ASIAN MARKETS

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As of Friday

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Govt moves to boost exports of diversified jute products

Ministry lists 232 diversified jute goods

SOHEL PARVEZ

DSEX

CSCX

The textile and jute ministry has listed 232 diversified jute products to boost exports of goods made from the natural fibre, said a senior official.

The list has already been sent to the finance ministry for circulation, said Nasima Begum, joint secretary of the

The ministry in June 2016 formed a committee to define diversified jute goods and prepare a list of items to be eligible for the 20 percent cash subsidy against The panel finalised the list that includes shopping

bags, curtains, cushion cover, pillow cover, sofa cover, table mats, flower vases, storage items, indoor and outdoor gardening materials, and lifestyle products like

"We hope these products will get the incentive," said Nasima, also the executive director of Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC).

The move comes as many jute goods producers are facing problems in receiving cash incentive in the absence of any list of diversified jute products and any definition of diversified jute goods.

To enjoy the benefit, exporters will have to get certification from JDPC that their products are diversified jute goods, Nasima said.

"We expect the listing of products will facilitate the growth of export. We urge the government to issue notification so that exporters reap benefits," said Md Rashedul Karim, convener of Bangladesh Jute Diversified Product Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The incentive will boost the competitive edge of Bangladesh's exporters in the global market.

Due to higher production costs, Bangladesh's diversified jute goods producers have to face tough competition, mainly from their Indian counterparts, in the global market.

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CURRENCIES

SHANGHAI

ENVOY TEXTILE

Autoconers process yarns at a factory of Envoy Textile, a spinning and denim fabrics manufacturer in Bhaluka. Autoconer is a robotic machine used in winding process to get high quality yarns with low manpower.

Envoy embraces robotic tech to raise standards, output

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's apparel manufacturers are increasing the use of modern technologies to boost productivity, deliver products on time and meet demand for finer products from global retailers and brands.

Some local fabrics manufacturers have even gone one step further, as they are using robotic technology and LEED (Leadership in Energy and machinery.

such denim fabrics manufacturer which is using robotic machinery to raise output and improve the quality sophistication to yarn production. of products.

"The use of robotic technology ensures higher productivity and good quality of yarn. Although the initial investment in sophisticated technologies is high, at the end of the day it is feasible for us, thanks to increased productivity and improved quality," said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Group.

The world's first platinum rated Environmental Design) certified Envoy Textiles Ltd (ETL) is one denim factory, ETL installed the robotic machinery in its spinning section in October last year to bring

The company, set up in 2008 in

Bhaluka, produces four million yards of denim fabrics a month and employs 2,400 people.

Apart from using many other latest machinery for spinning and weaving, ETL has employed 14 robotic autoconers in spinning and rotor at its Bhaluka factory to produce 55 tonnes of denim yarn per day, said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Group.

The company has jumped on the bandwagon of the latest global trend in manufacturing of spinning of yarn from long ropes of cotton in the finest possible way.

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Time to promote Bangladesh as halal tourist destination

Experts say at Dhaka seminar, as Muslim tourists spent over \$138b globally in 2015

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh needs to take steps to grab a slice of the fastgrowing halal tourism pie, travel experts said.

Halal tourism is a subcategory of tourism that is geared towards Muslim families who abide by rules of Islam. Some examples of halal tourism include the availability

of places of worships in shopping centres and major tourism facilities, hotels that serve halal food and have separate swimming pools and spa facilities for men and women. In recent times, this sub-sector of tourism is on the rise

on the back of the growing worldwide Muslim population, the increasing purchasing power of population of Muslim countries and rising tendency to consume foods and use services that adhere to Islamic principles.

Spending by Muslim tourists exceeded \$138 billion in 2015 and in 2020 it is expected to be upwards of \$180 billion, according to Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and tourism magazine.

At present, Bangladesh does not even register as a tourist destination in Muslim travellers' minds when they make holiday plans, said Shamnoon Muheb Chowdhury, director of goBDgo, a travel agency.

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Human

Resources



Fixed deposits account for 57pc of DSE's revenue

28%

Interests on fixed deposits generated nore than half of the total revenue more than half of the total revenue for Dhaka Stock Exchange than the bourse's core business that includes share transactions and listing fees.

The premier bourse received Tk 107.08 crore in interest on fixed deposits in fiscal 2015-16, which accounted for about 57 percent of the total revenue, according to the DSE's annual report that was approved by the shareholders at its

55th annual general meeting on March 23. The bourse's total fixed deposits with 15 banks stood at

after its demutualisation -- stood at Tk 187.36 crore. From the total revenue, the bourse's net income stood at Tk

Although the share transaction and listing fees are the

- Interest income
- Transaction fee Data sale & others

Tk 922.50 crore at the end of June last year, according to the annual report.

The DSE's total revenue last fiscal year -- the third year 119.83 crore, down 11 percent year-on-year.

core business areas for a stock exchange, the DSE received

- Listing fee & others Dividend income
- TREC holders fee Miscellaneous

of fiscal 2010-11. The DSEX, the benchmark index of the prime bourse, hovered around the 4,500-point level last fiscal year.

The DSE has taken several initiatives to increase revenue from the stock exchange's businesses rather than depending on interest income.

57%

"With a view to fulfilling the profit-objective of demutualised DSE, diversification of products and lineitems of revenue were at the top of DSE's operational agenda," the bourse said in the annual report.

action fees.

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Decentralised budgets critical for SDGs implementation: analysts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) will depend significantly on the effective decentralisation of the national budget allocations, analysts said yesterday.

District budgets can ensure the inclusion of the marginalised segments of the population in the national development activities, they Rangpur.

The discussion on the "Recommendations on social protection in the national budget" was organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), RDRS Bangladesh and the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Rangpur City Corporation Mayor Sarfuddin Ahmed Jhantu attended the dialogue as the chief guest. Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished said at a pre-budget discussion in fellow of CPD, chaired the programme.

CPD's Executive Director Fahmida Khatun presented a keynote paper.

only Tk 52.67 crore in transac-

tion fees and Tk 16.36 crore

from listing fees and annual

dropped to Tk 434.19 crore

from Tk 472.06 crore in fiscal

2014-15, taking a toll on trans-

to recover from the losses

incurred during the downswing

The secondary market is yet

The average daily turnover

charges from listed companies.

The paper showed budget allocations in areas such as social protection is lesser for Rangpur, although the division lags behind in many of the socio-economic indicators compared to other divisions of the country.

Jhantu urged the government to increase allocation for the people of Rangpur in social safety nets and development projects.

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Apple, Amazon, Google join bidding for Toshiba chip unit

REUTERS

Apple Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Google have joined bidding for Toshiba's NAND flash memory unit, vying with others for the Japanese firm's prized semiconductor operation, the Yomiuri Shimbun daily reported on Saturday.

Toshiba shareholders earlier agreed to split off its NAND flash memory business, in an effort to raise at least \$9 billion to cover US nuclear unit charges.





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