

# Philips launches new 3D TV

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Netherlands-based Philips launched a new 3D TV in Bangladesh at Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday to offer customers full cinematic-viewing experience.

Jafrul Alam Khan, head of business of Transcom Electronics launched the product while Bobby Johnson, marketing manager of Philips Asia Pacific, outlined its features.

"The new Philips 21:9 Cinemascope 58-inch 3D-television will give you a complete cinematic-viewing experience as if you are sitting in a theatre," said Johnson.

Philips introduced the high-definition TV to change the way people in Bangladesh watch movies and

sports in the confines of four walls, he added.

Lower power consumption, brighter display and high contrast compared with the conventional LCD TVs are some of the key features of the product, claimed Philips.

The TV communicates with as many active 3D glasses as desired. Its rear-mounted sub-woofers and front-mounted tweeters along with the audio set-up, delivers distinct dialogue and crystal clear sound.

Khan said the price is not fixed yet but mentioned it would be around Tk 6.25 lakh when it will be available in the market by May. Transcom Electronics, a concern of Transcom Group, is the official distributor of Philips in Bangladesh.



Jafrul Alam Khan, second from right, head of business for Transcom Electronics, and Bobby Johnson, third from right, marketing manager for Asia Pacific of Philips, attend the launch of Philips 21:9 Cinemascope, a 3D television, at Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday.

# DCCI for four industrial zones around Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) yesterday urged the government to set up four industrial zones around Dhaka to decongest the city, during a meeting with Industries Minister Dilip Barua.

The chamber leaders call for efforts to fix energy and transportation problems and reduce banks' lending rates for rapid industrialisation. They said the absence of technolog-

ical know-how is the main constraint to achieving industrial goals.

The observations came when the newly elected board of directors of the chamber led by its president Asif Ibrahim met the minister at his office, said a statement.

DCCI proposed to relocate Old Dhaka's shoe factories and readymade garments manufacturing units in two separate industrial parks outside the city. "Separate industrial parks for the

units could be set up in Sonakanda in Keraniganj," said Ibrahim.

The chamber sought government initiative to develop infrastructure, solve energy crisis, lower bank's lending rates, reform tariff structure, and improve communication systems for industrial growth.

The minister said negative politics and propaganda are the key barriers to the country's economic progress. "We need to work together with positive

mentality to achieve industrialisation."

Barua said the bank's lending rate should be single-digit to ensure industrial growth, which is around 13 percent currently. Relocation of existing industries from Old Dhaka is under consideration of the government, he added.

Ibrahim said the government could use a public-private partnership framework to fix infrastructure problems and power crisis. He emphasised the capac-

ity building of National Productivity Organisation, Department of Patent Development and Trademark and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution.

"It is also the right time to think over the decentralisation of industrial establishment, which will ease the load of Dhaka city," said Ibrahim.

Industries Secretary KH Masud Siddique, DCCI Senior Vice President TIM Nurul Kabir and Vice President Nasir Hossain, were also present.

# Bangladesh pavilions awarded at Kolkata trade fair

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi pavilions were awarded in the category of best pavilion, best visitor attractive pavilion and best seller pavilion on the last day of the 24th Kolkata Industrial India Trade Fair.

Some 45 enterprises from Bangladesh took part in the fair held from December 24 to January 2.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan was present at the opening ceremony of the fair. The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President AK Azad and Export Promotion Bureau Vice-chairman Jalal Ahmed were also present.

The Bangladeshi pavilions were the centre of attraction at the fair, held in the Milon Mela ground.

# Laptops win hearts

Says state minister at the launch of fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sales of laptops increased more than 200 percent in 2010, compared to a year ago.

The number of laptops sold in Bangladesh was around 1.28 lakh, up from 48,000 in 2009, said Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and information and communication technology.

The minister inaugurated a three-day Qubee laptop fair, organised by Maker Communication, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Osman said it is the youth who can build a Digital Bangladesh and they should have gadgets and tools at affordable prices.

Only years back, the popularity of desktops as a tech product

was fast growing, now it is laptop and other portable devices that are more popular with users, said Mostafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Computer Samity.

He recommended a separate market for laptop.

Munir Hasan, consultant to the science and information and communication technology ministry, and Nehal Ahmed, chief marketing officer of Qubee, also spoke.

Qubee, a Wimax service provider and title sponsor of the fair, offered modems at Tk 1,500 for prepaid customers and a Tk 1,000 discount for postpaid users.

The show that plays host to 21 stalls and 18 pavilions will remain open from 10am to 8pm until Friday with an entry fee of Tk 20.



A stall attendant waits for customers at a stall of the Qubee laptop fair at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Maker Communication organised the three-day show.

# Indian Larsen & Toubro to be split into nine firms

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's top engineering and construction company, Larsen & Toubro, has started a restructuring plan to split the conglomerate into nine companies, the Economic Times reported on Wednesday.

Each of the nine "independent companies" will manage its own profit and loss account and have a separate chief executive, chief financial officer and human resources head, the newspaper said, citing L&T Chairman AM Naik.

Some of these companies could be spun out of L&T and listed on the stock markets before 2015, Naik told the paper.

Power, hydrocarbon, machinery and product, switchgear, heavy engineering, infrastructure, building and factories, metals and minerals and electrical businesses make up the nine companies, the paper said.

# US tech giant Qualcomm to build new Taiwan plant

AFP, Taipei

US technology giant Qualcomm plans to spend one billion US dollars to build a plant in Taiwan to produce new, energy-efficient displays used in tablet devices and e-books, an official said Tuesday.

The plant, located in the town of Lungtan in northern Taiwan, is scheduled to start operations in 2012 and will focus on so-called "Mirasol" technology, which consumes less power than traditional displays, the official told AFP.

"The plant is crucial as it will introduce to Taiwan the know-how for manufacturing next-generation flat-screens," said the official, with the economics ministry's Department of Investment Services.

Panels using this type of technology are used in a range of electronic products including Apple's popu-

# Inter-bank rates a benchmark: StanChart

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dynamic secondary trading and establishment of government securities marked the year 2010 with both primary and non-primary dealer banks active in the market for government bonds, Standard Chartered Bank said in an annual money market roundup.

"There was increased enthusiasm among banks to use repo, reverse-repo, and inter-bank USD/BDT swaps as sources of funding, which indicates the growing maturity of the market," it said.

Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association under guidance from Bangladesh Bank (BB) established the Dhaka Inter-bank Offered Rates (DIBOR) as a benchmark. DIBOR ranged between 2.6 to

8.7 percent in the first three quarters with an average of 4.6 percent and settled down to 18 to 19 percent at year-end.

BB continued to monitor inter-bank rates and liquidity, adjusting the size of repo and reverse-repo in response to market liquidity movements to keep inflation in check and facilitate banks to contribute to economic growth.

The central bank increased cash reserve requirement (CRR) of banks twice in 2010. CRR was raised by 0.5 percent to 5.5 percent in May 2010, and another 0.5 percent to 6 percent in December 2010. Repo and reverse-repo rates stood at 5.5 percent and 3.5 percent respectively.

By year-end, government securities started gaining the returns they lost during 2009. Short-term treasury bills and

bonds led the trend as yields on 91-day t-bills gained 2.29 percent. 182-day and 364-day t-bills increased by 1.33 and 0.92 percent respectively.

Bangladesh Bank appointed two more primary dealers to facilitate secondary market trading in government securities. There are 15 primary dealers currently, of which 12 are banks and three are non-bank financial institutions.

Automation of the cheque processing system through the Bangladesh Automated Cheque Processing System was a significant development. "This is an important step which paves the way towards a more efficient payments system in Bangladesh," the report said.

Major commodities were on a bull run in 2010 although it was relatively quiet till mid-year, and many of the markets did not look

like they were ready to take off. The markets turned up in June, when the threat of a double dip in US receded and the Euro zone seemed less likely to be plagued by debt crisis.

China continued to rocket forward and led the way in swelling global demand for commodities. Dwindling supplies became more of a pressing concern and adverse weather also damaged supply in many markets. Announcements from US of further Quantitative Easing (QE2) also weakened the USD and stocked inflation worries.

There is also serious talk of commodities being in a super-cycle with prices on a rise driven by the insatiable appetite for commodities from China, India and other upcoming super economies.

For commodity importing

and producing countries, commodity price volatility poses a mixed bag. Rising commodity price causes the price of commodity-linked goods and import payments to increase.

Surging cotton prices through the year had a knock-on effect on yarn prices, which has caused quite a stir in the textile sector and RMG sector. "It has put significant pressure on the margins, as buyers of our RMG pressed hard to pass on the prices to consumers with the continued slowdown in the western economies," the roundup report said.

Bangladesh Bank issued a commodity circular that allows companies in Bangladesh to hedge the price risk of their genuine underlying commodity exposures. The corporations are also looking for ways to protect themselves against such extreme volatility.

# Indonesia maintains rate at 6.50pc as inflation rises

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia's central bank kept interest rates on hold Wednesday, days after data showed inflation last year was much higher than forecast.

The bank held the key borrowing rate at 6.50 percent for the 17th straight month as it tries to foster a recovery in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

However, it is coming under pressure to announce an increase to temper rising prices as inflation hit reached 6.96 percent in 2010, well up from the bank's 4-6 percent target and a jump from the previous year's 2.78 percent