

সমৃদ্ধির প্যানেল | **দ্বিগুণ আয়ের শ্রেষ্ঠ উপায়**
 সুনামরাবা দ্বিগুণ বৃদ্ধি ডিপোজিট ফিড
 সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ও সমৃদ্ধ ব্যাংকিং সেবায়
 আমানত দ্বিগুণ করুন স্বল্পসময়ে
 ইসলামী শরী'আহ সুনামরাবা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত
 যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২


Star BUSINESS

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DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Bangladesh a bright example of women's employment: study

SUMAN SAHA
 Bangladesh has made significant progress in women's employment thanks to better education and wider opportunities, according to a study by MasterCard.
 Since 2009, the country has gained more than 80 points in overall employment, which is part of an index that consists of 16 countries from the Asia Pacific region, indicating that women are more or less as economically active as their male counterparts.
 A score under 100 indicates gender inequality in favour of males, while a score above 100 indicates inequality in favour of females. A score of 100 indicates equality between the sexes.
 Of note is the stride made by the country between 2007 and 2015 in 'regular employment', a sub-category of the MasterCard Index of Women's Advancement.
 During the period, Bangladesh soared

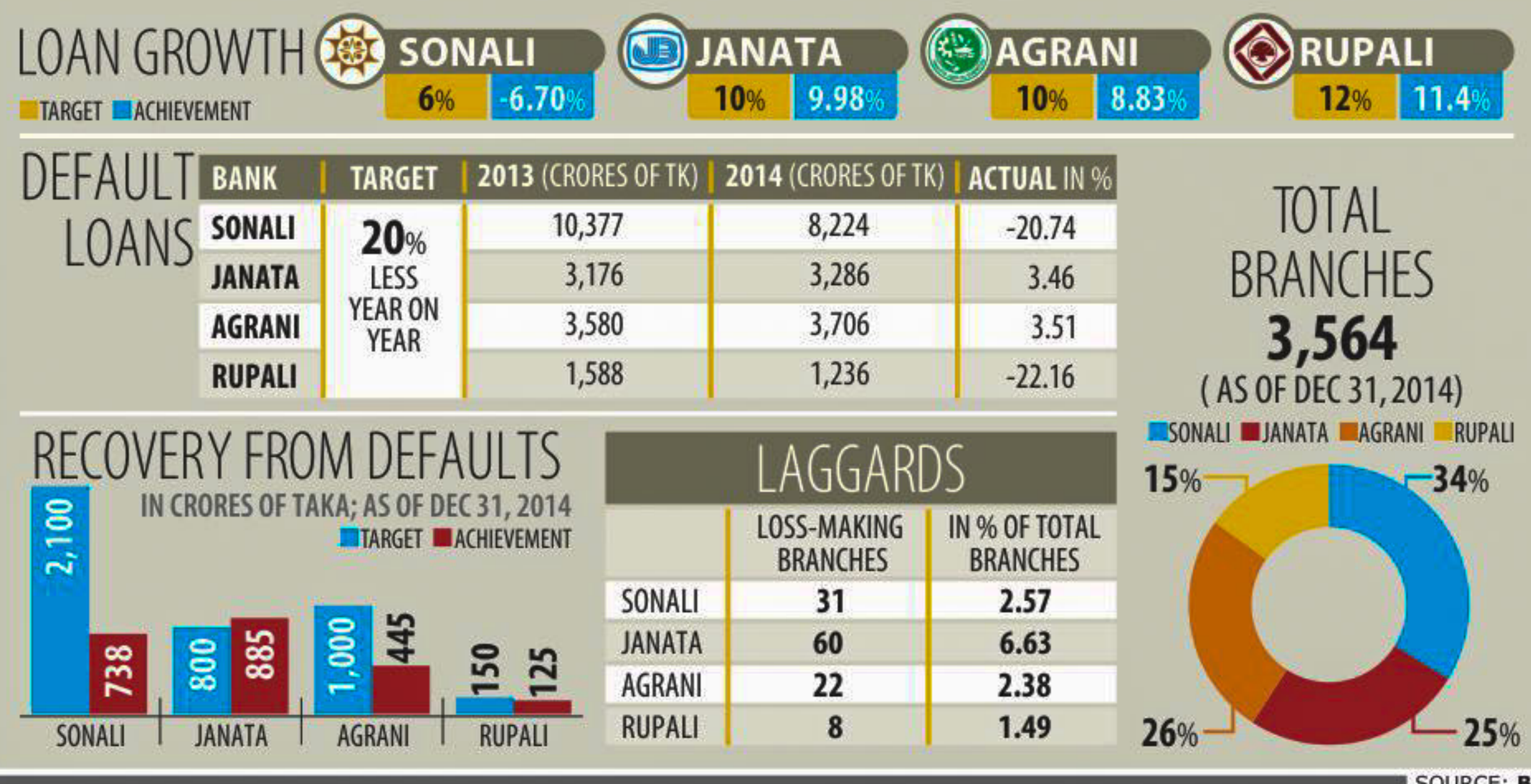
21.1 index points to 102.4 in regular employment opportunities, which is the second highest rise after India (39.6).
 In terms of female participation in the workforce, the country surpassed India and Sri Lanka by a wide margin, scoring 69.3 against 35.8 and 46.5 respectively. In fact, Bangladesh did better than the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea in this respect.
 Yet, in the overall index for women's advancement, Bangladesh managed the second lowest overall score, of 44.6, this year.
 Scores are indexed to 100 males to indicate how close or how far women are to achieving socio-economic parity with men.
 In the overall index, Bangladesh was slightly ahead of India (44.2) but behind Sri Lanka (46.2). The fact that all three countries scored less than 50 means much more needs to be done to achieve gender parity.
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Govt yet to make rules to implement labour law

REFAJET ULLAH MIRDHA
 The government has still not formulated rules for implementing the amended labour law, which is one of the key requirements for regaining Bangladesh's GDP in the US.
 This is despite the parliament's adoption of the amended law more than one and a half years ago.
 "We were supposed to formulate the rules a lot earlier. But, we are still discussing stakeholders' opinions, to incorporate those into the rules," said Mikail Shipar, labour and employment secretary.
 "Considering opinions from the many sectors that are under the purview of the labour law has delayed the formulation of the rules, even though the draft of the rules has already been written," Shipar said.
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State banks' turnaround in 2014

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
 Four state banks raised their performance last year following close monitoring by the central bank and the finance ministry's banking division.
 In 2014, Janata, Sonali, Rupali and Agrani saw their default loan recovery edge closer to the target set by Bangladesh Bank, while their loan growth stayed within the ceiling.
 The disclosure comes after the central bank recently reviewed the banks' performance, a source of concern for the government after the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank flagged them as a potential risk to the economy.
 The review showed that no banks crossed their individual loan growth limits in 2014, while Sonali's credit growth even declined year-on-year. Rupali's loans had been ballooning in recent years, but last year its loan growth stayed within the BB-placed bounds.
 As for loan recovery, the four banks could manage 63 percent, or Tk 1,995 crore, of the target. From their top 20 defaulters, they retrieved 70 percent of the Tk 339-crore target.
 Zaid Bakht, chairman of Agrani Bank, said the loan recovery target set by BB is not possible to attain: if any defaulter does not pay back in time, the bank takes legal steps against the customer and settlement of loan cases through that channel is time-consuming.
 Last year, the four banks settled 242 cases involving Tk 349 crore, according to the BB review.
 Yet, there are a large number of loan cases pending with different courts. Until December 2014, the state banks had a total of 16,392 unresolved cases involving Tk 21,475 crore.
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