Mercantile Bank opens 20 new agent outlets

Mercantile Bank yesterday launched 20 new agent banking outlets across the country to provide basic banking services to the unbanked population.

The new addition brings the bank's total number of agent outlets to 35.

Customers now can enjoy banking services such as account openings, deposit schemes, cash deposits, withdrawals, transfers and remittance services from these outlets through biometric registration, the bank said in a

"Utility bills, salary of government and private organisations, merchant payment and school, college and university fee payment will be added to the Mercantile Bank agent banking services soon," said CEO Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury.

Inaugurating the outlets through a digital platform, he said this banking avenue would expedite services and deliver higher satisfaction. Mati Ul Hasan, additional managing director, and Adil Raihan, deputy managing director, also spoke.



Alamgir Alam Sarker, deputy managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and Edward Kim, president of international business unit, present a bouquet to the delegation of commercial counsellors of Bangladeshi missions abroad during their visit to the Walton factory at Chandra in Gazipur on Saturday.

Musk plans IPO for SpaceX's Starlink business

Tesla Inc Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk plans to list SpaceX's space internet venture, Starlink, several years in the future when revenue growth is smooth and predictable. "Public market does *not* like erratic cash flow haha,

the billionaire entrepreneur tweeted here on Monday.

Musk said last year that Starlink was an important new revenue stream for his California-based Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX. SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell in February floated the idea of spinning Starlink off for an IPO in the coming years.

Deadline for loan rescheduling extended again for rawhide traders

Besides, the renewed repayment tenure could be of up to six years, including a one-year grace period. Meanwhile, clients who took term loans will be given a maximum tenure of eight years, including the one-year grace period.

Rawhide traders will have to pay back at least 15 per cent of their outstanding loans after rescheduling their nonperforming loans if they want to secure further funding.

Adequate data needed to capture true impact of Covid-19

Contracts in the case of paid employment may be formal and written, informal and unwritten or may take in-between forms and during and after Covid-19, the form of contract may change

employment and rising Loss unemployment are likely to have a discouraging effect on labour force entrants, who may opt out of the labour force and join the category NEET (not in employment education and training).

The discouraged workforce can pose a challenge not only as a lost potential for economic activities but also can result in social problems

LFS adheres to definitions provided by ILO. This is useful for international comparison. But this may often result in misleading interpretation in national contexts. To capture the impact of pandemic, data collection efforts can be meaningful if these are based on concepts which are suitable in the socio-cultural context of the country. Therefore, modification of some of the definitions should be considered.

Timing of the surveys: The latest round of LFS has been completed in June 2017. The next one, even if starts early next year will mean an interval of 3.5 years. Thus, an analysis of the impact of Covid-19 will miss out information on both ends.

There is no updated information on 2018, 2019, which could form the base year for comparison. One has to depend on the assumption of continuation of parameters of 2017 and make projection for 2019 as the base year.

The survey will commence one year after the beginning of the pandemic. This will be useful

to capture the medium-term impact but cannot capture the impact and the processes associated with it in the initial peak pandemic period (hopefully there will be no second wave) and the government responses during those months. To understand the process of change of the labour market in the short run and its comparison with the medium term, the survey will have to depend on memory recall.

Appropriate questions should be included in the survey to generate data through such recall. It will be a complex matter and will require quite some details including recall of three points of time: immediately before Covid-19, during April-June 2020 and at the time of the survey in

One must balance the usefulness of detailed data generation through recall with the likely

decline in quality of such data. Poverty and household income data

During the last three decades, Bangladesh has been assessing poverty incidence on the basis of data of Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). This is usually conducted at 4/5 years of intervals.

The latest round has been completed in 2016. The next round has not yet started and may be expected to commence in 2021. In the normal situation this serves the purpose of poverty assessment and analysis of the factors behind

However, with the spread of coronavirus, there has been evidence from rapid surveys that poverty has accentuated. But these surveys are not based on nationally representative samples. Therefore, these cannot be compared with the national survey results. Then how would one

arrive at national estimates of poverty during the various phases of the pandemic? HIES poverty estimates use detailed information of consumption of individual food items and other consumption items during a short reference period. It will not be possible to collect such details through recall method for periods three to six months earlier. The method of obtaining idea about consumption standard or poverty during the pandemic is not thus, quite straightforward.

One may resort to qualitative indicators which may be easily recalled or self assessment of the extent of decline of consumption. In addition, there may be recall based data on consumption of major items/groups of items. Questions on the extent of decline/increase in consumption of these items may provide a basis of comparison even if it does not provide estimates of poverty based on standard methodology. Indicators used in the international multi-indicator poverty assessment method may be taken into account in this context.

Organisational issues

A comprehensive plan for data generation on "Pandemic and its impact on health, economy and society" should be adopted. The major responsibilities will of course be with the national statistical organisation, BBS. Nonetheless, large surveys may not be able to go sufficiently in-depth and therefore cannot be a substitute for small and micro surveys.

The author is the executive chairperson of the Centre for Development and Employment Research and a former member of the board of directors of

Incentives for tanners on cards for setting up private ETPs

FROM PAGE B1

The government has taken up projects to improve the skills and technologies in the leather sector and allowed the export of rawhide and wet blue to create demand for the items

While presenting a keynote paper, MA Razzaque, research director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said global production of footwears reached \$24.3 billion pairs in 2019.

India has a share of 12 per cent of the global production, of which 95 per cent is for domestic consumption.

Bangladesh produces 380 million pairs of shoes annually. With rising GDP, the domestic market is also expanding. But the domestic market is protected by tariffs, Razzaque said.

Abu Eusuf, a professor of the Development Studies of the University of Dhaka, in his keynote paper, said almost 85 per cent of the raw materials required for the industries are sourced from the domestic markets.

Around 20 per cent of the population buys shoes worth \$50 on average every year and the percentage of the users is

increasing, he said.

Mohiuddin Ahmed Mahin, president of the Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association, said many of the tanneries have become defaulters because of the bank borrowing over the years.

Many could not do well in business because of the slow progress of the CETP. However, nobody is taking the responsibility of the slow progress of the CETP, he said.

Shaheen Ahmed, chairman of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said the export of leather declined significantly because of low demand from international buyers due to the Covid-19.

The question raised about the capacity of the CETP as the environmental pollution could not be stopped at the STIE, he said.

Every year, 70,000 tonnes of solid waste is produced at the STIE, he said, adding the government needs to manage the waste to protect the environment. Asia Foundation Country Representative

Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, ERF President Saif Islam Dilal and General Secretary SM Rashidul Islam also spoke.

Raw jute prices soar to record high

FROM PAGE B1

"Farmers will feel encouraged to produce more if high prices persist," said Quayyum.

Jute millers, however, said prices of raw jute should be kept steady to prevent the closure of mills, which employ nearly two lakh workers.

In the letter to the prime minister, millers said farmers would be deprived of prices if mills were to shut down for a shortage of raw materials resulting from higher prices.

"It has come to notice that stockists have stored raw jute to make high profit. If the trend

continues, many mills may shut down," said Progress International, an exporter and the letter signed by BJSA and BJMA chairmen Md Zahid Miah and Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman Patwari.

Both the associations urged the government to stop traders without licences from taking part in raw jute trading.

They also demanded that the government ensure that authorised jute traders and stockists do not hold more than 1,000 maunds of raw jute for over one month.

Md Shahid Hossain Dulal, owner of

supplier of raw jute to mills, said most of the raw jute were now under the possession of

middlemen. "It is a huge crisis in the jute market. Prices of all categories of jute have gone up to extremely high levels. Jute is there and one can get it if he

pays the price sought by traders," he said. Contacted over the phone, Textiles and Jute Secretary Lokman Hossain Miah did not want to comment on the soaring prices and opposing stance of raw jute exporters and millers.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা Email: dmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd স্মারক নং-ঢামেকহা/সংগ্রহ-১/২০২০-২০২১/বাৎসরিক দরপত্র/৭২২৮

তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০২০ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০২/২০২০-২০২১ইং

২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বছরে ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ভর্তিকৃত রোগীসহ অন্যান্য রোগীদের চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদানের স্বার্থে এমএসআর সামগ্রী, পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছনুতা সামগ্রী ও অন্যান্য মনিহারি (বিবিধ) এবং কর্মচারীদের পোশাক সংগ্রহের নিমিন্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা

٥٥	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	8	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।				
૦ર	সংগ্রাহক সতার নাম	8	পরিচালক, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা।				
೦೦	সংগ্রাহক স্ভার জেলা	8	जंका ।				
08	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি	8	উনুক্ত দরপত্র।				
90	অর্থের উৎস	8	জিওবি রাজস্ব বাজেট।				
O.6	সংগ্রহের বিবরণ ও গ্রুপ অনুযায়ী দরপত্র টেভার সিকিউিরিটি মানির পরিমাণ	00	গ্রুপ নং	ঞ্চপের বিবরণ	দরপত্র তফসীলের মূল্য	দরপত্রের সহিত টেভ সিকিউিরিটি মানি জ্য দেওয়ার পরিমাণ	
			٥٥	এমএসআর মেডিসিন (নন- ইডিসিল) সামগ্রী	২০০০.০০	২১,৫০,০০০.০০ (এ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			০২	এমএসআর হালকা চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি সামগ্রী	২০০০,০০	১৮,৫০,০০০.০০ (আঠারো লক্ষ পধ হাজার) টাকা	
			೦೮	এমএসআর লিনেন সামগ্রী	২০০০.০০	১১,৫০,০০০.০০ (এ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			08	এমএসআর গজ, ব্যান্ডেজ ও এ্যাবজরবেন্ট কটন সামগ্রী	২০০০.০০	১১,৫০,০০০.০০ (এ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			06	এমএসআর কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট ও ইসিজি পেপার এবং এক্স-রে ও এমআরআই ফিলাু সামগ্রী	২০০০.০০	৭,৫০,০০০.০০ (^২ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			૦৬	এমএসআর আসবাবপত্র সামগ্রী	\$000.00	২,৫০,০০০.০০ (দুই ব পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	
			०१	এমএসআর পরিবহন (সংগ্রহ ও সরবরাহ)	\$000.00	১,৫০,০০০.০০ (লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			оъ	পরিষ্কার পরিচছন্নতা সামগ্রী	\$000.00	৫,৫০,০০০.০০ (লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টা	
			০৯	অন্যান্য মনিহারি (বিবিধ)	\$000.00	৫,০০,০০০.০০ (লক্ষ) টাকা	
			70	কর্মচারীদের পোশাক	\$000.00	১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা	
			উক্ত ধার্যকৃত অর্থ আলাদা গ্রুপের জন্য "কোড নং ১-২৭৪১-০০০১-২৩৬৬" এ ট্রেড চালানের মাধ্যমে অত্র হাসপাতালের পরিচালকের অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংকে দ দিয়ে চালানের মূলকপির সংগে অনলাইন ভেরিফিকেশন প্রত্যয়ন দাখিলক কোম্পানি/ঠিকাদারের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।				
०१	দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	00	(ক) পরিচালক, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা। (থ) অফিসার ইনচার্জ, শাহবাগ থানা, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা।				
оъ	দরপত্র দলিলাদি গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	00	(ক) পরিচালক, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা। (খ) পরিচালক, কেন্দ্রীয় ঔষধাগার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা। (গ) অফিসার ইনচার্জ, শাহবাগ থানা, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা।				
০৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময়	00	০১/১০/২০২০ইং ভারিখ হতে ৩১/১০/২০২০ইং ভারিখ পর্যন্ত। প্রতি কর্মদিবসে সকা ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। উক্ত ভারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্তিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না।				
70	প্রি-বিড সভার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	00	১৫/১০/২০২০ইং ভারিখ, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাক এর সভাকক্ষ।				
77	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	8		১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘূটিকা			
ડર	দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	8	০১/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর সভাকক।				
70	দরপত্র তফসীল আহবানকারীর নাম	8	ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল এ কে এম নাসির উদ্দিন।				
78	দরপত্র তফসীল আহবানকারীর পদবী	8	পরিচালক।				
26	দ্রপত্র তফসীল আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা, ফোন ও ফ্যাক্স নম্বর	0	ফোনঃ	মিডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা। ৫৫১৬৫০০১, ফ্যাল্গঃ ০২-৫৫১৬৫০৩১		0	
১৬	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	80	অংশ্ব	নং-০ ১ - মেডিসিন এর বেলায় কেবল াহণ করতে পারবেন। এই ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধা চামুলক। তবে বিদেশ হতে আমদানীকৃ	রত মোডকে ল	াল সরজ মেডিসিন সরব	

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ পরিচ্ছন পরিবেশ

Ministry

Department of Environment Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 www.doe.gov.bd

No. 22.02.0000.008.07.063.19-232

Date: 28.09.2020

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for **National Individual Consultant**

2	Agency			Department of Environment (DoE).		
3	Procuring entity name			Director (Admin), Department of Environment.		
4	Procuring entity	Procuring entity district		Dhaka.		
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of		ction of	Individual Consultant (National).		
6	Procurement Sub-Method			Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC).		
7	Budget and source of funds			GOB.		
8	Place of Eol collection, submission		mission	Room No. 710, Paribesh Bhaban (Level-7), Department of Environment, E-16,		
	and opening			Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
9	Eol closing date and time			2.00pm on 19.10.2020.		
10	Eol opening date	ol opening date and time		3.00pm on 19.10.2020.		
11	Brief description of assignment			The assignment is to deal with the writ petitions, environmental cases,		
				administrative case and other legal issues of DoE judiciously and efficiently in		
				order to dispose of the DoE related cases timely.		
12				s Expression of Interest (EoI) from experienced applicants under the following		
	positions.					
13	Information for					
SI.	Name of	No. of		Education, experience and other requirements		
No.	positions	positions				
(i)	Law adviser	01		m LL.B (Hons.) Degree from UGC recognized any university with minimum 15		
) years experience as Advocate in Supreme Court of Bangladesh and at least 10		
				ears experience as law officer with the government/semi-government/autonomous		
				ration in Bangladesh. Applicant must have Bar Council Enrollment Certificate for		
				ourt Division. Applicant having Bar Council Enrollment Certificate for Appellate		
				n and 02 years of experience in handling environmental cases in High Court		
(::)	Panel lawyer	02		n will get privilege.		
(ii)	Panel lawyer	02		Im LL.B (Hons) Degree from UGC recognized any university with minimum 10 ears experience as Advocate in Supreme Court of Bangladesh and at least 02		
			(two)	years experiences as law officer with the government/semi-		
			()	ment/autonomous organization in Bangladesh. Applicants must have Bar Council		
				nent Certificate for High Court Division. Applicants having Bar Council Enrollment		
				ate for Appellate Division and 01 (one) year of experience in handling		
				mental cases in High Court Division will get privilege.		
14	Other informati	on:	011411011	miorital odoco in riigir ocart privion mii got privilogo.		
	Cuici informati					

 Interested Applicants are requested to submit their expression of interest Application Forms (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms) in accordance with "Request for Application" (RFA) which may be collected during normal office hours. Expression of Interest Application shall be submitted in sealed envelope delivered to Director (Admin), Department of Environment and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Law Adviser/Panel Lawyer. Consultants will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with Public Procurement Rules 2008 and Request for Application (RFA). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expression of Interest (EoI).

Mohammad Asadul Hoque Director (Administration Phone: 02-8181790

Export readiness fund seeks applications for grants

Under Window 2, the maximum grant size is \$40,000 and it would be used to improve in business and technical services. 40 per cent of the project cost would have to come from the firms.

The Window 3 would provide up to \$200,000 and will cover the improvement projects in both services and fixed asset expenditures, with half coming from the entrepreneurs.

The fund will be rolled out at a virtual programme

The new windows will support the up-gradation of production plants, equipment, and services and help improve the design and quality of products so they are ready for export. They will also support marketing and distribution to promote ESQ compliance and secure ESQ certification.

Window 1 aims to fund ESQ assessments for 400 companies. It has already signed agreements with 165 companies and is in the process of signing deals with 183 more companies.

Some 230 firms would receive support under Window 2 and another 20 under Window 3.

The ESQ assessment is being carried out by 16 service providers from Bangladesh and other countries under the supervision of UK-based Landell Mills Ltd to find gaps facing the firms, said Azam, also an additional secretary of the commerce ministry.

Thanks to the matching grant, the firms with an export prospect would be able to raise their standard in line with the compliance rules and regulations in the export markets.

The ERF is now rolling out the Window 2 and Window 3 so that firms can get the grants to get ready for exports,

ERF grants are assisting firms to identify and address ESQ compliance gaps, upgrade products and production process and support firms to meet trade standards. This will be done to comply with the laws and regulations of major export markets and requirements of multinational brands, according to the website of the fund, according to an official of the EC4J Project.

The fund will cover three years.

Leather, leather goods and footwear are one of the largest export items of Bangladesh. Overseas shipment from the sector stood at \$797.6 million in the last fiscal year, which is 2.37 per cent of the total exports in the year, data from the Export Promotion Bureau showed.

Exports of plastics and melamine products stood at \$100.52 million.

তারিখ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে

ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল এ কে এম নাসির উদ্দিন পরিচালক

কর্তৃক NOC/রেজিস্ট্রেশনপ্রাপ্ত যে কোন সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান অংশগ্রহণ

খ) প্রতিটি গ্রুপের আইটেম আলাদা আলাদা ভাবে মল্যায়ন করা হবে

ঘ) সর্বক্ষেত্রে পিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুসরণ করা হবে।

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্বারিত দিনে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলা না হলে, পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে উল্লেখিত সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার

ক) দরপত্র তফসীলে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ এবং শর্তাবলী উল্লেখ থাকবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও

অন্যান্য তথ্যের প্রয়োজন হলে অত্র কার্যালয়ে সংশ্রিষ্ট সংগ্রহ ও সরবরাহ শাখা হতে

গ) কর্তপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/ক্রটিপর্ণ দরপত্র/অসম্পর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমত