

# T-Mobile, Sprint say \$26b deal would give US tech lead over China

REUTERS

T-Mobile US Inc and Sprint Corp said on Sunday they had agreed to a \$26 billion all-stock deal and believed they could win over skeptical regulators because the merger would create thousands of jobs and help the United States beat China to creating the next generation mobile network.

The agreement capped four years of on-and-off talks between the third and fourth largest US wireless carriers, setting the stage for the creation of a company with 127 million customers that will be a more formidable competitor to the top two wireless players, Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc.

US regulators, who have challenged in court AT&T's \$85 billion deal to buy US media company Time Warner Inc, are expected to grill Sprint and T-Mobile on how they will price their combined wireless offerings.

Verizon has 116 million US wireless customers, according to a spokesman, while AT&T has 93 million branded customers, as of the first quarter.

Their first round of merger talks ended unsuccessfully in 2014 after the administration of then-US President Barack Obama expressed antitrust concerns.

The new deal will create the highest-capacity US network, lower prices, create jobs and improve service in rural areas, said John Legere, the chief executive of T-Mobile and the new head of the proposed combined company.

The combined company, which will be called T-Mobile, will invest \$40 billion over the next three years to upgrade its networks to accommodate the next generation 5G wireless technology, which is expected to have the speeds necessary to power drones and self-driving cars, Legere said in a statement.

The companies said during a conference call with analysts that the recent US tax overhaul would have a positive impact, and the combined company would not be a significant taxpayer until 2025.

T-Mobile and Sprint said they expected to complete their deal no later than the first half of 2019, an ambi-

tious goal given the intense US regulatory scrutiny it will be subjected to. T-Mobile will not be liable to pay Sprint a breakup fee should regulators block the deal, according to sources who asked not to be identified because that detail in their contract had not yet been made public. The companies said they expected US regulators would see the benefits of the deal.

"This isn't a case of going from four to three wireless companies - there are now at least seven or eight big competitors in this converging market," Legere said, referring to cable companies as wireless competitors. Other companies also would be forced to accelerate their investments in the face of a combined T-Mobile-Sprint, the companies added.

A spokeswoman for Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai declined to comment on Sunday on the proposed merger. The FCC will decide whether to grant the deal regulatory approval if it is in the "public interest," the spokeswoman added.



Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, CEO of NRB Commercial Bank, and Jayanta Kumar Sikder, company secretary of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC), exchange the signed documents of a deal at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka on April 26. The DPDC customers can now make post-paid and pre-paid electricity bill payments at the bank's branches.

## Large-cap shares drag Dhaka stocks down

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"The quarterly earnings of some listed companies have hurt investors' expectation, leading some of them to reshuffle portfolio," said Md Moniruzzaman, managing director of IDLC Investments.

He, however, said there is nothing to worry because many companies saw a rise in their earnings too. "So, the market will revive very soon."

Market insiders said the DSEX was pulled down by the huge sell pressure of ACI shares. In the January to March quarter, consolidated EPS of ACI was down 72.09 percent year-on-year to Tk 0.96.

In fact, it had been in the declining mood in the previous quarter as well, when the EPS fell 29.18 percent year-on-year to Tk 3.44.

"Overall, the quarterly earnings of the listed companies are not that bad. But at the time of earnings declaration, the index normally remains downturn," said Mir Ariful Islam, head of research of Prime Finance Asset Management Company.

Yesterday, the market started the day on a negative note, which continued until the end as investors remained cautious and adopted the wait-and-see approach, said EBL Securities in its daily market review.

The review said earnings declarations from several listed companies failed to meet investors' expectation.

Turnover, another important indicator

of the market, declined 8 percent to Tk 592.76 crore, with 15.49 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands.

Of the traded issues, 73 advanced, 227 declined and 37 closed unchanged.

Beximco dominated the turnover chart with its 1.53 crore shares worth Tk 48.54 crore changing hands, followed by Brac Bank, Square Pharma, Navana CNG and United Power Generation. Among the major sectors, banking dropped 1.7 percent, pharmaceuticals 1.47 percent and engineering 1 percent. Conversely, the shares of the textile sector rose 0.14 percent.

Queen South Textile was the day's best performer with a 9.97 percent gain, followed by Navana CNG, Miracle Industries, and Western Marine Shipyard. Bank Asia was the worst loser, shedding 12.44 percent.

As yesterday was the first trading day for the private bank after the record date of dividend declaration, there was no cap on how much it can go up or down.

Other major losers include Sonargaon Textile, Tosrif Industries, Premier Leasing, Aramit Cement and ACI. Chittagong stocks also fell yesterday as the bourse's key index, CSCX, shed 138.37 points or 1.3 percent to finish at 10,697.73.

Losers beat gainers as 49 advanced, 165 declined and 14 finished unchanged on the Chittagong Stock Exchange. The port city bourse traded 96.11 lakh shares and mutual fund units worth Tk 34.79 crore.

## US treasury chief cautiously optimistic on China trade talks

REUTERS, Washington

US and Chinese officials will hold highly anticipated trade talks in China on Thursday and Friday, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Fox Business Network, saying he was "cautiously optimistic" about the meeting.

Mnuchin said in an interview that aired on Monday that American officials planned to raise intellectual property rights, joint technology and joint ventures with Chinese officials.

"We're looking to have a very frank discussion on trade, on the issues of the trade imbalance," he said ahead of remarks due later on Monday at a conference in California. China has said it is open to trade negotiations with the United States after US President Donald Trump proposed imposing tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese exports and threatened additional tariffs of \$100 billion.

rest of the days." But, a good yield may not ensure fair prices to small and marginal farmers unless the government takes step to curb imports ahead of completion of harvests, he added.

The government has slashed the rice import duty to 2 percent in August last year from 10 percent to contain the soaring prices of the staple.

Owing to the huge import from India, many mills are yet to clear their stocks. "So, they are slow in buying," said KM Layek Ali, general secretary of the Bangladesh Auto Major and Husking Mills Association.

The prices of rice may drop further in the next two weeks owing to the increased arrivals of fresh harvest of dry season paddy, said Abdul Matin, a rice trader at Mohammadpur Krishi Market.



AKM Shaheed Reza, chairman of Mercantile Bank, presides over the bank's 19th annual general meeting at the Fars Hotel & Resorts in Dhaka yesterday. The bank approved 17 percent cash and 5 percent stock dividends for 2017. Kazi Masihur Rahman, CEO, was present.

## Power, infrastructure to get priority in upcoming budget: Muhith

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"The young generation pays tax willingly and their age limit is about 40 years. I think I will provide tax cards to all taxpayers. The higher taxpayers will get a tax card of a different colour," he said.

The minister said he plans to bring a good reform in the tax system on the basis of the young taxpayers.

On tax evasion, the finance minister said it happened not only in Bangladesh but also around the world. But the number of people evading tax is high in Bangladesh.

He also hinted at reviewing the interest rate of savings certificates as there was a big gap between bank deposit rates and that of savings certificates. At present, savings certificates offer an average interest rate of 12 percent while the bank deposit rate is 5.18 percent.

"Normally the savings certificate interest is one percentage point higher or slightly more than the bank deposit rate. But this time the difference is very large," he said, blaming the sudden liquidity crisis in banks for the gap.

The minister said the government was putting emphasis on large infrastructure projects, including those in the power sector.

So, big investors like Japan and China are coming to Bangladesh

and have started competing to get contracts, he said.

About China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd, Muhith said the government debarred the company from the Dhaka-Sylhet four-lane construction project for corruption. The company was engaged in corruption on getting the contract, he said.

The minister, however, said, "Though we have debarred China Harbour from the Dhaka-Sylhet highway project, we could not debar it from other projects due to engagement of many parties."

On investment, he said investments were still dependent on the banking system which was wrong.

He put emphasis on the capital market for investment as currently no specialised bank for investment existed in Bangladesh.

The DCCI president placed a budget proposal before Muhith, saying, "Our investment to GDP ratio needs to be increased from existing 29 percent to nearly 35 percent to accelerate development."

Liquefied natural gas is a short-term solution for meeting energy needs and its price must be fixed keeping in mind the competitiveness of industries and businesses, he said.

## Garment sector saw highest industrial disputes in 2017

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"We have settled hundreds of disputes from the BGMEA arbitration cell over the years," Rahman said, adding that the workers themselves have been going to the labour courts for resolving disputes.

However, the BILS in its survey did not mention how many dispute cases were settled either by the BGMEA arbitration cell or by the labour courts, he said.

The BILS also did not mention how much money was realised by the arbitration cell and by the labour courts so far to settle the disputes in the garment sector.

The Department of Labour, which is responsible for industrial dispute resolution, cannot act independently for different reasons, said Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of BILS.

In many cases, workers are not aware of the dispute mechanism or they do not know where to go for settling disputes.

He acknowledged the efficacy of the BGMEA arbitration cell.

"But it has been settling disputes at the individual level and not at the national level. Besides, dispute mechanism in the BGMEA arbitration cell despite being well recognised has no legal base."

Subsequently, he called for making the labour directorate effective such that workers of all industries can turn to for dispute resolution.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
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সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি।	
পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ ও তৎসহ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা ২০১৮-২০১৯ অর্থ সালের বিভিন্ন ধরনের ক্রয়, সেবা ও মেরামত কার্য সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তি ও নবায়নের জন্য আশ্রয়ী বাংলাদেশী সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফর্মে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
২. সংস্থা	ঃ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩. প্রকিউরিং ইনটিটির নাম	ঃ ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা।
৪. প্রকিউরিং ইনটিটির জেলা	ঃ ঢাকা।
৫. আহ্বানের উদ্দেশ্য	ঃ ঠিকাদার নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি ও নবায়ন।
৬. রেফারেন্স নং	ঃ স্মারক নং- প্রশাসন-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০০৯.০২.০০২.১৮-৭৫৩
৭. তারিখ	ঃ ৩০/০৪/২০১৮।
৮. প্রকিউরিং পদ্ধতি	ঃ সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)।
৯. বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস	ঃ রাজস্ব।
১০. আবেদন পত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ ০১/০৫/২০১৮ তারিখ হইতে ১৬/০৫/২০১৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়। প্রশাসন শাখাঃ (প্রকিউরমেন্ট), ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ভবন (২য় তলা), পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ৬ ফিনিক্স রোড, ফুলবাড়ীয়া, ঢাকা।
১১. আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ ১৭/০৫/২০১৮ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অতিঃ পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন), পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা এর অফিস রুমের বাহিরে রক্ষিত বক্সে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
১২. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ এআইজি (প্রশাসন) এর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা।
১৩. আবেদনপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১৭/০৫/২০১৮ তারিখ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় অতিঃ পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন) এর অফিস কক্ষ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা। (আবেদনকারীদের সম্মুখে-যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)
১৪. আবেদনকারীর যোগ্যতা (সকল কাগজপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে)	ঃ ক. হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ. হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট, গ. ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ঘ. ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (০১ বছরের লেনদেন বিবরণীসহ) (উল্লেখ্য যে, ক্রমিক ক. ও খ. এর ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনের সাথে ২০১৭-২০১৮ অর্থ সালের প্রত্যয়ন সংযুক্ত করা যাবে তবে ২০১৮-২০১৯ অর্থ সালের প্রত্যয়ন সমূহ হালনাগাদ হওয়ার সাথে সাথে অত্র কার্যালয়ে জমা দিতে হবে।)
১৫. কাজের সর্বক্ষণ বিবরণ	ঃ (ক) আসবাবপত্র ক্রয় ও মেরামত (৬৮২১ ও ৪৯০৬), (খ) "ভবন ও অবকাঠামো নির্মাণ এবং মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ" কাজ (৭০১৬ ও ৪৯৯১), (গ) যন্ত্রপাতি ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জাম ক্রয় ও মেরামত (৬৮১৩ ও ৪৯১৬), (ঘ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও মেরামত (৪৮৮৮ ও ৪৯১১), (ঙ) মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাই এবং বইপত্র ও সামগ্রিকী ক্রয় (৪৮২৭ ও ৪৮৩১) (চ) ক্রেস্ট, নেমপ্লেট, অনারবোর্ড তৈরী ও অনার বোর্ডে নাম লেখা ও অন্যান্য ক্রয় (৪৮৯৯), (ছ) অনুষ্ঠান/উৎসবাদি ও খেলার সামগ্রী ক্রয় (৪৮৯০ ও ৪৮৩৪), (জ) পোশাক সেলাই ও পোশাক সামগ্রী ক্রয় (৪৮৩৬)।
১৬. আবেদন ফরমের মূল্য	ঃ ৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা) মাত্র।
১৭. তালিকাভুক্তির ফি	ঃ ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (ভাট ব্যতিত)।
১৮. তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন ফি	ঃ ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (ভাট ব্যতিত)।
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(ক) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (খ) আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার দিন কোন কারণে বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্য-দিবসে একই সময় আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।	
(মোঃ মিলন মাহমুদ, বিপিএম) বিপি-৭৭০৫১০২৪৬৫ এআইজি (প্রশাসন), পক্ষে/ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা। ফোনঃ ৯৫৬১৪১৪ ফ্যাক্সঃ ৯৫৬৪২১০ E-mail: aigadmin@police.gov.bd	
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