

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
▲ 0.35%	▲ 0.38%	\$1,686.91	\$68.70	▲ 0.07%	▼ 0.42%	▲ 1.9%	▼ 2.30%	BUY TK	83.95	98.86	115.07	12.64
5,604.38	9,808.46	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	50,441.07	28,743.25	3,071.16	3,421.41	SELL TK	84.95	102.66	118.87	13.29

ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন
এবার মোবাইলে

SIBL e-Account
যখন-তখন

SIBL
Standard Chartered Bank

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021, FALGUN 24, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

UK firms keen to utilise large consumer base of Bangladesh

British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson says

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDDHA and PORIMOL PALMA

A number of big British companies are interested to invest in Bangladesh to benefit from the country's large consumer base, said British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson.

"Since British companies are seriously looking to invest here, we are trying to help them," Dickson told The Daily Star during a recent interview at his residence in Baridhara, Dhaka.

Some of the best British companies, such as Standard Chartered, Unilever, HSBC and

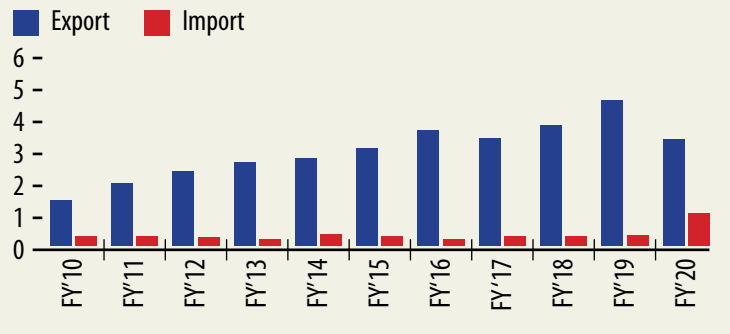


Robert Chatterton Dickson

British American Tobacco, have been operating in Bangladesh for years, mainly because of the vast consumer base.

Bangladesh's trade with UK

In billion dollars
SOURCE: HIGH COMMISSION OFFICES, BB AND BBS



Bangladesh's current population stands at nearly 170 million with a per capita income of about \$2,000, making it a market with good business potential for British companies.

"British companies could see the rapid economic growth, the population growth, and the consumer base. The middle-income class is coming up here," he said.

The firms are interested to invest in finance, education, healthcare and other high-end services such as fintech, energy and catering.

Some British universities have expressed their interest to set up campuses in Bangladesh as they assume the country's people can now afford quality education, he said.

READ MORE ON B3

Spectrum auction fetches \$885m for govt

BTRC sells 27.4 megahertz

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Three mobile phone operators - Grameenphone, Robi and Banglalink - yesterday bought 27.4 megahertz of spectrum for \$885.35 million as they look to lessen the pressures on their overstretched network and improve services following the rise in subscribers.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) arranged an auction for 7.4 megahertz of spectrum in 1800 band and 20 MHz in 2100 band at

the Intercontinental Hotel in Dhaka.

The base price for 1800 band was \$31 million per megahertz, and for 2100 band, it was \$27 million. The spectrum was given for 15 years.

Market leader Grameenphone bought 0.4 MHz in 1800 band and 10 MHz in 2100 band at a combined price of \$378.75 million.

Robi, the second-largest operator, acquired 2.6 MHz in 1800 band and 5 MHz in 2100 band. It has to pay \$225.6 million.

READ MORE ON B3



Telecom Minister Mustafá Jabbar and top officials of Grameenphone, Robi, Banglalink and Teletalk attend a media briefing at the end of a spectrum auction at the InterContinental Dhaka hotel yesterday.

Large corporations should work to empower women

Says Simeen Rahman, group CEO of Transcom Ltd

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Large corporations have to play a significant role in empowering the country's women, said Simeen Rahman, group chief executive officer of Transcom Ltd.

"We have to make sure that women get the same opportunities and pay as men when working at the same level," she said, while addressing a webinar organised to mark International Women's Day yesterday.

She said that large business have to lead the way by institutionalising an inclusive culture and environment to empower women.

READ MORE ON B3



Praava Health raises \$10.6m

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Praava Health, which made a foray into Bangladesh's healthcare business with a brick-and-click model, yesterday announced that it raised funds of \$10.6 million with an aim to expand footprint in the capital and beyond to Chattogram.

The fund came in a form of a "Series A Prime" round, which refers to a first round of financing undertaken for a new business venture after seed capital.

The healthcare provider is said to have so far served 150,000 patients with a flagship centre in Banani and 40 other centres across Dhaka.

It also seeks to use the money to build an app integrating all its digital services being offered since its 2018 launching.

"We grew three times annually since the launch...We think there is



a huge opportunity and the global pandemic highlighted the needs of more investment in healthcare," said founder Sylvana Quader Sinha.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sinha, who was born to a Bangladeshi parent in the US, spoke of an incident that almost led to her

mother's death.

"No amount of money allows you to access world-class health service. That's why I moved to Bangladesh to introduce world class patient experience...I realised there is a need for quality healthcare in Bangladesh," she said.

READ MORE ON B3

Remove bar on dividend limits for NBFIs

Merchant bankers request BB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association (BMB) has requested the central bank to revise its notice that imposed a bar on providing excessive dividends by non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).

The association wrote a letter to Bangladesh Bank governor on March 1 saying that the instructions of giving dividend have already put an adverse impact on the capital market.

On February 24, the banking watchdog barred NBFIs with sound financial health from paying more than 15 per cent cash dividend in view of the challenges posed by the pandemic.

This is the first time in recent years that 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.

The BB asked some NBFIs in the first week of February not to pay excessive dividend given the ongoing business slowdown.

READ MORE ON B3

India may review anti-dumping duty on jute goods

Secretary level meeting ends today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

India has assured that its anti-dumping duty on jute goods of Bangladesh might be reviewed as per the latter's plea, said a senior commerce ministry official of Bangladesh.

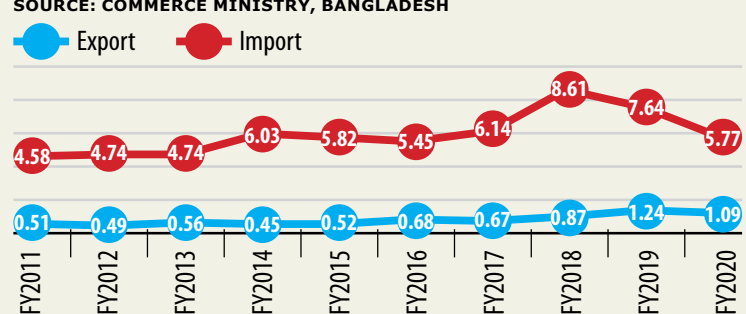
The assurance came yesterday after a two-day commerce secretary-level meeting between the two countries at InterContinental Hotel in Dhaka. The official, asking not to be named, was in the Bangladesh delegation.

The delegations were led by Anup Wadhawan, Indian commerce and industries secretary, and Md Jafar Uddin, Bangladesh's commerce secretary, respectively.

READ MORE ON B3

Trade with India

In billions of \$
SOURCE: COMMERCE MINISTRY, BANGLADESH



Recommend only good companies for IPO

BSEC asks issue managers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) yesterday ordered issue managers to thoroughly check a company's financial report before giving it a go-ahead to go public.

The order came during a seminar styled "Role of issue managers for IPO application", held at the BSEC headquarters with the top officials of almost all merchant banks in attendance.

"To get a strong stock market, there is no

READ MORE ON B3

BATBC shares fall over NBR's 2013 tax claim

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shares of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATBC) dropped by around 1 per cent yesterday following a DSE web post where its auditor said the multinational still faces Tk 1,780 crore of retrospective tax demand from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The issue is pending settlement at the court.

On November 23, 2013, the NBR's Large Taxpayers Unit demanded the value-added tax and supplementary duty, the BATBC said in its annual report. The unit claimed to have found that the BATBC sold its Pilot and Bristol brands of cigarettes as a low segment product instead of a medium one, it added.

"The claim was initiated based on a competitor's complaint," said the report.

On July 25, 2018, the Supreme Court's (SC) Appellate Division, based on a BATBC appeal, ruled that the claim was unfounded

and, therefore, unlawful and the BATBC received a copy of the SC ruling this year, said the auditor.

The government filed a civil review petition against the SC ruling in March 2020 and hearing on it is now pending, it said.

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) publishes auditors' reports from time to time and yesterday it happened to have published that of the BATBC for 2020.

As trade for the day began, the cigarette-maker's stocks rose more than 7 per cent.

Sometime later, the DSE published on its website the auditor's report which contained a paragraph titled "Emphasis of Matter" containing the information regarding the tax claim.

An "Emphasis of Matter" paragraph is used in such reports whenever an auditor considers it necessary to draw users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements.

READ MORE ON B3

অরনি
Banking for Women

আপন শক্তিতে আগামী

তুমি আধুনিক, তুমি অনন্য। তোমার মধ্যই আছে সেই শক্তি যা দিয়ে বদলে দিতে পার পৃথিবীটাকে। তাই ঢাকা ব্যাংক নিয়ে এলো নারীদের জন্য বিশেষ ব্যাংকিং সেবা 'অরনি'। আর নয় কারো জন্য অপেক্ষা। নিজেই গড়ো নিজের আগামী।

- অনলাইনে একাউন্ট ওপেনিং সুবিধা
dhakabanktd.com/aroni-online-application/
- ফ্রি চেকবই এবং ডেবিট কার্ড
- প্লাটিনাম ডেবিট কার্ডে ১ম বার কেনাকাটায় আকর্ষণীয় কাপন্যাক
- কার্ডে কেনাকাটায় আকর্ষণীয় ছাড়
- লকার সার্ভিসে ছাড়
- রিটেইল লোন প্রসেসিং ফি-তে ৫০% ডিসকাউন্ট
- ডিডিও কনসালটেশনের মাধ্যমে ফ্রি স্বাস্থ্য সেবা

যেকোন তথ্যের জন্য: ১৬৪৭৪
আইওসডি অথবা ওভারসিজ কলের জন্য: +৮৮০৯৬৭৮০১৬৪৭৪
www.dhakabanktd.com

DHAKA BANK LIMITED
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING



Mohammed Shawkat Jamil, managing director of United Commercial Bank, opens an "UCB Cox's Bazar Imperial Lounge" at Cox's Bazar Airport on Sunday.



Nur Mohammed, founder of Al-Haj Nur Mohammed Trust and chairman of Jamuna Bank Foundation, and Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, the bank CEO, attend the inauguration of a "free medical camp" organised by the foundation and the trust at Goalghunni in Munshiganj recently.

Swiss approve Indonesia free trade deal

AFP, Geneva
Swiss voters on Sunday narrowly backed a free trade deal signed with Indonesia, opening up a vast potential market with the world's fourth most populous country.
Controversy surrounding the importation of Indonesian palm oil and its sustainability fuelled enough concern in Switzerland to trigger a public vote on the agreement.
But the deal scraped through the public approval test with 51.7 per cent of the vote, on a 51 per cent turnout.
Supporters voiced relief at the result but said they would have to be more sensitive to environmental issues in any future votes on trade agreements.
Under the deal, tariffs will be gradually removed from almost all of Switzerland's biggest exports to Indonesia, while the Swiss will abolish duties on Indonesian industrial products.
Anyone importing Indonesian palm oil must prove that it meets certain environmental and social standards.
The agreement was signed in 2018 and

approved by the Swiss parliament in 2019, but opponents were especially critical of Bern's move to reduce palm oil import duties and secured a public vote on the deal.
Palm oil is a key ingredient in a wide range of products from food to cosmetics, but it has long been controversial. Environmentalists say it drives deforestation, with huge swathes of rainforest logged in recent decades to make way for plantations.
The deal contains exceptions for agricultural products, notably to protect Switzerland's sunflower and rapeseed oil production.
For palm oil, customs duties will not be removed but instead reduced by between 20 and 40 per cent, on a volume limited to 12,500 tonnes per year.
Campaign posters backing the deal showed a Swiss bear hugging an Indonesian tiger to symbolise the partnership, while those against showed an orangutan and baby clinging to a tree trunk, surrounded by flames.
The agreement aims to boost ties with Indonesia, which despite its population is only Switzerland's 44th biggest economic partner

and 16th biggest export market in Asia. In 2020, Swiss exports to Indonesia amounted to just 498 million Swiss francs (\$540 million, 450 million euros). Switzerland is an export-led economy, drawing almost half its national income from abroad.
Indonesia is a growing economy with an increasingly affluent middle class, offering considerable potential for Swiss firms. Switzerland's government urged a Yes vote and President Guy Parmelin had insisted that without the agreement Swiss companies would have been at a disadvantage, noting that the European Union is negotiating a deal with Jakarta.
Swissmem, the national association representing the engineering industry, said the deal would "considerably ease Swiss companies' access to this promising market". It was the first time that Swiss voters have directly had their say on a free trade agreement. Organic winegrower Willy Cretegy, who spearheaded the campaign for a vote, told broadcaster RTS he was not disappointed by the defeat because "the debate on the principle of free trade" was now open.

Emerging central banks cut rates in February but there are signs of change

REUTERS, London
Emerging market central banks delivered a net two interest rate cuts in February though signs are increasing that an easing cycle which started in 2019 might be coming to an end.
Of a group of 37 central banks across developing economies, policy makers in Mexico and Indonesia cut interest rates in February, following a total of one net interest rate cut in January.
For an interactive version of the below graphic, click here tmsnr.rs/3j5ydc0.
The tally between rate cuts and hikes across the group has been negative or zero since February 2019. This is the longest easing cycle since the 2008 financial crisis and the 2010 euro crisis.
Mexico's central bank had cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time since September, flagging uncertainty over

the economic outlook and global efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.
Policy makers in Indonesia trimmed rates for a sixth time during the pandemic and eased lending rules in a bid to shore up its economy while downgrading its 2021 growth forecast.
However, central banks in a number of smaller emerging markets such as Tajikistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Zambia raised rates last month to counter inflation pressures.
"More central banks are turning towards hikes which is the first step in the reaction to the more inflationary environment," said Viktor Szabo at Aberdeen Standard Investments.
At the peak of the easing cycle in March last year, 27 of the 37 central banks cut interest rates, trying to protect their economies as the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic rippled through markets around the world.



M Kamal Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, launches agent banking operations Shagotom in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Jashore and Rangpur on Sunday.

China exports post record surge from Covid-depressed 2020 levels

REUTERS, Beijing
China's February exports grew at a record pace from a year earlier when Covid-19 battered the world's second-biggest economy, customs data showed on Sunday, while imports rose less sharply.
Exports in dollar terms skyrocketed 154.9 per cent in February compared with a year earlier, while imports gained 17.3 per cent, the most since October 2018. The data did not include figures for January alone.
In the January-February period, exports jumped 60.6 per cent from a year earlier, when lockdowns to contain the pandemic paralysed the country's economic activity. That exceeded the forecast of analysts in a Reuters poll for a 38.9 per cent surge.
Strong exports, which benefited from China's success in largely containing the public health crisis, have helped fuel the country's recovery from a pandemic-induced paralysis.
The surge was driven by a rebound in foreign demand, customs said in a statement on its website, citing improvements in manufacturing industries in the European Union and the United States, and their increased imports of Chinese products thanks to

fiscal stimulus measures.
"In addition, a majority of manufacturing employees (in China) chose to stay put over the Lunar New Year holidays," the statement said. "Our survey showed a lot of firms in export-oriented provinces stayed open, and orders that usually only get delivered after the new year had been delivered normally."
Chinese factory activity usually goes dormant during the Lunar New Year break, which fell in the middle of February this year, as workers return to their hometowns. This year, the government appealed to workers to avoid travelling to curb the risk of a spread of the coronavirus.
In January-February, imports increased 22.2 per cent from a year earlier, above the 15 per cent forecast, partly due to stockpiling of semiconductors and energy products, according to customs.
China posted a trade surplus of \$103.25 billion for the first two months. Analysts had expected the trade surplus to narrow to \$60.15 billion from \$78.17 billion in December. In yuan terms, exports rose 50.1 per cent in the two months from a year earlier, while imports gained 14.5 per cent.

"Due to the impact of the new coronavirus, overall trade (in yuan terms) in January-February last year fell 9.7 per cent, and the low base was one of the reasons for the larger increase this year," customs said. "But even when compared with normal years, such as the comparable periods in 2018 and 2019, growth in China's overall trade was around 20 per cent."
China's economy expanded 2.3 per cent last year, helped by solid demand for Chinese-made goods such as medical and work-from-home equipment, although the growth was its weakest in 44 years.
This year, China has set a modest growth target of at least 6 per cent, planning a careful course out of a year disrupted by Covid-19 and amid heightened tensions with the United States.
China's trade surplus with the United States stood at \$51.26 billion in January-February. Chinese customs did not give a monthly breakdown. The surplus was \$29.92 billion in December.
Katherine Tai, President Joe Biden's nominee to be US trade representative, said last week she would work to fight a range of "unfair" Chinese trade and economic practices.



Cranes and containers are seen at the Yantian port in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা
তথ্যআপা: ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার লক্ষ্যে তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে মহিলাদের ক্ষমতায়ন প্রকল্প (২য় পর্যায়)
১৪৫, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা।
www.totthoapa.gov.bd
নং ৩২.০০.০০০০.০৫৬.১১(৩).১৮-২০২৪
তারিখ: ০৮/০৩/২০২১খ্রি:

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ীয় জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নীয় "তথ্যআপা: ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার লক্ষ্যে তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে মহিলাদের ক্ষমতায়ন (২য় পর্যায়)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে সম্পূর্ণ অন্তর্ভুক্তিভিত্তিক প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	গ্রেড ও সাকুল্য বৈতন	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল উপজেলায় শূন্য পদ রয়েছে
০১	তথ্যসেবা সহকারী	গ্রেড-১৬ (বৈতন স্কেল: ৯৩০০.০০-২২৪৯০.০০ সাকুল্য বৈতন ১৫,৬৫০.০০ টাকা (উপজেলা পর্যায়)	৫৪ (চুয়াম) টি	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	১) এইচ.এস.সি অথবা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে; ২) কোন পাবলিক পরীক্ষায় ৩য় শ্রেণী বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ৩) বেসিক আইটিতে ডিপ্লোমা/সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে; ৪) মাইক্রোসফট অফিস, ইন্টারনেট ব্রাউজিং এবং সামাজিক যোগাযোগ ম্যাক্সাম (ফেসবুক, ম্যাসেঞ্জার, ফাইল, টুইটার, লিংকড ইন, ভিডিও ফনফারিং) পরিচালনায় দক্ষতা থাকতে হবে; ৫) সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে Aptitude Test-এ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে; ৬) তথ্য আপা: ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার লক্ষ্যে তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে মহিলাদের ক্ষমতায়ন প্রকল্প (১ম পর্যায়) এর অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। সেক্ষেত্রে তাদের বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য; ৭) বাইসাইকেল চালনায় পারদর্শী প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	রামগড়, মানিকছড়ি, আলীকদম, ধানচি, লামা, রামগতি, জুরাহাডি, কাউখালী, লংগন, বরকল, রাজস্থলী, রাঙ্গুনিয়া, মানিকছড়ি, রুমা, নানিয়াচর ফটিকছড়ি, সন্দ্বীপ, পেকুয়া, টেকনাফ, মহেশখালী, কুতুবদিয়া, সোনাইমুড়ি, হাতিয়া, মনপুরা, বোরহানউদ্দিন, দৌলতখান, তজুমুদ্দিন, কলাপাড়া, রাঙ্গাবালি, দশমিনা, পাথরঘাটা, তালতলী, আমতলী, বামনা, জুড়ী, বড়লেখা, দিরাই, দক্ষিণ সুনামগঞ্জ, বিশালপুর, পোয়ারাবাজার, তাহেরপুর, গোলাপগঞ্জ, ফেঞ্চুগঞ্জ, কোম্পানীগঞ্জ, দক্ষিণ সুরমা।

শর্তাবলিঃ

- শুধুমাত্র মহিলা প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- যেসকল উপজেলায় পদ শূন্য রয়েছে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলার উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী দ্বারা পদটি পূরণ করা হবে। তবে উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী না পাওয়া গেলে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার অন্তর্গত পার্শ্ববর্তী উপজেলার প্রার্থী দ্বারা পূরণ করা হবে। এলক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার অন্যান্য উপজেলার প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- সকল প্রার্থীকে অনলাইনে <https://erecruitment.bcc.gov.bd> ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে ০৯/০৩/২০২১ খ্রি: তারিখ থেকে ০৮/০৪/২০২১ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। অনলাইন ব্যতীত অন্য কোন মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না;
- অনলাইন আবেদনের জন্য <https://erecruitment.bcc.gov.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ করে প্রথমে নিবন্ধন করতে হবে; নিবন্ধনের জন্য ই-মেইল ও মোবাইল নম্বর আবশ্যিক। নিবন্ধন সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর নিবন্ধনকারী ই-মেইলে e-Recruitment System কর্তৃক ভেরিফিকেশন লিংক এবং পাসওয়ার্ড প্রেরণ করা হবে। প্রাপ্ত ভেরিফিকেশন লিংক নিবন্ধন ই-মেইল এবং প্রদত্ত পাসওয়ার্ড দিয়ে লগইন করে আবেদনের প্রয়োজনীয় ধাপসমূহ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। প্রয়োজনে সংশ্লিষ্ট ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নিবন্ধন ম্যানুয়াল, আবেদন ম্যানুয়াল ও ভিডিও টিউটোরিয়াল অনুসরণ করতে হবে;
- নিয়োগ কার্যক্রমে বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিধি-বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে;
- লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় (ক) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, (খ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন, (গ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের অধিভুক্ত এলাকার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান এবং পৌরসভার ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, (ঘ) চাকুরির প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিপত্র, (ঙ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র, (চ) সদ্য তোলা ০০ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি; (ছ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ এবং কোটায় আবেদনকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রয়োজনীয় প্রমাণক দাখিল করতে হবে;
- আগামী ০৮/০৪/২০২১ খ্রি: তারিখে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীদের বয়স অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না;
- নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না;
- বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন;
- নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত বিধি অনুযায়ী কোটা পদ্ধতি প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে অনুসরণ করা হবে;
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল যোগাযোগ ই-মেইল ও এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে করা হবে;
- লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরাই কেবলমাত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন;
- পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোন প্রকার চিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

স্বাক্ষরিত
মীন প্যারভীন ৮/৩/২০২১
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)
ও
সদস্য সচিব, নিয়োগ কমিটি
ফোন: ০২-৪৮৩১১৫২১



BANK ASIA

Romana Rouf Chowdhury, a director of Bank Asia, Tania Nusrat Zaman, another director (designate) of the bank, and Shamim Ara Khanom, managing director of Voice Breeze, cut a cake as the bank celebrated International Women's Day 2021 with a slogan "Overcoming Hundreds of Barriers, Women are Moving Forward" in Dhaka yesterday.



UNILEVER BANGLADESH

Harry Verweij, ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, and Kedar Lele, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh, inaugurate the latest expansion of the effluent treatment plant of the Kalurghat factory of the company in Kalurghat, Chattogram recently.

Large corporations should work to empower women

FROM PAGE B1
The event was organised by HSBC Bangladesh with Rahman, also a director of Mediaworld, on the panel.

During the 40-minute conversation with Mahbub ur Rahman, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, Simeen shed light on different aspects of her career, including the role of her late father Latifur Rahman, the founding chairman of Transcom Ltd.

A leading businessperson in the country, Simeen said that while family support is critical for women to achieve success, the same is also true for men.

"I believe family support is absolutely critical," she said, adding that whatever she has accomplished would not have been possible without the support of her mother Shahnaz Rahman, chairman and managing director of Transcom.

Simeen's journey within the conglomerate was a result her father's foresight, according to the group CEO.

"He could have easily made us directors, but we joined right at the bottom so that we know every level of the business and build professionalism in us," she said. "Now, after all these years, I know exactly how each layer works."

When considering the importance of family support for a man, she thinks of her own son, Zariaf Ayaat Hossain.

"As he is pursuing his dreams and ambitions, I, as his mother, make sure that I am there for him as a source of strength and support," she said.

Simeen went on to say that she always wanted to be a part of the family business. However, she had not thought that she would lead the group one day.

"I worked towards being the best version of myself every day. Somewhere deep within

me, I dreamt of it, but I didn't think it would happen, maybe because I am female."

When she was 12, Simeen was fond of two books -- 'Gone with the Wind' by Margaret Mitchell and 'A Woman of Substance' by Barbara Taylor Bradford -- both of which influenced her to some extent.

The two protagonists -- Katie Scarlett O'Hara (Gone with the Wind) and Emma Harte (A Woman of Substance) are strong women, she said.

Throughout her life, Simeen saw women's priorities being questioned, while people also doubted their capabilities, which made her work even harder to be more prepared for a professional career.

There were many challenges which made her take tough decisions while prioritising family and career.

She said that being a mother and a daughter, she dealt with her womanhood by working harder and being prepared every single day.

"I would always have to show confidence and assertiveness when I spoke."

Recalling the events when she became managing director and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals, which she termed as one of her most "significant career achievements", she said it was a critical decision that her father had to make.

"He decided to give me the reigns of Eskayef," Simeen said, adding that the position was vacated as the company's then managing director left suddenly.

Before appointing her, her father spoke to many of his peers in the business community and was told not to appoint Simeen since she did not have a pharmaceutical background and that it is a specialised industry.

She herself was unsure and was apprehensive about her father's decision. But

in reply, Latifur Rahman simply told her: "I believe you can do it."

"I still hear his voice saying this to me every time I am in doubt," Simeen said.

In the first year of her taking charge of Eskayef, the company broke all its past records, including sales.

At present, female professionals occupy about 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the positions available at Eskayef. They all come from diverse academic backgrounds.

To Simeen, a true leader is someone who has to carry his or her team and bring everyone on board.

While the country is being led by a woman, a generation of women also took charge of some of the largest businesses in the country.

She called for equal rights for female professionals in terms of pay, responsibilities and opportunities.

"If everyone works together, then it is possible to have more women in the workforce."

As the group CEO of Transcom, Simeen has two priorities -- talent and technology.

"Without world-class talent, a company is nothing," she said, while stressing on the need to embrace modern technology to cope with the fourth industrial revolution.

Empowering a woman in her career allows her to be independent, both financially and intellectually.

The biggest source of inspiration for Simeen is her father's illustrious legacy and knowing that her purpose is to take that legacy to greater heights.

"His legacy not only includes building Transcom into the enterprise it is today, but is also an example of a career and life lived with the values of ethics, integrity and honesty," she added.

India may review anti-dumping duty on jute goods

FROM PAGE B1
Anti-dumping duty has been one of the widely discussed bilateral trade issues for the last couple of years.

India wants Bangladesh to reduce subsidy on jute while the latter wants the anti-dumping duty's withdrawal.

At the meeting, Bangladesh demanded signing of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (Cepa) between the two within the next six months, said the commerce ministry official.

However, India sought more time for the Cepa as a consensual feasibility study was ongoing, he said.

Both want to sign a Cepa rather than a free trade agreement (FTA) foreseeing higher bilateral trade and investment and mutual recognition of sanitary and phytosanitary certifications, intellectual property rights issues, testing and transportation of goods, employment and border issues.

Only signing an FTA will not cover all these because both are interdependent on global value chains in connection to some important business.

India is not only a major source of cotton, yarn and textile chemicals but also foreign

direct investment for Bangladesh, standing as its second largest import destination after China.

Bangladesh annually imports over \$8 billion worth of goods from India through formal channels and it is believed that an equal amount is smuggled in through informal ones as the duo share a border of over 4,000 kilometres.

In yesterday's meeting, the Bangladesh delegation also raised complaints over a newly formulated Indian customs rules, saying shipment of goods to the neighbouring country was being affected.

India also asked Bangladesh to raise value addition to at least 30 per cent on export of edible oil.

Currently, Indian customs are reluctant to accept the Export Promotion Bureau's certification on export of edible oil as the value addition does not reach a 30 per cent threshold.

The Indian side said the current level of value addition on edible oil from Bangladesh was nearly 20 per cent, said the meeting source.

A commerce ministry statement said the delegations also discussed tariff and non-tariff duties, increasing the number of border haats and regional connectivity, expanding bilateral trade and progresses made through previous meetings.

Praava Health raises \$10.6m

FROM PAGE B1

There are many good doctors here but not enough and unfortunately they have to bear much criticism, said Sinha.

So Praava is providing the technology to improve the efficiency in systems and focusing on patients. It is building a meaningful doctor-patient relationship with appointments lasting as long as 15 minutes on an average, she said.

It is also providing monthly, quarterly and yearly plans for clients.

The investors include SBK Tech Ventures, retired US army general David H Petraeus,

chairman of the KKR Global Institute and a former director of the CIA; and Esther Dyson, executive founder of Wellville and board member of BAMF Health, Element3 Health, Yandex.

Alongside them were Dr Jeremy Lim, advisor, Digital Health, ASTAR (Singapore's national science agency), director of Global Health, National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health; Dr Rushika Fernandopulle, co-founder & CEO, Iora Health; and Geoff Price, co-founder and chief operating officer, Oak Street Health.

Remove bar on dividend limits for NBFIs

FROM PAGE B1
Despite that, some NBFIs declared excessive dividend ignoring the regulatory instruction.

Against the backdrop, the NBFIs now try to reverse the central bank instructions by way of using the BMBA, BB officials said.

Md Sayadur Rahman, president of the BMBA, said the association is now concerned about the capital market.

"The central bank should allow the NBFIs having a strong financial health to declare dividend without any limit in the interest of the capital market."

At least 10 NBFIs are now unable to repay the depositors' money despite maturity of the fund. But the BMBA said the central bank notice has already had a negative impact on the capital market.

"And the market is going towards an unstable situation due to the central bank

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

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

As per the central bank circular, 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.

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.

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



STANDARD BANK

Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, CEO of Standard Bank, attends the bank's "Annual Business Meeting-2021" at its head office in Dhaka recently.

Spectrum auction fetches \$885m for govt

FROM PAGE B1
Banglalink took 4.4 MHz in 1,800 band and 5 MHz in 2100 band for \$281 million.

State-run Teletalk took part in the auction for 2100 band but withdrew its bid at one point. It did not participate in the auction for the 1800 band at all.

Alongside the spectrum fees, Grameenphone, Robi and Banglalink will have to pay 15 per cent VAT as well.

The operators will have to deposit 25 per cent of the spectrum price by March 23 this year. The rest will be paid in instalments at 15 per cent per year over a five-year period.

The new acquisition took Grameenphone's total spectrum to 47.4 MHz. Robi will now have 44 MHz and Banglalink 40 MHz. Teletalk's spectrum remains unchanged at 25.2 MHz.

During an auction in 2013, 1800 band was dedicated for 3G service and 900 band

for 2G service. In 2018, 2100 band was allowed to provide 4G service.

Later, the commission introduced technology neutrality, allowing the operators to offer 2G, 3G and 4G services from any band they see fit. The move is helping them reduce operational costs and improve service quality.

As of February, Grameenphone has 8.04 crore subscribers, Robi Axiata 5.15 crore subscribers, Banglalink 3.59 crore, and Teletalk 55.32 lakh, according to the BTRC. Robi CEO Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Banglalink CEO Erik Aas, and Grameenphone Chief Financial Officer Jens Becker led their respective teams during the auction.

Telecom Minister Mustafa Jabbar, Secretary Md Afzal Hossain, BTRC Chairman Shyam Sunder Sikder and Vice-chairman Subrata Roy Maitra were also present.

Recommend only good companies for IPO

FROM PAGE B1
Merchant bankers should not depend on audit reports when issuing due diligence certificates," said Shaikh Shamsuddin Ahmad, a commissioner of the BSEC.

Issue managers have a prime role in bringing good companies to the stock market.

After analysing the companies' actual situation, the issue managers should only provide due diligence certificates to the ones that aspire to be listed, he added.

BSEC spokesperson Rezaul Karim said issue managers need to be more careful when selecting companies for listing.

Merchant bankers should not depend on audit reports when issuing due diligence certificates.

"Instead, they should verify it physically by cross-checking the company's financial reports with its bank statements, bills and other documents," Karim said.

If all the documents corroborate the company's financial reports, only then should it be issued a due diligence certificate, he added.

Md Sayadur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association, also spoke at the event.

BATBC shares fall over NBR's 2013 tax claim

FROM PAGE B1
Right after the post was published, the shares gave up the early gains, said stock investors.

The BATBC stocks closed 0.98 per cent lower at Tk 592.

Investors are not sure whether the money has to be paid or not, so there was an impact on the stocks, said Mir Ariful Islam, head of research of Prime Finance Asset Management Company.

The stocks rose on the last two trading days, so there was an impact of profit being availed as well, he said.

On the previous two trading days, the BATBC stocks had advanced around 18 per cent, showed the DSE data.

The multinational company provided 600 per cent cash dividend and 200 per cent stock dividend for the year ending on December 31.

UK firms keen to utilise large consumer base of Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1
The UK is a vital market for Bangladesh as it is the country's second largest export destination in Europe after Germany, and the third largest overall after the US and Germany.

Bangladesh mainly ships \$4 billion worth of textile, garments and vegetables a year to the UK and mostly imports machinery.

"I am very keen to start fresh negotiations with Bangladesh to make the country a better trading partner for the UK. Business between the two countries can only grow despite the Brexit," said the British envoy.

Apart from business ties, the UK and Bangladesh have a historical relationship.

During the first-ever trade dialogue between the two countries on February 16, the UK reaffirmed its commitment to continue the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for Bangladesh after its graduation from the group of least-developed countries in 2026.

The UK, like the EU, will continue to provide the GSP for Bangladesh under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme. The EU previously said that it would provide Bangladesh with the GSP facility up to 2027 to help the country address any post-graduation challenges.

Bangladesh has appealed to the

World Trade Organisation and the United Nations for an extension of its GSP tenure with developed and developing countries beyond 2027.

Dickson said the issue could be discussed in future as the British government is currently working to extend its GSP facilities until 2027 following the UK's departure from the European Union.

The envoy also highlighted some of the challenges Bangladesh faces in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). First, Bangladesh needs to improve its rank on the global Ease of Doing Business Index by removing the various barriers to trade and investment.

The perception about corruption also needs to be removed to attract more British FDI, he said.

In some cases, tax offices take arbitrary decisions about foreign companies. Many foreign investors and diplomats are also calling for further improvement in the law and order situation to attract more FDI, he added.

Both countries witnessed historic events that took place this year as Brexit took effect while Bangladesh made progress to secure its graduation from the club of LDCs.

So, changes in the trade regime took place on both ends. The UK is now independent in taking trade

decisions, including those related to tariffs, as it severed its ties with the EU.

At the same time, Bangladesh is set to lose its preferential access to the UK market due to graduation in 2026.

But despite the changes to the business landscape in both countries, bilateral trade between the two will continue to grow, said Dickson, who has been serving as the British high commissioner in Dhaka since March 2019.

The diplomat lauded the Accord, an inspection and monitoring platform formed by major European retailers and brands to ensure compliance in the apparel industry, for its wonderful job in bringing safety to the sector following the collapse of the Rana Plaza building.

"However, Bangladesh still needs to do more in terms of workers' rights and safety," he said.

Apart from apparel, Bangladesh can export a wider range of goods to the UK such as bicycles, frozen food, and pharmaceuticals.

He also praised the improvement in security at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka compared to a few years ago as the government has addressed several issues, particularly in the cargo village areas.

Fish farmers in Mymensingh recovering from pandemic losses

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The aquaculture industry in Mymensingh is starting to bounce back from the coronavirus fallout as cross-country transportation facilities have returned to normal.

The government had imposed a nationwide shutdown on all economic activities between March 26 and May 30 last year in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19.

As a result, thousands of fish farmers in the division, one of Bangladesh's main fish producing hubs, faced significant losses due to a lack of smooth transportation facilities, according to industry insiders.

In 2018-19, inland aquaculture grew by about 3.46 per cent year-on-year to 24.89 lakh tonnes, accounting for around 56.76 per cent of the country's total fish production.

At the same time, Mymensingh contributed roughly 23 per cent or 5.5 lakh tonnes, posting a 2.97 per cent year-on-year growth, according to data from the Department of Fisheries.

There are around 112,000 fish farmers in the division that mostly hailed from the Trishal, Gouripur, Phulpur, Tarakanda, Bhaluka and Muktagacha upazilas.

There are also some 295 hatcheries and 1,043 nurseries in the district.

"Local farmers were unable to supply their fishes to various parts of the country due to a lack of transport facilities during the countrywide shutdown," said Dilip Kumar Saha, district fisheries officer of Mymensingh.

As the fishes remained unsold while feeding and maintenance costs increased, the farmers incurred serious losses.

"So, they (farmers) were forced to sell their fishes at throwaway prices in local markets," he added.

Mymensingh's aquaculture industry faced losses of Tk 400 crore amid the ongoing pandemic.

In order to help local fish farmers tackle the Covid-19 crisis, the government rolled out a Tk 5,000 crore stimulus package, of which around Tk 19 crore has been disbursed so far.

However, it is a good sign that the hatchery and nursery owners still managed to cut a profit despite the economic downturn.

"We supported the hatchery and nursery farmers in a coordinated way amid the



Fish farmers in Mymensingh, one of the country's main fish producing hubs, faced tremendous losses amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic as the nationwide shutdown aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 also brought cross-country transportation facilities to a halt.

shutdown so that they can deliver their products to various destinations," Saha said. Mymensingh produced around 3.95 lakh tonnes of fish each year against local demand of 1.26 lakh tonnes.

The surplus is supplied to different districts in the country, including Dhaka, according to Md Zakir Hossain, deputy assistant director of District Fisheries Office.

"In some cases, farmers are producing fish in massive quantities but do not get fair prices for their hard work," Hossain said.

For example, catfish is sold at Tk 150-170

per kilogramme at the farmer's level while it is sold at Tk 300-400 in retail markets.

Similarly, other fishes are sold for nearly half their retail value as middlemen eat up a lion's share of the profits, local farmers said.

For sustainable and safe production, a fair price for farmers should be ensured.

Besides, a fish processing zone and cold storages should be set up in Mymensingh as well in order to support the local farmers, they added.

Fish is gaining popularity in the global

fast-food market and since Bangladesh is one of the world's leading producers with a total production of 43.84 lakh tonnes in 2018-19, the country could tap into this mostly unexplored sector.

While speaking to this correspondent, Deputy Assistant Director Md Zakir Hossain said they test two or three samples of fish feed at the Fisheries Inspection and Quality Control (FIQC) in Savar every month to detect if heavy metals were used as part of efforts to ensure safe fish production.

They also ensure that the feed contains the

desired fat and protein levels.

Depending on its result, the fish feeds are allowed to be sold in the markets and officials of the department make farmers aware of the tested products, Hossain said.

Tofail Ahmed, senior fisheries officer of Trishal upazila, said around 7,500 fish farmers faced losses amid the pandemic, but only 50 hatchery and 104 nursery owners in the area could make profits.

Shale Siddique Suzon, a fish farmer of Panchpara village in Trishal, said he faced a loss of Tk 10 lakh.

"I have been cultivating fish in full swing at three ponds to recover this loss," said Suzon, adding that being cash poor has become a challenge for many farmers.

Mujibur Rahman, a fish farmer of Boilor Banskhuri village in the same upazila, said he started cultivating fishes in his three ponds and if he gets fair prices, he could recover the losses.

The aquaculture industry in Mymensingh employs around seven lakh people.

This means that many workers might lose their jobs and face a financial crisis if the industry is severely affected.

"So, this industry's issues should be addressed on priority basis, identifying the present crisis," farmers said.

Besides, access to finance on easy terms is needed for farmers to cope with the situation, they added.

There are some 295 hatcheries and 1,043 nurseries in the district. Mymensingh's aquaculture industry faced losses of Tk 400 crore amid the ongoing pandemic.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Fashion giant H&M pauses placing new orders in Myanmar

REUTERS, Stockholm

Sweden's H&M, the world's second-biggest fashion retailer, said on Monday it was shocked by the use of deadly force against protesters in Myanmar and that it had paused placing orders in the country.

Police and military have killed more than 50 people to quell daily demonstrations and strikes against a Feb. 1 military coup, according to the United Nations last week.

H&M has around 45 direct suppliers in Myanmar, it said on its website, and has sourced in the country for seven years.

"Although we refrain from taking any immediate action regarding our long-term presence in the country, we have at this point paused placing new orders with our suppliers," Serkan Tanka, Country Manager Myanmar, said in an email.

"This is due to practical difficulties and an unpredictable situation limiting our ability to operate in the



Clients wait in front of a re-opened H&M outlet at the Bahnhofstrasse shopping street in Zurich, Switzerland on March 4 after the Swiss government relaxed some of its Covid-19 restrictions.

country, including challenges related to manufacturing and infrastructure, raw material imports and transport of finished goods." Two protesters were killed by gunshot wounds to the head in

Myanmar on Monday, witnesses said, while shops, factories and banks were closed in the main city Yangon as part of the uprising against the country's military rulers.

Tanka said H&M was extremely concerned about the situation in the country and that it was in dialogue with UN agencies, diplomatic representatives, human rights experts, trade unions and other multinational companies.

"These consultations will guide us in any future decision in relation to how we as a company can best contribute to positive developments in accordance with the will of the people in Myanmar," he said.

Myanmar's garment industry is smaller than that of neighbouring countries Bangladesh, China and Thailand. However, its around 600 factories are significant employers, providing jobs for around 450,000 workers in 2020, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Oil slips after hitting pandemic high of above \$70

REUTERS, London

Oil prices slipped on Monday after earlier climbing above \$70 a barrel for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic began after attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities.

Yemen's Houthi forces fired drones and missiles at the heart of the Saudi oil industry on Sunday, including a Saudi Aramco facility at Ras Tanura vital to petroleum exports. Riyadh said there were no casualties or loss of property.

Benchmark Brent climbed as high as \$71.38 a barrel in early Asian trade, its highest since Jan. 8, 2020. By 1019 GMT, it was trading down 30 cents or 0.4 per cent at \$69.06. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 22 cents or 0.3 per cent at \$65.87 after touching \$67.98 a barrel, its

highest since October 2018.

Brent and WTI prices have climbed for four consecutive sessions.

"There are no reports of lasting damage or disruptions to oil flows ... Today's risk premium will soon fade," said Norbert Rucker, analyst at Swiss bank Julius Baer.

The attack follows last week's move by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and their oil producing allies, known as OPEC+, to agree on broadly sticking with output cuts despite rising crude prices.

Adding support, the US Senate approved a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill, which is expected to boost fuel demand as the economy gets a lift. Economic data from the United States and China was also positive.

Rush to bitcoin? Not so fast, say keepers of corporate coffers

REUTERS, London/New York

When Elon Musk's Tesla became the biggest name to reveal it had added bitcoin to its coffers last month, many pundits were swift to call a corporate rush towards the booming cryptocurrency.

Yet there's unlikely to be a concerted crypto charge any time soon, say many finance executives and accountants loath to risk balance sheets and reputations on a highly volatile and unpredictable asset that confounds convention.

"When I did my treasury exams, the thing we were told as number one objective is to guarantee security and liquidity of the balance sheet," said Graham Robinson, a partner in international tax and treasury at PwC and adviser to the UK's Association for Corporate Treasurers.

"That is the fundamental problem with bitcoin, if those are the objectives for treasurers, then breaking them could get them in trouble."

Tesla Inc's \$1.5 billion bitcoin bet saw it join business software



A representation of virtual currency Bitcoin and one dollar banknotes are seen in front of a stock graph in this illustration.

firm MicroStrategy Inc and Twitter boss Jack Dorsey's payments company Square Inc in swapping some traditional cash reserves for the digital coin.

Proponents of the cryptocurrency see it as a hedge against inflation at a time of unprecedented government

stimulus, a falling dollar and record-low interest rates that make attractive high-yielding assets hard to find.

While the moves have prompted more boardroom discussions though, headaches from bitcoin's volatility to accounting for it and

storing it are likely to preclude a big wave of companies holding large amounts on balance sheets in the short term, according to over a dozen financial officers, board members and accountants interviewed by Reuters.

"It will take more than a small handful of disruptive companies investing in bitcoin to impact the narrative in boardrooms," said Raul Fernandez, an entrepreneur and investor who sits on the audit committee of the board of chipmaker Broadcom Inc as well as other companies. "Larger global companies, I can't see those conversations happening right now."

One problem could lie in the devil of the accounting detail in a bookkeeping industry that, like many others, is still taking stock of the nature of cryptocurrencies.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board, which sets accounting standards for US corporations, does not have guidance specific to the accounting for cryptocurrencies.



Nestle Bangladesh wins 'Tax Card and Award-2020' in 'Food and Allied Category'

Nestle Bangladesh wins 'Tax Card and Award-2020' in 'Food and Allied Category' for the fiscal year 2019-2020, once again for contributing highest Corporate tax, for the 5th year in a row. This award is a testimony of the organisation's strong business ethics and compliance.

