

MTBiz

Monthly Business Review, Volume: 02, Issue: 04, April 2010



Issue Specials:

Enterprise of the Month-PRAN

Know Your Chamber-MCCI

SME Road Show



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FINANCE AND ECONOMY

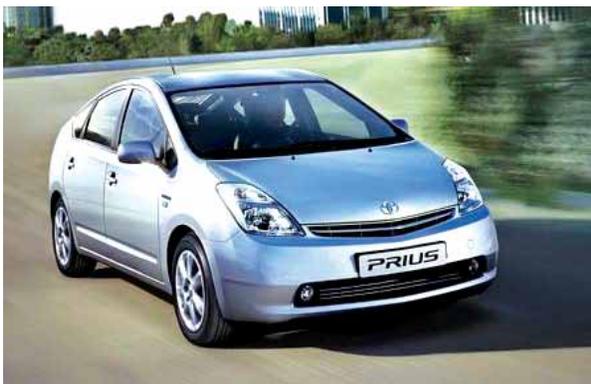
Greece Borrows 1.95b Euros

Greece raised 1.95 billion euros (2.6 billion dollars) in a well oversubscribed Treasury bill issue but at more than double the cost of its last comparable issue, the Greek debt agency said. "The total bids reached 6.92 billion euros and the amount finally accepted was 1.95 billion," the Greek debt management agency said in a statement. The agency had originally sought to raise 1.5 billion euros. It added that buyers were offered a uniform yield of 3.65 percent compared to 1.67 percent in the last three-month bill issue in January. (Source: AFP Athens)

Greece Aid Hope Helps Euro, Stocks Rise

The euro stabilized and Asian share markets rose after Greece requested emergency aid and as a raft of U.S. data showed its economic recovery was gathering strength. Greece's finance minister said aid from the EU and IMF would arrive in time to avert what would be the euro zone's first sovereign debt default, although there were growing signs that a 45 billion euro rescue package would have to be bigger. While Greece's debt crisis has cast a cloud over prospects for Europe's economic recovery and rattled global financial markets, data from the United States on Friday underscored that the world's largest economy was continuing to gather strength, buoying investor sentiment. Commodity prices were also firm, encouraged by signs for a steady recovery in the economy. "It appears that Greece is getting aid, but whether this is the ultimate solution is a big question. As well, investors may be reluctant to buy the Nikkei much ahead of results later this week," said Nagayuki Yamagishi, a strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Securities. (Source: Reuters, Tokyo)

Toyota to Show Return to Profit Despite Recalls



Results from Toyota Motor to be released next month are expected to show the auto giant returning to profit in the year to March, despite a massive recall scandal. The Japanese automaker is expected to post a group operating profit of up to 50 billion yen (530 million dollars), reversing a 461 billion yen operating loss for the previous year. The uptick is mainly due to cost-cutting and a weak yen, which offset the costs of the global recalls. The company has recalled around 10 million vehicles worldwide since late last year due to accelerator and brake defects, but nevertheless expected to see a "good earnings situation". (Source: AFP Tokyo)

India to Hike Rates Again to Tame Inflation

India's central bank is set to hike interest rates this week for a second time in just under a month in an attempt to check near double-digit inflation, analysts say. Annual wholesale price inflation, the main cost-of-living measure, is riding at a 17-month high of 9.90 percent, exceeding the Reserve Bank of

India's forecast of 8.5 percent, well above its preferred 5.5 percent pace of increase. Economists fear inflation in Asia's third-largest economy could accelerate as demand for cars, appliances and manufactured goods rebounds with economic growth gaining pace, shaking off the effects of the global slump. Indian inflation has been rising in past months due to spiralling food costs after farm output was hit by the country's worst monsoon in nearly four decades last year. But now food inflation is spilling over into the general economy as activity accelerates. Economists expect the Reserve Bank to raise two key short-term interest rates by 25 basis points. The interest rate cycle is turning in Asia as the region's economies recover from the deep global recession. (Source: AFP Mumbai)

Risk of Japan Going Bankrupt is Real, Say Analysts

Greece's debt problems may currently be in the spotlight but Japan is walking its own financial tightrope, analysts say, with a public debt mountain bigger than that of any other industrialized nation. Public debt is expected to hit 200 percent of GDP in the next year as the government tries to spend its way out of the economic doldrums despite plummeting tax revenues and soaring welfare costs for its ageing population. Based on fiscal 2010's nominal GDP of 475 trillion yen, Japan's debt is estimated to reach around 950 trillion yen – or roughly 7.5 million yen per person. Japan "can't finance" its record trillion-dollar budget passed in March for the coming year as it tries to stimulate its fragile economy, said Hideo Kumano, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute. "Japan's revenue is roughly 37 trillion yen and debt is 44 trillion yen in fiscal 2010," he said. "Its debt to budget ratio is more than 50 percent. Without issuing more government bonds, Japan would go bankrupt by 2011." Despite crawling out of a severe year-long recession in 2009, Japan's recovery remains fragile with deflation, high public debt and weak domestic demand all concerns for policymakers. The system of Japanese government bonds being bought by institutions such as the huge Japan Post Bank has been vital in enabling Japan to remain buoyant since its stock market crash of 1990. (Source: AFP Tokyo)

US Hosts Next APEC Talks

The United States said Friday it would host annual talks among trade ministers of 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in the western state of Montana in May next year. "Bringing the APEC Trade Ministers to Montana will broaden our horizons both literally and figuratively, giving our partners a fresh perspective on the diverse places from which America's entrepreneurs and exports can spring," said Ron Kirk, the top US trade envoy. "The American West has always been a place of limitless possibility," he added. (Source: AFP Washington)

East Asia Launches \$120b Currency Swap Pact

East Asian nations officially launched a 120-billion-dollar regional currency swap agreement, giving them a safety net against future liquidity shortages. The Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) covers South Korea, China, Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Its successful launch shows their commitment "to further enhance regional capacity to safeguard against downside risks and challenges in the global economy," according to a joint statement issued by Seoul's finance ministry. The agreement will allow each member to swap local currency for dollars for an amount in proportion to its contribution. East Asian finance ministers, meeting in the Thai city of Chiang Mai in 2000, endorsed a network of bilateral currency swap deals to avoid a recurrence of the 1997-98 regional financial crisis. The expanded CMIM pact was agreed in May 2009 at a meeting of the so-called ASEAN plus Three in the Indonesian resort of Bali. (Source: AFP Seoul)



US See Biggest Job Growth in Three Years

The recession-racked US economy is "beginning to turn the corner," President Barack Obama said as data showed 162,000 jobs were created in March, the biggest increase in three years. The US Labor Department said that job creation leaped dramatically in March after years of near-continual losses, although the increase was not enough to budge the unemployment rate from 9.7 percent. With close to one in 10 American workers unable to find a job, the figures were an eagerly-awaited indicator of the strength of the economic recovery. (Source: AFP Washington)

WB Gives Emerging Countries Greater Clout

The World Bank decided at a high-level meeting to give greater clout to emerging country members while also raising more money for them to work with. The bank's 186 members approved a capital increase of 5.1 billion dollars, the first hike in more than 20 years, to help fund record lending in the wake of the global economic crisis. They also approved a symbolic transfer of voting rights on bank policy to developing countries, giving them a stronger voice in one of the world's top financial institutions. (Source: AFP Washington)

India to Give Stimulus for Exports of Specific Items

India has announced an Rs 625 crore fresh package of incentives for exporters of garments, engineering, electronics and agro products to select markets where the demand for the goods is yet to pick up. The sops will be in force for six months even as official estimates project that India is expected to end the 2009-10 fiscal year (which ended on March 30) well below the \$189 billion exports achieved in 2008-09. Announcing the new package of stimulus, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said that there were sectors which required continued support as their demand have not yet picked up in key markets. "We're extending help to some sectors which are still in the red, which include garments, electronics, jute and carpet. Out of the Rs 625 crore incentives, more than Rs 400 crore will go to export of about 300 garment items to the United States and Europe," Sharma said. The balance will go to engineering, electronic and agro-chemical goods to 15 countries, including Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand, Nigeria, Algeria and Mexico, he added. Exports to these countries will get the benefit of market-linked focus product scheme under which exporters will get duty-free scrips which can be used to import duty-free worth two percent of the value of exports. The scrips can also be sold in the market. (Source: The Daily Star)

IMF Approves \$160m Loan to Iceland

The International Monetary Fund approved a much-contested 160-million-dollar loan to Iceland, ending months of political bickering. The IMF agreed in November 2008 to lend Iceland up to 2.1 billion dollars in an effort to stave off the collapse of the local economy, which was decimated by the financial crisis. Wrangling with creditors – chiefly the Netherlands and Britain – had delayed the latest installment by three months. The Washington-based fund said Friday's decision would take lending to the Atlantic island to around 1.2 billion dollars. "I am confident that the policies and financing now in place will ease the burden of adjustment and help Iceland's economy stage a recovery in the second half of 2010," said IMF boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Iceland is still reeling from a deep and punishing recession that submerged the country's banking sector, sent the Icelandic krona plunging and forced the collapse of the Icelandic government. (Source: AFP, Washington)

Europe's Airspace Reopens for Business

Europe's airspace reopened for business as Iceland's volcano lost its fury, leaving passengers scrambling to get a flight home and airlines to count the 1.7 billion dollar cost of the crisis.



Three-quarters of flights scheduled in Europe should take place, said the body coordinating air traffic across the continent, a week after a volcanic eruption in Iceland caused the worst disruption to aviation since World War II. While experts in Iceland said the Eyjafjallajökull volcano had lost most of its intensity, airline bosses were frantically adding up the cost of the crisis which their umbrella body said had cost 400 million dollars a day at its peak. After authorities in Britain finally reopened the whole of its airspace, all of Europe's main air hubs were up and running once more with Germany reopening its airspace. Even Iceland's Nordic neighbours Norway, Denmark and Sweden lifted the last of their flight restrictions. "Eurocontrol expects approximately 21,000 flights to take place in European airspace. On a normal Wednesday, we would expect 28,000," said a statement from the Europe-wide coordinating body. Millions had their travel plans affected since governments closed their airspace and IATA, the body representing the global airline industry, put the overall cost at 1.7 billion dollars. (Source: AFP, London)

POLITICS

Poland's President Killed in Plane Crash in Russia

A plane carrying the Polish president and dozens of the country's top political and military leaders to the site of the Soviet massacre of Polish officers in World War II crashed in western Russia on April 10, killing everyone on board. President Lech Kaczynski's plane tried to land in a thick fog, missing the runway and snagging treetops about half a mile from the airport in Smolensk, scattering chunks of flaming fuselage across a bare forest.



The crash came as a stunning blow to Poland, wiping out a large portion of the country's leadership in one fiery explosion. And in a bizarre twist, it happened at the moment that Russia and Poland were beginning to come to terms with the killing of more than 20,000 members of Poland's elite officer corps in the same place 70 years ago. Kaczynski was the first serving Polish leader to die since exiled World War II-era leader Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943. A top Russian military official said air traffic controllers at the Smolensk airport had several times ordered the crew of the plane not to land, warned that it was descending below the glide path, and recommended it reroute to another airport. "Nevertheless, the crew continued the descent," said Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Alyoshin, the first deputy chief of the Russian Air Force Staff. "Unfortunately, the result was tragic." Russian emergency officials said 97 people were killed. They included Poland's deputy foreign minister and a dozen members of



Parliament, the chiefs of the army and the navy, and the president of the national bank. They included Anna Walentynowicz, 80, the former dock worker who's firing in 1980 set off the Solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew Polish Communism, as well as relatives of victims of the massacre that they were on their way to commemorate. (Source: New York Times)

US Envoy Aims to Renew Israel-Palestine Talks

A White House envoy tried yesterday to get Israelis and Palestinians talking again after more than a year of deadlock, while confronting a second challenge -- navigating the rocky relations between Israel and the US. Senator and veteran negotiator George Mitchell's had an important meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has rejected Washington's calls for a halt to Israeli construction in east Jerusalem and has seen tensions with Israel's most important ally rise dramatically on his watch. "I look forward to working with the Obama administration to move peace forward," Netanyahu told Mitchell the meeting. "We are serious about it, we know you are serious about it and we hope the Palestinians respond." (Source: AP, Jerusalem)

Thai PM under pressure after EC's call



Thailand's election body called for the dissolution of the ruling party, piling the pressure on embattled Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva after the bloodiest political unrest in 18 years. The move, which centres on allegations of an illegal multi-million-dollar donation to the Democrat Party during the 2005 election campaign, raises the stakes in the long-running standoff between Abhisit and the "Red Shirt" anti-government protesters. The demonstrators, who are demanding snap elections and the resignation of Abhisit, paraded their dead through the streets of Bangkok on Monday after 21 people were killed in bloody clashes. Abhisit accused "terrorists" of inciting the violence and insisted the government remained united in how to tackle the crisis pitting Thailand's elite military-backed rulers and the country's impoverished rural poor. Seventeen civilians, including a Japanese cameraman, and four soldiers were killed after the army launched a crackdown on the Thaksin supporters who have staged weeks of mass demonstrations. (Source: AFP, Bangkok)

G-8 Nations Press Iran Sanctions Drive

Top diplomats from the world's leading economies are ramping up pressure on Iran to prove its nuclear ambitions are peaceful, renewing calls for the country to be hit with new international sanctions if it fails to comply. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and her fellow foreign ministers from the Group of Eight main industrialized nations will warn Iran again it faces fresh penalties if it doesn't come clean on its nuclear program. But with Iran refusing to comply, their message will be largely directed at a country not represented at the talks China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council that is not a member of the exclusive G-8 club. Support from China, a vocal opponent of sanctions, is critical as it wields veto power on the council. Until recently, it had balked at the mere suggestion of taking additional punitive steps against Iran. Iran is already under three sets of UN Security Council sanctions and China had been holding up consideration of a fourth. But last week it softened its position in a conference call among senior officials from the six nations working most closely on the matter, according to diplomats. (Source: AP, Ottawa)

Karzai Slams 'Foreigners' For Vote Fraud

President Hamid Karzai launched a stinging rebuke of the international community yesterday, blaming widespread fraud in Afghanistan's recent elections on embassies and UN and EU officials. Karzai made the remarks just days after US President Barack Obama made his first visit to Kabul since taking office and invited the Afghan head of state for talks at the White House. It was interpreted by analysts as a clear message to Karzai that Obama expects him to act on promises to eradicate corruption and on his return to the US president said progress in Afghanistan was "too slow". Karzai's once close relationship with the United States and other allies, whose 126,000 Nato and US-led troops help his government contain a raging Taliban insurgency, was compromised over his re-election last year. "There was fraud in presidential and provincial council elections -- no doubt that there was a very widespread fraud, very widespread," Karzai told a meeting with Afghan election commission workers in Kabul. "But Afghans did not do this fraud. The foreigners did this fraud," he told staff whom he thanked for their work "under extreme conditions". He singled out former UN deputy head of mission, Peter Galbraith, who was sacked after a row with his boss on how to handle vote irregularities, and the head of the EU election observation mission to Afghanistan, Philippe Morillon. (Source: AFP, Kabul)



Dark Clouds Gather over Iraq's Political Stalemate

The process of forming a government after Iraq's March 7 election has proven frustrating and messy. The acrimonious five-month delay in forming a government after the last parliamentary election in 2005 instigated a bloody, sectarian civil war. Six weeks since the recent election, not only have serious negotiations to form a new government not begun, but there is no consensus on who won the vote. An Iraqi judge ordered a partial recount of votes in Baghdad province at the request of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose State of Law coalition came in second when official results were announced on March 27, with just two parliamentary seats fewer than former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's Iraqiya coalition. Fearful that a partial recount would erase Iraqiya's victory, Allawi responded by calling for a broader recount to include areas in the south where his coalition fared poorly. (Source: Times Online)

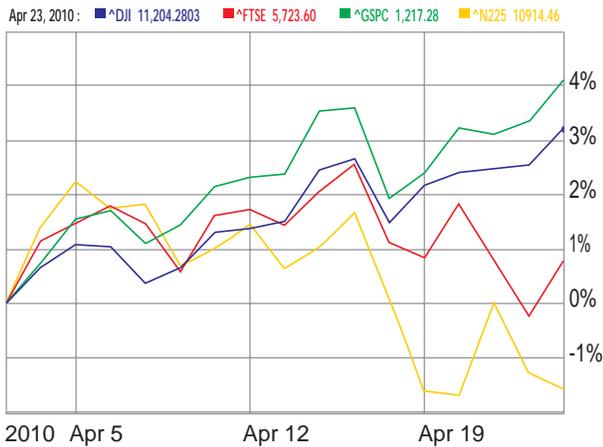
Pakistan President Signs Bill Stripping His Powers

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday signed into law sweeping constitutional reforms that strip him of key powers in a move to bolster parliamentary democracy weakened by military rule. The amendment rolls back decades of meddling by military rulers and removes the head of state's power to sack the prime minister, appoint heads of the armed forces, unilaterally declare emergency rule and dissolve parliament. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani will assume executive power in a move that could help ease simmering political instability in the nuclear-armed country on the front line of the US-led war on Al-Qaeda and Islamist extremism. "It is my hope that the doors of dictatorship are closed forever," Asif Ali Zardari said after signing the 18th amendment to Pakistan's 1973 parliamentary constitution. (Source: AFP, Islamabad)



International Markets Review

SELECTED GLOBAL INDICES



Global Indices Round-up

Wall Street is heading into another earnings blitz next week and the prospects of strong results from bellwethers like Caterpillar Inc and 3M Co should propel indexes to new recovery highs. Another round of strong earnings would be further evidence that the U.S. economic recovery is gaining strength and may help temper some of the risk associated with Greece's debt woes after Athens formally requested aid from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund on Friday, April 22, 2010. Of the 172 S&P 500 companies that have already reported earnings for the quarter, some 83

percent have beaten analyst expectations, well above the 61 percent in a typical quarter and above the 79 percent record set in the third quarter of 2009, according to Thomson Reuters data. Britain's leading share index, the FTSE 100, decreased by 0.77 percent, within the period under consideration. The German index DAX fell slightly over last month, closing at 5,679.6 - a 1.72 percent decrease. Asia stocks mostly drifted lower, but were supported by strong earnings predictions as most companies globally have met or exceeded expectations so far in the first-quarter earnings season. Japan's benchmark Nikkei N225 lost 1.58 percent to 10,914.46 in caution that Greece's troubles could curb risk appetite. The Hong Kong HANG SENG closed at 21,244.49, a 0.23 percent increase from last month. India's SENSEX was also up by a 0.95 percent, from March.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET MOVEMENTS

| INDEX | VALUE (As of Apr 23, 2010) | 1 MONTH AGO (As of Mar 31, 2010) | CHANGE % | CHANGE |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| DJIA | 11,204.28 | 10,856.63 | 347.65 | 3.20% |
| S&P 500 | 1,217.28 | 1,169.43 | 47.85 | 4.09% |
| NASDAQ | 2,530.15 | 2397.96 | 132.19 | 5.51% |
| FTSE 100 | 5,679.60 | 5723.60 | -44.00 | -0.77% |
| DAX | 6,259.53 | 6153.55 | 105.98 | 1.72% |
| NIKKEI 225 | 10,914.46 | 11,089.94 | -175.48 | -1.58% |
| BSE SENSEX | 17,694.20 | 17,527.77 | 166.43 | 0.95% |
| HANG SENG | 21,244.49 | 21,239.35 | 5.14 | 0.02% |

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Wells Fargo Securities Economics Group Report

U.S. OVERVIEW

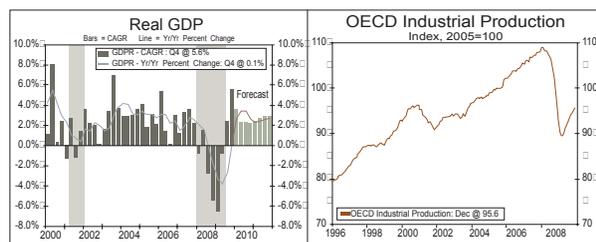
The Recovery Begins to Take Shape

Nonfarm employment finally moved back into positive territory in a convincing manner in March, further bolstering the view that a sustainable recovery has taken hold. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 162,000 jobs and manufacturing employment rose for the third straight month. The March employment report provides some key insights into how the economic recovery will likely unfold. Manufacturing is playing a larger role, as firms begin to rebuild inventories following a unusually long two-year drawdown. Growth in the service sector is somewhat less robust but is broadening and gaining momentum. Construction will continue to lag, however, as past overbuilding weighs on rents and valuations, making it difficult for buyers and investors to secure funding. The return of job growth is essential to generate a self-reinforcing recovery. Economic growth will increasingly be driven by the underlying demand and less so by fiscal and monetary stimulus. The Federal Reserve has already begun to peel away the temporary stimulus programs put in place to combat the financial crisis and is expected to boost the federal funds rate late this year. Fiscal stimulus is also beginning to wind down and will add less to quarterly growth going forward. Fortunately, private demand has begun to revive. The bounce back in the stock market and apparent stability in home prices have provided a solid boost to consumer outlays during the first few months of 2010. Businesses have also been able to tap the credit markets to strengthen their balance sheets.

INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW

Global Recovery Remains Intact

The global economic recovery that started in mid-2009 has remained intact thus far this year. Recovery is strongest in Asia at present with China leading the pack. However, other Asian countries are posting impressive growth rates as well. Recent

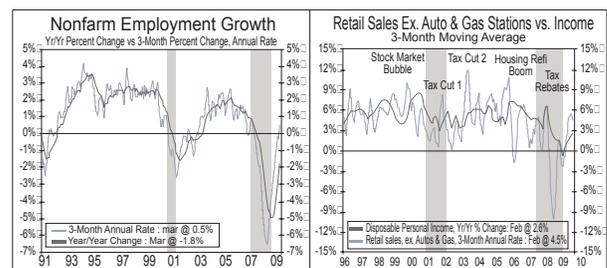


Source: OECF, U.S. Department of Commerce and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

growth in domestic demand suggests that the recoveries in the advanced economies of Japan and South Korea are developing into self-sustaining economic expansions. Recovery also appears to be taking hold in Latin America. Brazil registered strong growth in the second half of last year, and recent data on industrial production suggest that GDP continued to expand at a solid pace in the first quarter. Economic growth has returned to Western Europe as well, but the region has lacked the vigor that other regions have exhibited since the middle of last year. We forecast that Europe will continue to expand, albeit at a subdued pace, for the remainder of the year. Whereas the probability of a double-dip recession in Asia is very low, the risk of a renewed downturn in Europe, although not our official forecast, is not insignificant. The biggest risk we foresee to economic growth in the euro-zone this year is related to the government debt crisis that has appeared recently, most visibly in Greece. Specifically, the fiscal consolidation that is happening already and that will continue for the foreseeable future will exert a drag on economic growth in the euro area. With growth already slow, it would not take much fiscal tightening to push the region back into a mild recession.

An Underwater V-Shaped Recovery

The return of nonfarm employment growth and the promise of even more robust growth in April and May have raised hopes that a self-sustaining recovery has finally taken hold. President Obama himself stated the worst of the economic storm has passed, a sentiment we agree with. But before we break out the victory banner and toast the onset of a V-shaped recovery we should carefully survey the damage wrought by the Great Recession. Nonfarm employment has a long way to go before it recaptures the 8.4 million jobs lost during this recession. The end of job losses, however, has sent the year-to-year change in employment soaring upward, creating what looks like a V-shaped recovery. Unfortunately, most of the V is below the water line, firmly in negative territory. The same V-shaped recovery is also evident in many other economic series, including housing starts, industrial production, retail sales and real GDP. Initially, the upside of the V merely reflects less negative economic news. We fully expect the uptrend to extend into positive territory. The rate of ascent, however, will fade once the effects of monetary and fiscal stimulus begin to diminish this spring and summer. Another factor influencing the shape of the economic recovery is the hiring for the decennial Census. The Census Bureau expects to hire nearly 1 million workers for brief stints in the first half of this year. The greater the mail-in response rate, the fewer workers that will need to be hired. So far, the response rate appears to be on par with the 2000 Census, which means we should see a modest boost to payrolls over the next two months, followed by declines in June and July. As most of these jobs are part-time, the impact on income growth should be fairly minimal. Census hiring has also likely helped reduce the unemployment rate and should contribute to the expected back up in the jobless rate later this year. One of the biggest surprises of 2010 has been the resurgence in consumer spending. Holiday retail sales came in better than expected and spending has held up well during the first quarter. Real personal consumption expenditures are expected to rise at a 2.8 percent annual rate in the first quarter, with solid gains in virtually all categories. Discretionary spending has also made a comeback, thanks in part to the rebound in the stock market and apparent stability in home prices. Wages and salaries have also improved, with our income proxy rising at a 2.3 percent annual rate during the first quarter. Consumer spending is expected to cool during the second quarter. This year's unusually cold winter weather pushed up utility consumption. Tax refunds also bolstered spending earlier this year and are unlikely to provide as much lift this spring. Moreover, the burst of spending during the first quarter outpaced disposable income, cutting the saving rate back to just 3.3 percent. We expect spending to more closely



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Labor and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

track after-tax income going forward, allowing for a gradual recovery in the saving rate toward 4.5 percent by the end of 2011. One of the biggest risks for 2010 is that oil prices will spike back above \$100 a barrel, sending gasoline back up toward \$4 a gallon. This is not our forecast, but we do see oil prices rising over the forecast period and gasoline prices

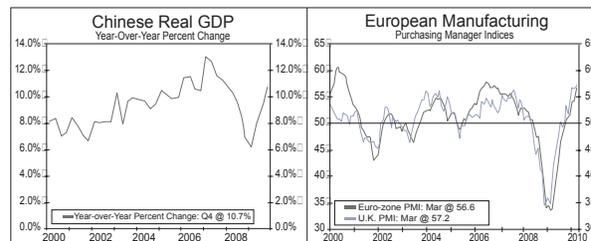


appear destined to rise to around \$3 a gallon this summer. Consumers and the broader economy should be able to withstand \$3 a gallon gasoline but \$3.50 a gallon would be troublesome. Food prices will likely rise along with gasoline, leaving consumers with fewer discretionary dollars. Another risk for the recovery is higher interest rates. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note briefly rose above 4.00 percent in early April and we expect it to end the second quarter at around 4.20 percent. The rise in Treasury yields means mortgage rates will likely reach 6 percent this spring, further hampering the already sluggish recovery in housing.

Global Upturn Has Continued So Far

This Year As measured by industrial production (IP) in 30 of the world's most advanced economies that comprise the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) a global upturn has been in place since the spring of last year (see chart on the front page). Although IP in the OECD countries rose 6 percent between April and December, it was still down 12 percent from its peak in early 2008. In other words, the global economy is still in a hole, but at least it is beginning to climb out of that hole. Recent monthly data suggest that the depth of the hole became shallower in the first quarter. For example, IP in both Japan and Korea, the two Asian countries that are members of the OECD, rose about 4 percent in the first two months of the first quarter relative to the last quarter of 2009. Although exports to China have helped to propel growth in other Asian countries, there is more to the current upturns in Korea and Japan than simply strong Chinese economic growth. For example, the value of Japanese retail sales was up 2.3 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis in the first two months of the first quarter relative to the fourth quarter. In Korea, real consumer spending grew 0.5 percent in the first two months of 2010. Strong real GDP growth in China may have helped to jumpstart economic growth in other Asian countries, but self-sustaining expansions based on strengthening domestic demand appear to be taking hold across Asia. Speaking of China, the Chinese economy expanded nearly 11 percent on a year-ago basis in the fourth quarter of 2009, and recent economic data suggest that economic growth remained robust in the first quarter (bottom chart). Industrial production in the first two month of the year was up more than 20 percent relative to the same period in 2009, which admittedly is a low base, and the manufacturing PMI remained firmly in expansion territory in March. Although economic policy in China is slowly becoming less accommodative, we look for continued solid growth over the course of the year because Chinese policymakers are unlikely to slam on the policy brakes. Recoveries in many Latin American countries also appear to be underway. Following the modest recession in late 2008/early 2009, real GDP in Brazil has surpassed its previous peak as the economy expanded rapidly in the second half of last year. The strong rise in industrial production in the first two months of 2010 suggests that the expansion has remained intact. Unfortunately, economic recovery is not as advanced in Europe as it is in Asia or Latin America at present. Real GDP in the United Kingdom rose only 0.4 percent (not annualized) in the fourth quarter, and it was essentially flat in the euro-zone. The manufacturing PMIs for the euro-zone and the United Kingdom have risen sharply in recent months (bottom chart), but "hard" data have yet to confirm the apparent upturn in economic activity. Although indices of industrial production in the euro-zone and the United Kingdom are up modestly from their lows of last year, both indices are 15 percent or so below their peaks of early 2008. We forecast that Europe will continue to expand, albeit at a subdued pace, for the remainder of the year. Whereas the probability of a double-dip recession in Asia is very low, the risk of a renewed downturn in Europe, although

not our official forecast, is not insignificant. The biggest risk we foresee to economic growth in the euro-zone this year is related to the government debt crisis that has appeared recently, most visibly in Greece. Specifically, the fiscal consolidation that is happening already and that will continue for the foreseeable future will exert a drag on economic growth in the euro area. With growth already slow, it would not take much fiscal tightening to push the region back into a mild recession. In sum, it is our expectation that the global recovery that began in mid-2009 will remain intact this year, although the pace of growth will vary widely across regions.



Source: Bloomberg LP, IHS Global Insight and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORECAST

| | Year-Over-Year Percent Change | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | GDP | | | CPI | | |
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Global (PPP weights) | -0.8% | 4.3% | 4.1% | 2.8% | 4.6% | 4.4% |
| Global (Market Exchange Rates) | -2.0% | 3.1% | 2.9% | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Advanced Economies ¹ | -3.4% | 2.5% | 2.5% | -0.3% | 1.8% | 1.8% |
| United States | -2.4% | 3.0% | 2.5% | 0.3% | 2.3% | 2.4% |
| Eurozone | -4.0% | 1.3% | 2.2% | 0.3% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| United Kingdom | -4.9% | 1.5% | 2.4% | 2.2% | 2.9% | 1.9% |
| Japan | -5.2% | 2.6% | 1.7% | -1.3% | -0.5% | 0.5% |
| Korea | 0.1% | 5.0% | 3.5% | 2.8% | 2.5% | 2.8% |
| Canada | -2.6% | 3.1% | 2.8% | 0.3% | 2.2% | 2.1% |
| Developing Economies ¹ | 2.4% | 6.3% | 6.1% | 6.5% | 7.9% | 7.5% |
| China | 8.5% | 9.7% | 9.0% | -0.7% | 2.9% | 3.5% |
| India | 6.8% | 8.0% | 7.8% | 11.4% | 13.7% | 8.0% |
| Mexico | -6.5% | 3.4% | 3.5% | 5.3% | 5.6% | 6.1% |
| Brazil | -0.2% | 4.9% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 5.6% | 6.1% |
| Russia | -7.9% | 3.6% | 4.1% | 11.8% | 6.8% | 8.8% |

Forecast as of : April 7, 2010

¹Aggregated Using PPP Weights

INTEREST RATE FORECAST

| | End of Quarter Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 3-Month LIBOR | | | | | | 10-Year Bond | | | | | |
| | 2010 | | 2011 | | | | 2010 | | 2011 | | | |
| | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 |
| U.S. | 0.35% | 0.55% | 0.80% | 1.50% | 2.35% | 3.10% | 4.20% | 4.20% | 4.30% | 4.40% | 4.50% | 4.50% |
| Japan | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.25% | 1.35% | 1.35% | 1.45% | 1.50% | 1.60% | 1.80% |
| Euroland | 0.60% | 0.80% | 1.00% | 1.40% | 2.25% | 3.00% | 3.25% | 3.30% | 3.70% | 4.00% | 4.25% | 4.40% |
| U.K. | 0.65% | 0.75% | 1.00% | 1.50% | 2.00% | 3.25% | 4.10% | 4.40% | 4.70% | 4.80% | 4.90% | 5.00% |
| Canada | 0.40% | 0.50% | 1.00% | 2.00% | 3.00% | 3.50% | 3.60% | 3.90% | 4.10% | 4.30% | 4.40% | 4.45% |

Forecast as of : April 7, 2010

Source : Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

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FINANCE AND ECONOMY

SME Loan Target Set For 2010

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has for the first time fixed a target for all banks and financial institutions of distributing Tk 23,995 crore in small and medium enterprise (SME) loans for 2010. Of the Tk 23,995 crore loans, state-owned commercial banks will disburse Tk 3,897 crore, specialised banks Tk 600 crore, private commercial banks Tk 17,478 crore, foreign banks Tk 707 crore and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) Tk 1,313

By The Numbers

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Total loans | Tk 23,995 crore |
| State banks to give | Tk 3,897 crore |
| Specialised bank | Tk 600 crore |
| Private Bank | Tk 17,478 crore |
| Foreign banks | Tk 707 crore |
| NBFIs | Tk 1,313 crore |

crore. The banks will give up to Tk 25 lakh collateral-free loan to small enterprises and women entrepreneurs. In these cases, the banks can consider personal guarantee including products and machinery of the enterprises as collateral. The BB governor told journalists that the banks would distribute the loans on area basis. A three-tier monitoring system will be introduced to oversee whether the loans are distributed properly. The central bank has already identified prospective small initiatives in 64 districts for giving SME loans to the entrepreneurs, and made a list of 131 enterprises including bakery, handicrafts and cold storage. On the interest rate, the policy said the banks would decide on the rate. However, the banks have been asked to ensure that the rate remains tolerable and conforms the operating cost of the banks. Every bank has been directed to introduce a dedicated desk for women entrepreneurs, appoint necessary manpower and provide them with training for financing the SME sector. Bangladesh Bank head office and its regional offices will monitor whether the SME loans are distributed and recovered properly. (Source: The Daily Star)

Budget to Be Unveiled On June 10

The government will include no new policy initiative in the next budget to be unveiled on June 10, rather pursue those taken under the budget of the current fiscal year, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith told reporters at his ministry. "The main thrust of the next budget will be on implementing the initiatives included in the current budget," he said at a press briefing. The Finance Ministry will bring all 12 remaining ministries under the medium-term budgetary framework (MTBF) for a period of five years from the next fiscal, Mr Muhith said. It will offer the government two advantages - to draw up a comprehensive development plan for the next five years and ensure proper utilisation of resources, he added. At present 32 ministries are under the framework and from the next fiscal the remaining 12 ministries will join it. In addition, the President's Office, the Prime Minister's Office and the Parliament will also be brought under the MTBF, he said. Power and energy will get the maximum priority in the next budget and the targets for the two sectors in 2010-11 will be time-bound, Mr Muhtih said. He said most of the ministries' capacity of implementing projects is poor and it should be improved. "The main problem is implementation and the government will put focus on the issue," he added. (Source: The Financial Express)

Unclaimed Bank Deposits of Tk 3.88cr Sent to Treasury

Banks and other financial institutions have sent Tk 3.88 crore,

accumulated from February 16, 2009 to February 15, 2010, to Bangladesh Bank for depositing the unclaimed money with the treasury. The Banking Companies Act says if any account holder does not transact for at least 10 years, the treasury absorbs the money deposited with any bank or financial institution. However, there is a provision of publishing a list of such account holders in daily newspapers. Although the finance ministry issued a letter exempting the central bank from such obligation, Bangladesh Bank officials say such lists will be made available on its website. Earlier, an unclaimed deposit of Tk 32.61 crore was deposited with the treasury without any publication of such lists in newspapers. (Source: The Daily Star)

Bangladesh, India chambers agree to speed up trade

The India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) yesterday agreed to speed up efforts to increase bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. Both business bodies adopted a joint declaration to identify opportunities for Indian investment, technology transfer and joint ventures in Bangladesh. The declaration also includes ways in which Bangladeshi investment can reach India. Both sides also agreed to organise roadshows styled 'Invest in Bangladesh' at major cities in India. According to the declaration, a joint team of CII and IBCCI will visit border sites, particularly the northeastern states of India and Bangladesh, to help governments improve infrastructure. About 20 top officials from Indian IT companies will visit Bangladesh in the six months to see business opportunities here. (Source: The Daily Star)

Private Banks are Allowed to Open 350 Branches

A total of 30 private commercial banks (PCBs) are now running their businesses in the country and the central bank has given permission to 27 for opening around 350 branches throughout the country. Of the total, 110 will be dedicated for small and medium enterprises and agricultural loans by this calendar year. The central bank will cancel such permissions if the banks fail to open their branches by December 31. The bank has provided licenses, for the first time, to the PCBs for opening SME/Agriculture branches to gear up financing to the SMEs and farmers. Besides, it is converting SME service centers, which are located outside of divisional headquarters, into SME/Agriculture branches to provide better services to their clients. The banks are now providing services through over 200 SME service centers across the country. (Source: Financial Express)

Government's Interest Payment Rises

The government spending on payment of interest rises by the year because of its dependence on internal borrowing to meet a budget deficit. A preliminary estimate shows such spending is likely to reach Tk 17,000 crore in the next budget from Tk 14,690 crore in the revised budget of the current fiscal year. The next budget deficit has been projected at Tk 39,000 crore, 54 percent of which is planned to borrow from local banks and savings instruments. Around 55 percent of the Tk 31,039 crore deficit in the current year's revised budget is also being





met by such borrowing. Although interest on savings instruments is high, the government had to double the borrowing through this source. According to a Finance Division report, the rate of interest is on average about 1 percent in the case of foreign loans. On the other hand, the rate of interest on loans from local banks is 7.75 percent, while the savings instrument interest is 11.75 percent. Up to fiscal 2008-09, the government's total loan stood at Tk 276,930 crore, which is about 45 percent of GDP (foreign loan is 24.3 percent of GDP). The finance ministry officials say although the rate of interest on foreign loans is low, such loans and grants could not be utilized. It hinted at lowering the interest on savings instruments from the next fiscal year in line with the measures taken by the government for such rate cut. A committee led by a deputy governor of the central bank is now working on it. (Source: The Daily Star)

Companies asked to make public their financials

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has asked all listed companies to put on view their latest financial statements including balance sheet, income and cash flow.

The move is aimed at creating a wider access to information for investors and helping them take their investment decisions based on facts. The prime bourse has also asked all the listed companies and securities to link their websites with that of the DSE to allow investors' easy access to those company sites. The directive comes as many investors are believed to make their investment decisions influenced by rumours and speculations. "We have taken the decision so the investors don't go for rumour-based decisions and make informed judgement before investing," said Satipati Moitra, chief executive of the DSE. The bourse brought changes to its listing regulations and also issued a notification last month – a move to ensure compliance by all the listed issuers. It has also asked the listed issues to update their sites with their annual and interim financial statements and all price sensitive information. However many listed companies out of 429 do not have any website, while some of the companies are out of operation. As of February 2010, 239 companies are listed on the bourse. (Source: The Daily Star)

Leasing Firms, Banks in Turf War

Competition is intensifying for leasing companies, as at least seven commercial banks and state-owned Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) have got into the leasing business. Banks now undertake leasing through a division or unit. In addition, banks receive a depreciation allowance, which the leasing companies have been missing out on since fiscal 2007-08, industry people said.

In the past few years, banks, such as The City, Prime, Pubali, Dutch-Bangla, Mutual Trust, National Credit and Commerce Bank and Uttara, have stepped into the arena, putting up a good fight for the leasing and finance companies. The main focus of leasing is on new ventures, machinery and motorised vehicles, which accounted for over 50 percent of lease disbursement in fiscal 2007-08. The focus is now shifting to other areas, such as capital market, SME and home loans. "Leasing accounted for nearly 80 percent of our business in 2005. It came down to only 30 percent in 2009," said Mafizuddin Sarker, managing director of LankaBangla Finance, a leading leasing company. Since banks are paying no more than 6-8 percent interest on customer deposits, leasing is immensely profitable for them. On the other hand, margins for leasing companies have shrunk. They need to pay 12 to 14 percent interest on funds and can seek 16-18 percent from lessees. According to industry insiders, leasing companies depend on bank finance for their business: small companies depend 100 percent on banks while the larger ones depend 60 percent to 70 percent. Anis A. Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said banks should undertake leasing by forming a separate company. He however said it is

not illegal for banks.

The first leasing company was set up in Bangladesh in 1985. The sector has since grown and now the total number of companies in the leasing sector stands at 29. According to BLFCA data, leasing companies make long-term investment worth about Tk 3,000 a year. Outstanding long-term investment of these companies now stands over Tk 11,000 crore. (Source: The Daily Star)

Bangladesh Top Exporter in European market

Bangladesh was the top export performer in the European Union market in 2009 with 6 percent growth, when all other countries, except for Qatar, suffered an export fall in the common market due to a global financial contraction. Bangladesh shipped products worth 5.8 billion euros to the EU in 2009, increasing from 5.7 billion euros in 2008, witnessing a 6.3 percent rise.



During the time, Bangladesh outperformed its global competitors: China, India and Vietnam. In 2009, China posted a 13.4 percent export fall in the EU market compared to 2008, while India sustained 13.9 percent and Vietnam 9.5 percent. At the same time, EU's import from the global market shrank 23.4 percent. Bangladesh's export to the EU was not tainted probably because "Bangladesh exports items that are not sensitive to income variables", said Stefan Frowein, head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh, at a press briefing at its office in Dhaka. (Source: The Daily Star)

BGMEA to Setup Warehouse in Spain

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will set up a warehouse in Spain to ease its business operations in the European market. An agreement was signed between BGMEA and Yu-Kom-Publicidad SL, a Spanish company, at the BGMEA headquarters in Dhaka. Yu-Kom-Publicidad will provide unloading facilities for BGMEA members if any company refuses their shipment, allowing the shipment to be stocked at the warehouse until they can be sold at proper prices. (Source: UNB, Dhaka)

Banks to Face Stress Test

The central bank has ordered all banks and other financial institutions to undergo stress tests to check whether they are strong enough to hold up in the face of more difficulties and risks. A Bangladesh Bank (BB) circular has asked the banks to send their respective stress test reports twice a year. The BB must get the reports within 45 days after June 30 and December 31. Earlier, the BB used to carry out the stress tests and has shifted the responsibility to the banks. It is the central bank's new measure for risk analysis of the banks, which was introduced last year. The central bank has also sent a guideline to the banks in this regard.





The BB has taken the initiative as many countries adopted it in the wake of the recession that rattled the global economy, particularly the financial sector. The idea behind a bank's stress test is to check out its financial strength and see how or whether it will stay afloat in difficult times. Stress test is to measure what will happen with a bank if the economy worsens and bank difficulties increase. According to the guidelines, the BB puts stress on simple sensitivity and scenario analysis, which provides ways to assess risks in credit, interest rate, exchange rate, share market and liquidity. (Source: The Daily Star)

Stimulus for Aus Farmers

The government launched a Tk 26 crore stimulus package for marginal farmers to boost the upcoming Aus production and recover the losses in Boro season due to recent flash floods in some districts. The floods in greater Sylhet, Kishoreganj and Netrakona damaged around 1.56 lakh metric tons of Boro crops in 40,000 hectares of land. The ministry has already disbursed Tk 25.96 crore to deputy commissioners of 51 districts to distribute it among 3,46,100 small and marginal farmers. Under the stimulus package, which is the first ever for Aus production, each farmer would get 20kg of urea, 10kg each of TSP and MOP fertiliser per bigha of land for free. "With this package, 1.16 lakh metric tons of additional Aus will be produced which will help largely to overcome the boro loss," said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury at a press conference at the ministry. She warned that negligence and anomalies in distributing fertiliser among the farmers would not be tolerated. She also gave assurance of good price for Boro crops this year and said the prime minister would monitor whether the farmers are getting fair price. (Source: The Daily Star)

BB Bans Loan for Tobacco Farming

Bangladesh Bank has directed all banks not to grant any kind of loan facilities for tobacco farming as it poses a serious health hazard. The central bank in a circular said no loan for tobacco farming would be given to farmers directly or in any



other form. The circular also said the loan given earlier must be realized on time and their payment schedule would not be extended. The decision was taken to improve people's health, financial condition and to discourage tobacco farming, which is harmful to the environment. Apart from tobacco users, people including children directly involved in the tobacco farming and production are exposed to health hazard. Huge amount of fuel is burnt for drying green tobacco leaves, which emits smoke with tobacco odour and carbon-di-oxide. It also encourages felling of trees and thus contributing to the adverse impact of climate change. The Bangladesh Bank advised the banks to increase the flow of agricultural loans to the farmers who are now engaged in tobacco farming so that they can produce

alternative crop under bank loan facility. (Source: The Daily Star)

S&P and Moody Gives Good Rating to Bangladesh

Bangladesh got a BB- sovereign credit rating by US rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P), securing a higher position than Pakistan and Sri Lanka. S&P rates 123 governments. The organization has a total of 17 rating categories ranging from AAA to CCC+ and Bangladesh was placed in number 13 categories. Out of 123 countries S&P rated this year, Bangladesh's position was more or less the same from that of some other emerging economies of the region like the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam. In addition to this, Credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service for the first time assigned Ba3 to Bangladesh and termed the country's outlook stable. The rating put Bangladesh on a par with the Philippines, Vietnam and Turkey. In the South Asian context, Bangladesh's position is higher than Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but below India. In a statement, the US-based Moody's said the rating reflected Bangladesh's reasonable level of robustness in finance and balance of payments, and the prospects for continued microeconomic stability. Expressing expectation of getting more Foreign Direct Investment in the country, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman said GDP growth, high foreign exchange reserve and good current account balance were the reasons behind getting a good rating like this. (Source: The Daily Star)

China Pledges Free Market Access

China will allow duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to its markets and increase its support for the country's efforts to face floods and other natural calamities caused by global warming. Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao gave the assurance during official talks with Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina. China is giving grants for construction of Chinese Exhibition Centre with car parking facilities, construction of road and rail infrastructure connecting Chittagong with Kunming through Gundum of Myanmar, construction of eighth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, Water Purification Project in Pagla, Financial and Technical support for construction of power plant in Bangladesh, strengthening organisational cooperation between China National Hybrid Rice Research Centre and Bangladesh Rice Research Institutes and waiving Chinese loan. Sheikh Hasina also sought short and long term Chinese assistance, grants and approval of state to state loan on ODA basis for implementing seven projects in Bangladesh's agriculture, power and infrastructure sectors during the meeting. (Source: BSS, Beijing)

6-Month Review of FY 2009-10 Budget: Tk 946cr Surplus on Less Spending, High Earning

The first six months of the current fiscal year saw a budgetary surplus of Tk 946 crore, due to low expenditure, increased foreign assistance, and high revenue income. The information was revealed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith when he was reporting to the parliament the fiscal year's first six months' trends in government income and expenditure, with an analysis of the state of the economy. The report said the corresponding period of the last fiscal year saw a budget deficit of Tk 6,129 crore, and the estimated total deficit for the current fiscal year was fixed at Tk 34,358 crore in the annual budget. The government has Tk 12,000 crore cash in hand even after repaying bank loans of a huge amount of Tk 11,108 crore in cash as well during the period. In the first six months of FY 2009-'10 the total revenue collection was Tk 35,553 crore which was 15.7 percent higher on the corresponding period of FY 2008-'09. The total revenue collection target this fiscal year is Tk 79,461 crore, which the finance minister hopes to reach in the remaining months. (Source: The Daily Star)



ADB to Double Assistance

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will double its assistance to \$1.1 billion a year for 2011-2013 to help Bangladesh tackle the power, gas and water crises. In a statement, ADB said it had provided around \$600 million in assistance to Bangladesh a year during 2006-2008, and is currently supporting a wide range of development programmes with 59 projects of the government worth about \$4.5 billion. New assistance will focus on infrastructure and education, power and energy, transport, integrated urban infrastructure, regional cooperation, and climate change. The ADB officials indicated that the lending agency will increase assistance to the Padma Bridge and urged the government to accelerate implementation of transport projects and other development programmes. (Source: The Daily Star)

E-Post Services Launched

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated two electronic services—Electronic and Mobile Money Order and Postal Cash Card to improve digitisation of services to the people. The Postal Department published a miniature sheet of four commemorative stamps of Tk five denomination and one commemorative stamp of Tk six denomination. SheikH Hasina hoped that the two electronic services would make a big contribution to the national economy. She said the government has undertaken a project to allow 8,500 post offices to operate as e-centers. This will help the post offices to take advantage of new trends for the public welfare. (Source: UNB, Dhaka)

Govt to Shut 2,931 'Dubious' NGOs

The social welfare ministry will shut down activities of 2,931 NGOs in 16 districts for violating voluntary social agency rules. Anomalies in fund handling and mismanagement have been detected in most of these organisations while many have been found involved with militancy. Activities of a few NGOs were never reported to the authorities while others have remained inactive for several years, a high official at the ministry said. The Department of Social Services will execute the closure. The NGOs include Grameen Kalyan Sangstha, National Income Employment Project, Social Organisation for Distribute, Helpful Association for Social Advancement, Islamia Orphanage, Insaf Sammillito Samaj Unnayan Sangstha, Agency for Social Forestry and Environmental Conservation in Rajbari, and Community Development Organisation, Bhumihin Unnayan Programme, Islami Manab Kalyan Sangstha and Society for Rural Development in Chapainawabganj. The ministry decided to shut down these NGOs' activities on the basis of a DSS report. Quomaran Nessa Khanam, secretary of social welfare ministry, informed that these organisations were found inactive. (Source: The Daily Star)

EU Steps against China Drive Global Companies to Bangladesh

Global shoemakers are rushing to Bangladesh to keep up business growth following extension of the European Union's antidumping duties on shoe imports from China. At the end of 2009, the EU extended for 15 months a 16.5 percent punitive tax, which was first introduced in October 2006 on the import of Chinese shoes with leather uppers. Pou Hung Industrial (Bangladesh) Ltd, owned by the world's largest shoe maker Pou Chen Group, is working in full swing to start production next month at its nearly Tk 500 crore factory at the Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone. Korea-based giant Youngone Group is also setting up a massive shoe factory at Karnaphuli EPZ in Chittagong at a cost of \$110 million.

Another Taiwanese shoe giant Paolo Footwear Company has been making shoes at the EPZ for months now. "Many more Chinese and Taiwanese companies are in the pipeline

to come to Bangladesh," City Huang, president of Paolo Footwear Company said. Paolo is making renowned brands for women, such as Faith, Evans, Matrix and Caprice. Huang came here after reading a book by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus some years back. "Part of the reason for us to come here is that there are no duties on shoes made in Bangladesh," said Huang. Scarcity of land is a big problem in Bangladesh, identified Huang. "If you can resolve the land and transportation problems, your country will fill with Chinese and Taiwanese companies," he said. (Source: The Daily Star)

POLITICS

Decade-Old Hills Admin at Stake

The existence of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council for over a decade is under threat as the High Court declared the CHT Regional Council Act 1998 illegal and unconstitutional. The council has been functioning under the leadership of Jyotirindro Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, since its formation in 1999 under the act formulated as a result of the historic CHT Peace Accord 1997. It was formed to coordinate among the district councils of



Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari regarding development activities, resolving inconsistencies in their activities and maintaining law and order.

In one of the five guidelines of the judgment, the HC bench said it has found that the CHT Regional Council Act violated some articles of the constitution but it is still up to the government to form public statutory authority comprising entirely nominated members as part of the peace process. The court said it is certainly an irony that the peace process, aimed at democratic governance, has not been able to ensure the practice of democracy in CHT. Democratic governance in the CHT is the lifeblood of the peace process and should be encouraged in all earnest, it added. (Source: The Daily Star)

Meghnaghat Graft Case against Hasina Quashed

The High Court in a verdict yesterday quashed the proceedings against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Meghnaghat Power Plant corruption case filed during the last BNP-Jamaat regime. An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee pronounced the verdict following a petition by Hasina for quashing the proceedings against her. The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case in 2001, on charge of misappropriating Tk 17.89 crore from the government exchequer during the process of installation of the power plant. (Source: The Daily Star)



Domestic Capital Markets Review

CAPITAL MARKETS - DSE (For the week April 11 to April 15, 2010)

Weekly Summary

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Total Turnover (BDT mil.): | 32184.52 |
| Volume of Share (Nos.): | 131,700,639 |
| Weighted Avg. P/E Ratio | 26.01 |
| Total Scrip Traded | 254 |

Category-wise Turnover

| Group | Turnover Value (BDT mil.) | % of Total |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| A | 28129.59 | 87.40% |
| B | 747.10 | 2.32% |
| N | 2808 | 8.72% |
| Z | 499.82 | 1.55% |

Scrip Performance in the Week

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Advanced | 87 |
| Declined | 164 |
| No Change | 3 |
| Not Traded | 12 |
| Total Issues | 266 |

Top 10 Gainers of the Week (by Closing Price of all Companies)

| Name | Category | % of Change | Turnover BD Tk (million) |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Rahima Food | B | 11.95 | 63.53 |
| Prime finance | A | 11.7 | 897.79 |
| Kohinoor Chemicals | B | 11.68 | 1.63 |
| Golden Son | A | 9.42 | 632.26 |
| Legacy Footwear | B | 8.55 | 60.40 |
| Eastern Lubricants | B | 8.19 | 8.04 |
| Reckitt Benckiser(Bd.)Ltd. | A | 7.03 | 8.61 |
| Social Islamic Bank Ltd. | A | 6.82 | 649.15 |
| IDLC Finance Limited | A | 6.64 | 341.47 |
| National Life Insurance | A | 6.57 | 69.57 |

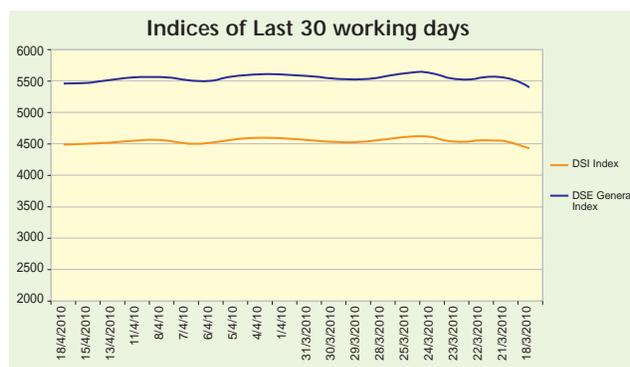
Top 10 Losers of the Week (by Closing Price of all Companies)

| Name | Category | % of Change | Turnover BD Tk (million) |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| NCCBL | A | -35.51 | 205.66 |
| Jamuna Bank | A | -29.91 | 42.45 |
| Pubali Bank | A | -26.82 | 65.82 |
| Eastland Insurance | A | -24.45 | 75.08 |
| Union Capital | A | -23.37 | 334.27 |
| Phoenix Finance | A | -22.98 | 79.94 |
| Shahjalal Islami Bank | A | -21.04 | 159.67 |
| Islami Bank | A | -19.15 | 151.91 |
| Modern Industries | Z | -14.46 | 0.07 |
| IBBLP Bond | A | -10.7 | 12.08 |

Top 10 Companies by Turnover for this Week

| Names | Turnover BD Tk. (million) | Volume |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| BEXIMCO | 4370.04 | 10,974,000 |
| Beximco Pharma | 2597.44 | 13,798,000 |
| Grameenphone Ltd. | 1682.56 | 4,842,000 |
| Lankabangla Finance Com | 1348.23 | 3,779,500 |
| BEXTEX Limited | 1127.65 | 11,108,800 |
| Summit Power | 1097.17 | 933,800 |
| Prime Finance | 897.79 | 469,650 |
| Shinepukur Ceramics Limited | 887.66 | 8,876,300 |
| DESCO | 813.05 | 462,150 |
| Social Islamic Bank Ltd. | 649.15 | 2,417,900 |

DSE Market Round Up



Bearish trend continued in bourses pulled down by GP and bank stocks. Benchmark DSE General Index lost 80 points in four trading sessions. Market was closed in Wednesday to celebrate Bengali New Year. Even though liquidity flow increased following

NBR's assurance that it wouldn't take any market unfriendly decision, market failed to turnaround as overall uncertainty's sentiment are fragile. Sluggishness in real economy, uncertainty regarding upcoming budget, inactivity of institutional investors made the market stroll in erratic manner. Trading was centered to few scrips. Stocks of Beximco group dominated nearly 30% of the week's turnover. Investors are rushing to this group in speculation of hefty dividend. Last week cement, ceramic, engineering, energy, pharma, tannery and miscellaneous sectors advanced. On the other hand bank, food, mutual funds, telecom and textile declined. DSE General Index reached at 5489.67 fell by 79.97 points or 1.44% from the previous week. Total turnover reached at Tk 32184.52m with 0.87% decrease from the last week's Tk 31905.71m. On the other hand, market capital fell by 2.89% and stood at Tk 1847.62b (\$26.55b) at the weekend against Tk 1902.63b. DSE-20 has moved downward by 9.55 points (0.33%) and closed at 2904.66 points against 2914.22 points. Last week weighted average Market PE was 26.01 which were 11.17% lower than previous week's 29.28. During the week, DSE General Price Index was below of both 9 and 18-day moving average line. (Source: AIMS Weekly Newsletter)



CAPITAL MARKETS - CSE

(For the week April 11 to April 15, 2010)

Weekly Summary

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Total Turnover (BDT): | 2,553,341,626.60 |
| Volume of Share (Nos): | 16,324,533.00 |
| Total Contact(Nos) | 62,595 |
| Total Scrip Traded | 194 |

Category-wise turnover

| Group | Turnover Value (BDT mil.) | % of Total |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| A | 2055.47 | 80.48 |
| B | 79.01 | 3.09 |
| N | 316.55 | 12.39 |
| Z | 102.31 | 4.01 |

Scrip Performance in the Week

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Advanced | 68 |
| Declined | 114 |
| No Change | 12 |
| Total Traded Issues | 194 |

Top 10 Gainers of the Week (by Closing Price of all Companies)

| Names | Category | Week Difference | Turnover BD Tk. (million) |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| CTG. VEGETABLE | Z | 14.2 | 0.28 |
| IMAM BUTTON | B | 10 | 0.24 |
| KOHINOOR CHEMICAL | B | 9.95 | 0.12 |
| DELTA LIFE INSURAN | Z | 9.38 | 0.48 |
| SOCIAL ISLAMI BANK LIMITED | A | 9.08 | 77.89 |
| GULF FOODS LIMITED. | Z | 9.03 | 17,200 |
| GOLDEN SON LIMITED | A | 8.9 | 47.93 |
| PRIME FINANCE & INVESTMENT LTD. | A | 8 | 12 |
| APEX SPINNING | A | 7.9 | 0.25 |
| SAFKO SPINNING MILLS LTD | Z | 7.14 | 0.10 |

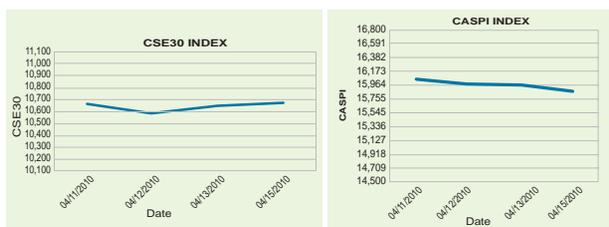
Top 10 Losers of the Week (by Closing Price of all Companies)

| Name | Category | Week Difference | Turnover BD Tk. (million) |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| JAMUNA BANK LTD. | A | -31.15 | 2.13 |
| EASTLAND INSURANCE | A | -22.7 | 0.05 |
| PHOENIX FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS | A | -19.97 | 1.17 |
| ALPHA TOBACCO | Z | -16.85 | 0.03 |
| NILOY CEMENT INDUS. LTD. | Z | -14.29 | 3.14 |
| PIONEER INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED | A | -12.37 | 0.11 |
| DHAKA FISHERIES | Z | -11.62 | 0.04 |
| BD. LAMPS LTD. | A | -7.31 | 0.06 |
| APEX WEAVING | Z | -7.1 | 3.50 |
| USMANIA GLASS | A | -6.37 | 0.01 |

Top 10 Companies by Turnover for this Week

| Names | Turnover BD Tk. (million) | Volume |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| BEXIMCO | 424.80 | 1,066,929 |
| BEXIMCO PHARMA | 175.76 | 930,413 |
| GRAMEENPHONE LIMITED | 173.65 | 498,600 |
| BEXTEX LTD | 164.96 | 1,623,220 |
| SHINEPUKUR CERAMICS LTD | 141.21 | 1,413,320 |
| LANKA BANGLA FINANCE LTD. | 84.92 | 239,500 |
| SOCIAL ISLAMI BANK LIMITED | 77.89 | 290,115 |
| BSRM STEELS LTD | 67.39 | 54,600 |
| NAVANA CNG LIMITED | 51.63 | 208,100 |
| GOLDEN SON LIMITED | 47.93 | 602,900 |

Indices of Last 30 Working days



MTB

Small Business Loan

ব্যবসা পরিচালনা ও সম্প্রসারণে গ্রাহকদের আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদানে এই ঋণ কর্মসূচী প্রনয়ন করা হয়েছে। যে কোন ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারী ব্যবসায়ী (SME) তাদের বাড়তি মূলধনের প্রয়োজনে এই ঋণের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারেন।



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National Economic Indicators

Foreign Exchange Reserve

The Foreign Exchange Reserve as of April 20, 2010, was registered at USD 10,541.08 from USD 10,142.00 million, reported on March 31, 2010 a 3.93% increase. At the end of June 2009, the reserve was USD 7,470.96 million. The year-over-year increase on April 20, 2010 is a significant 65.77% as the foreign exchange reserve last year on the exact date was USD 6,359.02 million.

Exchange Rate Movements

The average Taka-Dollar exchange rate of BDT 69.25 reported on April 20, 2010 was a slight increase from the previous month's exchange rate of BDT 69.24, as reported on March 31, 2010. On a year-over-year basis, the exchange rate has experienced an increase from the April 20, 2009 figure of BDT 69.00 to the Dollar.

Wage Earner's Remittance

Bangladesh received USD 941.31 million as inward foreign remittance in March 2010 registering 6.28% growth year-over-year. The remittance for the period of July-March 2009-10 stood at USD 8,254.86 million, a 17.36% increase, year-over-year.

Import

Import figure in February 2010 was USD 1,818.60 million as compared to USD 1,592.50 million in February 2009, a 14.20% increase, year-over-year. Imports for the period July-February 2009-10 stood at USD 14,837.40 a 4.22% decrease year-over-year.

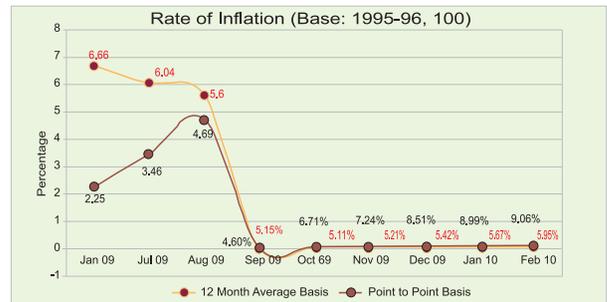
Export

Export figure in February 2010 was USD 1,315.11 million, an increase of 8.03% from the previous year. Yet, the figure for FY 2008-09 was reported at US\$ 15,565.19 million, a 10.31% increase from the previous year.

Investments in National Savings Certificates

February 2010 figure of sales of National Savings Certificates was reported as BDT 981.47 million, a significant increase from February 2009 figure of BDT 353.12 million. The Total National Savings Certificates Outstanding for July-February 2009-10 was reported as BDT 57,188 million, a 18.81% increase from the figure reported on the previous year.

| April 26, 2010 | Currency | Buying | Selling |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| A. USD/BDT Rates (based on interbank transaction) | | | |
| | USD | 69.2500 | 69.2540 |
| B. Cross Rate | | | |
| | SGD | 50.5253 | 50.5430 |
| | SEK | 9.6491 | 9.6621 |
| | JPY | 0.7372 | 0.7373 |
| | GBP | 106.4650 | 106.4919 |
| | EUR | 92.5872 | 92.5995 |
| | CAD | 69.2639 | 69.2956 |



MTB Revolving Loan

For Working Capital

Any SME, manufacturing, service, trading or farming, requires working capital for smooth operation of the business. This loan product enables those SMEs to meet their working capital requirements to support their operations and future growth.



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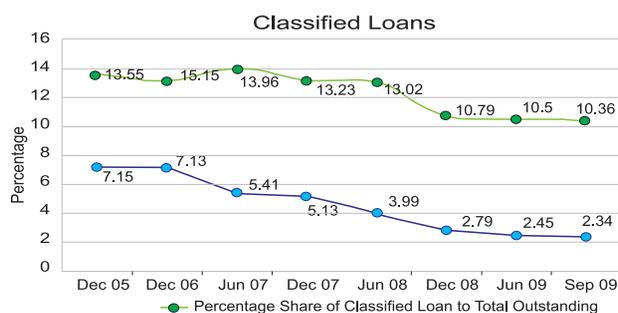
Banking And Financial Indicators



| Classified Loans | Dec 05 | Dec 06 | Jun 07 | Dec 07 | Jun 08 | Dec 08 | Jun 09 | Sep 09 | Dec 09 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Percentage Share of Classified Loan to Total Outstanding | 13.55 | 13.15 | 13.96 | 13.23 | 13.02 | 10.79 | 10.5 | 10.36 | 9.21 |
| Percentage Share of Net Classified Loan | 7.15 | 7.13 | 5.41 | 5.13 | 3.99 | 2.79 | 2.45 | 2.34 | 1.73 |

| | Percentage Change (%) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Feb 09 | Jun 09 | Feb 10 | Jul-Feb 2009-10 | Jul-Nov 2008-09 | FY 08-09 |
| Reserve Money (BDT billion) | 58167.50 | 69390.10 | 73119.00 | 5.37% | 4.47% | 31.45% |
| Broad Money (BDT billion) | 274,310.20 | 296,499.80 | 334,371.00 | 12.77% | 7.78% | 19.17% |
| Net Credit to Government Sector (BDT billion) | 53232.50 | 58185.20 | 49396.40 | -15.10% | 13.48% | 24.04% |
| Credit to Other Public Sector (BDT billion) | 14397.60 | 12439.70 | 14392.30 | 15.70% | 23.77% | 6.94% |
| Credit to Private Sector (BDT billion) | 207497.30 | 217927.50 | 248002.60 | 13.80% | 9.13% | 14.62% |
| Total Domestic Credit (BDT billion) | 275127.40 | 288552.40 | 311791.30 | 8.05% | 10.64% | 16.03% |

| L/C Opening and Settlement Statement (US\$ million) | Jul-Feb 08-09 | | | | Jul-Feb 09-10 | | | | Percentage Change (%) | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Open | | Sett. | | Open | | Sett. | | Year over year | |
| | Open | Sett. | Open | Sett. | Open | Sett. | Open | Sett. | Open | Sett. |
| Food Grains (Rice & Wheat) | 674.61 | 603.14 | 589.10 | 514.62 | 20.31% | -14.68% | | | | |
| Capital Machinery | 785.94 | 971.83 | 863.87 | 949.23 | 47.04% | -2.33% | | | | |
| Petroleum | 1,440.15 | 1,521.19 | 1,170.09 | 1336.41 | 7.15% | -12.15% | | | | |
| Industrial Raw Materials | 5,859.43 | 6,057.87 | 4,720.66 | 5294.4 | 6.38% | -12.60% | | | | |
| Others | 2,416.52 | 1,961.36 | 5,796.61 | 2552.46 | 40.56% | 30.14% | | | | |
| Total | 11,176.65 | 11,115.39 | 13,140.33 | 10,647.12 | 17.57% | -4.21% | | | | |



| YEARLY INTEREST RATES | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|---------|---|-------|--------|
| End of Period | Bank Rate | Call Money Market's Weighted Average Interest Rates on | | | Scheduled Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates on | | Spread |
| | | Borrowing | | Lending | Deposits |  |  | Advances |
| 2010 | 5.00 | 4.51 | | 4.51 | | | |
| 2009 | 5.00 | 5.04 | | 5.04 | | | |
| 2008 | 5.00 | 10.27 | | 10.27 | 7.31 | 12.31 | 5.00 |
| 2008 | 5.00 | 9.31 | | 9.31 | 6.77 | 12.75 | 5.98 |
| 2007 | 5.00 | 7.17 | | 7.17 | 6.98 | 12.99 | |
| 2006 | 5.00 | 8.41 | | 8.41 | 5.90 | 11.25 | 5.35 |
| 2005 | 5.00 | 4.93 | | 5.74 | 5.56 | 10.83 | 5.27 |
| 2004 | 5.00 | 6.88 | | 8.17 | 6.25 | 12.36 | 6.11 |
| 2003 | 6.00 | 9.49 | | 9.56 | 6.49 | 13.09 | 6.60 |
| 2002 | 7.00 | 8.26 | | 8.57 | 6.75 | 13.42 | 6.67 |
| 2001 | 7.00 | 6.82 | | 7.21 | 7.08 | 13.75 | 6.67 |

| INTEREST RATE DEVELOPMENT *A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Period | Treasury Bills | | | BGTB | | | | Repo | Rev. Repo | Call Rate | Lending Rate | Deposit Rate |
| | 91-Day | 182-Day | 364-Day | 5-Year | 10-Year | 15-Year | 20-Year | 1-2 Day | 1-2 Day | | | |
| 2008-09 *b | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 7.78 | 8.01 | 8.51 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.06 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 8.27 | .... | .... |
| August | .... | .... | .... | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.07 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 9.88 | .... | .... |
| September | 7.81 | 8.06 | 8.53 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.07 | 8.75 | 6.5 | 9.89 | 12.34 | 7.71 |
| October | 7.87 | 8.08 | 8.56 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.04 | 8.75 | 6.5 | 7.64 | .... | .... |
| November | 7.91 | 8.12 | 8.57 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.04 | 8.75 | 6.75 | 7.56 | .... | .... |
| December | 7.91 | 8.16 | 8.58 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13.02 | 8.75 | 6.75 | 10.42 | 12.31 | 7.31 |
| January | 7.93 | 8.16 | 8.59 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 13 | 8.75 | 6.75 | 9.82 | .... | .... |
| February | .... | 8.16 | 8.6 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 12.99 | 8.75 | 6.75 | 9.25 | .... | .... |
| March | .... | 8.16 | 8.6 | 10.6 | 11.72 | 12.14 | 12.98 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 8.31 | 12.34 | 7.52 |
| April | 6.53 | 7.48 | 8.31 | 9.97 | 11.68 | 11.79 | 11.48 | .... | .... | 1.95 | .... | .... |
| May | 3.97 | 5.43 | 6.16 | 10.01 | 10.22 | 10.57 | 11.09 | .... | .... | 3.28 | .... | .... |
| June | 3.54 | 4.24 | 5.96 | 9.21 | 10.05 | 10.09 | 10.07 | .... | .... | 1.79 | 11.87 | 7.01 |
| 2009-10 *c | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 1.86 | 3.75 | 5.01 | 8.2 | 9.42 | 9.39 | 8.97 | .... | .... | 1.08 | .... | .... |
| August | .... | .... | .... | 7.47 | 8.55 | 8.59 | 8.59 | .... | .... | 0.72 | .... | .... |
| September | 2.05 | 3.5 | 4.33 | 7.49 | 8.43 | 8.8 | .... | 8.5 | .... | 4.39 | 11.59 | 6.57 |
| October | 2.14 | 3.51 | 4.57 | 7.8 | 8.75 | 8.69 | 9.1 | .... | 2.5 | 2.82 | .... | .... |
| November | 2.3 | .... | 4.6 | 7.8 | .... | .... | .... | 4.5 | 2.5 | 4.01 | .... | .... |
| December | 2.3 | 3.54 | 4.6 | 7.8 | 8.75 | 8.69 | .... | 4.5 | 2.5 | 5.05 | .... | .... |
| January | 2.33 | 3.55 | 4.61 | 7.8 | .... | 8.74 | .... | 4.5 | 2.5 | 4.82 | .... | .... |
| February | .... | 3.56 | 4.62 | 7.82 | 8.75 | 8.74 | .... | 4.5 | 2.5 | 4.57 | .... | .... |
| March | .... | 3.54 | 4.63 | .... | 8.76 | 8.75 | .... | 4.5 | 2.5 | 3.25 | .... | .... |

Source: MRP, DMD, Statistics Dept., Bangladesh Bank, *a Weighted Average Rate, *b Provisional, *c Revised, Data Unavailable



Financial Institution of The Month



Prime Finance & Investment Limited



Md. Akter Hossain Sannamat FCA, FCS
Managing Director

Incorporation Date
March 10, 1996

Corporate Head Office
63, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000
Phone: 88-02- 9563883
Fax: 88-02-9653692
E-mail: info@primefinance.net

Company Profile

Prime Finance and Investment Limited (Prime Finance) is a non-banking financial institution domiciled in Bangladesh. Prime Finance & Investment Limited, a multidimensional non-banking financial institution was incorporated in Bangladesh in March 1996, as a public limited Company under the Companies Act 1994 and commenced its business from April 21, 1996. Prime Finance also obtained license from the Securities and Exchange Commission in July 1999, to operate in the capital market as a fullfledged Merchant Bank. The Company was listed with the stock exchanges in 2005.

Prime Finance & Investment Limited is one of the largest NBFIs in Bangladesh by market capitalization and belongs to Prime Financial Group which consists of a number of successful financial services providers such as PFI Securities Limited, Prime Finance Asset Management Co. Ltd., Prime Prudential Fund Limited and Prime Finance Capital Management Limited. The operations of the company are being carried out through its three branches located in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi. Prime Finance is an integrated financial services provider offering a comprehensive range of products and services in the local markets. Though product line of most of the NBFIs in Bangladesh is confined to lease and term financing, Prime Finance got out of the shell by offering a wide spectrum of products and services keeping in mind the focus on diversification. Product and services of the company include fund based products, fee based services and deposit schemes. Its core competencies cover lease finance, term finance, real estate finance, SME finance, public issue of shares, portfolio management, margin loan, share trading and many more.



MTB Micro Finance Loan



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PRAN RFL Group



Amjad Khan Chowdhury
Company Legal Representative /
Business Owner

Year Established
1983

Corporate Headquarters
Property Heights
12 R. K. Mission Road
Dhaka 1203, Bangladesh
Phone: 880-2-9563126, 880-2-7167412,
880-2-7167416
Fax: 880-2-9559415
E-mail: export@prangroup.com,
amcl@prangroup.com,
mktg@prangroup.com

Company Profile

“PRAN” is currently the most well known household name among the millions of people in Bangladesh and abroad also. Since its inception in 1980, PRAN-RFL Group has grown up in stature and became the largest fruit and vegetable processor in Bangladesh having 7 offices across the world. It also has the distinction of achieving prestigious certificates like ISO 9001:2000, and being the largest exporter of processed agro products with compliance of HALAL & HACCP to more than 70 countries from Bangladesh. Their main markets are in Southeast Asia, Africa, Mid East, and Eastern Asia. The Group comprises of 10 companies employing around 1000 people. The head offices are located in Dhaka with production facilities around the country. PRAN is a pioneer in Bangladesh to be involved in contract farming and procures raw material directly from farmers and processes them through state of the art machinery at our several factories into hygienically packed food and drinks products. The brand “PRAN” has established itself in every category of the food and beverage industry and can boost a product range starting with Juices, Carbonated Drinks, Confectionery, Snacks, Spices and to Dairy products. The organization also produces plastic furniture, plastic household products.

Trade & Market (As of 2009)

Main Markets: Southeast Asia, Africa, Mid East, Eastern Asia
Total Annual Sales Volume: Above US\$100 Million
Export Percentage: 21% - 30%
Total Annual Purchase Volume: US\$10 Million - US\$50 Million

Ownership Type
Corporation/Limited Liability

Business Type
Manufacturer, Trading Company, Buying Office,
Distributor/Wholesaler

Product/Service
Juice, Drinks, Confectionery, Plastic Furniture, Plastic Household,
Ethnic Snacks, Powder Packed Spices



MTB ভাগ্যবতী

নারী উদ্যোক্তাদের সহজ শর্তে অর্থায়নের উদ্দেশ্যে এই ঋণ কর্মসূচী প্রনয়ন করা হয়েছে। শুধুমাত্র ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারী মহিলা উদ্যোক্তাগণ (SMEs) এই ঋণের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।



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Know Your Chamber



PROFILE

Name

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

Year of Establishment

1904

Representative Character

Presently almost all established industrial organizations in the private sector, the public sector corporations, banks and also insurance companies are members of the Chamber. It represents about 80% of established industries in the country.

Chamber committee

The chamber is managed by a committee which consists of the President, Vice-President and 11 members.

Services

The Chamber has been rendering expert services in specialized areas like taxation, trade practices, custom, tariff, etc. The Chamber renders similar services regularly through bodies like National Committee on Export, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Commerce, National Council for Industrial Development, Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue, National Export Council, Transport Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communication, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Jute, Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles, Chittagong Port Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee for Securities Exchange Commission, Free Trade Group, etc. where it is represented.

International Recognition

MCCI has been accepted in the international market as the only body in Bangladesh eligible and entitled to arbitrate on commercial disputes. The overseas trade also insists on Chamber's legalization of Certificates of Origin, Unavoidable Delay Certificates and Sanitary Certificates in respect of shipment of jute and jute goods, garments etc. Similarly, the Chamber's certificates are accepted by the overseas countries in respect of its quality.

Secretariat

Headed by a Secretary-General and managed by 65 employees, the Chamber Secretariat consists of the following major sections-

- Economic Research Cell
- Taxation Cell
- Arbitration
- Pre-Shipment/quality Survey Cell
- Chamber's Library



Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla
Chamber President

Address

122-124, Motijheel Comm.
Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel : 9565208-10 & 7161028-30 (PABX)
Fax : 880-2-9565211 & 9565212
E-mail : sg@citechco.net
info@mccibd.org
Website : www.mccibd.org



Article of the Month

SME ROAD SHOW

Bangladesh Bank organized a weeklong roadshow styled “Unnayaner Ovjatra-Teknaf to Tetulia” to create mass awareness among people on farm loans and money laundering from March 26, 2010 to April 2, 2010. The roadshow aimed to spread awareness on financing small and medium enterprises (SMEs), agricultural loans, preventing money laundering and sending remittances through legal channels. The road show began at Teknaf in the southern district of Cox’s Bazar on March 26 and ended at Tentulia in the northern Panchagar district on April 2. Rallies and exchange of opinion meetings were held in 13 spots in between Teknaf and Tentulia. The spots were in Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar, Chittagong, Feni, Comilla, Tangail, Sirajganj, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagar and Tentulia.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman inaugurated the roadshow at Teknaf Degree College at noon, marking the country’s 40th Independent and National Day. Various public and private commercial banks participated in the campaign along the route with posters, festoons and other publicity materials produced by them. A total of 80 vehicles along with

41 well-decorated ones started the journey towards Cox’s Bazar with much fanfare. The procession reached the Cox’s Bazar beach where there were stalls of different Banks. Thousands of enthusiastic people gathered in the fare.

The procession started again in the morning of 27th March and reached Chittagong city. A fare was organized there as well. On March 28, the road show reached Feni in the morning and Comilla in the evening. Exchange of opinion meetings were held in both the places. After that the road show came to Dhaka and stayed for the entire day. The Road show again resumed its journey and reached Tangail on 30th March. From Tangail to Sirajganj, via Bagura to Rangpur, via Panchagar, the rally finally reached Tentulia on 2nd April in the afternoon. The ending of the event was marked by Deputy Governor of Bangladesh, Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui.

The unprecedented road show had been very successful in creating mass awareness about Agricultural and SME loans, Money Laundering and sending remittances through banks. The event literally became the gathering ground for small and medium entrepreneurs, farmers, bankers and common people.

(contributed by Khonika Gope)



Inauguration ceremony of Road Show in Teknaf



Dr. Atiur Rahman speaking at the inauguration ceremony in Teknaf



MTB stall in Cox's Bazar



Meetings held in various other locations



Mass awareness campaign in Teknaf



MTB stall promoting SME mass awareness



MTB vehicles in Road Show



M. Mahfuzur Rahman, GM, Anti-Money Laundering Dept. of BB at Road show



Welcome banner at the Road Show



MTB Senior Officials at the Road Show



Meetings held in different locations



Colourful processions at Road Shows



Mass people welcoming visitors to the Road Show



Winners of different competitions getting prizes sponsored by MTB



Different attractions at the Road Shows



Meetings at different locations of the Road Show



Other mass awareness campaigns at the Road Show



MTB Officials talk to salt farmers in Teknaf

Csr Activities

Woori Bank celebrates community service day

Woori Bank Bangladesh celebrated the 'Woori Community Service Day' as its corporate social responsibility. They spent the day at 'Amader Pathshala', a school that specially provides education and technical training to the slum children, at Mirpur in the city and provided study materials and technical training equipment to the students. (Source: Financial Express)

Robi Polli-Shining light upon Bangladesh

Leading telecommunications solution provider Robi Wednesday lit up ten remote villages across the country with solar power as part of the CSR initiative of the company. To facilitate development of Bangladesh's rural people, Robi is initiating a project to reach 500 homes in 50 hard-to-reach villages all over the country. Each of these 500 rural households will be provided with 20WP solar panels by May this year. This project will be technically supported by Rural Service Foundation. (Source: The Daily Star)

BAT Bangladesh launches new CSR initiative

British American Tobacco Bangladesh has embarked on a new CSR initiative called PROBAHO as the company launched a safe drinking water plant using SIDKO Water Filtration Unit, which is a government approved community based technology, at Bheramara in Kushtia district. BAT Bangladesh's new initiative is to provide communities with safe drinking water in arsenic prone areas. (Source: The Daily Star)

Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited scholarships for poor, brilliant students

Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited (SJI) Tuesday awarded 330 poor and brilliant students scholarship worth around Tk 4.3 million as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR). The bank gave 220 students passing the SSC examination in 2008 a lump scholarship of Tk 12,000 each and 110 students figuring well in the HSC examination the same year Tk 15,000 each at a function at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. (Source: Financial Express)



Appointments

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

| Name | Position | Organization |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mohd. Noor Ali | Chairman | Eastern Bank Ltd |
| M.A. Hashem | Chairman | United Commercial Bank Ltd. |
| Kazi Enamul Hoque | Vice Chairman | United Commercial Bank Ltd. |
| Md. Anowar Hossian | Chairman(Re- elected) | Islami Commercial Insurance Company Ltd. |
| Md. Rezaul Karim | Vice Chairman(Re- elected) | Islami Commercial Insurance Company Ltd. |
| Sultan Mahmood Chowdhury | Chairman | Social Islami Bank Ltd |
| Reshadur Rahman Shaheen | Chairman | Dhaka Bank Ltd |
| Mohammed Hanif | Vice Chairman | Dhaka Bank Ltd |
| Mohd Noor Ali | Chairman | Eastern Bank Ltd |
| Mr.Shafique -ul -Azam | Managing Director | MIDAS Financing Ltd. |
| M Farid Uddin | Managing Director | Rupali Bank Ltd |
| M Amanullah | Vice Chairman(Board of Directors) | Mercantile Bank Limited |
| Anwarul Haque | Vice Chairman(Board of Directors) | Mercantile Bank Limited |
| Morshed Alam | Chairman(Executive Committee) | Mercantile Bank Limited |
| Md Shahabuddin Alam | Chairman(Audit Committee) | Mercantile Bank Limited |

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

| Name | Position | Organization |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Major General Rafiqul Islam | Director General | Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) |
| Brig Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwary | Director General | Bangladesh Ansar and VDP |
| Saber Hossain Chowdhury | Vice President | Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on Peace and International Security. |

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

| Name | Position | Organization |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Abdus Salam Bhuiyan | President | The Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management |
| Noor Mohammad | Vice President | The Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management |
| Hazi Abdul Majid Mondol | Chairman | Mondol Group |
| Abdul Momin Mondol | Managing Director | Mondol Group |
| Mahmud Hasan Raju | President | Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industries. |
| Ahasan Habib Alamgir | Senior Vice President | Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industries. |
| Abul Barkat | President | Bangladesh Economic Association |
| DP Barua | President | Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace,Bangladesh National Centre |
| Mohammad Abul Bashar | President | Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies |
| Shahid UI Alam | President | Chittagong Union of Journalists |
| Mubasshar Hussain | President | Commonwealth Association of Architects |
| Jashim Uddin Khandaker | Vice President (Customer Care), | Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd |
| Md Shakil Rizvi | President | Dhaka Stock Exchange |
| Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury | Senior Vice President | Dhaka Stock Exchange |

Mtb News And Events



MTB Securities, the stock brokerage arm of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB), opened its Rangpur Branch on March 14, 2010. A.K.M. Abdur Rauf Manik, Mayor of Rangpur Municipality, Rangpur inaugurated the branch, as chief guest, at a simple ceremony held at Mostofa Super Market, 1 Jahaj Company Mor, Rangpur 5400. Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, Former President of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce & Industries was present as special guest. MTB Managing Director & CEO Anis A. Khan, senior MTB officials, capital market investors, leading business personalities and local elite participated in the inaugural ceremony.



Northern Bangladesh Managers Conference 2010 was held at RDRS, Rangpur on March 14, 2010. MTB MD & CEO Anis A. Khan, Managers of Rangpur, Bogura, Jaipurhat, Pabna, Kushtia and Rajshahi branches, In-charges of Iswardi and Belkuchi SME centers, Head of Consumer Banking Division, NRB division, Credit Risk Management Division, Business Development & Marketing, Special Asset Management Dept, PR & Brand Communication Dept and some other MTB officers were present at the conference.



MTB delegates from SME Banking Division and Risk Management Unit joined International Conference on Microfinance Regulations held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on March 17, 2010.



Md. Bakhteyer Hossain, Head of Correspondent Banking Department joined the Penang Trade Summit 2010, Malaysia on March 22, 2010.



MTB Securities Limited, the stock brokerage arm of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB), opened its Sylhet Branch at City Center (8th Floor), Zinda Bazar, Sylhet on March 22, 2010. Mr. Fakhor Uddin Ali Ahmed, President, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), inaugurated the branch, as Chief Guest, at a simple ceremony held at a local hotel in Sylhet. Mr. Golam Hyder, General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, Sylhet Branch was present as special guest. MTB Managing Director & CEO Anis A. Khan and senior executives, capital market investors, leading business personalities and local elite participated in the inaugural function.



Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has recently created a separate Risk Management Unit (RMU) to focus on all the risk areas of the Bank. S. K. Sur Chowdhury, General Manager, Department of Offsite Supervision, Bangladesh Bank, launched the unit at a simple ceremony held recently at the Bank's Corporate Head Office in Dhaka. MTB Managing Director & CEO Anis A. Khan, Deputy Managing Directors Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and Md. Ahsan-uz Zaman, Chief Risk Officer and Head of the newly formed MTB Risk Management Unit, Md. Jahangir Alam and senior MTB officials attended the function.



Mtb News And Events



MTB sponsored the Bangladesh vs England Test Cricket Series 2010. MTB MD & CEO Anis A. Khan joined the Prize Distribution Ceremony after the test match held on March 24, 2010 in Sher-e-Banglanagar National Stadium, Mirpur.



Md Nazrul Islam Mazumder, Head of MTB Securities joined the Surveillance, Risk Management and Securities Settlement Training Program held at BSE Training Institute, Bombay on March 24, 2010



Bangladesh Bank organized a weeklong roadshow styled "Unnayaner Ovijatra-Teknaf to Tetulia" with 40 vehicles to create mass awareness among people on farm loans and money laundering. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman inaugurated the roadshow at Teknaf Degree College on March 26, 2010. The roadshow ended on April 2 at Tetulia. MTB was a major participant in the roadshow.



The 12th Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) were held on March 30, 2010 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. MTB Chairman Samson H Chowdhury presided over both the meetings. Vice Chairman, Dr. Arif Dowla, Directors, M. A. Rouf, Rashed Chowdhury, Yasmeen Haque, Alternate Directors Khwaja Nargis Hossain and Md. Nasirullah were present at the meetings. Managing Director & CEO Anis A. Khan, Deputy Managing Director & Company Secretary Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, senior MTB officials and a large number of the bank's shareholders attended the meetings.



Bangladesh Bank has set up a 20.3kw solar power solution for its own electricity usage. Governor of the bank Dr. Atiur Rahman inaugurated the solar power system at Bangladesh Bank Head office on March 30, 2010. The project including 116 solar panels, 48 solar batteries, 5 charge controllers and 4 invertors cost Tk 1,34,95,000 (including tax and vat). MTB officers joined the installation ceremony.



MTB Customer Get Together of Dhorkora Bazar Branch was held at MTB Dhorkora Bazar Branch, Chowddagram, Comilla on April 05, 2010



Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has recently extended financial grants to underprivileged children afflicted with autism, intellectual and multiple disabilities, who are being taken care of by Seid Trust. MTB Deputy Managing Director, Md. Hashem Chowdhury handed over the grant money to Dilara Satter Mitu, Director of Seid Trust at a simple ceremony held at MTB Corporate Head Office in Dhaka on April 8, 2010. Amongst others MTB Deputy Managing Director Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the underprivileged children and senior MTB officials were also present at the event.



Workshop on SBS – 2 & 3 was held at MTB Training Institute on April 17, 2010. MTB officials from different departments and branches took part in the workshop.



ICC Conference: Energy for Growth was held on April 13, 2010 at Radisson Hotel, Dhaka. MTB MD & CEO Anis A. Khan, MTB Founding Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi and other MTB officials joined the conference.



MTB celebrated the 1st Joining Anniversary of MTB MD & CEO Anis A. Khan at a cordial ceremony held on April 15, 2010 at Corporate Head Office. Employees from different divisions and branches came to wish their dear MD & CEO with flowers and cakes. Anis A. Khan shared his celebration with Md. Mosharef Hossain, Officer, Office of the MD & CEO who was on his 7th joining anniversary and Kamrun Nahar, Junior Officer, Card Division who was on her 2nd year at the bank.

Financial Glossary

Calendar Spread

The sale (purchase) of a near month call option (put option) and the simultaneous purchase (sale) of a longer dated call option (put option) at the same exercise price.

Garnishee

The recipient (typically a bank) to whom a garnishee order has been delivered. A garnishee order is a court order instructing a bank that funds held on behalf of a debtor (the judgment debtor) should not be released until directed by the court. The order may also instruct the bank to pay a given sum to the judgment creditor (the person to whom a debt is owed by the judgment debtor) from these funds.

Early Redemption

Most fixed, capped and discounted mortgages, and those offering cash incentives, impose a financial penalty on customers who redeem their mortgages before the special deal comes to an end. This may be a percentage of the total advance, the sum repaid or the balance outstanding.

Dawn Raid

The practice of buying shares in a potential target at the beginning of a trading day in the hope that the rest of the market will be slow to react to the buying spree and that the price will therefore not rise until after the raid is complete.

Macaroni Defense

A tactic used by a company as defense against a hostile takeover bid involving the issue of a large number of bonds that must be redeemed at a higher value if the company is taken over. It is called a 'macaroni defense' because the bonds' redemption price is said to expand like macaroni when cooked.

Scalper

A trader who buys and sells quickly to take advantage of small price fluctuations. Usually a scalper is ready to buy at the bid and sell at the asked price, providing liquidity to the market. The term 'scalper' is used because these traders attempt to 'scalp' a small amount on a trade.

Day Trading

In the simplest terms, the purchase and sale, or sale and purchase, of a security on the same day. Day traders aim to make (often small) profits on a large number of 'intra-day' transactions. They follow the markets, use technical analysis to spot price trends, and get 'in and out' very quickly. Day trading became synonymous during the Bull Run in the late 1990s with the trend for private investors to abandon their normal jobs, set themselves up with a computer, some software and a data feed, and trade the markets for a living.

Source: www.finance-glossary.com

MTB Network

Dhaka Division

- Principal Branch**
02-7113237, 7113238, 7119964, 7122049, 7122849
- Panthapath Branch**
02-8613807, 02-8629887
- Babu Bazar Branch**
02-7314821, 7314822
- Sonargaon Branch**
02-038959-88105, 06723-88105
- Uttara Branch**
02-8924379, 02-8951474
- Progati Sarani Branch**
02-8411804, 02-8410948
- Sreenagar Branch**
02-038942-88222
- Pallabi Branch**
02-9016273, 8055630
- Dilkusha Branch**
02-7171301, 7171002, 7170137
- Dhanmondi Branch**
02-8155607, 02-8158334
- Bashundhara City Branch**
02-9124021, 9120982, 9111440, 8121071, 8121732, 8122044
- Chandra Branch**
02-06822-51968, 06822-51969
- Gulshan Branch**
02-8837840, 8832343, 9882473
- Savar Branch**
02-741452, 02-7741453
- Fulbaria Branch**
02-9559842, 02-9559867
- Madaripur Branch**
02-0661-62483, 02-0661-62482
- Dholaikhal Branch**
02-7172542, 02-7172602
- Aganagar Branch**
02-7762226, 02-7762227
- Narayanganj Branch**
02-7648209
- Banani Branch**
02-9883831, 9883861
- Tongi Branch**
02-9816250, 02-9816251
- Shanir Akhra Branch**
02-7551169, 02-7551195
- Mohammadpur Branch**
02-9127887, 02-9128494
- Elephant Road Branch**
02-9611596

SME Service Centers

- Kaliganj Center**
Tel: 01718883140
- Gafor Gaon Center**
01711979700

Rajshahi Division

- Pabna Branch**
0731-51829, 0731-51830
- Joypurhat Branch**
0571-63584, 0571-63585
- Rangpur Branch**
0521-52325, 0521-52326
- Bogra Branch**
051-78109, 051-78108
- Rajshahi Branch**
01716364366, 0721-776203
- Ishwardi**
01712651364

Brokerage Houses

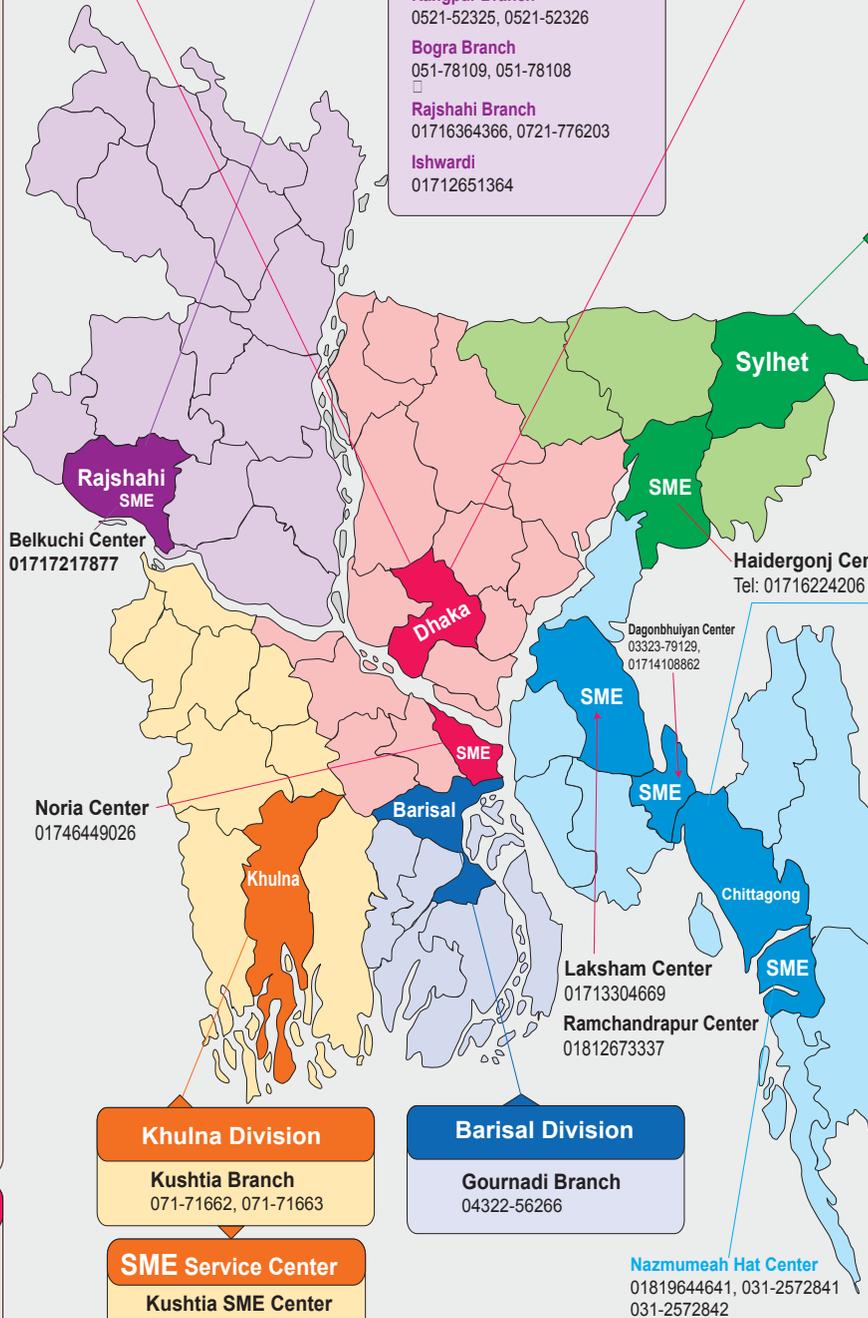
- Main Office**
02-9570563, 02-9568163
- Gulshan Office**
02-9895969, 066-62044390
- Pallabi Office**
02-9015919, 066-62607136
- Uttara Office**
044-76150106
- Narayanganj Office**
02-7648210
- Dhanmondi Office**
02-8913222
- Progati Sarani Office**
02-8840507

Sylhet Division

- Sylhet Branch**
0821-2830271, 0821-2830272
0821-716820
- Moulvi Bazar Branch**
0861-62840, 0861-62841

Brokerage Houses

- Sylhet Office**
Tel: 081-2830319



Belkuchi Center
01717217877

Noria Center
01746449026

Haidergonj Center
Tel: 01716224206

Dagonbhuiyan Center
03323-79129, 01714108862

Laksham Center
01713304669

Ramchandrapur Center
01812673337

Nazmumeah Hat Center
01819644641, 031-2572841
031-2572842

Khulna Division

- Kushtia Branch**
071-71662, 071-71663

SME Service Center

- Kushtia SME Center**
071-71662, 071-71663

Barisal Division

- Gournadi Branch**
04322-56266

Chittagong Division

- Office of the Head of Chittagong Br.**
031-2516681; Fax: 880-31-721091
- CDA Avenue Branch**
031-623559, 625336
- Khatungonj Branch**
031-612254, 626966
- Jubilee Road Branch**
031-624922, 031-627533
- Nazirhat Branch**
0821-4483498, 0443-4483498
- Chakoria Branch**
034-2256502
- Raipur Branch**
038-2256495
- Aman Bazar Branch**
031-681022, 01713106375
- Agrabad Branch**
031-2523287, 2524269, 2510754
- Alankar Mor Branch**
031-2772617, 2772619, 2772620
- Feni Branch**
033-161984, 033-161985
- Dhorkora Bazar Branch**
01911682484

Brokerage Houses

- Chittagong Office**
031-2514797, 037-31000768



মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
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