

Brick makers get ‘carbon revenue’ for going green



IIDFC Chairman Matiul Islam poses at an event at MTB Centre in Dhaka yesterday, when he distributed “carbon revenue” cheques among six brick manufacturers for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 77,628 tonnes between 2016 and 2017 by using HHK Technology.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) yesterday distributed cheques of “carbon revenue” among six brick manufacturers for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 77,628 tonnes between 2016 and 2017 by using an HHK Technology.

IIDFC Chairman Matiul Islam handed over the cheques to the

recipients at an event at MTB Centre in Dhaka.

The emission reductions for this period certified by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were purchased by Asian Development Bank (ADB) who remitted the purchase price of \$620,980 in foreign exchange.

The six firms are Universal Bricks, Kapita Auto-Bricks, Haair Bricks, Banolata Refractory, Eta & Tiles and

Bricks 2010 Ltd.

Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank and chairman of the audit committee for the IIDFC, and IIDFC Managing Director Golam Sarwar Bhuiyan were present.

The HHK technology uses a combination of powdered fuel and clay and captures the heat generated to dry brick in an adjacent tunnel, which leads to lower energy consumption and air pollution.

Drug-makers stay strong in a tough year

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An analysis of listed companies showed profits plunged during the April to June period before bouncing back in the following quarter.

Profits dipped 31.1 per cent to Tk 417 crore in the second quarter compared to the previous quarter.

At the height of the pandemic in Bangladesh, doctors had stopped seeing patients at their chambers, and people were also reluctant to visit physicians to avoid catching the deadly virus. As a result, the sales of prescription drugs dropped.

The profits soared 76 per cent in the July to September period compared to the second quarter as some normalcy returned following the easing of the lockdown.

“We have made tremendous achievement this year along with achieving double-digit growth as companies have given the effort to manufacture anti-coronavirus drugs and other essential medicines,” said SM Shafiuazzaman, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries.

Manufacturing of anti-coronavirus drugs like Favipiravir and Remdesivir was a tremendous achievement for the industry.

“Local companies showed efficiency to manufacture the generic version of the anti-coronavirus drugs, allowing people to buy them at a reasonable price across the globe,”

Shafiuazzaman said.

The industry earned about Tk 150 crore this year from the exports of Remdesivir, a broad-spectrum antiviral medication that has proven to be effective for the treatment of severe Covid-19 cases, said Monjurul Alam, director for global business at Beacon Pharmaceuticals.

Bangladeshi Remdesivir was exported to Central America, Central Asia and Africa.

Eskayef, Beacon, Incepta, Beximco, and Square are producing the generic version of the drug, which was first developed by American biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences. People bought vitamin supplements and antibiotic drugs abundantly to enhance immunity and treat the disease.

Alam said the industry had done well in export markets and registered around 15 per cent growth. However, small manufacturers achieved negative growth.

Md Ziauddin, deputy general manager for marketing of Acme Laboratories, said in the early stage of the pandemic, the industry faced challenges in importing raw materials due to the supply chain disruption globally.

Bangladesh imports around 90 per cent of raw materials from India, China and Europe.

“Pharmaceutical products are essential for all countries. So, exports

and domestic sales did not decline despite the Covid-19 outbreak,” said Ananta Saha, international business manager of Renata.

One of the major manufacturers and exporters, Renata ships products to 27 countries and sells nutrition products in bulk quantity to the Unicef for distribution in African countries.

“Although we were unable to approach our clients personally, buyers supported us by communicating online to place fresh orders,” Saha said.

The pandemic prompted medicine-makers to introduce digital marketing to boost sales. “Manufacturers are sincere in developing manufacturing facilities and improving quality,” Saha said.

Bangladesh exports medicines to 145 countries, including a few highly regulated markets such as the European Union and Australia.

Islam said Eskayef did not back down from its responsibilities.

“The clear guidelines from the management were to consider the Covid-19 period as a war and to give our best to serve humanity.”

“Of course, we got hurt, hundreds of our colleagues were turning Covid-19 positive and suffered, but we remained fearless and got the courage to overcome all the challenges and fight the disease to the best of our abilities.”

12 applauded for supply chain brilliance

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“I congratulate both the organisations for such a timely step because it is important to incentivise and recognise the good work that goes behind building an organisation,” said Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

“It’s not just one person that does it, it’s not one strategy or one vision that does it, it’s a collaborative effort. And people who are a part of this collaborative supply chain effort need to be recognised and celebrated,” she said.

If there is one set of heroes that all organisations had this year, it has to be the supply chain professionals, said Kedar Lele, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh.

“They’re the ones that kept the organisations humming, they’re the ones that ran the factories and brought in the products,” he said.

“Today’s event is all about innovation and invention,” said Mominul Islam, managing director and CEO of IPDC Finance.

“Those who can continuously reinvent their processes, their internal resourcing, their corporate culture, and can collaborate continuously can attain this excellence,” he said.

“This year is an unprecedented year for mankind and supply chain was one of the worst affected sectors during this pandemic,” said Naquib Khan, president of the BSCMS, which serves as a platform for supply chain professionals and practitioners in Bangladesh.

“This year was the most challenging year for all of us for continuing supply chain practices, but supply chain cannot be stopped,” he said.

Marico Bangladesh received two awards, for supply chain finance management and for supply chain planning process.

Apex Footwear and Marico Bangladesh received the accolade for customer service, warehousing and distribution, Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) logistics and transportation management and British American Tobacco Bangladesh supply chain collaboration and partnering.

Unilever Bangladesh was lauded for supply chain sustainability, Supply Chain Alliance supply chain talent development and Berger Paints Bangladesh for supply chain enabling technology.

Asma Akhter from Unilever Bangladesh and Zeba Samiha from Berger Paints Bangladesh bagged the award as young supply chain talents of the year.

Hasnain Ishtiaq from British American Tobacco Bangladesh won supply chain professional of the year award. This category also had two of the special mentions, Md Abdul Alim from Unilever Bangladesh and Mohammed Zia Uddin from Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh).

The other special mention was of Kishwar Ahmed Hashemee from Kludio, a cloud kitchen-based food delivery company, under the supply chain enabler technology category.

International Supply Chain Education Alliance was the knowledge partner of the event, anchored by its CEO, Ejazur Rahman.

Lobby trading partners for duty benefit after LDC graduation

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Bangladesh should use this reasoning in different trade deals to secure advantages once it makes the status graduation from a least developed to a developing country in 2024 he suggested.

For this purpose, Manzur suggested forming a trade negotiation office comprising officials from the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Bank and the commerce, foreign and other relevant ministries.

Former foreign secretary Humayun Kabir echoed him. He suggested undertaking measures to secure American markets as it was the single largest export destination of Bangladesh.

This includes lobbying the Biden administration to revive the suspended Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status for Bangladesh, as US Congress might soon take up a new GSP scheme following the expiry of the current one today.

Bangladesh will have to be smarter to avail the trade opportunities after the graduation as the global trading system is more complex now, especially since the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was signed last month.

For instance, the strategic relationship between China and Japan was not so warm. However, both China and Japan are signatories to the RCEP. The same could be said for China and Australia, he said.

Nihad Kabir, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), backed Manzur. She also suggested for greater coordination among ministries, trade bodies and government departments for more understanding on trade negotiation.

For instance, Bangladesh should have been called to join the RCEP since it has a strong consumer base, but it was unfortunately not even invited to the negotiations, she said.

“We have to improve our skills and we have to take the advantages of global trade,” said Kabir.

The tax administration needs to be reformed to be more integrated with global trade and investment as a high import duty to safeguard revenue generation might isolate Bangladesh and turn into an impediment to joining any big trade deal, she said.

If Bangladesh wants to meet the global aspiration in trade, it needs to improve its skills, education and governance system, added Kabir.

Presenting a keynote paper and replying to journalists’ queries, RAPID Chairman MA Razzaque advocated for the lobbying, especially so that the EU does not withdraw trade privileges for Bangladesh all in one go following the graduation.

For instance, the EU will grant Bangladesh a three-year grace period up to 2027 before taking the graduation into account to impose a nearly 10 per cent duty on the country’s exports, he said.

Bangladesh should suggest a gradual imposition of the duty, by an annual 2 per cent, he said.

By this time, Bangladesh will also be eligible for signing free trade agreements (FTA) with the EU, considering the time and difficulties faced in inking such deals. Similar steps should be taken for the UK, as Britain is coming out of the EU, said Razzaque.

However, Bangladesh should be very judicious in signing FTAs with any country. The country need not

make a mad rush for it, he said.

For instance, China has pledged more than \$27 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) for Bangladesh but so far only \$2 billion has materialised. But the opposite has occurred in case of Vietnam and Myanmar, he said.

China invested more than \$28 billion in Vietnam, far less than what it had promised, while \$6 billion in Myanmar, he said.

Commerce Secretary Md Jafar Uddin said the government was targeting to sign either FTAs or preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with 11 countries soon. Bangladesh will sign a PTA with Nepal soon as a similar one was inked with Bhutan on December 6, he said. The government has targeted to export \$5 billion worth of ICT products and services in the next five years, he said.

It has been working to export another \$10 billion worth of halal food, which will offset the annual export earnings of \$7 billion after graduation, he added.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said the government has been delaying signing FTAs to safeguard generation of revenue from import duties, which was a major source of government income. The government is also working to improve skills and education in specific areas like leather, ICT and plastic goods by undertaking projects, he said.

The minister expressed hope for businesses to make a rebound for the Covid-19 vaccine now being available in the market.

ERF President Sharmeen Rinvy, General Secretary SM Rashidul Islam, RAPID Executive Director M Abu Eusuf and FES Resident Representative Tina Blohm also spoke.



Md Mafizur Rahman

SME Foundation gets new MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Former additional secretary Md Mafizur Rahman has recently joined SME Foundation as managing director.

He was a director at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre and the directorate general of Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Center, says a press release.

Rahman started his career as an officer of Bangladesh Civil Service (administration) in 1988.

He completed his post-graduation in management from the University of Dhaka and attained a PhD degree from Rajshahi University.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Noakhali

www.lged.gov.bd

“শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি”

Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.20-4000 Dated: 29-12-2020

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 37/2020-21

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	530544	LTM	Emergency Maintenance Road Safety of RHD Aikopalia Char Jubilee UP- Halim Bazar-Bogar Bazar-Janata Bazar-Keramtpur Bazar Road from Ch. 00m-9264m ID No. 475893003 under Subarnachar Upazila, District: Noakhali. (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOBM/20-21/W-84)	18-01-2021 12:00pm	18-01-2021 14:00pm	18-01-2021 16:00pm
2	530545	LTM	Emergency Maintenance Road Safety of Char Bata UP office-Shantirhat-Shaheberhat Road from Ch. 00m-5480m ID No. 475893012 under Subarnachar Upazila, District: Noakhali. (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOBM/20-21/W-85)	18-01-2021 12:00pm	18-01-2021 14:00pm	18-01-2021 16:00pm
3	531745	LTM	Emergency Maintenance Road Safety of RHD Dattar Hat-Udaysadurhat-Koromullah GC-RHD Road from Ch. 00m-15100m ID No. 475872005 under Sadar Upazila, District: Noakhali. (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOBM/20-21/W-86)	18-01-2021 12:00pm	18-01-2021 14:00pm	18-01-2021 16:00pm

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

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GD-2102

Forex reserve crosses \$43b

FROM PAGE B1

Remittance has been on the rise riding on the stagnation of the global ‘hundi’ cartel, an illegal cross-border financial transaction.

The hundi cartel has been rendered ineffective across the globe due to the restrictions on movement imposed by countries to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

But the decrease in imports has also helped to push the reserve in recent periods. Imports declined by 8.84 per cent to \$20.24 billion at a time when exports grew by 0.86 per cent to \$15.52 billion.

The three indicators -- remittance, imports and exports -- have elevated the reserves to record highs following the outbreak.

Dollar hits two-year lows

REUTERS, London

The dollar sunk to its lowest in more than two years in Asian trading on Wednesday and riskier currencies surged, as investors looked past the latest delay in US fiscal stimulus and bet that global market risk appetite would increase in 2021.

US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday blocked a vote on increasing COVID-19 relief payments to \$2,000, adding another delay to fractious negotiations over fiscal stimulus.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

“শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ।”

আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের উন্নত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Regulation-2008 মোতাবেক ২০২০-২১ আর্থিক

সালের ৩০ জুন, ২০২১ খ্রিঃ মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য পরিচালন ব্যয় খাতের অধীনে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে আউট সোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় সেবা গ্রহণ

নীতিমালা, ২০১৮ আশেপাশে সর্বসামান্য সেবাসমূহে আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে

নিম্নোক্তদেরকে খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্নত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। মন্ত্রণালয়	ঃ	পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা	ঃ	বন অধিদপ্তর।
৩। প্রতিনিধি	ঃ	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪। প্রকল্পের নাম	ঃ	পরিচালন ব্যয় খাত।
৫। বাজেট প্রান্তির উৎস	ঃ	জি ও বি।
৬। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	১৭ অব ২০২০-২১; তারিখঃ ৩০/১২/২০২০ খ্রিঃ।
৭। কাজের নাম	ঃ	আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহ।
৮। কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	ঃ	

ক্র/নং	পদের নাম	সেবার কাটাগিরি	পদের সংখ্যা	মাসিক সর্বসামান্য সেবামূল্য	শিকাগাত, অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা এবং বয়সসীমা	দরপত্র জামানত
(ক)	ডেসপাচ রাইডার	০৪	১	১৬,৯২০.০০	হালনাগাদ আউট সোর্সিং সংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী	টাকা =৯৫,০০০/- (পঁচানব্বই হাজার টাকা) মাত্র।
(খ)	সৌকার চালক (বেটিয়ান)	০৫	১৬	১৬,১৩০.০০		
(গ)	বাগান মালী	০৫	১০	১৬,১৩০.০০		

৯। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় মূল্য

১০। দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রান্তির স্থান

১১। দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ

১২। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময়

১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, স্থান ও সময়

১৪। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

১৫। কার্য সমাপ্তির সময় সীমা

১৬। বিশেষ প্রটোকল

টাকা =১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা) মাত্র (অফেফার যোগ্য)।

সদর রেকর্ড কার্যালয়, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

৩১/১২/২০২০ খ্রিঃ।

১৮/০১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, বন পাহাড়, নন্দনকানন, চট্টগ্রাম।

তারিখঃ ১৯/০১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর-২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

তারিখঃ ১৯/০১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ বেলা-৩:০০ ঘটিকা, স্থানঃ বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, বন পাহাড়, নন্দনকানন, চট্টগ্রাম।

কার্যকালীন সময় সীমা

১) দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিলে পাওয়া যাবে।

২) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল কর্তব্য কর্তব্য সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(এস.এম. গোলাম মওলা)
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ
চট্টগ্রাম।

ফোনঃ ০৩১-৬১১৪৬৯
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GD-2106