

জীবনে প্রয়োজন আরো বেশি স্বাস্থ্য
সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সম্বলিত ব্যাংকিং সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুস্বাদু।

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২
ইসলামী পরীক্ষার স্বাক্ষর নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 18, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

BASIC Bank fires two officials

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

State-owned BASIC Bank has fired two of its officials for their alleged involvement in a financial crime at the bank's Gulshan branch.

The officials are Shipar Ahmed and Zahid Hasan, who were deputy general manager and deputy manager, respectively, of the branch during 2011-2013, when scams worth hundreds of crores taka took place. Ahmed was also the in-charge of the branch.

The board of the bank took the decision at a meeting on December 11, 2014 and an office order was issued last week.

"Now the bank will file criminal cases against them," a senior official of the bank said, asking not to be named.

BASIC, which was one of the best state banks till 2009, became news headlines in 2012 for financial scams. The central bank found that then chairman of the bank Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu (2009-2013) had granted loans worth around Tk 5,000 crore on forged and weak documents. Many of those have become bad loans now.

Poultry bleeds as blockade lingers

SUMAN SAHA

The poultry industry has incurred losses of around Tk 256 crore over the last two weeks due to the nonstop blockade, which has knocked the sector's tight supply chain.

"Our sector is facing a very difficult time. Everyday we are counting losses," said Moshir Rahman, convenor of the Bangladesh Poultry Industries Coordination Committee (BPICC), a group of six associations in the poultry sector.

The production of day-old chicks, eggs and broiler chicken takes place on a daily basis and they have to be shipped on the same day as the farms lack storage and preservation facilities.

"So, we have no other option but to kill the day-old chicks and destroy the eggs if we cannot send them out on the day," he said, adding that the blockades and shutdowns are forcing poultry farmers to destroy around 22 lakh day-old chicks every week.

Since January 5, the poultry farmers were unable to sell around 8 crore eggs, 7,000 tonnes of meat and 99 lakh day-old chicks, according to Rahman.

As a result, they counted losses of Tk 47 crore in egg production, Tk 79 crore in broiler meat and about Tk 35 crore in

BATTERED BY UNREST
Losses in crores of Tk IN LAST TWO WEEKS



EGGS DESTROYED	47
DAY-OLD CHICKS DESTROYED	35
COMMERCIAL BROILERS KILLED	79
LOST MEDICINE BUSINESS	20
LOST ANIMAL FEED BUSINESS	73
VEHICLE DAMAGE	2

SOURCE: BPICC

day-old chicks in the last two weeks, he added. That's part of the total losses.

The transportation of poultry feed and day-old chicks has significantly been disrupted, said Fazle Rahim Khan Shahriar, managing director of Aftab Bahumukhi Farms, one of the major poultry companies.

In the past two weeks, five of its trucks have been burnt or damaged by anti-government protesters.

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Trade deficit swells

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Trade deficit doubled year-on-year in the first five months of the fiscal year on the back of high import and low export growth.

Between July and November, trade deficit stood at \$4.48 billion, which was \$2.25 billion in the same period last fiscal year, according to data from Bangladesh Bank.

Imports surged 16.62 percent but exports rose a negligible 0.01 percent.

Capital machinery, petroleum products, industrial raw materials along with materials for the Padma bridge account for the spike in imports, said a high official of Bangladesh Bank.

Exports, in contrast, stuttered during the period for the sluggish performance of the garment sector, which typically accounts for 80 percent of the country's exports.

However, if the present political situation continues the prevailing investment situation may take a turn for the worse. In other words, imports might drop.

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GSP fate hangs in the balance

US says further progress is needed

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Uncertainty has arisen centring the reinstatement of a trade privilege in the US market, as the Obama administration has once again asked Bangladesh to improve workplace safety and ensure workers' rights at factories.

After an interagency review, the United States Trade Representative (USTR), America's chief trade negotiator, yesterday said Bangladesh has made progress over the last one year to address fire and building safety issues in the garment sector.

But, further progress is needed to get back the generalised system of preferences, the USTR said.

After two industrial disasters -- Tazreen Fashions fire and Rana Plaza building collapse, the US suspended GSP for Bangladesh in June 2013, citing serious shortcomings in labour rights and workplace safety.

GSP is a trade scheme under which the US allows import of more than 5,000 goods from 122 least developed and developing countries with lower or zero-duty benefit.

The US introduced the GSP in 1976 under the US Trade Act of 1974. However, the GSP scheme has remained suspended for all beneficiary countries since July 31, 2013.

Although Bangladesh used to export a very small quantity of goods under the GSP,

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2,000 factories inspected by Accord and Alliance
- 31 factories closed down
- 17 factories partially closed
- 1,500 factories waiting to be inspected by govt


still it is important for the country's image as other countries, where Bangladesh enjoys such benefit, might be influenced by the decision of the US.

"We urge the government to complete remaining factory inspections as soon as possible to prevent recurrence of workplace tragedies such as those that occurred in 2012 and 2013," USTR chief Michael Froman said in the review.

There is more work to do, building on the collaboration between the government of Bangladesh, private sector stakeholders, and the International Labour Organisation, to address the concerns about factory safety in the apparel sector, he said.

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প্রারম্ভিক জমা ১৫,০০০ টাকা
ফ্রি এটিএম কার্ড ও চেক বই*
ফ্রি আন্তঃনগর লেনদেন সুবিধা

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