

**TRANSTEC**  
 (বৈদ্যুতিক-ফ্রিজ) Technology

8855366-8  
01712-665463

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Refrigerator

## Stocks

DGEN ▼ 1.20% 2,797.31

CSCX ▼ 0.97% 5,646.95

## Asian Markets

MUMBAI Closed

TOKYO ▲ 0.64%  
12,689.59

SINGAPORE ▼ 1.90%  
2,706.53

SHANGHAI ▼ 1.22%  
2,276.67

## Currencies

	Buy Tk	Sell Tk
USD	68.15	69.15
EUR	97.28	101.77
GBP	119.76	124.87
JPY	0.62	0.65

SOURCE: STANDARD CHARTERED

## Commodities

Gold	▼	\$792.59 (per ounce)
Oil	▲	\$107.71 (per barrel)

SOURCE: AFP

(Midday London Trade)

## More News

Surveillance market surges



The nuance between safety and security emphasises being protected from dangers that originate from outside and avoidance of breach of security. Coupled with dependency on technology, people are turning irreversibly toward state-of-the-art security systems.

B-4

BTCL officials in dilemma over future service status

Some 400 engineers and non-engineering cadre-service officials of the newly created Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) are now in a dilemma over the future of their career following the transformation of the state-owned telecom sector.

B-3

## International

Tata seeks new sites for cheap car plant

Tata Motors sought new sites for its cheap car plant Wednesday after protests forced it to suspend work on the project, a crisis seen as a big blow to India's effort to attract investors. The company hoped to have its cut-priced "Nano" model rolling off the production lines and in showrooms by October.

B-4

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# Intelligent buildings grab limelight

## All the 15 are based in Dhaka

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Intelligent buildings, the latest trend in office and residential real estate, are gradually becoming popular in Bangladesh.

The main feature of an intelligent building is that its life-sustenance systems are integrated into a single network, connected to computers that automatically monitor several parameters at the same time.

The parameters include temperature and humidity, heat and water consumption, free parking space, location of employees working in and around the building, engineering and security systems.

"The concept is growing, but slowly," said Tanveerul Huq Probal, president of Bangladesh Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab).

At intelligent establishments, alternative energy sources remain on a standby mode along with audiovisual

and entertainment systems and facilities for ventilation, filtration and climate control.

"The control system in an intelligent building is fully computerised. A strong network of electronic devices monitors and controls the mechanical and lighting systems in the building," said Iqbal Hussain, managing director of Magnum Engineering and Construction.

According to the market players, there are 15 intelligent buildings in the country -- all based in Dhaka.

Bashundhara City Shopping Complex, IDB Bhaban (building), and Headquarters of British-American Tobacco Bangladesh as well as buildings in which Square Pharmaceuticals, Aventis, Beximco, and American International School are located. Five-star hotels in Dhaka are also intelligent buildings.

There are few fully intelligent buildings in Bangladesh. Market players said that full-

fledged intelligent buildings have automated fire fighting and suppression systems, air conditioning systems, and access control with CCTV and intruder alarms.

"The automated programming system inside an intelligent building will let its occupant know if an air-conditioner becomes dirty or a room is about to go up in flames inside," Hussain said.

In terms of electricity consumption, intelligent buildings cost less than traditional structures, when the high concentration of electrical and electronic gadgets is taken into account.

Industry insiders said intelligent buildings are yet to make a noticeable impact on the residential segment of real-estate.

The Rehab president said: "Intelligent buildings are costly, and the realtors do not want to construct such buildings for living."

Industry insiders said, however, that many offices of private

commercial banks and other corporate and industrial offices are being built on the system.

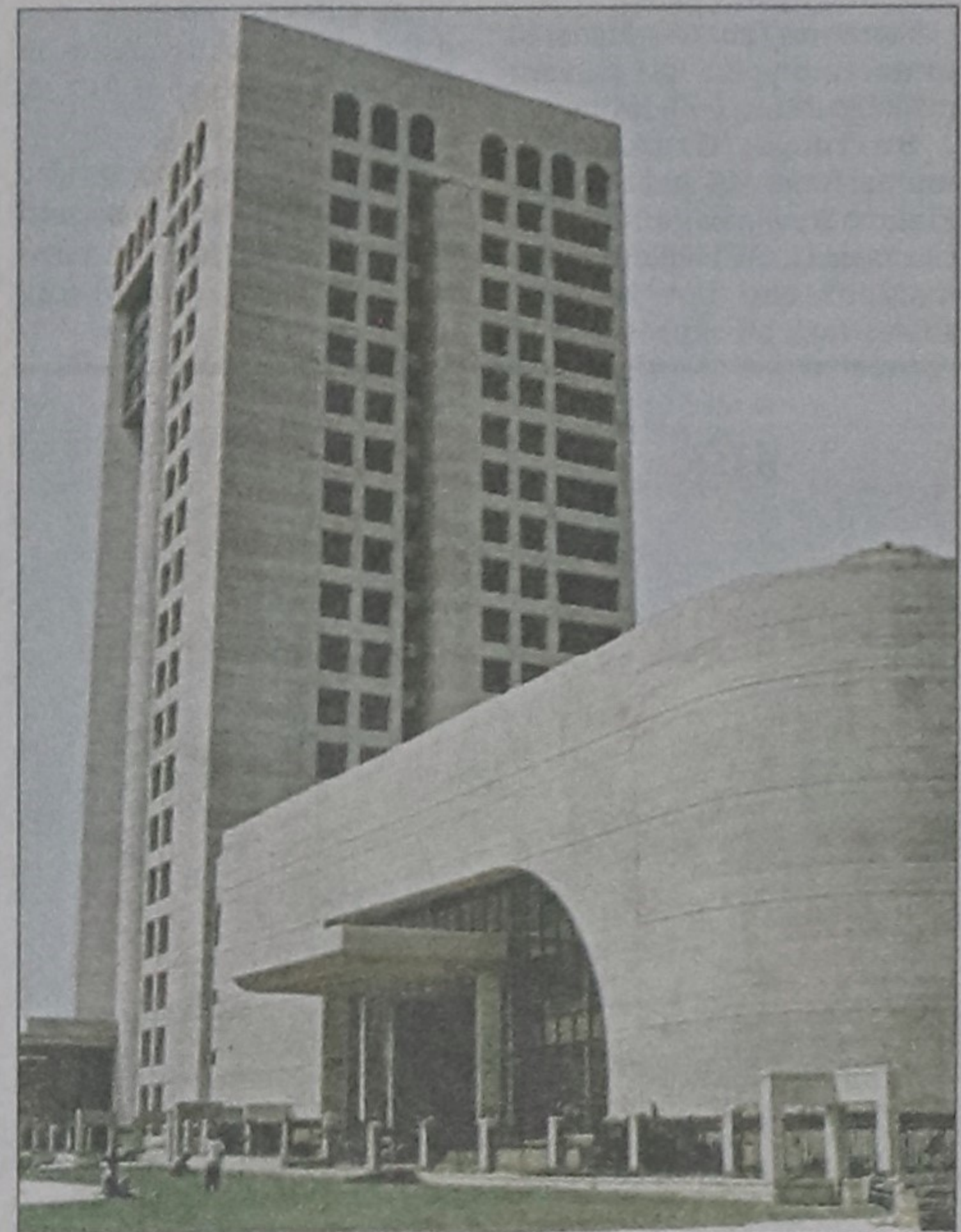
"Interiors of many buildings in Dhaka are getting intelligent, but not the whole building because of high costs," said Probal.

The origins of intelligent buildings and its management systems have roots in the industrial sector of Europe and US during 1970s. The systems and controls -- similar to those in use in today's intelligent buildings -- had been used to automate production processes and optimise plant performances.

The related technology and systems were then further developed and modularised during the 1980s so that they could be used in the residential and commercial sectors of the developed world.

The concept of intelligent building is new in the South Asian region, according to the industry people.

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IDB Bhaban in Dhaka is considered an intelligent building.

# HC stays fine on One Bank

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The High Court has imposed a bar on a move by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to realise Tk 12 lakh in fine from the directors of One Bank.

The court also sought explanations from the capital market regulator on why the fine would not be declared illegal, according to a copy of the HC order received by The Daily Star yesterday.

A bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed passed the stay order on August 28.

The HC order came after a petition was filed against the SEC move that fined 12 directors of One Bank Tk 1.0 lakh each for their alleged failure to submit an audited financial statement.

One Bank had been set to submit the statement for the year to December 31, 2007 to the SEC by May 11, 2008. But the bank failed to do so in time, according to the SEC.

The regulator, in its August 20 directive, also asked the One Bank directors to pay the fine in 15 days.

Lawyer Dr M Zahir defended the petitioners in court.

# Jewellery prices don't match with world market



KAWSAR KHAN

Prices of jewellery did not decline at the expected rate despite a fall of about \$188 in gold prices per ounce on the global market.

Businesspeople had hiked jewellery prices several times, keeping pace with an international price hike.

This allowed local jewellers to sell gold ornaments at a rate, which is Tk 6,000 and Tk 7,000 higher than the current international rate per bhoori.

The finest (24-carat) of gold traded at \$792.59 per ounce (2.67 bhoori or 31.1 gram) on the global market yesterday, down from a new high of \$981 recorded on July 16.

Soaring gold prices on the international market prompted jewellers in Bangladesh to hike the prices of 22-carat gold by about Tk 1,000 to Tk 27,700 and 21-carat gold to Tk 26,535 per bhoori.

The prices of gold have declined by Tk 4,788 per bhoori on the global market, but Bangladesh Jewellery Association (BJA) has decreased gold prices by only

Tk 1,400 per bhoori.

BJA centrally selects gold prices for its members to follow.

BJA President MA Wadud Khan said: "Although it is necessary to decrease gold prices, we cannot do so overnight as we will have to think of our business interest first."

"If we decrease gold prices abruptly, the customers who have already placed orders at high rates, will cancel their orders," Khan said.

A quick decline will hurt the jewellery business, Khan feared.

"The association will decrease gold prices by a further Tk 1,000 per bhoori soon," he promised.

"Local gold prices should be lower than the global rate since the bulk supply of gold on the domestic market comes not from the international market but from recycling of local reserves of gold," said a bullion businessman, asking not to be named.

Jewellers get recycled gold from people who sell their ornaments to jewellery shops, the businessman said.

"Since supply comes from the domestic market gold prices were lower than global prices a year ago," he added.

Wadud Khan, president of BJA, differed.

"We get almost 80 percent of our required gold from recycling but that doesn't mean local prices of gold should be lower than the international rate," he said.

"If the prices of precious metals remain lower in the country than in other countries, gold jewellery will be smuggled out," said the president of BJA that has around 1,000 members in Dhaka and another 120 outside.

The size of the domestic gold market has eroded to 25 tonnes from the previous 50 tonnes due to a price hike, according to bullion businessmen.

About one million people are directly or indirectly linked to the business, said Dewan Aminul Islam, joint secretary of BJA and owner of Seeraj Jewellers.

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# Businessmen hope for normalcy in garment industry

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Businesspeople believe normalcy will return to the garment industry after the government's announcement on Tuesday that it will deal with unlawful activities in any factory with a firm hand.

"The government should continue with its efforts to keep the situation in the RMG sector under control," said Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

"We demand that the government send a strong message to real culprits. There should be a permanent solution to the labour unrest," Pravez said.

An affected factory owner said the situation had showed signs of improvement after the law-enforcement agencies started patrolling different locations in Gazipur on Tuesday. Military personnel

and other law enforcers are patrolling different vulnerable spots in and around garment factories in Gazipur.

"At least 60 garment factories were vandalised in Gazipur over the last 20 days. Much of the vandalism was caused by the rumour of death of fellow workers and demand for higher wage," he said.

"We needed such initiatives for the greater interest of the RMG sector," the garment owner said, requesting anonymity.

According to the BGMEA statistics, 151 garment factories have been vandalised since January.

The home ministry Tuesday directed the law enforcement agencies to put a brake on any slide in law and order, and tackle unrest in readymade garment sector with an iron hand.

The directive came at a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order in the back-

drop of increasing incidents of unrest in the garment sector.

The meeting instructed the law enforcers to keep labour leaders under constant surveillance.

Home Adviser MA Matin asked the top police officials, who attended the meeting, to take stern actions against those responsible for disrupting law and order in the garment sector and those instigating unrest from behind the scene.

The affected garment owners of Gazipur, Savar and Maona areas -- where 60 percent of garment factories of the country are located -- had earlier reiterated their demand for deploying armed forces to bring back peace as agitated workers kept vandalising the factories on the slightest of instigations.

A sweater factory owner told The Daily Star that at least 50 lakh people live in the industrial belt of Gazipur, adding that only 600 members of the

law enforcement agencies are stationed in the district, which, he said, is too inadequate to tackle the situation.

According to the industry people, 90 percent of labour unrest incidents are caused due to disputes over sweater production in sweater factories and juvenile age of workers.

An announcement of a salary hike from the government is likely to come in a few days, according to industry insiders.

Meanwhile, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday inaugurated the rationing of essential commodities of the BGMEA at Gazipur Chowrasta. Essential commodities will be sold at nine spots in and around Dhaka and two spots in Chittagong.

"Under the package, workers can purchase essentials once a week with their identity cards," Parvez said. [refeat@thedailystar.net](mailto:refeat@thedailystar.net)

# Edible oil refiners worried over supply disruption on police restrictions

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Edible oil refiners yesterday expressed worries about supply disruption due to a recent measure taken by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police authority that barred trucks from entering and leaving the port city during day-time.

"Trucks carrying edible oil are facing difficulties at the time of collecting oil from the refineries and going out with the oil," said MA Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association.

"Police is stopping them at different points, although essential foods are exempted

from such restriction," said the association chief in a letter to the Police Commissioner, Chittagong.

The edible oil refiners raised the allegations after the police authority of the port city imposed restriction on the movement of trucks in the city during the daytime.

The police however tagged a condition that the trucks carrying food items should collect stickers from the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), according to Chowdhury.

Terming the move 'impractical', Chowdhury said, "It's difficult to collect stickers for the trucks coming from other parts of the country."

Majority of the edible oil refineries in operation are in

Chittagong, which supply two-thirds of the yearly domestic demand for the item, i.e., over 12 lakh tonnes.

Imported edible oil, mainly palm oil, meets about 90 percent of the local demand, according to refiners, who have recently started cutting down their prices in line with the prices in the global market reflecting downturn in recent months.

The price of a litre of loose soybean dropped 7.69 percent to Tk 106-110 yesterday from Tk 116-118 a month earlier. The price of loose palm oil also declined, according to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

"Demand for edible oil hits its highest during the Ramadan and such disruption

will directly increase price and reduce supply," he said, seeking the police permission for the trucks with delivery orders instead of stickers.

An official in the Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said the police authority imposed the system of collecting stickers from the CCCI for allowing emergency entry or exit of the trucks.

The decision was taken after consultation with businessmen, the police official said.

He differed with the view of allowing truck with Delivery Orders (DOs) instead of stickers arguing that such DOs are easily manageable and it would be difficult for police to examine the validity of DOs.