



**GERMANY UPBEAT**  
Bangladesh is a reliable source of high-quality garment: German envoy  
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**TARGET \$50 BILLION**  
Stakeholders, experts discuss what needs to be done to achieve the goal  
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**'NOT FOR LONG'**  
Thailand's military government will not last long, says former PM Thaksin  
PAGE 12

## PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PEOPLE

# Workplaces not friendly at all

**"Giving employment to physically challenged people is not a social responsibility, it's rather an economic responsibility ... When someone with disability gets a job, they are contributing to the economy and supporting a family, which leads to the economic well-being of the family and, on a larger scale, of the nation."**

**EHTASUM KABIR, COMPLIANCE HEAD OF MOHAMMADI GROUP.**

TAMANNA KHAN  
It was not her inefficiency why Sumi (not her real name) had to quit her job. Rather, it was the operation hours of an elevator that made it impossible for her to reach her workplace every morning on the 4th floor of a building. She cannot move without her prosthetic leg, an artificial organ that does not allow her to take the stairs. "On certain days, my work hours started from 5:35am but the liftman of the building did not come so early," she said, adding that explaining the problem to her boss was not of any help either. She requested the liftman to come earlier but her plea fell on deaf ears. "Twice I tried to climb the stairs with the help of my family only to suffer afterwards from severe pain in my leg," she said. "I finally had to request my boss to change my early morning shift, but he told me straight away that if I could not do my job I should just quit," she said.  
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**Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh's surprise gift to the cricketing world last year, will take centre stage again and this time on a bigger platform when the Tigers take on India in the Asia Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today. The match will get underway at 7:30pm.**



## Mustafizur in spotlight

*Tigers face India in Asia Cup T20 opener today*  
BISHWAJIT ROY

When the Bangladesh-India match in the Asia Cup T20 gets underway this evening at Mirpur, the obvious question about who the impact players are will come to the fore, as it does ahead of any multinational tournament. Will Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma continue their run-spree? Will the proven India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni lead from the front to bring another laurel for his country? Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could also be at the centre of discussion and if  
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**TOP QUOTE**  
"We condemn in the strongest possible terms these cowardly acts that target members of a community with historic roots in Bangladesh and that strike at Bangladesh's traditions of diversity and harmony."  
US AMBASSADOR **MARCIA BERNICAT** ABOUT THE KILLING OF A HINDU PRIEST IN PANCHAGARH

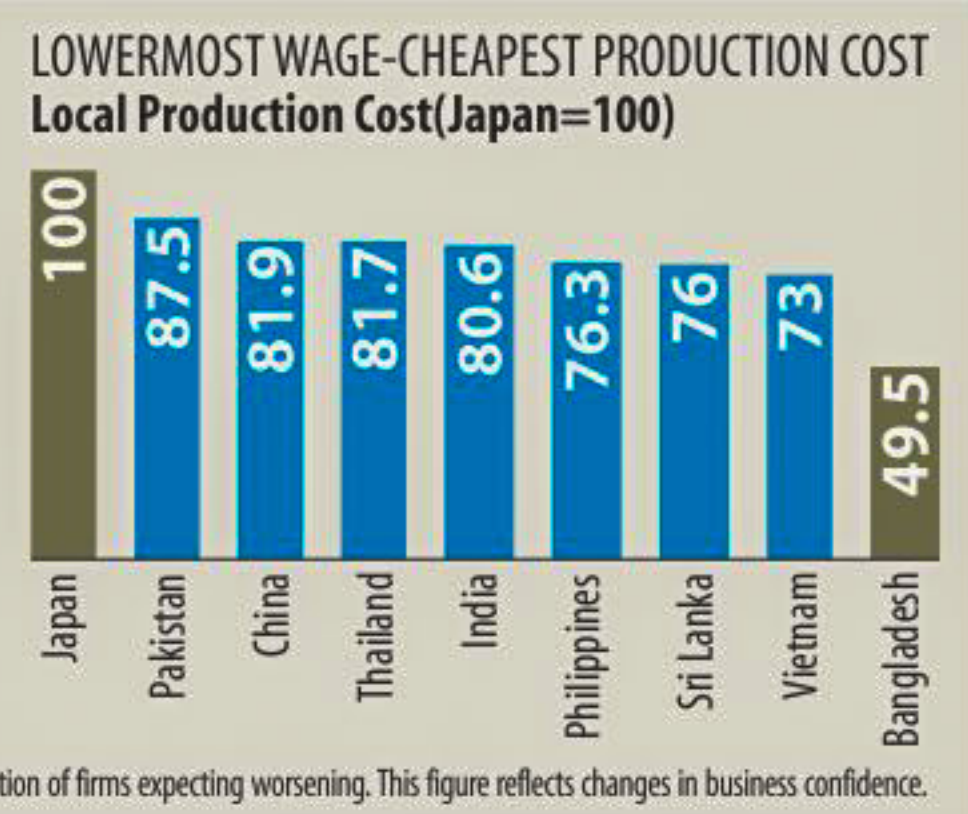
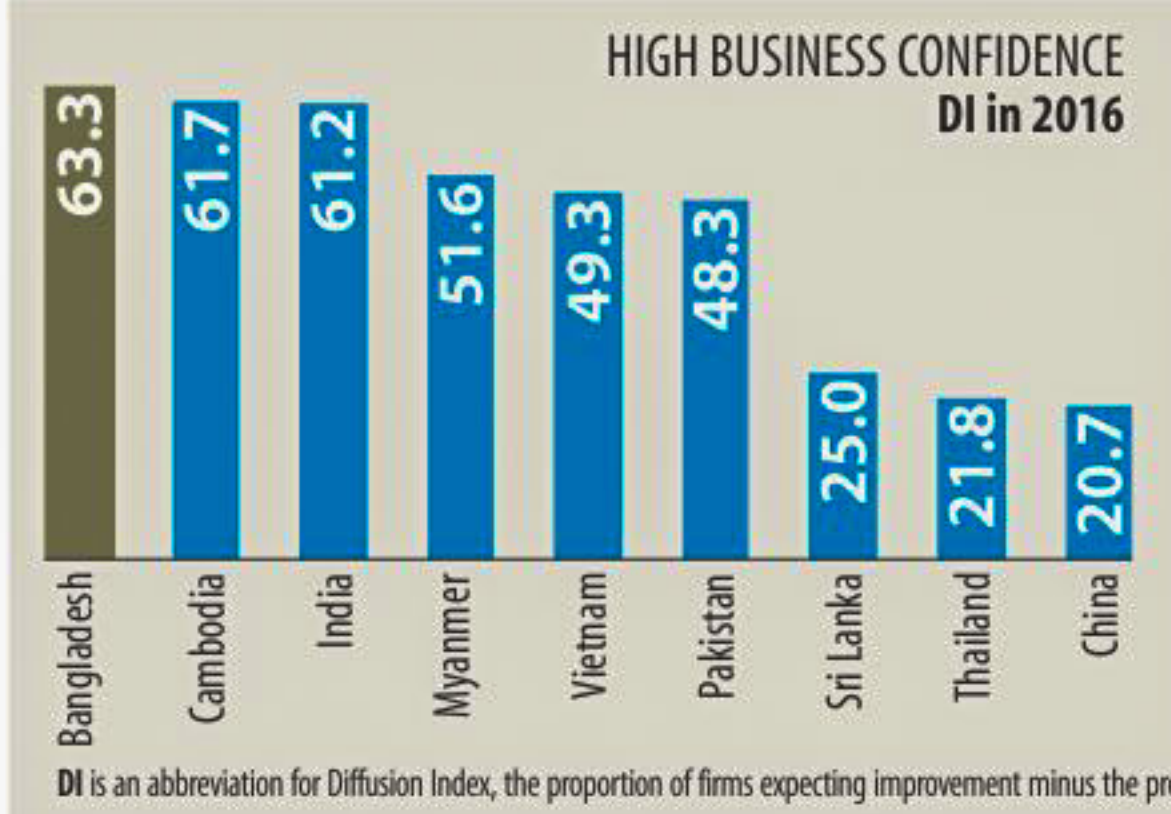
## Bangladesh an attractive destination for business

*Japanese companies have high confidence in Bangladesh thanks to lowest production cost, labour wages: JETRO*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has continued to be an attractive destination for Japanese companies to do business due to its lower production cost and labour wage compared to those of 19 countries in Asia and Oceania. In comparison to Japan, the cost of production in Bangladesh is less than half, (49.5 percent), while it is 81.9 percent in China, 73 percent in Vietnam and 80.6 percent in India, according to the latest survey

of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO). "Like before, Bangladesh is found to be the most economical in terms of worker's wage both in manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors which are less than one-fourth of China and half of India respectively," said the survey. The survey on business conditions of Japanese companies in Asia and Oceania for fiscal year 2014-15 was based on inputs from chief executive officers  
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DI is an abbreviation for Diffusion Index, the proportion of firms expecting improvement minus the proportion of firms expecting worsening. This figure reflects changes in business confidence.

**79 CASES SO FAR**  
FILED IN 53 DISTRICTS

Sedition	17
Defamation	62

**TOTAL DEFACTION CLAIM TK 1,32,811.55 CRORE**

## DEFACTION CASE Jhalakathi court summons Star editor

STAR REPORT  
A Jhalakathi court yesterday asked Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, to appear before it on March 31 in a defamation case. Advocate Boni Amin, law affairs secretary of Jhalakathi Sadar Awami League, filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district on February 16, demanding Tk 5 crore in compensation. The court summoned the editor after the district  
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## WAR CRIMES CASES SC dissatisfied at prosecution, investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over prosecutors' and investigators' poor performance in dealing with the war crimes cases. "The Supreme Court observed that a huge amount of money is being spent on the prosecutors and investigators, but they did not handle and investigate the cases properly," Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said. He said this while talking to reporters at his office after a five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, concluded sixth days' hearing on the appeal filed by war crimes convict Mir Quasem Ali. The bench gave the observation after examining records and documents of International Crimes Tribunal-2 and said the prosecution could not produce relevant witnesses in a number of charges brought against Quasem. The attorney general was placing arguments before the apex court yesterday. Justice SK Sinha told the attorney general that the judges were shocked to note that the prosecutors appear before the media and make statements immediately after a session of the case proceedings at the tribunal. The chief justice asked the attorney general why action was not being taken against the incompetent prosecutors and investigators. The chief justice said they sit to hold trial of cases based on evidence and documents, not with the sentiments.  
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# Non-refined steel can never be earthquake resistant !

Majority of construction steel in Bangladesh are made from non-refined steel full of impurities. Structures made using non-refined steel are highly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquake. In ordinary steel, impurities are spread in an uncontrolled manner, not visible through the naked eye. When the wave of earthquake force (Cyclic Loading) hits the structure, entire force gets concentrated in the weak point containing impurities. The impact first develops a crack that eventually collapses the structure. World class AKS is produced after 100% refinement by Bangladesh's first Electric Arc Furnace using TMT technology. Only AKS TMT Bar can ensure maximum protection to your structure.

**100% REFINED STEEL**  
**AKS**  
TMT 500W & 550W

**BUET Certified First Ever Earthquake Resistant Steel in Bangladesh**