

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	Week-on-week	Gold	As of Friday	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.61%	▲ 0.74%	▲ \$1,322.84	▲ \$103.95	▲ 0.54%	▲ 0.58%	▼ 0.90%	▼ 0.19%	BUY TK 77.05	103.30	130.56	0.75
4,436.20	8,463.24	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	25,592.06	15,437.13	3,272.25	2,059.38	SELL TK 78.05	107.31	134.59	0.78

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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY JULY 6, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

Most illegal VoIP calls travel through Teletalk

GP, Banglalink and Robi urge regulator to take action

ABDULLAH MAMUN

Three mobile operators urged the telecom regulator to take action against state-run Teletalk, which they said did not block its SIMs used for carrying illegal international calls.

Chief executives of Grameenphone, Banglalink and Robi wrote a letter to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on June 29, after analysing call flows to their systems from different operators.

The average duration of calls coming from Teletalk to the three operators was higher compared with other operators last month. It "represents Teletalk's involvement in terminating international calls illegally", the letter said.

In June, the average duration of calls from Teletalk to Banglalink, GP and Robi was 4.4 minutes, 5.48 minutes and 5.16 minutes respectively, while it was 1.3 minutes from GP to Banglalink and 1.29 minutes from GP to Robi, according to the letter.

Airtel came second on the average call duration list: 1.7 minutes with Banglalink, 2.17 minutes with GP and 2.37 minutes with Robi. The average call duration among the top three operators was less than 1.5 minutes, the letters said.

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Only one factory shuts after inspection by Alliance

Primary inspection of 605 units ends this week

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Only one garment factory was shut out of 600 units inspected by Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, a platform of 26 US-based retailers and brands.

Alliance was tasked with inspecting 605 factories and the process will be complete this week, said Rabin Mesbah, managing director of Alliance's Bangladesh operations.

However, the platform, which started inspection in the first week of March, recommended closure of seven factories, but a review panel allowed five units to continue production, while a decision on one factory is due tomorrow.

Alliance engineers detected some flaws in the factory buildings such as electrical safety problems, overloading of goods on different floors, insufficient exit capacity, and absence of sprinklers.

"The primary inspection will come to an end by this week," Mesbah said, adding that follow-up inspection and monitoring will continue for the next five years to see progress in the corrective action plan.

Alliance has a plan to set up hotlines in each of the factories it inspected to help workers seek help during crisis. Seven factories will get hotlines within this week, Mesbah said.

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ICB seeks another Tk 300cr for affected stock investors

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh has sought the second instalment of Tk 300 crore of a Tk 900-crore refinance scheme from the central bank for the stock investors who were affected by a market debacle two and a half years ago.

The state-run ICB has already disbursed around Tk 300 crore among the investors and sent a letter to Bangladesh Bank on Thursday for the new fund.

The finance ministry approved the refinance scheme in August last year in line with a government compensation package for the ailing stockmarket.

"From the first instalment, we have disbursed Tk 299.82 crore to 10,568 affected investors through 11 merchant banks and four stockbrokers," said Md Fayekuzzaman, managing director of ICB.

"But we have allocated Tk 419.65 crore so far to 14,353 investors through 19 merchant banks and 16 stockbrokers. So, we need the second instalment," he said.

Retail investors with less than Tk 10 lakh in exposure during the period between January 2009 and November 2011 are eligible for the fund.

The ICB receives the fund from the central bank at an interest rate of 5 percent and lends it to merchant banks and stockbrokers at 7 percent.

The merchant banks and stockbrokers disburse the fund among retail investors at a rate of 9 percent, while borrowers have to clear payments in three months.

Until last week, 20 merchant banks and 23 stockbrokers have applied for Tk 483.76 crore involving 16,380 affected investors.

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