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 now at **Rayer Bazar**  
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From September 25, 2012

**Rayer Bazar Branch:**  
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# star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2012, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

## Banks, tax offices were open, but turnout was low

SOHEL PARVEZ

Banks and tax offices saw a low turnout yesterday, the penultimate day for submission of tax returns.

The crowd to deposit amounts to the state coffers was higher on Thursday than yesterday, said an official of Sonali Bank's Ramna corporate branch.

At 3.40pm, the number of vouchers submitted for tax payment at the branch stood at 182, with the official suggesting that the total number might reach 250 in the remaining period.

In contrast, on Thursday, nearly 600 vouchers related to tax payment were submitted.

Tax offices and banks' major branches were open yesterday, a bank holiday, to facilitate taxpayers in meeting the Sunday deadline.

"We have recorded higher submission of tax returns from salaried persons today," said Md Abdus Samad Al Azad, a joint commissioner of tax.

He, too, said the crowd to submit returns was relatively low in comparison to normal working days.

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## Small efforts, big impact

### Citi awards three microentrepreneurs, one institution for their achievements



**AMRAN HOSSAIN**  
 From left, Anowara Begum from Nilphamari, Khaleda Begum from Chittagong, Sheikh Abdul Halim, executive director of Village Education Resource Centre in Savar, and Razia Begum from Comilla pose for photographs after winning the Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Razia Begum from Comilla became the Best Microentrepreneur of the Year for creating a business from scratches that not only pulled her out of poverty but also gave jobs to many women.

She was honoured as Citi, the leading global financial services company, awarded three microentrepreneurs and a microfinance institution at the seventh Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday.

Razia set up a business to produce nakshikantha, a type of embroidered quilt.

"Initially, my husband was annoyed

at my initiative. I do not have money and even space to sew quilts. I even sewed the quilts beside railtracks," she said while giving an emotional speech.

Razia now employs 120 women. She earns net Tk 15,000 to 25,000 a month by selling nakshi kantha.

Khaleda Begum from Chittagong became the Best Woman Microentrepreneur of the Year for building a mop-making business from garment wastages.

"Nobody can stop an individual from becoming successful if one tries hard and is honest," she said in her immediate reaction.

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## India may allow coastal shipping to Bangladesh: official

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

India is likely to allow its three ports for transportation of goods along coastal routes to Bangladesh, an official said yesterday.

The ports are Paradip of Odisha, Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh and Haldia of Pashimbanga, said Commodore Jobair Ahmad, the department's director general, following a top level meeting in India.

Bangladesh had earlier tabled the idea of using the coastal belt of the Bay of Bengal to transport goods between the two countries, on grounds of time-and-cost-efficiency.

At present, local importers have to go through a two-week wait to take delivery of their imported wares, as they come via Sri Lanka, Singapore or Malaysia, according to Ahmad.

"But drawing coastal routes to carry freight between the two countries will allow us to cut time to three days, and thereby, costs," said Ahmad.

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**YUNUS CENTRE**  
 Left, Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus receives Prime Minister of Haiti Laurent Lamothe in his hotel room, on the sidelines of the Clinton Global Initiative annual meetings to discuss the launch of social business for agriculture and reforestation in the earthquake-affected country.

## Yunus: youth can do more than ever

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus emphasised the role of young people in solving social problems, as the youth are capable of doing much than ever in the history of mankind using existing technology.

He addressed the Social Good Summit

2012 organised by the UN Foundation from September 22-24 in New York.

Prof Yunus is currently in the US attending social business conferences in three US states, organised by a state-wide university system in those states.

He is the chief guest of the conferences, said a statement.

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## TATA launches vehicle for small businesses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

TATA and its business partner in Bangladesh, Nitol Niloy Group, yesterday launched their new commercial vehicle, geared toward small businesses here.

Powered by a 611 cubic centimetre water-cooled engine, the TATA Ace Zip Pickup is the smallest commercial vehicle of TATA, with a payload capacity of up to 600kg, said Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of Nitol-Niloy Group.

"It is a commercial vehicle to promote small businesses like agriculture in rural areas. Businessmen will be able to transport their products easily from the warehouse to the city by this pickup."

The pickup will sell at Tk 6.50 lakh, with the first 100 customers getting the opportunity to collect the pickup after a down payment of Tk 1 lakh.

"We are expecting a large number of pickups will be sold in Bangladesh," Ahmad said, while urging the government to reduce the registration fee for commercial vehicles and restructure the import duty for spare parts.

Rudrarup Maitra, the South Asian regional head of TATA Motors, said the Ace Zip is a new innovation in Asia, which can be navigated easily in the narrow roads of the cities and villages.

"This new invention of TATA will be the alternative commercial vehicle to Nasimon, Karimon and Chandler-gari in rural areas," said Md Ayubur Rahman Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

He, however, urged Nitol Niloy Group to introduce special awareness programmes to prevent road accidents in Bangladesh.

"Ace Zip Pickup will add an extra dimension to our transportation sector," Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said at the launch ceremony.

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## Disposal of Equity Interest

A company in Hong Kong intends to sell its equity interest in its two subsidiaries, which own two factories in CEPZ, Chittagong. The subsidiaries are engaged in manufacturing tents and related outdoor gear. If interested, please contact Mr. Ivan Chan at +852 2238 7182/ivachan@deloitte.com.hk or Mr. Willie Pang at +852 2852 1238/wpang@deloitte.com.hk. Please note that our direct fax No. is +852 2850 8362.

## Mohiuddin, Latif face off today

### The AL leaders will speak on alleged irregularities in bidding of New Mooring terminal

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Two rival leaders of the ruling party -- ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and MA Latif -- will face each other at a meeting of the advisory committee on Chittagong Port today.

Both the leaders, also members of the committee, confirmed that they would attend the meeting to express their opinions on different issues of the port.

Mohiuddin's supporters assaulted Latif on Thursday during a clash following a month-long debate and conflict over alleged irregularities in the bidding process to appoint an operator for New Mooring Container Terminal.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan is scheduled to preside over the meeting at Chittagong Circuit House, said Rear Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed, chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority.

The CPA chairman said the shipping ministry may give its decision on the bidding process at the meeting.

Mohiuddin, Awami League's Chittagong city unit president, started a movement on August 28, bringing allegation of irregularities in the bidding.

He blamed the irregularities on the shipping ministry, saying the ministry changed and relaxed several conditions in the original pre-qualification documents to favour a local firm in the bidding.

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