

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▼ 0.71%	▼ 0.72%	\$1,870.49	\$44.96	▲ 0.65%	▼ 0.42%	▲ 1.3%	▲ 0.44%	BUY TK 83.95	98.47	110.59	12.62
4,845.09	8,350.40	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	43,882.25	25,527.37	2,813.01	3,377.73	SELL TK 84.95	102.27	114.39	13.27



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 8, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Cargo handling at Ctg port rises to seven-month high as import picks up

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Bangladesh's global trade pulled itself out of the debris left in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic aided domestic consumption, taking the volume of cargoes handled by the Chattogram port in October to a seven-month high.

Official data showed that the improvement came in the last four months to October, compensating for a drastic fall when the pandemic was at its peak in Bangladesh.

The import and export trade had started experiencing a decline since January after the coronavirus disease was reported in China, slowing cargo handling by the port.

It slightly improved in March after Chinese factories and ports opened in late February.

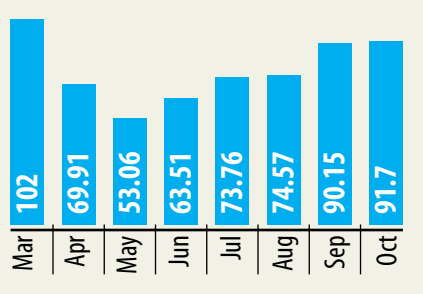
But when the virus spread through Europe and the US, which are major destinations of Bangladesh's garment exports, the merchandise shipment crashed down in March.

The biggest blows to trade Bangladesh carries out with countries around the globe came in April and May.

But with the reopening of the economy, businesses and industrial units from June, the two-way trade began growing again, as

### CARGOES HANDLED BY CHATTOGRAM PORT

In lakh tonnes; SOURCE: CPA



evidenced by the cargo handling at the port in the first four months of the fiscal year.

The country's largest seaport handled 91.70 lakh tonnes of bulk and containerised inbound and outbound cargo in October, up from 90.15 lakh tonnes in September.

October's handling volume was the highest since April, data from Chattogram Port Authority showed. In March, a total of 1.02 crore tonnes of import and export cargoes were handled by the port.

Port users and businesses credit the rising demand for raw materials and commodities to increased business activities after the reopening of the local economy and, to some extent, the global economy, for the increase in the cargo handling.

The transport of import cargoes through the port climbed during the period.

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REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Despite facing numerous work order cancellations and subsequent suspension of most exports due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Denim Expert Ltd did not lay off any of its workers.

The 2,000 people employed by the Chattogram-based company did not face any salary reductions either, said Denim Expert Ltd Managing Director Mostafiz Uddin.

Even during the two-month "general holiday" that began on March 26, when all factories were closed as a part of the government's measures to curb the spread of the Covid-19, the entrepreneur managed to regularly pay his worker's salaries, festival bonuses and other allowances.

And considering that the garment sector is going through tough times, he urged international buyers to pay their local suppliers in a timely manner in order to help the industry survive the pandemic.

Denim Expert, a niche denim and jeans maker, was one of the major victims of work order cancellations but still, Mostafiz did not lose heart even after facing one of the biggest upsets in his career.

For extraordinary leadership in sustainability and inclusivity in the apparel supply chain, the World Economic Forum (WEF) recently made an honourable mention of Denim Expert in its "New Champion" award category.

## Denim Expert: a champion in sustainability

The company's Managing Director Mostafiz Uddin believes more partnerships mean more sustainability



Denim Expert Managing Director Mostafiz Uddin has managed to continue paying salaries, festival bonuses and other allowances to his employees despite facing numerous work order cancellations prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. He urges all international buyers to pay local suppliers on time.

A global advocate and renowned figure in apparel sustainability, Mostafiz aims to export \$100 million-worth denim products in the next five years.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Mostafiz said it was still possible to achieve his \$100 million export target with his

current annual export receipts of \$20 million as he has shifted away from traditional business models after experiencing the Covid-19 fallout.

The visionary entrepreneur shared his experiences, views on traditional international business models and future plans for his

business during the discussion.

Primarily, more partnerships would increase the tendency of shared responsibility, transparency and accountability towards the relationship between buyers and manufacturers for sustainability in business, Mostafiz said.

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## Two new deputy governors appointed



Kazi Sayedur Rahman AKM Sajedur Rahman

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday appointed two new deputy governors to the central bank.

Bangladesh Bank's Executive Director Kazi Sayedur Rahman and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank's Managing Director AKM Sajedur Rahman Khan have been recruited for the posts, according to two separate circulars issued by the finance ministry.

The duo will serve the banking regulator in the posts until they turn 62.

Sayedur will hit the 62 years' mark on Jan 1, 2025, and Sajedur on Feb 1, 2024. Sayedur started his career with the central bank in 1988 as an assistant director.

He was promoted as general manager for the foreign exchange reserve and treasury management department of the central bank in 2011 and executive director in 2016.

He completed BCom (honours) in accounting and MCom from Dhaka University.

Sajedur was promoted as the managing director of Rakub last year.

Prior to this appointment, he was the deputy managing director of Sonali Bank. He completed his graduation and post-graduation in economics from Jahangirnagar University.

With the addition of Sayedur and Sajedur, the banking watchdog now has four deputy governors.

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## Bangladesh loses \$703m a year to tax abuse by multinationals, individuals

Says the State of Tax Justice 2020 report

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is losing more than \$703 million every year because of tax abuses committed by multinational corporations and private individuals, according to a new report.

The State of Tax Justice 2020 report showed that the global tax abuse by multinational corporations costs the country \$674 million annually. Another \$29 million is lost due to tax avoidance by the individuals.

The loss is equivalent to 3.5 per cent of total tax revenue of Bangladesh, 61.89 per cent of the health budget and 13.95 per cent of the education spending.

In South Asia, Bangladesh is behind India, which loses \$10.32 billion and Pakistan, which loses \$2.53 billion, to tax evasions every year.

Sri Lanka loses \$104 million, Nepal \$9.26 million, the Maldives \$686,744, and Bhutan \$88,818.

The inaugural edition of the State of Tax Justice – an annual report by the Tax Justice Network on the state

### THE STATE OF TAX JUSTICE 2020 REPORTS

- Bangladesh loses \$674m to global tax abuse committed by multinationals
- \$29m lost to evasion by private individuals
- The total loss is equivalent to 3.5pc of tax revenue, \$4 per capita loss
- Greater than the global average tax revenue loss of 2.6pc, regional average of 1.5pc
- Equivalent to 61.89pc of health budget, 13.95pc of education spending

While higher-income countries lose more tax to global tax abuse, the report shows that tax losses bear much greater consequences in lower-income countries.

Higher-income countries altogether lose over \$382 billion every year, whereas lower-income countries lose \$45 billion. However, lower-income countries' tax losses are equivalent to nearly 52 per cent of their combined public health budgets. In contrast, higher-income countries' tax losses are equivalent to 8 per cent of their combined public health budgets.

Assessing which countries are most responsible for global tax abuse, the State of Tax Justice 2020 provides the strongest evidence to date that the greatest enablers of global tax abuse are the rich countries at the heart of the global economy and their dependencies – not the countries that appear on the EU's highly politicised tax haven blacklist or the small palm-fringed islands of popular belief.

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## Zeal for rosy rankings could end up gaming the system

Say speakers at PPRC meeting

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Development and wellbeing cannot be realised by indicators alone because tokenism and fraudulent statistics could be at play, said a private sector specialist and economist on Saturday.

Their comments came at an "Ajker Agenda Episode-02" meeting organised virtually by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) on "The Politics of Development Indicators".

The indicators of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index were formulated to reduce harassment faced by businesses, said Syed Akhtar Mahmood, a former lead private sector specialist at the World Bank Group.

But the scope remains for the figures to be misused just for the attainment of upgraded rankings with no real improvements being brought about in business environments, he said. When a country sees that its ranking in one indicator is almost the same as that of others, it might try to focus on making improvements in the indicator to move up the index, he said.

But the reality for businesses might not develop through the enhancement of that indicator alone, said Mahmood, pointing

out that such attempts were termed "gaming the system".

So, the focus should not be to attain a higher score in an indicator but to improve the real scenario for entrepreneurs, he said, adding that indicators should be taken into consideration for clues as to where the focus should be.

Bangladesh's urban guardians and political powers put emphasis on visible developments rather than on sustainable quality development, said Prof Adnan Morshed, executive director of the Center for Inclusive Architecture and Urbanism at Brac University.

There is a lack of consensus among all parties on development issues, with each party taking on a different viewpoint, he said.

In order to attain real development and wellbeing, convergence is required at a single point alongside mutual understanding and conversations irrespective of the differences among political parties, he added.

The needs of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the harassment they face are different compared to those of their bigger counterparts, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the PPRC.

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## NBR opposes relaxing VAT rules for weak firms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The revenue authority has opposed a proposal from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) on relaxing rules for payment of value-added tax for the financially weak companies.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) said VAT is an indirect tax and companies collect them from consumers against the sales of goods and services to deposit to the state coffers.

"As such, it is not logical to ease the VAT rate for financially-challenged companies," said the NBR's VAT wing in its opinion.

The view came after the Bida sought to incorporate such a proposal to ease the process of doing business in the country.

The investment promotion agency also asked the revenue administration to relax the provision of VAT returns. It proposed a quarterly VAT return submission period instead of monthly.



The VAT department said companies have to submit VAT returns monthly after depositing the VAT to the state coffers. It will not be wise to introduce a return submission for every three months for the sake of revenue collection, said the revenue collector.

"We, however, agree with the proposal of expediting the refund process of VAT paid in excess by firms. And we are working on that," said an official of the NBR.

The Bida has also called for issuing business identification numbers for VAT to the companies in Dhaka and Chattogram in two days. The NBR said it gives the VAT registration in three working days.

Md Billal Hossain, the executive member for investment environment services of the Bida, said the Bida proposed for bringing changes to some provisions of the VAT rules.

"We hope that the NBR will share its view in the next meeting," he added.

AHSAN HABIB

Eastern Bank's profits almost doubled year-on-year in the July-September quarter despite lower interest income amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Analysis of the quarter shows that the listed lender's profits had soared 92 per cent to Tk 138.05 crore in the quarter. Similar net profit comparison of the past nine months shows that it has risen 28 per cent, well over the industry's 3.49 per cent.

The bank's profits rose riding on its higher income from stock market investments, investment in government securities, and lower provisioning.

"The interest income was normal," said EBL Managing Director and CEO Ali Reza Iftekhar. "This year, our interest income was low due to the 9 per cent lending rate."

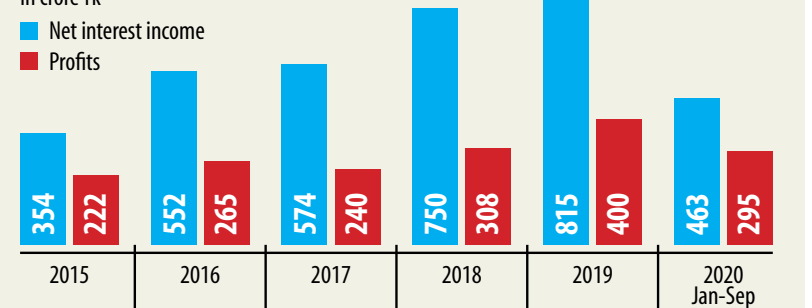
The lender's net interest income dropped 24 per cent to Tk 151 crore in the quarter while that of the industry by 25 per cent.

In the past nine months, Eastern Bank's net interest income declined

## EBL's profits double

### EBL'S NET INTEREST INCOME AND PROFITS

In crore Tk



27 per cent year-on-year to Tk 463 crore.

Income from investments doubled to Tk 128.86 crore in the third quarter of the year.

Its provisioning stood at Tk 3.72 crore in the negative. It was Tk 58.14 crore in the same period the previous year, shows the financial report.

"We have kept enough provisioning for the January-September period as a

whole," said Iftekhar.

He said the bank, which started its journey in 1992, had never failed to meet the provisioning requirement.

"In the next quarter, we will keep provision as per the central bank's direction along with our judgement for the betterment of the bank," he said.

READ MORE ON B2





**Tahmina Mostafa, director of the Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), and Sarwat Siraj, executive chairperson of Bangladesh Cancer Aid Trust, exchange documents after signing a deal at the group's head office in Dhaka on Saturday. Fresh Drinking Water will support the community-based, voluntary organisation for a year. The trust runs education, advocacy and service programmes on the diseases.**

## Bangladesh loses \$703m a year to tax abuse by multinationals, individuals

**FROM PAGE B1**  
While higher-income countries lose more tax to global tax abuse, the report shows that tax losses bear much greater consequences in lower-income countries.  
Higher-income countries altogether lose over \$382 billion every year, whereas lower-income countries lose \$45 billion. However, lower-income countries' tax losses are equivalent to nearly 52 per cent of their combined public health budgets. In contrast, higher-income countries' tax losses are equivalent to 8 per cent of their combined public health budgets.  
Assessing which countries are most responsible for global tax abuse, the State of Tax Justice 2020 provides the strongest evidence to date that the greatest enablers of global tax abuse are the rich countries at the heart of the global economy and their dependencies – not the countries that appear on the EU's highly politicised tax haven blacklist or the small palm-fringed islands of popular belief. Higher-income countries are responsible for 98 per cent of countries' tax losses, costing nations around the world over \$419 billion in lost tax every year. Lower-income countries are responsible for just 2 per cent, costing countries over \$8 billion in lost tax every year.  
The five jurisdictions most responsible for countries' tax losses are British Territory Cayman (responsible for 16.5 per cent of global tax losses, equal to over \$70 billion), the UK (10 per cent; over \$42 billion), the Netherlands (8.5 per cent; over \$36 billion), Luxembourg (6.5 per cent; over \$27 billion) and the US (5.53 per cent; over \$23 billion).  
In a press release, Alex Cobham, chief executive of the Tax Justice Network, said: "A global tax system that loses over \$427 billion a year is not a broken system, it's a system

programmed to fail."  
"Under pressure from corporate giants and tax haven powers like the Netherlands and the UK's network, our governments have programmed the global tax system to prioritise the desires of the wealthiest corporations and individuals over the needs of everybody else. The pandemic has exposed the grave cost of turning tax policy into a tool for indulging tax abusers instead of for protecting people's wellbeing."  
"Now more than ever, we must reprogramme our global tax system to prioritise people's health and livelihoods over the desires of those bent on not paying tax."  
The report called on governments to take three actions to tackle global tax abuse.  
One of the actions is to introduce an excess profit tax on multinational corporations making excess profits during the pandemic, such as global digital companies, to cut through profit shifting abuses.  
"Multinational corporations' excess profit would be identified at the global level, not the national level, to prevent corporations from underreporting their profits by shifting them into tax havens, and taxed using a unitary tax method."  
It suggested the introduction of a wealth tax to fund the Covid-19 response and address the long-term inequalities the pandemic has exacerbated, with punitive rates for opaquely owned offshore assets and a commitment between governments to eliminate this opacity.  
It called for establishing a UN tax convention to ensure a global and genuinely representative forum to set consistent, multilateral standards for corporate taxation, for the necessary tax cooperation between governments, and to deliver comprehensive, multilateral tax transparency.

## EBL's profits double

**FROM PAGE B1**  
The bank's stocks closed 1.12 per cent lower at Tk 35.30 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.  
This year the whole banking sector witnessed profits despite the lower lending rate regime, largely because of Bangladesh Bank's policy support, said stock investor Arif Hossain, who has been involved in the stock business since 1994.  
The government fixed 9 per cent lending rate and 6 per cent deposit rate for the sake of industrialisation. The rates came into effect on April 1.  
The central bank allowed borrowers to defer the repayment of instalments for the current year and exempted the loans from being classified. This policy intervention helped reduce provisioning needs for banks.  
Many banks will struggle next year but not good banks, Hossain said, adding that EBL had a good track record of providing handsome dividends and he was hopeful of it maintaining its performance.  
The bullish stock market helped many banks and non-bank financial institutions attain higher profits this year.  
The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, rose 28 per cent, or 1,130 points in the July-September period. It had dropped 8.1 per cent, or 436 points, in the same period last year.

## Denim Expert: a champion in sustainability

**FROM PAGE B1**  
"Suppliers cannot do this alone, and so, help from the buyers is needed to build a good business model with trust and responsibility," he added.  
For instance, when the pandemic was at its peak, buyers could have communicated with fabric suppliers suggesting to inform them of any delays in payment so that they could save themselves from losses.  
However, international buyers did not communicate with their local suppliers and instead, cancelled work orders amounting to \$3.18 billion citing the Covid-19 fallout.  
"Bangladeshi suppliers fell in deep trouble as a result of such bad business behaviour by international retailers and brands," Mostafiz said.  
In the traditional business model, sellers have to assume this risk alone while buyers are not responsible.  
"Therefore, such a one-sided business model needs to be remodelled to ensure more sustainability for the industry," he added.  
Although the economy has somewhat recovered since its reopening in June, Denim Expert is still trying to recover from the losses incurred due to order cancellations.

However, Swedish retail giant H&M has shown a fine example of what a good business partnership should be as it came forward to start sourcing products from Denim Expert during these tough times, said Mostafiz, who began his journey as a denim supplier to European customers in 2009.  
Denim Expert differs from its peers in many ways.  
For example, a few transgender and disabled people alongside human-trafficking victims are employed in the company's factory, which initially had just 700 workers in 2009.  
Some of Mostafiz's buyers cancelled their orders altogether while others are making payments against previous work orders. According to the managing director, there are two important lessons the pandemic has taught him.  
First, he was not ready to face so many order cancellations from known buyers while the second is that he was not prepared for natural disasters like the Covid-19.  
The future of Bangladesh's denim and garment business is very bright though, as buyers are returning with a lot of work orders since stores have reopened in the western world despite the threat of a potential second wave of infections.

However, competition in the denim goods sector is growing as Pakistan is also strong in this particular field of garments and has its own cotton, something Bangladesh lags behind in.  
Regarding the price of garment items, Mostafiz said Bangladeshi apparel suppliers do not get premium prices from buyers due to the absence of good partnerships.  
The relationship is restricted to that of just buyers and sellers, and as a result, the buyers do not worry about any disadvantage faced by sellers, he added. Bangladesh is also a global champion in establishing green garment factories. Still, local suppliers do not get premium prices from buyers. This is not just because of weak negotiation skills, but also for the lack of partnerships.  
Regarding the WEF award, the managing director said the company was awarded in the "Excellence in Sustainability" category.  
"We are proud of our green factories in Bangladesh. We have a lot of achievements in sustainability globally," he said, adding that such awards would help build a positive image of Bangladesh, particularly the country's garment sector.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS)  
Establishment of Integrated Educational Information Management System (IEIMS)  
BANBEIS, Ministry of Education  
Zahir Raihan Road, (Palashi-Nilkhet), Dhaka 1205  
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Ref. no. 37.20.0000.005.041.124.20 -2221 Date: 19.11.2020

### e-Tender Notice

Sl. No	e Tender ID	Package No.	Description	Tender last Selling Date & time	Tender closing Date & time
1	515640	Lot-1 GD-6	Printing, Packaging and delivery of Student Profile for IEIMS Project	15/12/2020 12:00 P.M.	15/12/2020 15:00 P.M.

This is online Tender ID-515640 where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National System e-GP Portal and no official hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender Please register on National e-GP system (<https://www.procure.gov.bd>)

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)) Control number (01552492778)

19.11.2020  
Professor Md. Shamsul Alam  
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GD- 1863

আপনার সমস্যা-পরামর্শ চক্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ১৬১০৪ নম্বরে জানান।

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Chattogram City Corporation  
Anderkilla, Chattogram  
www.ccc.org.bd

ময়লা আবর্জনা নালা, নর্দমায় ফেলবেন না।

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি।

Memo No. 46.11.1600.38.304.20.2019 Date: 18/11/2020

### e-Tender Notice/Mech

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through registered bank branches up to particular date specified on tender notice.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date of selling documents	Last date of submission documents	Opening date & time
1	MEVENS00711	Supply of 100 Set Tyre Tube- Size-1.000-20-16.	512468	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
2	MEVEMS00713	Supply of 200 Nos. Tyre Tube- Size-5.10 for Trolley.	512490	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
3	CCC/S.E Mech/20/19	Supply of 50 Nos. Tyre Tube Size 9.00-20.	512492	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
4	CCC/S.E Mech/20/17	Supply of Tyre Tube for Compactor & Echar Dump Truck Size-7.00-16.	509798	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
5	MEVEMS00707	Supply of 50 Nos. Tyre Tube- Size-11.00-20-14.	512494	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
6	CCC/S.E Mech/20/18	Supply of 50 Nos. Tyre Tube- Size-8.25-20.	512493	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
7	CCC/S.E Mech/20/21	Supply of Spear Parts for 9 Nos. Street Stair Loader Brand-AMKODOR Model-211E.	512632	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
8	MEVEMS00710	Supply of 200 Set Tyre Tube- Size-7.50-16-14.	512633	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
9	CCC/S.E Mech/20/20	Supply of 84 Nos. Tyre Tube for Departmental Vehicle.	512465	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
10	CCC/S.E Mech/20/22	Supply of Spear Parts for 33 Nos. Conservancy Vehicle.	512798	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
11	CCC/S.E Mech/20/24	Supply of Water Pump, Air Compressor, Battery Charger & Filot Gan.	512772	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
12	MEPRSP00708	Supply of Spear Parts for Double Cabin Pickup.	513561	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
13	METK004010R	Engine Overhauling with Necessary Parts Renew Repair of Mitsubishi Truck No. Da-3	512818	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
14	CCC/S.E Mech/20/23	Supply of Spear Parts for Ambulance Dead Body Career & Microbus Vehicle.	512783	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
15	METK004010R	Engine Overhauling with Necessary Parts Renew/Repair of Mitsubishi Truck No. 4010.	513568	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
16	MERPTK00102	Engine Overhauling with Necessary Parts Renew/Repair of ISUZU NKR Truck No. 11-0079.	512630	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
17	MEVERP00701	Engine Overhauling Body & Necessary Parts Renew/Repair of Bus No. 11-2117	512904	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020
18	MEPRSP00710	Supply of Spear Parts for Tom Tom Vehicle.	514240	08/12/2020	09/12/2020	09/12/2020

Sudip Basak  
Superintending Engineer (Mech)  
Chattogram City Corporation

CCC/PRD-137/2020  
GD-1869

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়  
জামালপুর  
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখঃ ২১/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-৫৫৭৫/ই  
"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক (সংশোধনী-২০১০) অনুযায়ী চলতি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরে জামালপুর জেলা পুলিশের নিম্নবর্ণিত নির্মাণ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বরঃ ০৩/২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছর

ক্রমিক নং	লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
০১.	০১	জামালপুর জেলার পুলিশ লাইনের অভ্যন্তরে মটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং ফুেলের গ্যারেজের র্যাম্পসহ আরসিসি রাস্তা নির্মাণ কাজ।	১,০০০/-	৭৬,৫২০/-
০২.	০২	জামালপুর জেলার নবনির্মিত পুলিশ লাইন মহিলা ব্যারাক, পুরুষ ব্যারাক, মটর ড্রাইভিং ট্রেনিং ফুেল এর গ্যাস লাইন সংযোগ কাজ।	৫০০/-	৩৩,৫০০/-

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

(ক) ঠিকাদার ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক পুলিশ সুপার, জামালপুর-এর কার্যালয় হতে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ১৩/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।  
(খ) দরপত্রের সহিত পুলিশ সুপার, জামালপুর এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বর্ণিত নির্ধারিত দরপত্র জামানত অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।  
(গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।  
(ঘ) টিইসি-এর সুপারিশ পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হওয়ার পর বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্তে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।  
(ঙ) কার্যদেয়ে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে নির্মাণ এবং মোরামত প্রকল্প সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।  
(চ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ রাখে।

২১/১১/২০২০  
মোঃ দেলোয়ার হোসেন বিপিএম, পিপিএম (বার)  
বিপি নং-৭২০৩১০৯৪৮০  
পুলিশ সুপার  
জামালপুর  
ফোনঃ ০৯৮১/৬২১৪০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬২৪৯৭  
E-mail: spjampur@police.gov.bd

জিডি-১৮৫৭





Naser Ezaz Bijoy, managing director of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, and Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, CEO of Robi Axiata, launch a co-branded credit card after signing a deal at the telecom operator's head office in the capital's Gulshan. The deal aims to bolster ongoing collaboration on digital technologies such as smart analytics and data science.

# Kevin Green HSBC country head of wholesale banking

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Kevin Green has been appointed country head of wholesale banking for HSBC Bangladesh, effective from November 15, 2020.

Kevin will focus on enhancing the client experience and further develop HSBC's franchise in a market which is increasingly vital to global trade and international supply chains, says a statement.

Kevin brings to this role almost 25 years of experience in the financial services industry, including 22 years with HSBC in Vietnam, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom (UK). In his most recent role, Kevin was the chief risk officer for HSBC Vietnam.

"Commercial banking is the heart of our identity as the world's leading international



Kevin Green

bank. Bangladesh is one of Asia's dynamic emerging economies..." said Md Mahub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh.

Kevin's wealth of experience... will complement our leadership position in the region and will build upon the momentum we have already created to serve our customers in Bangladesh even better," he said.

Kevin holds a bachelor of science in financial services degree from the University of Manchester as well as a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of Warwick.

He is also an associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers and has a financial planning certificate from the Chartered Insurance Institute.

# Dutch-Bangla Bank gets data security certificate

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank has recently achieved a "Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard" certificate from security assessor NCC Group.

In a statement the bank termed availing the certificate on complying with all the requirements for its network "an arduous task".

The lender's IT infrastructure includes over 10,000 endpoints such as branches, ATMs, points of sale, call centres, payment gateways, e-commerce, core banking systems, payment switching, debit and credit cards and PIN issuance systems.

This achievement will ensure more secure and reliable services for customers, it added.

# Mnuchin clawback of Fed funds 'deeply irresponsible,' Biden team says

REUTERS, Washington

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's decision to de-fund several Federal Reserve coronavirus lending programs on Dec. 31 is "deeply irresponsible," President-elect Joe Biden's transition team said on Friday, and threatens to undermine the country's fragile economic state.

Ending support for Fed programs that "could be used for small businesses across the country when they are facing the prospect of new shutdowns is deeply irresponsible," Biden's camp said in a statement.

"At this fragile moment, as the COVID and economic crises are re-accelerating, we should be reinforcing the government's ability to respond and support the economy - not undermining it."

Mnuchin surprised Fed officials on

Thursday by demanding the return of unused funds set aside to support Fed lending to businesses, nonprofits and local governments. The United States faces a third wave of the coronavirus infection that has already killed 250,000, and states and cities are shutting down businesses and schools to stop the spread.

Mnuchin said that the surprise move would not bind the hands of the next Treasury secretary and that grants to firms, more paycheck aid to workers and unemployment compensation were better uses for the \$455 billion in already borrowed funds. The next administration would still have an \$800 billion "bazooka" to quell financial market distress, he said.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Charles Evans have criticized the

Treasury move, saying the programs due to lapse - while little used - provided an important backstop for the economy. They include the Main Street Lending Facility for mid-size businesses, a municipal bond facility and others supporting corporate credit and asset backed securities markets.

"I think that backstop role may be quite important for quite some time so it's disappointing," Evans said on CNBC. "The virus spread is increasing and so there are risks from that ... it would be good to have more support coming from all directions."

Powell said in a letter to Mnuchin later on Friday that the Treasury chief had "sole authority" over the facilities' futures and said he would make arrangements to return unused funds to the Treasury.

Mnuchin said Congress had always intended for the lending programs to end

on Dec. 31, and sought to reassure markets that the Fed and Treasury had many tools left to support the economy.

Use of the funds elsewhere limits the options for the incoming administration of Democratic President-elect Joe Biden to backstop financial markets after he takes office on Jan 20. But Mnuchin denied it was intended to handicap his successor and said his department would work closely with the incoming administration "if things get certified" - a reference to President Donald Trump's legal challenges to election results.

A senior Treasury official later told Reuters that up to \$600 billion in cash would be available from repurposing Fed loan funds, unused money from aid for airlines and defense firms as well as \$130 billion left over from the Paycheck Protection Program.

# Panic buying of toilet paper hits US stores again with new pandemic restrictions

REUTERS, Los Angeles/New York

Toilet paper aisles are emptying again as COVID-19 curfews and shutdowns in states from California to New York send pandemic-weary shoppers on a new scramble for essentials.

Walmart on Friday said it was "seeing pockets of lower than normal availability" for toilet paper and cleaning supplies in some communities as infections rage virtually unchecked across most of the United States.

As of Friday afternoon, 22 states have imposed restrictions aimed at decreasing spread of the virus - giving rise to a new round of panic buying from shoppers and purchase limits from retailers including Target and Kroger, the nation's largest supermarket chain.

Shoppers in a half dozen cities around the United States told Reuters that disinfecting wipes were sold out at discount retailers like Walmart and Costco, as well as at Cerberus Capital-owned grocery chains Albertsons and Vons.

"Walmarts are still mostly out of Lysol wipes, and toilet paper is out again," said Whitney Hatcher, 31, a collections specialist in Tucson, Arizona.

"Oddly though, at places like Walgreens and Dollar Tree you can find what you need. I think people are seeing the empty shelves at bigger stores and panic buying," Hatcher said.

At a Costco in Vancouver, Washington - where new rules include temporary bans on indoor dining - out-of-stocks included toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning wipes, gloves and Spam canned meat.

And the toilet paper hunt is on again in California, where the governor on Thursday ordered a curfew placed on all indoor social gatherings and non-essential activities outside the home across most of the state.

Shoppers said toilet paper was sold out at Costco stores in Fresno and Los Angeles.

# Cargo handling at Ctg port rises to seven-month high as import picks up

FROM PAGE B1

Imports through bulk cargoes stood at 67.84 lakh tonnes in October, which is the highest since April. Imports through containerised cargoes stood at 18.06 lakh tonnes, which is the highest since February.

Exports are mainly carried out through containerised cargoes, and 5.02 lakh tonnes of products were shipped abroad in October.

Ninety-two per cent of the country's import and export cargoes are transported through the Chattogram port.

Mahbubul Alam, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the increased demand in the local market following the resumption of the local business activities contributed to the recovery.

Many industries were shut during the countrywide lockdown. After the economy reopened, production at the factories jumped as domestic consumption rose, he said.

"This led to the increase in demand for raw materials and commodities, pulling imports," he said.

Alam said the impact of the pandemic has not been severe in Bangladesh and the international trade, mainly imports, started to recover after normalcy returned to China within a short period.

The country relies on China for raw materials.

The business leader thanked the Chattogram port and the customs authorities for providing round-the-clock service to allow faster release of imports.

Khairul Alam Sujan, a director of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, said apart from the negative impacts of coronavirus, the cargo transport through the port had decreased from April to June for some other reasons.

Many importers had failed to take the delivery of the imports on time, creating a considerable container and vessel congestion at the port. This slowed down the cargo throughput during the period, he said.

The situation at the port has improved significantly in the last couple of months as arriving vessels were being able to get berth without any delay, he said.

# Zeal for rosy rankings could end up gaming the system

FROM PAGE B1

But the needs of the SMEs are not well articulated in the Ease of Doing Business Index, so indicators are not everything.

In the system of indicators, the outcome is ignored, and sometimes even development agencies focus on the implementation process for a better indicator value, not on the outcome, he said.

On the other hand, the scope for manipulation remains alongside tokenism, for which the focus needs to be on wellbeing and real development, Rahman said.

"Otherwise, we will see a rise in enrolment in education but a lower quality

of education," he said.

The measurability of women's contribution to economic growth and care work is yet to be figured out, for which GDP measurements do not take their contributions into account, said Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh.

"If the government measures the contribution, then we believe the government's budgetary allocation for women will rise," she said.

"Our political parties need to have strong commitment and will to ensure the real development," she added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়  
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল  
মুজিববর্ষ অধিকার

### উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২০-২০২১

তারিখ: ২১/১১/২০২০

২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালে ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল এর (বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ২১নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত) বিভিন্ন প্রকার দ্রব্যসামগ্রী/সেবা ক্রয়/সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/ব্যবসায়ীদের নিকট হতে ছাপানো প্যাকে লিখিত আবেদনসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মঞ্চালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
২. স্থান	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৩. ক্রয়/সেবার স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৪. ক্রয়/সেবারকারী সত্ত্বার জেলা	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৫. দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৭. দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৮. বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৯. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১০. দরপত্র দপিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১১. দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৩. দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৪. দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৫. দরপত্র দপিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৬. দরপত্র দপিল দাখিল ও খোলার স্থান	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৭. দরপত্রদাতার যোগাযোগ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৮. দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
২১. পত্র/কার্যক্রম সংক্রান্ত বিবরণ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ

লট নং	কার্যক্রম বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
(ক)	মনিহারী সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	ডিসেম্বর/২০২০ হতে ৩০ জুন/২০২১ পর্যন্ত
(খ)	ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(গ)	স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(ঘ)	প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী ও প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের খাবার সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	৩০,০০০.০০	
(ঙ)	আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(চ)	কম্পিউটার সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(ছ)	কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(জ)	অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি এবং সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(ঝ)	ভাড়া ব্যবহারের জন্য মাইক্রোবাস/কার সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(ঞ)	যানবাহনের কাঁচামাল ও যুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
(ট)	যানবাহন মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ	৪০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	

২২. বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য

১) প্রতিটি কার্যক্রম আলাদা আলাদা শর্তাবলী সর্মিলিত সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে। ২) বাকি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাকে আবেদনপূর্বক বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ১৮নং ক্রমিক এর (ক)-তে বর্ণিত সকল কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদানপূর্বক বর্ণিত স্থান হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। ৩) টিকাদার ব্যক্তি বা টিকাদার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাপত্রসহ প্রেরিত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা ছাড়া অন্য ব্যক্তিকে সিডিউল প্রদান করা হবে না। ৪) সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ ও দাখিলের এবং খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে অনিবার্য কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র বিক্রয়, দাখিল ও খোলা হবে। এ সংক্রান্ত কোন বিজ্ঞপ্তি বা নোটিশ দেয়া হবে না। ৫) অজিঙ্ক সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অধিকার প্রদান করা হবে। ৬) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা হতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম দেয়া হবে। ৭) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যক্তিকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ৮) কোন কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র কার্যক্রমের তারিখ পরিবর্তন হলে তা পত্রিকা প্রকাশ করা হবে। ৯) অকৃতকার্য দরদাতার দরপত্র জামানত খরচসময়ে ফেরত দেয়া হবে।

২৩/১১/২০২০  
মোহাম্মদ ইমামুর রশীদ  
সিপি-৬৯০১০৮২৭৬৬  
কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার)  
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল  
ফোন: ০৯২১-৬২৫৩৭, ফ্যাক্স: ০৯২১-৬২৬২৩

জিডি-১৮৫৮



Md Anwarul Azim Arif, chairman of Social Islami Bank, cuts a cake celebrating its 25th anniversary at its head office in Dhaka yesterday. Quazi Osman Ali, CEO, was present.



# Bangladesh seeks to boost Japanese investment

Signs MoU with Jetro to enhance cooperation between two countries

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Chattogram

A tripartite agreement between two local trade bodies and the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) was signed yesterday to strengthen private sector engagement in trade and investment between Japan and Bangladesh.

The Chattogram Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI), the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JBCCI), and the Jetro inked the memorandum of understanding (MoU) at an event in the port city.

The MoU aims to develop a plan for private sector engagement and cooperation for the next 10 years to identify the challenges and new opportunities for strengthening ties between the two nations.

potential gaps in required skills as well as plans for capacity development to support Japanese Investors.

As a part of its efforts to facilitate Japanese investment under the MoU, the CCCI will establish a Japan desk at its office to assist potential investors from the island nation with the related process.

CCCI President Mahbulul Alam and Jetro Country Representative Yuji Ando, also the president of the JBCCI, signed the agreement to mark the 50th anniversary of the Japan-Bangladesh economic alliance.

"Japan is committed to providing technical assistance and building skilled manpower for the development of Bangladesh's manufacturing sector in the next 10 years," Ando said.

"We have a good idea about Bangladesh's economic direction as

investment destination for Japanese entrepreneurs.

This new deal is a continuation of that pact as the CCCI has joined hands with the Jetro Dhaka and the JBCCI to enhance cooperation and facilitate private sector engagement, according to the MoU.

"The goal of this programme is to develop a plan for private sector engagement and cooperation and identify the challenges and new opportunities for strengthening Japan-Bangladesh commercial ties in terms of both trade and investment," said CCCI President Alam.

Bangladesh has made major economic progress in the last decade with total exports have more than doubled.

Alam also said that Chattogram is positioned in a geographically strategic spot.

The Matarbari project and the Deep-Sea Port in Chattogram are both parts of a big concept of Japan's since these projects have the potential to make Chattogram an attractive investment destination.

"If we can properly utilise our competitive resources, Chattogram and Bangladesh as a whole could become the focal point for economic growth in Asia in the future," he added.

At the event, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi urged Japanese businessmen to invest in the country's various economic zones.

"We urge Japanese businessmen to invest in the 100 economic zones in various sectors, including garments, leather and food processing. We are always ready to give our maximum support to them," he said.

There are 315 Japanese companies currently operating in Bangladesh, 70 per cent of which are willing to increase their investment, according to a Jetro survey.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary of Prime Minister's Office Ahmad Kaikus, Member of Parliament M Abdul Latif and a few CCCI directors were also present at the event.

# European regulator to lift Boeing 737 MAX grounding in January



REUTERS/FILE

Grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are seen parked at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington.

REUTERS, Paris

Europe is set to lift its flight ban on the Boeing 737 MAX passenger jetliner in January after US regulators last week ended a 20-month grounding triggered by two fatal crashes.

The head of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) said in remarks aired on Saturday that the 737 MAX was safe to fly after changes to the design of the jet that crashed twice in five months in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people.

"We wanted to carry out a totally independent analysis of the safety of this aircraft, so we performed our own checks and flight tests," Executive Director Patrick Ky told the Paris Air Forum, an online aviation conference hosted by La Tribune.

"All these studies tell us that the 737 MAX can return to service. We have started to put in place all the measures," he said. "It is likely that in our case we will adopt the decisions, allowing it to return to service, some time in January."

EASA's decision is seen as the most important milestone after the FAA's approval since, as the watchdog responsible for Airbus, it too carries significant weight in the industry.

Officials confirmed a draft EASA directive proposing to end the grounding in Europe will be published next week, followed by a 30-day comment period. After finishing touches, that would lead to an ungrounding decision in January.

How long it takes for flights to resume in Europe depends on pilot training and the amount of time it takes airlines to upgrade software and carry out other actions mandated by EASA.

In the United States, commercial flights are scheduled to start on Dec. 29, just under six weeks after the FAA order was published on Nov 18.

EASA represents the 27 European Union countries plus four other nations including Norway, which has 92 of the aircraft on order. Until Dec 31, it also represents the United Kingdom, which left the EU bloc in January.

The crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia triggered a slew of investigations faulting Boeing for poor design and the FAA for lax oversight. They also placed tight-knit FAA relations with Boeing under scrutiny.

"It is clear that there were a number of dysfunctions in (FAA) actions and their relations with Boeing," Ky said. "I won't go into details as it is not up to me to do that. The FAA is in the

process of putting in place corrective measures."

He said EASA would change some of its own methods and take a more detailed role in analysing critical features in foreign jets. It would also be "more intransigent" about ensuring that key safety reviews are completed before moving on to the next steps, Ky said. Until now, one primary regulator certifies a plane and others mainly follow suit after varying degrees of independent checks.

"What will change is the way in which we validate and certify Boeing aircraft, that's clear, but will it have an impact on (certification) timings? No, I don't think so; we will do things differently," Ky said.

Boeing is developing the 777X, a larger version of its 777.

EASA is widely seen as emerging strengthened from the Boeing crisis and some regulators are waiting for its decisions on the MAX rather than immediately following the FAA as in the past.

FAA chief Steve Dickson played down any differences last week, saying there was "very little daylight" between regulators and that the FAA worked closely with Europe, Canada and Brazil.



This includes identifying the challenges and opportunities for Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh, exploring areas of technical cooperation for innovation in the private sector and locating potential sectors for export and investment in collaboration with private sector leaders.

The deal also intends to facilitate government spending to strengthen the investment climate and attract Japanese investment.

This involves identifying any

we have been involved in various development projects for a long time."

There is a huge opportunity in the country to increase dependency on technology and build a skilled workforce in the manufacturing sector.

"We are interested in working in these issues," the JBCCI chief said.

This MoU follows an agreement made between the two countries back in 2016 when the Jetro and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry penned a deal to promote Bangladesh as an

# G20 should boost trade financing for developing countries, back reforms: WTO official

REUTERS, Washington

Group of 20 major economies should work to provide trillions of dollars in trade financing for developing countries to ensure the recovery of the global economy from the COVID-19 pandemic, a top official with the World Trade Organization said on Saturday.

WTO Deputy Director General Alan Wolff told G20 leaders it was critical to utilize trade to help underwrite the economy, facilitate trade in essential medical supplies, and reform the institutional framework for world trade.

"When crops do not move and factories are idled throughout the developing world, the global recovery will be delayed for all," Wolff, a U.S. citizen, told the leaders. "A trade finance initiative should be seen as an essential part of improving the outlook for economic recovery."

The World Economic Forum this year said the COVID-19 pandemic was exacerbating a gap in global trade finance here that was already at \$1.5 trillion before the crisis began, with over 50 per cent of requests for financial support of trade being rejected.

The lack of access to trade financing hits least developed countries hardest that already suffer from the high cost of

financial transactions.

Wolff said close cooperation among international financial institutions, the WTO and the large commercial banks would be needed to free up trillions of dollars in required financing.

G20 leaders will underscore their commitment to multilateral trading system in a joint statement to be released on Sunday, a draft of the communique showed.

The Geneva-based world trade body is in turmoil as the administration of outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump has blocked both selection of a new director general and the functioning of a dispute settlement body. Wolff urged G20 leaders to engage seriously in a "major institutional reform effort" and restore the WTO's deliberative and negotiating functions.

Wolff also called for new measures to speed the supply of essential medical products to where they are needed, including updates to existing agreements to ensure duty-free global trade in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

He said barriers at borders and the use of export restrictions should be reduced, providing for much greater transparency and accelerating improvements in trade facilitation efforts, particularly for the poorest countries.

# Sunak targets infrastructure investment boom even as debt levels soar

REUTERS, London

British finance minister Rishi Sunak will announce tens of billions of pounds of infrastructure investment next week, targeted at meeting the government's promise to address imbalances between different regions.

Sunak's Nov. 25 spending review will set how much money government departments have to spend over the next year.

But the headline figures on investment are likely to be dwarfed by forecasts showing public borrowing at its heaviest since World War Two.

The coronavirus pandemic has blown a 200 billion pound hole in Sunak's financial plans, forced him to abandon his aim for a four-year spending plan in favour of a much shorter programme and

left big questions about how it will all be paid for.

Nevertheless, the 40-year-old former Goldman Sachs banker will highlight infrastructure investment as the way to 'level up' across the country - addressing the central promise of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's 2019 election win.

"We are absolutely committed to levelling-up opportunities so those living in all corners of the UK get their fair share of our future prosperity," Sunak said in a statement.

Britain's economy shrank by 20 per cent between April and June, more than any other major economy, and it has been slower to recover. The Bank of England has pencilled in an 11 per cent fall in GDP for 2020, a drop last seen centuries ago in 1709.

# In pandemic Christmas, US rivals aim to challenge Amazon under the tree

REUTERS, Oakland, California

Walmart Inc, Best Buy Co Inc and hundreds of smaller retailers are bolstering their online gift features, hoping to challenge Amazon.com Inc's dominance as a seller of holiday gifts to homebound shoppers.

The new services seek to take some of the drudgery out of gift-giving. The features let consumers

times slow to deliver essentials including toilet paper. Now, Amazon competitors see another opportunity to seize market share.

"This is an area of opportunity where smaller or large retailers could differentiate given most consumers will be doing their holiday shopping online this year," said Bobby Figueroa, who worked for Amazon's ad sales unit before founding retail analytics startup Gradient.

added an option for gift receipts with store pickups. It also started allowing shoppers to arrange for Best Buy to email gift recipients with a festive greeting on the same day items are delivered.

Estee Lauder Companies Inc this year is using technology from startup SmartGift that added options across five of its websites for shoppers to designate cosmetics and other items as gifts while letting

14 per cent of gift purchases and 5.6 per cent of total sales in 2019.

Amazon has maintained its dominance as the entire e-commerce industry thrives in the pandemic. Amazon's product sales rose 32 per cent this year through September, nearly 2-1/2 times the rate over the same period last year.

It pushed its annual sales event Prime Day to October from July as an early start to holiday shopping, and it brought forward the release of its annual guide of potential gifts to just before. The guide, which included new sections for items from small and Black-owned businesses, was Amazon's largest ever.

The company has long provided basic gift features. It charges several dollars to gift-wrap shipments, and a free message of up to 240 characters per item can be printed on black-and-white gift receipts. A year ago, it started offering emailed gift receipts and messages for some items, with links to let recipients initiate a return and send a thank you note.

But some consumers are frustrated that Amazon does not offer options others do, such as the ability to specify delivery date or gift wrap color, have recipients enter their shipping address or send gift messages by text, video and physical card.

"The gift thing on Amazon is completely broken," said Lawrence Greenberg, 54, a financial planner in New Hope, Pennsylvania. He said he will buy elsewhere when possible after four of his gift recipients over the last three years either did not notice or receive the printed gift message. Just last month, a client puzzled for two weeks over who sent cocktail glasses until Greenberg asked.

Amazon said its gift features remain popular.

Jeff Jordan, 33, of Charlotte, shipped three Amazon purchases to himself this month, with plans to wrap and re-ship the gifts. He lost faith in Amazon last year when it wrapped a gadget for his parents in a gray plastic sleeve with a tiny gift tag and a wad of tissue paper.

Though Amazon apologized and refunded, Jordan said he "learned his lesson."



REUTERS/FILE

The logo of Amazon is seen at the company logistics center in Lauwin-Planque, northern France.

purchase a present online and have it delivered to the recipient with, for example, the retailer handling wrapping, a personal message or a receipt that does not show the gift's price.

Amazon's rivals have tried to chip away at its online preeminence, spending millions to fulfill orders faster, expand product catalogs and, in some cases, provide free shipping and even subscription services. But the first holiday sales season with widespread coronavirus has drawn attention to a previously overlooked battlefield: gift giving.

Consumers flocked to Walmart and other retailers early in the pandemic when Amazon was at

Walmart.com on Oct. 28 added a "gift eligible" label on hundreds of thousands of U.S. product pages, including for toilet paper, a status previously not displayed until checkout. Gift eligible means Walmart can send gift receipts as well as let shoppers customize an email greeting. It will also ship the item in its boxes, concealing manufacturer packaging.

With gift giving already up over last year, Walmart increased inventory of laptops, loungewear and exercise equipment ahead of the holidays. Shoppers can search specifically for only gift-eligible items for the first time.

BestBuy.com in mid-October

recipients select color, size or scent before shipping.

Americans will spend \$160 billion on gifts during the current quarter, up 5 per cent from a year ago as people put savings from skipped outings into celebrating Christmas and other year-end holidays, according to industry analyst Coresight Research.

Adobe Inc's ADBE.O e-commerce software unit Magento expects Americans to ship gifts to 18 per cent more recipients than a year ago as travel gets curbed.

But Coresight still expects Amazon.com to capture 18 per cent of gift purchases and 7.2 per cent of overall U.S. retail sales, up from