

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
▲ 0.57%	▲ 0.39%	\$1,787.26	\$67.29	▲ 0.51%	▲ 1.67%	▲ 1.67%	▲ 0.59%	BUY TK	83.95	101.13	117.90	12.78
5,416.39	9,441.15	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	51,039.31	30,168.27	2,973.54	3,585.05	SELL TK	84.95	104.93	121.70	13.44



Star

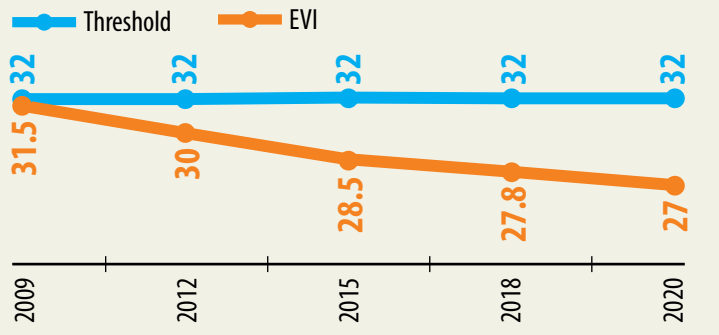
# BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2021, FALGUN 13, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## New era beckons

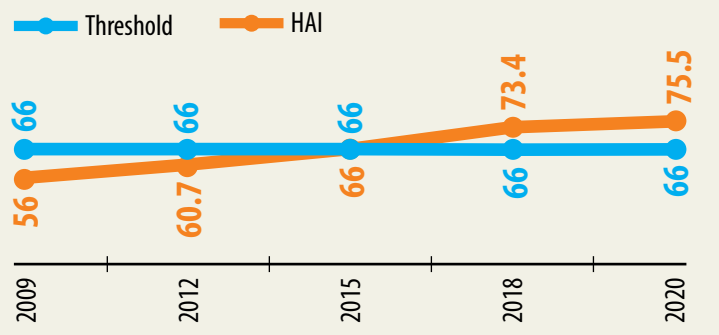
### Economic and Social Vulnerability Index

SOURCE: UNCTD ESTIMATES, 2020



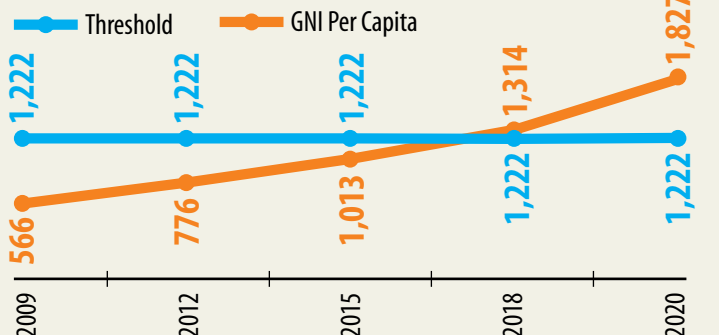
### Human Assets Index

SOURCE: UNCTD ESTIMATES, 2020



### GNI Per capita in US\$

SOURCE: UNCTD ESTIMATES, 2020



REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and REFAJET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh is confident that it can fend off the challenges stemming from the graduation from the grouping of least-developed countries (LDCs) as the government has taken measures.

The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) in its second triennial review assessed the economy of Bangladesh and found that the country met all of the three criteria comfortably to graduate for the group.

Bangladesh was well ahead in the gross national income (GNI) criteria: its per capita income was nearly \$1,827 in 2020 against the threshold of \$1,230.

In the Human Assets Index (HAI) criteria, the country's score stands at 75.3 points, well above the requirement of 66.

In the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI), a country's score has to be less than 32. Bangladesh's score is 27.3 points.

Once Bangladesh is recommended to leave the LDC

group to become a developing nation, the proposal will be sent to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for endorsement in June. The UN General Assembly is scheduled to approve the proposal in December this year.

Fatima Yasmin, secretary of the Economic Relations Division, submitted the country position paper to the UNCTD last month. The UNCTD Expert Group completed the assessment on Bangladesh between February 22 and 25.

An announcement on graduation is expected tomorrow.

The data for the 2021 triennial review indicates that Bangladesh meets the graduation thresholds in all the criteria again, and it is very likely that the country would be recommended for graduation in the triennial review.

Bangladesh expects the UN CDP would recommend Bangladesh for graduation in 2026.

In the paper, Bangladesh sought continuation of international support measures (ISMs) after graduation and the extension of the

transition period for two more years.

Three main challenges and vulnerabilities, including the fallouts of Covid-19, the impacts of climate change and the loss of trade-related ISMs were identified for Bangladesh in the post-LDC period.

In order to meet natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, the government has already formulated strategies.

The government has drawn up Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009, the Climate Change Trust Fund 2009, the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-2021, the National Environment Policy 2018, and the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

The paper also talked about the government policies and measures taken in the Eighth Five-Year Plan (8FYP), including allocating more

resources for green development, planning taxing industrial units for air and water pollution, reducing subsidies for fuel, and adopting green tax on fossil fuel consumption.

Bangladesh made the best use of ISMs among the LDCs: It is the highest user of the duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) facility among the LDCs. The average tariffs will increase by 8.9 per cent after graduation.

In the area of the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) flexibilities, the paper said there was no need for a patent protection in medicine production as Bangladesh meets around 98 per cent of local demand and exports to more than 100 countries.

Only 25 per cent pharmaceutical products will require patent licences after graduation, it said.

READ MORE ON B3

## Bangladesh qualifies for LDC graduation: The beginning of the end



Debapriya Bhattacharya

Debapriya Bhattacharya, a member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) and a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), talks about what it means to be transitioning from the grouping of the least-developed countries (LDCs), and the opportunities and challenges that await Bangladesh, in an interview with The Daily Star's Sohel Parvez.

DS: Bangladesh is set to exit the LDC Group. What is the new timeline?

Debapriya Bhattacharya (DB): The Committee for Development Policy of the United Nations (UN CDP) is set to recommend taking Bangladesh out from the list of the least-developed countries (LDCs). The country has met, for the second time, all the three eligibility criteria for LDC graduation involving income per capita, human assets, and economic and environmental vulnerability.

However, the exit now is to take place in 2026, i.e., five years hence. Bangladesh, before the advent of Covid-19, was set to exit the group in 2024. In response to a recent intervention by the government of Bangladesh, the UN-CDP has agreed to extend the transition period by two more years. Incidentally, the same has been done for three other graduating countries, namely Nepal, Bhutan and Laos.

DS: How will Bangladesh benefit from leaving the group? What is the historical experience in this regard?

DB: The exit of a country from the LDC group essentially means acquiring a seal of global approval regarding its development achievements. This is supposed to lead to, among others, enhanced confidence of the international financial actors regarding the markets of the concerned country. This implies reduced cost of international borrowing due to improved perception about country-level market risks. Thus, following the exit from the LDC group, the international credit rating of graduated

### Positive aspects of LDC graduation

Enhanced confidence of international financial actors

Reduced cost of international borrowing

Upgrade in country credit rating, augmenting generation of investible resources

Graduated countries experienced enhanced domestic tax collection, higher flow of FDI

Access to external development finance did not diminish abruptly

### CHALLENGES BANGLADESH MAY FACE

Relinquishing of preferences and privileges

Severe shock for garment exports

Graduation may affect subsidy to agriculture sector, support to infant industries

Loss of special access to climate finance

Pharmaceutical industry will stop enjoying patent waiver

LDCs has usually registered upgrade. This may result into augmented generation of investible resources.

It has been observed that, after leaving the LDC group, countries have experienced enhanced domestic tax collection and higher flow of foreign direct investment (FDI). On the other hand, access to external development finance did not diminish abruptly. Intake of foreign remittance has remained indifferent in these countries.

READ MORE ON B2

## Revenue collection up 4.55pc in last 7 months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Revenue collection rose 4.55 per cent year-on-year to Tk 132,165 crore in the July-January period of the current fiscal year, in line with the pace gained in economic and business activities, says the National Board of Revenue (NBR) data.

Collection of import and export tariffs, income tax and value added tax (VAT) edged up in January.

However, overall receipts reached 78 per cent of the NBR's total tax collection target of Tk 169,000 crore for the first seven months of fiscal 2020-21.

This means the tax authority was Tk 36,840 crore short of the goal for the period.

The NBR said its collection of VAT, the main source of revenue, had further increased in January, thanks to momentum gained in domestic economic activities.

The VAT receipts grew 2.26 per cent year-on-year to Tk 51,422 crore.

Collection from customs, mainly import duty, grew 7 per cent year-on-year to Tk 39,793 crore while income tax 5 per cent year-on-year to Tk 40,950 crore.

## Economy may make a turnaround in Q3: MCCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The economy is expected to overcome the difficulties stemming from the fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic in the third quarter of the current fiscal year on the back of rising exports, imports, and remittances, said the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka



yesterday.

The rate of inflation can be expected to go up in February because of the probable rise in some essential commodities, it said in its review of the economic situation during October-December 2020 released yesterday.

The trade body said Bangladesh's economy was now rebounding

from the Covid-19 shocks due to the government's steps and the implementation of the stimulus packages, which allowed businesses to withstand the crisis.

A large segment of informal industries, services and other activities have resumed operations, but they seem to be running at a much lower level of capacity.

The export-oriented garment and leather, and the domestic market-oriented steel, food-processing and transport sectors are not running at full capacity yet, said the trade body. The MCCI said major economic indicators such as remittances, foreign currency reserves, money supply, and inflation are at a satisfactory position.

The exchange rate has long been remained stable while the current account and balance of payments are also in positive territory.

The positive changes need to be interpreted carefully, the chamber said.

READ MORE ON B2

## NBFI stocks fall for bar on dividend payout

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks of non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) dropped by about 1.5 per cent yesterday, a day after the central bank's banned them from providing dividends of more than 15 per cent.

However, the DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose 30 points, or 0.57 per cent, to 5,426.

On Wednesday, the Bangladesh Bank said the NBFI, 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.

Even strong NBFI are not allowed

to provide dividends of more than 15 per cent for 2020.

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

"The decision affected NBFI stocks as investors will get lower cash from them," said Prof Abu Ahmed, a former chairman of the economics department of the University of Dhaka.

The central bank can prevent weaker NBFI from giving higher dividends for their future betterment, and this is acceptable, he said.

"But why is it preventing stronger firms from declaring higher

dividends? Why should stronger NBFI deprive their investors?" he asked.

If an NBFI keeps all the required provisions and maintains good financial health, it should be allowed to give higher dividends, the analyst said.

A merchant banker echoed Ahmed, saying NBFI stocks were impacted as investors realised that they would not get good dividends this year.

Turnover, an important indicator of the stock market, rose 40 per cent to Tk 746 crore.

On the DSE, 168 stocks rose, 63 declined and 115 remained unchanged.

READ MORE ON B2

## India's Omega Seiki to make electric vehicles in Bangladesh



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indian automotive and rail parts maker Omega Seiki yesterday announced plans to invest 100 crore rupees to set up a plant near Dhaka to manufacture electric vehicles.

The initiative will be run by OSM-Bangladesh, a subsidiary of Anglian Omega Group, reports The Economic Times.

Omega Seiki currently has two manufacturing plants in India, located at IMT Faridabad and IMT Manesar, Haryana.

"We trust that our vehicles will cater to an impressive response in the neighbouring country. Bangladesh at present does not have an EV policy but it may change fast," said Omega Seiki Mobility Chairman Uday Narang.

The vehicles manufactured in Bangladesh will be sold under the OSM brand through local partners and franchisees.

"With electrification happening fast in automotive markets globally, we see it is time for the Bangladesh market to change as well," said Omega Seiki Managing Director Deb Mukherji.

"The transition in two and three wheelers will be fast as they contribute to the pollution and traffic chaos," he said.

The vehicles will be powered by Li-ion batteries and with powertrains built in Bangladesh through technology transfers from India, he added.

"In due course, we are looking at full localisation in Bangladesh. We would also be looking to export from Bangladesh to global locations e.g. ASEAN, Africa," he said.

Bangladesh has a zero-tax policy for exports to 39 countries.

"This includes India as well and we are looking at selling in the northeast from there," Mukherji said.

## 3 confess to embezzling gold from Samabaya Bank lockers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Two incumbent bankers and a former official of Bangladesh Samabaya Bank embezzled Tk 11.4 crore by selling gold from the lockers of the lender.

The theft came to surface after they had given confessional statements to the chambers of the magistrates yesterday. The theft took place at the principal branch of the bank in Dhaka.

The three are Deputy General Manager Abdul Alim, Assistant General Manager (Accounts) Hedayet Kabir, and former principal officer Md Mahbubul Haque.

The accused claimed that they had committed the crime as per instruction of the high-officials, including the chairman of the lender, according to the statements.

Three Dhaka metropolitan magistrates -- Md Baki Billah, Debbrata Biswas and Satyabrata Sikder -- recorded the statements separately.

Anti-Corruption Commission's Deputy Director Mohammad Ibrahim, the investigation officer in the case, produced them at the magistrates' chambers after completion of a three-day remand.

The chairman and some other senior officials of the bank took a lion share of the money collected by selling the gold, the accused said.

READ MORE ON B3



Bangladesh qualifies for LDC graduation: The beginning of the end

FROM PAGE B1
DS: But we know that Bangladesh will lose LDC-specific preferences following the transition...

graduation in the area of finance would be the loss of special access to climate finance...

DB: Obviously, graduation from the LDC group would mean relinquishing a wide-variety of preferences...

DB: The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) provides a special exemption (transition) period for the LDCs...

DB: Now that the timeline of the LDC exit trajectory is finalised, Bangladesh needs to draw up a robust "LDC Transition Strategy"...

DB: Not necessarily. Currently, a number of global and bilateral initiatives are underway to articulate enabling measures for the graduating LDCs...

At the same time, what surprises me is our enthusiastic preoccupation with export injury in comparison to almost total neglect regarding loss of concessionality...

DB: Does it mean that we will be left on our own once Bangladesh leaves the LDC group?

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DB: Now that the timeline of the LDC exit trajectory is finalised, Bangladesh needs to draw up a robust "LDC Transition Strategy"...

DB: Please note that at this moment Bangladesh is pursuing a number of centric development approaches, including implementation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and the Second Perspective Plan (2021-41)...

DB: What are the other areas to be impacted in Bangladesh due to LDC graduation?

DB: What we do not always keep in perspective that a "dual transition" is taking place in Bangladesh economy. Even before the LDC graduation, in 2015, Bangladesh has moved up from the low-income country (LIC) group to low-middle income country (LMIC) group...

DB: What are the other areas to be impacted in Bangladesh due to LDC graduation?

DB: Please note that at this moment Bangladesh is pursuing a number of centric development approaches, including implementation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and the Second Perspective Plan (2021-41)...

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর
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E-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com
সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি (১০ম আহবান)

Economy may make a turnaround in Q3: MCCI

FROM PAGE B1
"Private investors are trying to cope with the situation instead of making further investments."

"Bangladesh is now facing some major challenges in steering its economy to a higher growth trajectory due to slow implementation of development projects, unemployment, low investment and the sluggish growth of revenue."

NBFI stocks fall for bar on dividend payout

FROM PAGE B1
Aramit Cement topped the gainers' list, rising 9.95 per cent, followed by Express Insurance, Orion Pharmaceuticals, eGeneration, and Vanguard AML Rupali Bank Balanced Fund.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়
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বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
www.moa.gov.bd

আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (Request for Expression of Interest-EOI)

Table with 4 columns: S.N, Name/Institution, Address, Contact Info. Includes details for the EOI process.

Main list of 26 agricultural projects with columns for S.N, Project Name, Location, and Status. Includes items like 'রাশামাটি জেলার বরকল ও কাউথালী উপজেলা ক্ষুদ্রসেচ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি'.

আবেদনকারীর জন্য তথ্য
১. নিরীক্ষা/সমীক্ষা কাজের সীমিত/নিরীক্ষা কাজের
২. প্রয়োজনীয় জনবল, সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে বিশেষজ্ঞ এবং সহায়ক উপকরণাদি থাকতে হবে;
৩. প্রস্তাবের সাথে রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ (আইসিএবিএর সার্টিফিকেট প্রস্তাবনার সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে);





**Anisuzzaman Chowdhury Ronny, chairman of the executive committee of United Commercial Bank, opens a "Smart Teller Machine" on Tuesday to enable banking services such as instant account opening, debit card print and cheque book requisition.**



**Mahbub Ali, state minister for civil aviation and tourism, hands over a crest to Mohamed Alhammedi, Bangladesh country manager at Emirates, on the airline being recognised as a "Friend in Need" at The Bangladesh Monitor Awards for "its exceptional support and commitment to Bangladesh during the global pandemic" at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, was present.**

## Japan keen to strengthen bilateral ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Japan have agreed to build a strategic relationship by further intensifying the current excellent ties between the two friendly countries.

As part of building stronger bonds, Japan suggested partnering with Bangladesh in further developing southern Chattogram area centering on the Matarbari projects that are being built under Japan's Big-B initiative and have potential to connect the entire region.

The consensus was built at a virtual meeting between Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Japanese Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Hiroshi Suzuki yesterday.

As the foreign secretary briefed on how Bangladesh was working to resolve the difficulties faced by foreign investors, the Japanese minister appreciated the initiatives taken by the principal secretary to the prime minister to particularly look into the problems of the Japanese investors.

Most of the problems were resolved despite the pandemic induced constraints, Suzuki told Momen.

The secretary expressed hope that these initiatives would encourage more Japanese investment particularly in the areas of agriculture, especially jute, ICT and high-tech industries,

blue economy, health and human resources development.

Japan is also keen to support capacity development in maritime security, disaster management and enhance cooperation in defence matters, according to a statement of the foreign ministry.

The two sides discussed the possibility of concluding a free trade agreement, particularly in view of Bangladesh's impending graduation from the least developed country status. Japan assured to continue its generalised system of preferences in the post-graduation period.

The secretary also informed Bangladesh Biman's plan to resume its flights to Tokyo, which was welcomed by Suzuki, who said the proposed air-link would help greater people to people contact and promote businesses.

Momen also stressed the need for early repatriation of the Rohingyas to Rakhaine State of Myanmar, while urging Japan to use her influence to persuade Myanmar and the international community to create a conducive environment there.

The Japanese side stated that they also wanted to see an early return of the Rohingyas and assured of their continued engagement in this regard.

Bangladesh reiterated her support for Japan's bid for a permanent seat at

the UN Security Council.

Suzuki offered assistance for Bangladesh's transition to clean energy and briefed on Japan's vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific, which is meant for regional peace and development.

Both the sides recalled Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's groundbreaking visit to Japan in 1973, which laid the rock-solid foundation of the bilateral relations.

They also discussed about Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's participation at an event celebrating Bangabandhu's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022 in a befitting manner and with the exchange of high-level visits.

The foreign secretary expressed his gratitude for Covid-related assistance extended by Japan, including direct budgetary support on top of the highest ever official development assistance loan package of 338 billion Japanese Yen in 2020.

He requested continuing the budgetary support for the next five years.

The two sides decided to meet again in early 2022.

## New era beckons

FROM PAGE B1

The cost of official development assistance will increase due to the rise in per capita GNI, the paper said.

Bangladesh has sought two additional years along with the standard three-year preparatory period because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

The proposed extension will help recover from the pandemic, enable businesses to cope in post-graduation environment, and prepare the transition strategy engaging all stakeholders, including the private sector, development and trading partners and think-tanks," the paper said.

As part of medium and long-term measures, the implementation of the 8FYP, creation of new market access through signing of Preferential Trade Agreement, Free Trade Agreement, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and taking preparations for EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus facility would be completed.

"Post-graduation, the continuation of ISMs is needed to move toward to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and graduate with momentum."

Bangladesh has also sought supports for managing climate change, enhanced access to development financing, and safe and speedy repatriation of 1.1 million forcibly-displaced Myanmar nationals.

Regarding the impacts of graduation,

Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said although graduation brings an immense national pride for the country, it would also bring about a number of challenges.

"The nation has to be united in responding to these challenges."

According to Huq, 73 per cent of Bangladesh's exports, worth \$25 billion, enjoy duty-free access as an LDC, and this preferential access would come to an end after the transition period.

"In EU, we enjoy single transformation Rules of Origin under Everything but Arms (EBA) at this moment. With the graduation, Bangladesh will have two options - Generalised System of Preference (GSP) Plus or Standard GSP, and both of them require double transformation rules of origin, which is difficult for us."

"The criteria to comply with 7.4 per cent import threshold for being eligible to the EU's GSP Plus is also a non-qualifier for Bangladesh since we have already exceeded 20 per cent," Huq said.

Bangladesh's export competitiveness will also be affected since the current subsidy programmes may not continue in the post-LDC era in its current form, she said.

She said Bangladesh needs empathetic consideration from the European Union in particular to extending the existing scheme duty-

free market access scheme by at least another 7-10 years on the ground of higher concentration of RMG in the EU market, and the possible implication on employment and poverty.

Discussion with the European Commission needs to be initiated with regard to 7.4 per cent import threshold criteria for GSP Plus scheme, the BGMEA chief said.

The EU is currently reviewing its GSP scheme for 2023 and it will be finalised soon.

"Such pride and prestige can't be quantified," said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at a meeting on graduation with local stakeholders in Dhaka on February 6.

The finance minister also noted that Bangladesh has shown incredible resilience during all previous global crises.

"Likewise, we would be able to adjust very well with the upcoming dynamics that would usher with graduation from LDC status," the minister said in a statement after the workshop.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said Bangladesh should start preparing for the gradual withdrawal of international support measures.

Sheikh Fazle Fahim, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), called for effective involvement of the private sector in the formulation of transition strategy.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
District Primary Education Office  
Manikganj  
[www.dpe.manikganj.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.manikganj.gov.bd)  
Memo No. 38.00.5600.000.33.000.21.208  
Date: 25/02/2021

**Invitation for Tender (Goods)**  
e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of works	Tender method	Tender proposal document last selling & submission date and time
1	508496 & e-Tender/ NBIDNNGPS/1/ MAN/2019-20 G1-01	Furniture Supply for 93 Nos. Classroom and 18 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 25 Nos. of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary School at different location of Manikganj District [ i) Rahatpur V.M, Regi. Primary School ii) Natuya Bari RPS iii) Vorra Regi Non Govt. Primary School iv) Pochar Kanda v) Gopinathpur Mojampara RPS vi) Surai RG.P. School vii) Dadrakhi Non Government Primary School viii) Anayetpur Community Primary School ix) Gopinathpur Degirchar Community Primary School x) New Palra Community School xi) Rejnagar xii) Shimulia xiii) Dighulia xiv) Palora xv) Madhya Putaile Community School xvi) Balla Bil xvii) Uttar Malutia xviii) Chak Madhupur RPS xix) Vhaoua R.P.S xx) Rajoir Non Govt. Primary School xxi) Patilapara Reg. Non Govt. Primary School xxii) Dubuliadanga Register Non Government Primary School xxiii) Choto Anulia Reg. Non Govt. Primary School xxiv) Uttar Golaidanga RPS xxv) Jailla RPS]	NCT OTM	Last selling: 14/03/2021 at 17.00 & Submission: 15/03/2021 at 13.00

These are online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and on offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-380

## 3 confess to embezzling gold from Samabaya Bank lockers

FROM PAGE B1

The rest of the fund was misappropriated by the three officials, said an official of the ACC.

After recording the confessional statements, the three persons were sent to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

They were arrested from the capital's Shegunbagicha on February 16, according to the ACC.

ACC Deputy Director Ibrahim filed the case on the day against nine officials, including the bank's Chairman Md Mohiuddin Ahmed.

## RBI chief asks Indian markets for trust, as bonds suffer post-budget sell-off

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's central bank governor told investors on Wednesday to trust the bank to manage the government's massive borrowing programme, after the bond market suffered a sustained sell-off

following the 2021/22 budget announcement earlier this month.

The Reserve Bank of India's assurances that it will ensure ample liquidity have failed to calm investors' nerves over the larger than expected 12.06 trillion rupees borrowing requirement, and the central bank has rebuffed their calls for an open market operations calendar.

"The market should trust the RBI," Governor Shaktikanta Das told news channel CNBC-TV18 in an interview on Wednesday.

"I think our forward guidance has been much more explicit than it has been ever

before," Das said. "There are some subtle messages also which the market should read."

Investors, however have wanted to see more evidence of the RBI's direct support for the market, than verbal assurances.

The benchmark 10-year bond yield, at 6.17 per cent, was up 22 basis points since its low last week. And the comments from Das left it unchanged.

Das said the RBI was seeking "an orderly evolution of the yield curve" and stressed there was no plan to withdraw liquidity prematurely, which could stifle growth.

"We don't want to create an impediment to the process of revival of economic activity," he said.

Das said the RBI conducted more than 3 trillion rupees worth of open market operations in 2020/21 and there would be a similar amount next year.

**মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি**  
Microcredit Regulatory Authority  
গুলফোশা প্লাজা (৭ম তলা)  
৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক  
বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭  
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২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি (এমআরএ)-এর রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত সহকারী পরিচালকের ২৪টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের জন্য আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীগণের নৈর্ব্যক্তিক ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৫ মার্চ ২০২১ তারিখ শুরুর বেলা ৯:৩০ টা হতে ১২:৩০ টায় এবং কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, অফিস সহকারী কাম ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর ও ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটরের ০৯টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের জন্য আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীগণের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ১২ মার্চ, ২০২১ তারিখ শুরুর বেলা ১০:৩০টা থেকে ১২:০০টায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীগণ উক্ত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র <http://mra.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে থেকে ডাউনলোড করতে পারবেন। এছাড়া উল্লিখিত পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্রের নাম, প্রার্থীর রোল নম্বর অনুযায়ী আসন বিন্যাস, পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুসরণীয় নির্দেশনাবলি [www.mra.gov.bd](http://www.mra.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে জানা যাবে।

পরিচালক  
প্রশাসন ও মানবসম্পদ বিভাগ  
মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি

GD-385

**ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড**  
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তারিখঃ ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

**পরামর্শক নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাশা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যক্রম ও শর্ত সাপেক্ষে পরামর্শক হিসেবে নিয়োগের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

১। অত্র সংস্থায় শীপবিল্ডিং শপের ওভারহেড ক্রেনটি অত্যন্ত পুরাতন বিধায় অপারেশনাল কর্মকর্তা পরিচালনার সময় প্রায়শই ক্রটি পরিলক্ষিত হয়। ইতোমধ্যে বর্তমান শীপবিল্ডিং শপের পুরাতন শেড পূর্বদিকে ৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত নবনির্মাণ করতঃ বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে এবং বর্ধিতাংশেও উক্ত পুরাতন ক্রেনটি দ্বারা কার্য সম্পাদনের পরিকল্পনা করা হয়েছে। ফলে উক্ত বর্ধিত শেডের উপরে ওভারহেড ক্রেন চালনার জন্য নতুন রেল লাইন এবং Busbar স্থাপন করা প্রয়োজন হবে। উক্ত পুরাতন ওভারহেড ক্রেনটিতে প্রায়শই ক্রটি দেখা দেওয়ায় গত ২০১৭ সালে ক্রেনটির সম্পূর্ণ Busbar নতুন Busbar দ্বারা পরিবর্তন করা হয় এবং ক্রেন চলাচলের রেলটি সমতল করার চেষ্টা করেও উহা সঠিকভাবে সমতল করা সম্ভবপর হয় নাই। বর্ধিত ওভারহেড ক্রেনটির Upgradation কার্যটি Multidisciplinary Work বিধায় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন কোম্পানি দ্বারা ক্রেনটি Upgradation এর জন্য Technical ও Financial সম্ভাব্যতা যাচায়ের নিমিত্তে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন পরামর্শক নিয়োগ করা হবে। এতদ্বিষয়ে সম্ভাব্যতা যাচাই, আর্থিক ও কারিগরি বিনির্দেশ প্রস্তুত কার্যক্রমে পরামর্শক এর কার্যপরিধি নিম্নরূপঃ

ক। **স্ট্রাকচারাল বিষয়সমূহঃ**

- শীপবিল্ডিং শপের কলামসমূহের বর্তমান অবস্থা যাচাই করা।
- রেল পার্ভারসমূহের বর্তমান অবস্থা নিরূপণ করা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় কার্য সম্পাদন বিবেচনা করা।
- স্থাপিত রেললাইনসমূহ সমতল/প্রতিস্থাপন করার প্রয়োজনীয় কার্য এবং বর্ধিত শেডে নতুনভাবে রেললাইন স্থাপন বিবেচনা করা।

খ। **ইলেকট্রিক্যাল বিষয়সমূহঃ**

- Rail, Transverse এবং Hoisting মোটরগুলির বর্তমান অবস্থার প্রেক্ষিতে মেরামত করা।
- ক্রেনটির সকল মোটরের কন্ট্রোলার VFD Controller দ্বারা প্রতিস্থাপন করা।
- বর্তমানে স্থাপিত Busbar সমূহের কার্যকারিতা পরীক্ষা করে উহা পরিবর্তনের ব্যবস্থা করা এবং বর্ধিত স্থানে নতুন Busbar স্থাপন বিবেচনা করা।
- ক্রেনের বৈদ্যুতিক ক্যাবলসহ সকল ব্রেকারের বর্তমান অবস্থা পরীক্ষা করে উহা পরিবর্তনের ব্যবস্থা করা।

গ। **মেকানিক্যাল বিষয়সমূহঃ**

- Rail, Transverse এবং Hoisting মোটরগুলির অপারোটিং লিভারের বর্তমান অবস্থা পর্যবেক্ষণ করা এবং লিভারগুলির পরিবর্তন বিবেচনা করা।
- Rail, Transverse এবং Hoisting মোটরগুলির ব্রেক এর বর্তমান অবস্থার প্রেক্ষিতে মেরামত/পরিবর্তন বিবেচনা করা।

২। উক্ত কাজে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক পরামর্শক এর ফিস উল্লেখপূর্বক/প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যপত্রাদি সহ আগামী ১১ মার্চ ২০২১ তারিখ বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ডিইউটিউ লিঃ এর প্রধান ফটকে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে অথবা ডাক/কুরিয়ার যোগে দরপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। ঐ দিনই দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ডিইউটিউ লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল ও সংশোধন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

জিডি-৩৮৮

পক্ষ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক



# How a mother's love took a nursery to astounding heights

DIPANKAR ROY, KHULNA

"Whenever someone visits for the first time, the serenity of being surrounded by saplings all around is bound to amaze. Sometimes even I am baffled by the many varieties added over the years."

Eagerly showing off his prized possession, Sarder Abdus Salam, owner of one of the country's biggest nurseries, emanates genuine love for greenery.

The passion caught on from his mother. And that took his business to astounding heights.

To bring things to perspective, Hybrid Nursery in Khulna sells anywhere between 10,000-15,000 saplings every day during the peak planting period in late monsoon.

Its annual revenue hovers in the region of Tk 10 crore to Tk 15 crore. And Salam has expanded his business from one bigha of inherited land to over 100 bighas.

"Trees never betray...as you treat or nurse plants will they reciprocate threefold," said the man with green fingers.

He said his mother Rokeya Begum used to nurse saplings as if they were her own children. She started the business 45 years back to bring some financial solvency to the family.

"She didn't have any other use of coconuts and betel nuts falling to the ground on their own, so that got her thinking how she could use those to bring in some money," said Salam.

Begum decided to start planting those on a wetland and sell the saplings once they germinate, leading to the founding of Rokeya Nursery and Salam's four brothers joining in.

She was presented a national agriculture award in 2007 while Salam another in 2015.

The nurseries sit in Bejerdanga area of Phultala upazila, where the soil is said to be very much fertile, enabling the cultivation of various fruit, wood and medicinal plants and trees.

"I took on the business in 1990 with the high demand for foreign fruits and trees in mind," said Salam.

He said to have a longing for cultivating fruits of high quality, for which he experimented with local varieties.

"I thought about how I could increase the sweetness of oranges and grapes. My target was to do something special, that nursery owners generally do not even think of," he said.

His trials led him to bring over various varieties of flowers and improved varieties of fruit trees from abroad.

Salam also strives to preserve plants and trees facing the threat of extinction.

He now has around 3,400 species, all available for sale.

"There are some 10 to 12 lakh saplings of



DIPANKAR ROY

Hybrid Nursery in Khulna, one of the biggest in the country, could very well be a unique ecosystem on its own, boasting the availability of around 3,400 species of fruit, flowering, wood and medicinal plants on over 100 bighas of land.

different varieties of fruits, wood and medicinal trees at my nurseries where more than 75 farm hands are employed," Salam said.

"I am supplying my saplings to districts around the country. Some NGOs are also buying these saplings to export to Europe and other countries," he said.

A visit to the area earlier this week revealed a sprawling nursery industry involving 15 villages, all of which came about in the late 70s. The business is helping some 30,000 people in and around the upazila lead a better life.

Over 5,000 are directly earning wages from the nurseries, thanks to increasing demand for saplings, said SM Nazmus Sakib Shahin of the Department of Agricultural Extension's Phultala office.

Poverty is being alleviated, people are becoming self-reliant while the rural economy, environment, ecology and biodiversity are improving, he said.

However, many of the nursery owners conveyed a mass exodus of entrepreneurs from the business for a lack of space.

This was evident from mushrooming brick kilns and industrial factories all around.

Those who were putting in the effort to continue running nurseries taking lease of land further out were being bogged down by a doubling of production cost.

Many could not bear the continuous losses. Now there are 350 nurseries, down from 1,778 a decade ago. Exacerbating the situation was the coronavirus pandemic.

Customers could not come freely, so tens of thousands of saplings are being left out on the field to die out, said Abul Basar, chairman of Phultala sadar union and secretary to Phultala Nursery Owners Association.

"We are now facing a scarcity of land. Many brick kilns and other industrial establishments, including jute mills, are being set up on fertile land. This is proving a hindrance in expanding our business," he said.

"We have been demanding that the government designate the area as a nursery zone," he said.

Time has come to think about the environmental benefits as well as economic development facilitated by nurseries, added Basar.

Last season, saplings worth around Tk 25 lakh to Tk 30 lakh were sold every day. Due to the coronavirus, daily sales this year were barely reaching Tk 5 lakh to Tk 6 lakh, said Md Anwar Hossain, president of Phultala Upazila Nursery Owners Association.

"We depend on the nursery industry all year round to support our families. Due to the low sales, we are struggling to meet expenses, including that for labour," he added.

## Ctg customs to auction Tk 45cr goods

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Chattogram Customs House will auction off around 1,050 tonnes of abandoned goods worth Tk 45 crore on Sunday.

It will get rid of around 50 lots of goods, including 180 pieces of CNG-run auto-rickshaws, 150 tonnes of garment fabrics, 300 tonnes of steel items, and 130 tonnes of chemicals.

Furniture, plastics, hand sanitizer, fish and other food items are also included in the list.

The importers did not take the delivery of the goods in time that were brought in through Chattogram port between 2018 and 2020.

The customs authority starts the procedure to auction off foreign goods if the importers do not receive the items within 30 days after they arrive at the port.

Usually, businesses refrain from taking the delivery of goods because of a fall in the prices of goods in the local market, failure to submit original documents in support of the shipment, failure to get clearance, and refusal to pay fines for anomalies.

"The bidders are getting good response as the goods are in good shape," Deputy Commissioner for Auction Faisal Bin Rahman told The Daily Star.

To reduce the pressure on auction-able goods, the customs authority has taken an initiative to organise one auction every month. "Hopefully, if it is done regularly, the abandoned products will be saved from wastages," Rahman said.

- 180 CNG-run auto-rickshaws
- 150 tonnes garment fabrics
- 300 tonnes steel items
- 130 tonnes chemicals
- Furniture
- Plastics
- Hand sanitisers
- Fish and other food

In the last five years to 2020, the customs authority sold Tk 265.62 crore worth of abandoned goods through 64 tenders.

About 7,553 containers weighing around 15,000 tonnes of abandoned goods piled up at Chattogram port yards between January 2016 and December 2020, data from the Chattogram Port Authority showed.

The auction process was delayed due to the shortage of adequate workforce and equipment, according to customs officials. Sometimes importers or auctioneers go to courts, causing further delay, they said.

## Grow habit of paying tax: PM's adviser

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladeshis need a change in mindset to grow the habit of paying taxes as revenue generation is very important for inclusive development, said Salman F Rahman, the prime minister's private industry and investment adviser, yesterday.

He also laid emphasis on increasing the tax-GDP ratio, pointing out that it was relatively low in the South Asian region.

"In the last fiscal, the NBR (National Board of Revenue) was able to bring 55,000 new taxpayers under the net. Still, we have to widen the tax net," he said.

"The government is also working to upgrade and modernise the overall revenue structure," said Rahman.

He was addressing a call on by Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), and its

board of directors.

A third terminal is being constructed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. There is a plan to soon upgrade the Cox's Bazar airport to that of international standard, the adviser added.

Rizwan Rahman said Bangladesh has to meet 27 conditions to avail the GSP Plus facility on exports to the European Union once it graduates from the grouping of least-developed countries to a developing nation.

He proposed forming a national strategy committee engaging all stakeholders in mapping preparedness roles and time-bound actions for all relevant agencies.

The same is needed for foreign direct investment promotion and its alignment with government strategies such as the industrial, import and export policies and foreign exchange regulations, he added.

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

# India expected to harvest record wheat, rice crops this year

REUTERS, New Delhi

India is likely to harvest a record 109.24 million tonnes of wheat this year, the farm ministry said, further boosting stocks at government granaries that are fast running out of storage space due to more than a decade of bumper production.

Wheat output in India, the world's second biggest producer, is expected to go up by 1.3 per cent in the crop year to June 2021, the Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry said in its second crop forecast for 2020/21.

Rice output is estimated to rise by 1.2 per cent to 120.32 million tonnes. India is the world's biggest rice exporter and second biggest producer.

The Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry forecast this year's total grains output at a record 303.34 million tonnes against 297.5 million tonnes produced in the previous year.

Output of rapeseed, the main winter oilseed with the highest oil

content, is expected at 10.4 million tonnes, higher than previous year's production of 9.1 million tonnes.

Production of chickpeas, a variety of pulses, is likely to be 11.62 million tonnes against 11.08 million tonnes harvested in the previous year.

Any increase in rapeseed and chickpea production cuts imports of expensive vegetable oils and pulses - the commodities that are mostly in short supply in India, the world's biggest importer of both cooking oils and protein-rich pulses.

Also, a string of bumper rice and wheat harvests - thanks to high-yielding seed varieties, increasing farm mechanisation and good weather conditions - have bumped up local supplies.

Brim-full granaries have hardly any extra space to accommodate new season harvests that will start trickling in from next month, potentially exposing food stocks to rains and rodents.

Despite bumper harvests, the government of Prime Minister



A worker collects boiled rice to spread it for drying at a rice mill on the outskirts of Kolkata, India.

PHOTO: REUTERS/FILE

Narendra Modi is grappling with protesting about three new discontent in the countryside, agricultural laws introduced in September.

## Xi boasts of Chinese 'miracle' in tackling poverty

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday declared his country had achieved the "human miracle" of eliminating extreme poverty, though questions continue to surround the Communist Party's criteria for making the claim.

In a glitzy ceremony in Beijing, Xi bestowed medals on officials from rural communities, some wearing traditional ethnic-minority attire, and promised to share this "Chinese example" with other developing nations. "No other country can lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said. "A human miracle has been created that will go down in history. "China last year claimed it had achieved its long-trumpeted goal



Chinese President Xi Jinping

of lifting all of its people above a poverty line of \$2.30 in daily income.

That is slightly above the World Bank's lowest threshold of \$1.90, but below what is recommended for higher income countries. The World Bank says China has lifted more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty since turning to market reforms in the 1970s, after decades of state planning and ill-advised Maoist campaigns that had stifled the economy.

China is now "providing help to developing countries" still struggling with poverty, Xi said.

In 2015, Xi vowed to eradicate extreme poverty by 2020, a pillar of the Communist Party's goal to build a "moderately prosperous society" by the 100th anniversary of its founding later this year.