



BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net



Speakers take part in a roundtable on the patent rights of Jamdani, organised by The Daily Star yesterday.

Save Jamdani

Industry leaders urge govt to pass a law immediately to protect heritage before it is too late

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should finalise the geographical indication (GI) law without further delay to safeguard the patent rights of the country's centuries-old Jamdani saris, sector leaders said yesterday.

The Jamdani sari, although a heritage of Bangladesh, risks being recognised as a creation of India under its GI law -- due to the absence of such a law in Bangladesh.

The GI is a name or sign used on certain products to certify that they possess certain qualities and are

made according to traditional methods, or enjoy a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin.

"The patent right of Jamdani saris will be hijacked from Bangladesh by India if the country cannot finalise the law as soon as possible," said Ruby Ghuznavi, managing director of Aranya, known for its role in reviving natural dyes.

Ghuznavi spoke at a roundtable on Jamdani and its patent rights, organised by The Daily Star at the newspaper's office in Dhaka.

"Last month I went to India to attend a seminar on the GI law,

where I saw a total of 178 out of 358 products registered under the law, with Jamdani waiting to be registered as well."

Ghuznavi stressed that now is the time for Bangladesh to assert the Jamdani as its own, or else it would have to pay a fee to the Indian government to use the name of Jamdani.

Mahboob Murshed, a former additional judge and a legal expert, said Bangladesh can secure the GI only if it can prove that Jamdani is produced solely in Bangladesh.

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Dhaka-Ctg river cargo route opens in March

GAZI TOWHID AHMED, back from Ctg

A new river route opening in March to carry goods between Dhaka and Chittagong will reduce pressure on highways and minimise costs and time for businesses, officials said.

Once the route is launched, a container-laden vessel from Dhaka will reach Chittagong Port within a day, from seven days to one month needed now.

Costs will also come down significantly -- businesses will spend Tk 1 for carrying a tonne of goods per

kilometre, which is Tk 5 now on roads.

The shuttle route will connect Chittagong Port with Pangaon Inland Container Terminal at Keraniganj near Dhaka.

The route is part of a Tk 177-crore project that the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority took in July 2000 to build the inland container terminal in Pangaon.

The project was aimed at easing traffic congestion on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

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"Eighty percent work is complete," said Rear Admiral M Nizamuddin Ahmed, chairman of the CPA, at his office on Monday.

"We will operate four ships a day. A vessel will carry goods equivalent to what around 50 trucks can carry through the Dhaka-Chittagong highway."

The route will formally be opened by the last week of March and the necessary dredging work would be complete within the next two months beginning in December, Ahmed said.

Lawmakers urge govt to focus on haor areas

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Three lawmakers yesterday expressed their dissatisfaction over the government's sluggish approach in solving the plights of people in the haor areas.

"I have been trying for the last 41 years. I am not at all satisfied that I have not been able to do anything for the people in haor areas," said Speaker Abdul Hamid, who hails from Kishoreganj, one of the seven districts to have wetlands.

The haor areas, covering 43 percent of the country's north-east region, although inhabited by 1.5 crore people, lack the basic public amenities.

"From infrastructure to education, health to employment, none of the facilities that people in the haor areas get can be comparable to those from people in other parts," Hamid said at the second National Haor Conference at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council in Dhaka.

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November 18, 2012



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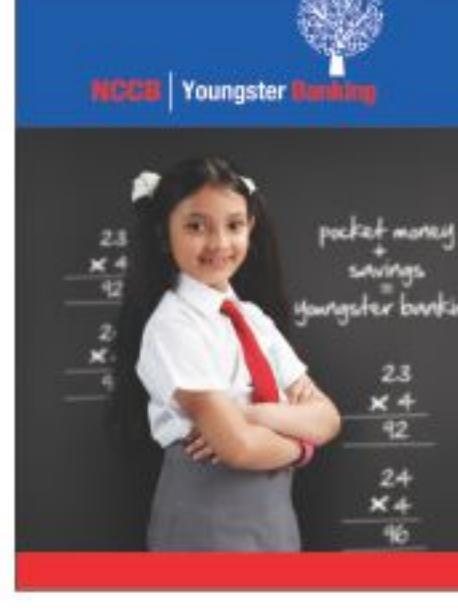
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Govt's borrowing from banks falls 42pc

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government's borrowing from the banking sector in four months till October of the current fiscal year decreased by 42 percent compared to the same period last year.

The amount fell as the government refrained from taking abnormally huge loans from banks seen in the period last year.

Of the total amount, the government borrowed Tk 1,807 crore from the central bank.

But in mid-October the scenario was different when no amount was

September.

In the first four months and six days (till November 6) of the current fiscal year, the government's total borrowing from the banking system was Tk 7,591 crore, down from Tk 13,042 crore in the same period last year.

borrowed from the central bank rather the government repaid Tk 141 crore to Bangladesh Bank.

But the government borrowed Tk 4,640 crore from commercial banks on October 18.

The recent borrowing pattern also shows that though non-food inflation rose, the government continues to borrow from the central bank, creating more inflationary pressure.

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শুভ উদ্বোধন

মানিকগঞ্জ শাখা, মানিকগঞ্জ

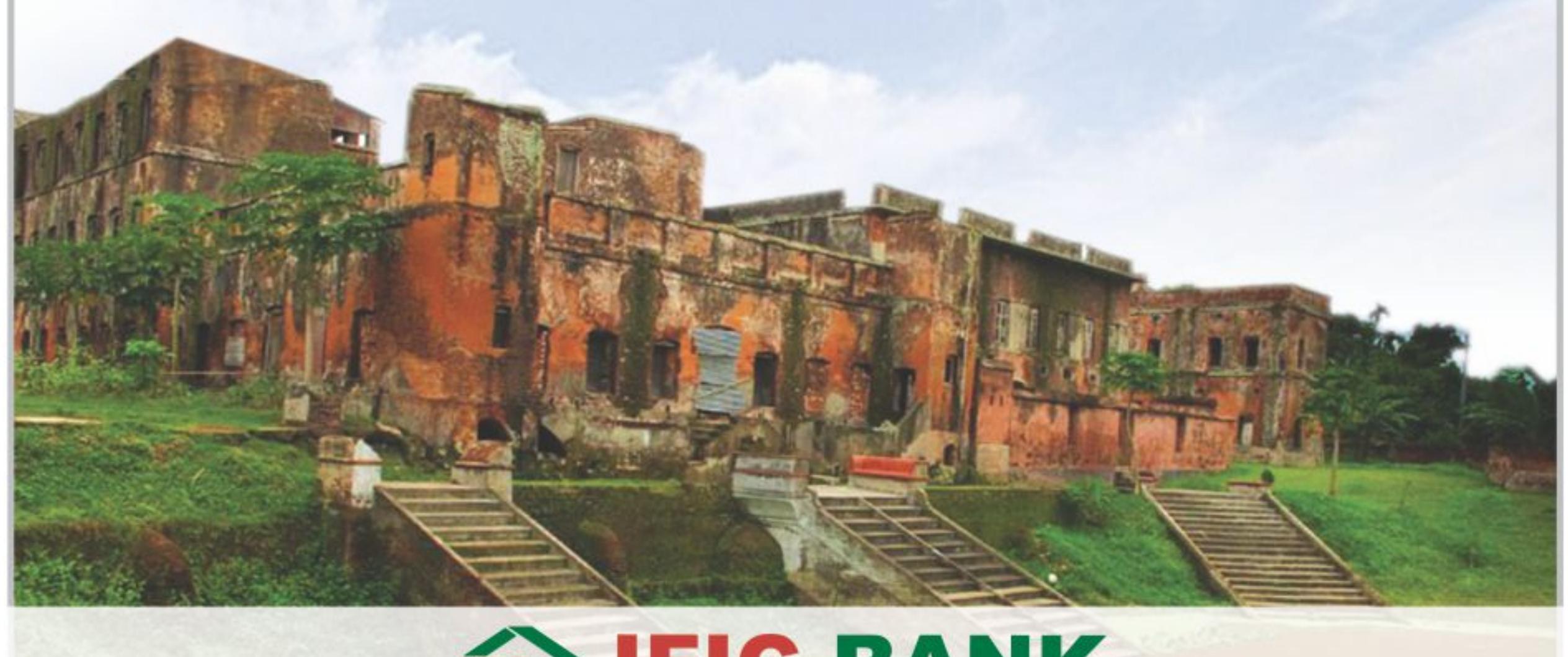
১০৩ তম

শাখা

রংপুর নগরী প্লাজা, ১৩৪ শহীদ রফিক সড়ক, মানিকগঞ্জ

প্রাচীন ঐতিহ্য, প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্য আর শিল্প ও বাণিজ্যের ঐতিহ্যবাহী স্থান মানিকগঞ্জ

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