



Bank Asia reelects audit committee chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dilwar H Choudhury has recently been re-elected chairman of the audit committee of the board of directors of Bank Asia.

He is a professional banker having 35 years of work experience in eight different countries of Asia, Europe and Africa, says a press release.

Choudhury was managing director (current charge) of The City Bank, and chief executive officer of three different banks in Turkey, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

His occupational engagement with KPMG, Dhaka, during 2004-2005, as banking associate under Word Bank's Financial Sector Reform Program, added new element to his professional life.



Mercantile Bank gets new vice chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

M Amanullah has recently been elected vice chairman of Mercantile Bank.

The election took place at the bank's 367th board meeting on Thursday, says a press release.

Amanullah is a sponsor director of the bank and its former chairman. He is the founder and chairman of all of the companies under the conglomerate Aman Group of Companies.

Amanullah is also a director of Bangla daily Amader Shomoy. He is the former chairman of the board of trustees of Presidency University, Dhaka and founder chairman of Gulshan North Club.

Govt to monitor health guidelines at cattle markets

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is closely monitoring cattle market so that no major untoward incident occurs amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday.

"This year the challenge is new to us but we are ready to strongly monitor the cattle market but awareness among the masses will be much more effective," he said.

The minister was addressing a virtual meeting on the current situation of law and order in the country and health safety issues in the cattle markets for upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organised the meeting as law and order deteriorates almost every year ahead of Eid-ul-Azha when traders start selling cows across the country.

Khan also said maintaining law and order was always a challenging task. However, the government is always committed to controlling the law and order situation with a firm hand, he said.

"Our police department is working hard. They discharged their duties continuously during the lockdown period," the DCCI quoted Khan as saying while moderating the meeting.

Shams Mahmud, the DCCI president, said the business communities were going through a

tough time because of the coronavirus pandemic.

During these challenging times, maintaining public health by enforcing numerous restrictions is one of the hardest tasks, he said.

"We are in such a crisis that if we imbed cattle markets in the country, it may spread Covid-19 and if we do not allow the cattle markets, it may cause a huge loss to farmers. So we need to balance out this situation," he said.

Bringing cattle markets online will be a better option, he added.

However, in case of running cattle markets on a limited scale, the organisers should be more cautious about health safety issues, he said.

Zia Rahman, a professor of criminology at the University of Dhaka, presented a keynote paper.

"We cannot avoid health risks in the upcoming Qurbani cattle market but we might be able to minimise the risks as best we can by abiding by health safety measures," he said.

Law enforcement agencies should stand strong against all health related irregularities, he said.

Md Shaheen Ahamed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said last year's trade of leather, raw hide and sacrificial animals was worth about Tk 40,000 crore.

This year though due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the market transaction volume might come down, he said.

"Although it is hard to maintain health safety in the cattle market, we have no other alternative but to be aware," he said, adding that penalties should be imposed if anyone does not wear masks.

Md Helal Uddin, former vice president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, suggested customers take several masks with them when visiting cattle markets.

Shomi Kaiser, president of e-Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said e-commerce businesses have made a significant appearance in Bangladesh during the lockdown period.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, 22 per cent of the population under internet penetration bought goods using e-commerce platforms and the figure increased amidst the pandemic, she said.

The growing momentum of the e-commerce sector has been gathering pace over the last four to five years.

She also admitted that there might have been some cases of fraudulence by a few unethical e-commerce businesses but stern action should be taken against them with the help of the Ministry of Commerce and Competition Council.

But for a very few acts of fraudulence, the entire sector should not be blamed, Kaiser added.

Fahim Saleh lit up Bangladesh's start-up scene like no other

FROM PAGE B1

On 15 September that year, i Peel Good, a game in which one just peels fruit, hit the top spot in iOS downloads.

There is no way to lose, and only one way to advance: by peeling fruit or a root vegetable. Once the skin is entirely off, a trivia on the fruit or vegetable flashes across the screen. The game struck a chord for its oddly simple and relaxing tempo.

"The money we lost in three years we made in just two months."

Alpha Potato now is known worldwide among the mobile game publishers for popularising the trend of idle games genre.

"Now, it is a hugely profitable venture. We were supposed to sit with Fahim this year and discuss our future plans. But that is no longer possible," said a palpably grief-stricken Mustakim over the phone.

JOBIKE FOUNDED IN A FLASH

Saleh's HackHouse was involved in three other ventures: Jetchow, Jabe and Banaici.

Mehedi Reza was working with Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's office in China in February 2018 when he had a brief chat with Saleh over the phone. Shameem Ahsan, chairman of the Venture Capital and Private Equity Association of Bangladesh, had introduced the two a year earlier.

During the ten-minute conversation, Reza shared his dream of founding a bicycle rental platform in Bangladesh. "Fahim straightaway told me to resign from the Alibaba Job."

Within a few minutes of hanging up with Reza, and consistent with his instinctive nature, Saleh had wired the initial funding for the venture.

"He is not just an angel investor only; he is much more than that. Without him I would not have dared to launch Jobike," said Reza, its founder and CEO.

On 18 June that year, Jobike launched in Cox's Bazar as part of its plan to champion two-wheelers as one of the

main modes of transport in the congested city.

And six months later, the bicycle rental company rolled out its service in Dhaka.

Currently, Jobike has footprints in Mirpur DOHS, Dhaka University, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Chittagong University, Cox's Bazar with a fleet of more than 400 bicycles. It plans to expand to other areas in Dhaka and the other big cities of Bangladesh.

"Fahim bhai has so many crazy ideas and he liked to listen to all of our crazy ideas. It's a deep loss to our start-up ecosystem in Bangladesh and the rest of the emerging market start-up scene."

Reza last met Saleh in October last year, when he showed up at the Jobike office unannounced. Both had on them sunglasses of the same brand and model, and Saleh mistakenly took away Reza's shades.

"Later, I called him and said, 'Man, you took my sunglasses, which is newer. I still have Fahim bhai's sunglasses -- it is now priceless.'"

JATRI SHUTTLING DHAKA

In January 2019, Aziz Arman was working for another company when he met Saleh and discussed his vision for Jatri, a bus ticketing app.

Four days later, Saleh got the ball rolling on pre-seed funding for Jatri. Pre-seed funding is the small investment needed to get a business started.

With Saleh's guidance, Arman formed the US holding company on 18 February 2019 and from 26 March it began providing services by partnering up with Trust Transport Services.

"We launched our tracking as a separate service as part of the journey planner in August after getting a good response from users and bus owners/authorities."

By December 2019, Jatri had closed a round of seed funding, which is a private investment of capital in a start-up in

exchange for equity.

Typically coming from friends and family, venture capital firms, angel investors or even through crowdfunding, seed capital is a very early investment meant to support the business until it can generate cash of its own, or until it is ready for further investments.

Jatri got seed money from Bolt, Super Angel, Falcon Network and other angels who were involved in building similar tech-based solutions.

Currently, Jatri covers 33 per cent of the major routes of Dhaka with prominent bus operators such as Gulshan Chaka, Trust Transport, Green Dhaka, Dhaka Chaka, Agrodut Bus Services, Osim Paribahan. It also provides corporate transport service.

Jatri, which has acquired another four major routes of Dhaka by partnering with reputed bus companies, provides journey planning, tracking, digital payment and ticketing (both online and offline).

"Fahim played a tremendous role in building Jatri. He guided the team with an active role. He truly believed in our vision and valiantly helped to accelerate Jatri's progress to global standards. He was a visionary and an ingenious friend of ours," Arman added.

KICKBACK APP

Saleh first proper foray in tech entrepreneurship was in 2009, soon after he graduated from Bentley University with a degree in computer science. He launched PrankDial, a prank-calling app that allows users to pay to send a pre-recorded call to a friend.

"The app launched within a few months to major success. People began making in-app purchases, and PrankDial was a top 10 iOS app at one point," Saleh wrote in a Medium blogpost in 2018.

He had built the backend while a developer developed the iOS app.

"As our revenue climbed from \$200,000 in 2010 to nearly \$2 million in 2012, I was able to grow our team further

and rent a real office. PrankDial.com is still up and running, generating between \$1 and \$2 million annually," he added.

To date, it has made more than \$10 million and makes about \$600,000 a year, according to Hasan Rafi, the in-charge of Dhaka office of KickBack Apps, the holding company of PrankDial.

KickBack Apps, which has an office in the capital's Mirpur DOHS since September 2018, develops apps for the American market.

And it was with the money generated by KickBack Apps that Saleh made all the investments in start-ups in the developing world.

To Rafi, Fahim was an inspirational character, who was always jolly and upbeat. And like the others before him, he too has an anecdote of Saleh extraordinary generosity.

"I was in San Francisco once and lost my bag that had all my money, passport and MacBook. Upon hearing this incident, Fahim straightaway sent me money and bought me a new MacBook and did not even ask me to pay back," Rafi added.

And it is this generosity that unwittingly led to Saleh's cruellest end at the hands of his personal assistant Tyrese Devon Haspil.

According to three officials briefed on the matter, Saleh had discovered that Haspil had stolen roughly \$90,000 from him, reports The New York Times.

Though Saleh fired Haspil, he did not report the theft, the officials said. He even offered to arrange a way for his former employee to work off his debt in what amounted to a payment plan.

Investigators believe Haspil murdered Saleh rather than honour the deal, reports NY Post.

ADVENTURE CAPITAL SPAWNING START-UPS

In 2018, Saleh set up Adventure Capital, a unique mix of incubator and venture fund focused in potential emerging markets.

"He identified there was a lack of pre-seed and seed-stage investment gap in these regions," said Mehidi Hasan Omi, an investment analyst at Adventure Capital and a close associate of Saleh.

Adventure Capital's portfolio includes Picap and Muvo in Colombia; Gokada in Nigeria; Madlipz in Canada. He personally invested in a few more tech start-ups.

The firm provides extensive operational, technical and financial support to each of its portfolio companies, each of which is improving the lives of millions and generating jobs with more efficient markets through technology.

"His view of sustainable entrepreneurship and hands-on approach towards the founders was favoured by many. The founders would need extensive support to go along with the money. Thus, he made life a lot easier for the founders."

Saleh's views of the Bangladeshi ecosystem stayed strong until the end as he kept on investing and driving funding into the region, Omi said.

"Bangladesh has been one of his favoured regions of investment. He saw the immense potential in Bangladesh very early on and eventually came here intending to solve real problems," he added.

The brutal killing of Fahim Saleh is not only an irreparable loss for Bangladesh but also for the rest of the world as he was solving problems across the continents, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for Information and Communications Technology, told The Daily Star last night.

His activities and dreams for his native country were playing an important role in the implementation of Digital Bangladesh, he said, while calling upon the youths of Bangladesh to follow in the footsteps of Saleh and take the country forward.

Palak also called on the US government to bring justice to Saleh's brutal murder.

Social Islami Bank offers insurance to investing clients

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Social Islami Bank is offering insurance coverage for its deposit and investment clients.

Nominees will get life insurance coverage of up to Tk 15 lakh on the insured value of monthly savings scheme in case of unexpected death of the client, says a press release.

Nominees of savings account holders are also eligible to avail up to Tk 3 lakh life insurance coverage, the bank said in a press release yesterday.

Consumer finance clients' nominees are also entitled to avail this life insurance coverage of up to Tk 15 lakh and this insured amount can be used for investment repayment also.

Japan plans to invite TSMC to build joint chip plant

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan is aiming to invite Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd or other global chipmakers to build an advanced chip manufacturing plant jointly with domestic chip equipment suppliers, the Yomiuri daily reported on Sunday.

The Japanese government hopes to tap the expertise of global chipmakers to rejuvenate the lagging domestic chip industry as advanced chip technologies have become a focal point in national security issues, Yomiuri said.

The government is planning to offer

a total of several hundred billion yen, or equivalent to several billion dollars, over multiple years to overseas chipmakers who join the project, the daily said, without citing sources. The report gave no timeline for the project.

TSMC did not immediately respond to an email inquiry on Sunday. The Japanese industry ministry did not answer calls.

TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker, in May unveiled plans for a \$12 billion plant in the United State in an apparent win for the Trump administration's efforts to wrestle global technology supply chains back from China.

Pandemic puts a damper on Tata pickup project

FROM PAGE B4

Now, it is the largest distributor of Tata Motors in South Asia and the most dominant player in the country's commercial vehicle market with over 40 per cent of the market share.

According to Nitel Motors, it accounts for over two-thirds of the pickup truck market in the country and has been growing at a double digit rate for the past five years.

Due to delays, Ahmad said their investment would increase to Tk 500 crore from an estimated Tk 300 crore to set up an assembly plant for pickup trucks and it would need a total Tk 800 crore to manufacture trucks and buses in future.

Ahmad also said that the assembly of pickup trucks would reduce its price in the domestic market by about one third per unit.

RAB, Police and small entrepreneurs will be major customers for the pickup, he added.

"If we are able to start assembling and manufacturing at the plant, local vendors who provide us components would be beneficial, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced 'Light Engineering' as the product of the year to give special attention for earning more foreign exchange through exporting various products."

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন

পরিবহন ভবন

২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০৪.০০০০.০১৫.২৯.১৬৮(অংক-০২).৯৯/৬৮৭(ক)

তারিখঃ ১৫/০৭/২০২০

আয়কর উপদেষ্টা পদে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশনে আয়কর উপদেষ্টা/আইনজীবী পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের ঢাকাস্থ স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসকারী শারীরিক ও মানসিকভাবে সুস্থ নাগরিকগণের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	এসেসমেন্ট ফি (প্রতি করবৎসর)	শ্রদ্ধা পদের সংখ্যা	যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতা
০১	আয়কর উপদেষ্টা	১,০০,০০০/-	০১	(১) কমপক্ষে ৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (২) অবসরপ্রাপ্ত আয়কর কর্মকর্তাদের জন্য শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য ও অগ্রাধিকার থাকবে।

দরখাস্তকারীকে নিজ হাতে সাদা কাগজে নিম্নবর্ণিত তথ্য ও চাহিদা প্রতিপালনপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে।

- (ক) নাম (খ) পিতা/স্বামীর নাম (গ) মাতার নাম (ঘ) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা (ঙ) বর্তমান ঠিকানা (চ) জন্ম তারিখ (ছ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার পূর্ণ বিবরণ (জ) অভিজ্ঞতা (ঝ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদ/জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (ঞ) বার কাউন্সিল ও ট্যাক্স বারে মেম্বারশীপের সনদপত্র এবং সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ (দুই) কপি রঙিন ছবি সত্যায়নপূর্বক দাখিল করতে হবে।
- চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এর বরাবরে আবেদনপত্র আগামী ০৬/০৮/২০২০ইং তারিখের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে/সরাসরি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- বিআরটিসি এর আয়কর এসেসমেন্টের জন্য প্রতি করবৎসরে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা প্রদান করা হবে। ডায়েরী কেস ট্রাইব্যুনাল পর্যায়ের খরচ ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা অতিরিক্ত প্রদান করা হবে।
- নথিপত্রের মতামত প্রদান, আলোচনা-আলোচনা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য কাজের জন্য আয়কর উপদেষ্টা বিআরটিসি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে রিটাইনার ফি পাবে।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সরকারি অপরূপার বিধিবিধান এবং আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের সলিসিটর উইং এর যাবতীয় আদেশ নির্দেশ যথাযথভাবে প্রতিপালন করা হবে।
- স্বামীর উপর অবশ্যই প্রার্থী পদের নাম স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- মৌখিক সাক্ষাতকারের সময় প্রয়োজনীয় সকল সনদের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও www.brtc.gov.bd (ঠিকানা) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- উপরে উল্লেখ করা হয়নি কিন্তু প্রয়োজন্য রয়েছে এমন ক্ষেত্রে মন্ত্রণালয় (বিআরটিসি) কর্তৃক জারিকৃত বিধিবিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ সংশোধন, বাতিল কিংবা যে কোন শর্ত শিথিল ও নতুন শর্ত সংযোজনের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

-স্বাক্ষরিত

চেয়ারম্যান

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন

পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০

জিডি-১১৬৫

REUTERS

TikTok has been in discussions with the UK government over the past few months to locate its headquarters in London, a source familiar with the matter said, as part of a strategy to distance itself from its Chinese ownership.

London is among one of several

locations the company is considering, but no decisions have been made, the source said. It was not immediately clear what other locations are under consideration. But it has hired aggressively in California this year, including poaching Kevin Mayer, a former Walt Disney Co executive, to be TikTok's chief executive. He is based in the United States.