

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
Week-on-week	As of Friday	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
DSEX ▲ 1.34% 6,099.02	CSCX ▲ 1.68% 11,438.23	\$1,267.80 (per ounce)	\$55.70 (per barrel)	▲ 0.33% 33,685.56	Closed	▲ 0.05% 3,382.31	▼ 0.36% 3,371.21	BUY TK 81.95	94.51	107.82	0.71
								SELL TK 83.35	98.11	111.42	0.74

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2017, KARTIK 21, 1424 BS

রোগ নির্ণয়ে সর্বাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও সর্বোচ্চ মান।
প্রতিটি ডায়াগনস্টিক টেস্ট, আইসিইউ, সার্জারী ও ডায়ালাইসিস ন্যূনতম ৩০% সঞ্চয়।

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Naser Ezaz Bijoy, new CEO of StanChart Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Naser Ezaz Bijoy has recently been appointed as CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh with effect from November 7.

Prior to the appointment, he was the head for global banking, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Abrar A Anwar, the outgoing CEO, has taken the charge of Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia as CEO.

Bijoy has been serving the bank for more than 24 years and has held a number of roles in corporate banking, risk and audit in Asia, Middle East and Africa.

He also worked closely with the central banks in Bangladesh, the UAE, Mauritius and Vietnam, and as a key member of Bangladesh Bank Focus Group on preparing the framework on credit risk management for banks in Bangladesh.

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Joint venture to set up LNG-based power plants at \$4b

Govt signs MoU with Siemens today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A joint venture of Germany's Siemens and a state-run Bangladeshi company is going to set up LNG-based power plants in Patuakhali to produce 3,600 megawatts of electricity at an investment of more than \$4 billion.

North-West Power Generation Co Ltd, an enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), will sign a primary agreement with Siemens to this effect in Dhaka today, energy ministry officials said yesterday.

Twenty percent of the plant's cost will be in equity that will be borne equally by North-West and Siemens. Siemens will mobilise the rest of the funds, said State Minister for Energy Nasrul Hamid.

"This will be the single largest German investment in Bangladesh," he told The Daily Star.

Three LNG-based power units will be set up under the joint venture, according to a source at the BPDB. The first one will go into operation in 2021.

The government has taken an initiative to import a huge

amount of LNG from next year. Both land-based and floating LNG terminals will be set up.

Japanese firm Tokyo Gas Engineering Solutions Corporation has been appointed as a consultant to carry out the feasibility study for setting up the land-based terminals.

The sites being considered for the land-based terminals include Kutubdia, Moheshkhali and Payra. Each of the two land-based terminals will supply 1,000 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf), according to an official of the energy ministry.

Besides, the government has approved two floating LNG terminals, each of which will supply 500mmcf of gas.

Bangladesh is looking outside to alleviate its energy shortage largely caused by depleting domestic reserves and rising demand. Gas supply stands at about 2,700mmcf against the demand for 3,300mmcf.

The shortage of gas has affected power generation.

In July, state-run Petrobangla and US-based Excelerate Energy signed the final deals to set up Bangladesh's first LNG terminal.

The terminal in Moheshkhali will supply gas to the national grid from early 2018.

The government also awarded Summit Group the work to set up the country's first floating LNG terminal, also in Moheshkhali. This one is due for commissioning by next October.

China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering has proposed to set up an LNG plant in Moheshkhali, while KOGAS-MGCCB-KSBL Consortium wants to set up a land-based terminal in Sonadia.

Singapore's Sembcorp Utilities submitted a proposal to set up a Gravisfloat terminal and a storage tank in the deep sea.

Gravisfloat technology allows LNG terminal to be fully built and completed at a shipyard and installed in shallow waters to facilitate direct loading.

Petrobangla has also signed an initial agreement with India's energy company Petronet to set up an LNG re-gasification terminal on Kutubdia island and a pipeline at an estimated cost of \$950 million.

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Private sector credit demand buoyant

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Private sector credit growth stood at 17.8 percent in September in continuation of the high growth registered in the last few months due to increased demand for credit from the business community.

Although the growth in September was 0.04 percentage points lower than a month earlier, the figure is still well above the target of 16.2 percent set in the monetary policy for the first half of the fiscal year.

Private sector credit growth hit a 58-month high in August: 17.84 percent.

The banks have recently observed a spike in applications for large-scale loans to implement infrastructure projects initiated by both the private and public sectors.

The business community has recently shunned the go-slow policy to set up new plants or expand the existing ones, which has made the private sector vibrant, said Mamun-Ur-Rashid, managing director of Standard Bank.

Last month, Standard Bank sanctioned fresh loans amounting to Tk 200 crore and plans to give the green light to another Tk 150 crore worth of loan applications this month.

The majority of the loans are for the large and medium-scale industrial plants, he said.

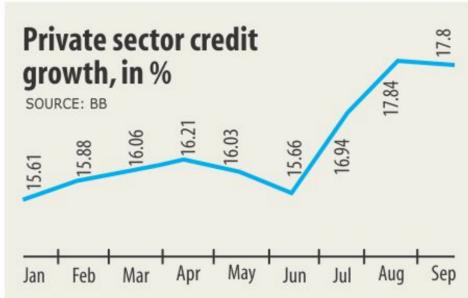
The middle-class people are also taking loans to meet their growing consumption needs, which helped banks to keep the upward trend in disbursing loans.

The banks set the interest rate for con-

sumer credit like personal loans at 8 percent to 11 percent, which tempts customers.

The large import bills in recent months also played a role in increasing the credit growth, Rashid added.

The settlement of letters of credit stood at \$11.82 billion in the first three months of the fiscal year, up 1.89 percent from a year



earlier, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

In the last few years, banks had maintained a cautious stance in disbursing loans, said Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia.

"Banks are now financing the infrastructure projects initiated by the government and private sector," he said, citing power plants as an example.

At the end of September, total outstanding loans in the private sector stood at Tk 8.01 lakh crore in contrast to Tk 6.80 lakh crore a year earlier.

Though the private sector saw remarkable credit growth, the public sector credit growth was 16.91 percent in the negative in September.

Garment exports to US in slow lane

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Garment shipment to the US, Bangladesh's single largest export destination, grew only 3.41 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal year in a worrying development for exporters who hope to hit \$50 billion in receipts by 2020.

In the first quarter of 2017-18, apparel shipments fetched \$1.36 billion, according to the Export Promotion Bureau.

Garment export from Bangladesh to the US has not been growing much in recent months as other countries like India, Vietnam, Pakistan and even Mexico are gaining ground in the market.

Thanks to the emergence of India, Bangladesh is now the sixth biggest apparel exporter to the US, down from fourth spot even a few months ago, according to data from the US Department of Commerce.

The neighbouring country's garment sector is fast becoming a formidable opponent for Bangladesh on the global stage thanks to the Indian government's stimulus package of Rs 60 billion, or \$894 million.

Bangladeshi exporters are handicapped by infrastructural challenges, due to which goods cannot be delivered to the retailers at quickest time, which the other countries can, said AK Azad, chairman of Ha-Meem Group, a leading garment exporter.

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SUBMISSION OF RETURNS Non-compliant firms to be removed from RJSC list

SOHEL PARVEZ

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) is set to update its list of companies, asking businesses that have not submitted annual returns for 10 years to comply.

As per rules, companies are required to submit profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, summary of directors and shareholders and shareholder position every year.

But about 15,000 companies out of 1.55 lakh submit returns yearly, making it difficult for policymakers to determine the actual number of entities still running. Of those registered, 40,000-50,000 might have gone out of operation, according to RJSC officials.

"From last week we have started writing to companies that have not been submitting returns for 10 years. If they do not comply, we will strike off the names of the companies," said Md Mosharraf Hossain, registrar of the joint stock companies and firms.

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A customer queries about ceiling fans, at a stall of INDEE Bangladesh—an engineering expo—at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

Govt offers exclusive economic zone to Australian investors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka has offered an exclusive economic zone to Australian investors as the country is increasingly becoming an important trading partner of Bangladesh, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said yesterday.

Bangladesh has already made similar offers to countries such as India, China and Japan as the country's economic relations with these countries are growing.

Similarly, the significance of Australia in Bangladesh's international trade is growing.

Australia is already an important trading partner of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh exported goods worth \$658.15 million to Australia and imported goods valued \$683.90 million last fiscal year, according to a com-



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed with Australian Finance Minister Mathias Cormann during a meeting in Australia yesterday.

merce ministry statement.

Garments are the main export items while other products that are performing strong in Australian markets include ceramics, pharmaceuticals and leather goods.

Bangladesh's products enjoy duty-free market access to Australia.

"Both countries should launch direct air cargo flights to boost trade," said Ahmed while exchanging views with Australian Finance Minister Mathias Cormann during a meeting in Australia yesterday.

Ahmed is visiting Australia to attend the German-Australian Asia Pacific Regional Conference, said the statement.

Bangladesh is developing 100 special economic zones across the country for both local and foreign entrepreneurs.

Most banks post moderate earnings in Q3

JEBUN NESA ALO

Most banks have reported moderate earnings in the third quarter of the current year thanks to higher incomes from share market investments and credit growth.

Of the 30 listed with Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), 19 banks made healthy earnings per share (EPS) compared to that in the same period last year. Four earned marginal returns while five saw a fall.

Only ICB Islamic and AB reported negative earnings.

EPS is the portion of a company's profit allocated to each outstanding share of common stock, meaning it is an indicator of the company's profitability.

Banks made good profits this year compared to the preceding one due to rising credit demand for business expansion in the private sector, said MA Halim Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank.

Share price hikes in recent months also contributed to it with banks profiting from stock investment because of a bullish market, the chief executive said.

Pubali Bank made a net profit of Tk 38 crore in the July-September quarter compared to Tk 30 crore in the same period last year. Meanwhile, its EPS improved to Tk 0.40 from Tk 0.32.

Rupali Bank, the only listed state-owned bank, made a profit of Tk 7 crore, recovering from a huge loss of around Tk 275 crore in the same period last year.

The financial institution's EPS increased to Tk 0.23 in the July-September period, up from negative Tk 9.05 in the same period last year.

Its EPS surged to Tk 0.90 in the nine months, although it was at a loss of Tk 7.96 in the same period last year.

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