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BANGLADESHI CLIENTS

62pc rise in Swiss bank deposits

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Deposits by Bangladeshi citizens at various Swiss banks rose by 62 percent year-on-year in 2013, mainly due to political unrest and lack of safety throughout the year when many predicted a government changeover.

The deposits that stood at Tk 3,236 crore (372 million Swiss franc) at the year end were Tk 1,991 crore in 2012, according to the latest data of Swiss National Bank (SNB), the country's central bank.

In contrast, the money held in Swiss banks by foreign clients from across the world continued to decline and stood at a record low of 1.32 trillion Swiss francs (about \$1.56 trillion) at the end of 2013, according to the figures released on Thursday.

But the flow of funds from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh did not derail, coincidentally in the election year in the three countries.



The funds, described by SNB as liabilities of Swiss banks or amounts due to their clients, are the official figures disclosed by
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UN PEACEKEEPING
Bangladesh reclaims top spot

UN chief tells Hamid
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has again emerged first for contributing the highest number of troops to the UN peace-keeping missions across the globe.

This was disclosed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during a meeting with President Abdul Hamid at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

Ban also highly praised Bangladeshi female police force stationed in the UN missions, and asked Hamid to send more female police force, if possible.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Bangladesh Ambassador AK Abdul Momen said the UN secretary general informed the president that India retained the first position for some time.

"But Bangladesh
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IRAQ'S REBEL-HELD REGIONS
Expatriates in trouble

Fear, uncertainty grip over 1,000 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred Bangladeshi migrants in Iraq are passing their days in fear and anxiety as Sunni insurgents swept over a large part of the country's north in last two weeks.

"Around 1,000 to 1,200 Bangladeshis in Mosul are facing problems as the rebels are still dominating there, but the others in Baghdad and southern part of Iraq are safe," Khandker Showkat Hossain, secretary at expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry, said yesterday.

Bangladeshis in Mosul, Tikrit and Basra are in trouble as the insurgents have tightened their grip on these regions.

Meanwhile, the fate of 33 Bangladeshis in the restive Tikrit city is uncertain as they are not getting any assistance from the authorities concerned. Expatriates have been suffering in inhuman conditions in an under-construction hospital building there for the last nine days.

"We are still in the hospital building. Our main problem is shortage of food and water. Besides, there is no electricity which aggravates our suffering," expatriate Jitendra told The Daily Star over the phone.

They cannot buy food as local Iraqis have fled the area, leaving all shops and businesses closed.

"We don't know what lies ahead of us. We don't have enough food and can't contact anybody as we have no
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Costa Rica captain Bryan Ruiz (R) scores the all-important goal against Italy during their World Cup Group D match at the Pernambuco Arena in Recife yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Costa Rica stun Italy, Eng out

Reach last 16 for second time

AGENCIES, Recife

Costa Rica produced another huge upset to reach the knockout stages of the World Cup for the second time on Friday with Bryan Ruiz's goal securing a 1-0 Group D win over Italy that also ensured England were eliminated.

Ruiz headed powerfully home a minute before halftime to leave Costa Rica fans dancing in the sunshine at Recife's Pernambuco arena.

"We kept up our heads. It was a beautiful match.... The people of Costa

Rica deserve this. They supported the team and me. This was for them," said ecstatic coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

Costa Rica top the group with six points, having already beaten

ITALY 0 COSTA RICA 1 (Ruiz 44)

Uruguay in their first game, while Italy, three points adrift, now need at least a draw from their final game against Uruguay, also on three points, to go through on goal difference.

"We knew this would be a particularly tough group. We will try to recover all our energy for the Uruguay game," said Italy coach Cesare Prandelli.

"We didn't get our tactics wrong. They were very, very aggressive and we were trying to find different ways into the game but we didn't manage it."

In making the last 16 for the first time in 24 years, the Central Americans ensured England became the latest team to make a surprise early exit, leaving at the group stages for the first time since 1958.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Why should Matarbari project cost \$4.4b?

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh's biggest development partner Japan on Monday signed a \$1.18-billion loan agreement with Bangladesh, one fifth of which would be spent on a \$4.4-billion coal-fired 1,200 megawatt power project on Matarbari Island in Cox's Bazar.

The Japan International Finance Agency (Jica) will gradually provide the majority fund for this massive power project, which is scheduled to start generating power from imported coal in 2022.

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PROTEST AGAINST FORMALIN DRIVE

Fruit importers too join strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the retailers, now fruit importers and wholesalers too have chosen the hard-line to protest the ongoing anti-adulteration drive of law enforcers using what they call the "wrong device".

They yesterday called a half-day strike in the capital for today which comes amid an indefinite strike of the city's fruit retailers that began Monday last.

In solidarity with the retail traders, the importers will join their human
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লাক্কায়িক, আল্লাহুমা লাক্কায়িক।

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