

PHILIPS Bluray Player

- Pure aluminum casing with touch-panel controls
- 7.1 Channel Audio Output with DTS Master Audio
- DVD Video up-scaling to Full HD 1080p
- High quality HDMI Cable - absolutely free

Now at BDT 35,500/-

TRANSCOM Digital
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

Stocks

DGEN ▼ 0.66%
5,593.79

CSCX ▼ 0.78%
10,618.27

Asian Markets

MUMBAI ▼ 1.00%
17,386.08

TOKYO closed

SINGAPORE ▼ 1.02%
2,944.22

SHANGHAI closed

Currencies

	Buy Tk	Sell Tk
USD	68.65	69.65
EUR	89.31	93.44
GBP	103.27	107.60
JPY	0.72	0.76

SOURCE: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

REHAB elects new president



Nasrul Hamid Bipu
STAR BUSINESS DESK

Awami League lawmaker Nasrul Hamid Bipu was elected the president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) yesterday, said a statement.

The executive council of the association in its 30th meeting unanimously elected Bipu, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry.

Tanveerul Haque Probal's tenure as the association's president ended on April 8.

The new president suggested a 'crisis management committee' to address the problems of the realtors.

Parjatan marks 21 tourism projects for PPP

Costs estimated at Tk 400cr

SAYEDA AKTER

The next fiscal year's budget may consider 21 tourism projects across Bangladesh under public private partnerships (PPP), which are planned to start operations by 2013.

The estimated cost for the projects is Tk 400 crore.

In addition, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has taken steps to build new facilities, including hotels, motels, restaurants and amusement parks in 13 districts, to accelerate growth of tourism, mainly domestic.

The state-owned tourism facilitator is set to develop new motels in Gopalganj, Kuakata, Rangamati, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar, seeking investment from local and foreign entrepreneurs to develop the less-explored spots.

The corporation also plans development of infrastructure, including roads and transport systems.

"We need investment to develop tourism. We have only a few popular destinations. There are many destinations that are still unexplored," said Hemayet Uddin Talukder, Parjatan's chairman.

"We submitted two types of proposals, including projects that will be undertaken by the government and those requiring investment under PPP, to the civil aviation and tourism ministry," he said.

The corporation also proposed refurbishment of some units, such as constructing two five-storied buildings each at Motel Saikot in Chittagong and Motel Soibal in Cox's Bazar.

In a country where the number of local and foreign tourists is increasing fast, investment constraints remain a major setback.

"If we get adequate financial support from the government to establish public private partnerships to develop the industry, it will help raise government revenue eventually," Talukder added.

Industry people say the rate of investment in the sector is low, which is growing at 4 to 5 percent in recent years.

The tourism sector has so far been allocated around Tk 55 crore since 1972, the year Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation was established.

The sector received the highest ever allocation of around Tk 11 crore this fiscal year from the annual development programme (ADP), which was solely meant for developing a few new hotels and motels by the corporation.

However, the industry players have been demanding budgetary allocations for years to develop the sector.

Hasan Mansur, a tourism expert and managing director of The Guide Tours Ltd, said the sector never received sufficient funds from the government, nor local or foreign investor support.

"The sector's main problem is a lack of proper infrastructure, including better roads and transport, accommodation and food. The government should boost infrastructure and attract local and foreign investment," Mansur said.

Although the government identified tourism as a thrust sector, the expert said private entrepreneurs in the country have mostly developed the sector.

He suggested the government allocate funds to increase spending on promotional activities to attract more local and foreign tourists.

However, Parjatan's revenue earnings increased to Tk 31 crore in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, a sharp rise from around Tk 23 crore in the same time a year earlier.

Improved services and cuts in system loss paid off for the state tourism body, as it recorded fourfold growth in operating profits and earned Tk 5.49 crore during July-March from its 17 commercial units, up from Tk 1.81 crore in the same period a year ago.

sayedata@thedailystar.net



Models pose at a fashion show following the launch of a book, Jute Basics, at the International Jute Study Group office in Dhaka on Sunday. The book is priced at Tk 2,000. (Story on B3)

Dhaka eyes FTA with KL

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is keen on striking a free trade deal with Malaysia to boost bilateral trade and investment, said the commerce minister yesterday.

"We believe there are opportunities for Malaysian companies to invest here, while we have ample scope to choose that country as our export destination," Faruk Khan told a discussion on the eve of the World Islamic Economic Forum to be held in Kuala Lumpur on May 18-20.

Bangladesh will seek duty- and quota-free access for its 19 products, including readymade garments and pharmaceuticals, the minister said.

MORE ON B3

Square plans to export insulin

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd plans to export insulin as it started producing and marketing the drug for the local market last month.

Ahmed Kamrul Alam, assistant general manager of the leading drug maker, said his company would serve diabetics with its new product -- Ansulim -- at a cost that is 22 percent less than that of the imported ones.

"We hope to keep the expensive drug within the reach of our patients," he said.

The market size for insulin is over Tk 120 crore, of which around 80 percent are imported, according to industry insiders.

"Our unit will increase the share of local production by at least 10 percent, which will eventually reduce dependency on imported items," said Alam.

Square holds a 20 percent share of the local market, and exports its medicines to more than 35 countries.

Square is the third company to produce insulin locally with Tk 92 crore in investment.

The company formally opened its insulin unit at Kaliakoir in Gazipur on April 28, and the factory has been built complying with

KEY FACTS

Square launches insulin in March

Factory set up in Kaliakoir, Gazipur

Cost of building factory: Tk 92 crore

the regulations of US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency.

The plant manufactures insulin products using highly purified recombinant human insulin crystals in its formulation with different dosage types for covering a full spectrum of short, intermediate and long acting insulin.

"We have imported machinery of Modular Aseptic Compact (monoblock) system, which ensures precise and sterile production using a consolidated filling platform, with zero tolerance for cross contamination in manufacturing," Alam added.

At present, according to statistics of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, around 6.5 million people in the country have diabetes.

SAFE MEDICAL TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE. AT PARKWAYHEALTH.

If there's one word that best captures **Singapore**, it's 'unique'. Singapore is Asia's leading medical hub. More than that, it is gaining global recognition. The combination of a stable and efficient government, a renowned international airport, and the convergence of the most well-trained and experienced medical practitioners makes this small island a destination for more than 400,000 international patients every year. Singapore was ranked 6th (the only Asian country apart from Japan in the top 10 countries) in the World Health Organisation's ranking of the world's health systems in the year 2000.

ParkwayHealth, a Singapore-based private healthcare provider that operates three premier hospitals (Gleneagles Hospital, Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Parkway East Hospital) has been attracting foreign patients since the 1980s. To date, it accounts for about 60 percent of the total number of international patients seeking medical treatment in Singapore. So what sets ParkwayHealth apart from other healthcare providers?

HEALTHCARE, WITH A DISTINCTION AMONGST THE REST.

- We are one of Asia's leading private healthcare groups, operating 16 hospitals with over 3,400 beds in Asia.
- We have more than 1,200 accredited specialists covering over 40 specialities.
- We are the first private healthcare group in Singapore to attain the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation (a gold standard in global healthcare standards) for all our three hospitals.
- We are the first in Southeast Asia to have a fully integrated private centre for liver transplant - the Asian Centre for Liver Diseases & Transplantation at Gleneagles Hospital.

A MUTUALLY REWARDING RELATIONSHIP.

- We offer more than patient care. We provide total experience and forge long-lasting relationship, as our services continue to earn trust and recognition the very day patients entrust us to serve them.

A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE THAT INTEGRATES VALUE FOR PATIENTS.

- We offer a comprehensive range of multi-disciplinary specialities and programmes:

- Cardiology	- Haematology & Medical Oncology	- Obstetrics & Gynaecology	- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Cardiothoracic Surgery	- Hand Surgery	- Ophthalmology	- Renal Medicine
- Dental	- Living Donor Kidney Transplant	- Orthopaedic Surgery	- Respiratory Medicine
- Endocrinology	- Living Donor Liver Transplant	- Otorhinolaryngology	- Stem Cell Transplant
- Gastroenterology	- Neurology	- Paediatric Medicine & Surgery	- Urology
- General Surgery	- Neurosurgery	- Plastic Surgery	
- We operate more than 35 ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centres worldwide to provide patients with fuss-free access to quality healthcare services.
- We are your one-stop provider for seamless patient care:

- Accommodation (hotel/service apartment)	- Medical referrals and appointments
- Airport pick-up and transportation	- Travel-related assistance
- Assistance before, during and after hospitalisation	- (flight reservation/confirmation, or visa extension)
- Billing and financial enquiries	- Sightseeing in Singapore
- Direct admission arrangement	- General enquiries
- Evacuation and repatriation assistance	- Other services upon request
- Multi-language translation/interpreter service	

ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centres (Bangladesh)
24-Hour Helpline: 0173 600 0000

Dhaka Office:
Suite B-3 (Level-4), House 10, Road 53, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Phone: 885 0422 • Fax: 885 4056
Email: dhaka@parkwayhealth.net • Website: www.ppac.sg

Chittagong Office:
Sensiv, 14 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh
Phone: 018 1955 6631/018 1955 6632
Email: chittagong@parkwayhealth.net
Website: www.ppac.sg

Our ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (PPAC) provides a seamless and one-stop 24-hour service to our patients, connecting them to a comprehensive choice of medical services and doctors across ParkwayHealth's hospitals.

Gleneagles Hospital • Mount Elizabeth Hospital • Parkway East Hospital

এবার বিদেশে বসেও হবে
সরাসরি শেয়ার ব্যবসা

প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের জন্য ব্র্যাক ব্যাংক নিয়ে এলো **প্রবাসী বিনিয়োগ**

• বিও একাউন্ট • সেকেন্ডারি মার্কেটে সরাসরি বিনিয়োগ • কাস্টডিয়ান সেবা

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন: +৮৮ ০৯৮৯৯ ২৩০০০০
e-mail: probashi@bracbank.com

আম্মু অবিচল