

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
4,593.74	8,516.60	\$1,078.00 (per ounce)	\$36.32 (per barrel)	25,590.65	18,886.70	2,852.97	3,651.77	BUY TK 78.10	83.85	115.05	0.63
								SELL TK 79.10	87.85	119.05	0.66

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক হোম ফাইন্যান্স

গ্র্যাটিফিকেশন / ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়, গৃহ নির্মাণ, গৃহ বর্ধিতকরণ অথবা গৃহ সংস্কারের জন্য সর্বমোট ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ৯,২০,০০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা।

স্বপ্নময় জীবনের চাবি আপনার হাতে

\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৬২০০৯২২২

SIBL  
ইউএফসি

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2015

## Facebook ban took toll on mobile internet

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

**MOBILE INTERNET CONNECTIONS**  
(In crores)  
SOURCE: BTRC

Mobile internet usage plummeted last month on the back of the government's 22-day ban on Facebook and other social networks for security reasons.

At the end of November, the total number of active mobile internet connections stood at 5.14 crore, down 8.63 lakh from the previous month, according to data from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

On November 18, the government barred popular social networking site Facebook, and internet-based calling and messaging apps WhatsApp, Viber, among others citing security reasons. The ban was lifted on December 10.

A big chunk of the subscribers buy daily or weekly packs and they stopped doing so when the social media ban was enforced, said senior executives of different mobile operators.

Grameenphone saw a drop in data subscriber figures in November as a direct response to the ban on Facebook and other social media, said Sayed Talat Kamal, head of external communications for GP.

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## Tk 14cr plan to 'showcase' Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has undertaken a new programme, 'Showcasing Bangladesh', to project its development activities on digital screens in different areas of the country.

The programme will be implemented at a cost of Tk 14 crore, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said. It will primarily be implemented in Dhaka and will be expanded to the rest of the country later.

Projects such as Padma Bridge and Rooppur nuclear plant will be displayed on LED screens in Sangsad Bhaban area and at Kamalapur Railway Station.

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## Income inequality continues to widen

Study focuses on Bangladesh, neighbours in South Asia

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Income inequality in five South Asian nations widened despite an average economic growth of 5.9 percent a year over the last three decades, a study said yesterday.

Weak public institutions have mostly been blamed for the uneven distribution of wealth, said M Syeduzzaman, a member of the board of advisers of Pakistan-based Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre that conducted the study.

The study, 'Human development in South Asia 2015: The economy and the people', was unveiled by the Brac Institute of Governance and Development at the Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

The countries looked at by the study are: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The nations achieved 5.9 percent GDP growth on average annually between 1980 and 2010, but they could gain only 1.5 percent growth in social development during the period.

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## MCCI re-elects president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear, has been re-elected as the president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, for 2016.

The chamber also elected Akhter Matin Chaudhury, chairman and managing director of Nuvista Pharma, as its vice president.

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## BB officials protest new pay scale

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank officials said the new national pay scale discriminates against them and will discourage efficient people from joining the central bank.

The central bank officials under the banner of BB Officers' Welfare Council demonstrated at their office yesterday and held a press conference.

They said an entry level official or an assistant director at the central bank used to get the eighth grade, along with government cadre officials and public university lecturers, in the previous pay structure.

"Now the assistant directors of the central bank have been pushed down to the ninth grade. But the cadre service officials and public university lecturers have been given the eighth grade," said Siddiqur Rahman, president of the officers' council.

"We have been downgraded. It is discrimination," said Shahriar Hossain, general secretary of the platform.

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## ADB gives \$205m to help improve power supply

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Asian Development Bank is going to provide Bangladesh with \$205 million in finances to help increase access to reliable supply of electricity and improve efficiency and capacity of power systems.

Under the loan scheme, the existing analogue billing meters will be replaced by seven lakh pre-payment meters in Dhaka division. The loan will also help replace the aging steam and gas turbine power plants with a more efficient 400-megawatt gas-fired combined cycle power plant at the Ashuganj Power Station complex.

Bangladesh will also upgrade and construct 72 kilometres of transmission lines and four substations, according to a statement.

Mohammad Mejbahuddin, senior secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Kazuhiko Higuchi, country director of the Bangladesh resident mission of the ADB, signed the loan agreements at the ERD office in Dhaka yesterday.

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## SMC's 26th Annual General Meeting Held

Social Marketing Company (SMC) held its 26th Annual General Meeting on November 21, 2015 at the Company Head Office in Dhaka. Mr. Muhammed Ali, Chairman of the SMC Board of Directors, presided over the meeting. Board Directors and Company Members, Managing Director & CEO of SMC and Managing Director of SMC Enterprise Limited were also present in the meeting.

MDB পারসোনাল লোন

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