

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.72%	▲ 0.71%	\$1,231.60	\$56.00	▼ 0.04%	▼ 1.13%	▼ 1.26%	▲ 0.05%	BUY TK 79.45	83.11	98.28	0.68
5,598.71	10,495.61	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	28,339.31	19,238.28	3,072.47	3,218.38	SELL TK 80.45	86.71	101.88	0.72

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 FEBRUARY 15, 2017, FALGUN 3, 1423 BS

Indo-Bangla trade fair begins tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The fourth Indo-Bangla trade fair will begin tomorrow at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital.
More than 30 Indian and Bangladeshi companies will display their products and services at the three-day show to be organised by India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Dewan Sultan Ahmed, vice president of the chamber, at a press conference yesterday.
Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed will inaugurate the fair along with Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla and FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad.
The products to be displayed will be from sectors such as textiles and handicrafts, automobile and spare parts, garments, food and spices, jewellery, healthcare, education, information technology, agro- business and food processing.

Local manufacture of bikes taking shape

SOHEL PARVEZ
Eight firms, including Japan's Honda and Suzuki and India's Bajaj, TVS and Hero, are set to establish facilities to manufacture motorcycles in Bangladesh.
The development comes after the National Board of Revenue at the start of the fiscal year offered 20 percent duty rebate on import of motorcycles in completely knocked down (CKD) format for firms that want to sign up as progressive manufacturers.
As progressive manufacturers, the firms would have two years to build the infrastructure such that from the third year onwards they can manufacture some of the components locally.
In response, Bangladesh Honda Private Ltd (BHL), Speedoz, Uttara Motor Corporation, Menoka Motors, TVS Auto Bangladesh, Aftab Automobiles, Rancon Motorbikes and Niloy Motors applied to the industries ministry for the privilege.
After getting the scope to import motorcycles in CKD form at reduced duty, most of the firms have cut the prices of bikes in the last two months. The price cut has also buoyed demand and contributed to the expansion of the overall market; nearly two lakh units were sold in 2016, according to industry insiders.
TVS has already passed on the benefits of reduced duty to customers, said its Chief Executive Biplob Kumar Roy.
The firms that got the benefit have cut prices by 10-18 percent depending on models, said Shah Muhammad Ashequr Rahman, chief financial officer of BHL, a joint venture between Japan's Honda Motor and Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation.



KEY POINTS

- Nearly 2 lakh units of motorcycle were sold in 2016
- The number may rise to about 2.8 lakh this year, insiders say
- Firms that got duty benefit cut prices by 10-18%

SUGGESTIONS

- Customers should be offered loans for purchasing bikes
- Backward linkage industry should be developed

Multilateral trade deals to benefit poor countries

Says Philip Kucharski, chief operating officer of ICC

SAJJADUR RAHMAN
The International Chamber of Commerce believes in multilateral trade agreements as it deems them to be fair and balanced.
"We absolutely favour and prefer multilateral agreements over bilateral ones, because it allows weak countries to participate in the same level," Philip Kucharski, chief operating officer of the ICC, told The Daily Star in an interview last week.
Kucharski, who was in the capital to attend the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2017, made the comments in response to growing fears that the US could become more protectionist under President Donald Trump.
For instance, in the first week of assuming office, Trump withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, a proposed trade agreement between the 12 countries that border the Pacific Ocean.
Trump also has plans to put in place a system under which US imports be subjected to tax and export revenues exempted from them.



Philip Kucharski
Kucharski, who is a British national, was also hurt to see the UK withdraw from the European common market that took over 50 years to build.
Britain's decision to leave the world's largest free trade zone surprised a lot of people. "It was a short-sighted decision and we have to face the consequences."

Sonargaon renovation almost done



A refurbished room of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The renovation works of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel are almost complete and it expects to resume full-fledged operations within two months, said officials.
"Despite delays, we are now happy with the progress in renovation works," Salman Kabir, assistant director of marketing and public relations, told The Daily Star yesterday.
Kabir said customers' feedback on the renovated rooms is also good.
Renovation works of government-owned Sonargaon hotel, the oldest five-star hotel in the country, began in 2005. Work was delayed for several years due to a change in the political scene in January 2007, according to officials.
Accom Engineering Ltd, a sister concern of Orion Group, is carrying out the renovation at

a cost of Tk 180 crore.
Prior to January 2007, the contractor completed work on the 3rd and 4th floors, swimming pool and gymnasium. Renovation of the 5th to 8th floors remained stalled till May 2016.
The 7th floor was handed over to the hotel on February 1 and the 8th floor will be given on Sunday. "Refurbishing works on the 5th and 6th floors are going on and we hope to get the floors finished by next month," said Kabir.
MA Awal, director of sales and marketing of Sonargaon, said this is the first time the hotel has been renovated since its establishment in 1981 and it will resume full services soon.
"We were forced to stop renovation by the then government in 2007 and it was a huge loss for us," said Salman Karim, managing director of Orion Group.

Robi fined for false offer

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection yesterday fined mobile operator Robi Tk 5,000 after a customer complained about the semantics of the operator's internet package offer.
Mohammad Rubel Mia had purchased the "unlimited internet package -- 6GB in 3G service and 10GB in 2G -- from Robi for Tk 746 three months back.
The 16GB package cannot be termed an "unlimited" one, he said. "Moreover, I failed to use most of the 2G data because of poor internet speed," he added.
Robi paid the fine at once and Rubel Mia got one-fourth of the sum, said Shaheen Ara Mamataz, deputy director of the directorate. The rest was deposited to the state coffer.
Robi declined to comment on the issue.
On Sunday, the same agency fined Grameenphone Tk 2.50 lakh for duping a customer with false offer.

Formulate a policy on CSR spending: Tarana

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The government should formulate a policy on corporate social responsibility spending for all companies, State Minister for Telecom Tarana Halim said yesterday.
"A national policy can enhance the companies' accountability on CSR spending," she said at a roundtable on "CSR in sustainable business structure" organised by the daily Ittefaq, a Bangla-language newspaper, at its office in Dhaka.
Tarana said companies spend huge sums on CSR, but they need to be careful about the misuse of the funds. "A policy needs to clearly mention that no conflict of interest should arise."
Within a short time, the telecom division will direct Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to formulate a separate policy for the telecom companies in this

regard, she said.
Parvez Iqbal, member for tax policy at the National Board of Revenue, said NBR gave huge importance to CSR and that is why they are also offering rebate from 2009. Companies can get 10 percent rebate if they spend CSR funds on 23 selected sectors.
"This is huge scope and some companies have even got 20 percent rebate on their CSR spending," said Iqbal.
Tasmima Hossain, the acting editor of the Ittefaq, said the government needs to formulate a policy and also ensure its implementation.
"In the policy, if we can put emphasis on CSR spending for human resource development, it can directly help build this generation of youth," said Hossain.
She also suggested including elderly health care in the NBR's selected list for CSR activities.

Lighter vessel workers call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Bangladesh Lighterage Sramik Union called off its work abstention programme yesterday.
A faction of the union started the strike on February 11 to press home their demand for the implementation of a new wage structure.
The decision to withdraw the strike came from a tripartite meeting at the Department of Labour in the capital, said Shahadat Hossain, general secretary of the labourer's body.
Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, director of labour, chaired the meeting where leaders of the vessel owners and labourers were present, Hossain said.
"The leaders of the vessel owners accepted our demand in the meeting, and so we have decided to call off the strike," he said.
About 60 lighter vessels with about 70,000 tonnes of goods and commodities got stranded at the 16 ghats (quays) of the Karnaphuli river because of the strike.

FBCCI's election on May 14

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The election of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry for 2017-2019 will be held on May 14. The election board announced the schedule for the election

at a meeting on February 12. April 10 is the last date for submission of nominations for the post of directors.
President, first vice president and vice presidents will be elected by the elected directors on May 16, the apex trade body said in a statement yesterday.

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