ASIAN MARKETS

MUMBAI

0.42%

\$100.53

TOKYO

0.56%

0.21%



DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

COMMODITIES

Gold A

\$1,287.42

Factory exits: difficult to find

Garment workers say during survey by retailers' group

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

STOCKS

DSEX

CSCX

____ 0.05%

Around half of the garment workers surveyed by a global alliance of retailers say they cannot leave their factory buildings quickly in case of an emergency.

Around 30 percent of the respondents think there is a high risk of fire in the buildings where they work, according to the survey by Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, a platform of 26 US-based clothing retailers and brands.

An upsetting finding was that about half of the respondents had not been trained in fire safety.

The Alliance conducted the baseline survey among more than 3,200 workers in 28 garment factories between November and December last year.

The survey also found 65 percent workers

prefer to work on a low floor for safety reasons, even if working on a high floor offers additional financial rewards. In addition to the survey, 10 focus groups

were conducted off-site with 101 participants in three Bangladeshi regions to obtain more nuanced information on fire and other health and safety issues. The survey pointed to the need for a compre-

hensive and consistent health and safety training curriculum that can be implemented systematically across factories.

In 34 percent of the surveyed factories, workers say they had witnessed fire incidents.



In the focus groups, participants in all but one

of the 10 discussions reported experiencing fires, while 27 percent say they were not given sufficient training on how to protect themselves. Ellen Tauscher, chairman of the alliance, said:

"Our members have visited Bangladesh, toured local factories and met with government officials and labour leaders to learn about the magnitude of the country's safety challenges."

workers had not been trained in fire safety

SURVEY RESULTS

Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety

surveyed more than 3,200 workers

November and December last year

of surveyed workers say they cannot leave

buildings quickly in case of emergency

say workplaces have high risks of fire

prefer to work on low floors for safety reasons

in 28 garment factories between

47%

34%

45%

witnessed fire incidents

READ MORE ON B3

CURRENCIES

BUY TK 77.20

SHANGHAI

0.30%

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

US to establish labour attaché in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of Labour will establish a full-time Labour Attaché for its embassy in Dhaka to ensure greater engagement on workers' rights and workplace safety in Bangladesh in the coming months.

"We're working actively to establish a full-time labour attaché in our embassy in Dhaka," said Eric Biel, acting associate deputy undersecretary for International Labour Affairs at the US Department of Labour.

Biel shared the plan at a programme, 'Prospects for Democratic Reconciliation and Workers' Rights in Bangladesh' held at the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in Washington DC on Tuesday

The staff of the Bureau of International Labour Affairs will be in Dhaka later this month for detailed discussions, he added.

Heal economy first: MCCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government faces an uphill task of healing the economy, restoring growth momentum and rebuilding the confidence of businesses and investors after recent months of political unrest, a leading chamber said yesterday. "Much will depend on how quickly the prevailing

political stalemate can be resolved through dialogues among the fending political parties," the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in a statement yesterday, reviewing the economic situation in Bangladesh between October and December last year.

The present calm after the January 5 elections might be short-lived as unrest may flare up again if the opposition political parties cannot be brought into confidence, it added.

"The foremost task for the government is therefore to ensure political stability."

"Besides, it should be made clear to all that there is no compromise with security and the law and order situation. This is also necessary to enhance the country's image abroad."

The chamber said the economic and social sectors performed remarkably well in the past decade. "All these gains have now come under threat because of the recent political unrest."

It said the performance of the industrial sector in the second quarter of the current fiscal year was lower than that in the same period of the previous year.

READ MORE ON B3

Garment tech expo opens amid high hopes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

TATA MOTORS

ZO7 DI EX

Garment machine exhibitors are expecting a pick-up in demand in the coming days with the return of normalcy on the political front. "We are upbeat about the outcome of this

......

year's exhibition. A lot of visitors are coming, so we expect our orders to rise," said Long Xingshui, a participant of the 11th Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition. The four-day textile and garment machinery

exhibition took off yesterday at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, amid hopes of providing a much-needed boost to the country's garment industry battered by six months of political unrest.

All 15 exhibition halls was crowded with professional visitors and buyers, who came to place orders, make inquiries and learn about the latest industrial technology.

READ MORE ON B3



Officials check a machine at a stall at Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition yesterday.



STAR

DBL Group borrows TATA \$10.5m from IFC STAR BUSINESS REPORT

DBL Group, one of the fastest growing apparel companies, has borrowed \$10.5 million from the International Finance Corporation to expand its dyeing capacity and strengthen corporate governance.

The company will use the fund to help expand DBL's dyeing plant in Kashimpur in Gazipur.

READ MORE ON B3



Best in Bangladesh Nitol Motors Ltd. 71 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka 1212.



MTB RETAIL BANKING মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড MTB CONTACT CENTRE Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. 16219 or 88 096040 16219

NBR moves on mobile banking tax

SOHEL PARVEZ

The National Board of Revenue has moved to realise tax at source on the incomes from mobile banking services. NBR issued a notice

yesterday reinforcing the rules for mobile banking service providers to deduct 10 percent tax at source on their agents' incomes and submit the amount to the state coffers. "It is not a newly

imposed tax. The tax at source is already there in the law. We have issued the directive to ensure that the tax reaches the state coffers properly," a senior NBR official said. The move will help

boost NBR's revenue from mobile banking services that registered rapid growth as a popular means of transferring money. Cash transactions

through mobiles surged 186 percent to Tk 6,642.61 crore in December 2013 from Tk 2,320.02 crore in January 2013, according to central bank data. Subscriptions grew 262 percent to 1.31 crore in the same period. The number of agents providing such services also

rose to 1.88 lakh in

December 2013 from

59,559 in January the

same year. READ MORE ON B3

DHAKA REGENCY



DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD AT RUPOSHI BANGLA'S BITHIKA RESTAURANT*.

 15% discount on dinner buffet 20% discount on dinner for Valentine's Day i.e. 14 February 2014 20% discount on lunch buffet Promotion Period: Valid up to 30 May 2014

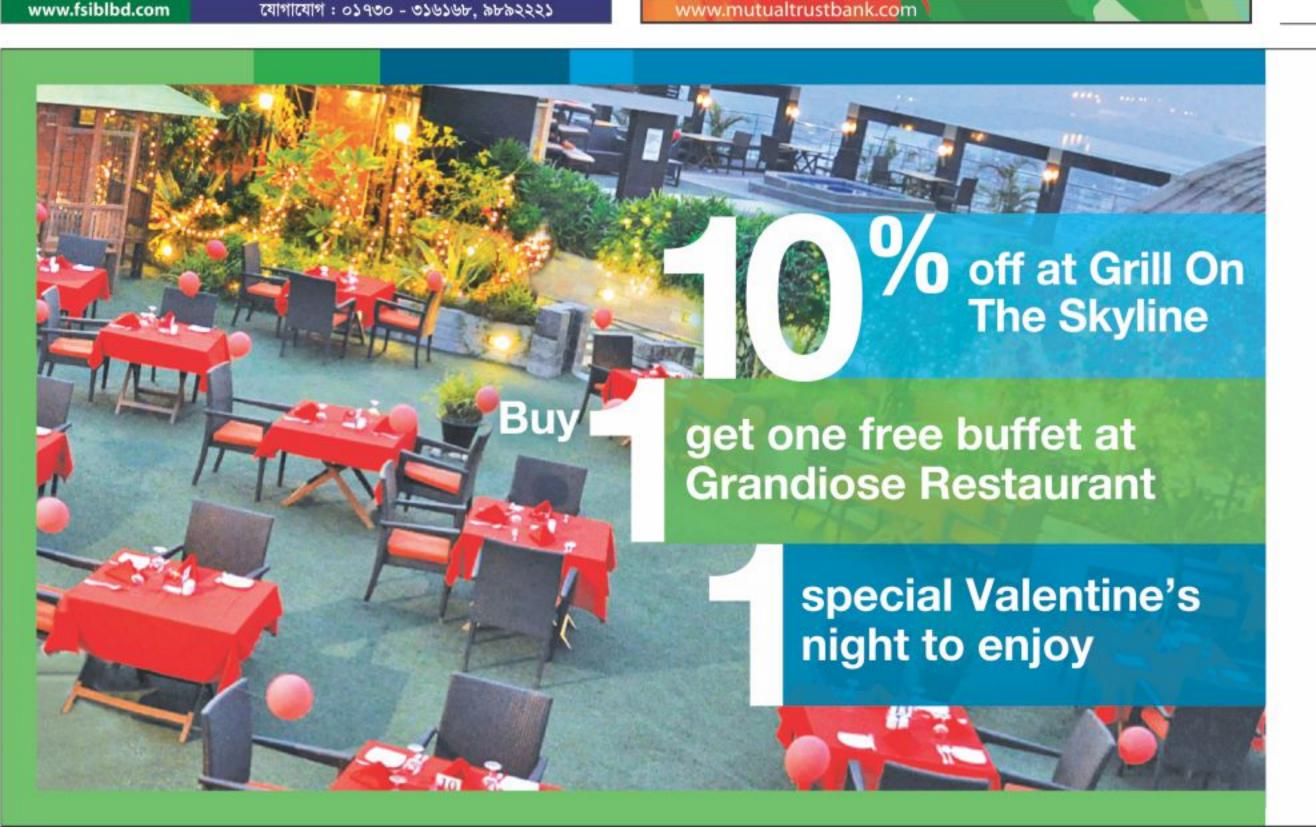
For reservations, call: +88028330001 Ext: 4221

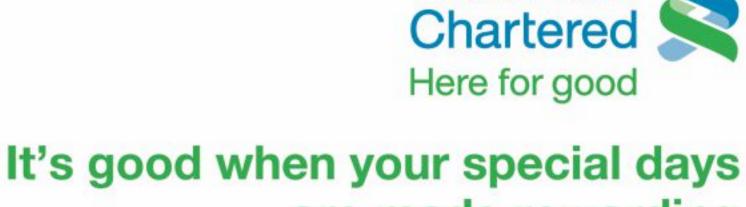


That's MasterCard. That's Priceless.



subsidiaries, affiliates and partner banks. Any dispute in this regard shall be taken up with the merchant. These offers are subject to force majeure events. MasterCard without prior notice. In case of any disputes, cardholders are required to present the relevant card payment receipts of the relevant sale for further investigation. In all such cases, the decision of MasterCard International Incorporated shall be final and binding. Other terms and conditions appl





are made rewarding

Plan a perfect Valentine's day at two of the trendiest restaurants in town exclusively with Standard Chartered Bank. Now you can enjoy 10% off at Grill On The Skyline and buy 1 and get 1 free buffet at Grandiose Restaurant at Dhaka Regency Hotel and Resort, only with your Standard Chartered Visa Signature and Platinum Credit Cards.







Standard