

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
Week-on-week	As of Friday	As of Friday	As of Friday	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
DSEX	2.59%	Gold	\$1,182.86 (per ounce)	28,693.99	17,459.85	3,350.50	2,682.84	BUY TK	78.15	95.72	121.51	0.66
CSCX	3.26%	Oil	\$68.08 (per barrel)					SELL TK	79.15	99.72	125.51	0.69
	4,772.55											

জীবনে ধরোজন আরো বেশি স্বাস্থ্য
 সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সম্বলিত ব্যাবিক সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুস্বন্দ।

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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Borrowers more regular for foreign loans

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Private sector borrowers are more disciplined in repaying foreign loans than in local credit.

Take, for instance, last month, when \$550.59 million of buyer's credit -- which is short-term borrowing in foreign currency, normally spanning six to 12 months -- was due for repayment.

Of the amount, only \$4.93 million remained overdue, which is less than 1 percent of the repayment amount, according to data from Bangladesh Bank.

For local loans, the total default rate at the end of September stood at around 12 percent.

The private sector mainly enjoys two types of foreign loans. One is given through the Board of Investment's scrutiny committee headed by the central bank governor. It is borrowed by companies for term-credit purposes, with most having maturity upwards of five years.

The other is buyer's credit, taken for working capital purposes.

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Don't sell counterfeit medicines

Trade body asks retailers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The platform of medicine retailers yesterday urged its members to stop selling counterfeit medicines and said it will not take responsibility if law enforcers crack down on them.

The leaders of Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Samity also threatened a 48-hour countrywide strike from December 15 if physicians do not stop prescribing unregistered medicines, including supplements, in the next 15 days.

They said the retailers will now sell medicines at the "maximum retail price" without offering any discount, which gives some businesses an unfair advantage.

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Invest in women to drive economic growth

Speakers suggest at seminar

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government and businesses alike should invest in women and give them opportunities to help them contribute to the economy, a group of experts said yesterday.

"Investing in women helps speed up the development of local economies and create more equitable societies," said Carmen Z Lamagna, vice chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh.

She said economic development efforts to combat poverty can only succeed if women are part of the solution.

"Doing so yields a double dividend: when women are economically empowered, they raise healthier, better educated families, and their countries are more economically prosperous because of it too."

Lamagna spoke at a seminar on women's empowerment at the International School Dhaka (ISD) in the capital.

Lamagna said the economy needs female contribution, and there is need for action that removes obstacles that currently restrict women from realising their potential.

Research shows that inequalities persist in the way paid and unpaid work is divided between women and men; and in the fact that women remain as sole caregivers at home, and in their limited access to resources, the Filipino scholar said.

"These imbalances slow economic growth."

If household work were paid for, the additional value of the work done by women would be equivalent to 87.2 percent of the current gross domestic product as they spend an average seven hours a day in household chores, according to a recent study by the think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"Unfortunately, this beneficial worth is not recognised by our male-dominated society."

Lamagna said nobody can deny that acceleration of women's participation is proportionate to a country's economic growth.

"To achieve this we urgently need to broaden girls' aspirations and career choices, to create a business culture that embraces flexible working and provides better support for working parents."

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ADB plans big to fix infrastructure gap

Wencai Zhang speaks on ways to fund Bangladesh projects

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The Asian Development Bank is preparing a new strategy for the next five years for Bangladesh, slotting in the priorities of the government's development goals, a top official said.

Wencai Zhang, a vice-president for the Manila-based lender, said the new strategy for 2016-2020, which coincides with Bangladesh's next five-year plan, would continue to support the high-impact and productivity-enhancing infrastructure projects.

"We have a big package. In the coming years, ADB will support public-private partnerships in flagship infrastructure projects."

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Wencai Zhang

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