

# MTBiz

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

VOLUME: 06 ISSUE: 09

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

## Year in Review BANGLADESH 2015



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# Year in Review: Bangladesh 2015

2015 has significant key milestones and will remain a remarkable mark for the history of Bangladesh economy. It was a year of major milestones, emerging trends, and new beginnings for the economy. Bangladesh's growth is going to be the third highest in the world in 2016, exceeding China's. This year Bangladesh migrated from Lower Income Country list to Lower Middle Income Country. Bangladesh has been ranked 99<sup>th</sup> among 124 countries in the global Human Capital Index 2015 based on development and deployment of human capital, which is higher compared to its neighboring country India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan. Bangladesh economy is ranked 44<sup>th</sup> as superscript globally as per the GDP based on current prices of 2015, Bangladesh's GDP size now stands at \$205.3 billion on the basis of current prices, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is set to record 6.8% in the year. Besides these global achievements, several national landmark such as inauguration of Padma Bridge, Nuclear Power Plant, Govt. pay scale fixation, Metro Rail, Dhaka-Chittagong four lane highway and Bangabandhu Satellite-1 project inauguration have made the year 2015 a unique one.

Bangladesh government projected 7.0% plus economic growth rate while both International Monetary Fund (6.8 per cent) and Asian Development Bank (6.7 per cent) have revised their growth forecasts. High expectation from export growth, remittance inflow and stable political situation will actually drive the economy faster than expected. Last calendar year was marked with many significant economic incidents that changed Bangladesh's course of history forever. Let's recall some of the economic incidents that happened in 2015 and lift the Bangladesh economy on top.

## GDP

GDP Growth (%)			
2015		2016	
ADO 2015	Update	ADO 2015	Update
6.1	6.5	6.4	6.7

*Source: Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2015*

The government targeted a 7.0 percent growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in its national budget for FY 2015-16. The actual GDP growth was, however, 6.5 percent in FY 2015, even though it was 0.4 percent higher than the previous year. The trend is expected to continue in the new year

with the World Bank forecasting growth of 6.7 percent for fiscal 2015-16.

## Middle Income Country

Bangladesh has become a Lower-Middle Income Country from Lower Income Country. Three more countries - Kenya, Myanmar and Tajikistan - also graduated to LMIC category along with Bangladesh. This achievement is considered as a huge success for Bangladesh as it remained a low income country for decades.

## Padma Bridge



Starting of the works of Padma Bridge is a remarkable milestone of 2015 for Bangladesh Economy. The Padma Bridge alone will boost achieve the country three percent more GDP, resulting an aggregate 10% growth of the economy. The 6.15-km Padma Bridge is going to be country's largest infrastructure.

## Power Sector

The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) has signed an agreement for constructing two power plants of 1200 MW each in last calendar year, each costing \$12.65 billion, with Atomstroyexport of the Russian Federation to build the country's first nuclear power plant at Pabna's Rooppur. The government expects to activate the first unit of the plant by 2021.

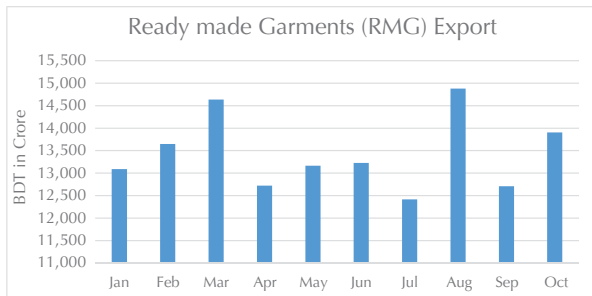
This year government has signed a USD 177 million additional financing agreement with the World Bank to complete the ongoing construction of a 335 Megawatt combined cycle power plant at Siddhirganj, near Dhaka. The plant that will start commercial operation in 2016 will account for 6 percent of the total electricity delivered to the national grid.

Besides, Bangladesh and India also readied a high-voltage transmission line to facilitate import of 100 MW of electricity from the Palatana power plant in the Indian state of Tripura.

In the next five years, the government plans to add 12,863 MW more capacity, 40% of which will come from the private sector.

## RMG

The year 2015 saw the garment sector logged in its highest ever export earnings. Between January and November, garment exports raked in \$26.26 billion, which is already the highest figure recorded by the sector at any given time. BGMEA in an apparel summit in Dhaka in December 2014 decided to hit the \$50-billion export target by 2021.



## Transportation

Dhaka-Chittagong highway is the life line of country's economy. It is being elevated to four-lane. The Chittagong port and Mongla port are being upgraded. Paira sea port in Patuakhali's Kalapara inaugurated by the Prime Minister recently. These, among others, indicated the governments will for developments. Moreover, Joydevpur-Mymensingh 4-lane highway, Joydevpur-Elenga 4-lane highway, Airport-Gazipur Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, Moghbazar-Malibagh-Mouchak flyover, and Dhaka Elevated Expressway are going on at a snail's pace of 2015.

## Dhaka metro rail project

Metro rail is another big project for Bangladesh Economy which is a prime issues for reducing the huge congestion at Dhaka city. As of May 2015, soil testing for the line was nearly complete, with construction for the first and second sections planned to begin in November 2016 and July 2017, respectively, for planned public operation by the end of 2019. Govt. plans to launch the service initially on the 10km stretch between Uttara and Agargaon, part of the 20km line that goes as far as Motijheel. This \$2.5 billion project is aimed at easing traffic congestion in the capital city through an improved, faster, comfortable and time-bound public transportation service. As per plan a total of 24 such trains would carry 60,000 passengers every hour and it will take just 38 minutes to reach at Uttara from Motijheel. This will not only save time, but also reduce fuel cost, increase work efficiency and minimize traffic on the road. It is expected that the first phase of construction of the metro railway would be

finished by the December 2019, while the whole project would be completed by 2024.

## Seventh five-year development plan (SFYP)

Adoption of the seventh five-year development plan (FYP) was one of the significant steps for the country's development process in 2015.

The government approved the 7<sup>th</sup> FYP in October last year, taking a challenge of creating some 12.9 million fresh jobs in next five years. The government has set target to cut the poverty rate to 23.5% of its total population in FY 2016, 22.3% in FY 2017, 21% in FY 2018, 19.8% in FY 2019 and 18.6% in FY 2020 in the 7<sup>th</sup> FYP. The development plan has targeted to increase the investment-GDP ratio to 34.4 per cent from the current nearly 28.97%.

## Govt. Employee Salary Pay Scale

The new basic pay will have retrospective effect from July 1, 2015 entitling nearly 1.3 million public servants, excluding corporation and autonomous bodies, to the payment of arrears. In the highest grade, basic salary will rise by 95% to stand at Tk 78,000 (fixed) and in the lowest grade by 101% to become Tk 8,250. Public servants will get 20 percent of their basic salary as an extra bonus for the Bangla New Year in addition to other festival bonuses. The new structure has dropped the class categories, selection grade, and time scale. This effort will encourage the government officials.

## Bangabandhu-1 Satellite

The BDT 32.48bn Development Project Proposal (DPP) for Bangabandhu 1, the first satellite of Bangladesh, is ready for being placed before the highest economic policymaking body of the country. The project is expected to end on June 30, 2016.

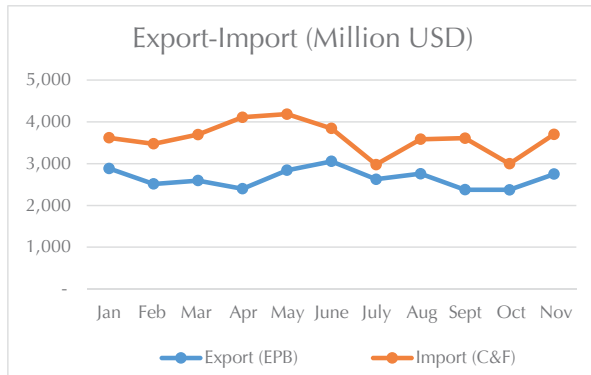
Bangladesh is frequently exposed to natural disaster. Telecommunication system in Bangladesh has been suffering from interruptions and problems as erratic disasters hit the country. Satellite network can play an important role in ensuring uninterrupted telecommunication services in Bangladesh. Satellite network would be more effective in ensuring high-level of communication redundancy than the terrestrial network. Besides, by having an own satellite network, Bangladesh can save a significant amount of foreign currency paid as the transponder rental charge.

## Fuel Price

Global oil prices have fallen sharply over the past seven months. With prices as low as \$35 a barrel,

Bangladesh is saving a huge amount in imports. It now does not have to subsidise it rather counts profits.

## Exports and Imports



During FY 2015, exports grew by only 3.4 percent against the target of 10 percent. From July to November 2015, export growth was at 6.7 percent, mainly driven by higher exports of readymade garments (RMG) that picked up recently.

The growth has been propelled mainly by robust export of woven, knitwear and pharmaceutical products. It was the highest export revenue in the first six months of the 2015-16 fiscal. In the last month of 2015, the country's export earnings were 7.3 percent more than what was targeted. It was 12.66 percent more than the earning of December, 2014.

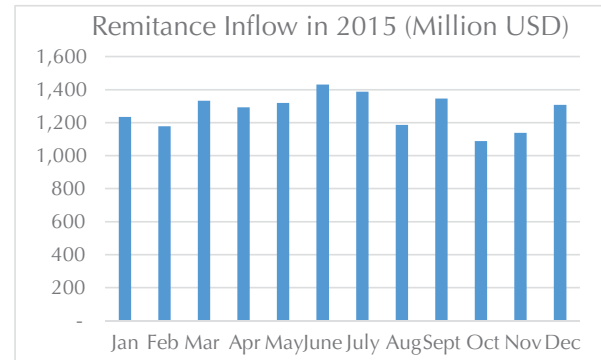
The country's earnings from merchandise exports grew by 6.71 per cent to USD 12.87 billion in the first five months of the current fiscal year 2015-16 compared to that of last fiscal. Earnings from knitwear items rose by 4.78 per cent to USD 5.23 billion during the July-November period of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of FY '15.

In the 2014-15 fiscal, Bangladesh's exports stood at \$31.2 billion, up by 3.35 percent from the previous fiscal's figures. Between the ongoing fiscal's July and November, Bangladesh earned \$12.88 billion from exports, up by 6.71 percent over the same period in the 2014-15 fiscal.

## Remittance

Remittance inflow registered a positive growth in the 2015 comparing to previous year. In 2014 remittance inflow was USD 14.81 billion which has increased by 2.94% to USD 15.24 billion in 2015. According to Bangladesh Bank updates, the country received \$7.399 billion from July to December in 2015. The amount was lower by 0.6 percent than the same period in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The remittance in the 2015-16 fiscal year is expected to

be \$16 billion. The amount was \$15.32 billion in 2014-15, and \$14.23 billion in 2013-14.



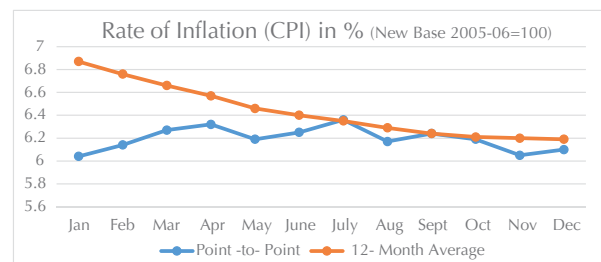
## Budget

Budget for FY 2015-2016 that the government of Bangladesh passed this year crossed all previous budget in the history of the country. The budget was approved at BDT 2.95 trillion.

BUDGET 2015-16 AT A GLANCE	BDT in Crore
Revenues	2,08,443
Expenditure	2,95,100
Overall Deficit	86,657
Non-Development Expenditure	1,84,559
Development Expenditure	1,02,559
Annual Development Programme	97,000

## Inflation

One of the significant achievements has been a consistent decline in the inflation rate. On a point-to-point basis, inflation came down to 6.05 percent in November from 6.19 percent in October. In the last one year, from December 2014 to November 2015, average inflation clocked at 6.2 percent, down from 7.1 percent during the previous year.



## Enclave / Chitmahal

Last year (2015) was the moment around 52,000 inhabitants of 162 enclaves inside Bangladesh and India got the taste of freedom for the first time in 68 years, officially becoming citizens either of the two countries. It was also the moment when the tiny pockets of land -- or enclaves -- in each other's territories got merged with the respective countries.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Bangladesh Receives Award for School Banking



Bangladesh has won the Child and Youth Finance International (CYFI) Country Award 2015 from Asia and the Pacific

region, leaving India and Fiji behind, for massive financial inclusion activities, particularly in the area of school banking. The award was officially handed over by Valerie Georgina Howarth, Baroness Howarth of Breckland, OBE, a renowned British politician and member of the House of Lords, at the 4th Annual CYFI Awards Ceremony, held at the House of Lords in London on 10 December 2015. On behalf of Bangladesh Bank, Executive Director Md. Abdur Rahim received the award. This is another milestone achievement for Bangladesh branding her as a role model for financial inclusion, Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman told. While conferring the award, Lady Howarth highly appreciated Bangladesh's success towards embracing nearly one million school students into the formal financial system with significant deposit size. Launched in 2010 with a circular from Bangladesh Bank, school banking has emerged as one of the core components of the financial inclusion programs. Students can now open bank accounts with initial deposits of only Taka 100 (USD 1.25) with no charges/fees applicable on such accounts. More than 900 thousand such accounts have been opened so far with total deposits of around USD 90 million. Even working Street Children have also been brought into the net of formal financial system in 2014.

### Banking Fair, 2015

## Bangladesh Bank organizes fair to build a banking nation



Bangladesh Bank (BB), the country's central bank, has organized 'Banking Fair Bangladesh

2015' for the first time aiming to build a banking nation. The first ever Banking Fair in Bangladesh was held from 24-28 November, 2015. Bangladesh

Bank had organized the event. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman inaugurated the fair at Bangla Academy on 24 November. One of the objectives of the fair was "To Build a Banking Nation". The central bank of Bangladesh is organizing the fair in cooperation with all banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) and mobile financial service providers to offer excellent opportunities for all, including the potential banking customers, students, and the working people of the society to learn about available banking products and services in a single platform. All participating institutions, including the BB will have stalls to showcase their products and services during five-day long fair.

### BB adds 3 green financing products



Bangladesh Bank has included three more products into its green banking refinancing scheme, which was initiated five years ago, following the expansion of environment-friendly activities in

the country. The products include central effluent treatment plant, waste heat recovery system and used lead acid battery recycling plant, said a Bangladesh bank circular issued. Currently, a total of 47 products are being facilitated in 10 sectors under the programme. The credit limit is set at Tk15 crore for central effluent treatment plant, Tk5 crore each for waste heat recovery system and used lead acid battery recycling plant. The interest rate will be highest 9% for each product with one year grace period.

### BB raises NBFIs directors' honorarium to BDT 8,000 a meeting

Bangladesh Bank recently raised the 'honorarium' for the directors of non-bank financial institutions for attending a meeting of the board of directors to BDT 8,000 from BDT 5,000. The central bank, however, set a limit of five meetings for which the directors would get the honorarium. The BB issued a circular to managing directors and chief executive officers of all NBFIs saying that the new rate of honorarium of BDT 8,000 for each meeting would be effective immediately. The central bank earlier set BDT 5,000-honorarium for the directors on February 24, 2010. As per the BB circular, the directors would get honorarium for two board meetings, two executive committee meetings and one audit committee meeting in a month. BB asked the NBFIs to hold meetings of the directors in the

city where the headquarters of a NBF is situated. But, NBFs may sometimes allow meetings outside the city on special consideration. The NRBs, however, will be allowed to get such type of facility for attending the board meetings of the NBFs four times in a year.

## BB signs deal with six banks for long-term financing



Bangladesh Bank recently signed separate agreements with six more banks for long-term financing under its Financial Sector Support Project, supported by the World Bank. The banks are: Eastern Bank, United

Commercial Bank, Dhaka Bank, Bank Asia, Social Islami Bank and EXIM Bank. Under the agreements, the six banks would get financial support from BB's USD 350 million Financial Sector Support Project for long-term financing to help expedite investment. Governor Atiur Rahman and the high officials of BB, the World Bank and the banks concerned attended the programme. Earlier in November, BB signed similar agreements with four banks—Mutual Trust Bank, One Bank, Prime Bank and Al-Arafa Bank—to provide necessary financing for long-term investment.

## BB set to review interest rate on FSSP Fund

The central bank is set to review the interest rate on fund under its ongoing Financial Sector Support Project (FSSP) in January next. Country's senior bankers urged the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to reduce the interest rate on the FSSP Fund at six-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 2.0 per cent from the existing level. They made the call at a signing ceremony on the participatory agreement between the BB and six commercial banks held at the central bank headquarters in Dhaka recently. The managing directors and chief executive officers (CEOs) of different commercial banks urged the BB governor to re-fix the interest rate on the FSSP Fund, taking the global interest rate situation into account.

## Creative IT gets Bangladesh Bank accreditation



Creative IT Limited has received accreditation certificate from Bangladesh Bank (BB) for creating entrepreneurs and providing bank loans with easy bindings. BB Deputy Governor S.K. Sur Chowdhury formally handed over the certificate to Creative IT

Chairman Md. Monir Hossain at ceremony held at the Bangladesh Bank Jahangir Alam Conference hall. Bangladesh Bank Executive Director Md. Saiful Islam, General Manager of SME and Special Programs Swapan Kumar Roy were present at the certification ceremony among others. BB will provide financial assistance to entrepreneurs through 37 banks in the country. But to get this entrepreneurial loan, training has been made mandatory for the intending entrepreneurs. Creative IT Chairman Md. Monir Hossain said by obtaining this accreditation certificate, it will be easier to create new entrepreneurs. He also said, in terms of creating entrepreneurs in the country, the biggest problem is financial constraint.

## Student account opening: BB asks banks to set annual targets



Bangladesh Bank has asked scheduled banks to set annual targets of opening of accounts for students in a bid to speed up the school banking programme.

The BB issued a circular to the managing directors and chief executive officers of all banks asking them to set the targets by every December for the next year. The central bank asked the banks to place it in the annual target reports signed by MDs and CEOs of the respective banks by every December. The BB asked the banks to start financial literacy programmes among the students of school, college, vocational educational institution and madrassah to educate them about the financial system. The branches of the banks will conduct the financial literacy programmes in their respective areas. The banks will have to distribute leaflets, booklets, brochures among the students and show the power presentation on the banking system as part of their financial literacy programmes. The banks will have to take the initiatives from January 2016 and they will place reports in this regard to the central bank on quarterly basis.

## BB now asks banks to report bi-weekly on stock operations



The central bank has relaxed its reporting requirement on capital market activities of banks to facilitate the stock market, officials said. Under the revised

provisions, the banks will be allowed to submit their consolidated reports on two-week capital market activities instead of the existing weekly basis to the



Department of Off-site Supervision (DOS) of the Bangladesh Bank (BB). The central bank sent a revised reporting format to the banks in this connection. The report must be submitted on every alternative within 5:00 pm to the DOS in line with the revised reporting format, a BB senior official told.

## BB Governor asks FIs to stand beside the chill stricken poor



Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman recently called upon the Financial Institutions (FIs) to stand beside the

chill stricken poor. The governor urged the FIs as well as the rich people of the country to provide winter clothes and blankets among the chill stricken poor. "The whole country is shivering in the bittering cold. In the mean time, the entire country along with the northern part is experiencing unbearable chill", said the governor. The meteorology department has already warned of worsening chilly wind along with shivering winter in the coming days. Each year the newspapers headline the affliction of low income people of the North Bengal,

char basin area, haor, and flood prone areas lacking of winter clothes, said Atiur Rahman. He expected that this year also the banks and financial institutions would extend their helping hands to the chill stricken poor providing winter clothes and blankets under corporate social responsibility (CSR).

## BB asks banks not to impose extra charge for ATM transactions

Bangladesh Bank recently asked scheduled banks not to impose extra charge on the clients for inter-bank transactions through the automated teller machine. The BB also asked the banks to take initiative not to impose any charge on the clients for their settlement through Point of Sale as the central bank has recently found allegations that some merchant points (business enterprises which use PoS to settle transaction of the clients) imposed charge along with the value of the purchased products violating the rules and regulations. The BB issued a circular to managing directors and chief executive officers of all banks asking them to take immediate measures to stop the extra charge imposing on the ATM and PoS transactions. The BB earlier set the charge at BDT 15 for each inter-bank transaction for clients through ATM under its National Payment Switch.

# MTB

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Meghna Bank Securities Ltd was inaugurated



Among the new Banks, Meghna Bank first time started its subsidiary company for securities

trading on November 22, 2015 at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Honorable Vice Chairman of the Bank Mr. Abdul Alim Khan Salim attended the function as chief guest while Mr. Md. Ali Azim Khan, Honour director of the bank attended as special guest. Managing Director & CEO of the Bank Mr. Mohammed Nurul Amin presided over the inaugurating ceremony. Additional Managing Director of Meghna Bank Mr. Md. Mohashin Miah and other high officials were also present here.

### SME lending records 14pc rise to over BDT 819b in nine months

Overall lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) grew nearly 14 per cent in the first nine months of the current calendar year following the strengthening of monitoring and supervision by the central bank. Scheduled banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) all together disbursed BDT 819.54 billion in the January-September period of 2015. The amount was BDT 721.29 billion in the same period of the previous year. The loans flowed to more than 130 SME sub-sectors such as light engineering, handicraft, flower, fish processing, handloom, rice-mill, jamdani, Rajshahi silk, khadi, biogas, and compost fertiliser. During the January-September period, the banks and NBFIs disbursed SME loans to 6109 women entrepreneurs across the country in line with the BB advice. The central bank earlier asked all banks and NBFIs to provide minimum BDT 50,000 as loan from their each branch to at least one female entrepreneur by the end of this year.

### DBBL opens agent banking procedure at Elephant road



Recently, Dutch Bangla Bank started its agent banking procedures inaugurated at Sami Digital Business center at

Taher Plaza, Quadrat-E-Khuda Road, Hatirpul. The

Deputy Managing Director of Dutch Bangla bank Ltd Mr. Abul Kashem Md. Shirin was present as chief guest in the opening function of the agent banking activities of Dutch Bangla Bank. As special guest Mr. Md. Abul Kashem Khan, Head of financial inclusion division, Dutch Bangla Bank and Md. Firoz Kabir Head of agent Banking Dutch Bangla Bank were present. In the function Md. Asaduzzaman Regional Manager Dutch Bangla Bank of Dhaka North, Mr. Abu Rashid Branch Manager Elephant Road, Mr. Md. Ajar Ali, Sami Digital Business center owner were present also.

### SCB Bangladesh wins prestigious "Bank of the Year" award



Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh has been awarded the prestigious "Bank of the Year" award at The Banker Awards 2015. The award was handed over to Bitopi Das Chowdhury,

Country Head of Corporate Affairs, and Standard Chartered Bangladesh at a grand gala dinner program held recently in London. Standard Chartered Bangladesh has won this prestigious award 5 times since 2010. Standard Chartered Bank is the largest international bank in Bangladesh with 26 Branches & Booths and 86 ATMs; employing over 2,000 people. This Bank is the only foreign bank in the country with presence in 6 cities – Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Bogra and Narayanganj. Standard Chartered Bangladesh is also the premier destination for corporate and institutional clients for their financial needs.

### FSIBL SureCash Mobile Banking Services launched at city school

Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School has recently signed an agreement to use FSIBL FirstPay SureCash mobile banking services. Under this agreement, parents of 4,500 students will be able to pay their school fees and other dues from home using their own mobile phones. Headmaster of the school Mostafa Kamal, First Security Islami Bank Motijheel Branch Operation Manager Mohammad Mostafa and SureCash Manager Md Shafiqul Islam signed the agreement in presence of school governing body president KM Abdul Wadood (GM, Bangladesh Bank) and governing body members Ashraf Islam and Munsur Ali. Abdul Wadood said that Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School is now starting a complete digital payment system using

SureCash platform. Using this system, a customer can send money all over the country, can make various payments such as education fees, utility bills, and online purchases, recharge mobile balance and receive personal remittance using own phone.

## DBBL inks deal with MIST



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) signed an agreement with Military Institute of Science and

Technology (MIST) in the city. Under the agreement students of MIST can make their admission fees through DBBL Nexus Gateway by using DBBL Nexus Debit Card, DBBL Mobile Banking Account, MasterCard and Visa card. Colonel Gazi Md Ahsanuzzaman, Director Administration, MIST and Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Deputy Managing Director, DBBL signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. This initiative will make the payment of students and guardians of MIST easy and convenient as they can pay their admission fees from any part of the country or anywhere of the world sitting at their home or office. Major General Md. Abdul Quadir, Commandant of MIST, Sayem Ahmed, Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank, KS Tabrez, Managing Director of DBBL and other senior executives from both the organisations were also present on the occasion.

## RAKUB to expedite remittance collection, transfer activities

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) and Xpress Money Services Limited recently jointly inaugurated a three-day road show and awareness campaign in order to enhance the foreign remittance collection and transfer activities. The launching ceremony was held on RAKUB Head Office premises with participation of high officials and others concerned of both the organisations. RAKUB Managing Director Monzur Ahmed, General Manager (Operations) Reaz Uddin Miah, General Manager (Administration) Abdul Latif, Deputy General Manager (Foreign Remittance) Jahangir Hossain Pramanik and Jakaria Mahmud and Abu Bashir Ansary from Xpress Money Services Limited spoke on the occasion. For the first time in its history, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has launched money transfer services early last month for quick transferring of remittances to the

beneficiaries. Now, the specialised bank is operating the modern services through all its 378 branches in 16 districts under Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in association with Xpress Money Services Ltd and International Money Express (IME).

## Logo Unveiling of First Security Islami Bank Science Olympiad- 2016



Logo of First Security Islami Bank Science Olympiad-

2016 is unveiled on 14 December 2015. On the logo unveiling program Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President, Bangladesh Academy of Science, Mr. Syed Waseque Md. Ali, Managing Director, Mr. Quazi Osman Ali, Additional Managing Director, Mr. Md. Mustafa Khair, Deputy Managing Director, First Security Islami Bank Limited, Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman of ATN Bangla & ATN News, Mr. Abul Khair Chowdhury, General Manager, Marketing, Daily Samakal, Mr. ASM Shahidullah Khan, Chairman, Editorial Board, Daily New Age, Mr. Mahmood Menon Khan, Head of News, Bangla News 24 Dot Com, Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Sabbir, Producer & Presenter, Radio Bhumi were given speech.

## BRAC Bank,TVS Auto ink MoU



BRAC Bank Limited and TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited have inked a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently in BRAC Bank Head Office for financing industry's first "Motorcycle Loan" to the customers of TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited. Through this MoU, the clients referred by TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited can now enjoy special privileges in "Motorcycle Loan" from BRAC Bank Limited while purchasing TVS Motorcycles and Scooters from TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited. On the other hand, TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited will also provide special facilities for BRAC Bank's customers and employees in purchasing TVS Branded Motorcycles and Scooters. Mr. Firoz Ahmed Khan, Head of Retail Banking, BRAC Bank Limited, and Mr. Biplob Kumar Roy, Head of Business-2 Wheeler, TVS Auto Bangladesh Limited, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Other senior officials of both the organizations were present on the occasion.

## Premier Bank signs agreement with Dhaka WASA



The Premier Bank Ltd has signed an agreement with Dhaka WASA on Real Time Online

Bill Collection Agreement (Renewal) on December 06, at WASA Bhaban, Dhaka. Dewan Anwarul Latif, Deputy Managing Director- Business of Premier Bank and SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director- Operation & Maintenance of Dhaka WASA has signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Sayed Golam Ahammad, FCMA, Deputy Managing Director-Finance and Mohammed Emtiaz Uddin, Senior Vice President & Head of Corporate Banking Division of The Premier Bank along with other senior officials of both the organizations were present on that ceremony. Under this agreement, subscribers of Dhaka WASA can pay their WASA bills through 93 branches of The Premier Bank from anywhere of the country through online service.

## AB Bank signs deal with Runner Motors



AB Bank Limited signed an MOU with Runner Motors Ltd. to facilitate payments and collections. Under

this MOU all the dealers of Runner Motors will be able to make real-time on-line payments through any AB Bank branches. President and Managing Director of AB Bank Limited, Mr. Shamim Ahmed Chaudhury and Chairman of Runner Group Ltd., Mr. Hafizur Rahman Khan signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations. Senior Executives of both the Bank and Runner Motors were present at the ceremony.

## StanChart signs deal with Jet Airways



Standard Chartered Bank, the leading international bank in Bangladesh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jet Airways, a

premier International Airlines recently. Under the MoU Jet Airways will provide 10 percent discounts on selected destinations to all Standard Chartered credit and debit cardholders. While speaking, Aditya Mandloi, Head of Retail Banking, Standard Chartered Bank said, "We are very proud to be

associated with Jet Airways. At Standard Chartered we constantly endeavour to create new value proposition for our customers. This deal is another landmark of our commitment towards well being of our customers."

## Eastern Bank Limited and Etihad Airways Bangladesh, exchange documents after signing an agreement



M Nazeem A. Choudhury, Head of Consumer Banking of Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) and Hanif Zakaria, General Manager, Etihad Airways Bangladesh,

exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. M Khorshed Anwar, Head of Direct Business of EBL and Al Mahmood Shamimuzzaman, Airport Manager of Etihad Airways, were also present.

## Social Islami Bank opened an Ez Banking booth at Mouchak



Chairman of Social Islami Bank Major Dr Md Rezaul Haque (Retd) formally opened an Ez Banking booth at Mouchak Branch of the bank recently.

Among others, Board Audit Committee Chairman of SIBL Md Abdur Rahman, Deputy Managing Director AMM Farhad and other senior executives of the bank were present.

## SIBL donates blankets for ex-enclave people



Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman recently inaugurated different sort of CSR activities for former enclave

people at Khagrabari, Debigonj in Panchagarh, participated by different Banks. At that time Dr. Atiur Rahman handed over a sample of Blanket to an Enclave People donated by Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited. Among others M Mushfiqur Rahman SEVP and Head of Retail, SME, Agri. and Liability Marketing Division of Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited, M Mahfuzur Rahman Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, AFM Asaduzzaman General Manager of Bangladesh Bank and other senior officials of Bangladesh Bank and Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. were also present on the occasion.

## City Bank helps ex-enclave dwellers



City Bank under supervision of Bangladesh Bank extended its hands to former enclaves' dwellers in Lalmonirhat district to support them in

health care, education, vocational training and other areas for better living. City Bank will install sanitary latrines and supply corrugated tins and benches to a school there. Recently Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr. Atiur Rahman handed over the token to the beneficiaries of City Bank CSR initiative at a former enclave. Faruq M Ahmed, Additional Managing Director of City Bank was present there along with other government and local representatives.

## SJIBL donates CSR funds



Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited donated financial support to a number of institutions as part of Banks' CSR activities. The

Managing Director of the Bank Mr. Farman R Chowdhury handed over cheque in a formal ceremony to six beneficiary institutions. Among others the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors Alhaj Mohammad Yunus was present. Shahjalal Islami Bank Foundation donated BDT 5 Lac to Bahadurpur Rahmania Technical School and Business Management Collage, BDT 5 Lac to Gousia Sunniya Hafezia Madrasa, BDT 2 Lac to Old Rajshahi Cadets Association, BDT 6 Lac to Zalalia Hafezia Madrasa in order to renovate hostel, BDT 3 Lac to Naraibag Islamia Madrasa to bear students expenses and to build building and BDT 50 thousand to Gazaria Zamia Farukia Rawzatul Ulium as part of the Banks' CSR activities.

## EXIM Bank donated 25 thousand pieces of blankets to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund



EXIM Bank donated 25 thousand pieces of blankets to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina is receiving one of its samples from the Chairman

of EXIM Bank, Md. Nazrul Islam Mazumder in a programme at Ganabhaban while Director of the Bank Alhaz Nurul Amin Faruq also seen.

## AB Bank donated 25 thousand pieces of blankets to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund



AB Bank donated 25 thousand pieces of blankets to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received sample blanket from M.

Wahidul Haque, Chairman of AB Bank Limited at Ganabhaban recently while Vice Chairman of the Bank Salim Ahmed was also present.

## City Bank and American Express have announced the launch of the City Bank American Express Gift Card



City Bank and American Express have announced the launch of the City Bank American Express Gift Card with f i x e d

denominations available across all City Bank branches and City Bank customer centers. This Gift Card can be used as an alternative to traditional merchandise-based gift giving on special occasions like birthday, anniversaries, promotions and so on. Rubel Aziz, Chairman of City Bank introduced the City Bank American Express Gift Card at a grand event for its card-members. Also, present were Deen Mohammad, Director and Sohail R. K. Hussain, MD & CEO of City Bank Ltd. High officials of MDB were also present in the ceremony.

## EBL Skybanking' launched



Eastern Bank Ltd. (EBL) launched a m o b i l e application for banking services named 'EBL Skybanking'. Bank's clients

can install the application in their smart phone and can carry out fund transfer, bills payment, ATM and branch locations and various customer benefit programs. EBL Managing Director and CEO Ali Reza Iftekhar launched the application at a simple ceremony held at a city hotel in Dhaka. EBL Customers and non-EBL Customers both can install the mobile application. Non-EBL users can access all features of the app except 'Banking' Bills Pay' and 'Fund Transfer' without any user ID and password.

## MTB DONATES 20,000 BLANKETS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND



Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) Vice Chairman M. A. Rouf, JP, along with MTB Director Md. Abdul Malek are seen handing over a blanket to Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh at a simple ceremony, held at Gana Bhaban in Dhaka recently.

MTB has donated 20,000 blankets to the PM's relief fund.

Venue : Gana Bhaban, Dhaka 1207

Date : December 09, 2015

## BANGLADESH BANK RECOGNIZES MTB'S CONTRIBUTION FOR PROMOTING SCHOOL BANKING

Bangladesh Bank has appreciated the school banking program of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd (MTB).

Md. Hashem Chowdhury, Additional Managing Director & COO of MTB received a Letter of Appreciation from Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank at a ceremony held recently at the Bangladesh Bank Training Academy in Mirpur, Dhaka.

S.K. Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank, M. Mahfuzur Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank, senior officials of different banks and students of different schools were also present at the event.



Venue : Bangladesh Bank Training Academy, Dhaka 1216

Date : October 31, 2015

## MTB PARTICIPATES IN THE FIRST EVER BANKING FAIR IN BANGLADESH



Mutual Trust Bank Ltd participated in the first ever Banking Fair in Bangladesh organized by Bangladesh Bank.

Venue : Bangla Academy, Dhaka 1000

Date : November 24, 2015

## MTB PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RESIDENTS OF FORMER ENCLAVES AT PANCHAGARH



The people of former enclaves in Panchagarh district received BDT 2.0 million from MTB as financial support under the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) program for improving their lifestyle.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman recently inaugurated several CSR activities for former enclave people at Panchagarh. Among others, Md. Hashem Chowdhury, MTB Additional Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer and Azad Shamsi, Head of MTB Other Division Branches were also present on the occasion.

Venue : Garati, Panchagarh 5000  
Date : October 25, 2015

## INAUGURATION OF RELOCATED MTB DILKUSHA BRANCH



MTB recently opened its relocated Dilkusha Branch at its new premises at Hotel Purbani International Limited, Dilkusha, Dhaka. Mahboobur Rahman Jainal, Managing Director, Hotel Purbani International Limited inaugurated the branch as the Chief Guest, at a simple ceremony held at the Dilkusha Hall of Hotel Purbani International Limited.

Rashed A. Chowdhury, Chairman, MTB, graced the occasion as the Special Guest. MTB Vice Chairman, M. A. Rouf, JP, MTB Managing Director and CEO, Anis A. Khan, Additional Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, Md. Hashem Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director Md. Zakir Hussain, and Syed Rafiqul Haq, the bank's existing and prospective customers, local elite, representatives from media, managers of nearby MTB branches and people from different strata also attended the program.

Venue : Hotel Purbani International Ltd., Dilkusha, Dhaka 1000  
Date : November 29, 2015

## MTB SIGNS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH BANK FOR USD LONG TERM FINANCING



Venue : Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka 1000  
Date : November 19, 2015

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has signed a Participation Agreement with Bangladesh Bank for USD Long Term Financing Facility under the Financial Sector Support Project (FSSP), which is assisted by the World Bank.

Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Mr. Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor, Ms. Nazneen Sultana, Deputy Governor, Mr. Md. Ahsan Ullah, Executive Director, Mr. Joarder Israil Hossain, General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Mr. Md. Hashem Chowdhury, Additional Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Syed Rafiqul Haq, Deputy Managing Director, MTB along with other top officials from Bangladesh Bank, MTB and officials of three other banks were present on the occasion.

## MTB CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, DIRECTOR AND MD & CEO VISITED MTB DUMNI BRANCH



MTB Chairman, Rashed A. Chowdhury, Vice Chairman M. A. Rouf, JP, along with MTB Director Md. Wakiluddin and MTB Managing Director and CEO Anis A. Khan visited MTB Dumni branch recently.

Venue: MTB Dumni Branch, Khilkhet, Dhaka 1229  
Date: December 02, 2015

## WORKSHOP ON 'ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM'



Venue : Silverspoons, Agrabad, Chittagong 4000  
Date : November 28, 2015

## WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED SUPERVISION SYSTEM (ISS) REPORTING TO BANGLADESH BANK



Venue : MTB Training Institute, Tejgaon, Dhaka 1208  
Date : November 28, 2015



## WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION OF FRAUDS AND FORGERIES IN BANKS



Venue : Hotel Silverspoon, Agrabad, Chittagong 4000  
Date : November 27, 2015



Venue : MTB Training Institute, Tejgaon, Dhaka 1208  
Date : November 21, 2015

## INDUCTION CEREMONY OF MTB MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (MMT) BATCH 2015



Venue : MTB Centre, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212  
Date : December 21, 2015



## MTB SCHOOL BANKING CAMPAIGN 2015



School Name : Satkania Model High School  
Venue : School premises  
Organizer : MTB Kerani Hat Branch, Satkania, Chittagong 4386  
Date : November 26, 2015



School Name : Ramchandrapur Sonamia Mollah Madrasa  
Venue : Madrasa premises  
Organizer : MTB Ramchandrapur Bazar SME/Agri Branch, Muradnagar, Comilla 3540  
Date : November 02, 2015

# NATIONAL NEWS

## USD 89.7b remittance earned in 7yrs



Of all the credits the present government earned in terms of fetching foreign currencies

from different heads, remittance income stands out as one of the top scorers over the period between 2009 and 2015. As many as 33,67,523 Bangladeshi workers went abroad since 2009 sent as high as 89,7 billion million US dollar as remittance, thus contributing considerably into the national economy to lead Bangladesh towards becoming a middle-income country before 2021. The total number of Bangladeshi workers going abroad this year will be over five lakhs till December 31, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam, told. The minister said the government quite successfully pursued its labour diplomacy, sending Bangladeshi workers to 160 countries and earned 89.7 billion US Dollars as remittance from 2009 to October 2015. The present government is sending Bangladeshi job seekers to a total of 160 countries up from only 97 countries during the past four-party alliance government.

## Export earnings up by 6.71pc



The country's earnings from merchandise exports grew by 6.71 per cent to USD 12.87 billion in the first five months of the current fiscal year

2015-16 compared to that of last fiscal. According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, total export earnings were recorded at USD 12.07 billion during the July-November period of FY 2014-15. Single-month earnings in November 2015 stood at USD 2.74 billion, showing a 13.73 per cent rise. It also surpassed the target set for the month by 16.70 per cent. Of the total earnings, exports of woven garments in the first five months of FY '16 fetched USD 5.22 billion, an 11.35 per cent rise over the matching period of last fiscal. Export earnings up by 6.71pc. Earnings from knitwear items rose by 4.78 per cent to USD 5.23 billion during the July-November period of the current fiscal year

compared to the corresponding period of FY '15. Earnings from knitwear products during the last July-November period were up by 2.68 per cent from the strategic target set earlier by the government, according to the EPB data. Among major exportable products, jute and jute goods fetched USD 358.60 million during the July-November period of this fiscal year, a 2.86 per cent increase from that of the corresponding period of last fiscal.

## BD trade confidence highest in 25 nations, finds HSBC

Bangladesh records the highest Trade Confidence (TC) Score in the HSBC's latest TC Survey of 25 countries followed by India and China where survey respondents expressed positive outlook about the country's trade volumes. The survey result also shows that Europe is considered the most promising region for trade with Bangladesh. Moreover, the country's lower costs for logistics and materials and expectation of higher profit margins increased the business confidence. Survey also projected that Bangladesh exports to grow by 10.6 per cent on an average for next three years (2017-2020) due to infrastructure development, currency competitiveness in Europe, and trade liberalisation. HSBC expects that Bangladesh economy will grow by more than 6.5 per cent in current year and in the next year. The growth will be supported by accommodative monetary policy and expansionary fiscal policy, it adds.

## GTCL earns BDT 6.36b revenue in FY14-15



Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) earned BDT 6.36 billion (636.97crore) revenue by transporting 19.64 billion cubic metre gas and 84.1.3 million litre condensate in 2014-2015 fiscal year. It also eared BDT 5.34

billion pre-tax profit and contributed a total of BDT 2.99 billion as Debt Service Liabilities (DSL), dividend and income to the national exchequer. The disclosure was made at the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the company at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital recently. Shareholders and directors of the company were present at the programme. They were apprised of the overall operational activities of GTCL.

## BD, Japan ink largest loan deal of USD 1.1b

The Japanese government will provide USD 1.11 billion (133.265 billion Yen) as soft loan under the



Japan - Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership for implementing six major projects in Bangladesh. The Japanese Embassy in Dhaka and Economic Relations Division (ERD) signed the

largest-ever annual Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan package of Japan for Bangladesh since 1974 at the ERD. Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masato Watanabe and ERD Senior Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin signed the exchange of notes from their respective sides under the 36th ODA of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). JICA Chief Representative Mikio Hataeda and the ERD senior secretary also signed the relevant loan agreement. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe committed to provide up to 600 billion Yen (approximately BDT 400 billion) of additional assistance in the next four-five years for socio-economic development of Bangladesh on the occasion of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan in May 2014. Following the 35th ODA loan package of JPY 120 billion (approximately USD1.0 billion), the 36th loan package was formally agreed upon.

**ADB offers addl USD45m loan for water project**



Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently signed an agreement with the government on additional USD 45 million loan to help expand a water resources management

project in the country's southwest for improving agriculture and fisheries production and livelihoods of residents. The government of the Netherlands will also provide a grant of USD 7 million for the project, to be administered by ADB. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Kazuhiko Higuchi, Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission of ADB, signed the agreements on behalf of Bangladesh and ADB respectively, at a ceremony at ERD, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, here. ADB offers addl USD 45m loan for water project. ADB and the government of the Netherlands had provided USD 20 million and USD 12.5 million for the original project respectively, which was approved in 2005, and has renovated dilapidated infrastructure and established participatory water management planning and management system with livelihood improvement supports.

**Expats remit BDT 798m during Dec 1-18**

The country received BDT 798 million in remittance during the first 18 days of this December, according to the central bank. Bangladesh Bank statistics show four state-owned commercial banks-Agrani, Janata, Rupali and Sonali-received BDT 241.11 million from the expatriate Bangladeshis while four state-owned specialised banks got BDT 8.63 million. The maximum remittance came through private commercial banks as they received BDT 539.91 million while nine foreign banks received only BDT 8.34 million. Among the private commercial banks, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) led the remittance earning receiving BDT 192.29 million, followed by Uttara Bank with BDT 36.64 million. Of the state-owned banks, Agrani Bank received BDT 87.82 million, while Sonali Bank BDT75.70 million, Janata Bank BDT 63.42 million and Rupali Bank 14.17 million.

**FBCCI, FNF ink MoC**



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to hold consultative meetings at national and local levels for

creating a business-friendly environment to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country. FBCCI president Abdul Matlub Ahmad and FNF country representative Dr Nazmul Hossain signed the MoC on behalf of their respective sides. FBCCI and FNF have been working together to enhance capacity building of business organisations by holding meetings, seminars, public-private dialogue, research and publications. The MoC renewed for one more year will continue until December 15, 2016. As per the MoC, FBCCI will hold 16 seminars on economic affairs with the public and private sectors, development of silk industry, arrange two training programmes on information and communication technology and go for a foreign tour during the period.

**Bangladesh signs BDT 1.0m grant aid with KOICA**



A Record of Discussions (RD) was signed between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the

Economic Relations Division (ERD) aiming to support capacity building of Bangladesh National



Museum. Kim Jihoon, country director of KOICA Bangladesh Office, Mohammad Asif-uz-Zaman, additional secretary of ERD, and Md Mashiur Rahman, additional secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs signed the agreement at the ERD conference room on behalf of their respective sides. The main purpose of the agreement is to support capacity building of Bangladesh National Museum through training and supply of conservation equipment under a three-year project titled "Conservation with Advanced Technique for Cultural Heritage (CATCH).

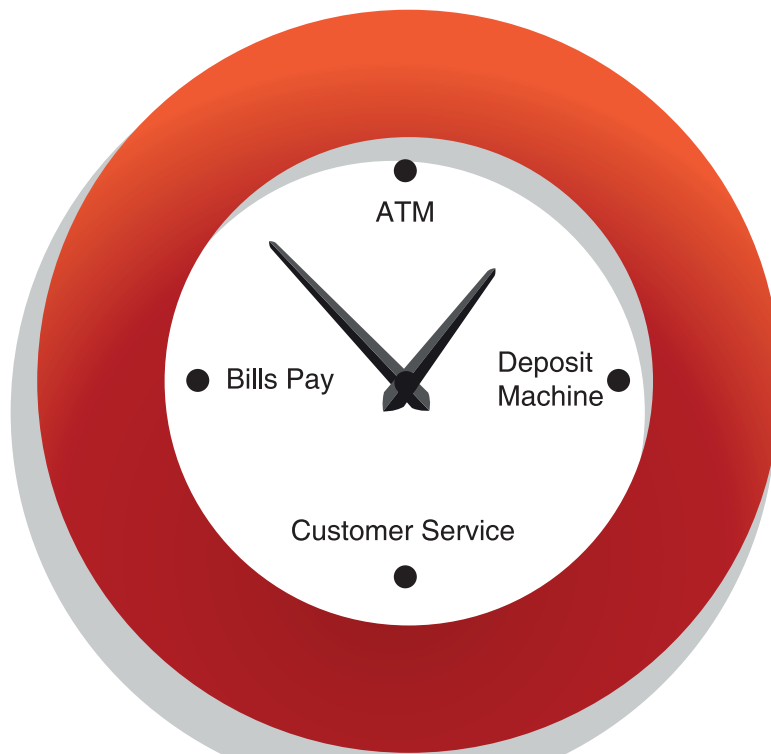
### Investment-GDP ratio rises by 7pc in FY15

The ratio of investment to GDP this year (FY15) rose slightly to 29 per cent compared to the previous year as the share of public investment grew to 6.90 per cent while that of private investment grew to 22.07 per cent. Latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has revealed that the ratio

of investment to GDP in 2013-14 was 28.58 per cent, ratio of private investment to GDP was 22.03 per cent, and ratio of public investment to GDP was 6.55 per cent. However, lead economist of World Bank, Zahid Hussain, said that despite investment having increased slightly this year, overall investment in Bangladesh has been stagnant. The ratio of investment to GDP in 2012-13 fiscal was 28.39 per cent, including 21.75 per cent private investment and 6.64 per cent government investment. Economic Survey figures revealed that the ratio of domestic savings to GDP in FY15 increased to 22.30 per cent, as compared to 22.09 per cent in the previous fiscal FY14. The ratio of investment to GDP has been hovering over 26 per cent in the last couple of years. It was 26.19 per cent in 2007-08, 26.19 per cent in 2008-09, 26.23 per cent in the 2009-10, 27.39 per cent in 2010-11 and 28.26 per cent in 2011-12.

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# NATIONAL NEWS

## Nasim Manzur re-elected MCCI president



Syed Nasim Manzur, Managing Director of Apex Footwear Limited, has been re-elected president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) for 2016. A leading entrepreneur, Syed Nasim Manzur has investments in

Apex Tannery Limited, Apex Pharma Limited, Apex Investments Ltd., and the joint-venture companies Blue Ocean Footwear Ltd., Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd. and Quantum Consumer Solutions Ltd. Currently he is member of the boards of Pioneer Insurance Limited, Guardian Life Insurance Co., International Publications Limited, Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art and Friendship, a non-governmental development organisation, Savar Golf Club, and an independent Director of the Board of Western Marine Shipyard Limited.

## Dhaka Bank gets new MD



Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman has joined Dhaka Bank Limited (DBL) as the Managing Director recently. He has 27 years of experience in banking services and credit related arena. Prior to joining DBL, he was the Managing Director & CEO of

BRAC Bank Limited. Mr. Rahman worked in various roles with some of the biggest names in the financial sector of Bangladesh such as Prime Bank Limited, Citibank NA, Standard Chartered Bank, ANZ Grindlays Bank, IDLC Finance Limited etc. before moving to Brac Bank Limited in 2008.

## NBL gets new DMDs



M A Wadud and Wasif Ali Khan have been promoted to deputy managing directors (DMD) of National Bank Limited (NBL). Prior to

this promotion they were the senior executive vice presidents of National Bank Limited. Mr. Wadud started his banking career with AB Bank Limited in 1984 as probationary officer and held important positions in various capacities before moving to National Bank Limited in 2010. Mr. Wasif started his banking career with National Bank Limited in 1984 as Assistant Officer (Probationary). He was Manager of different branches from 1997 to 2006 and CEO of Gulf Overseas Exchange Company LLC, Oman.

## SJIBL MD re-appointed



Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited (SJIBL) has re-appointed Mr. Farman R Chowdhury as Managing Director & CEO from for the next 3 years for second term. Mr. Chowdhury joined at SJIBL December 1, 2013 as Managing Director & CEO. Prior

to his joining at SJIBL he served ONE Bank as Managing Director for 6 years. Mr. Chowdhury started his banking career in October 1986 as a Management Trainee in American Express Bank and served there for 12 years in various capacities.

## Jalal Ahmed new chairman of Nepal Bangladesh Bank



Jalal Ahmed, director of IFIC Bank Limited and an additional secretary to finance division of the ministry of finance, has been elected the new head of Nepal Bangladesh Bank Ltd. (NBBL), a joint venture of IFIC Bank Ltd. in Nepal. He was elected chairman

during the 21st Annual General Meeting of NBBL held recently at Kathmandu, Nepal. Director Arijit Chowdhury and managing director and CEO of IFIC bank Ltd Shah Alam Sarwar have also been re-elected as members of the board of directors in NBBL. IFIC Bank presently holds 40.91 percent shares in NBBL.

## MasterCard gets new Director



MasterCard has appointed Zakia Sultana Labony as Director, Business Development, MasterCard Bangladesh, with immediate effect. In her new role, Zakia will lead all of MasterCard's Financial Inclusion projects along with new business

opportunities to grow MasterCard's business portfolio in the country. She reports to Syed Mohammad Kamal, Country Manager, MasterCard Bangladesh. Zakia joined MasterCard Bangladesh from Banglalink, the second largest mobile operator in Bangladesh and has been associated with top telcos and banks for over 12 years. She was a management member at both Banglalink and Airtel and amongst the top contributing Project Management Officer (PMO) for Airtel migration from Warid telecom.

## Khaled re-elected as DCCI president



Hossain Khaled has re-elected as president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry for 2016. Khaled is the chairman of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company Ltd and City Brokerage Ltd. He is also the managing director of Anwar Group of Industries, AG Automobiles and Anwar Jute Spinning Mills. Khaled previously served as the DCCI president in 2007, 2008 and 2015, senior vice-president in 2006 and vice-president in 2002-03. Senior vice-president Humayun Rashid is the managing director and chief executive officer of Energypac Power Generation Ltd while vice-president K Atique-e-Rabbani is the managing director of the Computers Limited.

## NCC Bank gets addl MD



Mosleh Uddin Ahmed has recently been joined as additional managing director of NCC Bank Ltd. Prior to his joining at the bank, Ahmed was the additional managing director and head of business of Jamuna Bank Ltd. He has more than two decades of experience in various field of banking in different capacities. He served various responsible

positions like Dhaka area head of corporate in the City Bank Ltd, head of credit (Bangladesh operations) in State Bank of India, and head of Leasing Unit of Prime Bank Ltd.

## Bank Asia gets two DMDs



M u h a m m e d Zahirul Alam and Mamun-ur Rashid, have been appointed as deputy managing directors of Bank

Asia Limited recently. Prior to joining in Bank Asia Zahirul Alam was senior executive vice president (SEVP) in United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL). Mr. Alam has more than 22 years of experience at various levels of banking with specialty in credit operation both branch and head office. Muhammed Zahirul Alam started career with Agrani Bank in 1993 as senior officer. Prior to joining in Bank Asia Mamun-ur Rashid he was senior executive vice president in National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank Limited. A veteran in the banking industry, Mr. Rashid has multifarious experience in the corporate and international banking arena in both local and multinational banks. He embarked on banking career in 1986 as Management Trainee with Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited which, therefore, was taken over by Eastern Bank Ltd.

আমার ব্যাট আছে,  
আমার ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্টও  
আছে!

আর তোমার  
ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলতে  
মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক নিয়ে এলো



১৮ বছরের কম বয়সী যেকোন ছাত্র/ছাত্রীর জন্য

এই সেভিংস অ্যাকাউন্টে রয়েছে:

- আকর্ষণীয় ইন্টারেস্ট রেট
- ফ্রি ডেবিট কার্ড
- ফ্রি ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং
- অ্যাকাউন্ট মেইনটেনেন্স একদম ফ্রি
- অভিভাবকগণের মাধ্যমে অ্যাকাউন্ট পরিচালনা

২৪/৭ এমটিবি কন্সট্যান্ট সেন্টার  
১৬২১৯ অথবা ০৯৬০৪০৯৬২১৯



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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Japan pegs 2016 growth at 1.7%



The Japanese government reportedly forecast the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow about 1.7% in real terms in 2016, led by

recovering consumer sentiment and renewed capital spending. The projection was more optimistic than the Bank of Japan (BOJ) forecast, which put real GDP growth at 1.4% for 2016 in late October. In nominal terms, GDP will likely expand around 3.1% in the next fiscal year to around 518.8 trillion yen (USD 4.3 trillion), local media reports said recently, surpassing the 513 trillion yen (USD 4.24 billion) GDP recorded in fiscal 2007 before the financial crisis. On the inflation front, the government projected consumer prices to rise around 1.2% in 2016 from a year earlier, falling short of the 2% inflation target set by the BOJ, largely due to declining crude oil prices. Meanwhile, Tokyo also lowered its 2015 GDP growth target to 1.2% from a July projection of 1.5%, citing a slowdown in emerging markets and delayed recovery in capital investment. Japan's economy — the world's third-largest — narrowly avoided a technical recession this year after its growth for the quarter ending September, initially thought to have fallen by 0.8%, was revised to an annualized gain of 1%, according to official data in December, giving the BOJ some leeway to adjust monetary policy and stimulus measures.

## Ericsson shares soar after patent deal with Apple



Swedish mobile telecom gear maker Ericsson said it had signed a patent license deal with Apple Inc over technology that helps smartphones

and tablets connect to mobile networks, sending its shares up much as 8%. The deal ends a year-long dispute with Apple, one of the biggest legal battles in mobile technology and Ericsson said it would pave the way for cooperation between the companies on future technologies. Ericsson had said in its filing to a U.S. district court in January that Apple's license to use the technology developed by the Swedish firm had expired, and that two years of negotiations had not led to a new deal.

## Top iron ore shipper cuts 2016 forecast by 19% as glut grows



The world's biggest iron ore exporter cut its price forecast for next year by 19% as supply continues to swell and slowing growth

in China hurts demand in the biggest user. Prices will average USD 41.30 a metric ton in 2016 compared with USD 51.20 forecast in September, Australia's Department of Industry, Innovation & Science said in a quarterly outlook recently. The department cut its average price for 2015 by 4.7% to USD 50.40 a ton. Iron ore, the country's largest export earner, lost 43% this year as low-cost miners including Rio Tinto Group, BHP Billiton Ltd. and Vale SA pressed ahead with expansions to defend market share, feeding a glut as demand in China faltered. Exports of Australian iron ore will probably expand a further 13% next year after rising about 7% this year, according to the government. Increasing supply from Australia and Brazil is forecast to drive seaborne iron ore spot prices down in 2015 and 2016, the department said. Overcapacity in China's steel industry is expected to exert downward pressure on steel prices and reduce the incentive to increase output.

## OPEC sees demand for its crude oil falling for rest of decade



OPEC said demand for its crude will slide to 2020, though

less steeply than previously expected, as rival supplies continue to grow. The organization will need to pump 30.7 million barrels a day by the end of the decade, OPEC said recently in its annual World Oil Outlook. That's 1.7 million barrels more than projected a year ago, and 1 million less than the group pumped in November. The forecast underlines the struggle faced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as it seeks to defend market share against a surge in output from rivals such as the U.S. and Russia. While OPEC is slowly taming the expansion of competitors, the collapse in oil prices means the financial costs of its strategy are immense. Brent crude futures touched an 11-year low of USD 36.04 a barrel on Dec.

## Federal Reserve's rate hike aside, prospects still slim for major global economic pickup



The world economy may be set for another year like 2015, with modest growth in developed economies offsetting persistent weakness elsewhere but generating very little inflation and keeping interest rates low. The US

Federal Reserve's long-awaited rise in rates from zero showed confidence in the world's largest economy, but China is still struggling for a foothold with rate cuts. Although some countries, such as Brazil, have mainly home-grown inflation troubles the Fed's first post-crisis rate hike is an unlikely cure for what ails the rest of the world. With exchange rates dominating the policy debate in many countries, what happens to the dollar will matter a lot. "The key question is whether the US economy is finally robust enough not only to sustain its own recovery but also to lift world trade and global growth enough to allow the external deflationary pressures weighing on US inflation to wane," outlined HSBC economists Janet Henry and James Pomeroy.

## Sweden shifts toward a cashless economy



Centuries after becoming the first European country to introduce banknotes, Sweden could soon be the first to get rid of them. For the technology-savvy

Scandinavian nation, a cashless society is on the horizon as many banks there no longer handle cash and most public buses won't take it, either. But the shift toward a digital economy appears inadvisable to some Swedes, and critics are warning of the rising risks that come with paying by app and plastic versus bills and coins. It might be trendy, Bjorn Eriksson, an ex-director of the Swedish police force and the former president of Interpol. A Swedish bank began issuing the first true banknotes in Europe in 1661. Now, bills and coins make up just 2% of Sweden's economy, compared with an average of 10% in the eurozone and 7.7% in the U.S., according to the Bank for International Settlements, an umbrella organization for the world's central banks. That 2% is still too much for Bjorn Ulvaeus, a former member of the Swedish pop group ABBA and a vocal advocate of a cashless world. Ulvaeus, who made a fortune on the group's

"Money, Money, Money" and other chart-topping hits, has been living cash-free for years.

## Google building app to compete with Facebook messenger



Google is working on a mobile messaging app to catch up with Facebook's Messenger and WhatsApp,

Viber and QQ and WeChat, which are big in China and Asia, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the project. Google will tap its artificial intelligence know-how and incorporate chatbots -- which answer questions -- to get a slice of the 2-billion user business and help preserve its lead in search. It's unclear when Google is targeting to launch the product or whether it will be successful, citing disappointments such as Hangouts and Google Messenger. The company's attempt to take on Facebook head on with Google+ also failed. While many internet users are spending more time on messaging apps to the detriment of search -- Google's main business -- this could accelerate as messaging apps add more features. Google's parent Alphabet, with a market value of about USD 520 billion, is pursuing multiple projects as it strives to maintain its lead over other industry players like Facebook, which has a market capitalization of just under USD 300 billion.

## Apple and Samsung will launch mobile payment battle in china in 2016

With mobile payments seen as one of the biggest



areas of growth for smartphone companies in the coming years, it is no surprise to see Apple and Samsung have both signed

deals with China's state-run credit and debit card processing network, UnionPay, to launch their respective services in the world's biggest smartphone market in 2016. Rumored recently, Apple's announcement revealed that iPhone users will be able to begin paying for items using their smartphones "as early as 2016" with the support of 15 banks, though the names of the specific institutions are still unknown.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Asian Development Outlook 2015

Despite some softening in prospects for the major industrial economies, developing Asia is poised to meet growth forecasts published in September in Asian Development Outlook 2015 Update. The outlook for aggregate gross domestic product is unchanged from the Update at 5.8% expansion in 2015 and 6.0% in 2016, as sub-regional forecasts are unchanged except for slight downward revisions for Central Asia and the Pacific.

### East Asia

The outlook for growth in East Asia continues to be subdued, maintained at 6.0% in both 2015 and 2016 as trends in sub-regional economies are broadly in line to meet the projections. The slight upward adjustment for the People's Republic of China (PRC) offsets diminished expectations for Taipei, China in 2015.

In the PRC, 7.0% GDP growth year on year in the first half of 2015 was followed by third quarter growth at 6.9%, which was stronger than expected. In the first 10 months of 2015, urban fixed asset investment expanded by 10.2% year on shrinking working age cohort and rising wage costs. Forecast at 6.7% in 2016, growth will be driven increasingly by services and consumption.

### South Asia

The economic outlook for South Asia remains strong, with growth on track to meet update projections of 6.9% in 2015 and 7.3% in 2016. Continued strong economic expansion in India balances a slowdown in Bhutan and the Maldives in 2015, and in Nepal in 2016. Unemployment fell to 10.8% in September, the lowest since January 2012 but still historically high and masking wide variation across member economies. After slipping into negative territory in September, inflation rose to 0.1% in October. To boost prices, the European Central Bank continues to purchase assets while keeping policy rates unchanged. Loose monetary policy, low oil prices, and a weak euro have sustained growth in the euro area. As recovery in the euro area may still be hampered by multiple risks, the forecast for growth is unchanged from the Update at 1.5% in 2015 and 1.6% in 2016.

### Southeast Asia

GDP growth across Southeast Asia is projected at 4.4% in 2015 and 4.9% in 2016, as envisaged in the Update. The growth forecast for Indonesia, the largest economy in the subregion, is trimmed slightly for

2015 and 2016. The growth forecasts for the Philippines and Singapore in 2015 are similarly trimmed to reflect lower-than-expected growth in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, the growth forecast for Myanmar in 2015 and 2016 is revised up on expectations of higher investment and tourist arrivals. Growth in Indonesia was stable at 4.7% year on year in the third quarter, as in the second. Government spending improved significantly to grow by 6.6% year on year, much higher than in the previous quarter. As expected, net exports continued their positive contribution to GDP growth, at 1.2 percentage points as in the first half of the year. The rate of capital budget disbursement by the end of 2015 is projected to be slightly lower than the 80%–85% assumed in the Update, curbing growth in the second half slightly more than previously expected. GDP growth in 2015 is now projected at 4.8%, down from the 4.9% projected in September. In 2016, growth is seen accelerating to 5.3%, revised slightly down from the previous projection as export recovery is likely to be further delayed.

### Gross domestic product growth, developing Asia (%)

	2014	2015		2016	
		ADO 2015 Update	ADOS	ADO 2015 Update	ADOS
<b>Developing Asia</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Central Asia</b>	5.1	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Kazakhstan	4.3	1.5	1.5	3.3	2.8
<b>East Asia</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>
China, People's Rep. of	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7
Hong Kong, China	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7
Korea, Rep. of	3.3	2.7	2.7	3.4	3.3
Taipei, China	3.8	1.6	1.0	2.6	2.4
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	7.3	7.3
India	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.8
<b>Southeast Asia</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Indonesia	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.4	5.3
Malaysia	6.0	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.9
Philippines	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.3
Singapore	2.9	2.1	2.0	2.5	2.3
Thailand	0.9	2.7	2.7	3.8	3.8
Viet Nam	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6
<b>The Pacific</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>

ADO = Asian Development Outlook, ADOS = ADO Supplement.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



### U.S. Overview

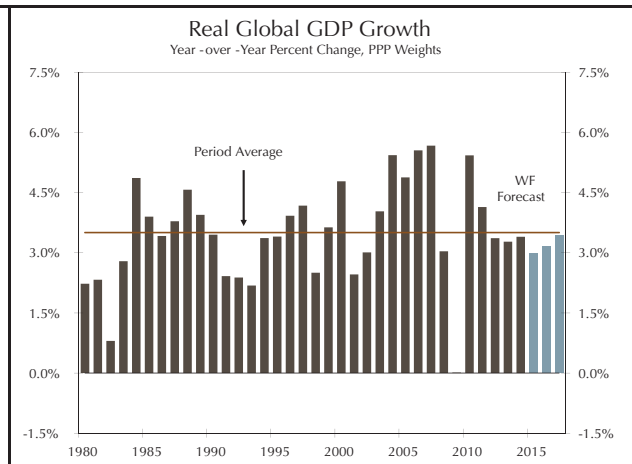
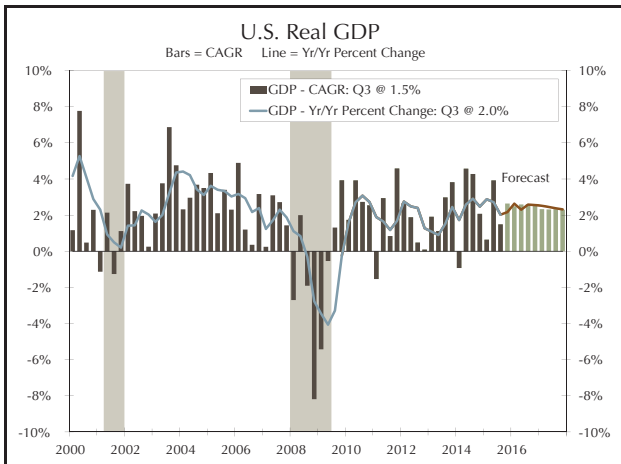
#### From Lower for Longer to Sooner and Higher?

October's surprisingly robust employment report has triggered a complete reversal of thinking about when the Federal Reserve will begin to raise short-term interest rates and how high they will ultimately raise rates. Instead of believing the Fed will leave rates lower for longer, the financial markets now seem to fear the Fed will begin raising rates sooner and ultimately raise them higher than they previously thought. Wells Fargo believes this is a bit of an overreaction. Job growth over the past three months is still slightly lower than consensus estimates on the eve of the prior three employment reports. So, even after the stronger October report, job growth is no stronger today than it was expected to be three months ago. What has apparently changed is that the downside risks to the outlook have faded. October's slightly stronger ISM manufacturing survey, particularly the rise in the new orders series, raised hopes that the slowdown in the manufacturing sector has ended. The stronger ISM report was supported by data within the jobs report, which showed a larger proportion of

### International Overview

#### Is "Average" the Best the Global Economy Can Do?

The expansion that has been underway in the euro area for the past two years likely will continue in the quarters ahead. However, growth in the Eurozone likely will not be so strong as to cause a marked increase in the CPI inflation rate. Consequently, Wells Fargo looks for the ECB to ease policy further, probably as soon as the December 3 policy meeting, which should lead to further euro depreciation vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar in the months ahead. Real GDP growth in China has slowed over the past two years, and Wells Fargo looks for further deceleration. That said, Wells Fargo does not expect the Chinese economy to completely collapse because authorities have the policy ability to respond to any sharp downturn that could develop in the economy. Growth in the Indian economy remains strong. However, the Indian economy is much smaller than the Chinese economy, and the former does not have the extensive trade ties with the rest of the world as the latter. An accelerating Indian economy cannot fully offset the slowing



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Monetary Fund and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

manufacturing sectors added jobs in October. Wells Fargo now sees that the bulk of the inventory correction is behind, but still look for real GDP to expand at a 2.6% pace in the fourth quarter and look for 2.5% growth in 2016. Wells Fargo's conviction on its call for the Fed to begin raising the federal funds rate in December has been strengthened but Wells Fargo does not see the pace or the magnitude of subsequent hikes being significantly greater than before. Wells Fargo does see long-term rates rising a bit more rapidly, however.

effect that a decelerating Chinese economy exerts on the global economy. Wells Fargo forecasts that global GDP will grow a bit below its long-run average in 2016 before returning to the average growth rate in 2017. Adverse demographic trends will likely constrain potential GDP growth rates in most advanced economies, and the phase of rapid industrialization is drawing to a close in China with India not yet ready to assume China's mantle. Average growth may be the best the global economy can expect in the foreseeable future.

Together we'll go far





## SME Bank of the Year & Women Entrepreneurs' Friendly Bank of the Year

Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) rejoices along with its customers, shareholders, stakeholders, regulators, patrons and well-wishers, on receiving the **SME Bank of the Year** and **Women Entrepreneurs' Friendly Bank of the Year** Awards.

The recognition was made at the '**SME Banking Award 2014**' ceremony jointly organized by Bangladesh Bank and the SME Foundation. With this achievement, MTB becomes the first-ever best SME bank of the year for its contribution to the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



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মোবাইল হ্যাণ্ডসেট



ট্যুর প্যাকেজ

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