

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.32%	▲ 0.18%	\$1,226.20 (per ounce)	\$71.63 (per barrel)	▲ 0.70%	▲ 1.82%	▲ 0.91%	▼ 0.22%	BUY TK 82.90	93.94	108.20	0.71
5,259.11	9,753.29			35,237.68	22,486.92	3,093.24	2,635.63	SELL TK 83.90	97.74	112.00	0.75

মুনাফার সাথে আস্থাতাও বেশি

বেশি মুনাফা 1%

এসআইবিএল সুপার সেভিংস একাউন্ট

পঞ্চানন-উর্ধ্ব সিনিয়র সিটিজেনদের জন্য। ১৮-উর্ধ্ব মহিলারাও এই হিসাবটি খুলতে পারবেন।

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Govt gets keys of Bangabandhu Satellite

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM
Bangladesh was yesterday handed over the keys of Bangabandhu Satellite-1 by its manufacturer Thales Alenia Space, meaning the government can finally start monetising the Tk 2,765.66 crore-project.

The government plans to earn foreign next week with transmission of state-run satellite television channel BTv.

A high delegation of Thales Alenia Space handed over the transmission and operation management of the country's first-ever communications satellite to the government last evening at the Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company



Bangabandhu-1, the country's first communication satellite, was launched on a Falcon-9 rocket of SpaceX from Cape Canaveral, Florida on May 11.

currency as well as save them by selling the satellite's transponders to other countries and getting the local television channels to telecast their services through it.

Currently, there are 37 satellite television channels in Bangladesh and they shell out about \$14 million every year to use other countries' satellites for broadcasting.

The government has decided to start the satellite's commercial services as early as

Limited (BCSCL) office.

Mustafa Jabbar, telecom and ICT minister; Shyam Sunder Sikder, telecom secretary; Md Jahirul Haque, acting chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission; and Md Mesbahuzzaman, Bangabandhu Satellite-1 project director, signed the documents for formally receiving the satellite's management.

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68pc Bangladeshis pay no income tax: CPD survey

85pc say better public services will motivate people to pay taxes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 68 percent of the population do not pay tax despite having taxable income, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The independent think-tank carried out a survey earlier this year among 1,200 people with taxable income and found only 32 percent had paid income tax the previous year.

And 25 percent of the survey participants belonged to the affluent class but did not pay tax, according to the study report 'Potential of Personal Income Tax in Bangladesh: An Examination of Survey Data'.

"However, this does not mean that those who have paid tax have not evaded tax," said Towfiqul Islam Khan, senior research fellow of the CPD, presenting the findings of the study at an event held at the Khazana Gardenia Hall in Dhaka yesterday.

The event discussed the mobilisation of development finance for Bangladesh and its utilisation challenges.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun presented the findings of another study that explored whether Bangladesh can do without foreign aid.

Khatun summarised that aid has significant positive impact at the micro level and the flow of aid in strategic areas is critical for



Md Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan, centre, chairman of the NBR; AB Mirza Azizul Islam, third from left, former caretaker government adviser, and Fahmida Khatun, second from left, executive director of CPD, attend a dialogue at the Khazana Gardenia Hall in Dhaka yesterday.

social development. The health sector is particularly benefitted from aid.

But, aid has minimal impact on Bangladesh's economic growth.

While Khatun focused on the need for improvements in project design, implementation, management and removal of bureaucracy among donor agencies and the government, Khan said revenue mobilisation has become important for financing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tax-GDP ratio in Bangladesh was 9 percent in fiscal 2016-17, which is far below the developing country average of 15 percent of GDP, he said.

Some 85 percent of the survey respondents believe that increased provision and quality public services will induce people to pay taxes.

The survey found that 75 percent of the respondents feel that the tax system inherently favours the elite and 65 percent believe corruption

is prevalent in the taxation system. Nearly half of the respondents find the tax system overly complex, Khan said, while calling for incentives to encourage the lower income households to become taxpayers.

"People's perception towards tax policy formulation needs to change to positive," he said, while recommending framing of tax policies in a participatory and transparent manner.

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SMEs still under-utilised Experts say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The potential of small and medium enterprises is yet to be fully utilised in Bangladesh although they have the ability to create numerous jobs and increase contribution to the gross domestic product, a study finds.

The contribution of SMEs to the GDP is only 20.25 percent in Bangladesh whereas it stands at 80 percent in India, 15 percent in Pakistan, 60 percent in China and 69.50 percent in Japan.

The share of SMEs in all enterprises is 80 percent in Bangladesh. It is 97.60 percent in India, 60 percent in Pakistan, 99 percent in China and 99.70 percent in Japan, according to the study.

Mohammad Saleh Jahur, a professor of accounting and finance at Chittagong University, conducted the study.

He shared the findings at a seminar on "The role of SMEs in the national economy -- the case of Japan and how Bangladesh should go ahead" at Banani Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh has 17,384 micro enterprises, 15,666 small ones, 6,103 medium and 3,639 large scale enterprises where a total of 5.02 million people are engaged.

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Control by a few detrimental to banks

Finds a BIBM research

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ownership of a number of banks by a few individuals and families has contributed to the deterioration of corporate governance in the banking industry and erosion of competitiveness of local lenders, a study said.



Analysts take part in a banking conference organised by the BIBM at its auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. The conference concluded yesterday.

The country's financial sector has recently seen a drastic monopolisation in the banking industry, which could lead to detrimental consequences for the overall competitiveness in the sector, according to a research paper of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).

"In the process, bankers, businessmen and politicians join forces in an unholy trinity that engages in unscrupulous activities," it said.

The paper, titled 'Governance and Competitiveness: An Economic Analysis of the Banking Sector of Bangladesh', was authored by Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, and Syed Yusuf Saadat, research associate of the think-tank.

Saadat yesterday presented the paper at a banking conference organised by the BIBM at its auditorium in Dhaka.

In recent years, the banking sector has been plagued by a plethora of problems, which include non-performing loans, financial crimes and bank heists.

The situation has worsened further as businesses have set their sights on taking over banks.

"In 2017, a single business group gained control of more than seven private banks. Following this development, there were major changes in the top management of these banks," Saadat said.

Last year two private banks had multiple directors from the same family, while another commercial bank had six directors from a single family -- a situation that has undermined governance in the financial institutions.

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NEWSIN brief

Cut-off price of ADN set at Tk 30

Institutional investors yesterday set the price through bidding to purchase each share of ADN Telecom at Tk 30. They will purchase 35.62 crore shares of the telecom service provider. General investors will buy 21.37 crore shares at Tk 27 each. ADN will use the proceeds of the initial public offering for infrastructure development, construction of data centre and bank loan repayments.

BSCCL downgraded to B category

Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday downgraded Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd to "B" category as the company has approved 5 percent dividend last year. To remain in "A" category, every company has to declare at least 10 percent dividend every year. Stock brokers and merchant bankers have also been requested to abstain from providing loan facilities for the purchase of the company's share in the first 30 trading days after the change of categorisation, with effect from November 11.

Tk 4,552cr procurement proposals approved

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved 13 procurement proposals worth Tk 4,552 crore of various ministries and divisions, including helicopters for Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and construction of flats for government employees.

Nasima Begum, additional secretary to the cabinet division, briefed reporters after the meeting at the division—where the go-aheads came from—with Finance Minister AMA Muhiht in the chair.

Two helicopters will be purchased from Russia for the BGB under a government-to-government arrangement for Tk 417.84 crore. Russian Helicopters will supply the choppers.

The committee also okayed another proposal for construction of three 20-storey buildings at CGS

Colony in Agrabad of Chattogram for government employees at a cost of Tk 110.83 crore.

GKB and Friends International, a joint venture company, won the tender as the lowest bidder for constructing the buildings, which will contain 228 flats.

Another proposal approved by the committee was for Kusholi Nirmata Ltd to construct six 13-storey buildings at Tejgaon in Dhaka at a cost of Tk 130.92 crore. There will be 288 flats of two sizes -- 800 square feet and 650 square feet.

The committee approved a proposal to import 50,000 tonnes of wheat at \$291.93 per tonne. Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprise Ltd will supply the wheat.

China First Metallurgical Group Co Ltd has got a work to set up 53 deep tube wells and do associated work for Dhaka Water Supply and

Sewerage Authority under a Tk 220.49 crore project.

Silvan Technology Ltd has been awarded the work to supply 17,414 distribution transformers at a cost of Tk 100.47 crore to Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board.

Three separate companies have landed three parts of work packages for upgrading the Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur highway to four-lane for Tk 2,110.85 crore. The job went to Abdul Monem Ltd, CPC-Tentia and a KMC-Monico Joint venture.

The committee also okayed a proposal for import of 1.25 lakh tonnes of fertiliser at a cost of Tk 413 crore.

Foreign and local manpower have been increased at the construction site of Padma Multipurpose Bridge which will increase the cost to Tk 562 crore from an earlier estimate of Tk 383 crore.

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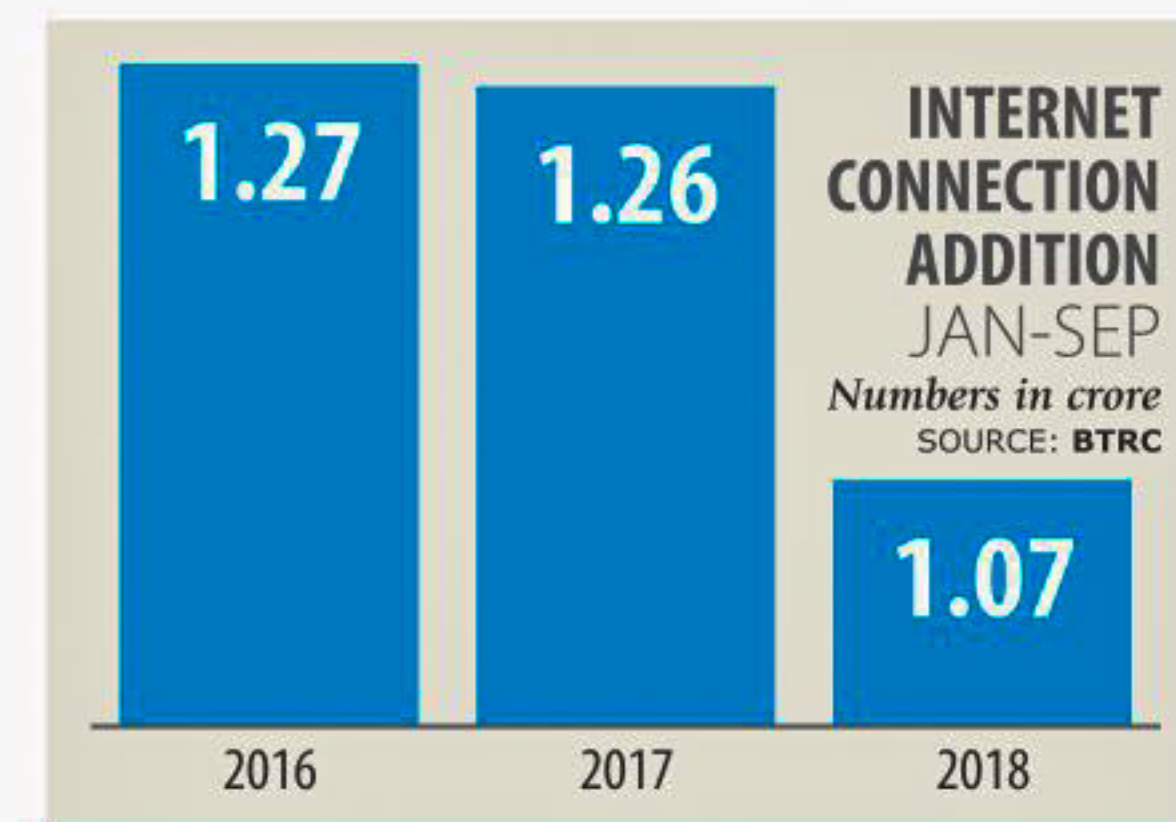
Internet penetration slows in 4G era

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The growth of internet in the first nine months of the year has been the lowest in three years despite the roll out of the faster 4G mobile data service in February.

Between the months of January and September, 1.07 crore active internet connections were added, down 15.08 percent from a year earlier, according to a report of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission published on Thursday. With the new additions, the total number of active internet connections at the end of September was 9.12 crore. Of them, 93.63 percent are using mobile internet and 6.29 percent fixed broadband.

When the 3G service was launched in 2013, the telecom industry saw exponential growth, according to industry insiders. But the same shift was not seen when 4G service



was introduced.

"Smartphones and internet-enabled handsets are a prerequisite for the growth of mobile internet users," said Sayed Talat Kamal, head of external communications of Grameenphone, the country's leading mobile operator.

In 2018, Grameenphone, which has 3.63 crore internet subscribers, has seen a slower uptake of smartphones, which has impacted mobile internet usage growth, he added.

The government has revised upwards the duty structure for mobile handsets and increased the taxes on different segments, which impacted the internet adoption rate.

The quality of 60 percent of the handsets in Bangladesh is poor, said Shahed Alam, head of corporate and regulatory affairs at Robi.

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