

Jamuna devours 30 houses, vast croplands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over 30 dwelling houses and vast croplands have gone into the Jamuna at Pashchim Jotgari village in Sirajganj's Chowhali upazila as the river suddenly started massive erosion there on Thursday.

"The areas on the Jamuna bank started going into the riverbed around 10:00am on Thursday and over 30 houses and a few hundred bighas of cropland were devoured within 24 hours. Over a hundred more establishments including schools, mosques and houses face the threat of erosion," Sirajul Islam, a primary school teacher of the village, told the journalists during their visit to the spot on Friday.

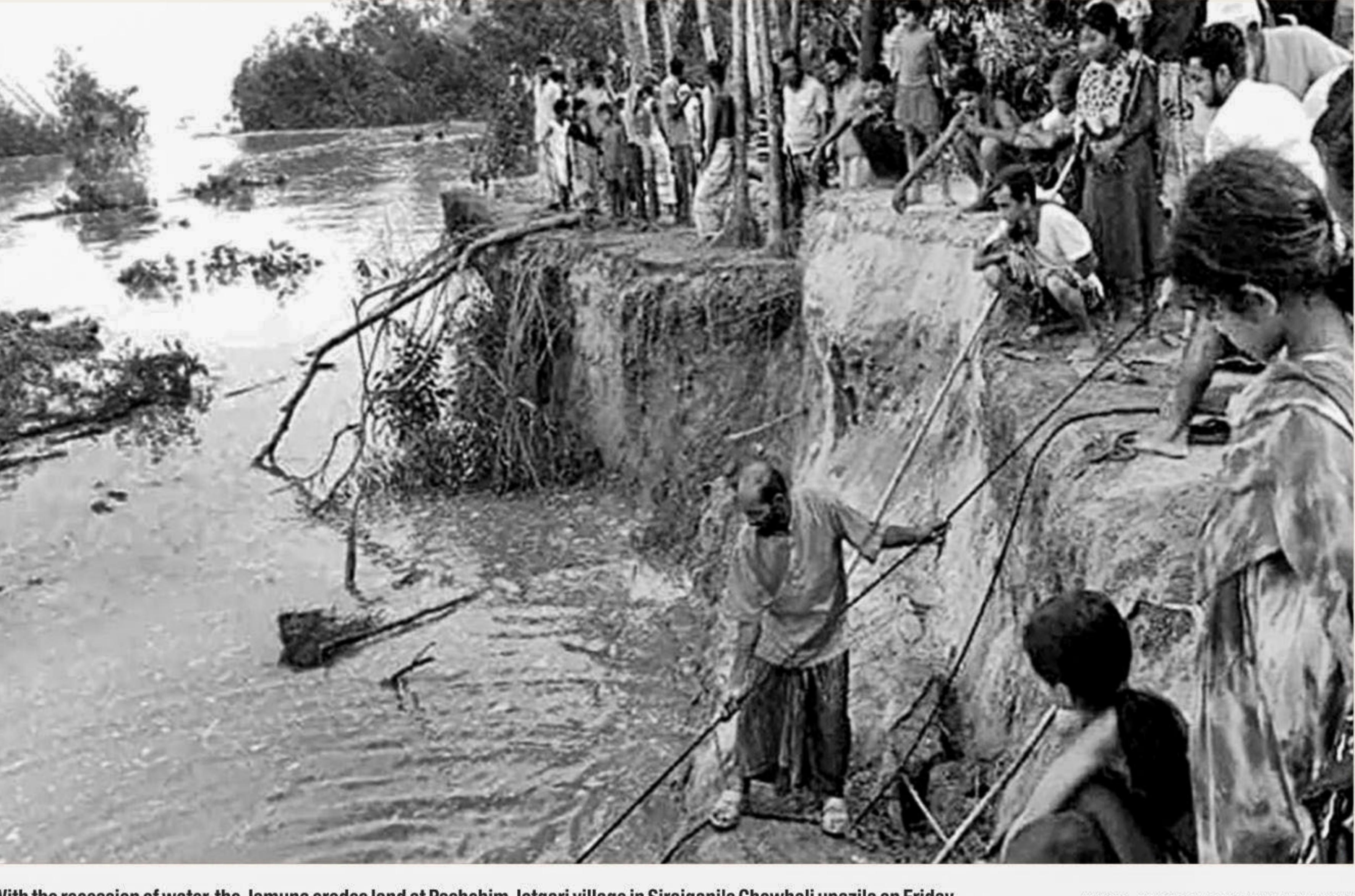
"The massive erosion in around 500-metre area of the village also threatens the Tk 109 crore under-construction flood protection embankment. The Water Development Board (WDB) did not conduct timely protection work in the area," said Liakat Ali, vice chairman of Chowhali Upazila Parishad.

"Most of the affected people did not have enough time even to shift belongings from their houses as the erosion started suddenly. Many other people in the adjoining areas are now shifting their houses in the face of erosion threat," said schoolteacher Sirajul Islam.

Md Mahfuzur Rahman, executive engineer of Tangail WDB, said, "The erosion occurred due to the recession of water. Our workers started dumping sandbags in the affected area this morning and now the erosion has come under control. The WDB men are continuously working to prevent erosion."

During the last three decades, the Jamuna has claimed 85 percent land area of Chowhali upazila, reducing its 210 square-kilometre land area to a little over 30 square kilometres.

The upazila is one of the worst affected areas due to river erosion in the country.



With the recession of water, the Jamuna erodes land at Pashchim Jotgari village in Sirajganj's Chowhali upazila on Friday.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Atrocities

FROM PAGE 1

State Department released a report detailing stomach-turning, systematic and widespread acts of violence against the Rohingya in Northern Rakhine State.

And on Wednesday, the Foreign Affairs Committee convened a hearing examining the administration's response to the crisis, and efforts by US-backed broadcasters to raise awareness about the atrocities.

More than 900,000 Rohingya, an ethnic and religious Muslim minority in Myanma, live in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, the vast majority in camps, according to UNICEF.

About 700,000 of them arrived in the four months after deadly attacks by Rohingya insurgents on Myanmar security forces in August 2017, which were followed by military operations that the United Nations and rights groups said targeted civilians.

Myanmar has denied most of the allegations.

BARAPUKURIA COAL SCAM

Move to adjust missing coal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The authorities of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL) in a recent board of directors' meeting held in Dhaka made a proposal for adjustment of the 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal that was found missing during Petrobangla officials' visit to the mine site on July 16 this year.

"At the September 10 meeting, we proposed adjustment of the missing coal for maintaining stock inventory," said Fazlur Rahman, managing director (MD) of BCMCL.

He was appointed to the post after removal of the then MD Habib Uddin Ahmed on July 19.

The meeting, however, failed to reach any decision over the issue, said mine officials.

The production cost of 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal would be Tk 113.26 crore.

According to the official

records, BCMCL produced 1.2 crore tonnes of coal since 1996. Of it, 1.78 lakh tonne was produced during the development work till 2005, while the rest was produced after the commercial production started in 2005.

Of it, 66.87 lakh tonne was sold to Barapukuria 525MW coal-fired power plant of Bangladesh Power Development Board, located near the mine site, 33.20 lakh tonne was sold to industry units and brick field operators while the company used over 12,000 tonnes of coal for internal purposes.

Against the expected 1.48 lakh tonnes of coal stock at its yard, the high officials of Petrobangla during their visit on July 16 found only 3,000 tonnes, which means 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal worth Tk 220 crore was missing.

Afterwards, Petrobangla authorities suspended Habib

Uddin Ahmed, the then MD of BCMCL, Abu Taher Mohammad Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, general manager, and AKM Khalekul Islam, deputy general manager.

Petrobangla investigated the coal missing scam internally and formed a six-member technical committee to evaluate the technical or system losses, which BCMCL officials claimed to be 1.4 percent.

The amount of the missing coal would be the same if the system loss is 1.4 percent.

A case was filed with Parbatipur Police Station on July 24 accusing 19 officials of BCMCL.

BCMCL suspended coal production on June 16 for development work and the power plant, the largest coal user of BCMCL, was shut down on July 22.

It restarted on September 14, following the resumption of coal production of BCMCL on September 8.

RAMU TRAGEDY OBSERVED

Peace prevails

Say Buddhists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Buddhist community yesterday arranged daylong programmes to observe the sixth anniversary of Ramu tragedy.

The programmes included Sangha and Pindo Daan, collective prayer, cleaning of eight metals and discussion at Maatree Bihar in Sreekul of Ramu upazila headquarters.

Local Buddhists said, once Ramu was known for communal harmony but after the communal attack in the area, it was damaged.

Now peace and harmony has been restored in the area with the sincere efforts of all quarters, they said.

Criminals carried out arson attack on 12 Bouddha Bihars and 30 dwelling houses at Ramu and seven Bouddha Bihars and 12 houses at Ukhia-Teknaf on September 29 and 30 night, accusing a Buddhist youth Uttam Barua of desecrating the holy Quran. Six other Bouddha Bihars and more than 100 dwelling houses were also attacked and looted later.

Leaders of Buddhist community Tarun Barua and Nitish Barua said, immediately after the incident, the government rebuilt the affected Bihars and houses. Six years have passed after the incident. Communal harmony has returned to the area.

Pragyananda Bhikkhu, president of Cox's Bazar Bouddha Suraksha Parishad, said it will take more time to return to the previous level of communal harmony.

Digital Security Act

FROM PAGE 1

at the UN General Assembly as every country was worried that terrorist and militant activities were incited using the ICT.

She also questioned if it was not essential to check various offences in social and digital media at a time when everyone, including minor children, were stepping into the wrong paths due to lack of cybersecurity.

"Why a journalist will be scared if he practises fair journalism?"

USE OF EVM

Hasina said the government wants to use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in elections, reports UNB.

She said this during a meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at his hotel suite at Grand Hyatt New York on Friday.

"During the meeting, we discussed our election system. We've already approved the EVM project and we want the EVMs to be used," the PM told a press conference.

She said the Rohingya issue, Bangladesh-USA bilateral relations, and the cooperation on counterterrorism came up for discussions at the meeting.

The USA wants a democratic system in Bangladesh to continue and the elections be held in a fair manner, Hasina added.

The PM joined the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly on Thursday. She was expected to leave New York for home last evening (US time).



Tasnim Binte Munir speaks at a meeting at the office of Patuakhali Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the town on Friday.

DB busts

FROM PAGE 16
materials, equipment, and Tk 51 lakh in fake notes, detectives said.

The seized materials could have been used to produce Tk 7 crore in counterfeit bank notes ahead of upcoming national elections, said Sumon Kanti Chowdhury, senior assistant commissioner of Detective Branch (North Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

The police officer claimed that the arrestees admitted that they circulate Tk 1 crore in forged notes every month and that they had been at it for four years.

The gang had a plan to circulate around Tk 8 crore in counterfeit notes ahead of upcoming national elections, said Deputy Commissioner Mashirul Rahman of DB (North Division) of the DMP.

According to him, it cost the gang Tk 10,000 to make Tk 1 lakh in fake notes. They used to sell Tk 1 lakh in fake money to wholesalers for Tk 15,000 and to retailers for Tk 40,000.

The arrestees are: Abul Hossain alias Emon, Sheikh Sumon, Sogir Ahmed, Iqbal Hossain, Tawkir Ahmed, and Swapna.

According to detectives, Emon was a top fake note producer. He got involved in the illicit business in 2013. He had been arrested once but resumed his activity getting out on bail.

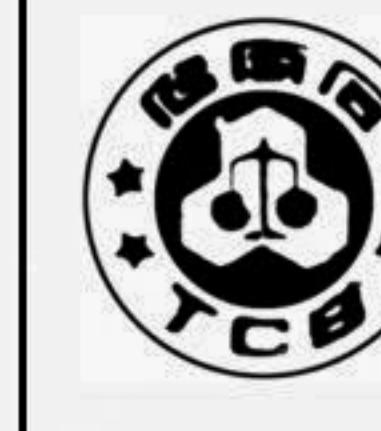
He used to circulate the notes mainly in Dhaka, Chattogram, Gazipur and Narshingdi.

Sogir and Iqbal were caught when they went there to buy the fake bills.

AL man

FROM PAGE 2
Shawkat Ali said police were conducting drives to arrest suspects.

Assistant Commissioner (Bayezid Zone) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Md Sohel Rana said, "We reached the spot right after the incident. More officers have been deployed in the area to avoid any more untoward incidents."



Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

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IMPORT SECTION

Invitation for Tender (International) of

(a) Whole Husked (without husk) Red Lentil
(b) Brown Color Chick Pea

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Commerce
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	(a) Whole Husked (without husk) Red Lentil (b) Brown color Chick Pea
7	Invitation Ref. No.	(a) 26.05.0000.016.09.034.18.154 (b) 26.05.0000.016.09.034.18.155
8	Date	27-09-2018
9	KEY INFORMATION	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)
10	Procurement method	
11	BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDS	TCB's Own Fund
12	PACKAGE NUMBER	(a) TCB/Imp-01/Red Lentil/2018 (b) TCB/Imp-02/Chick Pea/2018
13	PACKAGE NAME	(a) Whole Husked (without husk) Red Lentil (b) Brown color Chick Pea
14	TENDER DOCUMENTS LAST SELLING DATE AND TIME	30-09-2018
15	TENDER CLOSING DATE AND TIME	11-11-2018 17:00pm
16	TENDER OPENING DATE AND TIME	12-11-2018 12:00 noon
17	NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)	12-11-2018 12:15pm
		Address (1) Sonali Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Rupali Bank Ltd, TCB Bhaban Branch, TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar. (3) Trust Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, and (4) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.
		In front of TCB's Reception (2nd Floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
		Board Room, TCB.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

18	ELIGIBILITY OF TENDERER	Bonafide suppliers/manufacturers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the tender documents.
19	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Import of (a) 1,500 (±5%) (one thousand five hundred Plus Minus Five Percent) M Tons Whole Husked (without husk) Red Lentils packed in 25/50 kg bag. (b) 1,500 (±5%) (one thousand five hundred Plus Minus Five Percent) M Tons Brown Color Chick Pea packed in 25/50 kg bag.
20	PRICE OF TENDER DOCUMENT	(a) Tk. 2,000 (two thousand) only per set. (b) Tk. 2,000 (two thousand) only per set.
21	LOT NO.	Location
	(a) Whole Husked (without husk) Red Lentil (b) Brown Color Chick Pea	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: (a) USD 20,896 (US Dollar twenty thousand eight hundred ninety six) or BDT 17,50,000 (BDT seventeen lac fifty thousand) only. (b) USD 24,478 (US Dollar twenty four thousand four hundred seventy eight) or BDT 20,50,000 (BDT twenty lac fifty thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. The Successful tenderer is to submit 5% (five percent) Performance Security in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.

Entire quantity of goods is to be shipped within
(a) 45 (forty five) days (b) 45 (forty five) days (Including L/C correction & grace period) from the date of opening L/C.

22	NAME OF OFFICIAL INVITING TENDERER	Md Shekhabur Rahaman (Deputy Secretary).
23	DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL INVITING TENDERER	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24	ADDRESS OF OFFICIAL INVITING TENDERER	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
25	CONTACT DETAILS OF OFFICIAL INVITING TENDERER	Telephone No. 02-8180074 Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd