



Islami Bank Bangladesh Managing Director and CEO Mohammed Monirul Moula addressed as chief guest at "Business Development Conference" organised by the bank's Chattogram north & south zone at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View last Friday.

New definition of CKD to discourage bike manufacturing locally

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On condition of anonymity, an official of a motorcycle manufacturer told The Daily Star that the new definition of CKD actually contradicts the policy as it would discourage local manufacturing.
Previously, assemblers were not allowed to import any painted parts of a two-wheeler, making it mandatory to manufacture certain components locally. "But this bar has since been lifted and this will only benefit the assemblers," Ahmad said.
The NBR circular will also reduce the revenue generated from the motorcycle segment, he added.
Subrata Ranjan Das, executive director of ACI Motors, said that the government decided to change the definition to reduce the complexity of customs duty imposition.
The SRO will not discriminate against local manufacturers as the custom duty is 92 per cent for CKDs, while it is 38 per cent for local manufacturers, he said.
"This duty gap is reasonable. So, the change will not hamper local

manufacturers."
The policy aims to manufacture 5 lakh motorcycles a year by 2021 locally and double that by 2027.
Once the policy was formulated, Honda, Bajaj, Yamaha, Hero, and TVS started manufacturing motorcycles in Bangladesh, bringing together foreign and local investors.
Local manufacturers such as Runner, New Grameen, and Roadmaster are also trying to improve their technology and are going to export bikes to Nepal, Bhutan and other countries.
Policy support from the government helped significantly cut back the import of motorcycle components, saving foreign currency and boosting forex reserves.
However, a high official of a global motorcycle giant, which has a manufacturing plant in Bangladesh, said the new SRO would harm the industry's potential.
According to government officials, the SRO should boost motorcycle sales as it slashed the supplementary duty on two-wheeler components by

25 per cent to 20 per cent.
Sales dropped 11 per cent year-on-year to 4.7 lakh units in 2020 from nearly 5.30 lakh units, data from the Bangladesh Motorcycle Assemblers and Manufacturers Association showed. A senior NBR official said the definition of CKD bikes had been revised based on the recommendations from the industries ministry.
"The new definition will be beneficial for companies to adopt modern technologies," he added.
An official of the industries ministry said it suggested the change in the definition so that assemblers can import sophisticated components.
Tk 1,568cr project to expand runway
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airport to international standards and offer foreign holidaymakers hassle-free trips to the town with the world's longest unbroken sea beach.
The project will be implemented from the government's own fund.

Health-tech startup Maya raises \$2.2m for expansion

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"Coming from the financial services industry, I have always heard 'Time is Money'. But what I learned as Maya started scaling is 'Time is Lives'," said Maya Founder and CEO Ivy Huq Russell.
"Maya responds to users every seven seconds, and every time we do, we are helping those in need with a level of trust that's hard to find these days."
The funding was led by early-stage venture investment fund Anchorless Bangladesh and The Osiris Group, a Hong Kong-based private equity firm.
"We've spent months working closely with Ivy and her team in what we've found to be the most fascinating and promising health tech startup in Bangladesh. They've built a product that creates much-needed trust amongst its users and scales via technology to a much wider population in Bangladesh and elsewhere," said Rahat Ahmed, founding partner and CEO of Anchorless Bangladesh.
"We believe Maya's potential to have a global impact on healthcare access is immense."
Maya started its journey as a healthcare information blog in 2011 to bridge the gap between general public and easy access to basic healthcare information. Over the years, Maya has grown to be a trusted source of healthcare information specialised in dealing with sensitive topics.
It has about 10 million unique users and currently counts more than 300 licensed healthcare providers on its platform, according to TechCrunch website.

Ensure accuracy in project evaluation: planning minister

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The public give the money from their hard earnings. So, it should be utilised properly. "We will expect neutral and crucial monitoring and evaluation," Mannan added.

BBIN functionality rests solely on China's involvement

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The economist was virtually delivering a speech at a Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021 organised by the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM).
South Asian nations like Sri Lanka have two free trade agreements (FTAs) - one with India and another with Pakistan, he said.
Bhutan and Nepal have virtually been enjoying a comprehensive economic partnership with India although they do not say so, said Sobhan.
Bangladesh was allowed duty-free facility by China a few years ago. "These are the factors which are driving our economic relations in this region," he said.
The presence of cooperation can aid diversification of production in this whole range of trading network, said the economist.
All these relations can also be extended to a wider international

relations and can play a significant role in increasing trade, he said.
Multilateral trading platform World Trade Organization (WTO) has unfortunately not been functioning properly. As a result, the bilateral trading system has been functioning well. The BBIN is mainly a South Asian initiative, he said.
Once upon a time, especially in the late 80s, the East Asian nations, for instance, Thailand and Malaysia, were not interested to do business with South Asian nations citing only talk and no actions, he said.
However, the economist found that China started looking to the South Asian region even in 1998 when he started writing his book "Rediscovering the Southern Silk Route" and the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor was initiated.
But the East Asian nations were less interested to do business with South Asian nations. However,

the Asian crisis brought them down. Through the formation of the BCIM, China was looking for South Asian nations through the Bay of Bengal, he said.
This was the new dynamics of trade and Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated the new trading arrangement based on the rise of Asia. The new trading dynamics was not an accidental commodity boom but arose from competitiveness, he said.
Secondly, by this time Asia including West and East Asian nations became a major source of capital surplus which also played a significant role in the trading dynamics. For instance, of the total global foreign exchange reserve, 70 per cent is among the Asian nations, he said.
Not only this but also 70 per cent of the global sovereign wealth fund is also in Asia and 60 to 65 per cent of the US treasury bills are also among the Asian nations. And of course China is a major player

among these nations, Sobhan said.
The RCEP, which was formed under the leadership of China, is even more powerful than the European Union (EU), he said.
However, only India's import figure from China is not available. The smaller South Asian nations like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh export mainly finished goods. Most raw materials and intermediary goods are sourced from China and exported to Europe and the US, which means Chinese goods are embedded, he said.
China is a powerful source of capital flow having a significant amount in reserves. For instance, currently China holds over \$3 trillion in foreign exchange reserve, \$1.5 trillion in sovereign wealth fund and \$1 trillion in US treasury bonds, he said.
He said China has also been increasing its investment not only among the Asian nations but also in European and African nations. For instance, China is developing

a port in Greece and conducting a similar project in Portugal.
China has been lending money through the Brazil Russia India China and South Africa (BRICS) Bank and Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). The AIIB has already lent India \$4.5 billion and another \$1 billion is in the pipeline, the economist said.
Sobhan also said although China has strategic contests with India, but the economic reality was a different scenario.
The Asean market, Middle East and Africa are also dominated by China with its foreign direct investment and official development assistance.
China also lends a lot of money to these nations through commercial banks under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he said.
Many see the BRI as an infrastructure development initiative but it is actually a concept of utilising surplus economy, he said.

Verify income sources of fish, poultry farmers

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"said Secretary to the ACC Md Anwar Hossain Howlader in a letter to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) sent early last month.
The ACC said it thinks it was necessary to scrutinise incomes shown against these sources in a reasonable manner before accepting those to be legally earned. The ACC's suggestion comes against the backdrop of the NBR offering reduced

tax benefits for poultry, cattle, dairy and fish farming, feed and seed production, horticulture, sericulture, mushroom cultivation and floriculture since 2015.
The tax authority scrapped the benefit for fish farming in September 2014 after it found that a section of dishonest taxpayers is allegedly shifting income from other sources to fisheries to evade tax. The tax privilege was reinstated the next year amid lobbying from various quarters.

At present, incomes of up to Tk 10 lakh from fishery hatchery and fish farming is tax-free.
Only 5 per cent tax is payable on the next Tk 10 lakh in income.
On annual incomes of over Tk 20 lakh, only 10 per cent is payable as tax, according to the NBR. In case of poultry farming, no tax is applicable for incomes of up to Tk 20 lakh.
And 10 per cent tax is payable on incomes of over Tk 30 lakh from poultry farming, whereas

the highest rate of tax for an individual is 25 per cent.
On Monday, at a views-exchange meeting on the launching of its Annual Report 2019, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said the NBR issues tax clearance certificates on income shown as earned from different kinds of businesses including fish farming and stocking.
"But during the enquiry, we often find no existence of such business," he said, adding that the

NBR should examine these when tax returns were filed.
"It is the duty of the NBR to check the wealth of a person before issuing a certificate. But while dealing with cases on illegal wealth, we've seen these are not done properly," he said.
"Taking advantage of whitening black money or legalising bribe is not acceptable," said Mahmood.
Iqbal suggested simplifying the tax return form and enabling it to be wholly submitted online.

Default loans drop on relaxed policies

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An OBU, a shell branch of banks located in another international financial centre, disburses loans and takes deposits in foreign currencies. It is not allowed to accept deposits or make loans in the local currency in the country it operates in.
If the previous calculation of default loans was considered, NPLs stood at Tk 88,282 crore, which is 8.06 per cent of the outstanding loans amounting to Tk 10,95,772 crore in the domestic banking units of lenders.
Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank, said default loans had declined last year riding on the moratorium, loans rescheduling, and an upward trend of loans write-off.
"This is not the genuine picture of the banking industry. The loan recovery is now highly feeble," he said.
The performance of the banking industry is declining, creating a worrisome situation for the entire financial sector, Ahmed said.
"The lower figure of NPLs is a sign of sweeping data under the carpet."
The banking industry has been facing a lack of corporate governance for years, escalating NPLs, he said, adding that the central bank should strongly monitor the financial health

of banks.
Default loans plummeted heavily in the last two years due to the relaxed rescheduling facility, which was put in place in 2019 ignoring global best practices.
For instance, NPLs surged to Tk 116,288 crore in September 2019, prompting the central bank to relax the rescheduling policy as per a government instruction.
Under the policy, defaulters can reschedule classified loans by making a down payment of only 2 per cent instead of existing 10-50 per cent.
A maximum 9 per cent interest rate was charged in 2019 on the rescheduled loans instead of 12 to 16 per cent regular lending rate levied by banks at that time.
This had helped reschedule a record Tk 50,186 crore in 2019 and halted the rise in the default loans. Similarly, the moratorium reined in the upward trend of default loans last year.
"The decrease in the NPLs has not brought any meaningful change to the banking industry as toxic loans will escalate at a faster pace as the moratorium has already been lifted," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.
"There is no scope to be complacent as the actual challenge awaits lenders," he said.

The large borrowers are mainly the delinquent clients, who are responsible for the persisting default loans, said Mansur, also the chairman of Brac Bank.
Banks should adopt a cautious stance while giving out new loans given the ongoing business slowdown such that they can protect themselves from the pressure of delinquent loans, he said.
Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said some clients had also paid instalments on loans despite the moratorium, helping the banking industry enjoy a lower amount of default loans.
"Rescheduling and written-off of loans also contributed to the decrease in the delinquent loans," he said.
Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia, also echoed the same.
BB data showed more than 50 per cent of the defaulted loans were with the nine state-run banks.
Defaulted loans in the state-run banks, however, decreased 3.57 per cent year-on-year to Tk 46,333 crore last year.
Forty-one private commercial banks held defaulted loans of Tk 40,361 crore, down 8.63 per cent from a year ago. The NPLs in nine foreign banks fell to Tk 2,038 crore in contrast to Tk 2,103 crore.

Stocks bounce back but worries remain

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Moreover, there is some hope of a reduction in corporate tax for listed companies which could boost the index.
So, investors should not sell their shares at a loss now, the merchant banker said, adding that people should make long-term investments in well-performing companies.
"Bad decision from stock investors intensifies the bearish trend of our market," he said.

Fu-Wang Ceramics topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent followed by Mir Akhter Hossain, Dominance Steel, Apollo Ispat and Midas Financing.
Beximco topped the turnover list with shares worth Tk 87 crore changing hands followed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Robi Axiata, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, and LankaBangla Finance.
First Finance shed the most, falling 4.83 per cent followed by Prime Bank,

Central Insurance, LR Global Mutual Fund One and Desh Garments.
At the DSE, 240 securities gained value, 17 declined, and 92 remained unchanged.
The port city bourse also rose yesterday. CASPI, the general index of the Chattogram Stock Exchange, rose 399 points, or 2.57 per cent, to 16,919.
Among the 237 traded companies, 160 advanced, 28 fell and 49 remained the same.

Despite recovery in Q2, Lovello's half-yearly profit falls

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Under the fixed price method, Lovello offloaded three crore ordinary shares at Tk 10 each.
The IPO proceeds will be channelled into acquiring a plant,

purchasing machinery, freezers and vehicles, increasing storage capacity and to repay loans.
At present, the company has an annual production capacity of 1.80 crore litres of ice cream. Utilisation of

the funds within June 2022 will take its production capacity to 2.35 crore litres.
The company has 12 storage depots nationwide with a combined capacity of over 2.80 lakh litres.

“জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান”
হাইড্রোজেন এনার্জি গবেষণাগার স্থাপন-প্রকল্প
বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology.			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR).			
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project.			
4. Invitation for	Procurement of Laboratory Furniture & Accessories and Analytical Instruments.			
5. Invitation Ref. No.	39.02.1506.012.07.002.2021/157: Dated: 10.02.2021			
KEY INFORMATION				
6. Procurement method	Open tendering method (National).			
FUNDING METHOD				
7. Budget and source of fund	GOB.			
8. Project/programme name	Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory Project.			
9. Tender package name	Procurement of Laboratory Furniture & Accessories and Analytical Instruments.			
10. Tender last selling date	14.03.2021 up to 05.00pm.			
11. Tender closing date and time	15.03.2021 up to 03.00pm.			
12. Tender opening date and time	15.03.2021 up to 03.15pm.			
13. Name and address of the office: Selling of tender documents	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project, BCSIR Laboratories Chattogram, Chattogram-4220.			
14. Name and address of the office: (Receiving & opening tender documents)	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project, BCSIR Laboratories Chattogram, Chattogram-4220.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15. Eligibility of tenderer	All terms & conditions will be applicable as per tender document.			
16. Brief description of works	As per schedule specification.			
17. Price of tender documents	2000.00 (two thousand Taka only), non-refundable.			
18. Lot No.	Identification lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk) (refundable)	
LABORATORY FURNITURE AND FIXING				
GD-LF/2021	1. Design & Installation of VRF system for three-storied laboratory building.	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award.
	2. Laboratory Interior Design & Installation and furniture supply	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award.
ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS				
GD-AI/2021	1. Laboratory Fume Hood 2. Centrifuge Machine 3. Density Meter 4. Water bath 5. Ultrasonic Cleaning bath 6. Vacuum Oven 7. Auto Clave 8. Micro- Pipette 9. Freezer 10. Camera 11. Glassware & apparatus 12. High pressure gas regulator (Flammable-Non Flammable) 13. Sealed Gas Cylinder with Gases (H ₂ , N ₂ , CO ₂ , Ar, He, CH ₄ , Liquide Nitrogen 14. FESEM 15. MBR Permeation Analyzer 16. Fuel Cell Membrane synthesis set up	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
19. Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Md. Abdus Salam.			
20. Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project.			
21. Address of the official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project, BCSIR, Chattogram Laboratories, Chattogram-4220.			
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Mobile: 01870085657; E-mail: hydrogenenergylabbd@gmail.com Web: www.bcsir.gov.bd; www.ctghelc.gov.bd			
23. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tender.				
GD-273	Dr. Md. Abdus Salam Project Director			