

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
0.09%	0.19%	\$1,282.80	\$49.11	0.90%	3.51%	1.33%	3.23%	BUY TK 77.85	86.77	109.79	0.71
4,405.40	8,246.86	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	26,396.77	16,019.18	2,785.43	2,832.51	SELL TK 78.84	90.16	113.18	0.75

আপনার বিআরটিএ ফি এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি বিল এসআইবিএল এর যে কোন শাখায় মাধ্যমে জমা দিন



\* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2016

## GP breached rules over internet services to Sonali Bank: regulator

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**

Mobile operator Grameenphone has provided internet services to Sonali Bank violating rules, the telecom regulator said yesterday.

Grameenphone established a fibre optic connectivity to facilitate online transactions of the bank, which is against the licensing rules of a mobile operator.

Mobile operators are allowed to provide internet services only through mobile devices and modems. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission will now ask the operator to discontinue the service and explain why a fine will not be slapped on it.

The network solutions were provided to the state-run bank through Go Broadband, which is a high-speed internet service brought by Agni Systems and ADN Telecom in partnership with Grameenphone.

Though the regulator is not putting any blame on Agni Systems and ADN Telecom, warning letters will be sent to them, said BTRC Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood.

Officials of the telecom regulator said Grameenphone signed an agreement with Sonali Bank in December 2014 to establish last-mile connect-

ity for the bank through a fibre optic. But rules do not permit a mobile operator to deploy fibre optic cables.

BTRC said Grameenphone has connected 551 remote branches of Sonali Bank under the GO Broadband service.

"Grameenphone cannot be involved in internet business except for mobile internet. But here they are doing this business putting Agni Systems and ADN Telecom on the front," another BTRC official said.

Grameenphone declined to respond to the allegation but said: "We have not received any information from the BTRC and so cannot comment at this time."

"We will respond when we have clarity on why the BTRC approval has allegedly been rescinded," the operator said in a statement yesterday.

While giving the approval to Go Broadband in 2013, the regulator had said only Agni Systems and ADN Telecom would provide the Wi-Max service. Grameenphone was only allowed to share its passive infrastructure like office spaces and marketing channels for the service.

The issue came to the fore after Internet Service Providers' Association of Bangladesh or ISPAB in a written complaint told the regulator that GO Broadband is providing fibre optic

connections to some banks.

"We have learnt that they have signed an agreement with Sonali Bank to offer services through fibre optic connections, which is a violation of rules," ISPAB President MA Hakim said in the letter, urging the regulator to open a probe into the issue.

According to rules, ISPs can offer connectivity to users like banks and other service providers, but for doing so they have to be connected via fibre optic cables of Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) operators.

But no ISPs or NTTN operators were involved in the agreement between Grameenphone and Sonali Bank.

After getting the complaint from the ISPAB, the telecom regulator sought clarification from Grameenphone. But BTRC was not satisfied with the mobile operator's reply. Grameenphone said it has established a fibre optic connection of about five lakh kilometres for the 551 branches of Sonali Bank.

The regulator termed the network "the largest illegal telecom network" in the country's history.

The mobile operator earned Tk 5,000 a month from each branch, according to the agreement, which was initially for three years with a provision of extension.

## Inflation lowest in 43 months

Consumer prices fall 16 basis points month-on-month in May as commodities become cheaper in international markets

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Inflation decelerated 16 basis points month-on-month to 5.45 percent in May -- the lowest in 43 months.

May's figure takes the 11-month mean inflation to 5.96 percent, which is below the full-year target of 6.2 percent.

"I hope inflation will be within the target by the end of June," said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, while releasing the data yesterday.

Inflation declined as the prices of commodities and food fell both internationally and domestically, he said.

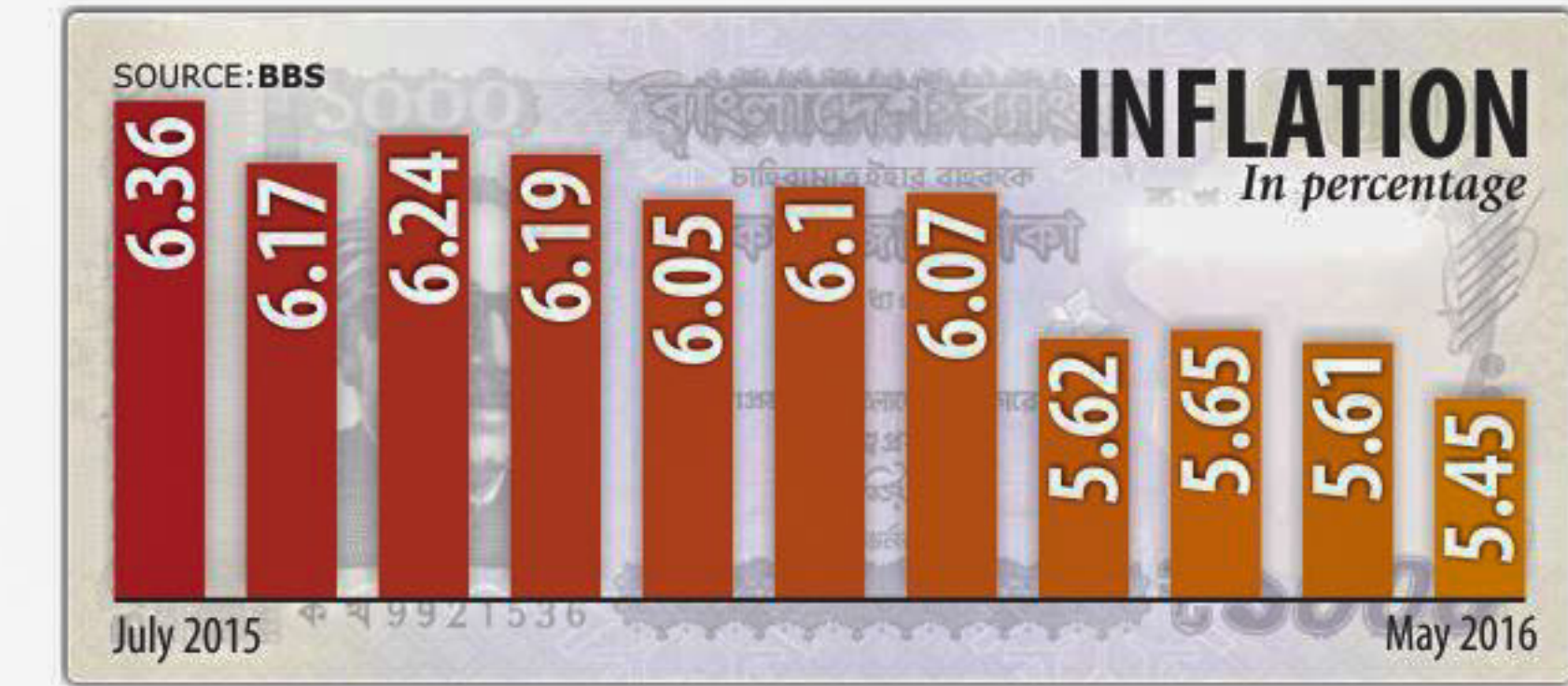
Boro production was bumper and crop production was also good as well - and they helped in lowering inflation.

Last month, food inflation dropped 3 basis points to 3.81 percent and non-food inflation 42 basis points to 8.34 percent on the back of the decline in commodity prices, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Thanks to the decline in prices of commodities, inflation did not increase much even if the new payscale has been implemented.

Inflation, however, might go up this month and the next due to Eid purchasing pressure but the impact would be small, Kamal said.

In his budget speech, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said satisfactory agricultural production, reduction of fuel price in international market and prudent management of macroeco-



nomics have helped in lowering inflation.

Though the government has recently lowered the prices of various petroleum products, the price of diesel, a big part of inflation, saw a token cut.

If the diesel price is not lowered substantially, it will not have much impact on non-food inflation, according to observers.

The finance minister in his budget speech said there is a likelihood that the prices of commodities including oil will continue to decline in the international market in the coming years.

Further downward adjustment of fuel prices is likely to continue.

Side by side, the prospects of persistent agricultural growth and improvement in domestic distribution system will help contain food inflation at a tolerable level, Muhith said.

"In addition, in terms of macroeco-

nomics management, we will ensure continued harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies."

Muhith set the inflation target at 5.8 percent for the upcoming fiscal year.

If achieved, this would be the lowest average inflation in a decade.

The inflation goal is in line with what was suggested by economists and development partners.

In the latest report on Bangladesh, the World Bank said the central bank could be more ambitious in lowering the inflation target to below 6 percent.

However, both the WB and the International Monetary Fund recently said inflation is expected to edge up from fiscal 2015-16 through to fiscal 2017-18 on account of higher public sector wages and a one-off effect of the introduction of the new VAT law.

High inflation hits the poorest the hardest, particularly those with fixed income.

## NBR's revenue receipts rise 14pc in April

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

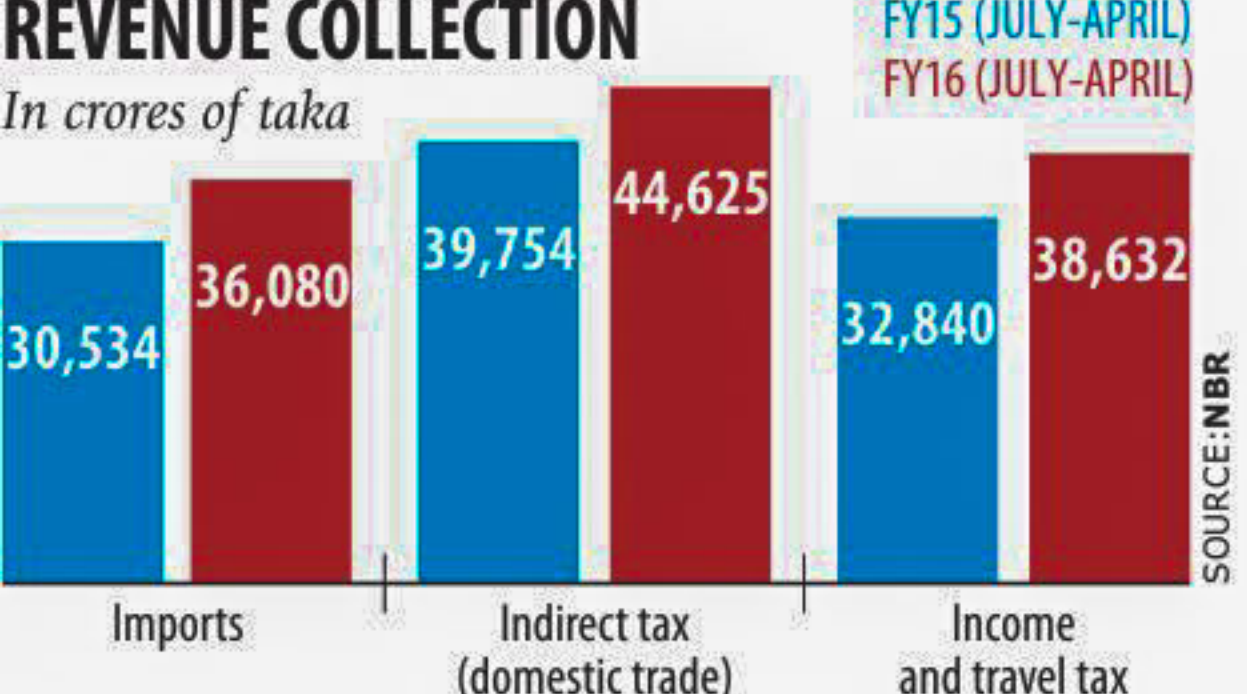
Revenue collections by the National Board of Revenue rose 14 percent year-on-year to Tk 13,905 crore in April, thanks to increased receipts from income tax and external trade-related activities.

Income tax receipts surged 42 percent year-on-year to Tk 5,348 crore in April, according to the provisional data released by the NBR yesterday.

The collection of withholding tax from contractors accelerated with an increase in spending under the annual development programme or ADP, said a senior NBR official, seeking anonymity.

The collection usually gathers pace towards the end of every fiscal year, the official said.

Between July and April, Tk 47,114 crore was spent under ADP, up from Tk 43,333 crore in the same period a year ago, according to data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division.



The NBR official expects the collection to get speed in the last two months of 2015-16 that ends on June 30.

However, VAT receipts from domestic trade declined 3 percent year-on-year to Tk 4,710 crore in April.

Revenue collection from imports rose 8 percent to Tk 3,742 crore in April from the same month a year ago due to increased imports, according to NBR.

Overall, the NBR's revenue collection increased 16 percent year-on-year to Tk 119,338 crore in July-April period of the current fiscal year.

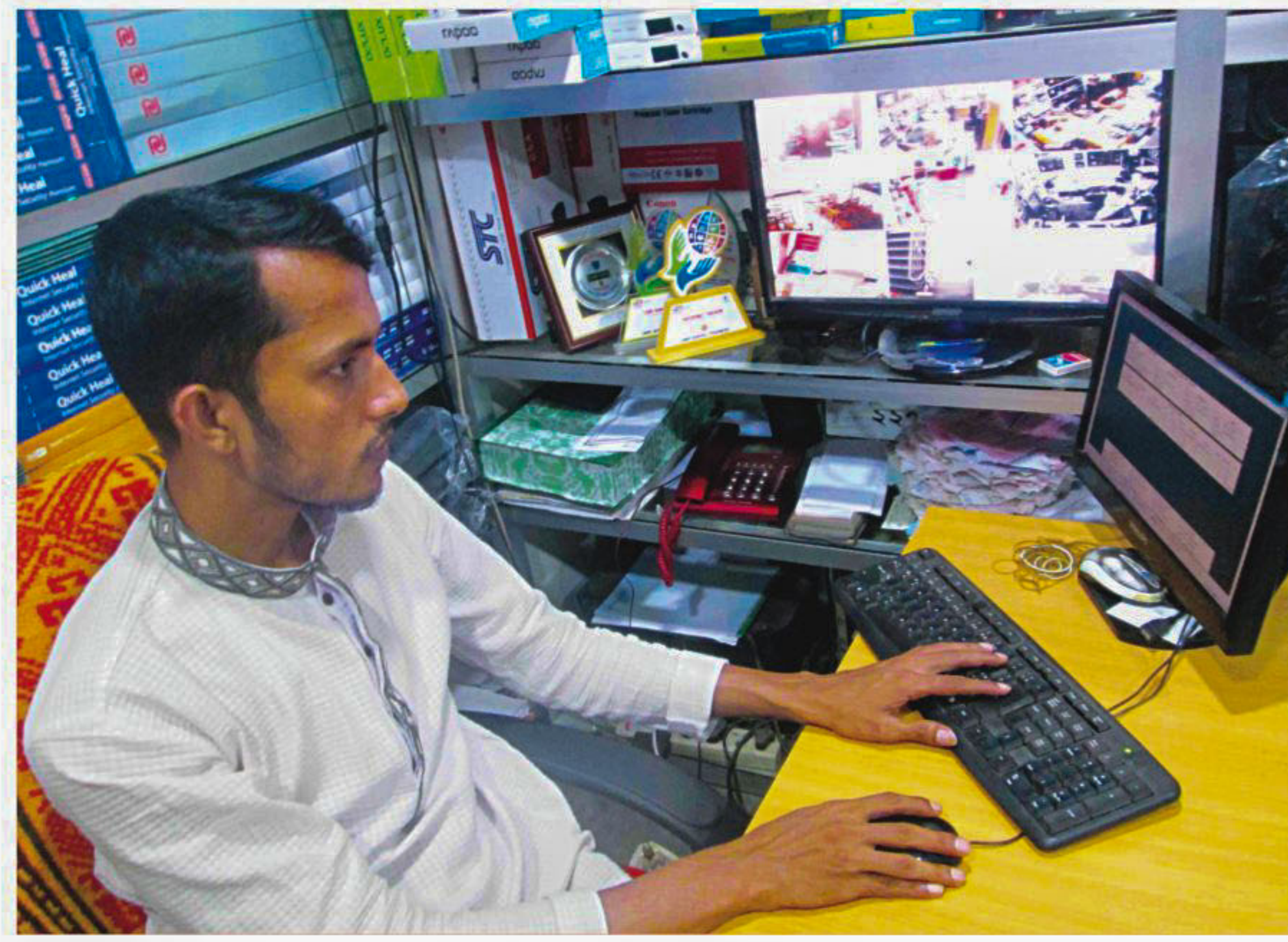
The 10-month collection shows that the taxmen will have to log in an additional Tk 30,662 crore in the last two months of the current fiscal year to reach the revised target of Tk 150,000 crore.

Officials expect that they would be able to hit the revised tax collection target by the end of the fiscal year.

In July-April of the current fiscal year, income tax receipts rose 18 percent to Tk 37,843 crore from revised collection of Tk 32,149 crore in the same period a year ago, according to the NBR.

VAT collection grew 12 percent to Tk 44,625 crore in July-April period from the revised receipts in the same period of the previous year.

Collection from customs rose 18 percent year-on-year to Tk 36,080 crore in July-April, according to the tax administrator.



Ferdous Hossain operates a computer in his shop—New Chips and Bytes—at Hatem Ali Market in Pirojpur.

## From troubled Pirojpur youth to an adept IT businessman

**HABIBUR RAHMAN and ANDREW EAGLE**

Ferdous Hossain from Uttar Shankarpasa village in Pirojpur sadar upazila was a meritorious student. In class V, he secured a scholarship. But after completing his Higher School Certificate, as youth too often do, Ferdous took a few missteps in life. He passed days aimlessly in the company of the wrong crowd.

Although he enrolled at a college in Khulna to study computer science he returned to Pirojpur a year later without completing the course. For someone who once dreamt of a career in administration it wasn't easy to face the reality that hopes were dashed.

"I didn't finish my study," Ferdous, now 27, regrets. "But I realised that I had gained some computer knowledge." With few options to re-align his life in a more fruitful direction, Ferdous thought of business.

"What I've realised is that business is the most honest way of earn-

ing an income, more so than many professions. And in business one can shine relatively quickly," he says.

Of course Ferdous's business journey was not without challenge. At first he took a loan for Tk 85,000 from relatives in order to rent a shop in Pirojpur town. The advance on the shop was Tk 50,000; with the remainder he bought a computer.

It was a modest start. Ferdous used to load songs onto people's mobile phones. Gradually he started servicing mobile phones with skills gleaned from watching others. He thought to onsell computer equipment purchased from wholesalers in Khulna. But progress was incremental, stifled by being an unknown business quantity and by lack of capital.

"For three years I focused on building customer relations," says Ferdous. "Customers are the main component of any business. I tried to gain trust by offering the best products and services according to their needs. I still do."

As an incentive, Ferdous offered free servicing of all equipment sold.

He spent time marketing his

business, and went door to door inviting people to visit his shop. To create IT awareness he also organised several campaigns at different educational institutions, arranging IT general knowledge competitions that proved popular.

At the same time Ferdous was earning trust elsewhere. Khulna IT wholesalers became confident to extend 15 days' credit to him on larger purchases, which helped overcome the problem of a cash flow that was little more than a trickle. It meant he could deliver products quickly despite limited funds.

After most of four years when Ferdous decided it was time to take Tk 7 lakh in bank loans to fund expansion, he was determined to establish relationship of trust with the bankers as well.

"Ferdous always repays loans in time," says Parimal Chandra Biswas, manager of Pubali Bank in Pirojpur. "Ferdous is a successful IT businessman. He has done well quite quickly and we hope to give him a new loan soon."

## IDLC gets asset management licence

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

IDLC has received an asset management licence that will allow the leading non-bank financial institution to launch and manage different types of funds through its new subsidiary wing.

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission last week gave the licence to IDLC Asset Management Ltd or IDLC AML, a subsidiary fully owned by IDLC Finance.

It is the 20th asset management company or AMC approved by the stockmarket regulator. However, the IDLC AML will have to comply with relevant laws, regulatory requirements and the conditions imposed by the BSEC.

An AMC is a company that pulls funds from its clients and invests in securities that match its declared financial objectives. AMCs provide investors with more diversification and investing options than they would have by themselves.

The principal objective of the IDLC AML is to carry out the business of asset management, primarily through launching and managing mutual funds to cater to the diverse needs of investors, according to the company's website.

## Indian student goes undercover to expose child labour

**AFP, Ahmedabad, India**

An Indian business student who went undercover to expose child labour at a factory promised Monday to keep up the fight after her efforts led to the rescue of more than 100 children.

Jharna Joshi, 22, was visiting relatives in the western state of Gujarat when she noticed large numbers of children going to work at a ceramics factory.

She asked local people about the issue but could not confirm the workers were under-age, so decided to apply for a management trainee job at the factory.

"In the factory I accessed records of these workers and found that the majority of them were below 18 years of age. Some were even below 14 years which is illegal," she told AFP.

ফার্দুস সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:

বিস্তারিত জানতে ০২-৯৮৯২২২১

READ MORE ON B3