

Affordable spectrum key to expanding digital connectivity: experts

Int'l symposium on spectrum management begins in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ensuring affordable spectrum is crucial for expanding digital connectivity and fostering economic growth, said M Emdad Ul Bari, chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

He made this remark at the inauguration of a three-day international symposium on spectrum management in Dhaka yesterday.

He emphasised that high spectrum prices could burden service providers, potentially hampering infrastructure expansion and service quality.

The symposium, organised by the BTRC, brings together key stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The event features participation from over 200 representatives, including heads of regulatory bodies, telecom operators, government officials, and ICT experts from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Iran, Australia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, Myanmar, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Tonga, and Laos.

Several associate members of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) are attending the event, including representatives from Singapore's CISO and INMARSAT, GSMA (Hong Kong), Japan's KDDI Corporation, the Global Satellite Operators Association, Amazon,



Meta, Starlink, Qualcomm India, Huawei Technologies, Telenor Asia, Australia's Palace Consulting, and Japan's National Institute of Communication and Technology.

The BTRC chairman further said that APT is closely collaborating with member countries, industry leaders, and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive spectrum roadmap.

This initiative will enhance spectrum management strategies, pricing policies, regulatory frameworks, and regional coordination efforts.

Stressing the importance of long-term investment, he warned that ineffective spectrum management could impose financial burdens on service providers, hindering infrastructure expansion and service quality improvement.

Md Mushfiqur Rahman, secretary of the Posts and Telecommunications Division, emphasised the rarity and value of radio spectrum.

He said efficient spectrum use is vital for a nation's socio-economic and technological advancement.

He added that APT member countries

could leverage this symposium to exchange technological insights and maximise the telecom sector's potential.

APT Secretary General Masanori Kondo underscored the significance of the symposium for policymakers, telecom regulators, and technology firms involved in spectrum management.

The discussions will generate valuable perspectives on national spectrum strategies, spectrum roadmaps, and regulatory policies, contributing to effective policy formulation, he added.

The symposium aims to evaluate outcomes from the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) in Dubai and discuss emerging ICT innovations and regional cooperation in spectrum management.

Key topics include national spectrum strategy and digital connectivity, spectrum policy considerations for rural and remote connectivity, spectrum valuation and roadmap development, and best practices in spectrum management among APT member countries.

The event aligns with the APT's Strategic Plan 2024-2026, which prioritises a favourable regulatory environment for spectrum use in the Asia-Pacific region. The plan emphasises ensuring spectrum availability for new applications, enhancing spectrum efficiency, and fostering regional and global cooperation.

Sustainable agriculture crucial for food security: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sustainable agriculture has become an urgent necessity for ensuring food security, protecting the environment, safeguarding the well-being of farmers in Bangladesh, and increasing exports of agricultural products, according to experts and policymakers.

"Sustainable agriculture is not just about increasing productivity – it is about ensuring environmental balance, soil fertility, and climate resilience," said Abu Noman Faruq Ahmed, a professor of Plant Pathology at the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University yesterday.

He made the comment while presenting a paper during a focus group discussion organised by Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD).

Faruq stressed the importance of integrating stewardship principles into national pesticide policies to enhance sustainability.

"To ensure sustainable agriculture, it is necessary to raise awareness among farmers and ensure best practices in pesticide use," he remarked.

All agricultural inputs – including fertilisers and pesticides – should be used at justifiable levels, he added.

The discussion, held at BUILD's conference room in Dhaka, centred on revising the Pesticide Regulations 2024 and improving stewardship initiatives – programmes that aim to improve how resources are managed and used – to minimise the environmental and health risks associated with chemical pesticides.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Economic stress erodes

FROM PAGE B1

Azam J Chowdhury said medium-sized businesses suffered the most due to limited product diversity.

Large corporates are comparatively in a better position for their diverse portfolio and huge market base, said Chowdhury, who is also managing director of MJL Bangladesh Ltd.

"The law-and-order situation was not up to standard after the regime change, with random movements on roads and labour unrest at many firms causing disruptions in supply chains and logistics management," said Rizwan Rahman, managing director of ETBL Securities & Exchange Ltd.

As a result, profits were impacted, he said. "The country remains in a high-inflation environment, which has affected consumer consumption, especially

for fast-moving consumer goods producers," Rahman added.

The country's inflation fell to 9.94 percent in January from 10.89 percent in December, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), but has remained above 9 percent since March 2023.

BUSINESS CLIMATE MAY REMAIN DULL

Regarding the current business scenario, Rahman, a former president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said business activity in the current quarter may remain sluggish.

"Until a democratically elected government comes to power, businesspeople are operating very cautiously," he added.

On the other hand, the government recently raised value-added tax (VAT), which may further impact people's purchasing power. At the

same time, businesspeople do not have adequate confidence in the law-and-order situation, which could affect business in the second half of the current fiscal year, he added.

An analysis of business trends found that the past two years have been a rollercoaster ride for businesses, with some companies soaring to new heights while others faced staggering declines. The most significant struggles were seen in the mutual fund sector, followed by the construction sector.

THE COMEBACK KINGS

Power Grid Bangladesh PLC emerged as the biggest turnaround story, moving from a deep loss of Tk 50 crore in the January-March period of 2023 to an astounding profit of Tk 398 crore in the October-December period of 2024.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Square Pharma's

FROM PAGE B1

The latest purchase will increase his stake by 0.2 percent.

Overall, sponsors or directors held 42.91 percent of the shares of the drug manufacturer, followed by 27.67 percent held by the public.

Foreign and institutional investors held 15.54 percent and 13.88 percent stakes respectively in Square Pharmaceuticals at the end of January this year.

The pharma producer and exporter's net profit rose 26 percent year-on-year to Tk 660 crore in the October-December period of the 2024-25

fiscal year.

The higher income from investments and increased profits from associated companies helped Square Pharmaceuticals achieve a rise in earnings.

During the first half of the financial year 2024-25, Square Pharmaceuticals recorded a profit of Tk 1,269.64 crore, up 13 percent year-on-year, according to its financial statement for the second quarter.

Despite increased earnings, shares of the drug maker declined 2.76 percent to Tk 214.9 today from Tk 221 three months ago.

Bangladesh, IMF

FROM PAGE B1

In December last year, upon completion of the third review, Chris Papageorgiou, the chief of the IMF's visiting staff mission, had said the proposal for the fourth tranche would be submitted before the IMF executive board on February 5.

However, the multilateral lender shifted the initial board meeting for the fourth tranche, which is likely to be \$645 million, from February 5 to March 12.

After Papageorgiou

visited Bangladesh from December 3 to 18 last year, the IMF said in a statement, "We are pleased to announce that the IMF team reached a staff-level agreement with the Bangladesh authorities on the policies needed to complete the third review under the ECF, EFF, and RSF arrangements. The IMF's Executive Board will consider completion of the review based on the implementation by the authorities of prior actions."

Funding shortfall threatens

FROM PAGE B1

sustainable finance and refinancing schemes, but emphasised the need for further fiscal, budgetary, and monetary reforms to expand renewable energy financing.

Tashmeem Muntazir Chowdhury, head of sustainable finance at BRAC Bank, pointed out that domestic banks struggle to fund large-scale renewable projects, urging greater involvement from international development partners.

Mostafa Al Mahmud, president of the Bangladesh

Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, stressed Bangladesh's vast potential for small-scale renewable initiatives like rooftop solar set-ups.

However, he lamented the financial constraints that pose a major hurdle to progress. "In some cases, we have to pay 72 percent tax on imported items, which is a major barrier for the renewable energy sector," said Mahmud.

Ragib Ibnul Asif, deputy director of the central bank's Sustainable Finance Department, underscored the importance of raising

awareness among bank officials about the benefits of renewable energy to encourage increased funding.

He also highlighted the need to find other financial sources, such as the bond market.

The seminar was moderated by Zahid Rahman, senior project coordinator of Unnayan Shamannay, and featured open discussions with representatives of banks and NBFIs, renewable energy entrepreneurs, researchers, and university students.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Rangpur
Tel: 02589962357
e-mail: ee_rngpr@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No: 25.36.8500.110.00.00.00.25.5742 Date: 18/02/2025

INVITATION FOR e-GP TENDER

| SL NO | e-GP Tender ID & Reference No | Name of work | Tender Proposal Closing Date and time |
|-------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1077592, PWD/Rang/ Novo/ heatre/EM GD-2 | Construction of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre, Rangpur (Sub-Head: Installation of Force Ventilation System with VRF Air Conditioning System at Office Block and Central Air Conditioning System at Planetarium Block) | 19-Mar-2025 12:09 |
| 2 | 1077742, PWD/Rang/Novo/ WD-5.3 | Construction of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre, Rangpur (Sub-Head: Rain Water Harvesting) | 05-Mar-2025 12:02 |

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender please register on in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

(মোঃ সাকিল আলম)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, রংপুর।
ee_rngpr@pwd.gov.bd

GD-465

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, ঝালকাঠি।
E-mail: eejha@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৪২৪০.৪৩২.০৪.০২২.২১-২৯৬ তারিখঃ ১৮/০২/২০২৫

"সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৩য় পর্যায়)"

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, ঝালকাঠি কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম অত্র দপ্তর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/ প্রতিষ্ঠান মনি রিসিট এর মাধ্যমে ১,০০০/- (একহাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করতঃ নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। উক্ত ডকুমেন্ট সঠিকভাবে পূরন করে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ১০/০৩/২০২৫ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহবান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতোপূর্বে অত্র দপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি বাবদ টাকা ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) + ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ বিনা জরিমানায় আগামী ২০/০৩/২০২৫ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদানপূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(শাহরিয়ার শরীফ খান)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৪৭
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, (চঃদাঃ)
সড়ক বিভাগ, ঝালকাঠি।

GD-461