



ANURUP KANTI DAS

A broken window of Karnaphuli Shoe Industries Ltd at Korean Export Processing Zone in Chittagong. Workers vandalised four of its units and clashed with police over wages yesterday. A worker died and 15 were injured in clashes. Story on page 20

Hotels in deep trouble

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

People are losing jobs as hotels, resorts and cottages are closing down amid the ongoing blockades and shutdowns that brought their occupancy rates to a low never seen before. Industry people said occupancy rates in plush hotels in Dhaka have come down to 20 percent, and below 10 percent at hotels, resorts and cottages outside the capital, although the season used to see the rate going over 80 percent.

"We had been going through a tough period up to October. But the condition has worsened since November. All bookings were cancelled," said Hakim Ali, president of Bangladesh International Hotel Association.

"We have never seen such a drop in business," he said, admitting that the occupancy of his own Agrabad Hotel in Chittagong was 15 percent on Tuesday night.

But the most disturbing development is coming from Cox's Bazar, the country's most popular tourist destination, where many workers have lost jobs in the last few months as resorts and cottages are closing down.

About 50 hotels and resorts and 35 restaurants have shut down in the last two months, said Rezaul Karim Reza, joint secretary of Hotel, Motel and Guest House Owners Association in Cox's Bazar.

"We have been in troubles since February last year. We had hoped we would be able to recoup all losses in December, but it did not realise," he said.

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Dhaka trade fair begins tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The 19th version of Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) will begin in the city's Agargaon area tomorrow to showcase various goods from home and abroad.

Businesses got orders worth Tk 157 crore at the DITF last year.

"I hope the amount will be bigger this year," said Shubhashish Bose, vice-president of Export Promotion Bureau, the state-owned trade promotion body and organiser of the annual show.

The preparations for the month-long exhibition have already been completed, he said.

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Govt's tax receipts from stocks slide

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The government's tax earnings from the stockmarket declined around 5 percent in 2013 from the previous year on the back of falling trade volumes, even though share price indices witnessed an upward trend.

The government earned Tk 95.26 crore in taxes in the just concluded year, down from Tk 100.11 crore in the previous year, according to statistics from Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Average daily turnover declined by 5 percent to Tk 400 crore in 2013, compared to the previous year.

The benchmark index of the premier bourse, DSEX, however rose 21 percent to 4,219 points on December 30 from January 1 last year.

The DSE, on behalf of the government, collects the tax as brokerage commission at 0.05 percent and deposits the amount to the state coffers.

The tax is related to turnover, and a higher turnover generates higher taxes, said a top DSE official. "So, it's usual that taxes will fall if turnover declines," the official added.

"As turnover declined in 2013, the government's earnings from the stockmarket also slid," the DSE official said.

The DSE recorded the highest monthly tax earnings – Tk 15.31 crore – in July last year, while the lowest was Tk 3.22 crore in April.

The government's earnings from tax on sales of sponsor and placement shares also declined last year. It received Tk 30.68 crore in taxes from share sales by sponsor shareholders and placement holders in 2013, against Tk 82.38 crore a year ago.

TAX COLLECTION BY DSE

IN CRORES OF TAKA

Jan	3.89
Feb	7.21
Mar	3.33
Apr	3.22
May	6
Jun	13.24
Jul	15.31
Aug	7.15
Sep	10.33
Oct	4.72
Nov	10.92
Dec	9.94

Exports soar to record high

Earnings rose about 16pc year on year in 2013

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Exports advanced 23.22 percent in December from the previous month to take last year's earnings to \$29.1 billion, the highest in the nation's history, in spite of the political turmoil at home and image crisis faced by the chief export grosser, the garment sector.

Propelled by garment products which raked in a record \$23.5 billion, last year's figure is also an improvement of about 16 percent over 2012's takings of \$25.1 billion, according to data from Export Promotion Bureau.

"We have proved our resilience against domestic odds. The export trend is extremely positive," said Shubhashish Bose, vice-chairman of EPB, while expressing his optimism over achieving fiscal 2013-14's export targets.

He said the demand for the country's garment products is "still very good". "Our pricing is very competitive, so the international retailers are bound to come to us."

"Moreover, market diversification of garment products is taking place at a rapid pace, and the new markets are performing very well, too," Bose said, while citing India, Japan, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea, Malaysia, China and Australia as strong new destinations.

Atiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, however, did not sound too buoyant over 2013's export figures, as "those orders came before troubles on the domestic front surfaced".

EXPORT PERFORMANCE


MONTHLY EXPORT IN BILLION \$

JUL	23.99
AUG	2.01
SEP	3.18
OCT	2.59
NOV	2.21
DEC	2.72

GROWTH IN % (YEAR-ON-YEAR)

JUL	36.26
AUG	2.11
SEP	2.03
OCT	25.34
NOV	10.54
DEC	2.72

SOURCE: EPB



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Corporate Head Office: MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REPLACEMENT OF MTB CORE BANKING SYSTEM (CBS)

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) invites sealed tenders for providing consultancy and advisory services for replacement of its Core Banking System (CBS) for the phases starting from preparation of Request For Proposal (RFP) and invitation, evaluation of the tender responses, roll out and assisting to conduct User Acceptance Test (UAT) of the new CBS. MTB is looking for consultancy from reputed consulting companies. This EOI is intended from consulting companies having similar experience of implementing the CBS from RFP phase to implementation phase in at least one public/private sector bank in Bangladesh.

Tender schedule is as follows:

Tender Reference	MTB/CHO/ITS/14/ 01
Purpose	Consultancy services for developing the RFP, Evaluation of the Tender and assisting to conduct UAT & implementation of its CBS
Pre-bid Meeting date	January 23, 2014 at 11:00 am.
Last Date for Submission of Tenders	On or Before February 6, 2014 at 3:00 pm.
Address for submission of Tender/ EOI	Head of Group Infrastructure Division Mutual Trust Bank Limited Corporate Head Office MTB Centre 26 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1 Dhaka 1212
Date of Opening Technical Bids	February 6, 2014 at 3:30 pm.
Contact Numbers	Tel: 880 (2) 882 6966 Ext: 2250 / 2310
Fax Number	880 (2) 882 4303
e-mail address	cbscom@mutualtrustbank.com

A complete set of bidding document (official hard copy) may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address mentioned above and upon payment of nonrefundable fee of BDT 2,500.00 in the form of pay order in favor of "Mutual Trust Bank Limited" or in cash within January 21, 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm during regular working days.

Md. Monwar Hossain
Senior Vice President
Head of MTB Infrastructure Division

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