

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখার মাধ্যমে জমা দিন



* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Sales of savings instruments soar

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Sales of savings instruments rose 18.86 percent year-on-year in the first six months of the fiscal year due to higher interest rates than banks and a dull stockmarket.

The government sold Tk 23,024 crore of savings instruments between July and December.

Although seven months have passed in the fiscal year, the government is yet to borrow any fund from the banking system, which is the cost-effective option.

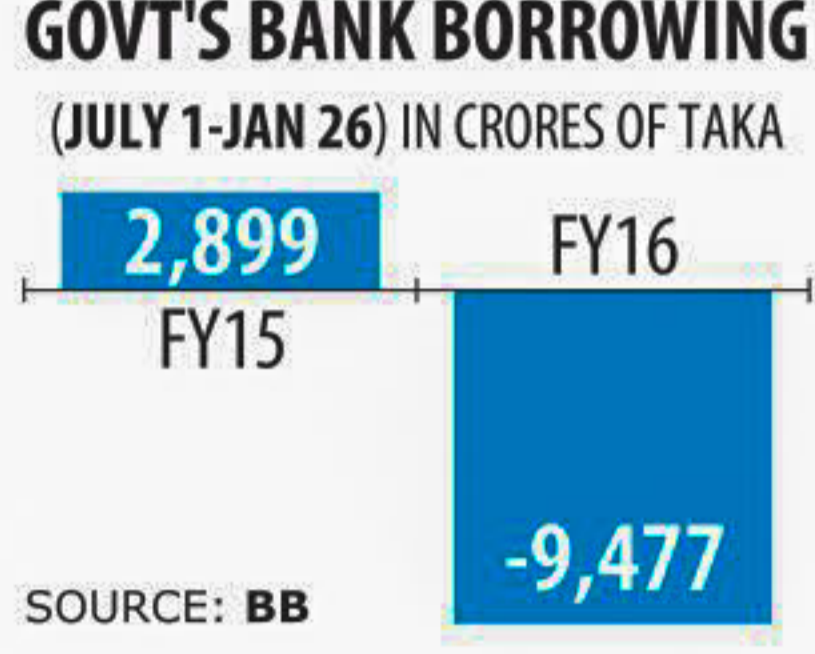
From July 1 to January 26, the government repaid Tk 9,477 crore in loans. In the same period last year, it borrowed Tk 2,899 crore, according to central bank statistics.

As the investment demand was low, there was pressure on banks to cut the lending rates, so all lenders obliged.

On the other hand, the stockmarket has been dull for long.

As the rate of interest on savings instruments is high, many have tilted toward it instead of parking their funds in banks.

The average deposit rate in



December stood at 6.34 percent -- down about 1 percentage point in a year -- which is close to the current inflation rate.

Inflation has been hovering around 6 percent for almost a year and a half, meaning if the deposit rate is adjusted for inflation, the savers do not get any real returns.

In contrast, the rate of interest on savings instruments is between 11.04 percent and 11.76 percent.

More than half of the savings instruments sold in the first six months of the fiscal year were Paribar Sanchaypatra and three-monthly interest-bearing Sanchaypatra, as the

interest rates on them are higher, according to the Department of National Savings.

A finance ministry official said the borrowing from savings instruments will cross the current fiscal year's target if sales continue at this rate.

In this year's budget, a target to borrow Tk 15,000 crore from savings instruments has been fixed.

As a result, the government's borrowing cost on account of interest payment went up. The government has repaid Tk 5,348 crore on account of interest payment in the first six months, up 17 percent year-on-year.

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Robi-Airtel merger sparks mixed reactions

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The proposed merger between Robi and Airtel received strong support from experts, users and lawyers at a public hearing organised by the telecom regulator yesterday.

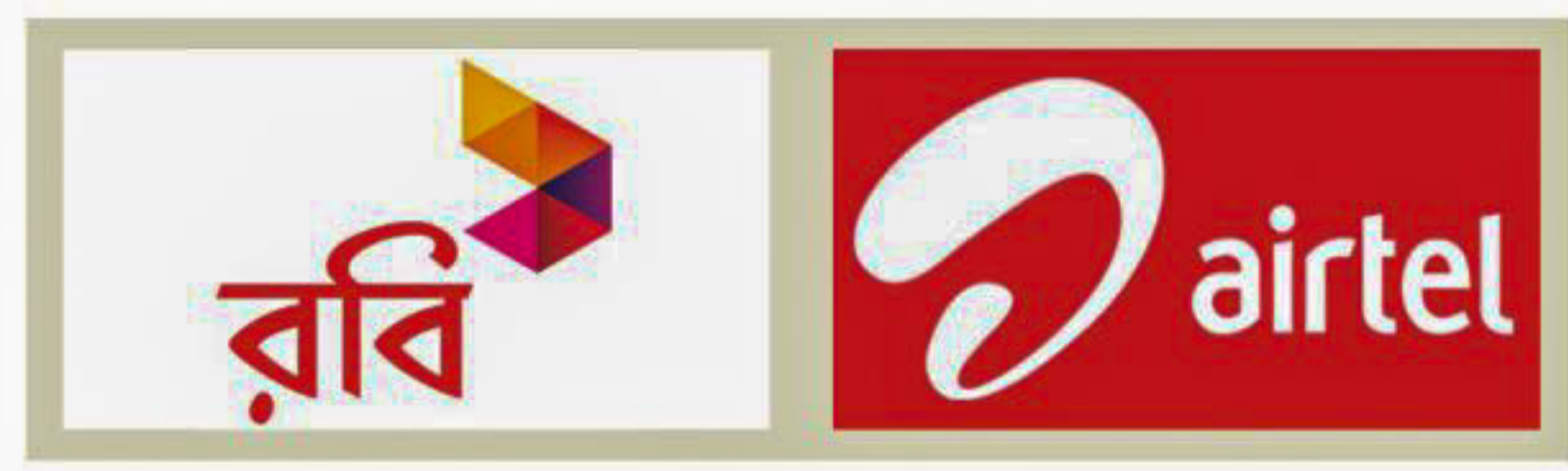
About 40 people participated in the discussion held at the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission premises, and a good number of them said the merger will give them comfort, reduce costs, offer better services and bring competition to the market.

However, two organisations -- the Consumers Association of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mobile Recharge Association -- vehemently opposed the merger, saying it will seriously impact the industry as well as employment.

CAB, which has already challenged the initiative at the High Court, said the merger will create an oligopolistic situation in the market.

If this merger takes place, the top three players will have more than 96 percent of the market and they can play as they wish, said Aneek R Haque, a lawyer of CAB.

Companies can merge anytime, but according to the telecom law,



there is no scope to merge spectrum, he added.

Another lawyer, Arnima Datta Arny, who is supporting the merger, said the top three operators already control 88 percent of the market, so an oligopolistic situation already exists.

Currently, Grameenphone has a 42 percent market share, Banglalink 25 percent, Robi 21 percent, Airtel 7 percent, Teletalk 3 percent and Citycell 1 percent.

The BTRC has already run two separate market studies to gauge the impact of the merger, but Yousuf Ali, another CAB lawyer, said it was not sufficient.

He went on to suggest a neutral study through a reputed organisation like the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Amirul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Mobile Recharge Association, said the proposed merger will make more than one lakh youths jobless.

Although the regulator is yet to approve the merger, joint posters and banners of Robi and Airtel were seen.

On the issue, Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of BTRC, said the merger is yet to get the final approval, so the operators cannot circulate such posters or banners.

"We will ask both the operators how they published these posters or banners," he said.

A senior official of Banglalink said Robi now uses the 018 prefix for its subscriber numbers and Airtel 016. "If they merge, which prefix they would use?"

If they get both the 018 and 016 prefix, it will give them a huge benefit, as they can acquire up to 20 crore customers.

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Banglabandha land port opens immigration services

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Immigration services at Banglabandha land port in Tetulia of Panchagarh, and the corresponding Fulbari land port in Jalpaiguri of the Indian state of West Bengal will begin today.

Home Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Vijay Kumar Singh jointly inaugurated the immigration services through the ports yesterday, Mohammad Salah Uddin, deputy commissioner of Panchagarh, said in a press meet at his office.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, was also present at the event. The final decision to offer immigration services at the land ports was taken at a meeting at the home ministry on Sunday.

Banglabandha has now become a full-fledged land port after launching immigration services, which will help flourish business activities and generate employment, said Ashraf Alam Patwary, president of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

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J Ekram Hossain, managing director of TVS Auto Bangladesh, and other officials pose at the launch of six new models of TVS bikes during an event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Banglalink's revenue up 8pc

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banglalink's gross revenue rose 8 percent year-on-year to Tk 4,710 crore in 2015, said VimpelCom, the operator's parent company, in its annual statement on Wednesday.

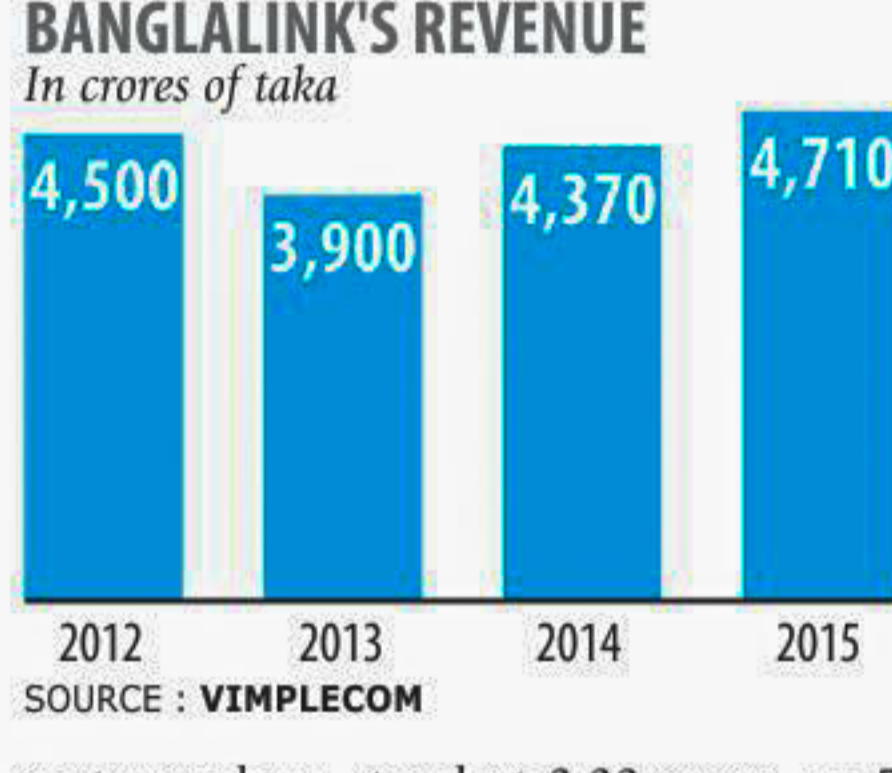
However, Amsterdam-based VimpelCom did not mention Banglalink's net profit.

VimpelCom has published its operating and financial results and that covers information on Banglalink's financial performance as well, said Mamun Ar Rashid, the operator's associate general manager of public relation and communication.

In a discussion on October 21 last year, Banglalink's then chief executive officer, Ziad Shatara, acknowledged that the telecom operator was on course to post its first profit.

The operator, which is the country's second largest after Grameenphone, saw good growth in active subscribers' number and data usage, the report said.

As of December 2015, Banglalink's



customer base stood at 3.23 crore, up 5 percent year-on-year.

"However, the introduction of biometric identity verification of both new and existing customers continues to slow down customer growth in the market," VimpelCom said.

Of the 3.23 crore active subscribers, 1.4 crore were connected to the internet, which is an increase of 15 percent from the previous year.

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DSE to hold election for a director

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An election for the post of a shareholder-director of Dhaka Stock Exchange will be held on March 15, as a director will retire this year in line with the demutualisation scheme.

This year, Sharif Anwar Hossain, managing director of Sahidullah Securities, will retire from the DSE board, officials said.

Four shareholders were elected directors to the first board of the demutualised Dhaka Stock Exchange in February 2014.

On completion of one year, Md Shakil Rizvi retired as a director in 2015 in line with the demutualisation scheme, only to be re-elected. Two other directors will retire in 2017.

This year's newly elected director will join the 13-member board at the bourse's annual general meeting, which will be held on March 24.

The board consists of seven independent directors, four shareholder directors, one from strategic investors' category and

the bourse's chief executive officer, who would have voting rights only for the election of the chairman.

The demutualisation scheme was approved by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in 2013. In 2012, a law on demutualisation was passed in parliament with a promise to bring transparency to the stockmarket.

Demutualisation is a way of separating the management of the bourses from ownership.

It transforms a stock exchange into a profit-oriented company owned by shareholders and ensures alternative business models and operational efficiency.

Prior to demutualisation, Bangladesh's stock exchanges were non-profit cooperative organisations owned by the exchange members who are usually stockbrokers.

A retired High Court judge, Justice Md Abdus Samad, will act as the chairman of the DSE's election commission.

This year, 242 DSE voters are eligible to cast their ballot.

Stocks end flat as investors remain passive

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks closed almost flat yesterday as investors stayed on the sidelines, adding just 1.93 points or 0.04 percent to the Dhaka Stock Exchange's benchmark index DSEX, which closed the day at 4,580.79 points.

LankaBangla Securities said the market was not yet indicative of a reestablishment of the bullish trend in stocks.

"Fears of heading into an extended correction kept the investors vigilant," the stockbroker said in its regular analysis.

Market participants remained passive and continued to look for profit opportunities amid volatility, IDLC Investments said.

Turnover, another important indicator of the market, increased slightly by 2.3 percent to Tk 471.22 crore, with 11.9 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the DSE.

Of the traded issues, 150 advanced and 124 declined with 52 securities closing unchanged on the premier bourse.

United Power Generation and Distribution Company dominated the turnover chart with 13.35 lakh shares worth Tk 22.3 crore changing hands, followed by BSRM, Summit Power, Shasha Denims and Aman Feed.

Among the major sectors, food and allied stocks declined 1.04 percent in market capitalisation, followed by

banks that fell 0.78 percent, telecom 0.48 percent and non-bank financial institutions 0.45 percent.

Conversely, fuel and power and textile sectors increased 0.86 percent and 0.25 percent respectively.

Sinobangla Industries was the day's best performer with 9.79 percent gains, while Agrani Insurance was the worst loser, shedding 8.57 percent.

Chittagong stocks closed higher yesterday with the bourse's benchmark index, CSCX, increasing 16.42 points or 0.19 percent to finish the day at 8,603.77 points.

Gainers beat losers as 115 advanced and 97 declined, while 39 finished unchanged on the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

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