

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.67%	▲ 0.89%	\$1,213.90	\$55.71	▲ 0.95%	▼ 0.55%	Closed	▲ 0.20%	BUY TK 78.80	83.50	97.16	0.68
5,708.24	10,741.89	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	27,375.58	18,787.99		3,143.09	SELL TK 79.80	87.10	100.76	0.71

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখার মাধ্যমে জমা দিন



* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25, 2017, MAGH 12, 1423 BS

It's time to reform oil market

PRI says Bangladesh should initiate reforms in oil pricing, subsidy and market deregulation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladesh should initiate reforms in oil pricing, subsidy and market deregulation to make the most of the historically low oil price in the international market, the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh said yesterday.

"Low international oil prices, solid economic performance and political stability provide a unique opportunity to tackle these sensitive reforms," said Sadiq Ahmed, vice-chairman of PRI, at a seminar held at the think-tank's office in Dhaka.

Politically sensitive reforms like oil price subsidy and pricing are best done from a position of strength. Bangladesh economy is growing, the macroeconomy is stable and inflation has come down.

"In this overall positive macroeconomic environment, low international oil prices present a historic opportunity to reduce economically costly and environmentally damaging fuel subsidies."

Oil prices began its slide in the international market in June 2014, but it was only in April last year that Bangladesh made the

adjustment, and too slightly.

The government had planned for another round of cuts but has shelved the course after oil prices started showing an upward trend.

Benchmark Brent crude was up 40 cents at \$55.63 a barrel yesterday, which is still less than half of the price it was two years ago.

When oil prices are low, subsidy removal has limited adverse social consequences, said Ahmed, a former senior economist of the World Bank.

In fact, the domestic prices of oil products in Bangladesh today are above the international price and subsidy reforms will not increase oil prices immediately.

"The outlook for international oil prices is also positive, which will help maintain price stability in the near future."

Reforms are more likely to be successful and durable if they are embedded within a broader agenda.

Most of the successful oil subsidy reforms were well planned with a clear strategy and long-term objectives, he said.

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GP generates \$1.5b in value addition

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Grameenphone generated about \$1.5 billion of gross value addition in 2015, which is equivalent to 0.8 percent of Bangladesh's total value addition and 30.8 percent of the information communication sector's.

The direct GVA generated by each full-time employee for Telenor in Bangladesh stood at \$169,623 in 2015, which is almost 23 times higher than the national average labour productivity per full-time employee, as per the Norwegian telecom giant's Global Impact Report. Telenor owns 55.8 percent of Grameenphone.

In 2015, Bangladesh's leading mobile operator directly employed 4,728 full-time staff and created an additional 169,000 indirect jobs through its supply chain.

"For every job that Telenor generates directly in Bangladesh, an additional 61 are created in the wider Bangladeshi economy," the report said.

Between 2014 and 2015, the operator contributed \$640 million to the national exchequer, according to the report conducted by KPMG.

GP'S CONTRIBUTION

Here's how Grameenphone is building a digital future for all through social and economic impact

\$248m invested in Bangladeshi economy in 2015	15b text messages sent in 2015	DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH \$1.5b Gross value addition generated for Bangladesh economy in 2015
108b voice minutes used in 2015	10,068 base-station sites in operation	
27% of employees are women		DIRECTLY EMPLOYED 4,728 full-time equivalent employees
		61:1 61 jobs are created with each Grameenphone hire

"It is encouraging to see how Grameenphone operations have made a significant impact on the social-economic growth of the people as well as on the key financial indicators of the country," said Peter B Furberg, chief executive officer of Grameenphone.

As the operator shifts its focus on transforming the digital landscape in Bangladesh, even greater social empowerment and development are expected, he said.

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Beximco Pharma forms joint venture with Malaysia's BioCare

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Beximco Pharmaceuticals announced the creation of a joint venture with BioCare Manufacturing based in Malaysia.

Beximco Pharma will provide full technical support to BioCare to establish manufacturing facilities at Seri Iskandar Pharmaceutical Park in Malaysia to produce pharmaceutical products.

Beximco will own 30 percent of the equity shares in the company while BioCare will operate and fund the facility, Beximco Pharma said in a statement yesterday.

"This is our first overseas manufacturing collaboration," said Nazmul Hassan, managing director of Beximco Pharma.

"I believe our joint venture with BioCare will help address the unmet needs of patients and physicians by supporting the Malaysian government's initiative to promote the local pharmaceutical industry."

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Smartphone expo begins tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Top smartphone brands are going to demonstrate their latest products at a three-day exposition beginning in the capital tomorrow.

This is the seventh edition of the event -- ADATA Smartphone and Tab Expo 2017 -- to be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

About 10,000 gadgets were sold at the fair last year, organiser Expo Maker said at a press conference at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Global and local brands like Symphony, Samsung, Huawei, Oppo, Linnex, WE, LAVA, Xiaomi, Gadget Gang 7, Cellstream, Mycell, Micromax, Lenevo, Coolpad, Mango and Meizu will be displayed at the show, said Nahid Hasnain Siddique, head of operations of Expo Maker.

Muqeemur Rahman, head of the mobile phone division at Samsung Electronics Bangladesh, said customers will be able to pre-book their flagship products at the show.

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VAT to stay at 15pc in new law: Muhith

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The unified value-added tax of 15 percent will remain unchanged under the new VAT law, which is expected to come into force in July, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"It is still my position," he said, replying to the reporters after a meeting with senior officials of the National Board of Revenue at his office.

Muhith's comment came after businesses, particularly the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, repeatedly demanded the VAT rate be slashed to 7 percent from 15 percent.

He said businesses wanted different VAT rates in the past and withdrawal of the 15 percent rate.

"For the initial period, the decision to use a unified rate is good. In my opinion, it is a very good decision. So, I stick to the decision," Muhith said.

The minister said the NBR would discuss with trade bodies on VAT-related issues again. He also plans to sit with business leaders shortly on the issues.

Muhith said businessmen have more or less accepted the new VAT law.

"But we also want to hear from them. It will not be a good thing if they oppose. So, we also want them to modify their position by the time it becomes a law."



AMA Muhith

"With only six months left for it to become a law, we have some more work to do."

Muhith also shed light on revenue collection. "Revenue collection is not bad. Revenue always falls short of our estimates to some extent. But there are some good signs this year."

He said the electronically generated taxpayer identification numbers crossed the target.

"That's a good sign. In the last 8-9 years, we have been able to prove that the collectors are not all bad people. They also make things convenient. This is a big change."

Another change, according to Muhith, is that a large number of taxpayers are young people who are below 40.

Muhith rejected a projection by the Centre for Policy Dialogue that there would be a shortfall of Tk 40,000 crore in the government's revenue collection from the target.

"This is absurd, just absurd."

The CPD in its review of Bangladesh's development said revenue mobilisation will fall short of the target of Tk 242,752 crore in 2016-17 for the fifth consecutive year as the target was set at a very ambitious level.

The CPD said the collection of total revenue could fall short of the amount even if the non-NBR revenue and non-tax revenue are taken into account.

Regulator asks bullish bourses to stay cautious

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The regulator has asked the bourses to keep an eye on the current upward trend in the stockmarket against the backdrop of a bullish momentum that continued yesterday as well.

DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, rose 38.45 points or 0.67 percent to finish the day at 5,708.24 points - the highest since the introduction of the index on January 27, 2013.

The turnover stood at Tk 2,013.44 crore, down 7.67 percent from the previous day.

"The stockmarket got back its rhythm after a long bearish period. But the twin bourses will have to look after the consistency between the share transactions and the current upward trend," said M Khairul Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

Massive reforms have been carried out after the price debacle in early 2011. "The market is now heading towards vibrancy," he said.

"None should overlook his or her own responsibility for little gain," Hossain said while addressing the 60th anniversary of Dhaka Stock Exchange at Sonargaon Hotel on Monday evening.

Referring to the finance minister's expectation of a 'strong' capital market in the next three years, he said: "We also believe that our capital market will be a leading one in the region."

Finance Minister AMA Muhith while addressing the launch of MIDAS

Investment, a subsidiary of MIDAS Financing, on Sunday said: "I believe we will have a strong capital market within three years."

Hossain said there are many state-owned enterprises under different ministries, but they are not being listed on the capital market due to their internal strategies.

"I have already requested the finance minister to take immediate steps to bring the state-owned enterprises to the stockmarket, and the minister assured me of taking necessary steps in this regard," he said.

Hossain said the market capitalisation to GDP ratio in Bangladesh is only around 21 percent, while the ratio is around 70 percent in neighbouring India.

"It shows the potential of our capital market. We want to take the ratio to 50 percent and it is possible if the government utilises the stockmarket as a source of financing for its mega projects," he said.

Of the traded issues on the premier bourse yesterday, 114 advanced, 199 declined and 15 remained unchanged.

Islami Bank dominated the turnover chart with its transactions of 1.59 crore shares worth Tk 73.09 crore, followed by Beximco, Summit Power, City Bank and National Bank.

Banking shares led the market both in terms of turnover and return. Seven of the top ten gainers were from banking stocks, which helped the sector go up 4.6 percent in market capitalisation.

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পুলিশ সপ্তাহ ২০১৭ উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের সকলকে জানাই আমাদের প্রানঢালা শুভেচ্ছা।



পুলিশকে সহযোগীতা করুন, পুলিশের সহায়তা নিন, দেশের উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রযাত্রায় অংশ নিন।




