33 1.10
		SINGAPORE 0.37% 3,048.92	
		SHANGHAI 0.16% 2,128.30	

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STAR BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 21, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

A call for businesses to work with lawmakers on better PPP models

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The private sector should work closely with lawmakers to help them formulate laws to make the initiatives of public-private partnership more effective, speakers said at a conference yesterday.

They also urged the governments in the region to form a parliamentary standing committee on PPP with independent staff members having required skills so that they come up with the best business practices.

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Mobile top-up vendors face police action

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Police dispersed a rally of mobile top-up vendors and briefly detained two of the protesters in Dhaka yesterday, on the third day of a four-day countrywide strike called by the mobile credit retailers.

Abdul Latif Sheikh, the officer-in-charge at Pallabi police station, said, as the vendors were attempting to vandalise a top-up shop at Mirpur 11 in the capital, they dispersed the procession and detained a leader of the vendors' association and another protestor. The two were released later.

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Speakers including economists and NGO leaders take part in a discussion on "Manifesto for the extreme poor", at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The Daily Star in association with Shree and WaterAid organised the event. Story on page 20

India to open its economy to neighbours

High Commissioner Pankaj Saran speaks on regional trade

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

India is developing infrastructure in its border areas to increase trade with neighbouring countries, Pankaj Saran, the Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, said yesterday.

The move comes on the back of India's decision to open up its economy to its neighbours, Saran said.

Saran spoke at a seminar, 'Prospects of Sub-Regional Cooperation involving Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar', organised by the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

The proposed platform will complement the existing

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), although three SAARC countries -- Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives -- have been excluded from it.

"India is ready to continue discussion on sub-regional cooperation," Saran said.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni urged the neighbouring countries for greater regional co-operation in water resource management.

"Seamless visible connectivity will help grow regional trade," she said.

Improving transport infrastructure is needed for greater regional trade, said Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express.

READ MORE ON B3

Bahrain Air resumes Dhaka flights

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bahrain Air will resume direct flights to Dhaka on Wednesday, the Gulf nation's private sector carrier said in a statement yesterday.

The flights had remained suspended since April 2011.

Three weekly flights will be operated on Saturdays, Thursdays and Wednesdays where Airbus 319 with two-class configuration will be used.

The inaugural flight will reach Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 6:05am on Wednesday and depart for Bahrain at 6:50am.

"Dhaka is important to Bahrain Air's flight operations in terms of demand and load factor. The route remains active across the year and the numbers of connecting passengers are very high," said Richard Nuttall, chief executive officer of Bahrain Air.

"We are glad to have Dhaka back. Now we are very much ready to resume the operations of our flights to this important station and extend our services to the Bangladeshi community in the region."

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