

Signal sees 'unprecedented' growth after WhatsApp controversy

REUTERS

Messaging app Signal has seen "unprecedented" growth following a controversial change in rival WhatsApp's privacy terms and is looking to hire more staff as it seeks to bolster the service and supporting infrastructure, the head of its controlling foundation said on Wednesday.

Along with another encrypted app, Telegram, Signal has been the main beneficiary of online outrage around the changes announced last week, which require WhatsApp users to share their data with both Facebook FB.O and Instagram.

Telegram said on Wednesday it had surpassed 500 million active users globally.

Brian Acton, who co-founded WhatsApp before selling it to Facebook and then co-founding the Signal Foundation, declined to give equivalent data for Signal but said that the expansion in recent days had been "vertical".

"We've seen unprecedented growth this past week," Acton said in an email to Reuters. "It's safe to say that because of this record growth, we're even more interested in finding talented people."

He also said Signal was working to improve its video and group chat functions, allowing it to compete better with WhatsApp, Microsoft



A woman holds a smartphone displaying the Signal messaging app logo in this illustration.

REUTERS/FILE

Teams, and other conferencing apps that have become vital to day-to-day life over the past year.

Signal was downloaded by 17.8 million users over the past seven days, a 62-fold rise from the prior week, according to data from Sensor Tower. WhatsApp was downloaded by 10.6 million users during the same period, a 17 per cent decline.

Privacy advocates have jumped on the WhatsApp changes, pointing

to what they say is Facebook's poor track record of supporting consumers' interests when handling their data, with many suggesting users migrate to other platforms.

The non-profit Signal Foundation based in Silicon Valley, which currently oversees the app, was launched in February 2018 with Acton providing initial funding of \$50 million.

It has existed on donations

since, with Tesla Inc Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk among supporters, and Acton said there were no plans to seek different sources of funding.

"Millions of people value privacy enough to sustain it, and we're trying to demonstrate that there is an alternative to the ad-based business models that exploit user privacy," Acton said, adding donations were "pouring in".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Patuakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7800.000.14.301.20-82 Date: 12-01-2021

e-Tender Notice-47/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID	Name of scheme	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time
1	e-Tender/LGED/PTK/GOBM/20-21/W-48	534263	Periodic Maintenance of Madanpura UPC-Kachipara UPC Road via Kanakdia Bazar from Ch. 3190m-7395m under Bauphal Upazila. Dist: Patuakhali. Road ID: 578383003 [LTM]	31-Jan-2021 17:00
2	e-Tender/LGED/DTK/GOBM/20-21/W-04	536971	Periodic Maintenance of Kalagachia GC-Ailpur GC (Galachipa Part) Road from Ch. 2730m-10460m [Galachipa] ID: 578572004 [OSTETM]	14-Feb-2021 17:00
3	e-Tender/LGED/PTK/GOBM/20-21/W-07	536972	Widening of Kalaiya GC-Hazir Hat GC via Nowmala UPC (Up to Kasipur Badh) Road from Ch. 00m-3030m [Bauphal] ID: 578382006 [OSTETM]	14-Feb-2021 17:00

Under District: Patuakhali.
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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdus Sattar Howlader
Executive Engineer
E-mail: xen.patuakhali@lged.gov.bd

GD-96

When to trade bitcoin? When Saturn crosses Mercury, of course



A representation of virtual currency Bitcoin is seen in front of a stock graph in this illustration.

REUTERS, London

Bitcoin seems so flighty, some might argue you may as well consult a crystal ball, read the runes or stare at the stars to divine the direction of the capricious cryptocurrency.

Enter Maren Altman, bitcoin investor and astrologer. The New Yorker has been following the movements of celestial objects to predict bitcoin price fluctuations since last summer. And while many people might mock her methods, she has built up a 1 million-strong social-media following on TikTok.

Last week, the 22-year-old told her followers to watch for a price correction on Jan. 11.

Why? Saturn was going to cross Mercury. Lo and behold, bitcoin fell as much as 21% on that day, before recovering most of its losses, slamming the brakes on a meteoric rally that saw it double from early December to a record \$42,000 last week. "I am never going to tell someone to buy this or that," said Altman. "I can predict price trajectories but do not claim to be a financial adviser aware of someone's specific circumstances, and therefore never give buy or sell advice."

For the uninitiated, Mercury represents bitcoin's price data and Saturn is a restricting indicator. While many people might give Altman's analysis as much credence as any fortune-telling, she is among a growing cohort of young TikTok influencers who began posting content on cryptocurrencies as prices rallied in 2020.

They're jumping on the bandwagon for bitcoin, whose mysterious movements even baffle many financial analysts, who say cryptocurrencies lack the fundamental data points used to assess traditional assets. "I'm a bit of a cynic when it comes to bitcoin projections," said Craig Erlam, an analyst at forex broker OANDA. "I think it's just a selection of people clutching at straws, trying to justify any reasons to be bullish."

DSE market cap hits record high

FROM PAGE B4

"If investors lose their funds here, then they will be frustrated for their wrong decision so the gambling should be kept in check through surveillance," he added.

Ali Xahangir, CEO of Amastock, a share market analysis-based website, said that with money having become cheaper in the banking sector, the stock market is on the rise as confidence has returned among investors.

"The index could rise further since many stocks are still lucrative but some are overvalued too. So investors should be cautious," he added.

Turnover, an important indicator of the stock market, fell 1.8 per cent to Tk 2,070 crore at the DSE yesterday.

Among the 364 stocks traded at the DSE, 159 advanced, 133 dropped and 70 remained the same.

GBB Power topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent, followed by Powergrid, Beximco, Midas Financing, and LankaBangla Finance.

Beximco traded the most with Tk 184 crore worth of shares changing hands followed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Robi Axiata, Summit Power and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department (EED)
Chapainawabgonj
Website: www.eed.chapainawabgonj.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 15/e-GP/EED/Chapai/VER-Furniture/2020-21 Date: 13.01.2021
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Lot/package location (name of institution)	Procurement method	Document last selling date & time	Document closing/opening date & time
533383	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Ranibari Girls High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabgonj. (For 5 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533384	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Ranihat Bohumukhi High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabgonj. (For 6 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533385	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Lawghata High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533386	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Raninagar B.L. High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533387	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Shampur U.C High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabgonj. (For 5 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533388	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Ali Nagor School and College, Gomostapur, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533389	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Bohipara High School, Gomostapur, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533390	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Moharajpur High School, Sadar, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533391	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Lakshimpur High School, Sadar, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533392	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Khaliluddin Biswas High School, Sadar, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533393	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Noyagola High School, Sadar, Chapainawabgonj. (For 5 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 12:00
533394	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Krishno Gobindpur High School, Sadar, Chapainawabgonj. (For 9 Class Room)	NCT (LTM)	31-Jan-2021 16:00	01-Feb-2021 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the following date & time. The provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPA-2008 including latest amendment" and STD will be followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rezaul Islam
Executive Engineer
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department, Chapainawabgonj
E-mail: ee_chap@eedmoe.gov.bd

GD-93

AGRANI BANK LIMITED
ESTABLISHMENT & ENGINEERING DIVISION
HEAD OFFICE, 9/D DILKUSHA C/A, MOTIJHEEL, DHAKA.

Invitation For Tenders (IFT)

1.	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
2.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.	
3.	Invitation for	Supply & Installation of Air Cooler for Agrani Bank Limited, Amin Court Corporate Branch, Dhaka.	
4.	Invitation Ref No	E&ED/ Engg/ Mecha-07/2021	
5.	Date	Date : 11/01/2021	
KEY INFORMATION			
6.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
7.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
8.	Tender Publication Date	11/01/2021	
9.	Tender Last Selling Date	08/02/2021 during office hour	
10.	Tender Receiving Date and Time	09/02/2021 at 10.00 AM to 03.00 PM	
	Tender Closing Date and Time	09/02/2021 at 03.00 PM	
11.	Tender Opening Date and Time	09/02/2021 at 03.30 PM in presence of Tenderers or their representatives (if any present)	
12. Name & Address of the office (s)			
	Selling Tender Document.	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka	
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A	
	Receiving Tender Document	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
	Opening Tender Document	DGM's Chamber, Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
13. INFORMATION FOR TENDERER (Eligibility of Tender):			
Reputed Firm/ organization / manufacturer/ authorized agent who have minimum 03 (Three) years of general experience of similar nature of works. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.			
Having experience in successfully completion of Air Cooler supply & Installation of at least 02 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 03 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 23.80 Lac.			
(The year counting backward from the date of invitation of this Tender (IFT) under any Govt./ Semi-Govt./ Autonomous bodies/ Govt. owned Public Limited Company.			
i) The above experience/ Works certificate for successfully completion of similar supply, installation, testing & commissioning work.			
ii) Work done under any Govt./ semi Govt./ autonomous bodies/ Govt. owned Public Limited Company the certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent post and the same certificate will be duly verified by the concerned authority.			
The Tenderer must process: i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) In case of limited Company, the certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum of association, Article of association & Power of attorney iii) Up-to-date income tax certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) e-TIN Certificate			
The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities shall be Tk. 25.00 lac. Should be counting 28 days backward from the date of opening of tender. In case of Bank Solvency Certificate an Account statement should be attached counting 90 days backward from the date of opening of tender.			
The Tenderer shall submit financial statements such as profit and loss statements and audited balance sheet of last 03 years.			
The Tenderer must submit: i) International Standard Compliance (CE/UL/ISO/ Any other) ii) Original Catalogue/ Brochure must be submitted with Tender iii) Necessary document of Distributor/ Authorize Dealer/ Importer of Mentioned Brand			
All other reputed qualification, terms and conditions of the tenderer are shown in the tender data sheet (TDS) of Tender documents and all experience certificates will be submitted as per format. Necessary supporting Documents to be submitted as per requirement of ITT Clauses and technical specification of the tender.			
14.	Completion Time	4 (Four) weeks from the date of Contract Signing.	
15.	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Supply & Installation of Air Cooler for Agrani Bank limited, Amin Court Corporate Branch, Dhaka.	
16.	Brief Description of Related Services	As per STD.	
17.	Tender Document Price	Tk. 2,000.00 (Taka Two Thousand) only per set (non-refundable) by Pay order/ Bank Draft from any Branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favour of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.	
18.	Invitation For	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk.) Completion Time in Weeks/ Months	
	Supply & Installation of Air Cooler for Agrani Bank limited, Amin Court Corporate Branch, Dhaka.	Motijheel, Dhaka The amount of the Tender Security shall be 0.70 Lac in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft (refundable) from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favour of Agrani Bank Limited, Head office, Dhaka.	4 (Four) weeks from the date of Contract Signing.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
19.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	MD. Nurul Islam	
20.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager.	
21.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
22.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager, Establishment & Engineering Division, Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Tel: 02-9561674.	
23. Special Instructions			
i) Tender security money must be submitted along with the tender documents through Pay Order/ Bank Draft favoring Agrani Bank Limited. Head Office, Dhaka from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited.			
ii) Attested copy of Experience certificate, Up to date Trade License, Last Income Tax Certificate, Vat registration certificate, e-TIN, Bank Solvency Certificate, etc should be submitted with tender schedule.			
iii) In Addition to the original tender 1 (One) duplicate copy shall be submitted.			
iv) If it is not possible to receive/ open the tender on the schedule date & time for any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/open on the next working date at the same time & same venue.			
v) All submitted documents must be signed by the tenderer in every page of tender all true/ photo copy must be attested as per prevailing Laws & Rules.			
vi) If the Tenderer submits any false/ incorrect or forged certificate, action may be taken as per PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 and its amendments.			
vii) This tender shall be governed by the PPR 2008 and its amendments.			
viii) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders prior to acceptance. Without assigning any reason. Agrani Bank Limited shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest tender.			

পিসারডি-১১/১/২০২১

(MD. Nurul Islam)
Deputy General Manager