

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.62%	▲ 0.62%	\$1,839.03	\$49.97	▲ 0.30%	▼ 0.39%	▼ 0.12%	▼ 0.77%	BUY TK 83.95	100.65	110.09	12.64
5,126.43	8,844.99	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	46,099.01	26,652.52	2,821.70	3,347.19	SELL TK 84.95	104.45	113.89	13.29



BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 29, 1427 BS ● starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Tk 1,000cr fund for factories' tech upgrade

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank is forming a Tk 1,000 crore fund to provide cheap loans to export-oriented industries to upgrade technologies they currently use.

The eligible industries are of 32 types, all falling under top-priority and special development sectors.

They include readymade garment factories making high-value additions in production, pharmaceuticals, software and IT-enabled services, jute goods and footwear and leather goods.

The fund will run under a refinancing scheme, meaning banks will first give out the loans before being reimbursed by the central bank.

The interest rate will range between 5 per cent and 6 per cent, according to a central bank document.

The central bank will issue a notice within a week or two to this end, said a Bangladesh Bank official, wishing not to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

The fund will help make the export-oriented industries more vibrant in keeping with global trends, he said.

The transformation can be brought about in 11 types of existing industrial production-related operations to replace outdated technologies with the latest ones such that industrial production gains momentum.

Replacement of outdated machinery,



AT A GLANCE

Maximum interest rate of the fund 6pc

Highest tenure **10** years

Borrowers to get one-year grace period
32 export-oriented industries to enjoy loan

Funds aim at transforming industrial operations

Debt and equity ratio will be **7:3**

adoption of technology for renewable energy and upgradation of machinery used in business operations and waste management will get priority.

Interested banks and non-bank financial institutions will have to sign a participation agreement with the central bank.

They can then avail the fund at one percentage point less than the bank rate that happens to prevail at that time.

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Apparel makers are once again facing trying times.

On the one hand, the flow of new orders for shipment during the summer has fallen. On the other hand, many buyers are deferring placement of new orders as retail sales in the West are yet to pick up because of the second wave of coronavirus infections.

This forced a large number of garment manufacturers to cut back on their production and run below capacity at a time when their overheads have not dropped to that extent.

As a result, leading manufacturers of apparels, the lifeline of Bangladesh's economy and jobs, are appealing to the government for a fresh stimulus so that the sector can come out of the troubled waters.

"We need a supporting hand from the government to cope with the second wave of coronavirus infections," said Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions.

Hoque's factory has been affected by a slowdown in orders from buyers.

"The buyers are extra cautious in placing orders and are waiting for Christmas sales and the arrival of vaccines," said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Group.

The demand for another round of stimulus package came on the heels of a slower-than-expected recovery of global trade.

Despite substantial improvement in recent months, merchandise trade is still well below the 2019

levels, and preliminary estimates suggest services trade remains severely depressed, the World Trade Organisation said on December 5.

Local garment manufacturers have received 30 per cent fewer work orders for the next summer season because of the fallouts of the second wave in the main export destinations such as Europe and the US. The production for the next season starts in December and continues up to March.

The government has acted swiftly in introducing the first stimulus package after the crisis hit the country in March.

So far, the government has given Tk 10,500 crore to the export-oriented garment sector in three phases since April at 2 per cent service charge to help workers' salaries and allowances to be paid.

Ahmed F Rahman, managing director of Kappa Fashions, said currently, 50 per cent of his production capacity was sufficing as buyers were delaying placement of work orders.

Last week, one of his Korean buyers slashed orders to \$1 lakh from the original commitment of \$1.5 lakh as part of its go-slow policy.

"Every year, one of my Spanish buyers places an order of a substantial amount around this time of the year. But this year, I have not received any order from the buyer yet," he said.

AK Azad, managing director of Ha-Meem Group, said his shipments to the US had not yet been much affected by the second wave, but that to Europe had been severely impacted.

READ MORE ON B3



Import, export cost goes up as freight rates rise

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chattogram

Freight charges have risen in the last few weeks due to the adverse effects of Covid-19 on the global shipping sector, pushing the cost for importers and exporters in Bangladesh, industry people said.

Major mainline operations have increased the freight rates citing an acute shortage of empty containers following a surge in demand for imports.

Besides, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the global supply chain, causing delays in shipment and congestion at several ports, they said.

CMA-CGM, the fourth largest container shipping line in the world, has recently announced that it would implement new freight charges for the routes between base ports in Northern Europe and the Indian subcontinent.

The new rates are set to come into effect on January 1.

Similarly, the operators running



feeder vessels between Chattogram and various hub ports such as Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang of Malaysia, last month increased the freight charge by imposing an emergency cost recovery surcharge of \$75 for each loaded container

and \$37.50 for an empty container.

The congestion at several ports is causing a pile-up of containers, and this has led to additional operating costs for vessels, forcing shipping lines to increase the freight rates, according to Ahsanul

Hoq Chowdhury, chairman of the Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association.

Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, a Chattogram-based fruit importer, is importing 18 containers of apple from China with the cargo set to arrive by the end of December.

"Last month, I paid \$3,200 to ship a single 40-foot container from China. Now, the freight charge has risen to \$4,200 for the same container," said Bhuiyan, adding that he had no other option but to increase the price of his goods to make up for the extra expense.

Local buyers have started importing various food items such as chickpeas, lentil and wheat from countries like Australia, Canada and Egypt with an eye on next Ramadan.

Abul Bashar Chowdhury, a commodity importer based in Khatunganj, said freight charges from importing countries have already increased.

READ MORE ON B2

Negotiations for FTA with Asean underway

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has formally initiated negotiations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) to sign a free trade agreement to enjoy greater market access in the bloc after graduating from the least developed country grouping.

"I signed the negotiation letter today [Sunday] and sent it to the foreign ministry to open formal negotiations with the Asean headquarters, so that we can sign an FTA with this major trade bloc," Commerce Secretary Md Jafar Uddin told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh has launched the negotiations mainly for three reasons.

First is because the Asean is a big market where Bangladesh can do well while the second is to safeguard the duty privilege after graduation.

Third, if Bangladesh can sign an FTA with the Asean, it does not need to sign any bilateral agreement with any of the 10 member countries of the bloc.

"Otherwise, we have to sign either a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) or

FTA with the Asean member countries like Indonesia or Malaysia so that we can exploit the business opportunities of this major trading bloc," Uddin said.

Currently, Bangladesh is at the final stage of its negotiations with Indonesia for a PTA for duty privileges on select goods traded between the two countries.

However, the negotiation is now facing a stalemate since Indonesia disagrees with some terms, particularly in regards to some major export items such as garments, under the proposed PTA.

"Still, we are continuing negotiations with Indonesia to sign the deal as soon as possible," he said.

Bangladesh has been a member of the Asean Regional Forum since 2006, which would be an advantage for the country during negotiations, Uddin added.

The Asean has become a vital market for Bangladesh due to its immense size. The southeast Asian nations are also an important source of raw materials for the country's garment sector and other industries.

READ MORE ON B3



Govt floats tender to import 50,000 tonnes rice

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has floated a tender to buy 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from international markets to increase stocks and rein in the soaring prices of the staple in domestic markets, according to a notification from the Directorate of Food.

This was the third tender floated by the food office in the last one month.

The government previously approved two previous tenders to buy 100,000 tonnes of rice from two Indian suppliers.

The move comes at a time when the price of rice is soaring due to a shortage in public warehouses that stems from sluggish procurement during the current Aman harvesting season.

Since the beginning of the procurement period for paddy and rice this year, the Directorate of Food could procure just 115 tonnes of paddy and 5,900 tonnes of rice from farmers and millers as of December 10.

The amount of paddy and rice purchased was no more than 1 per cent of the targets for this year.

This resulted in the gain shortage at state

go-downs.

As of December 10, rice and wheat stocks stood at 7.7 lakh tonnes, down 44 per cent year-on-year from 13.85 lakh tonnes.

Sarwar Mahmud, director-general of the Directorate of Food, said his office plans to buy more rice.

"We are also going to float a tender to buy 100,000 tonnes of wheat from the international market," he added.

The government imported 2.15 lakh tonnes of wheat between July 1 and December 10 this fiscal year. The amount purchased was 59 per cent of the government's total rice import in fiscal 2019-20 when it was 3.67 lakh tonnes.



Stocks ride on blue-chip, multinationals

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market rose yesterday riding on the blue-chip stocks and multinational companies.

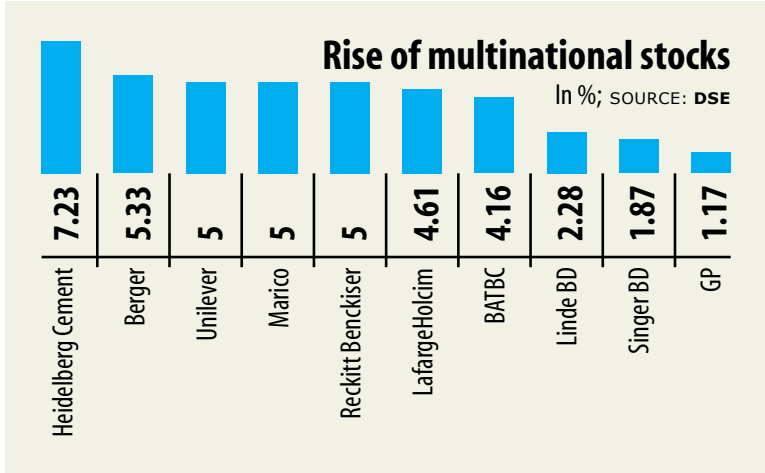
The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose 31 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 5,126.43.

Stocks of most of the multinational companies rose more than 4 per cent thanks to higher demand from institutional investors ahead of dividend declarations.

Of the 12 multinationals listed with the DSE, seven witnessed a rise of over 4 per cent and three by 1 to 2 per cent. The remaining two saw no change.

Several banks and non-bank financial institutions are increasing their investments in the stock market as their lending business is not in their usual shape, said Khairul Bashar Abu Taher Mohammed, CEO of MTB Capital.

Many lenders have not been able to recover loans this year due to



the pandemic-induced economic pressure. So, many of them do not want to lend, he said, adding that credit growth of the banks fell during the last few months.

Most of their investment is in the multinational and blue-chip stocks, indicating that they were cautious about their investment this time around.

On the other hand, December marks the end of the year for most multinationals, and they will declare a dividend soon, said Taher, also a former secretary-general of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association.

Among the multinationals, HeidelbergCement rose 7.23 per cent, Berger Paints was up 5.33 per

cent, and Unilever advanced 5 per cent.

GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh was recently renamed Unilever Consumer Care following the purchase of 82 per cent of its shares by Unilever Group.

Institutional investors are expecting handsome dividends this year despite the scourge of the pandemic, said a top official of LankaBangla Securities.

Most multinationals maintain financial reports based on the calendar year, so the time for them to declare dividends is closing in, he said.

This prompted many institutional investors to pour money to avail the stocks of the companies that have always paid good dividends, he added.

Multinationals in Bangladesh are still lucrative considering their earnings and potentials, so investors are buying their stocks, said Syed Adnan Huda, vice-president of UCB Capital Management.

READ MORE ON B2



ACME LABORATORIES

Nagina Afzal Sinha, chairman of ACME Laboratories, presides over its 44th annual general meeting through a digital platform recently. The company approved 25 per cent cash dividend for the financial year of 2019-20. Mizanur Rahman Sinha, managing director, was present.



CITI

Shams Zaman, director and head of banking, capital markets and advisory at Citibank NA Bangladesh, attends “Youth Co:Lab Accelerator Bangladesh 3.0: National Dialogue” organised by the UNDP, Citi Foundation, Startup Bangladesh and LightCastle Partners through a digital platform on Saturday. Youth Co:Lab was created by the UNDP and Citi Foundation in 2017 as a platform to empower and invest for young entrepreneurs and innovators to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Import, export cost goes up as freight rates rise

FROM PAGE B1

“Shipping liners from these countries now charge \$4,000 on average for each 40-foot refrigerated container from \$1,400 previously,” he added.

As a result, the import cost rose about \$20 per tonne.

Chowdhury also said his Australian suppliers told him that they would not be able to deliver his shipment until the end of February due to a shortage of empty containers.

Earlier this week, CMA-CGM informed its customers that it would not take bookings for cargoes bound for ports in southern China for several weeks in early 2021 due to the suspension of feeder services.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, chairman of the standing committee on port and shipping of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the hike in freight rates would impact the country’s garment exports.

“As most of our raw materials are imported, the freight charge hike will increase the import cost. The export cost will also be raised for the same

reason,” he added.

The impact on the export costs will be felt in the next season when buyers will have to adjust the additional freight charges with the prices of their next order, said BGMEA First Vice President MA Salam.

Criticising the rising trend of freight charges, he said every business sector had been affected by the pandemic.

“So, the shipping sector should not have arbitrarily raised the freight rate to recover their losses at the expense of other sectors.”

Stocks ride on blue-chip, multinationals

FROM PAGE B1

The investment in these stocks comes typically from institutional investors, not general investors, he added.

A top official of IDLC Securities said there was nothing to be apprehensive about the sudden rise of the multinational stocks because these were held by institutional and foreign investors.

“Normally, they will not be gambled with,” he said.

Sunday was a weekend abroad so foreign investors did not make the purchases, he added.

Turnover, another important indicator of the stock market, amounted to Tk 1,003 crore yesterday, up from Tk 936 crore a session ago.

Maksons Spinning Mills topped the gainers’ list rising 10 per cent followed by Dominage Steel Building Systems, MI Cement Factory, Alif Industries, and IFIC Bank.

IFIC Bank’s stocks were traded the most, amounting to Tk 67.27 crore,

followed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Beximco, Rupali Insurance Company, and Fortune Shoes.

Of the 354 companies to witness trade, stocks of 141 advanced, 153 declined, and 62 remained unchanged.

Keya Cosmetics shed the most, 10.29 per cent, followed by Esquire Knit Composite, Bangladesh National Insurance Company, Nitol Insurance Company, and Vanguard AML Rupali Bank Balanced Fund.

Fed may convey optimism on US economy despite stimulus deadlock

AFP, Washington

After a year in which the Federal Reserve pushed out unprecedented lending to support the economy while pleading for government stimulus that never came, central bankers could show early signs of optimism next week.

The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will open its final meeting of 2020 on Tuesday, capping a year that saw the world’s largest economy contract massively due to Covid-19, and Joe Biden oust President Donald Trump in the November presidential election.

The Fed and its chair Jerome Powell likely will, as usual, steer clear of making any political statement, but experts say they likely will update their view on how the economy will fare in 2021 as vaccines against the virus are rolled out.

However, the outlook is not entirely clear. “This is actually a pretty difficult FOMC to analyze,” Steven Englander of Standard Chartered Bank said. “Picking up the pieces is going to be more complicated and will kind of look more complicated in six months than it does now.”

Looming over the meeting is continued failure of Congress to pass another spending package to help the economy recover from the Covid-19 downturn -- something Powell and other central bankers have gently but persistently urged them to do for months.

Powell will hold a press conference after the meeting ends on Wednesday, but beyond more prodding, there is little he can do to close the thus far insurmountable gaps between Democratic and Republican lawmakers, Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics said.

“He’s going to sound a concerned and cautious note about what’s happening with the economy, but I don’t expect him to take a strong tone on what needs to be done on fiscal policy,” she said.

The central bank slashed its lending rate to zero when the pandemic arrived in March, and more recently unveiled a new inflation-targeting policy that will ensure the benchmark lending rate will remain lower for longer to maximize employment.

The Fed also rolled out trillions of dollars in lending and liquidity lines to keep markets functioning as business shutdowns to stop virus transmission stressed the economy. Some of the loans were backed by government funds, and controversy erupted last month when Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the Fed to return hundreds of billions of dollars in unused loan money, shutting down several loan programs, prompting an unusual public protest from the central bank.

Democrats accused Mnuchin of trying to tie the hands of Biden, who will take office in January, but Englander said Powell and the politics-averse Fed is unlikely to address the issue further. Absent stimulus and with its hands tied on more lending, analyst will be watching to see if the Fed makes good on its plans to change its bond buying strategy, which officials discussed doing at their meeting in November.

The Fed has been buying massive amounts of debt, and increasing purchases on longer-term Treasury securities could provide additional stimulus to the economy.

But Englander predicted the Fed will use the meeting to focus mostly on reassurance. “The ideal would be, if they could come out not doing very much and certainly not doing much that would reveal divisions within the FOMC, but which would convey to the market in an emergency, or any sort of stress situation, they’re going to be there,” he said.



REUTERS/FILE

The Federal Reserve building in Washington.

“শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Forest Department

Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Chattogram

Memo No. 22.01.0000.101.122.29.2020.1738

Date: 13 December, 2020

e-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online notice publication date & time	Online tender closing date
526200	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-01	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Tiger Safari (Part-A-Northern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 11.00
526733	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-02	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Tiger Safari (Part-B-Western Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 11.30
526744	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-03	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Tiger Safari (Part-C: Southern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 12.00
526746	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-04	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Tiger Safari (Part-D: Eastern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 12.30
526747	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-05	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Lion Safari (Part-A-Northern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 13.00
526749	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-06	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Lion Safari (Part-B: Southern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 13.30
526750	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-07	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Lion Safari (Part-C: Southern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 14.00
526755	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-08	Construction & Installation of Inner Secure Barrier for Lion Safari (Part-D: Eastern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 14.30
526757	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-09	Expansion of perimeter wall for Lion Safari (Part-A: Northern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 15.30
526758	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-10	Expansion of perimeter wall for Lion Safari (Part-B Southern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 16.00
526759	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-11	Expansion of perimeter wall for Lion Safari (Part-C Southern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 16.30
526761	WDC/SAFARI/2020-2021/WD-12	Expansion of perimeter wall for Lion Safari (Part-D Eastern Side)	14-12-2020 10.00	29-12-2020 16.45

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 selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 28-12-2020 17.00.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529).

Abu Naser Mohammad Yasin Newaz

Divisional Forest Officer

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division,
Chattogram

GD-1981

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

স্মারক নং-ইউএইচসি/কাজি/সিরাজ/দরপত্র/২০২০-২০২১/১১৫৪

তারিখঃ ৯/১২/২০২০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলার কাজিপুর উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সের জন্য ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরের ভর্তি রোগীদের পথ্য, মনোহারী ও বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি, হাসপাতালের ভর্তি রোগীদের ময়লা কাপড় ধোলাই এর নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে পিপিএ/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং সংশোধনী পিপিআর/২০০৯ অনুযায়ী দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইল।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
০৩	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৪	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত (জিওবি)।
০৫	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৬/১২/২০২০ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯.০০ হইতে ২.৩০) পর্যন্ত।
০৬	দরপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/১২/২০২০ বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
০৭	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/১২/২০২০ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।
০৮	দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
০৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
১০	দরপত্র তফসীল ক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি	সোনালী ব্যাকে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত অর্থ হিসাবের কোড ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ ডে জমাদানপূর্বক হিসাবরক্ষণ অফিস হইতে বাচাইপূর্বক (সিটিআর) চালানের মূলকপিসহ নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।
১১	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে	ক) ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বৎসরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। খ) ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বৎসরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। গ) ভাটি রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। ঘ) যে কোন তফসীল ব্যাংক হইতে প্রদত্ত ব্যাংক সলভেন্সীর সনদপত্র (০১/০৭/২০২০ইং এর পরে ইস্যুকৃত)। ঙ) দরপত্রদাতার নমুনা স্বাক্ষর (সত্যায়িত)। চ) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি (সত্যায়িত)। ছ) ভোটার আইডি কার্ডের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। জ) পথ্য ও ষ্টেশনারী মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (যদি থাকে)। ঝ) উপজেলা হাসপাতালের কাপড় ধোলাই এর ক্ষেত্রে শুধুমাত্র ট্রেড লাইসেন্স জমা দিলে চলিবে। বিঃদ্রঃ ছবিসহ সকল কাগজপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা দ্বারা সত্যায়িত করা হইতে হইবে এবং নামসহ পদবী সীল ব্যবহার করিতে হইবে।

১২। দরপত্রের বিবরণ, বায়নার টাকা, তফসীলের মূল্য ও দরপত্র খোলার স্থান

ক্রমিক নং	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	তফসীলের মূল্য	বায়নার টাকা	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান
০১	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ	পথ্য	৭৫০/-	৬৫,০০০/-	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
	ঐ	ষ্টেশনারী ও বিবিধ সামগ্রী	৪০০/-	১০,০০০/-	
	ঐ	কাপড় ধোলাই	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	

১৩। অনিবার্য কারণে দরপত্রের তারিখ পরিবর্তন করা যাইবে।

১৪। সকল ক্ষেত্রে পিপিএ/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০০৯ অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গৃহীত হইবে।

১৫। দরপত্রের বায়নার টাকা বিডি, সিডি আকারে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

১৬। দরপত্র কমিটি যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

১৭। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। পরবর্তীতে দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি দরপত্রের বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করিবেন।

১৮। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র তফসীলে উল্লেখ করা হইয়াছে।

ডাঃ মোমেনা পারভীন

কোড নং-১২০৭৯৭

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

জিডি-১৯৮০



REUTERS, Bengaluru/Mumbai

Premiums eased to \$2.5 an ounce over official domestic prices, inclusive of 12.5 per cent import and 3 per cent

discount has narrowed in the past few weeks. "Demand has been improving this week as jewellery retailers have

Gold investment demand could fall when vaccines hit the Japanese market around January-February, a Tokyo-based trader said.

Banks that have non-performing loans of more than 10 per cent of their outstanding loans will not be allowed to avail the fund.

Dr. Md. Abu Zaher
Line Director
Lifestyle, Health Education & Promotion
Directorate General of Health Services
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

However, mill workers have demanded all the plants be kept running for at least this season to ensure that farmers can sell all of their produce.

Sugarcane: now a headache for farmers

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU and
KONGKON KARMAKER

Hamidul Haq, a sugarcane grower in Basantapur village of Rangpur's Badarganj upazila, is fearing huge losses this year as the government has shut down six state-run sugar mills out of 15 just before the harvesting season.

Haq, who has been growing the crop for the last 15 years, said he had invested every penny he had to produce 340 quintals of sugarcane on his one-acre land this year.

But this year he fell into big trouble as Shyampur Sugar Mill turned out to be one of the closed mills, where Haq used to sell his produce at Tk 350 a quintal, or 100 kilograms.

The seasoned farmer said there are nearly 16,000 farmers like him and all of them are struggling to find a mill to crush their produce since the closure of the local one.

"If harvested late, each quintal of sugarcane gets reduced to 40 kg. So, I would be finished if I can't harvest and crush the crop on time."

Following a government order on December 2, the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industry Corporation informed that production at sugar mills in Pabna, Shyampur, Panchagarh, Setabganj, Rangpur and Kushtia would remain halted until further notice.

"Sugarcane is mainly harvested in December, January and February to crush and extract the highest amount of sugar," Md Shahjahan Ali Badsha, secretary of the Sugarcane Farmers' Association, told The Daily Star.

The crop starts to dry up from the end of February and turns into dry sticks in March and April, he said.

Most of the mills complete sugarcane crushing within February, he said. "So, all are in a



hurry to harvest the sugarcane and crush them as early as possible."

"I may have to discard my plan to cultivate paddy after sugarcane due to the uncertainty over sugarcane harvesting this year," said Ramjan Ali, a farmer of Sara Gopalpur village in Pabna who produced sugarcane on a three-bigha land.

Farmers of the catchment areas of the mills use to prefer cultivating sugarcane because of higher returns compared to other crops, said Md Shahan Hossain, another farmer from Ali's village.

"I cultivated sugarcane by taking a five-bigha land on lease at Tk 40,000 this year on condition that I will make the land free within December."

Hossain said he has already spent Tk 1 lakh with on the expectation to earn Tk 2 lakh.

"Now, I am feeling devastated due to the closure of Pabna Sugar Mill."

The sugar mill authority is yet to start buying sugarcane from the farmers, he said, adding that: "If I can't sell sugarcane within this month, I have to burn the crop."

"Farmers always cultivate one crop after another. We don't stay for one crop. If we don't harvest sugarcane within the next few days, we may miss the next crop cultivation season and count even bigger losses," said Motiur Rahman, another farmer.

Despite the closure, the mills will continue purchasing sugarcane and send those to the closest mills for crushing.

Ashraf Ali, who also lives in Basantapur village, said he came to know that the Shyampur mill would take sugarcane on a small

scale from farmers this year and will crush those at Joypurhat Sugar Mill.

Sugarcanes collected from farmers in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh will be sent to Thakurgaon for crushing this year.

This year around 1.45 lakh tonnes of sugarcane will be crushed at Thakurgaon sugar mill starting from December 18, and the mill would require at least five months to crush the sugarcanes.

"Over 72,000 tonnes of sugarcane will be produced in Pabna Sugar Mill zone this year, and we will send those for crushing to North Bengal Sugar Mill in Natore," said Md Saif Uddin, managing director of Pabna Sugar Mill.

"We have decided to buy at least 700 tonnes of sugarcane every day to supply to North

Bengal Sugar Mill."

Around 1.42 lakh tonnes of sugarcane will be produced in areas surrounding North Bengal Sugar Mill this year, said Md Humayun Kabir, managing director of the mill.

"We wanted to operate the mill for 114 days from December 11 and crush 1,600 tonnes of sugarcane every day."

Kabir said his mill had been burdened with the pressure of crushing an additional 72,000 tonnes of Pabna Sugar Mill zone, as his mill is the closest one to the Pabna mill.

"To crush all the sugarcane of Pabna and North Bengal mill zones, we need to operate the mill for a minimum of 160 days, which is quite impossible."

So, the North Bengal Sugar Mill has decided to operate the mill for 134 days to crush a total of 2.14 lakh tonnes of sugarcane, he said.

However, the Pabna correspondent of The Daily Star did not find any activity while visiting different purchasing centres of Pabna Sugar Mill zone last Friday, as the mill authority was yet to start purchasing sugarcane from farmers.

"All the matured sugarcane will be damaged if these are not harvested in the next two months," said Hamidar Rahman, general secretary of the Dinajpur chapter of Sugarcane Farmers' Association.

Such a problem could have been avoided easily if the functional mills started crushing at least 45 days earlier, he said.

Rahman, also the leader of the cane farmers, urged the government to resume crushing at the closed six mills for this season at least to save the farmers from incurring huge losses.

"The government should come forward to save the farmers this year. The next year they will be able to switch to other crops."

Two state-sugar mills begin cane crushing

Seven others to start production as per plan

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Two of the nine state-run sugar mills that are still operational began crushing sugarcane on December 11.

The two mills are North Bengal Sugar Mills and Natore Sugar Mills.

The rest seven will follow suit, according to a gazette notification from the government.

The notification came after the government recently announced that six mills under the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) would remain closed until further notice as part of a move to modernise the facilities and ensure their future economic viability.

But the remaining seven mills will continue operations as scheduled, BSFIC Chairman Sanat Kumar Saha told The Daily Star.

"We will implement our commitment to procuring sugar from farmers in the catchment areas of the temporarily closed mills. No worker will lose jobs," he said.



However, a vested quarter of workers who oppose the move are trying to block the sugarcane collection from farmers, he observed.

"This is because collective bargaining agent leaders are misleading the workers and farmers to create unstable situations inside the mills," Saha added.

The seven mills to resume operations as scheduled are Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills, Rajshahi Sugar Mills, Carew & Co (Bangladesh), Mobarakganj Sugar Mills, Faridpur Sugar Mills, Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, and Joypurhat Sugar Mills.

The six shuttered mills – Shyampur Sugar Mills, Pabna Sugar Mills, Panchagarh Sugar Mills, Setabganj Sugar Mills, Rangpur Sugar Mills, and Kushtia Sugar Mills – will undergo a Tk 5,000 crore modernisation project, which includes product diversification, according to a statement from the Ministry of Industries.

Workers at these mills would have the opportunity to get employed by the nine remaining mills, while the sugarcane farmers in the catchment areas could supply the other mills as well, it said.

READ MORE ON B3

38 NRBs named as CIPs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has recognised 38 non-resident Bangladeshis as commercially important persons (CIPs) for their outstanding contribution to the economy by investing directly, remitting foreign currencies and importing Bangladeshi products to the country of their residence.

The expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry published the names of the CIPs in a gazette on its website on December 10.

One investor has been recognised as the CIP based on his outstanding investment. Thirty NRBs have been honoured for remitting foreign currencies, and the rest seven for importing Bangladeshi products.

The recognition is for 2018. The CIP

cardholders will enjoy a host of privileges for the next two years from the date of the notification of the gazette.

The cardholders, their spouses, and children will get privileges in getting cabins at public hospitals and enjoy free access to the Bangladesh Secretariat.

They will get preference in booking tickets with the national flag carrier, rail and other transports. They are eligible for quick service at the immigration and special luggage handling facilities at airports.

The CIPs will be allowed to use the VIP lounges of airports in Bangladesh, receive consular services in foreign missions, and will be invited as guests to all programmes of Bangladesh missions.

The NRBs will also receive the benefits foreign investors get while investing in the country.

Govt seeks Spanish investment in agriculture

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday sought Spanish investment in Bangladesh's agriculture sector.

The government is providing a lot of facilities to encourage foreign investment with 100 economic zones being developed across the country, he said.

Investors from Japan, India, China, and Korea are already investing in these zones, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.

Munshi made these comments during a meeting with Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Álvaro de Salas Giménez de Azcárate, at the secretariat in Dhaka.

Spain is Bangladesh's fourth-largest export destination as local manufacturers supply a lot of apparel items to the European nation.

Investors from Japan, India, China, and Korea are already investing in economic zones, according to commerce ministry.

The minister also sought cooperation from Spain on the relaxed market access following Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) grouping in 2024.

Since Spain is a member of the EU, Bangladesh will enjoy the zero-duty benefit in the country

until 2027 as the bloc has already announced the decision in this regard.

Apart from business in consumer goods and services, some Spanish companies are working in Bangladesh's steel bridge and railway projects, Azcárate said.

The ambassador also said that bilateral trade would go up if dialogues were launched between the two countries to remove the existing trade barriers.

Azcárate went on to assure that his country would continue its cooperation with Bangladesh even after the LDC graduation.

The balance of trade between the two countries is heavily tilted towards Bangladesh. In fiscal 2018-19, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$2.55 billion and imported goods worth \$180.18 million, data from commerce ministry showed.



GLOBAL BUSINESS

'Turning the tide': Frankfurt attracts London banks

AFP, Frankfurt

Hubertus Vaeth was considered crazy when he launched a Frankfurt initiative to lure banks there after Brexit. "Are you nuts? What did you smoke?," his critics asked according to the managing director of Frankfurt Main Finance (FMF) in an interview with AFP.

No one is laughing now.

More than four years after the vote that took Britain out of the European Union, Frankfurt is emerging the winner among EU financial capitals in attracting London's much-coveted banking business, ahead of Paris, Milan and Amsterdam.

The Bundesbank estimates that non-German banks could move 675 billion euros (\$817 billion) to Europe's largest economy. That is just over half the total amount of assets (1.3 trillion euros) that the ECB had estimated would be transferred to the eurozone from Britain ahead of Brexit.

Since the vote, banking giants Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs have said they will shift more than 350 billion euros in combined assets from London to Germany. More than 60 international banks have also signed up with the German financial regulator BaFin. Brexit, as Vaeth said, marks an "opportunity to turn the tide" of "30 years of continuously losing business to London."

Vaeth's campaign for Londoners went live the day after the vote.

"At seven in the morning after the referendum we pressed the button and the campaign ran," he said, promoting themselves as a "new London Bridge".

FMF's estimates of up to 10,000 finance jobs being created in Frankfurt have so far proved overconfident however, with local bank Helaba now predicting 3,500. But bankers who have already moved to Frankfurt believe others will join them because come January 1, UK-based financial firms would lose their "passporting rights" to do business with clients in the EU.

Martin Campbell, risk manager at a major Japanese bank, who moved from London in 2019, said the slow influx so far is just because

customers haven't yet migrated across to using EU subsidiaries rather than London operations. "Under EU rules it's possible for staff in London to execute transactions in the European subsidiary from their desk in London. That ceases to be possible on January 1," he said.

Banks are also wary of announcing their movements because "the discourse around Brexit is so horrifically toxic that there's nothing to be gained by a commercial organisation making things public," he said.

"Privately all these banks are telling their customers we are in Frankfurt and we are ready for you. Carsten Loll, a partner at the consultancy Linklaters, believed

that if no trade deal is reached, international firms will rent more office space in Frankfurt. He estimates that an influx of post-Brexit bankers would drive up prices "crazily" for residential properties.

Already, the switch has been visible in the type of business being done in the city, which is also home to the European Central Bank.

Before Brexit, Frankfurt's large financial community -- around 65,000 bankers -- were focused on commercial banking, not investment banking, according to Campbell. "The idea of a big international investment bank in Frankfurt didn't exist," he said. "So Brexit created an investment banking industry in Frankfurt from as good as nothing. Vaeth believes that once they've made the move, the bankers won't look back.

While some dismiss Frankfurt as boring compared to vibrant London, others enjoy the city of 700,000 people for its manageable size, easy-going vibe and its close access to nature. "I used to commute over an hour into London.

That's how far I had to live out in order to get a place to live that I could afford that was the size I wanted," said Campbell. "Here in Frankfurt I live in a flat that's 20 minutes either by bike or public transport to my office," adding that his wife can pop by for lunch. "When you are posted to Frankfurt you cry twice," Vaeth chuckled. "Once you're posted there, and once you're posted out."



REUTERS/FILE

The skyline with its financial district is photographed during sunset in Frankfurt, Germany.

AstraZeneca to buy Alexion for \$39b

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Britain's AstraZeneca has agreed to buy US drugmaker Alexion Pharmaceuticals for \$39 billion in its largest ever deal, diversifying away from its fast-growing cancer business in a bet on rare-disease and immunology drugs.

The deal comes in a week that AstraZeneca said it was conducting further research to confirm whether its COVID-19 vaccine could be 90% effective, potentially slowing its rollout, and as a rival shot from Pfizer was launched in Britain and approved for use in the United States.

The British company said on Saturday that Alexion shareholders would receive \$60 in cash and about \$115 worth of equity per share - either in AstraZeneca's UK-traded ordinary shares or in dollar-denominated American Depositary Shares.

Based on a reference average ADR price of \$54.14, that implies a total price of \$175 per share. Alexion shares closed at around \$121 apiece on Friday.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for us to accelerate our development in immunology, getting into a new segment of disease, a new segment of physicians, and patients we haven't been able to cover so far," AstraZeneca Chief Executive Pascal Soriot told a media call.

Alexion's best-selling drug is Soliris, used against a range of rare immune-disorders including paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), which causes

anaemia and blood clots, and whose revenue rose 3.6% in the first nine months to \$3 billion.

AstraZeneca hopes that an improved version of Soliris called Ultomiris has an even larger market potential. It expects more growth from introducing the target's rare-disease treatments to China and other emerging markets.

The British firm said the boards of both companies had approved the deal, which is expected to close in the third quarter of 2021.

AstraZeneca was once seen as leading the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, but has fallen behind Pfizer and its partner BioNTech, as well as Moderna, whose shots have shown greater efficacy in late-stage clinical trials.

With a planned capital increase of about \$25 billion after the deal closure, Soriot is looking to harness a strong advance by AstraZeneca stock, driven by the stellar growth of new cancer drugs.

The shares have climbed about 70 per cent through the past three years. A precursor cash call, on a much smaller scale, was a \$3.5 billion issue last year to fund the purchase of rights to cancer drug Enhertu from Daiichi Sankyo.

Despite generating billions in cash from treatments such as Soliris, one of the most expensive drugs in the world costing hundreds of thousands of dollars per patient, Alexion shares have struggled in recent years as investors have worried about competition heating up.