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## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

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## DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF FISH



## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

"House rent is rising, keeping pace with the spiralling costs of fuel, electricity, water and com-

It estimated the cost of living

"Home owners disregard the existing rules for hiking house rents and do as they wish. As a

The cost of electricity and fuel also increased in 2013, by 7.3 and 5.65 percent respectively, and water also became dearer.

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## SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Last year, foreign investors bought shares worth Tk 2,652.48 crore and sold shares worth Tk 709.58 crore, to take their net investment for the year to Tk 1,942.9 crore, according to statistics from the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Month	Value
JAN	98.92
FEB	103.56
MAR	90.55
APR	82.96
MAY	231.58
JUN	336.6
JUL	188.54
AUG	155.41
SEP	84.65
OCT	228.35
NOV	276.83
DEC	64.95

He said the foreign exchange

He, however, expressed concern about the steep fall in net investment last month: it dropped by over 100

said.

Strength in currency is not a strong factor in terms of making investment decisions, but it does have effects on the interest rates, according to the City Brokerage CEO.

"Given the current political instability, depreciation of competitors' currency, strong remittance support, it is time that we go on par with our peers to stay competitive and support the businesses with higher margins and lower unemployment."

Banks were initially the foreign investors' preferred sector, but non-bank financial institutions, power and energy, pharmaceuticals, multinationals, telecoms and IT also caught their attention.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, *Ctg*

The port handled around 1.54 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers last year, up from 1.40 million TEUs in 2012, according to data from the Chittagong Port

He said the different steps the port authorities took to boost the capacity -- like the implementation of computerised Container Terminal Management System and enhancement of spaces for storing containers -- played a key role in achieving the growth.

Meanwhile, Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, first vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the adverse effects of the political turmoil would be felt in the coming months.

## A photograph of a busy retail clothing store. In the foreground, a male staff member in a striped shirt is seated at a computer terminal, assisting a customer. Other staff members are standing and talking to customers in the background. The store is filled with racks of clothing, and a large fan is visible in the upper left corner.

Delivery-ready clothes hang behind salespersons at a tailoring shop at Ramna Bhaban on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka yesterday. Political violence takes a toll on tailors, insiders say. A slacker blockade, however, allowed for some customer presence yesterday.

AMRAN HOSSAIN

SUMAN SAHA

Some 35,000 tailoring stores earn nearly Tk 1,000 crore a year in 'cutting and making' charges across Bangladesh; half of this revenue is generated during winter, he said.

Another side of the incessant strikes is that people, who placed orders previously, are not coming to collect their garments by paying the rest of the

Of the total stores, there are some 1,500 popular tailoring shops that are making high quality attires and maintaining standards, Azad said.

suman.saha@thedailystar.net