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DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2013, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

BTRC toughens up on Citycell for dues

The regulator to issue an ultimatum and may cancel licence if dues are not cleared

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom regulator is set to slap an ultimatum on Citycell over its outstanding payment and failure to clear the amount within 15 days from the issuance of the letter may lead to cancellation of its licence. The company's overdue amount now stands in the region of Tk 145 crore. Of the amount, Tk 130 crore is the second installment of the renewal fee for 2G spectrum licence, and the rest is an annual fee for spectrum and the regulator's share of revenue.

"We gave Citycell an opportunity to clear their dues in installments but it failed to pay. So, we have decided to take a hard stance now," said Sunil Kanti Bose, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. The decision to issue the notice to the country's first mobile operator came at a commission meeting yesterday. If Citycell fails to pay, BTRC will advise its 13.30 lakh subscribers, via print media, to move to another network carrier, the BTRC chairman said.

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Ticfa raises mixed reactions

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Business leaders yesterday gave a mixed reaction to the signing of Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement.

Welcoming the move, a group of businessmen said the deal would foster new business with the US, the country's single largest export destination, and both the countries would be able to hold talks to resolve any trade dispute.

Previously, Bangladesh could not hold dialogues to resolve trade disputes with the US as there was no such platform between the two.

"Ticfa should have been signed a lot earlier to increase trade with the US. From now, we will be able to bargain with them," said Helal Uddin, vice president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "I welcome the deal."

But Sabur Khan, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladesh would not be able to follow all compliance standards cited in the Ticfa deal, as the country is not ready yet.

The deal may hurt the country's pharmaceuticals and IT industries, he said.

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Bangladesh may lose market in diversified jute products

India investing in new mills, research and development

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh is missing out on the opportunity to earn foreign currency from the export of diversified jute products, industry players said.

India, on the other hand, is taking advantage of this opportunity by investing in new mills and research and development in line with global demand, they added.

"A ban on the use of plastic bags in different countries -- from the US to Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia -- has opened new opportunities to export diversified jute products," said Rashedul



Karim Munna, general secretary of Bangladesh Jute Diversified Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The global demand for shopping



bags is estimated to be 500 billion pieces, worth around \$500 billion a year, according to International Jute Study Group.

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