

# Star BUSINESS

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## Gala evening honours corporate heroes

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The evening of March 14, 2003 belonged entirely to them -- four exceptional personalities who were awarded for their individual and organisational success, their vision, and their enterprising spirit; persons who were recognised for their unique individual and organisational contribution to corporate Bangladesh.

Accompanied by the inspiring motto of 'Bringing Global

Corporate Standards to Bangladesh', Bangladesh Business Awards 2002 was announced in four categories Friday evening. Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman gave away the crests, as chief guest, at a grand gala function in the Ballroom of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, initiated the event by paying tribute to the "nation-builders" -- business leaders who create wealth and

generate employment for the country. "Unless the country develops and economy grows, we have no possibility of making ourselves a worthy member of the global community," he emphasised.

Mahmudur Rahman acted as the anchor person of the event and placed the onus of declaring the names of the award winners on previous years' winners.

Stephen Fenwick, area director, South Asia-Indo China of DHL

Worldwide Express, mentioned the success of similar awards in Dubai and Singapore and went on to highlight that such an event in Bangladesh can contribute positively towards the country's development. Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL, wrapped up the evening with vote of thanks to the people involved on- and off-stage in making the evening a success.

Through these awards, co-sponsors, The Daily Star and DHL, are endeavoring to create an envi-

ronment of excellence and competitiveness which will drive members of the business community to greater heights of productivity, efficiency, financial discipline and modern management -- eventually making Bangladesh a capable partner of the global economy.

The selection process followed by the sponsors to identify winners was appreciated by the finance minister. Initial nominations are sought from the public at large via drop-boxes and direct mail; candi-

dates are then researched and screened by a core team before placed for consideration by the jury panel. Comprised of leading intellectuals, businesspersons, academics, lawyers, financial experts with high social standing, the independent jury board selects deserving candidates who balance outstanding performance with personal integrity. It is because of this clear and structured procedure that the Award has been able to carve out a respectable name for itself.

## The four who win Bangladesh Business Awards 2002

### Business Person of the Year

Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Group, received the 'Business Person of the Year 2002' award. He is one of the pioneers who turned the loss-making leather sector into a key foreign currency earner. Today, Apex Tannery and Apex Footwear are worth Tk 600 million and Tk 161 million, respectively, in terms of capital employing over

2,000 people and exporting Tk 2.3 billion annually. In its attempt to remain competitive, Apex has repeatedly upgraded its equipment straight from the gurus in leather technology in Tuscany, Italy.

At the award ceremony, Elahi was his usual eloquent self. He appreciated the positive role the government has played in formulating the right policies for the leather sector and highlighted the local value added by the sector a phenomenal figure of 95 per cent. He thanked his wife for supporting him to leave a comfortable corporate job and delve into uncertain initiatives. Despite the admittedly "dirty and obnoxious" nature of his business, Elahi painted a bright future for Bangladeshi leather abroad.



Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Group

### Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year

Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairman of Adcomm Limited, was awarded the honor of being 'Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2002'. She started her own business in an era when few women dared to venture out into the entrepreneurial world.

From a small office, Adcomm has expanded today to one of the



Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairman of Adcomm Limited

top-tier advertising agencies in Bangladesh with the group's annual turnover amounting to Tk 50 crore and generating employment for about 300. It is affiliated with renowned international agencies like Bates Worldwide, and Lowe, Lintas and Partners.

Signage, the digital printing house, Screaming Girl, production house, Art of Noise, recording studio, and Marka, an ad firm, are all supportive hands for Adcomm to make it a complete house. The journey definitely does not

come to an end with Adcomm. There are still many things to be done. "I want to build Adcomm to be recognised as a world class advertising and communication solution provider", Geeteara promised.

### Enterprise of the Year

Micro Electronics Limited was awarded the 'Enterprise of the Year 2002' award for its courageous and, now successful, venture of home-grown electronic products in a



Hasina Doula, managing director of Micro Electronics Limited

market where imported goods have traditionally been the pre-

ferred choice. Shattering all prevailing perception, Micro has successfully become a worthy name in electronic appliances generating annual turnover to the tune of Tk 36 crore. Hasina Doula, managing director of Micro Electronics Limited, received the award with tearful memories of her late husband Mofid Doula, original founder of the award-winning company. She vividly narrated their initial struggles together in establishing their fledgling enterprise.

Today the product portfolio of the company includes emergency power supply (EPS), voltage stabiliser, remote control system, road traffic and railway signalling systems and sodium light. The company's products have already crossed national borders and are now found in Singapore and north-eastern states of India.

### Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year

The first ever recipient of the newly introduced award category, 'Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year', was GrameenPhone Ltd. An alliance amongst Grameen Telecom of Bangladesh, Telenor ASA of Norway, Marubeni Corporation of Japan and Gonofone Development Corporation of USA,



Ola Ree, managing director, GrameenPhone Ltd

GrameenPhone today boasts 70 per cent market share and 50 per cent growth rate in profits.

Ola Ree, managing director, GrameenPhone Ltd, accepted the award on behalf of his management and emphasised that this is definitely not a one-person success. He mentioned GrameenPhone was the biggest corporate taxpayer in the country in the last fiscal year and the livelihood of over 20,000 people are related directly or indirectly to GP. Ree expressed thanks to the shareholders and attributed GP's overall success to the professionalism and commitment of the employees.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency		Buying		
	TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
58.8500	58.9000	USD	57.9000	57.7299	57.6606
64.2054	64.2599	EUR	61.3161	61.1360	61.0628
93.9835	94.0633	GBP	90.9609	90.6937	90.5852
36.0456	36.0763	AUD	33.9584	33.8586	33.8181
0.5020	0.5024	JPY	0.4848	0.4834	0.4828
43.3901	43.4270	CHF	42.0083	41.8849	41.8347
6.9206	9.9265	SEK	6.6831	6.6635	6.6555
40.1432	40.1774	CAD	39.0688	38.9541	38.9074
7.5534	7.5598	HKD	7.4167	7.3949	7.3861
33.6516	33.6902	SGD	32.8455	32.7490	32.7098
16.1529	16.1667	AED	15.6364	15.5905	15.5718
15.8182	15.8316	SAR	15.3175	15.2725	15.2542

### Local Interbank FX Trading:

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued Saturday as the international market was closed. Dollar remained almost against Bangladeshi taka.

### Local Money Market:

Demand for call money was high. Call money rates eased slightly as the liquidity conditions improved. At the

close, call rates ranged between 11:00 and 12:00 per cent compared with 12:00-13:00 per cent previously.

### International Market:

International market was closed. US dollar rose further against the euro and yen as prospect of war against Iraq was slightly reduced. Euro reached a two-week low of \$1.0693 before retreating back. Dollar rose to a near

## ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadyCash raffle draw was held at Ready Cash Bangladesh

Prizes	Name of Winners	Card No
Sentra Travels and Tours Free Dhaka Cox's Bazaar Dhaka Birman Ticket	Md Azizul Hoque	5047980010005613
Saint Martin free Domestic Tour for Two	Roy Pervene	5047980000032159
YNCA free Computer/English Spoken Course	Md Azizur Rahman	5047980010008651
Drink net free 100 Browsing	Md Rafiqul Haque	5047980010002163
Longia free Panjabee	Kazi Nazia Hoque	5047980020001745
Sharex Complex free Gift Box	M. Lutfar Rahman	5047980000031458
Stop and Shop free Gift Box	Md Jashim Uddin	5047980010010293
M/S Mukta Enterprise Free Gift Box	Md Mufid Khan	5047980000033969
M/S Mukta Enterprise Free Gift Box	Md Jashim Uddin	5047980000010180
M/S Mukta Enterprise Free Gift Box	Sadeque Uddin Khan	5047980000003384
M/S Mukta Enterprise Free Gift Box	Dr. Md Kamruzzaman	5047980000004390
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	A.S.M. Musa	5047980000002213
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Mustafizur Rahman	5047980010007019
Great Wall free lunch/Dinner for two	Tanini Mozumdar	5047980000045133
Great Wall free lunch/dinner for two	Mustafa Suhel Iqbal	5047980000013238
FedEx free shipment	Md Nazimuddin	5047980000032741
FedEx free shipment	M. Tanvir Sajjad	5047980000023255
FedEx free shipment	Md Sayed Anwar	5047980000020846
FedEx free shipment	Md Kamruzzaman	5047980000032977
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Achish Ghose	5047980020000024
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Big Abdullah	5047980000013575
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Md. Mohsin	5047980000013575
Dhansiri-1 free Lunch/Dinner for two	Md Jafar Islam	5047980000041077

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive, Promotion of ReadyCash within 30 days of this news circulation. **ReadyCash encourages its cardholder to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday for a new listing of card winner or call our Customer Service at: 8125294-7, 8130497 and 8123850.**

## STOCK