



Mohammed Monirul Moula, additional managing director of Islami Bank, opens the bank's first Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) at Eastern Plaza in Dhaka recently.

Amazon expands in Brazil, riding e-commerce boom set off by Covid-19 distancing

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Amazon said on Monday it had opened three more logistics centers in Brazil to take advantage of the boost the COVID-19 pandemic has given to e-commerce in South America's largest economy.

The new units are already operating in the states of Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul and the capital city of Brasilia. They increase the number of Amazon logistics centers in Brazil to eight, expanding its reach to all corners of the vast country.

The expansion, which adds 75,000 square meters (807,000 square feet) of distribution space, is Amazon's biggest since it began operating in Brazil in 2012. It will create 1,500 direct jobs, the company said in a statement. Alex Szapiro, Amazon's chief executive in Brazil, said the new centers will allow the company to immediately raise the number of cities where Amazon Prime customers can receive deliveries within two business days to over 500 from 400.

"Brazil is the country with the fastest growth in Amazon Prime subscriptions," Szapiro told Reuters, referring to the company's loyalty program, which was launched in Brazil in September last year.

In recent months, thousands of Brazilian businesses have migrated

to e-commerce platforms as a result of social distancing measures and lockdown measures. Despite the gradual easing of the measures, the migration to digital sales has continued.

Last week, MercadoLibre Inc, Latin America's e-commerce leader, announced that its net revenue in the region soared nearly 150 per cent in

the third quarter, measured in local currencies.

MercadoLibre's operation in Brazil, which accounts for more than half of its total business, more than doubled.

Other companies in Brazil, including Via Varejo, GPA and Magazine Luiza, are buying up logistics startups to ride the same e-commerce wave.



REUTERS/FILE

Amazon Country Manager for Brazil Alex Szapiro smiles after an interview with Reuters in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Investors celebrate Biden winning US presidency

REUTERS, New York

Investors and financial executives took a big sigh of relief on Saturday after major networks declared Democrat Joe Biden winner of the US presidential election, offering some certainty after days of conflicting reports about who might run the White House next term.

Although current President Donald Trump said he would fight the results in court, Wall Streeters who offered comments felt there was little doubt Biden would ultimately succeed. Election predictors including the Associated Press, NBC, Fox News and Edison Research, upon which Reuters relies, called the presidency for Biden.

"Biden is good news for the markets," Christopher Stanton, chief investment officer at Sunrise Capital Partners, said on Saturday. "We're all so tired of the whipsaw that came with the Trump tweets."

Major US stock indexes registered their biggest weekly gains since April this week, as investors bet Biden would win and Republicans would hold onto the Senate. That scenario would create a steadier hand in the Oval Office and a Congress that would check left-leaning impulses on taxes or regulations that pinch companies, investors said.

However, there are lingering risks to asset prices in the days and weeks ahead. Republicans have already filed several lawsuits over ballot counting and Trump said his campaign will file more. The litigation could drag out election proceedings.

Investor focus also now turns to the Senate, which remains undecided ahead of two runoff elections in Georgia on Jan. 5. The significance of those races, which could potentially end up with the Democrats controlling all three of the White House, Senate and House of Representatives, means January is "the new November" in terms of election volatility risk, Michael Purves, founder and CEO of

Tallbacken Capital, said in a note to clients. Purves said that was evident when looking at contracts for the stockmarket's fear gauge, the VIX, stretching out into the months ahead.

Beyond those battles, investors have been worried about the people Biden might appoint to his Cabinet. Some of those officials would be negotiating with Congress about a relief package and have extensive powers to craft Wall Street rules.

Current US Federal Reserve governor and former McKinsey consultant Lael Brainard's name has been floated as a potential Treasury Secretary, while Biden has already tapped former derivatives market regulator and Goldman Sachs Group Inc banker Gary Gensler for advice on financial regulation.

For the moment, investors and prominent Wall Street figures said they were happy with the election finally being called after what seemed like unending tension as ballots were counted through the week.

"Now is a time for unity," JPMorgan Chase & Co Chief Executive Jamie Dimon said in a statement. "We must respect the results of the US presidential election and, as we

have with every election, honor the decision of the voters and support a peaceful transition of power."

Leon Cooperman, a billionaire former hedge fund manager who had previously criticized Democrats said he was pleased with the results.

"It's a signal to the world that America has not changed its values," said Cooperman, of Omega Family Office. "That's a good thing in my view."

Robert Wolf, a major Democratic donor and former UBS Group AG executive who now runs 32 Advisors, was enthusiastic: "I am ecstatic, relieved and deeply hopeful for the future of this country," he said in a text message.

Billionaire investor Bill Ackman wrote on Twitter: "There comes a time in the battle when one should fold the tent," and urged: "Concede graciously and call for unity."

The financial industry was not reacting in a bubble: major cities from New York to San Francisco erupted in celebration on Saturday. Though Trump undoubtedly has significant support throughout the country, including on Wall Street, 2020 has been a difficult year for the United States.



REUTERS/FILE

A Wall Street sign is seen outside the New York Stock Exchange.

Central bank sees French GDP down 9-10pc in 2020

AFP, Paris

France's central bank said Monday it expects economic activity to decline between 9 and 10 per cent this year, a bigger drop than previously forecast due to a new lockdown.

While the new confinement measures will deepen the recession, the Banque de France believes that they will be far less destructive than during the country's first confinement earlier this year.

"Before the second wave, we thought the recession would be a little less than 9 percent, we think today that for 2020 as a whole it will be between 9 and 10 percent," Banque

de France chief Francois Villeroy de Galhau said on RTL.

The central bank had forecast in September that economic activity, or GDP, would decline by 8.7 per cent this year. But that was before the rapid rise in Covid-19 cases in France in October, which led the government to impose a second lockdown.

The bank estimated that the new lockdown will cost the nation's economy 12 percent of GDP compared to a normal week in November.

The Banque de France said economic activity was running 4 percent below pre-pandemic levels before the new lockdown was imposed at the end of October.

Restaurants, non-food retail and recreation activities are being hit the worst by the new restrictions which shut or tightly restricted their activities. But the lockdown is somewhat less restrictive than the first with more businesses allowed to operate, and the 12 percent drop in November activity pales in comparison with 31 percent registered in April.

"We've learnt together how to work while protecting workers," said Villeroy de Galhau. He noted that construction activity is continuing and public services remain open during this lockdown, while more companies have figured out how to continue operations using remote working.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department, Sylhet
www.eed.sylhet.gov.bd

Tender Notice No. 16/e-Tender/G&NGEI/EED/Syl/2020-2021

Date: 08/11/2020

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned below under Education Engineering Department, Sylhet District.

Sl. No.	Tender/Proposal Package No.	Tender ID	Name of works/package description	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	e-Tender-17/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503038	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Kazi Jalal Uddin Girls High School Sadar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
2	e-Tender-18/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503039	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Police Line High School Sadar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
3	e-Tender-19/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503040	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Kishori Mohan Girls High School Sadar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
4	e-Tender-20/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503041	Vertical Extension 2nd & 3rd floor of Existing 2-Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Md. Noor Miah Girls High School Osmaninagar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
5	e-Tender-21/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503042	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Khujipur Man Ullah High School Osmaninagar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
6	e-Tender-22/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503043	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Guru Saday High School Zakigoni Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
7	e-Tender-23/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503044	Vertical Extension 1st & 2nd floor of Existing Single Storied Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Barohal Hatubil Guasia Dakhil Madrasa Zakigoni Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00
8	e-Tender-24/G&NGEI/XEN/EED/Syl/2020-2021, Date: 08/11/2020	503045	Horizontal & Vertical Extension Gr. Floor 2 classroom & 1st floor 3 classroom of Existing Academic Building in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Internal Electrical Works at Moyerchar Adarsha High School Sadar Sylhet.	06/12/2020 Time: 16:00	07/12/2020 Time: 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of said packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 06/12/2020 at Time: 16:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1796

Citi cuts 2021 oil price outlook on Covid-19 concerns

REUTERS

Citi Research on Monday cut its 2021 oil price forecasts after a larger-than-expected rise in Covid-19 cases, but said tighter supply from OPEC and its allies would still lead to a gradual uptick in prices next year.

Citi cut its 2021 Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude price outlook by \$5 to \$54 and \$49 respectively. It forecast oil demand to fall by 8.9 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2020, but rise by over 7 million bpd in 2021. With prices remaining around \$40, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies, a group known as Opec+, are likely to continue complying with their agreement to curb output through the fourth quarter of 2020 and into the first quarter of next year, rather than increase production in January, the bank said in a note.

The group is scheduled to reduce output cuts of 7.7 million bpd by around 2 million bpd from January. Reuters reported last week that Opec+ is considering deeper oil output cuts early next year, citing one Opec source and one source familiar with Russian thinking. "We would expect a Biden presidency to bring Russia and Saudi Arabia closer together, reinforcing their alignment in managing oil markets via the Opec+ framework," Citi said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Health Economics Unit
14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For

Recruiting Research firm for the Study on "Access to Healthcare for Third Gender Population: Challenges and Way out"

1.	Ministry/Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2.	Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU).
3.	Name of the procuring entity	Director General, HEU.
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5.	Type of organization	Research Organization.
6.	EOI Ref. No.	45.05.0000.007.31.014.20.934
7.	Date	09.11.2020.

KEY INFORMATION

7.	Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8.	Budget and source of funds	Funds of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB, revenue), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) under 4th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP).
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9.	Project/program name (if applicable)	Study on "Access to Healthcare for Third Gender Population: Challenges and Way out".
10.	EOI closing date and time	Date: 26.11.2020 Time: 2:00pm
11.	Brief description of the assignment	Article 28(1) of Bangladesh constitution has protected the rights of individuals by stating that "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth." The government of Bangladesh is committed to ensure access to quality healthcare for its all citizens without any financial hardship in order to achieve health related SDGs by 2030. A landmark decision has already been made by the government of Bangladesh acknowledging the transgender (Hijra) people as third gender on 11th November 2013. So, people belong to third gender community should have equal access to healthcare facilities. This study aims to explore the challenges of healthcare access for third gender population and the ways to overcome those.
12.	Experience, resource and delivery capacity required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarity with the health, nutrition, and population sector program• Extensive expertise on healthcare related exercise• Proven ability to manage and conduct large data set• Expertise in use of STATA/SPSS statistical software for data analysis• Proven expertise in quality report writing & policy recommendations in English Knowledge and experience on working with third gender community will be considered as added value.
13.	Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for the Study on "Access to Healthcare for Third Gender Population: Challenges and way out" to the undersigned.
14.	Association with external firm	Not applicable.
15.	Indicative start date (month/year)	1st February, 2021
16.	Indicative completion date (month/year)	31st May, 2021

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17.	Name of official inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahadat Hossain Mahmud.
18.	Designation of official inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
19.	Address of official inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd
21.	Detail information available in the website	www.hsd.gov.bd ; www.heu.gov.bd ; www.cptu.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

GD-1792

Director General (Additional Secretary)
Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)