

Qantas boss

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Joyce to "please take me seriously."
"I have already started some stuff like what type of planes I'll need, flight numbers, catering and more," writes Jacquot in the letter, which has since gone viral on social media.
Jacquot claims he has already hired a chief financial officer, an IT head and a head of maintenance, among other key roles.
But the budding entrepreneur says he's keen to get a few specific pieces of advice from Joyce while he's on school holidays and has time to work on his new airline.

Notably, he asks if the Qantas CEO can offer some general tips and says -- like Qantas -- he too is thinking about A350 planes for Sydney/Melbourne to London flights but questions how people can get a decent sleep during a 25-hour journey.

Jacquot's aspirations didn't go unnoticed either.
"Our competitors don't normally ask us for advice, but when an airline leader reached out, we couldn't ignore it. Naturally, there was only one way to respond: CEO to CEO," says Qantas in a tongue-in-cheek Twitter post.

In his response, Joyce writes he normally doesn't give advice to competitors but will make an exception as he too was "once a young boy who was so curious about flight and all its possibilities."

As for Jacquot's request for tips, Joyce advises him to put "safety front and center." When it comes to those long flights to London, he tells the young CEO that Qantas is looking at "different designs that give people spaces to stretch out and exercise."
Joyce also invited him for a personal meeting to brainstorm ideas and a tour of Qantas' Operation Centre.

Drug addict

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first government agency to add the test in its recruitment process.
"All the unit chiefs of police have the authority to perform dope test on any policeman who behaves like a drug addict or has specific allegations against him or her."

Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday inaugurated two newly constructed barracks -- a six-storey building for male officers and a two-storey building for female officers -- at Rajshahi Police Lines.

He also laid foundation of a ten-storey building that would be used as Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Headquarters. The building is expected to be built within next nine months at a cost of Tk 9 crore.

CAAB

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Max aircraft into and out of their countries.

Wing Commander Chy M Zia Ul Kabir, director (flight safety & regulations) of CAAB last night told The Daily Star that CAAB would not allow any local carrier to use the 737 Max if the probes found the aircraft family to be faulty and responsible for the crashes.

Kabir said no Bangladeshi carrier uses the Max 8 variant of the Boeing 737.
He said CAAB would have no objection if any foreign airlines operate flights in Bangladesh using the Max 8 aircraft.

A local carrier on February 19 signed a deal with a global aircraft leasing company to lease a new Boeing 737 Max 8 for 12 years. The plane was scheduled to be delivered in 2020.

Rollled out in 2017, the Boeing 737 Max 8 is the latest iteration of the 737 line. By the end of January, Boeing had delivered 350 of the 5,011 orders it received.

Gas price rise

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for whose interest will the gas price be increased?"

"If the gas price is hiked at the moment, many factories would shut down."

The comments came at the second of the four-day hearing organised by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

Md Shahidullah, secretary general of the Bangladesh Auto Re-Rolling and Steel Mills Association, urged the BERC to refrain from increasing the price because the price of steel and cement would go up manifold if the proposals were implemented, dealing a blow to the ongoing infrastructure development across the country.

Masud Khan, president of the Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners Association, said the commission should act for the wellbeing of the common people, not "by instructions from elsewhere."

All six gas distribution companies -- Titas, Bakhraabad, Jalalabad, Pashchimanchal, Karnaphuli, and Sundarban -- are seeking the price hike at consumer level.

Yesterday's hearing took place on the proposals of Titas and Sundarban. Both the companies have revised their price upwards from the proposals they had earlier sent to the BERC in January.

According to the revised proposals, Titas and Sundarban have demanded 208 percent hike for the gas consumed by power plants, 211 percent for fertiliser companies, 96 percent for captive power plants, 132 percent for industries, 41 percent for commercial entities, and 50 percent for CNG-run vehicles.

They are seeking 80 percent rise in monthly gas bill for both single-burner and double-burner cooking stove, from Tk 750 to Tk 1,350 and from Tk 800 to Tk 1,440 respectively.

The companies are largely seeking the hike because 500 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) was added to the national grid through the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from August last year. More 500mmcf may be added to the network next month.

Imported LNG is costing the country Tk 39.086 per cubic metre whereas it buys similar amount of gas at Tk 0.7097 from state-run Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd, at Tk 3.0414 from Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd, at Tk 0.2028 from Sylhet Gas Fields and at Tk 2.55 from international companies operating in Bangladesh, according to Petrobangla.

Mohammad Ali Khokon, president

of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, criticised Titas Gas for emphasising on giving higher dividends to shareholders.

He said the gas supply started to worsen since 2000, and the situation has deteriorated further in the last five years.

He also expressed opposition to the hike of distribution and transmission charges until the current situation improved.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, adviser of the Consumer Association of Bangladesh, termed the hearing unlawful and said those proposals could not be entertained. "We will not accept any price increase."

He called both the proposals and the hearing unlawful because transmission, distribution or retail tariffs could not be increased twice in a fiscal year as per the BERC law if there was no change in energy price or other factors.

In October last year, the BERC increased the transmission and distribution charges and the distribution companies adjusted the price accordingly.

The government fixes the gas price, but it has not sent any letter to Petrobangla or the BERC asking them to adjust the price following the import of LNG, Shamsul added.

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Gono Shanghati Andolon, said Bangladesh was moving "towards expensive gas" through the import of LNG like it did with electricity by setting up quick rental power plants.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, a leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said households were paying more for the gas than they should have.

He demanded scrapping of the Speedy Supply of Power and Energy Act, under which power and energy-related government contracts are given out.

Nurul Islam, a former professor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said there was no choice but to increase the gas price.

He demanded more transparency in the companies' activities.

The country is purchasing gas following the Public Procurement Rules, but the same is not being followed when it comes to the energy sector, he added.

BERC Chairman Monowar Islam, who moderated the hearing, said as factories were demanding quick installation of the electronic volume corrector gas metre, the energy ministry should revisit its stance on the issue.

BERC members Rahman Murshed, Mahmudul Huq Bhuiyan, Md Abdul Aziz Khan and Md Mizanur Rahman were present.

BB not worried

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fight the case. A Filipino law firm would defend the central bank.

In February 2016, cyber gangsters had taken away \$81 million from the BB's account with the New York Fed. The money was slipped into the RCBC's Jupiter Street branch in Makati City. It was quickly withdrawn and eventually laundered through local casinos.

After failing to recover the money through negotiations in the last three years, the Bangladesh central bank in association with the New York Fed sued the Filipino bank at a New York court on February 1 this year.

Serajul, also the BB spokesperson, said filing of the case by the central bank put pressure on the RCBC.

On January 10, a Philippine court convicted Maia Deguito, then branch manager at the Manila-based RCBC, of money laundering, in the first conviction over the BB heist.

The BB spokesperson, however, could not name its officials sued by the RCBC as the central bank was yet to receive details about the matter.

A five-member Bangladesh team, comprised of three BB officials and two lawyers, visited the Philippines on Monday and Tuesday to discuss recovery of the fund with different organisations of the Southeast Asian country.

Officials of New York Fed also assisted the Bangladesh team in the talks.

The team, led by Abu Hena Mohammad Razez Hassan, head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, is scheduled to return today.

RCBC ISSUES RELEASE
The RCBC yesterday said it filed a defamation suit against the BB for its "baseless allegation" over the \$81 million cyber heist, reports Manila-based Inquirer.

The case filed with the Regional Trial Court in Makati City of Manila on March 6 was served to BB Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohammad Razez Hasan and other officials, the RCBC said in a press release.

The bank claimed that its "reputation came under the vicious and public attack by Bangladesh Bank since 2016".

Detecting cholera

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research and development process and successfully met requirements and guidelines for tests capable of detecting Vibrio cholerae from stool.

To use it, the device is dipped into a tube with stool specimen and then in 15 minutes it provides qualitative result (coloured band) which is readable by the naked eye.

A field evaluation of Cholkit has recently been published in the scientific journal "PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases" which showed the sensitivity and specificity of the dipstick to be similar to the commercially available rapid diagnostic test (RDTs) for detecting Vibrio cholerae from stool specimens.

A total of 7,720 stool samples were tested during the evaluation. Cholkit demonstrated a sensitivity of 76 percent and specificity of over 90 percent, while other RDTs showed around 72 percent and 86.8 percent respectively.

The gold standard for detecting cholera is laboratory confirmation by stool culture, which is sensitive to several factors, including the quality of sampling, delays in shipment, laboratory equipment, skilled human resources.

It also needs longer period of time (24 to 72 hours) and costs \$6 to 8 per sample, icddr,b says.

Cholkit is priced around \$3, said icddr,b. Officials, however, said they could not specify its commercial price or when it would go into production but added it would be soon.

The kit has been found to be highly effective in detecting V cholerae serogroup O1 and has received official licensure, said icddr,b.

From a public health perspective, cholera outbreaks need immediate and early detection as the pathogen can spread and cause epidemics in a short period of time, it said.

"Thus, the need for simple and easy to use RDTs, which are quickly interpretable, require simple storage facilities, and are reasonably priced is a clear choice," icddr,b said.

It has the potential to be used at the primary health care level for cholera surveillance, for early outbreak detection and as a tool for an initial alert for monitoring of seasonal peaks in highly endemic areas and in peripheral health care facilities, it said.

The Incepta-produced Cholkit is now being used in 22 cholera sentinel surveillance sites across Bangladesh. The sites are managed jointly by icddr,b and Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research.

Fishing ban

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of a manpower shortage, he said, adding, "We are conducting regular drives to protect fish."

On the other hand, many of the fishermen alleged that they were not fully aware of the ban and asked how they could earn their bread.

The government had introduced the ban in 2006 to facilitate safe spawning and increase national fishing wealth.

Under the ban, nobody can catch any kind of fish by any means from those rivers in six districts -- Barishal, Bholra, Patuakhali, Shariatpur, Chandpur and Laxmipur.

A total of 432km stretch of the rivers is under the purview of the ban.

British MPs reject

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"We must take what now seems to be the more difficult route but in the end the one that preserves our self-respect," said former foreign minister Boris Johnson, a favourite to succeed May if she steps down.

"It is to leave on March 29 as required by law and to become once again an independent country able to make our own choices."
NOT A SINGLE CHANGE
After MPs first rejected the 585-page Brexit deal in January, May promised changes to the hated backstop plan which is intended to keep open the border with Ireland.

Weeks of talks failed to make a breakthrough, but May made a last-minute trip to Strasbourg to meet EU leaders on the eve of the vote.

She announced she had secured the promised "legally binding changes" to the backstop, which would keep Britain in the EU's customs union if and until a new way was found to avoid frontier checks.

But hours later, however, Attorney General Geoffrey Cox said the additions would not completely allay MPs fears of being trapped in the arrangement forever.

It did not take long for Brexit-supporting MPs in May's Conservative party, and her allies, Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), to declare their opposition.

Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn also urged parliament to vote down May's plan.

"After three months of running down the clock, the prime minister has, despite very extensive delays, achieved not a single change to the withdrawal agreement," he said.

Some eurosceptics changed their mind, however, urging their colleagues not to risk everything.

Former minister Edward Leigh said: "You may not like the deal, it's not perfect, but it delivers Brexit and let's go for it."

The pound, which has been highly volatile since the 2016 referendum which saw Britons narrowly vote to

Air pollution

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cognitive performance, labour productivity and educational outcomes.

The new study, published in the European Heart Journal, focused on Europe, but the updated statistical methods were also applied to the rest of the world.

"The revised number for China is 2.8 million deaths per year," more than two-and-a-half times current estimates, lead author Jos Lelieveld, a researcher at the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany, told AFP by email.

Findings for non-European countries will be published separately, he said.

The scientists applied the new Global Exposure Mortality Model to a much-expanded epidemiological database -- with updated figures for population density, age, disease risk factors, causes of death -- to simulate the way in which natural and man-made chemicals interact with the atmosphere, itself composed of gases.

By far, most deaths were attributed to microscopic particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as PM2.5.

By comparison, the average human hair is 60-to-90 microns thick.

"New data has become available for fine particulate matter indicating that the hazardous health impact of PM2.5 are much larger than assumed previously," said Lelieveld.

leave the EU, made gains against the euro after May's deal on Monday but fell sharply on Tuesday as it became increasingly clear the deal would be defeated.

'NO THIRD CHANCE'
The backstop is designed to protect the peace process in Northern Ireland, which involved the removal of border checks with EU member Ireland.

Brexit supporters wanted a unilateral way out of it, or a time limit to the arrangement, but the EU said this would make it worthless.

But leaders across Europe also united behind a message that this was the best and final offer Britain could expect.

"There will be no third chance, European Commission chief Jean Claude Juncker said after his talks on Monday with May.

If MPs vote against a "no deal" exit on Wednesday, and want to postpone Brexit, the other 27 EU nations would need to agree.

Their leaders will meet in Brussels for a summit on March 21-22.

But any postponement may have to be short-lived. Juncker on Monday said Brexit "should be complete before the European elections" at the end of May.

Tigers fall

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least draw a Test with seven wickets in hand against an in-form Kiwi bowling attack.

However, that situation was not anticipated when the first two days of the match were washed out without a ball being bowled and at one point, the game was expected to yield a draw with just three days of play on the cards.

However, as much as Bangladesh played poorly, credit must go to the hosts, who utilised every minute of the match -- be it with bat or ball.

Bangladesh's lack of adaptability in facing quality fast bowlers was exposed brutally yet again and, of course, the Neil Wagner factor once again played a big role as his short-ball strategy took a toll on the Tigers' batsmen.

He ended with nine wickets over the match, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings. From Bangladesh's perspective there was nothing to gain apart from the humiliation of losing a Test match in less than two-and-a-half days.

Bangladesh were nowhere near the home side in either of the three departments and it was their collective inability which led to the Tigers fighting for even a draw coming into the fifth and final day.

The visiting batsmen were unable to bat for more than two sessions in either innings and Mahmudullah blamed their lack of application for the defeat.

"I'm really disappointed because we did not apply ourselves well. A few of our batsmen were caught in between playing a shot or leaving delivery. We did not commit and back ourselves," a disappointed Mahmudullah told reporters yesterday.

With the third and final Test scheduled to start from March 16 in Christchurch, an optimistic Mahmudullah however backed his charges by saying: "Maybe it will sound funny, but the team we have is capable of performing better. We have the ability to play better than we did in Hamilton [in the first Test] and here."

But as things have gone for Bangladesh in New Zealand so far, it will be a humongous task to finish the tour on a positive note.

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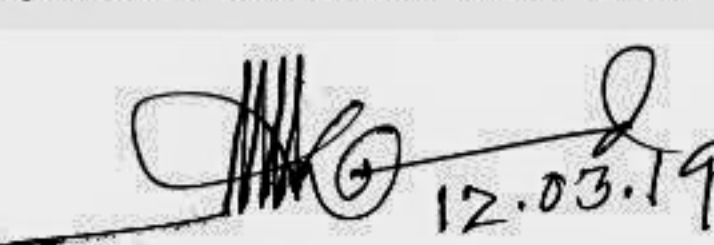
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Sl No.	Tender ID	Procurement method	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender last selling date & time	Tender opening date & time
1	273550	OTM	Procurement of Double Cabin Pickup	13/03/2019 10:00am	27/03/2019 09:00am	27/03/2019 11:00am

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