



Star BUSINESS

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JS body slams BTRC

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The parliamentary standing committee on the telecom ministry yesterday alleged that the telecom regulator itself has spoiled the investment environment in the sector.

For the last two years, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the regulator, has been working on mobile licence renewal but has not been able to complete the process yet. Irked by its bureaucratic procrastinations, the operators went to court, the committee alleged.

At yesterday's meeting, both the parliamentary committee members and the telecom ministry officials accused BTRC of creating hindrances to the telecom sector.

Zia Ahmed, BTRC chairman, was present at the meeting along with other officials.

Sunil Kanti Bose, telecom secretary, said the telecom operators lost appetite for further investment as licence renewal for four companies got stuck in a rut. The operators are going to court frequently and the renewal process is still pending, Bose said.

The BTRC is piling pressure on the operators in the name of generating revenues, while other state agencies oversee the revenue-related matters, Bose said in the meeting.

He also said, due to the regulatory environment the sector has become uncertain and it is no more in a flourishing condition.

However, the BTRC chairman said the regulator did not go to the court, rather the operators did so, which has delayed the renewal process.

As the court will give decision on licence renewal, the BTRC has nothing to do with this, he said. While talking to The Daily Star last night, Ahmed said the renewal process will not obstruct investment of the operators.



Atiur Rahman, Bangladesh Bank governor, launches Bank Asia's e-wallet service in partnership with AlertPay at Hotel Purbani in Dhaka yesterday, while A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of the bank, looks on. Md Mehmood Husain, president and managing director, was also present.

Money transfer made simpler

IT freelancers to get fast money from abroad as Bank Asia teams up with AlertPay on e-payment

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IT freelancers and exporters will now receive their payments from foreign buyers without any hassle, as AlertPay yesterday made foray into Bangladesh by launching online payment service in partnership with Bank Asia Ltd.

The tie-up with the Canada-based firm has helped the local bank become Bangladesh's first financial institution to introduce an easy online payment gateway service that analysts say will revolutionise e-commerce in the country.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman inaugurated the service at Hotel Purbani in the city.

The service, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will allow the country's growing IT freelancers to bring their dollars deposited in the accounts with AlertPay in any of their bank accounts in the country through Bank Asia at a low cost.

Md Mehmood Husain, president and managing director of Bank Asia, said a huge number of youth are now earning foreign currencies through outsourcing as freelancers.

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BB directors against allowing too many new banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Most of the directors of Bangladesh Bank are worried over the plan of floating too many new banks as the central bank is under pressure from the government to give nod to around 12 newcomers.

Rather, they stressed the need for ensuring quality of the new banks, and said approving more than 3-4 banks will be unwise in the present situation. BB Board of Directors discussed the issue of allowing new banks at a long meeting with Governor Atiur Rahman in the chair.

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Atiur gets Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque

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Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman has recently been awarded with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque 2011 by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, in recognition of his significant contribution to international co-operation towards human progress.

The award will be handed to Rahman in a ceremony at the Vidyasagar Hall of the Asiatic Society in Kolkata on May 7, Professor Mihir Kumar Chakrabarti, general secretary of the Society, said in a letter.

Rahman is the second Bangladeshi to get the award after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who received the same recognition in 2009.

The award was introduced in 1985, the central bank said in a statement.

DSE elects new president



Rakibur Rahman

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The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday elected Rakibur Rahman as its president for a one-year term.

Rahman, managing director of Midway Securities Ltd, replaces Md Shakil Rizvi, who had been at the helm since March 2009 for two terms.

Rahman, who was in the DSE board's top post two times before, may take the reins of the bourse this week.

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