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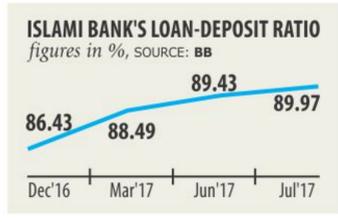
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Islami Bank lending aggressively

JEBUN NESA ALO
Islami Bank's new management has taken on a spirited approach to lending, with its loan-deposit ratio sitting dangerously close to the limit of 90 percent set by the central bank.
The new management took over at the beginning of the year, and in the following seven months, the bank's loan-deposit ratio surged 3.54 percentage points to 89.97 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.
The loan-deposit ratio is a commonly used statistic for assessing a bank's liquidity by dividing its total loans by its total deposits.
The spike in ratio has prompted the central bank to send a notice to Islami Bank, said a BB official.
As of July, the bank's total outstanding loans stood at Tk 62,924 crore, up 7.4 percent from December last year, according to data from the BB. During the period, its deposit grew 3.17 percent to Tk 69,938 crore.
"We have withdrawn our investments in bonds to make more funds available



for other sectors," said Arastoo Khan, chairman of Islami Bank.
The pullout from bonds was prompted by minimal returns, he said.
"As a result, the loan-deposit ratio of the bank became high," he said, adding that high lending will put the bank in good stead to log in 'good' profits in the third quarter of 2017.
Islami Bank, the largest and most profitable bank in Bangladesh, saw its profits slump 52.73 percent to Tk 161.27 crore in the first half of the year.
Moreover, the private sector credit growth is approaching 18 percent. "This reflects the rise in demand for credit in the market," Khan added.

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50 campaigns win digital marketing awards

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Fifty digital campaigns won the country's first Digital Marketing Award in recognition of their creative marketing and branding communication methods in businesses.
Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) honoured the winners in 13 categories for their last year's successful digital campaigns after the fourth Digital Marketing Summit, at Le Méridien Dhaka on Saturday.
At the event, 12 campaigns won the highest award Grand Prix, 22 won Gold and 16 received Silver awards.
The Grand Prix for Best Integrated Digital Campaign was awarded to "Aynabazi the Movie" executed by Melonades.

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Now IMF ready to provide funding for Rohingyas

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The International Monetary Fund is eager to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh, along the lines of the World Bank, to deal with the Rohingya crisis that has been putting a huge pressure on the economy.
"We are in close consultations with the authorities and we stand ready to provide assistance when and if

needed," said Kenneth Kang, deputy director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific department.
Kang's comments came on Saturday at a briefing on the Asia Pacific region, held on the sidelines of the WB-IMF annual meeting at Washington DC.
"It's reported that there are about 500,000 refugees who have entered into Bangladesh. At this stage, it's too early to conduct a proper assessment

of the economic impact," he added.
Since August 25, about 600,000 Rohingyas have crossed over to Bangladesh from Myanmar.
Bangladesh is struggling to meet their demand for food, clothing and other basic necessities, and with no solution to the problem in sight, the situation is fast becoming untenable for the country.

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HC puts a damper on Accord's plan to stay until 2021

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The High Court yesterday threw a spanner into the Accord's plan to stay on in Bangladesh until 2021 after it barred the agreement for three-year extension signed without the approval of the government until May 15 next year.
The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh is a five-year independent, legally binding agreement signed on May 15, 2013 between more than 200 retailers, mostly based in Europe, and trade unions designed to build a safe garment industry in the country.
It intends to stay on in the country for three years after its current agreement expires next year.

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Small fish farmers pay high interest for loans: study

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Small fish farmers have to pay a higher interest rate on credit than their larger peers as they have to borrow from NGOs and microfinance institutions (MFIs) owing to bankers' reluctance to provide finance without collateral, according to a study on aquaculture unveiled yesterday.
Carried out by the Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF), the study finds that more than 70 percent of small farmers borrow from relatives, NGOs and MFIs.
Only 24 percent of them could get loans from state-owned and private banks.
On the other hand, banks were sources of finance for a total of 65 percent of large and 48 percent of midsize aquaculture farmers, according to the study on "supports received by the aquaculture sector in Bangladesh: existing reality and scope for improvements".
"Small farmers remain in a disadvan-

tageous position in terms of credit," said Bazlul Haque Khondker, a professor at the department of economics at the University of Dhaka, while presenting the findings of the study at a workshop at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka.
The BSFF organised the event to disseminate the findings of the study on 450 aquaculture farms from 19 upazilas, covering all divisions.
Discussants demanded ensuring low-cost loans for farmers, aquaculture insurance, increased public investment and supply of quality fish fries and post larva to increase production of cultured fishes, which accounted for 56 percent of the total fish supply in fiscal 2015-16.
Participants said high cost and substandard feed are major problems for aquaculture farmers. Some 90 percent of farmers identified high price of fish as one of the most important problems, according to the study.

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Wartsila to supply engines for United's 200MW power plant

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Wartsila, a complete lifecycle solutions provider for the marine and energy markets, will supply engine for a 200-megawatt power plant of United Group being set up in Mymensingh.
The new plant will use the Finnish company's 21 engines that run on heavy fuel oil.

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