

# Nitol-Niloy launches new commercial vehicle

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Nitol-Niloy Group yesterday launched its new commercial vehicle, the TATA Super ACE, to facilitate business activities in rural Bangladesh.

Manufactured by the Indian automotive manufacturing company TATA Motors, the vehicle has a full one-tonne loading capacity and comes with compact dimensions for ease of navigation in narrow and busy roads.

"We are pitching this vehicle to be the 'agriproduct-hauler' of our country," said Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of the Nitol-Niloy Group, adding that the vehicle will sell at Tk 11-12 lakh.

"Nitol-Niloy believes that the country can develop faster if the villages are made self-sufficient and villagers get the right price for their produce, which would only be possible if the villagers are mobile and can shop around."

"We proposed that each village will have at least four vehicles. We will give easy finance and they will pay as they earn on a weekly basis," Ahmed said.

Furthermore, he urged the government to extend cheaper loans from Krishi Bank to purchase the vehicle.

"Tata Super Ace will promote the rural economies based on agriculture," said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu at its launch at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka.

The farmers are struggling to market their agriculture produce and that

they are not getting the fair price for them.

"We should develop our regional communication system with villages for the purpose of connecting the rural areas to the mainstream economy," he said, adding that the government has already developed 84,000 km of road to connect the rural areas to the cities.

With regards to the Indo-Bangladesh relationship, he said in the time of globalisation regionalism is the key to survival.

"Communication through road and train between the two countries should be opened for the interest of the economy."

Meanwhile, Sandeep Chakravorty, the acting high commissioner of India, said: "We are enhancing our relation by way of investment. It will not be just a buyer-seller relationship."

"Indian companies will invest in Bangladesh to accelerate the export volume as the country gets duty-free access to many countries," Chakravorty said.

Regarding the vehicle, he said considering its quality and price it will be useful for business activities.

Rudrarup Maitra, the South Asian regional head of TATA Motors, said Bangladesh is the fourth largest market for the company.

The vehicle, which has already been launched in South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand, are manufactured to meet international standards, said Maitra.

## Muhith to BBS: give us acceptable statistics

FROM PAGE B1

According to Muhith, there is something wrong with the PPP standards that have been applied for Bangladesh calculating the standards of living.

Bangladesh needs to have an NSDS because the government's Sixth Five Year Plan stresses the importance of focusing on results, for which a robust statistical system is a key requirement, said Ellen A Goldstein, country director of World Bank.

The need for a strong statistical system is recognised internationally as an essential part of the results agenda, both to facilitate the design of interventions needed to achieve the desired results, as well as to track progress in different sectors and, where needed, make appropriate adjustments in the strategy."

Goldstein said the implementation of the NSDS would require a compatible legal framework in the governing of the statistical production, developing organisational structures and coordination mechanisms, and mobilising financial resources at all levels.

She also called for proper coordination and avoidance of duplication to ensure cost-effective implementation of the NSDS, as it is important to streamline the various statistical data collection efforts currently underway in Bangladesh and coordination among different agencies.

The WB official also said when implementing the NSDS, it will be important to keep in mind that the country's statistical system should serve the needs not just of government, but also of other stakeholders like the private sector, academia, researchers, and civil society groups.

The World Bank has been supporting the BBS since 2006 to prepare the NSDS through a broad consultative and inclusive process involving numerous stakeholders.

Graham Eele, international consultant for the project, said the value of NSDS would depend on how all recommendations are put into place.

He said the budget would be a main issue for implementing the strategy, as execution of the decade-long plan from 2013 to 2023 would require an investment of Tk 4,705 crore.

Md Nojibur Rahman, acting secretary of the planning ministry; Golam Mostafa Kamal, BBS director general, and Md Dildar Hossain, project director of the NSDS, also spoke.

## Adcomm wins Campaign award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Adcomm Ltd became the only agency from Bangladesh to win a medal at the South Asia Agency of the Year Awards 2012 hosted by the Campaign magazine in Singapore recently, said a statement.

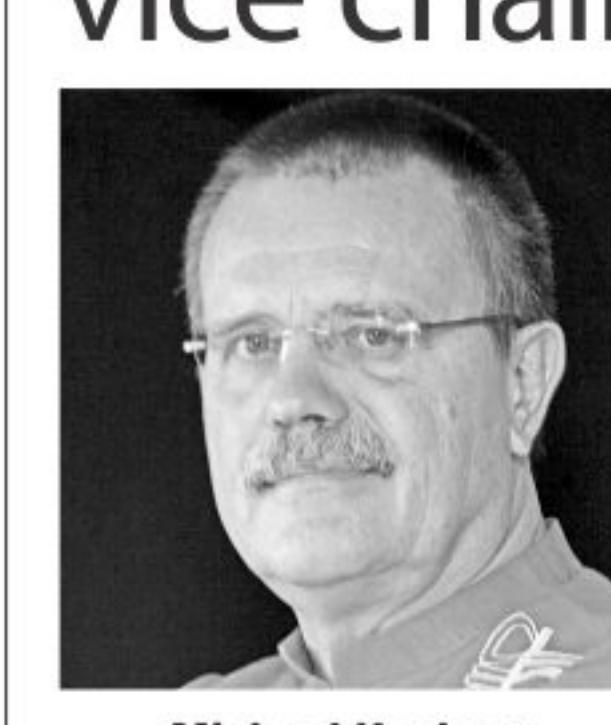
The bronze medal was in recognition of Adcomm's performance in the region as one of the largest marketing and social communication companies in Bangladesh.

The agency has contributed to building nine of the top 20 brands listed by Bangladesh Brand Forum, said the statement. Most of the brands managed by Adcomm are the leaders in their respective market segments.

Adcomm is led by Geetara Safiya Choudhury, recognised as one of the 'Top 20 Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World' in 2000 by Fortune magazine, IBM, Chase Manhattan Bank and Christian Dior.

Geetara also won the DHL-Daily Star Outstanding Woman in Business Awards in 2002.

## AMTOB elects chair, vice chair for 2013



Michael Kuehner



Chris Tobit

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Michael Kuehner, chief executive officer of Robi, and Chris Tobit, CEO of Airtel, were elected as chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh for 2013, the AMTOB said in a statement yesterday.

AMTOB, a platform of the country's all six mobile operators, announced the association's executive council for one year.

Kuehner and Tobit will replace Mehboob Chowdhury, CEO of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd (Citycell), and Tore Johnsen, CEO of Grameenphone.

"The telecom sector continues to make a substantial contribution to the economy, the socio-economic development of this country and towards the development of a digital Bangladesh," said Kuehner, a 30-year veteran of the ICT/Mobile Service Provider industry.

He added that "a healthy business environment is critical for this to continue".

Tobit, who brings with him over 25 years of experience in the field of telecommunication, said: "The telecom industry in Bangladesh can play an important role in strengthening the socio-economic backbone of the country."

"Towards this, the industry needs to collaborate and create a market environment where AMTOB can work as a catalyst in shaping developments that are beneficial to both operators and customers alike," he added.



A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, inaugurates the bank's 69th branch at Agra Bazar of Nawabganj in Dhaka yesterday. Md Mehmmud Husain, managing director, was also present.



Hamidul Huq, managing director of Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh, hands over the AAA credit rating report of Delta Brac Housing and Finance Corporation Ltd (DBH) to QM Shariful Ala, managing director of DBH, at a function at the latter's corporate office in Dhaka yesterday.

## BTRC sets broadband standard

FROM PAGE B1

The government's vision of Digital Bangladesh is only possible through countrywide broadband connectivity, according to Bose.

Robust telecommunication infrastructure is the only way to provide countrywide standard broadband, according to the BTRC chairman, and the regulator will start working on it immediately.

"The whole country should be connected through optical fibre cable. We want to provide broadband to all corners of the country, and it is very much possible."

However, BTRC chairman Bose said wireless technology such as 3G (3rd generation mobile service), WiMax and WiFi will also have to be availed to provide broadband to the end users.

Abu Saeed Khan, senior fellow of the Colombo-based ICT think tank LIRNEasia, commended the standardisation.

But the international internet bandwidth monopoly of state-owned telecom entities such as Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company and Ban-

gladesh Telecommunications Company must be ended for the sake of competition at the wholesale segment, he said.

Otherwise, the retailers like internet service providers and mobile operators cannot make broadband affordable without compromising the quality of service, Khan said.

He added that the amendment BTRC made to the Infrastructure Sharing Guideline in 2011 has stalled the development of nationwide of telecom transmission networks.

"This draconian decree should be scrapped as soon as possible. Otherwise, broadband will not spread across the country," said Khan.

Regarding 3G auction, Bose said as soon as the finance ministry approves the spectrum price BTRC will fix a date.

"The finance ministry, hopefully, will sit next Sunday to fix a base price."

Earlier, BTRC proposed \$20 million per MHz spectrum as the base price for the auction.

## Bangladesh-India ties below potential: WB

FROM PAGE B1

The study observed that foreign direct investment would also help grow bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. Inflow of direct investment from India would stimulate Bangladesh's exports, facilitate technology transfer, and generate employment.

"Both the governments need to facilitate trade by improving infrastructure at border trading posts, harmonising trade-related documentation, and minimising the restrictive element of non-tariff measures," Kathuria said.

"With the general decline in tariff barriers, addressing such costs of trading becomes paramount to ensure continued growth of trade that could, in turn, be a major force

## GP gets new boss

FROM PAGE B1

"I am confident that his experience from one of the world's most competitive mobile markets will benefit Grameenphone in further developing its position as the country's leading mobile operator."

"Throughout my career I have always been driven by a hunger and passion to build business. I am therefore delighted and pleased to be offered the opportunity to head Grameenphone," Sood said. "I look forward to working with the employees in developing the company further to benefit customers, employees and the Bangladeshi community."

Johnsen served Grameenphone as CEO since March 2011, Telenor said in a statement yesterday.

As part of a planned operational move when reaching his retirement age at 65, Johnsen will extend his significant career by taking up new challenges as senior vice president

## Pick right persons for state banks: BB board

FROM PAGE B1

At yesterday's meeting, the BB board members discussed the role of the directors of the state banks and said some board members of the banks were allegedly involved in the recent scams. The BB authorities were told to be alert so that no such wrong person gets to become a director.

In this regard, another BB official said the present 'fit and proper' criterion was antiquated and some articles were so loosely-defined that the BB has very little scope to hold back the political personalities from assuming the directorial posts at the banks.

Meanwhile, the IMF mission that visited Dhaka recently has also advised the government to ensure that the directors of the banks satisfactorily pass the central bank's fit and proper measure. The IMF mission raised the issue in the backdrop of the irregularities unearthed recently.

## 35 to get CIP cards today for industrial excellence

FROM PAGE B1

They will get priority in Biman ticket booking for overseas travel, and reservation of seats in government transports. They will also enjoy special status at domestic airports.

The will be entitled to 'letters of introduction' from the foreign ministry that will help them get visa easily in case of foreign trips.

The CIP cardholders, their spouse and children will also get priority in getting cabins for treatment in public hospitals.

Industries ministry officials said the 35 CIPs were selected in six categories -- ex-officio, large-scale industries,

medium-scale industries, small-scale industries, micro-scale industries and services sector industries.

Eight will get the status in ex-officio category, while 13 in the large-scale, six in the medium-scale, three in the small-scale, two in the micro-scale and three in the services sector categories.

Two new categories have been introduced this year -- micro-scale industries and services sector industries.

Last year, 42 businesspeople were awarded the CIP (industry) status in four categories.

## COMMERCIALLY IMPORTANT PERSONS

### EX-OFFICIO CATEGORY

AK Azad	Immediate past president	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Syed Ershad Ahmed	President	Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Sheikh Abdus Sobhan	President	National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh
Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin	President	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
Fazlul Hoque	President	Bangladesh Employers Federation
Nasreen Fatema Awal	President	Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh
AKM Salim Osman	President	Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association
Shams-uz Zoha	President	Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association

### LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES

Alihussain Akberali	Chairman	BSRM Steels
Rupali Chowdhury	Managing Director	Berger Paints Bangladesh
Parvez Rahman	Managing Director	BRB Cable Industries
Nasir Uddin	Managing Director	Universal Jeans
Abdus Salam Murshed	Managing Director	Envoy Textiles
Shamsur Rahman	Managing Director	MRS Industries
Mirza Salman Ispahani	Managing Director	Pahartali Textile and Hosiery Mills
Selim Ahmed	Managing Director	Super Refinery (Pvt) Limited
Abdul Monem	Managing Director	Abdul Monem Limited
MA Jalil	Managing Director	Polo Composite Knit Industries
Anjan Chowdhury	Managing Director	Square Consumer Products
Syed Mohammad Tanvir	Director (nominated owner)	Jeans 2000 Limited
Shakhat Hossain	Managing Director	Western Marine Shipyard

### MEDIUM-SCALE INDUSTRIES

Anis-ud Dowla	Chairman	ACI Formulations
Mustafizur Rahman	Managing Director	Chittagong Denim Mills
Misbar Rahman	Managing Director	Kiam Metal Industries
Asadul Islam	Managing Director	Erotex Limited
Dipak Bhowmik	Chairman	Landmark Fabrics
Mir Nasir Hossain	Managing Director	Mir Ceramic

### SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES