

স্বপ্নময় জীবনের চাবি আপনার হাতে

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক হোম ফাইন্যান্স

গ্র্যাপাটমেন্ট / ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়, গৃহ নির্মাণ, গৃহ বহিষ্করণ অথবা গৃহ সংস্কারের জন্য সর্বমোট ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ৯,২০,০০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা।

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# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2015

## WB, Bangladesh on track to solid partnership

The WB chief economist says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A strong partnership could be developed between the World Bank and Bangladesh following the country's recent graduation to the lower middle-income bracket, the chief economist of the multilateral lender said yesterday.

The relationship that is developing with Bangladesh can now be termed partnership, Kaushik Basu said after a meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the latter's residence in Dhaka.

After decades in the low income bracket, Bangladesh graduated to the lower middle-income status in July.

"The World Bank's relationship with a low income country is very different from that with a lower middle income one -- it is like a partnership."

Bangladesh has been trying to advance the agenda of inclusive growth for the last five-six years, whereas the Washington-based



Kaushik Basu

lender adopted the goal under the guise of shared prosperity only three years ago, Basu said.

"I think a great amount of partnership is possible with the World Bank."

Asked about the challenges the Bangladesh economy faces, Basu said

every country, whether the US or Bangladesh, has weaknesses.

He cited the country's infrastructure as one of its weak spots: it has developed a lot but much work still remains to be done.

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## Taxpayers' satisfaction to be gauged

SOHEL PARVEZ

The National Board of Revenue plans to survey taxpayers' level of satisfaction with the services provided by tax officials.

The survey will cover 1,000 firms: 70 percent of them pay tax based on their financial accounts and 30 percent pay tax based on turnover, according to the NBR.

"We will be able to know the extent of satisfaction and dissatisfaction of taxpayers through the survey," said a senior official of NBR.

The tax administrator has launched a tender to hire a company to do the survey by July next year, when the NBR will also start implementing the new VAT and Supplementary Duty Act.

The NBR aims to implement the new law by modernising the VAT administration, restructuring the VAT wing and functional lines and automating the VAT system.

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## SIM RE-REGISTRATION NBR may slap tax if details don't match

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The National Board of Revenue plans to collect Tk 100 as tax from mobile operators for every SIM for which the users' names and details differ in the re-registration and biometric verification process.

At present, there are about 13.19 crore active SIMs, of which only 30 percent have been registered using the actual subscribers' details, according to industry insiders.

For security reasons, the government has called for re-registration of all SIM cards with information of the actual users from December 16.

If the names differ in the re-registration process, it will be counted as a fresh connection and the NBR wants to slap tax of Tk 100 on each of them.

NBR Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman said a final decision on the issue is yet to be taken. The tax authority will take opinion from the telecom regulator and some other authorities before it makes a call on the issue, he added.

Mobile operators said the move would lead to "double taxation".

The chief executive officers of all six operators have sent a letter to the NBR demanding a statutory regulatory order exempting tax on SIM cards re-registration by subscribers under the government drive.

A copy of the letter was forwarded to the telecom ministry as well.

The operators said they already paid taxes to the government when the SIM was first bought.

"We have already paid tax for the SIMs and no new sale is taking place here. So the government should consider this," said a senior official of a mobile operator.

Retailers and distributors registered SIMs with certain NID numbers and now the actual users are updating the database with their own NID numbers. A pilot project for SIM re-registration and biometric verification began on November 15.

If the NBR charges them for updating the information, they have no other option but to pass it onto the customers, the operators said.

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## Garment containers seized over forgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials yesterday confiscated two export containers of garment products after being tipped off about forged bank documents on them.

SN Design, with the registered address of 38 Senpara, Parbata in Dhaka, was the exporter.

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৫০ প্রজাব

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## Idcol unveils new logo



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (Idcol), a state-owned non-bank financial institution, has introduced a new corporate logo with a promise to continue financing infrastructure and green projects.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith unveiled the logo at an event at Radisson Blu Hotel in Dhaka on Sunday.

The new logo describes Idcol's journey and its contribution to infrastructure and renewable energy sectors, the company said.

"Energy is life," Muhith said, stressing the need for affordable energy for all. "Development is not possible without energy."

Idcol Chairman Mohammad Mesbahuddin, also senior secretary of the Economic Relations Division, handed over a cheque for Tk 18 crore to the minister as cash dividends. Idcol Chief Executive Officer Mahmood Malik was also present.

Idcol was established in 1997 to finance infrastructure projects in Bangladesh through public-private partnership initiatives. Green financing has become one of the Idcol's core business operations.

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