

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.17%	▲ 0.23%	\$1,241.20 (per ounce)	\$30.60 (per barrel)	▼ 3.40%	▼ 2.31%	▼ 1.70%	▼ 0.61%	BUY TK 78.00	87.48	112.96	0.67
4,581.34	8,590.10			22,951.83	15,713.39	2,538.28	2,763.95	SELL TK 78.99	90.87	116.35	0.71

এসআইবিএল রিটেইল ব্যাংকিং
জীবনের জন্য, জীবন যাপনের জন্য

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনসুমার ফাইন্যান্স
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এসআইবিএল অটো ফাইন্যান্স

* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন শ্রদ্ধোজনে ০৯৬২২০০৯২২



star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Development spending lowest in six years

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Development spending in the first seven months of fiscal 2015-16 was the lowest in six years, despite attempts by the government to accelerate implementation of projects.

Between July last year and January this year, Tk 27,542 crore was spent from the total outlay of Tk 97,000 crore of the annual development programme.

Some Tk 25,858 crore, or 32 percent of the total outlay, was used up in the first seven months of last fiscal year, which coincided with three months of political turmoil.

In other words, even though there was no political turmoil, ADP implementation in the July-January period was about 4 percentage points lower at 28.39 percent from a year earlier.

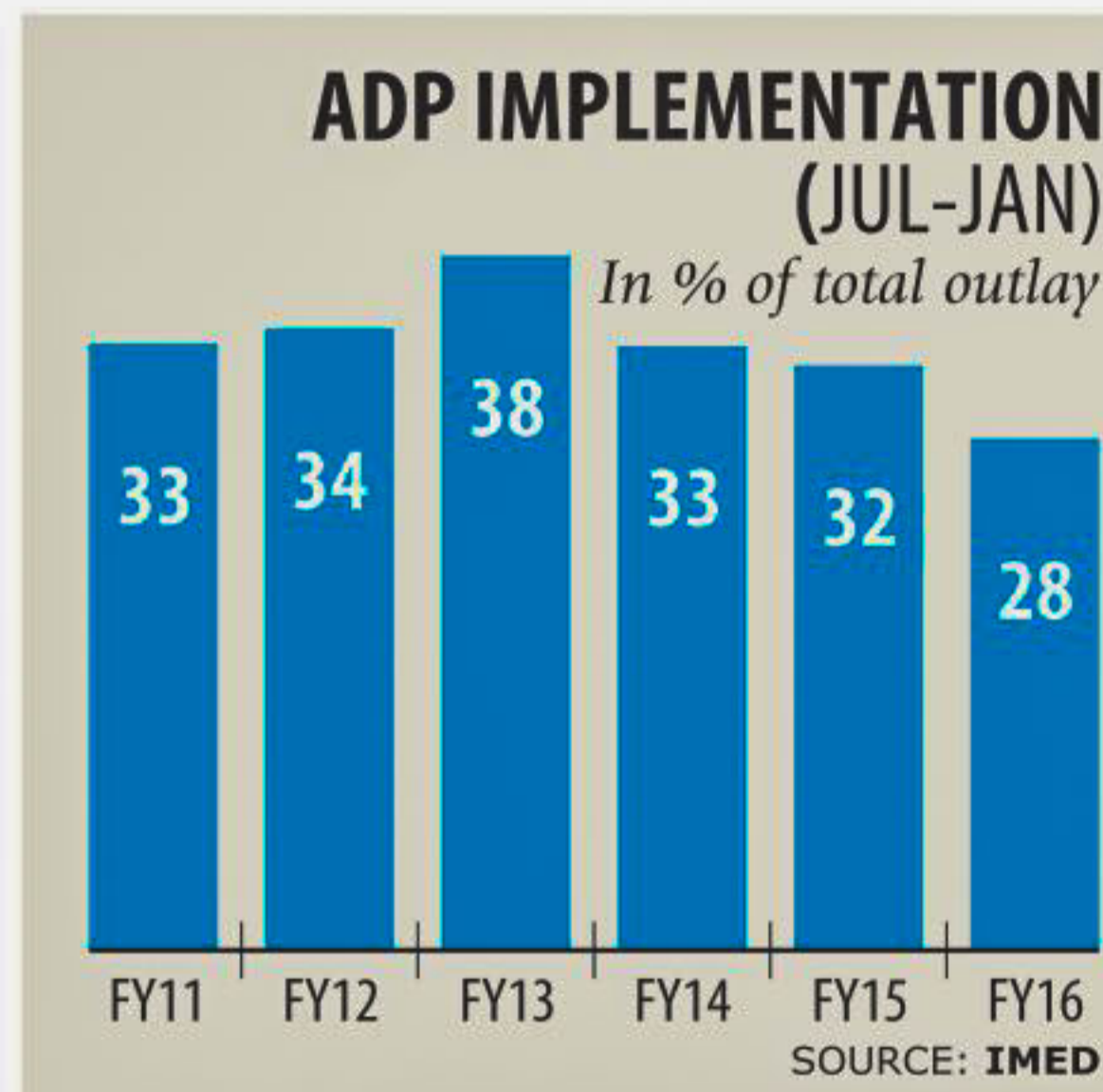
Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal took several steps in the last two years for quick implementation of ADP but the situation did not improve.

In the total ADP allocation, the share of foreign aid was Tk 34,500 crore, or 34 percent.

In the first seven months, foreign aid utilisation was Tk 8,385 crore, which is 24 percent of the total outlay -- and is the lowest in five years.

At this time last fiscal year, the utilisation of foreign aid was Tk 8,509 crore, or 31 percent of the total allocation.

Already different ministries have informed the Economic Relations Division that they will not be able to spend a total of Tk 5,865 crore of the foreign aid funds



assigned to them.

At present, more than \$21 billion of unused foreign aid has been lying in the pipeline.

The problem in utilisation of foreign aid was discussed at a meeting with Finance minister AMA Muhith in chair last week, an ERD official said.

A high-level committee has also been formed to find ways for quicker utilisation of foreign aid.

But the ministries are slow in utilising the government's own fund this time compared to the last several years, according to statistics from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division.

In the first seven months, Tk 19,157 crore of the government's own resources have been spent, which is 31 percent of the total allocation.

However, during the same period last fiscal year, 33 percent was spent, and 35 percent in the year before.

Every year, ADP allocation was raised bowing to the pressure from the ministries and divisions, but the efficiency of implementation has not been improving to that extent, said a planning ministry official.

The pace of implementation of five out of the ten large ministries and divisions that got 73 percent of the total ADP allocation is

very slow.

The water resources ministry managed to use up 18 percent of its allocation, energy and mineral resources division 23 percent, health and family welfare ministry 20 percent, bridges division 23 percent, railways ministry 19 percent.

However, the other five ministries' implementation was higher than the average implementation rate.

The power division spent 32 percent, the local government division 40 percent, road transport and highways division 37 percent, primary and mass education ministry 35 percent and education ministry 30 percent.

WAREHOUSING PLAN Garment makers shift focus from Gujarat to West Bengal

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Garment makers are no longer interested in setting up a warehouse in the Indian state of Gujarat and are now looking at West Bengal due to its proximity to Bangladesh.

FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad, who has been lobbying the Indian government for the warehouse in Gujarat, said the facility in Gujarat will not be beneficial for Bangladesh due to the long distance.

Besides, the Indian government is more interested in allocating the land for setting up factories, and not the warehouse, said Siddiqur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

"There are a lot of investment opportunities in Bangladesh now."

Earlier, during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June last year, Bangladeshi garment makers demanded 50 acres of land in Gujarat to build a warehouse to supply apparel items directly to retail shops across India.

Panel formed to oversee SIM re-registration

Tarana asks telcos to cooperate with govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Telecom Minister Tarana Halim yesterday asked mobile operators to cooperate with the government for re-registration of all existing connections through biometric verification.

To monitor progress in biometric SIM registration, the government yesterday formed a two-member committee that will detect any anomalies in the system.

If needed, the regulator will even fine the respective operators, said Tarana, speaking at the inauguration of the website of Bangladesh Telecom Reporters' Network at the secretariat.

"I found several anomalies, such as a lack of biometric machine, and harassment of customers, while visiting many registration centres in the city. So, the committee has been formed to supervise the system."



Tarana Halim

The committee members are Brig Gen Emdad ul Bari, director general of systems and services department at Bangladesh Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission, and Brig Gen Shaekh-Ul-Zaman, a senior official of National Telecom Monitoring Centre.

Bangladesh's six mobile phone operators began applying biometrics, such as verifying fingerprints, for SIM card verification and re-registration from December 16 last year. There is a lack of publicity over the re-registration process, and so people are not well aware of it, Tarana said.

"We are going through lots of trial and error but the job needs to be completed before the deadline and I am going to be strict on it."

"Initially, there were problems in the Election Commission's server, but everything is okay now with no complaints. So the operators cannot give excuses," she added.

Biometric SIM registration will continue till April this year.

US trade body applauds Bangladesh's factory inspection method

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The American Apparel and Footwear Association, the largest trade body in the US for garment and footwear retailers, praised Bangladesh's unified code for factory safety inspections.

Following the code, the two foreign inspection agencies -- Accord and Alliance -- and the National Action Plan have already completed inspections of 3,660 garment factories, as of now.

Stephen Lamar, the executive vice-president of AAFA, in a statement said the African garment manufacturers can learn from Bangladesh's experience and apply the positive lessons.

"We have to avoid the mistakes made in other countries -- such as Bangladesh -- which built up too quickly and without proper safeguards."

Lamar cited examples from Bangladesh while he was speaking on the 'Policy Recommendations for Deepening the US-Africa Trade and Investment Relationship: Post-AGOA Trade and Investment USTR-2015-0019' on January 28 in the US.

In a recent survey, half of the AAFA members said they were buying products from Africa, according to the statement.

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The plan for warehousing comes as Bangladesh seeks to boost its annual garment exports to India to \$1 billion in three years from present \$100 million

The plan for warehousing came as Bangladesh seeks to boost its annual garment exports to the Indian market to \$1 billion in three years from present \$100 million.

India is a very big market for Bangladeshi apparel exporters, as its annual retail market size is set to cross the \$40 billion-mark thanks to its growing middle-class, according to the industry insiders.

Setting up the warehouse instead in the Indian state of West Bengal would be commercially viable for Bangladeshi garment makers, said Ahmad, also the immediate past president of the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Subsequently, he proposed the idea of the warehouse in West Bengal in a business summit last month, and the government of the Indian state also showed interest in allocating the land for it.

If the West Bengal proposal goes ahead the exporters can also set up a garment park there, he said.

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BSEC suspends Ctg bourse's regulatory officer

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has temporarily suspended the chief regulatory officer of the Chittagong Stock Exchange and warned the bourse's chairman not to violate the demutualisation law again in future.

The stockmarket regulator also accepted the resignation letter of CSE Managing Director Wali-ul-Marouf Matin, who stepped down from the post two years ahead of his tenure's expiry over internal conflict.

The BSEC came up with the decisions on Wednesday following a probe report on the conflict between the port city bourse's management and the board of directors.

Earlier on December 9, the regulator formed a three-member panel to investigate the reasons of resignation of the CSE's managing director. Matin initially cited "irreconcilable

differences with a few unduly decision-influencing persons in the organisation", but later showed "personal ground" as the cause for his resignation.

The regulatory probe found that Ahmad Dawood, chief regulatory officer of the CSE, failed to perform his duties duly, according to a letter issued on Wednesday.

Dawood was involved in unlawful activities and he broke the organisation's discipline, though he was not permitted to do so under the demutualisation act, the probe found.

The regulator will take the final decision on Dawood after giving him the opportunity to explain the reasons behind his failure to carry out his responsibilities, according to the letter.

Contacted, Dawood refused to make any comment on the issue. "I do not want to give any comments as the legal process is ongoing and I am respectful to the law."

The regulatory probe also found that the CSE chairman and some other directors intervened on the management activities in some cases.

This was in violation of the spirit of the demutualisation law, which separated the stock exchanges' management from their ownership in a bid to ensure transparency and accountability in the capital market.

Such kind of activities of the chairman and the directors of the board are not acceptable to the regulator in any case, the BSEC said in the letter.

The CSE board's failure in taking decisions and directions also hampered the discipline of the bourse's management, the regulator said in the letter, while instructing the chairman and other directors of the board to refrain from any such practice in future.

CSE Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid was not immediately available for comment.

Research necessary for better energy solutions: PM's adviser

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The energy adviser to the prime minister yesterday stressed the need for 'contextual research' on energy solutions to achieve excellence in the power sector.

"We have already formed an energy and power research council. There should be contextual research to know what kind of energy solutions are needed right now," said Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

The government has set a target to ensure access to energy for all in its Vision 2021. "But we are hoping that we can achieve the target even before 2021 -- maybe by 2018 or 2019."

Chowdhury was speaking at a seminar on 'energy access versus energy poverty', organised by Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) at Biddut Bhaban in Dhaka.

Presenting a keynote paper on 'multi-tier approach to measuring energy access: progress toward sustainable development goal', SREDA member Siddique Zobair said access to energy is now defined by having electricity or not having electricity.

But under modern definition, access to energy means the ability to use energy for all that is adequate, available when needed, reliable, of good quality, affordable, legal, convenient, healthy and safe, he added.