

DGEN  
▼ 2.17%  
4,253.39CSCX  
▼ 1.94%  
8,283.37Gold ▼  
\$1,732.30  
(per ounce)Oil ▼  
\$84.92  
(per barrel)MUMBAI  
▼ 0.86%  
18,683.68TOKYO  
▼ 0.90%  
8,757.60SINGAPORE  
Flat  
3,009.56SHANGHAI  
▼ 0.12%  
2,069.07BUY TK  
81.20

EUR

GBP

JPY

101.60

127.45

0.99

SELL TK

82.19

105.63

131.47

1.10



# BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

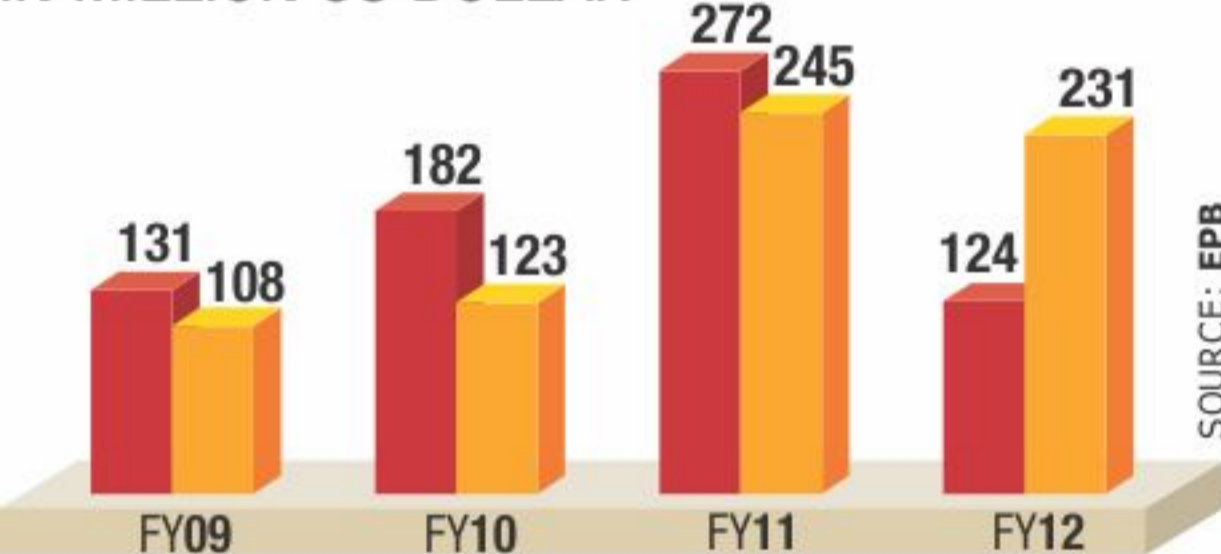
## Govt seeks duty waiver from Turkey for apparel

### The European nation to give Bangladesh \$300m for oil import

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh yesterday sought withdrawal of the 17.5-percent duty on garment exports to Turkey as the tax measure has hit the country's sales to the European nation, officials said.

### RMG EXPORTS TO TURKEY IN MILLION US DOLLAR



The call came at the opening day meeting of the Fourth Bangladesh-Turkey Joint Economic Commission at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the city.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, who co-chaired the opening session of the meeting, told reporters that he also raised the duty issue in a meeting with the 15-member Turkish delegation led by its Labour and Social Security Minister Faruk Celik.

Turkey will also give Bangladesh a \$300 million credit for oil import, the finance minister said.

"Our garment export [to the country]

has gone down because of the duty. The issue will be discussed at the commission's meeting," Muhith said.

He said, following the imposition of the tax measures, which came effective in July last year, the eagerness of Bangladeshi trade bodies faded a bit about the export potential to the Europe's one of the growing economies.

"We had thought that people-to-people contact will expand following the opening of the air-link. But it has not happened," said Muhith.

Ankara imposed the duty on import of garment items from developing countries, which was zero earlier, as a temporary measure to protect its local industry.

Bangladesh exported knitwear products worth \$124 million and woven items worth \$231 million in 2011-12.

The sales of knitwear items were, however, \$272 million and woven items were \$245 million in 2010-11 in the export basket of \$518 million, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

The country's apparel exports to Turkey fell by 9.21 percent to \$90.72 million in the July-September period of the current fiscal year, according to the EPB.

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## Regent to launch Dhaka-Kolkata flights in two months

### The airline plans to fly on other international routes by mid-2013

SUMAN SAHA

Regent Airways, the market leader in domestic air travels, plans to introduce international routes within the next two months by launching Dhaka-Kolkata flights.

The airline got the permission to fly on international routes from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) in October and is now waiting on the route and frequency permission from the government.

"We have a plan to start international operations with Dhaka-Kolkata and Chittagong-Kolkata flights between December and January," Imran Asif, the airline's chief executive officer, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The airline would initially operate seven flights from Dhaka and four from Chittagong, with its two 50-seater turbo-prop Dash8-Q300 aircraft, to Kolkata a week.

The airline has plans to start flights to Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat and Singapore by the middle of 2013 by leasing two 126-seater Boeing 737-700 aircraft to serve these routes, said Asif.

Regent Airways is a fully-owned subsidiary of Habib Group, a Chittagong-based conglomerate since 1947.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Will introduce Dhaka-Kolkata flight in December/January
- Already got international routes permission from CAAB
- So far carried over 5 lakh passengers on domestic routes
- Operated around 11,700 flights
- Will bring in two Boeing 737-700 aircraft in April/May
- Over 98 percent flights maintained schedule
- Hopes to touch the break-even soon

## Myanmar plans to boost border trade with Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Myanmar plans to set up a wholesale market and hold trade fairs along the Bangladeshi border to increase bilateral trade, said Pwint San, Myanmar's deputy commerce minister, yesterday.

"Unfortunately there are some communal problems in our area, which is delaying the enhancement of border trade. When the conditions improve our border trade will also increase. It is assured," he said.

Following the rape and murder of a young Buddhist woman in the Rakhine state -- which grazes Bangladesh -- in May this year, the communal situation has been tense.

Myanmar currently holds wholesale markets and trade fairs in its bordering regions to China and Thailand, which San credits for Myanmar's increasing trade with the two nations.

San hopes the planned wholesale markets and trade fairs would have a similar effect with its border trade with Bangladesh.

San is currently leading an 11-member business delegation from Myanmar to Bangladesh for the sixth two-day Joint Trade Commission (JTC) meeting between the two countries at the capital's Hotel Purbani. Yesterday was the first day of the meeting.

Bangladesh is being represented by Commerce Secretary Mahub Ahmed at the meeting.

Ahmed said both the parties will discuss issues pertaining to gas and power, agriculture and fisheries, and direct air flights between Dhaka and Yangon during the meeting.

Following decades of military rule Myanmar has opened its economy, making it easier for Bangladeshi businessmen to engage in trade with Myanmar.

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**15th November 2012**  
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