

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▼ 0.31%	▼ 0.44%	\$1,790.25	\$62.99	▼ 0.10%	▲ 1.28%	▲ 0.13%	▲ 1.43%	BUY TK 83.95	100.89	116.17	12.87
5,527.39	9,656.80	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	52,104.17	30,467.75	2,935.34	3,655.09	SELL TK 84.95	104.69	119.97	13.54



Star

# BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2021, FALGUN 4, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Business confidence ticking up: Sanem

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Business confidence in Bangladesh improved in the last quarter of 2020 as the economy strived to recover from the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a study.

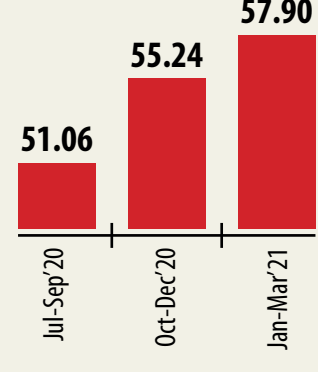
The Business Confidence Index (BCI) of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) went up to 55.24 per cent in the October-December. It was 51.06 per cent in the previous quarter.

"The BCI, however, did not improve a lot because of the second wave of Covid-19 as the shipment of goods in major export destinations was severely affected," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the think-tank, while presenting the findings of the study at a virtual discussion yesterday.

He blamed the weak demand for goods in the domestic markets as income collapsed due to the fallouts of Covid-19 for the slow recovery of the business confidence.

### Business Confidence Index

SOURCE: SANEM



Firms are hopeful about the first quarter of 2021 as the BCI is expected to rise to 57.90 per cent.

"Most of the firms said that they were very much hopeful that the economy and their business would recover soon," Prof Raihan said.

As much as 71 per cent out of 502

### MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY

- Improvement minimal in business situation in Oct-Dec '20 compared to Jul-Sep '20
- Situation is still worse compared to Oct-Dec '19
- 71% of the firms think that Bangladesh is on path to economic recovery
- Pharma, textile, and financial sectors see faster recovery
- Leather & tannery, light engineering, wholesale trade, transport, RMG and food processing need attention
- 16% consider recovery strong
- Firms have not got back to the pre-pandemic situation and it might take a while
- Profitability, employment and wage have improved slightly compared to the past quarter
- 69% of firms are yet to receive any stimulus package

SOURCE: SANEM

firms surveyed said the economy was on its way to recovery, unchanged from the second round of the survey, which covered the third quarter of last year.

The Sanem, in collaboration with the Asia Foundation, initiated the quarterly survey in July among the firms in the manufacturing and services sector. The third round was conducted in January.

Forty per cent of the respondents were expecting a moderate recovery of the economy, 16 per cent a strong recovery, and 15 per cent a weak recovery.

Firms were affected severely when the rogue virus hit the

country in March last year. Still, they are struggling to recover from the shock of the income and sales losses.

Raihan, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, said the business firms that availed loans from the government-sponsored stimulus fund had been recovering faster than the companies that could not. He suggested quick disbursement of the fund to eligible firms so that they could utilise the money when needed.

Of the firms, 22 per cent received assistance from the stimulus packages, according to the survey.

READ MORE ON B3

## PWC SURVEY ON FAMILY BUSINESS Local firms more optimistic than global counterparts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 93 per cent of Bangladeshi family-owned businesses are optimistic about seeing growth in 2022, which is higher than what those around the globe hope for, according to a survey by PwC Bangladesh.

In the year, 86 per cent of global family firms expect to see growth, the report shows.

In 2021, 74 per cent of Bangladeshi family-owned businesses expect to see growth while it is 65 per cent among those around the world.

The report on "Family Business Survey" was published online yesterday.

The survey was run among 54 Bangladeshi running family enterprises, mostly as CEOs, managing directors or board chairpersons. Over 2,800 family firms were surveyed across 87 territories.

The global market survey aims to get an understanding of what family businesses are thinking on key issues of the day.

"Bangladesh family businesses have seen mixed performance over the last financial year (pre-Covid-19), with 52 per cent experiencing growth and 17 per cent seeing a sales reduction," it said.

Globally, 55 per cent of family businesses grew while 19 per cent shrunk.

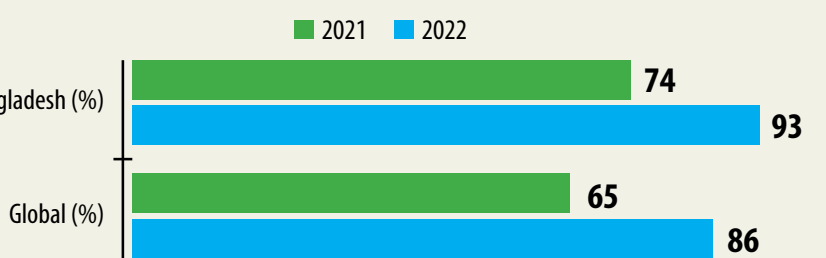
In Bangladesh, 84 per cent were experiencing growth and only 3 per cent reduction when asked the same question in 2018, it added.

The key priorities for Bangladeshi family businesses over the next two years are improving digital capabilities, expansion into new markets, introducing new products, increasing use of new technologies and protecting the core business.

Only 39 per cent feel they have strong digital capabilities. This is similar to the global average, where 38 per cent feel they have strong digital capabilities, the report shows.

READ MORE ON B3

### GROWTH AMBITIONS OF FAMILY BUSINESSES FOR YEARS 2021 AND 2022



SOURCE: PWC

## Private investment falls amid pandemic

DCCI study finds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The growth of private investment slimmed down over the past six months due to the Covid-19 fallouts, slow reform initiatives and high cost of doing business in the country, according to a recent assessment.

The ratio of private investment to gross domestic product fell to 12.72 per cent while local and foreign investment declined 72.16 per cent in the July-September period of fiscal 2020-21, it said.

The assessment, carried out by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), was unveiled at a webinar held yesterday.

"The economy is progressing in the right direction despite the various Covid-induced challenges," DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said during his presentation.

However, some room remains for further private sector-centric economic development, he added.

Rahman went on to say that both the public and private sectors should work hand in hand in the coming days to achieve a game-changing economic transformation for Bangladesh by 2041.

Mashiur Rahman, adviser to the prime

minister on economic affairs, also addressed the webinar, styled "Current state & future outlook of Bangladesh economy: private sector perspective (July-December FY2020-21)".

"The economy should now be fully functional as the government stimulus packages have been disbursed," he said.

Rahman fears that the excess liquidity currently prevalent in the banking sector could increase inflation.

He also pointed out that the private sector should take responsibility for certain government initiatives while claiming that the authorities successfully managed the Covid-19 crisis.

"The policies are on the right track and growth momentum is sustained," Rahman said.

Although demand remains a bit subdued amid the ongoing pandemic, the private sector needs to become more productive now. Bangladesh enjoyed reasonably good exports despite Covid-19 while remittance has also increased.

"But we need to be more careful about the non-resident Bangladeshis returning home from the Covid-19 labour markets," he added.

READ MORE ON B2

## PM seeks detailed work plan as Payra port project goes slow

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and MAHMUDUL HASAN

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed Payra Port Authority (PPA) to prepare a detailed work plan amidst cost spirals and delays in project implementation involving the government's highly-ambitious development agenda.

"The prime minister instructed the port authority to place the total work plan in the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne)," Planning Minister MA Mannan told journalists after an Ecne meeting.

Ministry sources said instructions have also been given to provide a picture of the port's existing situation, total progress so far and list of major problems facing authorities implementing projects involving the port.

The Ecne also approved a revised proposal for a project that sought more time and to increase the cost for building the port's first



STAR/FILE

A dredger in the Ramnabad channel near Payra port in Patuakhali.

terminal and related infrastructure.

The project was undertaken in the beginning of January 2019 and due to be completed by December 2021 at a cost of Tk 3,982.10.

Now, the revised cost is Tk 4,516.75 crore and completion

deadline June 2023.

Only 7 per cent of the project has been completed so far in the past two years.

A portion of the cost increase for the port's first terminal and related infrastructure is for adjusting the

height of the jetty.

Asked if any feasibility study was conducted for the project, Mamun-Al-Rashid, a member of the planning commission, affirmed one being done at the beginning.

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## NBR halves VAT on 4G licence, renewal fees

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday halved the value-added tax (Vat) on licence issuance and renewal fees to 7.5 per cent in order to reduce the pressure on telecom service providers and increase tax collection.

The move comes more than two weeks after the revenue authority exempted network operators from VAT on revenue shared with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

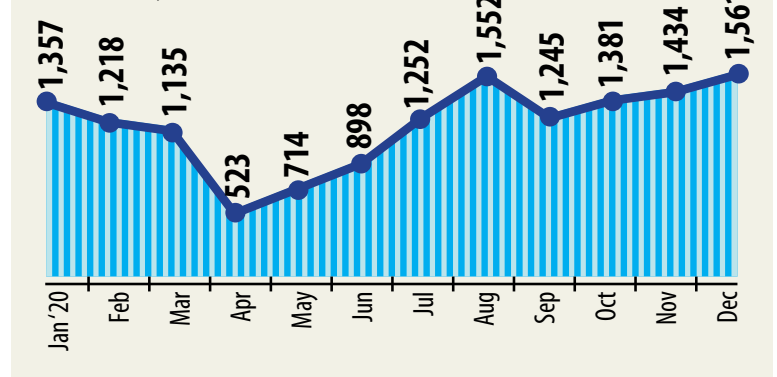
"We took the latest decision to reduce VAT on 4G licence or renewal fees for the benefit of the telecom sector. This will also help us get more revenue," said Kazi Farid

READ MORE ON B3

## Card use hits all-time high

### CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION

In crore taka; SOURCE: BB



AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Use of both credit and debit cards hit an all-time high in December as people continued to fulfil their demand using the digital means, sidestepping the fear of economic losses caused by the pandemic.

Total card loans held by lenders stood at Tk 1,561 crore in December, which is a fresh record in terms of the lending amount.

The December's figure is up 8.84 per cent from that a month earlier and 23.78 per cent

year-on-year, showed Bangladesh Bank data.

Clients also posted another spending record through debit cards, as the figure stood at Tk 18,795 crore, up 8.44 per cent from that a month earlier and 16.51 per cent year-on-year.

The last time credit card loans hit a high was in August 2020 of Tk 1,552 crore while debit card spending last July of Tk 18,123 crore.

The rise in use of credit cards is an indication of a "pent up demand" in the economy as a majority of consumers had held back their spending during the lockdown and the

subsequent few months, experts said.

Pent up demand refers to a situation when demand for a service or product is unusually strong.

Economists generally use the term to describe the general public's return to consumerism following a period of decreased spending.

Use of cards drastically went down in the second quarter of 2020 because of the strict restrictions on movement imposed by the government to keep the deadly coronavirus at bay.

READ MORE ON B3

## BSEC summons Robi for not paying dividend from profit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday summoned the officials of Robi Axiata to find out reasons why the mobile operator did not declare any dividend despite making a hefty profit last year.

The telecom operator's profit after tax rose nine times year-on-year to Tk 155 crore and its revenue also grew 1.1 per cent to Tk 7,564 crore as of December 31 last year.

Robi also made a flying trade debut in the stock exchanges as its initial public offering was oversubscribed by nearly six times.

But the company now believes that it should use the money it had made last year for its future growth instead of sharing it with the shareholders.

"Our earnings per share [EPS] has increased by more than eight times, rising from 4 paisa in 2019 to 33 paisa in 2020," said Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi.

He spoke at the meeting when a team of officials of the mobile operator went to the BSEC building yesterday.

"Had the 2 per cent minimum turnover tax been removed, our EPS could easily have been 64 paisa."

Moreover, due to the minimum tax, Robi could not even avail 5 per cent reduction in corporate tax rate offered to the listed mobile phone operators, he said.

READ MORE ON B3



# Time to deal with weaknesses in credit policy to support MSMEs

FROM PAGE B4  
The circular observed that MSME financing is considered problematic, and personal, group or social guarantees may be considered to overcome the problem. The credit performance or credit history may also be considered in extending credit to the MSMEs. The individual providing the personal guarantee should be acceptable to both bankers and borrowers. The personal guarantor should be a single guarantor. The social guarantee means the guarantee extended by any establishment or organisation such as trade association, chambers, or training organisations that provide training to entrepreneurs. The group guarantee means the joint guarantee provided by some borrowers. If a member of the group becomes defaulters, the entire group will be treated as defaulters.

The FIs will set up a women entrepreneur development centre in their regional branches and a dedicated desk in each branch. Female bankers shall be posted there, and they should be given proper training for the tasks. The FIs will find some new entrepreneurs who never availed any credit facilities, and provide training to them. FIs will give loans to at least three of the trainees.

There is another existing refinancing scheme for agro-processing MSME in the location other than divisional headquarters, Dhaka, Chattogram and Narayanganj city areas. Under this scheme, FIs can provide the highest working capital and terms loans of Tk 3 crore and Tk 10 crore respectively. Under the scheme, FIs are advised to "consider" to extend loan up to Tk 25 lakh against the third-party guarantee. The policy also provides facility to MSMEs of any group of companies.

The nicely worded policy of September 5, 2019 could not serve the purposes.

The credit facilities for MSMEs are suggestive and not binding for FIs as all the policies are qualified with "may", "to consider" and subject to the bank-client relationship. Another serious loophole is that the BB considers the demand for working capital lower than a long-term loan (for fixed capital). Small and cottage industries are labour-intensive and don't require costly machinery. It is obvious that MSMEs need more working capital than long-term capital.

A daily newspaper reported that the government has prepared another policy. The owners of the cottage, micro, and small enterprises (CMSEs) will get working capital loan from MFIs if they have two guarantors and national identification cards (NIDs) or birth registration certificate. The policy also, as usual, considers the person, not the company as the borrower. Those who do not have NIDs can also get loans by submitting a certificate from the local municipal councillor or the chairman of union parishad and loan applications. The MFIs will not ask for any additional documents.

According to the proposed policy, the MRA and non-governmental organisations will manage a special refinancing fund. MSME entrepreneurs and the returnees from abroad and those trained by various agencies, including the Department of Youth Development, will be prioritised for loans.

According to the guideline, a single client shall borrow a maximum of Tk 50 lakh. At the client level, the interest rate will be a maximum of 12 per cent, of which the government will subsidise 5 per cent, and the client

will repay the remaining 7 per cent.

Under the guideline, a new fund of Tk 5,000 crore for three years is being set up initially to provide loan facilities to MSMEs. The government will provide an interest subsidy to clients for a year. Whether the subsidy will continue in the subsequent years will be decided during the next budget.

The new policy has nothing new but a customised policy of microcredit organisations. The NGOs of Bangladesh developed the system from the long experiences of trial-and-error methods.

As reported, the draft guideline will give some controls over the loan by FIs. Banks and financial institutions will send financing applications to the MRA after receiving those from MFIs. The MRA will certify the applications within three days and determine MFIs' borrowing capacity. It seems that the MRA will recover the loan and FIs will have some control over the programme. This may not work efficiently without the liberty of MFIs in extending the credit and recovering the loans in line with their procedures.

MFIs extend many other services such as insurance coverage, compulsory savings, education loan for children, adult education, medical service training for the production of goods and service, and marketing services. The combine programmes supplement the proper use of loans and support the borrowers to repay. It is not only microcredit. Borrowers are members of MFIs, not only creditor. Unfortunately, policy-makers do not take note of the difference between bank loans and microfinance.

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# Covid recovery trade buoys shares, ignites commodities

REUTERS, London  
Stocks in Europe flirted with one-year highs on Tuesday, buoyed by hopes that rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and a huge U.S. stimulus package will translate into a durable economic recovery and draw a line under a year of lockdowns.

Oil prices jumped to a 13-month

high as a deep freeze due to a severe snow storm in the United States not only boosted power demand but also threatened oil production in Texas.

Bitcoin was trading at \$49,072.84 in Europe, after hitting a new record high \$60 shy of \$50,000 earlier in the day. The pan-European STOXX 600 was up 0.19%, after hitting its highest

on Monday since late February 2020.

"The big picture is that there is an awful lot of enthusiasm for recovery when it comes to the vaccine programme," said Michael Hewson, Chief Market Analyst CMC Markets.

The prospects for economic recovery lit up commodities, with copper at \$8,384.50, after hitting its highest since May 2012.

# Private investment falls amid pandemic

FROM PAGE B1  
The non-resident Bangladeshis returning home from the Covid-hit labour markets," he added.

The prime minister's economic adviser suggested that people should be optimistic now as the government has come up with various policy support for the private sector.

He urged private sector entities to utilise this policy regime.

Meanwhile, DCCI President Rahman said the poverty rate rose 9 per cent to 29.5 per cent due to the Covid-19 impact.

Aside from recommending that the tax system should be automated, the DCCI chief said that considering the Covid-19 impact, the national budget should be reviewed on a quarterly basis so that allocations can be reconsidered based on priority.

With a view to facilitating local private sector investment, Rahman suggested a reduction in corporate tax, an increase in investment for infrastructure development, and framing sector specific investment roadmaps.

Atiur Rahman, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said it is important to help the micro, small, and medium

entrepreneurs (MSME) recover their Covid-induced losses as these will fuel economic growth in the future.

Bangladesh was able to manage its economy relatively well amid the ongoing crisis even though other countries are still facing severe complications.

"The economic uncertainty has been resolved as growth is better than many other countries in the world," he said.

"The supply of liquidity should be sound and it should not go to any unproductive sector instead of financing the real economy," Rahman added.

According to the former central bank governor, any issues in the agriculture and MSME sectors should be addressed properly so that these sectors do not face discrimination.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), said the Covid-19 worsened the country's poverty levels, which should be addressed first in the post-pandemic era.

In this regard, financing support should be ensured to the entrepreneurs to help reduce poverty, he said.

Foreign direct investment in

Bangladesh declined over the last few years while it increased in neighbouring countries like India, Pakistan and China.

Mansur went on to suggest that the exchange rate should be adjusted in accordance with the real exchange rate instead of over-appreciating the taka.

Mansur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange, said that, to identify the post-Covid challenges, public-private dialogues may play a key role.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, supportive measures for the agriculture supply chain worked well.

Meanwhile, exports were slightly subdued as the export market is going through uncertainty but thanks to vaccination drives across the world, the situation will improve within six months, Reaz added.

Abul Kasem Khan, chairman of Business Initiative Leading Development, said the economy is in a recovery stage but there are some challenges.

"In the taxation policy, we need to be competitive with other countries. Our Tax-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the region," he said, adding that the National Board of Revenue should go after people who are not paying taxes.

# Tk 212cr project to expand cashew, coffee cultivation

FROM PAGE B4  
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills, a leading steel maker in the country, will invest Tk 50 crore to set up a cashew nut processing plant at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar, a move that will boost the local economy and encourage farmers.

With people becoming more and more health conscious, cashew nut cultivation has increased in line with growing demand in local markets.

Three hill districts -- Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachhari -- hold

the highest potential for cashew nut cultivation in Bangladesh.

Most farmers in these areas are already growing the plant on a limited scale. However, growers in Bandarban have begun commercial farming to meet the increased demand.

According to the DAE office in Bandarban, cashew nuts were cultivated on around 1,797 hectares of land last year while about 1,323 tonnes of cashews were produced in Bandarban.


Now, the farmers of the district's Ruma and Thanchi upazilas are cultivating cashew nuts on a massive

scale as demand is growing and seems more profitable than other fruit cultivation.

Besides, cashew nuts are not perishable and easy to carry to the market. Currently, a total of 1,600 farmers in the district are involved in cashew nut cultivation.

The DAE provides training on proper cultivation methods for better harvesting and quality output.


The Ecnc also approved a project involving Tk 448.37 crore to help people establish family gardens for nutrition on unused land and home estates.



## বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

### ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা।



তারিখঃ ০৩ ফাল্গুন, ১৪২৭  
১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২১

### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যসভ্য জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ ২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক নিয়োগ শূন্য পদসমূহে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর ৯ম গ্রেডে (সেভেন স্কেল ২২০০০-... -৫০৫৩০-৫০৬০০) নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online এ দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১.	এগারিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার ২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক ৩টি শূন্য পদ	(ক) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কম্পিউটার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেম এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেম ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি/ কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড টেলিকমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে চার বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে।
২.	এগারিস্ট্যান্ট সিস্টেম এডমিনিস্ট্রেটর ২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক ১০টি শূন্য পদ	(খ) মাসামিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমমান এবং তদুপর্য পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষাসমূহে ন্যূনতম ০২(দুই) টিতে প্রথম বিভাগ/ শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। গ্রেজিং পদ্ধতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারী নীতিমালা প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৩.	এগারিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক এডমিনিস্ট্রেটর ২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক ৬টি শূন্য পদ	(গ) কোন পর্যায়েই ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

৪. শ্রেণি পদ্ধতিতে প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ ও ০২/০৬/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-০১(অংশ)/৫৮২ ও শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী বর্তমান প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম ও ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হইবেঃ

(১) এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে- জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুপর্য	প্রথম বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ

(২) অনুরোধিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ এর ক্ষেত্রে-

অর্জিত সিজিপিএ	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে	৫.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে
৩.০০ বা তদুপর্য	৩.৭৫ বা তদুপর্য
২.২৫ বা তদুপর্য কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুপর্য কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম

৫. বয়স : ০১/০৩/২০২০ তারিখের : ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর।  
খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।

৬. আবেদনপত্র দাখিল এবং কি প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০২/০৩/২০২১ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৭. **Verify Payment(Prepaid পদ্ধতি) এবং Tracking Page** সংক্রান্ত শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৪/০৩/২০২১ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৮. আবেদন কি: প্রতিটি পদের জন্য আলাদাভাবে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং প্রতিটি পদে পরীক্ষার ফি অফেরতযোগ্য টা, ২০০/- (টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) যা ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর মাধ্যমে আবেদনকারীকে নিজের অথবা এজেন্ট একাউন্ট ব্যবহার করে প্রদান করতে হবে।

৯. আবেদন পদ্ধতি:

ক. **Online Application Form:** কেবল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd>-এ প্রদত্ত Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online-এ আবেদন দাখিলের বিস্তারিত নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী ওয়েবসাইটেই পাওয়া যাবে।

খ. Online আবেদনে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম (এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের সনদ অনুযায়ী), স্থায়ী জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর অথবা অন্যান্য তথ্য অত্যন্ত সতর্কতার সাথে নির্ভুলভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে। আবেদনের প্রদত্ত সার্বিক তথ্য, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর ইত্যাদি verification সাপেক্ষে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচনী ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ প্রদান করা হবে।

গ. **প্রার্থীর বর্তমান ঠিকানা:** প্রার্থীর বর্তমান বসবাসের স্থান এবং নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত চিঠিপত্র পেতে ইচ্ছুক ঠিকানার বর্তমান ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ঘ. **প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা:** প্রার্থীর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভার মেয়র/ ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তা সনদে উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা মোতাবেক প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। তবে অববাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন দাখিলের পক্ষে নিবাহকদের আবেদন গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানার অনুল্লেখ নিজেদের স্থায়ী ঠিকানার পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন।

ঙ. **Job ID No.:** 'এগারিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' পদের Job ID- 10124, 'এগারিস্ট্যান্ট সিস্টেম এডমিনিস্ট্রেটর' পদের Job ID- 10119 এবং 'এগারিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক এডমিনিস্ট্রেটর' পদের Job ID- 10125 আবেদন কি প্রদানের সময় নির্ধারিত স্থানে ব্যবহার করতে হবে।

চ. **ছবি (Photo):** ইতোপূর্বে নিবন্ধকৃত প্রার্থীগণ বিদ্যমান ছবি ব্যবহার করতে পারবেন। তবে নতুন প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই নির্ধারিত স্থানে 600x600 pixel ও file size 100 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের অনূর্ধ্ব তিন মাস পূর্বে তোলা রঙিন ছবি (সাদা ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড সর্পিলাত) scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি তোলায় সমস্ত মুখ ও কানের উপর আবরণ রাখা যাবে না। সাদাকালো ছবি এবং Informal ছবি আপলোড করলে সরাসরি প্রার্থীতা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ছ. **স্বাক্ষর (Signature):** নির্ধারিত স্থানে 300x80 pixel ও file size 60 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের প্রার্থীর নিজের স্বাক্ষর scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। স্বাক্ষর অবশ্যই সাদা কাগজের উপর কোনো কালিতে হতে হবে।

জ. অর্জিত জিআর ফলাফলের তারিখ: পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সংশ্লিষ্ট জিআর ফলাফল প্রকাশের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ঝ. বিদেশী ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থী: প্রার্থী 'O' Level ও 'A' Level পাশ হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট এবং বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রী প্রাপ্ত হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/ বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় চেংকি বোর্ডে অবশ্যই উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঞ. **CV ID No.:** বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সিস্টেমে ইতোপূর্বে নিবন্ধকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিদ্যমান CV ID No. এবং Password ব্যবহার করে Online এ আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে। নতুন আবেদনকারীগণ ওয়েবসাইট <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd> এর মাধ্যমে Online এ আবেদন সম্পন্ন করলে একটি CV ID No. এবং Password প্রাপ্ত হবেন।

ট. **Application Fee Payment পদ্ধতি:** আবেদন কি Payment পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানতে <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd/onlineapp/rocketprepay.pdf> ওয়েবসাইটে ভিজিট করতে হবে। ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর Prepaid অথবা Instant Payment পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করে কি প্রদান করা যাবে।

(১) **Prepaid পদ্ধতি:** রকেট অ্যাপ বা ম্যানুয়াল উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই কি প্রদানের জন্য Biller ID হিসেবে Bankers Selection Committee Secretariat অথবা 499 সিলেক্ট করতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে পর্যালোচনা সংশ্লিষ্ট Job ID No, নিজ CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ (হাইফেনের (-) আগের অংশ), কি এর পরিমাণসহ প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ব্যবহার করে কি প্রদান করতে হবে। কি প্রদান করলে প্রার্থী মোবাইলের মেসেজ অপসনে একটি Transaction ID (TxnID) নম্বর পাবেন। প্রাপ্ত TxnID নম্বর টি ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই পৃথকভাবে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে; অন্যথায় আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ হয়ে যাবে।

(২) **Instant Payment পদ্ধতি:** আবেদনের সময় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটের Payment অপশন হতে Instant Payment নির্বাচন করলে প্রার্থী সরাসরি রকেট এর ১টি লিংক পাবেন। উক্ত লিংকের মাধ্যমে রকেট একাউন্ট হতে কি প্রদানের পরপরই মোবাইলের মেসেজ অপসনে ১টি One Time Password (OTP) পাবেন। প্রাপ্ত OTP টি নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে লিংকের নির্দিষ্ট ফিল্ডে বসিয়ে প্রার্থীকে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

ঠ. **Verify Payment: Prepaid পদ্ধতিতে** প্রার্থীগণকে কি প্রদানের পর প্রাপ্ত TxnID বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের recruitment সাইটের নির্দিষ্ট ফিল্ডে বসিয়ে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। Instant Payment পদ্ধতিতে প্রার্থীগণকে পৃথকভাবে Payment Verify করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

ড. **Tracking Page সংক্রান্ত:** Payment Verify সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর প্রার্থীকে Tracking ID No. সর্পিলাত ১টি Tracking Page প্রদান করা হবে। Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। Tracking Page সংরক্ষণ করলেই প্রার্থীর আবেদন সম্পন্ন হয়েছে বলে বিবেচিত হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোনো অবস্থাতেই Tracking Page এর Duplicate Copy সরবরাহ করা হবে না।

১০. প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষাসমূহে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১১. প্রার্থীদেরকে Online আবেদনের সময় কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইন আবেদনে প্রদত্ত প্রতিটি তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে যথাযথ সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন দাখিল করতে হবে। Online আবেদনে প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যের সঠিকতা যাচাইয়াক্রে কোনো substantive ত্রুটি ধরা পড়লে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে না। তাছাড়া, মৌখিক পরীক্ষা শেষে প্যানেল প্রকর্তৃকাল কোনো প্রকার ত্রুটি পরিলক্ষিত হলেও প্রার্থীকে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে না।

১২. চাকরীরত প্রার্থীদের তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন উক্ত অনুরোধের কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

১৩. নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারী সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।

১৪. প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র ও নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার তারিখ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি যথাসময়ে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট ও দৈনিক জাতীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রার্থীদের অবহিতকরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পক্ষ হতে এসএমএস/ই-মেইল/ফোন/পত্র প্রেরণ বা অন্য কোনো মাধ্যমে কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ করা হবে না।

১৫. সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।


বিশেষ ট্রুটিকা: শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল, নির্ধারিত কি প্রদান ও Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতঃ Tracking Page টি হার্ডকপি আকারে সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। জ্বল Job ID বা জ্বল CV ID ব্যবহারপূর্বক কি জ্বলা দিলে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং এর ফলে প্রদত্ত আবেদন কি ক্ষেত্র পাতলা যাবে না।

ডিসিপি ৪ ৪৮/২০২১-৬০৩  
তারিখ ৪ ১৬-০২-২০২১

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা  
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬০৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

(আর্থিক যোগেশন খান)  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও সদস্য সচিব  
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি

GD-324



## ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka- 1208

### Local Re-Press Tender Notice

**Tender ref.: EDCL/PUR/PT/Air Shower/2021/25** **Dated: 16/02/2021**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from The Genuine Importers/Suppliers for Supply & installation of Air Shower for Microbiology section of Cephalosporin project, Bogura on urgent basis:

Name of Items	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
<b>Air Shower</b> (Details as per technical specification):	Tk. 2.5% of quoted amount	Tk. 1000.00/set Non-refundable	Closing : 09/03/2021 At 12.00 noon Opening : 09/03/2021 At 12.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

**Essential Drugs Company Limited** authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager**  
Procurement Deptt.  
For : Managing Director





**Bank Asia**  
Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director of Bank Asia, opens the bank's "Central Trade Processing Centre, (CTPC) – Principal Hub" at Tea Board Building in the capital's Motijheel on February 14. Customers of authorised dealer branches will enjoy specialised and centralised services in foreign exchange transactions as per international standard. Deputy managing directors Mohammad Borhanuddin, Mohammad Ziaul H Molla, SM Iqbal Hossain and Adil Chowdhury and Md Zia Arfin, head of international division, were present.



**BEXI FABRICS**  
Lawmakers Md Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin and Sagufra Yasmin, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association President Md Mohammad Ali Khokon, Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milan, and Bexi Fabrics managing directors BM Shoeb, Md Hassenuddin Mollah and Emdadul Hoque launch "Bexi Fabrics Privilege Card" at InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

## Card use hits all-time high

FROM PAGE B1  
People have now started to spend on a large extent as they had purchased little during the lockdown period and in the following couple of months, said Abul Kashem Md Shirin, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank.

In addition, people now prefer to purchase goods by way of using the digital means, heavily fuelling card transactions in recent months, he said.

A good number of clients are avoiding use of cash to reduce chances of catching the virus, he said.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, echoed him.

Transactions through the cards will go up more in the months to come since festivals of Pahela Baishakh and Eid-ul-Fitr are upcoming.

In addition, a good number of owners of garment industries now pay wages and salaries of workers through banks instead of through cash, he said. The owners took the initiative when the pandemic spread massively, he said.

"For instance, they opened around 30,000 accounts with Dhaka Bank to pay remuneration to workers. And we provided debit cards to every worker," Huq said.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman,

managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, however, said people were still cautious about spend money as the pandemic continues to persist.

Card-based transactions have been on the rise in the recent period as people are preferring e-commerce more than ever before to protect themselves from the virus, Rahman said. The issuance of credit cards was on the increase in December when the outstanding number of bank credit cards stood at 16.78 lakh whereas it was 16.51 lakh the month before.

Similarly the number of debit cards issued by banks were 2.13 crore and 2.09 crore respectively.

## BMW 5 Series now available

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
BMW Asia and its sole authorised dealer in Bangladesh, Executive Motors, yesterday announced the availability of a new BMW 5 Series sedans for viewing and test drives.

M Shamsul Arefeen, director operations at Executive Motors, said the BMW 5 Series has been the world's most successful premium executive model by far.

More than 600,000 units of the BMW 5 Series have now been sold worldwide since being launched. The sedans are produced at the BMW plant in Germany, according to a statement.

The BMW 5 Series starts at Tk 1.18 crore with free parts and service warranty for five years up to 60,000 km.

## BSEC summons Robi for not paying dividend from profit

FROM PAGE B1  
As a result, Robi was subjected to an effective tax rate of 71.8 per cent for 2020.

"In this backdrop, considering the positive growth trajectory of the company, the Robi Board has recommended not to give any dividend for 2020 to secure the investment funds necessary to stimulate Robi's future growth."

"We thought the company would announce at least some dividends. Because, investors love dividend," said a top official of the BSEC, preferring anonymity.

"The company's board has the right for not sharing the profit if it has potential. However, we urged them to think differently next time."

Having added 19 lakh subscribers to its

network in 2020, Robi's subscriber base reached 5.09 crore by the end of 2020.

Robi contributed Tk 4,236 crore to the government exchequer in 2020.

"When the competitors saw revenue decline, Robi experienced positive revenue growth," said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Robi.

The company could have made higher profit, but the pandemic and the 2 per cent minimum tax on gross revenue barred the company from reaching its full potential, he said.

Amid the adversities, the company also renewed its 11.6 MHz spectrum licence for 900 and 1,800 bands for 10 years to stay true to its commitments, he said.

## Business confidence ticking up: Sanem

FROM PAGE B1  
The services sector has been performing better than the manufacturing sector, Prof Raihan said.

The improvement in business status in October-December compared to July-September was minimal. Compared to the status in the same quarter in 2019, the situation is still worse, the Sanem said.

"It shows the firms have not got back to the pre-pandemic situation, and it might take a while."

Sectors are recovering at varying paces, and faster recovery is taking place in the pharmaceuticals, textile, and financial sectors. Some of the indicators, such as profitability, employment and wage indicators have improved slightly compared to the past quarter.

The business cost indicator worsened in the last quarter, highlighting the serious threat to the viability of the firms in the long run.

The sectors that need priority attention are leather and tannery, light engineering, wholesale, transport, garment, food processing, and real

estate, said the Sanem.

All these sectors should be given additional incentives, such as lower interest rate for a longer period, increased and eased up duty drawback facility, and increased export cashback facility.

"Benefits such as expanding the reach of the Export Development Fund should be explored. SMEs should be a priority in channelling the loans and stimulus packages."

Md Saiful Islam, president of the Leathers and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh, said profitability had drastically fallen as the sustainability of businesses declined.

Although the cost of doing business has been increasing every quarter, the prices of export-oriented goods did not increase, he said.

The entrepreneur said the employment of the workers in the leather and leather goods sector had not been affected because of the stimulus package.

Islam urged the government for extending the repayment period for bank loans as local manufacturers

could not bag higher sales during Christmas and other mega sales seasons in the western world.

The rates of logistic services have increased a lot, affecting the profitability of exporters, he added. "We will have to create an enabling business environment for our business sustainability."

Arshad Jamal Dipu, vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said productivity improvement and innovation were significant to survive businesses.

Buyers are not paying fair prices for the exported garment items. The unsold stock of garment items is another problem for the exporters, he said.

Abul Kasem Khan, chairperson of the Business Initiative Leading Development, suggested the government reform the taxation system to reduce the cost of doing business.

Asif Ibrahim, chairman of the Chattogram Stock Exchange, and Farzana Khan, general manager of the SME Foundation, also spoke.

### CONTACT NUMBER CHANGE

<p>OLD Number <b>9143333-8</b></p>	<p>New Number <b>+880 9612 444 333</b></p>
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**শেলটেক SHELTECH** Since 1988

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000  
Common Service Section-1.

Reference :40.00.0000.038.08.001.16-67

**e-Tender Notice**

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

e-Tender ID No.	Name of the Goods	Scheduled Tender/Proposal Date and Time	Publication	Tender/Proposal Closing Date and Time
546483	Purchase of 01 (One) LED Interactive smart board with IR Multi-Touch Technology (Digital Display Board)	11-Feb-2021 11:00		28-Feb-2021 12:00

This is 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 from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered Bank's Branches.

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

15.02.2021  
 Additional Secretary  
 Ministry of Labour and Employment  
 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
 E-mail: [adddsecretary@mole.gov.bd](mailto:adddsecretary@mole.gov.bd)  
 Tel: 9515532

GD- 322

## PM seeks detailed work plan as Payra port project goes slow

FROM PAGE B1  
"However, our own ability to conduct a feasibility study for such a large scale project has not been developed yet," he said.

"However, when a feasibility study was later carried out by two firms from Belgium and Denmark, they said the jetty would not be able to withstand the waves that form if a 40,000 tonne-capacity ship comes to the port," he added.

"That is why it has been asked to use steel piles instead of RCC piles," said Rashid.

After conducting a hydrological study on a river and surrounding area inside the port, where one Andharmanik bridge would be constructed, the bridge's length was increased from 1.05 kilometres to 1.17 kilometres by the consultant.

For that, the project seeks another Tk 411 crore from the government.

"If you ask me how the project would be completed by two years as only 7 per cent of it has so far progressed, I would say that now the total design and feasibility study have been finalized," he said.

"And that's why it will be possible to do it within the deadline," Rashid added.

The parliament passed the Payra seaport authority act on November 3, 2013, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the port's construction work on November 1 that year.

Although she inaugurated limited-scale operations of the country's

third seaport in 2016, the full-fledged activities were aimed to be run by 2023.

Mother vessels still cannot dock at the port because construction of necessary infrastructure is yet to be complete.

The multifarious task involving the much-hyped port in Patuakhali has been facing delays despite being a fast-track project of the government.

The lack of a proper feasibility study, inappropriate cost estimations and reluctance of project officials mainly resulted in the delayed infrastructure development and rising construction costs, according to ministry officials.

The same was stated in a report on the project by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

The cost was increased by 23 per cent from the last estimate of Tk 3,350 crore to meet additional expenses on land acquisition, among others, as the Ecne approved a third revised proposal in November last year.

The project, which is being implemented by an agency under the shipping ministry, was undertaken in 2015 at an estimated cost of Tk 1,128 crore. The expenditure went up to Tk 3,350 crore in the first revision.

However, around 80 per cent of the project has been completed as of now.

A government effort to prepare the master plan and design for a Payra deep-sea port by engaging the Bangladesh University of Engineering

and Technology and a consultant of the Netherlands has not been finalised.

As of now, only 50 per cent of the master plan has been completed.

Some other projects of the port, such construction of a multipurpose terminal, a coal terminal and city in the port area and attracting tourists by improving the Kuakata coastal region, have not progressed much.

### NBR halves VAT on 4G licence, renewal fees

FROM PAGE B1  
Uddin, first secretary of VAT policy of the NBR.

Before the reduction, 15 per cent VAT was applicable on 4G licence issuance or renewal fees after the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012 came into effect from July 1, 2019.

However, mobile phone operators were reluctant to deposit the indirect tax as they could not claim input tax credit in absence of the BTRC's VAT registration.

Now, after the rate cut, no VAT rebate will be applicable, the NBR said, adding that 4G licences cannot be made operational prior to the payment of the reduced rate of VAT on the licence fees, technology neutrality or spectrum fee, royalty or their renewals.

The revenue authority said the reduced rate of VAT on 4G licence or renewal fee would be effective retrospectively from July 1, 2019.

## Local firms more optimistic than global counterparts

FROM PAGE B1  
Over 60 per cent of Bangladeshi family business feel they have a clear sense of company and/or family values and these values have helped a clear majority during the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, fewer than two in five have their values and company mission in written form.

Some 33 per cent claim to have a robust, documented and communicated succession plans in place, compared with 30 per cent globally.

Over 90 per cent of Bangladeshi family businesses engage in some form of social responsibility activities.

Around 44 per cent feel they have a

responsibility to fight climate change and its related consequences.

Only 37 per cent have a developed and communicated sustainability strategy.

Some 31 per cent expect Covid-19 to lead to a reduction in sales, somewhat more positive than the global picture where 46 per cent expect such a reduction.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়  
ন্যাশনাল একাডেমি ফর অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ (NAAND)  
(অস্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস)  
৬/এ, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

**NAAND (অস্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস) এ অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ, সেরিব্রাল পালসি, ডাউন সিনড্রোম ও বুদ্ধি প্রতিবন্ধিতা) শিক্ষার্থীদের ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২১

অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ, সেরিব্রাল পালসি, ডাউন সিনড্রোম ও বুদ্ধি প্রতিবন্ধিতা) শিক্ষার্থীদের মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ে একীভূত শিক্ষায় অন্তর্ভুক্তি নিশ্চিতকরণ এবং বরো পড়া রাখকল্পে শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণের উপযোগী দক্ষতা অর্জন ও সামাজিক দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীনস্থ ন্যাশনাল একাডেমি ফর অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ-NAAND (অস্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস) এ নিম্নলিখিত শ্রেণি ও আসনে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ ১৫ মার্চ ২০২১ খ্রিঃ। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য [www.naand.gov.bd](http://www.naand.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

ক্রমিক	শ্রেণি	শূন্য আসন	সেবাসমূহ
১.	ষষ্ঠ	১০	• সম্পূর্ণ সরকারীভাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট শ্রেণি কার্যক্রমে শিক্ষা প্রদান।
২.	সপ্তম	১০	• বিকল্প দক্ষতা (নাচ, গান, খেলাধুলা ও ছবি আঁকা শেখার সুযোগ)।
৩.	অষ্টম	১০	• সামাজিক ও মানসিক দক্ষতা উন্নয়নে প্রশিক্ষণ। • কাউন্সেলিং (শিক্ষার্থী ও অভিভাবক) ও থেরাপি সেবা।

**ভর্তির শর্তাবলী:**

- অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ ও মূল্যায়নের প্রমাণপত্র থাকতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে পিইসি/পঞ্চম ও সংশ্লিষ্ট শ্রেণি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।
- ঢাকা শহরে বসবাসরত অথবা অবস্থান করতে হবে।
- শিক্ষাবর্ষ সমাপনান্তে যোগ্যতা অর্জন সাপেক্ষে সাধারণ বিদ্যালয়ে স্থানান্তরিত করা হবে।
- বিদ্যমান সরকারি মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি ও অন্যান্য ফি এর সাথে সামঞ্জস্য রেখে ভর্তি ফি ও অন্যান্য ফি নির্ধারিত হবে।

15/02/2021  
 (প্রফেসর মোহাম্মদ গিয়াস উদ্দিন)  
 অধ্যক্ষ  
 ন্যাশনাল একাডেমি ফর অর্ডিন্যান্ড এন্ড নিউরো-ডেভেলপমেন্টাল ডিজগ্র্যাবিলিটিজ (NAAND) (অস্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস)  
 ৬/এ, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

GD- 323



# Tk 212cr project to expand cashew, coffee cultivation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has undertaken a project to introduce new varieties of cashew nuts and coffee while introducing modern technology and research to develop and expand their cultivation.

The project aims to increase cashew and coffee cultivation from the existing 2,000 hectares to a combined 6,000 hectares in order to increase production by 50 per cent.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) endorsed the initiative, "Cashew nut, coffee research, development and

expansion", involving Tk 211.84 crore.

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), a wing of the Ministry of Agriculture, will implement the project between July 2020 and June 2025.

Under the project, high yielding varieties of cashew and coffee will be developed. This will have a positive impact on the livelihoods of farmers in hill areas as these two cash crops can be grown on unused land with low investment.

According to project documents, the government also plans to increase the country's export earnings with these two products after meeting local demand.

The initiative will help reduce poverty and provide nutrition as well.

During the implementation period, the DAE will organise a total of 5,250 exhibitions on cashew nut cultivation and 5,250 exhibitions for coffee.

It will also provide training to 49,500 farmers and 480 officials of the department. This includes foreign training and exposure visits for DAE employees and scientists.

The farmers will be provided 1,350 coffee processing sets while a total of 500 solar irrigation units will be set up in hilly areas.

Besides, an office building will be constructed at Kaptai Horticulture Centre in Rangamati.

In addition, a modern field lab will be set up at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute in Khagrachhari.

CASHEW NUT PLANT AT BANGABANDHU SHILPA NAGAR



Under the government project, high yielding varieties of coffee will be developed, which will put a positive impact on the livelihoods of farmers in hill areas.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

# Time to deal with weaknesses in credit policy to support MSMEs



MS SIDDIQUI

The Bangladesh Bank issued a circular on September 5, 2019, defining cottage, micro and small enterprises (CMSEs), CMSEs financing, women entrepreneur, and refinancing scheme and setting the credit ceiling. It proposes credit to industries, service, trading, women entrepreneurs, and new entrepreneurs. The CMSEs also include the business houses under the groups of industries, meaning conglomerates will be eligible to get the special loan offered to CMSEs.

The banks and financial institutions (FIs) are advised to develop financing strategies and give priority to innovative business. FIs are advised to give special training to their officials for CMSEs financing techniques and locate clusters and value chain to finance on a priority basis.

FIs may use agent banking if they don't have a branch in a location and distribute loans. They can use digital technology and digital financial services. FIs "may use" the service of MFIs having registration with the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), and all risks and responsibilities will be vested with FIs. Such funding will be treated as MSMEs finance. The loans are proposed to be regulated by the guideline of the MRA.

FIs were advised to introduce an application form in Bangla and different coloured papers. Officials will help entrepreneurs fill up the form. FIs will give a receipt after receiving the application and decide about credit within 10 days.

FIs "may consider" to delegate the authority of sanctioning loans to the concerned branches. The applicants shall get the opportunity to appeal to higher authorities. If the FIs refuse to lend the money, the applicant must be informed, citing the reasons for the rejection. The branches will keep the records of all applications and the details of loans for five years. FIs "may give" special facilities of repayments for about six months, considering the characteristics of a particular business on the basis of bank-customer relationship.

READ MORE ON B2

# Southeast Bank 1st Mutual Fund to be open-ended

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The trustee committee of the Southeast Bank 1st Mutual Fund has decided to convert the listed closed-end fund into an open-ended one.

To materialise the plan, the committee has approved the modality of conversion of the fund as per a directive of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission dated July 8, 2015.

The Dhaka Stock Exchange shared this info in its website on Monday.

Mutual funds are investment tools that gather a fixed pool of money from many investors and re-invest them into stocks, bonds and other assets.

Closed-end mutual funds have tenure of 10 years when investors cannot get back funds from the fund manager but the open-ended ones are allowed to be liquidated anytime.

The fund will complete its 10-year tenure on May 15 this year, its trade at the stock exchanges will be suspended on May 16 and a unitholders' meeting will be held on May 25.

The conversion will take place only if at least 75 per cent unitholders present at the meeting approve the conversion proposal. Otherwise, the fund will be liquidated.

If converted, the investors will have options to remain invested in the fund or exit from it, said Shahidul Islam, CEO of VIPB Asset Management

Company Limited, manager of the fund.

"The fund has had an extraordinary performance track record so we believe that if converted into an open-ended fund, many existing investors will keep their money invested in the fund and it will attract many new," he added.

The fund was listed with the stock exchanges on May 16 in 2011 with an initial size of Tk 90.7 crore.

The fund has paid cash dividend amounting to Tk 88.8 crore. Currently, the fund's size in terms of total net asset value at market value is Tk 137 crore.

Yesterday, the fund was traded at Tk 12.50.



Financial institutions should give special training to their officials who deal with financing for cottage, micro and small enterprises, experts say.

STAR/FILE

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

# Amazon to make TV streaming device in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Amazon.com Inc will start making its TV streaming device in India this year via a unit of Taiwanese contract manufacturer Foxconn, the U.S. online retail giant said on Tuesday.

The Fire TV Stick will be made by Foxconn subsidiary Cloud Network Technology in the southern city of Chennai, marking Amazon's first foray into having one of its devices manufactured in India.

Amazon said hundreds of thousands of Fire TV Sticks would be produced per year, helping it meet the demands of Indian customers.

"Amazon will continuously evaluate scaling capacity to additional marketplaces/cities depending on the domestic demand," the company said in a blog post.

The launch of conglomerate Reliance's telecoms venture Jio in 2016 began an era of cheap data tariffs in India, aiding

the growth of video and audio streaming services such as Amazon's Prime Video and Netflix. That created a market for streaming devices such as the Fire stick.

Seattle, Washington-based Amazon's move to make the device in India coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's big policy push to make the country a hub for electronics manufacturing to compete with other Asian nations such as China and Taiwan, and create jobs.



Amazon will produce hundreds of thousands of Fire TV Sticks per year, helping it meet the demands of Indian customers.

REUTERS/FILE

# Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany wants Europe and the United States to strengthen transatlantic ties with a trade deal to abolish industrial tariffs, a WTO reform to increase pressure on China and a joint carbon-emission trading system to protect the climate.

Peter Beyer, transatlantic coordinator for Chancellor Angela Merkel's government, told Reuters in an interview published on Monday that Germany and the new U.S. administration under President Joe Biden should "think big" and aim for an ambitious agenda based on shared values and focused on joint interests.

"After the difficult years under Donald Trump, Germany and Europe now have a historic chance to breathe new life into the transatlantic partnership and improve relations with the U.S.," Beyer said.

Biden will hold his first event with other leaders from the Group of Seven nations, including Merkel, in a virtual meeting on Friday to discuss the coronavirus pandemic,

the world economy and China relations.

German enthusiasm for a trade deal and stronger transatlantic ties may have to contend with a more cautious approach in France, where President Emmanuel Macron has made a priority of reducing European reliance on rival superpowers.

"We won't wait for the United States to give Europe its sovereignty. It's up to Europe to conquer it," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said when asked about the transatlantic relationship and reviving the idea of a trade deal.

Beyer said while Germany and the United States would continue to have differences on issues like Russian gas imports, this should not stop them from liaising closely on economic, trade, tax and climate policies.

"Now is the right time to put a package of trade and economic policy proposals on the agenda. This must include a comprehensive and ambitious free trade deal," said Beyer, a member of Merkel's conservative party.

# Stung by Covid-19, Indian businesses rethink worker benefits

REUTERS, Mumbai

As Kerala's industrial heartland cranks back to life post-lockdown, orders are returning to its printing presses, workshops and chemical plants. But to bosses' dismay, many workers are in no hurry to come back from their villages.

"There is a strong reluctance among the workers to return," said Rajesh Gopalakrishnan, head of an industry association representing 200 small businesses in the southern state. "Maybe they have jobs in their home states. Or maybe they just felt bad they were not taken care of properly during the lockdown," he said.

Anxious to plug the shortfall of informal workers and heal the scars left by last year's strict lockdown, a growing number of Indian companies are offering off-the-books labourers perks normally reserved for payroll staff.

More than 90 per cent of India's 450-million strong workforce are informal, recruited through tiers of labour contractors with low wages and no social security benefits such as health insurance or pensions.

Almost a quarter of the informal workers are migrants who typically travel from their villages to bigger cities in distant parts of the country to work at brick kilns, garment factories, in hospitality or at construction sites.

Many of them lost their jobs and savings at the start of the pandemic - their hardship making global headlines as they trekked hundreds of miles (kilometres) to distant villages. For Rati Forbes, director at Pune-headquartered engineering firm Forbes Marshall, the images of weary, penniless migrant labourers walking home from the cities impelled her company to rethink its relationship with informal workers.

"It was imperative to do something," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a video call. "We realised we were employing many of these most vulnerable people and how we also could change some of our approaches." Her company is now planning health insurance for daily wage

workers, discussing an unemployment cover with other industry leaders and is contacting employees throughout its supply chains to find out what social security safeguards they have.

Two billion people work in the informal economy globally, with most of them in emerging and developing countries mainly in South Asia and Southeast Asia, according to a United Nations report, a challenge to achieve the "decent work for all" goal.

For years, informal workers in India have demanded higher wages, regulated work hours and better living conditions, but until now their voices went largely unheard.

Labour campaigners say it is a race against time to lock in long overdue improvements to employment terms before the visibility of the workers gained during the pandemic vanishes.

"The migrant story is already forgotten and

before it totally goes out of the window, we need to act," said Rajiv Khandelwal, co-founder of migrant rights group Aajeevika Bureau.

The non-profit is part of the Social Compact Project, an initiative backed by Forbes Marshall and other companies that aims to secure social security cover for a million workers by enlisting 150 firms in the cities of Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

"The project calls upon industries to improve labour standards in terms of wages, safety, health among others for contract workers. This is not about corporate charity but about core labour policies," Khandelwal said.

Another major problem for unregistered, unbanked workers during the COVID-19 crisis has been accessing state aid, prompting some of the country's biggest employers to address the workers' lack of documentation.



Migrant workers and their families wait to get on a bus to reach a railway station to board a train to their home state of Uttar Pradesh in India.

REUTERS/FILE

# TikTok hit with consumer law breaches complaints across Europe

REUTERS, Brussels

Chinese-owned short video-sharing app TikTok was hit with multiple complaints from EU consumer groups on Tuesday for allegedly violating the bloc's consumer laws and for failing to protect children from hidden advertising and inappropriate content.

Owned by China's ByteDance, TikTok has been rapidly growing in popularity around the world, particularly among teenagers. It

faces growing criticism about its privacy and safety policies following a number of incidents.

European consumer group BEUC cited several issues in its complaint, among them its terms of service.

"They are unclear, ambiguous and favour TikTok to the detriment of its users. Its copyright terms are equally unfair as they give TikTok an irrevocable right to use, distribute and reproduce the videos published by users, without remuneration," it said.

It said the company's virtual item policy where users can purchase coins to use for virtual gifts for TikTok celebrities whose performance they like, contains unfair terms and misleading practices.

"TikTok fails to protect children and teenagers from hidden advertising and potentially harmful content on its platform," BEUC said.

The company's practices for the processing of users' personal data are misleading, it said.

In addition to BEUC's complaint,

consumer organisations in 15 countries have alerted their authorities and urged them to act.

"We're always open to hearing how we can improve, and we have contacted BEUC as we would welcome a meeting to listen to their concerns," a TikTok spokesman said.

The company said it has developed an in-app summary of its privacy policy to make it easier for teens to understand its stand on privacy.