

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, BHADRA 17, 1427 BS 🔵 starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Bangladesh praying for trade benefits post LDC graduation

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has joined hands with peer least-developed countries (LDCs) to appeal to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the continuation of trade benefits they currently enjoy following status graduation to developing nations considering the pandemic's ill-effect on economies.

All the LDCs are scheduled to provide their forum at the WTO by 3 September their arguments in favour of the continuation for a certain period past the graduation.

Bangladesh has already sent its set of reasons to the LDC forum favouring the graduation despite the severe damage

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caused by the pandemic on the economy. Many have called for deferring the graduation for the pandemic losses.

However, the LDCs preferred forwarding the justifications, Sharifa Khan, additional secretary to the commerce ministry, told The Daily Star over the phone.

Chad, a north-central African country that is currently the coordinator of the LDCs at the WTO, is scheduled to submit the proposals soon, she said.

Once all the LDCs submit their arguments, the draft copy of the demand would be submitted to the WTO, Khan said. Bangladesh's economic

development record, the UN Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) is scheduled to complete in 2021 the final round of assessment for the country's graduation.

If the UN CDP finds the assessment positive, Bangladesh will graduate to the status of a developing country in 2024.

country Once the graduates, all tariff benefits



will be lifted. Only the European Union (EU) will allow the tariff benefits for Bangladesh for another three years as a

That means Bangladesh will enjoy the zero-duty benefit to the EU up to 2027 but for other countries, the tariff benefits will be withdrawn from 2024.

Currently, Bangladesh as an LDC enjoys zero-duty tariff benefits, preferential trade benefits and regional trade benefit on exports to 38 countries worldwide, 28 of which are within the EU.

The other 10 are Australia, Belarus, Canada, Liechtenstein, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Switzerland and Turkey.

In many other countries such as Chile, Brazil and those in Latin America, Bangladesh enjoys a significant reduction Organisation. in duty rates.

Also, in the US, Bangladesh enjoys zeroduty benefit on 97 per cent of its products but unfortunately, the package excludes its main export items like garment.

As a result, Bangladeshi exporters have to face a 15.6 per cent duty on export of apparel items to the American markets. Nevertheless, the US is the single largest export destination for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will face competition in Europe after graduation as Vietnam has already signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the EU. Some 74 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings come under the preferential trade as an LDC. Of it, 64 per cent comes from the EU and 10 per cent from Japan, Canada and the other developed countries.

Bangladesh's export will decline 5.7 per cent annually if the EU's Everything but Arms (EBA) initiative is not extended as the local exporters will then have to face an 8.7 per cent duty to the EU.

So, there is a possibility of losing more than \$2 billion worth of export business annually after graduation, according to the United Nations Industrial Development

Elderly, disabled and widows to get safety net allowances through MFS

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The government plans to disburse social safety net allowances among elderly, disabled and widows through mobile financial services -- a move that can help the country reach the targeted beneficiaries, ensure value for money and prevent misuse.

The Department of Social Services under the social welfare ministry, which runs the country's largest social safety net programmes, has decided as part of its move to digitalise disbursement.

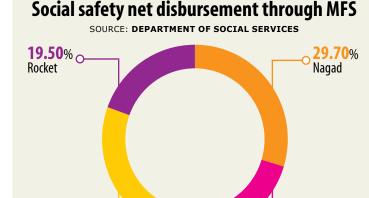
beneficiaries. Last week, it wrote run the piloting among 3,331

to four top mobile financial service carriers to run the piloting in eight union parishads in eight

Of the total, Nagad, a financial arm of the postal department, will run the piloting by disbursing safety net allocations among 4,114 beneficiaries -- the

It will run the piloting in two union parishads in Comilla and Lalmonirhat, according to a letter of the Department of Social

bKash, the market leader, will disburse funds among 3,695 beneficiaries in Conalgani and initiate a pilot involving 13,845 Sylhet districts. SureCash will



beneficiaries in Bhola and

Rocket, a venture of Dutch-Bangla Bank, will disburse allowances among beneficiaries in two union parishads in Natore and

The funds will be disbursed through the government-toperson system to avoid third-party involvement, according to the

The Department of Social Services will provide the list of the beneficiaries to the operators.

Tanvir Ahmed Mishuk, director of Nagad nanaging welcomed the move.

READ MORE ON B3

Plans for a deep seaport at Sonadia nixed

SureCash

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has officially scrapped its plan to build a deep seaport in Cox's Bazar's Sonadia out of environmental concerns, said the cabinet secretary yesterday.

In January 2012, the cabinet had approved the draft to set up the deep seaport to facilitate the country's growing international trade, as vessels cannot enter any of the country's two seaports --Chittagong and Mongla -- due to relatively low water levels in the Karnaphuli and Passur channel respectively.

after a study found that the deep seaport in

Sonadia may harm biodiversity to a large extent, said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while briefing reporters after the meeting, where the Sonadia Deep Sea Port Authority Act 2012 was annulled.

The government is building a deep seaport in Matarbari, which is adjacent to Sonadia, he said.

Sonadia project started at the beginning of 2020 when the government struck it off the list of fast-track projects.

Muinul Islam, a former professor of economics of the University of Chittagong, But now, the government has backed out blamed the geopolitics for the scrapping of

"India does not want Chinese Chattogram has become seriously involvement in any project in the Bay of Bengal.'

It is alleged that pressure was exerted on Bangladesh in 2014 to cancel a financing arrangement with China to build a deep seaport, he said.

Sonadia would have been a much The official process to discard the better deep seaport compared to Matarbari because of the higher depth of water. But we are not being able to benefit from it."

The Matarbari Port will provide about 13 metres of depth for deep-draft ships. But Sonadia has a natural depth of 15 metres, Islam said.

Bangladesh's prime seaport at handicapped because of a maximum of only 9.1 metres of the available draft for

In 2009, an international consultant for the proposed deep-sea port project said the Sonadia-Moheshkhali point is the best site for the project.

Following a feasibility study, Japan's Pacific Consultant International observed that establishment of a deep-sea port is feasible as it will be economically beneficial for the country due to its capacity to handle more sea-borne traffic in line with the future growth of the economy.

READ MORE ON B2

There is a nervous tension at HeidelbergCement headquarters

AHSAN HABIB

HeidelbergCement Bangladesh, the German cement maker, has been incurring losses since the second quarter of 2019 due to fierce competition in the market, higher prices of clinker, the imposition of advance income tax and higher interest cost.

The situation was aggravated further amid a plunge in sales due to the two-and-a-half-month-long countrywide general shutdown starting from 26 March to flatten the spread on coronavirus. The shutdown screeched construction works to a halt across the country.

The listed cement manufacturer incurred a loss of Tk 14.4 crore in the first half of this year, in contrast to a profit of Tk 15.2 crore a vear earlier.

However, the cement maker that markets two brands namely Scan and Ruby made a profit in the first quarter

HEIDELBERG HeidelbergCement's profit tumbled over the years (in Tk cr) 160 150 120 100 60 40 20

The company's profits and sales declined because of the price hike of raw materials in the international market, low income and the imposition of minimum tax on import of raw materials, according to its Chairman Kevin Gerard Gluskie. The government imposed a 5 per cent advance income tax on the import value of raw materials in fiscal 2019-20.

"Furthermore, the existing market competition forced us to adjust our prices significantly," Gluskie said in the company's annual report.

Though the advance income tax has been reduced to 3 per cent at the beginning of 2020, many cement producers blame their losses on the tax.

Earnings per share of MI Cement, another local listed cement manufacturer, was Tk 1.6 in the negative between July 2019 and March 2020, which was Tk 1.1 in the same period a year earlier.

Consolidated EPS of HeidelbergCement was Tk 2.5 in the negative in the January-June period. A year earlier, it

As HeidelbergCement Bangladesh, which was listed in 1989, did not provide any dividend to its shareholders last year due to losses, the company was downgraded to Z category shares in the Dhaka and Chattogram stock exchanges. Along with its depressing performance, the company's stock prices plunged 58 per cent to Tk 150 in the last two years.

HeidelbergCement, which operates in more than 50 countries, is facing the same problem that other multinational firms face in Bangladesh: unfair competition, said an official of the company asking not to be named to speak candidly on the matter.

READ MORE ON B2

Cars 'made in Bangladesh' on the way

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and JAGARAN CHAKMA

With just a year or so to go for golden jubilee celebrations of independence, Bangladesh is on its way to marking an epoch in history by manufacturing its own brand of automobiles with assistance from Japan.

State-run Pragati Industries is set to accomplish the feat in close cooperation with Japanese automotive giant Mitsubishi Corporation.

The government aims to kick off plans by finalising within a short time a 2020 Automobile Industry Development Policy, the draft of which has already been shared with stakeholders seeking their opinion.

The objectives were announced by Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun during a meeting with Ito Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh, at the ministry yesterday.

However, the minister did not disclose when the government plans on starting the manufacture of automobiles and making those available in the local market.

Currently, Pragati assembles cars



designed by Mitsubishi Motors, while PHP Motors, a sister concern of the PHP Family based in Chattogram, manufactures cars made by Malaysia's

Besides, Indian automotive giants Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra recently showed interest in setting up similar partnerships with local manufacturers to grab a bigger slice of the growing Bangladesh automobile pie.

At present, about 63 vehicles are sold each day. In 2012, when the market had just started taking off, the daily figure was 29, according to the Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida).

In 2019, car sales amounted to Tk 5,000 crore, which was more or less the same as in the previous year.

Bangladesh's thriving automobile sector has grown 8 per cent on average every year since 2012, said various industry insiders.

As per the draft policy, the country's automobile industry has been considered as a potentially major industrial sector for the last two decades as it has registered impressive annual compound growth and contributes greatly to the national

to economic recovery STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Utilising artificial intelligence and skilled manpower in Bangladesh's agro-based industry will be vital for ensuring a speedy economic recovery and food security during the postpandemic era, according to experts.

Besides, both public and private sector investment is required to expand agricultural production in the country, they added

During Eid-ul-Azha, held at the end of July this year, people used digital platforms to make purchases from home in a bid to avoid being exposed to the rogue pathogen while the amount of inbound remittance sent through the official channels increased as well, said Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Kaikaus made the comments during a webinar styled 'Post COVID 19: Challenges & Opportunities for Entrepreneurship and Employment in Agro-based Industry', jointly organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Agro industries hold the key



(CCIFB) last Saturday.

The government is set to implement a credit guarantee scheme for the agrobased industry, including aquaculture and livestock companies, to promote entrepreneurship in the sector and help small and medium enterprises meet their credit needs, Kaikaus said.

As part of the government's move to ramp up agricultural production, the prime minister previously approved a special program for the food processing sector so that agro-based

industries make a greater contribution to economic growth, employment and export.

Bangladesh welcomes international collaboration, including foreign investment, for the research and development of its agro-based production and processing sectors, Kaikaus said, adding that the government believes in balanced trade cooperation between countries.

Meanwhile, BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam reiterated his organisation's commitment to work alongside the various stakeholders of the agro-based industry to increase investment and employment in the sector.

BIDA will conduct policy dialogues, formulate action plans and facilitate the agro-industrial transformation in coordination with key stakeholders in both the government and private sector, he said.

In this regard, a high-level committee, headed by the PMO and coordinated by BIDA may be formed to advise on the development of agrobased production, processing, value addition and marketing, Islam added.

READ MORE ON B2

China's big banks face fallout as pandemic forebearance expires

China's largest state-owned banks are readied for rising bad debt and increased margin pressure in the months ahead as forbearance policies designed to give borrowers breathing space during the coronavirus crisis expire.

All five banks, which have been raising provisions to counter expected losses due to rising soured loans, have reported their biggest profit falls in at least a decade.

"The external challenges in the second half are unprecedented," Bank of China Ltd (BoC) President Wang Jiang said on

Their forecasts highlight the impact of the pandemic and the economic slowdown on China's banks, which have been asked by Beijing to step up and lend to flagging sectors, while sacrificing profits in a bid to revive the country's fortunes.

Borrowers are struggling to repay debt after months of lockdown and some sectors, such as those in the travel industry, are battling an increase in loan loss provisions".

Second-quarter loan-loss provisions were up 61% to 436% compared to the same period last year at ICBC, CCB, AgBank and BoC, data from China International Capital Corp (CICC) showed.

The crater in first-half profit was mostly down to provisioning ordered by regulators, CICC said, noting that secondquarter profit growth would otherwise have been 1.5% to 5.1% for those four lenders.

"As forbearance policies that help companies to recover expire in the first half of next year, the impact of non-performing loans will increase," Chief Risk Officer Jin Yanmin of China Construction Bank Corp(CCB) said during a news briefing.

Agricultural Bank of China (AgBank) President Zhang Qingsong said bad loan pressure was rising, as short-term policies aimed at keeping firms afloat expired, adding its profit growth faces pressure from a "declining loan prime rate, fee cuts and

Plans for a deep seaport at Sonadia nixed

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited China in 2014, the two sides agreed to sign a framework agreement on the deep-sea port for an estimated cost of \$14 billion, but the signing did not eventually take place as Bangladesh backtracked on it at the last moment, said a foreign ministry official in 2016.

If completed, the Sonadia port would have brought the Chinese presence close to India's Andaman and the Nicobar Islands, reported the Times of India in February

In an article last year, Islam wrote Chattogram has become a lighterage port where deeper-draft ships and longer ships are anchored at the outer-anchorage in the

Lighter vessels are used to carry the cargo or the containers to the port, which comes with a considerable cost in terms of both time and money

Even the bigger motherships unload their importcargo or containers at either Singapore or Colombo to be transported to Chattogram in lighter vessels. Similar lighterage methods are used for some export items from Bangladesh, he said.

Japan is helping develop the deep seaport in Matarbari, which is 25km away from Sonadia.

There is a nervous tension at HeidelbergCement headquarters

"Like local companies we can't adopt unfair means to win government projects. Local firms, in many cases, evade tax and VAT but we have to comply fully with regulations and can't compromise on quality," he said, adding that Bangladesh's corruption culture is not suitable for many multinational companies.

HeidelbergCement's sales dropped 38 per cent to Tk 176.6 crore in the second quarter of the year.

Another top official of the cement maker said it had to borrow a huge amount of money to buy Emirates Cement and Emirates Power but the company's sales did not rise to that extent.

"So, it is struggling to make profits," he

HeidelbergCement acquired 100 per cent ownership of the companies from UltraTech Cement Middle East Investments Ltd, a UAE-based company, in December 2019 at a cost of Tk 182.5 crore.

Emirates Cement Bangladesh generated sales of Tk 35.9 crore in the first half of the

HeidelbergCement Bangladesh's net interest cost was Tk 9 crore in the first six months of the year while its interest income

was Tk 4 crore a vear earlier.

"The entire cement industry is not in a good shape due to higher production capacity than demand," the official

Bangladesh has the capacity to produce more than 60 million tonnes of cement a year against the demand for about 35 million tonnes, according to industry

The cement producers were raising their production capacity seeing the burgeoning economic growth of the country, the official said, adding that when the GDP of a country accelerates, cement companies see huge potential.

The annual per capita cement consumption in Bangladesh has grown from 45 kilograms to 200 kilograms in the last two decades, while the country's gross domestic product growth stayed around 7 per cent in the last few years.

Cars 'made in Bangladesh' on the way

The sector is nearing critical mass thanks to its ability to adopt new technologies and increased efficiency in human resource management.

Currently, 23,000 cars are sold in the Bangladesh market every year, of which about 3,000 are new, which the draft policy said was an indicator of the market being at an initial stage.

The demand will cross 100,000 once locally produced cars are made available as prices will come down to reasonable levels. Bangladesh's automobile industry could even become a part of the global supply chain in the future, it said.

The growing demand for cars, motorcycles and such is a result of the rise in purchasing power among the general public, it added.

Apart from the state's own brand of cars, the government will provide manufacturing facilities for the private sector and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in the automobile sector to reduce import dependence,

said the draft policy. As the market develops, policy incentives could be offered to foreign automakers to adopt semi-knocked down (SKD) production, the capacity of which may go on to vary widely from 2,000 to 12,000 units per year.

However, if the annual sales are expected to be less than 5,000, foreign automakers might prefer to just provide original equipment for local companies to use rather than make direct investments.

To ensure safety, product efficiency and environmental sustainability, programmes will be put in place to promote research, design and development for locally produced alongside automotive products suitable fiscal and financial incentives, the policy said.

In May last year, Mitsubishi proposed investing in Bangladesh to produce vehicles of its own brand.

Ryujiro Kobashi, vice-president of Mitsubishi Motors, expressed interest in setting up an assembly plant at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Chattogram during his meeting with Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at his Dhaka secretariat

The company sought policy support from the government to set up the plant, saying it would gradually be upgraded to a complete automobile manufacturing plant.

Yesterday, Naoki conveyed to Humayun the interest of Japanese automakers, including Mitsubishi, and emphasised on bilateral dialogue

to increase investment in Bangladesh. He assured providing technological support for Bangladesh to create its own brand of automobiles.

Naoki also urged the government to make motorcycle registration fees reasonable for the industry to flourish in Bangladesh.

Japan will help establish a testing and research institute to provide certifications for motorcycles, he said.

Motorcycle makers have been demanding an 81 per cent cut in bike registration fees in the next fiscal year's budget as the purchasing power of the general mass has seen a sharp fall due the pandemic.

The registration cost of a motorcycle, including registration fees, road tax, supplementary duties and other charges, is about Tk 22,000 on an average, which is about 25 per cent of the price of a 100cc motorcycle, the best-selling engine capacity.

The industry wants the fee to be fixed at Tk 4,000.

About the Japanese economic zone in Araihazar, Narayanganj, Naoki said would be the best in Asia in terms of quality.

He also assured considering an industries ministry proposal for modernising state-run sugar mills and

Agro industries hold the key to economic recovery

Ever since Bangladesh achieved independence, agriculture has played the most significant role in providing food security, creating jobs, generating income and reducing poverty in the country, said CCIFB President Syed Mahmudul Huq.

Currently, the agriculture industry accounts for about 13 per cent of the annual GDP while its share in employment generation is nearly 40 per cent, indicating very low levels of productivity in the sector.

pandemic has aggravated the situation by forcing workers who lost their jobs overseas or in the cities to return to rural areas."

Whenever crisis strikes, as is the current issue, the country returns to agriculture for both food and job security, Huq added.

During the webinar, Hafizullah Khan, project director for BIDA's Entrepreneurship & Skill

Project, provided Development an overview of BIDA's initiatives promote employment entrepreneurship.

The organisation would like to carry out training programmes on regulatory regimes and business procedures to create skilled entrepreneurs across all 64 districts of the country within the next two years in a bid to achieve the government's target of bringing up private investments to 34 per cent of the annual GDP, he added.

Sattar Mandal, an emeritus professor of Bangladesh Agriculture University, led discussions on the agro-based industry's broader role for the economy at the event.

He also spoke on the challenges to be faced by people looking to grab entrepreneurship or employment opportunities in the post-pandemic period.

Fawzia Yasmeen, director of Ispahani Agro, called for the creation

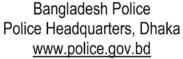
investments in digital or smart agriculture. internet-plus infrastructure and communication boost knowledge intensity and efficiency in production and processing.

FH Ansarey, managing director and chief executive officer of ACI's agribusiness, underscored the need to strengthen the link between primary production, agro-processing and delivery of social, financial and technical services in rural areas.

Job opportunities in the sector should have a balanced mix so that the modernisation of the sector goes hand in hand with employment generation, Moshiur Rahman, managing director of Paragon Group.

Md Saleh Ahmed, chairman of the KERNEL Foundation, and Shah Syed Kamal, chairman of the policy and advocacy sub-committee of CCIFB, spoke among others.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh





Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Short Listing Researcher/Research Firm (National)

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1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.					
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Police.					
3.	Procuring entity	AIG (Planning & Research-2), Police Headquarters, Dhaka.					
4.	Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)	For Short Listing Researcher/Research Firm.					
5.	EOI Reference No.	Memo No. 44.01.0000.031.31.023.20-30, Date: 31.08.2020					
6.	Date	31.08.2020					
	KEY INFORMATION						
7.	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).					
8.	The period of assignment	October 2020-May 2021.					
9.	Source of fund	Revenue Budget, Gov.					
10.	Title of research	Policing Bangladesh in 2041: Search for a Perspective Plan on Law Enforcement.					
11.	EOI publication date	01.09.2020.					
12.	Closing time and date of EOI submission	12 hrs on 22.09.2020.					
13.	Time and date of EOI opening	12:30 hrs on 22.09.2020.					
14.	Pre-bid meeting date	11:00 hrs on 14.09.2020.					
15.	Brief description of the assignment	The Research titled 'Policing Bangladesh in 2041: Search for a Perspective Plan on Law Enforcement' will be conducted by Researcher(s) or Research Firm(s) within eight months from October 2020 to May 2021 from Revenue Budget under the supervision of the Assistant Inspector General (Planning & Research-2), Police Headquarters, Dhaka. The key objectives of the assignment is: -To assess Bangladesh Police as a state player to attain Vision-2041; -To know the resource, manpower and organizational requirement, which should be necessary at every five years' time up to 2041; -To know the visionary picture of Bangladesh Police in 2041.					
16.	Qualifications of researcher/research firm Others	i) Researcher(s) is/are requested to send a write-up not exceeding 2000 words in consistence with the topic as above (in prescribed form stated in Bangladesh Police Gobeshona Nitimala, 2018) providing (a) Educational qualifications (b) Birth certificate/NID (c) Years of research experience (d) Published articles (with reference) (e) Certificate of highest degree (f) Resumes of research associate/associates along with (g) e-TIN certificate (h) No objection letter from the appropriate authority (if working in any public or private university or other autonomous body) to conduct the research. ii) Research firm(s) is/are requested to send a write-up not exceeding 2000 words in consistence with the topic as above (in prescribed form stated in Bangladesh Police Gobeshona Nitimala, 2018) providing (a) Trade licence (b) Research experience (c) Research experience of the chief executive of the firm (d) Educational qualifications of the chief executive of the firm (e) Resumes of research associate/associates along with letter of consent to conduct the research (f) Publications of the firm (books, articles/research articles) (g) Capacity of the firm (infrastructure/logistic-transport, photocopier, scanner etc.), number of researchers and personnel (h) TIN certificate of the chief of executive of firm. Attested copies of relevant papers mentioned above must be submitted along with the EOI.					
17.	Others	The procuring entity reverse the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without					

assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Abdur Razzak

BP-7001028120 AIG (P & R-2) For Inspector General, Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka Phone & Fax: 02-55101608 Cell: 01713373015

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অস্থায়ী কার্যালয় ঃ পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

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তারিখ ঃ ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০

সরবরাহকারী তালিকাভূক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নলিখিত ক্যাটাগরির মালামাল সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছর এবং পরবর্তী প্রতি বছর নবায়নযোগ্য সরবরাহকারী হিসেবে শ্রেণীভিত্তিক তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য প্রকৃত মালামাল সরবরাহকারী/উৎপাদনকারী/ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরখান্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে ঃ

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8.	ইন্টারনেট সেবা/টেলিফোন/ফ্যাক্স	٥٠.	সাধারন ও অন্যান্য
Œ.	অফিস সরঞ্জমাদি সরবরাহ ও মেরামত	۵۵.	মেডিকেল ইকুইপমেন্ট ও মেডিসিন সরবরাহ
৬.	বই সরবরাহ, প্রিন্টিং, বাইন্ডিং ও আইডি কার্ড তৈরিকরণ		

আগ্রহী ও যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে বিএসএমআরএএইউ রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসে ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড়াফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমাদান পূর্বক শ্রেণীভিত্তিক তালিকাভূক্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ করে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্র একই অফিসে আগামী ১৫ সেন্টেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। আবেদনের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.bsmraau.edu.bd) এবং রেজিস্ট্রার দফতরের প্রকিউরমেন্ট শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Narayangoni Road Circle Allenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka Phone: 02-48110361 E-mail: narayangonjcircle@gmail.com

Memo No.

GD-1358

Dated: 31-08-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

SI.	Tender ID, Package No.	Name of work	Last selling and closing
No.	& date of publishing		date & time
1	Tender ID: 484535	Improvement for 6-Laning of Narayangonj Link Road (R-111) Signboard-Chasara	
	Package No. NRC (e- GP)/01/Dev/2020-2021	project consist of Construction of Flexible Pavement Rigid Pavement 3 Nos. Footover Bridge Service Lane Bus-Bay U-turn Drain with Footpath & 8 Nos. Box-Culvert ch.	29-Sep-2020 16:00 30-Sep-2020 12:00
	Publishing: 31-08-2020	(0+000 to 8+105) m under Road Division Narayangonj during the year 2020-2021.	

The interested persons/firms may visit the website **www.eprocure.gov.bd** to get the details of the tender.

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).

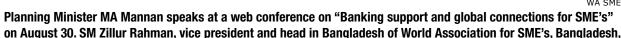
> K.M. Noor-E-Alam ID No. 006004 Superintending Engineer, RHD (CC)

> > Narayangonj Road Circle

GD-1362

GD-1361







Pawat Palasarn, mechanical and plant manager of ITD Bangladesh Company Ltd, receives the keys of six units of JAC (T6) from Jashim Uddin Sapon, general manager and head of operation of Motor Vehicle Division of Energypac; Abdullah Al Maruf, head of corporate sales, and Shamal Das, head of service, at a programme recently.

Elderly, disabled and widows to get safety net allowances through MFS

organised the event.

"We think it is a very timely initiative from the government side. I believe that due to this initiative, the distribution of the social safety net allowances will be transparent. Besides, the beneficiaries will be able to get their allowances very easily and safely on

The step will accelerate the digitalisation of the Department of Social Services, Mishuk added.

There is no better way than MFS carriers to disburse social safety net funds among this group of people, said Shahadat Khan, chief executive officer of SureCash.

"If you digitalise this service, you will come to know the exact number of beneficiaries and whether the targeted beneficiaries are getting the support," he added

The Department of Social Services disbursed Tk 2,640 crore among 44 lakh poor elderly in the last fiscal year with each receiving Tk 500 per month. It plans to disburse Tk 2,940 crore among 49 lakh elderly in the current fiscal year, according

The department disbursed Tk 1,020 crore among 17 lakh widows in the last fiscal year. This fiscal year, it has got a budget of Tk 1,230 crore to pay out among 20.5 lakh beneficiaries.

It released Tk 1,390 crore among 15.5 lakh people with disabilities in fiscal year 2019-20. The government has raised the budgetary allocation for the group to Tk 1,620 crore in the current fiscal year and the number of beneficiaries to 18 lakh.

Recently, the government has taken a move to disburse different government allowances through MFS operators to reduce the hassles faced by beneficiaries and ensure transparency.

In April, the government allocated Tk 1,250 crore for the 50 lakh poor families whose breadwinners were rendered unemployed because of the coronavirus

জীবন ও স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় নিরাপদ খাদ্য

স্মারক নং-১৩.০২.০০০০.৫১১.০২.০৫৬.১৯-

pandemic and most of them were disbursed through the four MFS carriers.

The government distributed cash support among 35 lakh beneficiaries rendered poor.

When the initiative was rolled out, Nagad, bKash, Rocket and SureCash were each given the responsibility to transfer the funds to 17 lakh, 15 lakh, 10 lakh and 8 lakh account holders.

Nagad distributed Tk 324.5 crore among 12.9 lakh beneficiaries, while bkash channelled about Tk 234 crore among 9.3 lakh beneficiaries. Rocket disbursed Tk 177.4 crore among 7.1 lakh recipients and SureCash Tk 120.8 crore among 4.8 lakh beneficiaries, according to a finance

"The recent disbursement of the prime minister's special Covid-19 assistance fund through MFS operators has established it the most transparent way of disbursing the government social safety net allowances directly to the beneficiaries,' said Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, head of corporate communications at bKash.

The national identification card-based verification has enabled the identification of the right beneficiary and ensured direct disbursement avoiding any middleman interference.

"We applaud this timely decision of the government. bKash has been giving utmost importance to this government initiative to help achieve the vision of Digital Bangladesh," Dalim added.

Currently, Bangladesh runs more than 150 social protection programmes under more than 20 ministries or divisions that create inefficiency and mistargeting, according to Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute.

The government allocated Tk 95,574 crore in the social safety net programmes, which is 16.8 per cent of the entire budget and 3 per cent of the GDP. The allocation was Tk 81,865 crore in last year's revised

Bangladesh praying for trade benefits post LDC graduation

It is important to ascertain how the loss of such treatment will impact graduating LDCs, said Roberto Azevêdo, director- developed countries, including those general of the WTO, recently in a report on the "trade impacts of LDC graduation".

The issue has assumed special significance with a quarter of the LDCs on the path to graduation and the associated loss of benefits tied to this status, he said.

The release of this report comes amid the COVID-19 health crisis, which is threatening the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, and having an enormous impact on economies large and small. In early April, WTO economists projected a steep fall in trade in 2020, with the main question being the sheer depth of the decline.

The economic dislocation threatens to reverse hard-won socioeconomic development gains in the LDCs and could potentially delay graduation for some countries.

"As we monitor the impact that COVID-19 is having on all members, it will be critical to keeping a close eye on the evolving situation in graduating LDCs, Azevedo said in the report.

It is worth noting that the analysis in this paper focused on how the graduation would affect LDCs' trade relations, whether that graduation happens as planned or at a later date.

One of the key findings of this study is that the graduating LDCs have diverse economic profiles, with marked differences in export structure, as well as in their utilisation of -- and reliance on -- sustain their development. preferential market access.

The study explores ways to address these challenges.

It is heartening to note that the cause of graduating LDCs has received due attention from the international community, and governments at the UN and in other fora are exploring measures to assist graduating LDCs to ensure smooth transitions.

The LDC Group in the WTO is pursuing proposals in relevant WTO bodies.

There are instruments and procedures available under WTO rules that offer graduating LDCs paths to engage with members and seek recourse should they face any difficulty in their participation in the WTO, the report also said.

Primarily, all the LDCs should demand deferment of the graduation by at least three years as the global economy is severely affected by the pandemic, said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow

at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

If the deferment is possible, it will be better. If not, all the developing and within the EU, should continue the same trade benefits at least for five years past the graduation, Rahman told The Daily Star over the phone.

For instance, the aid for trade under the WTO's Enhanced Integrated Framework and the Technology Bank support for the LDCs have been granted for five years following graduation.

So, those initiatives will definitely bring benefits for the LDCs that are going to graduate, he said.

Rahman also suggested the continuation of benefits provided to the LDCs by the WTO on pharmaceuticals up to 31 December 2032 so that Bangladesh's emerging pharmaceuticals industry can grow and expand.

"We want the developing and developed countries to continue providing zero-duty benefit," said Md Abdul Momen, a professor at the Institute of Business Administration of the University of Dhaka.

The pandemic has intensified the demand, said Momen, also a director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, while representing the platform at a meeting on LDC graduation organised by the commerce ministry last month.

All the developed and developing countries should continue the zero-duty benefit for Bangladesh for at least 10 years so that the graduated countries could

For instance, only the EU will allow a three years' grace period to up to 2027. "We demand that all the countries extend it for 10 years beyond 2027.'

This is because the EBA initiative introduced under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) in 1968 helped Bangladesh in economic development, employment generation and women empowerment, Momen added.

Developing and developed countries except those under the EU usually do not provide a grace period, said MA Razzaque, a research director at Policy Research Institute and a noted trade economist.

But this time it is different because of the pandemic's impact on the global economy. Bangladesh and other LDCs should raise their voices so that all the developing and developed countries extend the tenures of the preferential trade benefits considering the economic fallout from coronavirus, he added

Date: 24/08/2020

Turkey's economy shrinks nearly 10pc in Q2

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkey's economy contracted by 9.9 per cent in the second quarter as a coronavirus lockdown brought activity to a near standstill, according to data on Monday that showed its worst year-over-year performance in a decade.

While less precipitous than expected, the drop in gross domestic product (GDP) was still historic compared to the first quarter at a seasonally and calendar-adjusted 11.0 per cent, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute.

Turkey's \$770 billion economy is used to more than 5 per cent growth driven by booming construction financed by cheap foreign credit. But a 2018 currency crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and new lira weakness has brought two sharp slumps in as many years.

Many larger economies, however, fared worse in the second quarter than Turkey and it also outpaced some peers including Mexico, whose economy shrank more than 17 per cent on a quarterly basis.

The data had little impact on the lira, which was slightly weaker at 7.3400 against the dollar.

In the first quarter, Turkey's economy grew by 4.4 per cent year-on-year, according to a slight revision from the initial figure. It was boosted by a lending spree just before the pandemic struck Turkey in March.

The financial sector stood out with 28 per cent growth in the second quarter, while the large industry and services sectors shrank 16 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Beginning in March, Ankara shut schools and some businesses including many factories, closed borders and adopted weekend stay-home orders. Much of the economy was reopened in June, though new virus cases have edged back up in recent weeks.

"The rest of the year will depend on the pandemic (and) especially the recovery of demand in private consumption, said Tera Yatirim economist Enver Erkan, "Positive growth this year looks difficult." In a Reuters poll of 14 economists, the median estimate was for a 11.8 per cent year-over-year contraction in GDP, with estimates ranging from declines of 7.1 per cent to 13.1 per cent.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ

জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার 🎤

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জিডি-১৩৬৩

GD-1356

সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, রাজশাহী

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স্মারক নং-১২.০২.০০০০.০০২.১১.২৯১.১২-৫১৩ তারিখঃ ২৫-০৮-২০২০ খ্রিঃ



কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তরের সাঁট-লিপিকার কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর,সাঁট মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর ও অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক পদে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত গত ১৩ ও ১৪ জুন/২০২০ তারিখে গৃহীত সাঁট-লিপি/কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষর (ব্যবহারিক) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান নির্ধারণপূর্বক কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট dam.portal.gov.bd এর মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডের মাধ্যমেও এস,এম,এস দারা ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান জানানো হয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য আগত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই মাস্ক পরিধান করতে হবে। এ ছাড়া স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্দেশিত 'কোভিড-১৯' সংক্রান্ত স্থাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে <u>চলতে হরে</u>।

বিকিনিস্ফুল্টি 2020 (ইকবাল হোসেন চাকলাদার) (উপসচিব)

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Agricultural Extension Office of the Project Director Safe Crop Production through Eco-Friendly Approach Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 www.dae.gov.bd

Memo No. 12.01.0000.040.07.004.2020/211 & 212

Tender Notice No. 04/2020-21

Open Tendering Method (OTM) e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd) for the

procurement of the goods mentioned below: e-Tender Description of goods Tender last selling Tender closing Tender opening ID date & time date & time date & time 487142 Farmers Field School 20-Sep-2020 21-Sep-2020, 21-Sep-2020, Materials as per price and 14:00 17:00 14:00 delivery schedule for Goods (Form e-PG3-3A) 487147 27-Sep-2020, 27-Sep-2020, IPM Club Support 23-Sep-2020, Materials as per price and 14:00 delivery schedule for Goods (Form e-PG3-3A)

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.

submit e-Tender registration (http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-

GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1359

Ahsanul Haque Choudhury Project Director Safe Crop Production through Eco-Friendly Approach DAE, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 Email: cahsanulhaque@gmail.com

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সহায়ক. নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ও পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী পদে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে লোক নিয়োগ করা হবে। সে লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী ও অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২৮-০৯-২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ ৫০০/- টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ (নিউ ইন্ধাটন, ৭১-৭২, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন) ১৩ তলায় অবস্থিত উপসচিব, বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ এর দপ্তর থেকে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। আগামী ২৯-০৯-২০২০ তারিখ ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ ও খাদ্য ভবনে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। তাছাড়া এ দিনই বেলা ৩ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষের সম্মেলন কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং-১৩২০) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

নূর-ই-খাজা আলামীন বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ

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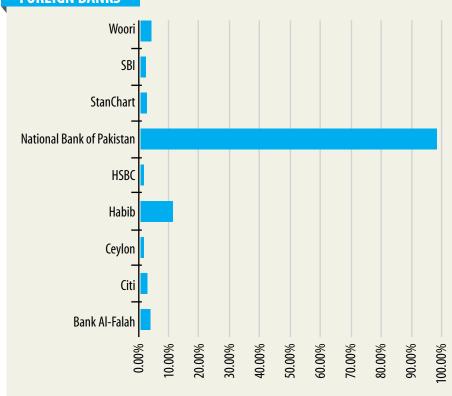
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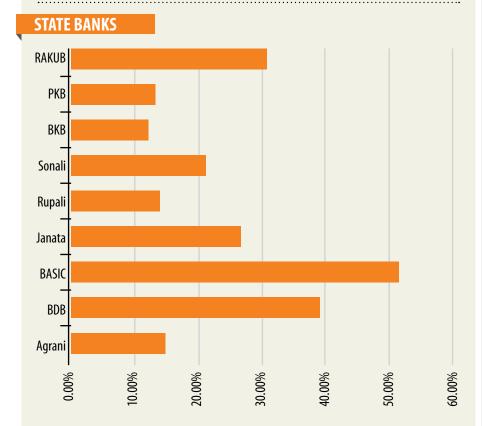
*BUSINESS

BANKS' CLASSIFIED LOANS AS PROPORTION OF TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS ON JUNE THIS YEAR

SOURCE: BI







Binge, Bangladesh's first IPTV, diving deep into Bengali original video content

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Binge, the country's first internet protocol TV (IPTV), is now coming up with Bengali original video content, buoyed by the tremendous response in the first three months of its launch.

The video content, which would be a family- and thriller-oriented telefilm and four dramas, would be released this month.

And to facilitate customers to watch the content, Binge has cut down the price of its Android smart devices by Tk 1,000 to Tk 3,999.

"We have a big and brilliant content creating team and our main emphasis is now making Bengali crime thriller, drama, comedy, video content based on real-life crime and many more," Noor E Tazrian Khan, marketing lead of its parent company Red.Digital, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The dramas can be viewed in higher definition on both big and small screens (smart TV and mobile handsets), Khan added.

One of the shows on the platform, which came at launch in May, called August 14 was a smash hit.



The series is inspired from a true incident of 2013, when a police officer and his wife were brutally murdered by their daughter.

"Our first such real life-based was a hit and everyone appreciated the quality of the content. So, we will bring more such web series," Khan added.

Red.Digital, a subsidiary of Robi Axiata, the country's second-largest mobile operator, rolled out the Binge Android smart device and streaming platform -- both of which were developed by local Genex Infosys -- at a time when the demand for video content hit the roof as people stayed home to

flatten the curve on coronavirus that was tearing through the country at a breakneck speed.

Subsequently, in just over three months, it has logged in 1 lakh subscriptions.

Powered by the internet, the Binge Android smart device, which resembles a set-top box, lets one can play more than 150 live TV channels, more than 3,000 series, films, exclusive originals and many more digital entertainment contents.

Dubbed the future of video entertainment, the IPTV differs from the regular cable or satellite TV in that instead of transmitting

content via light pulses in fibreoptic cable or radio waves from a satellite, it sends shows and movies through the standard internet connection.

In case of regular cable or satellite connection, broadcasters send out signals and viewers receive them, meaning one is only able to watch what is being broadcasted. Unless there is some sort of recording device, one does not get to dictate what's on when. You just tune in when you can and watch what's available.

But most IPTV uses video on demand (VOD) or time-shifted media instead of broadcasting a range of shows on a specific schedule.

The subscription fee for the Binge streaming platform, which can only be accessed through the device, is Tk 399 per month.

"Bringing all classes of viewers to this platform is our ongoing plan," Khan said, adding that it is also making content for children.

Red.Digital also has global domination in sight: it plans to take Binge to the Bangladeshi and Bengali-speaking diaspora spread all over the world.



RAJIB RAIHAN

Covered vans parked on Outer Ring Road in Chattogram city, most of which are usually built by bolting a modified shipping container onto the chassis at a cost of Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh. The average price of a van is Tk 20 lakh. Shipping containers brought in from abroad are supposed to return with export goods or empty. But they are being sold in the local market evading customs duty due to customs authority's negligence and absence of monitoring. Of the 3.5 lakh-odd trucks and covered vans engaged in the transportation of goods among Dhaka, its adjacent districts and Chattogram port, nearly 70 per cent carry textile and garment items, while the rest transport products for other sectors.

Capitalist urges imperil Bichanakandi's ecological balance

Dwoha Chowdhury, from Sylhet

Stone lifting from Bichanakandi is harming the ecological balance of the famous tourist destination in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila.

The area is located on Bangladesh's border with India's Meghalaya where a waterfall flows just inside the Indian border and the stream created a lake-like spot that connects with the nearby Piyain river.

Stone lifting started there after 18 March, when the Sylhet district administration imposed a shutdown on all tourist attractions, including Bichanakandi, in order to stop the spread of coronavirus

Taking the benefit of the ban, some traders started stealing stones, especially during nights, locals said.

In a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent also found a group of people busy lifting and carrying stones away with small boats. They were storing the stones in several nearby places for selling later on.

The spot, which is close to the border, is under the jurisdiction of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), which prohibits entry of tourists inside 500 metres of the area.

Some locals have complained that the stone lifting is taking place inside the area under BGB's jurisdiction also.

"We have no information of stealing or lifting stones within 200 metres of the perimeter. It might happen in areas outside our jurisdiction," said Ahmed Yusuf Jamil, the commanding officer of BGB Battalion-48.

Over the last decade, all nearby villages of Bichanakandi have been damaged by the stone traders.

Illegal stone lifting must be stopped at any cost to save the environment, said Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh

"But unfortunately, such things are happening in front of the law enforcers and administration," he added.

Nazmus Sakib, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gowainghat upazila, said he has ordered the local police and BGB to take steps to restrict stone lifting from Bichanakandi.





SHEIKH NASI

Top, Visitors are seen at Bichanakandi in June last year. *Bottom*, thanks to illegal lifting of stones, the bank of the stream is bereft of the boulders that made it a renowned tourist attraction in Sylhet. The photo was taken on 20 August this year.