

Rangs Toshiba brings new smart Android TV



Rubaiyat Jamil, CEO of Rangs Industries Ltd; Linda Choo, director of Lindson Consulting Pte Ltd, which represents Lindson and Toshiba, and Shahriar Nafees, national cricketer, attend a press conference at the Four Points by Sheraton Dhaka yesterday when they launched Rangs Toshiba's new smart television -- Pro Theatre Ultra HD 4k Android TV.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Rangs Toshiba yesterday launched a new smart television—Pro Theatre Ultra HD 4k Android TV—which will enable customers to access the internet through Google Play Store.

"These new model TVs are developed to focus on the conveniences for home entertainment while taking advantage of the latest android TV platform," said Rubaiyat Jamil,

CEO of Rangs Industries Ltd.

The television belongs to the company's Pro Theatre U97 Series and has the ability to optimise apps and games, millions of YouTube contents, latest movies and music to give a large screen experience, he said.

Jamil spoke at a press meet at Four Points by Sheraton Dhaka, Gulshan in the city.

The television apparently is going to run on the Android 4.4.4 OS by Google and will be made available in the

Bangladesh market today, he said.

The 55-inch model of the TV is priced at Tk 124,600 while the 65-inch variety has a price tag of Tk 164,999, he said.

About the feature of the 4K television, Jamil said there is also an intelligent scene optimiser that automatically changes display settings to suit a scene.

The TV also has a feature called "Active movie resolution plus", which is supposed to reduce motion blur in fast action sequences both under 4K and upscaled Full HD settings, he said.

"The TV not only encompasses broadcast programmes but also provides a myriad of entertainment all over the world, transforming the living room into a true multimedia entertainment centre."

The device is equipped with voice search facility, through which people can quickly find what they want by voice search in variable languages, he said.

"This is very convenient and simple since you can spend less time browsing and have more time watching by just saying the keywords and enjoy the contents precisely selected by your TV."

Toshiba is the first manufacturer in the world possessing TV models certified with "TV with Android" by Google Inc back in 2013, said Linda Choo, director of Lindson Consulting Pte Ltd.

The television also has ports for attaching a wireless keyboard and a mouse, making navigation easier on the Android platform, she said.

"The U97 series are integrated with Android TV with a lighter and more polished operating system optimised for Smart TV, the first models from Toshiba for the Asean market."

Cricketer Shahriar Nafees also attended the launch event.

CORRECTION



Md Abdul Karim



Shamsun Nahar Begum

In a news item published on The Daily Star on April 19, it was said that Green Delta Insurance Company has reelected Md Abdul Karim as chairman and Kamran Idris Choudhury as vice chairman. Actually, Shamsun Nahar Begum Chowdhury has been elected as its vice chairperson, the company said in a press release sent to the daily yesterday. Green Delta feels sorry for the error.

Emirates' profit rises 124pc

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates Airline, the main concern of Dubai based Emirates Group, posted a 124 percent rise in year-on-year profit to \$762 million for 2017-18.

Emirates Group, which includes air services provider dnata, reported a profit of \$1.1 billion for the financial year ending on March 31, up 67 percent from last year, says a statement. The group's revenue rose 8 percent to \$27.9 billion. It was its 30th consecutive year of profit.

Emirates Airline earned revenue of \$25.2 billion during the fiscal year and carried a record 58.5 million passengers (up 4 percent). Emirates' cargo division- Emirates SkyCargo, reported revenue of \$3.4 billion, an increase of 17 percent from last year.

Stocks extend losing streak

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange passed another gloomy day yesterday as shares fell extending a losing streak.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka bourse, lost 15.13 points, or 0.26 percent, to end the day at 5,627.33. In total, the key index shed 186.46 points, or 3.20 percent, in the last six days.

"The premier bourse witnessed another downward trend amid a continuous selling pressure on banking stocks," according to the daily market review of EBL Securities.

It said investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan and the national budget.

"Banks were more exposed in 2017 and the effect is being felt in 2018," said Sherief MA Rahman, chief executive officer of Brac EPL Securities.

Rahman said many shares were overvalued in 2017 and now they have

become undervalued as their prices have fallen.

"The market normally stays bearish around the month of Ramadan," said Mostaque Ahmed Sadeque, president of the DSE Brokers Association.

Moreover, lower-than-expected dividend declared by the financial sector companies has depressed investors, said Sadeque.

Turnover, however, soared 18.47 percent to Tk 560.35 crore, with 13.98 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the DSE.

Of the traded issues, 120 advanced, 171 declined and 48 closed unchanged on the premier bourse.

Beximco dominated the turnover chart with its 78.80 lakh shares worth Tk 24 crore changing hands, followed by Western Marine Shipyard, United Power Generation, Brac Bank and Salvo Chemical. Among the major sectors, banks declined 1.18 percent,

financial institutions 0.96 percent and general insurance 0.50 percent.

Conversely, engineering and fuel and power sectors increased 1.74 percent and 0.80 percent respectively.

Prime Textile was the day's best performer with 9.71 percent gain, followed by S Alam Cold Rolled Steels, Pacific Denims, and BSRM.

Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company was the worst loser, shedding 5.81 percent followed by BD Finance, Alif Industries, and CAPM IBBL Islamic Mutual Fund.

Chittagong stocks also fell with the bourse's benchmark index, CSCX, declining 34.37 points, or 0.34 percent, to finish the day at 10,490.59.

Losers beat gainers as 119 declined and 89 advanced, while 36 finished unchanged on the Chittagong Stock Exchange. The port city bourse traded 80.22 lakh shares and mutual fund units worth Tk 22.36 crore.

Transsion investing Tk 100cr in handset plant

FROM PAGE B1

The company aims to market its locally-assembled smart and feature phones and 90 percent of its preparations have already been completed. It also plans to export smart devices within next two years.

"Our first target is to cater the local market and then we will plan about the export market," said Haque, also the immediate past general secretary of the Bangladesh Mobile Phone Importers Association. Currently, the company has two brands: itel for the feature phone segment and Techno for the smart-phone segment.

"After getting the certification from the telecom regulator and the National Board of Revenue, we will start assembling and go for the commercial launch," Haque said during the launch of its two flagship smart-phones at the Westin Dhaka hotel. The CAMON X and CAMON X Pro specialise in photography and are priced Tk 17,990 and Tk 22,990 respectively.

"We have run our local research in the Bangladesh market and used the findings to manufacture the two handsets in China. We hope to produce these kinds of products in our local factory within a short time," said Haque.

Transsion's assembly plant will look to pull together 5 lakh units per month with its 1,000-strong workforce.

At present, the firm is marketing products in 58 countries and has two factories in China and one each in India, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

The government slashed customs duty by 36 percentage points to 1 percent in the last budget for components meant for assembling handsets, piquing the interest of many local and global players.

In 2017, Bangladesh imported 3.34 crore handsets worth Tk 10,000 crore.

Denim makers cut use of water

FROM PAGE B1

Jeanologia supplies the technologies and also provides consultation to denim fabric makers of about 150 factories out of the 2,000 that manufacture denim.

Regarding the denim and garment business in Bangladesh, Oguz Aksoy, assistant sales manager of Turkish denim brand Denimco said, "The industry here is booming."

"In a year I sell three million yards of denim fabrics in Bangladesh at a cost of \$2.60 and \$3.30 a yard. Four years ago, the sale was almost zero," he added.

MS Hasan, director of Amber Denim, which produces 3.5 million yards of denim fabric a month, said his company could reduce water consumption during washing of denim fabrics by 50 percent.

Now, Amber uses only 14 litres of water for washing a kilogramme of denim fabrics, down from 45 litres a year ago.

"We are getting encouraging response from our buyers for the

reduction in water consumption," he added.

Bangladesh is no more a basic garment production destination, but also a value-added apparel sourcing hub, said a major Spanish buyer asking not to be named.

Nearly 50 percent of Bangladesh's total exported apparel is value-added products for upscale customers, he added.

Top officials from globally renowned retailers like H&M, C&A, JC Penney, Tesco, Inditex, Li & Fung, and New Look participated in the two-day exhibition that will end today.

A total of 17 local and 44 foreign companies from countries like China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Spain, Turkey, the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and the US are displaying their products at the fair.

"The cumulative increase in visitors in each edition signifies the country's strong position in the global denim scene," said Mostafiz Uddin, founder and chief executive of Bangladesh Denim Expo.

Disquieting trend in job market

FROM PAGE B1

The figures come at a time when Bangladesh is entering its demographic dividend phase for rising share of working age population out of its total population. Yet, the participation of women in the labour force has not been rising: since 2010 it has been hovering around 36 percent, according to data from the BBS.

Bangladesh's working age population between 15 to 59 years of age will increase significantly by 2061 and the availability of a large number of young, healthy and educated workers must be seen as a significant advantage for the country.

"Female employment will play an important role in realising the potential benefits accruing from this demographic dividend."

Labour force participation by women must be seen as an integral component of the jobs agenda.

Out of the total employed population, 18.65 million are female working in agriculture, industry and service sector. Some 92 percent of them work in the informal sector, where wages remain low and jobs remain at stake.

Subsequently, the CPD suggested training and education for women to increase their participation in the job market.

It also recommended blending vocational training with female education to enable greater and gainful labour force participation in the job market to realise the demographic dividend.

Tertiary education has significant impact on

labour force participation, it said and subsequently called for ensuring female education beyond the high school level. The think-tank suggested increased budgetary allocation for education in this regard and creation of decent jobs to attain sustainable development goals.

Women's low participation in the labour force has big implication for economic growth, said Shamsul Alam, member of the Planning Commission.

The rate of participation of women in the job market is much below the global average of 50 percent. "This is a major concern -- we have to take steps immediately." The CPD also found that the real wage is declining.

"The real wage is falling despite rising labour productivity -- it should not be. That means there is scope for exploitation," Alam added.

Mikael Hemniti Winther, the Danish ambassador in Dhaka, said societies that include women in economic activities are doing better.

Barkat-e-Khuda, Muzaffer Ahmad chair professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, stressed on education and faster growth of decent jobs to reap benefits of demographic dividend.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said child and early marriage of women should be stopped.

She also stressed on ensuring safety and security in workplaces as well as recognition of maternal issues by the state and society.



Hasina Gazi, mayor of Tarabo Pourashava in Narayanganj, and AKM Saifuddin Ahmed, deputy managing director of Jamuna Bank, open the bank's second digital banking centre, Jamuna Bank Speed, at the pourashava recently.

Power tariff to be hiked soon: Muhith

FROM PAGE B1

According to the minister, the problem now lies with the power transmission and distribution systems.

The government has undertaken many projects to improve the transmission and distribution systems and emphasis has been given on their quick implementation, he said.

Muhith said the government has marginally increased the prices of gas taking into consideration the imports of liquefied natural gas.

FBCCI President Md Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin urged the government to provide a projection on electricity tariff hike. "Otherwise, we can't make our business plan." In response, Muhith said this would be done.

On infrastructure deficit, the minister called upon businesses to invest in infra-

structure projects.

Muhith also said a banking commission would be formed soon so that the new government gets benefits from its report.

"We are also taking a special initiative soon on the capital market," he added.

Muhith, who is set to place the budget for the 10th consecutive year in June, said the size of the overall outlay for the next fiscal year has not been fixed yet.

The size would be fixed in a week and it might be Tk 4.60 lakh crore, he said.

According to Muhith, the number of registered taxpayers has increased to 33 lakh from about 15 lakh a couple of years ago. "This gives us hope."

"For this reason, I am considering a reduction in the tax rate."

"The corporate tax rate is going to be cut and efforts will be made to rationalise various corporate tax rates," he said.