

US job market recovery appears to be slowing

REUTERS, Washington

US private employers hired far fewer workers than expected in July as companies exhausted loans to help with wages and new COVID-19 infections flared up across the country, supporting the view that the nascent economic recovery was faltering.

While other data on Wednesday showed activity in the vast services sector gained momentum in July as new orders raced to a record high, hiring declined. The reports, together with a recent rise in applications for unemployment benefits, suggest job growth pulled back sharply in July. The Labor Department will publish July's employment report on Friday.

The economy will remain at risk of a renewed downturn so long as a vaccine or therapeutic for the virus remains out of reach," said Oren Klachkin, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics in New York. The ADP National Employment Report showed private payrolls increased by 167,000 jobs last month after jumping by 4.314 million in June. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast private payrolls would increase by 1.5 million in July.

Hiring weakened across the board last month. Payrolls for medium-sized businesses with 50 to 499 employees fell 25,000. The sharp step-down in hiring was attributed to the expiration of the U.S. government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the resurgence in coronavirus cases. The PPP was part of a historic fiscal package worth nearly \$3 trillion that gave businesses loans that can be partially forgiven if used for employee pay. New cases of the respiratory illness have exploded, especially in the densely-populated South and West regions where authorities in hard-hit areas are closing businesses again and pausing reopenings.

Garment export orders rolling in once again

FROM PAGE B1

"My buyers have started placing work orders and gradually the volume of work orders is increasing."

Of the cancelled work orders, his buyers have already taken back 50 per cent of them and promised to take another 30 per cent.

The remaining 20 per cent should be sold at cheaper prices to other buyers, Azad added.

"I am currently utilising 65 per cent of my capacity. About 80 per cent of my work orders remained unaffected during the pandemic while 20 per cent or less have been reinstated," said KM Rezaul Hasanat, chairman and chief executive officer of Viyellatex Group, another leading garment exporter.

PPE is a small fraction of the clothing business and it cannot even cover 10 per cent of the total exports, he added.

"COVID-19 has affected the garment sector in various ways. Initially, it broke the supply chain as we are reliant mostly on China for most of our raw materials," said Sheikh Mohammad Danial, managing director of Finesse Apparels.

But exports are now bouncing back, he said, adding that the queries from brands in Europe and the US have jumped.

If the current trend in Europe continues, Bangladesh will start to see stronger export figures from the first quarter of 2021. More clothes are being bought online, with a massive 76 per cent rise in online sales in the US, he said.

"This is the new reality for which we need to be prepared," he added.

Work orders were slowly coming back but knitwear sector is doing better than woven products, said Azimul Islam, managing director of Alif Group.

"But the major threat is the second wave of the coronavirus infection in the Western market. If that happens, it will be a bigger disaster for us."

His knitwear factory is running at 70 per cent capacity and the woven one at 60 per cent. About 70 per cent of the cancelled work orders are being taken back but at a heavy discount and deferred payment terms, Islam added.

"It's too early to make a positive remark on the inflow of new orders since many factories are still struggling to survive due to financial hardships," said Arshad Jamal Dipu, vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMETA).

New orders are coming but at a slow pace.

"We would also need to see at what price levels these new orders are being placed."

It's difficult to respond since not all factories, which participated in the initial survey reporting \$3.18 billion cancellations, provided follow-up data.

"But we tracked suppliers to a few buyers around a month ago and found that 45 per cent of about \$900 million worth of orders were reinstated, and by now this figure might have gone higher."

But the payment term is not pleasant, with deferred payment as high as 180-plus days, and discounts may also be common, he added.

The stunning fall from grace of Keya Cosmetics, a once beloved brand

FROM PAGE B1

When sponsors of a company want to sell their shares they tend to overvalue their profits and give stock dividends that are provided in the form of shares instead of cash.

The FRC asked the company in February last year about the over-valuation of its profits, but is yet to get any response.

The company did not hold annual general meetings in the last two years showing lame excuses, though listing regulations bind all companies to hold AGM regularly, Ahmed added.

Against the backdrop, stock investors who own 44.48 per cent shares in the company have been put in a tight corner.

"Why a once-reputed company like this plunged into such a bad situation should be investigated by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission," said Md Masud Alam, a stock investor.

The company won the national export trophies in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

"I think it might have fallen into trouble due to amalgamation with its other non-listed ventures," Alam said.

Keya Cosmetics amalgamated with Keya Detergent and Keya Soap Chemicals in 2010 and then with three other companies -- Keya Spinning Mills, Keya Cotton Mills, and Keya Knit Composite -- in 2015.

Before the amalgamation in 2010, Keya Cosmetics' earnings per share was Tk 5.26, which dropped to Tk 1.55 in 2013.

After 2015, the company became irregular in publishing annual reports and holding AGMs.

Ahmed, who is also a former deputy managing director of Pubali Bank, found four reasons behind the fall of the company.

Firstly, the company had no corporate culture and it was run by relatives of the company chairman.

Secondly, the company fell into problems in 2010 when cotton prices in the world market became volatile and the company purchased a huge amount of cotton at a very high price.

Thirdly, the company borrowed a huge amount of money from banks so its debt burden was skyrocketing along with interest.

The company's long-term loan was Tk 859.85 crore and short-term loan Tk 634.45 crore, according to its annual report for the 2016-17 financial year.

And fourthly, the company's chairman stayed abroad for a long time and so local production was not taken care of properly.

Some of the products of Keya Cosmetics had won the hearts of customers and these were among the top selling products even a few years ago. But now, their demand has fallen drastically, said a top official of a leading cosmetics producer, requesting anonymity.

The biggest blow came when its chairman was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Commission on charges of loan fraud involving Tk 110 crore. The loan was taken for its concern Keya Yarn Mills from state-owned Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Pathan, now on bail, did not respond to phone calls and text messages from The Daily Star yesterday.

A top official of the BSEC said they already fined the company for not publishing financial reports.

"The company is under the scanner. Our team is working on it as it is breaching rules again and again," the official said, asking not to be named.

Stocks of Keya Cosmetics, whose paid-up capital is Tk 1,002 crore, closed at Tk 3.10 in the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday, up 6.7 per cent from the previous day.

France to provide €150m to bounce back from downturn

FROM PAGE B4

The AFD, also known as the French Development Agency, works to fight poverty and promote sustainable development by implementing policies defined by the French government around the world.

Since 2012, the AFD has been involved in several projects in urban development and infrastructure as well as the power and green energy sectors.

Besides, the Paris-based financial institution also prioritises corporate and social responsibility.

As of 2020, the AFD had committed €761 million to Bangladesh, which includes €25 million in the form of grants.

Through the new loan and an upcoming grant of €1 million (2050 facility), the AFD will contribute to the improvement of Bangladesh's resilience to climate change adaptation by reinforcing the social protection system.

Walton is a household name in Bangladesh. Now it wants the world to take to its products.

FROM PAGE B4

To meet the ever-increasing demand for highly efficient, lightweight and cost-effective compressors, its research and development team is working to develop a new series of high COP (coefficient of performance) inverter compressor that will set a new standard of performance all over the world and will be introduced by the end of 2021.

"Once we had some limitations in developing modern technology. But now, we have complete R&D facilities comprising highly trained and skilled engineers from home and abroad. So, our quality has developed massively in the last five years."

The company has a laboratory named NASDUT-LITS that maintains global standards and certification for quality testing.

Its certification covers at least 80 per cent of

the countries for quality, safety, including of the environment, energy efficiency and many more.

"We had to spend at least 10 years building up this infrastructure, which in other places is built by the state."

Alam recommended ensuring a level playing field for every industry, saying it is necessary for businesses to flourish, create enough jobs, reduce import costs and give a boost to economic prosperity.

"Though many timely initiatives of the government geared up the development of the local industries, there are more things to improve and policies to amend."

He highlighted that the import duty on some hi-tech products and components were higher than the imported finished goods, a situation which halts the progress of the local industry and, to some extent, discourages

entrepreneurs.

Alam cited the example of Taiwan, where the government authorities highly encourage industrialisation and create a level playing field for local producers.

The country has an authority that stays tuned to the needs of entrepreneurs and analyses which sector needs what policy support, for which the nation's exports is big in context to its population.

Taiwan's exports amounted to \$329.3 billion in 2019 when their population is 2.36 crore, according to the World Bank data.

Bangladesh has huge potential as business relations among the US, China and India are deteriorating.

So, the government needs to provide suitable policy support now for industries to flourish and grab the opportunity, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Maternal, Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) and Health System Improvement Project
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Room No. 18, Department of Radiology & Imaging
Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka
Phone: +880-13-17271252

Invitation for Bids

Date: 7th August 2020
Loan Agreement No. BD-P83
IFB No. JICA/SDIS/485/C.W/7 D.M.C.H/P-WD1/2020/675 Dated: 05/08/2020

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Maternal, Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) and Health System Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Component 2: Strengthening of Diagnostic Imaging System of 7 Division Medical College Hospitals, WD1 New Construction of Imaging Diagnostic Centers in 7 Division Medical College Hospitals.
- Project Director (Procuring Entity) on behalf of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of Component 2: Strengthening of Diagnostic Imaging System of 7 Division Medical College Hospitals, WD1 New Construction of Imaging Diagnostic Centers in 7 Division Medical College Hospitals ("the Works").
- Bidding will be conducted through the procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans. International Competitive Bidding is conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Two-Envelope Bidding Procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Office of Project Director (Procuring Entity) for Component 2: Strengthening of Diagnostic Imaging System of 7 Division Medical College Hospitals, Address: Room No. 18, Department of Radiology & Imaging, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Telephone: +880 13 17 271 252, E-mail: pd.mnch.sdis@gmail.com
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 50,000 (Bangladesh Taka fifty thousand only) in cash at the Office of Project Director (Procuring Entity) between 9:00 and 14:00 hrs on all working days from 8th August to 23rd August 2020.
- Interested eligible Bidders who have purchased bid document are invited to attend a Pre-Bid meeting to be held at 10:00 hrs on 24th August 2020 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Participation in this pre-bid meeting is not a mandatory requirement but encouraged for submission of Bid.
- Bids must be delivered to the address of two (2) alternatives, Central Medical Stores Depot, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh or the Office of Project Director (Procuring Entity), Address: Room No. 18, Department of Radiology & Imaging, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 12:00 hrs (Bangladesh Standard Time on 21st September 2020 and must be accompanied by a security of Bangladeshi Taka 68 million (BDT 68,000,000) or Japanese Yen 97 million (JPY 97,000,000) or US Dollar 877 thousand (USD 877,000).
- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 15:00 hrs (Bangladesh Standard Time) on 21st September 2020 at the offices of the Project Director.

Prof. Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman
Project Director
MNCH and Health System Improvement Project (Component 2: Strengthening of Diagnostic Imaging System of 8 Division Medical College Hospitals), Dhaka-1000

GD-1225

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
মামিকগঞ্জ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০২/২০২০-২০২১ (রেশন স্টোর)

"পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৮ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০১১ (সংশোধিত)" অনুসারে জেলা পুলিশ, মামিকগঞ্জ-এর ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের ২৯ কোর্টারিয়ারের (অক্টোবর/নভেম্বর/ডিসেম্বর/২০২০ মাস) এবং এনএসআই ও মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্যদের ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের ১ম প্রজিক্টের (জুলাই/২০ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০) জন্য বিভিন্ন রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, গম পেথাই কাছ, তুলি ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
২. সন্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩. দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, মামিকগঞ্জ।
৪. কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	জেলা পুলিশ, মামিকগঞ্জ-এর রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ।
৫. দরপত্র সূত্র নং	২০২১/৫।
৬. তারিখ	তারিখ: ০৩-০৮-২০২০ক্রি।

কাজের বিবরণ

৭. দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
৮. বাজেট ও অর্থসংক্রান্ত ব্যয়	স্বাক্ষর ব্যয়।

তথ্যাদি

৯. দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৩-০৮-২০২০ক্রি।
১০. দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৬-০৮-২০২০ক্রি ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১. দরপত্র ক্রয় প্রদানের (সিডিউল ক্রয়) সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭-০৮-২০২০ক্রি ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৭-০৮-২০২০ক্রি ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩. দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময় এবং স্থান	০২-০৯-২০২০ক্রি ১১:০০ ঘটিকা, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মামিকগঞ্জ।

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাক্টর স্থান
দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	১। ডি.আই.জি. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা রেঞ্জ-এর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা। ২। পুলিশ রেশন স্টোর, পুলিশ হাট, মামিকগঞ্জ। ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মামিকগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মামিকগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মামিকগঞ্জ।
১৫. প্রি স্টেডার সজার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	

দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য

১৬. দরপত্রের বোধ্যতা	১। হাসানাবাদ ট্রেন লাইনে ২। আয়কর সনদ ও জিএস টেক্সটাইল সনদ ও ৩। বায়ক সলভেন্ট সনদ ও ৪। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও ৫। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বাহা টেডার ডকুমেন্ট/দরপত্র দাখিল উল্লেখ আছে।
----------------------	---

ক্রমিক নং	মাসামাসের বিবরণ	আইটেম	পরিমাণ (কেজি/মিটার)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফারকর্তব্যে)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
(১)	উন্নতমানের স্যানিটাইজিং তেল ক্রয়		২৫,৫০০ লিটার	৭৫০/-	৭০,০০০/-	কার্য সম্পাদন
(২)	উন্নতমানের ময়র ডাল ক্রয়		২৭,২৫০ কেজি	৭৫০/-	৯০,০০০/-	টুকিতে
(৩)	ফুলানি কাঠ ক্রয়		৩,০০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৪০০/-	২,৫০০/-	উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়
১৭.	গম পেথাই তুলি কাছার চিনি-অনুমোদিত চিনি কল হতে এবং চাল ও গম- জেলা খাদ্য কলম হতে ট্রাকে উঠানো/রেশন স্টোরে নামানো	(৪)	৯৭,৬০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	অনু্যায়ী
		(৫)	২,১৭,৬০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৩,৫০০/-	
(৬)	শোলা-গর চাল ক্রয়		১,১৫০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৩,৫০০/-	

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব রিফাত রহমান শাহীম-পিপিএম।
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার, মামিকগঞ্জ।
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মামিকগঞ্জ।
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোন: ০২৭৭১০৪০০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২৭৭১০৩০৬।

বিশেষ শর্তাবলী:

- (ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- (খ) কোন কারণে দরপত্রের ব্যক্তিগত কর্তৃত্বকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- (গ) দরপত্র উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি বা কমানোর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃত্বক সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- (ঘ) দরপত্র সিপিআর/২০০৬, সিপিআর/২০০৮ ও সিপিআর/২০১১ (সংশোধিত) মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।
- (ঙ) প্রতিনির্দিষ্ট মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দাখিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক যথাযথ ক্ষমতাস্বরূপ দাখিল করতে হবে।
- (চ) কর্তৃত্বক সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহেন।

রিফাত রহমান শাহীম, পিপিএম-সেবা
ফোন নং-৭৩০৪১০০৯৯৯
পুলিশ সুপার
মামিকগঞ্জ
ফোন: ০২৭৭১০৪০০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২৭৭১০৩০৬

তারিখ: ১২/৮