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DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 8, 2018, ASHWIN 23, 1425 BS starbusiness@thedailystar.net

As of Friday

Deal this month to let India use Ctg, Mongla ports

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Dhaka and New Delhi are going to sign an agreement this month allowing India to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargoes to its north-eastern states.

Replying to journalists' queries at a press conference in the shipping ministry yesterday, Secretary Md Abdus Samad said a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) would be prepared after the signing and India could then use the ports.

The press meet was organised marking a two-day international conference beginning in Dhaka tomorrow. Shipping Minister

Shajahan Khan was present.

Samad said India would not pay customs duties as per the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

However, other fees and charges will be applicable on Indian goods to be transported through the ports to the northeastern states, he said.

He said the amount of fees and other charges would be mentioned in the SOP. In transporting goods through

Bangladeshi territory India will have to use local transports. The shipping secretary said there would

be no problem in the Chittagong and Mongla ports in handling

> Indian goods. He said the capacities of

the ports have been increased greatly. The Chittagong Port earlier

had four gantry cranes. The government has already approved the purchase of 10 gantry cranes, three of which have already been set up.

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BB steps up dollar sales

SHANGHAI

CURRENCIES

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The central bank has stepped up its dollar sales once again this month to stem the depreciation of the local currency against the greenback.

In the first four working days of October, \$45 million was injected to the market. In contrast, \$100 million was injected in July and \$55 million between August and September. But the move did not yield the desired result. On

October 7, the inter-bank exchange rate of the US dollar stood at Tk 83.80, up from Tk 80.75 on September 30. The lenders were forced to revise the selling rate for

bill for collection (BC) -- which is the rate at which banks make import payments -- twice last week because of the upward trend of interbank exchange rate.

The banks increased the BC selling rate to 80.80 on October 1 and again on October 3 to 83.85.

The import bills have ballooned in recent months while the growth of export and remittance have failed to keep up, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a platform of private banks' managing directors.

The reason for the escalating import bill is the huge pressure to implement the mega infrastructural projects at the quickest pace.

"There has been a concern over the upward trend of the petroleum price on the global market as well," said Rahman, also the managing director of Dhaka Bank.

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Mashiur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, speaks at an international seminar on "Rethinking Development in South Asia" at the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Chittagong yesterday.

DEVELOPING SOUTH ASIA ECONOMICALLY

India should play a proactive role

PM's adviser Mashiur says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

India has to play a proactive role to develop South Asia economically and socially, said Mashiur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to Bangladesh's prime minister, yesterday.

"If you look at the map of South Asia, you will see the size and centrality of India. Other countries around India are relatively small," he said.

"If South Asia is to work together for

economic growth and development, India is expected to play a proactive role."

He made the observation at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day international conference titled "Rethinking Development in South Asia" at the University of Chittagong. The Social Science Research Institute of the university organised the conference at the Faculty of Business Administration.

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Two directors of Janata Bank removed, no reason given

CERAMICS

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has abruptly dismissed two directors of Janata Bank -- Manik Chandra Dey and Md Abdul Haque -before the end of their threeyear term without giving any reason.

The move comes at a time when Janata is mired in controversies surrounding loans amounting to Tk 8,300 crore to two business groups --Crescent and AnonTex.

Manik is an additional secretary of the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry. He joined the board of Janata as a director in December 2015.

Haque is a former executive director of Bangladesh Bank and he was appointed to the Janata board in July last year.

"We suddenly received a letter from the finance ministry just before the board meeting on October 3," said Md Abdus Salam Azad, managing director of Janata.

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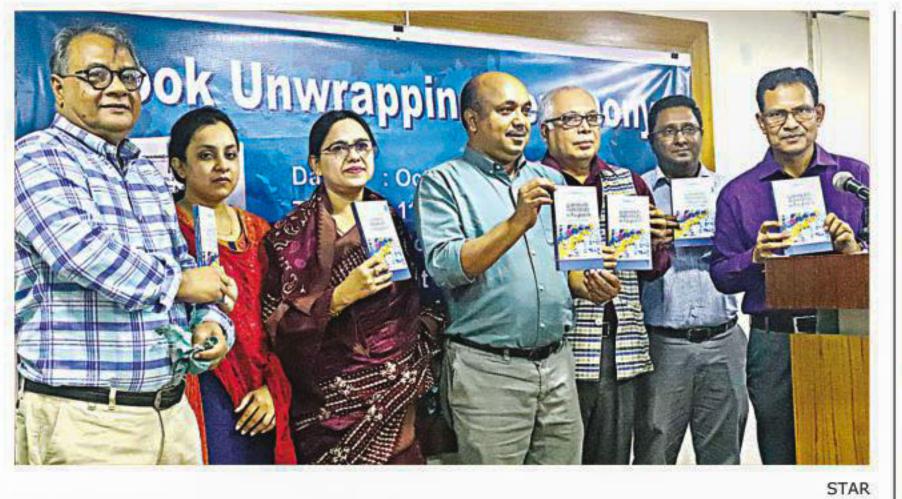
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Mohammad Hasan, author of "Readymade Garments Industries in Bangladesh: A Study on Social Compliance", poses with guests at the launch of the book at the Department of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka yesterday.

RMG's woes: long work hours

16+ countries 180+ exhibitors 300+ booths

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The garment sector's main challenge now is the long work hours that result from weak supply chain, poor infrastructure, insufficient utility services and high migration rates, a study finds.

Though the usual work duration for a day is eight hours, workers press on for 12 hours on an average to earn some extra pay through overtime, the study-conducted by Mohammad Hasan, executive director

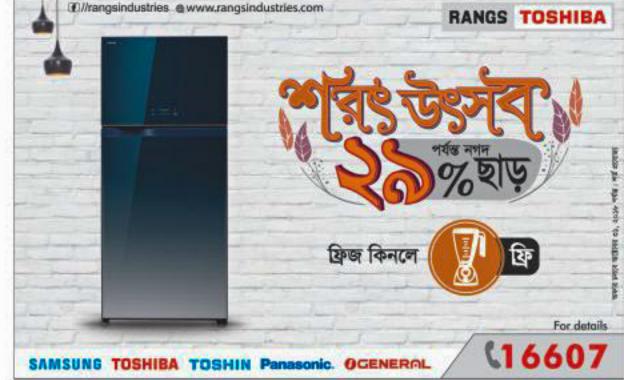
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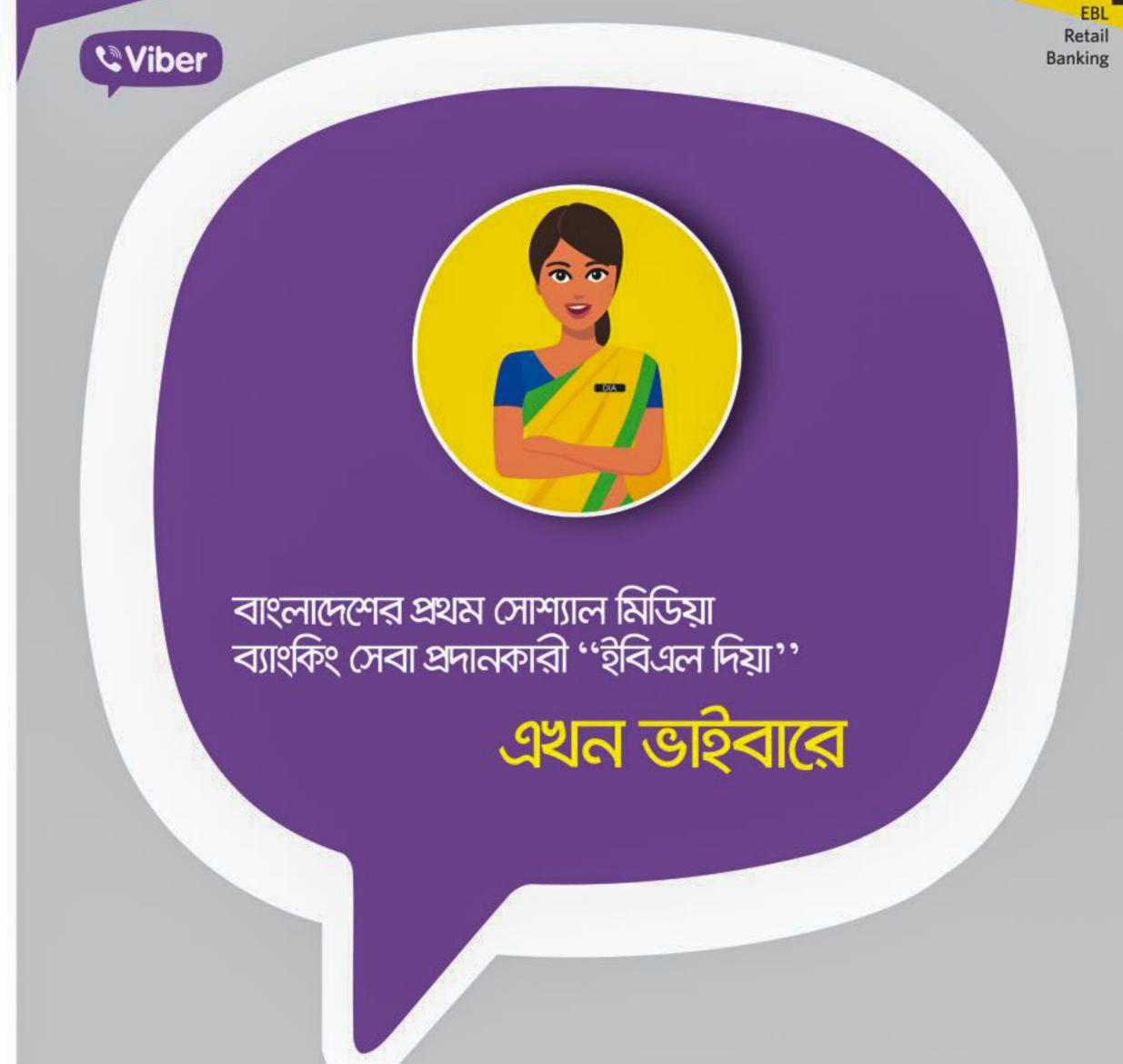
The top official of the leading garment exporter put the findings in his book titled "Readymade garments industries in Bangladesh: A study on social compliance".

Hasan, who got a postgraduate doctoral degree on the garment industry, unveiled the book at the public administration department of Dhaka University yesterday.

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BANGLADESH - 2018









Muhith says STAR BUSINESS REPORT The stockmarket can

play an important role to meet the investment needs of the public and private sectors and turn the country into a developed nation by 2041, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

Thanks to the reforms taken in the last eight years, the stockmarket is now more efficient and ready to march ahead, he said. He spoke at the inauguration of the World Investor Week-2018 at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka.

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