

Commodities rally, stocks steady, yields off highs

REUTERS, Milan/Singapore
Optimism about the economic outlook pushed commodity prices to new highs on Tuesday, helping stocks steady as expectations of a dovish testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell calmed down bond yields.

The MSCI world equity benchmark was flat near two week lows by 0919 GMT, helped by gains in commodity-heavy equity indexes in Asia and a rally in European travel stocks on the

prospect of easing social restrictions. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out a phased plan on Monday to end a COVID-19 lockdown in the world's sixth largest economy.

World stocks had been weighed down in recent sessions by a rapid surge in global bond yields which fuelled expectations that central banks could eventually turn less accommodative in a bid to tame inflation. Tech stocks were among the hardest hit.

But the sell-off in the bond market

eased after European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde said on Monday the central bank was "closely monitoring" rising borrowing costs.

Investors now expect Fed's Powell to be equally reassuring when he testifies before Congress at 1500 GMT. "If there were already any expectations that Powell could try to calm down rates, then (Lagarde's remarks) have just further cemented them," said Giuseppe Sersale, strategist and fund manager at Anthilia in Milan.

Pandemic cuts demand for online workers from Bangladesh: ILO

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The impact of the pandemic seems to affect clients and workers differently across countries, the ILO report also said.

The tasks performed on these platforms can be classified into the following occupational categories: software development and technology; creative and multimedia; writing and translation; clerical and data entry; sales and marketing support; and professional services.

Globally, a large proportion of tasks are completed in the field of software development and technology, whose share increased from 39 per cent to 45 per cent between 2018 and 2020.

Professional and sales and marketing services have also gained importance, whereas occupations such as creative and multimedia, writing and translation, and clerical and data entry tasks declined between 2018 and 2020.

The clients who demand such work are largely based in developed countries, with four of the top five countries belonging to this group.

In 2020, about 40 per cent of the demand for such work was from clients based in the United States. Compared to 2018, however, the share of demand from the United States for such work has declined, and that from Australia, Canada, Germany, India, and the United Kingdom increased.

In contrast to the demand for work, the supply of labour on these platforms originated mainly from a number of developing countries, in particular Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Ukraine, apart from the United Kingdom and the United States.

Workers from India are the largest contributor, and India's share of total supply rose by about 8 percentage points between 2018 and 2020, while it declined in other developing countries, except Ukraine.

The digital economy is transforming the world of work. Over the past decade, the expansion in broadband connectivity and cloud computing, along with innovations in information and communications technologies, have enabled economic transactions and the exchange of large amounts of data and information between individuals, businesses and devices.

Data is increasingly a key asset, which is driving the digital economy. Related to these transformations is the proliferation of digital platforms in several sectors of the economy.

Since March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increase in remote-working arrangements, further reinforcing the growth and impact of the digital economy.

While digital platforms provide a range of services and products, the report focuses on digital labour platforms, which mediate work and have rapidly penetrated a number of economic sectors as a result of innovations in digital technologies.

Digital labour platforms are a distinctive part of the digital economy.

They allow individuals or business clients to arrange a ride, order food or find a freelancer to develop a website or translate a document, among many other activities and assignments.

This report seeks to enhance people's understanding of how digital labour platforms are transforming the world of work, and the implications

of that transformation for employers and workers.

It draws on the findings of ILO surveys conducted among some 12,000 workers in 100 countries around the world working on freelance, contest-based, competitive programming and microtask platforms, and in the taxi and delivery sectors.

It also draws on interviews conducted with representatives of 70 businesses of different types, 16 platform companies and 14 platform worker associations around the world in multiple sectors.

About 96 per cent of the investment in digital labour platforms is concentrated in Asia (\$56 billion), North America (\$46 billion) and Europe (\$12 billion), compared to 4 per cent in Latin America, Africa and the Arab States (\$4 billion).

Platforms providing taxi services have received a much larger share of venture capital funds than delivery or online web-based platforms.

Among taxi platforms, the distribution of funding is uneven, with 75 per cent of funds concentrated in only two platform companies.

Digital labour platforms globally generated revenue of at least \$52 billion in 2019. About 70 per cent of the revenues generated were concentrated in just two countries, the United States (49 per cent) and China (22 per cent), while the share was much lower in Europe (11 per cent) and other regions (18 per cent).

The seven largest technology companies globally had a cumulative revenue of over \$1,010 billion in 2019, and most of these companies invest heavily in digital labour platforms as well.



Muhammad Qaisar Ali, additional managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, opens the bank's "Dhaka Judge Court Sub-Branch" yesterday.

DSE yet to see notable tech advancement

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Initially, 30 companies were incorporated into the system.

The DSE requested the consortium to modify the financial data exchange platform, reasoning that its features were not applicable for Bangladesh.

The modification requests intended to allow stock investors to transfer funds to brokerage houses quickly.

"They have modified it. So, we will conduct our study on it, and it needs to be approved by the finance ministry, the Bangladesh Bank and the BSEC [Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission] before being launched," said Karim.

The partners also offered to provide a trade-matching engine. Now, the DSE is using one of Nasdaq, the user agreement of which will expire in December 2024.

"We will take the Chinese matching engine in 2022 and start running it on a trial basis so that it can be officially worked within 2024," he said.

The surveillance system will also

take the same amount of time to come about, said Karim.

The technological offers were free for use for 10 years. In monetary terms, they would have cost the DSE \$37.11 million.

Once the period is over, the DSE will have to bear the cost. So, a cost-benefit analysis is also necessary, he said.

"The products offered were not made for us and not redeveloped. The technology has language issues," he added.

"As their scenario and needs are not identical to ours, some features also needed to be changed. To maintain and operate new technologies, we need manpower, but the IT department has a shortage of it," Karim pointed out.

"We have the expertise to initiate the new technology, where adequate manpower is also needed," he added.

The DSE was unable to launch modern technologies, so investors are being deprived, said stock investor Torikul Islam yesterday.

"What we actually got from the strategic partner is nothing," he lamented, sitting in front of a giant screen at a brokerage house, Shakil Rizvi Stock.

Only stockbrokers gained some money selling the DSE's shares, Islam said.

The consortium bought 45 crore, or 25 per cent of the DSE's shares at Tk 22 each, for which the brokers got around Tk 947 crore.

The BSEC should ask the bourse to get a hold of suitable technologies from them, Islam added.

The DSE launched a new CNI-DSE Select Index in 2019 to attract foreign portfolio investments. It was jointly designed and developed by Shenzhen Securities Information Company and the DSE as a part of the technological collaboration plans.

The new index has been on display at the Shenzhen Stock Exchange to help foreign investors become more informed about Bangladesh's stock market.

Poor transportation facilities still a major barrier

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others, including steel in a reciprocal manner," Doraiswami said, according to a press release of the DCCI.

The cost of transportation and time between Delhi and Chattogram Port is high, he added.

Doraiswami also urged the business communities of both nations to convince their respective governments to upgrade goods transportation facilities.

Bangladesh can export edible oil to India with a 20 per cent value addition.

There are five railway crossings that are connected between the two sides now. For the import and export of goods, railways could be the most cost-effective option, he said.

The envoy also said India is very keen to expedite the use of Bangladesh's existing river ports for goods transportation. But to do so, a few regulatory issues need to be taken care of.

Regarding Indian investment in Bangladesh, Doraiswami said it would be great if both countries jointly work to encourage Indian businesses to invest in the country's economic zones.

DCCI President Rahman said that bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India amounted to \$6.9 billion in fiscal year 2019-20, with Bangladesh's export to India standing at \$1.10 billion against imports of \$5.79 billion.

He informed the Indian envoy that

the neighbouring nation has enacted Customs Rules 2020, which may create problems for Bangladesh to claim preferential access to the Indian market under the South Asian Free Trade Agreement and the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement.

The cost of transporting goods from Dhaka to Delhi is significantly higher than those from Dhaka to EU and US ports, Rahman added.

The DCCI chief also asked to expedite the implementation of the Indian Line of Credit as promised to Bangladesh.

He went on to urge for a review of the Custom Rules 2020, pertaining to the Rules of Origin and mutual recognition of quality certification given by both countries.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
মাদারীপুর পওর বিভাগ
বাগাউবো, মাদারীপুর
অফিস টেলিঃ ফ্যাক্স নং-০৬৬১-৬১৬৪৮
বাসা টেলিঃ- ০৬৬১-৬২০১৫
E-mail: xenbwdbmadaripur@gmail.com
স্মারক নং-এ-১৯/২০২১/৩২১ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২০২১খ্রিঃ

পুনঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ১৬/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ সোমবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে, বরিশাল জেলার আগৈলঝাড়া উপজেলাধীন কোদাল ধোয়া মৌজার বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, মাদারীপুর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত রামশীল-কাফলাবাড়ী এফ.সি.ডি প্রকল্পের কিয়মতঃ ৩৩.৬০০ হতে কিয়মতঃ ৩৪.৬০০=১.০০ কিয়মতঃ অংশে সমিতি কর্তৃক রোপনকৃত বিভিন্ন প্রজাতির গাছ উন্মুক্ত নিলামে বিক্রি করা হবে। অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদেরকে উক্তসময়ে নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলীঃ

- ১। নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণকারীকে জামানত হিসাবে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে উপ-পরিচালক, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব কেন্দ্র, বাগাউবো, ফরিদপুর এর অনুকূলে ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা দিতে হবে।
- ২। সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাককারীকে মোট ডাকের ৭.৫০% ভাট প্রদান করতে হবে।
- ৩। নিলাম ডাক সমাপ্তির ১০ (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে সর্বোচ্চ গ্রহণযোগ্য দরদাতাকে নিলাম ডাকের সমুদয় টাকা উপ-পরিচালক, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব কেন্দ্র, বাগাউবো, ফরিদপুর এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় তার ডাক বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হবে এবং জামানতের টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে।
- ৪। সফল নিলাম ডাককারী টাকা পরিশোধের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত গাছগুলি বুঝিয়ে দেয়া হবে।
- ৫। নিলামের দর গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের সকল ক্ষমতা পাউবো কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করবেন।
- ৬। নিলামের সিডিউল প্রতি প্যাকেজ ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ১৫/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, পুরান বাজার শাখা, মাদারীপুর হতে ক্রয় করতে হবে।
- ৭। উদ্বৃত্ত দরে অসামঞ্জস্য পরিলক্ষিত হলে, উদ্বৃত্ত একক দরের কথায় প্রকাশিত দর গ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- ৮। নিলাম সিডিউলের সাথে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও আয়করে ফটোকপি জমা দিতে হবে।

পার্থ প্রতিম সাহা
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
মাদারীপুর পওর বিভাগ
বাগাউবো, মাদারীপুর

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Australia to lift air cargo ban on Bangladesh

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The figure stood at \$692 million in 2019 and declined slightly to \$632 million in 2020, she said.

"So the latest withdrawal will definitely boost business to a considerable extent," she told The Daily Star in a WhatsApp message.

The ban was also imposed by the United Kingdom in 2016 and the European Union in June 2017.

Afterwards, Bangladesh recruited British company Redline for the screening of exports and training manpower as a part of measures to enhance the airport's security standards.

A number of explosive detection systems were installed while dogs trained at carrying out the task were also brought in.

An independent team from the EU carried out an assessment and Bangladesh passed the validation test in November 2017. Satisfied with the improvements, the UK government fully withdrew the ban in 2018.

Spotify set to come to Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1
"It will definitely be good for the artists. The platform will allow audiences and viewers to listen and watch music contents from anywhere in the world," said popular singer-musician Bappa Mazumder.

He said songs have to be copyrighted first in order to benefit from the platform. Otherwise, artists, lyricists and composers behind the creation of a song would face trouble in getting a royalty.

The musician has copyrighted some of his songs, which brought him some money regularly, although the amount is insignificant.

"But the more reach our music contents will have, the more royalty we will get."

Elita Karim, another musician, said

musicians could make a living in the developed world, but it had never been possible in Bangladesh.

"Piracy is rampant in Bangladesh. Copyright laws are violated. So, artists get almost nothing in royalty. The only source of incomes for them is stage shows."

If people listen to music through Spotify, then artists may get a share of the revenue generated from the content, she said.

Hamin Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) and a member of rock band Miles, is, however, not much optimistic.

"Nothing will happen to artists. I would be happy if I am proven wrong."

Because of Spotify, Bangladesh will

become another market for foreign language songs, he said.

Despite its enormous popularity, Spotify has long faced criticism over streaming royalties, which many musicians say are inadequate, according to BBC News.

Spotify has been reluctant to raise its subscription prices because of increased competition, so increasing revenues will depend on new subscribers or different types of content, said Andrew Milroy, director of technology advisory firm Vector8.

"They face a significant threat from Apple, Amazon and Google, and they want to extend their differentiators and add more localisation in the markets they operate in," he said, according to the BBC News.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education		
2	Agency	National University		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur		
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dinajpur		
6	Invitation for	Works		
7	Invitation Ref No	DGC/IDG/CEDP/OTM/W-01/2021(11)		
8	Date	23/02/2021		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit)		
11	Development Partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project Code	224017200		
13	Project Name	College Education Development Project (CEDP)		
14	Tender Package No.	W-01		
15	Tender Package Name	Renovation and Refurbishment Works of Classrooms, Laboratories and Washrooms at Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur		
16	Tender Publication Date	23/02/2021		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	10/03/2021, 4:00 pm		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	11/03/2021, 12:00 pm		
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	11/03/2021, 12:30 pm		
20	Name & Address of the office	Principal's Office, Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur		
	Selling Tender Document			
	Receiving Tender Document			
	Opening Tender Document			
21	Place /Date/Time of Pre - Tender Meeting (Optional)	Not Applicable		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor shall be 03 (Three) years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. 2. The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract(s) of building construction works or refurbishment works successfully completed within the last 05 (five) years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper, each with a value of at least Tk. 28 (Twenty Eight) Lac over the last 03 (Three) years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk 50 (Fifty) Lac over the last 03 (Three) years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderers shall be Tk 32 (Thirty Two) Lac. 5. The other criteria as stated in the Tender Document.		
23	Brief Description of Works	Tiles Works, Plaster Works, Painting Works, Thai Aluminum and Glass Works		
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities		
25	Tender Document Price	BDT 1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred Only)		
26	Tender Name	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion time in Months
	Renovation and Refurbishment Works of Classrooms, Laboratories and Washrooms	Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur	1,00,000.00 (One Lac)	03 (Three) months
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Md. Abdus Salam Azad		
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal		
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur		
30	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 0531-63360	Tel:	Tel:
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Professor Md. Abdus Salam Azad
Principal (In-charge)
Dinajpur Govt. College, Dinajpur
e-mail: dgc.cedp.idg2020@gmail.com

23/02/2021

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