

WiMax on brink of extinction

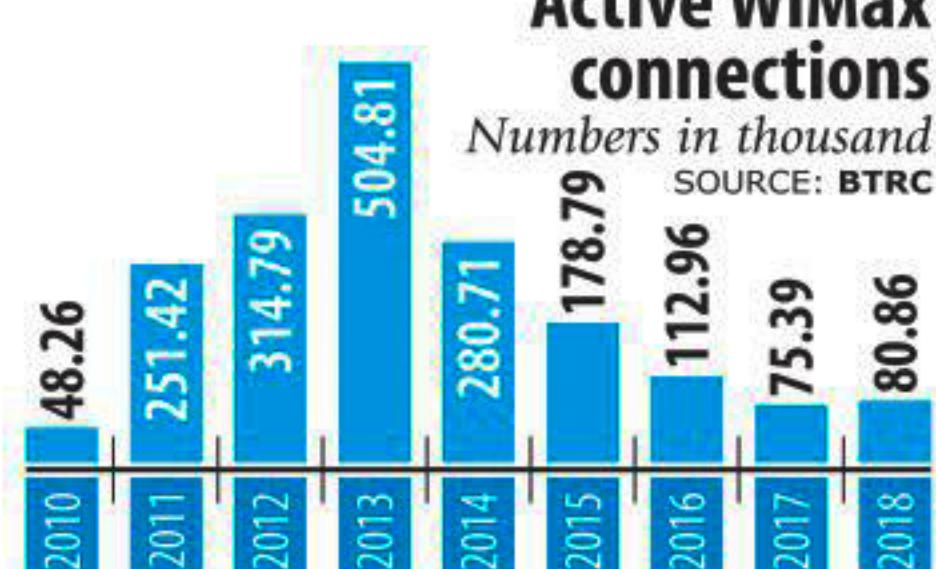
MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Once a popular wireless broadband service, WiMax is on the brink of extinction in Bangladesh as operators lost 84 percent of their customers in the last five years and failed to make profits amid the onslaught of high-speed mobile internet.

A decade ago two operators -- Banglalion and Qubee -- were awarded WiMax (worldwide interoperability for microwave access) licences at a fee of Tk 215 crore each. Since then, both spent more than Tk 2,000 crore in total on network and customer acquisition.

The number of users reached a peak of 5.05 lakh in June 2013, just before mobile phone operators rolled out 3G service.

The number plummeted to 80,860 at the



end of June this year and fell by another 10,000 on August 30 when Qubee announced parting with individual subscribers to focus on enterprise business.

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BB issues guideline on unclaimed deposits

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bank yesterday said unclaimed bank deposits would be transferred to the government account if no demand is received for refund of the inoperative deposit for 12 years.

Deposits and assets at banks not claimed by anyone for 10 years are considered unclaimed, according to guidelines released by Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Banks will have to submit the unclaimed fund and asset to the central bank first and two years later the BB will transfer those to the government account.

Before submitting the fund and assets to the BB, commercial banks will have to send a registered letter through the post office to the client's address mentioned in their accounts. Clients will have to be given three months to reply to the letter.

If clients do not give any feedback, banks will have to submit such funds and assets to the central bank in April of every calendar year.

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LINKING POS TERMINALS WITH BB PLATFORM Banks get more time

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday ordered banks to connect their point of sales (POS) terminals with the National Payment Switch Bangladesh by December 2019.

Banks were earlier asked to connect their

POS terminals with the domestic ATM sharing network governed by the banking regulator by December 2017.

The deadline extension came as many banks are yet to comply with the instruction of the central bank, said a BB official.

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