

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.15%	▲ 0.17%	\$1,864.26	\$36.86	▼ 0.43%	▼ 0.37%	▼ 1.32%	▲ 0.11%	83.95	97.62	108.22	12.32
4,846.10	8,319.74	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	39,749.85	23,331.94	2,450.68	3,272.73	BUY TK	SELL TK	84.95	101.42

www.sibld.com

CallCenter
16491
serving you 24/7

SIBL
Special Lenders

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2020, KARTIK 14, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

A harder squeeze on poor as coarse rice going beyond reach

Price rises by Tk 15 a kg in one year

REJAU KARIM BYRON

The retail price of coarse rice rose Tk 15 per kilogram in the last one year because of higher prices in the international market, squeezed supply and the coronavirus pandemic, official data showed.

The sharp rise in the food-grain has dealt a major blow to the poor and low-income groups who have been struggling to make ends meet amid massive job losses and a sharp fall in incomes caused by the pandemic.

Coarse rice was selling at Tk 28.59 per kg in November last year and it rose to Tk 43.64 per cent during the period, provisional data from the Department of Agriculture Marketing showed.

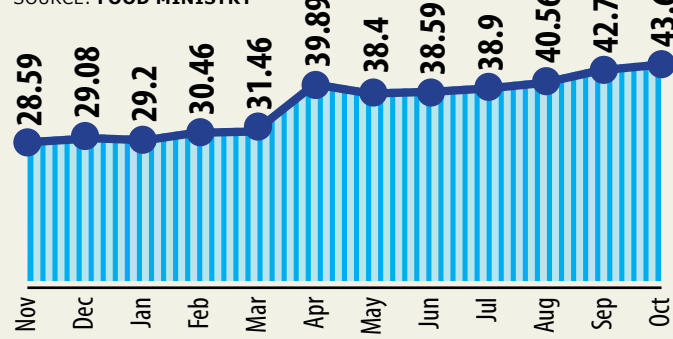
The rice variety mostly consumed by the poor and low-income groups was selling at Tk 31.46 per kg in March and since then it has risen by 38.71 per cent.

The availability of the coarse rice has been squeezed owing to the farmers' indifference to produce the variety, the coronavirus pandemic and stockpiling by people due to the coronavirus-induced uncertainty, said Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum yesterday.



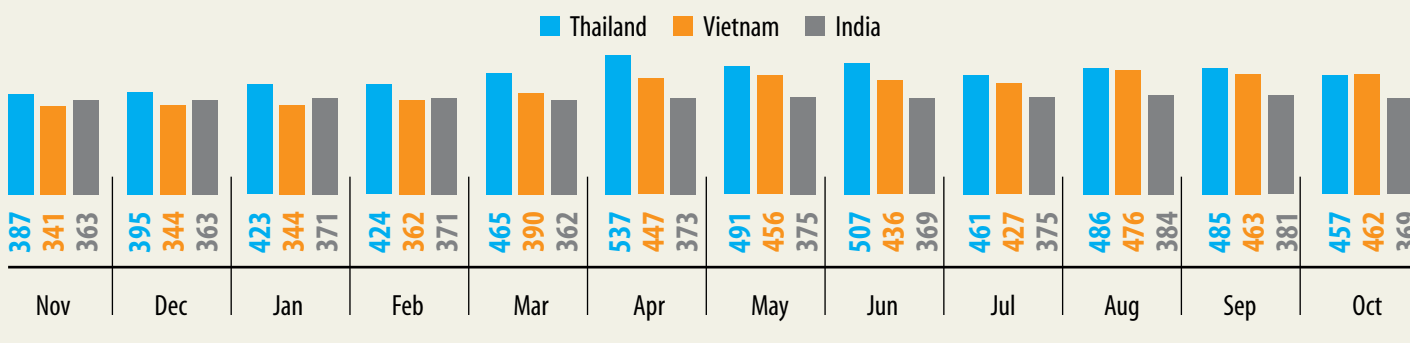
RETAIL PRICE OF COARSE RICE

In Tk per kg; Oct data is provisional
SOURCE: FOOD MINISTRY



RICE PRICE IN GLOBAL MARKETS

In free on board (FoB) terms; \$ per tonne; SOURCE: FOOD MINISTRY



dbi CERAMICS

DISPLAY CENTRE

Nasir Trade Centre (2nd Floor)
89 Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road (Sonargaon Road)
Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh
Hotline: 01713 656565

A lot of coarse rice was imported in 2017 and this contributed to the decline in the price in 2018 and 2019. "This discouraged farmers from growing more coarse variety," said Chitta Majumder, managing director of Mazumder Group of Industries.

"What is a little puzzling is that the price has increased despite a good boro harvest and reasonably

adequate public stocks. Floods may have been one contributing factor. A shift in demand towards coarse rice because of the decreased incomes of the middle class may also have contributed," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

However, the economist said, the presence of large players with market

power in the rice supply chain may have been the most important factor in the price increase.

A report on the food-grain situation of the country was presented at a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) chaired by Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder on Wednesday.

READ MORE ON B3

Take Chinese loans with skillful negotiations

Experts suggest

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chinese loans must be availed with skillful negotiations to ensure better outcomes and avoid falling into any possible debt trap, said experts at a Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) webinar yesterday.

"During taking loan the profitability of the project should be considered and should be prioritised," CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan told the event titled "Bangladesh-China Development Cooperation: Experience and Outlook".

According to the CPD, China committed a total of \$3.33 billion in aid to Bangladesh since the latter attained independence, about 99 per cent of it being project aid. Of it, \$2.8 billion has been disbursed till December 2019.

China's commitment made up 2.34 per cent of that promised by countries around the globe till date. Similarly, in terms of that disbursed, it is 3.26 per cent.

Sobhan forecast that the world economy would evolve in the next 25 years for Asia, particularly China and East Asia.

China's vision involves a wide context incorporating economic relationships in the Bay of Bengal-based South Asian region, he said.

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic's adverse impacts on the economy, China and East Asia have already brought the virus under control, he said.

East Asia is growing so faster that it will ultimately end up controlling the global economy, he said.

Sobhan saw immense opportunities for investment and trade in South Asia, including Bangladesh.

"Everything will depend on the relationship with China as during the past 20 years China has achieved great success in its economy," he said.

East Asian countries have developed along with China and they are the largest trading partners of China, he noted.

However, he said, though China has already become Bangladesh's largest trading partner, the latter's exports to China were very low.

So Bangladesh will have to find a way to put in place a value chain focusing the Chinese market similar to that brought about by China, he said.

About investment from China in Bangladesh, he said it was for domestic use in the form of loans and grants.

However, he said, the most important focus for Chinese investment should be to improve Bangladesh's value chain. China has become the largest market for the world and there is scope for Bangladesh to become its trading partner in the future as within the next five years Asia will be led by China, he noted.

Sobhan predicted that China would account for 50 per cent of the global trade in the next five years.

China has not been one of the traditional markets for Bangladeshi exports, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the CPD.

China ranks 10th among Bangladesh's export destinations, she said.

READ MORE ON B3



China has already become the largest trading partner of Bangladesh but export of Bangladesh to China is very low

REHMAN SOBHAN
chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue

Another Tk 7,000cr for large industries, services sector

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The central bank yesterday expanded the size of the stimulus package for large industries and services sector firms to make the low-cost funds available for the factories located in the economic zones.

The volume of the package was enhanced by Tk 7,000 crore to Tk 40,000 crore as part of the central bank's effort to facilitate both local and foreign industries in the industrial zones, according to a central bank notice.

Only the units of industrial and service sector firms will get the extended portion of the package.

The units that are operating under the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority

and the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority will be eligible for the funds to revive their businesses.

There are three types of units -- A, B and C -- in the economic zones.

Firms with 100 per cent foreign ownership are considered as Type-A companies. Joint venture companies with foreign and Bangladeshi ownerships are treated as Type-B and those with 100 per cent Bangladeshi ownerships are Type-C.

The central bank initially allowed Type-C companies to borrow from the stimulus fund and gradually extended the facility to the factories belonging to the two other categories.

The type-C companies availed financial support from the package as they were included in the package initially, said Abu



The Bangladesh Bank headquarters in the capital's Motijheel area.

Farah Md Naser, an executive director of the central bank.

The companies under the type-A and type-B categories have not been able to secure

funds as the package has almost been depleted after meeting the demand of local firms, he said.

As much as 86 per cent of Tk 33,000 crore has already been

disbursed from the package to accelerate the ongoing economic revival, Naser said.

The foreign industrial units, like the local ones, have also been hit hard by the financial meltdown and they are unable to avail funds from their home countries, he said.

The entire globe is now in dire straits due to the coronavirus pandemic and a second wave of the deadly flu has already hit North America and Europe and many other parts of the world.

If the financial support is not extended to the foreign firms, their businesses will face a severe crisis and many of them will be forced to close their units. This will put an adverse impact on the economy in the long run.

READ MORE ON B3

Insurance investors come to senses; stocks finally take a tumble

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Insurance stocks took a tumble yesterday as investors have finally realised that local insurers will not witness a significant increase in profits amid the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Although market analysts and even the insurance companies themselves said that there were no valid reasons behind the inflated share prices, investors paid no heed to these experts.

But yesterday, after a few insurers disclosed their disappointing profits, the investors were suddenly in a rush to wash their hands of insurance stocks.

As a result, the losers table of the Dhaka Stock Exchange was mostly occupied by insurance companies.

Of the top 10 losing stocks, nine were from the insurance sector.

Karnaphuli Insurance shed the most with a drop of 9.97 per cent, followed by Global Insurance, Nitol Insurance, Islami Insurance, Northern Insurance, Janata Insurance, Eastland Insurance, Sandhani Life Insurance and United Insurance.

In terms of sectoral performance, insurance has fallen drastically compared to other sectors.

Of the 48 listed insurance stocks, five rose, two remain unchanged and 41 fell in the red zone.

Prime Life Insurance, Nitol Insurance, Eastland Insurance, and Global Insurance witnessed a year-on-year decrease in their life revenue funds or earnings per share for the third quarter (July-September) this year.

However, Reliance Insurance and Sunlife Insurance saw

TOP TEN LOSERS ON DSE ON THURSDAY

COMPANY NAME	FALL IN PRICES (IN %)
Karnaphuli Insurance	9.97
Global Insurance	9.93
Nitol Insurance	9.93
Islami Insurance	9.90
Northern Insurance	9.90
Janata Insurance	9.89
Eastland Insurance	9.81
Sandhani Life	9.80
United Insurance	9.79
Intech Ltd	9.79

higher earnings per share during the same period.

Despite the fall of insurance stocks, DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, edged upwards by 7.57 points, or 0.15 per cent, to 4,846.10.

Meanwhile turnover, an important indicator of the market, fell 13.3 per cent to Tk 963 crore compared to the previous trading day.

READ MORE ON B3

Banks donate blankets to PM's relief fund

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Private commercial banks donated 26.45 lakh blankets to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to come to the benefit of underprivileged people in upcoming winter.

A total of 36 banks handed over the blankets to Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to Prime Minister's Office, at the office in Dhaka on Wednesday as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the programme through a video conference from Gono Bhavan in the capital.

Romana Rouf Chowdhury, a director of Bank Asia; ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan, former chairman and sponsor of Dhaka Bank; Md Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairman of Exim Bank;

READ MORE ON B3

Salvo Chemical to set up Tk 70cr cornstarch plant

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Listed industrial chemical producer Salvo Chemical Industry is going to invest around Tk 70 crore to set up a cornstarch factory with an aim to make the most of the product's tremendous market potential.

Cornstarch is a multipurpose powder that is used in food processing, pharmaceutical, paper and even textile sectors.

It is a popular cooking ingredient for soups, stews, sauces and custards and is also used to starch clothing to keep them crisp and wrinkle-free.

By implementing the project, Salvo Chemical will be able to supply the key raw material to its own liquid glucose manufacturing plant, which will reduce costs as well as deliver a unique product for sale.

The new cornstarch plant will produce around 25,000 tonnes of the material annually.

The decision to undertake this initiative was taken by during the company's recent board meeting. The chemical maker then informed its investors of the development through the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday.

This will be a cost-effective project, given the company's existing set up.

Salvo Chemical's share price rose by 3.6 per cent to Tk 14.4 yesterday.

Salvo Chemical, whose paid-up capital was Tk 65 crore, was listed with the country's bourses in 2011. Its sponsors jointly hold a 22.14 per cent stake in the company at present.

Meanwhile, the company's board of directors announced 1 per cent cash dividend for the year that ended on June 30, 2020.

In the previous year, it disbursed 5 per cent dividend to its shareholders.

In the last fiscal, Salvo Chemical's earnings per share stood at Tk 0.30 while its net asset value per share was Tk 12.46.

By implementing the project, Salvo Chemical will be able to supply the key raw material to its own liquid glucose manufacturing plant, which will reduce costs as well as deliver a unique product for sale



Syed Mostahidul Hoq, managing director of Daraz Bangladesh, a concern of Alibaba Group, poses during a press conference in Dhaka on Wednesday, announcing the hosting of Eleven Eleven (11.11), a 24-hour shopping blitz of Alibaba. Daraz customers will get a chance to win a car during the campaign on November 11.

Pandemic keep-fit drive boosts Puma sales in Americas, Europe

REUTERS, Berlin

German sportswear company Puma reported a rebound in third-quarter sales in the Americas and Europe as consumers keen to keep fit during the COVID-19 pandemic bought more online and at stores that reopened after lockdowns.

However, Puma said consumer sentiment was turning negative again as infections rise and said it could not provide a reliable outlook for the full year despite its optimism about its medium and long-term perspectives.

Chief Executive Bjorn Gulden told journalists he expected a positive operating profit for 2020.

Puma shares were down 2.5 per cent at 0929 GMT as European markets fell on concerns of new coronavirus lockdowns.

Quarterly sales rose by a currency-adjusted 13 per cent to 1.58 billion euros (\$1.87 billion) and operating profit by 17 per cent to 190 million euros, beating average analyst forecasts for 1.56 billion and 174 million euros respectively.

"Puma's nicely ahead-of-consensus Q3 confirms a brand in good health. This at a time when the rebuild in demand for sporting goods points to an expanded end market post-COVID," wrote Jefferies analyst James Grzincic.

Sales jumped 20.7 per cent in the Americas and 17.7 per cent in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, with categories such as basketball, motorsport, golf and team sports showing the highest growth rates. Online sales rose 61 per cent.

"Consumers go less to the stores but when they come, they buy more," Gulden said, adding that Puma was selling more shoes for running, walking and hiking, but less for team games due to coronavirus restrictions.

Sales fell 1.9 per cent in Asia/Pacific, due to slower growth in greater China, and a decline in India, Korea and South East Asia, although Gulden said he was "pretty optimistic" about the fourth quarter in China.

Nike Inc, the world's largest sports athletic shoe manufacturer, last month reported quarterly profit and revenue ahead of Wall Street estimates.

India's top airline IndiGo posts record quarterly loss on pandemic hit

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Interglobe Aviation Ltd, which runs India's largest airline IndiGo, reported its steepest quarterly loss on Thursday as pandemic-related travel restrictions continued to dent its operations.

The global aviation industry has been among the worst hit by the pandemic and related travel restrictions.

The airline said it expects third-quarter average seat kilometers (ASKs) to be around 60 per cent of its ASKs for the same quarter a year earlier.

"We are slowly but surely stair-stepping our way back to normal capacity," Chief Executive Officer Ronojoy Dutta said in a statement.

"Once we are back at 100 per cent capacity, we will have lower unit costs, a stronger product, more efficient fleet and a robust network," he said.

The company's second-quarter net loss came in at 11.95 billion rupees (\$161.61 million), compared with a loss of 10.66 billion rupees last year.



REUTERS/FILE

An IndiGo Airlines Airbus A320 aircraft takes off in Colomiers near Toulouse, France.

IndiGo, which dominates the domestic market, said its total debt as of September stood at 254,194 million rupees, up 28 per cent from last year.

In June, IndiGo said it would cut up to 40 billion rupees in costs and speed up the return of older planes to leasing companies in an attempt to cope with the pandemic-incurred hit to business.

Revenue from operations plunged 66 per cent to 27.41 billion rupees, the airline operator said on Thursday.

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1: National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization National Board of Revenue (NBR) IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh

Memo No. 1(99)/ISD/NSW Project/2020/501

Date: 29 October 2020

CORRIGENDUM OF

Invitation for Initial Selection: Supply, installation, configuration, setup, testing, related services and training of: BD-NSW software solution; BD-NSW risk management software; Valuation database software (Package # NBR-RFP-1A)";

This is for the information of all concerned that following amendment has been made of the Invitation of Initial Selection for "Supply, installation, configuration, setup, testing, related services and training of: BD-NSW software solution; BD-NSW risk management software; Valuation database software (Package # NBR-RFP-1A)"; which was published in United Nations Development Business (UNDB)-online dated 03.09.2020, Daily Prothom Alo and Daily Star on 07.09.2020 vide memo No. Memo No. 1(99)/ISD/NSW Project/2020/477 dated 06.09.2020.

Invitation of Initial Selection Reference	As in Invitation of Initial Selection	As Amended
Para 2: Specific Experience	A minimum number of two (2) contracts in the domain of Single Window for Trade Facilitation, comprising all or any of the solutions proposed and similar in nature, size and complexities to the one expected for Bangladesh (as specified in section -VII of Initial Selection Documents) of value more than USD 8 million each that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or subcontractor between 1st January 2010 and Application submission deadline.	A minimum number of similar contracts specified below that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or subcontractor between 1 st January 2010 and Application submission deadline: (a) At least 2 (two) contracts in the domain of Single Window for Trade Facilitation; each contract should be of value not less than USD 8 million and similar to the proposed contract for Bangladesh (as specified in Section-VII) OR (b) At least 1 (one) contract in the domain of Single Window for Trade Facilitation and at least 1 (one) contract in the domain of Customs Management; each contract should be of value not less than USD 8 million and similar to the proposed contract for Bangladesh (as specified in Section-VII)
Para -5	Applications for Initial Selection may be submitted, at the Applicant's choice, through email to the email address below, or in hard copy in a clearly marked envelop delivered to the address below by 15:00 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00 hours) on 04 November 2020. Please note that in case of submission through email, the Purchaser shall not be responsible for the confidentiality of the submitted applications prior to the submission deadline. Late applications may be rejected.	Applications for Initial Selection may be submitted, at the Applicant's choice, through email to the email address below, or in hard copy in a clearly marked envelop delivered to the address below by 15:00 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00 hours) on 19 November 2020. Please note that in case of submission through email, the Purchaser shall not be responsible for the confidentiality of the submitted applications prior to the submission deadline. Late applications may be rejected.

All other terms and conditions of the Invitation for Initial Selection remain unchanged.

(Jewel Ahmed)
Deputy Project Director
On behalf of
Project Director
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1:
National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization
Email: pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়
বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম-৪৩১৭।
e-mail-ctbh@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-বহাচ/প্রশা-২০/এমএসআর-পধ্য-অন্যান্য/২০২০-২১/৫৯৮ তারিখ- ২৮/১০/২০২০ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্র.নং	মন্ত্রণালয়	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
১	ক্রম/সংগ্রহকারী দপ্তরের নাম	বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
২	ক্রম/সংগ্রহকারী জেলায় নাম	চট্টগ্রাম।
৩	দরপত্রের/কাজের নাম	এমএসআর(ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত ঔষধসামগ্রী ও অন্যান্য এমএসআর সামগ্রী) ও পধ্য, স্টেশনারী/বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ ও লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ।
৪	ক্রম/সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
৫	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	রাজস্ব (২০২০-২১)।
৬	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত তারিখ হইতে ১৫/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৭	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/১১/২০২০ ইং তারিখ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৮	দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/১১/২০২০ ইং তারিখ ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা।
৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের অফিস	চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার অফিস	চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
১১	দরপত্র দপ্তরের মূল্য ও নিরাপত্তা আমানত সমূহ।	দরপত্র সংযুক্ত
ক্রম	সিডিউলের মূল্য	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (ফেরত যোগ্য)
ক গ্রুপ-ঔষধ সামগ্রী(ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত)	৭৫০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	৩৫,০০০/-
"ফ্রপ-খ(১) মন্ত্রপাতি "	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	১৫,০০০/-
"ফ্রপ-গ(২) ক্যামিকেল রি-এজেন্ট "	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	১০,০০০/-
"ফ্রপ-ঘ(৩) আসবাবপত্র "	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	১৫,০০০/-
"ফ্রপ-ঙ(৪) লিনেন "	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	৫,০০০/-
"ফ্রপ-চ(৫) গজ, ব্যাভেজ, তুলা	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	৫,০০০/-
পধ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৭৫০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	১,২৫,০০০/-
স্টেশনারী/বিবিধ সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	১০,০০০/-
লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ	৪০০/- (অফেরত যোগ্য)	২৫,০০০/-
১২	কাজের বর্ণনা	ফ্রপওয়ারী সিডিউলে বর্ণনামতে।
১৩	দরপত্রের বোধ্যতা ও দরপত্র ক্রম পদ্ধতি এবং প্রাক পরিচিতি	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২০২০-২০২১) এবং লাইসেন্সের ব্যবসায়ের ধরন পদ্ধতি উল্লেখসহ বিন ও টিন সনদ, আয়কর জমা প্রদানের রশিদসহ ২০২০-২০২১ ইং অর্থ বছরের পরিশোধকৃত আয়কর প্রত্যয়ন সনদ, সরকারী-আধা সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত ১০০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানে ৯-৯ কাজে পধ্য সরবরাহে ০১(এক) বছরের এবং এমএসআর সরবরাহে ০১(এক) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক মূল্য নং উল্লেখসহ জ্যাট কর্তন প্রত্যয়ন পত্র। কমপক্ষে ১০,০০,০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকা পর্যন্ত মালামাল সামগ্রী সরবরাহ করিয়াছেন মর্মে প্রত্যয়ন পত্র, বাংলাদেশ চেম্বার ও কমার্স কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠানটির সদস্যভুক্ত সনদ, ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ২০,০০,০০০/- (বিশ লক্ষ) টাকা লেনদেন করিতে সক্ষম মর্মে আর্থিক সঞ্চালতার সনদ, ২০২০ইং সালের সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট(হার্ড কপি) উক্ত মাসে কমপক্ষে ১০,০০,০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকা স্থিতি। প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানার স্বপক্ষে একিডেভিড সনদ। প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকের জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও সত্যায়িত রশিদ ছবি। প্রতি গ্রুপের জন্য সিডিউল ক্রমে নির্ধারিত অংকের টাকা সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখায় ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ এ জমাদানপূর্বক চালানের মূলকপি (চালানের অনলাইন যাচাই কপি সহ) ও উল্লেখিত প্রত্যয়ন কাগজপত্র মূলকপি প্রদর্শন বা দেখাইয়া কার্যালয়ে হইতে সিডিউল ক্রম করিতে হইবে। প্রত্যেকটি কাগজপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক নামমুক্ত সীল ও কোড নং এবং মোবাইল নং সহ সত্যায়িত করিয়া দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী যথাযথি অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে। বিশেষ ট্রষ্টব্য ৯- ঔষধ সামগ্রী সরবরাহ দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারীকে ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী লাইসেন্স এবং সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের হালসন পর্যন্ত ড্রাগ লাইসেন্স থাকিতে হইবে। স্টেশনারী/বিবিধ ও লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণের বেলায় শর্তাবলি আংশিক শিথিলযোগ্য।
১৪	মালামাল সংক্রান্ত কাজের বর্ণনা	ফ্রপওয়ারী সিডিউল বর্ণনামতে ও সরকার নির্ধারিত স্পেসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী।
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	ডাঃ এস.এম মুন্সল করিম
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৮	প্রকাশিত এবং উপরে উল্লেখিত শর্ত সমূহ ছাড়াও পিপিআর-৮ এবং পিপিএ-৬ এর বিধি সমূহ সর্ব ক্ষেত্রে মানিয়া চলিতে বাধ্য থাকিবেন।	
১৯	ক্রমকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দর বা আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

(ডাঃ এস.এম মুন্সল করিম)
চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়ক
বক্ষব্যাপি হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম।



MGH appoints regional managing director for East, Southeast Asia

STAR BUSINESS DESK
MGH Logistics yesterday announced the appointment of Eom Cheolwon Chris as regional managing director for South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

Chris previously worked at Ceva Logistics, DB Schenker and CJ Korea developing and managing supply chain services for large Korean global brands such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai and Kia.

"Chris Eom brings to MGH first-hand knowledge and expertise of managing the global supply chain of Korean global brands for over two decades," said Anis Ahmed, founder and group chief executive officer at MGH, in a statement.

"I have been fascinated by MGH's supply chain excellences extended to global brands like Inditex, C&A, Carrefour, Renault, PSA-Peugeot, and its strong presence in South Asia," said Chris.

Chris is based in MGH's regional headhunter in Ho Chi Minh City.

MGH Logistics describes itself as a Singapore-headquartered, Bangladesh-born sprawling conglomerate with interest in healthcare, fashion, and automotive supply chain management, redshoring, e-commerce and express last mile deliveries.

Samsung offers Pulse telemedicine

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Samsung Bangladesh has recently collaborated with telemedicine platform Pulse Healthcare Services, offering its MyGalaxy users discounts on video consultation and a customised annual healthcare package.

All video consultations of fees of Tk 500 and above will be eligible for a 15 per cent discount, according to a statement.

Available at Tk 1,000 rather than the regular price of Tk 1,200 for MyGalaxy users, the package offers discounts of Tk 300 on the first online video consultation, 5 per cent on medicine delivery and 20 per cent on home sample collection.

The platform is said to comprise specialised doctors from Bangladesh's renowned hospitals and to offer services including a fully integrated drug database, e-prescription, electronic medical record storage, online pharmacy and home sample collection.

"...we are trying to offer our users the benefits of wellbeing packages, especially during a health crisis like Covid-19," Md Muyeedur Rahman, head of mobile at Samsung Bangladesh

Rubaba Dowla, the platform's founder, said they had "800+ doctors and Pulse 24/7 doctor helpline" accessible "from anywhere and anytime".

Idcol wins Asian Power Awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (Idcol) has recently won an Asian Power Awards 2020 in the "Solar Power Project of the Year-Bangladesh" category for implementing a solar irrigation pump (SIP) project.

The award was conferred through an event held digitally on October 27 organised by Asian Power, a

Singapore-based quarterly magazine on power generation, transmission and distribution industries in the Asia Pacific region.

The award recognises ground-breaking projects and trailblazing initiatives.

The project is the first green finance initiative for smallholder collectives and farmers in Bangladesh, now benefiting more than 60,000 farmers, says a press release.

China's domestic jet fuel demand back to near pre-Covid levels

REUTERS, Singapore

China's domestic aviation fuel consumption rebounded to near pre-COVID levels in September, thanks to a fast recovery in passenger travel and cargo freight, although demand from international flights remained weak, industry sources said.

Domestic aviation fuel sales amounted to about 2 million tonnes (523,300 barrels per day) last month, the highest since February and slightly below January, said two sources with knowledge of the matter.

Domestic flights account for roughly two-thirds of China's overall consumption of the aviation fuel. The rebound in jet fuel demand has improved Chinese refiners' margins and enabled them to process more crude.

From late October through March, domestic consumption will receive a further lift as China adds more flights to the seasonal winter/spring air traffic planning.

Between Oct. 25 and March 27, Chinese airlines will fly 84,634 domestic flights a week, 19.8 per cent more than the year-ago level, while weekly cargo flights will rise nearly 40 per cent to 2,101, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said last week.

China's jet kerosene output on steady recovery as domestic air traffic rebounds to near pre-COVID level China's jet kerosene zoutput on steady recovery as domestic air traffic rebounds to near pre-COVID level.

"Domestic passenger travel recovered to just 2 per cent under the year-ago level and freight volume is also improving month on month," said Liu Yuntao, an analyst with consultancy Energy Aspect.

Japan PM Suga to announce plan for fresh stimulus package to ease pandemic pain

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will announce next week a plan for fresh stimulus to help the recession-stricken economy shake off the coronavirus crisis, four government and ruling party sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Although the size of the package has yet to be decided, some ruling party lawmakers have already called for one of about 10 trillion yen (\$95.51 billion) to cushion the blow from the pandemic.

The bulk of the package will consist of about 7 trillion yen left over from a 10 trillion yen pool set aside to meet emergency needs to combat the pandemic, the sources told Reuters. The rest will be made up of new spending, they added.

The total size of the package will likely be smaller than a combined \$2.2 trillion rolled out in two earlier stimulus packages this year, they said.

"It's better to avoid making Japan's



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga gives his first policy speech in parliament on an extraordinary session opens in Tokyo, Japan on October 26.

fiscal cliff even steeper" by ramping up near-term spending too much, one of the sources said.

The package is likely to include extensions to existing programmes offering subsidies to help companies keep jobs and address funding strains, the sources said. The government is also expected to extend past January a campaign offering discounts to domestic travel to rescue the country's tourism

industry, the sources said. A third extra budget will be compiled around mid-December to fund part of the package, they added. After posting its worst postwar contraction in the second quarter, Japan's economy is expected to have rebounded in the three months through September.

But the recovery has been patchy and fragile, as continued weakness in consumption and capital expenditure offset a rebound in exports and output, keeping policymakers under pressure to top up fiscal and monetary support.

Analysts, however, say the expected new stimulus package will have only a limited effect in boosting growth.

"The size of the package isn't expected to be that large," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute. "That means the measures will likely focus on putting a floor on growth, rather than stimulating the economy."

Take Chinese loans with skillful negotiations

FROM PAGE B1

Since 2010, China has overtaken India to become the biggest import partner for Bangladesh, she said.

"In 2018, China was the largest trading partner of Bangladesh with a share of 18.94 per cent of the total trade. This was almost double the amount of trade with India and more than the trade with the USA and Germany combined," she noted.

China had replaced the US to become the top investor in Bangladesh in 2018. It held the position in fiscal 2018-19 with an investment of \$1.2 billion.

This was roughly 0.4 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP in fiscal 2018-19. Bangladesh is also receiving a number of investments under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The bulk of the investments have come following Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in October 2016.

China has been providing loan support for the implementation of a number of projects in Bangladesh, albeit at high interest rates, pointed out M Humayun Kabir, acting president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

Citing an example, he said Sri Lanka has already raised the issue of interest rates of Chinese loans and the same type of high-interest projects are being implemented in Bangladesh.

However, he did not rule out the significance of Chinese investment in Bangladesh for further development of the country.

Prof AK Enamul Haque of economics department at East West University, emphasised on business-to-business connectivity to bring investments from China. He said there was immense scope for investment in high-tech companies.

Despite China being Bangladesh's largest trading partner, it is basically exporting huge amounts of goods rather than importing some, he said.

Prof Cheng Min of the Institute for Bangladesh Studies at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, said Bangladesh offered the scope for investments as its economy was growing very fast.

She cited that Chinese investors were interested in power, leather and textiles sectors of Bangladesh.

Min expressed her belief that Chinese investment had the capacity to have an immense social impact and

reduce poverty in Bangladesh.

China is Bangladesh's most important economic partner, aiding the south Asian country's development, said Associate Prof Wang Shida, deputy director of the Institute for South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Bangladesh was benefitting from China availing assistance through different means such as for special economic zones and implementing big infrastructure projects, he said.

ANM Muniruzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, echoed Sobhan on being skillful in loan negotiations, suggesting careful adoption of strategies when involving with the Chinese BRI.

China should provide support in building up skilled manpower and technology in Bangladesh and China's excellent startup expertise should be utilised in Bangladesh, he said.

Among others, Debapriya Bhattacharya and Prof Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellows at the CPD, and Habib ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, addressed the webinar.



Nur Mohammed, chairman of Jamuna Bank Foundation, and Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, CEO, open an ATM booth on Mohammadpur-Bosila road in Dhaka.

Another Tk 7,000cr for large industries, services sector

FROM PAGE B1

The latest initiative taken by the central bank will help the country brighten its image internationally, Naser said. The central bank asked banks to submit their loan disbursement plans under the stimulus package by November 5.

"The extension of the package will help the economy to a large extent," said Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank.

The central bank introduced a Tk 30,000 crore stimulus package on April 12, allowing banks to receive an interest rate subsidy of 4.5 per cent on disbursed loans, which the end-users will get at 9 per cent.

The package was later expanded to Tk 33,000 crore so that export-oriented industries could pay wages and salaries to their workers.

Banks donate blankets to PM's relief fund

FROM PAGE B1

Md Nazmul Hassan, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh; Morshed Alam, chairman of Mercantile Bank; MA Rouf, a director of Mutual Trust Bank; Md Abul Bashar, vice chairman of NCC Bank; Mohammed Adnan Imam, a director of NRBK Bank; HBM Iqbal, chairman of Premier Bank; Monzurur Rahman, chairman of Pubali Bank; Tariqul Islam Chowdhury, managing director of SBAC Bank; Anwer Hossain Khan, a director of Shahjalal Islami Bank; Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank; Faruq Mainuddin, managing director of Trust Bank; Anisuzzaman Chowdhury Ronny, chairman of the executive committee of United Commercial Bank, and ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury, managing director of Union Bank, handed over the blankets on behalf of the respective banks.

More foreign investment needed to offset pandemic fallouts

FROM PAGE B4

"Larive-LightCastle tie-up thus stands to complement our efforts and contribute to uplifting Bangladesh's standing and credential amongst international investors and facilitate market entry process for the potential Dutch investors."

Davinia Lamme, managing director of Larive International, expressed her optimism about the strategic partnership with LightCastle.

"By joining forces with the LightCastle team, we are well-positioned to support our client base in this fast-growing market," she said.

"Having already worked with Larive on several projects in Bangladesh, we are delighted to formalise our alliance," said Bijon Islam, CEO of LightCastle.

"We are thrilled about the partnership and look forward to serving an increasing number of foreign investors in Bangladesh."

Ivdat Ahmed Khan Mojlish, managing director of LightCastle; Matthias Brienen, a director of Larive International, also spoke at the event, which was organised by LightCastle Partners.

Zahedul Amin, director for consulting services at LightCastle, presented a keynote paper.

Both the organisations have agreed to co-organise a series of public events in the near future for promoting investment opportunities in Bangladesh for international investors.

Insurance investors come to senses; stocks finally take a tumble

FROM PAGE B1

Beximco Pharmaceuticals traded the most with shares worth Tk 63 crore changing hands followed by Paramount Insurance, Provati Insurance, Global Insurance and Express Insurance.

Of the total 354 traded companies, 154 advanced, 135 declined and 65 remained unchanged.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also rose yesterday, increasing by 14.91 points, or 0.17 per cent, to 8,319.7.

Of the total 256 companies listed with the port city bourse, 105 advanced, 101 dropped and 50 remained unchanged.

A harder squeeze on poor as coarse rice going beyond reach

FROM PAGE B1

The meeting decided not to take any step to cut the price of rice as such a move would bring down the price of the staple to below the production cost of Tk 40 per kg and dishearten farmers to grow the cereal, said officials of the food and agriculture ministries.

The government would not also cut the duties imposed on rice imports either. Rather, it would boost the sales of coarse rice through the open market sale (OMS) and distribution of the item through other social safety net schemes.

Total import of food-grain was 6.44 million tonnes in FY2019-20, out of which rice was only 4,000 tonnes.

The government has set 0.6 million tonnes of food-grain import target for the ongoing fiscal year. Rice would account for 0.1 million tonnes, according to a document of the food ministry.

On Wednesday, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque, however, said the government may need to import 5-6 lakh tonnes of rice and the decision would be taken after the Aman harvest.

"Initially, an initiative has been taken to import 2 lakh tonnes of rice," Higher prices in international markets and higher duties have prevented importers from bringing in the staple item.

In Thailand, the price of coarse rice rose to \$457 per tonne in October this year from \$387 in November last year. It was \$341 per tonne in Vietnam a year ago which went up to \$462 in October.

The price of coarse rice was more

stable in India: it was \$363 per tonne in November and edged up to \$369 in October, data compiled by the food ministry showed.

Private importers have not brought in any rice in the last one year. There is 62 per cent duty on rice imports, said Majumder.

Based on the estimates, there is approximately 70 per cent chance that the price of coarse rice would vary between Tk 38.39 and Tk 41.59 per kg from October to December, the FPMU said.

After the completion of the upcoming Aman rice harvest, the price would become stable as seen during the same period a year earlier, the report said.

Food Secretary Khanum said the government would not reduce the duty on rice imports as the cut would boost imports.

"If the price of rice goes down below the production cost, the farmers would not be interested to keep producing the coarse rice," she said.

The FPMC on Wednesday instructed the government to activate various social safety net programmes to support the poor and the vulnerable.

"We are widening the footprint of the OMS of rice," the food secretary said.

The government has distributed 20,000 tonnes of rice as of October 15 of the current fiscal year under the OMS programme, up from 1,000 tonnes during the same period a year ago.

Khanum said the distribution of rice through the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Vulnerable

India keen to establish greater economic ties with Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B4

The envoy also said that India wants to mutually develop those sectors in Bangladesh, not as a competitor as India has huge experience in those sectors, the industries ministry said in a statement yesterday.

During the meeting, issues like increasing bilateral trade, export of Bangladeshi goods to Indian markets and trade through land ports between the two countries was also discussed.

They also shed light on the easing of rules for exporting goods from Bangladesh and mutual recognition of the certifications of standards of goods, according to the statement.

Humayun said the bilateral relationship between the two countries is like a blood bond.

Bangladesh will work together with India in regards to different regional and international issues, the minister said.

Humayun said his government has been working sincerely to increase trade with India.

He assured that Bangladesh will utilise the Indian expertise in development of different growing industrial sectors.

Govt plans incentives for synchronised cultivation

FROM PAGE B4

Under the initiative, the size of each plot for the synchronised cultivation will be 50-60 acres, as decided by the ministry.

In the first year, the agriculture ministry will provide fertilizer, seed, irrigation and harvesting support to farmers who join the community cultivation.

"We are planning to start encouraging farmers for synchronised cultivation from the next Boro cultivation season," Islam said.

The agriculture ministry is drafting a policy to this effect.

Green apparel factories bring no cheer to owners

Buyers unwilling to pay premium prices for the eco-friendly initiative, industry insiders say

REHAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Although Bangladesh is the global leader in terms of green garment factories, international retailers and brands do not want to pay any premium or extra cost to purchase products manufactured in these units.

Following the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in April 2013, international communities raised their concerns over the garment sector's compliance with global standards.

As a result, local apparel producers took the extra ordinary initiative to construct green factories, improve workplace safety and protect the environment from industrial pollution.

Entrepreneurs have to spend 30 per cent more for constructing green factories than the conventional ones.

However, buyers do not pay any extra cost for products from the green factories even though the certified units save just 40 per cent on energy and water owing to a more efficient design than traditional units.

The country's apparel manufacturers and exporters have also spent nearly \$3 billion to improve the fire, structural and electrical safety at their factories as recommended by Accord and Alliance, two defunct international garment factory inspection agencies.

However, the prices for garment items remain low, or in some cases even dipped, according to some recent studies.

Bangladesh's garment sector currently has about 34 platinum rated Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green garment factories, certified by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

This is the highest number of platinum rated LEED garment factories in the world.

Besides, nine of the top 10 green garment factories in the world are from Bangladesh. Some 27 green manufacturing units jointly hold various positions in the top 10 green factories worldwide.

Bangladeshi factories are tied for all positions other than the top spot, according to Mohiuddin Rubel, member of the advisory board to the chief executive officer (CEO) of the USGBC.

Among all USGBC certified LEED garment

AT A GLANCE

- Bangladesh has **34** platinum-rated green garment factories, **79** gold standard and **10** silver standard units
- More than **500** factories are waiting for green certification from the US GBC
- Their construction cost is **30pc** higher than traditional factories
- These units can save **40pc** energy
- Buyers don't pay extra prices for green initiative
- So far, local garment makers spent **\$3b** for factory remediation

factories, some 79 are gold standard, 10 are rated silver and two are just certified, said Rubel, who is also a BGMEA director.

More than 500 local garment factories are in the process of obtaining LEED certification from the USGBC, he added.

"They (the buyers) don't pay a single cent extra for green factory products," said KM Rezaul Hasanat, chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group.

The leading garment exporter operates two state-of-the-art green garment factories in Gazipur.

Bangladesh does not have carbon emissions. "So, the buyers should focus on improving the overall environment as Bangladeshi manufacturers pollute very, very less," he added.

Fazlul Hoque, managing director of the Narayanganj-based Plummy Fashions, another green garment factory, also said that buyers are not mentally prepared to pay premium prices to suppliers of green garments.

"The buyers do not pay even a single penny extra for our green initiative. Sometimes we have to negotiate with them for premium prices but not as a green garment factory."



A state-of-the-art green garment factory in Gazipur. Entrepreneurs have to spend 30 per cent more for constructing these factories than the conventional ones.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

"It is ironic that we do not get premium prices from our buyers despite making our factory buildings environmental compliant with global standards," Hoque added.

However, there are some benefits to being a green factory. For instance, international buyers feel more confident about working with green units and so, there is a continuous flow of work orders.

About 99.9 per cent of all buyers do not pay a premium or extra price for products made by green producers, said BGMEA President Rubana Huq.

It is not required by the buyer to ensure compliance but it is a step towards sustainability for the factory.

However, there is no mechanism in purchasing that require buyers to pay premiums for a company's sustainability practices, Huq told The Daily Star via WhatsApp.

She also said since most corporate entities pledge to maintain compliance with various global platforms, such as the Water Stewardship Council, Environmental Stewardship Council and Race to Zero, the industry needs to have some mechanism in the purchasing system that provides incentives for factories that go beyond mere compliance.

This will ultimately help the brand achieve its strategic sustainability goals as well.

A green factory needs 20-30 per cent more capital expenditure than conventional

factories but that is for the long-term, Huq added.

Most green garment factory owners that spoke with The Daily Star in this regard echoed the same, stating that international buyers are not ready to pay extra prices for green initiatives.

There is a sharp disconnect between sustainability and business as far as purchasing practices are concerned, said USGBC's Rubel.

"So, if we can make a purchasing system that allows brands to provide premium prices for products made in green factories, that will enhance the number and business that engage in green activities," he added.



Watermelon of a Taiwanese Golden Crown variety cultivated in Mohammadpur village under Jhenidah sadar upazila. Getting his inspiration from YouTube, farmer Tasnim Alam Tuhin invested Tk 90,000 for seeds, fertiliser, labour, fence and bamboo platforms on 60 decimals of land starting mid-August. After 58 days, he got his harvest of 125 maunds, selling it at Tk 1,900 on an average per maund to attain a profit of Tk 1.3 lakh.

AZIBOR RAHMAN

Govt plans incentives for synchronised cultivation

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government plans to provide incentives to encourage community cultivation so that farmers plant their crops in a synchronised manner and ensure simultaneous harvests.

"The idea is to improve crop productivity through mechanised tilling, transplantation and harvesting at the same time," said Md Shahjahan Kabir, director-general of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Currently, due to individual land ownership, farmers choose the types of crops and fix planting and harvesting times on their own. As a result, there are vast differences in crop variety between two plots located side by side.

This fragmented cultivation practice acts as a barrier to fully mechanising farming, which is needed to increase crop yields and reduce the cost of production for farmers.

"It becomes difficult to move farm machinery from one plot to another because of the existing cultivation practice," said Kabir.

In mid-October, the agriculture ministry decided to give incentives so that farmers feel encouraged to join hands to transplant and harvest crops in a synchronised manner.

The decision came after the government successfully implemented synchronised cultivation in 12 upazilas in 12 districts, according to Kabir.

In the next Boro season, the agriculture ministry will take the initiative to embrace synchronised cultivation in at least one upazila in each district, said Md Mahbul Islam, additional secretary of the agriculture ministry.

READ MORE ON B3

More foreign investment needed to offset pandemic fallouts

Experts say as LightCastle teams up with the Netherlands' Larive to offer investment services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

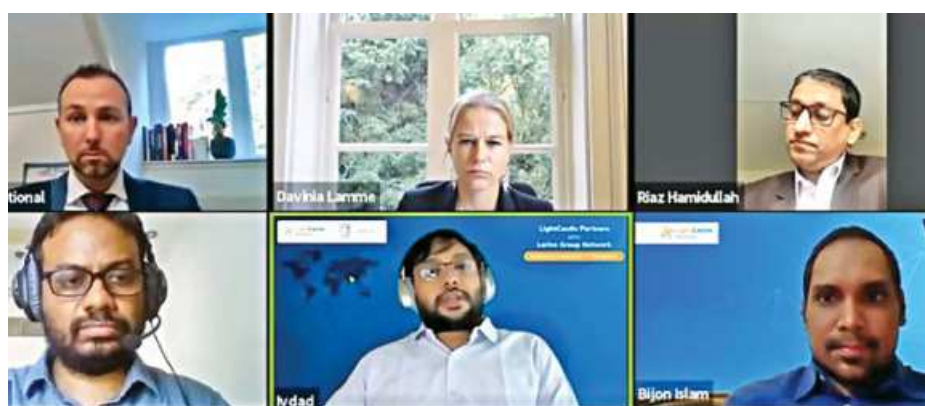
Bangladesh needs to give utmost importance to attracting foreign investments to foster economic growth and create more jobs, experts said yesterday.

The mobilisation of foreign investment would also help the country tackle the potential fallout of the fourth industrial revolution during the pandemic, they said.

Their remarks came at an event marking a partnership between LightCastle Partners, a Dhaka-based consultancy, and the Netherlands-based Larive International.

The partnership was formally announced at a webinar attended by the senior representatives from the development, private and public sectors.

Larive International is a network of



Experts attend a webinar yesterday when they discussed the importance of attracting more foreign investment to accelerate economic growth and create jobs.

COLLECTED

independent business development advisory firms in 24 high-growth markets throughout Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Under the agreement, LightCastle will become the exclusive member of the Larive Group in Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Both the organisations will jointly provide professional services like business intelligence, market entry and growth strategy, M&A advisory and post-investment services for interested investors in Bangladesh.

"As Bangladesh economy surges, within global supply and value chains, the Dutch business sees significant scope to partner with Bangladeshi peers," said M Riaz Hamidullah, Bangladesh's ambassador to the Netherlands.

READ MORE ON B3

India keen to establish greater economic ties with Bangladesh

Newly appointed envoy says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

India wants to establish greater economic ties with Bangladesh by giving local exporters better access to Indian markets, newly appointed Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami said yesterday.

Bangladeshi food and non-food items can utilise the huge opportunity to enter Indian markets by receiving standard certifications from the Indian authorities concerned.

Many foreign companies have been exporting food and non-food items to Indian markets by fulfilling the conditions of food standards, the Indian envoy said.

In such cases, Bangladeshi companies also have the opportunity to explore and exploit the Indian market, he added.

Doraiswami made these comments during a meeting with Bangladesh's Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun at his office in Dhaka.

Doraiswami also offered Bangladesh to make the most of the sizeable expertise of Indian firms for the development of Bangladesh's automobile industry, light engineering sector, agri-machinery and active pharmaceutical ingredient sector.

READ MORE ON B3