



MINISTRY OF EXPATRIATES' WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

In presence of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed, Secretary to the Ministry Ahmed Munir Saleheen exchanges the signed documents of a memorandum of understanding with Gentium Lockton Consortium's Senior Adviser Md Kaikobad Hossain, to enhance and facilitate insurance benefits for Bangladeshi migrant workers going and residing abroad.



MIDLAND BANK

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, CEO of Midland Bank, Mohammad Javed Tarek Khan, head of institutional banking division, and Montakim Ahmed, founder partner of ACE Advisory, attend a deal signing ceremony at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday. ACE Advisory will use Midland Cash Management application to conduct their daily business banking and cash management activities.

ECB to hold course as virus clouds outlook

AFP, Frankfurt
A resurgence in the coronavirus pandemic and a bumpy start to vaccination drives are likely to weigh on the minds of European Central Bank governors when they meet Thursday, but they are expected to stop short of taking fresh action. The ECB's 25-member governing council is likely to leave its ultra-loose monetary policy unchanged after injecting more stimulus into the battered eurozone economy at last month's meeting. The Frankfurt institution bulked up its pandemic emergency bond-buying programme (PEPP) by 500-billion-euros (\$600 billion) to 1.85-trillion-euros (\$2.23 billion) and prolonged the scheme until March 2022. It also announced more ultra-cheap loans for banks. "Policymakers will be happy to sit out the meeting... and repeat the mantra that they will do whatever is required to support the eurozone through the pandemic,"

said Andrew Kenningham at Capital Economics. Their main concern, he said, would be the impact of the pandemic on hopes for an economic rebound in the first quarter of 2021. Many European governments are reimposing tough restrictions to contain a second wave of Covid-19 cases, compounded by the emergence of new, more contagious strains in Britain and South Africa. Smaller-than-expected deliveries of the first batches of Covid-19 vaccines, especially in the European Union, have further fuelled fears that the pandemic could wreak havoc for longer. The ECB in December forecast economic growth in the 19-nation euro area at 3.9 percent in 2021, after a fall estimated at 7.3 percent in 2020. ECB chief Christine Lagarde recently said she had "no reasons to believe our forecast is wrong at this point". But it would become "a concern", she said, if member states had to extend their shutdowns beyond

March. Under Lagarde, the central bank has unleashed unprecedented support to steer the eurozone through the health crisis, while also urging governments to do their bit through fiscal stimulus. Alongside the emergency bond purchases, the ECB has kept interest rates at record-low levels, and it is still buying 20-billion-euros (\$24 billion) a month in corporate and government debt under a pre-pandemic asset purchasing scheme. The bond purchases are aimed at keeping borrowing costs low to encourage spending and investment, in a bid to bolster growth and drive up inflation. But inflation has stayed stubbornly low for years and even turned negative in 2020. By the ECB's own estimates, eurozone inflation will gradually inch up to 1.4 percent by 2023, still far off the bank's target of just under two per cent. In December, inflation held steady at minus 0.3 per cent.



UCB

Kamal Ahmed Mojumder, state minister for industries, opens two sub-branches of United Commercial Bank at the Monipur Uchcha Vidyalaya and College in the capital's Rupnagar yesterday. Mohammed Shawkat Jamil, managing director, was present.

Germany finalises 2020 budget with less new debt than expected

REUTERS, Berlin
The German government has finalised its 2020 budget with net new debt of below 150 billion euros (\$181 billion), which is roughly a third less than the originally planned borrowing of nearly 218 billion euros, government sources told Reuters on Monday. Berlin needed less debt because earmarked money for public

investment did not flow into projects as quickly as expected, coronavirus aid was not tapped by as many firms as anticipated and the pandemic-related hit to tax revenues was smaller than projected, two officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Nonetheless, new borrowing in 2020 was the highest in German history, easily surpassing the previous record of 44 billion euros in 2010, following the financial crisis.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz is planning net new debt of up to 180 billion euros this year to continue rescue and stimulus measures and shield Europe's largest economy from the impact of a potentially aggressive new wave of infections. A finance ministry spokesman declined to comment. The finance ministry is expected to present details of its final 2020 budget on Tuesday.



REUTERS/FILE

President of the European Central Bank Christine Lagarde holds her smartphone as she attends the One Planet Summit, part of World Nature Day, at the Reception Room of the Elysee Palace, in Paris.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Balaganj, Sylhet.
www.lged.gov.bd

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ReTender Notice
Tender Notice No:03/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

SL No	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID	Tender Method
1	eTender/PEDP4/SLT/BAI/2019-20/W17.01102	Major Maintenance of Kaliganj Govt. Primary School	537624	NOTM

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank upto **31/01/2021 14:00**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd

(S.R.M.G Kibria)
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Memo...৩৬০৪/২ Dated: 18/01/2021

Invitation for e-Tender

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
01	538087	Pwd/Bari/14/lift/Factories/E/M/2020-21	DIG Office Barishal under the project of Establishment of 13 DIG Office Building and Strengthening the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment SH-Supplying and installation of passenger lift	28-01-2021 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders 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 (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Gerald Oliver Guda
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Barisal