

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▼ 0.93%	▼ 0.96%	\$1,207.30	\$58.04	▼ 0.02%	▼ 0.15%	▲ 0.35%	▲ 1.95%	BUY TK 77.15	80.04	111.34	0.63
4,305.26	8,013.44	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	28,879.38	19,907.63	3,472.38	4,034.90	SELL TK 78.15	84.04	115.34	0.67

নব আনন্দের জাগো
বাংলা নববর্ষ ১৪২২
উপলক্ষে আমাদের সকল গ্রাহক,
শুভানুধ্যায়ী ও সমগ্র দেশবাসীকে
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Star BUSINESS

City

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 13, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

China raises trade hopes

Analysts at StanChart-Daily Star roundtable call for deeper ties with China

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh stands to gain much from China by way of higher exports and investment, as the Asian economic giant looks to deepen ties with its South Asian neighbours.

In the next five years, China is expected to invest \$500 billion in different countries, import goods worth \$10 trillion, and export goods worth \$20 trillion. More than 400 million Chinese nationals are expected to visit other countries during the period.

"Given geographical proximity, we see a huge potential in trade and investment from China to Bangladesh," said Abrar A Anwar, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

He spoke at a discussion on "Bangladesh-China trade and investment corridor: importance, potential and outlook", co-organised by SCB and The Daily Star at the newspaper's office in Dhaka.

Anwar said the country has a huge opportunity to deepen ties with China, as the Asian economic giant has already opened its economy to trading partners under its planned 21st Century Maritime Silk Route Economic Belt.

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From left, Ron Lim, managing director of Eastcompeace Smart Card Bangladesh; Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of BGMEA; Syed Afsor H Uddin, CEO of Public Private Partnership Office; Nabhash Chandra Mandal, executive member of BoI; Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star; Ma Mingqiang, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh; Abrar A Anwar, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh; Patricia Wong, head of network corridor of StanChart China; Alamgir Morshed, head of financial markets at SCB; Syed Sadek Ahmed, MD of Space Sweater; and KG Moazzem, additional research director of CPD, attend a roundtable on Bangladesh-China Trade and Investment Corridor, at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

More female workers key to higher growth: WB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Increasing female labour force participation will help the country break the decade-long 6 percent growth barrier, the World Bank said yesterday.

"Women make up a little over half the country's population, but their contribution to measured economic activity, growth and wellbeing is far below its potential," the WB said in its Bangladesh Development Update 2015.

Despite significant progress in recent decades, the labour market remains divided along gender lines and progress toward gender equality seems to have stalled, the WB said.

For women, the labour force participation rate is only 33.7 percent, which is 81.7 percent for men, according to Bangladesh Labour Force Survey 2013.

Women also account for most unpaid work and when women are employed in paid work, they are over-represented in the informal sector and among the poor.

"If Bangladesh wants to grow beyond 6 percent growth, it has to reap the benefits by reinventing demographic dividends with more participation from female workforce," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the WB's Dhaka office.

If female labour participation rates increase (FLPR) by 2.5 million a year to equal with male participation, it will add 1.8 percentage points to potential GDP each year, taking it to 7.5 percent from the present 6 percent, the report said.

Less ambitiously, if female labour participation rises to 48 percent in ten years reaching the level of Japan in 1990, the potential growth rate rises to 6.5 percent, as 0.75 million female labours are added to the workforce each year, Hussain said.

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DSE relaunches website, stocks hit 15-month low

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday relaunched its website in an effort to make it more user-friendly and generate income using the site as an advertisement platform.

While investors can get market-related information more easily and smoothly, local and international institutions can post their advertisements on the website, whose size and view has been made larger than the previous ones.

The key feature of the website is its indices graph, as one can see the time and value of the indexes just by putting the pointer on the graph, a feature which was not available in the earlier website.

Addresses of the premier bourse's website, however, remain the same -- www.dsebd.org and www.dse.com.bd -- but their resolution has been increased to 1,024 pixels from 800 pixels before.

Inaugurating the website, DSE Chairman Siddiqui Rahman Miah said the site has been updated in continuation with a new and fast automated trading system.

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International factoring: an alternative to LCs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should introduce international factoring, which is a type of debtor finance and can act as an alternative to letters of credit, in a bid to boost overseas sales by reducing import costs, analysts said yesterday.

Factoring is a financial transaction in which a business sells its accounts receivable to a third party at a discount.

Factoring is gradually gaining popularity due to an increase in open-account transactions globally, where buyers do not need to make third party payment guarantee, the experts said.

They spoke at a seminar on interna-

tional factoring for foreign trade, organised by the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh in partnership with Factors Chain International (FCI), Asian Development Bank and Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), at Westin Dhaka.

But there are some challenges for banks and corporate houses to do the open-account trade, they said, adding that providing buyers with credit in the way can cause severe cash flow crisis.

Further problems can arise if importers delay payment or make no payment at all because of financial failure, they said.

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Discounts galore for card users boosts Baishakhi sales

SUMAN SAHA

Celebrating Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year, is certainly a delight for customers who use plastic money, as boutiques and food courts partnered with banks and card issuing companies to offer discounts.

Most financial institutions are offering 5-20 percent discounts for both debit and credit cards used to buy clothes and dine out at different lifestyle brand shops.

MasterCard has launched a flat discount of 10 percent for its debit and credit

cardholders at the outlets of leading brands such as Nipun, Kay Kraft, Anjan's, Rang, Banglar Mela, Sadakalo, Bibiana and Nogordola. The campaign will boost sales and promote electronic payments, said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of MasterCard Bangladesh.

"I bought a panjabi from Deshi Dosh. The tax was around 15 percent, and paying with a MasterCard got me a 10 percent discount. It felt quite good," said Prince Mitra, consumer research consultant at a firm in Dhaka.

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India rushes to break impasse on Canada

Indian and Canadian negotiators are rushing to iron out differences in a long-stalled foreign investment protection pact in time for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the north American nation next week, an Indian government source said. Modi arrives in Canada on April 14 for a two-day visit, the first bilateral visit by an Indian prime minister in 42 years.

Negotiations for the agreement, which seeks to protect legal rights of Canadian and Indian investors doing business in the two countries, were concluded in June 2007, but it has yet to be ratified. - Reuters

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