

# Star BUSINESS

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আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স

আপনার সংসার পোছানোর আসবাবপত্র, শিফা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য জোগানপত্র কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।

• ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা  
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬৯২০০৯২২



City

## Top taxpayers honoured

### Tax cards handed to 141 taxpayers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday honoured top taxpayers at the national level for depositing the highest amount of taxes to the state coffers in fiscal 2015-16 -- a practice expected to spur others to be just as compliant.

Some 141 taxpayers, including 76 individuals, were given tax cards and crests as recognition for their exemplary compliance.

Separately, the NBR awarded 370 highest taxpayers at the district level and 147 long-time

received recognition from Finance Minister AMA Muhith at a ceremony organised by the National Board of Revenue at its new headquarters at Agargaon in Dhaka.

The ceremony also marked the beginning of Income Tax Week (November 24-November 30), introduced by the NBR for the first time this year to provide better services to individual taxpayers and assist them to file tax returns ahead of the November 30 deadline.

"This is a matter of pride for me," said Subir Nandi, a renowned singer, after receiving the tax

our despite paying sizeable sums regularly.

"This is a revolutionary step," Nandi said on the government's decision to honour taxpayers based on various categories and professions.

This year, the NBR awarded top taxpayers in 18 categories for individuals, 14 categories for companies and four categories for firms and other taxpayers at the national level.

For individuals, the tax authority gave recognition to taxpayers in four special categories and 14 categories based on profession or sources of income.



From left, Unilever Bangladesh Chairman Kamran Bakr and Berger Paints Managing Director Rupali Chowdhury receive top-taxpayer awards from State Minister for Finance MA Mannan on behalf of their companies; Standard Chartered Bangladesh's acting CEO Naser Ezaz Bijoy receives an award from Finance Minister AMA Muhith as the bank was honoured as a top taxpayer.

taxpayers for their compliance in Dhaka and other divisional cities.

"I'm very happy that our efforts and achievements are being duly recognised, not only for banking services but also for our contributions to the national exchequer," said Abrar A Anwar, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, one of the top taxpayers. Standard Chartered is the oldest bank with a history of 111 years and is the largest foreign bank in Bangladesh.

"It's really a good feeling to be honoured by the government," said Sultan Mahmud after receiving an award as a new taxpayer. Mahmud, owner of Shaha Enterprise, a clearing and forwarding agent, said the recognition increases his responsibility.

Mahmud along with other top taxpayers

card for paying the second highest amount of tax in his profession.

"I cannot only demand from the state -- I have responsibilities too. I have to pay taxes from my honestly earned money so that the state can work for all," Nandi said.

This is the first time Nandi has got recognition as one of the highest taxpayers under the NBR's newly expanded tax card policy.

Since fiscal 2010-11, tax cards were given in only two categories -- individuals and companies -- with 10 tax cards for each to encourage compliance in the country where less than 1 percent of the population file returns and tax avoidance is believed to be high.

As the total number of tax cards was restricted to 20, many taxpayers were left out of the hon-

Every solvent citizen should pay income tax, which is needed to boost economic growth, said BSRM Group Director Tehseen Zohair Taherali, who was awarded as the highest female taxpayer under the Chittagong City Corporation.

In Chittagong division, the second biggest engine of the economy after Dhaka, the NBR honoured 41 top taxpayers in four categories.

"Income tax payment is a matter of heroism," said Muhith at the programme in Dhaka, adding that the person who pays tax plays a role in national development.

Given the increased participation in tax fairs and bigger collections, taxpayers no longer consider compliance with tax rules to be a hassle, except for a few cases, he said.

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## Star, Prothom Alo owning companies and editors awarded as top taxpayers



Mediaworld Chairperson Rokia Afzal Rahman receives an award on behalf of the owning company of The Daily Star from State Minister for Finance MA Mannan as it was recognised as a top taxpayer in the print and electronic media category, at a ceremony organised by the NBR in Dhaka yesterday. NBR Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman was also present.

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Three of the four top-taxpayer awards handed out to the print and electronic media for fiscal 2015-16 went to the owning companies of The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo and an associated company.

Among journalists, the editors of the two top-selling newspapers were awarded for paying the highest amount of tax.

The Daily Star's owning company Mediaworld Ltd and its printer Transcraft Ltd were honoured for being the top taxpayers in the print and electronic media. Prothom Alo's owning company Mediastar was also awarded.

East West Media Group Ltd, a unit of

Bashundhara Group, took home the other tax card in the media category.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld, received the award on behalf of the company at a ceremony organised by the National Board of Revenue at its new headquarters at Agargaon in Dhaka.

On behalf of Mediastar, Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of the Prothom Alo, received the award.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was honoured for paying the highest amount of taxes among journalists, followed by MA Malek, editor of the Dainik Azadi of Chittagong, and Matiur Rahman of the Prothom Alo.

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## Robi profit nosedives 98pc in Q3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mobile operator Robi's net profit slumped 98.41 percent to Tk 1.76 crore in the third quarter of the year as its drawn-out merger with Airtel continues to weigh heavy on its earnings.

The merger finally took effect last week although the announcement came in September last year. The company paid Tk 318 crore to the regulator last week as partial merger fees and charges. In the third quarter, Robi's revenue rose 11.5 percent from a year earlier to Tk 1,390 crore.

"We experienced solid mobile revenue growth during the third quarter of 2016," Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of Robi.

But the decline in customer base following biometric registration and network modernisation also impacted Robi's third-quarter profits, said officials.

Robi invested Tk 290 crore in the third quarter for network expansion mainly focusing on the Chittagong-Comilla region, which is known as the stronghold of the company. It lost around 30 lakh active mobile subscribers in the July-September because of biometric registration.

The deactivation of non-compliant SIMs after May 31 has negatively impacted the growth momentum of business, according to the Robi CEO.

Robi witnessed a loss of Tk 3.42 crore in the second quarter of 2016 after thirteen consecutive quarters of net profit; it bounce back again in the third quarter.

## Worker leaders demand punishment for Tazreen Fashions owner

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Trade union leaders yesterday again demanded exemplary punishment for the owner of Tazreen Fashions as 113 workers of the factory were killed in a fire mainly due to his negligence.

The fire that burned down the factory in Ashulia four years ago also injured more than 200 workers.

The Tazreen Fashions fire was not an accident but a killing incident due to the negligence of its owner Delwar Hossain, the union leaders said in a statement.

The leaders addressed the surviving victims and dependants at a token sit-in programme in front of the National Press Club.

Hossain is now out of jail as the High Court granted him bail last year. However, in September last year, charges were framed against 13 people, including two owners of Tazreen Fashions, in a case over the devastating fire.

"Delwar Hossain should be arrested

### AMOUNTS PAID TO THE VICTIMS SO FAR

| TYPE OF CLAIMS | CLAIMS     | ELIGIBLE CLAIMS | NON-ELIGIBLE CLAIMS | TOTAL DEPENDANTS | NON-ELIGIBLE DEPENDANTS | PAYMENTS MADE TO DEPENDANTS | TAKA               |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Deceased       | 103        | 103             | 0                   | 378              | 5                       | 373                         | 99,358,890         |
| Missing        | 10         | 9               | 1                   | 38               | 1                       | 37                          | 10,537,872         |
| Injured        | 174        | 172             | 2                   | 174              | 2                       | 172                         | 57,567,120         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>287</b> | <b>284</b>      | <b>3</b>            | <b>590</b>       | <b>8</b>                | <b>582</b>                  | <b>167,463,882</b> |

SOURCE: TAZREEN CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

The above amounts do not include salaries and other assistance provided by financing from C&A Foundation and others through CARITAS Bangladesh

immediately, as many workers were killed only for his negligence," said Nazma Akter, executive member of the IndustriALL Global Union.

Many victims are yet to be compensated properly, said Nazma.

Tazreen Claims Administration Trust (TCA) paid around Tk 17 crore (about \$2.17 million), to 582 beneficiaries of Tazreen Fashion fire, said Mojtaba Kazazi, chief commissioner of the TCA, in response to an email from The Daily Star.

Payments were made directly to the individual bank accounts that were opened for each beneficiary with Dutch-Bangla Bank's Motijheel branch. The amount does not include salaries and other assistance provided by financing from C&A Foundation and others through CARITAS Bangladesh, Kazazi said.

The payment of compensation from TCA is over. It was formally closed down on June 30, 2015, he added.

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## BB to cut currency printing costs

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Bank is devising ways to reduce currency printing costs as the country has to spend a whopping Tk 500 crore a year on new notes and coins, central bank officials said.

The expenses that include costs of printing materials, paper, ink, colour, security thread and printing doubled in the last five years to keep up with the demand and the economic growth.

"We are encouraging electronic payment gateways so that the dependence on cash goes down," an official said.

Three such payment gateways have been given licences as payment service operators and they are already in operation. They are shurjoPay, SSL Commerce (easy.bd.com) and IT Consultants Ltd (ITCL).

Some other applications are awaiting approval, according to the BB.

With these e-commerce channels, people can buy goods and services and top up their mobile phones. People will also be able to exchange money and make payments for purchases, utilities and other services.

"If we can reduce the currency printing cost by 20 percent, it will save us Tk 100 crore," said the BB official.

At present, the central bank has to spend Tk 0.95 on a one taka coin and Tk 1.2 on a two taka coin. A 5 taka coin costs nearly Tk 2.

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## Teletalk gives false info to parliament: regulator

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

State-owned operator Teletalk has provided to parliament manipulative information on illegal call termination, according to a report by the telecom regulator.

Teletalk has tried to hide real information and reduced the number of SIMs that were seized by law enforcing agencies, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said in the report sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the telecom and ICT ministry.

The committee sought clarification from Teletalk a few months back, when the allegation arose that the state-owned operator was directly engaged in illegal international call termination.

In a report, Teletalk said 21,874 of their SIMs were seized in 37 raids by the regulator with the help of law enforcing agencies

from January 2013 to August 2016.

Upon receiving this information, the parliamentary standing committee asked the regulator to confirm the information provided by Teletalk.

They found that there was a discrepancy between the real statistics and the information provided by Teletalk.

BTRC said there were actually 46 raids, and 25,903 SIMs of Teletalk were seized. Teletalk also mentioned inflated figures for other operators.

Imran Ahmad, chairman of the standing committee, said he has seen both the reports. "Actually I was quite surprised to see the huge gap in the two reports."

The matter will be discussed further in the next committee meeting, he said.

However, when contacted, Gias Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Teletalk, said he has no idea about the BTRC report.

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## Bangladesh team to meet Philippines president on stolen BB funds

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A high-level team led by Law Minister Anisul Huq will go to the Philippines on Saturday with the objective to repatriate about \$66 million stolen from Bangladesh Bank reserves by the hackers.

The team, which includes Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Rabbi, will meet with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on November 28, US-based Bloomberg News reported, citing Bangladesh Ambassador John Gomes.

Officials at the finance ministry and the BB also confirmed that the team has got appointment for meeting the Philippine president.

The Bangladesh team will also meet with Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, Finance

Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre, Central Bank Governor Amando Tetangco and officials of gaming regulator in the Philippines.

So far, Bangladesh has managed to bring back \$15.25 million of the \$81 million stolen from the central bank's account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York by cyber thieves in February.

The team is going to ensure that the top level leaders of the Philippines provide support for repatriating the remaining amount.

The team will also include Abdur Razzak, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry; Attorney General Mahbubey Alam; and Banking Secretary Eunusur Rahman.

The law minister, while replying

to journalists' query about his ensuing Philippines visit yesterday, said he will speak about the success or failure of his visit upon his return on November 30.

On November 12, Bangladesh received \$15.25 million in cash from the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines after a Filipino court in September adjudged that the BB is the rightful owner of the money surrendered by casino boss Kim Wong and his Eastern Hawaii Leisure Company.

The money has already been deposited in the BB account with NY Fed. In February, hackers flooded the NY Fed with requests for transfers totalling almost \$1 billion from an account owned by the BB.

Around \$101 million was suc-

cessfully withdrawn before suspensions were raised. Of the amount, \$20 million was wired to Sri Lanka and recovered by the BB soon after.

The rest was transferred to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp of the Philippines and from there \$46 million found its way into the lightly regulated Filipino casino industry and disappeared.

At least \$54 million of the \$81 million that ended up in the Philippines could be recovered, according to the probe carried out by a three-member team led by former BB governor Mohammed Farashuddin.

So far, the anti-money laundering regulator of the Philippines has accounted for \$60 million of the stolen money.

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