

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
TKSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.07%	▲ 0.15%	\$1,209.50 (per ounce)	\$35.36 (per barrel)	▲ 1.14%	▲ 2.26%	▲ 1.67%	▼ 0.15%	BUY TK 77.95	86.83	112.79	0.67
4,609.86	8,587.66			23,649.22	16,196.80	2,657.57	2,862.84	SELL TK 78.94	90.22	116.18	0.70

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 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2016

Govt gets Tk 209cr in new mobile tax in six months

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The tax on mobile talk time introduced in the current year's budget raked in revenues of Tk 209 crore in the first six months. In the budget for fiscal 2015-16, a 3 percent supplementary duty was imposed on mobile talk time on top of the existing 15 percent value-added tax at the subscriber level. Finance Minister AMA Muhith told parliament recently that the mobile operators realised Tk 1,253.14 crore in VAT and supplementary duty on call charges between July and December last year. On sales of SIM cards, Tk 291.59 crore was collected during the period. Most of the 3 percent supplementary duty is being realised from low-income users. Of the total revenue of Tk 1,544.73 crore,

TAX FROM MOBILE PHONE OPERATORS (SIM tax, VAT, supplementary duty) Jul-Dec FY2016	
Grameenphone	Tk 981.91cr
Robi	Tk 424.31cr
Banglalink	Tk 416.25cr
Airtel	Tk 108.44cr
Teletalk	Tk 70.9cr

SOURCE: FINANCE MINISTRY

Grameenphone paid Tk 981.91 crore, which is the highest, and Citycell Tk 0.01 crore, the lowest.

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Mobile operators lose users for biometric SIM registration

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The five private mobile operators saw their active connection numbers drop in January following the government move to make biometric verification mandatory for all subscribers. The government launched biometric verification for SIM registration on December 16 last year. At the end of January, the total active connections stood at 13.19 crore, down 17.64 lakh from the previous month, according to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. Senior executives of different operators blamed the government move for the drop. Total connections may decline further in future as sales of new SIM cards have almost ground to a halt and lots of unused SIMs are getting struck off. If a SIM is not used for 90 days it can be declared inactive, according to the regulator's directive. Another trend that has been observed following the imposition of the biometric verification is that those who previously used multiple SIM cards have stopped doing so.

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Syed Nasim Manzur, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, speaks during the chamber's quarterly luncheon meeting in Dhaka yesterday. Shahidul Haque, foreign secretary, was also present.

Motor vehicle deal opens road to economic dreams

Agreement to come into effect soon, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque says at MCCI meeting

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The motor vehicle agreement among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal or BBIN will soon come into effect to establish a seamless movement of passengers and cargo vehicles across the territories, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said yesterday. The deal, signed by the transport and communications ministers of BBIN in the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu in June last year, was supposed to be operational from January this year. But it has been delayed due to a hold-up in ratification by the Bhutanese government. "The BBIN corridor is coming into reality very soon. The approval from Bhutan is needed to make the agreement operational," said Haque, presenting a keynote paper at the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka. "BBIN was formed for multimodal connectivity among the four South Asian nations. I hope sub-regional businesses will get a boost if the transportation of goods and passengers start under the agreement." Under the deal, any member nation of BBIN will be allowed to use the roads of other members to transport goods and passengers paying fees and charges, which are to be fixed later. "The BBIN nations agreed to pay the fees and charges to use the corridor," Haque said. He did not specify the fees to be charged for using the corridor.

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Foreigners sent back \$24m last fiscal year: Muhith

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Foreign nationals working in Bangladesh sent back \$24 million, which is equivalent to Tk 187.20 crore, to their home countries in the last fiscal year. Finance Minister AMA Muhith disclosed the information when asked by a lawmaker in parliament whether the two lakh foreign nationals working in the

country remitted \$5 billion. In the last fiscal year \$25.49 billion worth of garment products were exported. On the other hand, \$218 million was spent on importing raw materials for the sector. Muhith said, if the money sent abroad through letters of credit and remittances by foreign nationals are not counted, the net earning was \$25.25 billion.

Eastern Bank pays back ATM fraud victims

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Eastern Bank yesterday reimbursed the victims of the recent ATM card fraud. A total of Tk 17.53 lakh was given to 24 clients, the bank said in a statement. Nazneen Sultana, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, handed over a reimbursement cheque to Mahbuba Akhter, one of the affected EBL card users, on behalf of the private bank at the central bank headquarters in Dhaka. The move comes a week after EBL said about two dozens of its card-users fell prey to fraudsters who used duplicate cards to steal money from ATMs. This had prompted the bank to shut down all its 200 ATM booths for six hours. The central bank then asked EBL to compensate its clients. The BB also directed all banks to install anti-skimming devices, conduct regular monitoring of video footage, and not to allow any unauthorised people to install or repair any device in the ATM



Nazneen Sultana, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Subhankar Saha, executive director, and Hassan O Rashid, additional managing director of Eastern Bank, pose at a ceremony to reimburse EBL's clients who fell victim to the recent ATM fraud.

booths. Foreigners are believed to be involved in the skimming racket that stole money from the ATMs. The central bank, EBL, United Commercial Bank, City Bank and police analysed the video footage of four ATM booths that were taken for at least Tk 25 lakh. Fraudsters installed skimming devices at four ATMs -- two of EBL and one each of UCB and City Bank -- to steal data from debit cards used in the booths. City Bank has so far received claims from clients for Tk 1.4 lakh. The BB has found that more than 200 cardholders have lost data. BB Executive Director Subhankar Saha, EBL Additional Managing Director Hassan O Rashid and Head of Consumer Banking Nazeem A Choudhury were also present.

2nd Death Anniversary

Today, 19th February, is the second death anniversary of Mohammad Abul Khayer, former member of the National Assembly. He was elected from Muksudpur-Kashiani constituency of Gopalganj in 1970 general election that spurred the Independence movement.

Mr. Khayer was a freedom fighter, industrialist and a trusted close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He received the Swadhinata Padak posthumously in 2014 for his contribution to the 1971 War of Independence. Mr. Khayer was the founder-chairman of Jamuna Bank.

We pray for the eternal peace of his soul in heaven.

JAMUNABANK

Alibaba eyes Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba is planning to enter Bangladesh, an official said yesterday. "We are collecting information about the Bangladeshi market and will shortly take a decision," said Siyuan Pi, managing director of business development for emerging markets at UCWeb, a unit of Alibaba Group. Pi's comment came at the launch of UCWeb's Bangla version browser, ahead of International Mother Language Day on Sunday. UC browser is the world's second largest mobile browser, with 19.97 percent share of the market. The browser is available in 11 languages, including English, Russian, Indonesian and Vietnamese. "We are also offering online commerce for Bangladeshi people through the alibaba.com site," he said, adding that people can buy products through this site from China as well as other countries. Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding transacted \$390 billion in last year, and is planning to achieve \$1 trillion in "sales" in the next five years. A UCWeb survey found 37 percent of users from Bangladesh prefer Bangla as their interface language, said Catherine Huang, marketing director of emerging markets at UCWeb. It is currently the leading mobile browser in four emerging markets: China, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. In Bangladesh, UCWeb's popularity has been increasing rapidly and its daily active users grew 109.2 percent in 2015, according to Huang. Its current share in the Bangladesh market is about 30.34 percent, Huang said.

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