

স্বপ্নময় জীবনের চাবি আপনার হাতে

এসআইবিল ইসলামিক হোম ফাইন্যান্স

গ্র্যাপটিমেন্ট / ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়, গৃহ নির্মাণ, গৃহ বহিষ্করণ অথবা গৃহ সংস্কারের জন্য সর্বমোট ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ২,২০,০০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা।

\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

## Govt to crack down hard on importers of illegal handsets

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government has embarked on a two-pronged initiative to enhance cyber security by cracking down on illegally imported mobile handsets and boosting efforts for proper SIM registrations.

The move targets unregistered or falsely-registered SIMs and mobile phones imported through unauthorised channels as they are frequently used in criminal activities, said Tarana Halim, the state minister for telecom.

Legally imported handsets with International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers can also help cut theft of the devices, she said.

"We are already working on proper SIM registration in a big way, and will also launch tough action against illegally imported handsets," Tarana said.

Most of the mobile phones used in criminal activities do not have IMEI numbers, which makes it hard to track the handsets.

IMEI is a 15-digit number unique to each legal mobile set, and can be used to track the

phone's movement. Users can find the IMEI number below the battery or at the back or bottom of the device. Dialing \*#06# also reveals the number.

"A combined effort is needed to curb crime and terror activities," Tarana said.

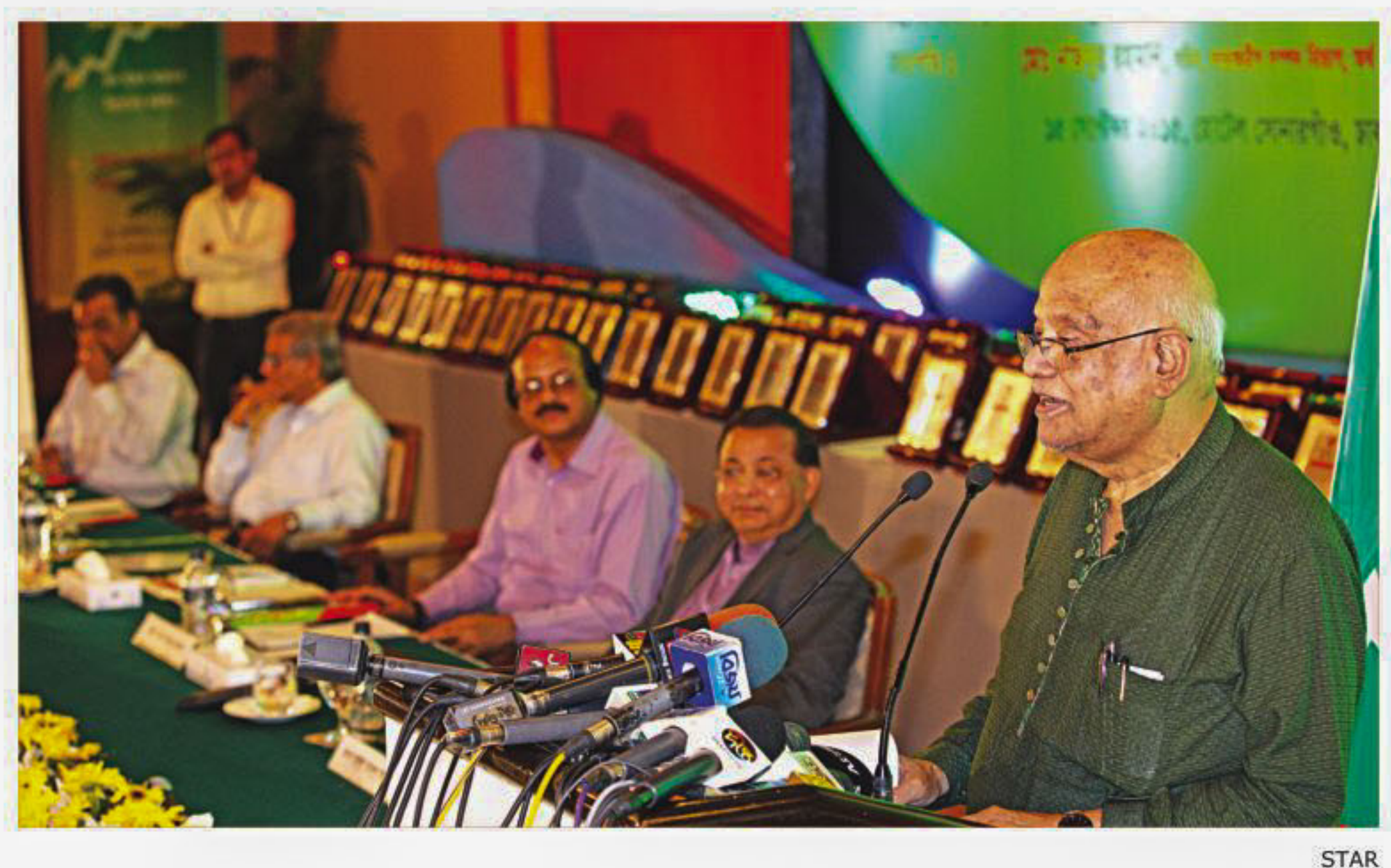
"We found a good response on the SIM registration issue and hope for the same while ensuring authentic IMEI numbers."

Law enforcement agencies have frequently raised concerns over the use of falsely-registered SIMs and IMEI-less mobile phones, Tarana added.

The handset industry has been suffering for the past couple of year because of fake IMEIs, and setting up a central IMEI database could help, said Rezwanul Haque, general secretary of Bangladesh Mobile Phone Importers' Association.

"If established, the database will assist customs officials to calculate duty, and consumers will also be able to authenticate IMEIs before buying handsets. Law enforcers could also find it useful," Haque said.

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Finance Minister AMA Muhith speaks at a programme to honour top taxpayers, organised by the National Board of Revenue at Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka yesterday.

## Govt aims to treble taxpayers by 2019

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government aims to treble the number of regular taxpayers to 40 lakh by 2019, continuing to depend on direct taxes as the biggest source of revenue, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"The government can work to provide better services to people if we can achieve that target," he said at a programme to honour the top and long-term taxpayers.

The National Board of Revenue organised the event at Sonargaon hotel to encourage people to pay taxes properly and help expand the tax net.

The tax administrator also handed over tax cards to top 10 individuals and 10 companies nationwide for paying the highest amount of tax

in fiscal 2014-15.

The state received nearly Tk 750 crore from the top 10 firms and more than Tk 140 crore from the top 10 individuals, according to the NBR.

The tax collector also honoured 387 top and long-time taxpayers at the district and city corporation levels for fiscal 2014-15.

The event marked the National Income Tax Day, which the NBR has been observing since 2008 to create awareness among people.

Currently, around 12 lakh people submit their tax returns out of the 17 lakh people who have taxpayer identification numbers.

The number of people who submit their tax returns regularly is less than 1 percent of the country's total population of 16 crore. "It is a shame for the nation," Muhith said.

TOP 10 TAXPAYERS (INDIVIDUAL) IN FY2014-15

NAME	ADDRESS
MD KAUS MIA	DHAKA
MOHAMMAD YUSUF	DHAKA
RUBAYAT FARZANA HOSSAIN	DHAKA
LAILA HOSSAIN	DHAKA
HOSNE ARA HOSSAIN	DHAKA
KHAWJA TAJMAHAL	DHAKA
MA HAIDER HOSSAIN	DHAKA
GOLAM DASTAGIR GAZI	NARAYANGANJ
MD NASIR UDDIN	CHITTAGONG
ABDUL MUKTADIR	DHAKA

TOP 10 TAXPAYERS (COMPANY) IN FY2014-15

NAME	ADDRESS
CHEVRON BANGLADESH BLOCK 12	DHAKA
KAFKO	DHAKA
IDCOL	DHAKA
BEPZA	DHAKA
BAPEX	DHAKA
TOMA CONSTRUCTION	DHAKA
CENTRAL DEPOSITORY BANGLADESH	DHAKA
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON	DHAKA
SECURITY PRINTING CORP (BANGLADESH)	GAZIPUR
UTTARA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS	DHAKA

Taxmen believe this figure is far below the number of potential taxpayers in the country.

The tax authority aims to collect more than half of its revenue through direct taxes by 2021-22.

Muhith, however, said the target to increase the number of regular taxpayers to 40 lakh by 2019 is ambitious. "We want to try."

The state cannot run unless it has the financial capacity, he added.

"We all have a responsibility to pay taxes so that we can work for the betterment of those people who are falling behind."

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## New five-year plan rests on private sector's shoulders

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Some Tk 31,903 billion will be required for implementation of the seventh five-year plan, 90.4 percent of which will come from domestic sources, according to the draft plan.

The plan was placed at yesterday's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

The government will invest Tk 7,252 billion and the private sector Tk 24,651 billion, as per the estimate.

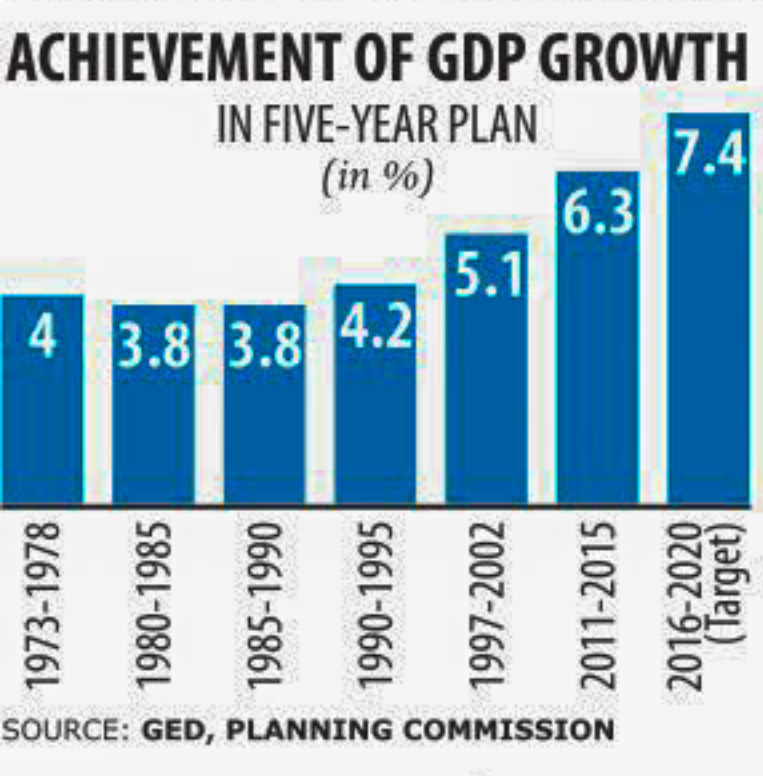
Under the five-year plan, which starts in fiscal 2015-16 and ends in fiscal 2019-20, the government aims to take the investment-gross domestic product ratio to 34 percent.

The government will implement the infrastructure-related big projects, which will facilitate increased investment from the private sector, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said after the meeting.

At the meeting, Shamsul Alam, member of the General Economics Division, made a presentation on the draft plan.

In the next five years, the average GDP growth has been estimated at 7.4 percent. The GDP growth will cross 7 percent this fiscal year and 8 percent in the last year of the plan.

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## Time for feed-in tariff to boost renewable energy

Analysts say at seminar at The Daily Star Centre



Regulators, academics and government officials attend a seminar on feed-in tariff regulations for renewable energy at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Institute of Energy of Dhaka University in collaboration with the Asia Foundation Dhaka organised the event.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should come up with feed-in tariff as soon as possible to send a positive signal to investors and boost the renewable energy sector, experts said yesterday.

"Our renewable energy sector would have leapfrogged if we had a feed-in tariff scheme in place," said Prof M Tamim, an energy expert. "It would also have been encouraging for the investors."

Under a feed-in tariff, renewable electricity generators are paid a cost-based price for the renewable electricity they supply to the grid. This enables diverse technologies (wind, solar, biogas) to be developed and provides investors a reasonable return.

Advancements in renewable energy would be difficult without a feed-in tariff scheme in place, he said. "Big plants will not be set up if they can't operate commercially."

Tamim, the head of petroleum and mineral resources engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, said there has to be an obligation for power utilities to buy power from renewable energy producers.

To start off, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) might make it mandatory for power companies to buy at least 1 percent of their electricity from the renewable energy producers, said Tamim.

Siddique Zobair, a member of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority, also agreed that the regulator should ask the utilities to buy electricity from renewable energy producers.

They spoke at a seminar on feed-in tariff regulations, organised by the Institute of Energy of Dhaka University in collaboration with the Asia Foundation Dhaka at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Feed-in tariff gives a guarantee to renewable energy producers that the electricity tariff they would receive would be higher than market rates, providing price certainty and long-term contracts that help finance projects.

About 80 countries have introduced feed-in tariff as of 2014, according to Zobair.

The government plans to generate at least 10 percent of the required power from renewable energy by 2020. It now produces 165MW of power from renewable energy sources, which is about 2.2 percent of total electricity produced in Bangladesh.

Taufur Ahmed Chowdhury, head of the electrical and electronic engineering department of BUET, said the approval procedure has to be simple so that people can come and enjoy the facility.

Ijaz Hossain, a professor at the chemical engineering department of BUET, said Bangladesh's energy sector is in a terrible situa-

tion as the country is producing electricity using imported oil, gas reserves are depleting and there is no headway on whether local coal would be used.

Bangladesh would have to go for renewable energy because if a country depends on external trade for 15 percent of its energy, its energy security comes under threat, he added.

After Bangladesh ruled out the possibility of using domestic coal in the near future, the country would rely on foreign sources for 92 percent of its electricity in 2030, said Tamim.

"It is a scary situation for energy security of any country."

Hasin Jahan, country director of Practical Action Bangladesh, said Bangladesh is not being able to use solar energy at expected levels, although about 40 percent of the population does not have access to the grid power.

"We also need to think about how we bring electricity to the hard-to-reach areas as grid connections can't be taken to many of these areas."

Incentives have to be given to the renewable energy producers, as they will come up with long-term investments, she added.

Emdadul Haq, a former chairman of BERC, said the feed-in tariff issue is being discussed for a long time now, but nothing has been finalised. "We have to introduce it as soon as possible. We are already lagging behind."

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## Ecne approves projects of Tk 5,040cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday approved a Tk 420-crore project to set up an economic zone for Chinese investors in Anwara, Chittagong.

Under the project, the government will provide land to Chinese investors on a long-term lease basis and a firm nominated by the Chinese government will set up the economic zone on the land.

The economic zone would span 774 acres of land and is scheduled for completion in June 2016. The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority will implement the project.

The government is focusing on China and Japan to bring in foreign investment, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters after a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

A similar project will also be taken up for Japanese investors, he added.

Also at yesterday's meeting, the Ecne gave the green light to seven projects with estimated spending of Tk 5,040 crore.

One of the projects involves making the postal department more competitive. Some 118 vehicles, including covered vans, would be purchased.

The project, which would cost Tk 78.33 crore, aims to expedite the delivery system in all 64 districts and 200 upazilas.

The courier services have captured the postal market by using their own vehicles, said the proposal from the planning ministry.

To make up for lost ground, the transportation system of the directorate of postal service need to be modernised and strengthened.

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## HC stays VAT on airline charges

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The High Court yesterday halted the government's move to collect 15 percent value-added tax or VAT on aeronautical service charges also issued.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why the decision to impose the VAT should not be declared illegal.

Earlier on July 28, the Civil Aviation Authority issued a notice imposing a 15 percent VAT on different aeronautical charges, including landing and security charges.

This prompted two airline passengers to file a writ petition, after the hearing of which the HC bench of Justice Shamim Hasnain and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the stay order for six months.

Finance and civil aviation secretaries and the chairman of the National Board of Revenue have been made respondents, said Junayed Ahmed Chowdhury, petitioners' lawyer.

The VAT was not in line with the relevant law, he added.