

এসআইবিএল রিটেইল ব্যাংকিং  
জীবনের জন্য, জীবন যাপনের জন্য

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স  
এসআইবিএল হোম ফাইন্যান্স  
এসআইবিএল অটো ফাইন্যান্স

\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৬২০০৯২২



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2016

## ATM frauds rattle banks, customers

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**

ATM card frauds have forced banks to take precautionary measures, including temporarily shutting down transactions through the national payment switch (NPS), to safeguard the interests of clients.

The move comes after Eastern Bank on Friday detected 21 suspicious card transactions.

A fraudster with a fake EBL card used one of the ATM booths of United Commercial Bank Ltd, which sounded off the alarm in UCBL's system.

"We straightaway informed the central bank and the EBL about the fraud," said Javed Iqbal, head of communications of UCBL, adding that a case was also filed with the Banani Police Station on Friday.


EBL shut down operations of all of its ATM booths for six hours on Friday, said Ziaul Karim, the bank's head of brand and communications.

Subhankar Saha, an executive director and spokesman for the central bank, said even though it was a bank holiday on Friday all banks were asked to tighten their security measures at their ATM booths as early as possible.

### WHAT CRIMINALS CAN DO WITH YOUR ATM CARD

- Criminals capture data from the magnetic stripe on your ATM card
- They use very small devices fastened close to or over the top of ATM card reader
- They use overhead cameras to read your PIN number when you type

### SPOT SKIMMING DEVICE ON ATM



### PROTECT YOUR CARD AT THE ATM BOOTH

- Look at card entry slot for anything unusual
- Scratches, marks, adhesive or tape residues indicate tampering
- Skimming devices tend to block the flashing entry indicator.

**Watch out!**

They then install a camera above the ATM machine to record the image of a cardholder typing the password, or fix a small device to the ATM card reader to copy the cardholder's information.

Using devices that can write and read cards, the information is then transferred to a new card with a blank magnetic stripe, according to bankers.

**READ MORE ON B3**

## Terrorism thrives on smuggling: Muhith

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Smuggling is a major concern for Bangladesh as terrorism and organised crime thrive on illegal trade.

Analysts and government functionaries, including Finance Minister AMA Muhith, shared such a view at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

They also called for coordinated efforts to curb illegal trade and rein in duty evasion, organised crime and terrorism.

The call came as smuggling, especially of gold, has gone remarkably up of late. Big haul of gold makes headline all too frequently.

"Smuggling has no clear definition, but one sign is acutely visible. Smuggling gives vigour to terrorism. Organised crimes that are present everywhere around the world give rise to smuggling," said Muhith at the event organised by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate under the National Board of Revenue.

"For long, we have been expecting a world where there will be no travel and duty barrier. That dream is gradually fading. The dream of such a borderless world has become impossible

because of the rise of many complexities," he said at the programme at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka.

The minister said the government imposes various customs restrictions to prevent the entry of illegal items.

About 10-20 percent of the smuggled goods are seized and the rest pass through various loopholes, according to Md Mozammel Haque Khan, senior secretary of the home ministry.

There is a lack of coordination among various agencies, hampering implementation of many plans, he said.

The Customs Intelligence seized 3,000 kilogrammes, or nearly 80 maunds, of smuggled gold worth Tk 1,450 crore between 2013 and 2015, said Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence, in his keynote.

He said intelligence efforts have helped prevent smuggling of nearly 500 maunds of gold. "It has put pressure on money laundering, human trafficking, narcotics and arms trade, and financing of other inter-continental crimes and terrorists activities."

Khan said any organised crime is financed through illegal transactions. "The money that is brought in illegally plays the role of oxygen for other crimes," he said, adding that the extent of crime would shrink if the flow of illegal money is reduced.

Citing studies, Khan said terrorists groups, such as al-Qaeda, are connected with smuggling to collect funds for buying arms and hiring people to run their terrorist activities.

Delwar Hossain, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University, said smuggling is being used for transnational crimes and terrorism financing.

It is a challenge from the viewpoint of national security and the economy, he said, suggesting the authorities deal with the issue with due importance.

Md Abdur Rashid, executive director of the Institute of Conflict, Law and Developments Studies, said there are many factories on the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan producing illegal arms. Smuggling, organised crime and terrorism put a state at risk, he added.

Rashid said the market of counterfeit drugs and narcotics would be worth \$200 billion to \$400 billion globally.

**READ MORE ON B3**

## Aamra launches smartphones with free cloud storage

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Aamra, a technology company, yesterday launched its range of smartphones that come with add-on services such as cloud storage and free WiFi access.

Priced between Tk 4,250 and Tk 18,600, the handsets will give customers access to cloud storage of 25 GB to 100 GB and free WiFi at more than 500 locations across the country.

"We are not just selling mobile handsets. Rather, we are selling some hardware with some smart solutions," said Muntasir Ahmed, an assistant general manager of the company, at the launch of the five smartphones at the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

Dubbed the "We" phones, the service packages will be available at five exclusive brand outlets in Dhaka and 1,000 retail outlets nationwide from today.

The company currently has 250 hotspots in Dhaka, and another 250 spread across Chittagong and Sylhet, with plans to increase its total number of locations to more than 1,500 by the end of 2016.

**READ MORE ON B3**

## Bangladeshi handicrafts get global recognition

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Four Bangladeshi handicraft producers and organisations have been certified as "guaranteed fair trade organisations" for meeting the growing demand for ethical and sustainable products.

Hathay Bunano, Thanapara Swallows Development Society, Prokritee, and Base Bangladesh got the recognition from the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).

Set up in 2005, Hathay Bunano is well-known for making Pebble brand toys which are sold in 37 countries. It employs 8,000 disadvantaged women as artisans.

Thanapara Swallows exports its garments made of handloom fabrics to Japan, Denmark, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden. It employs 250 people, according to Md Raihan Ali, executive director of the non-governmental organisation.

Base Bangladesh, also known as Bangladesh Shilpo Ekota, is a network that works for the promotion, marketing and distribution of handicrafts made by 17 producers' groups in Khulna region.

These groups employ more than 10,000 men and women. Their products are exported to Italy, Spain, the UK, Sweden and Japan.

**READ MORE ON B3**




**Women make toys at a factory of Hathay Bunano, one of the four Bangladeshi entities recognised by the World Fair Trade Organisation.**

HATHAY BUNANO

## Businesses seek tax breaks for online purchase until 2025

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) has demanded tax breaks for all online purchase up to 2025, a privilege the sector has until the current year.

Razib Ahmed, president of e-CAB, said they also demanded the government declare e-commerce as a special business sector.

The platform raised four demands for the upcoming budget for fiscal 2016-17 and will send the demands to the finance and commerce ministries this week, he said.

There are more than 3,000 categories of trade licences now, but e-commerce is not one of them.

The finance minister can declare it as a new category, and make it easier for entrepreneurs to join the sector, Ahmed added. Currently 3 percent bank charges apply to online transactions for e-commerce, and it should be fixed at less than 1 percent, he said.

"We believe the implementation of these recommendations will play an important role in building a prosperous e-commerce sector in Bangladesh."

The finance minister had slapped a 4 percent tax on all e-commerce transactions in the budget for 2015-16, but withdrew it after strong opposition from the business community. The government had also proposed a 5 percent surcharge on internet use, but cut that down to 3 percent after criticism.

There are more than 1,000 active e-commerce operators, in addition to numerous other platforms that mainly operate via Facebook, according to e-CAB.

Currently e-commerce sales in Bangladesh are worth around Tk 400 crore a year, according to LightCastle Partners, a research organisation that works on digital services.

Ahmed said the market is growing fast and favourable conditions are necessary to propel growth.

The market is growing at around 20 percent a year, according to e-CAB.

## Wholesale flower sales double

**MOHSIN MILON, Benapole**

Florists in Godkhali in Jessore have had cheerful days in the last few days as the sales of flowers went up ahead of Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day celebrations. Sales of flowers surrounding the twin events have already doubled to Tk 8 crore from last year.

Godkhali is home to Bangladesh's largest flower wholesale market, accounting for about 70 percent of the total flower supply, according to industry people.

Farmers said both the production and the demand of flowers increased this year. As a result, they benefited from higher prices compared with last year.

**READ MORE ON B3**

## Apple to launch new iPhone, iPad in March

Apple Inc is on target to introduce its next iPhone and iPad models on March 15, and aims to start selling the devices in the same week, technology blog 9to5Mac reported.

Apple, however, is unlikely to take pre-orders for the new devices. -- REUTERS

www.midlandbankbd.net

**MDB Contact Centre 24/7**

A Bank that never sleeps, we are just a call away...

Contact Centre:  
(+88) 096 66 410 888  
(+88) 096 11 410 888

**midlandbank** ltd  
bank for inclusive growth

**diesel generator**



**Energypac**

www.energypac.com

01714019265, 01714099373

**সম্মান**

স্বাগত স্বাগত স্বাগত

**ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:**

নির্ধারিত ঠিকানা: ০২-৯৮৯২২২১

প্রারম্ভিক জমা ২৫,০০০ টাকা  
ফি এটিএম কার্ড ও চেক বই\*  
ফি আন্তঃনগর লেনদেন সুবিধা



**KK KAZI & KAZI TEA**

Raise your cup to good health

*Kazi & Kazi's Tulsi and Ginger Tea are healthy remedies for colds and indigestion extracted directly from nature; enriched with antioxidants, they help retain youth.*

Each and every medicinal property is grown 100% organically.



100% Organic