

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 3.32%	▲ 3.57%	\$1,941.00	\$44.80	▼ 1.13%	▲ 0.17%	▼ 0.56%	▲ 1.19%	BUY TK 83.95	98.42	108.98	11.89
4,859.48	8,361.79	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	37,877.34	23,289.36	2,581.32	3,360.10	SELL TK 84.95	102.22	112.78	12.50

এসআইবিএল ডেবিট কার্ডের মিল ২০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিকাশ আছে পরিণেপ করে উপভোগ করুন
১.৫ ইনস্ট্যান্ট কাসব্যাক, সর্বোচ্চ ২০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত
অফারটি চলবে ৩১ আগস্ট, ২০২০ পর্যন্ত

Star BUSINESS

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Fiscal 2019-20's GDP figure stretches credulity

States CPD pointing out BBS attempt at painting a rosy picture

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday raised questions over the economic growth figure of 5.24 per cent estimated by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in the just-concluded fiscal year.

The obvious repercussions of the pandemic on the economy were not adequately reflected in the provisional GDP growth estimate, released by the statistical agency last week, said the independent think-tank.

Questions arise regarding the accuracy as all the major indicators, except for remittance, had been in the negative, said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun at a virtual press briefing.

Economic growth figures are used as a tool to gain leverage in politics, she said.

"An infatuation with growth has been created," she said, adding that the GDP growth has become "a political number" and the growth data being portrayed as a sign of the government's successes.

But GDP growth does not turn meaningful until it is inclusive and the benefits of growth are distributed among all, she said, citing unemployment, rising inequality and the sluggish pace of poverty reduction in the country in recent years.

In its review of BBS's data for fiscal 2019-20, CPD said private sector credit growth had been the lowest in a decade.

Industrial production, export-import of capital machinery, foreign direct investment and revenue collection also declined last fiscal year, resulting from

a downturn in the global and domestic economy for the outbreak of the respiratory virus, it said.

"The effect of the Covid-19 is historic on economies including Bangladesh. The effects are unprecedented," Khatun said.

But this was not shown on the GDP growth data, she added.

CPD shared its view less than a week after the state-run BBS said the Bangladesh economy grew at the "respectable rate" they had calculated -- all the while large swathes of the global economy plunged into recession for the outbreak of coronavirus from Wuhan, China.

The BBS estimate beat forecasts by Washington-based multilateral lenders World Bank and International Monetary Fund that the economy would grow between 1.6 per cent and 3.8 per cent in fiscal 2019-20 for the pandemic-whiplash.

The Asian Development Bank said the Bangladesh economy would expand at 4.5 per cent while CPD projected that the GDP growth would be no more than 2.5 per cent.

In its briefing, the organisation did not revise its previous forecast; rather, it stated that the economy grew close to its previous projection of about 2.5 per cent in fiscal 2019-20.

All economic activities, from manufacturing, construction, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, community, social and personal services sectors, were hit the hardest during the coronavirus-induced shutdown for almost two months, CPD said.

The provisional GDP estimates could not capture the significant adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, said CPD Senior Research Fellow Towfiqul Islam Khan, presenting a paper at the event.

Many lost jobs while the income of a large section dropped.

HOW THE PROXY INDICATORS FARED IN FY20	CHANGE
Industrial production index (Apr'20)	-24.50%
Export (Q4 of FY20)	-51.20%
Capital machinery import in 2020	-33.80%
Net Foreign Direct Investment (FY2020)	-42.50%
Private sector credit growth (Jun'20)	8.60%
Rural credit (July-May of FY20)	-12%
SME loan (Jul-Mar of FY20)	1.30%
Term loan (Jul-Mar of FY20)	-4.60%
Revenue collection (Apr'20)	-34.60%

"Indeed, more than half of the provisional GDP estimates are not based on credible real-time data," he said, adding that overall growth of the economy would drop from the provisional estimate if updated data were used to do the calculations.

CPD cited data on the rise of private investment used by BBS in the GDP estimate, stating that the rise was indeed unexpected when the entrepreneurs have been struggling to keep their existing production capacity fully operational.

BBS estimated that public investment as a share of GDP also increased in fiscal 2019-20. Overall, investment as a share of GDP increased to 31.75 per cent in fiscal 2019-20 from 31.57 per cent the previous year, CPD said citing the data from the state-run statistical agency.

The GDP growth estimate did not reflect the reality as proxy indicators told

a different story, said CPD Distinguished Fellow Mustafizur Rahman.

If the estimations are correct, the nominal GDP growth rate should be about 11 per cent in fiscal 2019-20, he said.

Then the question arises on why the revenue collection performance is such, he said citing declining receipts.

The economy did not grow in the fourth quarter of the year owing to the countrywide general shutdown. The growth was negative.

"We think that the assumption that we made, projecting a 2.5 per cent growth of the economy, is correct."

A wrong signal would go to the policymaking level unless the estimates were carried out properly. And this will not help in the framing of proper policies, Rahman added.

The shutdown affected the services sector, said CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem.

The government expanded social safety nets and announced more than Tk 100,000 crore as a stimulus to reinvigorate the economy from the wreckage of the global pandemic.

If the economy grew at this pace, there would have been no need for the measures to revive the economy, he said.

CPD demanded public release of the background data used in calculating the national income to clear the ambiguities and questions regarding the estimation process.

It also urged the government to let the statistical agency to enjoy more independence and form an independent commission to ensure reliability and integrity of data.

As the growth data has become a political number, the independence of people engaged in data collection has been affected, Khatun said.

Moazzem pointed out that South Africa had an independent statistical commission.

Rahman said the government should ensure the integrity of data for its enlightened self-interest.

Record 8pc jump by a third of DSE stocks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A third of the stocks listed in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday made a whopping leap of more than 8 per cent, a rise market analysts termed unprecedented for a single day.

Including these 110, stocks of a total of 354 companies were traded yesterday with around 90 very near to the circuit breaker, according to the DSE data.

The circuit breaker limits a day's movement of stock to 10 per cent. However, there is no limit on the movement on the day after the corporate declaration and the five days after getting listed for the first time.

Investors' mindsets are buoyant about the stock market as a newly appointed commission of the stock market regulator has taken several steps to boost confidence, said a top official of a merchant bank.

Appointed in May, the new commission fined many gamblers and manipulators for breaching the securities rules. It also took steps to bring about a vibrant bond market.

The commission also planned to reform junk stocks so that they can either perform well or be punished for wrongdoings.

Along with these, the Bangladesh Bank's expansionary monetary policy is giving a boost to the buoyancy, for which the stock index is going up.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, surged 156 points, or 3.3 per cent to 4,859 yesterday.

Several stocks rose to a high value in a historic moment in mid-2010. But they did not soar at the rate witnessed at present, said the bank official.

"As most of the stocks were traded at their 2 to 3 year low, the rise is not too risky," he said, adding that some of the stocks that had risen by an abnormally high margin might turn out to be risky.

Yesterday, mutual funds, banks, financial institutions and textile sectors experienced a higher jump in the DSE compared with the previous day, while jute and life insurance sectors saw some corrections.

The companies lagging in the race, like mutual funds, were now in the spotlight, said a top official of an asset management company.

As the stock index is rising, so is mutual funds' earnings, for which people are buying their units, he said.

The asset manager also stated that he had not witnessed a rise of more than 8 per cent by one-third of listed companies in his 25 year-long career.

Turnover, one of the major indicators of the stock market, was up by about 12 per cent to Tk 1,351 crore.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals topped the turnover list, with its trade amounting to Tk 104 crore, followed by Beximco, Brac Bank, Square Pharmaceuticals and Sonar Bangla Insurance.

Sunlife Insurance gained the most at 14.61 per cent followed by PHP Mutual Fund, AB Bank, First Mutual Fund, Islami Insurance and Al-haj Textile.

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Loan write-offs touch down to a three-year low

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Loans written off by banks plummeted to a three-year low in the first quarter of 2020 as lenders' capacity to keep 100 per cent provisioning against their delinquent assets has decreased because of the fall in profit.

Usually, loans are written off when they are entirely provisioned and there is no realistic prospect of recovering them. These loans are shifted to off-balance sheet records.

Between January and March, loans amounting to Tk 33.5 crore were written off, down 96.5 per cent from a quarter earlier and 94 per cent from a year earlier, according to data from the central bank.

This is the lowest write-off amount since the first quarter of 2017 when banks removed Tk 24.74 crore from their balance sheets.

The downward trend of the write-off loans is not a good indicator for the financial sector as it gives lenders the leeway to not set aside funds against the defaulted loans.

The central bank gave a regulatory forbearance to banks on 19 March, allowing them to not consider businesspeople as defaulters if they fail to repay instalments until 30 June.

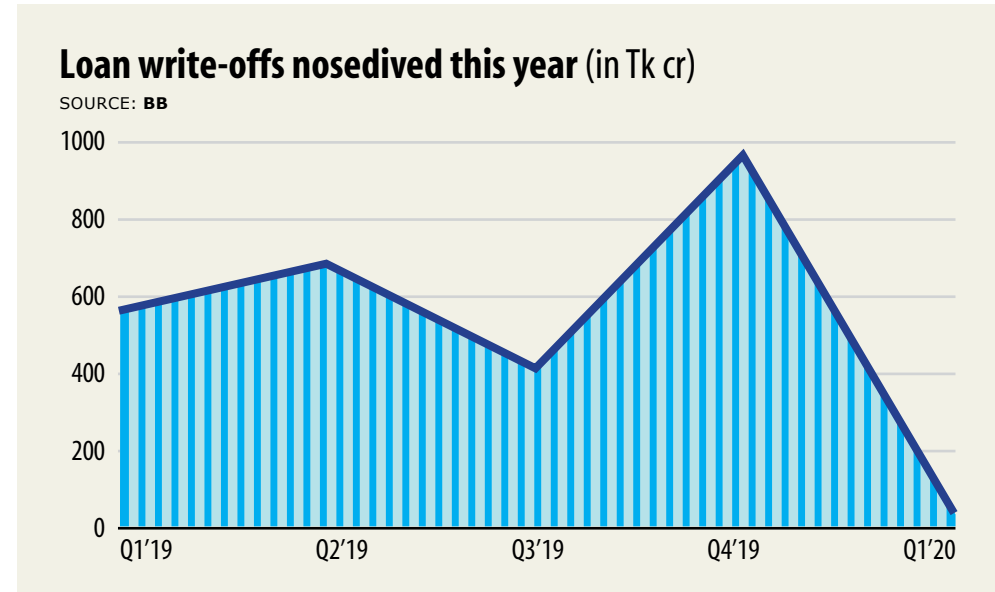
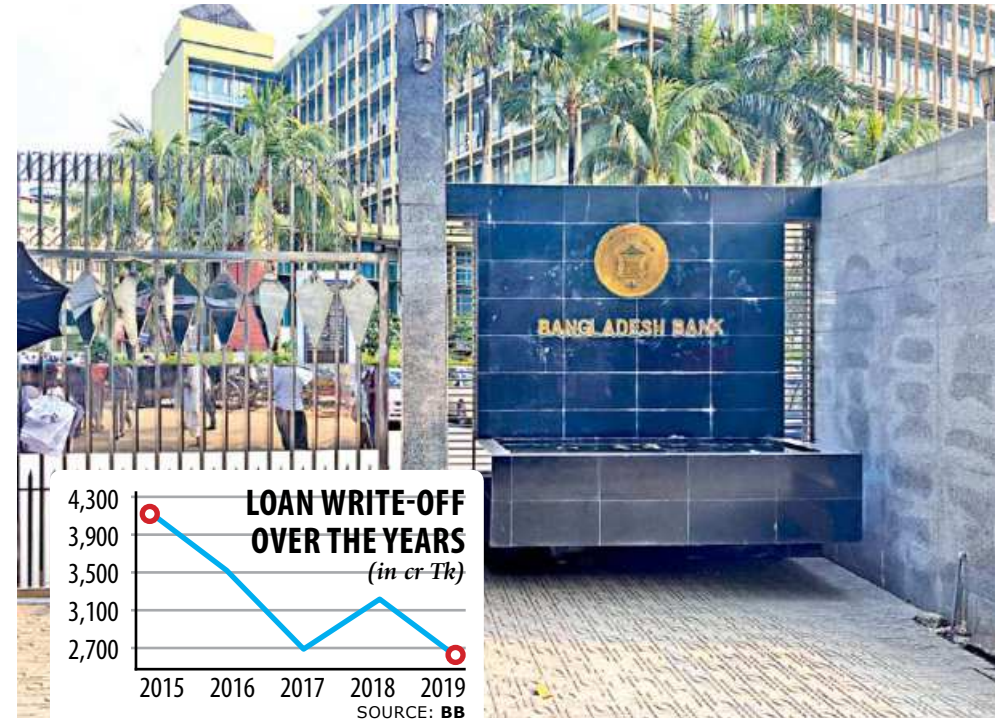
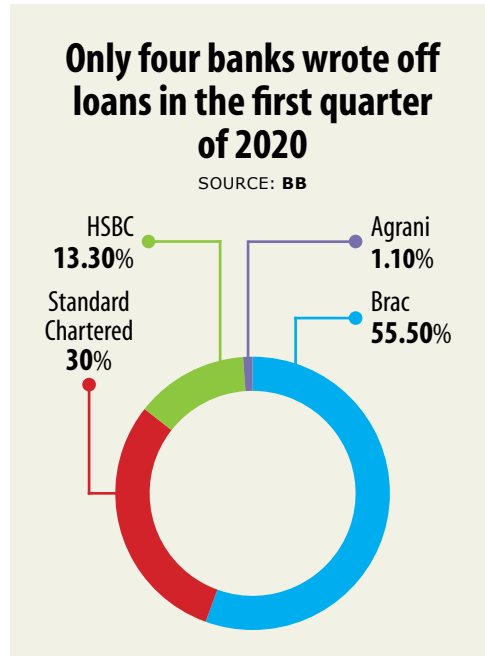
The deadline has been extended to September to help businesses tide over the economic hardships brought on by the global coronavirus pandemic.

"This is responsible for the incredulous indicator for the banking sector," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, a think-tank.

The regulatory forbearance, a policy that permits banks and financial institutions to continue operating even when their capital is fully depleted, has reined in the upward trend of the defaulted loans and did not give the lenders the scope to clean up their balance sheets by using the write-off module.

At the end of March, default loans stood at Tk 92,510 crore, which was 9 per cent of the total outstanding loans in the banking sector.

As per Bangladesh Bank regulations, banks have to keep provisioning of 0.25 per cent to 5 per cent for unclassified loans, 20 per cent for default loans of sub-standard category, 50 per



Between January and March, loans amounting to Tk 33.49 crore were written off

sector are absent. Rather, most banks try to dodge the provisioning.

Profits of most of the banks have dropped off 30 per cent and 40 per cent due to the economic slowdown, said Emaranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank.

"So, it is tough for lenders to keep any additional provisioning by writing off loans," he said.

Besides, the 9 per cent lending cap, introduced in April, has dealt another blow to banks as it has caused the profit to shrivel.

The central bank's move that orders banks not to classify businesspeople as defaulters until September has encouraged lenders to ignore the loan write-off.

But Mansur said that banks would have to keep the provisioning aggressively to protect their financial health from any shock.

Last year, the central bank gave another regulatory forbearance to banks that permitted them to reschedule default loans with a 10-year repayment tenure and 2 per cent down payment.

Defaulted loans amounting to Tk 52,770 crore were regularised in 2019 -- the highest in a single year -- riding on the relaxed loan rescheduling rules.

This also made the practice of loan write-off less attractive, a development that further weakened the financial strength of the banking sector.

Default loans amounting to Tk 2,597 crore were removed from the balance sheets last year, down 19.03 per cent year-on-year.

A total of Tk 55,553 crore has been written off since the facility was introduced in January 2003.

Of the amount, 77 per cent has remained outstanding to date.

US-China trade deal review postponed as China ramps up farm, energy purchases

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and China have delayed a review of their Phase 1 trade deal initially slated for Saturday, sources familiar with the plans told Reuters, citing scheduling conflicts and the need to allow time for more Chinese purchases of US exports.

No new date for the initial six-month compliance review between US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He has been agreed, the sources said.

The officials were expected to hold a videoconference on Saturday, the six-month anniversary of the trade deal's Feb. 15 entry into force as the coronavirus pandemic began spreading globally.

One source familiar with the talks said the delay was related to a conference of senior Communist Party leaders at the seaside town of Beidaihe on China's northeast coast. The postponement did not reflect any substantive problem with the trade deal, the source said, adding: "The new date has not been finalized yet."

US President Donald Trump on Friday repeated his view that the trade deal was "doing very well," but did not comment on the delayed meeting. The White House referred queries on the talks to Lighthizer's office, which did not respond to a Reuters query about plans for the review.

Another source familiar with the plans said that US officials wanted more time to allow China to increase purchases of US goods agreed in the deal, to improve the political optics of the review.

China's imports of US farm and manufactured goods, energy and services are well behind the pace needed to meet a first-year target increase of \$77 billion over 2017 purchases.

But as China's economy has recovered from a coronavirus

lockdown earlier this year, purchases have increased. On Friday, the US Department of Agriculture reported the sale of 126,000 tonnes of soybeans to China, marking the eighth consecutive weekday with large sales to Chinese buyers.

US oil traders, shipbrokers and Chinese importers also told Reuters that Chinese state-owned oil firms have tentatively booked tankers to carry at least 20 million barrels of US crude for August and September, indicating a ramp-up in

energy purchases.

Trump administration officials have signaled that they are satisfied with the pace of purchases in recent weeks and have no plans to abandon the trade deal, which also includes some increased access for US financial services firms in China, strengthened intellectual property protections and removal of some agricultural trade barriers.

Delaying the meeting, even briefly, could allow China to complete more purchases, which would help Lighthizer persuade Trump to stick to the deal.

Signs of Chinese compliance could also help blunt criticism from Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, who last week said the agreement that Trump has called a historic win is "failing."

"I think Trump is a little afraid that this triumph of his will be hung around his neck, but more purchases and a bit of a delay would clearly help," said Mary Lovely, a senior fellow with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"But he does own it, so they're going to have to put the best face on it," she said of the Phase 1 deal.

The trade agreement has emerged as a lone source of stability amid significant strain in the US-China relationship over the coronavirus pandemic, human rights crackdowns and US sanctions on Chinese companies and phone apps.



US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer points at markers on the floor as he leads Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to their position for a family photo at the Xijiao Conference Centre in Shanghai, China.

China must guard against rebound in shadow lending: regulator

REUTERS, Beijing

China must guard against any rebound in off-balance sheet lending in the so-called shadow banking sector, and must dispose of non-performing assets as soon as possible, the head of the country's banking and insurance regulator said on Sunday.

In recent years, China has clamped down on shadow banking, concerned about the hidden risks in the high volume of complex and potentially risky loans in the sector. But as a weakening economy puts pressure on businesses and individuals, authorities fear shadow lending and illegal loans might surge.

After the outbreak of the new coronavirus this year, high-risk banks with complex structures may stage a comeback, Guo Shuying, chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, wrote in an article published in the Communist Party journal Qiushi.

"A slight relaxation of regulations may lead to a full resurgence, and all previous efforts would go to waste," Guo wrote.

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, leverage is expected to rebound significantly

in the Chinese economy this year, and bad debts of financial institutions may rise substantially, he warned.

After the "black swan" epidemic, it is inevitable that asset quality will deteriorate, and due to a time lag, the current asset classification has not accurately reflected the true risk, he said.

A "black swan" event refers to an unforeseen occurrence that typically has extreme consequences.

Financial institutions should dispose of non-performing assets as early as possible, and covering up would only bring serious consequences, Guo said.

China should also implement targeted measures in dealing with institutions with varying levels of risk, he said.

Outside of China, external factors could also threaten financial security, Guo said.

Current international cooperation is not ideal, and the U.S. entity list imposed on some companies including Chinese firms has added uncertainty to the global economic recovery and disrupted financial stability and security, he said.

Washington restricts sales of U.S. goods to companies on the entity list.



China's CATL is developing new EV battery with no nickel, cobalt, executive says

REUTERS, Shanghai

China's Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd (CATL), a Tesla supplier, is developing a new type of electric vehicle (EV) battery that contains no nickel or cobalt, a company executive said on Saturday.

Nickel and cobalt are key ingredients in the batteries that power EVs. Battery makers from Japan's Panasonic Corp to South Korea's LG Chem are lowering the use of expensive cobalt in

their nickel-cobalt-aluminium (NCA) batteries or nickel-cobalt-manganese (NCM) batteries.

Tesla's boss, Elon Musk, last month urged miners to produce more nickel, warning the current cost of batteries remained a big hurdle to the company's growth.

Ningde-based CATL makes NCM batteries and supplies lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries to Tesla. It has partnerships with Japan's Toyota Motor and Honda Motor and supplies Germany's Volkswagen AG and Daimler AG.

The new battery type will be different from existing NCA, NCM and LFP batteries and will have no expensive metals like nickel or cobalt, Meng Xiangfeng, a senior executive at CATL, told an industry conference held by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers in Shanghai. Meng did not give details of the makeup or the cost of the planned battery type.

CATL is also developing a separate technology to integrate battery cells directly into an EV's frame to extend its driving range.

Reconditioned car import slumps 60pc

FROM PAGE B4

"Car prices are now out of reach for many buyers. If the government reduces duty on reconditioned vehicles, car imports will increase and the government will earn more revenue from the sector," Haque added.

Due to the high duty on the import of reconditioned vehicles, the selling price of cars are also becoming too high, said Muzurul Alam Chowdhury, former vice president of Barvida and managing director

of Multination Company.

About 850 reconditioned vehicle importers had been involved in the sector but now most of them are leaving the business, he said.

Reconditioned vehicle traders have to pay import duties ranging from 31 per cent to 826 per cent depending on the engine capacity, apart from a 15 per cent VAT, 5 per cent advance tax, 5 per cent regulatory duty, and 4 per cent advance trade VAT on tariff value.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.029.2019.4260 Date: 16/08/2020

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
For Selection of Individual Consultant

Name of Project: Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)

The Project Director, NBCPB has been allocated public funds from the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) towards the cost of the Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the Project by Individual Consultants. The qualification and experience required for the consultants are given below:

Package No	Proposed Post and Tentative Duration	Minimum Qualification	Minimum Experience
9BB/S2	Senior Structural Designer (12 months)	B.Sc. in Civil Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 15 years of specific experience in structural design of Bridges with 20 years of general experience; in depth knowledge on different types of bridge designs including foundation design and protective works; Computer proficiency in structural analysis and design with application of appropriate software's like STAAD-Pro, MIDAS, SAP-2000, 2D & 3D modeling; Excellent presentation skills with written and oral communications are desired.
9BB/S3	Junior Structural Designer (12 months)	B.Sc. in Civil Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 years of specific experience in structural design of Bridges with 10 years of general experience; in depth knowledge on different types of bridge foundation design, detailed estimate preparation including BoQ and protective works; Computer proficiency in structural analysis and design with application of appropriate software like STAAD-Pro, MIDAS, SAP-2000, 2D & 3D modeling;

The Project Director, NBCPB of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The services include: analyze hydrological and morphological data, carry out structural analysis and design of 9 bridges with appropriate foundation, protective works, BoQ preparation etc.

Consultants will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules, 2008. It is expected that the services will commence on October, 2020 for 12 months. The advertisement is also available on LGED and CPTU website (www.lged.gov.bd & www.cptu.gov.bd).

A complete set of "Request for Application" including Terms of Reference may be obtained from the office of the undersigned up to 02/09/2020 during normal office hours. Further information may be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 2:00 PM on 07/09/2020 in sealed envelope delivered to the office of the undersigned on level-11, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Senior Structural Designer and Junior Structural Designer as Individual Consultant".

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Sahrab Ali)
Project Director
Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)
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GD-1271

Real estate sector becoming more optimistic of a rebound

FROM PAGE B4
Houses in the Uttara, Bashundhara and Mohammadpur areas have the highest demand, said Mark Nosworthy, chief executive officer of bproperty, the biggest online real estate broker in Bangladesh.

These areas make up about 35 per cent of the total demand for 2020.

If the sector recovers, its allied industries, of which there are 230, will also benefit, according to industry insiders.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Senior Jail Superintendent
Sylhet Central Jail-1
Memo No. 58.04.9100.156.03.017.2020-0829(8)
Date: 13.08.2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, closing date & time
1	483857	Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (Mota) for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	12 August 2020 22:30:00 31 August 20 11:45:00
2	483896	Supply of Unnatamaner Cholar Dal for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	12 August 2020 22:00:00 31 August 20 11:45:00

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

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

Md. Abdul Jalil
Senior Jail Super
Sylhet Central Jail-1

GD-1268

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- আবেদনের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি দিতে হবে;
- আবেদনের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র এবং বার কাউন্সিল প্রদত্ত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রসহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;
- সুপ্রিম কোর্ট ও প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইবুনালে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে অ্যাডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- দেওয়ানি ও নিম্ন আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য অ্যাডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৬০ বছরের অধিক হতে পারবে না;
- সুপ্রিম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে আইনজীবী হিসেবে কর্মরত অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ/বিচারকগণও আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- আইনজীবী নিয়োগের মেয়াদ ২ (দুই) বছর হতে হবে;
- সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে আইনজীবীগণকে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে এবং সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে ও সরকারের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- কোন আইনজীবী নির্ধারিত সময়ের পূর্বে অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে এবং প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্যানেলভুক্ত কোন আইনজীবীকে অব্যাহতি প্রদান করতে পারবে;
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে যুগ্মসচিব (মনিটরিং ও এনফোর্সমেন্ট), প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন, ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন, ঢাকা বরাবর আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে;
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদন অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে কোন ধরনের তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

সহকারী সচিব (আইন)
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
জিডি-১২৬৯



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director, NWDTTB Project
Bangladesh Television
Rampura, Dhaka-1219

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact support desk contact numbers. E-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal by Office of the Project Director, NWDTTB Project, Bangladesh Television (<http://www.btv.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID/Package No.	Name of goods	Last date & time for tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1	2	3	4
Tender ID: 482859 Package No. BTW/DTTB/WD7	Supply and installation different package type A/C Works under NWDTTB project for BTW Dhaka and Chattogram Centre Transmitter Room.	07.09.2020 14:00 BST	07.09.2020 16:00 BST
Tender ID: 482861 Package No. BTW/DTTB/WD8	Supply and installation different package type A/C Works under NWDTTB project for 14 BTW Centre/Sub-Centre Transmitter Room.	07.09.2020 14:00 BST	07.09.2020 16:30 BST
Tender ID: 482862 Package No. BTW/DTTB/WD9	Supply and installation of 3 Nos. each 100 KVA three phase Diesel generator set expense from the Project sub code of electrical equipments for Ukhia, B. Baria and Jhenaidah sub-centre under the NWDTTB project, BTW.	07-09-2020 14:00 BST	07.09.2020 15:30 BST

e-Tender details can be downloaded from e-GP System Portal for pursue.

Syed Tawhidur Rahman
Additional Secretary
&
Project Director

GD-1272



ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

ফোনঃ ০২-৭৬৬১০৩৩, ৭৬৬১৪৮১-৮২ বর্ষিত-১১৭

০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.৫৫.২৪১.২০.২০৮

১২ আগস্ট ২০২০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এ ১০ তলা ভিত্তি বিশিষ্ট ০১ (এক)টি নতুন আধুনিক ও দৃষ্টিনন্দন প্রশাসনিক ভবন নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে Architectural Drawing (3D, 2D) Elevation, Floor plan সহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ সম্পন্নকরণের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ডিজাইন ফার্মের নিকট থেকে ৫০০০ বর্গফুট ফ্লোর এরিয়া বিশিষ্ট একটি প্রশাসনিক ভবনের Architectural Drawing (3D, 2D) Elevation সহ আগামী ২৭ আগস্ট ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের সিভিল সেকশনে যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য, প্রস্তাবিত ভবনটির নির্মাণ স্থানের ভূমির পরিমাণ = দৈর্ঘ্য ১০০ফুট X প্রস্থ ৭৫ফুট।

যোগাযোগ

মোবাইল নং-০১৮২২৮১৯৬৭৫

জিডি-১২৭৩

পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক



ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.৫৫.২৪১.২০.২১০

১৬ আগস্ট ২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত তারিখে সীমিত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

১	কাজের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
২	কাজের বিবরণ	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেশিন শপের পশ্চিম পার্শ্ব ২২৫০ বর্গ ফুটের ১টি ওয়ার্কশপ ও ৩২০০ বর্গ ফুটের ১টি খোলা ওয়ার্কিং শেড নির্মাণ কাজ।
৩	সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/= (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) (অফেরত যোগ্য)।
৪	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	সীমিত দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
৫	সিডিউল বিক্রয়/প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ক্যাশ সেকশন, হিসাব বিভাগ, ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। মোবাইল নং- ০১৮২২৮১৯৬৭৫।
৬	সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির তারিখঃ	১৬ আগস্ট ২০২০ হতে ৩১ আগস্ট ২০২০ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত।
৭	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:১৫ ঘটিকা।
৮	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
৯	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিগত ৬ মাসের স্টেটমেন্টসহ), পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
১০	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১১	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ	ক। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নাঙ্ককারী কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে। খ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বলবৎ থাকবে। গ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ঘ। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে। ঙ। দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD-1264

ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর



ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

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১৬ আগস্ট ২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত তারিখে সীমিত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

১	কাজের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
২	কাজের বিবরণ	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের ৯০ শতাংশের বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল সংলগ্ন ৬০০ফুট দৈর্ঘ্যের আরসিসি ড্রেন তৈরির কাজ।
৩	সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/= (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) (অফেরত যোগ্য)।
৪	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	সীমিত দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
৫	সিডিউল বিক্রয়/প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ক্যাশ সেকশন, হিসাব বিভাগ, ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। মোবাইল নং- ০১৮২২৮১৯৬৭৫।
৬	সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির তারিখঃ	১৮ আগস্ট ২০২০ হতে ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত।
৭	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:১৫ ঘটিকা।
৮	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
৯	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিগত ৬ মাসের স্টেটমেন্টসহ), পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
১০	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১১	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ	ক। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নাঙ্ককারী কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে। খ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বলবৎ থাকবে। গ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ঘ। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে। ঙ। দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD-1265

ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

রাঙ্গামাটি সরকারি কলেজ

উপ-প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপকের (অধ্যক্ষ) কার্যালয়

কলেজ এডুকেশন ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট (সিইডিপি)

ফোন: ০৩৫১-৬২২১৫, মোবাইল: ০১৮৮৩০১১৭০১, ০১৫৭২৬২৪৮৮

Email: rgcctbd@yahoo.com, Website: www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd

Ref: rgcctbd.gov.bd/2020/109

Date: 17/08/2020

Invitation for Re-Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education		
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/ National University		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Rangamati Government College		
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Rangamati		
6	Invitation for	Renovation and Refurbishment of Classroom and Labs		
7	Invitation Ref No	RGC/RGCEDP/2020/109		
8	Date	17/08/2020		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit)		
11	Development Partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project Code	224017200		
13	Project Name	College Education Development Project (CEDP)		
14	Tender Package No.	W-1		
15	Tender Package Name	Renovation and Refurbishment of Classroom and Labs		
16	Tender Publication Date	17/08/2020		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	06/09/2020, 5:00 pm		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	07/09/2020, 2:00 pm		
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	07/09/2020, 3:00 pm		
20	Name & Address of the office	Rangamati Government College		
	Selling Tender Document	Rangamati Hill District		
	Receiving Tender Document			
	Opening Tender Document			
21	Place /Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Pre - Tender Meeting will not be held		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 4,500,000 (forty five lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 20,000,000 (2 crore) only over the last 03 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderers shall be Tk 5,000,000 (fifty lac) only. 5. Other Criteria mentioned in TDS		
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Brief Description of the works: Floor Tiles, Wall Tiles (New Washrooms), Wooden Work, Plastic Emulsion Paint, Painting of Window and Door etc.		
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities		
25	Tender Document Price	BDT 1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred)		
26	Tender Name	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion time in Months
	Renovation and Refurbishment of Classroom and Labs	Rangamati Government College	1,50,000	03 months
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Md Moin Uddin		
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal		
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Rangamati Government College, Rangamati Hill District		
30	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel : 035162215	Mobile: 01883011701	email: rgcctbd@gmail.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

GD-1270

Prof. Md. Moin Uddin
Principal
Rangamati Government College.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

সিলেট বন বিভাগ

সিলেট



সিলেট বন বিভাগীয় ২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দে প্রাকৃতিক বাঁশ মহাল বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২।	এজেন্সী	বন অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ।
০৩।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, সিলেট বন বিভাগ, সিলেট।
০৪।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	এস. এম. সাজ্জাদ হোসেন, বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, সিলেট বন বিভাগ, সিলেট।
০৫।	কাজের নাম	প্রাকৃতিক বাঁশ মহাল বিক্রয়।
০৬।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	০১/প্রাকৃতিক বাঁশ অব ২০২০ তারিখঃ ১৪/০৭/২০২০খ্রিঃ
০৭।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
০৮।	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১৭/০৮/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
০৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২০/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট বিভাগ, সিলেট/বন সংরক্ষক, কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল, ঢাকা/জেলা প্রশাসক, মৌলভীবাজার/বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সিলেট (টাউন রেঞ্জ) এর দপ্তর হতে (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১১।	দরপত্র জমাদানের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট বিভাগ, সিলেট/জেলা প্রশাসক, মৌলভীবাজার/বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সিলেট। তারিখঃ ২১/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ বেলা ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	সহকারী বন সংরক্ষকের কার্যালয়, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। তারিখঃ ২২/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ বিকাল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	২,৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য।
১৪।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	সিলেট বন বিভাগের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্ত মহালদার।
১৫।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য	দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয়াদি বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সিলেট/সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক, সিলেট সদর, সিলেট/শ্রীমঙ্গল/হবিগঞ্জ/সুনামগঞ্জ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) দেখিতে ও জানিতে পারা যাইবে।
১৬।	কাজের বিবরণ (প্রাকৃতিক বাঁশ মহাল)	সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বাঁশ মহাল বিক্রয়ের তফসিল।

এস. এম. সাজ্জাদ হোসেন
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সিলেট বন বিভাগ, সিলেট

জিডি-১২৬১

Real estate sector becoming more optimistic of a rebound

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's real estate sector will hopefully be able to cope with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic as instalment collection on previous sales started to pick up after the economy reopened in June, according to various realtors and financiers.

Besides, the government has allowed the use of untaxed income to purchase land or apartments while the reduction in registration fees makes this the perfect time to invest in real estate at reasonable costs.

However, the country's realtors also said that apartment prices could eventually increase due to the rising cost of raw materials and delays in project implementation.

"We had feared that we would face difficulty in surviving the pandemic following a drop in demand for housing amid the unprecedented economic uncertainty brought on by the Covid-19 fallout," said Alamgir Shamsul Alamin, president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB).

But the situation is improving alongside the increase of economic

activities, he added.

Soon after the nationwide 'general holiday' aimed at curbing the spread of coronavirus within Bangladesh came to an end on 30 May, realtors resumed construction on their projects in line with health and safety guidelines to prevent further outbreaks.

As such, developers have been forced to recruit a smaller number of workers to maintain adequate social distancing at projects and this, in turn, is causing delays in the handover process.

Not only is this an inconvenience for the client, but it also inflates the production costs for the developer, Alamin said.

Certain realtors might not even be able to reach a breakeven point on their investments, according to the REHAB president.

Meanwhile, much of the country's burgeoning middle-class, a key demographic for the real estate industry, cannot afford housing at current rates.

"Therefore, the government should undertake topical policy measures that would help provide reasonably-

priced housing for middle-income people," Alamin said.

Due to the prolonged nationwide lockdown that began on 26 March, about 6,000 projects belonging to various REHAB members were in a state of limbo as construction work was halted for about two-and-a-half months.

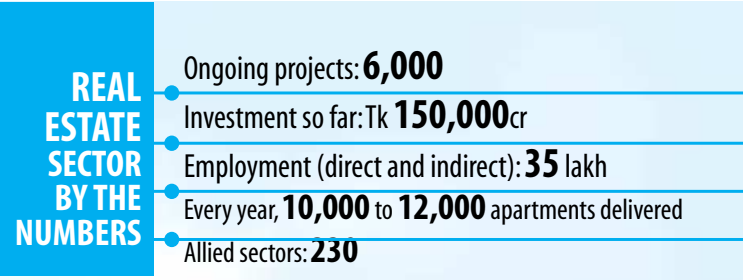
"We are not thinking from a business standpoint at the moment. Instead, we are trying to tackle the crisis," Alamin said.

The sector got a shot in the arm in July last year, when the government moved to slash registration fees and interest rates on loans.

Now though, realtors are just trying to survive the pandemic rather than make a profit, he added.

Echoing the sentiment, Kamal Mahmud, vice-president of REHAB, said the industry has seen a ray of hope in its fight against the coronavirus fallout following changes to certain state-policies.

The government's decision to relax the rules on investing untaxed income in real estate slightly benefitted the sector over the past two months while the reduced registration fees are



helping sales to recover gradually.

"And although the disruption in the supply chain for raw materials is an issue that persists, I am hopeful that the sector will return to normalcy when the coronavirus crisis comes to an end," Mahmud added.

Subsequently, the country's banking sector is also enjoying some relief thanks to an increase in instalment collection while the other economic activities are gathering momentum as well.

"This is the right time for those who dream of becoming homeowners in Dhaka to purchase an apartment as realtors need liquidity to recover from the pandemic," said Md Sirajus Saleken, head of mortgaging at IPDC Finance, a major provider of home loans in the country.

In this regard, IPDC Finance will introduce new financing products while keeping both the realtors and clients in mind, Saleken said, adding that realtors will also come forward with their own offers.

The non-bank financial institution funds around a dozen well-reputed realtors for home loan borrowers.

READ MORE ON B2



This connecting road of the Chattogram port was asked to be cleared of illegal establishments and obstructions by Mohammed Khorshed Alam Sujon four days after he was appointed as administrator to Chattogram City Corporation earlier this month. The appeal seems to have had no effect as parked covered vans continue to occupy the road, obstructing traffic and creating congestion. The photo was taken at Nimtola yesterday.

RAJIB RAIHAN

Marico Bangladesh has big plans for men's grooming

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Marico, the Indian fast-moving consumer goods company, recently launched a new product -- the X-Clean and Fresh Men's Soap -- under its men's grooming label, Studio X, as a part of the brand's ongoing effort to diversify its product base.

Earlier this year, Marico Bangladesh, a subsidiary of the Mumbai-based company, invested heavily to establish Studio X.

Initially, Studio X's product line consisted of shampoo, face wash, hair gel and cologne.

Now though, customers can avail the new product, which was exclusively engineered by international men's styling experts, according to a statement from the firm.

The soap, with its fresh menthol effect and germ defence formula, is different from generic soaps that may fail to cater to the specific grooming needs of men today, it said.

With a younger and more connected generation, today's male consumers are more aware of their appearance than ever before, said Allen Ebenezer Eric, marketing director of Marico Bangladesh.

"We are delighted to introduce a new soap, designed with a deep understanding of men's skin," he added.

Developed using a special formula derived from Indian and Vietnamese products, the new line of soap has a refreshing, cool feel.

Besides, the soap's fragrance is masculine in nature, the marketing director said.

Marico also markets two other male grooming products -- perfume and hair gel -- through another subsidiary, Set Wet.

The fast-moving consumer goods company's profits soared 30 per cent to Tk 264 crore in the 2019-20 financial year as its flagship product -- Parachute's coconut oil -- continues to dominate its competition in the sector.

The other hair oils retailed through the brand include Parachute Advanced Beliphool, Nihar Naturals Shanti Badam Amla and Parachute Advanced Extra Care.

In its last financial year, Marico's edible oil brand Saffola witnessed a robust growth of more than 108 per cent year-on-year but the company's baby lotion sales slumped more than 27 per cent at the same time.

Baby lotion alone accounts for about 70 per cent of Marico Bangladesh's annual revenue and so, the company shelled out Tk 30 crore to establish Studio X and diversify its product base.

Within six months of launch, the new line of soap has been introduced, bringing the brand's portfolio up to five in the personal care category.

The product is already available at numerous general retail stores and super shops, such as Swapno, and can also be found on e-commerce platforms such as Chaldal and Daraz.



Can US retail sector's 'V-shaped' rebound jump the fiscal cliff?

REUTERS

Even with nearly a fifth of the labour force collecting unemployment benefits in July, Americans continued spending with relative gusto, driving retail sales back to pre-coronavirus levels as they shifted shopping online, brought their food home, and stocked up on new appliances.

The downside: It was government money they spent, and that is now drying up even as a recent spate of unexpectedly upbeat economic data - including a larger-than-expected rise in payrolls last month and the first drop below 1 million in weekly new jobless claims since March - takes the pressure off Congress to renew

resurgence in virus cases," wrote Michael Pearce, senior US economist for Capital Economics.

Though the loss of unemployment income, if it persists, "poses a downside risk to spending in the near term ... consumption growth will recover gradually from here."

Oxford Economics senior US economist Lydia Boussoir, by contrast, called the July number "sobering" because it was below expectations, and signaled consumers were already growing cautious through July as the growth in coronavirus cases rebounded and some states imposed new restrictions, unemployment remained high, and the expiration of government benefits approached.

The 1.2% jump in retail sales was "only half

sign of progress on a new stimulus package.

That makes August a test of whether daily growth in coronavirus cases will continue a recent decline even as some schools and colleges reopen, whether the economy will continue to grow despite the health risks, and whether unemployed Americans have managed to put enough in the bank to get them through until their jobs return.

The extra \$600 per week in unemployment benefits paid from roughly April through July, along with loans to businesses, led to a record increase in personal savings and allowed some households to pay down debts. Some Federal Reserve officials have noted that puts "firepower" in the hands of businesses and households that could tide them over for a while.

Recent data through July, for example, showed overall bankruptcies down 25% over the same seven-month period in 2019.

But the vice may tighten fast. A moratorium on evictions has expired: that means grim choices ahead for families that had used rent money for food or other purchases in recent months.

And the details of the spending report show similarly tough decisions for others, particularly those among the millions who have been laid off from restaurant and hospitality jobs.

High-frequency data has shown that growth in traffic to those sorts of businesses has plateaued, and the July sales statistic backed that up. Americans got their calories and their beer and wine - but from online orders or directly from grocery and liquor stores, not in restaurants, where spending remained 20% off last July's level.

That means a different labour market emerging that may need fewer workers than before, no guarantee of an easy transition for those caught in it, and a need for more government help to ease the crunch.

The failure to renew benefits will "reverberate across the economy," analysts from the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics said, with a potential \$500 billion drop in personal income following the expiration of government programs causing a jump of as much as 5% in the unemployment rate - back towards the record level hit in April.

The unemployment rate dipped to 10.2% in July after hitting 14.7% in April, with the US economy still about 14 million jobs below where it was before the coronavirus lockdowns began.

Economic policymakers are wary of the evolving dilemma.



REUTERS/FILE

Shoppers are seen wearing masks while shopping at a Walmart store in Bradford, Pennsylvania, US.

the unemployment benefit supplement and business loan programs that ended last month.

The dilemma is a stark one as the United States ends its first half-year of pandemic confusion. Is the economy on its way back as consumers and businesses learn to live with new health risks, or nearing a more serious nosedive?

Consumer spending drives about two-thirds of the US economy, and the July numbers "are encouraging because they suggest the recovery has continued to grind on even in the fact of the

the expected gain," she wrote, and "underscores that wary consumers have turned more cautious ... The recovery in consumption ... will be restrained by income cliffs and renewed virus fear."

Those two views - of a recovery grinding ahead as people adapt and health risks are gradually controlled, or of massive family and business failures in the near future - are at the root of a stalemate in the US Congress that saw lawmakers head home until September with no

Reconditioned car import slumps 60pc

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, from Chattogram

Import of reconditioned cars has dropped 60 per cent year-on-year in fiscal 2019-20, something the industry's people are attributing to a tariff structure and declining sales in the domestic market.

During the year, 5,223 reconditioned cars were imported, resulting in Chattogram Customs House earning just Tk 223 crore in revenue.

In contrast, Tk 651 crore was generated in revenue from the import of 13,044 such vehicles in fiscal 2018-19.

The price difference between a reconditioned and a brand new car is very insignificant, according to Abdul Haque, president of the Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida).

Customs is imposing a duty on brand new imported vehicles based on prices mentioned in the invoice but this method is not followed on reconditioned cars, he

said. In case of reconditioned cars, the National Board of Revenue determines the duty based on yellow book prices, he said.

The yellow book price is the international yardstick for car prices issued by the Japan Auto Appraisal Institute, an agency of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The prices paid by importers for reconditioned cars are less than what is mentioned in the yellow book, says Barvida.

For this reason, the duty imposed is Tk 2-3 lakh higher than what it would have been if the invoice had been the determining factor, said Haque.

"As a result, our sales have also come down due to higher prices of cars," he said.

Due to a nominal difference in import duty between brand new and reconditioned vehicles, the government is losing a large chunk of potential revenue from the sector, he said.

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Netherlands economy sees unprecedented drop due to coronavirus

AFP, The Hague

The Dutch economy took its biggest-ever hit from the global coronavirus pandemic as lockdowns brought activity in the country to a standstill, data showed on Friday.

The EU's fifth-biggest economy shrank by 8.5 percent in the period from April to June compared with the preceding three months, the central statistics office CBS said.

"Never before has such a shrinkage been

measured," CBS said in a statement.

More than half of the contraction was due to a sharp fall in household consumption, the statisticians explained.

But falling investment and a sharp decline in the trade balance also played a role.

The Dutch government has taken measures to cushion the impact of the coronavirus pandemic with almost three million people receiving income support.