

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.84%	▲ 0.91%	\$1,183.36 (per ounce)	\$67.41 (per barrel)	▼ 0.44%	▼ 1.23%	▼ 0.78%	▼ 2.77%	BUY TK 77.15	85.57	116.06	0.64
4,122.32	7,728.94			26,599.11	19,291.99	3,482.70	4,112.21	SELL TK 78.15	89.57	120.06	0.67

# Star BUSINESS

গ্রসআইবিএল ফ্যামিলি এমপাওয়ারফেস্ট ইসলামিক মাইক্রো ফাইন্যান্স

স্বল্প বিনিয়োগ বহুৎ সম্ভাবনা

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬২২০০৯২২২  
সোস্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড



DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 8, 2015, e-mail: business@thedailystar.net

## DIGITAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Without giving any reason, The Daily Star reporters were denied access to the Digital Investment Summit, which was attended by Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, at Radisson hotel in the capital yesterday. However, the reporters entered the venue and covered the rest of the event when Wazed left the programme after lunch. There has been an unofficial embargo on the newspaper in covering any event of the prime minister as well as of ruling Awami League at Gono Bhaban, Prime Minister's Office, the party chief's Dhanmondi office and other places since April last year.

### A2I signs deal with Telenor to drive development in Bangladesh

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government yesterday struck an agreement with Telenor Digital to use the Norway-based company's digital and mobile technology in driving social, economic and human development in Bangladesh.

The memorandum of understanding between the Access to Information (A2I) programme of the Prime Minister's Office and Telenor Digital was signed on the sidelines of Digital Investment Summit at Radisson hotel in Dhaka.

Kabir Bin Anwar, project director of the A2I, and Matthew Guildford, global head of health at Telenor Digital, signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

Under the agreement, Telenor Digital, which works to shape the digital future of Norway-based telecommunications company Telenor Group, will work closely with the A2I to develop social initiatives across digital platforms to address socio-economic needs of the people in Bangladesh.

READ MORE ON B3



Grameenphone CEO Rajeev Sethi, third from left; BTRC Chairman Sunil Kanti Bose, third from right; and AMTOB Secretary General TIM Nurul Kabir, second from right, attend a discussion, at Digital Investment Summit at Radisson hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

## Tax cuts to boost digital yields: mobile operators

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Mobile phone operators yesterday urged the government to reduce the overall tax in the telecom sector for bringing the full benefit of digital technology to the general people.

"Higher tax is the biggest barrier for telecom operators to operate in the country," said TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.

The telecom sector in Bangladesh is facing one of the highest tax rates in the world, which makes it harder for operators to extend even lower rates to customers and remain in business.

Out of every Tk 100 they earn, operators have to give Tk 55 to the government as tax and duties, said Kabir. "The government should revisit its whole taxation policy."

He spoke at a panel discussion on "contribution of mobile telecom sector in Digital Bangladesh: opportunities and challenges" at the Digital Investment Summit at Radisson hotel in the city.

READ MORE ON B3

## GP to focus more on mobile financial services

*Telenor President Jon Fredrik Baksaas calls for even-handed rules in spectrum auction*

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**

Global telecom giant Telenor wants to offer Bangladeshi users mobile handsets with built-in financial services that the telecom giant says will fast gain popularity and reduce transaction costs.

"As a mobile phone operator, we can offer integrated mobile financial services in-built in the handsets and it will help the market grow faster," said Jon Fredrik Baksaas, president and chief executive officer of Telenor, the majority shareholder of Grameenphone.

Baksaas shared his thoughts on the current telecom market in the country as well as other digital services with a group of journalists on the sidelines of the daylong Digital Investment Summit at Radisson hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Referring to the existing bank-led financial services in the country, he said they want to invest in an operator-led mobile financial service through online solutions here, but local regulators are not allowing it.

"We can do our part and banks can do their part to provide built-in services in handsets," he said, offering collaboration between the financial institutions and mobile operators.

Telenor has partnered with the world leading digital service provider Accenture, said Baksaas, also the global chairman of GSM mobile phone operators' association.

"Accenture has the competence to offer modern services and we have our own

network and market to provide digital services jointly. By this, we can also find new investment avenues in the ICT and telecom sectors."



Jon Fredrik Baksaas

In response to queries on the achievements of the summit, Baksaas said Bangladesh has already developed capacity to deliver services worldwide and the event will help the country attract global attention, especially in outsourcing.

"The Bangladesh market is ready to deliver quality services and a company like us, in association with Accenture, can play a leading role in providing services globally," said Baksaas.

READ MORE ON B3



**BASHUNDHARA**  
CEMENT



5700 PSI

like us

@

f /dailystarnews

### Yunus Centre's response to news reports about comments reportedly made by the prime minister about Prof Yunus

**Yunus Centre**, which promotes ideas and philosophies of Nobel Peace Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, yesterday expressed shock at the alleged comments made by the prime minister, terming them incorrect and misleading.

"We hope that the Honourable Prime Minister did not actually make these comments, but we are responding to each of the quotes attributed to her, since they have been published widely," said Yunus Centre in a statement.

The response came after several daily newspapers reported the prime minister's alleged remarks on the founder of Grameen Bank at the meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council on Tuesday.

Here is the full response of Yunus Centre:

**Prime Minister:** Dr Yunus influenced Hillary Clinton to cancel the fund for Padma Bridge from the World Bank due to the conflict with me and my government. He is harmful to the nation.

**Yunus Centre's response:** Prof Yunus had already given a statement, when Honourable PM first made the allegation, stating that Padma Bridge is a dream of the people of Bangladesh, and that he would never stand in the way to realise that dream. It is therefore out of the question that Prof Yunus asked Hillary Clinton to use her influence to cancel the Padma bridge loan. He would never do such a thing against the interest of Bangladesh. It is shocking that Honourable PM is quoted as making such a statement without presenting any proof of the truth of such a statement.

### ADP size may rise 24pc in next budget

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The allocation for annual development programme (ADP) in the next fiscal year's budget will be Tk 92,500 crore, which is 24 percent higher than that of the current revised budget.

The ADP size was finalised yesterday at a meeting with Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in the chair and it will be placed in the meeting of the National Economic Council next week.

The size of the ADP may increase in the meeting, as the prime minister raises the allocation every year to meet the demand from different ministries and divisions, an official of the planning ministry said.

The size of the original ADP in the current fiscal year was Tk 80,315 crore, while the planning ministry proposed to slash it to Tk 72,000 crore in the meeting.

However, the prime minister increased the figure by Tk 3,000 crore, to take the final ADP to Tk 75,000 crore.

In the next fiscal year's proposed ADP of Tk 92,500 crore, the size of project aid would be Tk 34,500 crore.

READ MORE ON B3

### Emirates profits surge 40pc

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Emirates Airline posted an annual profit growth of 40 percent to take home \$1.2 billion in the year ending March 31, riding on higher revenue income and a drop in fuel costs.

Revenue of the Middle East's largest carrier went up by 7 percent to \$24.2 billion, said the subsidiary of Dubai-based Emirates Group yesterday.

The airline ended the year in a strong position despite many global and operational challenges during the period.

During the year, Emirates carried record 49.3 million passengers, 11 percent higher from the previous year, with passenger seat factor standing at 76.9 percent.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and chief executive of Emirates Airline and the Group, announced the carrier's as well as the Group's annual results for 2014-15.



Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

During the year, the airline received delivery of 24 new aircraft and launched flights to five new destinations. Flight frequency and capacity increased on 34 routes.

Freighter division of the airline, Emirates SkyCargo, earned revenues of \$3.4 billion, 9 percent higher than the previous year.

### Ctg businesses want allocation to recoup unrest losses

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Business leaders in Chittagong have appealed for a special allocation in the national budget to help them recoup losses caused by the political unrest in the first three months of this year.

Addressing a pre-budget views exchange meeting with Md Nojibur Rahman, chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), they called for formulating a business-friendly and pro-people budget.

READ MORE ON B3



**EXPLORE YOUR ROADS WITH THE ALL NEW HR-V**

**FOR TEST DRIVE CALL**  
**0161 555 3013**  
**0161 666 5476**

**DHS MOTORS LIMITED**  
11 MOHAKHALI C/A, DHAKA

**3 YRS WARRANTY 2 YRS FREE SERVICING 1 GREAT OFFER**

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams



**GREE**  
AIR CONDITIONER

- Energy Efficient DC Inverter Technology
- Lucrative Design
- Quiet Operation
- Power-on Resume Function

Electro Mart Limited  
www.electromart.com.bd

**01755661188**