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রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ:

২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০১৫

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯৯২২

সোস্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

SIBL

# Banks' soured loans finally shrink

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

Banks' default loans dropped 12.45 percent in the last quarter of 2014 after rising in the three previous quarters, much to the relief of the central bank.

On December 31 last year, the banking sector's bad loans stood at Tk 50,155 crore or 9.69 percent of its total lending.

In contrast, on September 30, the sector's bad loans were Tk 57,291 crore or 12.6 percent of the total outstanding loans.

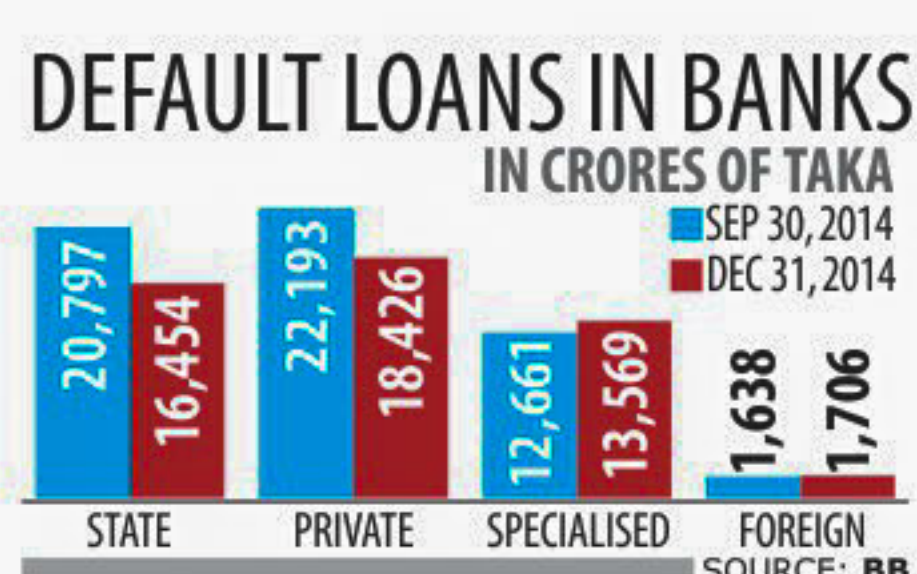
The sector started the year with Tk 40,583 crore of bad loans, which then rose to Tk 48,172 crore in the first quarter, Tk 51,345 crore in the second quarter and further more the following quarter.

The upward trend prompted the central bank towards the end of last year to direct the banks to take strong measures to address the situation.

Subsequently, banks went on strong recovery drives in the last quarter and also conducted rescheduling and write-offs, Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor SK Sur Chowdhury said.

The banks realised Tk 3,064 crore in the fourth quarter of 2014, which is up almost 45 percent over the previous quarter.

The central bank too had a part in the drop in classified loans: it intensified its



monitoring of the banks' default loan situation, pushed banks to pay more attention to realising loans and put pressure on them to create a good lending culture in the country, Chowdhury said.

"Plus, the political situation was calm last year, so the businessmen could pay the loans on time."

Between September and December, the bad loans of the four state-owned commercial banks plummeted 20.88 percent and private banks 16.97 percent.

The five specialised banks though saw their bad loans swell 7.17 percent during the period. The foreign banks' bad loans too increased, by 4.15 percent.

The central bank, in a statement, tipped the classified loans to shrink further in the coming quarters once the large loan restructuring policy comes into effect.

## Target to double software exports

*Hasina says as she opens Digital World*

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

Bangladesh expects to earn over \$250 million through software exports in the current fiscal year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

Exports of IT and IT-enabled services stood at \$124.72 million last fiscal year, according to Export Promotion Bureau.

Bangladesh exports software to over 50 countries, and the government has attached the highest priority to building a nation educated in IT, Hasina said.

She said her government has kept a provision for special incentives for the investors in the ICT sector and developed infrastructures to attract foreign investment.

She said private organisations, particularly Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, alongside the public sector have been playing a significant role in creating IT experts and professionals.

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## GP'S BEST 12 MONTHS IN ITS HISTORY

Grameenphone registered Tk 10,270 crore in gross revenue last year amid intensified competition, mainly driven by data and value-added services. The country's largest telecom operator acquired 44 lakh new customers in 2014, taking the year-end subscription to 5.15 crore. GP disclosed the annual financial results in Dhaka yesterday.

	2013	2014
EARNINGS PER SHARE	Tk 10.89	Tk 14.67
DIVIDEND	140%	160%
INVESTMENT	Tk 1,270cr	Tk 1,520cr
MARKET SHARE	41.4%	42.8%

GP's contribution to the government exchequer stood at Tk **5,890cr** in 2014

**YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH**

**6.3% REVENUE**

**61.2% DATA**

**9.3% SUBSCRIBER**

**11.2% EBITDA**

**PRIORITIES FOR 2015**

- Superior network and usability experience
- Leadership in mobile internet
- Continuous operational efficiency
- Bigger share in mobile financial services

**RAJEEV SETHI**  
CEO of Grameenphone

Political instability is a serious challenge to business growth in the coming days. The nonstop blockade has already reduced international call termination rates and affected network upgrades and expansion.

We managed to consolidate our position as the leading mobile operator and have aimed to excel further in 2015.

A structured approach of building on our strengths, applying the right mindset and executing our strategy will further contribute to adding value for our shareholders.

## BPC issues tender for naphtha sales

Bangladesh Petroleum Corp (BPC) has issued an international tender to sell 170,000 barrels of naphtha, a company official said on Monday.

The tender will close on Feb 18, with validity up to Feb 26. The offer came at a time when the Asian naphtha crack extended losses for a third straight day on Friday. -- Reuters

**সারাদেশে এমটিবি'র সকল শাখায় পবিত্র হজ্জের টাকা জমা নেয়া হয়।**

২৪/৭ এমটিবি কন্টাক্ট সেন্টার  
১৬৬৯৯ অথবা ০৯৬০৪০৯৬২৯৯

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**FIRST SECURITY ISLAMIC BANK LTD.**

**Lead Auditor Course on Energy Management System Standard ISO 50001:2011**

Bureau Veritas Bangladesh is organizing a IRCA (UK) Certified Lead Auditor Course on Energy Management System in Dhaka

Date: 25 February - 01 March 2015  
Venue: Hotel Washington, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

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## WB gives \$300m to run cash handouts for poor women

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government yesterday signed a \$300 million financing agreement with the World Bank Group to finance a cash handout programme for poor mothers to ensure proper nutrition for their children.

Under the programme, about 600,000 poor mothers with children below the age of five and pregnant women from 42 upazilas in the northern parts of the country will receive monthly payments through biometric-enabled Bangladesh Post Office cash cards.

In return, the women will have to go for regular visits for antenatal care services, child nutrition and development awareness sessions and monitoring of the child's weight and height, the WB said.

Ensuring adequate nutrition prenatally and in the first two years of life helps maximise a child's intelligence and brain development and enables higher level of learning through childhood and into adulthood, Johannes Zutt, WB's country director, said.

The project will help poor mothers learn how to improve the nutrition of their young children and also provide an income supplement to enable them better to act on that learning, he added.

In spite of the country's record of reducing child mortality, it is still among the 10 countries with the highest prevalence of malnutrition, the WB said.

Some 41 percent of children below the age of five are stunted, according to the World Health Organisation.

The credit, which would come from International Development Assistance, the WB's arm for the world's poorest developing countries, has a 38-year term, including a 6-year grace period. The rate of interest is 0.75 percent.

Well-designed safety nets can improve child health and nutrition outcomes, while contributing to reduction of poverty and inequality, said Mohammad Mejbahuddin, senior secretary of Economic Relations Division.

He said the project, which is a good example of involving local government bodies as well as using technological innovation to improve service delivery in Bangladesh, will break the cycle that binds poor children to poor nutrition and cognitive deficiencies.

The project will also focus on strengthening local governments' delivery of safety net programmes by setting up administrative platforms at the union parishad level to identify and enrol beneficiaries and ensure timely payments, the WB said.

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**10 - 12 February, 2015**

International Convention City, Bashundhara  
Joar Sahara, Khilkhet (Beside 300ft Purbachal Link Road)  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Expo Timing - 10 am to 6 pm (all days)

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