

World shares hit fresh all-time highs

REUTERS, London
World shares rose to new all-time highs overnight and European indexes strengthened, with market sentiment generally upbeat on the prospect of fiscal stimulus and vaccine rollouts and ahead of a speech by US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 49 countries, was up 0.2 per cent at 0833 GMT, having touched new peaks shortly before.

Overnight, MSCI's ex-Japan Asian shares index also broke above its previous high hit in January.

European indexes strengthened after a shaky start, with the STOXX 600 and London's FTSE 100 both up 0.2 per cent.

The dollar slipped slightly against

a basket of currencies, down 0.2 per cent at a two-week low of 90.263.

"The deflation rally continues and interestingly with the dollar now weakening which suggests inflows into Asia are being recycled," wrote Sebastien Galy, senior macro strategist at Nordea Asset Management in an emailed note.

"Eventually, the deflation in commodities will start to affect real economic activity and create a negative feedback loop, especially oil," he said.

Oil prices rose overnight but steadied as European markets opened.

Brent has risen for eight days in a row, the longest sustained run of gains since January 2019, while US oil gained for seven days, the longest rally since February 2019.

China's consumer price index fell more than expected, but factory prices

posted their first year-on-year rise in 12 months, suggesting gathering momentum in the industrial sector.

Chinese stocks rose to multi-year highs on the last trading day before the week-long lunar new year holidays

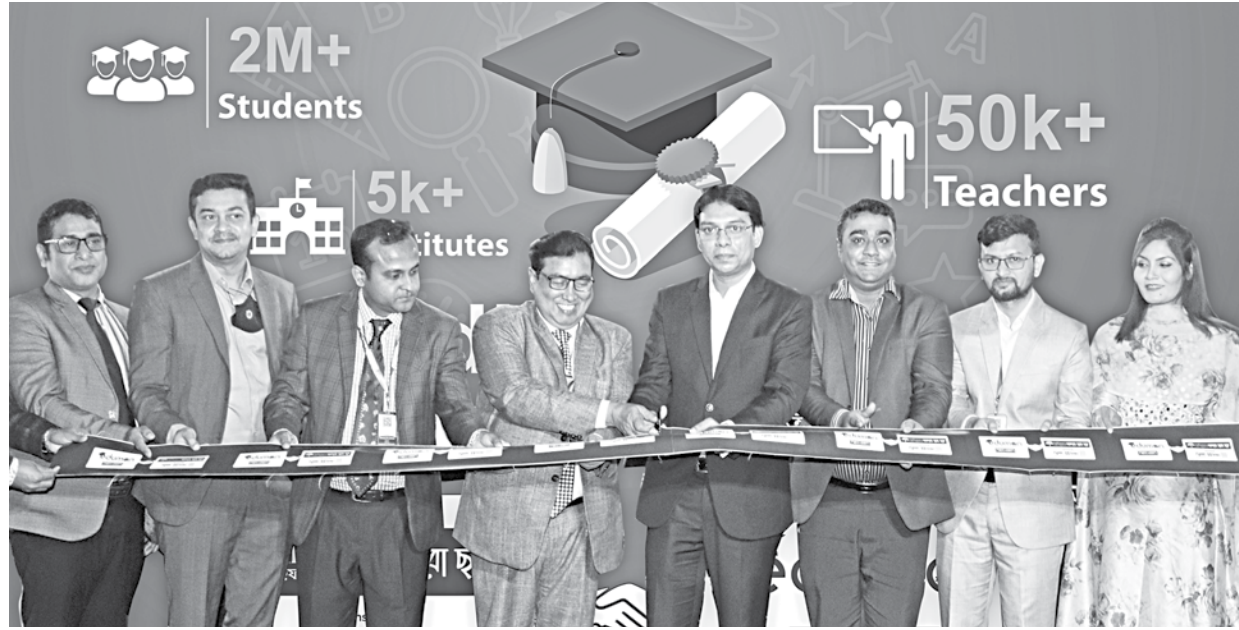
"China has been able to recover quickly because it controlled the pandemic quickly, which enabled it to fill the gap caused by production bottlenecks in countries where Covid-19 restrictions were still in place," Marcin Adamczyk, head of emerging markets debt at NN Investment Partners, wrote in a note.

US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he agreed with a proposal by Democratic lawmakers that would limit or phase out stimulus payments to higher-income individuals as part of his \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill.



ACI MOTORS

ACI Motors Managing Director and CEO FH Ansarey and Executive Director Subrata Ranjan Das were present at ACI Centre last week during the launching of two service vans for the customers of Yanmar combine harvesters during the upcoming wheat and rice harvesting season.



GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE

Guardian Life Insurance CEO Sheikh Rakibul Karim and Netizen IT President Asikuzzaman Khan cut a ribbon at the launching of "Guardian Eduman Insurance" at Cox's Bazar recently.

ORION | Never the Same BUSINESS MEET 2021



ORION FOOTWEAR

Orion Footwear CEO Ruhul Amin Molla and other officials attended its "Annual Business Meet" at a resort near the capital recently.

bKash helps relieve pandemic pain

FROM PAGE B4
Glaring examples could be the timely payment of salaries and festival bonuses to 10 lakh workers in the garment sector and various small and medium enterprises during the lockdown period.

bKash also helped disburse the government's stimulus package for the export oriented industries which came under financial pressure following the stoppage of global trade and a nosedive in consumption. Such prompt, safe and secured services were the need of the hour and bKash played a crucial role with such a benchmark of efficiency and trust of the beneficiaries that the scope for a "cashless" transaction era has now leapfrogged significantly.

To help people maintain social distancing amid the pandemic, bKash readily used its vast network of

services to expand the opportunities that enable people to have money in their mobile wallet from bank accounts and cards.

Due to the relentless endeavors and continuous integration with banks, customers of 22 leading banks of the country can now add money to their bKash accounts easily 24/7. Customers can also add money from Visa and Mastercard.

Another area that bKash worked extensively on is the Pay Bill service. People needed to find a smart way to pay their utility bills while staying at home during the pandemic.

Hence, they relied on bKash due to its wide range of services. Currently, all the electricity bills, including DESCO, DPDC, BPDB, NESCO, BREB (Palli Bidyut) and so on, can be paid through bKash.

Besides electricity, payment of

other utility services like water, gas, internet, telephone and TV is also possible through bKash, which helps customers remain at home during lockdown.

With its revolutionary successes in creating a vast web of mobile financial services across the country, bKash has become a household name and even a new grammatical "verb" to colloquially mean money transaction. Now, with the donations of medical kits including vital ventilators and the uninterrupted monetary transaction services during the pandemic, it has earned incremental appreciation from all and sundry. Truly, bKash has significantly relieved much of our worries centring the Covid-19 pandemic.

The author is a freelance writer and CSR consultant.



GAZIPUR CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer

Gazipur City Corporation, Gazipur

www.gazipurcity.com



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) e-Gp Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021 (CRDP-II)

Memo No. 46.19.0000.018.14.002.21.1808

Date: 08/02/2021

Loan No. and Title : P49329-006-BAN: Second City Region Development Project

Contract No. and : CRDP/II/LGED/GCC/NCB/2020/W-03

Title
Improvement of Road in Gazipur City Corporation under Package W-03

Deadline for : 22 March 2021 at 14:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time

Submission of
Bids (e-Tenders)

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Second City Region Development Project**, and part of the proceeds of this financing will be used for payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bid (IFB) is issued. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.

2. The **Gazipur City Corporation, District: Gazipur** ("the Employer") invites bids (e-Tenders) from eligible Bidders for the following Works ("the Works"):

Package No.	Description
CRDP/II/LGED/GCC/NCB/2020/W-03	Improvement of Road in Gazipur City Corporation under Package W-03: (i) Improvement of Gachha road starting from Borobarai at Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Palashona up to river bank via Gachha bazar (Ch. 2018 - 4025m) including 200m link road. (ii) Construction of drain starting from Borobarai at Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Palashona up to river bank via Gachha bazar (Ch. 2018 - 2700m). (iii) Improvement of road from Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh (Ch. 0 - 4475m) including 75m link road. (iv) Construction of 2x4.00mx4.00m Box Culvert at Ch.1276m on Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh. (v) Construction of 2x3.50mx3.50m Box Culvert at Ch. 2410m on Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh. (vi) Construction of 3.50mx3.50m Box Culvert at Ch. 1418 m on Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh. (vii) Construction of Box Culvert (0.625m x 0.600m) at Ch.1200m on Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh. (viii) Construction of drain from Shah Alam - bari (Barobaika) on Dhaka-Mymensingh RHD to Itahata morh at Dhaka-Tangail via Ukil morh, GP School and Kalabagan bazar morh. (Ch. 0 - 1175m) and (Ch. 2412 - 4475m).

3. **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** will be conducted in compliance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines through electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Documents.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
Specific Similar Experience: at least 1 (one) number of contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years, with a value of **BDT 364,000,000**.

Average Annual Construction Turnover: The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than **BDT 660,000,000** over the last 5 (Five) years.

Liquid Assets or Credit Facilities: The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the Bidder shall be **BDT 81,850,000**.

The complete qualification criteria are described in the bidding documents.

5. This is an online bidding where only e-Tender (e-bid) will be accepted in the Bangladesh National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To obtain further information and to submit e-Tender for this works package bearing e-tender ID no. **542880**, registration in the e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

6. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the e-GP portal, and the tender security as mentioned in the documents have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP system.

7. The deadline for submission of e-Tenders (bids) is **22 March 2021 at 14:00 hours** Bangladesh Standard Time (BST), and on-line opening will be done on the same date at **14:00 hours** BST.

8. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). To obtain further information, please contact the official inviting the tender as follows:

08/02/2021
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