

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.10%	▲ 0.14%	\$1,114.80 (per ounce)	\$48.88 (per barrel)	▲ 0.25%	▲ 1.92%	▼ 0.56%	▲ 0.50%	BUY TK 77.25	84.48	115.46	0.62
4,856.96	9,047.96			26,220.95	17,772.42	2,879.59	3,053.32	SELL TK 78.25	88.48	119.46	0.66

**স্বপ্নময় জীবনের চাবি আপনার হাতে**

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক হোম ফাইন্যান্স

গ্র্যাপটিফিকেশন / ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়, গৃহ নির্মাণ, গৃহ বহিষ্করণ অথবা গৃহ সংস্কারের জন্য সর্বমুঠ ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ২,২০,০০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা।

\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬২২০০৯২২

**SIBL**  
ইসলামিক বেনিফিকার

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2015

## Banks can obtain CIB reports right away

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank can now provide the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) reports right away, which previously took a day to produce.

Bankers praised the move as it will help them render faster services to clients. The CIB report is a pivotal component of banks' risk management measures as it helps them minimise bad loans.

Individual banks and non-bank financial institutions have already been given user IDs and passwords with which they can log into the new CIB system to get a report.

The new solution has been developed by the BB's own team.

In July 2011, the BB automated the CIB system, but it still took one day to produce a report.

Before that, the BB provided CIB reports manually and it took at least a week and in some cases a month or more.

## Economic zones for Indian investors get major boost

SOHEL PARVEZ

India has agreed to extend part of its fresh \$2 billion loans to develop two economic zones in Bangladesh for its investors, said a top official of the economic zones authority.

The zones will be set up in Mongla and Bheramara and will go some way toward narrowing the rising trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India, the two next-door neighbours.

Last week, the Indian authority agreed to provide \$88 million under the new \$2 billion line of credit (LoC) for establishing the two economic zones under an agreement signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Dhaka in June.

Following the deal, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority sought finance under the new LoC, which India wants to provide to Bangladesh to support infrastructure development, mainly connectivity-related projects, according to finance ministry officials.

BEZA Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury said the economic zones would create thousands of new jobs and increase exports.

New technology too will arrive in Bangladesh, he said, adding that it will take two years to develop the two economic zones.

The Bheramara zone spreading across upwards of 400 acres will be the biggest in the country. The one in Mongla will span 110 acres.

For smooth implementation of the two projects, both the countries have decided to form a joint working group. Bangladesh and India have also formed panels to represent in the JWG in this regard, officials said.

Chowdhury said his office wants to hold the first meeting of JWG in Dhaka in December this year. The type of investments that would come into the economic zones and various other issues would be discussed at the meeting.

India is the third country after Japan and China to have shown interest in developing economic

zones in Bangladesh.

Once set up, they will create jobs and give a boost to the economy as it aims to break the 6 percent growth trap.

BEZA has so far approved 19 sites, including the Indian economic zones. Also, sites for 12 such industrial areas have received the green light from a pre-screening committee.

The authority also gave permission to establish three private economic zones, with work on the one being developed by Abdul Monem Ltd in Munshiganj going fast, according to Chowdhury.

Of the government sponsored schemes, the development of Mongla Economic Zone on 205 acres of land is also progressing briskly.

Chowdhury said his office wants to see the economic zone in Mongla ready for investors by the middle of next year.

India had earlier extended a \$1 billion LoC in 2010. Of the amount, \$200 million has already been converted to grants and disbursed.

## Mobile internet on a roll

Bangladesh has now more than 5cr active connections

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh's active mobile internet connections grew about 3 percent to 5.07 crore in August, for all six operators combined, from the previous month.

About one crore of them began using the service in little under a year as the four-crore threshold was reached in September 2014.

The hike highlights the younger generation's preference for the medium, and it was boosted by fast 3G services, availability of low-cost devices and a dismal performance of broadband providers.

Total internet connections now stand at 5.22 crore, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said in its monthly report released yesterday.

The regulator did not publish exact figures for 3G users, but said it is close to two crore.

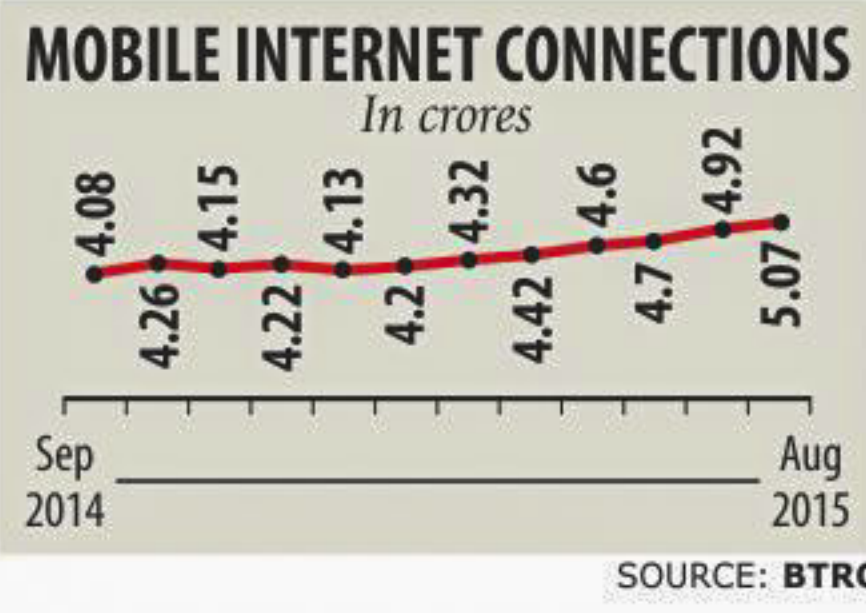
The young generation is growingly adopting internet products, said Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone.

"The youth's entertainment and some academic activities have also come aboard internet platforms," Hossain said.

Moreover, attractive packages offered by the mobile operators encouraged customers to use mobile internet, he added.

By contrast, WiMax and ISPs have both lost users -- about 6,000 and 15,000 respectively. There are just 1.6 lakh clients left for WiMax and 13.08 lakh for ISPs.

Five crore is a very attractive number for active internet connections, but real users are probably much lower -- about three crore, said Mustafa Jabbar, an IT expert.



"Users opt for mobile internet as they have no alternative. That's where the government has failed to provide real broadband," said Jabbar, also a former president of Bangladesh Computer Samity.

If mobile operators offer superior services, the numbers could go up further, he said, adding that the availability of devices also plays an important role.

Though the number of connections is much lower than mobile internet, the ISPs are still the major source of broadband internet, and real-user numbers are at least five to six times greater than total connections, said MA Hakim, president of ISP Association.

Mobile operators also saw a growth in active SIM users, which now stand at 13.08 crore, but it was not homogenous as four telecom operators gained clients at the cost of two.

Market leader Grameenphone added 11 lakh new subscribers in August, boosting its total subscriber base to 5.5 crore, while Banglalink signed up 3.28 crore subscribers after adding four lakh new connections.

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Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, poses with Yoshihiro Seki, Japan's vice minister for economy, trade and industry, and investors after a meeting on bilateral trade issues at the governor's office in Dhaka yesterday.

## Govt offers SEZ to Japanese investors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has offered a special economic zone to Japanese investors after they showed interests in shifting their production bases to Bangladesh, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said yesterday.

Japanese investors can choose either of the two SEZs that are currently being developed in Gazipur and Narayanganj, Ahmed told reporters after a meeting with Yoshihiro Seki, vice minister of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry at the secretariat in Dhaka.

The Gazipur zone is spread across 500 acres of land and the one in Narayanganj on 1,500 acres.

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## BANGLADESH-INDIA POWER LINK ADB's \$120m loans to double electricity transmission

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Asian Development Bank will provide a new loan of \$120 million to finance the doubling of transmission capacity of the cross-border electricity link between India and Bangladesh.

The new financing will allow Bangladesh to better meet its sharply rising power demand and support increased power exchanges across South Asia, said the Manila-based lender yesterday.

The loan will double the capacity of the existing interconnection system, which links the power grid of western Bangladesh at Bheramara and the grid of eastern India at Bharampur. The two networks were first interconnected in 2013 under a previous project financed by the ADB.

The new transmission capacity will rise from 500MW to 1,000MW.

There are power surpluses and shortfalls

across the region and this project assistance will help the two countries move forward to better utilise their energy generation capacities, said Anthony Jude, director of the energy division at the ADB's South Asia department.

Bangladesh's fast-growing economy has soaring energy needs but domestic natural gas supplies cannot keep up with the demand, resulting in an increasing dependence on oil and diesel-based plants.

So, the government is working to increase generation capacity and to source additional supply.

The government has doubled power generation in the last six years. Still, 40 percent of the population does not have access to grid connection.

Existing customers, particularly in rural areas, face power outages for long hours during summer.

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## Stocks lack lustre, end a slow week barely positive

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks ended the week almost flat amid mixed performance in different sectors, back to business fresh from Eid-ul-Azha holidays. DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, rose only 4.88 points or 0.1 percent to finish the last day of the week at 4,856.96 points.

Investor participation remained low as the market was yet to come out of the holiday mood, IDLC Investments said.

The market barely maintained positivity during a volatile trading day, the merchant bank said in its regular analysis.

Consolidation around the 4,850 points level continued following the sell-offs seen in the previous sessions, LankaBangla Securities said.

"Financial stocks came under significant selling pressure over the course of the session," the stockbroker added.

Turnover, another important indicator of the market, dropped 14.4 percent to Tk 42,423 crore with 12.07 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the DSE.

Of the traded issues, 150 advanced and 128 declined while 42 securities remained static on the premier bourse.

FAR Chemical Industries dominated the turnover chart with 76.37 lakh shares worth Tk 37.54 crore changing hands, followed by Saif Powertec, Summit Alliance Port, Appollo Ispat and Desco.

Among the major sectors, mutual funds gained 2.41 percent in market capitalisation, followed by fuel and power that increased 0.94 percent, telecom 0.19 percent and food and allied 0.14 percent.

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