

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
Week-on-week		As of Friday		Friday Closings				As on Thursday			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▼ 0.51%	▼ 0.70%	\$1,870.49	\$44.96	▲ 0.65%	▼ 0.42%	▲ 1.3%	▲ 0.44%	BUY TK 83.95	98.37	110.11	12.60
4,879.96	8,410.98	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	43,882.25	25,527.37	2,813.01	3,377.73	SELL TK 84.95	102.17	113.91	13.24



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 7, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Second wave starts taking a toll on garment export

Buyers place 30pc fewer orders

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Just as Bangladesh's main foreign currency-earning apparel sector had begun recouping from shocks to its exports, a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has started inflicting damages again.

This is because international clothing retailers and brands have placed 30 per cent fewer work orders year-on-year for the next four months starting December.

The figure on the export season came up as preliminary findings of a survey carried out last week among 50 out of 350 major factories by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Research by The Daily Star revealed similar findings of local suppliers receiving fewer work orders.

Buyers have been taking a lot of time to decide and place work orders and are not seeking the same volumes of the last export season due to the second wave that has already jolted the Western world and economy.

The fear of contracting Covid-19 has kept buyers from travelling freely, a practice aimed at checking proper work environments, product quality, compliance and establishing better business communication.

Since they cannot come on visits to factories in Bangladesh, they have currently reduced the volume of work orders for factories here.

For instance, a buyer was supposed to come to the factory of



Shahidul Haque Mukul, managing director of Adams Apparels, from France last week but could not because of the second pandemic wave in France.

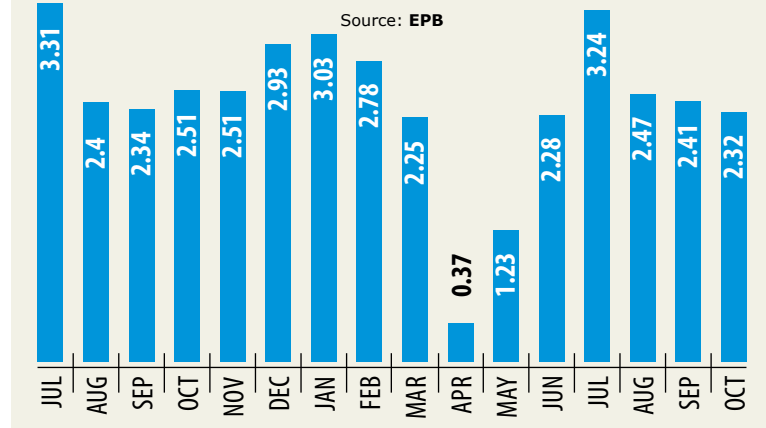
Though the buyer assured that an order would be placed, Mukul was still in the dark as to when.

Similarly, a Brazilian buyer of Mukul was supposed to reissue an order for 60,000 pieces of trousers previously suspended for the first wave of the pandemic.

"However, my buyer could take only 20,000 out of 60,000 pieces so far with the recovery from the first wave. But this buyer again put a halt on the orders," Mukul told The

Daily Star over the phone.

### GARMENT EXPORT IN BILLIONS OF US \$ IN FY2019-20 AND FY2020-21



"The inflow of work orders is slow, and the buyers are confused because of the current Covid situation in the Western world," he said.

Like Mukul, almost all suppliers have been facing similar kinds of problems arising from the buyers because of a second wave

of the coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, the buyers are also offering lower prices to the suppliers, Mukul said.

Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, managing director of Rising Group, a leading garment exporter, said the second wave was already having an effect on his factory.

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## Banks' excess liquidity doubles

Stimulus packages, robust remittance lead to pile up of funds

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Banks have faced excess funds in the recent period in the wake of a slower trend of investment against the large volume of money injection by the central bank into the financial sector.

The implementation of the stimulus packages initiated by both the central bank and the government and an upward trend of remittances are mainly responsible for the excess liquidity in the banking sector, experts said.

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has already injected around Tk 55,000 crore in the financial sector as part of its effort to implement the stimulus packages.

The upward trend of remittances has also forced the central bank to purchase \$5.08 billion from banks in order to keep the exchange rate of the taka stable against the dollar, according to data from the BB.

This means the central bank has supplied around Tk 43,000 crore to the market by way of purchasing the dollar given the existing rate between the taka and the dollar.

Between July and October, remittance hit \$8.82 billion, up from 43.24 per cent year-on-year.

The central bank injected the reserve money for the implementation of the packages and purchasing the dollar.

Reserve money is also called central bank money, monetary base, base money, and high-powered money, and sometimes narrow money.

Such high-powered money inflates the overall money supply in the financial sector, given its multiplier effects.

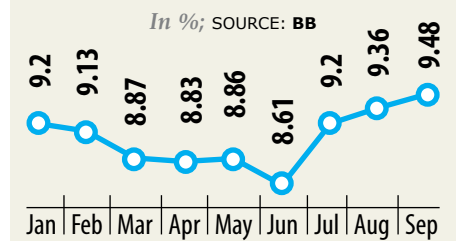
The excess liquidity in the banking sector stood at Tk 160,979 crore as of August, up from 105 per cent year-on-year.

The excess liquidity in the banking sector is a global reflection on the back of the ongoing economic meltdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

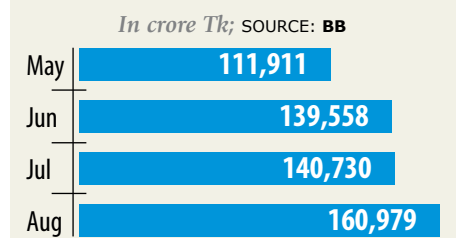
Although credit growth has slightly increased in recent months due to the implementation of the stimulus packages, the overall credit demand has been on the decline.

Businesses are persistently reluctant to expand given the economic hardship and a probable second wave of the coronavirus

### PRIVATE SECTOR CREDIT GROWTH



### EXCESS LIQUIDITY IN BANKING SECTOR



infection, he said.

This has compelled banks to bring down their lending rate on term loans to 7.5-8 per cent, lower than the interest rate cap of 9 per cent on all loan products set by the central bank.

The lower credit demand has reduced the interest rate on deposit products as well.

The majority of banks now mobilise deposit by offering 3.5-4 per cent interest rate for fixed deposit receipts (FDRs).

The high growth of remittances and lower credit demand have pushed up the excess liquidity in the banking sector, Mansur said.

In addition, the large corporates are bagging foreign loans at an interest rate of 3.5 per cent, much lower than the rate set by the local banks, he said.

So, these things have created a difficult situation for banks to expand their credit volume, said Mansur, also the chairman of Brac Bank.

From the economic perspective of the global market, it will take several years to normalise the ongoing unstable situation in the domestic money market, he said.

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## Women RMG workers paying price for long-term unemployment: ILO

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Long-term unemployment of women garment workers adversely affects their economic and social empowerment, according to a new brief from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

It also may lead to adverse intergenerational impacts on health and education for children, particularly girls.

As the ILO has observed in previous recessions, loss of women workers' incomes in lower-income households has a greater longer-term impact when compared to men because women tend to invest more of their income in their children's health services, education and nutrition.

The brief also stated that the impact of the Covid-19 on women in the garment industry has worsened due to underlying challenges, including discrimination and harassment, underrepresentation of women's voice, wage gaps as well as unevenly shared unpaid care and family obligations.

The brief -- Gendered impacts of Covid-19 on the garment sector -- aims to raise awareness of the gendered reality of the Covid-19 and outline how the pandemic impacts women and men workers in the garment sector.

In a study conducted on garment workers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, Lesotho and Vietnam, the Better Work found that waged employment helped advance women's empowerment in societies considered to be highly gender unequal.

"Women account for approximately 80 per cent of the garment sector workforce, so they are heavily affected to start with by many of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, women also experience additional impacts due to the existing challenges they face in the workplace as well as expectations regarding women's obligations in the home," said Joni Simpson, senior gender specialist for the ILO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Recent ILO research highlighted how

major buying countries' imports from garment-exporting countries in Asia had dropped by up to 70 per cent in the first half of 2020, due to the Covid-19. This has led to a sharp increase in worker layoffs and dismissals, while factories that have reopened are often operating at reduced workforce capacity.



The Asia-Pacific region employed an estimated 65 million garment sector workers in 2019, accounting for 75 per cent of all garment workers worldwide.

The brief highlights the short, medium, and long-term impacts of the crisis on women workers. It also includes a series of recommendations to help build a more just and resilient industry and greater gender equality.

As some factories retrench (and later rehire) workers, women are more likely to be directly and indirectly discriminated against, based on gender-biased selection criteria. Common criteria of such retrenchment include contractual status, years of service, performance, qualifications and absence records, and these may perpetuate discriminatory practices, resulting in dismissals that disproportionately impact women workers.

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## Uncertainty halts recovery of car sales

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's automobile industry has fallen into deep uncertainty as sales declined by 40 per cent this year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Besides, banks seem uninterested to provide auto-loans amid the current crisis.

Car sales came down to 900 units per month across the country while it was around 1,500 per month last year, according to Abdul Haque, president of the Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida).

"This means our sale volume fell by about 40 per cent compared to normal times," he said.

Customers are worried about a potential second wave of infections and do not want to spend money on costly items, Haque added.

Car sales had increased in August and September, and it suddenly slowed again in October due to the threat of a potential second wave, said Mohammed Shahidul Islam, secretary-general of the Barvida, and chairman of HNS Group.

"The market is now quite unpredictable amid the current situation," Islam said.

As per a rough estimate by the Barvida, the average number of cars sold across the country is



currently 36 units per day, while it was 61 units in 2019.

This 40 per cent decline in sales has only worsened the troubles for the automobile importers and distributors, Barvida officials said.

Mannan Chowdhury Khasru, a former president of the Barvida, and owner of Nippon

Autos Trading, said he had not witnessed such a loss throughout his four-decade-long career in this sector.

Nippon Autos sold at least 200 units in 2019 and may sell just 50 units this year, a 75 per cent slide, due to the coronavirus impact.

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## Tk 200cr likely to be left unspent in VAT Online Project

SOHEL PARVEZ

Around Tk 200 crore is likely to be left unspent under the VAT Online Project (VOP) as some of the planned components have been made redundant for amendments brought to the VAT law, said officials.

So far, Tk 256 crore could be spent out of the total estimated cost of Tk 690 crore for the much-talked-about initiative taken by the government to automate the value-added tax (VAT) system in order to increase revenue collection.

"It will not be possible to accomplish some tasks, such as (development of a) human resource software and training within the deadline of the project," said Project Director Kazi Mostafizur Rahman.



uniform 15 per cent VAT rate on all goods and services, moving away from multiple VAT rates.

But its enforcement was delayed on several occasions for lack of preparedness of the revenue administration and opposition from businesses, particularly from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The government finally began to implement the law from July 2019 with multiple VAT rates to appease businesses.

Rahman said the extension was required as activities under the VOP remained almost suspended for two years because of delays in implementation of the law and a two-month general holiday amid the outbreak of the pandemic in the country from early March.

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# Wealthy countries block Covid-19 drugs rights waiver at WTO

REUTERS, Geneva

Wealthy nations on Friday reiterated their opposition to a proposal to waive intellectual property rules for COVID-19 drugs, three trade sources said, despite pressure to make an exception to improve access to drugs for poorer countries.

Supporters of the waiver say existing intellectual property (IP) rules create barriers on access to affordable medicines and vaccines and they want restrictions to be eased, as they were during the AIDS epidemic.

But opposition from the European Union, the United States and some other wealthy nations at a meeting on Friday, means the proposal set to go before the World Trade Organization's (WTO) General Council next month is likely to fail.

"If rich countries prefer profits to life, they will kill it by tying it down in technicalities," said a delegate supporting the motion who attended the closed-door meeting.

The 164-member WTO body usually has to agree by consensus unless members agree to proceed to a vote, which is exceptional.

A second trade source said developing countries denied that IP rights were creating barriers, saying their suspension, "was not only unnecessary but would also undermine the collaborative efforts to fight the pandemic that are already under way".

Diplomatic missions for the United



REUTERS/FILE

**A delegate arrives before a meeting at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.**

States and the EU in Geneva did not immediately provide a comment.

The proposal was first raised by India and South Africa in October. Since then, China, which has five COVID-19 vaccine candidates in late-stage trials, has voiced its support, as have dozens of other WTO members, mostly from developing countries.

The World Health Organization says it supports tackling barriers to access to COVID-19 medicines, as does Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, selected by a panel to be the WTO's next director-general.

Lobbying outside the global trade body has also intensified.

This week, more than 100 civil society organisations wrote to EU lawmakers urging them to back the waiver.

French medical charity MSF's senior legal and policy officer Yuanquiong Hu said recent positive data from COVID-19 vaccine trials by U.S. pharmaceutical firms added to the urgency of the waiver proposal.

"There is a hierarchical model and the poorer countries are being asked to take the leftovers," she said.

# G20 to discuss post-pandemic world, back debt relief

REUTERS, Brussels

Leaders of the 20 biggest world economies (G20) will debate this weekend how to deal with the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that has caused a global recession and how to manage the recovery once the coronavirus is under control.

High on the agenda are purchases and global distribution of vaccines, drugs and tests for low income countries that cannot afford such expenses themselves. The European Union will urge the G20 on Saturday to invest \$4.5 billion to help.

"The main theme will be to step up global cooperation to address the pandemic," said a senior G20 official taking part in the preparations for the two-day summit, chaired by Saudi Arabia and held virtually because of the pandemic.

To prepare for the future, the EU will propose a treaty on pandemics.

"An international treaty would help us respond more quickly and

in a more coordinated manner," the chairman of EU leaders Charles Michel will tell the G20 on Sunday.

While the global economy is recovering from the depths of the crisis earlier this year, momentum is slowing in countries with resurging infection rates, the recovery is uneven and the pandemic is likely to leave deep scars, the International Monetary Fund said in a report for the G20 summit.

Especially vulnerable are poor and highly indebted countries in the developing world, which are "on the precipice of financial ruin and escalating poverty, hunger and untold suffering", United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday.

To address this, the G20 will endorse a plan to extend a debt servicing moratorium for developing countries by six months to mid-2021, with a possibility of a further extension, said a draft G20 communique seen by Reuters.

European members of the G20 are likely to push for more.

"More debt relief is needed,"

Michel told reporters on Friday.


Debt relief for Africa will be a main theme of the Italian presidency of the G20 in 2021.

European nations in the G20 will also seek fresh impetus to the stalled reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), hoping to capitalise on the upcoming change of U.S. administration. Outgoing President Donald Trump favoured bilateral trade deals over working through international bodies.

The change of U.S. leadership also raises hopes of a more concerted effort at G20 level to fight climate change.

Following the example of the European Union, already half of the G20 members, including Japan, China, South Korea and South Africa, plan to become climate- or at least carbon-neutral by 2050 or soon after.

Under Trump, the United States pulled out of the Paris Agreement on fighting climate change, but the decision is likely to be reversed by President-elect Joe Biden.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স  
বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ  
ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট  
[www.smp.police.gov.bd](http://www.smp.police.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-এসএমপি/(দরপত্র নং-১৬)/২০২০-২০২১(টেক্সট-মেরামত)/ই-৫০১৪ তারিখঃ ১৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৬/২০২০-২০২১খ্রিঃ**

সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট এর চলতি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালে এসএমপি'র পুলিশ লাইন্সের গ্যারেজ ও দক্ষিণ সুরমা থানার ৫০ কেডি ট্রান্সফরমার ও বৈদ্যুতিক লাইন্সের মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত তৎপরবর্তী সকল সংশোধিত বিধি-বিধান মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারী/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হল। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
০২	সংস্থা	সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট।
০৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ কমিশনার, এসএমপি, সিলেট।
০৪	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালে এসএমপি'র পুলিশ লাইন্সের গ্যারেজ ও দক্ষিণ সুরমা থানার ৫০ কেডি ট্রান্সফরমার ও বৈদ্যুতিক লাইন্সের মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র।
০৫	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-পুঃহেঃকোঃ/৪৪.০১.০০০০.০৪৩.৪০-২০২০/৫৯২(৪), তারিখঃ ০৩/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
০৬	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
০৭	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত, অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং- ৩-১২২০২০১১০৫৯৫৪-৩২৫৮১০৮।
০৮	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	২২/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ।
০৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৬/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।

**অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ**

১২	দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	(ক) মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ সংক্রান্ত সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তরের নামঃ ১। সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। ২। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (উত্তর) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট। ৩। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (দক্ষিণ) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট। ৪। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ট্রাফিক) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট।
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।

১৩ খ্রি টেক্সট সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়  
সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। তারিখঃ ২৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ ও সময়ঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।

**দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্যঃ**

১৪ দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে  
(১) সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, (২) বিগত ০৩ বছরের পূর্ত কাজ বাস্তবায়নের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, (৩) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, (৪) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (৫) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র, (৬) হালনাগাদ ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (১৩ ডিজিট), (৭) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র, (৮) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বাহা টেক্সট ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল (PG-2/PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে।  
বিদ্রূপে দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় ১নং হতে ৬নং পর্যন্ত মূল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

১৫	মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজের বিবরণঃ			
লট নং	প্রকল্পের আইডি	কাজের নাম	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের টাকার পরিমাণ
০১	৬১১৬	এসএমপি'র পুলিশ লাইন্সের গ্যারেজ মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ।	৪০০/-	১৫,০০০/-
০২	১৬১১৪	এসএমপি'র দক্ষিণ সুরমা থানার ৫০ কেডি ট্রান্সফরমার ও বৈদ্যুতিক লাইন্সের মেরামত ও সংস্কার কাজ।	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-
০৩	৩০ দিন			
০৪	৩০ দিন			

**দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণঃ**

১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব তোফায়েল আহমেদ।
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সদর ও প্রশাসন) ও অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইএভডি), এসএমপি, সিলেট।
১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোন নং-০৮২১-৭১৩৫৭২, ফ্যাক্স নং-০৮২১-৭২৮৪৪৪, E-mail: <a href="mailto:dchqsm@police.gov.bd">dchqsm@police.gov.bd</a>

**২০ বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ**

ক) বাড়ি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান নিজে স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনকরতঃ বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে আগামী ০৬/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল সজ্জহ করা যাবে। কেবলমাত্র স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। ঠিকাদার নিজে যদি উপস্থিত হতে না পারেন সে ক্ষেত্রে মনোনীত ব্যক্তির স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়িত করে ক্ষমতা অর্পণপত্র আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।


খ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।

ঘ) দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬, পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং তদপরবর্তী সকল সংশোধনী মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

**তোফায়েল আহমেদ**  
বিপি-৭৫০৩০২৮২৫৬  
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সদর ও প্রশাসন)  
অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইএভডি)  
সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট  
☎ ০৮২১-৭১৩৫৭২, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৮২১-৭২৮৪৪৪  
E-mail: [dchqsm@police.gov.bd](mailto:dchqsm@police.gov.bd)

জিডি-১৮৫১



**বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন**  
নগর ভবন, বরিশাল  
(প্রশাসনিক শাখা)  
**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

তারিখঃ ১৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-বিসি/প্রকৃঃনির/বি-১২/১৯-২৬৩  
বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদী সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা (টি)	২৫/০৩/২০২০ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স	প্রয়োজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন
(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)	(৬)
১	সিস্টেম ম্যানেজার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৪০ বছর	১। কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে তথ্য প্রযুক্তি/সিএসই (CSE)-তে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অর্জন করতে হবে এবং ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে, বা ২। কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে তথ্য প্রযুক্তি/যোগাযোগ/সিএসই (CSE)-তে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা ইলেকট্রনিক্স/যোগাযোগ/কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান-এ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী; ৩। কম্পিউটার প্রোগ্রামিং ইলেকট্রনিক্স ডাটা প্রেসেন্স-এ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৪। Linux OS, MYSQL and DB ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।	
২	সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	১। কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান, ফলিত পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান, গণিত বা পরিবেশবিদ্যা স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান, কম্পিউটার প্রকৌশল বা ইনফরমেশন এবং কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রী; ২। কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যার সংক্রান্ত কাজে অনূন ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। তবে শর্ত থাকে যে, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান, কম্পিউটার প্রকৌশল বা ইনফরমেশন এবং কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারীদের ক্ষেত্রে অনূন ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা; ৩। Node, Js/Python ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, কোন স্বীকৃত পেশাদার কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির সহযোগী সদস্য সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে এবং অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।	
৩	নেটওয়ার্কিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	১। কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে তত্ত্ব ও ইলেকট্রনিক্স প্রকৌশল, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান, কম্পিউটার প্রকৌশল, ইনফরমেশন এবং কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি বা টেলিকমিউনিকেশন প্রকৌশলে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রী; ২। কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কম্পিউটার হার্ডওয়্যার ও নেটওয়ার্কিং সংক্রান্ত কাজে অনূন ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা; তবে শর্ত থাকে যে, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান, কম্পিউটার প্রকৌশল বা ইনফরমেশন এবং কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারীদের ক্ষেত্রে অনূন ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা; ৩। Linux OS ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, কোন স্বীকৃত পেশাদার কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির সহযোগী সদস্য সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে এবং অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।	আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে
৪	সহকারী সিস্টেম ম্যানেজার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে তথ্য প্রযুক্তি/ইলেকট্রনিক্স/যোগাযোগ/সিএসই (CSE)-তে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান-এ স্নাতক ডিগ্রীসহ ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।	
৫	সহকারী নেটওয়ার্কিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	১। কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে তত্ত্ব ও ইলেকট্রনিক্স প্রকৌশল, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান, কম্পিউটার প্রকৌশল, ইনফরমেশন এবং কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি বা টেলিকমিউনিকেশন প্রকৌশলে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রী; ২। স্ট্যান্ডার্ড এ্যাপটিচুড টেস্ট উত্তীর্ণ। ৩। Linux OS ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, কোন স্বীকৃত পেশাদার কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির সহযোগী সদস্য সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে এবং অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।	
৬	ওয়েব ডিজাইনার	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	যে কোন বিষয়ে স্নাতক পাস হতে হবে। অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের জন্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য। ওয়েবসাইট ডিজাইনসহ বিভিন্ন আইডিয়া থেকে ওয়েবসাইটের জন্য টেমপ্লেট ডিজাইন অভিজ্ঞতা। এইসিএমএল, সিএসএস, বেসিক ফটোশপ, জাভাস্ক্রিপ্ট, জেকুয়েরি, সিএসএস ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক যেমনঃ মূটস্ট্রীপ এবং গুগল ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী এবং পোর্টফোলিও (Portfolio) প্রদর্শনশীল। নিজস্ব ডোমেইন বা হোস্টিং এ টেমপ্লেট অভ্যুত্করণের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট পদে ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ওয়েব ডিজাইন-এ ৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।	
৭	ভিডিও এডিটর	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	যে কোন বিষয়ে স্নাতক পাস হতে হবে। তবে অধিক অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য। ভিডিও এডিটিং-এ ন্যূনতম ৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ২। After Effect/Adobe Premier ব্যবহারসহ 3D Modeling-এ পারদর্শী হতে হবে।	
৮	ইমেজ এডিটর	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	১। ন্যূনতম এসএসসি/এইচএসসি পাস। ক্রিপ্টিং পাথ এ অত্যন্ত দক্ষ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য। ২। ইংরেজি ভাষা ধারণা (লিখিত + মৌখিক) থাকতে হবে। ৩। কম্পিউটার বা ল্যাপটপ ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। ৪। এ্যাডোবি ইলাস্ট্রেটর এবং ৫। ফটোশপ ইলাস্ট্রেটর ব্যবহারে পারদর্শী হতে হবে।	

**আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবশ্যিকীয় দাখিলযোগ্য কাগজপত্রঃ**

- প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত মূল চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র। এছাড়া, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি এবং সম্পত্তি তোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রবিন ছবি ও প্রয়োজ্য অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।
- স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত নাগরিক সনদপত্র।
- আবেদনকৃত পদের নামসহ, আবেদনকারীর নাম (স্পষ্টাক্ষরে), পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ (২৫/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে বয়স), নাগরিকত্ব/জাতীয়তা, নিজ জেলা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বিভাগ, সন, ইত্যাদি উল্লেখসহ), অভিজ্ঞতা (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ ডাকটিকট সংযুক্ত ফেরত খামে আবেদনকারীর পূর্ণ ঠিকানাসহ আবেদনপত্র আগামী ২২/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে মাননীয় মেয়র, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নগর ভবন, বরিশাল, বরাবর পৌছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে "মেয়র, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন" এর অনুকূলে ক্রমিক নং-১, ২ ও ৩ এর জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা, ক্রমিক নং-৪ ও ৫ এর জন্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং-৬, ৭ ও ৮ এর জন্য ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যমানের অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সংযুক্তপূর্বক উহার নম্বর আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে (কোন পোষ্টাল অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়)।
- চাকুরীর প্রার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব নিয়োগ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ, অস্পষ্ট এবং ভুল তথ্য সন্নিবেহ বা বিলম্বিত হলে আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিলযোগ্য বলে গণ্য হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং তার জন্য কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় মূল সনদপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি, বাতিল/প্রত্যাহার এর সকল ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করা হলো।

**সচিব**  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগ কমিটি  
বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন  
বরিশাল

জিডি-১৮৫৩

## Sheikh Fazle Fahim reelected Cacci vice president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Sheikh Fazle Fahim, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), has recently been re-elected vice president of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Cacci).

The approval was made during the 92nd council meeting of Cacci held through cloud conference, according to a statement.

Earlier in 2018, Fahim was elected vice president of Cacci for 2018-2020 at the 32nd CACCI Conference held in Turkey.

Fahim is also vice president of the Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Established in 1966, Cacci is a regional organisation of apex national chambers of commerce and industry and business associations of 28 countries of Asia and the Pacific.

It serves as a forum for promoting the vital role of the businesspeople in the Asia and Western Pacific region, increasing regional business interaction and enhancing regional economic growth.

Presided over by Samir Modi, the current president of Cacci, participants of the 92nd council meeting conveyed thanks to the FBCCI for successfully organising the 33rd conference in Dhaka in November last year.

The next Cacci conference has been proposed to be held in Singapore in 2021 and extension of nomination submission deadline for a Cacci awards was also approved at the meeting.

Cacci regularly organises conferences, high level meetings and seminars for enhancing trade and business relations among member countries. It also mediates in exchange of business and investment knowledge, policy advocacy and creating strong network among the business community.



Sheikh Fazle Fahim

## RBI committee recommends reshaping domestic banking industry

REUTERS, Mumbai

A working group at India's central bank has recommended a series of changes that could transform the country's banking landscape by paving the way for large industrial conglomerates to set up banks.

The proposals could also allow large non-banking finance companies and niche payment banks to convert into lenders.

In a report made public on Friday, the committee recommended that banking regulations be amended to allow large industrial houses to act as so-called bank promoters, meaning they could take a significant stake in a lender, something the central bank has strongly resisted in the past.

"Allowing corporates into banking is a path that the regulator should tread on carefully because how much ever ring-fencing they do, problems may crop up," said Ashvin Parekh, an independent financial services consultant.

Analysts said the move could be aimed at pumping more capital into the banking sector and increasing competition, but warned supervisory challenges could intensify.

Bajaj Group, Piramal Group and Reliance Industries are well-positioned to expand into banking, said an investment banker who did not wish to be named.

As well as opening up the banking sector, the committee suggested adjusting the size of the stakes major shareholders can hold in a lender.

For investors not involved with the bank at the outset, or non-

promoter shareholders, a uniform cap of 15 per cent instead of a current tiered structure was suggested by the committee, which was formed in June to review ownership guidelines and the corporate structure of Indian private sector banks.

It recommended increasing the size of the stake that promoters in private banks can hold to 26 per cent from the current 15 per cent over a 15-year time frame.

In 2018, billionaire banker Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, took the central

bank to court over an order from the regulator to reduce his stake in the lender to 15 per cent.

The panel's recommendations may also pave the way for shadow banks to convert into lenders. A Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC), or shadow bank, with assets of 500 billion rupees (\$6.75 billion) and above may be considered for conversion into a bank after 10 years of operations, the report said.

India's central bank has invited comments on the report which can be submitted until Jan. 15, 2021.



CCTV cameras are seen installed above the logo of Reserve Bank of India inside its headquarters in Mumbai.

## CCI clears Reliance-Future's \$3.4b deal despite Amazon's objections

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's antitrust body on Friday cleared conglomerate Reliance Industries' \$3.4 billion deal to buy Future Group's retail assets, thwarting Amazon.com's efforts to block the deal.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) announced its decision in a tweet on Friday, with details likely to be made public later.

Amazon had approached the CCI and the country's market regulator SEBI alleging the deal would violate some pre-existing agreements it had with Future Group.

Last month Amazon won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt the deal pending arbitration.

Amazon, Future and Reliance did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

While the deal is yet to receive approval of stock exchanges and market regulator SEBI, the three companies are now embroiled in a legal battle at the Delhi High Court over the transaction.

An Indian antitrust lawyer said the CCI only looks into competition issues around a deal and is not concerned with other disputes between parties.

"It's (CCI) not a regulator which approves the transaction as such," the lawyer said.

Amazon says its 2019 deal with a Future Group subsidiary included clauses saying it could not sell its retail assets to certain parties, including Reliance. Future has argued it entered into the deal with Reliance because its retail business was severely hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was critical to protect all its stakeholders.

## Costly staple hurting low-income people

FROM PAGE B4

He apprehends that if the harvest season failed to cool the market, things may even turn for the worse.

Rice mill owner Ahmed Ali of Lalmonirhat town sees no sign of prices reducing this year. He said farmers seemed unwilling to sell their paddy and whatever they were letting go of were fetching high rates.

Mills, which turn the paddy into rice, were having to accept the rates, for which market prices were eventually not decreasing, he said.

## Investors bet on overpriced mutual funds

FROM PAGE B4

The appetite for the mutual funds was largely limited to the closed-end funds that are traded on the bourse. The demand for the open-ended ones, which are not traded, has almost been the same.

The performance of the closed-end funds was lower than that of the open-ended fund in recent times.

Year-to-date return of the DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, was 11 per cent on November 16 whereas the return on aggregated closed-end mutual funds was 8.5 per cent.

For the open-ended funds, the return was 12.4 per cent, data from IDLC Asset Management showed.

"The closed-end funds were at the top of the demand only because of the rumour. There was no big jump in the stock market, so the funds have no potential to make a major stride during the pandemic," said another merchant banker.

He said almost all the mutual funds traded below their NAV in the last few years and none looked at them although they were lucrative at the time.

Some mutual funds have potential, and their price is lower than their asset value, but the investors were rushing towards some specific funds.

The units of CAPM IBBL Islami Mutual Fund rose around 150 per cent to Tk 16 in the last two weeks. SEML IBBL Shariah Fund doubled to Tk 14.50, DSE data showed.

The sponsors of some mutual funds

have started to sell their stake seeing higher profits.

Eastern Bank, one of the sponsors of EBL First Mutual Fund, expressed its intention to sell 8.95 lakh units out of its total holding of 28.95 lakh at a prevailing market price.

Padma Bank Securities, one of the corporate sponsors of SEML FBSL Growth Fund, disclosed that it would sell its 15 lakh units of the fund.

Before the rise of the units of the mutual fund sector, the gamblers had spread rumours about the insurance sector, pulling general investors. Both sectors have started to fall, and general investors are not selling the funds at a loss, said Khairul Bashar Abu Taher Mohammed, CEO of MTB Capital.

"It ultimately reduced their purchasing power of the investors, thus the turnover of the market," he said.

The units of 29 mutual funds are still trading below their face value, DSE data showed. As the funds' net asset value is lower than their face value, their price is also lower, according to analysts.

The mutual fund sector has been struggling because of the weak performance of the fund managers, they said.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a committee as some mutual funds were rising abnormally.

"The BSEC will look into the trades of the funds. If any irregularities are found, we will take actions," said BSEC Spokesperson Rezaul Karim.

## Tk 200cr likely to be left unspent in VAT Online Project

FROM PAGE B1

"If the project ends now, we will have half of the target accomplished," he said, adding, "We want hundred per cent output."

Financed by the World Bank, the VOP has to develop 16 modules, and all the modules are not yet ready. Only five, including two involving VAT registration and returns, are completely ready.

"We have readied another five modules but could not complete testing," he said.

Rahman said they had developed processes for running almost all of the components, except for those involving risk management and audit. It will take more time to develop these two modules, he said.

The head of the VOP, citing discussions with the WB, expected that multilateral lender would grant an extension of the completion deadline of the project.

The government approved the VAT automation project in 2014 and later hired Vietnam-based FPT Information System Corporation to develop the integrated VAT administration system software (IVAS) & network services and produce hardware.

Under the VOP, the NBR aims to connect its 12,287 VAT circles, 84 divisional offices, 12 commissionerates and other VAT related offices under a single platform.

It also aims to integrate with Bangladesh Bank, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the income tax department with a goal of increasing revenue collection, according to the NBR.

## Banks' excess liquidity doubles

FROM PAGE B1

Imports have also gone down at a faster pace since the initial spread of the coronavirus, playing a role in widening the excess liquidity in the market, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

A collapse in demand and the stagnant situation in the industrial sector has narrowed the imports of capital machinery, industrial raw materials and consumer items, he said.

Banks usually manage their lion shares of profit from lending and foreign trades, said MA Halim Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank.

"So, the actual profit in the banking sector will decline because of the business slowdown," he said.

Jamuna Bank has even given out short-term loans at an interest rate of 3-4 per cent to keep the disbursement moving, said its Managing Director Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed.

The space of the loan disbursement has narrowed to a large extent at a time when the central bank is supplying money on a regular basis to the market, he said.

"The existing excess liquidity is undoubtedly a good trend for the market. And the central bank should not mop up the fund at this moment," he said.

He, however, went on to express a fear that investment in the speculative sectors like capital market and land will widen alarmingly in the days ahead if the banking sector holds the excess fund in the long run.

## Second wave starts taking a toll on garment export

FROM PAGE B1

In the case of knitwear, the buyers had placed 20 per cent fewer work orders compared to the last season because of fresh lockdowns in some places in Europe, his main export destination.

But, in case of woven, his buyers placed the same volume of work orders as that of the last season, he said.

"Buyers are delaying in placing the projected work orders, but they are pushing us for quick catering to the orders which have already been placed," Khan said over the phone.

He said although the buyers were promising to come back with work orders with improvements to the Covid situation, the suppliers would by this time face a gap in production and associated sales, which posed a danger to the sustenance of the business.

The small and medium enterprises are the main victims from the overall pandemic as they have a lesser capacity to cope up with work order losses.

For instance, Ahmed F Rahman, managing director of Kappa Fashions which employs nearly 1,000 workers, received 30 per cent fewer work orders.

On an average, he churns out one million t-shirts and polo shirts every month from his factory, but this month he received work orders for only 700,000, as buyers were very cautious about placing work orders fearing that they would not be able to sell those for the second wave.

A company in German already owes him over \$150,000 and is citing excuses of being under the process of liquidation. Other buyers are even negotiating over prices in work orders that have already been placed, he said.

"This time I am very cautious (about which people to do business with) so that I do not face any work orders cancellation and non-payment from my buyers," said Rahman.

Data of the July-September 2020-21 period shows that exports to non-

traditional markets suffered the most while that to the European Union and the US maintained stable growth, which actually helped Bangladesh make a turnaround in its exports.

"Now since Europe has entered into a fresh wave of COVID infection, emergencies and lockdowns are being declared in many countries including France, Germany, Belgium and Greece, and more are feared to follow the trail..." said BGMEA President Rubana Huq.

"...it would be difficult for us to cope up if the EU's demand for clothing and its sourcing is troubled further. This is worrying for us since Europe is our major market," she told The Daily Star a few days ago.

Huq in an audio message yesterday said the retailers and brands were making delays in placing work orders.

The factories will have to suffer if the retailers and brands delay the placing of work orders because the factories will have to keep the capacity idle if there is no work order from the buyers.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) yesterday said world merchandise trade appears to have rebounded strongly after plummeting in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, but whether growth can be sustained going forward was unclear.

A sharp rise in the barometer of trade index was driven by a surge in export orders, but mixed readings in other components and the resurgence of Covid-19 could weigh on trade in the coming months.

Trade-related uncertainty remains high. The second wave of Covid-19 infection is already underway in Europe and North America, leading to renewed lockdowns that could trigger another round of business closures and financial distress, said the WTO.

On a more positive note, progress has been reported in the development of a vaccine, but when and how it might be deployed is not yet known, according to the WTO.

## Women RMG workers paying price for long-term unemployment: ILO

FROM PAGE B1

In the case of dismissals due to the Covid-19, this may lead to disproportionate dismissals of specific groups of women regardless of their actual skill level or years of service at a given factory, the ILO said.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, women leaders were underrepresented in trade unions, employers' organisations, factory management and other labour institutions. The same trend can be seen in Covid-19 response committees and decision-making spaces.

Existing barriers to women adopting more prominent leadership roles include gender norms and stereotypes, time constraints due to family responsibilities, and a lack of leadership and career path opportunities. These factors are further intensified by the social impacts of the coronavirus, the ILO said.

Recommendations include a greater focus on retrenchment and closure practices as well as addressing women's disproportionate unpaid care obligations so they can return to work as factories resume operations.

"Efforts to address the Covid-19 pandemic should account for the unique ways that women and men may encounter the effects of the coronavirus at work, at home and in their communities."

The importance of strengthening efforts to combat violence and harassment in the workplace is highlighted, in view of emerging data showing that the Covid-19 has increased the risks of gender-based violence.

In addition, the need to ensure women's voice, representation and leadership in dialogue and decision-making is also seen as key to ensuring a full and fair recovery from the pandemic.

"It is crucial that governments, businesses and other stakeholders understand the multi-dimensional impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on both women and men workers, and design policies that enable a smart, sustainable and gender-responsive recovery," said Jessica Wan, a Better Work Gender Specialist.

"Otherwise, the Covid-19 crisis threatens to exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and will hamper the social and economic sustainability of the garment sector."

## Uncertainty halts recovery of car sales

FROM PAGE B1

Khasru said that he has already had to close two of his three showrooms in Dhaka.

Farzana Khan, deputy director for sales at Hyundai Motors Bangladesh, said her company's sales had slightly improved following the nationwide general holiday aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19.

However, the business, in general, has dropped by around 50 per cent. The company sold around 70 units per month in 2019, and the number has come down to 35 to 40 units per day this year.

"People are avoiding big purchases due to their declining incomes. They are uninterested in spending money on non-essential items at the moment," Khan said.

Besides, banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) are comparatively more conservative than before when it comes to approving auto loans.

"Banks and NBFIs are not interested in

approving auto loans for anyone other than salaried individuals," Khan said.

A senior official of Pubali Bank also acknowledged that banks are slightly cautious in case of approving auto-loans. Before approving a loan, lenders need to think about the increased risk.

However, IPDC Finance has been flexible about approving auto loans as the Bangladesh Bank has relaxed rules on auto-loan disbursements from NBFIs, said Md Nurul Islam, head of the auto and personal loan department at the NBFi.

In some cases, IPDC Finance provides 100 per cent loan against the price of a passenger car based on the vehicle's condition and brand.

However, the NBFi is cautious in disbursing auto-loans to the applicants involved in risky businesses, Islam said. IPDC disbursed around Tk 20 crore in auto-loans in October.

According to Haque, not one member of the Barvida has received funding from the government's stimulus packages as of yet.

In June, reconditioned vehicle traders demanded Tk 500 crore from the package for industries and service sectors to cope with the economic fallout caused by the Covid-19.

The Barvida has more than 870 members that pay their income taxes, and these members have already invested around Tk 20,000 crore in the sector over the past 30 years, Haque said.

Khasru went on to say that importers have to pay Tk 800 per day to the Chattogram Port Authority as a rent for each unit of the car stored.

Importers were not exempt of this payment, which excludes customs duty, even during the two-month nationwide shutdown, he added.

There are around 6,000 vehicles stranded at the Mongla and Chattogram ports as importers have been unable to have them released amid the cash crunch brought on by the lower sales and a lack of funding from the stimulus packages.

The sales of both used and branded cars have reduced significantly by the Covid-19 fallout, Khasru said.

# Costly staple hurting low-income people



S DILIP ROY

**Paddy prices have doubled this year, bringing smiles to those toiling to sprout the crop. However, ongoing harvests have failed to rein in rice prices in Lalmonirhat's markets for inclement weather and pandemic concerns. The staple is costing the common man a pretty penny. The photo was taken at Sarpukur village of Aditmari upazila last Wednesday.**

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The average day-labourers in Lalmonirhat are struggling to make ends meet as rice prices in the district's local markets are refusing to come down although Aman harvests are ongoing in full swing.

Prices have been hovering in the range of Tk 45 to Tk 55 per kilogramme for the past four months.

Around this time last year, Tk 32 to Tk 35 would have sufficed, pointed out Mansur Ali, a day labourer in his 50s of the sadar upazila's Kulaghat village.

Prices have continued to soar as well-stocked farmers are apparently taking it slow in releasing their harvests amidst apprehensions of reduced yield for inclement weather, recurrent floods and pandemic-induced fears of food shortages.

The difficulties are not of Lalmonirhat's alone. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) early this month raised rice price warnings for Bangladesh to moderate level.

It said in Dhaka market, the prices of medium quality rice continued to increase in October, while those of coarse quality rice showed some signs of softening but, in general, prices were well above their year-earlier levels.

"The high level of prices reflects the seasonal upward pressure exacerbated by concerns over the impact of unfavourable weather on the 2020 Aman harvest, starting from November," it said.

The 2020 Aman crop was affected by several weather setbacks, including excessive precipitation in March and April, followed by Tropical Cyclone Amphan in May and recurrent widespread and severe floods in July and August.

Strong demand amid the Covid-19 pandemic added to the upward pressure.

Overall, prices of rice in October 2020 in Dhaka market were 35 per cent higher than that a year earlier, the FAO said.

Aman is the second biggest crop in Bangladesh in terms of yield after Boro, and accounts for about 35 per cent of the annual output.

The Department of Agricultural Extension has targeted to produce 1.56 crore tonnes of rice from the ongoing harvest season running from November to December.

For Lalmonirhat, the target for Aman rice is 3 lakh metric tonnes.

The government has already initiated the process for making purchases from the international market in its effort to replenish public stocks and bolster its ability to intervene in the market to curb a price spike.

But in the meantime, people like rickshaw puller Jobed Ali of Lalmonirhat town's Shaheed Shahjahan Colony are having to fork out a substantial portion of their income for the staple food.

The slowdown of the economy for Covid-19 lockdowns has already led to many falling in debt, with incomes flailing just to keep up with expenditures behind necessities of life.

"It costs Tk 50 to buy a kilogramme of good quality rice. Most of what I am earning now is spent buying rice," said Ali who is now well past his prime.

Hopes were flying high on Aman harvests replenishing farmers' stocks and bringing prices within reach. Now frustration reigns. Some are even in serious doubt whether prices would ever come down at all.

There has been less paddy this year due to heavy rains and floods, said farmer Sarbesh Ali of Sarpukur village in Aditmari upazila.

But he is happy for his paddy, each maund or roughly each 37 plus kgs of which is bringing him Tk 950 to Tk 1,000, double the rate he got last year.

"I got 109 maunds of paddy from 10 bighas of land. I have sold only 15 maunds...at Tk 980. I have stored the paddy at home...if the price of paddy goes up further..." said a hopeful Sarbesh.

His fellow Naresh Chandra Barman of Doljor village said last year paddy prices had gone up just as they had made their sales. This time around they want to have a go at Lady Luck and wait it out a bit.

"There is no shortage of rice in farmers' homes now," he said, pointing out that he too was able to sprout no less than 148 maunds of paddy from 15 bighas of land.

That farmers are unhurried in selling off their harvests was confirmed by Nazrul Islam, a paddy trader of the upazila's Durakuti Haat.

Last year some 1,600 to 2,000 maunds of paddy were arriving every day for sale at the market around this time but now it had reduced to a trickle, so much so that merely 150 to 200 maunds can be found available, he said.

"We are buying paddy from farmers at higher prices and selling it to wholesalers at a high rate," he said, adding that paddy price are unlikely to come down and thereby that of rice too.

Rice seller Belal Hossain of Goshala Bazar in Lalmonirhat town said millers have been charging high rates and consumers were ultimately having to bear the burden.

READ MORE ON B3

# Skills development crucial to cope with Covid-19

Experts say at DCCI's virtual meeting

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's youth needs to be turned into skilled workers to cope with the changes brought on by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, according to experts.

Nearly 20 per cent of the country's population is aged between 16 and 24.

The Covid-19 has changed both the global economic and employment scenarios as a potential employee now needs to be adaptable with advancements in technology and have efficient digital literacy, innovative and modern skills, they said.

With about 62.7 per cent of the population being of working age, Bangladesh has the demographic dividend to leverage accelerated economic growth, Shams Mahmud, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), said in a statement.

As per World Bank estimates, around 40 per cent of the country's university graduates are unemployed due to a mismatch in skills.

Despite the favourable demographic dividend, Bangladesh has a skilled workforce shortage both locally and internationally while 12.3 per cent of the youth are unemployed, Mahmud said.

The DCCI chief made these comments during a virtual meeting on 'new jobs and skills for future business', organised by the DCCI.

Most employers believe that critical thinking and problem-solving skills will soon gain prominence while 50 per cent of all employees could need reskilling by 2025, he said.



M Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange, presented the keynote paper.

Improving the quality of jobs available should be given more importance, considering Bangladesh's aim to reach upper-middle-income status in the near future, he said.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, global economic growth fell by about 4.4 per cent this year while 50 per cent of all small and medium enterprises are struggling to survive.

Lower-middle-income countries were hit hard by the Covid-19, resulting in the loss of roughly 240 million jobs worldwide in the second quarter of 2020, Reaz said.

Md Ashadul Islam, senior secretary of the Financial Institutions Division at the Ministry of Finance, said the government tried to sustain normal economic activities amid the coronavirus outbreak.

READ MORE ON B3

# Investors bet on overpriced mutual funds

AHSAN HABIB

Driven by rumours, investors rushed to the mutual funds that were trading well above their asset value in the last few weeks, risking money at a time when the overall market is not bullish owing to the pandemic.

Mutual funds pool money from investors and channel it into securities such as stocks and bonds. Once profits are logged, the fund manager disburses it among the unit-holders.

Among the 37 listed mutual funds, the unit price of 20 was more than their net asset value, said IDLC Asset Management Company in an analysis on the sector.

Generally, investors buy the units of mutual funds looking at the discount on the net asset value (NAV). The NAV is a company's total assets minus its total liabilities.

"It is not clear to me why people invested in the units whose prices are higher than their asset value. No rational people would buy such over-priced units," said an analyst of an asset management company, which manages several mutual funds.

The unit price of most of the funds doubled in the last few weeks. The unit price of CAPM IBBL Mutual Fund was 252 per cent of its NAV.

FUNDS NAME	PRICE TO NAV RATIO
CAPM IBBL Islamic Mutual Fund	252%
Prime Finance First Mutual Fund	249%
SEMIL IBBL Shariah Fund	142%
ICB AMCL Second Mutual Fund	135%
VAML Rupali Bank Balanced Fund	135%

Prime Finance First Mutual Fund's unit price rose to 249 per cent of its net asset value, the IDLC analysis showed.

"There was nothing for the funds to make such a jump suddenly. There is a rumour that gamblers are taking a stake in the sector as it would grow," said a merchant banker.

Stock investors poured money in the sector following the rumour, said Hannan Sarkar, a stock investor.

Now, the investors either will have to sell the units at a loss or wait for the gambling to start again, he said.

Although a difficult one, there is an alternative: if the fund manager can raise their asset from the current level, general investors would have a hope to get back their money, Sarkar said.

READ MORE ON B3

# WTO sees trade rebound, but likely year-end slowdown

REUTERS, Brussels

The World Trade Organization said on Friday global trade in goods had rebounded in the third quarter from COVID-19 lockdowns, but predicted a slowdown at the end of 2020.

The WTO said its goods trade barometer had risen to 100.7 points from a record low of 84.5 points in August, driven by a surge in export orders. A reading greater than 100 indicates above-trend growth.

"The latest reading indicates a strong rebound in trade in the third quarter as lockdowns were eased, but growth is likely to slow in the fourth quarter as pent-up demand is exhausted and inventory restocking is completed," the WTO said.

The WTO said the outlook for trade was uncertain, with a second wave of COVID-19 infections leading to renewed lockdowns

in Europe and North America that could trigger another round of business closures.

The WTO goods trade barometer is a composite of data, with indices on export orders and agricultural raw-material trade above medium-term trends, container shipping and automotive goods at trend and air freight and electronic components trade below. The barometer is designed to anticipate turning points and gauge momentum in global trade growth within a few months, although the WTO said uncertainty meant it may be less reliable.

It cited higher-frequency data pointing to a stalled recovery of international flights and container shipping in October, but improved economic sentiment reflected by prices of copper futures and analysis of news reports. The latter showed an improvement in tone following announcements on effective vaccines in early November.



REUTERS/FILE

A logo of the World Trade Organization is pictured on its headquarters in Geneva.

## SUPREME IN THE GLORIOUS JOURNEY

Green Delta Insurance has earned 'Superbrands' recognition as Bangladesh's first insurance brand in the non-life insurance category.