

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
Week-on-week	As of Friday	As of Friday	As of Friday	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
DSEX	0.12%	Gold	\$1,103.00 (per ounce)	25,610.21	18,264.22	2,888.03	3,200.45	BUY TK	77.25	85.01	117.24	0.63
CSCX	0.22%	Oil	\$48.18 (per barrel)					SELL TK	78.25	89.01	121.24	0.66

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

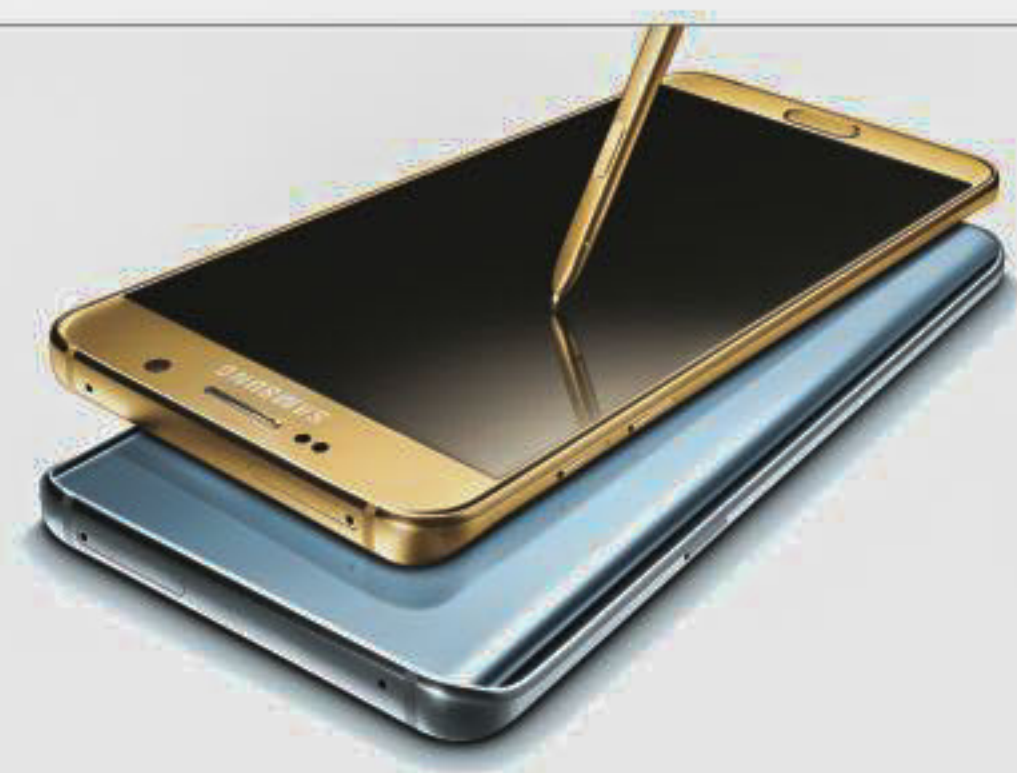
**জীবনে প্রয়োজন আরো বেশি স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য**  
 সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সম্বলিত ব্যাংকিং সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুসমৃদ্ধ।

যে কোন শ্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২  
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## Your turn to lead.

## SAMSUNG



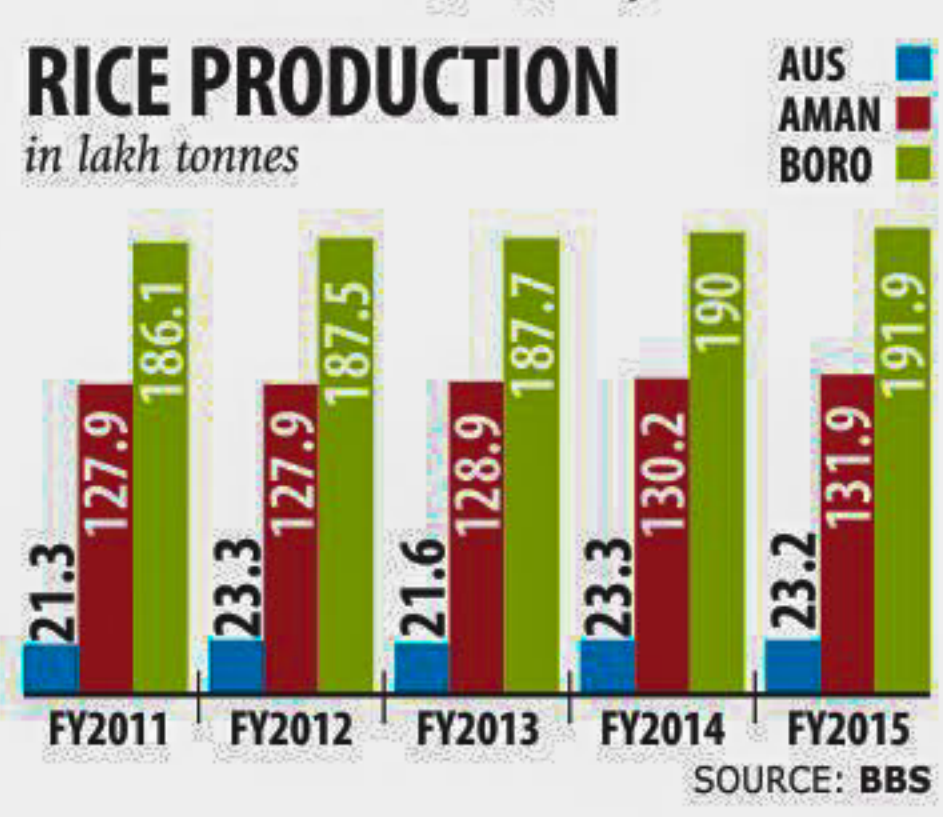
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## Rice output hits record, farmers not so happy

**SOHEL PARVEZ**  
 Farmers bagged a record 1.91 crore tonnes of boro rice last season, enabling the country to log in its highest rice output and attain self-sufficiency in staple food.  
 Overall, rice output stood at a total of 3.47 crore tonnes in fiscal 2014-15, up 1 percent year-on-year, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.  
 The increased production though has not brought smiles to the farmers' faces: many had to accept prices lower than their production costs.



"It felt good to have higher crops, but ultimately it did not benefit me," said Rafiqul Islam, a farmer in Lalmonirhat, a bordering district in the north.  
 His production costs were higher than the prices he was compelled to accept.  
 Islam grew the hybrid and high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of rice on one acre of land in the last boro season, which started in April and ended in May.  
 Two months after harvest, he sold each maund of hybrid rice at Tk 460, which is 20 percent lower than his average production cost, he told The Daily Star by phone last week.  
 Farmers in other growing regions too are having similar experiences.  
 The prices of rice have remained lower than last year's level since April as a result of a supply glut in the market caused by higher output and soaring imports mainly from India.  
 Rice imports by private traders soared nearly four times last fiscal year to 14.90

lakh tonnes, according to data from the food ministry. As a result, the total rice availability ended up being higher than Bangladesh's requirement.  
 The country's annual demand for the food grain is three crore tonnes, according to the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.  
 The research organisation estimated that the daily per capita food grain consumption is 509 grams, including rice at 462 grams.  
 There is an ample supply of imported rice, so the demand for locally grown rice is low, said Nirod Boron Saha, a paddy and rice wholesaler in Naogaon, one of the main hubs for rice and paddy trade.  
 Traders and millers earlier blamed the soaring rice imports for the price fall.  
 Coarse rice, which was Tk 32-37 each kilogram in Dhaka city in the second week of April, traded at Tk 30-34 per kilogram yesterday. On the same day last year, it traded at Tk 35-38.

## Deshbandhu to build polyester fibre plant

The project to cost \$100m

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
 Deshbandhu Group, a local conglomerate, has teamed up with American technology and engineering solution provider Chemtex to set up a polyester staple fibre plant.  
 Polyester staple fibre is a fibre produced from synthetic chemical compounds, which is strong enough to be twisted into yarn similar to natural fibres such as cotton or wool. In other words, it is a substitute for raw cotton.

The factory, which will be located in Sirajganj district, is expected to start production in 24 months, said Golam Mostafa, chairman of Deshbandhu Group.  
 The project cost will be \$100 million and Chemtex will be a strategic partner, he said, while refusing to disclose the equity breakdown.  
 Once the factory is up and running, it will produce 400 tonnes of polyester staple fibre a day.

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## OPINION

### Discrimination against women keeps countries poorer

**SRI MULYANI INDRAMATI**  
 In 100 countries around the world, women are barred from doing certain work solely because they are women. More than 150 countries have at least one law that is discriminatory towards women. And only 18 countries are free of any law disadvantaging women.  
 This is just the tip of the iceberg of legal barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. New World Bank Group research in the Women, Business and the Law 2016 report shows that in 32 countries women cannot apply for passports in the same way as men and in 18 countries they cannot get a job if their husbands feel it is not in the family's interest. Jordan and Iran are among them. In 59 countries, there are no laws against sexual harassment at work.

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## United cuts fares to win back travellers

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
 United Airways lowered fares for flights to Kolkata from Dhaka and Chittagong to win back clients lost to service disruptions.  
 The current price of a one-way Dhaka-Kolkata flight is Tk 6,913, with a return ticket costing Tk 9,905, down from Tk 7,400 and Tk 10,800.  
 A one-way Chittagong-Kolkata fare is Tk 7,378, with a round trip for Tk 9,905, down from the previous rates of Tk 8,000 and Tk 12,300.  
 The private carrier's services to Kolkata resumed in June after remaining suspended for five months.

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## Closure of Rated Commercial Paper of BDT 300 million

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August 2015

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