

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DGEN	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 1.34%	▲ 1.51%	\$1,460.00 (per ounce)	\$108.40 (per barrel)	▼ 0.11%	▲ 0.07%	Flat	▲ 0.22%	BUY TK 72.35	101.49	115.92	0.84
6,540.60	11,804.23			19,591.18	9,590.93	3,171.65	3,007.91	SELL TK 73.35	106.94	121.58	0.92

**Gift to Life**

Money Double Scheme  
Special Deposit Scheme  
Special Fixed Deposit Scheme  
And many more...

**NCC Bank Ltd.**  
Where Credit and Commerce Integrates  
www.nccb.com.bd

# star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2011, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses with all the export trophy winners for 2008-09 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

## Govt awards exporters

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government yesterday awarded export trophies to 39 businessmen in recognition of their extraordinary performances in exports in fiscal 2008-09.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed the trophies and certificates to the awardees at a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital as the chief guest.

The state-owned Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) gave the awards to the exporters of 19 sectors under three categories. The awards included 19 gold, 13 silver and seven bronze trophies.

The EPB recognises the exporters every year by assessing their performances in quantity, value addition, entrance to new export destinations, new design and packaging and maintenance of quality of the products.

"The EPB followed the national export trophy policy 2006 for distributing the trophies to the exporters as a measure of inspiration," said Jalal

Ahmed, vice-chairman of the government agency.

Ghulam Hussain, commerce secretary, said the government will distribute the export trophies for fiscal 2009-10 in the middle of the current year.

He said Bangladesh now exports 168 types of products to 187 destinations. "Exports may cross the \$20 billion mark at the end of the current fiscal year, as the trend was positive in the last nine months," Hussain added.

He said the gas and power crises might slow down the industrial sector's progress.

The country's exports may cross the \$35-\$40 billion mark in the next few years, said AK Azad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

But the country needs improved infrastructures to continue such a big boost in the export sector, Azad added. The size of the country's annual budget for 2011-12 may cross Tk 1.63 lakh crore (\$22.36 billion), he added.

The contribution of the business commu-

nicity in the economy is increasing every year, he added. "So their opinions should get priority in decision making," Azad said.

He urged the prime minister to take opinions from the business community while forming policies on the caretaker government system.

During the last caretaker government, many businessmen were either sent to the jail or were on the run, he added.

"We don't want the situation to repeat," Azad said.

"Many businessmen migrated to Canada or Malaysia to escape the humiliation of the caretaker government."

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said, in future elections at all trade bodies will be held using the electronic voting system to maintain transparency and credibility.

Zaber and Zobaer Fabrics Ltd got two gold trophies -- one of those for the highest earning at \$125.30 million during the year.

(FULL LIST OF AWARD WINNERS ON B3)

## Ministry to talk licence renewal with mobile operators next week

**ABDULLAH MAMUN**

The telecom ministry will hold a crucial meeting Tuesday to discuss the mobile licence renewal issue with operators, ministry officials said.

Telecom Secretary Sunil Kanto Bose said the ministry would look into the feedback it received on the draft guidelines for the renewal of the second generation (2G) licences of the mobile operators.

If necessary, the ministry would call an inter-ministerial meeting next time, Bose said.

The 15-year licence term of four mobile operators -- Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi and Ciryell -- will expire this year, and they will seek another 15 years.

Some of the operators opposed the spectrum prices as well as the terms and conditions of the draft licensing guidelines prepared by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). According to the amended telecommunication act, the ministry is responsible for licensing now.

The BTRC submitted the draft guidelines to the ministry in November last year, while February 9 was the deadline to post comments and feedback on the draft. The four operators along with the stakeholders submitted their comments by that time.

The government seems to have taken a soft stance on some issues of the guidelines, said an official of the ministry, asking not to be named.

The government does not want to compare the Bangladesh market with the high spectrum prices on the international market, he said, adding that the spectrum prices may be brought down.

The official said it is true that the four operators did not pay for spectrum initially. The sum that an operator paid for licence in 2005 is not that much compared to that in the current guidelines, he said. Airtel (then Warid Telecom) paid Tk 350 crore for licence in 2005.

At a press briefing in February, Telecom Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju gave a hint that the government would revise the spectrum prices.

However, the ministry official said if the existing operators cannot do business properly and new operators enter the market, it will not be a good sign.

But the "spectrum utilisation factor" in the draft guidelines -- for which Grameenphone may have to pay much -- would exist, the official said.

The more subscribers the operators have, the more they will pay, he added.

However, the operators may have the scope to pay the spectrum fees in instalments instead of a single payment, he said.

According to the draft guidelines, four mobile operators will have to pay a total of Tk 12,118 crore in spectrum fees. Grameenphone will pay the highest -- Tk 5,504 crore, followed by Banglalink Tk 2,994 crore, Robi Tk 3,000 crore, and Citycell Tk 620 crore, although their renewable radio spectrum volumes do not vary much.

## Govt raises furnace oil price again

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government has increased the furnace oil price by Tk 5 per litre at the end-users' level yesterday for an interim period, said a government statement.

According to the statement, the government re-fixed the furnace oil price at Tk 40 per litre from its current price of Tk 35 per litre. The new interim price comes into effect from today, the statement said.

The government has raised the price of the petroleum by-product for the second time in this year.

In January 24 of this year, the government raised the furnace oil price to Tk 35 per litre from its previous rate of Tk 26 per litre. Earlier, the price of furnace oil was increased to Tk 26 on March 29, 2009.

The business community expressed concerns over frequent price hikes of furnace oil, which is mainly used in running power generators for industrial purposes.

## Russia to ease entry of Bangladeshi goods

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Russia will liberalise rules related to trade for allowing entry of more Bangladeshi items, particularly the pharmaceutical products, into its market.

The assurance came during a bilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Russia in Moscow on Wednesday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey V Lavrov and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni led their respective countries at the meeting.

The Russian side gave assurance of expediting and liberalising the registration procedures for Bangladeshi pharmaceutical products, a foreign ministry press statement said yesterday.

The Russian foreign minister said at the meeting that Bangladesh enjoyed duty-free and quota-free access as an LDC under the framework of Council of Euro-Asian Economic Community, members of which are Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Under the framework, jute, tea, frozen foods and pharmaceutical products can enjoy duty and quota-free access.

Dipu Moni reiterated her request to Russia to extend the duty and quota-free access to readymade garments, ceramics and knitwear.

The foreign ministers reviewed the whole range of bilateral relations between the two countries including economic, energy and power, trade, cultural, educational and defense cooperation.

The two ministers especially discussed the proposed visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the Russian Federation. They also discussed cooperation in

construction of nuclear power plant in Bangladesh, reviewed status of a number of proposed agreements, duty and quota-free access of Bangladeshi products to Russian market, and exchanging diplomatic properties.

Dipu Moni expressed her satisfaction over developments in the preliminary steps for setting up the nuclear power plant, assistance of Gazprom in the oil and gas exploration sector, and modernisation of old electricity generation units.

The Bangladesh minister was also happy with the status of draft agreements some of which were ready to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The two foreign ministers also discussed different regional and international issues of common concern.

Dipu Moni gratefully recalled the valuable contribution of the government and people of former Soviet Union and the Russian people in the War of Liberation in 1971.

The Russian foreign minister said the Bangladesh prime minister's visit would pave the way forward for strengthening cooperation between Bangladesh and Russia. The Russian foreign minister hosted a luncheon in honour of Dipu Moni.

The Bangladesh foreign minister was assisted by Bangladesh Ambassador to the Russian Federation SM Saiful Hoque and senior officials from the foreign ministry, while the Russian foreign minister was assisted by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexey N Borodavkin and other senior officials of the Russian foreign ministry and Gazprom.

The two foreign ministers also briefed the members of the local and international press based in Moscow.

**SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.**

Heartiest congratulations to **Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman** Chairman, Meghna Group for being awarded **The National Export Trophy (Gold)** in Light Engineering Sector (Bicycle) for the year 2008-2009 from The Hon'ble Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**

All employees and workers

**Meghna Group**  
187-188/B, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road Dhaka-1208

Elevate your home décor with designer furniture from

**KODA**  
Singapore

242 Gulshan Link Road, Dhaka 1208  
t: 8822511-2, m: 01713 186 770-1  
www.kubebd.com

**kube**

Launch of

**MTB 24/7 ATM**

**মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.**  
you can bank on us

www.mutualtrustbank.com