

আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স

আপনার সংসার পোছানোর আসবাবপত্র, শিফা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জোশাপ্য কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।

• ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 2, 2017, POUH 19, 1423 BS

PM opens Dhaka trade fair

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the Dhaka International Trade Fair, announcing leather as the "product of the year" for 2017.

Hasina asked authorities to take steps to provide necessary cooperation and incentives to boost the leather sector and help explore its potential. Leather exports have increased about 71 times over the last four decades and Bangladesh produces leather goods for top global brands.

Hasina urged the businesses and exporters to stay updated on the changing regime of global trade. WTO rules are making the global trade more liberal, Hasina said. "So, Bangladeshi products should maintain global standards to sustain in the world market."

The premier also distributed the National Export Trophy for fiscal 2013-14 at the inauguration of the trade fair, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

She distributed 28 gold, 22 silver and 15 bronze medals among the exporters for their success in exports during fiscal 2013-14.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses with the recipients of the National Export Trophy for fiscal 2013-14, at the inaugural ceremony of Dhaka International Trade Fair 2017, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The full list of awardees on B3.

Pran gets export trophies for 13th year

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pran Group received national export trophies for 13 consecutive years in recognition of its role in raising shipment in the agro-processing category.

The food processor and exporter were handed two trophies for fiscal 2013-14 at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Pran Agro Ltd and Pran Foods Ltd obtained the gold and bronze trophies respectively.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the trophies and certificates to Eleash Mridha, managing director of Pran Group, and Kamruzzaman Kamal, director of marketing at Pran-RFL Group, at the event. Pran Group started exporting agro-based products in 1997, and now ships a wide range of products to 134 countries.

In a statement, Kamruzzaman Kamal said, "We are very delighted to receive the best exporter award. It will inspire us to do better in the days to come."

Pran has a big market in India and Middle Eastern countries. The conglomerate is working to expand its export market in Africa and other regions as well, according to the statement.

Living costs rise 6.47pc

Consumers Association of Bangladesh releases 2016 survey on prices

PRICES IN 2016: UP & DOWN		Year-on-year
RICE	▲ 2.87%	IMPORTED ONION ▼ 50.76%
PULSES	▲ 10%	GINGER 19.53%
SUGAR	▲ 46.05%	VEGETABLES 9.74%
SALT	▲ 37.32%	FISH 6.86%
MEAT	▲ 6.24%	FLOUR 2.95%
IMPORTED GARLIC	▲ 72.06%	BOTTLED SOYBEAN OIL 4.33%
HOUSE RENTS	▲ 8.77%	FUEL PRICES 5.58%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The cost of living in Bangladesh rose 6.47 percent in 2016 from the previous year due to hikes in house rents and some essential food items including rice, pulses and sugar, a consumer rights campaigner said yesterday.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh or CAB also found that the prices of food and services rose 5.81 percent in the just concluded year.

The CAB prepared the report taking into account the costs of 114 food items, 22 essential commodities and 14 utility services. The increase in the living cost however did not take into consideration the real expenditure for education,

health and transport.

The increase in 2016 is 0.09 percentage points higher than in 2015, when the cost of living rose 6.38 percent.

The prices of all varieties of rice increased 2.87 percent on average, while the prices of all kinds of pulses soared 10 percent on average.

"Though the rice price remained almost static, it was soaring during the last quarter of the year both in the wholesale and retail markets," the report said, adding that the price of coarse rice, which is consumed by low-income people, recorded the highest increase.

The prices of imported garlic soared 72.06 percent -- the most in 2016. The prices of locally produced garlic, an essential cooking

ingredient, rose 47 percent.

The prices of sugar, salt, tea, milk and meat went up between 6 percent and 46 percent last year.

However, the CAB said the prices of onion, coriander, green chilli, ginger, powdered milk, vegetables, soap, fish, flour and edible oil came down between 2 percent and 51 percent in 2016.

House rent in the capital rose 8.77 percent on average in last year.

However, the low-income group was the worst sufferer as their house rent crept up 9.6 percent, with slum-dwellers not far behind. The slum-dwellers saw an 8.97 percent hike in house rents.

People living in flats faced an average hike of 8.54 percent.

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Testing year for banks

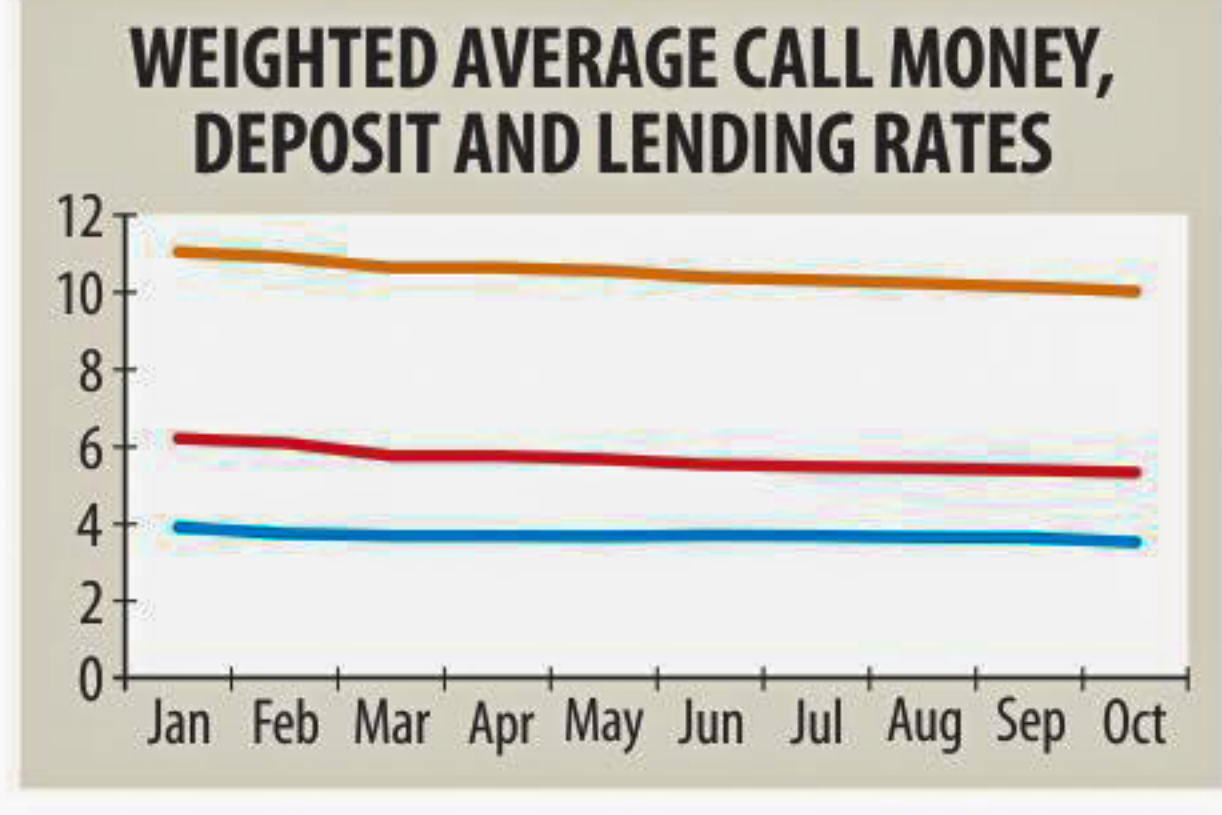
SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The year 2016 witnessed an intense competition among banks in terms of rates, but it was a boon for the clients as they got improved services and better facilities at costs lower than before.

Increasing off-shore borrowing by reputed local business houses has reduced banks' scope to lend more, while rising nonperforming loans are eating up profits in the name of provision.

Banks with surplus liquidity also offered additional benefits in the just-concluded year to retain good customers who have a regular loan payments.

Amid this situation, bankers predicted that their profits would erode in 2016 compared to the previous years. Accordingly, the government will also get less revenue



from the banking sector.

"It was a tough year for banks and there was huge competition to hook new customers," said Abul Kashem Mohammad Shirin, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bankor DBBL.

If a bank offers a good client loans at 9 percent interest rate, another bank tries to bag the customer by offering an even lower rate. The rate goes down further if a third bank comes into the scene.

Commission, fees and charges for different services also went down significantly in 2016. For example, Shirin said, DBBL used to charge 0.6 percent as letter of credit (LC) commission per quarter between 2014 and early 2015, but now it has come down to only 0.1 percent.

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Mr. Shahriar Ahmed, Managing Director of Apex Foods Limited is receiving the National Export Trophy (Gold) for highest Seafood Export in financial year 2013-14 from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 01st January 2017.

2017 to be more eventful for telecom

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The year 2017 looks set to be a milestone year for the telecom sector with the planned launch of the country's first communication satellite and the rollout of fourth generation mobile services.

The immediate past year was no less eventful. The year saw the landmark merger of Robi and Airtel, completion of biometric re-registration of SIMs and the legal tussles with Citycell, the country's oldest operator.

The six operators re-registered a total of 10.85 crore SIMs until the deadline of May 31, and at the stroke of midnight blocked about 2.5 crore unverified SIMs.

The long-drawn-out merger of Robi and Airtel was completed in November to create the country's second biggest mobile operator. The merger fee was Tk 100 crore and the spectrum charge came to about Tk 348 crore.

The telecom regulator shut down the country's oldest mobile phone operator, Citycell, on October 21 last year for failure to clear dues of Tk 477.69 crore.

After partial payment and an order from the Supreme Court the company was allowed to operate again but found no customers. The year also saw market leader Grameenphone be slapped with a fine of Tk 30 crore for providing unauthorised services.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood expressed his deep satisfaction over the industry's performance in 2016 and expects the New Year to be just as good, if not better.

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Heartiest Congratulations!

We are delighted to announce that Universal Jeans Ltd., Jeans 2000 Ltd. & Pacific Jeans Ltd. companies of Pacific Jeans Group has been awarded all three "National Export Trophy" GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE for the year 2013-2014 for being the highest Exporter of Export Processing Zones, Bangladesh.

Pacific Jeans Group has been awarded 14 National Export trophies since 1998-1999 till 2013-2014 as the highest Exporter of the country & EPZ.

We express our warmest congratulations to Mr. Nasir Uddin, Chairman, Pacific Jeans Group and Mr. Syed M. Tanvir, Director, Pacific Jeans Group for their leadership, determination and dedication for this accomplishment and we look forward to many brighter days to come.

All members of: