

# Star BUSINESS

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আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা।  
 এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স।  
 আপনার সংসার সাজানোর আসবাবপত্র, শিফা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জোগানপত্র কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।  
 \* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
 যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯৯২২

## Get tough on industrial polluters

Activists call for govt to take stern action to save rivers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Environmentalists yesterday called for tough measures from the government against those who have pushed the Buriganga and other rivers around Dhaka, to the brink of death.

"We are all unanimous on stopping river pollution. We will have to do whatever we are able to do -- to save the Buriganga," Sultana Kamal, a leading rights activist, said at a seminar on the Buriganga river pollution and the relocation of tanneries.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon or BAPA, a forum of citizens and organisations concerned with the environment; the Bangladesh Bank Disaster Management and Social Responsibility Fund, and Buriganga Riverkeeper co-organised the discussion at the National Press Club in the capital.

Mobasher Hossain, former president of the Institute of Architects called for setting up a tribunal to try those responsible for the river pollution.

They are not only polluting the four rivers around the Dhaka city now -- they are harming the future generation as well, he said.

Some of the plants have effluent treatment plants but they never use them, Hossain said. "Rather, they pump their pollutants out of the factories through an underground network and fill the Buriganga -- they should face trial."

India closed non-compliant tanneries, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, citing an example.

"If needed, we have to do the same by analysing the cost-benefit analysis. We want only compliant industries. We have to see what we are giving to the industries and what we are getting in return."

Rizwana Hasan, also a Ramon Magsaysay Award winning environmentalist, said it was not true that the tanners were not given ample time to relocate their factories.

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## Cost of exports to Germany soars after cargo ban

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The cost of shipments to Germany, Bangladesh's second largest export destination, has increased at least 5 cents per kilogram for suspension of direct cargo flights from Dhaka to Berlin for security reasons.

Germany's federal civil aviation authority imposed a ban on direct flights from Dhaka to Berlin on June 27 citing Bangladesh to be a 'high risk' country due to poor security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

As a result, businesses now have to carry the goods after re-screening at another airport, said Mahbulul Anam, president of Bangladesh



Freight Forwarders Association.

The cargos are sent from Dhaka by Emirates, Etihad, Saudia and Oman airlines to different airports in Middle East. From there, the goods are re-screened before loading them onto a Berlin-bound flight.

Before the suspension of the direct flight, the German national flag carrier, Lufthansa, used to carry 80 tonnes of goods from Bangladesh in its lone weekly flight from Dhaka to Berlin.

Germany is the third country, after Australia and the UK, to impose a ban on direct cargo flights from Bangladesh on security grounds.

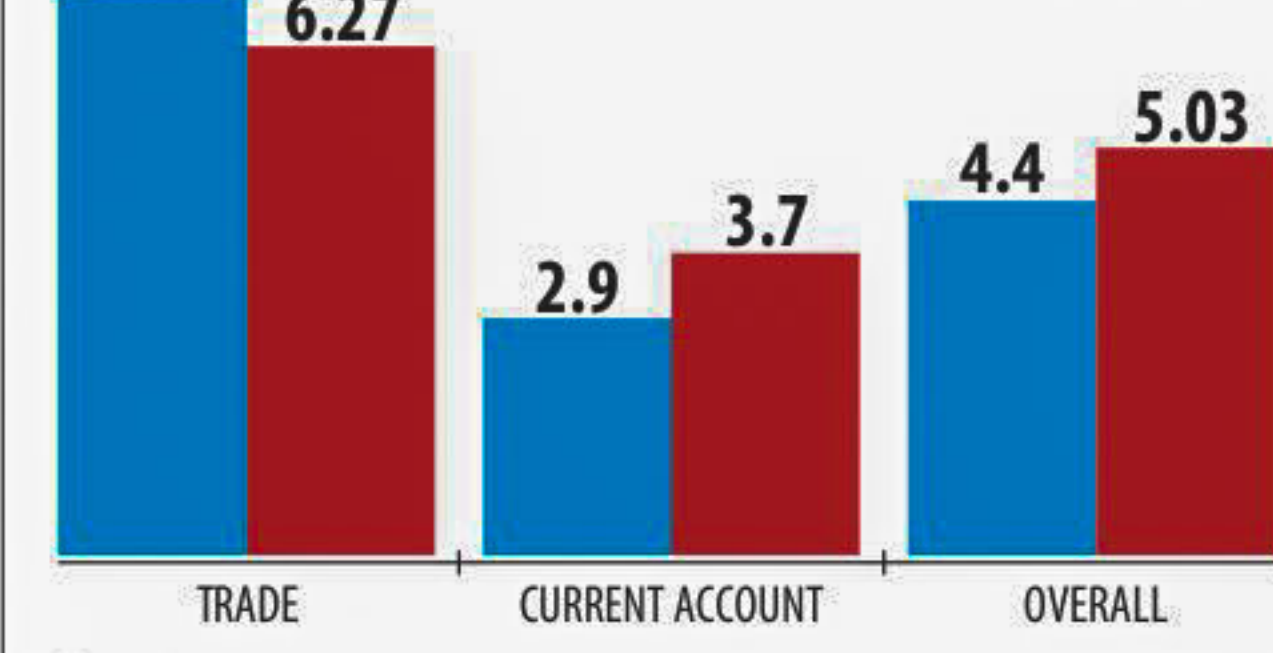
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## BoP surplus swells

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

In billions of \$

SOURCE: BB



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The balance of payments surplus swelled by more than 15 percent last fiscal year to \$5.04 billion thanks to lower import growth than export and an increase in foreign aid.

However, Bangladesh Bank projects the surplus will be eroded by half this fiscal year, as the investment scenario is expected to pick up.

In fiscal 2015-16, exports grew 8.94 percent and imports 5.45 percent, which caused the expansion of the overall surplus, according to data from the central bank.

During the period, the trade deficit stood at \$6.27 billion in contrast to \$6.96 billion in fiscal 2014-15.

The reason for the slow import growth is the lack of investment appetite.

Last fiscal year, capital machinery imports increased 14.10 percent in contrast to 22.97 percent recorded a year earlier, according to letters of credit settlement statistics.

Not only industry-related items, the import of other goods like food and petroleum also declined.

Food grain imports in the last fiscal year plummeted 25.45 percent and petroleum 29.48 percent.

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## Bangladesh ranks lowest in women's entrepreneurship

MasterCard surveys 16 countries in Asia-Pacific

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh ranked at the bottom among 16 countries in the Asia Pacific region in MasterCard's first Women's Entrepreneurial Index in spite of the huge strides taken by the country on this front in the last three decades.

The country had an overall score of 27 out of an ideal score of 100 on the index, lagging behind India (33.3) and Sri Lanka (32.7).

The index measured women's advancement in society -- the rate of participation in the workforce, government, and their inclination on business -- and the available

enabling conditions for women, including education, financial influence at home and perceived safety from threat of crimes.

The survey, which covered 16 economies in the Asia Pacific, was released ahead of World Entrepreneurs Day, which will be observed today.

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## Xiaomi handsets hit market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Solar Electro Bangladesh Ltd has recently launched three smartphones of Xiaomi—a Chinese mobile brand—in the local market. The handsets are priced between Tk 16,900 and Tk 37,900.

Solar Electro imported 4,000 handsets, and some other mid-priced smartphones will reach Dhaka soon, said DM Majibor Rahman, managing director of the company.

The company also opened two brand

shops at Bashundhara City shopping mall and one in Jamuna Future Park in the capital, he said.

The importer is also taking preparation to open 15 more brand shops across the country, mostly in city areas.

Xiaomi will bring a huge change in the market and "will be the country's number one smartphone brand within a short span," said Rahman.

Solar Electro will soon appoint distributors across the country, he said.

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