

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
Week-on-week	As of Friday	As of Friday	Friday closings	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	0.78%	1.17%	0.18%	2.23%	BUY TK	77.15	80.73	112.97	0.64
▲ 0.63%	▲ 1.38%	\$1,204.10 (per ounce)	\$63.72 (per barrel)	▼ 28,442.10	▼ 19,652.88	▼ 3,525.19	▲ 4,288.35	SELL TK	78.15	84.73	116.97	0.67

নব আনন্দে জাগো
বাংলা নববর্ষ ১৪২২
উপলক্ষে আমাদের সকল গ্রাহক,
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Business

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Eliminate barriers to trade with India

CPD calls for an agreement so that Bangladesh and India accept each other's standardisation certification

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should sign a bilateral agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures with India so that the countries accept each other's standardisation certification, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said yesterday.

The call came as the South Asian economic giant has become a major market of Bangladeshi agricultural products. SPS measures deal with food safety and animal and plant health. They aim to ensure that a country's consumers are being supplied with food that is safe to eat -- by acceptable standards -- while also ensuring that strict health and safety regulations are not being used as an excuse to shield domestic producers from competition.

"I think Bangladesh has a lot of opportunities to export agri-products to India. The government can sign a bilateral agreement with India for resolving the SPS problems," said Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of the CPD.

He called for signing the agreement as the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO), a common certification panel for the Saarc region, is yet to be fully effective though it started journey in April 2014.

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From left, Amitava Chakraborty, director general of WTO Cell at the commerce ministry; Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICCB; Humayun Rashid, acting president of DCCI; and Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, attend a seminar on Bangladesh-India trade barriers, at Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka yesterday.

Budget support merits stern reforms: WB

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank wants the country to run various reform programmes in energy and transport sectors, including the introduction of an energy pricing formula to reduce subsidy burden, if it wants to receive budget support from the multilateral lender.

The disclosure came on Friday in a meeting between Finance Minister AMA Muhith and WB Managing Director Mulyani Indrawati on the sidelines of the WB-IMF spring meetings in Washington DC.

"The World Bank and Bangladesh on Friday agreed to do more to develop the country's transport and energy infrastructure and continue the dialogue on necessary reforms that would merit a development policy credit," the Washington-based lender said in a statement yesterday.

If both the sides agree on the conditions, Bangladesh may get \$500 million as budget support, which will be placed at the WB board in November.

Budget support is a form of aid that is channelled directly into a country's budget on the condition that its government implements a number of reforms.

Bangladesh agreed on all reform issues save for one: the contentious matter of power subsidy, Muhith told reporters after the meeting.

He said the subsidy given to the power sector is "very much rational" and withdrawing subsidy entirely could be difficult.

"We had an in-depth and intensive discussion with the World Bank about the challenges Bangladesh faces and the huge potential of the country if these are overcome," the statement quoted Muhith as saying.

"We intend to work with the World Bank to improve the country's infrastructure and to further discuss the possibility of a development policy credit so that we can provide more opportunity for our people."

In addition to giving high priorities to energy and transportation in recent years, the government is also giving equal importance and attention to education, health, sanitation and housing sectors, Muhith further said.

Indrawati, as quoted in the statement, said the country's success in overcoming poverty is critical for eliminating extreme global poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

Limited energy and poor-quality transport infrastructure are key constraints to growth, he said.

"We will work with the government of Bangladesh in removing these bottlenecks that slow economic growth and trap many of the country's people in poverty."

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Compensation still eludes Rana Plaza victims

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Donations, offered mainly by global retailers, have overshadowed the issue of ensuring compensation to the surviving Rana Plaza workers and the families of their deceased colleagues.

The issue was raised yesterday by the Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati (BGSS), which said that the money handed over to the workers and families of the dead workers by the Rana Plaza Donor Trust Fund came from both public and private sectors as compensation and not as compensation that workers are legally entitled to.

The organisation, citing the Rana Plaza Arrangement, said nowhere in the English version of the 'Rana Plaza Agreement Terms and Conditions of Donor Trust Fund' does it contain the word compensation.

Instead, there is a mention of the words 'financial support'. There is also no mention of compensation in payment letters, sent by Rana Plaza Claim Administration to the victims. The letters of payment receipts contain the words grant, it said.

"So, it is clear that the Rana Plaza victims are not getting any compensation," said Taslima Akhter, coordinator of the BGSS while presenting a paper at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The programme was arranged to mark the two-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse, which claimed at least 1,138 lives and injured hundreds, making it the worst industrial disaster in the nation's history.

Following the disaster, the \$40 million-Rana Plaza Trust Fund was formed to provide financial support and medical care, as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention.

However, not all the global retailers have footed the amount they had committed to the fund.

Akhter said 70 percent of the amount put in to the fund so far has been handed over by the authorities to the survivors and families of dead workers.

But, the victims are getting varying amounts of financial support in absence of a minimum floor. As a result, a division has emerged among the families of the victims, she said.

The BGSS also wanted to know what happened to the donations put in by different persons and organisations into the prime minister's fund after the disaster.

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Trillions of dollars needed to end poverty by 2030

REUTERS, Washington

World leaders have drawn up ambitious goals to end extreme poverty by 2030 and promote development over the next 15 years, but now they have to figure out how to pay the bill.

Trillions of dollars would be required to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the United Nations is expected to adopt in September, experts said. The goals address issues from healthcare for all, to education, water, energy and protecting the environment.

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OMAN AIR, the rapidly growing National Carrier of the Sultanate of Oman is seeking to recruit suitable candidates for the following positions based in Dhaka

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- Load control
- Acceptance of dangerous goods

Officer - Airport Services
Education & Experience:

- Bachelor Degree with 2 years experience in relevant field
- Two years college diploma in related discipline with 6 years experience in relevant field or Secondary School 8 years experience in relevant field, with specialized Certificate
- Station Management Course (IATA)
- Load control
- Acceptance of Dangerous Goods

Airport Services Supervisor
Education & Experience:

- Diploma in any discipline; graduate is preferable
- 10 years experience in the aviation field and a similar capacity or ground handling agent

Customer Services Agent
Education & Experience:

- Two years college diploma in related discipline preferably in an hospitality & service function or
- Secondary School with IATA specialized certificate having 2 years of experience in the hospitality sector

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Email: Khondaker.Kabir@omanair.com

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