

# ICAB awards 28 for best presented annual reports



Finance Minister AMA Muhith attends a ceremony at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday when the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh honoured 28 firms for the best presented annual reports for 2016.

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) yesterday honoured 28 firms for the best presented annual reports in 2016.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed presented the awards to the banks, manufacturers and public sector entities from 13 categories at a programme at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Brac Bank Ltd won the first prize in the private banking sector category while Southeast Bank and United Commercial Bank jointly became second and Prime Bank third. Janata Bank was honoured from among public sector banks.

LankaBangla Finance Ltd and IDLC Finance Ltd were jointly awarded from among non-banking financial institutions. IPDC Finance Ltd came second followed by Union Capital.

In the manufacturing sector, RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Ltd and British American Tobacco Bangladesh Ltd were recognised for top reports. Orion Pharma Ltd got second prize and GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd third, according to an

ICAB press release.

The ICAB honoured Prime Insurance Company Ltd with the first prize in the insurance category. Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd was recognised for having the second best report followed by Reliance Insurance Ltd.

In the non-governmental organisation category, Brac got the top award while that for the second best report went to Sajida Foundation and the third to Uddipan.

Grameenphone Ltd was the only firm in the communication and information technology category that was honoured. Reports by other firms did not qualify, said an ICAB official. Investment Corporation of Bangladesh was awarded in the public sector entities category. Infrastructure Development Company Ltd became second and Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Ltd third.

Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd was the first prize winner in the service category while Golden Harvest Agro Industries Ltd in agriculture. Under the category of corporate governance disclosures, Southeast Bank became first followed by Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and Bank Asia.

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## Top household brands felicitated

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

BANGLADESH Brand Forum yesterday recognised the finest local and international brands operating in the country in a testament to the brands' acceptance among consumers.

The Best Brand Awards were handed over in partnership with leading brand research company Kantar Millward Brown Bangladesh and The Daily Star at the Le Méridien Dhaka.

A total of 103 brands were awarded in 35 categories in the ninth edition of the awards, which is based on consumer survey.

In addition, one best newcomer brand, one most improved brand and one most consistent brand were awarded this year.

Among the 'Overall Top 30 Brands'

category, Grameenphone, Horlicks, and Rupchanda Fortified Soyabean Oil bagged the first three positions respectively.

Ispahani Mirzapore Tea, Radhuni Masala and Super Fresh Fortified Soyabean Oil respectively occupied the top three spots in the 'Local Top 10 Brands' category. The three local brands were among the top ten brands in the 'Overall Top 30 Brands' category as well.

Transcom Beverage, sole franchisee of PepsiCo in Bangladesh, won the top award for 7Up in the carbonated soft drink category.

Lux was the most loved toilet soap, while Wheel was the most preferred laundry detergent.

Closeup was the top oral care brand, Sunsilk the top shampoo brand and Parachute Advansed the top hair oil.

Fresh, ACI Pure, Radhuni, Dano, Maggi Noodles, Pran Frooto, Pran Milk Candy, Polar, MUM and Fresh Refined Sugar won in the edibles category.

Bata, Symphony, Walton, RFL, BSRM, Berger, Shah Cement, bKash, RAK Ceramics, BRB and Bashundhara LPG were also recognised.

Shwapno was the most loved supermarket. Sylon won in the liquid antiseptic category and Harpic in the toilet cleaner category.

Launched in 2008, the Best Brand Award is held every year in association with The Daily Star to honour the top brands in the country.

This year's awards are also supported by Etihad Airways; Le Méridien Dhaka; Marketing Society of Bangladesh; Aamra Technologies, Masthead PR and Webable.



Representatives from different brands pose for photographs at an award function at the Le Méridien hotel in the capital yesterday.

## Bangladeshi women thriving in chartered accountancy

CA Women's Forum to mentor next generation of professionals

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

CHARTERED accountancy profession in Bangladesh has reached a milestone recently after the number of CA-qualified women crossed 100.

The seed for the feat was planted in 1985 when Suraiya Zannath started working with SF Ahmed & Co. in Dhaka after graduating from Chittagong Commerce College.

She knew very little about the profession that is completely dominated by men. But her uncle, who was also the principal of the college, served her inspiration.

"I only knew that people who

management specialist for governance global practice at the World Bank.

Since 1989, some 109 women have earned the CA qualification and 50 more are in pipeline, said Parveen Mahmud, chairman of women in leadership committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh.

The professional body yesterday organised a programme at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka to celebrate the feat. It also launched the CA Women's Forum.

The forum will work both at policy and implementation levels to support present and future women members and other women stakeholders.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder



Gowher Rizvi, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, and Rokia Afzal Rahman, a noted women entrepreneur, attend the launch of CA Women's Forum at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

study commerce end up in CA. My family and SF Ahmed & Co. helped me a lot."

The firm faced difficulties as it had to arrange a separate room for Zannath as well as took troubles in deciding where she would be sent to carry out audits.

The trouble for her did not end there: during the course she got married and became a mother. But her efforts paid off finally. When she passed CA in 1989 she became Bangladesh's first female qualified chartered accountant.

"It feels good when people say that I am their inspiration," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

Zannath is now the lead financial

holders, said Mahmud, also the second qualified female CA in Bangladesh.

The ICAB recognised the female advancement in CA profession as well as the contribution of women, who are the role models in society and showed the path to women after them to overcome barriers.

The honourees include: Suraiya Zannath; Parveen Mahmud, first female president of the ICAB; Akhtar Sanjida Kasem, first female practitioner; Shama Rukhi Alam, first corporate chief financial officer; Rahman Huq, which churned out the highest number of female CAs; and Md Jainul Abedin, who represented the family with the highest

and chairperson of Brac, handed over crests to the women.

Speaking on the occasion, Adeeb Hossain Khan, president of the ICAB, said the core objectives of the forum are to attract more women into the profession and address their specific needs within the profession.

"We also want this forum to act as a bridge between our profession and women in business and development so that chartered accountants can play a catalytic role in taking them to greater heights," he said in a statement.

Gowher Rizvi, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister, and Suraiya Begum, senior secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, also attended the ceremony.

**CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Saifuddin M Khaled Regional Operations Program Manager British American Tobacco Asia Pacific	Ejazur Rahman CEO ISCEA (Asia)	Mominul Islam Managing Director & CEO IPDC Finance Limited	Mahtab Uddin Ahmed Managing Director & CEO Robi Axiata Limited	Naquib Khan President Bangladesh Supply Chain Management Society Corporate Affairs Director Nestle Bangladesh
Professor Dr. Premkumar Vice Chancellor and Professor of Supply Chain Malaysia University of Science and Technology	Jayamal Jayaweera Consultant & Lecturer Supply Chain and ICT Former Supply Chain Director Coats Sri Lanka	Gayani De Alwis Vice Chairperson CILT Sri Lanka Former Customer Service Director Unilever Sri Lanka	Jitan Chandanani Partner - Blockchain Leader India and South Asia IBM India Pvt. Ltd.	

9 December 2017  
Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka  
Time: 9 am to 5 pm

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