

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
▲ 0.74%	▲ 0.72%	\$1,740.53	\$39.25	33,825.53	22,325.61	2,611.63	2,921.40	83.95	92.40	103.93	11.64	
3,969.58	6,823.28	(per ounce)	(per barrel)					BUY TK	84.95	96.20	107.73	12.23



Star BUSINESS

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TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE

Cries for store rent waiver grow louder

SOHEL PARVEZ

For more than two months, Motahar Hossain has been unable to run business at his two clothing retail stores in the capital's Bashundhara City as the major shopping centre has remained closed to keep the coronavirus pandemic at bay.

As a result, all eight of his employees have remained idle while no sales have been made. Hossain's business expenses to pay salaries for the staff, space rent and service charge remain a constant.

He paid salaries to his workers in full for the month of March but in April, he managed to pay only 30 per cent of their total salaries by borrowing the money from relatives. He is yet to clear the dues, including rent and service charge, for May.

In the last two months, Hossain completely missed out on the two biggest sales seasons of the year: Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest festival for the Muslim and Pahela Baishakh, the first month of the Bengali New Year.

Even if his stores reopen after the coronavirus crisis is over, he will have the increased burden of making up for any unpaid rent and service charge.

Despite the fact that many of the other shop owners at Bashundhara City are facing similar difficulties, the authorities of the country's second-largest shopping complex are yet to

offer any form of discount or waiver on the rent or service charge.

"Frankly speaking, I do not have the capacity to pay. We wait for the Eid festival during the rest of the year to register a handsome amount of sales. But we lost that scope," said a frustrated Hossain, the proprietor of Ayesha Fashion at Bashundhara City.

Hossain has been unable to pay his rent for four months now.

This prompted the owner of his outlet to contact Hossain on several occasions during the nationwide shutdown to ask for the rent.

Hossain was left with little option other than convincing the owner to defer the payment.

He is just one of the thousands of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs who shuttered stores following the government's directive to close all businesses on March 26 in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Bangladesh has more than 30 lakh retail and wholesale stores with Dhaka city alone being home to 2.40 lakh of those shops, according to data from the Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners Association (DMSOA).

Like Hossain, most shop owners depend on sales to make an income. But with the coronavirus pandemic having already taken a serious toll on the economy, many small-scale entrepreneurs have been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy.



offer any form of discount or waiver on the rent or service charge.

"On the one hand, we could not sell our products. On the other, owners are demanding rent. This is really a very bad situation," said Liyakwat Hossain Shobuj, proprietor of Aroush, a punjabi store at Bashundhara City.

Many stores pulled up their shutters on May 10 after the government eased some of the restrictions.

However, the authorities of

a number of well-known establishments, namely Bashundhara City, Jamuna Future Park, Gausia Market and Eastern Plaza, decided to keep their premises closed since the highly communicable disease could rapidly spread through shoppers if health guidelines are not met stringently.

Meanwhile, the markets that have already reopened have been unable to recover from their losses due to the poor customer turnout.

Considering the situation, any discount or waiver provided by mall authorities could reduce the financial pressure on shop proprietors.

However, the owners of the outlets are yet to provide any assurance of any kind as they themselves mostly depend on the rent for their incomes.

"Many owners are unwilling to consider

A few of the space owners though are considering standing by their tenants.

"I will consider it if any of my tenants approaches me. Because, it is tough for anyone to pay three months' rent under these circumstances," said Mohd Selim, who owns several store spaces at Eastern Plaza.

"They are small shop owners and they have not received any stimulus. They need support," he added.

If the rent was waived for even a month, it could be a win-win situation for both owners and tenants, said Tasnim Alam Proshun, owner of a mobile phone retail store, Hello Enterprise, at Orchard Point.

"Ultimately, it will be the loss of owners if any shop operator quits," he said.

Md Helal Uddin, president of the National Association of Shop Owners of Bangladesh, feels that the rent issue should be settled mutually between shop owners and tenants.

"The government has not waived or reduced the electricity, water and gas bills. Part of the utility bills should be waived to help both tenants and owners."

Each retail outlet at the mall is owned by separate individuals. Therefore, the rent issue is a matter between shop owners and tenants, said Sheikh Abdul Alim, in-charge of Bashundhara City Shopping Mall.

"No decision has been taken yet regarding the payment of service charge for April and May," he added.

Mohammed Alamgir, director of Jamuna Group, the owning company of Jamuna Future Park, said his company is yet to take any decision on the service charge and rent.

"The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) should be given support because 60 per cent would be out of business if they remain inactive for a long time due to the lockdown," said Atiur Rahman, a former governor of the central bank at a virtual discussion on Monday.

Credit growth plunges to 12-year low

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

As more and more economic data trickle in of the past few months, we are getting a more accurate barometer of the sweeping pall of pessimism that has enshrouded the economy.

Take the case of private sector credit growth, which nosedived to 8.86 per cent in March, the lowest since December 2008, indicating the businesses' overly glum outlook.

The first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bangladesh were announced on March 8 and 22 days later the government enforced a stay-at-home order to flatten the curve on the rogue virus that has upended lives and livelihoods like no other.

The credit growth had been maintaining a downward trend for the last two years but the fall in March was relatively steeper compared with the previous months.

March's figure is also lower than the 9.13 per cent reported in February.

Credit flow to the private sector

stood at Tk 10,66,474 crore as of March, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Private sector credit growth is supposed to have declined in April and May to a large extent as most economic activities were on pause until May 30, said a central bank official.

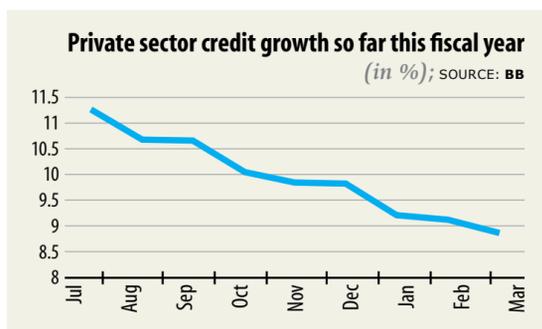
Operations of all factories, industries and services across the country were largely suspended during the time.

The Bangladesh Bank will disclose the credit growth figure for April within a day or two.

"There is no demand for fresh investment at this moment as both the local and global economies are going through a tough situation," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

And this was reflected in the private sector credit growth in March.

The falling trend in the credit growth could be slowed once businesses begin to receive funds smoothly from the stimulus funds unveiled by the central bank, he said.



"But the economy will not rebound unless people become confident about the government's initiatives to improve the health sector."

E-commerce and businesses that produce medical products like mask, personal protective equipment and hygiene items will get a boost during the pandemic.

The enterprises making these products should be extended all types of cooperation, including financial support, as it will make the economy vibrant to a certain level, Hussain added.

"There is no possibility that the private sector credit growth would accelerate until the world gets a vaccine to fight against the coronavirus," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

Contraction of private sector credit growth means unemployment would rise alarmingly and the country would have to face the consequence in the days ahead.

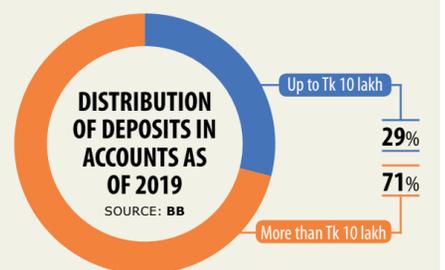
Govt mulling over eating the rich

Hike in excise duty on big account balances in the works

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government may increase excise duty on big-ticket account balances in banks in its bid to collect more taxes from relatively well-offs to attain increased revenue collection target for next fiscal year and take the economy on the path of recovery from the COVID-19-induced slowdown.

Account holders who have bank balances of more than Tk 10 lakh at any time of the year irrespective of debit or credit may see up to 20 per cent hike in excise duty from fiscal 2020-21, said officials of the finance ministry.



FMCG companies tuning products to cash-strapped consumers' means

AHSAN HABIB

The makers of cereal, toiletries and other supermarket staples in Bangladesh are increasingly working to reshape their product lines to keep cash-strapped consumers from trading down as the coronavirus pandemic continues to limit economic activities and cut incomes of millions of people.

Some fast-moving consumer goods companies are rolling out new brands at a lower price range and initiating price cuts while others are offering more affordable pack sizes and bundle packs and free deliveries.

"We have already offered economy bundles for some products where prices will be comparatively lower," said Jesmin Zaman, head of marketing of Square Toiletries.

One instance is its offer of baby powder with a pack of diapers.

Square Toiletries sells products under brands such as Senora, Jui, Meril, Revive, Kool, Zerocal, Sepnil, Magic and White Plus.

The company is working on bringing out



a cheaper version of its already low-cost sanitary napkin brand Femina.

"We are doing this so that people stay with us even after their reduced purchasing capacity," Zaman said.

Another such initiative to hook customers is Marico Bangladesh's rollout of hand wash and hand sanitiser through the Mediker SafeLife range under a "no profit" commitment for the first six months.

"We have launched it as a commitment to our consumers and society during this period of crisis," said Christabel Randolph, director for legal and corporate affairs of the Bangladesh subsidiary of the Mumbai-based company.

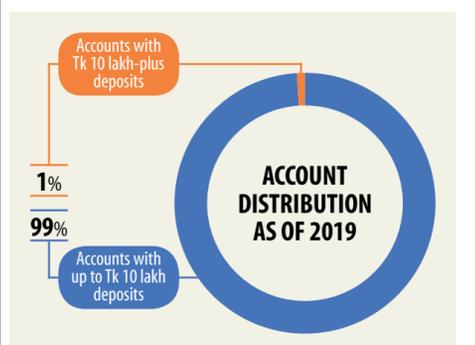
This new range will give some relief to consumers in the situation, she said.

Marico's brands include Parachute Coconut Oil, Parachute Advanced, Hair Code, Saffola Active, Set Wet and Parachute Advanced Body lotion.

Despite the rising prices of raw materials and transportation cost, ACI Consumer Brands says it has refrained from hiking the prices of its products.

"Our consumer products have a thin profit margin, so we have little scope to cut prices," said Syed Alamgir, managing director of ACI Consumer Brands, adding that now they were focusing on service, not profits.

ACI can pride itself for owning several brands that have gone on to become a household name in Bangladesh such as ACI Aerosol, Savlon, ACI Mosquito Coil, ACI Pure Spices and Flour.



Currently, account holders with bank balances exceeding Tk 10 lakh but less than Tk 1 crore any time during a year face a Tk 2,500 deduction as excise duty by banks in line with the government rules.

The rate of excise duty goes up to Tk 12,000 per account per year for balances upwards of Tk 1 crore but less than Tk 5 crore.

The excise duty goes up to Tk 25,000 per account in case debit or credit balances in the account exceeds Tk 5 crore any moment, according to the NBR.

However, small ticket account holders, who have up to Tk 1 lakh balance at any time during a year, are exempted from excise duty. Account holders with a balance between Tk 1 lakh and Tk 5 lakh have to pay Tk 150 excise duty a year.

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Fashion app sells off unwanted stock to aid Bangladeshi workers

REUTERS
A British shopping app is raising money to help hard-pressed garment workers in Bangladesh by selling off clothes ditched by global fashion brands as the coronavirus crisis decimated their sales.

Under Mallzee's Lost Stock initiative, boxes of clothes - with brand labels removed - are sold for 35 pounds (\$44), with 37 per cent of the retail price donated to a charity supplying food and other goods to clothing workers hit by layoffs and unpaid wages.

"We had the industry contacts to be in the perfect position to connect consumers with the cancelled stock supporting garment workers and helping avoid the clothes ending up in landfill," Melanie Gray, a spokeswoman for Edinburgh-based Mallzee, said.

Labour advocates in Bangladesh welcomed Mallzee's efforts but expressed concern that such initiatives could let big brands off the hook over mass cancelled orders that are putting the livelihoods of thousands of workers at risk.

"I appreciate this. But why do our workers have to live on charity?" Kalpona Akter, founder of the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"It will be highly appreciated if they (Mallzee) can pressurise brands and ensure that they pay up," Millions of Bangladeshi households depend on the garment sector, which has been hit hard by the pandemic. Exports fell by 84 per cent in the first half of April as \$3 billion-worth of orders were cancelled or suspended, according to factory owners.

As the industry reels from the blow, Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh garment manufacturers and exporters association, said schemes like Lost Stock were "imperative." Last week, Bangladeshi manufacturers said they would blacklist Western

fashion brands that "exploit" them by failing to pay their bills due to the coronavirus crisis, days after threatening to sue a major British retailer over its debts.

Several manufacturers have struggled to clear workers' dues in the last two months due to the cancellations, and hundreds of unpaid garment workers protested on the streets last month.



Since launching the programme two weeks ago, Mallzee has sold 80,000 boxes of clothes, far exceeding its goal to sell 10,000, Gray said.

She said the company had collected enough funds to supply parcels of food and sanitary products to help 80,000 garment workers and their families.

Mallzee is working in partnership with Sajida Foundation, a Bangladeshi NGO, which plans to begin the distribution of the aid packages next month.

"We're in the process of making a list of garment workers who need the relief. It can support them for two months," said Muhymin Chowdhury, spokesman for Sajida Foundation.

Researchers say charitable efforts will not be enough to support workers in the longer term, urging the government to work with factory owners to create a social safety net for garment industry employees.

Dollar loses safe-haven shine

REUTERS, London
The euro reached an 11-week high on Tuesday as the dollar lost ground, with investors maintaining their hopes for a global economic recovery.

The optimism persisted within markets despite growing concern over U.S.-China tensions and mass protests across the United States over the death of a black man in police custody.

Traders remain hopeful that central banks will continue to buy government bonds and other financial assets to protect their economies from the coronavirus pandemic.

The European Central Bank, for instance, is expected to increase its 750 billion-euro Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, or PEPP, on Thursday, probably by around 500 billion euros.

The Bank of Japan, ECB and the Federal Reserve have increased their balance sheets by 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 70 per cent respectively since the start of this year, said Kit Juckes, macro strategist at Societe Generale.

The euro last fetched \$1.1178, up 0.4 per cent on the day, after rallying to \$1.1185, its highest since March 17.

The U.S. dollar fell to a three-month low of 1.3503 against the Canadian dollar and was last trading down 0.4 per cent. It also fell against the Australian dollar, which rose to \$0.6852, its highest since Jan. 24.

China buys US soybeans after halt to US purchases ordered

REUTERS, Chicago

State-owned Chinese firms bought at least three cargoes of U.S. soybeans on Monday, even as sources in China said the government had told them to halt purchases after Washington said it would eliminate special treatment for Hong Kong to punish Beijing.

The purchases, totaling at least 180,000 tonnes of the oilseed, were for shipment in October or November, the peak U.S. soy export season when American soybeans are usually the cheapest in the world, three U.S. traders with knowledge of the deals said.

It was not immediately clear why buying continued after Beijing's message to state-owned firms, but U.S. traders said Chinese importers still have not covered a large share of October and November soybean needs.

"It's murky, really hard to say," said one U.S. export trader. "Maybe they wanted to knock a few cents off the price, or maybe there's some other agenda. The do need the beans." Earlier, two sources familiar with the matter said China told state-owned firms to halt large-scale U.S. soybean and pork purchases. One of them said state purchases of U.S. corn and cotton have also been put on hold.

The soybean sales on Monday were small compared to recent purchases by state-owned firms totaling 1 million tonnes or more at a time.

China is ready to suspend imports of more American agriculture products if Washington takes further action on Hong Kong, the sources said.

Any sustained halt in buying would further threaten progress in meeting goals set in the Phase 1 trade deal signed in January. China pledged to significantly boost purchases

of U.S. agricultural products, after slashing imports during the bruising trade war.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters during a daily briefing Tuesday that he was unaware of the situation.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump said he was directing his administration to begin the process of eliminating special treatment for Hong Kong in response to China's plans to impose new security legislation. China said on Monday it will counter U.S. attempts to harm Beijing's interests.

Chinese importers canceled 10,000 to 20,000 tonnes of American pork shipments, equivalent to roughly one week's orders in recent months following Trump's comments on Friday, the source said.

In a worst-case scenario, if Trump continues to target China, Beijing will scrap the Phase 1 deal, a second source familiar with the government plan said.

"There's no way Beijing can buy goods from the U.S. when receiving constant attacks from Trump," the person said.

U.S. corn, wheat and lean hog futures weakened on Monday due to concerns about rising trade tensions. Soybeans were flat.

Under the initial trade deal, China pledged to buy an additional \$32 billion worth of U.S. agriculture products over two years above a baseline based on 2017 figures.

The USDA reported that China bought \$1.028 billion worth of soybeans and \$691 million of pork in the first quarter of 2020. China also bought corn, wheat and soyoil this year.

Asian markets extend gains on hopes virus crisis is easing

AFP, Hong Kong

The easing of lockdowns around the world and signs that economies are slowly recovering provided further impetus for Asian stocks Tuesday, though traders remain on edge over China-US tensions and growing unrest across several large American cities.

Donald Trump's decision not to impose strict sanctions on Beijing over its Hong Kong security law allowed investors to get June off to a healthy start, while a slowdown in virus infections and deaths globally continues to keep the mood positive.

Europe pressed ahead with a further loosening of measures, with schools, pools, pubs and tourist sites reopening -- despite fears of a second

wave of infections -- providing hope that shattered economies can begin to rebuild.

Data showing improvements in factory activity in some countries, particularly badly hit Italy, also gave traders hope.

"May's data suggested the worst of the contraction may be behind us, but we see a bumpy restart in coming months," BlackRock Investment Institute strategists said in a report.

Tokyo rose 0.8 per cent, while Hong Kong climbed 0.5 per cent after a more than three percent surge Monday.

Shanghai added 0.1 per cent and Seoul was up 0.5 per cent after data showed South Korea's economy shrank less than first thought in the first quarter.

Singapore rose more than one percent as the city began easing its own shutdown measures and Manila also climbed more than one percent. There were healthy gains in Jakarta, Wellington and Taipei, though Sydney was slightly lower.

Investors appeared to brush off news that China had ordered its state-run agricultural firms to temporarily halt buying some US farm goods, which raised questions about the impact on the countries' trade pact signed in January.

That came after Trump on Friday unveiled a series of moves against China over Hong Kong but stopped short of imposing specific strict measures, suggesting the US prefers to avoid a confrontation at this point.

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Institutional Development Capacity Building (Phase-2) Project
River Research Institute, 72, Green Road, Dhaka
Phone: +880-2-58155538 Fax: 0631-63065 Website: www.rr.gov.bd
Memo No. PRI/Pra. Unnoyon/1312/2018/745 Date: 02/06/2020

Corrigendum Notice

E-Tender Notice No.: Memo No. RRI/Pra. Unnoyon/1312/2018/693 Date: 31/05/2020 published in the national and local newspapers have been amended in the last selling date as below:

Tender ID No.	Old Value	New Value
452102	Last Selling Date: 31/05/2020	Last Selling Date: 15/06/2020
451977	Last Selling Date: 31/05/2020	Last Selling Date: 15/06/2020
451390	Last Selling Date: 31/05/2020	Last Selling Date: 22/06/2020
437367	Last Selling Date 31/05/2020	Last Selling Date: 15/06/2020
437084	Last Selling Date 31/05/2020	Last Selling Date: 15/06/2020

This corrigendum will be the part of the tender document. All other terms and conditions and requirements will remain unchanged.

Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan Eusufzai
Senior Scientific Officer & Project Director
mkeusufzai@ri.gov.bd

GD-928

Office of the Project Director
Further Development of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (2nd Phase)
Patuakhali Science and Technology University
Dumki, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education/Secondary and Higher Education Division.
2	Agency	University Grants Commission (UGC).
3	Procuring entity name	Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dumki, Patuakhali-8602.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Patuakhali.
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm (National).
7	EOI Ref. No.	PSTU/ID/FDP (2nd Phase)/01/2019-2020/01
8	Date	01.06.2020
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Development Budget).
11	Development partners	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project code	224302600
13	Project name	"Further Development of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (2nd Phase)".
14	EOI Package No.	SD-01.
15	EOI package name	Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for "Further Development of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (2nd Phase)".
16	EOI publication date	01.06.2020
17	EOI closing date and time	25.06.2020 at 2:00pm.
18	EOI opening date and time	25.06.2020 at 3:00pm.
INFORMATION FOR CONSULTANT		
19	Brief description of assignment	The project Further Development of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (2nd Phase) is being implemented in PSTU, Dumki, Patuakhali for the period of 1st September 2019 to 30 June 2022. Under this project, several multistoried building will be constructed. Total Building No. 16 out of which 3 Buildings 2-storied, 2 Buildings 4-storied, 6 Buildings 5-storied, 1 Building 6-storied and 4 Buildings will be of 10-storied foundation which needs preparation of Architectural, Structural, Electro-mechanical Design-Drawings, Preparation of Cost Estimate, BOQ and Tender Documents with Full Time Supervision etc. The detailed scope of consultancy services will be obtained by PSTU website www.pstu.ac.bd The consulting firm will function with PSTU Engineering Division jointly and requires to report Project Director (PD) of FDP of PSTU (2nd phase). The Consultant will administer the civil works and related all types of engineering works with the PSTU Engineering Division jointly by order of Project Director and ensure that the project works are conducted in accordance with the provision of the contracts. The consultant will be required to maintain a team of engineers who will be full-time resident in the project area.
20	Expected qualification of consulting firm	Minimum eligibility of consultancy firm: Detailed mentioned in PSTU website www.pstu.ac.bd Duration of the Assignment: Duration of the contract would be until project completion + defects liability period (according to govt. rule); up to June 2022, may be extended later on. The consulting firm would be selected according to the technical quality and cost based selection (QCBS) criteria under the CPTU Guidelines for selection of consulting firm.
21	Experience, resources and capacity required	Detailed mentioned in PSTU website www.pstu.ac.bd
22	Association with foreign firm	N/A.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
23	Name of official inviting expression of interest	Md. Obaidul Islam.
24	Designation of official inviting expression of interest	Project Director.
25	Address of official inviting expression of interest	Office of the Project Director, Further Development of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (2nd Phase) at Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dumki, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh.
26	Contact details of official inviting expression of interest	Phone/Mobile No. 04427-56018, 01711593394 E-mail: pd_fdp@pstu.ac.bd • Details of EOI & TOR can be obtained by website: www.pstu.ac.bd
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOI.	

Engr. Md. Obaidul Islam
Project Director

GD-926

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর
ঔষধ ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
(www.dgda.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং- ডিআইপি/আউটসোর্সিং-১২৪/১৩/ ১৯৫ তারিখ: ০২/০৬/২০২০

আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ নাম	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।				
২।	সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর, ঔষধ ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।				
৩।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং: ডিআইপি/আউটসোর্সিং-১২৪/১৩/ ১৯৫, তারিখ: ০২/০৬/২০২০।				
৪।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (Open Tendering Method)				
৫।	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	ডিআইপি (অনুদান), ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছর।				
৬।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উপলব্ধি তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/০৬/২০২০ খ্রিঃ হতে ১৬/০৬/২০২০ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন।				
৭।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উপলব্ধি স্থান	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর, ঔষধ ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।				
৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর, ঔষধ ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২-এ রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজেট ১৬/০৬/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১০:০০টা পর্যন্ত।				
৯।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর, ঔষধ ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২; তারিখ ১৭/০৬/২০২০; সময় ২.৩০টা।				
১০।	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের বিকল্প	আউটসোর্সিং এর মাধ্যমে জনবল সরবরাহ।				
১১।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উপলব্ধি স্থান	প্রতি স্টেট ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার টাকা) (অফিসের মাধ্যমে)।				
১২।	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত জনবল সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবন্ধিত হতে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাবে।					
১৩।	দরপত্র পাতার যোগ্যতা	সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান/প্রকল্পের জনবল সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে বাধ্য অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান যার হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আউটসোর্সিং অথবা সার্টিফিকেট অব ইনকর্পোরেশন, কর সনাক্তকরণ নথি ও অফিসের পরিশোধের সনদ, জাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, বায়ক যন্ত্রপাতির সনদপত্র ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী (সরকার অস্বীকারিত) প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে হবে (বিস্তারিত টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লেখ রয়েছে)।				
১৪।	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	যে কোন অফিসিয়াল ব্যাংক হতে "ডি ডি ও, ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর" অনুকূলে ৪,৫০,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার।				
১৫।	পদ ও জনবলের যোগ্যতার বিবরণ	অর্থ বিভাগ কর্তৃক জারীকৃত "আউটসোর্সিং (Outsourcing) প্রক্রিয়ায় সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা ২০১৮" অনুযায়ী।				
	ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা
	ক.	বিভিন্ন ক্যাটাগরির ৭৫ জন জনবল	৭৫ (পঁচাত্তর)	১৮-৬০	স্ট্রিম গ্রেডী পাসসহ (Outsourcing) প্রক্রিয়ায় সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা ২০১৮" - এ বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা।	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে অনুযায়ী।
১৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণ, উন্মুক্তকরণ, মূল্যায়ন সংক্রান্ত কার্যাদি শিপিং-২০০৬ এবং শিপিং-২০০৮ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি দ্বারা পরিচালিত হবে।					
১৭।	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময় জানা যাবে।					
১৮।	দরপত্র আবেদনকারীর নাম					
১৯।	উপ-পরিচালক, ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।					
২০।	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত জনবল সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবন্ধিত হতে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাবে।					
২১।	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা					
	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করাসহ উক্ত দরপত্রের যাবতীয় সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।					

Engr. Md. Obaidul Islam
উপ-পরিচালক

GD-932



TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE

Why can't the ride-hailing services ply the roads yet when everyone else can?

MAHMUDUL HASAN

After passing nervous two months thanks to the countrywide general shutdown, hitting the Dhaka streets again has become a compelling need for Md Belal Hossain, who drives a car under a ridesharing service.

But the partial reopening of the economy has not brought any good news for him as the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has asked all ridesharing services to stay off the roads until further notice, although restrictions were eased for transport services and buses, minibuses, trains and domestic airlines have resumed operations.

"The decision is frustrating. If the operation does not resume soon, my family will starve," said Hossain, who mainly provides ride-hailing services by way of both Uber and Pathao.

His plight began at the beginning of March when the country reported the maiden cases of COVID-19. As the situation worsened, the government was compelled to enforce a shutdown, banning the movement of all public transport.

And with it went Hossain's source of livelihood.

Until the coronavirus reached the shores of Bangladesh, he used to drive a car by paying a monthly rental of Tk 22,000.

He has been with Uber since 2016 when the San Francisco-based American multinational ride-hailing company debuted in the country and has been taking home about Tk 18,000 a month on an average.

The income was enough for Hossain to rent a small flat in the capital's Mohammadpur for

his wife and two children at a monthly rent of Tk 5,000.

But, he has been unable to pay the rent for the last two months.

"Even on Saturday, the landlord paid a visit for the rent. I requested him to wait for a few more weeks as I had thought that ridesharing services would be operational again," he told The Daily Star over the phone in an emotional voice as if he was on the verge of tears.

If he can't pay the rent for June, he fears he might be evicted.

He has been buying daily essentials from a local grocery shop on credit assuring the shop owner, whom he knows for a long time, that he would repay when the situation returns to normalcy. He owes the grocer more than Tk 20,000.

"When I go the grocery to buy something, I cannot look at his eyes because I feel so ashamed. I went to every potential source to get some donation or food incentive, but I got nothing."

He submitted the photocopy of his national identification card to the office of the local ward councillor and visited it for a dozen times only to get rejected.

And neither Uber nor Pathao provided anything during this hardship. "I had thought at least Uber will do something for me as I have been with them for a long time."

CALLS FOR REOPENING GROWS LOUDER

On May 30, the BRTA sent a letter to 12 ridesharing service providers instructing them not to resume operation. The government agency did not explain why.

Drivers strongly protested the decision.



"While bus, train, CNG-run vehicles and minibuses are allowed to ply on the roads, the authorities put us in the red zone. But why?" said Md Kamrul Hossain, president of the Dhaka Ridesharing Drivers Union (DRDU), an organisation of app-based drivers representing around 5,000 members.

He urged the government to allow them to resume operations immediately as many families depend on their earnings.

"We are from lower-middle-income groups and we can't go outside for begging. The only solution is to allow us to drive again as it has already been allowed for everyone else."

The companies echoed the same. On June

1, Pathao and Uber jointly wrote a letter to the BRTA seeking permission to resume operations.

Ridesharing service, which is operated with the help of technology, is capable of providing the safest transportation to the public, the letter said.

OBHAI also wrote to the agency seeking approval to run the trial of its car and CNG-run vehicle services.

SAFETY CONCERNS

The main reason for not allowing the ridesharing companies to return to roads is safety concerns because of the highly contagious nature of the virus.

BRTA's Acting Chairman Yousub Ali Mollah recently told The Daily Star that they decided to halt the operations as most vehicles under ridesharing services are motorcycles and maintaining a social distance might be difficult for passengers and riders.

"If the situation changes, we will consider resuming this service."

However, the companies argue they are safer than any other mode of transport.

In the letter to the BRTA, Uber and Pathao said while mass transports like bus, train and subways are closed in many other countries, ridesharing service was allowed to continue as they were deemed safer.

As there is no restriction on cars and motorcycles, there will be an increase in offline trips that would pose a threat to safety and hygiene for both drivers and passengers, the companies said.

The companies are providing training to drivers through video tutorials and pictorials

so that they can make a safe journey during the crisis, according to the letter.

"The transport service we provide is the safest. We are far safer than the bus," Hossain said.

Uber said it has spearheaded the formation of a 'Transport Safety Alliance' in partnership with DBL Pharma, Zantrik, Dettol (Reckitt Benckiser) and Fresh Tissue.

The alliance will raise safety awareness amongst consumers and equip drivers with necessary health and safety supplies to ensure safer rides.

Uber and its allies will distribute key safety supplies such as masks, soaps, tissues and hand sanitisers to drivers from Zantrik's distribution points.

Reckitt Benckiser will provide Dettol soap bars free of charge and Fresh will distribute tissue papers, the ridesharing company said in an email to The Daily Star.

"As always, we will continue to invest in technology, safety protocols and will comply with all government guidelines to help keep everyone who uses the Uber platform safe," said Ratul Ghosh, head of East India and Bangladesh at Uber.

Pathao has consistently been taking necessary steps in making sure that safety is perfectly ensured in these times, said Sayeda Nabila Mahabub, director for marketing and public relations at the company.

It is providing facemasks, hand sanitisers, disinfectants and hand gloves to its drivers and will also provide regular health check-up facilities to customers.

READ MORE ON B3

Beximco Pharma bracing for remdesivir export to 30 countries

AHSAN HABIB

Beximco Pharmaceuticals seem to be going through a purple patch of late.

After grabbing headlines globally last month for being the first company to market remdesivir, the antiviral drug that has shown promise in treating COVID-19 patients, the local pharmaceutical company is now set to export the medicine to more than 30 countries this month.

"We are in talks and have made a lot of progress in some cases. We expect that we can export from this month," Rabbur Reza, chief operating officer of the company, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Without mentioning names of the countries, he said they have been approached by some Asian, African, Middle Eastern and European nations.

"We will export the medicine through our government and so we are receiving requests through their governments only," he said.

Though Beximco Pharmaceuticals' stocks plunged 2.8 per cent to Tk 68 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday, the price is far better than it was three months ago, according to

data of the premier bourse.

Market analysts said investors are optimistic about the company's performance as it has produced a drug like remdesivir to meet the growing demand of the local and international markets.

When most other listed companies suffered a massive drop in their prices amid the fallout of the pandemic, Beximco Pharmaceuticals was faring quite well, they said.

Some other local companies including Eskayef (SK-F), Incepta, Beacon, Healthcare and Square have also got the go-ahead to manufacture remdesivir, a drug developed by American biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences.

Eskayef began distributing its version of remdesivir, Remivir, last month.

The injection, which was previously developed to treat the Ebola virus but did not work, has come to the limelight as one of the most promising treatments for COVID-19 that has claimed 375,656 lives around the world so far.

Data from a trial by the National Institutes of Health in the US showed that remdesivir reduced hospitalisation stays



by 31 per cent compared to a placebo treatment, but did not significantly improve survival.

California-based Gilead has a patent on remdesivir, which means it has exclusive rights to make it. But, international trade rules allow nations defined by the United Nations as least developed countries, including Bangladesh, to ignore such patents and make drugs more affordable in their markets.

The United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool, which is helping Gilead find partners,

contacted Beximco asking if it was interested in the voluntary licencing for remdesivir, Reza was quoted as saying by Bloomberg.

Gilead has since licenced five companies including Cipla and Mylan NV in India and Ferozsons Laboratories in Pakistan to make generic versions of the drug and sell in 127 countries.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Beximco Pharmaceuticals sent some remdesivir to Pakistan for three critically ill COVID-19 patients by a special cargo flight.

A spokesperson of Beximco said they sent 48 vials of Bemsivir, the brand name of remdesivir, on humanitarian grounds and at the request of the Pakistan high commission in Dhaka.

"Beximco was requested by official authorities to provide Bemsivir for a small group of critically ill patients against a special import permit issued by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan," he said.

Recently, a medicine manufacturer in Pakistan named Searle Pharma announced that it plans to import remdesivir from Bangladesh. The firm said it had entered into an exclusive licensing and marketing agreement with Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals.

"Searle Pharma is planning to import remdesivir in finished form (ready-to-use) to meet the country's urgent requirements," the company told the Pakistan Stock Exchange recently.

Beximco Pharma, listed on the Alternate Investment Market (AIM) of London Stock Exchange, Norway's Norges Bank, the world's biggest sovereign fund, controls 3 per cent of Beximco, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

EU to give €90m to garment workers laid off for COVID-19

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

There is finally some good news for the hard-up garment workers as the European Union (EU) will provide more than €90 million to those who have lost their jobs because of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Each worker will get their respective handout directly, possibly through the use of their bank or mobile financial service account and a government agency, to ensure transparency in the distribution of the fund.

The initiative is still at the very preliminary stage as the EU has been holding meetings with authorities concerned for the release of the fund.

"The BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association) and BKMEA (Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association) will help prepare the list of retrenched workers," said Yasir Obaid, chairman of the trade body's standing committee on automation.

The EU has been holding meetings with leaders of both the BGMEA and the BKMEA to assess the total number of retrenched workers, he told The Daily Star over the phone.

The exact number of workers can be known in the first week of July as those laid off in June will also be included in the final assessment.

The amount that each worker will get from the fund is yet to be finalised.

"The exact final amount might be a little bit more than €90 million as far as I can understand from the meeting," he said.

The sector has been particularly hit hard by the pandemic: more than 1,000 garment factories have faced order cancellations amounting to \$2.97 billion, a development that can leave more than a million of its 4 million-odd workers without a job, according to the BGMEA.

Earlier in April, the EU announced a €5 million cash support for Myanmar's garment workers.

Garment exports to major destinations nosedive

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's garment exports to major destinations suffered a devastating blow in April as factories put up the shutters while demand hit rock bottom because of the coronavirus pandemic worldwide.

Apparel shipment to the EU, Bangladesh's largest export market, was only \$220 million in April, while the average monthly earnings usually stand at nearly 1.5 billion, according to data from

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

In July-April, Bangladesh exported garment items worth \$15.06 billion to the EU, which is 14.61 per cent lower than that in the same period last fiscal year.

Garment export to the US, the country's single largest export destination, amounted to only \$70 million in April, against the average monthly earnings of \$500 million in the usual times, the BGMEA data shows.

In July-April, the amount stood at \$4.44 billion, which is 12.64 per cent lower than the earnings in the same period last year.

Export also declined to the Canadian market: In April, Bangladesh exported garment items worth \$9.5 million. During July-April the amount reached \$746.35 million, a 21.64 per cent drop year-on-year.

"We foresee continued slowdown in exports till the end of this year," said BGMEA President Rubana Huq.

April and May have seen freefall in exports and based on the current discussions with the buyers, exporters would have to be skeptical in making a generalised prediction, she added.

"We may see exports plummeting by 30-40 per cent in upcoming months since retail markets are yet to pick up and the impact of COVID-19 on consumer behaviour is still unknown."

The sector is still facing many uncertainties, she added.

Benapole custom releases goods in record 19 minutes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Benapole Custom House yesterday issued the release order and cleared a consignment of chilli, turmeric and ginger in just 19 minutes -- a new record for the port.

The customs duty paper was printed in 10 minutes and the release order in the next 9 minutes, said Belal Hossain Chowdhury, Benapole custom commissioner.

Some 42 railway wagons carried the 2,600 tonnes of spices, he said.

"The goods were released in the quickest possible time to prevent a potential crisis," Chowdhury added.

If the documents are correct, not only rail cargo, all types of consignments can be cleared quickly, said Naem Miron, a revenue officer of Benapole Customs House.

Rubel Enterprise from Bogura brought the products from India, according to import documents.

Importers have to pay parking fees and extortion charges if the products are carried through trucks, whereas rail cargoes are free of such matters, Chowdhury said.

One wagon can bring four trucks of goods at a time and a train of 100 bogies can bring about 400 trucks a day.

Moreover, the chances of false declaration in rail cargo remain low and the rent is less than half of trucks', he added.

Nivea teams up with e-commerce platforms to reach customers' doorsteps

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Global skincare brand Nivea has partnered with multiple e-commerce platforms in Bangladesh to make its wide portfolio of personal care products easily available to consumers through the touch of their fingertips as the coronavirus pandemic pushes people online.

Through the partnerships, the brand aims to cater to the growing needs of consumers by providing more accessibility of skincare products, including shower gels,

roll-ons and face washes, among others.

Its partners are Daraz, Chaldal, Shwapno, Shajgoj, Eorange, Shoparu, Ghore bazar, Meenacllick and Shop Up.

Nivea is a German personal care brand that specialises in body-care and is owned by Hamburg-based Beiersdorf Global AG.

"We have seen a growing demand even during this lockdown for our products. Hence it was only natural that we keep our supply chains moving to get closer to our consumers," said Sudhanshu Krishna,



associate director for international business at Nivea, in a statement yesterday.

Nivea is now reshaping delivery models for the sake of the consumers as it looks to provide greater convenience.

The service will be available for consumers in Dhaka and will soon expand to the cities in line with the expansion of the e-commerce companies. It will also offer multiple payment options for customers.

In Bangladesh, Nivea is represented by International Distribution Company.