

আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স

আপনার সংসার পোছানোর আসবাবপত্র, পিছা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জোগানপত্র কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।

• ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016, AGRAHAYAN 3, 1423 BS

Accord seeks to stay on beyond 2018

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The factory inspection agency of European apparel retailers -- Accord -- seeks to extend its stay in Bangladesh for another three years, to complete remediation of the factories.

The tenure of the five-year legally binding agency, which has been monitoring more than 700 garment factories, is scheduled to end in June 2018.

"But several of the Accord members are in discussion to extend the tenure as full remediation of the factories might not be possible by the set time," said Rob Wayss, Accord's executive director for Bangladesh operations, by phone.

Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said: "We do not want the Accord to stay here after expiry of the current tenure."

"The remediation is a continuous process. As per recommendations of the Accord and Alliance, we have done a lot of work," said Babu, after a meeting with the Accord and H&M local representatives at the BGMEA office yesterday.

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Robi, Airtel complete merger

Airtel brand name to continue for two years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

All the paperwork for the much-talked-about merger of Robi and Airtel was completed yesterday after the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms gave it the go-ahead.

The merger fee of Tk 100 crore and spectrum charge of about Tk 348 crore now need to be paid by November 28 for all the formalities to be complete.

"We are pleased to have reached the completion phase of the merger with Airtel," said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Robi.

Robi started the consolidation process; more than 200 executives of Airtel joined Robi, while around 137 will leave under a voluntary retirement scheme.

Robi will soon take control of all the business processes of Airtel.

Ahmed said the merger strengthens the long-term sustainability of the telecom landscape of Bangladesh and will secure faster nationwide rollout of mobile broadband as well as contribute significantly to the overall economy.

"The joint strengths of Robi and Airtel set the stage for creating the number one network and delivering the widest mobile network coverage across Bangladesh," Ahmed said.

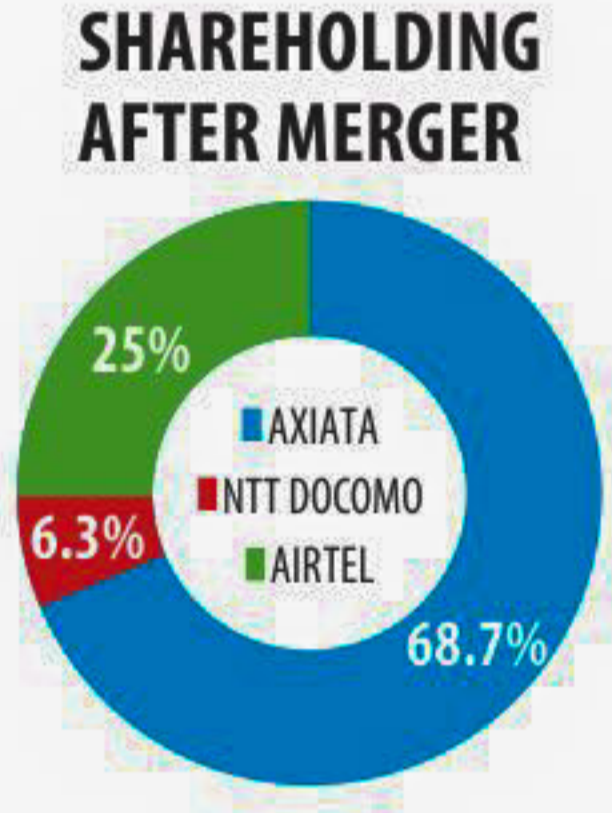
Bangladesh Investment Development Authority has recognised Robi as the company that has brought in the highest amount of foreign direct investment into the country in the last five years, Robi said in the statement.

"The merger will only embolden our shareholders to continue investing in the company in the coming years," Ahmed added.

As a committed investor with over two decades of presence in Bangladesh, Axiata supports Robi's efforts to bridge the digital divide and achieve the Digital Bangladesh aspiration, said Jamaludin Ibrahim, its president and group CEO.

Currently, there are 79.43 lakh active connections under the network of Airtel, for which the 016 prefix and the Airtel branding will be retained for the next two years at least.

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Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon and Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation Sayeed Khokon celebrate the first anniversary of Le Meridien Dhaka on Tuesday.

Survey to gauge understanding of budget next year: Muhith

Finance Division, Unicef publish booklet for children

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will conduct a survey next year on people's understanding of the national budget that is framed every year, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"We want to assess the level of understanding and people's interests," he said at the launch of a booklet -- Shishu Budget Patth Shohaika 2016-17 -- to help children understand the national budget easily, at CIRDAP in Dhaka.

The Finance Division under the finance ministry and Unicef jointly published the booklet for the first time, to increase participation in the budget making process among adolescent boys and girls and to help them see the relationship between the budget and their well-being.

The ministry expects the publication to generate more interests among children and pave the way for investing more resources to address their needs and rights in the days to come.

Muhith called upon children to share their ideas and recommendations on what they want for their development in the national budget.

"Share your thoughts and suggestions with us," he asked adolescent boys and girls who attended the programme.

Children will be able to submit their recommendations to the finance ministry through the ministry's website or by post, said Mahbub Ahmed, senior secretary of the Finance Division.

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Oil pipeline project to take off after 6-year delay

China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau gets \$550m contract

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved the draft commercial contract with a Chinese firm to set up the Single Point Mooring with Double Pipeline in Chittagong at a cost of \$550 million.

China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau will install the pipeline with Beijing's soft loan under a government-to-government deal.

This is among the 28 projects for which Beijing gave primary consent for soft financing during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Dhaka last month.

After the signing of the commercial contracts, a loan agreement will be signed with China's Exim Bank, an official of the energy ministry said. The process of implementing the project will finally start after a delay of six years.

As per the Chinese soft loan policy, Beijing nominated the company without the bidding process. The cabinet committee has awarded it under the "Quick Increase in Supply of Power (Special Provision) Bill".

Under the project, the single-point mooring installation will be built on Sonadia Island at deep sea, where large oil tankers will anchor.

As per the latest project design, a 36-inch pipeline will be built there to pump oil to a storage plant 32km away on the Matarbari Island in Maheshkhali. Earlier, the length was 16km.

There will be another 18-inch pipeline that will be 188km long, which was 94km long previously. One pipeline will pump crude oil and the other diesel.

At present, large tankers anchor at the deep sea and smaller ships unload and bring oil to state-run Eastern Refinery in Chittagong.

The process, called lightering, is an expensive and time-consuming operation. For instance, it takes 11 days to unload 1 lakh tonnes of oil.

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Bangladesh to see 72pc growth in e-commerce sales

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh will record 72 percent growth in e-commerce transactions in the coming days, given the unprecedented increase in internet use, according to a study.

"Based on the ongoing trend, it is not hard to anticipate that consumers of Bangladesh are going to do online shopping just like the consumers in Western countries and the Asia Pacific," said the study by Kaymu Bangladesh, a leading e-commerce company.

Bangladesh has become a potential market for global e-commerce giants thanks to its large young population and high rate of internet penetration.

The study has been conducted based on 10 percent exponential growth in e-commerce transactions for each passing quarter over the past couple of years.

Along with the growth of domestic market, countries like Bangladesh will also benefit from cross-border shipments, and leading logistics providers like DHL is investing in the sector to seize opportunities in the B2C (business to consumers) global e-commerce market.

The sustained growth of cross-border e-commerce, to a great extent, is dependent on the retailers' ability to meet the consumers' expectations of seamless service, delivery and return.

The primary driver of future e-commerce would be a sound logistics framework: better transportation, improved delivery experience, order management, inventory visibility and returns management.

The emerging markets will need to focus on these areas to ensure seamless service to its growing population of online shoppers.

About the imminent boost in the sector and how cross-border e-commerce can benefit Bangladesh, Nooruddin Chowdhury, country manager of DHL Global Forwarding Bangladesh, said the e-commerce industry has immense potential to grow.

"Many companies, local and global, are eyeing the country's emerging e-commerce market. This industry will need efficient shipment and warehouse management to cope with the growing demand of its customers soon," he added.

Bangladesh and other emerging markets are going to fuel the estimated annual global e-commerce growth rate of 28 percent, followed by Western Europe and North American countries.

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GP refuses to pay Tk 30cr fine for broadband service

Payment deadline expires

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Grameenphone refused to pay a fine of Tk 30 crore imposed by the telecom regulator for running a broadband internet business in a breach of rules.

The deadline for paying the fine ended yesterday, according to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, but instead of paying, the operator challenged the move in a letter to the commission.

A letter signed by Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone, said the notice did not provide any indication of how the BTRC determined the amount of fine.

In the letter, Grameenphone denied any wrongdoing by providing broadband internet service.

"Considering the issues mentioned in the notice issued by BTRC and assessing the fact and relevant laws, GP has exercised its statutory right and filed a discharge petition to BTRC declining the allegations," Hossain told The Daily Star.

On November 6, BTRC asked Grameenphone to pay Tk 30 crore in 10 days for providing broadband internet services under Go Broadband.

BTRC also fined two ISP operators—ADN Telecom and AGNI Systems Ltd (ASL), partners of Grameenphone in Go Broadband—Tk 5 lakh each.

BTRC officials said none of the ISPs paid the fine by the deadline.

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27th Annual General Meeting of SMC Held

Social Marketing Company (SMC) held its 27th Annual General Meeting on November 10, 2016 at the Company Head Office in Dhaka. The AGM placed and approved the Directors' Report and Auditor's Report for FY 2014-15, and appointed auditors for the Financial Year 2015-16.

Mr. Muhammed Ali, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Social Marketing Company, presided over the meeting. Board Directors and Company Members, Managing Director & CEO of SMC and Managing Director of SMC Enterprise Limited were also present in the meeting.

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