

আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা
 এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স
 আপনার সংসার পোছানোর আসবাবপত্র, শিফা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জোগানপত্র কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।
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 যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০১৯২২

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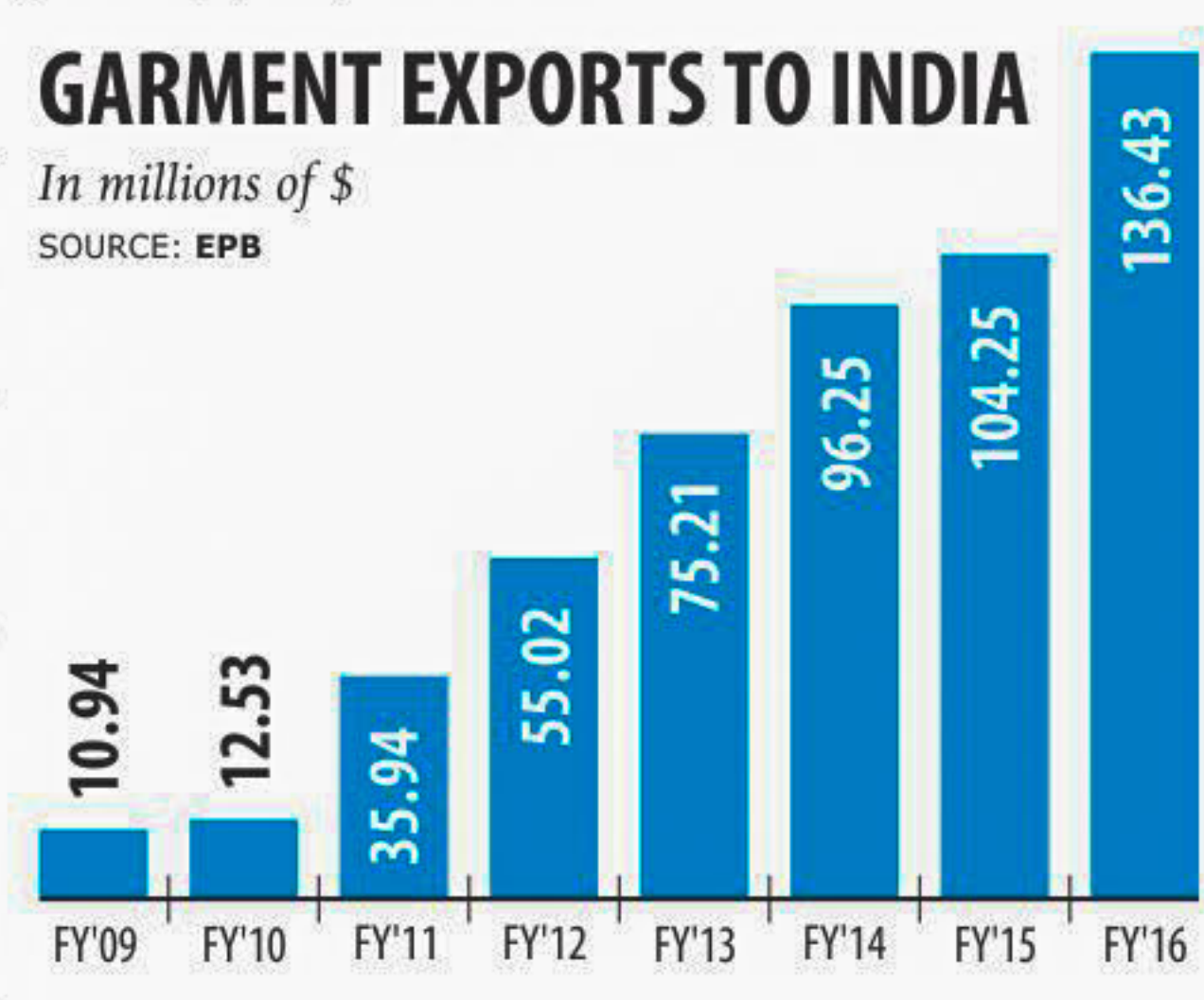


Junaid Ahmad Bangladesh economist WB head in India

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 Junaid Ahmad, a Bangladeshi economist, has taken over as the World Bank's new country director for India, replacing Onno Ruhl who completed his four-year term.
 Ahmad was formerly the chief of staff for World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.
 In making the appointment, Kim said, "I'm very pleased to announce Junaid Ahmad as World Bank's new country director for India."
 In a statement, he said: "India's recent growth and development has been one of the most significant achievements of our time."
 With historic changes unfolding and new opportunities emerging, Ahmad will bring to this key position strategic leadership along with considerable experience of working in both India and South Asia to support this transformation, Kim said.
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Garment exports to India on the rise

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA
 Garment exports to India rose 30.86 percent year-on-year to \$136.43 million in fiscal 2015-16 thanks to rising demand from Western brands operating in the neighbouring country.
 Of the total earnings, woven items brought in \$102.18 million and knitwear \$34.26 million, according to Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh.
 Although Bangladeshi goods enjoy duty-free benefit in the Indian market, garment exports to India did not rise much due to the imposition of 12.5 percent countervailing duty on apparel items from Bangladesh.
 Bangladeshi garment exporters also face provincial taxes and non-tariff barriers in India, which has an apparel market worth nearly \$40 billion.
 Though India in 2011 allowed duty-free benefit to almost all Bangladeshi goods except 25 alcoholic and beverage items, it imposed the countervailing duty on apparel, Bangladesh's main export item, the following year.
 However, garment exports to India have been showing signs of pickup from last year when many Western clothing retailers started operating in that market.
 US retail giant Walmart and Swedish retailer H&M opened a good few stores in India in the last few years.
 Walmart India owns and operates 21 Best Price Modern Wholesale stores in nine states across India and plans to open another 50 by 2020, according to its website. H&M said it would double the number of its stores in India by the year end from six now.
 "It is a big advantage for us that the foreign retailers are operating in India. Our garment exports to the Indian market will increase further in near future due to



the presence of such retail giants in India," said MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group, a leading garment exporter.
 Foreign retailers buy a lot of garment items from Bangladesh for Indian customers, especially for the rising middle class, he said.
 Bangladeshi garment items are popular in India because of low prices and better quality, Jabbar added.
 "We are performing very well in knitwear export to India because of the varieties of this product," he said.
 Similar is the view of Faruque Hassan, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, the garment makers' platform.
 Garment exports to India have been rising mainly from last year thanks to the Western retail giants operating in India, he said.
 Many Indian companies that have retail chains in India tied up with the foreign retailers to grab the market, he said.
 "We are far ahead of India in knitwear. This is an advantage for us," he said.
 Hassan said garment makers are also inspired by the stimulus package the government has offered to them for exporting to new destinations like India, Japan and China.
 Except the US, the EU and Canada, all other markets are considered as new destinations.
 The government has been paying cash incentives to garment makers, who export to the new destinations, at 3 percent of the export value since 2009.
 In fiscal 2015-16, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$689.82 million to India, which is 30.82 percent higher than the previous year.
 The amounts were \$527.16 million in 2014-15 and \$456.63 million in 2013-14.

SpiceJet to connect Dhaka, Kolkata in Dec



STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 SpiceJet will add Bangladesh to its list of international routes in December as the low-cost Indian airliner looks to expand its footprint and explore new opportunities.
 The airline will start daily direct flight services from Kolkata to Dhaka and Chittagong, SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said on Monday.
 Dhaka and Chittagong are among the seven new destinations SpiceJet wants to connect from Kolkata.
 Singh announced the plan after a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday, according to a PTI report.
 Singh also said they would start new flight services to Silchar, Aizawl, Guwahati, Gorakhpur and Vizag from the city on October 4, just ahead of the Durga Puja festivals.
 "We are exploring options of flights to

Yangon, Dubai and Sharjah. We will start a second flight to Bangkok in November and another to Jaipur in the near future," Singh said. The airline has seen a "successful turnaround" from the verge of being closed down two years ago, he said.
 The plan will make Kolkata its hub both for domestic and international flights.
 The city will be the carrier's third hub after Delhi and Hyderabad and will be a base for both Boeing 737-800 and Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 aircraft, reported the Times of India.
 Taking advantage of a tax rebate on aviation turbine fuel from the West Bengal government, SpiceJet announced a number of new flight services from the city.
 Under a new state government policy, any additional or new flight from Kolkata would attract a 15-percent tax on aviation turbine fuel, the lowest among all the metros, said West Bengal's Finance Minister Amit Mitra.
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Merchant banks seek special fund to prop up stocks

Bankers meet Muhith on Tk 6,000cr lifeline
STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 Merchant bankers yesterday sought a Tk 6,000-crore special fund from the government to increase money supply to the capital market, which is suffering from high volatility since the price crash in early 2011.
 If granted, the merchant banks will take loans from the fund at 3 percent interest rate and then lend it to their clients or investors at 5 percent interest rate.
 At present, there is a huge amount of negative equity in the market due to erosion of share prices. The amount of outstanding margin loan stood at around Tk 15,000 crore in December last year.
 Of the amount, negative equity is around Tk 6,000 crore, according to the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association, which placed a set of recommendations to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his office at the secretariat.
 The merchant banks, which are considered major market intermediaries, are facing huge losses and are unable to recover them as well.
 "We sought the special fund that will rescue us as well as boost the market by increasing money supply," Md Sayedur Rahman, president of BMBA, told reporters after a meeting with Muhith.
 The BMBA also recommended an alternative to the special fund: the government can issue Tk 5,000-Tk 6,000 crore bonds at 5 percent interest or coupon rate.
 All banks and financial institutions will subscribe for the bond, the maturity period of which can be 7-8 years. The raised funds will be used for investment in the capital market, according to the proposal.
 Citing another option, the BMBA urged Muhith to allow each bank to invest at least Tk 200 crore in stocks and each financial institution at least Tk 100 crore in addition to their regulatory limit.
 The additional investment will be adjusted within the next five years, according to the proposal.
 The final option the BMBA proposed was allowing all parent companies to absorb the negative equity of their subsidiary companies as operational loss.
 And the tax authority will allow the banks to completely adjust the same with tax liabilities.
 "Anyhow, we need to get out of the negative equity burden for survival of the market intermediaries and vibrancy of the market," said Rahman, also the managing director of EBL Securities and a director of EBL Investments.
 The BMBA also called for the finance minister to take steps to list the multinational companies operating in Bangladesh and the profitable government-owned enterprises in the stockmarket.

SWIFT moves to rein in fraudulent bank transfers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The SWIFT inter-bank messaging network will launch a new tool in December to help clients identify more quickly any unauthorised payment instructions like those used by hackers to steal \$81 million from Bangladesh's central bank in February.
 From December SWIFT will begin sending 'daily validation reports' to clients, it said in a statement yesterday.
 These would list the messages sent from a client's SWIFT terminal, thus allowing a bank to spot any payment instructions that it had not intended to send.
 The new tool will include both activity reports and risk reports. The activity reports will enable institutions to see their aggregate daily activities across currencies, countries and counterparties -- giving them a snapshot view of each day's messaging activity against which to detect unusual patterns.
 The risk reports will provide customers with a focused review of large or unusual payment flows and new combinations of payment parties -- allowing unusual senders, destina-



tions and patterns to be more quickly and easily identified, according to the statement.
 The move came after the Bangladesh theft and others which have come to light this year have knocked confidence in the supposedly super-secure system, which channels trillions of dollars worth of inter-bank payments each day.
 In case of Bangladesh, hackers had originally tried to steal nearly \$1 billion by placing 35 unauthorised payment orders from the Bangladesh Bank's account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. They were able to transfer \$81 million to four accounts at Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation in the Philippines.
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Exporters get subsidy boost

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The government has brought major changes to the incentive structure for exporters aiming to hit this year's growth target -- the highest yet for the country.
 The export target for fiscal 2016-17 is \$37 billion, which is an increase of 8 percent over last fiscal year's record-setting receipts.
 Bangladesh Bank yesterday announced that it would be extending a new 5 percent incentive for exports of crust and finished leather if the tanneries in Hazaribagh relocate to Savar, while the existing 12.5 percent subsidy on leather goods exports has been increased to 15 percent.
 Some Tk 4,500 crore has been allocated for export subsidies for fiscal 2016-17, which will see new items included in the incentive structure.
 A subsidy of 10 percent will be given against the exports of horns, tendons and intestines of cows and buffaloes, while a 20 percent incentive will be given for export of carbon generated from jute sticks and vegetable seeds.
 Exporters of frozen shrimp and other fish will get up to 10 percent incentive.
 Shipbuilding is becoming an emerging industry in Bangladesh, and in the light of the development, the incentive for ship exporters has been raised to 10 percent from 5 percent.
 Exporters of potato, PET bottle flex and plastic goods will get 10 percent incentive and furniture exporters 15 percent.
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Five TV stations in the offing

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
 A Chinese state-owned firm got the nod to build five full-fledged TV stations in five divisional cities of Bangladesh to promote local talents.
 The five TV stations will be set up in Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet and Barisal, and the total cost has been estimated at Tk 1,499 crore.
 China will provide 65 percent of the sum as buyer's credit, according to the proposal from the information ministry, which was approved by the cabinet committee on economic affairs earlier this month.
 The Chinese company, Aerospace Long-March International Trade (ALIT), won the initial permission without competitive bidding.
 Two Chinese firms -- ALIT and Radio, Film & TV Design and Research Institute (DRFT) -- will jointly make the studio and architectural design of the adminis-

trative building and construct it, according to the information ministry proposal for the cabinet committee. The companies will design other equipment, purchase and install them.
 ALIT last month conveyed to the BTV about its interest in building the TV stations.
 After a detailed discussion, BTV and the Chinese company have prepared the draft commercial contract, said an information ministry official. It will be activated after the financial agreement is signed.
 BTV authorities have already prepared the draft of the contract, which will be signed with the proposed company.
 Alongside production and airing of programmes of national interest, local artists will be given the platform to showcase their talent so that they can later participate in national programmes, the official said.
 For example, they will telecast local news as well as national level BTV news.
 No decision has yet been taken as to whether the five TV stations will operate 24 hours or less, the ministry official said.
 Initially, the stations will most likely air programmes for five to six hours, with the air time gradually increased.
 If everything goes smoothly, the stations may go on air within the next two years, the official said.
 BTV has its own land in four divisional cities hence there will be no problem; only in Barisal will the BTV have to acquire land.
 The project for setting up the five TV stations has not yet got the approval from the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.
 The information ministry official said the preparation of the project paper is at the final stage and it will be sent to Ecneec for approval soon.

Auction for mobile number portability suspended

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The telecom regulator has suspended its much-awaited auction for mobile number portability licence scheduled for September 28, as some procedural tasks have still remained unfinished.
 Mobile number portability (MNP) enables customers to switch their operator anytime without changing the existing number.
 The initial date for the auction was September 21, which was later postponed. In a notice published yesterday on its website, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said it has decided to suspend all the proceedings of the auction.
 Some work related to the auction is still incomplete, which prompted the regulator to suspend the process, said Md Sarwar Alam, spokesman for BTRC.
 He said the commission will fix a new date for the auction soon.
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