

Singapore Airline adds first Airbus to its fleet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Singapore Airlines has taken delivery of its first Airbus -- A350-900 -- from the Airbus delivery centre in Toulouse, the company said in a statement.

It is the first of 67 A350 aircraft on the firm's order, including seven of an ultra-long-range variant for which Singapore Airlines will be the launch customer, it said.

The company marked this milestone with a ceremony in Toulouse, which was attended by Singapore Airlines' Chief Executive Goh Choon Phong, Airbus Executive Vice President and Head of Programmes Didier Evrard, and Rolls-Royce President for Civil Aerospace Eric Schulz.

"The addition of the A350-900 exemplifies Singapore Airlines' longstanding commitment to operating a young and modern fleet," Goh said at the event.

"The A350 will be a game-changer for us, allowing flights to more long-haul destinations on a non-stop basis, which will help us boost our network competitiveness and further develop the important Singapore hub," he said.

"In addition to the latest technologies provided with the new aircraft, our customers will enjoy our latest-generation in-flight cabin products on the A350-900. This includes our award-winning business class, premium economy class and economy class seats, as well as our highly advanced in-flight entertainment system, Krisworld."



Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of the Bangladesh Monitor, launches the frequent flyers' opinion poll to find the best airlines of 2015, at a press meet at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. EJ McEwan, general manager of the hotel, was also present.

Opinion poll for Airline of the Year award launched

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Bangladesh Monitor, a fortnightly magazine on travel and tourism, yesterday launched the seventh edition of a poll to recognise 2015's best performing airlines in the country.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel will be the hospitality partner for the opinion poll and Eastern Bank will be the banking partner, the magazine said in a statement.

The main objective of the poll is to inject competitiveness among the airlines operat-

ing in Bangladesh, Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of the magazine, said in a press meet at the hotel. The airlines will be judged on their services in 13 categories to pick the airline of the year, domestic airline of the year and cargo airline of the year.

Frequent flyers may give their opinion in favour of their preferred airlines either by filling out a prescribed polling form or logging in at www.bangladeshmonitor.net/poll2015.

Last date for opinion submission is April 15, and the winners will be announced in May, according to the statement.

Oil edges lower after Kuwait dents hopes for output freeze

REUTERS, London

Oil prices edged lower on Tuesday after Kuwait said it would only agree to an output freeze if all major producers take part and Goldman Sachs analysts poured cold water over the prospects for a sustained rally.

Brent crude futures LOCC1 were down 12 cents at \$40.72 a barrel at 0922 GMT, hovering above the \$40 mark it last traded at three months ago. On Monday the contract had climbed by 5.5 percent in intraday trading and it has gained about 50 percent since Jan. 20.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were down 10 cents at \$37.80 a barrel.

"Prices are lower on the Goldman Sachs and Kuwaiti comments and the oil market remains oversupplied," said Tamas Varga, oil analyst at PVM in London.

Kuwait's oil minister said on Tuesday that his country's participation in an output freeze would require all major oil producers, including Iran, to be on board.

"I'll go full power if there's no agreement. Every barrel I produce I'll sell," Anas al-Saleh told reporters in Kuwait City.

Opec member Kuwait is currently producing 3 million barrels of oil per day, he added.

On Monday the Ecuadorean government said that Latin American oil producers would meet on Friday to coordinate a strategy to halt the crude price rout.

Tuesday's report by Goldman Sachs said that a recent surge in commodity prices was premature and unsustainable.

"While these dynamics (rising prices) could run further, they simply are not sustainable in the current environment," the analysts wrote.

"Energy needs lower prices to maintain financial stress to finish the rebalancing process; otherwise, an oil price rally will prove self-defeating, as it did last spring."

On the demand side, China's crude imports jumped 19.1 percent between January and February to 31.80 million tonnes, or about 8 million barrels per day, despite overall weak trading figures released on Tuesday.

"Higher 'teapot' (independent refinery) demand and stronger refining margins ... have contributed to increased imports. Falling domestic crude production is also supportive," said Virendra Chauhan of Energy Aspects.



Aminur Rashid, chairman of Edison Group, the parent company of Symphony mobiles, and Jakaria Shahid, managing director, pose at the annual conference of the company at Bashundhara International Convention Centre in Dhaka.



Rafiqur Rahman, a director of Eastern Motors, sole distributor of Bridgestone tyres in Bangladesh, poses with the officials of Bus-Truck Malik Samity and Bus-Track Drivers Association in a seminar on tyres in Tejgaon, Dhaka.



Golam Hafiz Ahmed, managing director of NCC Bank, and SM Rabiul Hasan, general manager of the off-site supervision department of Bangladesh Bank, attend an executive development programme on strengthening and updating risk management, organised by NCC Bank's training institute.

Female farmers in 90 nations face discriminatory land laws

REUTERS, Toronto

Women in more than 90 countries still lack equal rights to own land, hurting food production and efforts to tackle poverty, Rwanda's former agriculture minister said.

Nations in eastern and southern Africa have considerably improved their laws to grant land ownership rights to female farmers, Agnes Kalibata said.

But many states in North Africa and South Asia continue to treat women as second class citizens when it comes to land ownership, she said.

"In Africa, six out of 10 women depend on the land for their livelihoods," Kalibata told the Thomson Reuters Foundation ahead of International Women's Day on Tuesday.

"They must have access to the means of production - the land itself. If we are going to have development across the globe, women need equal access to the land."

Up to 30 percent of women have land access in eastern and southern Africa, compared to less than 10 percent in northern and central Africa, she said.

Without formal land titles, women have a harder time feeding and educating their children.

Agricultural productivity also suffers as female farmers are less likely to invest in improving the land without formal ownership, making it harder to feed the 795 million hungry people worldwide.

During her tenure as Rwanda's agricul-

ture minister which ended in 2014, Kalibata helped enact legal changes that give a woman ownership of half the land her family owns. In many other developing countries, land titles are kept in the husband's name.

She also made it easier for widows to inherit family plots when their husbands died.

"Incredible things are going on in Rwanda when it comes to women's land rights," said Rena Singer, spokeswoman for the Washington-based rights group Landesa.

"If women can't inherit land, we see the continuation of inequality between genders. The only way most poor people get resources in their lifetime is to inherit - they don't have the money to purchase land."

Even in countries like Rwanda with good land laws, lax enforcement and patriarchal customs can make it harder for female farmers to control their incomes, Kalibata said.

Governments need to invest in education, so rural women understand they have the right to own valuable land assets, she said, as many remain unaware of new laws granting them access.

Data on women's land ownership is limited, but statistics from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization indicate women control less than a quarter of agricultural land holdings in developing countries.

Volkswagen faces more bad news from emissions scandal

REUTERS, Wolfsburg, Germany

German prosecutors have widened their probe of Volkswagen's diesel emissions cheating scandal and are now investigating 17 employees, up from six employees previously, prosecutor Klaus Ziehe said on Tuesday.

"This is part of the diesel investigation, the number of suspects has risen, although none are from the management board," Ziehe said in Braunschweig, near VW's Wolfsburg headquarters.

Volkswagen's Chief Executive Matthias Mueller on Tuesday told employees gathered at the Wolfsburg that the emissions scandal will inflict "substantial and painful" financial damage on the carmaker.

"The scandal will keep VW busy for a long time," the CEO said, adding the carmaker has made no attempts to conceal

its wrongdoings.

Volkswagen last year set aside 6.7 billion euros (\$7.39 billion) to cover costs of recalling of about 11 million diesel vehicles globally.

Volkswagen's second-largest shareholder expects more "unpleasant news" to emerge from an emissions-test rigging scandal after the carmaker in September admitted to manipulating pollution tests in the United States.

"We will this year probably every now and then be confronted with unpleasant news related to dieselgate," Stephan Weil, prime minister of Lower Saxony, on Tuesday told a gathering of workers at Volkswagen's (VW) main factory in Wolfsburg.

Europe's largest automaker should be able to cope with the fallout of its manipulation said Weil.

Women are less interested in vocational education: study

FROM PAGE B1

UCEP yesterday organised a roundtable on why women participate less in technical education, at its head office in Dhaka, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

UCEP serves more than 55,000 children from marginalised communities in 10 districts of Bangladesh through its 53 general schools and 10 technical schools.

Discussions include ABM Khorshed Alam, CEO of National Skills Development Council; Selima Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Sara Zaker, group managing director of Asiatic 360; Parveen Mahmud, member of UCEP board, and Fahmida Shabnam, education adviser of DFID Bangladesh.



Khondoker Monir Uddin, managing director of STS Holdings, parent company of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka; Khandakar Kayes Hasan, chief executive of AFC Capital; Nasrin Sultana, chief executive officer of ICB Capital Management, and Mahub Hossain Mazumdar, chief executive officer of LankaBangla Investments, pose at an agreement signing ceremony in Dhaka. STS Holdings has appointed ICB Capital Management and AFC Capital as issue manager of its initial public offering, with LankaBangla as the registrar.



An official of Totalgaz speaks to the participants of a training on the use of LP gas cylinders in cooking. Totalgaz organised the event for housewives from Kapasia, Gazipur.

ChemChina offer for Syngenta to begin March 23

REUTERS, Zurich

ChemChina's \$43 billion takeover offer for Swiss group Syngenta is set to commence on March 23 and run until May 23 if not extended, a prospectus published on Tuesday said.

China made its boldest overseas takeover move when state-owned ChemChina last month agreed a cash bid for the Swiss seeds and pesticides group with the aim of improving domestic food production.

Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Sadar Road, Mohakhali
Dhaka - 1206

Price Sensitive Information

Based on annual accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2015, the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Lamps Limited at its meeting held on 08-03-2016 at 3:00 pm, decided to recommend cash dividend of Tk.2.00 per share of Tk.10/- each (i.e. 20%) for the year 2015.

The date of 55th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Lamps Limited has been fixed to be held on Saturday, 16-04-2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall, House No. 04, Road No. 134-135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. The register of members and share transfer book of the Company and the depository register of CDBL will remain closed on 30-03-2016, as Record Date.

The key financial statistics as per the audited financial statements of the Company under report are:

	2015	2014
Net asset value (NAV) per share :	Tk.70.75	Tk.65.82
Earnings per share (EPS):	Tk. 3.29	Tk.2.12
Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS):	Tk. 3.06	Tk.9.30

The shareholders whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date will be eligible to attend the meeting and qualify for dividend.

By order of the Board

Dhaka
08-03-2016

Mohammad Ruhan Miah
Company Secretary

NOTES:
Shareholders bearing BO ID are requested to update their respective BO ID with 12 digits Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) and any change of address through their Depository Participant (DP); and
Shareholders bearing Folio Numbers are requested to submit their 12 digits e-TIN certificate to the Share Department of the Company latest by March 29, 2016; failing which Income Tax at source (for both the cases) will be deducted from cash dividend @15% instead of 10% as per amended Income-Tax Ordinance (ref. Finance Bill 2014-15).