

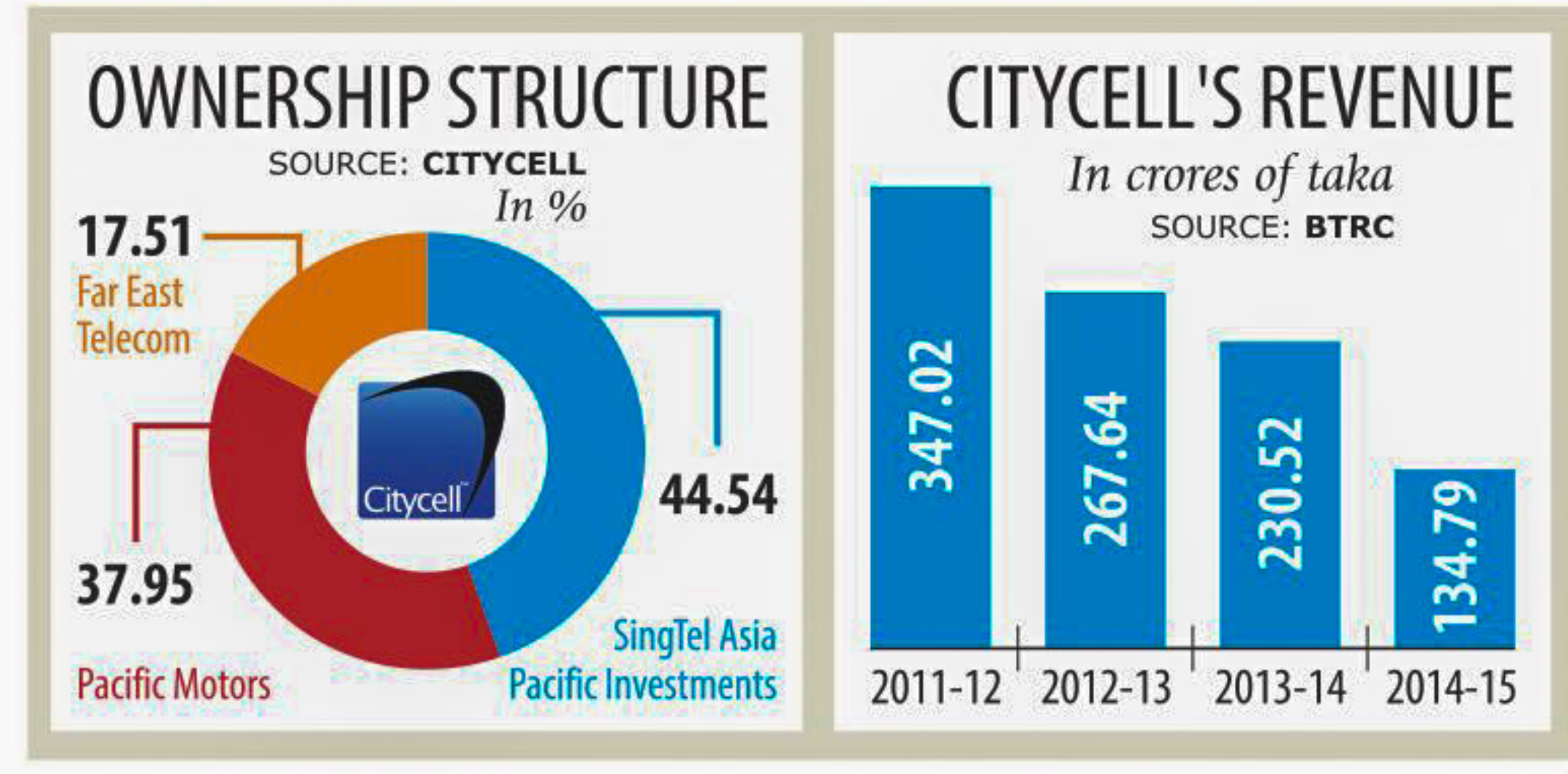
Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17, 2016, BHADRA 2, 1423 BS

আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা।
 এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স।
 আপনার সংসার পোছারের আসবাবপত্র, শিক্ষা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জেপ্যাপ্র্য কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।
 * ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
 যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

Curtain to come down on Citycell by Aug 23

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The government has set in motion the process to revoke Citycell's licence after the operator failed to pay its dues amounting to Tk 477.51 crore. Citycell's subscribers have until August 23 to switch to another operator, State Minister for Telecom Tarana Halim said yesterday, after a meeting with the telecom regulator. Citycell has about two lakh subscribers at present, compared to 7.02 lakh at the end of June.
 "We have taken the final decision of shutting down Citycell following all procedures as we have not received any response from the operator since long," said Telecom Secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury.
 Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission will now forward its recommendation to the Prime Minister's Office to terminate the licence of the country's oldest operator. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the telecom minister.
 Contacted, Taslim Ahmed, head of corporate communications at Pacific Bangladesh Telecom that owns Citycell, said the operator learnt about the latest development from the media.
 "After BTRC's notice we have started our process to discuss the issue with the govern-



ment. We are very hopeful of getting a positive result," he added.
 Earlier on July 31, BTRC issued a public notice and asked Citycell's subscribers to switch to other operators by August 16.
 The operator's subscription reached a peak of 19 lakh in 2011, but it has been a minor player in the market for at least 10 years now.
 In fiscal 2014-15, its total revenue stood at Tk 139.77 crore, while its investment was zero, according to the BTRC's annual report.
 Over the last two weeks, the majority of Citycell's active customers jumped ship, with the operator's daily revenue now being only a few thousand taka, said a senior executive of Citycell. "Even our own executives and employees got new connections," he added.
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Poultry industry moves to next step of development

Poultry giants going for integrated farming

SOHEL PARVEZ
 The poultry industry is in a new phase of development, with an increasing number of poultry giants going for integrated farming to market chicken meat and eggs.
 After the entry of Aftab Bahumukhi Farms, CP Bangladesh and Kazi Farms, another leading breeder, Paragon, has signed up for marketing eggs, dressed or processed chicken, and chicken-based ready-to-cook products that will be produced in its own farm.
 The trend will not only create competition among the industry operators to ensure safe and hygienic poultry products but may also force many small farmers to quit farming, said analysts.
 "The good part of it is quality assurance," said Nitish Debnath, former vice-chancellor of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.
 If the product quality is not up to the mark, one can easily identify its source, which is difficult now because of the presence of a number of players in the value chain, he said.
 But on the other hand, the livelihood of many small farmers, retailers and those who are involved in the slaughtering of birds may be affected.
 The industry giants, who had in the past mostly focused on selling day-old chicks and feeds, have signed up for producing final products at a time when the demand for broiler meat and eggs is on the rise.
 Bangladesh's per capita poultry meat consumption now stands around 4 kilograms a year, up from about 3 kilograms a couple of years ago, according to industry operators.
 Per capita egg consumption has also soared to nearly 50 pieces a year from 40 pieces two-three years ago, said Rahman, also the convener of Bangladesh Poultry Industries Coordination Committee (BPICC).
 Increased consumption by garment workers in rural areas for rising income have driven



POULTRY INDUSTRY

- Per capita poultry meat consumption stands at 4kg a year. The amount was 3kg a couple of years ago.
- Per capita egg consumption soared to nearly 50 pieces a year from 40 pieces 2-3 years ago.
- Increased consumption by garment workers and change in lifestyles raised the demand.
- Poultry industry suffered losses due to an outbreak of avian influenza between 2007 and 2011.

Mango exports fall on safety concerns

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA
 Mango shipment dropped significantly only a year into the start of export as the fruits fail quarantine tests of European standards, exporters said.
 Bangladesh exported more than 800 tonnes of mangos, mainly to the European markets, last year, but the amount fell to 300 tonnes this season.
 The first shipment of 500 boxes of mangos (625 kilograms) was sent in May last year.
 Exporters have to obtain phytosanitary or quarantine certificates -- relating to the health of plants, especially with respect to the requirements of international trade -- from the department concerned.
 "Last year I exported more than 100 tonnes, mainly to different stores of Walamrt in London, but this year I sent only 35 tonnes, not to my previous customers, as the agreement with Walmart has been scrapped this year," said Paritosh Chandra Das, proprietor of Dip International.
 This year, he sent mangos mainly to the non-resident Bangladeshis. "I could not send mangos to Walmart this year despite a rise in order," he said.



First consignment was shipped in May last year

- Bangladesh exported 800 tonnes of mangos last year
- Traders supply the fruit to major retail chains in the European countries
- This year, Bangladesh exported 300 tonnes of mangos so far
- EU cancelled 15 consignments of vegetables and mangos last year

Mango export became difficult this year as the quarantine department asked exporters to pack the mangos in the garden, not in warehouses or elsewhere, so that the produce remains free of health hazardous elements.
 But packing the mangos in the garden is not possible now, he said.
 The traders cannot also go for contract farming immediately as the process for such farming is lengthy, Das said.
 "So, the entire system for exporting mangos has to be revisited," Das said.
 The EU last year cancelled 15 consignments of vegetables and mangos as those failed to maintain the health standards of the EU, he said.
 Some consignments were abandoned this year as well because of the same reasons, he added.
 Khaledur Rahman, proprietor of Khaled Trade Syndicate, said: "I exported a small quantity of mangos as the authorities asked us to export through contract farming."
 Traders and officials from the agriculture and commerce ministries already visited some mango gardens in different districts to get an idea how contract farming can be done, Rahman said.
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Wheat imports to rise slightly



STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 Bangladesh's wheat imports may rise about 1 percent year-on-year to 44 lakh tonnes this fiscal year, thanks to strong domestic demand and lower international prices, according to the US Department of Agriculture.
 However, rice imports may decline to 1.5 lakh tonnes, owing to an increase in import tariff on the staple, the agency said in its July issue of Grain and Feed Update on Bangladesh.
 "The added 25 percent tariff on rice imports further affected import prospects," said USDA.
 Rice imports fell 83 percent to 2.57 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2015-16 after the government imposed a total of 20 percent duty last year to protect growers from losses, resulting from the falling prices of the staple, according to the food ministry.
 The government raised import duty to 25 percent at the beginning of the new

fiscal year from 20 percent previously. In addition, it imposed 15-percent value added tax, 5 percent advance income tax and an additional advance trade VAT of 4 percent.
 "The tariff was raised and other taxes are added to stop cheaper Indian rice imports that generally constitute the largest share of the import market," said USDA.
 However, wheat imports may edge up from last year's imports, it added.
 The private and public sectors imported 43.66 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2015-16, up 15 percent year-on-year, according to data from the food ministry.
 Low international prices and increased demand from food manufacturers buoyed imports of the grain, said industry operators.
 For the current fiscal year, the government plans to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat, up from an actual import of 4.16 lakh tonnes last fiscal year, according to official data.

Govt approves rail link with northeast India

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The government yesterday approved construction of the Akhaura-Agartala dual gauge railway link project aiming to improve connectivity and boost trade between Bangladesh and India.
 The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council or Ecne approved the part of the project that falls on the Bangladesh side, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
 The Bangladesh project will cost about Tk 477.81 crore, of which it will provide Tk 57.05 crore, while the rest will come as a grant from India.
 The rail link will improve Bangladesh's connectivity with the north-eastern states of India, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters after the Ecne meeting.
 The rail link will open up the markets of the north-eastern states for Bangladesh and ease the transport of goods and people; it will also cut transport time and costs, he added.
 The rail link is seen as a corridor of the Trans Asian Railway network and sub-regional connectivity, according to the railway ministry's proposal.
 During Hasina's visit to New Delhi in 2010, the two countries agreed to lay the 15.54km railway link between Akhaura and Agartala.
 A stretch of 10.54 kilometres of track will be on the Bangladesh side, while the rest will be on the Indian side. The railway tracks are estimated to be completed by 2017.
 The foundation stone for the Akhaura-Agartala rail track was laid in July.
 Land acquisition to lay the tracks has already started as funds have been released by the Indian government, said Harpal Singh, chief engineer of Northeast Frontier of Indian Railway.
 Currently, India and Bangladesh have four rail links with West Bengal, according to the Shillong Times.
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প্লোড নেয় চনকে চন

সাপোর্ট হেভি ডিউটি ব্যাক থাকলে যে কোন ভারের লোড নিতে পারবেন আরামে। প্রতিটি লেনফ ২.৫-২ টন ভর নেবার ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন। ইঁটপিল্লি, ওফারহোল্ডজ এবং নিউইল অর্ডিনেট সহজে ব্যবহার করা যায়।

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