

**এসআইবিএল রিটেইল ব্যাংকিং**  
জীবনের জন্য, জীবন যাপনের জন্য

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স  
এসআইবিএল হোম ফাইন্যান্স  
এসআইবিএল অটো ফাইন্যান্স

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যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৬২০০৯২২



# Star BUSINESS

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## Retail struck by terror

**SOHEL PARVEZ**

Large shopping centres and markets are counting falling sales as many customers shelve their shopping plans amid fears of terrorist attacks.

Operators said their daily sales have plummeted as much as 80 percent from a year earlier.

"Panic appears to be running high and the impact is being felt high in large malls. People are unwilling to visit markets unless it is absolutely necessary," said Azharul Haque Azad, president of Fashion Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh, a platform of 100 local fashion houses.

Azad, also the managing director of Sadakalo, said there is a rumour going around that shopping centres might be targeted by militants following the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery.

Militants stormed the upscale restaurant

in the capital's Gulshan area on July 1 killing 20 diners, mostly foreigners. The massacre sent shockwaves across the country and beyond as well as created fears.

Sadakalo has a showroom at the country's largest shopping centre, Jamuna Future Park, which located near the capital's diplomatic zone. Its daily sales from the store in Jamuna have slumped up to 80 percent following the militant attack in Gulshan, according to Azad.

"Local fashion brands are not the only sufferers -- this is the overall scenario of retail sales in malls and markets," he added.

Restaurants and food courts too are seeing a plunge in customer turnouts.

"The customers who used to come to our restaurant regularly now want home-delivery instead. And we are giving them that," said Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, who runs the Khana Khazana restaurant in Gulshan.

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## Denim factories spring up as demand soars

**REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA**

Five denim factories came into operations in the last five years amid rising demand for denim products in the global market, said industry insiders.

Now the total number of denim factories in Bangladesh is 30.

Of the five factories, four have already gone into production -- Square, Nice, Thermax and Badsha, said Mostafiz Uddin, managing director of Chittagong-based Denim Expert and organiser of Bangladesh Denim Expo that takes place in Dhaka twice a year.

Another five companies plan to set up denim factories as the demand is on the rise, especially in the West, the major market of denim, said Mostafiz.

Bangladeshi manufacturers used to produce mainly basic denim



**Bangladesh has emerged as a strong player in the global denim market.**

Production capacity of the denim mills in Bangladesh is more than 40 million yards a month against the demand for

nearly 70 million yards. The rest of the demand is met through imports from countries like China, India, Pakistan and Turkey.

"Bangladesh has emerged as a strong player in the denim market worldwide. As the demand is rising globally, local entrepreneurs are investing more in the sector," Mostafiz said.

The industry insiders said about Tk 8,000 crore has already been invested in denim business in Bangladesh.

In a few years, exports of denim products will rise to \$5 billion, from more than \$2 billion a year now.

Global denim sales amount to more than \$56 billion a year now; the number is expected to reach \$64 billion by the end of 2020.

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## Stockmarket looks to banks for fresh funds

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Thirteen commercial banks are now free to make fresh investments of up to Tk 1,500 crore in listed securities -- cheery news for the ailing stockmarket.

The development comes after Bangladesh Bank allowed the banks to restructure their balance sheets such that their investment exposure to the stockmarket fell within 25 percent of their total capital by July 21 in line with the Banking Companies Act 2013.

The banks converted their share credit in their subsidiaries into the latter's capital.

As a result, the total capital of 13 banks' subsidiaries increased by about Tk 3,540 crore: Tk 1,984 crore in loans, Tk 1,294 crore invested in shares, Tk 41 crore in mutual funds and Tk 220 crore invested in placement shares.

The central bank's policy support not only strengthened the subsidiary companies' capital structure but also brought down the banks' investment exposure below the permissible limit without selling any shares to the market, BB Deputy Governor SK Sur Chowdhury told a group of reporters on Thursday.

"The move also created an opportunity for 13 banks to make fresh investments of up to Tk 1,500 crore in the stockmarket," he said, adding that all commercial banks can make investments of up to Tk 4,500 crore in the market.

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13 BANKS' INVESTMENT EXPOSURE TO STOCKMARKET	
In % of total paid-up capital	
One Bank	23.99
Janata	23.81
Mutual Trust	23.69
Mercantile	23.69
Shahjalal Islami	23.55
Premier	22.39
AB	21.99
National	21.03
BDBL	21.71
Pubali	20.15
IFIC	19.03
City	14.66
Southeast	11.09

## LIONS EDIT COMPETITION Beatnik: most creative mind



**Winners, a runner-up, jurists and organisers of the Lions Edit Competition Bangladesh pose at a programme at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.**

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Beatnik Designs, a Dhaka-based design studio and a digital agency, yesterday beat 21 others to win this year's Lions Edit Competition Bangladesh, a contest for the most creative young professionals in the country.

Walid Uz Zaman Khan, managing partner and head of design, and Andalib Kabir, managing partner and head of operations, finished the

race as winners.

They will now get the chance, along with the runners-up, to compete in the Spikes Asia 2016, the region's oldest award for excellence in creative communication, to be held in Singapore in September.

StrateGeek, a digital agency teamed up by Samanta Sarni Tira, senior strategic partner, and Maleena Gomez, art director, came in as runners-up.

The winners were picked in a daylong event held at The Daily Star

Centre in Dhaka. The Marketing Society of Bangladesh is the knowledge partner for the event and Roaring Lions the strategic partner.

The competition is an annual hunt. With a mission to finding out the most creative and competitive young professionals in marketing communication, Bangladesh Brand Forum and The Daily Star, in association with Cannes Lions, initiated the Lions Edit Competition Bangladesh 2016.

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## Govt gets poor response for registration of indigenous products

**SOHEL PARVEZ**

The government has got a lukewarm response from producers and state agencies for the registration of unique or traditional products of the country under the Geographical Indication (GI) law to protect patent of the items.

The Department of Patents, Designs and Trademark (DPDT) received only three applications for listing of *jamdani sari*, and *kataribhog* and *kalijira rice* as GI products after calling for entries from producers and other stakeholders 10 months ago.

Geographical indication is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

As per rules, an association of producers or a government organisation that works to safeguard producers' interests can apply for GI registration of a product.

A detailed description of the product, geographical area, map of the production zone and historical proof and uniqueness of the product should be provided for the registration, according to DPDT.

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