

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.10%	▲ 0.17%	\$1,238.60 (per ounce)	\$76.48 (per barrel)	▼ 1.01%	▼ 3.72%	▼ 0.63%	▲ 0.02%	BUY TK 82.85	94.10	106.32	0.72
5,282.04	9,843.10			33,690.09	21,268.73	3,012.84	2,603.80	SELL TK 83.85	97.90	110.12	0.76

Star BUSINESS

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বেশি মুনাফা
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Corporate SIM sale now needs prior BTRC nod

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has tightened its grip on the sale of corporate mobile connections to prevent misuse, including illegal activities, of the connections.

The telecom regulator recently sent a letter to all mobile phone operators asking to take permission prior to selling new corporate connections.

The directive came against the backdrop of two persons being detained and over 550 SIMs of GrameePhone being seized from their possession by Rapid Action Battalion on October 7.

The law enforcers alleged the duo preactivated about 867 SIMs, including the ones seized, from June 9-11 using information of 42 companies.

They also said such SIMs were used to issue threats, extort money, run illegal VOIP business and other criminal activities.

A person can buy 15 SIMs. Each is registered against the person's fingerprint, personal information and photograph. It is stored in the national data server.

However there is no such limit for companies or institutions. They just need to provide valid documents and a nominated person's national identification card and fingerprint against which the SIMs are registered.

Law enforcers say this makes it troublesome to identify the real culprits for it provided a scope to play the blame game.

The latest move will make it harder to collect corporate SIMs, said the BTRC officials.

"This is the first time the BTRC will be controlling the sale of mobile SIMs and making the process stricter," said an official of the regulator familiar with the matter.

The BTRC says there were 15.42 crore active SIMs in Bangladesh as of August. The regulator, however, could not state how many were in use under corporate agreements.

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Accord departs Nov 30 Minister says

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government will not extend the tenure of the Accord beyond November 30, ending the hopes of the European agency for factory inspection and remediation to stay on in Bangladesh for three more years.

The tenure of the Accord, a platform of nearly 200 mainly European retailers, was initially supposed to come to an end in May this year but the government extended it by six months to November 30.

"We will not extend the tenure any further," said Mujibul Haque Chunnu, state minister for labour and employment.

A few months ago the Supreme Court said there is no scope for extension of the tenure of the Accord, so the government cannot do anything more on this matter.

"The Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) is now ready to take over," he said, adding that the Accord has started handing over the remediated factories to the RCC, an entity under the labour and employment ministry formed in May last year.

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Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla visit a stall at BAPA FoodPro International Expo that kicked off at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Export of agro-processed foods to hit \$1b by 2021

BAPA FoodPro International Expo begins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's export of agro-processed foods may cross \$1 billion in the next three years and the country has a bright prospect in the sector, a platform of agro-processors said yesterday.

"We can increase our export receipts from agro-processed foods if we are provided with adequate policy support," said AFM Fakhru Islam Munshi, president of Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA).

The BAPA consists of 479 members, who ship around \$500 million worth of products every year to 144 countries, the association said in a statement.

Munshi shared the info at the opening of a three-day fair titled "Sixth BAPA FoodPro International Expo 2018" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The association and Extreme Exhibition & Event Solution Ltd have jointly organised the show where machinery for agro- and food-processing are being displayed to familiarise local food processors with modern technologies.

A total of 188 companies from home and abroad are participating in the show that will remain open to visitors from 11 am to 7 pm, according to the statement.

Bangladesh exported agricultural products worth \$12 million in 2005-06 and export earnings from such items will exceed or hit \$2 billion by 2021, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said at the event.

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\$850m WB-ADB loans for education, health

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh yesterday signed loan agreements worth \$850 million with the two largest multilateral development partners—Asian Development Bank and World Bank—for primary education, health and fishing sectors.

A \$500 million loan deal was signed with the ADB to support Bangladesh's Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP 4), which aims to provide quality education to all children from pre-primary to grade 5.

Another \$240 million financing agreement was signed with the World Bank to help improve management and production in marine and coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

The Sustainable and Marine Fisheries Project will help improve fisheries management systems, infrastructure, value chain investments and encourage private sector investment to increase the availability and quality of sea fish.

Kazi Shofiqul Azam, senior secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Manmohan Parkash, country director of ADB, signed the deal at a ceremony held at the ERD conference room in Dhaka.

Azam and Zahid Hussain, acting country director of the World Bank, signed the deal for the \$240 million financing deal.

"Proper and timely utilisation of the loan is a challenge," Azam said.

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Premier Bank posts 43.6pc rise in profits

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Premier Bank posted more than 15 percent growth in credit and deposit in the last one year, which helped the lender make a healthy profit.

The private commercial bank's profit rose 43.60 percent year-on-year to Tk 314 crore in September this year.

Its deposits rose 15.32 percent year-on-year to Tk 15,750 crore in September and loans rose by 15.15 percent to Tk 15,101 crore.

The lender disclosed the figures at a programme at its head office in Dhaka yesterday organised to mark the financial institution's 19th founding anniversary.

Premier Bank Chairman HBM Iqbal, Adviser Muhammed Ali, Managing Director M Reazul Karim and Director Jamal G Ahmed cut a cake as part of the celebration in presence of well-wishers and employees.

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Products are on display at Water Bangladesh International Expo at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

Creativity, modern tech boost manufacturing

Amu opens seven CEMS fairs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's manufacturing sector achieved qualitative development during the last decade thanks to creative ideas generated by entrepreneurs and adoption of sophisticated technologies, said Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday.

"Bangladesh is gradually moving ahead transforming from an import-dependent country into an export-oriented one churning out world class products," he said while inaugurating seven exhibitions at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

His affirmation reflects the Commonwealth Innovation Hub ranking Bangladesh 24th in innovation for 2018 among the British Empire's former territories.

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Pran bags \$5.25m export orders at Paris fair

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Leading food processor Pran has bagged export orders worth around \$5.25 million at Sial Food Fair, one of the largest food exhibitions in the world.

This year the group displayed more than 500 products, including 20 new ones, at its two stalls, said Md Mizanur Rahman, chief operating officer at Pran Export Ltd.

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RANGS TOSHIBA

শরৎ উৎসব

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