

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 APRIL 7, 2016

Private investment sees first fall in three years

Economists say it is a bad sign for economy

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

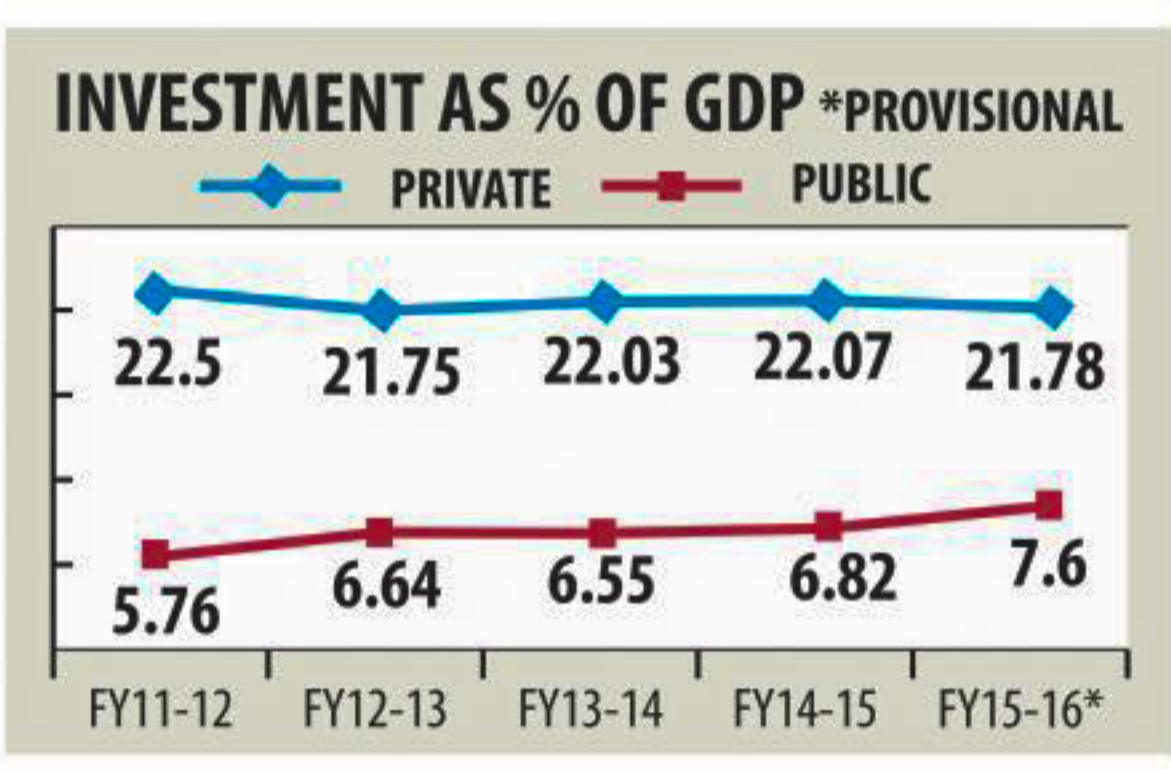
Private investment has declined this fiscal year, a development which does not bode well for the economy even though GDP growth is predicted to see the fastest pace in nine years.

In fiscal 2015-16, the private investment to gross domestic product ratio will be 21.78 percent, according to provisional data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

This signifies a year-on-year drop of 0.29 percentage points -- and a decline for the first time in three years.

"This is not good news from a growth sustainability point of view in the near- and medium-terms," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office.

The business confidence is still weak, primarily because



the structural impediments to investment, such as infrastructure bottlenecks and the cost of doing business have not changed, he said.

The business community is also complaining about the high interest rates.

From a broad cross-country perspective, Bangladesh's average nominal lending rate over the past decade was higher than in advanced economies and slightly higher than in Asia's emerging economies, according to Hussain.

The bank interest rates in Bangladesh fell much in recent times, the central bank statistics show. In the last two years, the average lending rate declined 2 percentage points and stood at 11.05 percent in January.

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Govt raises cash subsidies for exporters

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has increased cash subsidies for the exporters of garments, leather products and frozen fish for the current fiscal year.

The subsidy for garment exporters to the EU market has been raised by 2 percentage points to 6 percent, while it has been increased to 15 percent from 12.5 percent for leather goods exporters.

The exporters whose claims for the subsidies have already been settled at the existing rate of 4 percent or 12.5 percent in the current fiscal year will get the additional 2 percent or 2.5 percent respectively.

Bangladesh Bank increased the subsidies in separate notices on April 4. To get the subsidies, exporters will have to apply within a month of the publication of the notices.

The central bank also increased cash subsidies for frozen fish exporters from \$3.79 to \$4.98 for a pound of shrimp and from \$1.1 to \$1.97 for per pound of other fishes.

The government has also included potato starch in the list of the agro-processing products entitled for cash subsidies.

In another notice on April 3, the BB said potato exporters will have to submit certified credential from Bangladesh Potato Exporters Association along with other applicable documents to get the subsidies.

Mobile operators to get tech neutrality in spectrum use

This will help roll out faster data services

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government plans to offer technology neutrality to mobile operators in spectrum use in two bands, which will help them roll out fourth generation or faster data services within a short time.

The telecom division is preparing a proposal, which will soon be sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for approval, said an official involved in the process. "We are looking into the matter and hopefully, a development will come shortly," Md Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, secretary of the telecom division, told The Daily Star by phone.

After getting technology neutrality in the 1800 and 900 bands, the operators can offer services through any technology (2G/3G/4G/LTE) using any of the frequencies they have, which will ensure better services for customers.

"If the government allows technology neutrality, customers will benefit directly from it," said Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone.

Tech neutrality gives operators the scope to use their spectrum efficiently and offer faster data services, he added.

Officials said the government is considering the move before going for the next spectrum auction to bring the operators' attention to it and increase the floor price at the auction.

In line with spectrum auction guide-

SPECTRUM ALLOCATED TO OPERATORS

(figures in MHz)

Operators	900 band	1800 band	2100 band	Total spectrum
Teletalk	7.4	14.6	10	32
Grameenphone	5	10	5	20
Robi	7.4	7.4	5	19.8
Net	5	10	5	20
Teletalk	5.2	10	10	25.2

lines, the floor price per MHz spectrum is \$25 million now, which is likely to increase to \$30 million if technology neutrality is provided, said another official of the telecom division, asking not to be named.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission now allows technology neutrality in only the 2100 band, but this band is not suitable for offering 4G services.

Mobile phone operators said, if they get technology neutrality in the 1800 and 900 bands, it will help them offer quality data services with minimum investment. Currently, the operators are using these bands for only 2G services.

Most countries launched 4G services through the 1800 and 900 bands as technology vendors have designed their fourth generation equipment for these spectrum bands only.

The government has also included technology neutrality in its new telecom policy, which awaits the cabinet's approval.

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SIM re-registration to boost mobile financial services: analysts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The introduction of biometric fingerprints for SIM re-registration and information verification will bring safety, curb fraudulence and ultimately boost mobile financial services (MFS), said analysts at a discussion yesterday.

Authentication was the main challenge for MFS in Bangladesh, and after completion of the SIM re-

registration process, the sector will see new investments flow in.

Experts also emphasised establishing interoperability systems for MFS services, which will allow any MFS account holder to make transactions with bank accounts. They spoke at a roundtable titled 'Mobile banking: prospects and safety' organised by leading Bangla-language newspaper Prothom Alo at its office.

"For ensuring safety, taking

thumbprints is an appropriate initiative," said Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, a former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The MFS sector plays an important role in financial inclusion, but customers have lots of complaints and both the banking regulator and telecom regulator need to introduce complaint registration systems to address the issue, he said.

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Doreen shares treble on debut

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Doreen Power Generations and Systems made a stellar trading debut yesterday, as its share prices trebled despite the company's slide in net profits in the first half of the fiscal year.

The company's shares, which were offered for Tk 29, hovered between Tk 55 and Tk 90 before closing at Tk 83.7 each on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

The power generation company raised Tk 58 crore by issuing two crore ordinary shares worth Tk 10 each through its initial public offer.

Doreen Power's six-month net profit stood at Tk 3.94 crore with a basic earnings per share of Tk 0.66 at the end of December 2015, down from Tk 7.41 crore and Tk 1.24 respectively in the same period a year ago.

However, the company's post-IPO basic EPS was Tk 0.49 as of December last year and net asset value per share stood at Tk 34.64.

Doreen Power also became the turnover leader, as 85.37 lakh shares changed hands at Tk 67.1 crore on the premier bourse, accounting for about 15 percent of DSE's total turnover.

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on November 30 last year approved the IPO of Doreen Power, which has three plants that generate and supply 66MW to Bangladesh Power Development Board and Rural Electrification Board under two agreements for a period of 15 years.

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WB to help Bangladesh remove barriers to growth

The lender approves country partnership framework for next five years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The World Bank Group yesterday endorsed the new country partnership framework (CPF) for 2016-2020, focusing on the Group's technical and financial assistance to Bangladesh in three areas.

"The CPF will help Bangladesh achieve its vision of reaching the middle income country status by 2021 from the current status of a lower middle income nation," the WB said in a statement.

Bangladesh achieved the status of a lower middle income country in 2015. The country is at an important juncture, and with right policies and timely action, it can move up within the middle income bracket. For that, Bangladesh will need to accelerate growth, the WB said.

The lender's first priority will be to help Bangladesh remove bottlenecks to growth, shift more financing to increasing electricity supplies and improve transport connectivity.

The WB will also assist the country in expanding financial intermediation and increasing the ease of doing business.

Fostering social inclusion will be the bank's second priority area, which will build on Bangladesh's impressive gains in human and social development.

It will continue to support improving the quality and access to education and skills development, scale up health services, and widen access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

The WB will also support expanding social protection and help the poor get better jobs at home and abroad.

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Another illegally imported car seized

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The customs intelligence yesterday detained a Porsche car on allegations of duty evasion as part of its drive to pin down 150 vehicles that were temporarily brought in under a zero-duty import privilege but were never taken back.

"We have found that proper customs procedure has not been followed to import the car," said Moinul Khan, director general of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate or CIID.

The Porsche was seen with a foreign registration plate, according to the customs intelligence.

"It's a surprise that the car was plying the streets here with a foreign number plate. It's not supposed to be," Khan said.

The owner of the car is Shafiul Azam Mohsin of Pacific Group, according to CIID. The Daily Star could not reach Azam for comment despite repeated attempts to contact Pacific Group through the landline numbers posted on the company's website.

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Standard Chartered

পরনে লালপেড়ে শাড়ি, হাতে রেশমি চুড়ি, সাথে পুরনো বন্ধু, এসেছে নতুন বৈশাখ।

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