

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
SDX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
▲ 0.18%	▼ 0.17%	\$1,268.30	\$39.79	▲ 0.16%	▼ 0.61%	▼ 0.48%	▲ 0.85%	BUY TK	77.85	84.76	110.01	0.67
4,443.63	8,305.84	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	24,646.48	16,911.32	2,823.51	2,898.64	SELL TK	78.85	88.16	113.41	0.70

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখার মাধ্যমে জমা দিন

* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

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উকাল দেবিকিলে

Women's economic footprints are growing

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

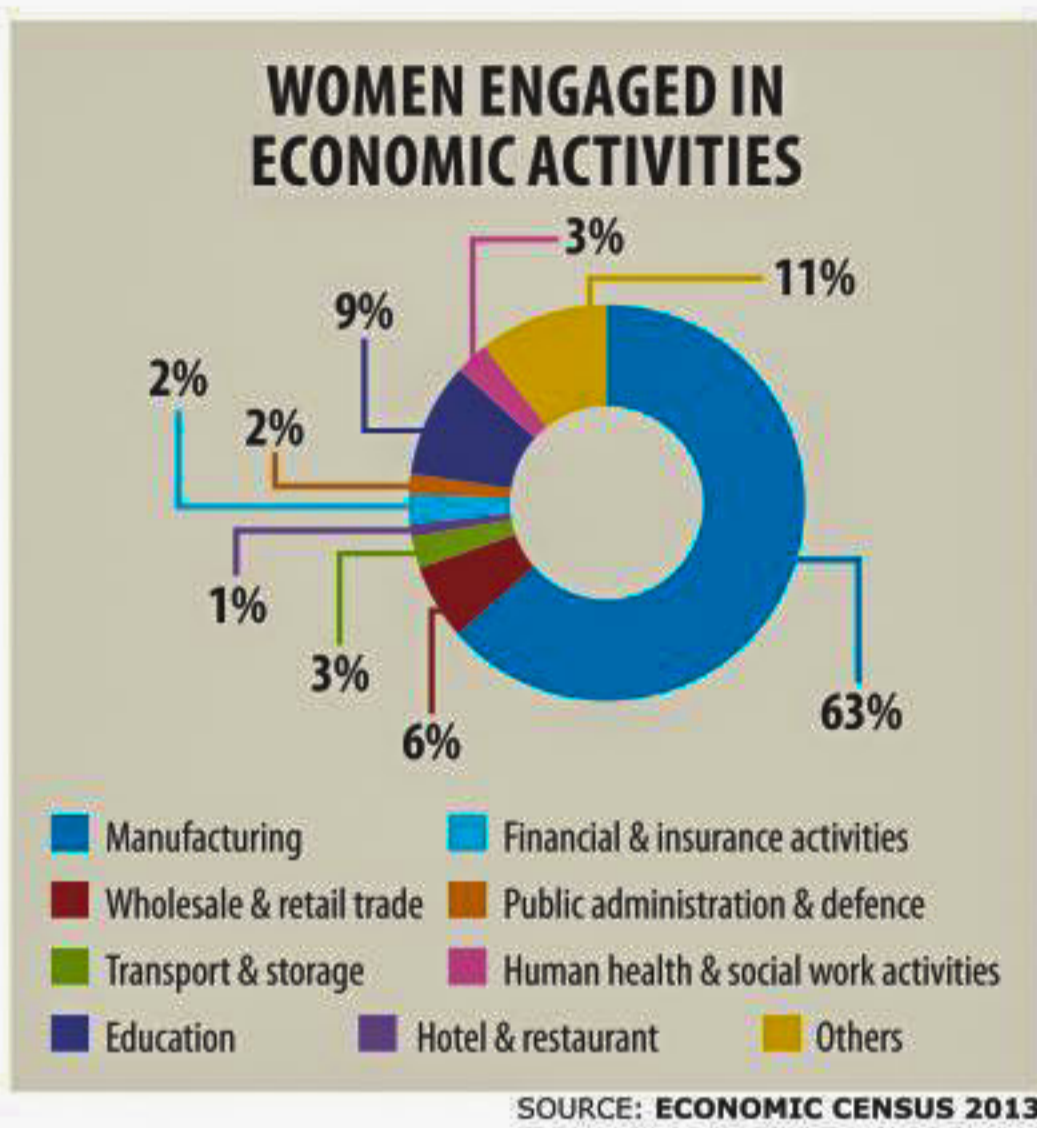
Women-owned economic households increased six-fold in the last one decade as women push to break out from their traditional role as homemakers.

In 2013, the total number of women-owned economic households stood at 3.63 lakh in contrast to 62,255 in 2003, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Households that have non-agricultural economic activities such as cottage industry, shops or workshops in or within their premises are classified as economic households.

Between 2003 and 2013, women-owned economic households increased 49 percent a year.

The disclosure comes as the World Bank in its last update on Bangladesh said the country is facing declining potential GDP growth to around 5.7 percent in fiscal 2016-17 partly due to falling labour force growth.



But there is potential to re-accelerate labour force growth by increased female labour participation, it added.

Poor women with no or little education, who previously stayed at home and engaged in cooking, are now taking up the management of the household, said a BBS official.

Women are getting various finances from the government and the non-government organisations, which resulted in their involvement in different economic activities, he added.

"We now know they can do almost everything that men can in an environment in which they can conduct their ordinary business of life with dignity and

respect," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office. Women in Bangladesh have come a long way from being exclusively homemakers to entrepreneurs, workers, political leaders, opinion makers and so on.

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Taka to weaken against dollar this year: report

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The taka is likely to weaken against the dollar this year, impacted by a significant slowdown in remittance growth due to low oil prices and poor economic growth prospects in the Middle East, according to an analysis.

The lacklustre investment outlook in Bangladesh will also exert downside pressure on the taka, said the London-based BMI Research, a company of Fitch Group.

"However, we believe that Bangladesh Bank will maintain a tight grip on the foreign exchange market to ensure broad stability on the unit, and the threat of a one-off devaluation is relatively low as Bangladesh's external accounts are in a much stronger shape than in 2011."

The taka remained relatively stable against the dollar for most of 2015, trading within a tight range of Tk 77-80.

The taka has been exceptionally strong in real effective terms over the past year, partly due to the windfall it has received from lower oil and commodities import costs as well as a steady inflow of remittances which supported the current account, according to the report.

"However, we expect the currency to face downside pressures over the coming quarters as remittances growth is likely to slow considerably due to an unfavourable macroeconomic backdrop in the Middle East," BMI Research said.

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Philips adds four new distributors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Philips Electronics Bangladesh Private Ltd has announced the expansion of its footprint in the country with the addition of four new national distributors as part of its effort to meet the growing demand for personal health products.

Philips Electronics Bangladesh has been in the market since July 2011. In July 2015, it announced the launch of its personal health business that includes domestic appliances, male grooming and beauty products, air purifiers, pain management devices and mother and

child care products.

Philips introduced its first personal health product distributor—Butterfly Marketing Ltd—last year.

The new authorised distributors—Best Electronics Ltd, IPE Technologies Ltd, Crystal Corporation, and Medical Fair—will help the company reach consumers in more than 20 towns and cities across the country.

At a press meet at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, the company said they also doubled the number of products they are offering in Bangladesh in 2015 compared to the previous year.

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Hong Kong firm to invest \$30m in Ishwardi EPZ

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Hong Kong-based Must Group will set up a garment manufacturing unit in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone, its fourth in Bangladesh.

The fully foreign-owned company, Hoi Bun Fashions Ltd, will be established with an investment of \$30 million, Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority said in a statement.

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ILO to double Better Work coverage

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The International Labour Organisation has targeted the end of the year to expand its Better Work Programme to 200 garment factories in Bangladesh.

At present, the programme is running in 96 factories, where a total of 183,000 workers are employed, the United Nations agency said in a statement yesterday.

The Better Work Programme was introduced in Bangladesh in 2014.

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অংকুর

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