

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES											
DSEX	▼ 0.78%	Gold ▲	\$1,219.70 (per ounce)	MUMBAI ▲	0.05%	TOKYO ▲	0.02%	SINGAPORE ▼	0.07%	SHANGHAI ▼	0.59%	USD	79.05	EUR	84.03	GBP	97.32	JPY	0.68
	5,322.86	CSCX ▼	9,967.39	Oil ▲	\$56.81 (per barrel)							BUY TK	80.05		87.63		100.92		0.72

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



\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2017, MAGH 24, 1423 BS

## A fourth of Sonali's loans soured

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sonali Bank's woes are showing no signs of respite, with the latest data showing that more than one-fourth of its total loans have become default -- a development that is causing anxiety to both the finance minister and the central bank governor.

At the close of 2016, the country's second largest bank's default loans stood at Tk 10,247 crore against the total loans of Tk 38,431 crore. In other words, 26.66 percent of Sonali's loans have defaulted, up from 25 percent a year earlier.

The average amount of default loans in the banking sector is 10.34 percent, whereas it is 27 percent in Sonali, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir.

Also, of Sonali's 1,208 branches 370 are loss-making, according to Kabir.

"If we look at different indexes of Sonali

**সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**Sonali Bank Limited**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Profits down **50.98%** to Tk 424cr

**26.66%** loans have become default

**370** of **1,208** branches loss-making

Loan recovery down **52.75%** to Tk **1,288**cr

Bank there is not much scope for becoming optimistic," said Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the bank's annual conference, held yesterday at the Diploma Engineers' Institution in the capital.

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## Palak stresses cyber security for key govt agencies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has identified 21 of its agencies as critical infrastructure and attached high importance to protecting them from cyber attacks, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh are among them, he said at a seminar on cyber security at the NBR headquarters. Palak said disruption or destruction of these institutions would have a debilitating impact on public health and safety, commerce and national security.

"We have to frame laws and regulations considering all these and take preparations in line with that," said Palak, adding that a disaster recovery centre should be established to overcome any unwanted situation.

Palak shared the information at the event organised by the NBR, as the government aims to materialise its vision of a Digital Bangladesh by 2021 by ensuring increased use of IT.

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Chair of Telenor ASA Gunn Wærsted and President and CEO of Telenor Group Sigve Brekke lead a delegation of the group, including Grameenphone CEO Petter B Furberg, to meet with State Minister for Telecom Tarana Halim at her office in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed the current state of the telecom industry in Bangladesh and the opportunities for digital empowerment.

## Mobile messaging firm Infobip opens Dhaka office

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Short message services, particularly those carrying information on financial transactions, are not secure enough in Bangladesh, said ATM Mahbubul Alam, chairman of Wintel Ltd, the country's first mobile content provider.

"Sometimes the recipients don't receive SMS on time," he said. "There are delays for hours. SMSs also end up with wrong recipients."

To plug the security gap, Dhaka-based Wintel has partnered with Infobip, one of the leading cloud-based mobile messaging platforms in the world.

The London-based company has started

offering secured SMS services, especially on financial transactions.

Infobip opened its Dhaka office yesterday as a part of its plan to expand its footprint in Bangladesh and provide dynamic mobile services in the country.

Infobip has signed agreements with mobile phone operator Banglalink, private landline operator RanksTel and several banks.

"It will be our responsibility to protect the accountholders of banks from manipulated SMS. We are already providing the service to some banks," Matija Razem, vice-president for business development at Infobip.

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## DSE backs relaxed rules for brokers, merchant bankers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday urged the regulator to allow stockbrokers and merchant bankers to make share transactions in their clients' margin accounts for another year so that they could recoup the losses from the market crash of 2011.

The discretionary power, if the proposal gets through, will allow stockbrokers and merchant bankers to make buy-sell decisions without asking the clients for additional funds, in an effort to hold back the current downward trend in the market. Although the Dhaka bourse's key index and turnover hit record highs last month, it declined more than 6 percent in the last eight trading days.

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## BGMEA asks for a single inspection agency

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) wants a single agency rather than the three at present to inspect and monitor progress in remediation of garment factories.

The BGMEA has prepared a new guideline for the next phase of inspection of the apparel production units in a bid to reduce hassles and set a unified code of inspection.

All three inspection agencies apply different codes in inspection, and as a result, many owners face challenges in remedying their factories.

Currently, the Accord and the Alliance

-- the inspection agencies of European and North American retailers and brands -- and the National Initiative backed by the government are inspecting and suggesting remediation to boost workplace safety. The agencies are now trying to extend their tenure.

The tenure of the legally binding Accord and Alliance will come to an end in June 2018. This is why the BGMEA has prepared a draft guideline, which will be placed in a meeting on February 9 for finalisation.

"We are ready to place the draft with the inspection agencies," said Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, vice-president of BGMEA.

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# TIME TO HONOUR OUR BUSINESS LEADERS



The Daily Star - DHL Business Award declares its 16th year of recognising individuals and organisations in business who have achieved the highest and the most ethical business growth and have made significant contribution to the economy of Bangladesh.

Nominate the deserving persons and business organizations to be recognised by the most prestigious business award in Bangladesh.

**The categories of 2016 are:**

- ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR
- BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR
- OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

To send your nominations and for further details please log on to our websites:  
[www.dhl.com.bd/bba](http://www.dhl.com.bd/bba)  
or submit nominations via email to:  
[bbawards@dhl.com](mailto:bbawards@dhl.com)

**BBA Secretariat:**  
Molly Capita Centre (Level 5), 76, Bir Uttam Mir Showket Road Gulshan-1, Dhaka - 1212, Phone: +88 (02) 9895810 (Ext - 6007)

**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION:**  
**18TH FEBRUARY, 2017**



## MTB-DEG USD 20 MILLION TERM LOAN AGREEMENT

Borrower



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CLOSING CEREMONY

February 6, 2017

This announcement appears only as a matter of record