

জীবনে প্রয়োজন
আরো বেশি স্বাস্থ্য

সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সমন্বিত ব্যাংকিং সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুস্বাদু।

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২
ইসলামী পরীয়াহ'র মুদারাবা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত



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Soaring transport costs stoke inflation fears

SOHEL PARVEZ

Spiralling costs of freight transportation by road due to political unrest have hit the businesses hard, with some essentials sellers such as rice traders even deciding to shift the burden of increased expenses to consumers.

If the blockade persists for long, all consumer goods sellers may resort to adding the soaring freight costs to the prices of their products, which along with a supply shortage, may ultimately stoke inflation.

Businesses now have to pay Tk 13,000-Tk 14,000 per truck to transport goods from Dhaka to Chittagong, as more than half of the transport service providers have stopped plying their vehicles on the highways for fear of arson and vandalism.

The fare for the same route was Tk 8,000-Tk 10,000 per vehicle before the start of political unrest on January 6, said Rustom Ali Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Owners Association.

"We are absorbing the high freight costs for now by readjusting our profit margins. But if the situation prolongs, we will not continue to do so. We will have no option

COMPARISON	
BEFORE BLOCKADE	DURING BLOCKADE
Businesses paid Tk 8,000-10,000 per vehicle to carry goods from Dhaka to Ctg	Businesses now pay Tk 13,000-14,000 per truck
It cost Tk 18,000-20,000 to hire a truck to send goods from northern region to Dhaka	It now costs up to Tk 28,000-35,000
Nearly 100,000 trucks and covered vans transport goods within the country	The number plummeted to 30,000-40,000

then but to raise the price," said an official of a major edible oil company.

But it is the prohibitive freight costs from the troubled north that is particularly worrying, as the majority of the staple rice and vegetables arrive from the region.

It now costs up to Tk 28,000-Tk 35,000 to hire a truck to send goods from the northern region to Dhaka, in contrast to Tk 18,000-Tk 20,000 prior to the blockade, according to Khan and some traders.

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Govt leases orbital space for country's first satellite

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has leased an orbital slot in the space from a Russian vendor at \$28 million for the next 15 years -- for launching its first satellite.

"Bangladesh will own the orbit, and we will be able to send at least three satellites in the space. We can even rent out the slot to other countries or companies," said Sunil Kanti Bose, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

Vadim E Belov, director general of Intersputnik International Organisation of Space Communication, an inter-governmental institution owned by 26 countries, and ATM Monirul Alam, a BTRC commissioner, signed a deal at the regulator's office in Dhaka yesterday.

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Consumer confidence perks up further

Bangladesh sees the highest improvement among 27 nations on MasterCard index

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

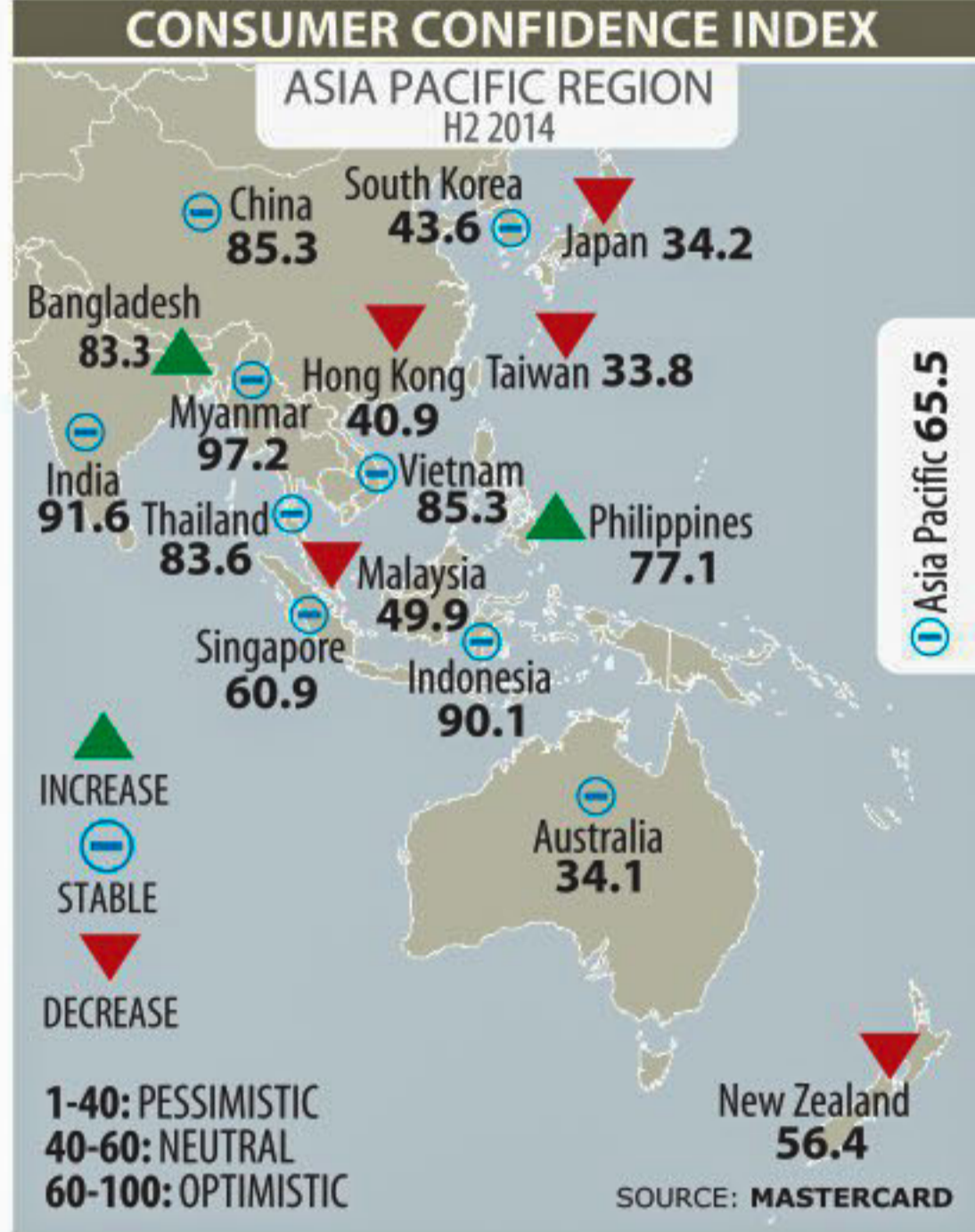
Bangladesh recorded the highest improvement in consumer confidence in the Asia Pacific region in the second half of 2014, moving from "optimistic" to "very optimistic" territory.

During the period, the country added 16.9 points to take the total to 83.3 in the MasterCard Index of Consumer Confidence released yesterday.

The survey did not take into account the prevailing political situation. MasterCard, a New York-based technology company in global payments, first included Bangladesh in its survey in the second half of 2012.

"Bangladesh is the only market that saw a double-digit rise in consumer sentiment," said the survey, which is considered the most comprehensive and the longest running study of its kind in the region.

In the first half too, the country recorded the biggest improvement among the 27 countries from the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa region covered in the study.



Consumer confidence during January-June of 2014 jumped a whopping 25.9 points.

The findings of the study are an acknowledgement of Bangladesh's sound economic management in the last one year.

Analysts said they are not surprised by the rise in consumer confidence.

"The consumers were cautious and took a 'wait and see' approach in the first two to three months after the January 5 elections last year. When they saw that political stability prevailed and there was no confrontation between rival political parties, their confidence improved," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

He said a number of economic indicators also helped build a positive sentiment in the second half of 2014.

"For example, inflation continued its downward trend, remittance income went up and exports recovered from negative growth."

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Tour operators seek mercy from political violence

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The tourism sector may count a loss of Tk 100 crore in the next three months due to cancellations of planned tours by foreign travellers amid political violence.

Foreigners have completely cancelled their bookings for the rest of January, said Taufiq Rahman, chief executive officer of Journey Plus, a leading tour operator.

About 5,000 tourists were expected to arrive in Bangladesh until March, but they have either cancelled their bookings or are planning to do so, he said.

His comments come as the tourism industry has started to feel the pinch of the strikes and blockades going on for the past ten days.

The dire situation prompted the tourism sector to organise an urgent press briefing at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Tourism Board in the capital yesterday. At the briefing, Akhtaruz Zaman Khan Kabir, chief executive of Bangladesh Tourism Board, said the nonstop blockade and the accompanying violence are seriously damaging the sector.

Subsequently, the political parties were requested to exempt the tourism sector from the purview of their activities.

Rahman of Journey Plus said the blockade left 1,000 foreign tourists stranded in Bangladesh.

"They have not committed any crime. They have come to explore the country and its beauty and heritage. So, they should be provided with security and other support such that they return with some pleasant memories," he said, while urging the government to provide financial assistance to firms who have been affected by the blockade.

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Garment makers meet retailers abroad as blockade lingers

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Some apparel retailers have cancelled their scheduled flights to Dhaka due to a political upheaval and asked their suppliers in Bangladesh to meet them abroad to wrap up work orders.

Industry insiders fear a reduction, cancellation and shift of work orders to other countries due to political tensions. The country has already witnessed 15 days of a nonstop blockade.

Garment makers or their representatives are travelling to Hong Kong, China, India, Thailand and European nations, spending thousands of dollars, to attend the meetings that were initially planned to take place in Dhaka. They will have to count losses from discounts to buyers and expensive air shipments to maintain the strict lead-time set by the retailers, according to industry people.

"Investor confidence is waning. The image of the country's apparel sector will be tarnished again. That will be the biggest loss," Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said by phone.

"A Canadian buyer was supposed to come to my office in Dhaka, but unfortunately the retailer cancelled the trip and set the meeting in Thailand instead," said Azim.

During any long political crisis, Azim said retailers do not place the full work orders all at once as they fear delays in shipment as production cycles are hampered by slow transportation of raw materials and finished goods and a thin presence of workers in factories.

Work orders may shift to India, Vietnam or Pakistan due to prolonged political conflict, Azim added.

In 2013, the sector had to bear air shipment bills worth Tk 5,000 crore and offer discounts worth Tk 9,000 crore because of political unrest, BGMEA said in a press statement on Tuesday in Dhaka.

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Position: Manager-Corporate & Institutional Sales

Qualification: BSc in EEE (Masters / MBA major in Marketing will be added as an advantage)
Experience Summary: Minimum 7 Years (Experience in FMCG corporate business is preferred)
Responsibilities: Close monitoring of all corporate sales related functions. Prepare and execute sales plans, handle corporate clients and to take corrective actions to improve sales. Must be able to increase corporate clients.

Position: Assistant Manager-Corporate & Institutional Sales

Qualification: Masters / MBA major in Marketing
Experience: Minimum 5-3 Years (Experience in FMCG corporate business is preferred)
Responsibilities: Primary responsibility is to achieve sales target. Assist on monitoring sales executives. Allocate sales executives according to sales plan and route. Prepare sales reports time to time. Increase client list.

Position: Executive-Corporate & Institutional Sales

Qualification: Graduation from any reputed university
Experience: 2 Years (Fresh graduates may also apply)
Responsibilities: To collect order form respective area with new/old visit, collection, delivery etc. followed by route chart. Assist on increasing clients and ensure customer service through proper communication and in-time delivery of required products.

Position: Sales Engineer-Corporate & Institutional Sales

Qualification: BSc in EEE
Experience: 2 Years (Fresh graduates may also apply)
Responsibilities: Prepare designs for prospective clients and prepare offer/proposals according to need of the clients. Visit clients.

Position: Territory Sales Manager

Qualification: Graduation from any reputed university (Marketing background will get preference)
Experience: Minimum 3 Years (Experience in FMCG Business will get preference)
Responsibilities: Achieve the territory target, volume and unit wise. Monitor the activities of Sales Representatives, Distributors and Dealers. Prepare and keep updated party list of the territory. Implement the merchandising activities by the Sales officers in the market place. Ensure and establish the sales administrative activities (attendance, leave etc).

Following skills are required for all the above positions:

Candidate must be well groomed with sound communication, leadership, people management skill, corporate network and relation.
Must have adequate skills on MS Office package.

Interested candidates meeting the above requirements are requested to send their CV and a recent passport size color photograph.

Application Deadline: January 26, 2015

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