

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of National Housing Finance and Investments, presides over the company's 21st annual general meeting on Sunday through a digital platform. The company approved 10 per cent cash dividend for 2019. Syed Altaf Hossain, vice chairman, and Md Khalilur Rahman, managing director, were present.



NATIONAL HOUSING FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS

Judge halts WeChat download ban in US-China tech battle

AFP, New York
A US judge on Sunday blocked the government's ban on WeChat downloads, hours before it was due to take effect in an ongoing technology and espionage battle between Washington and Beijing.

The Trump administration had ordered a ban on downloads of the messaging platform WeChat as well as hugely popular video-sharing app TikTok, both owned by Chinese companies.

Both bans have now been suspended. A California court ruling said it granted a "motion for a nationwide injunction against the implementation" of the government order on WeChat, with the judge citing concerns over free speech.

The order would have slowed WeChat down and made it unusable in the United States for video chats with family and friends, according to experts.

Owned by technology giant Tencent, WeChat has around 19 million active daily users in the United States.

When contacted by AFP, Tencent declined to comment on the ruling. The ruling "is a short-term relief for the plaintiffs, who wanted to

be sure that the app was not shut down tonight," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond.

If the government appeals and wins, the plaintiffs can appeal that decision. "The plaintiffs wanted to just buy time," Tobias said. "It may be very soon that the president is no longer the president."

As President Donald Trump

seeks a breakthrough with voters to win a second term in the November 3 election, he has increasingly put national security and his aggressive stance toward China at the center of his campaign.

He regularly accuses Democratic opponent Joe Biden of weakness toward Beijing. The president said Saturday that he had approved a deal allowing Silicon Valley giant Oracle to become data partner for TikTok to

avert a shutdown of that app.

The deal, announced by the companies, includes Walmart as a commercial partner and would create a new US company named TikTok Global. TikTok -- owned by China's ByteDance -- confirmed the Oracle agreement, which came as companies raced against the Sunday deadline.

The US Department of Commerce on Saturday announced it was postponing the ban on TikTok downloads until September 27, due to "recent positive developments." Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Friday accused China of using the two apps "to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and the economy of the US."

"WeChat is 'mostly used by Chinese visiting or working here or by Chinese-Americans staying in touch with their relatives,'" said William Reinsch of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

That includes several hundred thousand Chinese students in the United States, who use it for daily online conversations.

Trump has often claimed, without providing evidence, that TikTok and WeChat are collecting user data for Beijing.



REUTERS
The messenger app WeChat is seen among US and China flags in this illustration picture.

Nine apparel exporters in a tight spot as German retailer yet to clear dues

FROM PAGE B1
The retailer is not making the payment despite being served with legal notices. It, however, is purchasing goods from Bangladesh in another name, several suppliers say.

"We were ready to settle at 50 per cent payment. But there are no responses from the buyer," said Ahmed F Rahman, chairman of Fatullah-based Kappa Fashions Wear.

Many buyers have offered a deferred payment to suppliers following consensus. However, Colloseum did not give any timeframe when it would be able to make the payment, said Rahman.

The entrepreneur has been supplying t-shirts and polo shirts to the retailer for the last five years. Rahman exports \$10 million worth of garment items every year and 5 per cent of the consignment goes to the stores of Colloseum.

Rahman, who started garment business in 2006 and employs 1,000 workers, said he is in trouble now. In another blow, the central bank will accuse them of money-laundering if the payment is not realised on time, he said.

Another supplier Md Ehterab Hossain sold \$5.66 lakh worth of t-shirts and polo shirts, the highest amount among the nine suppliers. A consignment involving \$96,000 was brought back from the Chattogram port's store after paying Tk 2 lakh in demurrage in the last moment.

"Because of the nonpayment, I have been facing a lot of difficulties to run my factory," said Hossain, managing director of Gazipur-based Base Fashion Wears Ltd, which employs 1,000 workers.

"Colloseum received the goods but is not making the payment. This is not right in the business relationship," he said.

Mohammad Hatem, vice-president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the association has received complaints against Colloseum from its members.

"I will send emails to the buyer serving show-cause notice soon," he said.

Many local suppliers have been facing similar problems related to payment but the nine suppliers shipped goods to the buyer before the crisis unfolded, he said.

He said small and medium-sized garment factories are suffering the most from such a situation because their financial ability is not as strong as the bigger units.

"Buyers are not paying them on time while banks are not cooperating because of the fallout from the pandemic."

KI Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association, said many buying houses are facing the challenge of non-payment.

Sales in western countries are returning to normalcy with the reopening of stores. So, retailers and brands should honour their purchase orders accordingly, he said.

Every supplier should know about their retailers and brands before supplying goods, he said. "Many retailers and brands may take advantage of the situation, accept the shipment from suppliers and may not pay timely."

Asia Today, the German embassy in Dhaka and the head office of Colloseum did not reply to email messages requesting for comments.

Colloseum, the Oberhausen-based group of companies, mainly consists of the non-operating holding company FIRST Retail AG, the operating Fashion FC Club GmbH and UFB Germany GmbH.

A vertical fast-fashion retailer for young and price-conscious women with a total of 1,450 employees and a turnover of approximately 80 million euros, it has been declared insolvent and sold to Schulz Fashion GmbH, according to the website of Acxit Recovery Management.

Acxit Recovery Management acted as the exclusive merger and acquisition adviser to Fashion FC and the preliminary insolvency administration.

The new owner would take over 104 of the 136 stores operated as of July 1.

The overall difficult industry environment, frequent changes in management as well as an unfinished, initiated restructuring process in combination with the severe cutbacks in the retail sector caused by the coronavirus pandemic forced FIRST Retail and Fashion FC to file for insolvency on March 30, 2020, said Acxit Recovery Management.

Some German media outlets also published reports about the development.

ECB wants to cut reporting burden for banks

REUTERS, Frankfurt

The European Central Bank wants to simplify reporting requirements for banks, it said on Monday, responding to the industry's long standing criticism that supervision is unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive. The European Union's banking industry spends around 4 billion euros a year on reporting and lenders often

complain that duplication, unnecessary detail and inefficient collection formats make this cost unacceptably high.

Insisting that it wants improve how banks report and not what they report, the ECB called for standardized reporting templates and formats, a central data collection point, the removal of duplications, standardized definitions, and improved data sharing between authorities.

| গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অধীক্ষকের কার্যালয় সিলেট শহীদ শামসুদ্দিন আহমদ হাসপাতাল, সিলেট | |
|--|---|
| দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি | |
| ০১ | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ |
| ০২ | সংগ্রাহক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম |
| ০৩ | অর্থায়নের উৎস |
| ০৪ | আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের স্মারক নম্বর ও তারিখ |
| ০৫ | দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ |
| ০৬ | সংগ্রাহক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা |
| ০৭ | ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া |
| ০৮ | দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা |
| ০৯ | দরপত্র তফসীলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) |
| ১০ | বায়নার টাকা |
| ১১ | দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়, দর প্রস্তাব গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা |
| ১২ | দরপত্র তফসীল দাখিলের কার্যালয় |
| ১৩ | দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় |
| ১৪ | দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা |
| ১৫ | দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময় |
| ১৬ | দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময় |
| ১৭ | দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি |
| ১৮ | দরপত্রের মেয়াদ |

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Naogaon
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Date: 21/09/2020 খ্রিষ্টাব্দ
০৬/০৬/১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ

Memo No. 46.02.6400.07.000.002.19-1841

**Corrigendum of Tender Notice No. 06/2020-2021
e-GP, One Stage Two Envelop Tendering Method (OSTETM)**

Following amendments has been made to the Tender Notice No. 06/2020-2021 vide Memo No.: 46.02.6400.07.000.001.20-1546, Date: 19/08/2020.

| SI No. | Description of Work, Package No. | Original | | | Amended | | |
|--------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Last selling date and time | Closing date and time | Opening date and time | Last selling date and time | Closing date and time | Opening date and time |
| 01 | Package No. CIB-Nao-W-117, Tender ID No. 480843. | 22 Sep/20 (17:00pm) | 23 Sep/20 (16:00pm) | 23 Sep/20 (16:00pm) | 04 Oct/20 (17:00pm) | 05 Oct/20 (16:00pm) | 05 Oct/20 (16:00pm) |
| 02 | Package No. CIB-Nao-W-17, Tender ID No. 480829 | 22 Sep/20 (17:00pm) | 23 Sep/20 (16:00pm) | 23 Sep/20 (16:00pm) | 04 Oct/20 (17:00pm) | 05 Oct/20 (16:00pm) | 05 Oct/20 (16:00pm) |

This Notice of Corrigendum will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender documents. All other terms and conditions will be remained unchanged.

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GD-1498

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
Securities Commission Bhaban
E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Administrative Area, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

No. BSEC/MSI/2020-981/114 2nd September, 2020

Order

Whereas the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission deems it fit that in the interest of investors or securities markets, direction should be issued to all persons/entities concerned who are directly or indirectly related to or associated with the securities market or the investors in securities in any manner, to refrain from the following activities:

- Using name (or any of its derivative) of BSEC, DSE or CSE with the profile or page of individual or group in any forms including social media;
- Using logo of BSEC, DSE or CSE with the profile or page of individual or group in any forms including social media;
- Spreading any prediction or price forecasting or undisclosed information in any forms including social media;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by section 20A of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (XVII of 1969), the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission hereby directs all persons concerned who are directly or indirectly related to or associated with the securities market or the investors in securities in any manner, to refrain from the abovementioned activities and practices.

Contravention of this directive shall attract appropriate penal provisions of the securities laws and ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইন, ২০১৮.

By order of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission

Professor Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam
Chairman

GD-1490