

Poultry sector eyes double digit growth

Entrepreneurs call for political stability, policy support as three-day fair begins in Dhaka



A partial view of the ninth International Poultry Show and Seminar 2015 that began at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladesh's poultry industry is expected to grow by an average of 16 percent a year for the next five years, banking on higher investment and increased consumption of protein, poultry entrepreneurs said.
Total investment in the poultry sector is likely to double to Tk 50,000 crore by 2020, which will

take the sector's total employment, including direct and indirect, to one crore from 70 lakh at present, they added.
"We have a good prospect for growth as the country's per capita protein consumption is still much lower than acceptable limits," said Shamsul Arefin Khaled, director of Nourish Poultry and Hatchery.
The annual per capita chicken

consumption in Bangladesh is only 3.74 kilograms (kg), which is expected to reach 8.42 kg by 2020, he said. The recommended annual intake per capita is 18-20 kg globally.
Khaled was speaking at the inauguration of the 9th International Poultry Show and Seminar 2015, organised by World's Poultry Science Association-Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB) at Bangabandhu

International Conference Centre in Dhaka.
The poultry sector grew by 14.3 percent in the decade leading to 2010, but the growth rate fell to less than 3 percent in 2011-14. Outbreak of bird flu impacted the industry in the first two years, and political unrest hit the sector in 2013, said Moshir Rahman, president of WPSA-BB.

AT A GLANCE

Grandparent farms: 6

Weekly production of parent stock: 60,000-70,000 birds

Total breeder farms: 140

Weekly production of day-old-chicks: 1.1cr

Commercial farms: 100,000-120,000

Daily production of eggs: 2cr

Per capita chicken consumption: 3.74kg

Share of broiler meat out of total meat consumption: 54%

SOURCE: WORLD'S POULTRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, BANGLADESH

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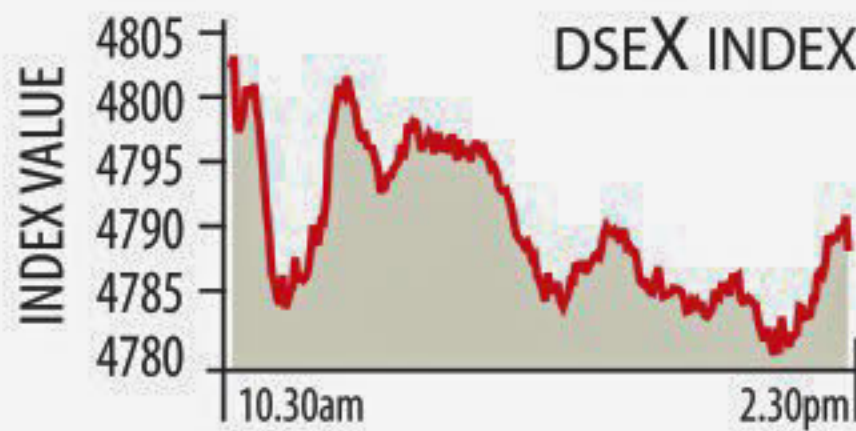
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Stocks fall on passive investor mood

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Stocks declined yesterday as investors took a cautious approach to trading after heavy sales the day before, exercising caution in the face of a drawn-out political impasse.
DSEX, the benchmark general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, fell 14.04 points or 0.29 percent, to close at 4,788.23.
DSES, the shariah index of DSE, went down 5.41 points or 0.48 percent, to finish at 1,128.29.
It was another sluggish day for the equity market as investors remained passive, said IDLC Investments.
The market faced a downtrend as political unrest continued to grip movement in stocks, commented LankaBangla Securities.
Turnover, the most important indicator of the market, advanced 2.9 percent to Tk 266 crore, compared to the previous day.
Of the 307 issues that traded on the bourse, 109 advanced, 153 declined and 45 remained unchanged.
A total of 0.71 lakh deals were exe-



cuted with 6.51 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.
Among the major sectors, telecom was the worst hit with a 3.15 percent loss in market cap.
Pharma gained 0.99 percent, followed by non-bank financial institutions at 1.4 percent and foods at 0.10 percent.
Grameenphone featured in the most-traded stocks' chart with 3.51 lakh shares worth Tk 11.83 crore changing hands followed by United Commercial Bank, Lafarge Surma Cement, Shahjibazar Power Company, Square Pharma and IDLC Finance.
ICB AMCL NRB First Mutual Fund was the highest gainer of the day with an 8.91 percent rise, while Exim Bank First Mutual Fund was the worst loser, shedding 8.69 percent.

Real estate linkage industries hit by political unrest

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It is not only the realtors who have been hit hard by the ongoing political crisis, the linkage industries such as bricks, cement, paint, stone and steel are also incurring huge losses.
Industry insiders said continued blockade and strikes since January 6 have reduced their production and sales substantially, and ultimately forced many of the owners to suspend production and cut jobs.
"More than half of our 400 mills have suspended production due to the ongoing political crisis. Those who are running factories cannot sell their products," said Abu Bakar Siddique, general secretary of Bangladesh Re-Rolling Mills Association. He spoke at a press briefing organised by Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at Sundarban Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.
REHAB said their 1,200 members have lost Tk 1,656 crore in 46 days of blockade and shutdowns. This time the housing association brought the leaders of its linkage industries to the press briefing to show how its supply industries were affected.
Abdur Rahman, vice president of Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers Association, said the industry has lost Tk 166 crore in sales per month during the last two months. The industry gives the national exchequer Tk 40 crore as revenue a month, which has gone down significantly due to the current political crisis.

CSE looking for strategic investors

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The Chittagong Stock Exchange is looking for prospective strategic investors who can be the bourse's partners in the post-demutualisation era.
"Discussions with several local and foreign institutions are going on and the bourse will take strategic partners very soon," said Wali-ul-Marooof Matin, managing director of the port city bourse.
Incorporating strategic investors is mandatory in line with the demutualisation of the bourse. The CSE was demutualised last year.
As per the demutualisation scheme, 60 percent shares of the bourse have been kept in a block account for strategic and institutional investors and the general public. The rest were allotted to existing shareholders.
The CSE focused on strengthening internal matters during the first year of demutualisation, Matin said at a press meet in Dhaka yesterday.
The CSE has some partnership programmes with Thai and Korean stock exchanges that will take the port city bourse to a new height, he said.

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Cricket world cup boosts TV sales in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong
Sales of television have increased in the port city in the last two weeks thanks to the World Cup Cricket 2015.
Most electronics retailers in Chittagong are now offering promotional deals on televisions.
Tabassum Ferdous of Katalganj, bought an LED (light emitting diode) television on Tuesday to replace her old set.
"I have long been saving up for buying an LED TV. The discount given for the World Cup has made it possible for me to finally get it."
Electronics companies are happy to see busi-

ness improving, especially after a prolonged slump in sales caused by blockades and hartals since January 6.
Sales increased 60-70 percent after the World Cup promotional offers on televisions were announced, said Mohsin Uddin Chowdhury, zonal sales manager for Chittagong at Transcom Electronics.
Depending on the model, Transcom is offering discounts between Tk 3,500 and Tk 70,000, he said.
"We also offer to give internet modems and pen drives for free with particular models," Chowdhury added.

Sony Rangs, another electronics brand, also eyes a growth in television sales, said Santosh Kumar Das, the company's sales in-charge for Chittagong.
"The 10-15 percent discount on TV sets has helped boost sales at all our seven showrooms in Chittagong, which were severely affected by the blockades and hartals since last month."
"Singer is offering customers a chance to win air tickets to Australia, along with cash discounts of Tk 9,000 to Tk 30,000 with the purchase of different models," said Syed Nizam Uddin, manager of the Singer Plus shop in Moulvi Pukur Par area.

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