

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▼ 0.52%	▼ 0.56%	\$1,114.70 (per ounce)	\$49.00 (per barrel)	▲ 1.88%	▼ 0.37%	▲ 0.73%	▲ 0.28%	BUY TK 77.20	84.14	119.40	0.60
4,783.80	8,949.83			28,067.31	20,519.45	3,114.25	3,965.64	SELL TK 78.20	88.14	123.40	0.64

এসআইবিএল ফ্যামিলি এমপাওয়ারফেস্ট ইসলামিক হাইলিফ ফাইন্যান্স

ক্ষুদ্র বিনিয়োগ বৃহৎ সম্ভাবনা

* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯১২২



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 17, 2015

Foreign aid hits new high

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The amount of foreign aid available to the government to spend on development purposes reached a new height of \$21.71 billion at the end of last fiscal year, boosted by higher commitments from development partners.

The foreign aid commitment stood at \$5.21 billion in fiscal 2014-15, against the target of \$6 billion. It was \$5.84 billion a year earlier.

The World Bank, the largest donor, gave \$1.01 billion in fiscal 2014-15, which was \$930 million a year ago, while the Asian Development Bank disbursed \$710 million, nearly twice the amount it gave a year ago.

The country has been receiving handsome amounts of foreign aid commitments in recent years but the absorption capacity of the ministries and divisions did not improve, leaving a huge stockpile.

Until fiscal 2009-10, the country received commitments worth \$2 billion on average every year, but since fiscal 2011-12, it rose to upwards of \$5 billion, according to statistics from the Economic Relations Division.

Economists say the government's ability to utilise aid has lagged behind its ability to negotiate new aid.

They cite the implementation capacity constraints of the line ministries for the wide discrepancy, adding that usual problems in land acquisition, resettlement, procurement, appointing project management and politicisation of tendering process continue to haunt project implementation.

Garment exports suffer biggest fall in nine months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Garment exports declined 11.96 percent year-on-year to \$2.21 billion in July, as political crisis during January-March affected orders.

Earnings from the garment sector, which accounts for more than 80 percent of total exports, suffered the biggest fall in nine months.

The last negative numbers recorded by the sector were in September and October 2014, when year-on-year exports fell 2.06 percent and 9.69 percent respectively.

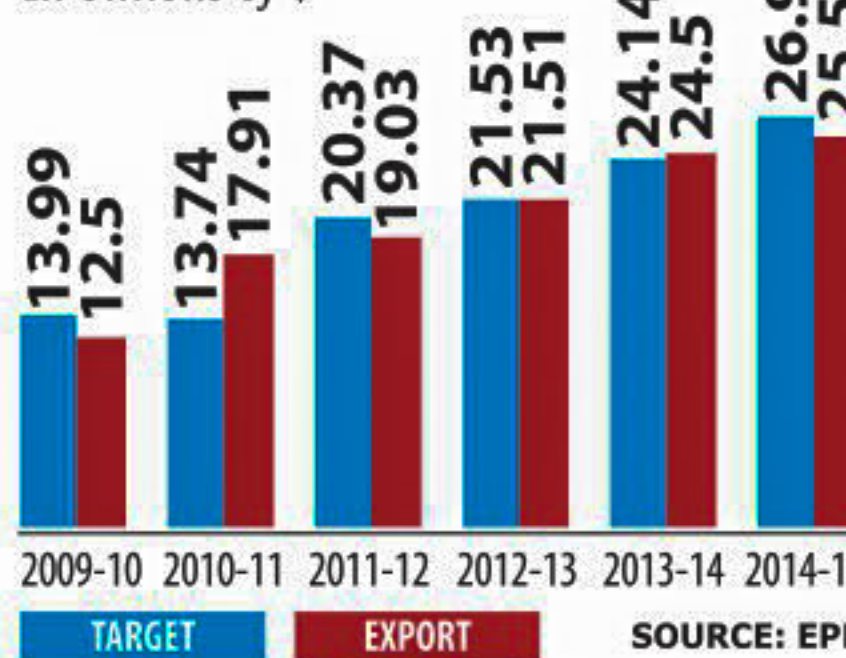
The sector also missed the targets set for the last fiscal year, experiencing only 4.06 percent growth and earning \$25.50 billion against the target of \$26.90 billion, according to Export Promotion Bureau.

Exports in June and July were low because of the prolonged political crisis that affected business in the first three months this year, said Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

"The government and the exporters should find ways to increase exports as earnings from the sector have been on a decline in the recent months," Islam said.

APPAREL EXPORT TREND

In billions of \$



Retailers usually place work orders during the period between December and March, but factory owners were unable to secure adequate orders this time due to political tensions, he said.

Movement of goods from Dhaka to Chittagong port was also hampered then, he said. Garment exports also fell short of the monthly target of \$2.54 billion for July by 12.78 percent.

The situation was similar for overall export targets too, with the month's takings of \$2.62 billion being 15.65 percent shy of the target. Year-on-year exports fell 11.96 percent.

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GP launches new internet campaign

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mobile operator Grameenphone yesterday launched a new campaign - Easy Net -- to raise awareness on the use of internet.

The market leader has set a target to bring its entire subscriber base under internet connectivity by 2017, Yasir Azman, chief marketing officer of Grameenphone, said at the launch of the campaign at Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka.

As of June, Grameenphone has signed up 5.31 crore active mobile customers, and of them, 1.4 crore have internet connections. There are 12.69 crore active mobile connections in the six-operator market.

Customers with a feature phone or smartphone have to dial *5000*55# to receive a micro site link to watch a video tutorial on the basics of internet.

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Textile chemical: another export hope

Bangladesh to challenge antidumping allegations by Pakistan

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh has turned into a textile chemical exporter from importer in recent years, helping the country save and earn millions of foreign currency, industry players said.

Presently, the country is exporting hydrogen peroxide, a major chemical used in the bleaching and sterilising process in textile and paper and pulp industries, to half a dozen countries including India, Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Until 2010, Bangladesh was an importer of the product. Now we are exporting to a number of countries after meeting the domestic demand," said Mostafa Haider Shiblee, managing director of Samuda Chemicals.

The chemical is produced by two other companies: Tasnim Chemicals of Meghna Group, a giant commodity trader, and ASM Chemical Industries.

Samuda Chemicals, which is owned by TK Group, one of the largest industrial and trading conglomerates in Bangladesh, exports 1,800 tonnes of hydrogen peroxide a month, Shiblee said.

India is the largest destination of Bangladesh's hydrogen peroxide followed by Pakistan, according to manufacturers.

More than 1,200 tonnes of hydrogen peroxide are exported to India a month and about 400 tonnes to Pakistan.

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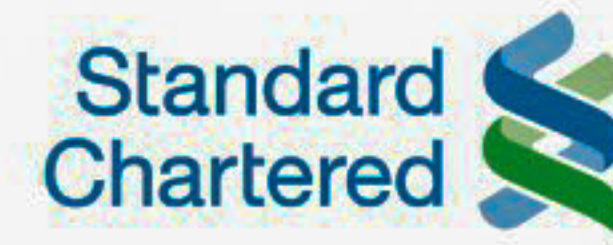
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