BUSINESS

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Companiganj, a bordering upazila in Sylhet, is well known for its rivers lined with white stone that travellers from all over Bangladesh flock to see each year. As this is the first winter in two years that people in the country are not tied down by Covid-19 restrictions, tourist spots such as these are seeing a surge in visitors. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Taxpayers can file return on Jan 1: NBR

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday said it will accept tax returns from individual taxpayers on the first day of January 2023.

announcement comes as December 30 and December 31 are weekly holidays at government

offices. On November 30, the tax administration extended deadline regarding filing of tax returns by a month following demands from various quarters.

Taxpayers will be able to submit their returns manually during office hours of January 1, said Snaneen Aknter, member

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Tourism takes off with the coming of winter

SUKANTA HALDER

Tourist spots across Bangladesh are abuzz with both domestic and foreign travellers as the coming of winter, the country's main holiday season, has again brought cheers to the tourism sector following the relaxing of enforcement of pandemic restrictions since the middle of

Room bookings have already reached 90 per cent amid the current demand, according to hospitality service providers.

The trend is expected to continue until the end of January next year, they said, adding that December usually sees the highest turnout as many families their contribution to the economy. go on holiday when their children



Besides, Bangladeshi citizens who live abroad return during the month and visit different tourist

year, the increased This turnout is providing tourism and hospitality service providers good business, which is likely to boost

gross domestic product in fiscal 2018-19, according to the Tourism Satellite Account 2020 of the

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. addition, the sector accounted for 8 per cent of the total employment that year.

quite good as there is a lot of at around half during months The tourism sector accounted enthusiasm among travellers, outside the tourism season. stay at home for the winter break. for 3 per cent of the country's Our room occupancy is more

than 90 per cent," said Prasenjit Guha Thakurta, group general manager of Seagull Hotel in Cox's Bazar, the main holiday destination in Bangladesh.

After the school and college level exams end in November, many Bangladeshis living abroad, namely the EU and US, return home for vacation.

"As a result, there is too much traffic now," he added.

Abdul Awal, director for sales and marketing at Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Cox's Bazar, said compared to December 2021, they have a higher number of room bookings this year.

He said the occupancy rate "The response this season is at the 483-room hotel hovers

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Top taxpayers honoured

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday honoured 76 individuals, including Transcom Group Chairman Shahnaz Rahman, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, who deposited some of the highest amounts of tax in fiscal year 2021-22.

Shahnaz Rahman, wife of late Latifur Rahman, former chairman of Transcom Group, got the award from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as one of the top taxpayers in female category.

The tax authority awarded Shahnaz with the same status several times previously.

The NBR also honoured Mahfuz Anam and Matiur Rahman as top taxpayers in the journalist category at Officers' Club in Dhaka yesterday.

It is the seventh consecutive year both were awarded with crests and tax cards for payment of the highest amount of tax to the state exchequer.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm (Channel i), Shykh Seraj, founder director and head of news at Channel i, and Naem Nizam, editor of Bangladesh Pratidin, were the three other top taxpayers in journalist category.

Apart from individuals, the tax collector recognised 53 companies and 12 other organisations as the highest taxpaying entities in fiscal year 2021-22.

This includes Mediastar, the parent company of Bangla daily Prothom Alo. The firm, a sister concern of Transcom Group, won the accolade for the seventh year in a row in the print and electronic media category.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman received the tax card on behalf of Mediastar from NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem at

In the print and electronic media category, East West Media Group, Somoy Media and Times

nath a 1	STOCKS	
	DSEX 📥	CASPI 📤
A Desil	0.25% 6,195.81	0.08% 18,294.20

10	COMMODITIES		
*OIL	Gold 🔻	Oil 🔻	
	\$1,805.1 (per ounce)	\$79.20 (per barrel)	

	ASIAN MARKETS				
	MUMBAI	токуо	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
	0.02% 60,910.28	0.41% 26,340.50	0.02% 3,266.97	0.26% 3,087.40	



Bangladesh Road Transport Authority had earlier made it mandatory to have a valid driver's licence for buying two-wheelers in an effort to reduce road accidents. PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Textile millers worried over LC settlement in taka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Local textile millers yesterday expressed concern that they would lose business if letters of credit (LCs) were settled in taka, the local currency, instead of the US dollar.

Textile millers shared their views after knitwear exporters urged the central bank to allow them to open LCs for local sourcing of raw materials in taka mainly to address the challenges of a dollar crisis in the banking system.

Textile millers said they alongside spinners import cotton and other raw materials spending billions of US dollars.

But if the payment is made in taka, the existing exchange rate may cause them to lose Tk 700 crore on every Tk 1 billion-worth of goods.

Sharing the concerns, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) submitted a letter to Bangladesh Bank yesterday urging not to decide on allowing opening LCs in taka.

In the letter, the BTMA also said since the local spinners and millers settle import payments with the US dollars, the local sales of yarn should also be settled with the same currency. And this has been the practice for years, they said.

Some 95 per cent of yarn produced from the imported cotton is sold to the local garment exporters who are the members of the Bangladesh **Garment Manufacturers and Exporters** Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh **Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters** Association (BKMEA).

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More time for buying bike without driver's licence

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority extended the deadline for allowing the purchase of motorcycles without a valid driver's licence for the next

two months. The previous deadline had expired on December

In early July, the BRTA made it mandatory to have a valid driver's licence issuing registration

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আরো এক ঐতিহাসিক মাইলফলক পদ্মাসেতুর পর এবার সত্যি হলো মেট্রোরেলের স্বপ্ন

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে সমন্বিত, টেকসই ও অত্যাধুনিক যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলার কারণেই অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতির পথে এগোচ্ছে দেশ। দুরদর্শী ও বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্বে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ থেকে বাংলাদেশকে উন্নয়নশীল দেশে পরিণত করেছেন তিনি।

ধন্যবাদ, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী।

