

রোগ নির্ণয়ে সর্বাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও সর্বোচ্চ মান।  
 প্রতিটি ডায়াগনস্টিক টেস্ট, আইসিইউ, সার্জারী ও ডায়ালাইসিসে ন্যূনতম ৩০% সঞ্চয়।

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# star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2017, ASHWIN 14, 1424 BS

## Chemical exporters appeal against India's anti-dumping duty

**SOHEL PARVEZ**

Two local companies have filed petitions with the Indian authority for reviewing the anti-dumping duty imposed on shipment of a textile chemical from Bangladesh, officials said.

The move came early this month after India's Department of Revenue on June 14 slapped anti-dumping duty of \$27.81-\$91.47 per tonne on export of hydrogen peroxide, a chemical used as bleaching agent for textiles, from Bangladesh.

The neighbouring country's Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties recommended the penalty on import of the chemical from five countries, including Bangladesh, after inferring that the imports were affecting India's domestic industry.

An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a government imposes on imported items on the ground that the products are priced below fair market value.

Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the one it normally charges in its own home market. To protect local businesses and markets, many countries impose stiff duties on products they believe are being dumped in their national market.

"We have appealed for review as the anti-dumping duty has been imposed on our product unjustifiably," said Mohammad Akramuzzaman, chief financial officer of Samuda Chemical Complex Limited, a concern of Chittagong-based TK Group.

Samuda is one of the three local companies that export hydrogen peroxide to India and other neighbouring countries after meeting the domestic market's requirements for 60,000 tonnes a year.

Tasnim Chemical, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries, and ASM Chemical are the other two companies.

Samuda and ASM Chemical faced anti-dumping duty of \$47.90 and Tasnim Chemical \$27.81 for each tonne of hydrogen peroxide shipments to India.

Akramuzzaman said they have filed appeals to the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal of India and the date of hearing is yet to be fixed.

"We have hired a law firm, APJ-SLG, in India to move on our behalf."

"Besides, the sales prices of our products have been calculated taking into account our global profit and production costs," he added.

If any other company from Bangladesh wants to export hydrogen peroxide to India, they will be slapped with anti-dumping duty of \$91.47 per tonne, according to the notification.

India accounted for nearly half of the 20,000 tonnes of hydrogen peroxide exported from Bangladesh in fiscal 2015-16. A year earlier, the total shipment of the chemical was 17,475 tonnes, according to Akramuzzaman.

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From left, Anis A Khan, managing director of MTB; Wendy Jo Werner, country manager for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal of IFC; Morshed Alam, a lawmaker and chairman of Bengal Group; Patrick J Leahy, regional industry head for manufacturing, agribusiness and services at IFC; MA Rouf, chairman of MTB, and Md Jashim Uddin, vice chairman of Bengal Group, are seen in the loan deal signing ceremony at Amari Dhaka hotel.

## Bengal Group gets \$36m from IFC, Dutch govt for luxury hotel

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bengal Group has inked a deal with the International Finance Corporation and the Netherlands Development Finance Company to borrow \$36 million (nearly Tk 295 crore) at a low-cost to set up an upscale business hotel in Dhaka.

Mutual Trust Bank Limited will act as the lead arranger of the foreign loan that will cost Bengal Group LIBOR plus 3 percent interest.

The 350-room hotel, which will be christened the Swissôtel Dhaka, is being built at Niketan -- close to the bustling business and diplomatic centre of Gulshan -- at a cost of about Tk 700 crore.

The construction of the hotel has already begun.

Swissôtel Dhaka will open its door to guests in 2021 -- three years later than the initial plan struck between Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts, a Swiss luxury hotel chain, and Bengal Group in 2013.



Financing issues have delayed the construction of the hotel, Bengal Group said. But it is hopeful that the hotel will see good occupancy when it rolls out the red carpet to guests.

While there are international hotel chains in Bangladesh at present, there is room for more, Md Jashim Uddin, vice-chairman of Bengal

Group, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"There will be a need for lots of business hotels in the near future as Bangladesh joins the middle-income group."

The existing hotels in Dhaka have occupancy of 70 to 80 percent, which, he said, is very good for business. Anis A Khan, managing director of MTB, has high hopes about the project as well.

"It is located in a very excellent area," Khan said, adding that Bengal Group has a good track record and experience of establishing lots of successful business ventures.

MTB will also arrange financing for the project from local sources. Founded in 1969, Bengal Group has interests in many business sectors including plastic products, textiles, renewable energy, food, media, financial sector and real estate.

Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts that got its start in Switzerland in 1980 has 37 properties in 17 countries.

## Easy bikes outgrowing limitations

*Says Asia Foundation, Rahimafrooz Solar study*

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Easy bikes have made a major leap in the last few years, growing from an initial few to a million vehicles amid a debate on whether they should be allowed or not, according to a new study.

The joint study by the Asia Foundation and Rahimafrooz Solar showed that easy bikes currently transport 2.5 crore passengers in both townships and rural areas every day and has created jobs for 30 lakh people.

The findings of the study were shared yesterday at a seminar styled "Promoting Standard and Energy Efficiency of Electric Vehicles to Meet SDGs" held at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

The locally assembled, non-formal three-wheel electric vehicle has shown immense potential in: conserving the environment, the use of green energy, job creation, developing a local automobile industry and a revolution in the mass transportation system in Bangladesh, according to the study.

On a stop-gap arrangement,

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority is unable to register easy bikes as motor vehicles and provide licences, route permits and fitness certificates.

Subsequently, speakers at the seminar urged the government to formulate a policy with well-defined and clear rules to bring the mushrooming of easy bikes under a legal framework so that those can be run in a disciplined and safe manner.

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Speakers attend a seminar on "Promoting standard and energy efficiency of electric vehicles to meet SDGs" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The Asia Foundation organised the programme.

## Tax receipts rise 27pc in July

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Tax receipts rose 27 percent year-on-year in July to Tk 12,189 crore, buoyed by a surge in imports and value-added tax collection from domestic trade, according to the National Board of Revenue's provisional estimate.

In import tax collection in July, the revenue authority recorded 51 percent growth to Tk 4,777 crore.

During the month, imports surged 47 percent year-on-year to \$4,325 million, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

At the domestic stage, collection of VAT, a type of consumption tax, shot up 19 percent year-on-year to Tk 4,355 crore in July, the first month of fiscal 2017-18.

Income tax receipts grew 11 percent year-on-year to Tk 3,057 crore in the month, according to the NBR.

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## Five mobile operators face legal action

*They fail to deposit in state coffer Tk 100cr of unused balance in blocked SIMs*

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is set to take legal action against five mobile phone operators for failing to deposit into the exchequer Tk 100 crore of unused prepaid balance found in SIMs that were blocked between 2008 and 2014.

The telecom regulator recently took the decision and asked its respective division to initiate the process, said Md Jahurul Haque, legal commissioner of BTRC.

The regulator issued a directive in this regard last year and only the market leader, Grameenphone, deposited Tk 7.33 crore in February this year.

"We might take punitive measures against Banglalink, Robi, Airtel, Citycell and Teletalk under the telecom act," said Haque.

As Airtel has merged with Robi, the latter will have to hand over the money on behalf of both.

"This is users' money. As no user came forward to stake their claim, all of this money belongs to the government exchequer. There is no alternative," said Haque.

Another senior BTRC official said some of the operators earlier tried to argue that it was their money since the customers could not be found.

Now the operators are saying that they have no information about the unused balance and the exact number of SIMs, he said.

"This will not be tolerated. One operator has already paid the money against the unused balance, so the rest will have to do the same," he added.

Earlier, BTRC asked every mobile phone operator to share information about the unused balance in SIMs blocked for misdeeds, mostly the running of illegal voice over internet protocol services.

But the five operators did not share the data, prompting BTRC to issue notices seeking a reason for it, said the official.

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## GP-Brac campaign on safe internet for students begins today

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Grameenphone and Brac will start running a campaign from today to create awareness among school students on the safe use of the internet and on making the right decisions while interacting and engaging in cyberspace.

At a press conference in Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka, the organisations announced plans to reach 50,000 students in about 250 secondary schools in towns and remote areas by December. Grameenphone's 20 trained personnel and a Brac team will organise sessions on safe internet use while distributing guidebooks at the schools.

Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone, said it was the fourth time the mobile operator was running the campaign, which was launched in 2014 and so far reached 80,000 children in 500 schools around the country.

"The whole world is seriously facing cyber bullying and cyber security crises but in our country we cannot run sufficient awareness programmes to face these challenges," he said.

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## Myanmar's conflict-hit Rakhine a magnet for Chinese cash

**AFP, Bangkok**

Battered by global outrage over an army crackdown on Rohingya Muslims, Myanmar has found comfort in an old friend -- China, an Asian superpower whose unflinching support is tied to the billions it has lavished on ports, gas and oil in violence-hit Rakhine state.

Close to a million Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh in the last month after a militant attack sparked a vicious military campaign that the UN has called "ethnic cleansing".

China -- which is expected to speak later Thursday at a UN Security Council meeting on the crisis -- has fallen out of step with much of the world in condemning the army-led crackdown.

"We think the international community should support the efforts of Myanmar in safeguarding the stability of its national development," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said earlier this month.

That support was far from unexpected from an ally who ploughed cash into Myanmar even as its economy choked under a half century of military rule and US sanctions.

Most of those sanctions were rolled back in 2014 as a reward for democratic elections.

But those freedoms meant little to Beijing anyway.

Between 1988 and 2014, China invested more than \$15 billion in the junta-run country, according to its official Xinhua news agency, mostly in mining and energy. It also propped up the pariah military regime with weapons.

"They have a few major economic projects under way with the Myanmar government," said Sophie Boisseau du Rocher, Southeast Asia expert at the French Institute for International Relations.

That includes a planned \$9 billion deep-sea port and economic zone in Kyaukpyu, south of the epicentre of the recent violence, by Beijing's massive CITIC investment group slated for 2038.

China has already pumped money into the restive state.

In April this year, a \$2.45 billion pipeline from Rakhine to China's Yunnan province opened, securing a key route for Beijing to import crude from the Middle East.

That same month, Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose 'One Belt, One Road' strategy aims to hook in China's neighbours with huge trade and infrastructure projects, rolled out the red carpet for his Myanmar counterpart Htin Kyaw in Beijing.

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