



Nilufer Zafarullah, chairperson of the Board of Directors of Midland Bank, presides over the bank's seventh annual general meeting through a digital platform yesterday. Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO, also took part in the event. The bank approved 6 per cent cash dividend for 2019.

Oil firms evacuate staff, curb offshore production ahead of twin storms

Oil producers on Saturday shut 13 per cent of crude oil production ahead of tropical storms Laura and Marco that are forecast to grind up the Gulf of Mexico in coming days, US government data showed.

Storms Marco and Laura are poised to become hurricanes and make back-to-back landfalls along the central Gulf Coast by mid-week. It is rare to have two simultaneously spinning in the Gulf and has raised concerns of double-barrel hits to coastal communities.

However, neither storm is expected to become a major hurricane, and their potential tracks cover a wide area of the Gulf Coast, said forecasters.

Murphy Oil Corp and BHP on Saturday were evacuating some

workers and Royal Dutch Shell Plc began shutting oil and gas production at most of its offshore operations. Murphy was making plans for possible production cuts, the company said.

BP Plc and Chevron Corp began production shutdowns on Friday. Occidental Petroleum, the third largest Gulf of Mexico offshore producer, said it was implementing weather-related procedures.

Producers halted 240,785 barrels per day of oil production and 119 million cubic feet per day of natural gas output before noon on Saturday, said regulator US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

Crews were evacuated from six production and four drilling rigs. Another seven drilling vessels were moved out of the storms' paths, BSEE

reported.

Storm Marco on Saturday was packing 65 mile per hour (100 km/h) winds, and was expected to become a Category One hurricane before making landfall in southeast Louisiana on Monday. Storm Laura is expected to become a Category One hurricane and reach the northern Gulf Coast a day or two after Marco.

"We don't see the intensity and strengthening risk," said Matt Rogers, president of Commodity Weather Group, which advises energy and agricultural firms. The prospect of either becoming a damaging, Category Three storm is just 10 per cent, he said.

Unlike Hurricane Harvey, which struck the region three years ago, neither is expected to linger inland, he said, reducing risk of coastal flooding.

US business activity and home sales surge

US business activity and home sales rose at a record rate for a second straight month in July, and purchasing managers in both the manufacturing and services sectors report business activity has accelerated at a brisker-than-expected pace this month.

With mortgage rates holding near record lows and a work-from-home trend apparently enticing many Americans to move further from city centres, the National Association of Realtors said on Friday sales of existing homes rose 24.7 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.86 million units last month from 4.7 million in June.

Home prices also shot to a record \$304,100, and a shortage of inventory is making competition for houses fierce. The average time on the market fell to 22 days in July, a record low, from 24 in June, and nearly 70 per cent sold in less than a month.

Combined with June's 20.2 per cent gain, home sales have mushroomed by nearly 50 per cent in two months to fully retrace the cratering in residential real estate activity in the spring after the Covid-19 pandemic started spreading across the country. July's sales rate was the fastest since December 2006, when the country was in the latter stages of the sub-

prime mortgage housing boom.

The housing market is well past the recovery phase and is now booming with higher home sales compared to the pre-pandemic days, said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. With the sizable shift in remote work, current homeowners are looking for larger homes and this will lead to a secondary level of demand even into 2021.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast sales rising 14.7 per cent to a rate of 5.38 million units in July. Existing home sales, which make up about 85 per cent of US home sales, rose in all four regions and were up 8.7 per cent nationally from a year earlier.

The 30-year fixed mortgage rate is at an average of 2.99 per cent, hovering near levels last seen in the early 1970s, according to data from mortgage finance agency Freddie Mac. Data earlier this week showed homebuilding accelerating by the most in nearly four years in July.

Housing has been a bright spot in the economy even as other sectors suffer amid widespread coronavirus infections that have slowed commerce and kept unemployment high. More than 28 million people were collecting jobless benefits under all programs at the end of July.

The pandemic tipped the economy into recession in February, ending a record-long expansion that had

brought US unemployment to a 50-year low.

Meanwhile, a purchasing managers' survey showed US business activity snapped back to the highest since early 2019 in August as companies in both the manufacturing and services sectors saw a resurgence in new orders even as new Covid-19 cases remain stubbornly high across the country.

Data firm IHS Markit said its flash US Composite PMI Index rose to a reading of 54.7 this month - the highest since February 2019 - from 50.3 in July. Its flash - or preliminary - indicator for the manufacturing sector stood at its highest since January 2019 and for the services sector it was the highest since March 2019.

A reading above 50 indicates growth in private sector output.

"Driving the overall upturn in output was stronger client demand," Markit said in its report. "Total new business rose for the first time since February and at a solid rate. Manufacturing firms registered a steeper expansion in new order inflows than in July, while service providers signaled a renewed increase in sales." The survey's flash composite new orders index climbed to 54 in August - the highest since March 2019 - from a final reading of 49.7 in July. Foreign sales increased at the fastest rate since September 2014, it said, as more non-US markets reopened their economies.

All hands on deck to get China-funded projects back on track

The cost of the project overran by 33 per cent from the original budget because of the delays in securing loans, the appreciation of the US dollar against the taka and a threefold rise in the price of land.

The original cost of the project was about Tk 4,936 crore. In the first revision, it was raised to Tk 5,426.3 crore. The second revision took it to Tk 6,568.3 crore.

In December last year, a new deadline of 30 June 2022 was set.

The SPM will have an annual unloading capacity of 9 million tonnes. It will unload 120,000 tonnes of crude oil in 48 hours and 70,000 tonnes of diesel in 24 hours.

The main objectives of the project are to ensure the unloading of imported crude oil and finished products with ease, safety, at a low cost and within a short time, reducing system losses in the import of crude and finished products through lighterage operations.

It will also maintain a balance between the growing demand of energy and its supply and enhance the petroleum oil retention capacity through the setting up of a diesel and crude oil storage tank farm at

Moheshkhali and increasing energy supply.

The Karnaphuli Tunnel project in Chattogram has achieved a breakthrough with the completion of the left line despite the pandemic. China Communications Construction Company is implementing the project.

The tunnel, the first underwater tunnel in South Asia, will connect the port city with the other side of Karnaphuli river, improve traffic movement in Chattogram and promote the economic development of Bangladesh, said the Chinese embassy in Dhaka in a press release on 3 August.

It will also contribute to the improvement of the Asian Highway Network and connectivity between Bangladesh and its neighbours.

The tunnel is being built at a cost of Tk 9,880 crore to turn Chattogram into "One City, Two Towns".

Out of the 27 projects, commercial agreements for seven projects involving \$5.4 billion have been signed as of June 2020. China has disbursed \$1.54 billion.

Two more projects involving \$439 million that are not included in the list of the 27 projects are also being implemented. Beijing has disbursed

\$249.3 million for them.

Bangladesh is implementing nine projects bankrolled by China. Disbursement totalled \$1.8 billion against the commitment of \$7.1 billion as of June, according to the ERD.

Tuesday's meeting will also discuss the next priority list containing the remaining 16 projects. Dhaka has sent the list to Beijing seeking funds.

The list includes Dhaka Ashulia Elevated expressway (\$1.2 billion), the double line (dual gauge) between Joydebpur-Ishwardi section (\$1 billion), and the conversion of Metre Gauge Railway Track into dual gauge in Akhaura to Sylhet section of Bangladesh Railway (\$1.3 billion).

The government would also sit with the World Bank.

Bangladesh is particularly keen to speed up the implementation of the mega projects after the country's annual development programme fell to a 27-year low in the just-concluded fiscal year.

The ministries and divisions managed to spend Tk 161,857 crore in fiscal 2019-20, which was 80.5 per cent of the total allocation for the year.

This fiscal year's ADP is Tk 204,144 crore.

Pabna University of Science & Technology
Office of the Project Director, PUST, PABNA.

Memo No: PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/29 Dated : 23 August, 2020

e-Tender Notice (FY-2020-21)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project", PUST, Pabna.

Sl No	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
01.	485214	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/29	Construction of 10 storied Male Student Hall with 10 storied Foundation in/c. Civil, Sanitary, Electrification, lift, Generator and Ancillary works under Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project, PUST, FY 2020-21.	23 August, 2020 11.00	21 Sep, 2020 12.00	OTM

This is an online Tender where only e-tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. 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. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Lt Colonel G.M Azizur Rahman
afwc, psc (Retd)
Project Director
Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project.

GD-1316

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন
নৌ-পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়
হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা), বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড
১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০

নং-১৮.২০.০০০০.০১৮.০২৬.০০১.২০২০-৪১৮ তারিখঃ ২৩/০৮/২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১)	সংস্থার নাম ও ঠিকানা	জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন, হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা), বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড, ১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
২)	সেবার বিষয়	প্রশাসনিক কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য কার (এসি/সি) ০১ (এক)টি এবং মাইক্রোবাস (এসি/সি) ০১ (এক)টি ভাড়া।
৩)	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
৪)	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত (২০২০-২০২১)।
৫)	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রির শুরু তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/৮/২০২০, মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।
৬)	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৮/৯/২০২০, মঙ্গলবার, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
৭)	দরপত্র দাখিল ক্রয় এবং দাখিল প্রক্রিয়া	দরপত্র প্রতিযোগিতামূলক করার স্বার্থে ২৫/৮/২০২০ তারিখ হতে প্রত্যহ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র ক্রয় এবং ৯/৯/২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কমিশনে দাখিল করা যাবে।
৮)	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৯/৯/২০২০, বুধবার, দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা।
৯)	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন, হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা), বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড, ১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০)	দরপত্র সিডি/উলি/বিক্রয়ের ঠিকানা	হিসাবরক্ষক, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন, হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা), বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড, ১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১১)	যানবাহনের ধরণ ও সংখ্যা	ক) ৫ সিটের এসি কার-০১ (এক)টি মডেল: টয়োটা ২০১৫/২০১৬। খ) ১২ সিটের এসি মাইক্রোবাস-০১ (এক)টি মডেল: টয়োটা হাইসে ২০১৫/২০১৬।
১২)	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	কার ১০০০/= এবং মাইক্রোবাস ২০০০/= (অফারভিত্তিক)।
১৩)	দরদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	১) দরদাতা ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন নম্বর সহ ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বৎসরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র; ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনের সনদপত্র; ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ইত্যাদি। ২) সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বৎসর গাড়ি সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থায় নিয়োজিত থাকতে হবে এবং এর স্বপক্ষে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি দাখিল করতে হবে। ৩) কার এবং মাইক্রোবাসের মালিকানা ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্রাদির হালনাগাদ সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৪)	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ (আনেষ্টিমালি)	ক) চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশনের অনুকূলে "কারের" জন্য ২০,০০০/= (বিশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে। খ) চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশনের অনুকূলে "মাইক্রোবাসের" জন্য ২৫,০০০/= (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।
১৫)	কার এবং মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়ার সরবরাহের সময়কাল	চুক্তি মোতাবেক।
১৬)	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	সচিব, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন।
১৭)	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন, হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা), বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড, ১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৮)	অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিত সকল/যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সচিব
জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন

জিডি-১৩১৮

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Building, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon
Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.ugc.gov.bd

UGC Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme-2020

Applications are invited from the teachers of public and private (only permanent campus) universities in Bangladesh for the UGC Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme-2020 in the prescribed form under the following terms and conditions:

- The candidate must be a teacher of a Public/Private University/Govt. college in Bangladesh.
- He/she must have a Ph.D degree.
- The upper age limit for applicants is 50 years as on the date of deadline.
- Fellowships are meant for the full-time researcher and the applicant must be granted study leave/deputation by the respective authority if he/she is selected by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh for the fellowship.
- The amount of fellowship is Tk 50,000/- per month.
- The tenure of the fellowship is one year.
- After completion of the programme every fellow shall have to return to their respective university. In case, he/she, for any reason, discontinues his/her research work without any valid cause acceptable to the UGC, he/she will have to refund the amount so far received by him/her from the UGC.

Prescribed application forms, information chart and UGC Post Doctoral Fellowship-2020 guidelines may be obtained from the Research Support & Publication Division of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh or UGC's website (www.ugc.gov.bd).

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application through proper channel along with the required documents to the Director, Research Support and Publication Division, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 by 30 September 2020. The soft copy has to be sent to director_research@ugc.gov.bd and ziaiut96@ugc.gov.bd.

Md. Omar Faruque
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GD-1319