### WB's purse strings always open for Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

Like other countries, the economy of Bangladesh has been severely impacted.

While on the one hand social distancing and movement restrictions have helped limit infections, on the other hand, domestic economic activities have been constrained and the vulnerable workers in the informal service sector have been hit hard as many have lost their sources of income.

Exports have declined sharply, as falling demand for apparel in Europe and the US resulted in the cancellation of many orders for garments in Bangladesh.

Remittances inflows have also come under pressure, particularly from the Middle East, which is managing the dual impact of coronavirus and lower oil prices.

"Consequently, the poverty eradication programme is jeopardised," said Tembon, who completed her first year as the country head of the development lender on July 1.

While the impact of coronavirus is severe, Bangladesh entered this crisis from an enviably robust macroeconomic position in terms of GDP growth, low public debt and substantial international reserves. With the timely implementation of a comprehensive and robust economic response programme, Bangladesh can mitigate the impact of coronavirus on poverty reduction and growth, she said.

According to Tembon, the extent of the

impact will depend on the duration of the crisis and the mitigation measures taken.

The government acted quickly with public health directives, the economic stimulus package

health directives, the economic stimulus package and scaled up social protection programmes. The WB also stepped up its support to help address the pandemic. She was encouraged to see

that the budget for fiscal 2020-21 acknowledges the substantial impact of the pandemic and the need for a rapid response.

"Most importantly, the budget operationalises the health financing and stimulus packages."

the health financing and stimulus packages earlier announced to mitigate the impact of coronavirus on households and firms." Notwithstanding, the growth and revenue

Notwithstanding, the growth and revenue assumptions in the budget may be challenging to achieve given the profound impact of coronavirus on the global economy, and additional external and domestic financing may be needed to fully implement the budget.

The stimulus package provides an essential starting point for economic recovery, the country director said.

Poor and vulnerable households have already benefited from the cash transfer and food programmes, while emergency lending to firms will help sustain employment in key sectors.

"However, given the depth of the impact of coronavirus on the economy, a larger response may be needed, particularly if the crisis prolongs. Three reactions come to mind."

First, the health sector may need additional

resources to fully respond to the emerging pandemic. Second, vulnerable households will benefit from scaling up targeted social protection programmes, particularly in urban areas that do not have the same coverage as rural areas.

Third, close monitoring of the financial sector will support the timely implementation of the lending packages.

The stimulus packages rely heavily on domestic bank lending, but bank capital is constrained by high default loans and increased government borrowing to finance the deficit.

"So, stronger financial sector monitoring will help ensure that the risks associated with these programmes are managed prudently. This will also help the government rapidly identify and address the implementation challenges," said Tembon, who joined the WB in 2000.

Revenue mobilisation is a longstanding challenge in Bangladesh, which has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world and a high reliance on indirect taxes. Revenues have also been impacted by the temporary decline in trade volumes and domestic economic activity.

The pandemic has given new urgency to the reform the revenue mobilisation agenda, including implementing the electronic VAT filing, establishing a national single window to streamline import and export procedures, and a new customs legislation to modernise risk management, Tembon said.

These reforms will help close compliance

Online teacher's information collection and payment system

(for recruiting question setters and moderators,

Developing e-filing system for all types of online applications.

The software will be developed using state-of-the-art design

standards ensuring high performance, availability, reliability,

The software will be deployed in an optimized and scalable

manner. It should adhere to the continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) principle. The development should

be cloud-native i.e., migration of any part at any time to

It is expected that the firm will develop a customized solution

for the proposed system. Use of open source technology will be recommended unless justified otherwise to prevent

unnecessary use of licensed tools/technology/database. Any

such use of licensed tools/technology/database must be pre-

approved/endorsed by client and/or its nominated consultants.

The firm must follow a well-defined software development

process to meet the SQA (Software Quality Assurance) criteria

specified by the nominated consultants and followed by

The software must have the provision for extensive

configurability and parameterization to ensure easy

The reports should be easily extendable to meet various future

The system must be able to communicate through the Internet

using web based and mobile communication technologies so

that the users can access to the system from anywhere in the

Old data of several years has to be entered from soft-copy

document and data migration is also needed from existing

All the documents including the source code and test scripts will have to be provided to the Project Authority for further

The functional Requirement Specifications (for the required modules) prepared by the Nominated Consultants (NC) shall be considered as the baseline. However, any justified

revision/omission/change thereof may be proposed which shall

The product, in different phases of the software development,

will be tested by the Nominated Consultants/Education Boards

according to the testing strategy and schedule provided by

Multiple firms (not more than two) having technical and legal

competency for developing such a product can apply jointly.

but they must have legal agreement among them where one

The firms must prove that they have solid technical background and

operational strength to undertake and move this work forward without

any hindrances. The firms must also have adequate technical ability, resources, and processes. As such, unless otherwise clearly

specified following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria:

Only Bangladeshi firms are eligible.

have to be endorsed by NC before implementation.

It will be a fully bilingual (Bangla and English) system.

The following points describe the expected standard of the software

robustness, security, maintainability and extensibility

examiners/head examiners/scrutinizers").

SMS push/pull services at different boards

Student Form Fill Up system (for all boards).

public/private cloud should be seamless.

standard industry practices.

maintenance and extensibility

database

Experience, resources and

delivery capacity required

of the above modules in brief:

gaps, raise additional revenues, streamline administration and support investment.

"The ongoing effort to complete the mediumterm revenue strategy is encouraging. This is a multi-year plan to raise additional revenues and sustain strong growth. The World Bank Group looks forward to a continued partnership on this important agenda."

The WB offers development finance, technical knowledge and rich global experience. Its analytical reports -- such as the poverty assessment, doing business, development updates, and others -- help inform the policymakers, think tanks and civil society on policy options.

Since independence, it has committed more than \$31 billion to support the country's development priorities.

The WB's programme in Bangladesh is anchored in the government's 7th Five-Year Plan and is supporting the government to attain its vision of upper-middle-income status through creating jobs, addressing barriers to growth, including, infrastructure, urbanisation, structural reforms, ease of doing business and climate change while building on the country's success in human development.

"We are tremendously impressed with what Bangladesh has accomplished within close to five decades to come out of the dearth of poverty," the Cameroonian national said.

overty," the Cameroonian national said.

In the last three years, Bangladesh faced two

unprecedented challenges: it saw the world's largest refugee influx and the generous way Bangladesh responded by opening its doors to them is truly remarkable.

And now, the coronavirus pandemic has created an enormous challenge, for which no country was prepared.

"In both situations, the World Bank mobilised quick relief support to cope with the respective challenges"

The recovery timeline from the pandemic is uncertain, Tembon said. However, it will be a function of the intensity of the pandemic and the scale of the response programme, both in Bangladesh and in the economies of its trading partners and overseas labour markets.

The WB's global forecasts include a range of projections that depend on these variables, with a baseline forecast for a gradual recovery in 2021 and 2022. To achieve faster recovery, it will take a couple of measures such as a strong and continued reform agenda to diversify export, improve the business climate, develop skills, increase female labour force participation and adapt to climate change.

"It will also take close monitoring of the financial sector to support the prudent growth of credit to the private sector will also be important. Lastly, it will depend on the extent to which the population complies with the necessary health and hygienic practices to stop the virus from spreading."

# US trade deficit widens

REUTERS, Washington

The US trade deficit widened in May as the COVID-19 pandemic pushed exports to their lowest level since 2009, strengthening expectations the economy will contract in the second quarter at its steepest pace since the Great Depression.

The Commerce Department said on Thursday the trade deficit increased 9.7 per cent to \$54.6 billion. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the trade gap would widen

to \$53 billion in May.

Exports tumbled 4.4 per cent to \$144.5 billion, the lowest since November 2009. Goods exports plunged 5.8 per cent to \$90.0 billion, the lowest since August 2009.

per cent to \$90.0 billion, the lowest since August 2009. Travel restrictions weighed on exports of services, which fell to \$54.5 billion, the lowest since December 2011.

Imports slipped 0.9 per cent to \$199.1 billion, the lowest since July 2010. Goods imports fell 0.8 per cent to \$166.0 billion, the lowest since September 2010.

Declining imports have led businesses to draw down on inventories, which will contribute to sinking gross domestic product in the second quarter.

The Atlanta Federal Reserve is forecasting that GDP will plunge at a record 36.8 per cent annualized rate in the April-June quarter. The economy contracted at a 5.0 per cent rate in the first quarter, the sharpest decline since the 2007, 2009 recession.

### Import through Benapole remains suspended for second day

The main exports items are jute and jute products, rice bran oil, cotton rags, fruit juice, potato crisps, soap, apparel items, betel nuts, handloom products, crude sesame oil,

frozen shrimp and unrefined lead.

About 500 export trucks have remained stuck in Benapole port for the last three months, said Mafizur Rahman Sazan, president of Benapole C&F Agents' Association

president of Benapole C&F Agents' Association. Bangladeshi exporters have been counting heavy losses

in the form of late charges, he said.

The officials concerned in Petrapole said there is no barrier on trade from the central government, which controls the Indian port, Tarafdar said.

The state government took control of the port when the pandemic began and ordered Petrapole to stop Bangladeshi trucks to curb the spread of coronavirus, said Kartik Chakrabarty, secretary of Petrapole C&F Agent Staff Welfare Association.

"We are negotiating with the state government to get permission for imports from Bangladesh, as both the parties are incurring losses for this barrier," he added.

Some 500 trucks used to enter Petrapole from Benapole before the emergence of the coronavirus, which came down to 250 after the resumption of trade, Tarafdar said. Normally 250 trucks laden with goods go over to India

However, port activities were normal yesterday and there was no pause in the delivery of goods from Benapole also.

# EBL introduces export factoring solution

FROM PAGE B4 "We strongly

in a day, he added.

"We strongly hope that the amount will increase to a great extent riding on the latest method," said Iftekhar, also the chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a forum of bank CEOs.

EBL, which started its business in 1992, will try to introduce a domestic factoring solution in the days ahead. Presently, the bank provides trade finance solutions at home and abroad through its Hong Kong subsidiary, named EBL Finance (HK), and has representative offices in

Myanmar and Guangzhou, China.
EBL has won Euromoney Best Bank in Bangladesh on three consecutive years starting 2016 for its professionalism, prudence and growth.

It also won a Best Corporate and Investment Bank accolade from Asiamoney three times and the Best Bank in Bangladesh in 2017 and Best Investment Bank of Bangladesh in 2019 by FinanceAsia.

## Listed banks bleed in H1. But the market is not too fussed.

FROM PAGE B1

Investors are waiting for an improvement to the coronavirus situation, said UCB Capital in its daily market analysis.

The floor price mechanism remains a bottleneck for the

The floor price mechanism remains a bottleneck for the market liquidity as buyers are not willing to purchase most of the shares at the artificially-set rates.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, dropped 2.35 points, or 0.06 per cent, to close the day at 3,986.74. Turnover, another important indicator of the market,

fell 85.39 per cent to Tk 81.2 crore. Pubali Bank was the top gainer closing 7.7 per cent

higher, followed by Dacca Dyeing, Keya Cosmetics, Tallu

Spinning and AB Bank.

Beximco Synthetics was the top loser shedding 7.46 per cent, followed by C&A Textile, Familytex BD, Islami Bank and Beximco Pharmaceuticals.



# Other details

GD-1069

firm must be designated as the lead firm. In what follows, join applicants are also referred to as firm and unless otherwise specified, in case of a joint venture, the eligibility criteria will be evaluated against the combined entity (See Clause 18). The firm must have 10 (ten) years or more of practical experience of developing large scale software systems to automate organizational activities. Work orders will not be considered as a valid document in this regard. The firm must have a workforce having a minimum size of 60 in the payroll comprising a) in-house system architects, b) software developers (including high, medium and low levels). and c) testing and dev-ops having experiences in developing applications with web-based frameworks (e.g., Spring, Struts etc), non-licensed databases (Relational DBMS such as PostgreSol, MariaDB), enterprise architecture and frameworks. The firm must have full-time deployment experts with experience of optimized deployment and provisioning in cloud The firm must have strong practice of high quality software

 The firm must have strong practice of high quality software engineering process and Quality Assurance (including automated testing).
 The firm is expected to have experience in developing software

solutions for the Government of Bangladesh or any of its agencies.

 Quality experience of large-scale software system for foreign organizations will be appreciated.

To demonstrate experience, the firm must present the following information of the major 5 (five) software development projects that are complete: brief description of work, technical challenges, actual timeframe of the project, value earned (own portion in case of a joint venture with appropriate documentation) and provide completion/satisfaction certificate from the project authority. Work orders will not be considered as a valid document in this regard.

10. The firm must have been involved in developing large scale software systems to automate organizational activities during the last 3 (three) years. A list of ongoing projects must be provided with the details mentioned in Clause 9 above (self-certification is enough) mentioning additionally the percentage of completion and expected completion date as per contract.
11. To demonstrate the human strength, the hidder must give a

 To demonstrate the human strength, the bidder must give a table for employees mentioning educational qualification with institute/university, experience in relevant technology, and experience in projects. Supporting signed CVs should be attached along with photos.

 The firm must demonstrate its technical management capacity (describing experience to lead similar assignments, experiences, availability of appropriate professional staffs and experience among applicant's staffs, resources to carry out the assignment) in managing large scale projects.

 The firm must demonstrate its logistical capability, i.e., wellequipped office space at Dhaka with necessary facilities like development and test server of sufficient capacity, other hardware requirements needed to carry out the service.

 The firm must have the minimum amount of liquid assets, i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of BDT 3 (three) crore.

 The firm must have updated audit report of previous 2 (two) years. Yearly turnover of the firm must be at least BDT 1 crore.
 All financial requirements must be supported by verified audit report.

 The firm must have valid and up-to-date trade licence, income tax and VAT certificates.

17. The firm must not be blacklisted by any legal and/or statutory authority. A self-declaration must be submitted in this regard. In case of an ongoing legal action/proceedings, the firm must demonstrate that the said action and/or verdicts thereof shall not affect the ability to deliver this EOI requirements.

 In case of a joint venture, Criteria 6, 14, 15, 16 and 17 must be met individually by the involved firms excepting in that for Criteria 14 and 15 only the amount (for liquid assets and yearly tumover, respectively) may be met jointly.

 The firm must prepare a summary sheet in the format provided at the following link and follow the prescribed format for completion certificates

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PryiDp\_C.lt.JAteyPwxV6kYbiw9aua9?usp=sharing or available in the Project office/ www.banbais.gov.bd.

Project Director

Project office/ www.banbels.gov.bd

Interested firms shall obtain further information from the Project Office from 10:00am to 4:30pm in any working day before the closing date. Firms shall have to submit 3 (three) copies of EOIs including original 2 (two) soft copies (scanned replica of the signed hard copy) in CD/DVDs and forwarding letter in a sealed envelope tabeled with "EOI for Design and Development of Different Software modules to be used by all General Education Boards, Bangladesh Madrasah and Technical Education Boards with maintenance support for 3 (three) years under IEIMS project to the following address.

be used by all General Education Boards, Bangladesh Ma and Technical Education Boards with maintenance suppor (finree) years under IEIMS project to the following address.

19 Association with foreign Not applicable. firm is

20 EOI DETAIL INFORMATION

Ref. No. Phasing of services Location Start date Com

|     | Ref. No.                          | Phasing of services   | Location                        | Start date                                      | Completion<br>date |  |  |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--|
|     | 37.20.0000.005.22.<br>114.20/3439 | Total duration of the assignment 11 (eleven) months a. 8 months for Design & Development b. 3 months for Testing, Installation, Implementation, Training and Commissioning. | BANBEIS,<br>Education<br>Boards | August<br>2020/<br>After<br>signing<br>contract | June 2021          |  |  |
| -   | PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS          |   |                                 |   |                    |  |  |
| - 1 | 21 Name of official invitir       | no EOI Md. Shamsul A  | Md. Shamsul Alam.               |   |                    |  |  |

|     | Commissioning  | , training and  |  |  |  |
|-----|--|---|--|--|--|
| PRO | CURING ENTITY DETAILS  |   |  |  |  |
| 21  | Name of official inviting EOI  | Md. Shamsul Alam.   |  |  |  |
| 22  | Designation of official inviting EOI   | Project Director, Establishment of "Integrated Educational<br>Information Management System (IEIMS)" Project. |  |  |  |
| 23  | Address of official inviting EOI   | <ol> <li>Zahir Raihan Road (Palashi-Nilkhet), Dhaka-1205,<br/>Bangladesh.</li> </ol>                          |  |  |  |
| 24  | Contact details of official inviting EOI   | Phone: 55151625<br>email: shamsul.alam30@yahoo.com  |  |  |  |
| 25  | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI without assigning any reason |   |  |  |  |