

# Internet connections cross 5cr mark

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

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The number of active internet connections increased 5 percent to 5.07 crore in July from the previous month, according to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

Of the connections, around 4.92 crore are linked with mobile networks, 1.47 lakh with WiMax and 12.93 lakh with internet service providers or land phones.

Since June, around 23.6 lakh new internet connections have been added, most of which are based on mobile internet connections, BTRC statistics show.

However, the telecom regulator has no data on the number of existing internet users.

The number of active internet connections crossed the four-crore mark in August last year, up from three crore in August 2012.

The growth in the number of connections is an indicator of development for the sector, said TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh

Internet has become a basic need for the users, and the industry will see a good growth when the fall in bandwidth prices will start showing its impact, Kabir said.

The number of active mobile connections also increased 1.5 percent to 12.87 crore in July from June, as the tax on SIM card has been cut to Tk 100 from Tk 300, industry insiders said.

Market leader Grameenphone has the highest number of users, 5.39 crore.