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DHAKA FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

COMMODITIES

Performance targets for state banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

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The finance ministry has for the first time set 13 annual performance targets for the 14 state-owned financial institutions, including banks, to make them accountable.

A binding agreement was signed yesterday by the chairmen and managing directors of the 14 institutions, and Banking Secretary M Aslam Alam.

In the agreement, the banks were given various targets for 2015, in regard to the reduction of default loans, cash recovery, profit and loan growth.

For evaluation, the banks will be given points from a total of 100 for their performance at the year's end.

For hitting the automation target, the institutions can score 20 points; for reducing default loans 10 points, and another 10 points for cash recovery from defaulters. Ten points can also be scored for making profits.

The binding agreement is similar to the ones secretaries recently signed in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for improving performance of ministries, Alam said.

the financial institutions under the finance ministry had to sign another one, he added. Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the initiative has been taken for modernisation and reform.

It would increase accountability of the institutions, which, in turn, would help enhance people's trust on them, he said. Agrani Bank's Chairman Zaid Bakht

told The Daily Star that the targets are challenging but achieving them will not be impossible; the banks will have to put in their best efforts.

Aman Feed gets IPO nod, stocks end flat

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STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday gave the green light to Aman Feed to raise Tk 72 crore from the public.

The fisheries and livestock feed producer and supplier is set to float two crore ordinary shares worth Tk 10 each at an offer price of Tk 36, with Tk 26 as premium, the stockmarket regulator said in a statement.

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Land buyers have to specify fund sources: NBR

SOHEL PARVEZ

Taxpayers will have to explain the sources of their income while making a land purchase, said the National Board of Revenue.

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The waiver from explaining the sources of funds is applicable only to investments in buildings or apartments, the NBR said in a notice on April 6.

The clarification from the tax authority comes after it had come to know that some individuals sought waiver from mentioning the sources of their income while purchasing small buildings on a big expanse of land.

"We have come to know from our field offices that there have been attempts of non-disclosure of sources of incomes for

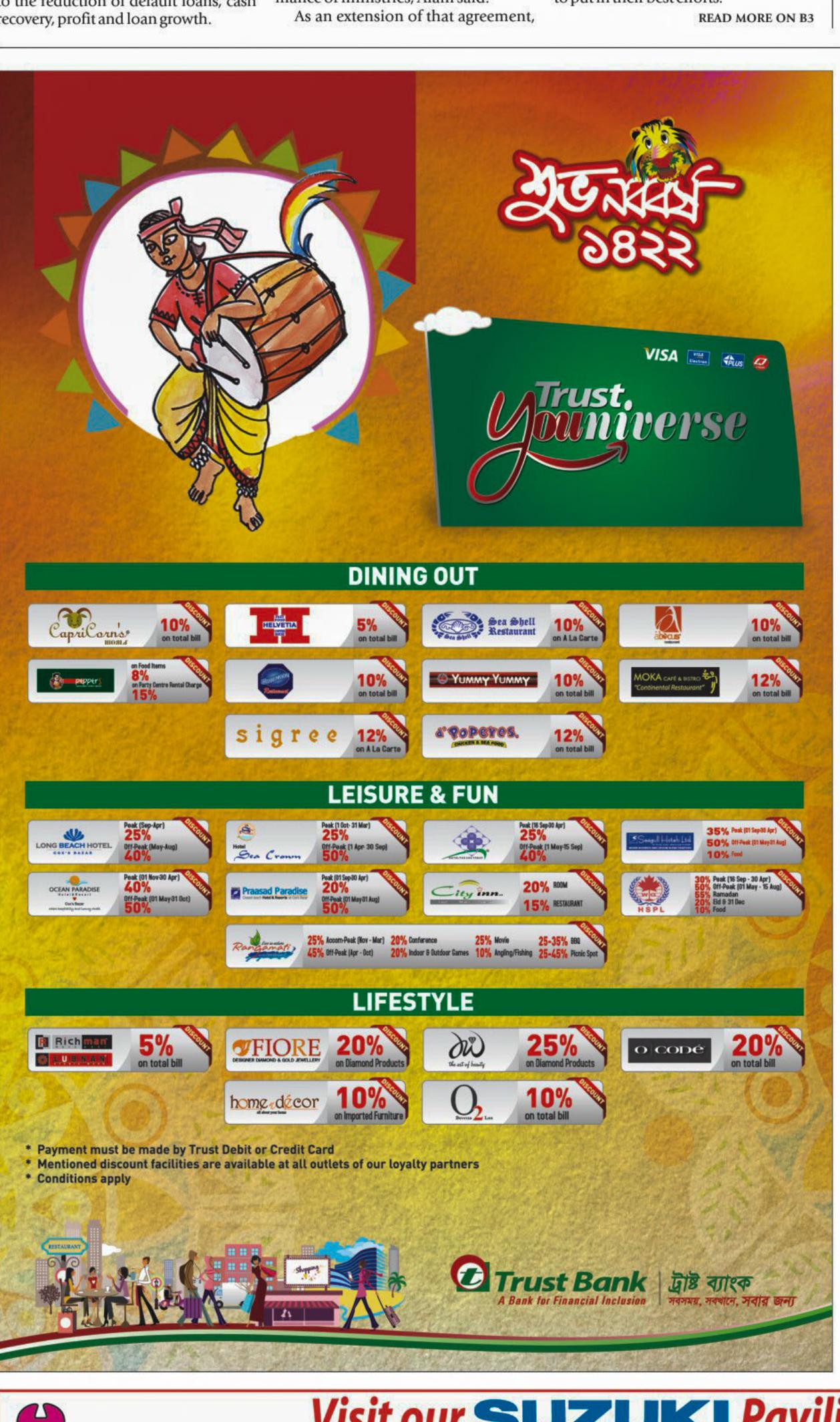
investment in land. So, we have issued the clarification," a senior official of NBR said, seeking to remain unnamed.

In July 2013, the government offered amnesty from explaining the sources of funds in the tax returns for investment in residential buildings and apartments by inserting a provision in the Income Tax Ordinance 1984.

Taxpayers can take advantage of the provision by paying a certain amount of taxes on the basis of location.

The privilege was given to 'encourage' investment in private housing and prop up the stagnant real estate sector, according to Finance Minister AMA Muhith's budget

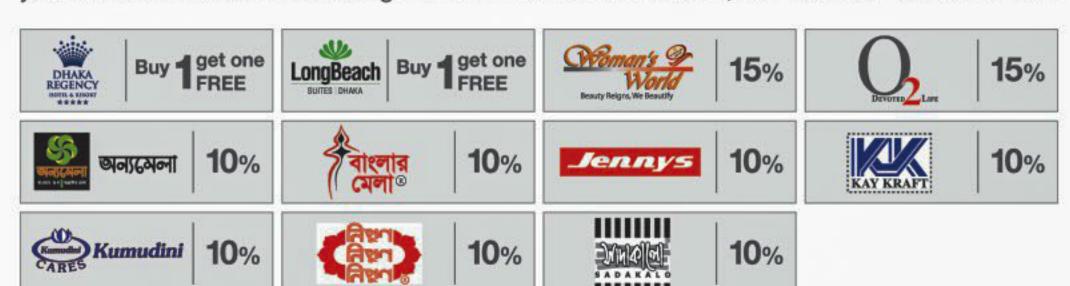
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