

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Oil	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 1.27%	▲ 1.34%	\$1,804.02	\$65.93	▲ 0.39%	▼ 1.61%	▲ 1.17%	▼ 1.99%	BUY TK 83.95	100.98	118.02	12.76
5,385.64	9,403.71	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	49,945.37	29,671.70	2,924.58	3,564.08	SELL TK 84.95	104.78	121.82	13.42

OPENING OF

NAYARHAT SUB-BRANCH
Monaf Market, Nayarhat Bazar
Bayazid Bostami, Chattogram

SAMITIRHAT SUB-BRANCH
Rahman Market, Nichintapur
Samitirhat, Fatikchari, Chattogram

25 February 2021

CellCenter 16491

SIBL

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2021, FALGUN 12, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Weak NBFIs barred from paying dividend

Strong NBFIs can't announce over 15pc cash dividend either

SOHEL PARVEZ

With a number of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) suffering from severe cash crunch, the central bank yesterday barred financial institutions with lower capital and higher default loans from paying dividends.

The move aims at helping struggling NBFIs as they might face further difficulties in the coming months as non-performing loans are expected to escalate.

The Bangladesh Bank said the NBFIs, which have a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of less than 10 per cent and more than 10 per cent default loans, will not be able to declare any dividend.

Arif Khan, chief executive and managing director of IDLC Finance, said the BB decision would bring about positive impact

for the financial industry.

"It appears that the Bangladesh Bank has issued the directive so that NBFIs can avoid a stress situation in the event of a rise in classified loans in the future," he said.

The NBFIs that have low-cash flow will not see funds falling because of dividend non-payment, he said.

Similar measures have been suggested for banks too.

On February 7, the central bank declared a dividend policy for banks for 2020, allowing them to reward their shareholders based on the strength of the capital base because of the persisting pandemic.

Banks, which have a stronger capital base, will be allowed to provide higher dividend in the form of cash and stock compared to the weak lenders.

The central bank said financial institutions with more than 10 per cent default loans would need to get approval to announce dividends.

This is the first time in recent years the BB gave the directive and it came at a time when a number of NBFIs are facing capital shortage and high classified loans because of scams.

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Void left in the passing of the outspoken

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The passing of Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled will create a vacuum in the country's financial industry for he was outspoken when it came to raising a bold voice against scammers in banks.

The personality he possessed is a rarity nowadays because he used to go all out in efforts to protect the financial sector from delinquent borrowers, said bankers and analysts.

"Khaled was a man of conscience, who had never been afraid to speak the truth. And he was the voice of the deprived borrowers in the country's financial sector," said Atiur Rahman, a former central bank governor.

He left his earthly sojourn at a time when few are taking a bold stance against the fraudsters, he said.

There are just a handful of people who give thought to underprivileged borrowers and Khaled was one of them, he said.

"He played an exceptional role in establishing corporate governance in the country's banking sector," said Rahman.

The country's financial inclusion programme gained momentum for



his active engagements to this end, he said.

When Khaled was appointed managing director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) in 1994, he broke from norms by starting to

visit rural areas in order to observe

the sufferings of farmers.

It could very well be a first for a bank's managing director to visit rural areas, said Rahman.

Khaled heard out problems of farmers with the utmost patience and arranged district-

level meetings with deputy commissioners as part of his efforts to take loans to underprivileged farmers, he said.

"During the period of my governorship in the central bank, I visited different districts with Khaled while he was the BKB chairman. We together put in the effort to disburse farm loans among the underprivileged farmers."

Despite holding the post of managing director at different banks and the deputy governor of the central bank, he did not enjoy that much of financial solvency in life, a sign of honesty and sincerity, said Rahman.

Khaled invested some of his pension fund in national savings certificates, which was his major source of income following retirement, said Rahman.

Prof Abdul Bayes, a former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, described Khaled as one of Bangladesh's most talented, honest and knowledgeable bankers.

"Personally democratic and secular, he never compromised on his ideology for the sake of power or position. He was amicable by nature but as steady as a rock in performing duties," he said.

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Public food stocks near 3-year low

SOHEL PARVEZ

Public foodgrain stocks fell to 6.56 lakh tonnes, the lowest in nearly three years, raising apprehensions that greedy traders would use the current situation to manipulate prices to pocket higher profits.

Of the stocks, 5.43 lakh tonnes are rice, which is less than half of what the Directorate General of Food had a year ago, according to the food ministry data.

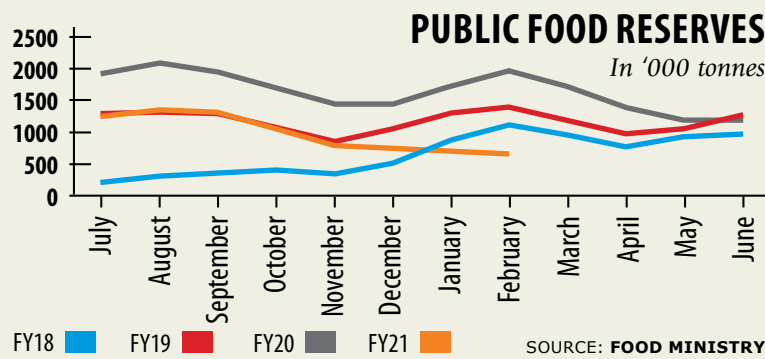
The current reserve is way less than the optimum 10 lakh tonnes public storages should maintain.

"This means that the government's free and subsidised food distribution programmes will be affected. This will affect the food security of many poor people," said Quazi Shahabuddin, a former director-general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

A lower stock of foodgrains also gives a signal to the market that the government does not have enough foods to supply to rein in prices.

"Ultimately, the unscrupulous traders get a scope to manipulate the market," he said.

READ MORE ON B3



Forex reserve hits record \$44.02b

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserve yesterday hit a new record of \$44.02 billion thanks to robust remittance inflows and lower import payments, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

The reserve, one of the major macroeconomic indicators of an economy, touched the \$41-billion mark on October 28 and rose to \$42 billion on December 15 and then to \$43 billion on December 30 last year.

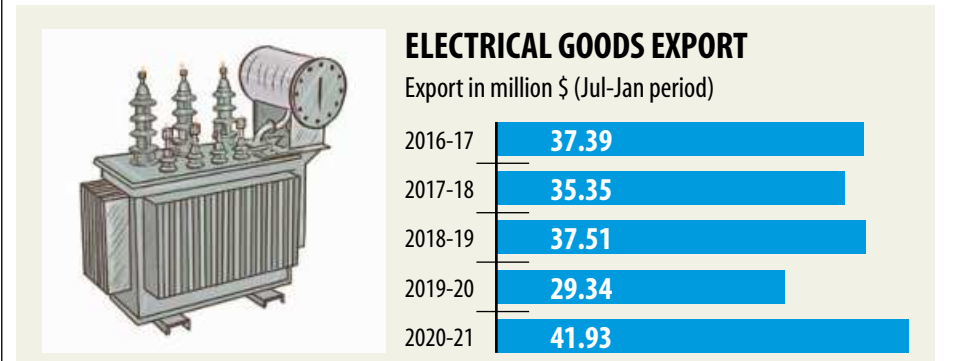
Between July and January this fiscal year, the country received \$14.9 billion in remittance, up 34.95 per cent from a year ago.

Remittance stood at \$1.49 billion in the first 23 days of February in contrast to \$1.24 billion in the same period a year ago, BB data showed.

Remittance has played a vital role in boosting the foreign currency reserve amid the coronavirus

READ MORE ON B2

Electrical goods export jump



JAGARAN CHAKMA

Exports of electrical goods rose 42.34 per cent year-on-year to \$41.93 million in the July to January period of the current fiscal year, in a testament to Bangladesh's growing prowess in the technological sector.

The export receipts were \$29.34 million during the same period a year ago, data from the Export Promotion Bureaus showed.

Industry people credited the initiatives of entrepreneurs and continuous development of products for helping the country widen its export basket.

"By virtue of quality products and the

efforts of the manufacturers, the electrical goods industry reached this level," said Rabiul Alam, director and chief executive officer of Energypac Engineering Ltd.

Energypac Engineering exports transformers and other electrical products to India, Nepal, and Malaysia.

Alam sees a good prospectus for the industry as the export might go up in the coming days as the quality of locally made products was improving.

According to him, the quality of the products made by Energypac Engineering is tested by an internationally recognised firm.

READ MORE ON B2

LDC GRADUATION

Govt devising ways to address challenges: Salman F Rahman

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is drawing up a plan to address the challenges the country may face after graduating from the grouping of least-developed countries in 2024, an adviser said yesterday.

"We are trying to create an enabling environment for investment, and for that, skills development is very important," said Salman F Rahman, the prime minister's adviser on private industry and investment.

He spoke at a virtual roundtable organised by the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci).

Businessmen from different foreign companies operating in Bangladesh took part in the event styled, "FDI in a post-Covid world: New realities and reform priorities for Bangladesh."

At the event, participants raised concerns related to value-added tax (VAT) they face while paying indirect taxes to the government exchequer. He said the government will address the issues in the upcoming national budget. However, it will be difficult to reach the revenue collection target if the tax net is not expanded.

Bangladesh's duty structure is determined not only on the basis of protectionism, but also on productivity and local market size.

For instance, India can formulate a very liberal duty structure as its domestic market is big and

productivity in its industrial units is also higher compared to that of Bangladesh, Rahman said.

There are a lot of challenges in attracting foreign direct investment and the government is addressing all of them, he added.

"Private investors want to know the predictability and continuity of policies of the National Board of Revenue," said FICCI President Rupali Chowdhury.

Some excellent progresses in the special economic zones took place in the areas of congenial legal and regulatory framework, said M Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh.

He also said that further attention is required to ensure policy consistency at the country's economic zones.

Avijit Chowdhury, an executive member of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, said his office has been collecting information on the different challenges faced by foreign companies in Bangladesh so that the government can solve them.

Skills are considered as the software of economic growth while infrastructure is the hardware, said Kedar Lele, chief executive officer and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh.

Md Mahbub ur Rahman, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, and Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

Exporters get more time to repay stimulus loans

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank has granted export-oriented industries an additional six months to repay loans taken from the government's stimulus package to address the Covid-19 fallout.

The decision came a day after the finance ministry asked the central bank to extend the grace period in a bid to ease the pressure on entrepreneurs amid falling exports in a number of major sectors, including garments, leather and footwear.

In March last year, the government announced a Tk 5,000 crore stimulus fund to help industry owners, particularly those in the garment sector, pay workers' wages and meet other costs for four months between April and June, when the pandemic-induced economic slump was at its peak in Bangladesh.

The central bank had initially fixed a six-month grace period for the loan, which bears no interest other than a 2 per cent service charge.

As per the rules, the repayment period was scheduled to begin from January this year.

Now, the central bank says that borrowers will have to pay the first instalment in September.

The loans will be repaid in 18 instalments after the grace period expires.

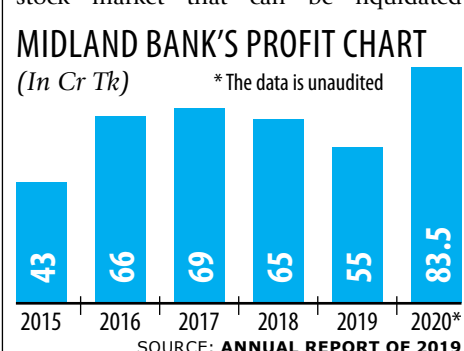
Midland Bank to go public to raise Tk 70cr from stock market

AHSAN HABIB

Midland Bank Ltd plans to go public to strengthen its capital base by raising Tk 70 crore from the stock market.

"It is not that we need the money; we are going to enter the stock market as the fund would help strengthen our foothold in the financial sector," said Md Ahsanuz Zaman, managing director and chief executive officer of the private commercial lender.

With the proceeds of the initial public offering, the lender will buy government securities and make investments in the stock market that can be liquidated



anytime.

Midland Bank started its journey on June 20, 2013, with a corporate slogan of "bank for inclusive growth".

"We want to give our staff ownership benefits, so we will raise Tk 5 crore from them and the rest Tk 65 crore from the stock market," Zaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

When employees have ownership in their company, it motivates them. "We want to practise this culture in our company," he said.

However, many of them might not have the appetite to take the risk of owing shares and so, the facility is voluntary.

The bank will implement these initiatives after receiving approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

Recently, NRB Commercial Bank has issued shares but is yet to make its trading debut. South Bangla Agricultural Bank also began the process to go public.

Midland Bank saw its customer accounts hit 140,105 in 2019, an increase of about 49 per cent compared to the year before, when it stood at 93,745.

READ MORE ON B2

Britain's Heathrow sinks to \$2.8b loss during pandemic

REUTERS, London
Britain's Heathrow Airport plunged to a 2 billion pound (\$2.8 billion) annual loss after passenger numbers collapsed to levels last seen in the 1970s during the pandemic. Heathrow called on the government to agree a common international travel standard to allow passengers to start flying again in the summer and to provide business tax breaks for airports to help them ride out the crisis. The airport, west of London, is hopeful that travel markets will reopen from mid-May after a government announcement on easing lockdown on Monday. Still Britain's biggest airport, Heathrow

last year lost its title as the busiest in Europe to Paris as its flight schedules contracted more than its rival's. The airport said on Wednesday that during 2020 passenger numbers shrunk 73 per cent to 22 million people, with half of those people having travelled during January and February before COVID-19 shut down global travel. The airport sunk to a 2 billion loss before tax on revenues which were down 62 per cent to 1.18 billion pounds, but Heathrow said it had 3.9 billion pounds of liquidity and that could keep it going until 2023. The airport is owned by Spain's Ferrovial, the Qatar Investment Authority and China Investment Corp, among others.

Midland Bank plans to go public

FROM PAGE B1
Total deposits reached Tk 3,950 crore in 2019, up from Tk 3,559 crore a year earlier. Loan portfolio rose from Tk 3,107 crore to Tk 3,174 crore. Midland Bank posted a return on equity of 8.24 per cent that year, according to the lender's 2019 annual report. Paid-up capital was Tk 569 crore. Last year, the bank saw profits rise 51 per cent year-on-year to Tk 83.5 crore. Earnings per share stood at Tk 0.98 in 2019 and Tk 1.26 a year earlier. The fourth-generation bank has already obtained approval from the Bangladesh Bank to go public, which is required as per the licensing terms. The lender appointed LankaBangla Investments as the issue manager and inked an agreement with the merchant bank in this regard at its head office in Gulshan on Monday. Zaman and Iftekhar Alam, chief executive officer of LankaBangla Investments, signed the agreement. Now, the issue manager will submit the prospectus to the BSEC to get the nod to raise the funds. Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, managing director of LankaBangla Securities; Md Zahirul Islam, chief financial officer of Midland Bank; Nazmul Ahsan, head of treasury; and Khalid Mohammad Sharif company secretary, were also present at the signing ceremony. As of 2019, the bank had a total of 33 branches and 37 automated teller machines.

Rise of digital economy: can Bangladesh take the lead?

FROM PAGE B4
AI can be an enabler of digital transformation covering multiple use cases such as digital relationship management, adoption of digital channels, digital identity verification, digital on-boarding, digital fraud prevention and many others. Another segment where the whole world will see a huge shift in the coming days is the implementation of e-governance services. Bangladesh has already taken a bold step in digitalisation of more than 3,000 government services by 2024. Bangladesh National Portal, national identity verification system, e-GP platform, biometric SIM registration system are already in operation. The implementation of over 100 online citizen services in the Mujib Year is going on in full swing. Not only Bangladesh, the whole world will now focus more on digitalising government services. Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan along with African countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda and Cameroon are now emphasising more on digital governance. All of these have increased the demand for ICT services around the globe, creating enormous scope for Bangladeshi ICT industry to move into the next step and turn out to be a leading ICT solutions provider. With more than 2,000 software companies and 500,000 people skilled in IT, it is time for the industry and the government to sit together and create a well-planned roadmap. Bangladesh should not only target the developed countries, but also the developing ones to deliver advanced technologies like AI, Blockchain, Big Data and IoT services. Africa and some countries in the south east and middle Asia are going to be the major markets for e-governance services in the next decade. Bangladesh is fully prepared to serve

these countries. Government to Government (G2G) level collaborations and dialogues should be extended further to grab the opportunities. BASIS, apex trade body of IT associations in Bangladesh, has already created two region-based focus groups to widen the country's business opportunities in two continents. One of the groups focuses on Japan and the other one on Africa -- two promising markets. Not only that, BASIS has also established BASIS-Japan Desk, which is the first country-based focus desk in the history of all trade associations of Bangladesh, with a view to strengthening the bilateral ICT relationship between the two countries. The association also plans to establish four more desks in four regions. Special attention should be given on developing skilled human resources, which is the backbone of the industry. Different training and skills development programmes should also be taken to meet the spiralling global demand for ICT services. The industry, government and academia should form a tri-partite collaboration to minimise the demand and supply gap between the industry and academia and to fulfil the industry demand. This will help in meeting the global and local demands, boost forex reserve and create more employment opportunities. The destiny of a nation is set by its visionaries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set the vision for the country to turn it into Digital Bangladesh. Thanks to her dynamic leadership and combined efforts of the government and the industry, Bangladesh is now right on the way to be one of the key ICT solution providing countries in the world. The author is a director of BASIS and managing director of Dream71 Bangladesh Ltd, a software company.

Electrical goods export jump

FROM PAGE B1
Although the local market is expanding rapidly, the export is still insignificant in terms of volume, he said. Companies in Bangladesh export more than 30 types of electrical products, said Sohail Rana, chief executive officer of Walton Electric Appliance. The company exports electrical items to Nepal, Yemen, and East Timor and is now in talks with the buyers in India and some countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Rana said just a decade ago, the electrical goods market in Bangladesh was reliant on imports. "Now, Bangladesh exports electrical products." "We export the products under our brand's name as well as the buyer's brand name," he said. KMG Kibria, assistant general manager of Minister Hi-Tech Park, said the company was working to export electrical products. Bangladesh exports electrical products such as cables, distribution boards, transformers, switch gears, wires, insulators, fans, heat and speed control systems, magnetic contractors, switches, and irons. Other export-oriented products include tube lights, filament bulbs, light fittings, table lamps, water heaters, torch lights, and lift equipment.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
BCS Administration Academy
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
<http://www.bcsadminacademy.gov.bd>
Memo No. 05.02.0000.010.14.001.21-55
Date: 25/02/2021

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bona fide experienced importers/suppliers/distributors to supply medical equipments/instruments as per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008. Terms and conditions as follows:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Public Administration.
2	Agency	BCS Administration Academy.
3	Procuring entity name	Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation Ref No. & date	05.02.0000.010.14.001.21-55, dated: 25/02/2021
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (As per PPR 2008).
7	Source of funds	Project budget for FY 2020-21.
8	Tender Package No.	GD-6.
9	Tender package name	Medical Equipments for the Medical Centre, BCS Admin Academy.
10	Tender publication date	25/02/2021
11	Tender last selling date	10/03/2021
12	Tender closing date and time	12:00pm, 11/03/2021
13	Tender opening date and time	01:00pm, 11/03/2021
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project, BCS Administration Academy, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
15	Brief eligibility and qualification of bidders	All bidders/firms who fulfills the requirements as described in the tender schedule (Except blacklisted bidders/firms).
16	Brief description of goods	As described in the section-6 of the tender schedule/document.
17	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 500/-
18	Tender security	BDT 15,000/- should be payable in favour of Md. Nazrul Islam, Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project via Pay Order.
19	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Md. Nazrul Islam, Project Director, Capacity Building of BCS Administration Academy (1st Revision) Project, BCS Administration Academy, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
20	Contact details of official inviting tender	Md. Nazrul Islam, Director (Planning & Development). Phone: +88 02 55165907.

Note: The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.
a) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.
b) Contract agreement shall be made after allocation of fund (GoB) and necessary administrative approval of the process.

Md. Nazrul Islam
Project Director
and
Director (Planning & Development)
BCS Administration Academy
Shahbag, Dhaka 1000
Telephone: +88 02 55165907
E-mail: nazrul5927@gmail.com

GD-376

Forex reserve hits record \$44.02b

FROM PAGE B1
pandemic, a Bangladesh Bank official said, adding that dwindling imports have also helped expand the reserve. Imports decreased 6.80 per cent year-on-year to \$25.22 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল
ময়মনসিংহ
Website: www.mmch.gov.bd, E-mail: mmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-মমেকহা/দরপত্র/যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি)/২০২১/২৪৩৩ তারিখঃ ২৩/০২/২০২১ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	সংগ্রাহক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	পরিচালক, ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
৩.	অর্থায়নের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট/অন্যান্য খাত, বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি স্বাপক্ষে।
৪.	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-মমেকহা/দরপত্র/যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি)/২০২১/২৪৩৩ তারিখঃ ২৩/০২/২০২১ইং
৫.	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বছরে ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালের যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি কোডে চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহ কাজ।
৬.	সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ।
৭.	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮.	দরপত্রাদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট সরবরাহ কাজে যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা (সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত) সম্পন্ন সকল আমদানীকারক/বাজারজাতকারী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদার।
৯.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম ও কোড	যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি)-৪১১২৩১৫।
১০.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং- ১ ২ ৭ ১ ১ ০ ০ ০ ০ ২ ৩ ৬ ৬
১১.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ সেবা খাতে ট্রেজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে পরিচালক, ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালের অনুকূলে শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশের যে কোন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক জমা প্রদান করে চালানোর মূলকপি অত্র হাসপাতালের ক্যাশিয়ার এর নিকট দাখিলপূর্বক সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। ২৪/০৩/২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়, দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	পিপিআর- ৬১ (৪) অনুযায়ী, দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পরবর্তী দিন থেকে প্রত্যেক কার্যদিবসে সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩.	প্রি-টেডার মিটিং এর তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০৮/০৩/২০২১ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, হাসপাতালের কনফারেন্স রুম।
১৪.	দরপত্র তফসিল জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৩/২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫.	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৩/২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ০১.০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদাতাদের সন্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল এর কার্যালয়, ক্যাশিয়ারের নিকট হতে দরপত্র তফসিল প্রকাশের পরবর্তী দিন থেকে।
১৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের স্থান	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্কে।
১৮.	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর কনফারেন্স রুম।
১৯.	দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকা (সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী)।	প্যাকেজ গ্রুপের বিবরণ দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি) প্যাকেজ যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (চিকিৎসা ও যন্ত্রপাতি) মোট দাখিলকৃত মূল্যের ২% অর্থাৎ শতকরা দুই ভাগ।
২০.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১) দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী/নিয়মাবলী/দরপত্র সিডিউল/তফসিলে উল্লেখ আছে। ২) ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ৩) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ৪) দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট এ্যাক্ট-২০০৬, পিপিআর-২০০৮" এবং স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের SRO অনুযায়ী প্রতিপালন করা হবে।
২১.	অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশ উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।	

ডাঃ মোঃ ওয়ায়েজ উদ্দীন ফরাজী
উপ-পরিচালক
পরিচালকের পক্ষে
ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল
ময়মনসিংহ

জিডি-৩৬৪

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Chattogram Medical College Hospital.
www.cmch.gov.bd
Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2020-21/Furniture for conference room of CMCH/1905 Date: 24-02-2021.
INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply Furniture for CMCH in the fiscal year 2020-21. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION				
1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
2	Agency	Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.		
3	PE Name, Designation & Contact details	Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir; Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Telephone: +88031630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022, E-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd		
4	Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.		
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Furniture for Conference Room of CMCH in the fiscal year 2020-21.		
6	Tender Ref. No & date	CMCH/Tender/2020-21/Furniture for conference room of CMCH/1905 Date: 24-02-2021.		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Item-by-item.		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB.		
9	Tender Publication Date	24-02-2021.		
10	Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	01-03-2021 During office hours.		
11	Pre-Tender Meeting	08-03-2021, 11: 00 A. M.		
12	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	14-03-2021, 12: 00 P. M.		
13	Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 15-03-2021, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Closing time: 12:01 P. M.		
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	15-03-2021 at 01:00 P.M.		
Name and address of the Office's				
15	(a) Selling Tender Documents	1 Cashier, Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.		
	(b) Receiving Tender Documents	1 Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Officer In-charge, Panchlaish Model Police Station, Chattogram Metropolitan Police.		
(c) Tender Documents Opening Place		Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital, KB Fazul Kader Road, Chattogram-4203.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
16	Bidders Eligibility	Details in Tender Booklet.		
Description of Groups, Price of Tender Document, Tender Security etc.				
17	Group No.	Description of Groups	Price of Tender Document in BDT (In Cash, Non Refundable)	Tender Security in BDT (In the form of Pay Order / Demand Draft)
	1	Furniture for conference room of CMCH	BDT 1,000.00 (One Thousand only)	BDT 2,000,000.00 (Two Lac only)
18	Description of Related Services	Details in Tender Booklet.		

Note:
(a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
(b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir)
Director
Chattogram Medical College Hospital.
Telephone: 880-31-630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022.
E-mail: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-365

Woori Idea Fest 2021 launched

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Woori Bank Bangladesh has recently launched a third "Woori Idea Fest 2021" for university students from all disciplines.

The contest aims to explore creative ideas of talented youths and unveils intellectual brilliance of future entrepreneurs in banking, the economy, financial technology, marketing and business innovation, said the bank in a statement.

Ideas need to be submitted at www.wooriideafest.com by March 18.

The most promising ones will be asked to be presented online through Zoom. Ten will be selected for a final presentation on the last week of April.

The winner will get Tk 1 lakh while the first and second runners-up Tk 50,000 and Tk 30,000 respectively.

Those securing 4th to 10th positions will receive Tk 10,000 each.

Mercantile Bank launches 20 new Islamic banking windows

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank yesterday launched 20 new Shariah-compliant Islamic banking windows under a "TAQWA" brand.

Managing Director and CEO Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury inaugurated the services through a digital platform.

The additions take the number of branches having such services to 45.

Chowdhury said the Islamic banking facilities in parallel to that of conventional banking would ensure all types of client services.

Weak NBFIs barred from paying dividend for 2020

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh has 36 NBFIs, and at least 10 of them are struggling to pay back depositors money despite maturity.

As of December 2020, the CAR of six NBFIs was less than the required level, which is 10 per cent. Thirteen had more than 10 per cent of default loans.

The NBFIs are Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Ltd (BIFC), Fareast, Fas Finance, First Finance, GSP Finance, Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd, International Leasing, Midas Financing, National Finance, Premier Leasing, Prime Finance, Reliance Finance, and Union Capital.

The CAR is a ratio of capital of a financial institution as percentage of its risk-weighted assets and current liabilities. Regulators fix CAR to protect depositors' money.

Industry insiders say following the BB order, many NBFIs would not be allowed to declare either cash or stock dividend for their shareholders for the year that ended on December 31 as their ratio of classified loans is high.

Non-performing loans at 33 NBFIs stood at Tk 8,905 crore in June, which were 13.29 per cent of the outstanding loans, according to data from the central bank.

It was Tk 6,399 crore, or 9.5 per cent of the total loans as of December last year.

The central bank also barred the NBFIs with sound financial health from paying more than 15 per cent cash dividend in view of the challenges in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic led wreckage in the economy.

Global stocks mixed as inflation fears compete with economic optimism



REUTERS/FILE

The German share price index DAX graph is pictured at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany.

AFP, New York

Global stock markets headed in different directions Tuesday, but Wall Street recouped early losses after Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell tamped down inflation worries. US shares tumbled early but largely recovered by the close after Powell's comments, although the tech-rich Nasdaq closed lower.

London's benchmark FTSE 100 stocks index added 0.2 per cent but Frankfurt's DAX 30 gave up 0.7 per cent, after most Asian markets posted gains.

Markets have become jittery about the prospects that the pandemic recovery will ignite inflation and lead to rising lending rates, especially in the US economy, where Congress is moving forward on a \$1.9 billion stimulus plan. "Investors are quickly rediscovering that not all stocks are created equal in a Covid recovery, as expensive tech names (are sold) to provide the source of funds for less expensive travel-related markers, along with energy and other inflation beneficiaries," Axi strategist Stephen Innes noted.

But Art Hogan of National Securities said markets reacted to signals that the economy is poised to rebound, and may take time to notice that "faster economic growth is likely to drive better earnings. Powell appeared Tuesday in the first of two days of testimony before Congress -- a twice-yearly event -- and said that while inflation could become "volatile" this year as spending recovers from the pandemic collapse, those price increases are unlikely to be large or persistent.

While pledging to keep the benchmark lending rate low until inflation remains above the 2.0 per cent target for some time, he stressed that the Fed is prepared to handle whatever comes its way, so "if it does turn out that unwanted inflation pressures arising are persistent and we have the tools to deal with that. He noted that US inflation averaged less than two percent inflation over the last 25 years.

In the eurozone, inflation rose 0.9 per cent in January compared with a 0.3 per cent drop in December, official data showed, adding to concerns that price increases are picking up momentum.

Void left in the passing of the outspoken

FROM PAGE B1

He was brave in pointing out those involved in corruption in financial intermediation, said Bayes, also a former chairman of the university's economics department.

"The nation lost a dedicated man," he said. MA Halim Chowdhury, a former managing director of Pubali Bank, said the private lender had made a comeback from its previous state as a "problem bank" due to Khaled's immense efforts.

"It is my immense pleasure to have worked under his guidance between 2000 and 2006," he said.

Default loans in Pubali Bank were

standing at more than 40 per cent when he joined the bank, Chowdhury said.

The figure decreased to less than 10 per cent when he completed his tenure.

"Khaled restored corporate governance at the bank and turned it into a profit-making institution," he added.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, depicted Khaled as an iconic figure, reasoning his strong voice against the unholy nexus in the country's financial sector.

"We have just lost a brave heart. His departure will create a vacuum in the fight to establish corporate governance," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayan Bhaban
Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.07.021.19-137 Date: 23/02/2021

Re-Invitation for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Firm)
Name of the Service: **Establishment and Maintenance of web based National Enquiry Point for trade Including upgradation and mobile apps development for BTP (National)**

Name of the Project: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1, Ministry of Commerce
Credit No. 60020; Project ID No. 15480
Reference number: BRCP1/MOC/SD-23

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) - a member of the World Bank Group - for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project. The objective of this technical assistance project is to strengthen trade related institutional capacity in order to ensure active and sustainable cooperation between multiple trade-related stakeholders and economic empowerment of women traders.

The consulting firm will develop a Web based trade enquiry point and maintenance of the same throughout the project period. Firm will also perform upgradation of Bangladesh Trade Portal (BTP) through Search Engine Optimization and developing mobile application system (apps).

The Project Implementation Unit BRCP-1-MOC on behalf of the Ministry Commerce invites eligible consultants to reiterate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, general qualifications, description of similar assignments, general experience in similar conditions, financial capability, number of key staff and so forth as per TOR). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. Detail of the qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available in the office of the undersigned and also at www.minc.gov.bd and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd/>. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours). Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form 2 (two) copies (one original and one copy) and one soft copy (in MS Word) in sealed envelope to the address below (in person) by **03.00pm on March 11, 2021**.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any all EOLs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Md. Mijanur Rahman
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Phone: +8802-55138022
E-mail: pdbrcp1moc@gmail.com

GD-375

Public food stocks near 3-year low

FROM PAGE B1

The food office had 13.47 lakh tonnes of grains in its stocks at the end of August, the highest this fiscal year.

The reserve fell consistently as the distribution under social safety net and other state programmes continued against insignificant progress in domestic procurement as farmers and millers were unwilling to sell their grains to the food office at the government-fixed rates as prices were soaring.

The procurements began in early November last year. Since then, the directorate has managed to attain only 5 per cent of its 2 lakh tonnes of paddy procurement target and 10 per cent of 6.50 lakh tonnes of rice procurement goal from Aman harvests, the second biggest output after Boro.

The prices rose, driven by speculations of a reduced Aman yield for repeated flood-induced damages during the planting period and low imports for the presence of high tariffs.

Yesterday, the price of coarse rice, consumed by low-income people, was 37 per cent year-on-year higher at Tk 44-48 per kilogram in Dhaka, shows the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh's market data.

Overall, prices rose to a three-year high in January, said a Food and Agriculture Organisation report on Bangladesh last week.

In a recently released review report on the Bangladesh economy for the current fiscal 2020-21, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said rice production, particularly Aus and Aman, was adversely affected for the consecutive floods, which swept through about one-third of the districts.

Approximately 25.7 lakh hectares of paddy fields were inundated, affecting about 12.7 lakh farmers, it said.

The think-tank said Aman harvests fell 10 lakh tonnes short of the target. The low output affected domestic stocks.

Md Moniruzzaman, the directorate's additional director, said public food reserves would increase as rice bought by the government had started to arrive from abroad.

"Ships are coming every day," he said, adding that already 1 lakh tonnes of rice bought under a food office-initiated deal had arrived.

The directorate has already signed an agreement to buy 6 lakh tonnes of rice. "We will continue making imports until the market attains stability," he said.

The official said stocks were being replenished with new arrivals, but the level remained low as distribution under various programmes were ongoing simultaneously. Shahabuddin said the decision to go for imports and reduce tariffs came too late.

"The government had failed to anticipate the situation and act accordingly. It seems that the government did not learn lessons from the past," he said, citing the price spirals following floods in haor areas in 2017.

Padma Oil Company Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram-4000

Invitation for Tenders (No. 28.22.2675.854.17.001.21, date: 24/02/2021)
Padma Oil Company Limited hereby invites tender from eligible contractors for the following works under PPR 2008:

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.			
02	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).			
03	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram-4000.			
04	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.			
05	Invitation for	Construction of 12 (G+11)-Storey Modern Residential cum Commercial Office Building with 02 (two) Basements of Padma Oil Company Limited at 6, Paribag, Dhaka-1000.			
06	Invitation Ref. No. & date	Tender No.: 28.22.2675.854.17.001.21 Date: 24/02/2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
07	Procurement method	National Competitive Tendering (NCT): One stage two envelope tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
08	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of Padma Oil Company Limited.			
09	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
11	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
12	Tender package No.	Package No.: WR-1			
13	Tender package name	Construction of 12 (G+11)-Storey Modern Residential cum Commercial Office Building with 02 (two) Basements of Padma Oil Company Limited at 6, Paribag, Dhaka-1000: Civil works; Facade and Curve Glass works; Electrical Works; Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Works; Fire Protection & Detection System; Sanitary & Plumbing Works; Security & Access Control System; Vertical Transportation (Lift) System; Building Management System (BMS); Landscaping works and others as detailed in the tender documents and Bill of Quantities (BOQ).			
14	Tender publication date	24/02/2021			
15	Tender last selling date	11/04/2021			
16	Tender submission date and time	12/04/2021 up to 1400 hrs.			
17	Tender opening date & time	12/04/2021 at 1500 hrs.			
18	Name & address of the office(s)				
(i)	Selling tender document (principal)	Cash Section, Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram-4000.			
(ii)	Selling tender document (other)	Cash Section, Padma Oil Company Limited, BTMC Bhaban (10th Floor), 7-9, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.			
19	Receiving tender document	(i) Conference Room, Head Office, Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram-4000. (ii) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100. (iii) Police Commissioner's Office, Chattogram Metropolitan Police, Police Lines, Dampara, Chattogram-4000.			
20	Opening tender document	Conference Room, Head Office, Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram-4000.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Pre-tender meeting shall be held on 22/03/2021, Time: 11:00 hrs, Conference Room, Dhaka Office, Padma Oil Company Limited, BTMC Bhaban (10th Floor), 7-9, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer	a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as prime contractor shall be 10 (ten) years. b) Having minimum specific experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of 12 (G+11)-storey building works with 02 (two) basements including Civil, Sanitary, Plumbing & Electrical works of Tk 170.00 (one hundred seventy) crore in a single contract during the last 05 years as a prime contractor or lead partner in case of JV, year counting backward from the date of IFT in the newspaper under gov./semi-gov./I autonomous organization/financial institution (local/ overseas). The work certificate for successful completion of a building work shall have to be issued by the official not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent of concerned department/organization duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that area/district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done (Work Order & Completion Certificate must be submitted with the bid document). In case of overseas works (outside of Bangladesh) work completion certificate must be countersigned by Chamber of Commerce/Embassy of the respective country. c) The tenderer must have experience of HVIAC works (central air-conditioning) of minimum Tk 4.50 crore (four crore fifty lac) in a single similar structure. d) The tenderer must have experience of substantial amount of facade and curve glass works minimum Tk 10.00 (ten) crore in a single work. e) The tenderer must have experience of structural steel works of minimum Tk 15.00 (fifteen) crore in a single work. f) The tenderer must have adequate experience of Fire Protection and Fire Detection System in a single multistoried building. g) The tenderer must have experience of providing Building Management System (BMS) in a single multistoried building. h) In case for performing the works against Serial No. (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) the tenderer may select the specialized (dedicated) sub-contractors in advance and submit necessary documents as per tender schedule. i) The tenderer shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 05 (five) years of Tk 400.00 (four hundred) crore which will be calculated on the basis of payment certificates for contracts in progress or completed. j) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh must be Tk 50.00 (fifty) crore. Credit line to be issued by any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh as per format (Form PW34-7) attached in the tender document to be submitted. Banker's certificate about financial capacity with OD limit including 03 (three) years bank transaction statement. k) Overseas firms may participate in the tender only through forming a Joint Venture (JV) with local Bangladeshi firm where lead partner will be Bangladeshi firm. All overseas firms/partners shall have a local liaison office in Bangladesh they shall open liaison office before site possession. l) Debarred firms from any gov./semi-gov./autonomous bodies are to be treated as ineligible to participate in the tender. m) Tenderer shall enclose up-to-date trade licence, income tax clearance certificate, VAT & TIN registration certificate, last 05 (five) financial years Audited Report. n) Tenderer shall enclose up-to-date A, B, C category electrical contractor and supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board of Gov. of Bangladesh. o) Other required eligibility criteria and conditions of the tender are stated in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of tender documents.			
23	Brief description of works	Construction of 12 (G+11)-Storey Modern Residential cum Commercial Office Building with 02 (two) Basements of Padma Oil Company Limited at 6, Paribag, Dhaka-1000; Civil Works: Shore piling with approved bracing works, Raft/Mat foundation, Fair face R.C.C concrete, Composite column works, 19mm Tempered curved glass, Corten Steel Facade works; Electrical works: Substation & Generator works, Internal Electrification Works; Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Works; Fire Protection & Detection System; Sanitary & Plumbing Works; Deep Tube-well works; IT & Telecom System; CCTV Network system; Security & Access Control system; Vertical Transportation (Lift) System; Building Management System (BMS); Landscaping works; Car parking system; Gas line system; Public Address system; Solar system and others as detailed in the tender documents and Bill of Quantities (BOQ).			
24	Price of tender document	Tk 50,000.00 (fifty thousand) only will be given by Pay Order/Demand Draft/Cash in favour of Padma Oil Company Limited. The original money receipt of purchasing tender document must be submitted with the technical offer.			
25	Sl. No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	1	Construction of 12 (G+11)-Storey Modern Residential cum Commercial Office Building with 02 (two) Basements of Padma Oil Company Limited at 6, Paribag, Dhaka-1000	6, Paribag, Dhaka-1000	Tk 8.00 (eight) crore in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Padma Oil Company Limited" which shall be attached with the technical offer.	36 (thirty-six) months
26	Name of official inviting tender				
27	Designation of official inviting tender				
28	Address of official inviting tender				
29	Contact details of official inviting tender				
30	Special conditions				
	a) All documents and submittals shall be signed by the tenderer in each page. All true copies/ photocopies shall be attested by 1st class gazetted officer. b) Tender security in original requires to be submitted with the Technical Proposal. c) If the tender cannot be received on the scheduled date due to any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received on the next working day at the same time and same place. d) The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. e) Tender notice also available at Padma Oil Company Limited website: www.pocl.gov.bd , BPC website: www.bpc.gov.bd & CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd .				

স্বাক্ষরিত মিলে গড়বে দেশ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ
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GD-377

Stocks snap five-day falling streak

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Higher participation of investors ended the five-day falling streak of shares on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, rose 67 points, or 1.27 per cent to end the day at 5,385.

However, many stocks have experienced drastic falls due to the downward trend of the index, said a stock broker. As a result, many stock investors incurred losses in the last few days, he added.

Big players went after hot stocks after a gap, such as Beximco Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Robi Axiata, and LankaBangla Finance, he pointed out.

Among major sectors, engineering and telecoms closed positive.

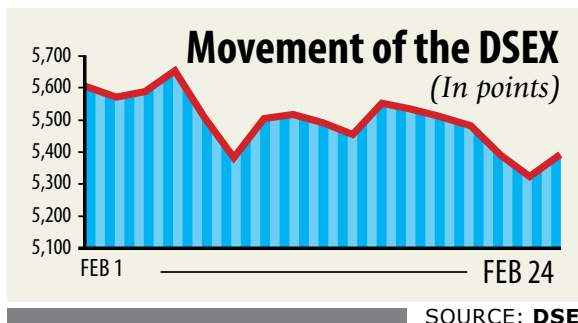
Turnover, an important indicator of the market, dropped more than 10 per cent to Tk 530 crore.

Many investors adopted the wait-and-see approach to see the next movement of the index, said a merchant banker. "This kept the turnover at a lower level."

Investors can put money into well-performing companies, considering their price earnings (PE) ratio and potential, he said. "If they do that, they will not be loser. Investments should long term."

PE ratio is a company's price compared to its earnings. A company is considered lucrative when the ratio is lower.

Investment into low-performing



SOURCE: DSE

companies can cause losses, the merchant banker added.

At the DSE, 190 stocks rose, 35 declined and 118 remained unchanged.

Debutant eGeneration rose 50 per cent yesterday and topped the gainers' list, followed by Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Robi Axiata, Zahintex Industries, and JMI Syringes.

Beximco Ltd topped the turnover list with its shares worth Tk 124 crore changing hands, followed by Robi Axiata, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, and LankaBangla Finance.

NCC Bank First Mutual Fund shed the most as it fell 4.93 per cent. Shares of Unilever Consumer Care, Fareast Finance, BIFC and International Leasing and Financial Services also gave up.

Shares on the port city bourse also rose. The CASPI, the general index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange, added 207 points, or 1.34 per cent, to close at 25,590.

Among 216 stocks traded, 112 advanced, 48 dropped, and 56 remained unchanged.

Risk management apparel makers' main focus now

Experts say at HSBC webinar

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh's apparel industry is now emphasising on risk management as order cancellations and reductions, payment deferrals and shipping delays left many in financial uncertainties during the Covid-19 pandemic, experts said.

They were addressing a webinar organised by HSBC, Serai and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) on Tuesday to discuss how the sector could grow and manage risks in 2021.

Serai is the HSBC's technology subsidiary allowing highly secure data sharing among industry participants and access to a range of digital solutions, the bank said in a press release.

An effective risk management framework has become essential for apparel businesses while monitoring could allay threats, said the attendees, including businesspeople, exporters and regulators.

Vivek Ramachandran, Serai CEO; Kevin Green, country head for wholesale banking at HSBC Bangladesh, and Mohammad Hatem, BKMEA senior vice president, also spoke.

Rise of digital economy: can Bangladesh take the lead?



RASHAD KABIR

Every single country in the world has been affected by the storm of Covid-19. Till date, the deadly virus has infected over 100 million people and killed 2.5 million in 219 countries.

When most of the countries are struggling for their economic survival, the situation is completely opposite for Bangladesh.

In fiscal year 2020-21, Bangladesh will achieve a 7.5 per cent growth in gross domestic product, which will be the second highest among south-east Asian countries, according to a report of the Asian Development Bank.

When most of the industries, be it a large company or an SME, struggled for survival in 2020, the scenario was completely different for the ICT industry.

The ICT industry faced enormous challenges in March, April and May when the companies experienced around 50-70 per cent fall in revenue, according to a report of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

But the industry fought hard and started coming back sharply from June as soon as the lockdown was withdrawn.

The increased demand for automation and software both in the local and global markets has given a clear indication that the world will no longer be like before and adoption of technology and automation is a must for the survival in the new normal world.

It has been found that most of the ICT companies in Bangladesh have seen a year-on-year rise in work orders from the local and international markets in the last quarter of 2020.

It is always believed that the ICT industry has the potential to be a disruptor and game changer for Bangladesh's economy.

Now the major question is can Bangladesh take the lead in global ICT market competing with countries like India, Vietnam, the Philippines and others?

The government's aim to establish

Digital Bangladesh and increase investment in infrastructure and human resource development has created the perfect environment for the local ICT industry to strengthen its footprint in the international arena. Although it is not easy, it is not impossible either.

The Covid-19 has given a clear message that the reality of Industry 4.0, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Big Data, robotics, fintech are no longer a luxury, those are a requirement.

Because of the pandemic, e-learning, online education, telemedicine and online entertainment have seen a significant rise in demand.

As people will be more reluctant to visit shops and crowded areas physically, the e-commerce sector will

E-learning is another sector that will thrive more in the coming days. Although the schools, colleges and universities are still closed, we have seen an encouraging effort from the government to continue the education through different e-learning platforms and even through Sangsad TV.

Universities are still continuing their education through virtual platforms. The gap of education between Dhaka city and rural areas has also been minimised. We knew the way, but could not implement it.

The Covid-19 outbreak has opened up our eyes and have forced us to implement e-learning throughout the country.

Telemedicine is another area, which has achieved tremendous growth.



boom in the days to come and digital payment will also take over cash payment faster than expectation.

During lockdown, people of Bangladesh have been more habituated to online shopping.

Not only grocery items and daily necessities, people continued buying expensive items like mobile, laptop, television, freeze and other electronic gadgets more than before throughout this year.

As a result, we have seen over Tk 30,000 crore business through e-commerce platform during the pandemic and more than 2,000 e-commerce business shops nationwide.

Not only that, we have also seen the rise of F-commerce. People even from the district and rural areas, especially women, have opened Facebook accounts to sell their products through the social media platform.

Bangladeshi people could never imagine that they will consult with physicians through virtual platforms. But the new normal has also made it a reality.

People from rural areas are now taking their treatments from the doctors sitting in Dhaka. Not only in Bangladesh, the demand for telemedicine, e-commerce and e-learning also increased all around the globe.

The pandemic is a brilliant accelerator of digitalisation for both consumers and businesses. Even the most sceptical ones will be prepared to integrate digital solutions to their organisations and will try to automate their operations.

During the ongoing crisis and its aftermath, companies will reinvent themselves by putting data and artificial intelligence (AI) at the core of their organisations.

READ MORE ON B2

Six brokers, merchant banks fined for breach of rules

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The share market regulator has punished six stock brokers and merchant banks for breaching securities rules.

Yesterday, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) took the decision in a meeting, presided over by its chairman Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam.

The commission fined MTB Securities Ltd and Nexus Securities Ltd Tk 5 lakh and Tk 2 lakh respectively, the commission said in a press release.

The regulator also voided the initial public offering quota for Bengal Investments Ltd, CAPM Advisory and PLES Investments Ltd due to non-compliance with the securities regulations.

"The process to cancel their

merchant banking licences would be started if the firms fail to meet the capital deficit within June 30," the press release said.

Firstlead Securities was slapped with a fine of Tk 2 lakh.

The regulator postponed the IPO subscription time for Sonali Life Insurance from this year's March to May. The company got the go-ahead for its Tk 19 crore IPO in December last year.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Show us the plan: Investors push companies to come clean on climate

REUTERS, London/Boston

In the past, shareholder votes on the environment were rare and easily brushed aside. Things could look different in the annual meeting season starting next month, when companies are set to face the most investor resolutions tied to climate change in years.

Those votes are likely to win more support than in previous years from

general meetings (AGMs) include calls for emissions limits, pollution reports and "climate audits" that show the financial impact of climate change on their businesses.

A broad theme is to press corporations across sectors, from oil and transport to food and drink, to detail how they plan to reduce their carbon footprints in coming years, in line with government pledges to cut emissions to net zero by 2050.

major to offer such a vote, following similar announcements from Spanish airports operator Aena, UK consumer goods company Unilever and U.S. rating agency Moody's.

While most resolutions are non-binding, they often spur changes with even 30 per cent or more support as executives look to satisfy as many investors as possible. "The demands for increased disclosure and target-setting are much more pointed than they were in 2020," said Daniele Vitale, the London-based head of governance for Georgeson, which advises corporations on shareholder views.

While more and more companies are issuing net-zero targets for 2050, in line with goals set out in the 2015 Paris climate accord, few have published interim targets. A study here from sustainability consultancy South Pole showed just 10 per cent of 120 firms it polled, from varied sectors, had done so.

"There's too much ambiguity and lack of clarity on the exact journey and route that companies are going to take, and how quickly we can actually expect movement," said Mirza Baig, head of investment stewardship at Aviva Investors. Data analysis from Swiss bank J Safra Sarasin, shared with Reuters, shows the scale of the collective challenge.

Sarasin studied the emissions of the roughly 1,500 firms in the MSCI World Index, a broad proxy for the world's listed companies. It calculated that if companies globally did not curb their emissions rate, they would raise global temperatures by more than 3 degrees Celsius by 2050.

That is well short of the Paris accord goal of limiting warming to "well below" 2C, preferably 1.5C.

At an industry level, there are large differences, the study found: If every company emitted at the same level as the energy sector, for example, the temperature rise would be 5.8C, with the materials sector - including metals and mining - on course for 5.5C and consumer staples - including food and drink - 4.7C.



REUTERS/FILIP

Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg takes part in a climate strike protest during the 50th World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

large asset managers seeking clarity on how executives plan to adapt and prosper in a low-carbon world, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen activist investors and fund managers.

In the United States, shareholders have filed 79 climate-related resolutions so far, compared with 72 for all of last year and 67 in 2019, according to data compiled by the Sustainable Investments Institute and shared with Reuters. The institute estimated the count could reach 90 this year.

Topics to be put to a vote at annual

"Net-zero targets for 2050 without a credible plan including short-term targets is greenwashing, and shareholders must hold them to account," said billionaire British hedge fund manager Chris Hohn, who is pushing companies worldwide to hold a recurring shareholder vote on their climate plans.

Many companies say they already provide plenty of information about climate issues. Yet some activists say they see signs more executives are in a dealmaking mood this year.

Royal Dutch Shell said on Feb. 11 it would become the first oil and gas

Bajaj Auto Ltd becomes world's most valuable two-wheeler company



Bajaj Auto's recent recognition as the world's most valuable maker of two-wheelers with market capitalisation of over \$13.6 billion is unlikely to surprise many in Bangladesh given its undisputed leadership in the country's two-wheeler market backed with a strong association with the reputed Uttara Motors Ltd.

This development comes as India's largest two-wheeler exporter completes 75 years of operation. Commenting on the milestone, Milind P Bade, vice president of international business at Bajaj Auto India, said the company exports motorcycles to more than 70 countries across the globe. It enjoys market leadership in key countries on account of its sharp product strategies and focus on differentiated customer experience, making Bajaj the most valuable two-wheeler company across the globe.

"Bangladesh is one of the largest and fastest growing motorcycle and three-wheeler market in the world. Bajaj is committed to this market with our esteemed partner Uttara Motors to keep on delivering world-class products to our customers, backed with the best-in-class customer experience," Bade added.

Matiur Rahman, chairman and

managing director of Uttara Motors, said he is delighted with the news of Bajaj Auto becoming the most valuable two-wheeler company in the world.

"We have been associated with Bajaj from the late 70s and now, we have established a motorcycle manufacturing plant in Dhaka, where we can manufacture more than 250,000 units annually, including high-end motorcycles," Rahman said.

The demand for sports motorcycles is increasing in Bangladesh as customers get the best in technology, safety and performance from premium bikes such as Pulsar.

"Bangladeshi youths love Bajaj motorcycles and our leadership in the motorcycle segment is a testimony of the same," he added.

ABOUT BAJAJ AUTO
Bajaj Auto is the flagship company of Bajaj Group. Bajaj Group is amongst the top 10 business houses in India.

Founded in 1926, at the height of India's movement for independence, the group has an illustrious history.

Bajaj Auto is the world's third largest manufacturer of motorcycles and the largest manufacturer of three wheelers.

It has its manufacturing facilities located at Chakan near Pune, Waluj near Aurangabad, and at Pantnagar in Uttarakhand. The company's motorcycles and three-wheelers are sold all over the world in more than 70 countries including India.

Bajaj Auto has an in-house, state-of-the-art R&D Centre actively developing new products and technologies driving its business growth. Bajaj Auto is India's No.1 motorcycle and three-wheeler exporter, with two out of three bikes exported from India being made by Bajaj.

ABOUT UTTARA MOTORS
Uttara Motors a leading and renowned automobile importer, manufacturer, assembler and marketing company commands a leadership position in the motorcycle and three-wheeler segments in Bangladesh.

Uttara Motors is marketing the most popular and highest selling Bajaj products for the last 4 decades through its own 15 branch offices and above 300 3S (Sales, Service & Spare) dealers that provide after sales service in every corner of the country.

Uttara Motors is the distributor of Bajaj motorcycles and three-wheelers in Bangladesh.