

Uber appeals UK court case on drivers' rights

AFP, London

Uber appealed before a British employment tribunal on Wednesday against a ruling that would give its drivers official worker status, as the company also battles against a threatened ban in London.

The landmark case brought by two Uber drivers could have far-reaching implications for people employed in Britain's "gig economy", many of whom complain about precarious working conditions and low pay. The US ride-hailing app may have to pay its drivers the national minimum wage of £7.50 (8.5 euros, \$10) an hour if it loses the case.

Uber drivers are currently paid for each ride and are considered self-employed which means they are not entitled to benefits including paid holidays. A ruling in the case is not expected for weeks.

The Independent Workers of Great Britain (IWGB) trade union is representing the drivers, and staged a demonstration in central London.

Yaseen Aslam, one of the claimants, said drivers "face many struggles" and "carry all the risks". James Farrar, the other claimant, called Uber's business plan "brutally exploitative".

He called on London Mayor Sadiq Khan to make workers' rights a condition for renewing Uber's licence.

Benapole port to be shut for 5 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Export-import activities at the Benapole land port will remain closed for 5 days from September 27 due to Durga Puja.

However, immigration activities will remain open under special arrangement.

"Leave of all the staff at immigration and customs sections has been cancelled to facilitate services for the passport holding travellers during the suspension of trade," said Marufur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Benapole customs.

Export and import activities will resume on October 2.

"Unloading and delivery of imported goods from Indian trucks in the port will continue during the vacation," said Aminul Islam, director of Benapole port.



PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON

Paul Flett, general manager of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, poses with chefs of the hotel at a programme at its Café Bazar restaurant yesterday where the hotel arranged a four-day "Bangladeshi Food Festival" in observance of World Tourism Day.

Bangladesh moves up seven notches

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"Surprisingly, poor work ethic has emerged as a new form of constraint. Lack of dedication, hard work and commitment among a large section of the new entrants to the young labour put constraints on businesses to grow."

The Bangladesh chapter of the report has been prepared based on executive opinion survey among 85 companies, mostly local. The survey was carried out between February and May, according to CPD.

In the survey, businesses noted progress in infrastructure thanks to the improvement in the quality of electricity and road infrastructure. But entrepreneurs were unhappy about the seaport infrastructure.

"High congestion at Chittagong sea port caused long turnaround time, extra time for unloading and re-loading, delays in shipment and extra shipment charges," Moazzem said.

Subsequently, he suggested development of multi-modal infrastructural facilities connected with major inland and outbound trade routes to facilitate trade.

The report also found that Bangladesh has been a laggard in technological readiness even though its position has improved.

The use of ICT as a business tool is yet to get popularity. "Rather, the perception shows some deceleration."

"Bangladesh is still at the nascent stage in case of creating IT-enabled business environment. The way we do business, that will become obsolete in the coming days."

Besides, the country has not made any strides in financial market development.

"Bangladesh's financial market was once regarded as good as that of middle-income economies. But that has been degraded over the years and is now at the same level as that

of the least competitive economies."

The financial sector needs to confront the failure to control the rise of classified loans, particularly in state banks, the further weakening of banking sector governance thanks to the amendment of the Banking Company law in favour of the board, and the concentration of loans to a few large groups.

There was also deterioration in the competitive environment in the domestic market in 2016. The scope for monopoly is being created in some sectors.

"The lack of domestic competitive environment is a major area of concern for creating equal opportunity for all," Moazzem said, citing the growing concentration of businesses and the lack of effectiveness of anti-monopoly policy.

Subsequently, he called for the implementation of the competition law.

Lack of efficient human resources and terror threats were also major concerns for businesses.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun suggested reforms to improve competitiveness.

"The necessity for reform will intensify," said Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of CPD.

"We have to increase efficiency and the ease doing business. Otherwise, we cannot go a long way," he added.

Moazzem said Bangladesh should gradually put focus on the competitiveness requirement of an 'efficiency driven' economy from the existing factor-driven economy.

The report ranked a total of 137 countries and Switzerland came first, followed by the US and Singapore.

US sees strong durable goods sales in August

AFP, Washington

US manufacturers booked strong sales of big-ticket durable goods in August, with orders for aircraft, computers, autos and communications equipment all rising, according to government data released Wednesday.

The increase was more than double what analysts were expecting but not enough to reverse a steep decline in July driven by volatile aircraft sales.

Sales of defense aircraft and other goods also swung low, weighing on the August number, according to the monthly data.

Still, the strong showing could boost GDP growth in the third quarter.

Total orders for durable goods rose 1.7 percent compared to July to \$232.8 billion, a full percentage point above a consensus forecast for an increase of 0.7 percent, the Commerce Department reported.



MIDLAND BANK

Masihul Huq Chowdhury, additional managing director of Midland Bank, and Tareq Ibrahim, managing director of Savvy Food Ltd, exchange the signed documents of a deal at the former's head office in Dhaka on Sunday. The bank's prepaid, debit and credit cardholders will get a 10 percent discount on every purchase at the Holy Crab restaurant, a subsidiary of Savvy Food.

Eurozone bank lending rises

AFP, Frankfurt Am Main

Lending by eurozone bank to households and companies grew faster in August than the previous month, figures from the European Central Bank showed Wednesday.

Overall credit to the private sector grew 2.7 percent year-on-year last month, adjusting for some purely financial transactions.

Local firm launches ride sharing service

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In the car segment, Bahon has two types of services: Economy and Premium. The vehicles that were registered before 2000 will be used for the economy service and the ones registered after 2000 will provide premium service, Morshed said.

The base fare is Tk 35 for the economy segment and after that Tk 18 will be charged for per kilometre along with a waiting charge of Tk 2.80 per minute.

The figures stand at Tk 55, Tk 20 and Tk 2.90 respectively for the premium segment.

The company gave special discounts to pre-booked customers on the eve of the launch of its service. Bahon's bike service will be more effective and affordable for city dwellers, Morshed said.

The company also plans to launch its service in Narayanganj, Gazipur and Savar by December and in Chittagong by February 2018. There are some other specialised services for ambulance and trucks and some new service will hit the market within a short time, industry insiders said.

NBR, IFC team up to facilitate trade

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The three-year advisory project titled "Trade competitiveness for export diversification" will be implemented as part of the Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund II, financed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by the IFC.

Bangladesh, with its export-led growth, aims to raise trade-to-GDP ratio from 42 percent to 50 percent, by way of increasing export receipts to \$54 billion by 2020, from \$34 billion now.

Estimates suggest that Bangladesh would have been able to export \$5.6 billion more over the past five years if the current trade policy reform trajectory had been fast-paced.

Furthermore, modern customs and border clearance procedure can decrease the cost of trading by 14-17.5 percent.

"This has a direct impact on the growth of export as one additional day for clearance can reduce export by 1 percent," according to a statement.

The NBR chief said the revenue board is keen to implement all the required customs modernisation initiatives to make an export-friendly trade regime for traders.

The project will support the NBR to implement modernisation initiatives critical for an export-friendly trade policy and enhanced trade facilitation, said Masrur Reaz, a senior economist of the World Bank Group.

"Bangladesh's trade environment has to be improved and exports have to be diversified to remain competitive in the world market," he said.

Keith Thompson, team leader for growth and private sector development at the DFID Bangladesh, was also present.

Farm, micro loans made cheaper

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Total loan disbursement in the agriculture sector was Tk 1,219 crore in August and the recovery for the month was Tk 1,252 crore, according to central bank data. A total of Tk 22,426 crore was disbursed in the agriculture sector in fiscal 2016-17. Of the amount, Tk 10,060 crore was meant for crops, Tk 3,056 crore for livestock and Tk 2,413 crore for fisheries. The recovery of agriculture loans was 48.25 percent in the year.

The BB has targeted to disburse Tk 20,400 crore as farm loans in 2017-18, which is 16.24 percent higher than that of last year.

Exim Bank of India to open office in Dhaka

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As many as 17 projects have been identified for funding with the new line of credit, all of which got the green light from the Indian Exim Bank. At present, the bank's approval is required for project selection and associated procurement proposals.

Apart from project implementation, the office's presence will help

trade and investment-related activities, said an Economic Relations Division (ERD) official.

On the office inauguration day, an agreement on a fresh \$4.5 billion credit may be signed by the bank and ERD in presence of finance ministers of both countries. Jaitley is due to arrive on October 3, accompanied by a 20-member Indian business dele-

gation which will meet Bangladeshi businessmen that day.

The next day, the Indian high commission, in association with the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, will organise a seminar on "Macroeconomic initiatives of the government of India" and Jaitley will launch a "cashless visa service" for the high commission.



Mahbuba Hossain, tax commissioner for zone 15 of the National Board of Revenue, hands over an electronic tax identification number to a new taxpayer, at a programme organised by the zone at Rajdhani Super Market of Tikatuli in Dhaka yesterday.

NBR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়

১৬, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা-১১০০

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০১৭-২০১৮, তারিখঃ ২৬-০৯-২০১৭খ্রিঃ

২০১৭-২০১৮ অর্থ সালে মেসার্স কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রথম শ্রেণীর টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীগণের নিকট হতে "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮ এবং তদীয় সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী" এর বিধি অনুসারে পৃথক পৃথক সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে নিম্নোক্ত কাজের নামসহ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।		
২।	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।		
৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপার।		
৪।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর জেলা/সংস্থা	ঃ	ঢাকা জেলা।		
৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ	ঃ	স্মঃ ৬৩৮৩/ই তাঃ ২৬/০৯/১৭।		
৬।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	OTM-উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।		
৭।	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অব ফান্ড	ঃ	জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।		
৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	ঃ	১১-১০-২০১৭খ্রিঃ বিকাল ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
৯।	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১২-১০-২০১৭খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
১০।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১২-১০-২০১৭খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।		
১১।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৫-১০-২০১৭খ্রিঃ বিকাল ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা।		
১২।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা জেলা।		
১৩।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	ঢাকা রেঞ্জ অফিস, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলা।		
১৪।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ১৬, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা। দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।		
১৫।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	ঃ	(ক) নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ববর্তী মাসের শেষ তারিখের ব্যাংকের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা সনাক্তিকৃত প্রত্যয়নপত্র, (গ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সার্টিফিকেট, (ঘ) ভাট নিবন্ধন সার্টিফিকেট, (ঙ) নাগরিক সনদ, (চ) ভোটার আইডি কার্ডের কপি, (ছ) প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানার হলফনামার কপি, (জ) ব্যাংক ন্যূনতম ১৫,০০,০০০/- (পনের লক্ষ) টাকা আছে মর্মে প্রত্যয়নপত্র, (ঝ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদসহ সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত সমস্ত শর্তাবলী পূরণ করতে হবে।		
১৬।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা জেলা।		
১৭।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ঃ	জনাব শাহ মিজান শাফিউর রহমান পিপিএম, পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা।		
১৮।	ক্রম নং	বিবরণী	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
০১	ঢাকা জেলার আতলিয়া থানার গেইট ও সেমিটপোষ্ট নির্মাণ		৭৫০/-	২৯,৫০০/-	৬০ (ষাট) দিন
০২	ঢাকা জেলার দক্ষিণ কেরানীগঞ্জ থানার গেইট ও সেমিটপোষ্ট নির্মাণ		৭৫০/-	২৯,৫০০/-	৬০ (ষাট) দিন
১৯।	ক্রঃনং	জ্ঞাতব্য			
০১	সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষর এবং সীলযুক্ত মূল প্যাডে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার ভিতর আরেদনপূর্বক ক্রমিক নং-১৬ এর (ক-খ) পর্যন্ত সকল কাগজের মূলকপি সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট প্রদর্শনকরতঃ ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে আবেদনের সাথে জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল গ্রহণ করতে হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল দুপুর ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।				
০২	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাখ্যান করার ক্ষমতা অত্র সংস্থা সপ্রদান করে।				

শাহ মিজান শাফিউর রহমান পিপিএম

বিপি-৭১০১০৩১২৪৯

পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা

☎ঃ ৯৫৯২০২৫

জিডি-২০০০

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