



Abu Naser Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Social Islami Bank, attends an event where certificates were presented to trainees under an SIBL-UCEP Skills Training Project.



Kamran T Rahman, president of Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), attends the inauguration of a two-day seminar on "Human Resource Management-Performance based wage system" organised by the association and The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnership of Japan in Dhaka yesterday. ITO Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh, was present.

Biden to revise small business loans to reach smaller, minority firms, says official

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden will launch changes on Monday to the main US coronavirus aid program for small businesses to try to reach smaller, minority-owned firms and sole proprietors left behind in previous rounds of aid. Biden administration officials said that for two weeks starting on Wednesday, the Small Business Administration will only accept applications for forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from firms with fewer than 20 employees to ensure that they are not crowded out by larger firms. The changes, to be formally announced by Biden on Monday, come as small business bankers say demand for Paycheck Protection loans is slowing as

firms reopen. When the PPP was launched in April 2020 at the height of coronavirus lockdowns under a \$3 trillion relief bill, its initial \$349 billion ran out in two weeks. Congress approved another \$320 billion in May, but the program expired in August with about \$130 billion in unused funds. The program was re-launched on Jan. 19 with \$284 billion in new funds from a coronavirus aid bill passed at the end of December, and a Biden administration official said about \$150 billion of PPP money is still available. But Biden administration officials said there are still many minority and very small firms in low-income areas that have not been able to receive aid. The changes aim to make it easier for firms with no employees



US President Joe Biden delivers his inauguration speech at the US Capitol in Washington.

sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed people such as house cleaners and personal care providers -- that could not qualify previously because of business cost deductions. The Small Business Administration will revise the rules to match the approach used to allowed small farmers and ranchers to receive aid, the businesses said. The officials said the program will also set aside \$1 billion for businesses without employees in low- and moderate-income areas, which are 70 per cent owned by women and people of color. The SBA will provide new guidance making it clear that legal US residents who are not citizens, such as green card holders, cannot be excluded from the program.

German business confidence bucks shutdown impact

AFP, Berlin

German business confidence improved in February, a key survey showed Monday, as the robust industrial sector of Europe's top economy bears up despite the impact of coronavirus restrictions. The Ifo institute's monthly confidence barometer, based on a survey of 9,000 companies, climbed to 92.4 points from 90.3 points in January, when the index slipped as tougher measures to fight the pandemic were introduced. Analysts surveyed by Factset had expected a smaller increase of 0.4 points. "The German economy is showing its resilience despite the lockdown thanks to the strong industrial economy," Ifo president Clemens Fuest said in a statement. The manufacturing sector recorded its highest score since November 2018, surging to 16.1 points from 9.1 points last month. The mood in the services and retail sectors also brightened, inching up to readings of minus 2.2 points and minus 14.6 points respectively. Ifo said managers were upbeat about their current situation, rising to 90.6 from 89.2 points last month, while the expectations sub-index jumped to 94.2 from 91.5. Germany this month extended orders for bars, restaurants, leisure facilities and non-essential shops to stay closed until at least March 7 while allowing schools to partially reopen.

'Antique Chinese traditional fruit basket' sold on Amazon for \$72 is actually a chamber pot

THE STRAITS TIMES, Singapore

If you thought the "1960s Chinese traditional fruit basket" selling for C\$68.45 (\$72) on Amazon did not look appropriate for the dinner table, you would be right. The item on sale is in fact a chamber pot, or a spittoon, commonly used in Chinese households as a mobile toilet for people to defecate or spit into. And it is being sold on the US-based online shopping platform for more than 10 times its normal price in China. Similar spittoons are selling on Chinese

e-commerce platform Taobao for just 28 yuan (\$5.70). The enamel product adorned with a pair of mandarin ducks and the Chinese words symbolising "double happiness" in red was advertised on Amazon as being a Chinese antique with a wide range of uses, from being a vegetable and fruit holder to an ice bucket, or a decorative display stand. It was also recommended as a good gift for housewarmings and weddings, with photos showing it being used to store French loaves, as well as to hold a bottle of wine in ice, placed classily beside a

champagne glass on a wooden table. The listing described the item as an antique Chinese fruit basket with "beautiful colours and patterns" that represent "traditional Chinese culture" and "symbolise the happiness of life". Its "large storage space can store any fruit", it added. The Amazon listing went viral after an Internet user posted it on Chinese social media marvelling at how the humble Chinese chamber pot was being so highly regarded by Westerners. The hashtag "the other ways a spittoon is used" has received more than 50 million views and comments

on Sina Weibo, the Global Times reported. "US\$60? I can't believe my childhood potty is more valuable than I am," one Internet user remarked. The listing went viral after an Internet user posted it on Chinese social media marvelling at how the humble Chinese chamber pot was being so highly regarded by Western buyers. "I hope no one from other countries ever buys this 'basket' and sends it as a gift to their Chinese friends because no Chinese people would feel happy if they see a delicately packed spittoon with fruits in it," another said.



Md Delwar Hossain, chairman of Natural Design and Development, and Md Anwar Hossain, managing director, attend an event yesterday when apartments of Natural Moymuna Tower at Baunia area of the capital's Uttara were handed over to the owners.



Selim H Rahman, chairman of Hatil, receives the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award from Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun recently.

India's top court bars final tribunal ruling on Future's \$3.4b deal

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court barred on Monday a final ruling by a tribunal reviewing Future Group's \$3.4 billion sale of retail assets until the top court hears objections from aggrieved partner Amazon.com Inc, three sources said. Amazon appealed to the Supreme Court this month against Future Group's sale to market leader Reliance Industries, accusing its partner of violating contracts by agreeing to the sale. The outcome of the tussle involving two of the world's richest men, Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Reliance's Mukesh Ambani, could reshape India's pandemic-hit shopping sector and decide if Amazon can blunt Reliance's



A woman shops inside the Big Bazaar retail store in Mumbai, India.

dominance of retail. Three people familiar with Monday's proceedings said the Supreme Court ordered that while the tribunal can continue to review the deal and oversee the approval process, it could not pass a final order while the court hears Amazon's concerns. "This is a good thing for Amazon," said one of the sources, who has direct knowledge of events. Indian stock exchanges and the antitrust watchdog have already cleared the deal, which now awaits clearance by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), in line with regulatory procedures. A second source said Future had only asked the NCLT to let it to call meetings to seek shareholder approvals of the deal.

Padma Oil Company Limited
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Ref: 28.22.0000.856.14.151.17/138 Date: 18/02/2021

Corrigendum Notice

For
"Procurement of 2 Nos. x Jet A-1 Aircraft Refueller for POCL Aviation Refuelling Facilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh"
Tender Ref No. PD/BPC/Capex-51/F-14/P-99/20-21, Date: 30/12/2020

This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made:

Sl. No.	Existing	Amended
18	Tender last selling date	22/02/2021 up to 12.00pm
19	Tender closing date and time	23/02/2021 at 02.00pm
20	Tender opening date and time	23/02/2021 at 03.00pm

All other terms and conditions of the tender document shall remain unchanged.

"সমস্ত শর্তাবলি নতুনকৈ দেখা, দুইভিত্তিক বাংলাদেশ"
Md. Aminul Haque
General Manager (Projects), Chattogram
For Managing Director