



## TOP TAXPAYERS WIN ACCOLADES



Finance Minister AMA Muhith presents crests to top taxpayers at a ceremony organised by the National Board of Revenue at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Ghulam Hussain, chairman of NBR, and Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, were also present.



## Air France strike sparks travel chaos

AFP, Paris

FRENCH flag carrier Air France scrapped half of its flights Monday as pilots began a strike against the company's plan to develop its low-cost subsidiary.

The company said 60 percent of its flights would be cancelled Tuesday with fears that the week-long protest -- the longest at the company since 1998 -- could spell travel mayhem across the country.

The strike sparked outrage among passengers stranded by the stoppage, with Jean-Marc Ragot arriving from Nairobi to Paris only to find his connecting flight to the eastern French city of Lyon cancelled.

"I can't return home, thanks for the joy," he complained at Charles de Gaulle airport.

"I've had it up to here with strikes in France. One always has a problem when one returns home," he said.

Air France said it had sent 65,000 text messages to passengers affected by the strike called by its main pilots' union SNPL and deployed some 7,000 extra workers to help stranded customers.

Munich-bound Carlos Gomez received such a message but turned up at Paris's main airport despite all flights to the German city being scrapped.

"I simply have to get to Munich today and I have to find a solution," he said.

At Paris's main Charles de Gaulle airport, 212 Air France flights were scheduled to be cancelled on Monday out of some 500.

But flights elsewhere were worse hit. Three out of four flights were cancelled in the southern port city of Marseille while 71 percent of Air France's services were cancelled in the eastern city of Lyon.

On Tuesday "40 percent of the flights will be maintained," Air France's director of operations Catherine Jude told a news conference.

But a pilots' union warned that eight out of 10 flights could be cancelled as the strike continued later into the week.

The company urged "customers who have booked a flight between September 15 and 22 to delay their trip, change their ticket free of charge or claim a refund."

Labour unions fear that expanding Air France's low-cost operation Transavia will lead to "jobs being outsourced" and "social dumping" with pilots being employed on local contracts.

"This is about a point of principle. We're not even talking about a rise in wages," said Jean-Louis Barber, the head of the SNPL union.

## Big firms brace for global carbon price rollout

REUTERS

AN increasing number of big corporations expect governments worldwide to put a price on carbon dioxide emissions to help tackle climate change and some are already factoring in the cost to guide future investment decisions, a report found on Monday.

Some 150 large listed companies - including 29 in the United States such as Dow Chemical Company, banking group Goldman Sachs and oil firm ExxonMobil - now incorporate an internal carbon price ranging from \$6-80 per tonne, according to a report by CDP, which gathers environmental information from companies worldwide on behalf of investors.

CDP said the report was the first global analysis of corporate views explicitly mentioning carbon pricing among the 6,000 company disclosures the group gathers annually.

Around 40 nations and over 20 states, regions or cities have either set up or are planning to set up carbon pricing via taxes on emissions or by setting up emissions trading systems that cap emissions and allow companies to buy and sell permits to emit.

In contrast, US federal lawmakers have repeatedly blocked efforts to price carbon emissions at the national level, amid fears over costs and job losses, but California and a group of northeast states have introduced their own policies.

While Australia, one of the world's biggest emitters of CO2 per capita, this year scrapped a carbon tax arguing it was hurting industry and making power bills rise. Australia also abandoned plans for the world's third largest emissions trading scheme (ETS) after Europe and Guangdong.

The biggest carbon initiative is the EU Emissions Trading System, on which carbon permits currently trade at around 6.50 euros per tonne each. Together, they account for more than 22 percent of global emissions.

Environmental campaigners, activist investor groups and some lawmakers are putting increasing pressure on big emitting companies to report the risks of their business to climate change regulation.

The CDP report was published a week before 125 world leaders gather in New York for a climate change summit convened by UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon.

At the summit, private firms such as major banks, the oil industry, and the agricultural sector are expected to urge governments to bolster carbon pricing efforts to help them plan their future investments.

Almost 200 nations have agreed to strike a new climate pact to contain rising greenhouse gas emissions at a summit next December in Paris.

## London designers target fashion-hungry shoppers with "tech firsts"

REUTERS, London

FUELED by the boom in online sales for the latest trends, London's designers are finding new ways to deliver instant gratification to fashion hungry shoppers, amid high hopes of boosting growth in the sector.

British retailer Topshop, whose website attracts an average of 4.5 million hits a week, launched a new digital "first" on Sunday by letting shoppers buy six readymade items from its latest collection immediately after its show at London Fashion Week.

"As we know, everyone spends all their waking moments on all these new platforms, gadgets, Instagram and Twitter," said Philip Green, the owner of Topshop brand and retail conglomerate Arcadia. The speed of things reaching people is key to our business. You guys see it, wear it, buy it - that's what it's all about ... it's sort of us being there, being first to market - that's our job," he told Reuters.

The collection, which featured brightly coloured striped dresses, cycling jerseys and lame dresses in cotton, satin and leather, was live-streamed globally and unveiled exclusively on social networks Instagram and Facebook. It will be delivered to shoppers globally in the next few days.

Topshop's initiative is one example of "tech firsts" the British Fashion Council (BFC) hopes to champion as part of its efforts to encourage all of its designers to get online and grow their international sales.

After enlisting Google UK Sales Director Peter Fitzgerald to help designers understand the importance of social media strategy, the BFC said it saw the number of brands with an e-commerce site rise to 43 percent from 33 percent in 2013.

"We're showing designers that the Internet is truly borderless and many of them are getting over half of their sales now from outside the UK," Fitzgerald told journalists via video link on Friday.

Online clothing sales in Britain are set to reach 10.7 billion pounds (\$17.41 billion) this year, an increase of 14.5 percent year on year, according to market research firm Mintel.

This season also saw youth label House of Holland team up with 3D-imaging tech firm Metail to allow shoppers to try on and buy clothes from the spring/summer 2015 collection in real time through a digital avatar.

British luxury brand Burberry has partnered with Twitter to sell the nail varnish that will feature in its show on Monday, through a "Buy Now" button that the social media website is currently trialing.

The 158-year-old firm already runs a made-to-order service for customers after it has shown its latest collections.

It's a move that many other leading and emerging designers in London like Jasper Conran, Holly Fulton, Emilia Wickstead and Richard Nicoll said they may consider adding to their business in the future.

## China Sinopec unit to sell 30pc stake

AFP, Shanghai

Chinese oil giant Sinopec will sell a 30 percent stake in its marketing arm to outside investors for more than \$17 billion, the company said, as the government pushes key economic reforms.

China's Communist Party pledged at a meeting in November to allow the market to play a "decisive" role in the allocation of resources through a number of policies, including prodding state companies to operate on more commercial terms.

The move by Sinopec, initially proposed by the firm in February, has been hailed by state media as the first among the nation's three largest energy firms to introduce more diversified ownership.

"The sale of its marketing arm" is in line with their policy of privatisation and to introduce more private capital in the economy", independent financial analyst Francis Lun told AFP.

Separately, Sinopec parent China Petrochemical Corp. will purchase assets from Sinopec Yizheng Chemical Fibre Company, worth 6.49 billion yuan (\$1.06 billion), both firms said in a filing late Friday.

Vol	Observations	Terminal	Arrivée
T3 7312		T2	27
CE 073		T2	27
A5 4063	Annulé / Canceled	T2	27
A5 4053		T2	27
A5 4193		T2	27
AF 7644	Annulé / Canceled	T2	27
A5 4023		T2	27
A5 4503		T2	27
A5 4523		T2	27
A5 4093		T2	27
A5 4073		T2	27
A5 4083		T2	27
A5 4133		T2	27
A5 4173		T2	27
A5 4313		T2	27
AF 7414		T2	27
AF 7849	Annulé / Canceled	T2	27

Timetables display cancelled Air France flights at the Lyon-Saint-Exupéry airport yesterday. French flag carrier Air France said it would be forced to scrap half its flights yesterday as pilots strike in protest at the company's plan to develop its low-cost subsidiary. The screens read "Air France pilots strike, planned disruptions".