

BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS 2011



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A voice of ethical business

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, made Bangladesh proud on the global stage by winning the Oslo Business for Peace Award.

The recognition has put Rahman in the club of exceptional business personalities like Ratan Tata, chairman of India's Tata Group, who got the award in 2010, and Jeffrey R Immelt, CEO of USA's General Electric, who won it in 2009.

"I hope the award will remain as an ideal and inspiration for Bangladesh's business community and our colleagues in the group," he said.

"With this award, our responsibility expands. These standards have to be maintained as individuals and a business organisation."

Rahman is defined by his phenomenal success in business, setting up new enterprises and working them up through the ladder. All his enterprises are leaders in their own spheres -- be it media, pharmaceuticals, printing, electronics or food industries.

Transcom is the best example of adhering to ethical and responsible business practices that serve as a guideline for other businesses in the region, according to a citation by the Oslo-based Business for Peace Foundation.

Rahman also believes Bangladesh's businesses must maintain globally-accepted standards and ethics no



Right, Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman poses with Finance Minister AMA Muhith for photographs at the awards ceremony. Rahman was given a special recognition award by The Daily Star and DHL Express.

matter where they operate -- in the USA or Norway.

"In order to build sustainable businesses that bring benefits to the shareholders, employees and the larger community, it is obvious that the management has to behave in a socially responsible and ethical manner," Rahman said.

His enterprises boast clean tax and bank loan records and are also one of the highest-payers of corporate tax, VAT and import duty in a country where many top companies are willful defaulters, and avoidance of tax is rampant.

His companies are among the best employers, complying with all the labour and industrial laws. He has set such a dream standard of business that all others try to follow him.

Rahman has always been vocal against unethical practices. As the leader of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he took a clear line opposing allowing of black money in industry.

Rahman enjoys the trust of all for his integrity, ethical standards and business acumen. The business community looks up to him for leadership and guidance, the proof of which is his holding the presidency of the Bangladesh Employers Federation for two terms.

Rahman has also led the most prestigious Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the oldest chamber body of the country, as its president.

THE JURY

- SK SUR CHOWDHURY

Deputy Governor
Bangladesh Bank
- SYED MD AMINUL KARIM

Member, National Board
of Revenue
- ANNISUL HUQ

President, SAARC
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry
- NIHAD KABIR

Vice President
MCCI
- ALI REZA IFTAKHAR

Managing Director
Eastern Bank
- SYED MAHBUBUR RAHMAN

MD & CEO
BRAC Bank
- MOAZZEM HOSSAIN

Editor
The Financial Express
- SYFUL ISLAM, FCA

President ICAB
- ROKIA AFZAL RAHMAN

Chairman
Arlinks Group
- DESMOND QUIAH

Country Manager, Bangladesh
DHL Express

A night for corporate stars

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Towhid Samad, his son and chairman of the company, received the award.

Prime Bank Ltd was rated as the Best Financial Institution. Accepting the award, Ehsan Khasru, managing director of the bank, said his bank has become one of the top banks for its "customer-first" focus and meritocratic culture.

Entrepreneur Sharmin Hossain was recognised as the Outstanding Woman in Business. Her pesticide-free fresh fruits and vegetables producing company -- Fresh and Safe Agro Ltd -- has scaled great heights of success within only two years of establishment in 2010.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber

of Commerce Bangladesh, was given the Lifetime Achievement award. Rahman is recognised for being more than just another successful businessman. He spent most of his life making trade bodies professional and ethical.

A special award was conferred on Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, for making Bangladeshis proud on the global stage by winning the Oslo Business for Peace Award recently.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, started off his speech by paying a tribute to Samson H Chowdhury, founder of Square Group, who died on January 5.

Desmond Quiah, the country manager of DHL Express, said: "It is the guiding principle of our company to contribute to business activities and entrepreneurship."



Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Express



The Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony pulls in guests from a wider spectrum of society.

ROLL OF HONOUR

2000 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Salina Akther (Aakor)	Geeteara Safiya Choudhury (Adcomm) ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Micro Electronics Ltd	BEST JOINT VENTURE ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Coats Bangladesh Ltd	Fazlur Rahman (City Group of Industries)	(Ikebana)	CEO of Persona
ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Concord Engineers & Construction Ltd and Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Syed Manzur Elahi (Apex Group)	2004 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Selina Quader (Agroconcern)	SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE YEAR Youngone Group	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Bengal Plastic Industries Ltd	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Square Pharmaceuticals
BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Samson H Chowdhury (Square Group)	BEST JOINT VENTURE ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Grameenphone Ltd	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Incepta Pharmaceuticals	2006 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Zinet Fatema (Jahan Metal)	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR KM Rezaul Hasanat (Viyellatex Group)	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Md Saiful Islam, chairman of Western Marine Shipyard
2001 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Rehana Kashem (Saatrang)	2003 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Monjulika Chakma (Bain Textiles)	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Kazi Zahedul Hasan (Kazi Farms Group)	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Acme Laboratories Ltd	2008 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Sabrina Islam, CEO of Reflections	BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION Pubali Bank
ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Otobi Limited	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR MM Isphani Ltd	SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE YEAR Unilever Bangladesh	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Md Nasir Uddin (Pacific Jeans Limited)	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Meghna Group	LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Nasir A Chowdhury, MD of Green Delta Insurance
BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Anisur Rahman Sinha (Opex Group)	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Mohammed Mizanur Rahman (PHP Group)	2005 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Hasina Newaaz (Orchid Printers)	BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR Dutch-Bangla Bank	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Abdul Monem, Abdul Monem Group of Companies	2010 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Tanya Tazeen Karim, partner of Tanya Karim NR Khan & Associates
2002 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS		ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR BRB Cable Industries Ltd	2007 OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS Nilufar Farooq	BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BRAC Bank	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR BSRM Group