

DSEX	6,099.02	▲	26.69	Gold (Ounce)	1,270.20	▼	Dollar	81.40 (Buy)	▼	82.40(Sell)	REPO Rate(1/11/2017)	3.94%
CSCX	11,438.23	▲	45.29	Oil(Barrel)	\$55.70	▲	Euro	93.58 (Buy)	▼	97.87(Sell)	REPO Rate 31/10/2017)	3.75%
Source: DSE and CSE				Source: Yahoo Finance			Source: One Bank Limited			Source: Bangladesh Bank (W AV)		

National News

[Joint venture to set up LNG-based power plants at \\$4b](#)

[Private sector credit demand buoyant](#)

[Most banks post moderate earnings in Q3](#)

[Submission of Returns: Non-compliant firms to be removed from RJSC list](#)

[Innovation to beef up insurance sector](#)

[Customers of six banks can now transfer funds online](#)

[Interest rate on long-term loans down 0.5pc](#)

[ইফাদ অটোস রাইটের চাঁদগ্রহণ শুরু ১৯ নভেম্বর](#)

[মেয়ের হাতে ঘুরে দাঁড়াচ্ছে মুনু সিরামিক](#)

International News

[China raps US sanctioning of bank over North Korea ties](#)

[Apple CEO Cook breathes new life into old iPhones](#)

[India may announce tax relief for traders next week: Modi](#)

[US jobless rate lowest in 17yrs](#)

National News

Joint venture to set up LNG-based power plants at \$4b

A joint venture of Germany's Siemens and a state-run Bangladeshi company is going to set up LNG-based power plants in Patuakhali to produce 3,600 megawatts of electricity at an investment of more than \$4 billion.

North-West Power Generation Co Ltd, an enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), will sign a primary agreement with Siemens to this effect in Dhaka today, energy ministry officials said yesterday.

Twenty percent of the plant's cost will be in equity that will be borne equally by North-West and Siemens. Siemens will mobilise the rest of the funds, said State Minister for Energy Nasrul Hamid.

"This will be the single largest German investment in Bangla-desh," he told The Daily Star.

Three LNG-based power units will be set up under the joint venture, according to a source at the BPDB. The first one will go into operation in 2021.

The government has taken an initiative to import a huge amount of LNG from next year. Both land-based and floating LNG terminals will be set up.

Japanese firm Tokyo Gas Engineering Solutions Corpora-tion has been appointed as a consultant to carry out the feasibility study for setting up the land-based terminals.

The sites being considered for the land-based terminals include Kutubdia, Moheshkhali and Payra. Each of the two land-based terminals will supply 1,000 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf), according to an official of the energy ministry.

Besides, the government has approved two floating LNG terminals, each of which will supply 500mmcf of gas.

Bangladesh is looking outside to alleviate its energy shortage largely caused by depleting domestic reserves and rising demand. Gas supply stands at about 2,700mmcf against the demand for 3,300mmcf. The shortage of gas has affected power generation.

In July, state-run Petrobangla and US-based Excelerate Energy signed the final deals to set up Bangladesh's first LNG terminal.

The terminal in Moheshkhali will supply gas to the national grid from early 2018.

The government also awarded Summit Group the work to set up the country's first floating LNG terminal, also in Moheshkhali. This one is due for commissioning by next October.

China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering has proposed to set up an LNG plant in Moheshkhali, while KOGAS-MGCB-KSBL Consortium wants to set up a land-based terminal in Sonadia.

Singapore's Sembcorp Utilities submitted a proposal to set up a Gravifloat terminal and a storage tank in the deep sea.

Gravifloat technology allows LNG terminal to be fully built and completed at a shipyard and installed in shallow waters to facilitate direct loading.

Petrobangla has also signed an initial agreement with India's energy company Petronet to set up an LNG re-gasification terminal on Kutubdia island and a pipeline at an estimated cost of \$950 million. The government recently signed an agreement with Qatar to import LNG.

Import of 1,000mmcf gas will cost Bangladesh \$3 billion a year.

Still, the overall result is going to be positive as the import of 1,000mmcf gas could help produce almost 5,000 megawatts of electricity, which is more than half of what the country produces today.

Petrobangla estimates that the contribution of 1,000mmcf gas to the economy will be equivalent to Tk 276,000 crore or about \$34 billion.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/joint-venture-set-lng-based-power-plants-4b-1486567>

Private sector credit demand buoyant

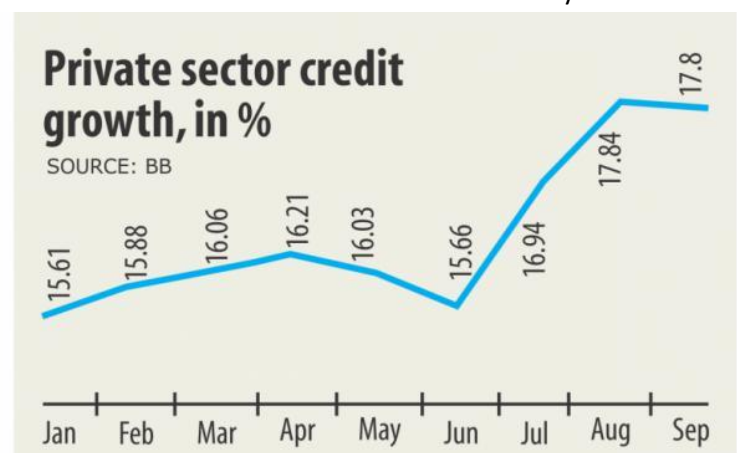
Private sector credit growth stood at 17.8 percent in September in continuation of the high growth registered in the last few months due to increased demand for credit from the business community.

Although the growth in September was 0.04 percentage points lower than a month earlier, the figure is still well above the target of 16.2 percent set in the monetary policy for the first half of the fiscal year.

Private sector credit growth hit a 58-month high in August: 17.84 percent.

The banks have recently observed a spike in applications for large-scale loans to implement infrastructure projects initiated by both the private and public sectors.

The business community has recently shunned the go-slow policy to set up new plants or expand the existing ones, which has made the private sector vibrant, said Mamun-Ur-Rashid, managing director of Standard Bank.



Last month, Standard Bank sanctioned fresh loans amounting to Tk 200 crore and plans to give the green light to another Tk 150 crore worth of loan applications this month.

The majority of the loans are for the large and medium-scale industrial plants, he said.

The middle-class people are also taking loans to meet their growing consumption needs, which helped banks to keep the upward trend in disbursing loans.

The banks set the interest rate for consumer credit like personal loans at 8 percent to 11 percent, which tempts customers.

The large import bills in recent months also played a role in increasing the credit growth, Rashid added.

The settlement of letters of credit stood at \$11.82 billion in the first three months of the fiscal year, up 1.89 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

In the last few years, banks had maintained a cautious stance in disbursing loans, said Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia.

“Banks are now financing the infrastructure projects initiated by the government and private sector,” he said, citing power plants as an example.

At the end of September, total outstanding loans in the private sector stood at Tk 8.01 lakh crore in contrast to Tk 6.80 lakh crore a year earlier.

Though the private sector saw remarkable credit growth, the public sector credit growth was 16.91 percent in the negative in September.

Most banks post moderate earnings in Q3

Most banks have reported moderate earnings in the third quarter of the current year thanks to higher incomes from share market investments and credit growth.

Of the 30 listed with Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), 19 banks made healthy earnings per share (EPS) compared to that in the same period last year. Four earned marginal returns while five saw a fall.

Only ICB Islamic and AB reported negative earnings.

EPS is the portion of a company's profit allocated to each outstanding share of common stock, meaning it is an indicator of the company's profitability.

Banks made good profits this year compared to the preceding one due to rising credit demand for business expansion in the private sector, said MA Halim Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank.

Share price hikes in recent months also contributed to it with banks profiting from stock investment because of a bullish market, the chief executive said.

Pubali Bank made a net profit of Tk 38 crore in the July-September quarter compared to Tk 30 crore in the same period last year. Meanwhile, its EPS improved to Tk 0.40 from Tk 0.32.

Rupali Bank, the only listed state-owned bank, made a profit of Tk 7 crore, recovering from a huge loss of around Tk 275 crore in the same period last year.

The financial institution's EPS increased to Tk 0.23 in the July-September period, up from negative Tk 9.05 in the same period last year.

Its EPS surged to Tk 0.90 in the nine months, although it was at a loss of Tk 7.96 in the same period last year. The bank's effort to automate its system to the full has contributed a lot to improve its service quality and bag a good profit, said Md Ataur Rahman Prodhan, managing director of Rupali Bank.

He said the bank emphasised increasing SME loans at the field level. Moreover, the bank got linked with some reputed business groups by providing loans, he said.

The bank is also investing in different sectors and expanding the loan portfolio which also resulted in a good profit, said the executive.

Since June 29, Rupali Bank's stock price soared 140 percent to Tk 64.2 on Thursday, according to the DSE.

AB Bank made a loss of Tk 11.45 crore in the third quarter this year from a profit of Tk 25 crore in the same period last year.

The bank reported negative earnings of Tk 0.17 per share in the July-September period, although it was in the positive at Tk 0.37 in the same period last year, according to DSE.

The bank incurred a loss in the third quarter due to a squeeze in business activities, said Moshir Rahman Chowdhury, managing director of AB Bank.

He said the bank could not raise its capital according to fulfil the regulatory requirement as Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) did not give go-ahead to it to raise the fund.

In July last year, the bank applied to BSEC seeking approval to raise capital through issuing rights shares, he said.

But the authority did not respond for one year and did not even show any ground for keeping the case pending, said the executive.

As a result, the bank reduced the loan portfolio to comply with the regulatory capital requirement, he said.

He said the bank recently sent a proposal for restructuring a big chunk of loans. The default loan amount will reduce by December if the regulatory body approves it, he hoped.

The banks which saw a fall in the third quarter earnings are: First Security Islami Bank, Islami Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, One Bank and Standard Bank.

Islami Bank's EPS have been on the decline this year, which became a matter of concern for the thousands of investors of the country's largest private bank.

At the third quarter's end in 2017, Islami Bank's EPS stood at Tk 0.31, down from Tk 1.18 in the second quarter and Tk 0.62 in the first quarter.

The bank earned Tk 2.11 per share during the January-September period this year, down from Tk 2.61 a year earlier.

Even though the operating profit surged, the EPS declined as the bank has to maintain huge provisioning against loans that are awaiting the nod from the central bank for rescheduling, said Arastoo Khan, Islami Bank's chairman.

In the first nine months of 2017, Islami Bank's operating profit surged 29.24 percent year-on-year to Tk 1,569 crore.

The banks which reported good earnings in the third quarter are: Bank Asia, Brac Bank, City, Dhaka, Dutch-Bangla, EBL, Exim, Jamuna, Mercantile, NBL, NCC, Premier, Prime, SIBL, Southeast, Trust and UCB.

Al-Arafah, IFIC, Shahjalal Islami and Uttara saw marginal profits.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/most-banks-post-moderate-earnings-q3-1486558>

Submission of Returns: Non-compliant firms to be removed from RJSC list

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) is set to update its list of companies, asking businesses that have not submitted annual returns for 10 years to comply.

As per rules, companies are required to submit profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, summary of directors and shareholders and shareholder position every year.

But about 15,000 companies out of 1.55 lakh submit returns yearly, making it difficult for policymakers to determine the actual number of entities still running. Of those registered, 40,000-50,000 might have gone out of operation, according to RJSC officials.

"From last week we have started writing to companies that have not been submitting returns for 10 years. If they do not comply, we will strike off the names of the companies," said Md Mosharraf Hossain, registrar of the joint stock companies and firms. Officials said they would initially issue letters to companies for compliance. If there is no response, another letter will be issued warning that their names would be removed from the register.

Later, gazette notifications will be issued and the RJSC will wait for another three months for a response.

If companies do not respond and explain the reason behind their non-compliance, their names will be removed from the register, according to the rules.

The RJSC move comes following the scope it created online for businesses to get clearance for their names, become registered and submit returns online.

RJSC officials said many companies do not know that returns can be submitted online and some are not aware about the rules of submission of annual returns. Delayed filing of returns is subject to a fine as per the rules.

“We hope that many companies will become aware of the rule and start submission of returns soon,” said RJSC Deputy Registrar Ranajit Kumar Roy.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/non-compliant-firms-be-removed-rjsc-list-1486552>

Innovation to beef up insurance sector

We hear a lot about innovation these days, be that in the private sector or in the development milieu. But what does it mean?

We define innovation as 'doing something different that has an impact'. The definition uses the word 'doing' instead of 'thinking' because the essence of innovation is execution. The words 'something different' refer to the simple fact that it must be new “nova”.

Lastly, the thing that distinguishes an innovation from an invention is that for it to be an innovation someone must be willing to pay for it; it has to add value, it needs to have an impact.

We are seeing new technology enablers accelerate the pace of innovation, making things that used to be difficult, simpler, easier, more convenient or more accessible.

We also benefit from lower entry costs due to simpler coding, cloud services and a worldwide ecosystem centred on the cult of the entrepreneur.

Young people today, if they listen carefully to customer insights all around them, can build new innovations. And this is really the heart of the reinvention of industries.

When you take a customer-led approach, employing deep customer empathy and design thinking, you can build from the ground up new experiences that truly add value to everyone's lives.

Innovation is about the customer, not technology or new products.

Competition in every sector is more intense than ever before, and businesses, no matter how big, need to keep reinventing themselves to keep up with the ever-changing ways of the world.

The life insurance industry is a sector that has huge potential in Bangladesh, mostly because of the rise in the number of middle-income families.

Boston Consulting Group projected in a 2015 report that each year up until 2025, the annual income of 2 million additional Bangladeshis will surpass the threshold of \$5,000.

Although the number of people eligible for life insurance is increasing rapidly, the insurance penetration in Bangladesh remains poor.

In 2016, the industry recorded a meagre 3.77 percent growth and nearly half of the insurance companies saw their incomes decline.

Life insurance plays a critical role in the Bangladeshis' lives, and yet we are not seeing the growth that is commensurate with the rise of economic conditions, mobile phones, or internet services. Why?

Only by reassessing the job-to-be-done of life insurance from the perspective of the Bangladeshis we can unlock the ways in which the industry can move from being a low-intimacy obligation purchase to a pull-product that enhances people's lives.

Simply, we need to add new, often health-related value-added services through partnerships and deliver value sooner by increasing the frequency with which we interact with our customers and prospects.

Customer expectations of the Bangladeshis are ever-increasing. We are getting used to frictionless experiences with our favourite digital brands and now expect our financial services brands to know us, interact with us on our own terms, and make things easier.

This industry in Bangladesh, therefore, requires going beyond its traditional practices and shifts its mindset to think of itself as more than just a financial service.

We need to build inimitable experiences that do not just help the industry in Bangladesh but whose purpose is to help Bangladeshis.

In summary, I believe the time is ripe for innovation in the life insurance industry in Bangladesh for two main reasons.

The first is that the large number of young and highly mobile, tech-savvy customers want to interact with brands more frequently.

They want brands to add value to their lifestyle without the concern of product or service it is offering. We are essentially living in an experience economy.

Secondly, the Asian economy including Bangladesh is growing in importance worldwide. Asia is expected to account for approximately half of the insurance industry's growth in the next decade.

The "Asiafication" of demand means that we need to innovate in Asia, for Asia.

So what should the industry do about this shift? I suggest a three-part recipe.

Firstly, in Bangladesh, the insurance service providers must become customer-led. Only then will we start designing products, creating experiences, and adding services that can address our target customers' evolving needs.

Secondly, we need more transparency. We must strictly ensure that every promise made to current customers is kept.

Digital platforms that keep our customers informed on the status of their insurance purchase, give them timely information about their claims, allow users to benefit from each others' experiences are necessary. Transparency has come to every industry. For instance, would you consider taking an overseas trip and booking a hotel without checking a user review?

Thirdly, we need to become a magnet for talent. The industry should appeal to more innovative and forward-thinking people, to attract them to the industry either as associates or as partners.

On the talent front, we believe that espousing values like curiosity, experimentality, expansivity, velocity, and bravery are key.

We can shift the mindset of our existing employees and hire new talent to keep the industry on the cutting edge.

If the insurance service providers and the authorities work in collaboration, a step change in the value our industry delivers to the Bangladeshis will be felt.

Insurance is not about providing for a person's family in their absence; it is beyond that now.

It is about peace of mind and how to live a longer, happier and fuller life.

MetLife in Bangladesh has recently opened an innovation centre in Motijheel which is open for all to share their ideas in an open environment.

Further plans to broaden our digital outreach will help even further. We are excited to get started on this innovation journey.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/innovation-beef-insurance-sector-1486486>

Customers of six banks can now transfer funds online

Customers of six banks -- Bank Asia, Standard Chartered, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, City, Dutch-Bangla and Midland -- can now send funds among themselves through online banking.

Previously, customers could transfer funds through the platform to another account of the same bank.

The six banks have initially signed up for the fund transfer facility through the National Payment Switch Bangladesh, but more banks are in the process of doing so.

The new platform was inaugurated by Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor SM Moniruzzaman at an event yesterday at the central bank headquarters in the capital.

Thanks to the facility, customers can now pay their credit card bills and make their monthly instalments of deposit pension schemes, loans and insurance premiums from the comforts of one's homes.

A client can make a maximum of five transactions amounting to Tk 2 lakh a day; the single transaction limit is Tk 50,000.

Customers will be informed about the transactions instantly through SMS alert service.

Meanwhile, the banking regulator recently has launched another initiative to link the customers' mobile financial services accounts and bank accounts, said a BB official.

The central bank introduced the NPSB on December 27, 2012 with the view to upgrading the inter-bank electronic payment; 51 banks signed up for the platform then.

The NPSB is now playing the role of a "mother switch" and it will gradually connect all "child switches" owned or shared by banks in the country.

The child switches are: automated teller machines, point of sale, electronic commerce, internet banking, mobile banking and other online banking services offered by banks.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/customers-six-banks-can-now-transer-funds-online-1485667>

Interest rate on long-term loans down 0.5pc

Bangladesh Bank has reduced the rate of interest on long-term industrial loans in foreign currency by 0.5 percentage points due to a rise in London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

From now on, the rate of interest on loans under long-term financing facility will be LIBOR plus 2 percent to 3 percent against the existing rate of LIBOR plus 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent, as per a notice from the central bank yesterday.

In the last one year, the LIBOR rate rose more than 0.5 percentage points. For instance, yesterday the 6-month LIBOR rate was 1.575 percent, which was 1.058 percent on an average a year back.

The World Bank last year provided \$291 million to Bangladesh to extend long-term foreign currency credit to private sector firms. Subsequently, the government created a fund using the WB loan for disbursement through a select few commercial banks.

Banks are providing industrial loans at a maximum cost of 4 percent -- which is less than half the going interest rates.

LIBOR is the rate at that banks charge each other for short-term loans in the London interbank market. It also serves as a global benchmark for short-term interest rates. The LIBOR will be followed because the loans will be given in foreign currency.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/interest-rate-long-term-loans-down-05pc-1485637>

ইফাদ অটোস রাইটের চাঁদগ্রহণ শুরু ১৯ নভেম্বর

প্রকৌশল খাতের কোম্পানি ইফাদ অটোস লিমিটেড ১৯ নভেম্বর থেকে রাইট শেয়ারের চাঁদগ্রহণ শুরু করবে। চলবে ১৪ ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত। ঢাকা স্টক এক্সচেঞ্জ (ডিএসই) সূত্রে এ তথ্য জানা গেছে।

এর আগে ৬১২তম কমিশন সভায় ইফাদ অটোসের রাইট ইস্যুর প্রস্তাব অনুমোদন করে বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন (বিএসইসি)। নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থা জানায়, সংগৃহীত অর্থ ব্যবসা সম্প্রসারণের পাশাপাশি চলতি মূলধন জোগান ও ঋণ পরিশোধ করবে কোম্পানিটি। বিদ্যমান পাঁচটি সাধারণ শেয়ারের বিপরীতে দুটি রাইট শেয়ার ইস্যুর মাধ্যমে পুঁজিবাজার থেকে ১২৪ কোটি ৩৮ লাখ ৪০ হাজার উত্তোলন করবে ইফাদ অটোস। এজন্য ২০ টাকা ইস্যু মূল্যে (১০ টাকা প্রিমিয়ামসহ) ৬ কোটি ২১ লাখ ৯২ হাজার শেয়ার বাজারে ছাড়বে কোম্পানিটি। রাইট শেয়ারের রেকর্ড ডেট ছিল ১৮ অক্টোবর।

এদিকে ৩০ জুন ২০১৭ সমাপ্ত হিসাব বছরের নিরীক্ষিত আর্থিক প্রতিবেদন পর্যালোচনা করে সম্প্রতি ২১ শতাংশ নগদ ও ৫ শতাংশ স্টক লভ্যাংশ সুপারিশ করেছে ইফাদ অটোসের পরিচালনা পর্ষদ। উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালকরা অবশ্য নগদ লভ্যাংশ নেবেন না। এক বছরে কোম্পানিটির শেয়ারপ্রতি আয় হয়েছে ৬ টাকা ৭৪ পয়সা। ৩০ জুন কোম্পানির শেয়ারপ্রতি নিট সম্পদমূল্য দাঁড়ায় ৩৮ টাকা ৬১ পয়সা।

Source: <http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2017-11-05/137182/>

মেয়ের হাতে ঘুরে দাঁড়াচ্ছে মুনু সিরামিক

নানামুখী সমস্যার কারণে কয়েক বছর ধরেই ব্যবসায় পিছিয়ে পড়ছিল মুনু সিরামিক ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড। ১৯৮৩ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠার পর দেশের সিরামিক খাতে নেতৃত্বের আসনে থাকলেও সাম্প্রতিক বছরগুলোতে প্রবৃদ্ধির পরিবর্তে উল্টো ব্যবসা কমেছে কোম্পানিটির। তবে মূল উদ্যোক্তা হারুনুর রশীদ খান মুনুর মৃত্যুর পর মেয়ে আফরোজা খান রিতার হাত ধরে আবার ঘুরে দাঁড়াচ্ছে প্রতিষ্ঠানটি।

নতুন উত্পাদন লাইন স্থাপন ও পণ্যবৈচিত্র্যের মাধ্যমে ২০১৯ সালের মধ্যে উত্পাদন তিন গুণে উন্নীত করার ঘোষণা দিয়েছে মুনু সিরামিক। গতকাল রাজধানীর একটি হোটেলে নতুন তিন ধরনের পণ্যের বাজারজাত কার্যক্রমের উদ্বোধন করেছে কোম্পানিটি। পাশাপাশি ভারতসহ এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে বিতরণকেন্দ্র স্থাপন করে পণ্য রফতানি বাড়ানোর কথা জানিয়েছেন মুনু সিরামিকসের উপব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক রাশীদ মাইনুল ইসলাম।

অনুষ্ঠানে কোম্পানির বর্তমান পণ্য মুনু পোরসেলিন, মুনু বোন চায়নার পাশাপাশি আরো তিনটি পণ্য ইংলিশ বোন, মুনু ইটালিয়া ও সিল্ক পোরসেলিন ডিলারদের কাছে পরিচয় করিয়ে দেন রাশীদ মাইনুল ইসলাম। এ সময় মুনু গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান হরন নাহার রশিদ, ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান মাইনুল ইসলাম ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক আফরোজা খান রিতাসহ কোম্পানির উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তারা উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

রাশীদ মাইনুল ইসলাম বলেন, ১৯৮২ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠার পর দেশের সিরামিকসের বাজারে দীর্ঘদিন শীর্ষস্থানে ছিল মুনু সিরামিক। বর্তমানে দেশের চাহিদা মিটিয়ে বিদেশেও উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিমাণ পণ্য রফতানি হচ্ছে। কিছু প্রতিকূলতা এলেও তা কাটিয়ে নতুনভাবে শুরু করছি আমরা। বিশ্ববাজারের প্রতিযোগিতায় শীর্ষে থাকতে নতুন ডিজাইনের পণ্য আনার পরিকল্পনায় কাজ করছি। ইতালি ও ইংল্যান্ডের কারিগরি সহায়তায় এরই মধ্যে নতুন তিনটি লাইনের কাজ সমাপ্ত হয়েছে। নতুন তিন লাইনে উত্পাদিত ইংলিশ বোন, মুনু ইটালিয়া ও সিল্ক পোরসেলিন শিগগিরই বাজারজাত করা হবে। এর মাধ্যমে কোম্পানির উত্পাদন প্রায় দ্বিগুণে উন্নীত হবে। পাশাপাশি সংস্কারাধীন পোরসেলিন লাইনের কাজ শেষ হলে ২০১৯ সাল নাগাদ এর উত্পাদনও প্রায় দ্বিগুণে দাঁড়াবে। সব মিলিয়ে সামগ্রিক উত্পাদন প্রায় তিন গুণ বাড়বে।

নতুন পণ্য সম্পর্কে তিনি বলেন, যুক্তরাজ্যের কাঁচামাল ও তাদের ডিজাইনে তৈরি ইংলিশ বোন পণ্যটি দেশের সিরামিক বাজারে বৈচিত্র্য আনবে। এটি চায়না বোনের চেয়ে কিছুটা কম ও স্থানীয় পোরসেলিনের চেয়ে একটু বেশি দামে কিনতে পারবেন গ্রাহকরা। আর মুনু ইটালিয়ান পণ্যটি ইতালির বিখ্যাত শিল্পীদের ডিজাইন ও কারিগরি সহায়তায় উত্পাদিত হতে যাচ্ছে। ফলে বাজারের যেকোনো সিরামিক পণ্যের চেয়ে ক্রেতারা এটিকে অগ্রাধিকার দেবেন।

জানা গেছে, পণ্য বৈচিত্র্য আনতে ২০১৬ সালের শুরুতে নতুন নতুন লাইন স্থাপনের কাজ শুরু করে মুনু সিরামিক। মেশিনারি ক্রয়সহ কারিগরি কাজে ৫০ কোটি টাকার বেশি ব্যয়ে তিনটি লাইন স্থাপন শেষে নতুন পণ্যের বাজারজাতকরণের অপেক্ষায় রয়েছে কোম্পানিটি। নতুন লাইনের ফলে কোম্পানির দৈনিক উত্পাদন ১০ লাখ পিস থেকে প্রায় ২৫ লাখে উন্নীত হবে। এতে কোম্পানির বার্ষিক নিট বিক্রিও প্রায় তিন গুণ বাড়বে বলে মনে করছেন এর কর্মকর্তারা।

কোম্পানির কর্মকর্তারা বলছেন, গ্যাস-বিদ্যুতসহ পারিপার্শ্বিক নানা সমস্যার কারণে কয়েক বছর ধরে প্রতিযোগিতায় পিছিয়ে পড়ছিল মুনু সিরামিক। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে এসব সমস্যা কাটিয়ে ওঠায় পণ্যবৈচিত্র্যের পাশাপাশি কারখানা সম্প্রসারণের মাধ্যমে ঘুরে দাঁড়ানোর চেষ্টা করছে কোম্পানিটি। আর এর পেছনে প্রতিষ্ঠানটির বর্তমান ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক আফরোজা খান রিতার ভূমিকা সবচেয়ে বেশি বলে মন্তব্য করছে তারা।

এদিকে ৩০ জুন সমাপ্ত ২০১৬-১৭ হিসাব বছরে বিনিয়োগকারীদের জন্য ৫ শতাংশ নগদ ও ৫ শতাংশ স্টক লভ্যাংশ ঘোষণা করেছে মুনু সিরামিকসের পর্ষদ। এ সময়ে শেয়ারপ্রতি আয় (ইপিএস) হয়েছে ১১ পয়সা ও শেয়ারপ্রতি নিট সম্পদ মূল্য (এনএভিপিএস) দাঁড়িয়েছে ৯৪ টাকা ৩২ পয়সা। ঘোষিত লভ্যাংশসহ অন্যান্য এজেন্ডা অনুমোদনের জন্য আগামী ২৮ ডিসেম্বর ধামরাইয়ে ফ্যাক্টরি প্রাঙ্গণে বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা (এজিএম) আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। রেকর্ড ডেট ১৬ নভেম্বর।

তৃতীয় প্রান্তিকের অনির্ধারিত আর্থিক প্রতিবেদন পর্যালোচনায় দেখা যায়, ২০১৬-১৭ হিসাব বছরের প্রথম ৯ মাসে মুনু সিরামিকসের বিক্রি হয়েছে ৭০ কোটি ৫০ লাখ টাকা। আলাোচ সময়ে কর-পরবর্তী মুনাফা হয়েছে ২৯ লাখ ৩০ হাজার টাকা।

Source: <http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2017-11-04/137085/>

International News

China raps US sanctioning of bank over North Korea ties

Beijing on Friday hit back at a US decision to exclude a Chinese bank from the American financial system over its alleged ties to North Korea, slamming the move as "long-armed jurisdiction".

Washington had alerted other businesses in June that it planned to take the action, but it finally went into effect on Thursday, just as President Donald Trump was to set off on an Asian tour.

China "strongly opposes the long-armed jurisdiction imposed by any country," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing.

China has been "comprehensively, actively, meticulously and strictly" implementing UN sanctions, she added.

Trump has demanded that Beijing do more to push its neighbour North Korea to stop efforts to build a nuclear-armed missile capable of reaching American cities.

He will bring this message to President Xi Jinping in Beijing next week, but China is reluctant to push too hard and risk destabilising Kim Jong-Un's North Korean regime.

Officials in Washington warn that, while they would prefer Kim to come to the table, Trump has not ruled out a pre-emptive strike to prevent him from crossing the missile threshold.

But, alongside this sabre-rattling, Washington is also slowly stepping up secondary sanctions on foreign institutions like the Bank of Dandong which it accuses of funnelling illicit funds.

This risks angering China, but hawkish commentators argue that it remains the only way short of war to force Pyongyang, and perhaps more importantly Beijing, to reconsider its strategy.

"Banks and businesses worldwide should take note that they must be vigilant against attempts by North Korea to conduct illicit financing and trade," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

Along with the ban on Bank of Dandong, the Treasury also issued new guidance to international banks' risk and compliance officers to help them spot North Korean attempts to infiltrate world finance.

Banks from China and around the world find it hard to operate if they are barred from the US financial system, which is a clearing house for most dollar-denominated transactions.

In addition to the financial measures, Washington may also decide to re-designate North Korea as a "state sponsor of terrorism" -- a formal blacklist that would add to sanctions pressure.

Yet the Trump administration does not seem to be in a hurry, despite the president's anger over the death of US student Otto Warmbier after he was imprisoned during a visit to the North.

Warmbier died in June this year, just days after he was released from custody and sent home in a mysterious coma.

His parents said their son showed signs of torture, including teeth that appeared to have been "rearranged," and hands and feet that were disfigured. Trump then accused the North Korean regime of torturing the 22-year-old.

But the US coroner Lakshmi Sammarco, who examined Warmbier's body after his death, said there was no clear evidence of physical torture -- including no recently broken bones or damaged teeth.

Apple CEO Cook breathes new life into old iPhones

By delivering solid financial results that beat Wall Street's expectations for both revenues and profits on Thursday, Apple Inc's CEO Tim Cook put to rest concerns that the company's flagship device, the iPhone X, wouldn't be ready in time for the holiday shopping season.

But beneath the headline revenue and profit figures, Cook also seemed to have solved two of Apple's longest-standing problems: its heavy reliance on the latest flagship iPhone to buoy its profits, and its lack of affordable offerings to help budget-minded buyers see the benefits of joining Apple's ecosystem of hardware and software. And all Cook had to do was stop Apple's unusual Steve Jobs-era policy of ruthlessly killing off old products when better ones came along.

To see the effect of the Cook Doctrine, look no further than Apple's current, unprecedented line-up of five different iPhones. The flagship iPhone X, priced at \$999, has drawn most of the media attention for the holiday shopping season.

But far from the limelight is the humble iPhone SE - essentially an updated iPhone 5, which came out five years ago. It retails for only \$349 and appears to have played a major role in Apple doubling its revenue in India, an important emerging market.

Cook told investors on a conference call discussing Thursday's financial results that "a majority" of the iPhone SEs the company sold in India were also manufactured there, a critical component of Apple's negotiations with the Indian government for market access.

There's good reason to believe former Apple CEO Jobs would never have kept a product like the SE around. Jobs co-founded Apple and oversaw its dramatic rise in the late 1970s and early 1980s, including the introduction of the Macintosh in 1984. But he was pushed out of the company in a conflict with then-CEO John Sculley over the company's direction in 1985.

Over the next decade, Apple lost its dominant position in the personal computer market as devices powered by Microsoft Corp's Windows gained market share. In an attempt to regain market share, Apple expanded its product line up but found little success. After Apple purchased Jobs' company and rehired him as CEO in 1997, he famously pared down the company's product line to just a handful of offerings where he believed Apple could offer the best.

And even after the company regained its financial footing in the early 2000s, Jobs had no compunction about killing an old product for something better. The iPod Mini, a svelte version of what was then Apple's flagship gadget, lasted just a year and a half. Jobs killed that product and replaced it with the iPad Nano, which was even smaller.

That approach left Apple with a small product line-up that was profitable but pricey. Analysts nagged the company about when it would offer lower-priced products, and it made a few stabs. The iPad Mini, released in 2013, temporarily boosted iPad sales, but the plastic-backed iPhone 5C was viewed by analysts as a flop.

But the Cook Doctrine of letting older models linger and drop in price appears to be working. Apple hit analyst expectations by shipping 46.6 million iPhones in its fiscal fourth quarter, though with lower average selling prices.

That doesn't mean Apple is leaving profit on the table. On the contrary, more phones - whatever the price - help boost the services business, which includes Apple Music and the App Store. Services brought in \$8.5 billion in revenue in the quarter compared with analyst estimates of \$7.5 billion, though that included a favorable \$640 million adjustment.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/apple-ceo-cook-breathes-new-life-old-iphones-1486480>

India may announce tax relief for traders next week: Modi

India may announce measures next week to help traders and small businesses who say a new nationwide goods and services tax (GST) has increased their tax and administrative burden.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said if there is consensus at the next GST council meeting due over Nov. 9 to Nov. 10, the government would take the necessary steps to help traders and strengthen the country's economy.

A panel of ministers last month recommended reducing tax rates for small businesses and traders and raising the minimum revenue threshold for companies that need to pay tax, local media reported.

The launch in July of the long-awaited GST, which transformed India's 29 states into a single customs union, has left thousands of small and medium-sized firms at the bottom of the supply chain short of working capital. Modi is facing criticism for the disruption to the economy caused by the roll-out of GST and the shock removal of higher-value bills from circulation last year. As a result of these issues India's economy is expected to grow at its slowest pace in four years this fiscal year, a Reuters poll found.

Modi's comments came days after India jumped about 30 places to 100th on the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" rankings, reflecting reforms in accessing credit, power supply and the protection of minority investors. Modi said he expected India's ranking to improve next year when the GST and other reforms were considered.

"There are many other reforms that have already happened but need gestation and stabilisation time before they are taken into account by the World Bank," Modi said. He added that there were other reforms on which India and the World Bank would need to find common ground.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/india-may-announce-tax-relief-traders-next-week-modi-1486477>

US jobless rate lowest in 17yrs

US unemployment fell to its lowest level in nearly 17 years in October, according to data released Friday, which President Donald Trump said was proof his policies were bearing fruit.

Job creation resumed climbing after two late-summer hurricanes hit the economy, albeit at a slower rate than expected, according to the Labor Department's key monthly employment report.

But upward revisions to job creation in August and September meant the storms caused less damage than originally feared, making for an upbeat report.

Still, the data also showed a shrinking labor force and confirmed job creation in 2017 has lagged behind the last year of the Obama administration.

The US jobless rate fell to 4.1 percent, down a tenth of a point from September, the lowest the US economy has seen since December 2000. Employers added 261,000 net new positions as businesses reopened in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, although economists had forecast a rebound of 300,000 new jobs.

But the data for September turned out not be as bad as initially reported, with 18,000 new jobs created, rather than a loss of 33,000 positions. Together with the upward revision for August, an additional 90,000 jobs were added for those two months.

The results generally showed US labor markets in good health, easily bouncing back from the storms that idled the US energy hub in southeast Texas and forced millions of Floridians to flee their homes.

"With nearly 1.5 million new jobs since the president took office, including over 260,000 last month, it's clear his agenda is putting Americans back to work," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

Trump tweeted out a celebratory message on the report: "JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!"

Nevertheless, average monthly job creation now stands at 169,000 so far this year, significantly below the 192,000 monthly average recorded through October of last year.

The labor force participation rate also fell 0.4 points to 62.7 percent and the employment-to-population ratio shrank 0.2 points to 60.2 percent -- suggesting the fall in unemployment may partly reflect a dip in the size of the work force as well as job creation.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/business/us-jobless-rate-lowest-17yrs-1486462>