



A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, presides over the bank's 21st annual general meeting at Bank Asia Tower in Dhaka yesterday. The bank approved 10 per cent cash dividend for 2019. The bank's shareholders and most of the board members joined the meeting through a digital platform due to Covid-19. Vice Chairmen Mohd Safwan Choudhury and Romo Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of the Board Executive Committee Rume A Hossain, Chairman of the Board Audit Committee Dilwar H Choudhury, Chairman of the Board Risk Management Committee MA Baqui Khalliy, Directors Enam Chowdhury, Ashraf Haq Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Matiur Rahman, Md Abul Quasem, President and Managing Director Md Arfan Ali and Company Secretary SM Anisuzzman attended the meeting.

India asks court to stymie potential challenge to Chinese app ban

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's government has petitioned the Rajasthan High Court to stop any of the Chinese companies whose 59 apps it recently banned from obtaining an injunction to block the order, according to two sources and the legal filing.

India last month outlawed dozens of Chinese apps including ByteDance's popular video-sharing app TikTok, Alibaba's UC Browser and Tencent's messaging app WeChat, saying they posed a "threat to sovereignty and integrity".

Chinese firms have faced hostility since a border clash that killed 20 Indian soldiers, with Delhi intensifying scrutiny of Chinese imports and any funding from China.

Two sources with direct knowledge of the filing said the government had presented a so-called caveat in the High Court of

Rajasthan, suggesting it expects one or more of the companies to challenge the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's ban.

Such caveats are typically filed to prevent a ruling in favour of

companies without hearing the government, Indian lawyers said. The filing, which one of the sources said was presented on Friday, has not previously been reported.

"Let nothing be done till the

applicants (government) are heard in the matter," said the court filing signed by Additional Solicitor General of India Rajdeepak Rastogi.

The order to ban the apps was passed to safeguard "the interests of Indian mobile and Internet users and ensure safety and sovereignty of Indian Cyber Space," said the filing, which was seen by Reuters.

It was not immediately clear why the government approached the court in Rajasthan and whether there were plans to file similar petitions elsewhere.

India's IT ministry and the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Indian courts do not comment on cases.

Previously, China has expressed strong concern about the ban, which could hurt expansion plans and cost jobs, and said it may violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.



Smartphone with Chinese applications is seen in front of a displayed Indian flag and a 'Banned app' sign in this illustration picture.

Germany could take further public stakes in companies: minister

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany will take further stakes in companies threatened by the coronavirus crisis, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said, adding that "probably a few dozen" firms might follow airline group Lufthansa in passing into partial state ownership.

Shareholders backed a 9 billion euro government bailout last month, securing the future of Germany's flagship carrier after it was brought to the brink of collapse by the travel slump caused by the pandemic.

In an interview with Saturday's Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper, Altmaier said: "We're talking about perhaps a few dozen cases. In these very limited number of cases we will use the possibilities offered by the economic stabilisation fund, including taking a stake where appropriate." It was also possible that the state would buy into other strategically important companies, like vaccine maker CureVac, in that case fending off an attempt by the United States government to buy it.

"I've always made it clear that state stakes must be an absolute exception," he added. On the airline group, which this week announced plans to cut 20 per cent of its leadership positions and 1,000 administrative jobs, Altmaier said the government would not stand in the way of lay-offs.

Turning to another major company in which Germany holds a large stake, Altmaier said a decision on the 15 per cent stake in Commerzbank it took to ward off its collapse during the financial crisis would be made next year.

German states to borrow 95b euros to cushion virus fallout

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany's 16 states are planning to take on 95 billion euros (\$107 billion) in new debt as part of their spending efforts to cushion the economy from the worst of the coronavirus shock, Der Spiegel magazine reported on Saturday.

The borrowing comes on top of the 218.5 billion euros of debt the Federal Government plans to issue to help finance support to an economy that is expected to shrink more than 6 per cent this year because of the crisis and lockdowns.

Der Spiegel calculated, after surveying regional finance ministries, that Germany's states, which enjoy wide autonomy under the country's highly devolved system of governance, were taking on an additional 95 billion euros in debt.

Coronavirus leaves Spain's interior a tourist desert

AFP, Cordoba

The Santos Bar, across from Cordoba's celebrated mosque, would normally be groaning with tourists tucking into its trademark Spanish tortillas. But with the coronavirus pandemic, "everything's dead", the owner says.

The Mezquita, an eighth-century mosque later turned into a cathedral, is the most visited site in the Andalusian town in southern Spain. But since it reopened at the end of May, only 16,000 people have set foot in the UNESCO World Heritage site considered one of the most accomplished works of Moorish architecture - the number of visitors it would normally receive in a week.

"It will take months to make that up," said church spokesman Jose Juan Jimenez Gueto, although money set aside in previous years

means staff have been kept busy with restoration projects.

Nearby restaurants, hotels and shops are not so lucky, and many are closed. At the Santos Bar, only owner Jesus Maldonado is working. Business is "a quarter of normal", he said. His 10 employees are all on a state-backed furlough scheme.

The plunge in tourism, a sector that accounts for 12 per cent of Spain's economy, will be felt like a body blow. While the country's beaches are its biggest draw, cities in the interior like Cordoba also attract tourists with their cultural sites. And it's places like Granada, Toledo, and Segovia that are bearing the brunt, according to Spain's national hotel association, with revenue drops greater than 50 per cent for restaurants and bars in their historic city centres.

In Andalusia, hotel occupancy

is at an average of just 25 per cent, a good 10 percentage points lower than in establishments along the coast, said Francisco de la Torre, head of the region's hotel association.

He worries that Andalusian eateries will eventually have to shed up to a third of their staff.

In Spain, the world's number two tourist destination behind France, spending by foreign tourists plunged by 62 per cent in the first five months of the year compared with the same period in 2019.

In Ronda, the mountaintop city perched above a gorge known for its stone bridge, Maria Lara Galindo has worked as a guide for Asian tourists for the past decade. "For those serving Spanish tourists there is now some activity, but Asian tourists - nothing," she said.

While Japanese and South Korean tourists may now visit the

European Union again, Galindo doesn't expect them to return before next summer, and thinks they will be more likely to travel individually than in groups.

Galindo is one of half a million independent workers in Spain's tourism industry, whose federation fears that up to 100,000 people could lose their jobs.

In Seville, foreign tourists are nearly non-existent and even Spanish tourists few and far between. Jordi Reines, who works as a nurse in Barcelona, cancelled a trip to Portugal to spend his time off in Andalusia.

"We didn't even think about making a trip abroad," said Reines' girlfriend Noemi Garcia. Jose Romero, who owns a stand selling drinks and ice cream alongside the city's central Spain Square, said sales are just a tenth of what they were last year.

Disney World reopens as WHO urges virus caution

AFP, Orlando

Florida's Walt Disney World theme park reopened Saturday in a state hard hit by the coronavirus, as the World Health Organization issued a fresh warning that countries should step up pandemic restrictions.

Hundreds of people in face masks and some in red Mickey Mouse ears queued to enter the Magic Kingdom, with social distancing and hygiene precautions in place. The Disney complex is in Orlando, Florida - one of several states where the daily rate of new cases of the virus has been increasing. The WHO on Friday urged countries grappling with coronavirus to step up control measures, saying it is still possible to rein it in, as some nations clamped fresh restrictions on citizens.

With case numbers worldwide more than doubling in the past six weeks, Uzbekistan returned to lockdown and Hong Kong said schools would close from Monday after the city recorded "exponential growth" in locally transmitted infections.

The novel coronavirus has killed over 560,000 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

More than 12.5 million cases have been registered in 196 countries and territories, triggering massive economic damage. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on countries to adopt an aggressive approach to tackling the virus, highlighting Italy, Spain, South Korea and India's biggest slum to show it was possible to stop the spread, no matter how bad the outbreak.

The health agency's comments came as US President Donald Trump was forced to cancel an election rally in New Hampshire, citing an approaching storm. Trump has pushed to hold large gatherings against

health advice as epidemiologists warn of the dangers posed by the virus moving through the air in crowded and confined spaces.

On a visit to Florida on Friday, Trump hit out at Beijing over the pandemic. "(The) relationship with China has been severely damaged. They could have stopped the plague... They didn't stop it," he told reporters.

The United States is the country worst hit by the illness, with more than 134,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. Brazil, the second-hardest hit, surpassed 70,000 deaths. In Uzbekistan, citizens were from Friday facing lockdown restrictions again that were originally imposed in March but lifted gradually over the past two months.

The Central Asian country's return to confinement followed a decision by Australia to lock down its second-biggest city Melbourne from Thursday. In Hong Kong, a spike has marked a setback for the city after daily life had largely returned to normal with restaurants and bars resuming regular business and cultural attractions reopening.

Despite being right next to mainland China where the virus first emerged, the city had managed to quash local transmission in recent months. But new clusters have started to emerge since Tuesday, including at an elderly care home that reported at least 32 cases and a housing estate with 11.

"Across all walks of life, we are all being tested to the limit," the WHO's Tedros told a virtual news conference in Geneva. "From countries where there is exponential growth, to places that are loosening restrictions and now starting to see cases rise. Only aggressive action combined with national unity and global solidarity can turn this pandemic around," he said. Elsewhere, French officials warned of rising cases in metropolitan France as the death toll topped 30,000.



Guests snap souvenir photos at the entrance to the Magic Kingdom theme park at Walt Disney World on the first day of reopening, in Orlando, Florida, on July 11.

Office of the Monirampur Pourashava
Monirampur, Jashore

Memo No. Moni/Pouro/02-15/2020-351 Date: 12/07/2020

e-Tender Notice: 01/2020-2021
Ref. Memo No. 46.00.0000.064.15.092.18-416 Date: 22.03.2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following work described below:

| Sl No. | Package No. | Name of scheme | e-TID No. |
|--------|-----------------|--|-----------|
| 01 | MoniGoB/2019/01 | Construction of Pouro Bhaban Type B, at Monirampur Pourashava. | 478526 |

1) This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to **13 August 2020, Time: 13.00.**

4) Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shaikh Sayadul Haque
Executive Engineer (In-charge)
& Chairperson
TEC
Monirampur Pourashava, Jashore
Phone No. 01715218717

GD-1119

Canada's oil-producing Alberta looks to NHL to boost hard-hit economy

REUTERS, Winnipeg

Canada's oil-producing province of Alberta, hard-hit by lockdowns caused by the coronavirus pandemic, is counting on National Hockey League (NHL) games to provide a badly needed boost to morale and business.

Edmonton, the provincial capital and home to the NHL's Edmonton Oilers, will be a hub city with Toronto when games resume starting on Aug. 1, the first since the league suspended the season in March. Each city will host 12 teams, sequestering players in so-called bubbles that encompass arenas, hotels and select restaurants.

Fans will not attend the games. The spread of the novel coronavirus has eased in Canada, allowing the two cities to beat out rivals such as Las Vegas, which has seen increased infections, for the chance to host the games. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said hosting games could generate C\$60 million (\$44.16 million) in economic activity. "That alone is not going to turn around our economy, but it's a great shot in the arm," he said.

Oilers and Toronto Maple Leafs officials abruptly postponed news conferences on Saturday to discuss the hub cities, citing incomplete talks between the Canadian government and the league.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman told reporters the league needed to finalize "a couple of details" with Ottawa. Government officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Alberta's unemployment rate was the second-highest in Canada in June as a crash in oil prices this spring forced energy companies to lay off workers and some businesses remained closed due to the pandemic.

Edmonton is slated to host most of the games, including the Stanley Cup Final that will finish as late as October. Alberta's chief medical officer has reassured the public that arriving hockey players will not accelerate the spread of the virus if they abide by certain conditions, which include daily testing and restricted movement.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Bridges Division
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
www.bba.gov.bd

Memo No. 50.01.0000.401.00.097.17-452 Dated: 12/07/2020

Corrigendum Notice

Sub: Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of 10 (Ten) No's Low Speed Weigh in Motion (LSWIM) Scale at Bangabandhu Bridge, Bhupur, Tangail/Sirajganj

Ref: Tender No. 50.01.0000.401.00.097.17-382; Dated: 04/06/2020

The following amendment (as shown in Column-3) is hereby made to the Tender Notice published on 04/06/2020 for the abovementioned work. The bidders are advised to submit their tender with due consideration to this amendments. This corrigendum is a part and parcel of the tender document. All other terms and conditions of tender notice will remain unchanged. The bidder must submit this corrigendum along with their bids duly sealed and signed.

| Sl No. | Reference | To be replaced/Deleted | Replace with |
|--------|------------------------------|---|---|
| i) | ITT 38.2(a) | c) Date: July 22, 2020; Time: 03:00pm DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 03:00pm | c) Date: August 06, 2020; Time: 03:00pm DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 03:00pm on 06/08/2020. |
| ii) | ITT 39.1, 39.3 | The deadline for submission of Tenders is: Time & date: at July 22, 2020; Time: 12:00pm | The deadline for submission of Tenders is: Time & date: at August 06, 2020; Time: 12:00pm |
| iii) | ITT 39.4, 45.1 | Time & date: July 22, 2020; Time: 3:00pm | Time & date: August 06, 2020; Time: 3:00pm |
| iv) | Tender Notice: SI No. 17 | Tender last selling date: July 21, 2020; Time: During office hours | Tender last selling date: August 05, 2020; Time: During office hours |
| v) | Tender Notice: SI No. 18 | Tender closing date and time: July 22, 2020, Time 12:00 Noon | Tender closing date and time: August 06, 2020, Time 12:00 Noon |
| vi) | Tender Notice: SI No. 19 | Tender opening date and time: July 22, 2020, Time: 03:00pm | Tender opening date and time: August 06, 2020, Time: 03:00pm |
| vii) | Tender Notice: SI No. 23 (b) | System Maintenance & Operation for 5 (five) years. | For Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning: 6 (six) months; Defect liability period: 2 (two) years; Maintenance: 8 (eight) years. Total 10.5 years |

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GD-1118