

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.06%	▲ 0.14%	\$1,261.10 (per ounce)	\$57.43 (per barrel)	▲ 0.70%	▼ 0.15%	▼ 0.30%	▲ 0.88%	82.20	95.66	108.83	0.71
6,228.65	11,659.71			33,836.74	22,868.00	3,404.47	3,296.68	BUY TK	82.20	99.26	112.43
								SELL TK	83.20	99.26	112.43

রোগ নির্ণয়ে সর্বাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও সর্বোচ্চ মান।  
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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20, 2017, POUH 6, 1424 BS

## AGGRESSIVE LENDING BB blocks funds of two banks

**AKM ZAMIR UDDIN**  
Bangladesh Bank has frozen Tk 51 crore from ONE Bank's current account with the banking regulator and Tk 25 crore from Premier Bank's for their aggressive lending practices that took them way past the permissible limit for advance-deposit ratio (ADR).  
The central bank blocked the amounts on December 17 in line with the Bank Company Act, 1991 -- a first in case of private commercial banks.  
The penalty means the banks will not be allowed to show the blocked amount as cash reserve ratio and they will not enjoy any interest on the sum.  
"It is a rare move taken by the central bank," said a BB official asking not to be named as he is not permitted to speak with the media.  
As per BB rules, conventional commercial banks are not allowed to lend more than 85 percent of their deposits.  
In the second week of November, ONE Bank's ADR stood at 90 percent and Premier Bank's 88 percent, according to data from the BB.

The central bank had asked the two banks to bring down their ADR within the regulatory limit but they failed to do so, the BB official said.  
Premier Bank had recently appealed to the central bank not to freeze any amount, according to its additional managing director, M Reazul Karim.  
"My bank has already taken mea-



sures to bring down the ADR to a permissible limit. Our ADR has already decreased and it will enter into the standard level shortly," he added.  
M Fakhru Alam, managing director of ONE Bank, declined to comment on the matter.  
On the same day that it blocked the two banks' funds, the BB warned two

more -- Islami Bank Bangladesh and Union Bank, both Shariah-based banks -- of the same consequence if they did not check their reckless ways.  
The central bank's heightened vigilance comes as Farmers Bank recently plunged into the pits of liquidity crisis -- an episode that has raised questions about the continued existence of the four-year-old bank.  
For Islamic banks and Islamic wings of the conventional commercial banks, their ADR can go up to 90 percent, but the two bank' ratios have gone beyond this ceiling.  
The two Shariah-based banks were asked to bring down their ADR within the BB-set ceiling by December 31, 2017 or the central bank will also freeze their fund.  
Islami Bank has already taken initiatives to reduce its ADR, said its Chairman Arastoo Khan.  
Yesterday, Islami Bank's ADR stood at 90.12 percent, down from 90.42 percent previously, he said.  
"We will bring down the ADR by December 31," he added.

## Rejoinder and our reply

Shahidul Ahsan, former Mercantile Bank chairman and owner of Ahsan Group, issued a rejoinder against a report titled "No clear BB Guideline for NRB Banks" published in The Daily Star on December 12.  
Here is what Ahsan said in the rejoinder:  
I am saddened and frustrated by the fictitious and baseless report published by The Daily Star.  
Such report from the most circulated publication like The Daily Star is unacceptable and undesirable.  
On scrutiny of papers and other requisite qualifications of Kamrun Nahar Sakhi and ABM Abdul Mannan, Bangladesh Bank approved them as sponsor-directors of NRBC Bank. Since then they have been functioning as sponsor-directors of the said bank.

## EC server crashes derange SIM sales

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**  
Mobile operators' SIM sales, deactivation and replacement services have been severely disrupted in the last two months due to failure to get access to the Election Commission database.  
The government has made biometric registration mandatory for SIM ownership, so access to the server, which is the only source of fingerprint data, is fundamental for mobile operators.  
But the operators encountered problems in accessing the fingerprint database for repeated crashes of the EC's National Identification Data server.  
The conversion of SIMs to provide 4G services is also facing delays for the same reason, said the operators, who are gearing up for the roll out of the new technology in a couple of months' time.  
The operators say the disruption arose on at least 10 days and lasted for a total of 29 hours and 52 minutes, including peak hours. The worst interruption was on November 8, when the server could not be accessed from 6:00am to 3:44pm.  
Helaluddin Ahmed, secretary to the Election Commission, acknowledged the

frequent server crashes but declined to elaborate further on the matter.  
The mobile operators' services and businesses are being interrupted considerably due to the EC server going down, said TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.  
Subsequently, he sent a letter to the EC on November 29 seeking immediate measures to mitigate the problem. A copy was also forwarded to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.  
This recent disruption is causing general dissatisfaction amongst customers, the letter said. Customers had to provide fingerprints several times for biometric verification while instant SIM activation was also being hampered.  
A senior EC official said they needed to run maintenance work frequently and that might be causing the disruptions.  
In the letter, Amtob asked the EC to identify the root cause of the disruptions and ensure that the requisite technical maintenance work is completed so that partnered services can be provided smoothly.

## Biman plans to buy three 80-seater aircraft

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Biman Bangladesh Airlines is set to buy three 80-seater aircraft from Canada for \$22.42 million each under a government-to-government arrangement.  
The aircraft, which are fuel-efficient and cost-effective, will be used on seven domestic routes and three regional ones: Kolkata, Yangon and Kathmandu.  
The Dash 8, which is built by Canada's lone aircraft manufacturing firm Bombardier Inc, is ideal for short-haul routes, said Shakil Meraj, general manager of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' public relations.  
Asked about the recent incident in which a wheel fell off a Biman Dash 8 aircraft, he said: "Many airlines including the private carriers use Dash 8 aircraft. That accident could have happened to any Bombardier plane."  
Biman has taken the decision to purchase three Bombardier aircraft from Canada after considering all aspects, especially economic viability, he added.  
The civil aviation and tourism ministry has already sent the proposal for buying the planes to the cabinet committee on economic affairs.  
Canada's government-owned company Export Development Canada will provide Biman with the necessary credit for purchasing the aircraft.  
Biman's fleet now comprises 13 aircraft: 10 Boeings, one Airbus and two Dash 8s.



Pradeep David, general manager for South Asia at Universal Robots, presents the features of collaborative robots or cobots, at the launch of the company's Bangladesh operations at the Westin Dhaka yesterday.

## Danish robot maker enters Bangladesh

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Universal Robots, the leading manufacturer of advanced and lightweight collaborative robotic arms, started its operations in Bangladesh yesterday.  
"The collaborative robot is a powerful innovation in the industrial manufacturing sector, enabling automated production with unprecedented flexibility," said Pradeep David, general manager for South Asia at Universal Robots.  
He spoke at the launch of the company at the Westin Dhaka yesterday.  
"Our collaborative robot arms automate and streamline repetitive industrial processes," David said.

The approach will enable production departments to assign more creative jobs to their staff members that will increase efficiency, productivity and add value to companies, he said.  
The company's latest collaboration was with an SME in India in January this year which has seen a 300-percent boost in production over a brief period of eight months, according to a statement of Universal Robots.  
"After successfully venturing into the Indian and Sri Lankan markets, we are looking forward to setting up and growing in Bangladesh as the country can provide us with enormous opportunities to develop," said David.

## Runner eyes more of Nepalese bike market

**REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA, back from Kathmandu**  
Runner Automobiles has beefed up its marketing efforts in Nepal in a bid to capture 15 percent of the growing motorcycle market in the Himalayan nation in the next five years.  
To this end, Runner Automobiles Ltd recently appointed a distributor, Raman Motors, which is a subsidiary of Nepalese conglomerate Raman General.  
Raman has already appointed 11 dealers across the country to sell Runner

motorcycles and plans to employ more and introduce after-sales services.  
Runner Automobiles started to export two-wheelers to Nepal in January this year, becoming the first motorcycle exporter from Bangladesh.  
"Since January, we have shipped 400 motorcycles of seven models," said Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Automobiles, at a programme to introduce the distributor at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kathmandu on Saturday.

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20TH DECEMBER 2017

**Beginning of another Chapter..**

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