

MTBiz

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A Threat or an Opportunity to Banking Industry in Bangladesh

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WE SUPPORT

Fintech: A Threat or an Opportunity to Banking Industry in Bangladesh

Banking has historically been one of the business sectors most resistant to disruption by technology, having robust businesses with multiple moats - ubiquitous distribution through branches, unique expertise such as credit underwriting underpinned both by data and judgment, even the special status of being regulated institutions that supply credit, the lifeblood of economic growth, and have sovereign insurance for their liabilities (deposits).

However, much has been made of the fact that a new



breed of financial technology (Fintech) companies is unbundling banks in the developed world. Startups are attacking all of the components of the traditional bank value proposition (e.g., accounts, portfolio management, mortgages, car loans, person-to-person payments).

Traditional financial institutions have operated in a vast and complex ecosystem that, now, serves a foundation for Fintech growth and development. Some estimates suggest that Citi Ventures by Citi, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan are the three largest Fintech investors in the world.

Global Fintechs

PayPal is a service that enables customers to pay, send money, and accept payments by registering credit card or debit card with PayPal account of customers. Customer can pay by simply choosing PayPal at checkout, logging into your PayPal account, and confirming payment.

China-based Ant Financial - a spin-off from the Alibaba Group runs Alipay - the world's leading third-party payment platform, Ant Fortune, Ant Financial Cloud and other financial services. Along with its affiliates, Ant Financial covers wealth management, credit reporting, private bank, payments and cloud computing.

Digital Footprint for Unbanked in Asia

In India, SERV'D, which is building an app that helps households and the informal workers they employ (e.g., nannies, drivers, cooks, delivery services) create simple formal work contracts and pay them online. The data generated as a byproduct will capture the wages and other payments of the more than 400 million informal workers in India.



CREDITFIX
CREDIT FOR ALL

CreditFix is tapping into the data accumulated from Uber and other ride-sharing companies on their drivers' incomes to lend to Pakistani drivers, allowing them to own

their auto-rickshaw or taxi and to go into business for themselves rather than work as employees.

Vantage Points of Traditional Banking

"Will the traditional banking fall with the advent of Fintech?" – Question comes. There are some scopes that traditional banks have and Fintech may walk a long way to replace them. For example, established banks have real advantages in serving the SME lending market, which should not be underestimated. Banks'



cost of capital is typically 50 basis points or less. These low-cost and reliable sources of funds are from taxpayer-insured deposits and the Federal Reserve's discount window.

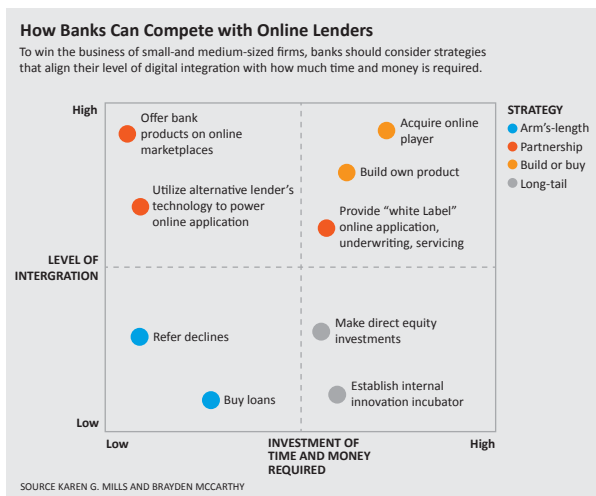
By comparison, online lenders face capital costs that can be higher than 10%, sourced from potentially fickle institutional investors like hedge funds. Banks also have a built-in customer base, and access to proprietary data on depositors that can be used to find eligible borrowers who already have a relationship with the bank.

Fintech – The Financial Flip

The debate between Fintech and traditional banking has never been one-sided. The new online lenders have made the loan application process much more customer-friendly. Instead of walking into a branch on main street and spending hours filling out paperwork, borrowers can complete online applications with lenders like Lending Club and Kabbage in minutes and from their laptop or phone at any hour of the day. Approval times are cut to days or, in some cases, a few minutes, fueled by data-driven algorithms that quickly pre-qualify borrowers based on a handful of data points such as personal credit scores, Demand Deposit Account (DDA) data, tax returns, and three months of bank statements. Moreover, in instances where borrowers want to shop and compare myriad options in one place, they turn to online credit brokers like Fundera or Intuit’s QuickBooks Financing for a one-stop shopping experience.

Bankers Call to Fintech

Four broad strategies that traditional banks could pursue to compete or collaborate with emerging online players—and in some cases do both simultaneously.



The choice of strategy depends on how much investment of time and money the bank is willing to make to enter the new marketplace, and the level of integration the bank wants between the new digital activities and their traditional operations.

Banks, in higher-integration strategies, choose initiatives like investing in partnership arrangements, where the new technologies are integrated into the bank’s loan application and decision making apparatus, sometimes in the form of a ‘white label’ arrangement.

Fintech Startups in Bangladesh

Flourishing financial system, large unbanked population, increasing rate of mobile phone penetration, and spread of internet across the country have ignited the development of innovative digital finance solutions.

MOBILE PHONE ACCESS (BANGLADESH)	
Population Size:	160 MILLION
% of Population Uses Mobile Phone	87.06%
Source: Bangladesh Bank	

The startup sector has been evolving rapidly with several accelerators, incubators, startup events and some state sponsored programs being introduced in recent years.

Fintech – Payment Solution in Bangladesh

bKash, leading mobile financial services company in



Bangladesh, possesses about 80% pie of the market share, founded in 2011. The company

provides mobile financial services including payments and money transfers services in Bangladesh. Upon registration, bKash users receive a mobile wallet.

Rocket, another leading mobile wallet of Dutch-Bangla Bank, allows customers to manage their finances on their mobile phones.



SureCash is one of the new entrants in the mobile finance sector.



The startup received US\$7 million in 2015 for its Series B from Osiris Group. SureCash provides a mobile banking and

payment platforms that allows users to make and receive payments on their phones, supporting utility bills payments, personal remittances, online purchases and more. SureCash is working with six local banks, 350 payment partners and over 41,000 retail agents.

MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES (MFS)	
	Sep 2017
Population Uses MFS (Reg Client)	57.73 Million
Population Uses MFS (Active Account)	30.012 Million
% of Population Uses MFS (Reg Client)	36.08%
% of Population Uses MFS (Active Account)	18.76%
% of Market Penetration	21.54%
Source: Bangladesh Bank	

Bangladesh Post Office in collaboration with Fintech company Dmoney announced a new digital wallet service called Daak Taka. The parties plan to launch the product shortly and will allow people to open an account for a fee of 2 taka. The product, which is the first of such kind from Dhaka-based Fintech company, is particularly aimed at improving financial inclusion.

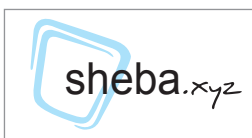
The account holder will receive a handful of services - deposit and withdraw cash, transfer funds, make payments to designated shops and outlets that accept Daak Taka and one can simply use it either via a mobile phone or the most important part, a "postal cash card or mobile point of sale (mPOS). The partners also plan to integrate payment gateway and other financial tools so that users can take advantage and transact with financial institutions, along with Near Field Communications (NFC) and Quick Response (QR) code facilities.



Fintech – Services Solution in Bangladesh

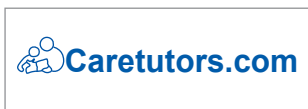
Startups such as Light Castle Partners - a consumer research and market insight, Chaldal.com - an online grocery, Dugdugi - an online

legal distribution portal of Bangladeshi song, Sheba.xyz – online service provider that offers a comprehensive range of products and services to cater to the everyday demands of customers at home or in office etc. have become very popular since their launches.



Pathao, a ride-sharing platform, is one of the fastest growing e-commerce service providers in Bangladesh. The IT firm's most popular service to date is a motorbike sharing service based on a smartphone app. Pathao began as a delivery service in 2015, using its fleet of motorbikes. The service proved to be quite popular, due to the growing demand of reliable e-commerce delivery services in Dhaka.

Moreover, Track My Vehicle - a vehicle tracking system, Caretutors.com - an online tutor matching platform, Shohoz - the online travel service provider offering bus tickets, hotel reservations, etc.



and dozens of other startups targeting diverse economic activities reflect an enthusiasm and variety which has attracted local and international venture capitalist firms.

Fintech – Investment Solution in Bangladesh



Pujee has developed an online platform that allows entrepreneurs to prepare early stage financials and valuation for fundraising purposes offering a myriad of fundraising resources and videos on its website.

Projekt.co has developed a secure platform that enables innovators, artists, and changemakers to raise funds from friends, families, and other supporters. Though it is running in beta mode, the solution has already grabbed attention.



SmartKompare's platform helps consumers find the best financial products based on their specific needs: personal loans, credit cards, car loans, and more.

iPay - the first online payment platform in Bangladesh has recently completed its beta phase. iPay is a secure payment system for one's daily transactions. Anyone can pay from their mobile phone or computer, connected to the internet. iPay's digital wallet enables members to make payment, send/request and receive money, recharge mobile balance, shop online, and many more.



Fintech and Banking in Bangladesh

Internet Banking Scenario in Bangladesh

Bank Type	ibanking	No ibank	URL issue	ReadOnly	Not surveyed	Total
PCBs	25	5	01	00	01	32
PCB Islamic	6	02	00	00	00	8
FCBs	03	00	00	01	05	9
SOBs	01	05	00	00	00	6
SB	00	00	00	00	02	02
Total Samples	35	12	01	01	08	57

Source: Survey conducted by Group R&D, MTB

As of November 2017, 18 banks in Bangladesh have MFS serving 777,179 number of agents and about 59 million registered clients across the country. 17 banks have their own mobile app, though their smooth functioning is yet to be achieved. Only 35 banks have basic internet banking which need more sophistication. Recently, one PCB has launched the country's first ever artificial intelligence-based chatbot to render faster services to clients. By way of Facebook Messenger, the chatbot – a Digital Interactive Agent will inform the bank's customers about their accounts, credit card and prepaid cards as well as general service information.

Fintech Future of Bangladesh

Fintech is often portrayed as a disruptive force that threatens banks with new, agile and savvy competitors. It transforms the way people and companies connect with their banks, and the way banks manage their back-office operations. Fintech innovators harness internet, mobile technologies and big data to offer a range of tools and services – from tech-enabled payments and crowd funding, to currency exchange, online lending and wealth management services.

In Bangladesh, bank-led mobile finance services has seen a rapid growth and has become an important tool-of-the-trade for extending banking services to the unbanked/banked population. Taking in to account the current market scenario, to say that the Fintech boom is cannibalising traditional banking, would be an exaggeration.

2017 was the year for starting momentum of transformation of the banks to start offering innovative services based on Fintech. 2018 onward the banks will be seen experimenting with newer technologies in order to facilitate faster and self-service customer



experience. By end of 2019, banking industry's transformation will take a shape that can give us the direction of future banking.

Mobile App	App: Yes	App: No	Total
PCBs	14	11	25
PCB Islamic	1	5	06
FCBs	2	1	03
SOBs	0	1	01
Total	17	18	35

Source: Survey conducted by Group R&D, MTB

NATIONAL NEWS

BB launches banking info app



Bangladesh Bank (BB) recently launched a mobile application, Banking Information, which will allow clients to get information about all banking services. The app is now available for downloading and using at Google Play Store for android users. The app has been developed jointly by the BB information system development department and a private firm, Innovation Team. BB governor Fazle Kabir inaugurated the operation of the application from the launching programme held at the BB conference hall in Dhaka. BB deputy governors SK Sur Chowdhury and SM Moniruzzaman, senior officials of the central bank and managing directors of several private banks were present at the programme. The app will allow users to know the geographical locations of any banks and their ATM booths along with all the services offered by the banks. The application will also offer information about agent banking, SME activities and mobile financial services.

BB eases income repatriation by foreign nationals

Bangladesh Bank has allowed foreign nationals residing in Bangladesh and having income here to send their earnings to other countries where their family members live besides the country of their domicile. The central bank in a circular issued recently eased the restriction as foreign nationals earlier were permitted to send income only to the country of their domicile out of their current savings, up to 75 per cent of their net incomes. BB officials said that the limit on the amount of remittance any foreign national can send from Bangladesh to other countries would remain same 75 per cent of his or her net income. Earlier, the BB in April, 2013, raised the limit on remittance for foreign nationals to 75 per cent of their net incomes from 50 per cent. The central bank, in another circular issued, extended the deferred facility for settling of letters of credit for import of four types of raw materials for steel production to 360 days. Bangladeshis can keep up to USD 5,000 without declaration.

BB allows USD 5,000 sans declaration



The central bank is now allowing Bangladeshi citizens to keep and carry foreign currency of up to USD 5,000 or equivalent. Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to this effect, saying necessary amendments had been made to the Foreign Money and Jewellery (FMJ) Form. The amended FMJ Form says Bangladeshi citizens can keep up to USD 5,000 or equivalent amount of other foreign currency without any form of declaration and can carry such money during foreign travel. Resident Bangladeshis will have to exchange into taka any amount above this limit within 30 days of returning to the country, or save it in the requisite foreign currency. For non-resident Bangladeshis, there is no such requirement. The FMJ Form also says travellers, whether Bangladeshi or foreigners, can bring in or leave the country with any amount of foreign currency, and will have to declare it to the Customs authorities if it is above USD 5,000 in value. According to central bank directives, an individual can get a maximum of USD 12,000 endorsed from banks per year.

Current account deficit widens to USD 1.79b

The country's current account deficit widened further in the first three months of this fiscal year due to sluggish export earnings and higher import payments. In the July-September period of 2017-18, the deficit stood at USD 1.79 billion, which was USD 539 million in the surplus in the same period a year earlier, according to the central bank data. The current account also registered a deficit of USD 451 million in the first two months of this fiscal year. Strong import growth coupled with a moderate rise in exports contributed to the current account deficit, a Bangladesh Bank official told. In the quarter, imports rose 28.38 percent year-on-year while exports grew 7.70 percent, both of which resulted in the further widening of trade deficit. The current account registered a deficit of USD 1.48 billion in 2016-17 against a surplus of USD 4.26 billion a year earlier.

BB, ICIEC ink MoU to exchange info



Bangladesh Bank (BB) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Islamic Corporation

for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) to formalize relationship and establish a basis for communication and exchange of information between the two entities. BB Governor Fazle Kabir was present at the MoU signing ceremony at Central Bank headquarter in the city. BB Executive Director Ahmed Jamal and ICIEC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Oussama A Kaissi inked the MoU on behalf of their respective sides. BB Foreign Exchange Policy Department (FEPD) organised the function while senior officials from BB, ICIEC, Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG), Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) were present. During the occasion, Fazle Kabir said the MoU will take the relationship between two entities to a new standard that will ensure benefits for both parties.

BB eases tenure of LCs for spare parts

Bangladesh Bank has decided that the letter of credit authorisation forms (LCAF) issued for the import of spare parts shall remain valid for remittances for 30 months after the month of issuance. In a circular issued recently the central bank said authorised dealers of foreign exchange in Bangladesh may also open LCs on behalf of industrial units to import necessary spare parts of capital machineries for their own industrial use up to 360 days on usance basis. For such deferred payment imports, the prices must be internationally competitive and all costs including usance interest must not exceed 6 per cent annually. Earlier, according to the guidelines for foreign exchange transaction LCAFs issued for import of capital machineries and spares were valid for remittances for 18 months subsequent to the month of issuance. In another circular, BB said that ADs, without prior approval of Bangladesh Bank, may open new LCs on behalf of importers who have bill of entry or certified invoices unmatched with international market places (within stipulated time or the allowed extended period) to the tune of up to USD 200 or equivalent to other foreign currencies. These instructions will be applicable for such IMPs that have remained unmatched till October 31, 2017.

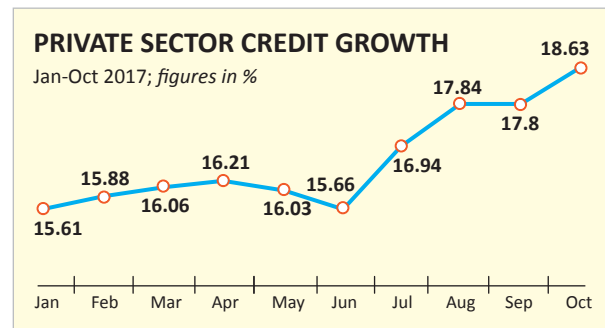
BB creates USD 240m fund for SME sector dev



Bangladesh Bank (BB) has created a USD 240 million refinancing fund for providing loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at low interest.

Under the refinance scheme, banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) can provide maximum 90 percent of the total project cost and borrower will have to bear the rest of the cost, said a BB recent circular. The borrowers will get maximum BDT 3 crore in loans. The highest tenure of a mid-term loan will be three years and that for a long-term loan will be five years. The refinancing scheme will be applicable for the projects outside Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan areas. The central bank will take four percent interest from the banks and FIs. From the fund, 15 percent will be reserved for women entrepreneurs and the highest interest rate for them will be 10 percent. Of the total fund, two thirds will be fixed for cottage, micro and small industries and the rest of the amount will be for medium industries.

Private credit growth continues ascent



Private sector credit growth is continuing with its ascent, helped in part by the higher import of food grains and capital machinery. In October, private sector credit growth stood at 18.63 percent, which is way higher than the target of 16.2 percent set for the first half of the fiscal year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. The last time the credit growth was higher than this was back in March 2012, when it stood at 19.5 percent. In July, private sector credit growth stood at 16.94 percent, exceeding the monetary target of 16.2 percent for the first half of 2017. The growth slowed slightly to 17.8 percent in September from 17.84 percent in August. The LC opening value against food grains trebled to USD 1.55 billion in July-September of the year.

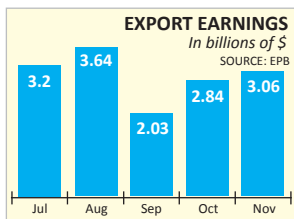
NATIONAL NEWS

Customs online platform to respond to queries



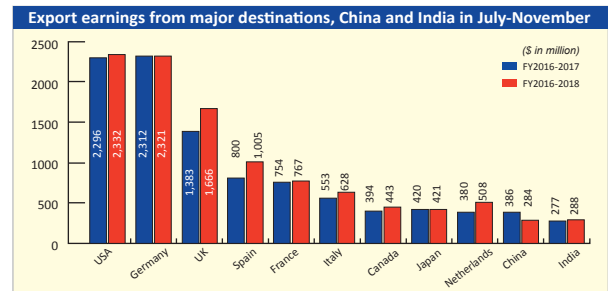
The National Board of Revenue is going to launch National Enquiry Point, an internet-based digital platform, to respond to queries from exporters, importers and other stakeholders. A team of customs officials of the revenue board will give answers to the questions related to export, import and transit trade through the dedicated website of the Bangladesh Customs (www.bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd). Establishing a NEP is a requirement of Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization to answer reasonable enquiries of governments, traders and other interested parties on matters related to international trade and provide required forms and documents. The NBR has decided to inaugurate the facility on January 26, 2018 on the occasion of International Customs Day. Customs authority has already developed NEP software and the beta-test or trial run of the software will be carried out by the end of December.

Exports retain momentum



Exports retained its growth momentum in November fetching USD 3.06 billion on the back of higher shipments of garments, jute and jute goods, frozen fish and footwear. Last month's receipts rose 6.22 percent compared to the same month last year when Bangladesh shipped goods worth USD 2.88 billion, according to the Export Promotion Bureau. The momentum also helped exports cross the USD 3-billion mark again after a gap of two months. Compared to the previous month's earnings of USD 2.84 billion, exports grew 7.74 percent in November beating the target of USD 2.87 billion set by the commerce ministry for the month. The total shipment in the July-November period stood at USD 14.56 billion, a 6.86 percent rise year-on-year. Garments that account for 82 percent of the total national exports logged USD 11.96 billion in the first five months of the fiscal year, up 7.46 percent from the same period a year ago. Knitwear exports went up 10.86 percent year-on-year to USD 6.24 billion in July-November while woven garments rose 3.99 percent to USD 5.72 billion.

RMG export to India sees stellar growth



Country's readymade garment export to India in the July-November period of the current financial year grew by 56.35 per cent riding on an impressive performance by knitwear products, while RMG export to China fell by 10.93 per cent during the period. RMG export to India in the five months of FY 2017-18 increased to USD 87.43 million from USD 55.92 million in the same period of FY 2016-17, according to the Export Promotion Bureau data. In the period, knitwear export to India grew by 68.70 per cent to USD 30.12 million from USD 17.85 million. Exporters, however, are puzzling over the reason for the sudden growth of readymade garment export to India in the five months of FY18. EPB data showed that export earnings from India in the July-November period of FY18 grew by 4 per cent to USD 288.20 million compared with that of USD 277.12 million in the same period of FY17.

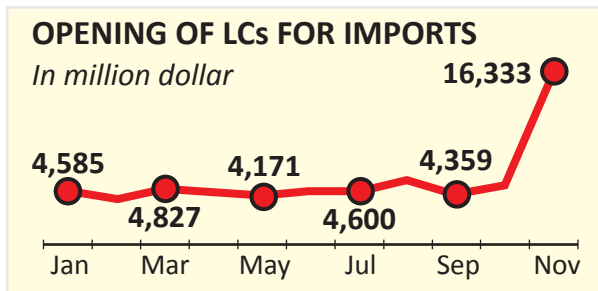
15.56 lakh taxpayers submit returns

A total of 15.56 lakh individuals submitted their income tax returns within the deadline that ended on November 30, 2017 in the current fiscal year while 2.79 lakh submitted petitions seeking more time for filing tax returns, according to the NBR data. The number of returns submission in the current fiscal year increased by 36.01 per cent from 11.44 lakh in the previous year. The National Board of Revenue received BDT 4,281.32 crore in income tax with tax returns in this year, up 28.37 per cent on the previous year when tax collection was BDT 3,335.21 crore. According to the NBR data, the number of time petitions increased by 84.10 per cent in this fiscal year. The revenue board in the budget for the current fiscal year made submission of tax returns mandatory for managerial- and executive-level employees in the private sector. In addition, tax returns filing is mandatory for employees of the government, semi-government, corporations and other autonomous bodies, who draw basic salary above BDT 16,000 a month. The provision was included in the income tax law in last year.



NATIONAL NEWS

Import orders hit record high



The value of letters of credit opened in November recorded an all-time high of USD 16.33 billion riding on huge import orders by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Bangladesh Bank data showed that the BAEC alone opened LCs worth USD 11.38 billion last month through state-owned Sonali Bank to set up the power plant, the first of its kind in the country. Bangladesh's import orders have never crossed USD 6 billion in a single month. JSC Atomstroyexport, a Russian contractor, will build the power plant at a cost of USD 12.65 billion. Moscow will give 90 percent of the fund for Bangladesh's largest-ever infrastructure project under an agreement with Dhaka. The remaining 10 percent will be provided by Bangladesh. The Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank), a Russian lender, will provide all types of equipment for the plant, a Sonali Bank official said. The BAEC has used almost all the credits given by Russia to open the LCs.

BD economy to grow by 7.1pc in FY18: ESCAP



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has projected the growth rate of Bangladesh economy to be

7.1 per cent in the current fiscal year (FY18). This latest projection by the UN body has been unveiled in its flagship report titled 'Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2017'. The year-end update of the report was recently. "Bangladesh ended the fiscal year 2017 exceeding earlier forecasts as well," the report observed, adding, "Despite a slowdown in exports and remittance inflows, it grew by 7.2 per cent in fiscal year 2017, which is its best performance in a decade, supported by the manufacturing, services and agricultural sectors." According to UNESCAP, "The momentum is expected to continue in 2018 on the back of strong domestic demand and infrastructure investments."

LafargeHolcim rolls out Geocycle in Bangladesh



LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Ltd has launched its waste management service Geocycle in the country. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, deputy minister for environment and forests, inaugurated the service at the Le Méridien Dhaka. The service is currently being offered in 50 countries. Rajesh K Surana, CEO of Lafarge-Holcim Bangladesh, said Geocycle is the initiative of sustainable waste management of LafargeHolcim Group. He said emerging countries like Bangladesh are desperately in need of infrastructure for waste management. A large amount of industrial waste is land-filled or dumped. "By providing sustainable solutions, Geocycle contributes to a cleaner environment and better living spaces. It works with its stakeholders in communities around the world for a zero-waste future and to ensure a brighter tomorrow," said Surana. At present, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh manages 900 tonnes of industrial waste in its Chhatak plant and the plant will be more efficient owing to Geocycle.

Walton gets nod for mobile assembly plant

Tech giant Walton has received a provisional licence from the telecom watchdog to assemble mobile phones in Bangladesh, hence becoming the first company to bag the approval for making handsets locally. Last month, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) visited the factory of Walton in Gazipur and handed over the interim licence to the company recently, said a senior official of the commission. The conglomerate has already started assembling different kinds of handsets in its hi-tech park and plans to market the products within a short time. Local ICT service provider Aamra Holdings Ltd, which owns and markets WE branded handsets, is in the process of getting the provisional licence. To encourage local assembly, the government has slashed customs duty for mobile parts by 24 percentage points to 1 percent in the current budget. Walton has also received permission from the regulator to assemble 51,000 3G-enabled smartphones in three models and has imported equipment for the sets.

NATIONAL NEWS

BD to be leading actor in global footwear market

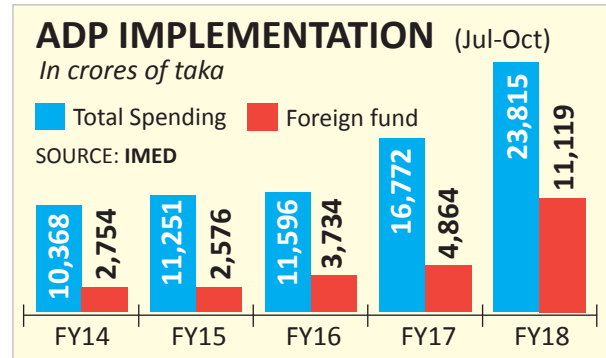


Bangladesh will become a leading player in the global footwear market using its exclusive advantages, like - availability of raw materials, affordable labour, foreign investment-friendly policies, and priority on leather as an export sector here, experts opined. They also said the footwear industry contributes around 1.54 per cent of the country's total export earning with an average yearly growth of around 29.8 per cent during the last five years. These were disclosed at the inaugural session of the 36th International Footwear Conference (IFC) 2017 of Confederation of International Footwear Associations (CIFA), arranged for the first time in the country. Leather goods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) hosted this year's conference at a city hotel. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed attended the programme as the chief guest. Among others, Apex Footwear Ltd chairman Syed Manzur Elahi, LFMEAB president and 36th IFC chairman Md Saiful Islam, and LFMEAB adviser Syed Nasim Manzur were also present.

Govt revises GDP growth upwards to 7.28pc

Bangladesh's economy finally grew at 7.28 per cent, the highest growth rate in the history of the country, up by 0.04 percentage points than the provisional projection, in the last fiscal year 2016-2017, according to the final calculation of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In May, the BBS projected that gross domestic product (GDP) of the country grew by 7.24 per in the fiscal year against the target of growth rate at 7.2 per cent for the year. Per capita income of the country has also increased to USD 1,610 or BDT 1,28,800 (considering each dollar conversion rate at BDT 80) in the FY 2017 from the previous estimate at USD 1,602. Planning minister AHM Mustafa Kamal recently revealed the data at a press briefing after the ECNEC meeting held at NEC conference room at Agargaon in Dhaka. Kamal said that the size of the GDP stood at USD 250 billion in the year. BBS report on GDP was also placed before the ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Foreign investment in stocks doubles in Jan-Oct



Foreign investment in stocks doubled year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2017 as overseas investors continue to show their trust in the market. Net position of foreign portfolio with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) stood at BDT 1,623.43 crore in January-October, compared to BDT 800.47 crore in the same period a year ago. Many foreign individuals and institutions are now showing interest to invest in Bangladesh's stockmarket, said M Khairul Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, at a seminar in Dhaka recently. He said the government's continuous efforts to strengthen the stockmarket have made the country a popular destination for foreign investors. In the first 10 months, foreign investors bought shares worth BDT 5,346 crore and sold shares of BDT 3,723 crore. However, a recent move of the central bank made foreign investors cautious along with their local peers.

BD chooses eight priority areas for Saudi investment

Bangladesh has selected eight prospective sectors expecting a large volume of investment from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). A high-powered business delegation from Riyadh is scheduled to arrive early next month to discuss modalities of possible investment in Bangladesh, they added. The priority turfs designated for investors from the oil-rich country are: agribusiness, food processing, pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals, textile and high-end clothing, leather and leather goods, and hotel and tourism services. A senior official at the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) said the sectors were preliminarily identified based on discussions with trade bodies and relevant government departments as investment is expected in those areas. Later, the MoC sought opinion from the concerned ministries, departments and trade bodies for identifying the preferred sectors. The major Bangladeshi exports to KSA include woven garments, knitwear, home textiles, agro-products, frozen foods, leather and leather products, and footwear, vegetables, and jute goods.

NATIONAL NEWS

Beximco Petroleum purchases first LPG carrier BD



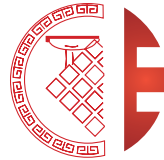
Beximco Petroleum Limited, a concern of Beximco Group, has announced the purchase

of the first LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) carrying vessel in Bangladesh to travel on international waters with the National flag, the company said. The vessel, named BEXPETRO 1, with an LPG carrying capacity of 2700 MT will be the first Bangladeshi ship to directly procure LPG at source. This marks a major milestone not only for LPG operators in Bangladesh but also for the nation at large as this paves the way for a more cost-effective and efficient LPG supply chain. Led by Captain Alexander Fajardo, BEXPETRO 1 is expected to arrive in Bangladesh with its first shipment of LPG by the first week of December 2017. Beximco Petroleum, in collaboration with Index Power & Energy (A Beximco company), has already set up a state-of-the-art ISO 9001 certified LPG plant in Mongla with a capacity of 3000 MT. Expansion work is underway for an additional capacity of 3000 MT at Mongla; another LPG terminal of 5000 MT capacity is being set up at Narayanganj.

Businesses, enjoy BDT 34,880cr duty benefit in FY17

Export-oriented industries enjoyed tax exemption worth BDT 34,880 crore in import of raw materials in last fiscal year of 2016-2017 under the bonded warehouse benefit offered by the National Board of Revenue. The amount is more than 77 per cent of total customs duty of BDT 45,193 crore collected in the year. Readymade garment industries availed the highest-96 per cent or BDT 33,612 crore in exemption in taxes and duties through duty-free import of raw materials in the year. Under the bonded warehouse facility, 100 per cent export-oriented industries enjoy duty-free raw materials import on condition that they will export finished goods produced using the raw materials. Tax exemption at the import stage to the industries rose by 129 per cent in last nine years since the FY 2008-2009 when the total value of exemption was BDT 15,224 crore, according to available data of the revenue board. Bond licence holding factories availed tax exemption worth more than BDT 30,000 crore in the FY 2015-2016. Currently, there are 4,909 active bond licensees in the country. Of them, 2,847 are from the RMG sector and the remaining 2,062 are from other sectors.

Local ceramics getting popular globally



CERAMIC
BANGLADESH - 2017 EXPO

Ceramic and porcelain wares made in Bangladesh are gaining popularity in international markets for their superior quality and affordable prices, stakeholders said recently.

They said all major Bangladeshi ceramic companies have been expanding their plants and operations, propelled by increasing demand both at domestic and international markets. The observations came at the closing ceremony of the country's first three-day ceramics expo organised by the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BCMEA) at International Convention City Bashundhara. Around 4,500 visitors thronged the event that saw some 60 participants with over 100 brands. Besides, four seminars for professionals were also conducted by university teachers. Chief guest Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, prime minister's energy affairs adviser, found it very inspiring that the new generation was taking charge of the sector and that 400 foreign delegates attended the expo. Md Sirajul Islam Mollah, president of BCMEA, said there were currently 62 ceramic factories in the country and more were in the pipeline. Bangladesh's ceramic exports amounted to nearly USD 50 million last fiscal year.

BEZA signs USD 2.3bn deal with Chinese firm

A Chinese steel company has signed a USD 2.3 billion investment deal with Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority or BEZA. Yunnan Yongle Overseas Investment Company Limited, a sister concern of Kunming Iron and Steel Holding Company Limited, signed a memorandum of understanding or MoU with BEZA at a Dhaka hotel. The Chinese firm signed another MoU with its Bangladeshi associate, Star Infrastructure Development Consortium Limited. Yongle Chairman Wu Yunkun, BEZA Executive Member Harun Ur Rashid and Star Consortium Managing Director Ashraful Haq Chowdhury, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations. Yongle said in the signing ceremony it intends to invest and establish a Bangladesh-China 'Iron and Steel International Capacity Cooperation Demonstrative Zone Project' in Bangladesh. Star Consortium will work as Yongle's local partner in the project.. Yongle has sought BEZA's permission to use 1,000 acres of land mainly to establish steel mills and power plants. The firm will conduct feasibility studies in Moheshkhali and Mirsarai economic zones for land for the project.



MTB CELEBRATES ITS 18TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) celebrated its 18th Founding Anniversary at MTB Centre, the bank's Corporate Head Office, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212. All the 111 branches of the bank, 31 Agent Banking Centres and its subsidiaries in Bangladesh observed the day in a befitting manner. To commemorate the day, the bank organized a Blood Donation program at MTB Centre.

MTB Chairman M. A. Rouf, JP, MTB Directors, Rashed A. Chowdhury, Md. Abdul Malek, Md. Wakiluddin, Anjan Chowdhury, Q. A. F. M. Serajul Islam, Khwaja Nargis Hossain and MTB Managing Director & CEO, Anis A. Khan celebrated the program on Sunday, October 29, 2017 by cutting a cake.

MTB Management also celebrated this happy occasion with the team members at MTB Centre on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.



MTB LAUNCHES CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD FOR CADET COLLEGE CLUB LIMITED (CCCL)



MTB and Cadet College Club Limited (CCCL) have recently signed an MoU in order to launch two exclusive co-branded credit cards, Visa Signature and MasterCard World Credit Card, for the members of CCCL. The MoU signing ceremony was held on November 21, 2017 at the bank's Corporate Head Office, MTB Centre, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212.

M. A. Rouf, JP, Chairman, Syed Manzur Elahi, Founding Chairman & Director, Q. A. F. M. Serajul Islam, Director and Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB, Rashed A. Chowdhury, President, TM Shahidul Islam, Secretary General and Kazi Masum Hossain, Treasurer, CCCL along with senior officials from both the organizations were present at the ceremony.

MTB will offer superior category Visa and MasterCard credit cards to the CCCL members with exclusive perks and benefits including reduced fees and charges, complimentary access to MTB Air Lounge at Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport, Dhaka (HSIA), Priority Pass, free insurance benefits and many more.

SHIPPING MINISTER INAUGURATES MTB 24/7 ATM AT MADARIPUR



Shahjahan Khan, MP and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Shipping, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, inaugurated MTB's 243rd 24/7 ATM Booth at Madaripur 7900 on Saturday, November 04, 2017, as the Chief Guest.

Md. Wahidul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Sarowar Hossain, Superintendent of Police, Pavalur Rahman Shofiq Khan, Upazilla Chairman, Obaidur Rahman Khan, President, BAR Association, Madaripur, Azam Khan, Group Chief Communications Officer, Md. Rabiul Alam, Head of Alternate Delivery Channel (ADC), Mohammad

Abdus Salam, Manager, Madaripur Branch, MTB along with other senior officials of MTB, local elite, leaders of local business associations and people from different strata also were present at the inauguration ceremony.

MTB MD & CEO AWARDED 'EXEMPLARY LEADER' AND 'CEO OF THE YEAR' AWARDS



'Bangladesh Best Employer Brand Awards 2017' in the categories titled as 'Exemplary Leader' and 'CEO of the Year' were awarded to MTB Managing Director & CEO, Anis A. Khan at The Business Excellence Award 2017 program.

Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Zunaid Ahmed Palak handed over both the awards to Group Head of HR, Md. Nurul Islam who received them on behalf of MTB Managing Director & CEO, at a ceremony held at Le Meridien, Dhaka on October 29, 2017. Mohammed Forhad of MTB Treasury Department also attended the program.

The Business Excellence Award 2017 program was jointly organized by Employer Branding Institute (India), World HRD Congress and South Asian Partnership Summit (SAPS).

MTB CHAIRMAN SEEN AT THE 7TH MTB BRAVERY & COURAGE AWARD 2017



MTB handed over the 7th “MTB Bravery & Courage Award” to the family of Hossein Alamgir at a simple ceremony held at MTB Centre, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212 on Sunday, November 12, 2017.

Hossein Alamgir, a Non-resident Bangladeshi (NRB) flower retailer, was bestowed the award for displaying exemplary bravery and courage in saving Gaia Guarnotta, a 25-year old Italian female photographer from an indecent attack by a group of unruly men in Florence, Italy on October 18, 2017.

A special crest and a cheque were handed over to the family of Hossein Alamgir jointly by the MTB Chairman, M. A. Rouf, JP, Founding Chairman, Syed Manzur Elahi, Director & Former Chairman, Rashed A. Chowdhury and MTB Managing Director & CEO, Anis A. Khan. MTB Chairman lauded the valiant act of Hossein Alamgir and underscored the significance of such awards and called upon other organizations to come forward to inspire such selfless acts of bravery and sacrifices by individuals recognition. MTB has been recognizing outstanding acts of bravery since introducing the award in 2012.

“SHOBUJ ISHKOOL GORI” CAMPAIGN BY MTB



MTB launched a project titled "Amar Shopne Amar Shobuj Ishkool" under its “Shobuj Ishkool Gori” (সবুজ ইস্কুল গড়ি) campaign at Pallabi Majedul Islam Model High School, Mirpur, Dhaka on October 09, 2017. MTB is the first bank to partner with ‘Poriborton Chai’ and launch the “Shobuj Ishkool Gori” campaign in the city.

MTB’s unique CSR campaign aims to bring about an environmental makeover at schools through active participation of the students and teachers by educating them about waste management, making organic compost, the use of dustbins and greening of their playgrounds.

Renowned architect, Mubasshar Hussain inaugurated the campaign as the Chief Guest at the school premises. Chairman of ‘Poriborton Chai’, Fida Haq, Principal of Pallabi Majedul Islam Model High School, Muhammed Shahid Ullah, Group Chief Communications Officer of MTB, Azam Khan, local elite, students of the school, guardians and people from different strata were also present.

MTB has been associated with ‘Poriborton Chai’ through participation in the “Let’s Cleanup the Country Day” campaign since 2015.

MTB OPENS AGENT BANKING CENTRE AT MORICHA BAZAR, UKHIYA, COX'S BAZAR



MTB has opened an Agent Banking Centre at Moricha Bazar, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar 4750. Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, Md. Abdur Rahim and MTB Chairman, M. A. Rouf, JP inaugurated the Centre as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively. MTB Additional Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer (COO), Md. Hashem Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer (CBO), Syed Rafiqul Haq, Head of MTB Chittagong Division Branches, Md. Khurshed Ul Alam, Group Chief Communications Officer, Azam Khan, Head of Agent Banking, Madan Mahan Karmoker, Agent of MTB Moricha Bazar Agent Banking Centre, S.M. Mafidul Hoque, local elite, leaders of local business associations, people from different strata and other senior officials of MTB also attended the inauguration ceremony.



As part of MTB's CSR program, twenty (20) Swapno Sarathi bicycles were distributed amongst the underprivileged and meritorious students from as many as seven (07) schools in the region.

With the vision in heart, that, **Distance shall not be a hurdle to school goes**, MTB has been distributing Swapno Sarathi bicycles since 2015.

NATIONAL NEWS

BAPLC gets new Leadership



Azam J. Chowdhury, Managing Director, MJL Bangladesh Ltd. has been elected as President of Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) for the two-year term 2018-2019. Mr. Chowdhury is the

Chairman and owner of East Coast Group. In addition, he is also the Chairman of The Consolidated Tea & Lands Company Bangladesh Limited (formerly, James Finlay Limited) and Chairman of Prime Bank Limited. Mr. Chowdhury is the President of Bangladesh Ocean Going Ship Owner's Association (BOGSOA) and Bangladesh Energy Companies Association. He is also the Honorary Consul of Hungary in Bangladesh. Mr. Chowdhury also served as the Vice President of Bangladesh Energy Companies Association and a Member of Advisory Council of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.



MTB Managing Director & CEO, Anis A. Khan, has been elected as Vice-President of Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) for the two-year term 2018-2019. Mr. Khan has carved out a career spanning over 34 years

in the corporate world. A career banker, Mr. Khan started his career with the then British-owned Grindlays Bank plc. as a Management Trainee in the year 1982. He is the Vice-Chairman of two subsidiaries of Mutual Trust Bank Limited - MTB Securities Ltd. and MTB Capital Ltd. He is also the Director of the other subsidiary company of the bank - MTB Exchange (UK) Ltd. As a nominee Director of MTB, Khan is Vice Chairman of Industrial & Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IIDFC) and Director of BD Ventures Ltd. Khan also served as the Chairman of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh Limited (ABB).

Nihad Kabir reelected MCCI president



Nihad Kabir has been reelected as President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka for 2018. Nihad Kabir is an advocate of the Supreme Court and a director and shareholder of

Kedarpur Tea Co. Ltd. and the daily Sangbad. She is a Director of BRAC Bank, Infrastructure Development Company Bangladesh Ltd., Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, bKash, and Independent Director of Square Pharmaceuticals and Apex Footwear. She is Chairperson of BRAC-EPL Investments and BRAC -EPL Stock Brokerage.

New MD for Prime Bank



Rahel Ahmed has recently been appointed as the Managing Director of Prime Bank Ltd. Prior to the appointment, he was Deputy Managing Director of the bank. Ahmed also worked as the bank's chief business officer.

He also worked at ANZ Grindlays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank for more than a decade. He served Emirates NBD Banking Group and First Gulf Bank in Dubai for seven years. He has attended numerous domestic and international trainings, seminars and workshops over the past 23 years that covered different aspects of banking and related fields.

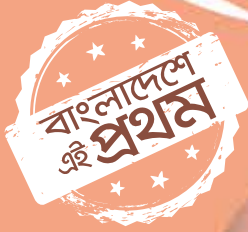


মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.
you can bank on us



আমার প্রথম EASY PAYMENT CARD

ডিজিটাল পেমেন্ট এখন সবার জন্য



আজীবন ফ্রি কার্ড

যেকোনো অনলাইন
কেনাকাটার জন্য
ইন্সট্যান্টলি রেডি

কোনো বাড়তি ঝামেলা
ছাড়াই কার্ড ইস্যু

দেশজুড়ে ১,৭০০+
আউটলেটে থাকছে
বিশেষ ডিসকাউন্ট ও
প্রিভিলেজ

বাংলালিংক
ওয়েব/অ্যাপ থেকে
ক্রয়ের উপর থাকছে
ইন্টারনেট বোনাস

৩০,০০০+ মাস্টার কার্ড
সেলস পেমেন্ট এবং
৭,০০০+ এটিএম-এ
ব্যবহার করা যাবে

* নির্দিষ্ট বাংলালিংক গ্রাহকের জন্য প্রযোজ্য

বিস্তারিত জানতে ভিজিট:

<https://www.banglalink.net/en/personal/digital-services/mobile-financial-services/easy-payment-card>

ওয়েলকাম প্যাকে থাকছে দেশের সেরা ৩টি ই-কমার্স সাইটে
৳১,৫০০++ মূল্যের ডিসকাউন্ট ভাউচার

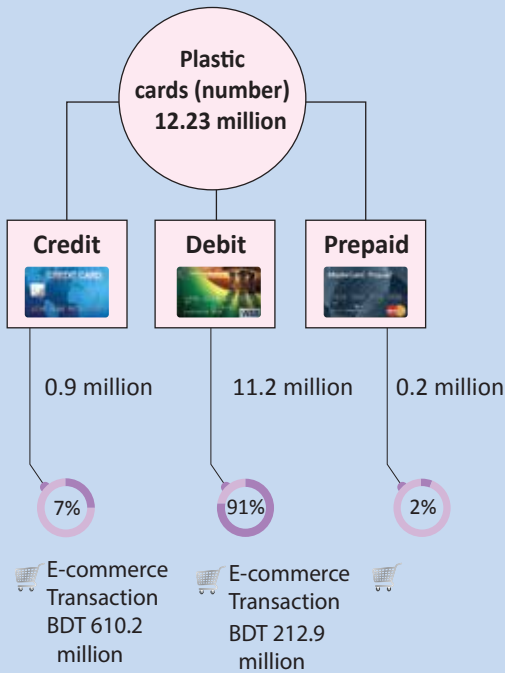
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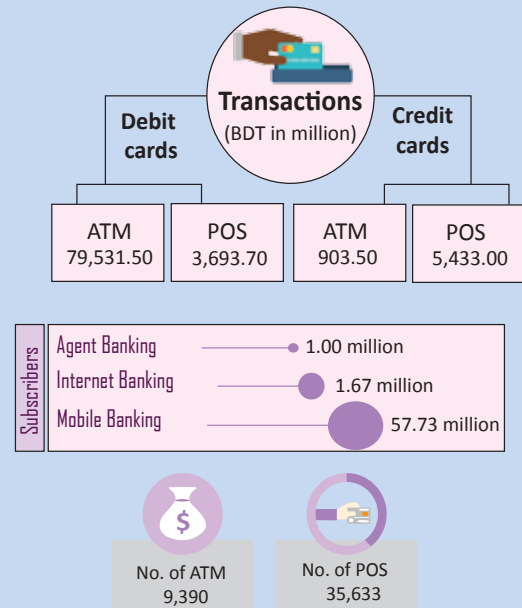
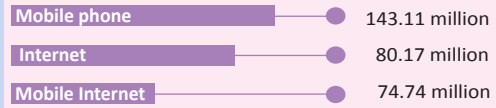
pickaboo.com



Digital Payments

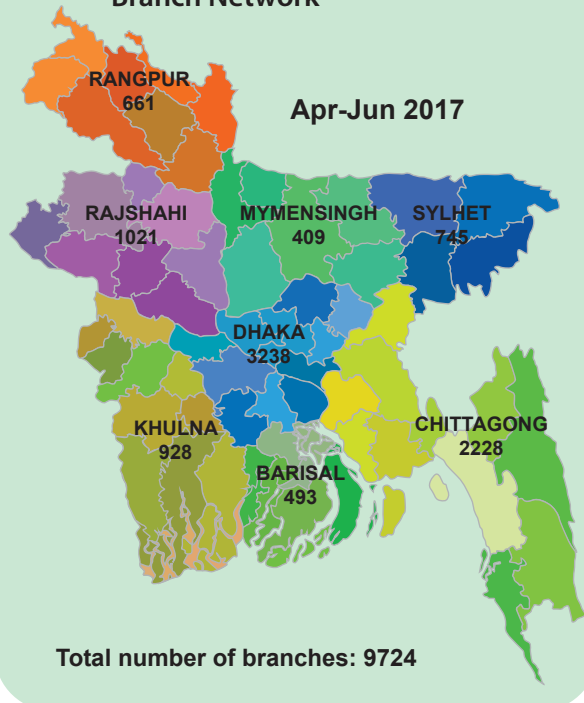


Number of Subscribers



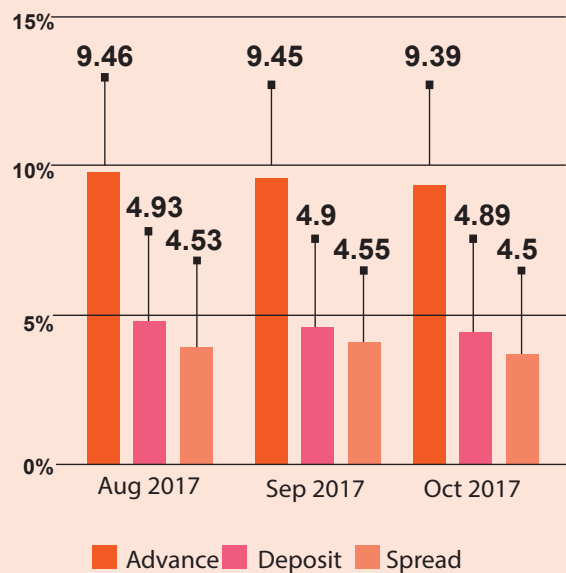
Source: Bangladesh Bank, Sep 2017; BTRC, Nov 2017

Scheduled Banks Branch Network



Industry Rates

Deposit - Advance - Spread



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Global

Rice
USD 444.68 / metric ton
June 2017



Palm Oil
USD 621.18 metric ton
June 2017



Sugar
USD 613.49 / metric ton
June 2017



Soybean Oil
USD 704.83 / metric ton
June 2017

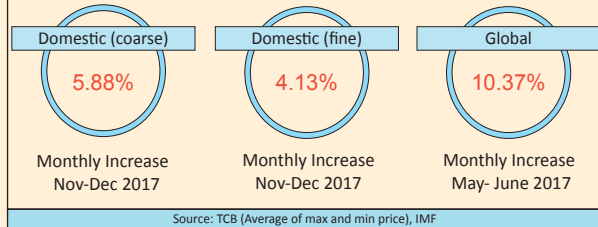


Source: IMF

Weekly Rice BDT/KG

Year 2017	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25	Dec 26
Rate (Avg.)	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00

Monthly Price Change (%)



Import L/C (in million) Bangladesh




Source: Bangladesh Bank

Domestic

Rice (fine)
BDT 61.96 per kg
Dec 2017



Palm Oil
BDT 71.00 per kg
Dec 2017




Sugar
BDT 56.00 per kg
Dec 2017



Rice (coarse)
BDT 44.04 per kg
Dec 2017



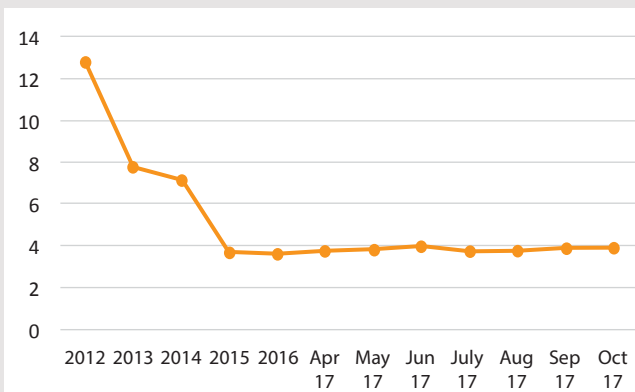
Soybean Oil
BDT 86.50 per kg
Dec 2017



Source: TCB (Average of max and min price)

Call Money Market

W. Avg Interest Rate (%)



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Monetary Policy

88.55%

Domestic Credit

88.77%

Private Sector Credit

87.77%

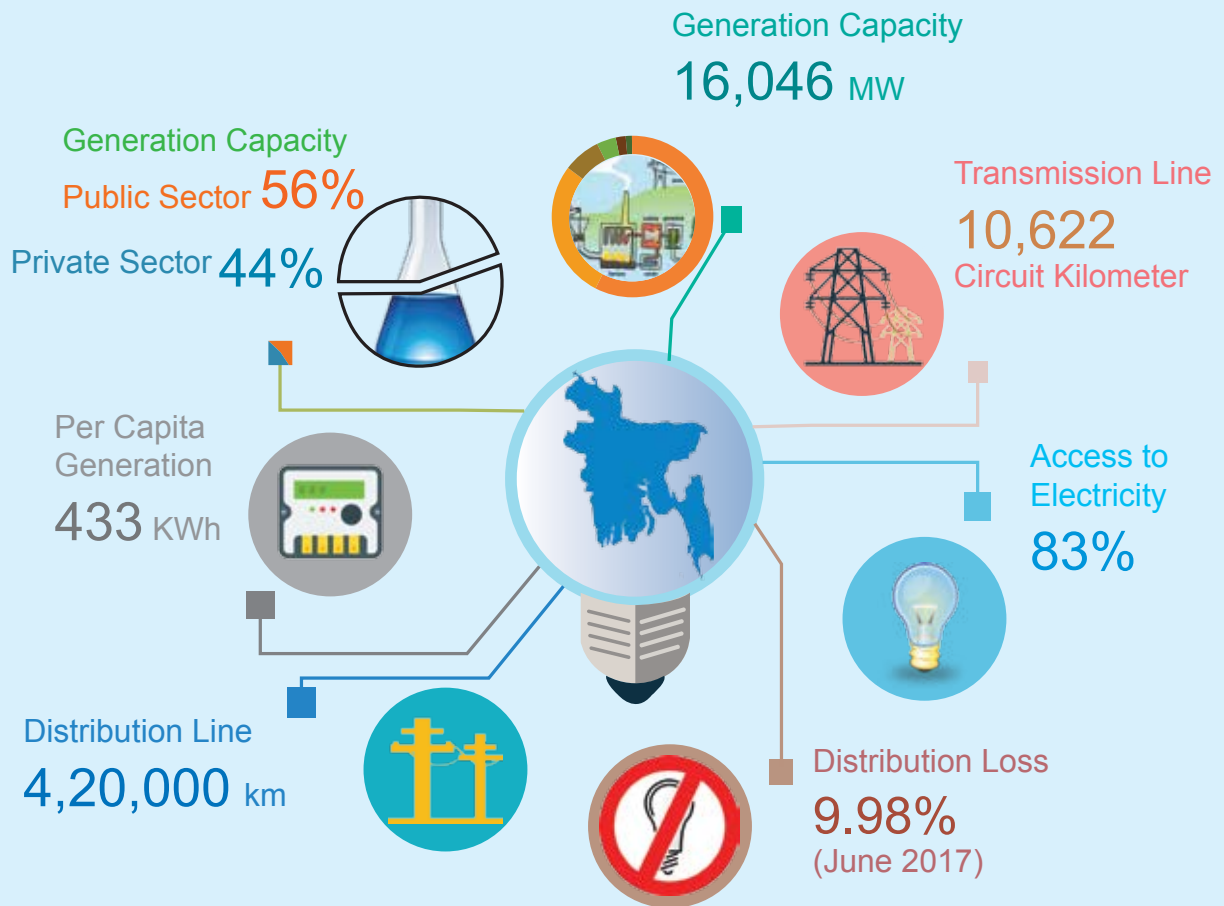
Public Sector Credit

88.89%

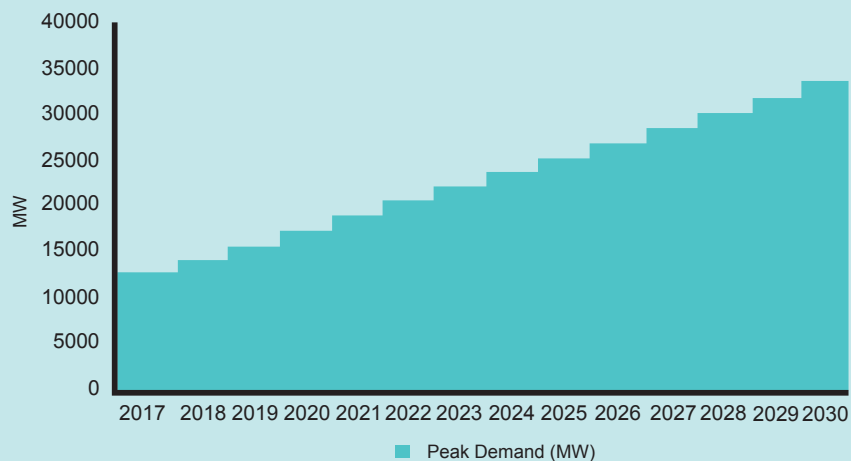
Broad Money

* Figures projected for June 2018 & achieved up to Sep 2017

POWER SECTOR OF BANGLADESH AT A GLANCE (Aug 2017)



BPDB'S DEMAND FORECAST (2017-2030)



Source:
Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB)
Power Cell

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Confident resurgence in developing Asia: ADO 2017 Update

Growth outlook

The growth outlook for developing Asia this year is upgraded to 6.0%, or 0.1 percentage points higher than the rate envisaged in September in Asian Development Outlook 2017 Update, as unexpectedly strong expansion in Central, East, and Southeast Asia more than offsets a downward adjustment to growth forecasts for South Asia. In 2018, regional growth is expected to slow slightly to 5.8%, as predicted in the Update. Excluding the newly industrialized economies of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Singapore, Taipei, China, and Hong Kong, China, the growth outlook for the region is revised up to 6.5% from 6.4% for 2017 but unchanged at 6.3% for 2018 (Table 1).

The collective growth forecasts in the major industrial economies—the United States, the euro area, and Japan—are revised up to 2.2% from 2.0% for 2017 and to 2.1% from 2.0% for 2018. The upgrade reflects third quarter stronger-than-expected growth in the euro area, supported by domestic demand, and in Japan by private investment and net exports.

Regional trade

- With the ongoing global recovery and a rebound in global commodity prices, trade growth in developing Asia turned around in the fourth quarter of last year after stagnation or worse in most of 2015 and 2016. The revival in regional trade gathered momentum in 2017, growing 13.3% by value in the first 8 months of the year. The region's 10 largest economies, which account for 93% of its trade, saw average trade volume grow by 5.3% in the first 9 months despite downside risks posed by policy uncertainty among the world's major trading partners and the potential for bilateral trade friction.

East Asia

- East Asia's growth projection is raised from 6.0% to 6.2% for 2017 on upward revisions for its larger economies. The forecast remains at 5.8% for 2018 as growth in most economies moderates. In the People's Republic of China (PRC), the growth forecast for 2017 is revised up to 6.8% from 6.7% in the Update in light of expansion faster than anticipated in the third quarter, and despite broadly expected moderation in the fourth quarter. Third quarter expansion hit 6.8% (year on year, here and below, unless otherwise specified), underpinned by resilient consumption.

South Asia

- GDP growth in India, the largest economy in South Asia, rebounded to 6.3% in the second quarter of FY2017 (ending 31 March 2018) from 5.7% in the first, reversing 5 consecutive quarters of deceleration. The pickup was led by manufacturing, which grew by 7.0% as retailers restocked shelves depleted ahead of the implementation of a goods and services tax in July, and as exports expanded and the performance of private corporations improved. Investment grew by 4.7%, the highest rate in 5 quarters, but still trailed GDP growth.

Table 1: Gross domestic product growth (%)

	2016	2017		2018	
		ADO 2017 Update	ADOS	ADO 2017 Update	ADOS
Developing Asia	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.8
Developing Asia excluding the NIEs	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3
Central Asia	2.2	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.9
Kazakhstan	1.1	2.7	3.7	3.0	3.3
East Asia	6.0	6.0	6.2	5.8	5.8
China, Peoples' Rep. of	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.4
Hong Kong, China	2.0	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.2
Korea, Rep. of	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0
Taipei, China	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.2
South Asia	6.7	6.7	6.5	7.0	7.0
India	7.1	7.0	6.7	7.4	7.3
Southeast Asia	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.2
Indonesia	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3
Malaysia	4.2	5.4	5.8	5.4	5.3
Philippines	6.9	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.8
Singapore	2.0	2.7	3.2	2.7	2.9
Thailand	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.8
Vietnam	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.5	6.7
The Pacific	2.4	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.2

ADO = Asian Development Outlook, ADOS = ADO Supplement, NIEs = newly industrialized economies (Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taipei, China, and Hong Kong, China).

Southeast Asia

- Economic growth in Southeast Asia is picking up faster than forecast in September. GDP is now seen to expand by 5.2% in 2017 and 2018. The subregion is benefiting from robust investments and exports. Growth forecasts are revised up for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar are on track to meet growth forecasts for 2017.

Central Asia

- The economic outlook for Central Asia in 2017 has further improved with recovery in several countries driven by domestic and external factors alike. Growth in the subregion as a whole is now expected to reach 3.6% in 2017, higher than the 3.3% forecast in the Update, mainly reflecting a higher growth forecast for Kazakhstan, the subregion's largest economy.

The Pacific

Growth in the Pacific is expected to accelerate to 2.9% in 2017, as forecast in the Update. This reflects mainly a slight pickup in economic activity in Papua New Guinea—the subregion's largest economy—following a sharp dip in growth in 2016 caused by fiscal contraction.

Inflation outlook

Commodity prices may be rising but not enough to upset the generally tame and stable inflationary environment in the region. This Supplement maintains inflation projections for developing Asia at 2.4% in 2017 and 2.9% in 2018, as in the Update (Table 2).

Table 2: Inflation (%)

	2016	2017		2018	
		ADO 2017 Update	ADOS	ADO 2017 Update	ADOS
Developing Asia	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.9
Developing Asia excluding the NIEs	2.7	2.5	2.5	3.1	3.1
Central Asia	11.0	8.9	9.0	7.8	8.1
Kazakhstan	14.6	8.0	7.8	7.0	7.0
East Asia	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.3	2.3
China, Peoples' Rep. of	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.4
Hong Kong, China	2.4	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.8
Korea, Rep.of	1.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9
Taipei, China	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.0
South Asia	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.7	4.7
India	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.6	4.6
Southeast Asia	2.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1
Indonesia	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.7
Malaysia	2.1	3.7	4.0	2.7	2.7
Philippines	1.8	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.5
Singapore	-0.5	1.0	0.6	1.5	1.0
Thailand	0.2	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.5
Vietnam	2.7	4.5	4.0	5.5	5.5
The Pacific	4.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3

ADO = Asian Development Outlook, ADOS = ADO Supplement, NIEs = newly industrialized economies (Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taipei, China, and Hong Kong, China).

Amid news of supply constraints and buoyant demand, Brent crude oil prices have remained above USD 60/barrel since 27 October. On 6 November, Brent traded at USD 64.10/ barrel, which was 15% higher than a month earlier and the highest since June 2015. This benchmark for global crude oil markets was up by 40.7% year on year.

Food prices were down by 1.5% in November 2017 from the same month a year earlier. The World Bank food price index remains 31.1% below its all-time high in nominal terms, registered in August 2012. Prices for edible oils and other food fell in October. The "other food" index declined as sugar prices fell in November by 26% because of higher supply prospects for 2017/18. For the fifth consecutive month, the change in the grain index year on year remained positive, with grain prices increasing by 6.8% in November.

By subregion, revisions to inflation forecasts are mixed. Projections for East Asia are maintained from the Update at 1.7% in 2017 and 2.3% in 2018. In the PRC, headline inflation reached 1.9% in October, with inflation averaging 1.5% in the year to date. The effects of strong consumer demand, higher wages, and continued price deregulation will persist for the rest of the 2017, bringing average inflation to 1.7% for the whole year and to 2.4% in 2018, as forecast in the Update.

In South Asia, inflation below expectations in India prompts a downward revision to the 2017 forecast, to 4.0% from 4.2% in the Update. Inflation in India remained subdued in the first 7 months of FY2017, averaging 2.7%, with food prices low and demand still not fully recovered from demonetization. In India, inflation is still expected to inch up to 4.6% in FY2018, driven by an uptick in fuel prices and higher aggregate demand.

The inflation forecast for Southeast Asia in 2017 is now a tad lower than envisaged in the Update. Upward adjustment for Malaysia is more than offset by downward revisions for Singapore and Viet Nam. Southeast Asia inflation forecast for 2018 at 3.1%, as forecasts for most other economies are unchanged.

Inflation in Central Asia is now projected to be higher in 2017 than earlier forecast on account of stronger growth in the subregion and country-specific factors such as higher fuel prices caused by cuts to subsidies and local fuel supply shortages.

Inflation in the subregion is now forecast to each 9.0% in 2017, up from 8.9% forecast in the Update, before easing to 8.1% in 2018, still higher than the 7.8% earlier forecast.

Inflation projections for the Pacific are unchanged from the Update. Driven by higher international commodity prices and firmer domestic demand, inflation is expected to rise to 5.3% in 2017 and remain at that rate in 2018.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



U.S. Overview

Real GDP growth picked up to better than a 3 percent pace during the second and third quarters of 2017, and with solid momentum going into the fourth quarter, Wells Fargo feels confident about call for 2.7 percent growth in 2018. While it is comforting to see this improvement, just about any additional good news today is greeted with an unusual amount of trepidation. The past three business expansions lasted an average of only 94 months, a benchmark the current expansion surpassed six months ago.

The unusually slow pace of this economic recovery has left the economy in pretty good shape. Inflation and interest rates remain low. Given this policy mix, Wells Fargo forecasts of 2.7 percent real GDP growth in 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019 seems appropriate.

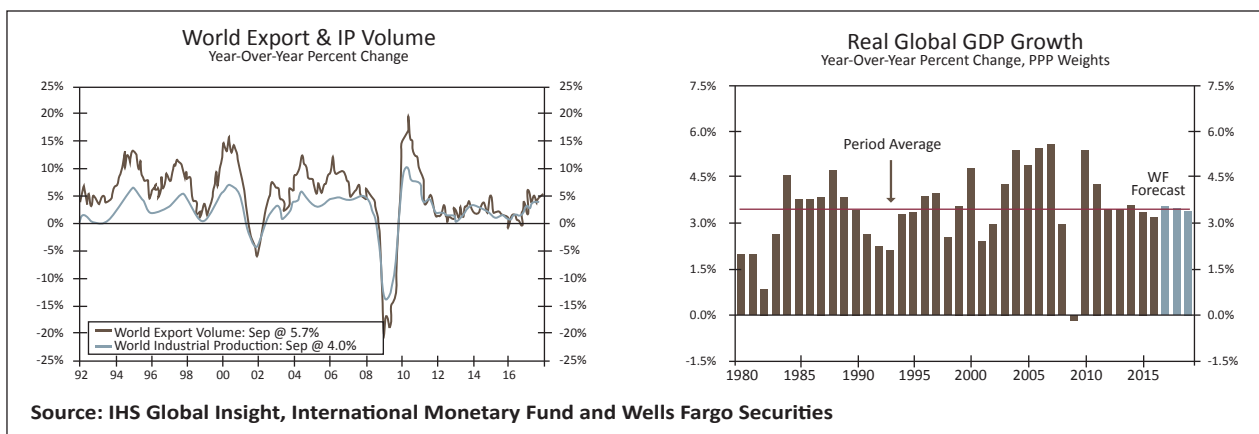
For many decision makers, the soaring stock market, rebounding home prices, rising commercial property prices and surging valuations for privately held companies are music to their ears. For others, however, they have slowed economic mobility and pushed homeownership further out of reach. The reach for yield has also fueled a boom in private equity markets and alternative assets, which has helped drive the technology and energy booms. A sudden and unexpected jump in interest rates could have far reaching consequences across the economy, slowing growth in the tech sector and the fastest-growing parts of the real estate sector. Wells Fargo is approaching the new year with more promise than any time since the Great Recession. Improvement is evident across nearly all sectors and regions of the country.

International Overview

Global economic activity accelerated in 2017 after global industrial production (IP) essentially stagnated in 2016 as industrial sectors in many economies adjusted to the collapse in commodity prices. But now global IP is currently up nearly 4 percent on a year-ago basis. Expansionary macroeconomic policies that were put in place last year in many major foreign economies have helped to stimulate global economic activity. Growth in global trade has also strengthened this year in line with the acceleration in global IP.

Looking forward, Wells Fargo expects that the global economic expansion will continue through 2019. Wells Fargo estimates that global GDP has grown at its long-run average of 3.5 percent this year, and Wells Fargo forecasts that this pace of growth will remain more or less intact in 2018 and 2019.

As noted above, macroeconomic policy turned even more expansionary as growth slowed in many economies last year. Fiscal policy was eased in some countries (e.g., China), and many central banks ramped up their policy accommodation. The Bank of England (BoE) cut its main policy rate by 25 bps last year after the Brexit referendum clouded the economic outlook for the United Kingdom. Although U.K. GDP growth has slowed somewhat this year, the economy continues to expand. Wells Fargo anticipates that the BoE will hike rates by another 25 bps next year and by a total of 50 bps in 2019. Wells Fargo forecasts that it will begin a slow process of rate hikes in early 2019. Wells Fargo expects that the Bank of Japan (BoJ) will keep its main policy rates unchanged through at least the end of 2019.



Together we'll go far





Banker's Acceptance (BA): A banker's acceptance (BA) is a short-term debt instrument issued by a firm that is guaranteed by a commercial bank. Banker's acceptances are issued by firms as part of a commercial transaction. These instruments are similar to T-Bills and are frequently used in money market funds. Banker's acceptances are traded at a discount from face value on the secondary market, which can be an advantage because the banker's acceptance does not need to be held until maturity. Banker's acceptances are regularly used financial instruments in international trade.

Moving Average Convergence Divergence (MACD): Moving average convergence divergence (MACD) is a trend-following momentum indicator that shows the relationship between two moving averages of prices. The MACD is calculated by subtracting the 26-day exponential moving average (EMA) from the 12-day EMA. A nine-day EMA of the MACD, called the "signal line", is then plotted on top of the MACD, functioning as a trigger for buy and sell signals.

Overnight Repo: A practice in which a bank or other financial institution buys securities with the proviso that the seller repurchase the same securities the following day. Financial institutions do this in order to raise short-term capital.

Limit order: An order to a broker to buy a specified quantity of a security at or below a specified price, or to sell it at or above a specified price (called the limit price). This ensures that a person will never pay more for the stock than whatever price is set as his/her limit. This is one of the two most common types of orders, the other being a market order. opposite of no limit order.

Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM): A mortgage with an interest rate that may change, usually in response to changes in the Treasury Bill rate or the prime rate. The purpose of the interest rate adjustment is primarily to bring the interest rate on the mortgage in line with market rates. The mortgage holder is protected by a maximum interest rate (called a ceiling), which might be reset annually. ARMs usually start with better rates than fixed rate mortgages, in order to compensate the borrower for the additional risk that future interest rate fluctuations will create.

Over the counter market: A negotiated market for the trading of unlisted stocks. Not all over-the-counter stocks are required to file financial reports with the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), making it difficult to secure reliable information on which to base investment decisions. See OTC Bulletin Board.





এমটিবি নিউ
আধাপাকা বাড়ির ঋণ সুবিধা

বাড়ি থেকে বাড়তি আয়

নিজের জমিতে আধাপাকা বাড়ি তৈরি, বাড়ির সংস্কার ও বর্ধনের জন্য এই ঋণ সুবিধা
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*শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

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