# Walmart unveils subscriptions challenging Amazon

AFP, New York

The battle for online supremacy is on as Walmart announced Tuesday the coming launch of a membership program that provides free delivery as the world's biggest retailer takes direct aim at e-commerce behemoth Amazon.

The long-discussed Walmart+ will start September 15, charging \$98 annually or \$12.95 a month to provide free delivery as soon as the same day along with discounts on fuel and other features.

The service will compete with Amazon's "Prime" program, which offers free delivery within two days with a comparably-priced subscription that also provides free and premium-priced video and entertainment offerings. Walmart's announcement highlighted the need to meet consumer needs in a fast-evolving economy especially amid the upheaval caused by the coronavirus pandemic that has fueled a surge in tech adaptations for the work- and shop-at-home world.

"Life feels more complicated than ever. Walmart+ is designed to make it easier -- giving customers an option not to have to sacrifice on cost or convenience," Walmart chief customer officer Janey Whiteside said.

"We have always been a champion for the right item at the



The logo of a Walmart Superstore is seen during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease in Rosemead, California.

right price, but now it's more than that. We have the right shopping solutions at the right time, too.

"The launch of Walmart+ comes as the global retail giant has teamed with Microsoft in an effort to acquire TikTok, the Chineseowned short-form video app that has come under fire from President Donald Trump. The app has been at the center of a diplomatic storm between Washington and Beijing since Trump signed an executive order on August 6 giving Americans 45 days to stop doing business with TikTok's Chinese parent company ByteDance.

Shares of Walmart jumped 6.3 percent to \$147.59 to become the biggest gainer in the Dow.Walmart+ replaces the retail giant's "Delivery Unlimited" subscription service that offered home delivery of more than 160,000 items.

It is the latest step in the major ramp-up into e-commerce,

purchase of Jet.com for \$3.3 billion, and billions of dollars in additional investment to develop smartphone applications, revamp supply chains and roll out curbside pickup of groceries and other items at thousands of US stores.

The new service also will provide members with discounts of up to five cents a gallon at Walmart gasoline stations.And it offers a "scan and go" feature that lets consumers pay for items by scanning them with a smartphone application for a "quick, easy, touch-free payment experience, Walmart said on its website.

A successful acquisition of TikTok with Microsoft could open up additional possibilities, allowing Walmart a marketing platform with TikTok users, who tend to be younger shoppers who turn to the internet for lifestyle trends and are not generally big Walmart consumers.

The potential gold mine of younger users' data also could help Walmart compete more strongly with Amazon, analysts say. And the purchase of TikTok could give Walmart a key entertainment platform after earlier efforts stumbled. In April, Walmart's videoon-demand service Vudu announced it would be sold Fandango Media, which is part of Comcast.

## Will trade for food: online bartering soars in virus-hit Philippines

Struggling to make ends meet, Lorraine Imperio swapped a pair of Nike slip-on shoes for a whole dressed chicken on an online bartering site, one of dozens that have sprouted up during the Philippines' virus lockdowns.

With millions stripped of their jobs and many forced to stay home to slow the coronavirus spread, Filipinos have flocked to Facebook groups to exchange their possessions, including kitchen appliances, children's toys and designer handbags -mostly for food.

"It's so difficult nowadays. You don't know where you'll get the money to settle the bills for groceries," said Imperio, a mother of two whose husband works parttime at a doughnut shop in Manila.

His hours have been slashed because of the pandemic and he now only earns about 9,000 pesos (\$185) a month, half of which is used to pay the rent for the family's apartment. Online bartering groups have provided a lifeline to the Imperios and other Filipinos hit hard by the country's months-long virus restrictions that started in March and have sent the economy plunging into a deep recession.

At least 98 groups, some with tens of thousands of members, are operating across the archipelago, according to an AFP tally. Nearly all of them started during the pandemic as many Filipinos resorted to the ancient trading practice to feed their families.Google search volume in the Philippines for the keywords "barter food" soared 300 percent in May from April,

iPrice Group found in a recent study, as lockdowns squeezed household budgets and made travelling about difficult.

Its analysis of 85 popular Facebook barter groups, with more than two million members in total, found food and other groceries were among the most sought-after items.People post photos and specifications of the goods they want to swap, indicate what they want in return and then negotiate via the comments section.

After successfully bartering baby bottles that she no longer needed, Imperio swapped a baby's down jacket and a Ralph Lauren hoodie for six kilogrammes (13 pounds) of rice.While the Nike slip-on shoes were traded for a chicken, a second pair has not had any takers after three weeks.

"Old items are more difficult to sell," the 28-year-old said. "With bartering, it's easier to convert them into food."

Jocelle Batapa Sigue launched Bacolod Barter Community four months ago out of frustration at not being able to go shopping and a desire to help others.Her husband held the family's only quarantine travel pass, which people were required to carry when they left their homes during the lockdown.

"It's difficult for me to get what I want when I tell my husband to buy it," said Sigue, who is a lawyer in the central city of

The group has more than 230,000 members with more joining every day, she said. Sigue estimates thousands of items

-- from shampoo and birthday cakes to mobile phones and eyeliner -- change hands on her site daily.

### Pandemic puts electric vehicle plant in the slow lane

About 60 per cent of the components required to produce a finished car, including lithium batteries, motors and the chassis, will be built at the

Internationally acclaimed designers have already designed the first models of EVs to be produced by BAIL, the managing director said.

A team appointed by the company is leading the initiative by carrying out research on future development projects with foreign experts, Bangladeshi expatriates and local talents, according to Kabir.

The company's SUV line will sell at around Tk 25 lakh per unit while sedans will be priced between Tk 12 lakh to Tk 15 lakh and hatchbacks will

Meanwhile, the price of motor cycles will range from Tk 50,000 to Tk 1.5 lakh. The automobile market in Bangladesh seems to be small at the moment but will continue to expand as the economy is growing at a steady

"And so, there is huge regional and global potential for the sector," Kabir said. BAIL's EVs will cut fuel costs by 90 per cent per kilometre while the energy cost could be less than Tk 2 per

"Customers will replace their fossil fuel-run vehicles with EVs thanks to their comparatively lower price, fuel efficiency and environmental benefits," he added

According to a market analysis around 10 years, he said.

conducted by BAIL, annual car sales could reach two lakh units by 2025. In 2018, the number of units sold

was just 20,000. EVs will feature a 50-kilowatt-hour battery capacity, which costs about Tk 400 to fully charge as per the existing rates on electricity.

"With a 20-minute charge, our EVs can run 400km," Kabir said, adding that the car can be charged at home with a regular connection or at a quick

Quick charging stations will be set up on highways, at refuelling stations, parking spaces and convenient stores. There will also be provisions for charged battery swaps too.

The battery's lifetime will be

## Agriculture sector's resilience on the wane: What to do?

The government should increase its open market sales and other social support scheme activities particularly in flood affected areas. To pursue such schemes efficiently, the government needs to increase the food stock. It is important to note that public food stock has important positive market-signalling effect in the private market. Since procurement of boro paddy was not successful—only 22 per cent was procured—and higher market price made rice millers less interested to sell to government, it is important to import rice by the government to increase its food stock immediately considering the demand for September-November 2020.

The stability in the rice market in the coming months would largely depend on the acreage of Aman rice cultivation finally to be made by the farmers and its harvest afterwards.

It is usually noted that the postflood rice cultivation ensures higher yield compared to the normal period. sector workers and returnee migrants.

However, delay in cultivation this year due to flood in most part of the country may have adverse effect in the Aman yield.

government immediately ensure sufficient supply of seedlings for farmers across the countries so that cultivation of Aman is not affected badly.

Given the consecutive adverse impacts on the agriculture sector, a large portion of farmers and farm labourers would be affected in terms of production, revenue, employment and wages. A large number of people have returned to villages from urban infrastructure in rural areas such areas in search jobs in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Over 96,000 migrant workers have returned to Bangladesh and are now staying mainly in villages and rural areas. These people are also without job. The public policy support in the form of subsidised credit is largely undistributed among the farmers, agro-based entrepreneurs, informal

those loans is difficult to comply with by these people. Hence, these people are largely without jobs, with low/no income and are in need of jobs.

The inflationary pressure has worsened their life further. The government may consider undertaking large scale project in rural areas such as rural infrastructure development project to renovate roads, bridges, culverts in flood affected areas as per the national budget 2021.

It may also consider a specific component of development of as development of sewerage and sanitation system at thana and upazilla levels under its 'Amar Gram Amar Shahar' programme. Those income generating programmes would hugely benefit the rural people in getting employment and to earn their minimum subsistence income.

The writer is the research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

#### Padma Oil Company Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram



ı	Re-e-Tender is	s invited in the National e-GF	System Portal (htt	p://www.eprocure.	gov.bd) for the wor	ks:
Г	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender	Last date &	Last date &	Date & time
1	No. &		publishing	time of tender	time of tender	of tender
1	Tender		date & time in	selling	security	closing
L	Reference		e-GP		submission	
Г	423273,	Supply, Installation,	01-Sep-2020	28-Sept-2020	29-Sep-2020	29-Sep-2020
	E&P/Capex-	Commissioning and	at 0901 Hrs	at 1101 Hrs	at 12:30 Hrs	at 1401 Hrs
1	73/F-21/P-	Testing of 500 KVA Sub-				
1	93/19-20(R)	Station including HT/LT				
1		Switchgear, cables etc.				
1		in place of Existing 250				
1		KVA Sub-Station on				
1		turn-key basis at				
1		Daulatpur Depot, Khulna				
1		of Padma Oil Company				

This is an online tender, where only Re-e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit Re-e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (as

'সবাই মিলে গড়বো দেশ,

দর্নীতিমক্ত বাংলাদেশ" GD-1371

C. M. Ziaul Hassan

DGM (Engineering & Planning) Padma Oil Company Limited Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram Phone: 031-633243, Fax: 031-612668 Email: cmzhassan@yahoo.com

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ চট্টগ্রাম সডক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম

ফোনঃ ০৩১-২৮৬৩২৩২ E-mail: eechi@rhd.gov.bd

### e-GP দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র সড়ক বিভাগাধীন দরপত্র নং- e-GP/01/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21 (ID-489970), e-GP/02/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21 (ID-490005), e-GP/03/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21 (ID-490009) 9 e-GP/04/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21 (ID-490013) গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের e-GP Portal এর মাধ্যমে আহ্বান করা হয়েছে; যা নিম্লোলিখিত পোর্টালে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। e-GP Portal এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট <u>www.eprocure.gov.bd</u> ভিজিট করতে পারবেন।

ı	Tender/Proposal ID	Name of work			
	ID-489970 e-GP/01/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21	Construction of 02 (Two) Toll Booth, New RCC Pavement to go new booths, New pavement at Weigh scale approach Road by Base Type-1, Dense Bituminous Surfacing (Base Course), Dense Bituminous Surfacing (Wearing Course) at 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge Toll Plaza (Chainage 248+000) of Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highway (N-1) under Chattogram Road Division during the year 2019-2020.			
	ID-490005 e-GP/02/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21	Miscellaneous Repair works including Painting at House No. 4/4 of Orkoneer Housing Area, Rohomotgonj under Chattogram Road Division during the year 2019-2020.			
	ID-490009 e-GP/03/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21	Construction of U-drain and L-shape drain work at Axle Load Control Station (Approach Road) (Dhaka Bound) at 194th (p) Km. of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla(Moynamoti)-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highway (N-1) near Boro Darogarhat, Sitakunda under Chattogram Road Division during the year 2019-2020.			
	ID-490013 e-GP/04/EE/CRD/RHD/2020-21	Sub-Soil Investigation & Digital Survey by total station (TS) for the construction of proposed RCC/PC Girder Bridge at different location in			

A. 01. Ch: 19+686 Km. at 20th km. of Baraiardhala-Hazarikhil-Fatikchari (Z-1086) Road

Ch: 06+300 Km. (Lala Nagar Baribad Bridge) Moriam Nagar Ranirhat (Gabtal) (Z-1617) Road.

different km. of the road under Chattogram Road Division during the year

Ch: 25+050 Km. of Chattogram-Kaptai Regional Highway (R-163) Road. Ch: 05+900 Km. (Nariccha Mogban Bridge) of Rangunia-Bangalhalia (Shukbilash)-Kalindirani (Z-1636) Road.

মোঃ মহিনুল ইসলাম পরিচিতি নং-৭০০২৪৪ উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম জিডি-১৩৭০

নাসরীন আরা শাহীন পরিচিতি নং-৬০২০১২ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.) সওজ চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

জুলফিকার আহমেদ পরিচিতি নং-৬০২১৩৮ নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলী, সওজ চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

#### City Bank QR code enables payments by global card brands

FROM PAGE B4 This low-cost solution will help digital payments become more widely available in Bangladesh, said Shailesh Paul, head of merchant sales & acquiring, India and South Asia, Visa.

"As consumers start making low-touch payments for their everyday purchases, we expect QR payments to see substantial adoption across merchant categories," he said.

The UnionPay QR code payment complies with the EMV specifications and is compatible with the unified QR code standard in Bangladesh, said Ashutosh Agrawal, general manager, UnionPay International South Asia Branch.

"Mastercard is working actively to offer the 'BanglaQR' solution in adoption of contactless payments in the country," said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager, Mastercard.

"This endeavour is now being extended with the City Bank's focus on acquiring BanglaQR merchants at semi urban and rural parts of the country," he said.

#### Padma Oil joins hands with Energypac to widen LPG distribution

FROM PAGE B4 Currently, the price of LPG gas varies from station to station, he added.

As of yesterday, Padma Oil's stock prices dropped by 1.64 per cent to Tk 216.

In 2018-19, Padma Oil sold 20,173 tonnes of LPG. However, the company's main product is diesel with 45.93 lakh tonnes of diesel being sold in the country during the same period.

"We are yet to decide where Energypac will Sohel said invest, Abduallh, deputy general manager of Padma Oil.

"But since it is allowed to invest, we have target to make the facility available in all our stations," he added.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয় বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী



শারক নং-বিপিএ/প্রশাসন/৬১১৭

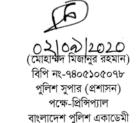
তারিখঃ ০২/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৪/২০২০-২০২১

২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে প্রশিক্ষণরত ৩৮তম ক্যাডেট এসআই ব্যাচের প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের ব্লেজার (ম্যাটেরিয়ালসহ বুক পকেটে এ্যাম্বয়ভারীর মনোগ্রামসহ) সেলাই কাজের নিমিত্তে ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে শর্তসাপেক্ষে

٥٥	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরষ্ট্রে মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।						
०२	সংখ্য	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।						
00	সংগ্রাহক সন্তার নাম	প্রিন্সিপ্যাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।						
08	সংগ্রাহক সন্তার ঠিকানা	প্রিপিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।						
00	দরপত্র নম্বুর ও তারিখ	08/2020-2025						
૦৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ক) স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে।  খ) দরদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের একক নামে ব্যাংক সৃষ্ঠলতার সনদপত্র (যা ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সেন্টেম্বর/২০২০ মাসে ইস্যুকৃত) থাকতে হবে।  গ) নিজ্ঞ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে টিআইএন নম্বরসহ আয়করদাতা হিসেবে সনদপত্র ও ভ্যাটদাতা হিসেবে ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে (হালনাগাদ ও নবায়নকৃত)।  ঘ) পিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সিভিউলে বর্ণিত যাবতীয় শর্তাবদী পাদন ও কাগজ/দলিলপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করার সক্ষমতা থাকতে হবে।  ভ) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা টেভার ভকুমেন্ট/সিভিউল (PG-2/PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে।						
09	সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি	উনুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।						
ob	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।						
do	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।						
20	দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।						
25	দরপত্র সরবরাহের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।						
20	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।						
28	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা দরদাতা ব	১৭/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।					
20	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়		২০/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।					
১৬	টেভার সিকিউরিটি	প্রত্যেক ক্রপের ক্ষেত্রে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে কাজের নামের বিপরীতে ১৯ নং অনুচ্ছেদের উদ্রিণিত জামানতের টাকা বিভি/পে অর্ডার প্রিন্নিপ্যাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর অনুক্রপে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে।						
29	মালামাল সরবরাহের সময়সীমা	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবস।						
20	দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সাল ।	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সাল ।					
79	মালামালের বিবরণঃ	প্যাকেজ নং	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য	টেভার/সিকিউরিটি মার্নি				
বাংলা	। দেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী , সারদা , রাজশাহীতে প্র গোর্খীদের ব্লেজার (ম্যাটেরিয়ালসহ বুক পকেটে		2	\$000/-	bo,000/-			

- ১) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত দিনে বা সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণ বা খোলা সম্ভব না হলে দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাখিলের ও খোলার/গ্রহণের পুনঃনির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময় ছানীয় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অবহিত করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকে তা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথাসময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় প্রিন্সিপ্যাল, বিপিএ সারদা, রাজশাহী বরাবরে নিজম্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে। দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।



সারদা, রাজশাহী

GD-1372