

www.siblbd.com



DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2020, ASHWIN 19, 1427 BS 🔵 starbusiness@thedailystar.net 🖿

Loan rescheduling urge ebbs further amid payment holiday

3.218.05

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Loan rescheduling in the banking sector declined further in the second quarter of the year on the back of the ongoing loan moratorium facility introduced to help borrowers weather the fallouts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Between April and June, banks rescheduled defaulted loans amounting to Tk 2,658 crore, down 30.60 per cent from three months earlier and 481 per cent from a year ago, according to data from the central bank.

But there is no scope to be complacent because of the falling rescheduling as loan classification has come to a halt due to the moratorium facility, said experts.

Both the volume of classified and rescheduling of loans will escalate exponentially

once the moratorium is lifted, they warned. On March 19, after the country was struck



with the pandemic, the banking regulator asked lenders not to consider businesspeople as defaulters if they fail to repay instalments until June 30. As the crisis prolongs, the deadline has been extended initially to September 30 and then to December this year.

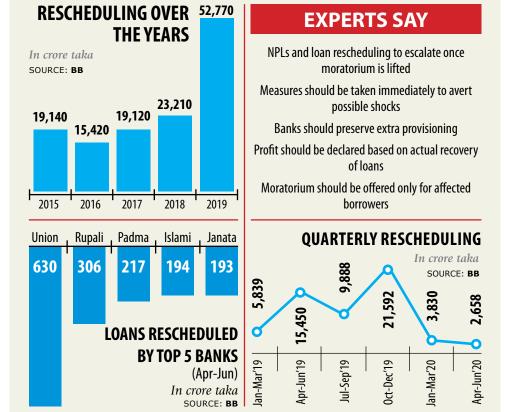
The banking sector has faced the upheaval of large loan rescheduling in recent years, drawing criticism from different quarters as lenders have done so riding on either the relaxed facility offered by the central bank or sidestepping banking norms.

For instance, defaulted loans to the tune of Tk 52,770 crore were regularised last year -- the highest in a single year -- based on the relaxed loan rescheduling rules. Under the policy, defaulters were allowed to regularise defaulted loans for 10 years by making 2 per cent down payment.

The move helped banks bring down the defaulted loans in 2019, when it stood at 9.32 per cent of their total outstanding loans, down from 10.30 per cent a year earlier.

Despite the moratorium, nonperforming loans went up to Tk 96,116.65 crore in the first half this year. It was Tk 94,313 crore in December last year.

of the indicators financial sectors, including exports, remittances and foreign exchange reserve, have shown an excellent trend in recent months, but the victory from the ongoing



economic hardship is still far away, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

"We do not know what will happen in the days to come as the pandemic is yet to be contained," he said.

"Both NPLs and loan rescheduling will accelerate when the moratorium facility is withdrawn. Against the backdrop, lenders should take precautionary measures to bolster their financial health.'

Banks are now transferring the interest of the loans, which is yet to be realised, to their income books enlarging the profit artificially.

Such interest is treated as an accrued interest in banking norms. Banks are allowed to show the accrued interest as income, but such amounts have to be treated as an interest in suspense if loans become defaulted.

This has helped banks inflate their net profit, which soared 33.60 per cent year-onyear to Tk 2,424 crore in the first half of 2020.

Banks should calculate their income based on the actual recovery of loans so that they can address future challenges, Rahman said.

In addition, banks should preserve extra provisioning against both classified and unclassified loans to strengthen their financial health, or else they will face dire straits, said Rahman, also a former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a forum of managing directors of banks.

READ MORE ON B3

StanChart to issue Tk 850cr zero coupon bond

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Chartered Bangladesh has received regulatory approvals as the first bank to issue a Tk 850 crore zerocoupon bond in the country. It is a non-convertible, unsecured, fully redeemable,

zero coupon bond, the bank said in a statement. The maturity period for the product will be five years

from the date of issue. Green Delta Insurance Company will act as the trustee for this issue.



It marks another pioneering transaction for the British multinational lender in Bangladesh and is an important milestone in the development of the country's debt capital market, according to the bank.

"As the only multinational universal bank in Bangladesh, we are in a unique position of channelling capital where it matters the most," said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

"As a trusted and reliable issuer with a 'AAA' credit rating for over a decade, we believe our offering will support the development of Bangladesh's capital market on one hand, while offering depositors a new avenue to invest in a product that offers attractive tax-adjusted returns.

Registration of new firms hits an all-time high

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Registration of new firms in Bangladesh rose to an all-time high of 11,110 in the last fiscal year, highlighting the expansion of business activities and people's enthusiasm about setting up fresh ventures, official figures showed.

The figure is 24.32 per cent higher from the fiscal year of 2018-19, when 8,936 registrations were taken, according to data from the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC)

"The economic activities hampered for a few months because of the coronavirus pandemic are now picking up," said Md Mokbul Hossain, registrar of the RJSC.

The office of the RJSC is mandated to provide name clearances and registration to all public companies, private companies, liaison offices or branches of foreign companies, trade organisations, societies and partnership firms in Bangladesh.

Registration obtained for setting up new companies rose 50 per cent to 9,010 in FY20 from 6,945 a year ago. Some 250 registrations were taken to establish societies and 1,827 for partnership firms, respectively up from 229 and 1,740 a year ago.

In the first two months of the current fiscal year, 2,279 registrations were

obtained from the RJSC, including 1,892 for companies, 45 for societies and 228 for partnership firms.

Some 245,655 registrations were secured from the RJSC so far. They include 3,532 for public limited companies, 175,932 for private limited companies, 932 for foreign firms, 49,180 for partnership firms, 1,121 for trade bodies and 14,958 for societies.



"The prospective entrepreneurs have to take initiatives, make some investments go through procedures to start new businesses. With this, they have shown credible interest. So, it is a more meaningful data," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

"It also needs to be seen whether all the proposed ventures are set up finally," he

The office of the RJSC is the first fully automated office among all government offices in Bangladesh, Mokbul Hossain

"All services are provided online."

Service-seekers do not need to come to the RJSC to secure registration. They have to apply online and pay fees online. The name clearance is auto-generated.

After getting the name clearance, companies have to apply for registration and submit the required documents. The registration is given within four hours, which used to take a month in the past. It is also given electronically, said Hossain, also an additional secretary.

Payments to the RJSC can be made through debit and credit cards. The agency is also working to allow payment through mobile financial services.

But the office is yet to be fully paperless. Hard copies of some documents are still accepted.

Copies such as balance sheets, audit reports, share transfers documents, and copies of the annual general meetings have to be submitted in hard-copy forms.

"When you have a file containing 50 pages, it is better to examine and scrutinise them using hardcopies," Hossain said. To store documents as per the Companies Act, some hard copies also need to be obtained.

"We have detailed plans to digitalise all services," Hossain said.

He said while transferring shares, people do need to come to visit RJSC offices. Once the digital signature is in place, people will not need to do that. People even can do that anywhere in the world.

The RJSC is now working to introduce digital signatures for service-seekers. "This would allow the agency to scrutinise documents speedily and help establish a paperless office," Hossain said

Last year, the agency signed agreements the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, and the Bangladesh Hi-tech Park Authority to share information and verify information through a one-stop service and put in place

data integration. A data centre and a data recovery centre should be established as soon as possible to keep electronic records, Hossain said.

It also issues certified companies of files and records. Companies need to secure permission from the agency if they want to wind up operations.

Rooftop solar projects beam through pandemic haze

to create a natural green environment," said

the top executive of Paragon, whose rooftop-

Like any other business, new clean energy ventures are facing disruptions to their tempo for the Covid-19 pandemic. Among them are rooftop-based solar projects focusing factory buildings. Yet some entrepreneurs pushed on with their projects even after the rogue virus brought businesses to their knees.

Paragon Poultry is one of those firms. The leading poultry breeder implemented three new rooftop solar projects of 750 kW during the pandemic to reduce cost and harness other benefits such as a reduction of temperature inside factory premises.

"Initially, the Covid-19 situation was a challenge for us. Later, we were able to overcome that," said Md Moshiur Rahman, managing director of Paragaon Group, which also runs feed and frozen snacks businesses.

project of 723 kWp capacity in February 2018 and installed the second one in February this

Based on the experience, it found that there are a number of direct and indirect benefits of generating power using the otherwise unused space on factory roofs.

"It has a number of direct and indirect benefits. It generates one taka benefit for per watt of electricity compared to electricity bought from public electricity providers," said "We can sell excess electricity to the

government too. Apart from the cash benefits, one of the biggest advantages is a reduction in house temperature," he said, citing that it was in the range of 3 to 4 degrees. He said rooftop solar projects were very

effective, particularly for poultry farms.

"Solar energy has an important role in capacity of over 1.5 MW. carbon footprint, to reduce CO2 and helps

The group also operates a 10 MW of solar power plant and a solar mini-grid.

Until now, solar projects of 15 MW have based solar panels have a power generation

been installed on the rooftops of public



A rooftop solar power project of Paragon Poultry at Ghatail in Tangail. The project was launched in July this year.

Renewable Energy Development Authority

COLLECTED

"It is a good business case for industrial and commercial consumers as per unit cost of electricity for solar now stands at around Tk 3 whereas cost of electricity for industrial consumers goes up to Tk 10 per unit," he said.

and private organisations, said Mohammad

Alauddin, chairman of the Sustainable and

"We are planning to hold a workshop with industries to inform them about cost reduction," he added.

Alauddin said the outbreak of the novel coronavirus has affected all walks of life, including renewable energy ventures.

Rooftop-based solar projects have opened a new avenue of opportunities along with solar power plants, solar irrigation and solar mini-

This is because the scope to further spread the use of solar home systems have narrowed as an inverse effect of the expansion of the national grid to reach electricity to almost all parts of the country.

Solar projects deliver 415 MW of the 650 MW of renewable energy that contributes nearly three per cent to the country's electricity generation capacity of 22,214 MW, according to Sreda data.

Activities of rooftop-based solar projects started gaining pace since last month as economic activities revived, said Nasir Ahmed, director and chief technology officer of solar power solutions provider Solaric.

READ MORE ON B3

AT A GLANCE

- >> Paragon installed 3 new rooftop solar panels for 750KW during pandemic
- It generates more than 1.5MW of rooftop-based solar power
- The company can sell excess electricity to govt
- Rooftop solar panels help reduce temperature of the house
- So far rooftop solar projects for 15MW have been taken by public, private organisations
- Solar projects generate 415MW of electricity in Bangladesh

At 7.9pc, US jobless rate spells trouble for Trump

The US unemployment rate fell to 7.9per cent in September, from 8.4per cent in August, a big drop that in normal times would be welcome news for a presidential incumbent seeking reelection in just over a month.

These are not normal times.

As the best-known summary statistic of the labor market, the US unemployment rate is psychologically important number" for voters, said Michael Brown, principal US economist at

But President Donald Trump's announcement on Friday that he had tested positive for the novel coronavirus pushes that number into the background: Voters may be "weighing news related to the virus a bit more than the economic data right now," Brown

The drop in the September jobless rate, reported by the Labor Department on Friday, extends a their jobs coincided with the start

14.7per cent registered in April, which was the highest level since the Great Depression.

But other details in the report do not easily fit into Trump's narrative of an economy roaring

Monthly job gains slowed. Overall, of the 22 million jobs lost since February, the economy has recouped about half.

Regaining the other half is going to be a whole lot harder," Michael Arone, investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors.

Notably, some 865,000 women left the labor force last month, the data shows, about four times the number of men. Latinas accounted for more than a third of that decline, the report showed. Those populations are key

to Trump's reelection hopes as well as those of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden.

The mass exit of women from



US President Donald Trump

of the US school year, with many children learning online and at

"These numbers are really just what parents have been screaming for months, but in the form of economic data," said Michael Madowitz, an economist at the left-leaning Center for American Progress. "I can't imagine this is going to help win voters over."

Friday's report counted more

than 12 million Americans among the unemployed, a demographic less likely to show up at the polls than the employed, studies here have consistently shown.

But in the current context, there's a twist: voter turnout among those out of work tends to rise when unemployment overall

Amber Wichowsky, a political science professor at Marquette thousands of state and local elections and found that higher unemployment is associated with higher turnout, and Republican incumbents "are more likely (than Democrats) to be punished by bad unemployment numbers.

In the Nov. 3 election, she said, it could well be different: the public health crisis could suppress voting if people are worried about casting ballots in person.

Moreover, it's hard to find a clear pattern linking unemployment rates to turnout in presidential elections, or to the outcome.

Where was unemployment before past elections?

The jobless rate was nearly as high as it is now when voters picked Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, over Republican President Gerald Ford in 1976, when Carter lost to Republican challenger Ronald Reagan in 1980, and when Democratic Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton ousted Republican President George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Reliance says GIC, TPG to invest about \$1b in retail arm

Indian oil-to-telecoms conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd said on Saturday Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC and global private equity firm TPG Capital invested a combined 3.50 billion rupees (about \$1 billion) in its retail unit.

Reliance, controlled by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, has secured more than \$2 billion in investments from global investors, including KKR & Co, Abu Dhabi state fund Mubadala and Silver Lake Partners, in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd over the past few months.

GIC will invest 55.12 billion rupees for a 1.22 per cent stake, while TPG Capital Management will invest 18.38 billion rupees to own a 0.41 per cent equity stake in the retail arm, the company said.

The investments in Reliance Retail values the company at a pre-money equity value of 4.285 trillion rupees (\$58.47 billion), Reliance said. This is TPG Capital's second investment in Reliance. In June, the firm invested \$598 million in Reliance's digital unit Jio Platforms.

Mumbai-headquartered Reliance has approached investors in Jio Platforms about buying stakes in its retail arm, Reuters had reported in September.

Reliance, already India's biggest retailer with roughly 12,000 stores, forged a \$3.38 billion deal in August to acquire rival Future Group's retail business.

The conglomerate is also expanding its so-called new commerce venture, which ties neighborhood stores to Reliance for online deliveries of groceries, apparel and electronics in a space currently dominated by Walmart Inc's Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc's Indian arm.

UK PM launches transport review to boost economy, strengthen ties

REUTERS, London

vear 2020-2021

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched a review aimed at improving transport links across the UK, including a possible bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland, as part of a plan to boost the pandemic-hit economy and strengthen ties between its member

The study will consider air links within the country, road and rail links in Scotland, the Welsh rail network, as well as the cost and practicality of building a "fixed link" with Northern Ireland, said a government statement on Saturday.

for a 20-mile (32 km) plus bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Coronavirus lockdowns meant Britain's



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Johnson has in the past spoken of his desire economic output collapsed 20 per cent in the second quarter, and the country faces rising unemployment as its furlough scheme comes to an end, and Brexit.

At the same time, support for Scottish independence has grown due to perceptions that Johnson responded too slowly to the pandemic and Scots' anger over the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Scottish voters opposed leaving the EU in a 2016 referendum.

Johnson hopes that transport improvements resulting from the review will help create jobs and bring the UK's member nations closer

"Today's announcement follows a recent pledge by the UK Government to bring forward funding to accelerate infrastructure projects in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland," added

The review will be conducted by Peter Hendy, chair of state-owned rail track owner Network Rail, and report its findings in summer 2021.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়

জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, রাজবাডী

শারক নং-জ্যেসঃহাঃরাজঃ/এম.এস.আর/দরপত্র/হিসাব/২০২০-২১/১৪৯১

তারিখঃ ০৩/১০/২০২০

এম.এস.আর দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ওটিএম)

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, রাজবাড়ী এর ২০২০-২০২১ইং আর্থিক সনের "এম.এস.আর" সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে গণখাতে সংগ্রহ বিধিমালা ২০০৮, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত) ২০১০ (সংশোধিত) ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত), ২০১০ (সংশোধিত), ২০১৬ (সংশোধিত) মতে নিম্লোক্ত "ছক" ও তফশীল মোতাবেক নিম্লাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে লিখিত, স্বাক্ষরিত ও সীলগালাকৃত খামে নির্ধারিত ডকুমেন্টে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে

- মন্ত্ৰণালয়/বিভাগ স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
- সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান ষাষ্ট্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২। বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস রাজস্ব/উন্নয়ন খাত (স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
- (হসপিটাল সার্ভিসেস ম্যানেজমেন্টসহ) মহাখালী, ঢাকা।
- সংগ্রাহক সংস্থা/সংগ্রহকারীর ডাঃ দীপক কুমার বিশ্বাস, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, রাজবাড়ী ক্রয় সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি
- দরপত্র ক্রয় সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি উন্মুক্ত (খোলা) দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে (বিধি-৯০ মতে) দরপত্রের ডকুমেন্টের সহিত সংযুক্ত আরোপিত শর্তাবলী অনুসরণ মতে
- এম.এস.আর (গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক)। দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম/ দরপত্রের ধরণ
- দরপত্রের ডকুমেন্টে সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলী মতে। ডকুমেন্ট/নিমুবর্ণিত নির্ধারিত ছকে। দরপত্র দলিলের মল্য
- ডকুমেন্ট/নিমুবর্ণিত নির্ধারিত ছকে। দরপত্র জামানতের (বায়নার)
- কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির মোট অংকের উপর ১০% হিসাবে (গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক)
- জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়/তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় জেলা সদব হাসপাতাল বাজবাড়ী
- ১২. দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হইতে ০২/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির
- দরপত্র জমা/দাখিলের দ্বান জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়/তত্ত্বাবধায়কের
- কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী এর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে। দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণের শেষ নিমূবর্ণিত ছকে
- তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী (সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্রদাতাগণের সামনে যদি
- কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
- ২০২০-২১ইং অর্থ বছরে স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের রুটিন ও অতিরিক্ত বরান্দ, স্বাস্থ্য ১৬.
- সার্ভিসেস ম্যানেজমেন্টসহ উন্নয়ন খাতের প্রাপ্ত মোট বরাদ্দসমূহ। এম.এস.আর সামগ্রী ক্রয় ঔষধপত্র এম.আর.পি দরে এবং অন্যান্য সামগ্রী এস.আর দরে।
- সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী
- এম এস আব গ্রুপসমূহের নিমুবর্ণিত ছকে।
- তথ্যাদি/বিবরণ

গজ.

আসবাবপত্র

Б

জিডি-১৫৭৮

ব্যান্ডেজ

2000/-

গ্রুপ	এস.এস.আর	দরপত্র	দরপত্র	দরপত্র	দরপত্র	দরপত্র	মন্তব্য
নং	দরপত্রের গ্রুপ	ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	জামানত	ডকুমেন্ট	ডকুমেন্ট	বাক্স	
	সমূহের	(অফেরতযোগ্য)	সরকারি বিধি	বিক্রয়ের	দাখিলের	খোলার	
	নাম/বিবরণ		মোতাবেক	শেষ তারিখ	শেষ তারিখ	তারিখ ও	
			(ফেরতযোগ্য)	ও সময়	ও সময়	সময়	
ক	ঔষধপত্ৰ	3000/-	@o,ooo/-	02/33/20	09/33/20	00/22/	ঔষধপত্ৰ
	(ইডিসিএল			২০ইং	২০ইং	২০২০ইং	এম.আর.পি
	বহিৰ্ভূত)			সকাল	সকাল	দুপুর	দরের বেশী
				৯.০০	৯.০০	32.00	নহে
				হইতে	হইতে বেলা	ঘটিকা	
				বিকাল	\$2.00		
				২.৩০	ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত		
				ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত			
খ	সার্জিক্যাল	3000/-	80,000/-	,,	,,	"	
	যন্ত্ৰপাতি						
গ	পরীক্ষা নিরীক্ষা	3000/-	80,000/-	,,	,,	,,	এস.আর
	ক্যামিক্যাল রি-						দরের বেশি
1	এজেন্ট						নহে
ঘ	লিলেন সামগ্রী	3000/-	80,000/-	"	,,	,,	1

সহিত যোগাযোগের ০৬৪১-৬৫৬৭৩ rajbari@hospi.dghs.gov.bd অথবা অত্ৰ দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা হইতে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ জানা যাইতে পারে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

80,000/-

-/000,08

নির্দেশিকার দরপত্রের শর্ত সম্বলিত ডকুমেন্ট ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ মূলে চালানের মাধ্যমে রাজবাড়ী জেলা সদরের স্থানীয় সোনালী ব্যাংকে/সরকারি কোষাগারে জমাদানপূর্বক পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়/তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় (হিসাব শাখা), রাজবাড়ী হইতে চালানের মূলকপি জমাদানপূর্বক উকুমেন্ট ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। উক্ত দরপত্র পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হইতে ০২/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯.০০টা হইতে বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট পাওয়া যাইবে। দরপত্রের ডকমেন্টের সহিত সংযুক্ত আরোপিত শর্তাবলী, পিপিআর-২০০৮, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত), ২০১০ (সংশোধিত) ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন- ২০০৬, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত), ২০১০ (সংশোধিত), ২০১৬ (সংশোধিত) মতে। পরবর্তীতে অনলাইনে চালান যাচাইঅন্তে কোনরূপ ক্রটি পরিলক্ষিত হইলে দরপত্রদাতার দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই Non-Responsive বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

বিশেষ নির্দেশিকাঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা Non-Responsive করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশে দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে সম্পাদন না হইলে পরবর্তী স্বাভাবিক কার্যদিবসে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার গ্রহণযোগ্য তারিখ বলে বিবেচিত হইবে। তবে সময় ও স্থান অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

কেবলমাত্র অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন এম.এস.আর প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তিসমূহ দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে পারিবেন। ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত গ্রুপভিত্তিক চাহিত আইটেমের নমুনা দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে (প্রযোজ্য

ক্ষেত্রে)। অন্যথায় Non-Responsive বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। দরপ্র জামানত অনলাইনে পরিচালিত যে কোন ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট হইতে হইবে। অন্যথায় Non-Responsive

উক্ত এম.এস.আর দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি উপ-পরিচালক, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, সেন্ট্রাল প্রকিউরমেন্ট টেকনিক্যাল ইউনিট শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকার <u>www.cptu.gov.bd</u>, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকার <u>www.dghs.gov.bd</u> ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাইবে।

গণখাতে সংগ্রহ বিধিমালা-২০০৮, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত), ২০১০ (সংশোধিত) ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬, ২০০৯ (সংশোধিত), ২০১০ (সংশোধিত), ২০১৬ (সংশোধিত) ও দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টের সহিত সরবরাহকৃত/আরোপিত শর্তাবলী/অন্যান্য নির্দেশিকা/বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা অবশ্যই যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করিতে হইবে এবং আরোপিত শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল করা না হইলে তাহা Non-Responsive বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্রের ডকুমেন্টের সহিত সংযুক্ত রহিয়াছে। যেকোন তথ্যাদি/শর্তাবলী নিমুশ্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা হইতে জানা/পাওয়া যাইবে।

> ডাঃ দীপক কুমার বিশ্বাস কোড নং-৪১৭৭১

> > তত্ত্বাবধায়ক

জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, রাজবাড়ী

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Upazila Health Complex, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet is inviting open tender for the purchase of MSR materials for the financial

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer Upazila Health Complex, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet. e-mail- southsurma@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Memo No- UHC/D.Surma/Sylhet/MSR/2021-2021/606

Dated: 03.10.2020

Invitation for Tender

Key Information: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Health Service Division 1 Ministry/ Division Office of the UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet Agency Procuring Entity Name UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet Procuring Entity Code N/A Procuring Entity District Sylhet A) Medicine (Non-EDCL), B) MSR Equipments, C) Gauge, Bandages & Cotton Etc., Invitation for D) Linen, E) Chemical Re-agent, F) Furniture. Tender Ref. No & Date Memo No- UHC/D.Surma/Sylhet/MSR/2021-2021/606 Dated: 03.10.2020 Open Tender Method (OTM) 8 Procuring Method **Funding Information:** 9 Source of Fund & Budget Revenue, MOH&FW, DGHS & others Particular Information

10 | Project/ Program Code A) Medicine (Non-EDCL), B) MSR Equipments, C) Gauge, Bandages & Cotton Etc., 11 Tender Package Item D) Linen, E) Chemical Re-agent, F) Furniture. 12 Tender Package Name D Surma- 01 13 | Tender Selling Date & Time 05.10.2020, During Office Hour (8:00 AM - 2:30 PM) 14 Tender Last Selling Date & Time 19.10.2020 During Office Hour (8:00 AM - 2:30 PM) Tender Dropping & Closing Date & Time 21.10.2020 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) 16 Tender Opening Date & Time 21.10.2020 (12:30 PM) 24.10.2020 (01:00 PM) 17 | Evaluation Date & Time 18 Selling, Receiving & Dropping Office of the UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet Office of the UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet 19 Opening, Tender Documents **Information for Tenderer:** As per PPA-2006, PPR- 2008 & Revised up to 2019 20 Tender Eligibility 21 Terms & Conditions Detailed description in tender data sheet 22 Description of Related Services Detailed description in tender data sheet A) Medicine (Non-EDCL)- 750/-, B) MSR Equipments- 750/-, C) Gauge, Bandages & 23 Price of Payment of Tender Schedule Cotton Etc.- 750/-, D) Linen- 750/-, E) Chemical Re-agent- 750/-, F) Furniture- 750/-

be collect from Cashier on submitting the original challan. **Procuring Entity Details** Name of the Designation & Address of Dr. Md. Mainul Ahsan, UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet. Official Inviting Tenderer Contact Details of Official Inviting Tenderer UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet. 01744662116 Tender Validity Date Up to 30 June, 2021 Brief Description of Goods of Works A) Medicine (Non-EDCL), B) MSR Equipments, C) Gauge, Bandages & Cotton Etc., D) Linen, E) Chemical Re-agent, F) Furniture. 28 Packa Identification of Tender Security Amount (TK) ge No. Group (Pay Order/ Bank Draft against UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet.) Medicine (Non-50,000/- (Fifty Thousand Tk.) 01 EDCL) 30,000/- (Thirty Thousand Tk.) В MSR Equipments

20,000/- (Twenty Thousand Tk.)

20,000/- (Twenty Thousand Tk.)

10,000/- (Ten Thousand Tk.)

Furniture. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Tk.) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in the part of whole of any all tenders.

Gauge, Bandages &

Chemical Re-agent

Cotton Etc

GD-1577

I. If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for

II. Bidder will have to supply the requisite goods on priority and necessary basis of the procurement authority within schedule time after work order bill will be upon the availability of funds and after setting administration approval and expenditure approval.

(Dr. Md. Mainul Ahsan)

.(Through treasury challan (Non-Refundable) to be paid at Sonali Bank Ltd., Station

Road Branch, Sylhet Against the code no- 1-2711-0000-2366, Tender schedule should

UH&FPO) Dakshin Surma, Sylhet.

in IPO REUTERS Home rental company Airbnb Inc is aiming to raise around \$3 billion in its upcoming initial public

Airbnb aims

to raise

roughly \$3b

offering (IPO), people familiar with the matter said on Friday, taking advantage of the unexpectedly sharp recovery in its business after the COVID-19 pandemic roiled the travel industry.

Airbnb will be one of the largest and most anticipated US stock market listings of 2020 which has already been a blockbuster year for IPOs, featuring the likes of record label Warner Music Group, data analytics firm Palantir Technologies and data warehouse company Snowflake Inc.

Airbnb said in August it had filed confidentially for an IPO with US regulators.

The company's current plan is to make its filing publicly available in November after the U.S presidential election and is targeting an IPO some time in December, the sources said, requesting anonymity as the plans are private.

The sources cautioned that the timing is subject to change and market conditions, in particular volatility that could come from the election.

A spokesman for Airbnb declined to comment.

The company could achieve a valuation of more than \$30 billion in the IPO, the sources added, again cautioning this was subject to market conditions.

This would be substantially higher than the \$18 billion Airbnb was valued at in April when it raised \$2 billion in debt from investors. Airbnb's most recent independent appraisal of the fair market value of its stock pegged its worth at around \$21 billion.

The push to go public and the growth in its potential valuation underscores Airbnb's dramatic recovery from earlier this year when it secured emergency funding from investors and the outlook for the travel industry was uncertain.



PJ Ullah and Abdul Gaffar, advisers of Rupayan Group; Mizanur Rahman Dewan, deputy managing director of Rupayan Housing Estate, and Rashadul Hossain Chowdhury, president of Rupayan Shopping Square Shop and Showroom Owners Association, pose at an event at Rupayan City Uttara in Dhaka recently, when Rupayan Housing Estate handed over the ownership of its commercial project Rupayan Shopping Square to the buyers. Rupayan Shopping Square is a 14-storey building located in 43 kathas of land near International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital.

India to waive certain interest levies on loans in Covid-19 relief

The Indian government has told the Supreme Court it will waive certain interest levies on loans up to 20 million rupees (\$272,888) under a COVID-19 support plan, a legal filing showed, in a move that will bring relief to millions of borrowers.

An Indian optician from Agra had challenged the plan which allowed skipping repayments for six months but levied an additional "interest-oninterest" on delayed payments which borrowers called unfair.

Other borrowers, such as real estate companies and power utilities, also challenged the plan.

In a filing on Oct. 2 with the Supreme Court, seen by Reuters, the government said it had decided to waive the compounding interest component on small-business and some other loans related to education and housing, and credit card dues.

"The government bearing this burden would naturally have an impact on several other pressing commitments being faced by the

cost associated with pandemic trillion rupees (\$82 billion). management," the filing added.

It did not estimate the impact on the banking sector from the move but said if it were to consider a complete waiver of interest payments over a six-month period, as some had

nation, including meeting direct sought, it would cost the sector 6

Ganjendra Sharma, the Indian optician who filed the first case in the Supreme Court, applauded the decision.

"I am happy millions of people won today," he told Reuters.



REUTERS/FILE

A view of the Supreme Court building in New Delhi.

EU trade benefits may continue even after LDC graduation

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

Once the country graduates, all tariff benefits will be lifted. Only the European Union (EU) will allow tariff benefits for Bangladesh for another three years as a grace period.

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.

As an LDC, Bangladesh currently enjoys zero-duty tariff benefits, preferential trade benefits and regional trade benefits on exports to 38 countries, 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 in duty rates.

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

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

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 this, 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 EBA initiative is not extended as local exporters will then have to face an 8.7 per cent duty on exports

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 Organisation.

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 reverse hard-won socioeconomic development gains in the LDCs and could potentially delay graduation for some countries.

Economists argue that primarily, all the LDCs should demand deferment of the graduation by at least three years as the global economy is severely affected by the

If deferment is possible, it will be better. If not, all the developing and developed countries, including those within the EU, should continue the same trade benefits at least for five years past the graduation.

Rooftop solar projects beam through pandemic haze

"Industries had come to a halt because of Covid induced disruption. Now, rooftop-based solar projects are picking up," he said, adding that Solaric implemented a rooftopbased solar project of 244 KW for AKH Group during the ongoing pandemic.

Garment manufacturer Comfit Composite Knit plans to execute a 2 MW solar project on its factory rooftops to meet a portion of its requirement, said Hasan Imam Siddiki, head of its corporate finance.

Equipment has been already bought to first materialise a 300 KW solar project at a factory in Mirzapur, Tangail,

The outbreak of the coronavirus disease has slowed the installation process. "We could have been done by this time and entered the second phase," added Siddiki.

The Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (Idcol), one of the major financiers of renewable energy schemes in Bangladesh, is not pushing borrowers to go fast owing to the pandemic-induced business and fund crunch, said its executive director and CEO, Mahmood Malik.

Idcol has so far approved nearly Tk 162 crore-worth loans for 26 rooftop projects having a combined capacity of 31 MW. Of those, nine of 9.6MW capacity have already been realised by entrepreneurs, according to the financial

Rooftop based projects gained pace before the pandemic, said Idcol's Head of Renewable Energy Md Enamul Karim Pavel. And the positive side is that firms which had to suspend work temporarily now want to resume work, he said.

"We are also getting applications for new projects," said

Facebook, Twitter, Google CEOs will testify before US Senate committee

REUTERS, Washington

The chief executives of Facebook, Twitter and Alphabet-owned Google have agreed to voluntarily testify at a hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee on Oct. 28 about a key law protecting internet companies.

Facebook and Twitter confirmed on Friday that their CEOs, Mark Zuckerberg

and Jack Dorsey, respectively, will appear, while a source said that Google's Sundar Pichai will appear. That came a day after the committee unanimously voted to approve a plan to subpoena the three CEOs to appear before the panel. Twitter's Dorsey tweeted on Friday that the hearing "must be constructive & focused on what matters most to the American people: how we work together to protect elections."

Loan rescheduling urge ebbs further amid payment holiday

"Distress in the banking has deepened for years and the ongoing slowdown has pushed this further," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

Some good banks have already started taking measures to tackle future crisis as NPLs may increase massively soon after the moratorium ceases to exist, he said.

Regulatory support will require for a long period to diminish the distressing state of affairs in the banking sector, Hussain said.

The moratorium support is one kind of loan rescheduling, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

Borrowers now enjoy the loan rescheduling automatically and they are not required to pay any down payment to do so, he said.

"But this will not give any solution as the central bank has extended the facility to all borrowers

The borrowers who faced a crisis due to the business slowdown should be considered for the facility, said Mansur, also a former senior official of the International Monetary Fund.

India has taken measures only for consumer loans and self-employed borrowers, he said, adding that loan moratorium should be dictated by the relationship between bankers and clients.

রয়েছে কোটি কোটি টাকার নিশ্চিত ক্যাশ ভাউচারসহ অস ওয়ালটন পণ্য ফি

Walton Deputy managing directors Eva Rezwana and Nazrul Islam Sarker and Executive Director Amdadul Haque Sarker announce the commencement of "Walton Digital Campaign Season-8" at the electronics brand's corporate office in Dhaka last week.

Bangladesh should make the most of fourth industrial revolution: experts

Riaz Hamidullah, Bangladesh's ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, emphasised mapping kev industries across all manufacturing sectors, such as the agro-processing and service sectors in Bangladesh.

To do so, the authorities could use digital or automated processes and technologies as the country stands to benefit from the optimised use of some key 4IR technological tools, applications and ideas, he said.

Hamidullah went on to say that a few 4IR initiatives should be started in the form of start-ups across e-commerce, e-learning, e-agriculture and smart-grid to demonstrate results and build confidence.

He suggested the Bida conduct assessments on how the 4IR can help augment Bangladesh's competitiveness in business and logistics.

Rashid Hamid, team leader for his organisation is committed to the UN 4IR Study, discussed the working with the industry, academia global importance of the 4IR and Bangladesh's state-of-readiness.

He said any success in the 4IR requires a resilient and advanced internet infrastructure, which in turn requires the implementation of appropriate policies, understanding of data transfer and localisation along with reliable power grid connection.

Abul Kasem Khan, chairman of the Business Initiative Leading Development, stressed on the need to engage private sector stakeholders in policy design to improve the country's investment climate.

He also suggested that incentives for the use of modern technologies and innovations should be provided under a comprehensive policy framework.

Islam, executive Md Sirazul chairman of the Bida, said that

and research institutions to face any challenges and harness the opportunities as offered by emerging technologies under the 4IR.

The Bida is working with the private sector to provide training on the different skills required to use 4IR tools and promote innovation and entrepreneurship, he added.

Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the anticipated transition to automation and cyber-enabled modalities will have a great economic impact.

Sostaponti, Aurélien industries and cleantech at the Business France, and AKM Hafizullah Khan, project director of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Project at the Bida, also spoke.

Affordable online learning to ensure efficient human capital for future

Online learning and teaching is a completely new dimension in Bangladesh and educators need to have additional skills, such as digital literacy.

Some have already declared online classes to be less effective than its physical counterpart but to address this issue, effective measures, initiatives and road maps are a must.

Before that though, the first and most important thing to do is to draft a definite and comprehensive guideline on online learning for both the institutions themselves and their teachers.

As per the renowned American writer and founding father Johan Adams, 'Teacher is a maker of man, he is the foundation of all education and thus, of the whole civilisation of mankind, present and future. No nation's reconstruction is possible without the active cooperation of the teacher'.

Aside from government and a very few private colleges, the country's remaining educational institutions are registering limited revenues amid the ongoing pandemic and have even faced difficulties to pay their teachers' salaries on time.

Under these circumstances, it will be even more difficult for teachers and other faculty members to own a sufficient digital device and internet connection. Therefore, the government and various college governing bodies should find a way to provide digital devices and bear all other related costs to online learning to make situation may worsen in winter.

Here in Bangladesh, many students need to work to support their families and due to this pandemic, their numbers will only increase.

Some students may fail to attend online

classes or may not have the same merits as others, so the classes should be archived so that the video recordings can help them attain a better understanding.

To facilitate this, there should be a national level archive platform that also features digital textbooks so that students facing financial constraints are not hard pressed to purchase learning materials.

Examinations play an important role in e-learning and provides an array of benefits for both the learner and instructor.

And thus, several types of testing modules, such as planned and surprise monthly, quarterly and half-yearly quizzes should be structured in a way that encourages learners to think back on course materials rather than

looking for answers elsewhere. All of us want to know when the coronavirus crisis will come to an end and when life will return to normalcy but it is probably safe to sav we are still nowhere near the end. Recently, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also asked all concerned to stay prepared as the Covid-19

As a proactive measure, the education board needs to take preparation from now regarding at which modality the year end and the final HSC examinations will take place.

Finally, the media can play an important role in enlightening and educating people. Apart from our national assembly session, the stateowned Sangsad Television can be used as full time education broadcast channel.

On top of that we have 30 private TV channels and if each channel telecasts educational shows for at least one hour each day then it adds up to 30 hours per day total and in this crisis, they should come forward to help our nation.

Business organisations should extend their hand for cost sharing. Print media should print more articles related to this issue, mainly to attract the attention of concerned stakeholders. Radios should also air educational programmes.

Digital Bangladesh is one of the nation's dreams and over the last couple of years, Bangladesh has remarkable achievement in different sectors for digitalization but little has been done so far for the education sector, mainly digital teaching, and this pandemic has opened up an opportunity for nationwide inclusion of digital learning.

The author is the head of supply chain and procurement at bKash

StanChart to issue Tk 850cr zero coupon bond

FROM PAGE B1

"I am grateful to our regulators, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and Bangladesh Bank, especially Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam, chairman of BSEC, and his team for supporting us in completing this pioneering transaction and their commitment towards the development of the bond market."

The zero-coupon bond will open up alternate investment avenues for corporates and individuals

With this offering, the bank is leveraging strong investor confidence in its strategy and outlook, and the quality of its financial position, to increase its liquidity.

"The BSEC, in collaboration with our ecosystem of regulators and stakeholders, is working towards the development of Bangladesh's capital markets, particularly debt market, which will be vital for financing long-term needs of our industries and infrastructure," said Prof Islam.

"We hope Standard Chartered's issue will encourage greater participation of our leading corporates, state-owned

enterprises, municipalities in the debt capital, devising optimal financing strategies which will help them grow and prosper sustainably.

Standard Chartered's initiative of issuing its first corporate bond is commendable and will contribute towards setting the right direction for capital markets, he said.

Standard Chartered is leading the debt capital market in Bangladesh as well as an acknowledged global leader in Asia, Africa and Middle East.

Since pioneering in 1997, the capital markets unit of Standard Chartered has arranged over \$7.50 billion equivalent local and foreign currency in power, telecom, infrastructure, food and beverage, textile, service, renewable energy and other

key sectors. The bank operates one of the country's most sophisticated dealing rooms with a diverse range of risk management products, pioneering a number of financial firsts including FX option in 2006, commodity derivative in 2008, interest rate derivative in 2009, and zero coupon Islamic certificate issuance in 2019.

*BUSINESS

may continue even after LDC graduation

Govt officials hope as they will meet EU counterparts online on Oct 12

Refayet Ullah Mirdha

Bangladesh may continue to enjoy duty-free trade benefits in the European Union for a few more years even after its graduation from the group of least developed countries (LDCs) as the pandemic fallouts have ravaged the economy, government officials said.

 $\hbox{\it ``We will hold a virtual meeting with the EU trade officials'}\\$ on October 12 to place our demand for an extension of the trade benefits as both the economy and employment have been severely affected by the ongoing pandemic," said Md Jafar Uddin, commerce secretary.

The EU is set to review its duty-free facilities under the Everything But Arms (EBA) agreementin November. Under the EBA, all imports to the EU from the LDC are duty- and quota-free, with the exception of armaments.

In the meeting, the secretary will lead the Bangladesh delegation, featuring various secretaries from the labour and foreign ministries and two other government bodies that he could not immediately mention.



LDCs, such as Bangladesh, which are set to graduate within the next few years are demanding their developing and developed counterparts to extend the duty-free benefits for preferably the next five years as most economies have been badly affected by this unprecedented global crisis.

At the meeting, Bangladesh will mainly raise the issue of continuing the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) facility, Uddin said.

Officials of other countries with also make the same demand as their economies have also been affected by Covid-29, the commerce secretary added.

Another facility that could been extended is the duty-free benefit for LDCs outlined by the World Trade Organisation

On behalf of all LDCs, the African nation of Chad already submitted a proposal to the WTO last month, seeking an extension of the GSP facilities on exports to developed and developing countries for a few years.

Bangladesh is a major player in the LDC group under the WTO initiative.

"I hope the WTO initiative will be successful because it is a step that was taken collectively by all LDCs," Uddin

Earlier, Bangladesh joined hands with its peer LDCs to appeal to the WTO for a continuation of the trade benefits they currently enjoy following graduation to developing nations considering the pandemic's ill-effect on economies.

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

EU trade benefits BSEC gets tough on Doel Group

Four of its companies, two debentures will be delisted; Tk 57cr will be returned to investors

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to delist four companies and two debentures of Doel Group of Industries, which will compel the group to return around Tk 57 crore to its investors.

Industries, Bangladesh Dyeing & Finishing parties complete a transaction.

"Investors will get back at least some of their money," he added.

The stock exchanges will have to maintain an escrow account to return investor's money at face value or a negotiated price, the commission said in a press release on Tuesday.

An escrow account is an account where The companies are Bangladesh Chemical funds are held in trust whilst two or more



Industries, Bangladesh Luggage Industries and Bangladesh Zipper Industries.

All the companies are listed with the over-the-counter market. They are not performing well and have not paid any dividends to investors for at least the last

This prompted the BSEC to permanently remove the companies from the country's stock exchanges.

The debentures that are going to be delisted are BD Zipper 14 per cent Debenture and BD Luggage 14 per cent

Now, Doel Group will have to return around Tk 57 crore to the investors for the delisting, said a top official of the stock the DSE board now.

Doel Group of Industries started its venture in 1981 through manufacturing and marketing of artificial leather and rexine materials by setting up the Bangladesh Chemical Industries in Pagla, Narayanganj,

It later added knit and woven fabrics, zippers, nylon and tafetta fabrics, readymade garments and sweaters, sportswear, jackets, travel bags, soft luggage, polypropylene tapes and Portland

according to the company's website.

Entrepreneurs raise money for a period by issuing debentures, a type of debt instrument that is not backed by any collateral. There are eight debentures on

All currently listed debentures are

DOEL GROUP'S COMPANIES TO BE DELISTED FROM OTC MARKET

Company name	Paid-up capital (in crore taka)	Sponsor shareholding
Bangladesh Chemical Industries	11.75	43%
Bangladesh Dyeing & Finishing	12	40%
Bangladesh Luggage Industries	20	50%
Bangladesh Zipper Industries	8.8	34%

DEBENTURE FUNDS TO BE RETURNED TO INVESTORS

Bond Issuer	Fund raised (in crore taka)	Listing year	Coupon rate in %
Bangladesh Luggage Industries Bangladesh Zipper Industries	13.5 2.24	1996 1995	14

matured and are still listed due to some incomplete legal proceedings, according to the BSEC's website.

As a result, they have not returned the money to investors, prompting the BSEC to come up with a strict move. Investors welcomed the BSEC's decision.

"The decision will enhance investors' confidence as investors will get their money back which was almost gone," said Abdur Razzaque, a retired government official, who has an investment in the

"It will give a message to other issuers that there is no way to cheat investors," he

On Tuesday, the commission approved an open-ended mutual fund, SAML Income Unit Fund. The targeted fund is Tk 10 crore. Of the amount, Tk 1 crore will be funded by sponsors and the rest will be open for

The fund manager is Shahjalal Asset Management and the trustee and custodian of the fund would be Sandhani Life Insurance and Brac Bank respectively.

Bangladesh should make the most of fourth industrial revolution: experts

Taiwan have successfully managed to mitigate

the pandemic's economic fallouts by utilising

Countries like China, South Korea and

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A clear understanding of automation, the use of modern technologies and presence of skilled human resources are essential to adapting to the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and making opportunities out of the challenges presented by the prevailing situation, experts said yesterday.

"This is a need to clearly understand the challenges faced by any industry in order to design a solution that will help it become successful in this world dominated by the internet-of-things (IoT), and automation," said Mehdi Anwar, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University

webinar styled "Challenges & Opportunities full benefit of 4IR, Anwar said. for Entrepreneurship and Employment Development and readiness for Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)".

The event was jointly organised by the make Bangladesh 4IR-responsive. READ MORE ON B3 | Bangladesh Investment Development

4IR tools such as artificial intelligence and big data

Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and

Anwar made the comments while communication-related infrastructures and sustainable development goals. making his keynote presentation at a generate a qualified workforce to reap the

Planning Minister MA Mannan assured in the context of current status of Skill that the government would provide full support for the formulation and implementation of a national strategy to

He emphasised a collective effort from mitigate the pandemic's economic fallouts

Authority (BIDA) and the France the academia, industry and the government to use different 4IR tools to address any challenges and harness opportunities Aside from understanding the challenges, to promote innovations, investments there is a need to establish relevant and growth in line with the country's

> CCIFB President Sved M Huq said the Covid-19 pandemic has put immense pressure on individuals, enterprises and societies, forcing them to accelerate the use of 4IR tools.

Countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan have successfully managed to

by utilising 4IR tools such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data.

By deploying the same tools and technologies, local manufacturers could create new products, industries and jobs, Huq added.

Satya Prasad Majumder, vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, said that planning for the 4IR requires identification of possible challenges posed to local industries, assessment of technology gaps, and a trained workforce.

There is a need to formalise the establishment of a network of universities, both local and international, and industries to promote innovation and address local and global challenge and generate a qualified workforce, he said

Identifying financial resources while forming a marketing strategy in partnership with local and global partners and participating universities and industries to support the establishment of the network could be another good option, he added.

READ MORE ON B3

Affordable online learning to ensure efficient human capital for future



Bangladesh, the world's eighth most populous country, has a very youthful population with currently about 34 per cent being under the age of 15.

The country's population pyramid is a clear indication of its possibilities for future economic growth, which has a strong correlation with human

Human capital is a key factor behind sustained economic growth and poverty reduction for many nations in the 21st century, the World Bank said in a statement.

Theodore William Schultz, a famous American Nobel Laureate for economics, once said there are five ways to develop human capital, of which the most effective is education.

Since many students do not have the

financial ability to buy the required devices,

the government, development partners and

business houses should come forward to

lend their support in this regard

improved upon this sector as Bangladesh's human development index (HDI) has gone from 0.39 to 0.61, a 58.3 per cent increase, between 1990 and 2018.

However, the country still ranks below Sri Lanka, India and Bhutan on

In 2020, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic created the biggest disruption to the education system in history but developed countries fared better in this aspect compared developing nations.

Currently, there are 3.6 million students out of school and in light of the situation, the government introduced online admissions for HSC students and completed the process by September 17.

This year, a total of 1.69 million students passed the SSC or equivalent examinations while about 1.40

million applied for college. Secondary education creates a bridge that ensures regularity and continuity for further education and this stage is crucial for any student given that it is a part of developing human capital.

To make the government's target to introduce distance learning for Over the last two decades, HSC students from October onwards the government has consistently a reality, a combined effort is needed



Online education is expensive in Bangladesh as a student needs a suitable electronic device, such as a smartphone or laptop, along with a strong internet connection.

to ensure that online classes are held low-income groups. routinely and effectively.

As per the statistics from a couple of years ago, 26 to 28 per cent of all HSC students dropped out of school for numerous reasons but mainly due to financial constraints.

It is well known that Covid-19 has had significantly adverse impacts on the employment and income levels among medium and

government should provide special financial support for the education sector and recommend full waivers for college admission fees, monthly tuition and other costs according to a student's needs.

Online education is actually more expensive than traditional learning in Bangladesh as a student needs to have

a suitable electronic device, such as So under these circumstances, the a smartphone or laptop, along with strong internet connectivity to attend virtual classes.

Since many students do not have the financial capacity to buy the required devices, the government, its development partners and business houses should come forward to lend their support in this regard.

By simply owning a computer,

a student can avail hundreds of skill development programmes and besides, this also accelerates digital

Internet connectivity is another must-have for distance learning but here in Bangladesh, the speed of internet connections is inadequate while the costs are too high.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and all local mobile network operators should work together to improve the quality of connection speeds and provide free

internet data for online classes Success in higher education is commonly defined by a student's persistence, progression and timely graduation. Scholarships that assist or cover the cost of pursuing a higher education provide a number of benefits.

In the current scenario, the government, alongside various reputed business organisations, actively financial aid for those seeking higher education and allocate disbursements based on a student's needs as well as merit.

On top of that, Bangladesh Bank and other financial institutions can play an active role as well by creating an interest free education loan product.

To manage the disbursement of such micro funds would be the biggest challenge but all you need is the right platform and the good news is, we already have one as bKash, in association with City Bank, recently launched the country's first collateralfree instant digital loan product through mobile wallet.

READ MORE ON B3