

## Jiban Bima gets new chairman



**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Shelina Afroza has recently joined Jiban Bima Corporation as chairman. She has previously served the fisheries and livestock ministry as secretary and the National Institute of Population Research and Training as director general, Jiban Bima said in a statement yesterday. Afroza completed her PhD in public administration from the University of Karachi, MPhil from the University of Calcutta and master's in history from Dhaka University.

# Deal signed to impart digital education

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

The ICT division, Robi and 10 Minute School -- an online school -- are going to work together for promoting digital education in the country.

A tripartite agreement was signed among these organisations yesterday at the Janata Tower Software Development Park in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, according to a statement.

The ICT department's Director General Banamali Bhowmick, Robi's Chief Corporate and People Officer Matuil Islam Nowshad and 10 Minute School's Founder and CEO Ayman Sadiq signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak and ICT Division's Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder were also present.

Under the agreement, students of the government's 2001 digital labs and more than 30,000 multimedia classrooms across the country will get access to quality education content.

The three parties will also offer nano-degree programmes in ICT division's training facilities and in the high-tech parks around the country.

Nano-degree is a course of study which is much shorter than a university course and focuses on the skills one needs for a

job, especially computer-related skills.

Robi and 10 Minute School will introduce their digital education content to the youth taking part in the 'learning and earning' shows organised by the ICT division.

Palak, the state minister, said: "Access to quality digital education content forms a key part of the process of realising the Digital Bangladesh vision."

Robi's Nowshad said: "The future of our youth lies in its ability to leverage the benefits offered by the digital technology. Considering the country-wide reach of our network, we felt that it makes sense to impart quality digital education content over the internet for the benefit of our youth."

10 Minute School's CEO Sadiq said the youth are increasingly becoming comfortable with the use of the internet. "All we need to do is to provide them with the right kind of content so that they make the best use of the internet."

10 Minute School is a site through which students can learn from the tutorials (1,411 videos with over seven million views) and live classes, monitor their progress, and compare with their peers and others.

The school also broadcasts live classes every day using the Live feature of Facebook.



MESSE FRANKFURT SP BANGLADESH

From left, Omer Salahuddin, CEO of Messe Frankfurt SP Bangladesh; Rumanna Afroza, head of operation for Bangladesh office; Khondokar Mukhtadir, immediate past chairman of Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Association; Mehmood Hussain, present chairman; Nazneen Salahuddin, country manager of Messe Frankfurt SP Bangladesh, and Syed Masoom Chaudhury, commercial counsellor of the Bangladesh embassy in Berlin, pose in front of Bangladesh's pavilion set up by the Export Promotion Bureau at Heimtextil 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany.

## Frankfurt textile fair gets good response

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

More than 70,000 people visited this year's international trade fair for home and contract textiles—Heimtextil—in Frankfurt that ended Friday.

A total of 2,886 exhibitors showcased their products in the four-day fair, Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh said in a statement. Last year, the fair witnessed 69,000 visitors and 2,866 exhibitors, according to the statement.

Detlef Braun, member of the executive board of Messe Frankfurt, was satisfied with the outcome of the exhibition and appreciated the participa-

tion of 23 Bangladeshi companies.

"We have been participating in Heimtextil for the last 16 years," said Abdullah Muhammad Zubair of Zaber and Zubair Fabrics, a Bangladeshi home textile company that took part in the fair.

"Messe Frankfurt organises the fair in a very organised way. Everyone should join the fair, as it is a very good platform for new companies to promote their products."

The number of visitors at the fair was low on the first day due to bad weather, said Arafat Rasheed, company director of Apex Weaving, another textile company of Bangladesh.

"We have done three successful meetings during the fair."

Delwar Hossain Chowdhury of ACS Textile Mills, another Bangladeshi company, said they launched their new brand at the fair.

Eleven Bangladeshi companies took part in Heimtextil with the assistance of the Export Promotion Bureau, said Hussain Mehmood, chairman of Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers and Exporters Association. "The home textile sector has bright prospects in Bangladesh. The sector needs the government's support to grow further."

## Hundreds protest against elephant trade in Tanzania

AFP, Dar Es Salaam

Around 500 people, half from the Chinese community, protested in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to call for the protection of elephants against poachers.

The so-called "walk for elephants" saw the demonstrators, including the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, march five kilometres (three miles) through the capital.

China is considered the premier destination for elephant ivory as demand is high, fuelling illegal hunting and smuggling that kills an estimated 30,000 elephants a year.

In December, however, China announced a total ban of the trade and processing of ivory, to be in effect by the end of 2017. A Chinese man who took part in the protest said the illegal trade had knock-on negative effects.

"Everywhere you go, police and immigration officials treat you suspiciously... (thinking) that you may be hiding or trying to transport elephant ivory," he said, giving his name as Lee and saying he was in the furniture business.



Premier Bank Chairman HBM Iqbal speaks at the bank's annual business conference for 2017 at BRAC CDM in Savar. Vice Chairman Mohammad Imran Iqbal, Director Abdus Salam Murshedy and Managing Director Khondker Fazle Rashid were also present.

## Islami Bank's new deputy managing director

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

JQM Habibullah has recently been appointed as the deputy managing director and company secretary of Islami Bank Bangladesh.

He has previously served First Security Islami Bank, NRB Global Bank and Premier Bank as company secretary.

He has also worked for Dhaka Bank and GSP Finance Ltd, Islami Bank said in a statement yesterday. He completed his masters in statistics from Dhaka University, according to the statement.



## Mirsarai Economic Zone in fast lane

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Development of the zone would take place in three phases at a cost of \$187.05 million and it would be completed by 2028, he added. China Harbour is currently constructing an access road to the CEIZ, and it may sign a formal investment agreement and concession agreement by the first half of this year.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Ruhul Amin, Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Shamsul Arefin and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbubul Alam also spoke. Junichiro Motoyama, team leader of the Project for Development of Economic Zones and Capacity Enhancement of Beza, Md Mizanur Rahman, director (commercial) of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, and Beza Manager Md Shohelerahman Chowdhury presented separated keynote papers at the seminar.

An economic zone is a designated area in a country with special economic regulations that differ from the rest of the country. An entrepreneur can enjoy various benefits, including tax incentives from the authorities, by setting up an industrial unit in an economic zone.

Beza has been working to set up 100 economic zones by 2030, which will create jobs for one crore people and produce goods and services worth \$40 billion. It has identified 74 locations across the country for setting up economic zones.

## Operators can sell blocked SIMs

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The National Numbering Plan has ten prefixes for mobile operators, of which 010, 012, 013 and 014 are still free.

If the government cancels Citycell's licence another number series will become available.

Among the current operators, Citycell is using the 011 series, Teletalk 015, Airtel 016, Robi 018 and Banglalink 019.

The government is also planning to allow the armed forces to launch a non-commercial mobile service, especially for disaster management operations, which will take up another series.

Grameenphone, which was founded in 1997, needed to expand its number series twice: first after hitting the 10-lakh landmark and later after reaching one crore subscribers.

# South Korea prosecutor weighs economic impact of arrest of Samsung chief

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's special prosecutor said on Sunday it will take into account the economic impact of whether to arrest Samsung Group leader Jay Y. Lee in connection with an influence-peddling investigation involving the president.

The office also delayed by one day, until Monday, its decision on whether to seek the arrest of Lee, the third-generation leader of South Korea's largest conglomerate, or chaebol, citing the gravity of the case.

The special prosecution had said it would make a decision on Lee by Sunday. But spokesman Lee Kyuchul told reporters on Sunday investigators were deliberating all factors including the potential economic impact of the arrest of Jay Y. Lee.

Prosecutors have been investigating whether Samsung provided 30 billion won (\$25.46 million) to a business and foundations backed by President Park Geun-hye's friend, Choi Soon-sil, in exchange for the national pension fund's support for a 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates.

The Samsung chief denied bribery accusations during a parliamentary hearing in December.

Taking into account the economic impact could prove beneficial to the 48-year-old Lee. The imposition of

less severe punishment on erring business leaders to avoid negative economic consequences has precedent in South Korea.

"Law and principle are the most important metric, and after also considering various factors mentioned previously, we will decide by law and principle," the prosecution spokesman Lee said, referring to economic impact, without elaborating.

A Samsung Group spokeswoman declined to comment.

Samsung's Lee was questioned for 22 hours before leaving the special prosecutors' office in Seoul on Friday morning as part of the investigation into a corruption scandal that has led to President Park's impeachment by parliament. Establishing a money-for-favour exchange between Samsung and Park or her surrogate is critical for the special prosecutor's investigation, analysts say.

Park, the daughter of a military ruler, has denied wrongdoing, although she has apologised for exercising poor judgment. Her friend, Choi, who is in detention and facing her own trial, has also denied wrongdoing.

The Constitutional Court is deciding whether to uphold or overturn the impeachment vote.

If Park is forced to leave office, a presidential election would be held

in 60 days. Among the expected contenders is former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The chiefs of South Korean chaebol have over the years had prison sentences shortened or forgiven, or received pardons, with the economic impact of imprisonment cited as a factor.

Jay Y. Lee's father Lee Kun-hee, who has been incapacitated since a 2014 heart attack, was handed a three-year suspended jail sentence in 2009 for tax evasion. He was later pardoned.

Samsung has acknowledged making contributions to the two foundations as well as a consulting firm controlled by Choi but has repeatedly denied accusations of lobbying to push through the merger of Samsung C&T and Cheil Industries Inc.

The world's biggest maker of smartphones, memory chips and flat-screen televisions has delayed its annual executive promotions, which typically take place in early December, amid the scandal.

The special prosecution also said it plans to indict early next week National Pension Service chief Moon Hyung-pyo, who was arrested in December after acknowledging he pressured the fund to approve the merger while he was health minister.

## Garment exports to Germany to rise: buyers

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As a trade bloc, the EU is the largest garment export destination for Bangladesh, offering a zero-duty benefit since 1971 under its Everything but Arm scheme.

Bangladesh exported garments worth \$17.15 billion to the EU in fiscal 2015-16, \$15.36 billion in 2014-15 and \$14.75 billion in 2013-14, according to EPB.

On the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP, Junkert said negotiations have stalled now with the change in power in the US.

"Usually, signing a free trade agreement takes six to seven years. We may have to wait more than this time to sign the TTIP. It now depends on the US government," Junkert said.

At the press meet, Olaf Schmidt, vice-president of the textile and textile technologies unit of the Messe Frankfurt, the largest trade fair organiser in Germany, said they have plans on hosting fairs in Bangladesh in future.

## Incentives to bump up remittance inflow

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Meanwhile, at the press meet, Kamal lauded the WB for making a generous projection for Bangladesh's economic growth.

"The World Bank usually makes conservative projections, but this time it gave us high praise."

The Washington-based multilateral lender last week in its Global Economic Prospectus said Bangladesh's GDP growth this fiscal year is likely to be 6.8 percent.

GDP growth stood at 7.1 percent last fiscal year, whereas the WB's projection was about 6 percent, the minister said.

"I don't know how they became so kind this time."



Humayun Kabir, chairman of Modhumoti Bank; Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, chairman of the executive committee of the bank, and Md Shafiqul Azam, managing director of the bank, attend the bank's annual business conference 2017 at DCCI auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

MODHUMOTI BANK



Schneider Electric, the global specialist in energy management & automation, recently donated solar lamps "Mobiya" in association with ECO Distribution Ltd. to the students of 80 no. Moddhyonagar Govt. Primary School located in Raipura, Narshingdi as a part of their social responsibilities.

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