Open account to ensure apt finance for exporters: ICC-B

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shipments under open account credit terms will help the exporters access the appropriate finance and back-to-back payment would be settled on receipt of final payment on maturity, ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman said.

The open account credit policy is a modified version of financing under factoring and supply chain to exporters against their export with external payment undertaking.

Bangladesh Bank's circular issued on June 30 last year on "Conditional open account transactions" is a good initiative, Rahman said.

However, the only introduction cannot ensure benefits. All stakeholders need to

of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B).

The facility offered under the change policy has been in operation for the last seven months. "I understand that the exporters still prefer export through letters of credit instead of open account," Rahman said.

"We all know that the Covid-19 outbreak, which is still continuing, has shocked international trade. As a result, the serious challenges of international trade transactions are getting translated into the disruption and shrinkage of trade finance; the main driver of economic development."

Rahman made the comments in his written

work to optimise benefits, said the president speech in a webinar on "Global Awareness on Open Account, Export Transactions and Recent Policy Changes in Bangladesh" on

> Traders, exporters, and importers are facing difficulties with preparing, shipping, and receiving goods; making and receiving payments; cancellation of orders and commitment failures; huge cash crunch and failure to comply with lending institutions' obligations, he said.

In this evolving and increasingly uncertain environment, banks, traders, and policymakers have become anxious and skeptical about the interpretations of 'certain situations of commitment failures' within the regulatory frameworks and guidelines.

Citibank, NA automates M&J Group's payment solutions STAR BUSINESS DESK payments for the group's business. This

Citibank NA Bangladesh is said to have enabled automatic domestic payment solutions for M&J Group.

With business models becoming more complex and international buyers seeking more efficiencies in supplier's core operational process, M&J Group decided to integrate their "Enterprise Resource Planning" system with Citi, says

The online banking platform is said to ensure faster and more secured includes secure electronic data transfers, exchange of information in preferred file formats, network protocols and security standards.

Nearly doing away with cheque and cash usage at almost all levels, the M&J Group is said to be currently paying it whole workforce through mobile wallets.

A majority of its stakeholders are said to be receiving payments through Bangladesh Electronic Funds Transfer Network, Real-Time Gross Settlement and National Payment Switch Bangladesh.

StanChart to celebrate 50yrs of Bangladesh's independence

Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of corporate affairs, brand and marketing of the bank, said the lender would organise a competition titled "Battle of the Corporate Bands" with the theme "50 years of Progress and Prosperity of Bangladesh".

Competitors will render songs played by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro during the Liberation War of 1971.

"Amazing talented musicians work in the corporate world but they have a limited number of platforms to showcase their talent. We will work with an agency partner to host this event," Bitopi said.

The jury panel will comprise legends of the music industry.

The SCB will also organise "Gems of Nazrul", an initiative to portray National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's musical genius in a new light and popularise his spirited songs through the production of a special

The music video will be telecasted on Channel i at one-minute past midnight on

Some 100 of the country's leading vocalists and dancers will perform in the

Paying homage to those who secured Bangladesh's independence, around 100 of the SCB staff will walk from Central Shaheed Minar to National Martyrs Memorial in Savar.

The event will be arranged under the theme of "Shok Theke Shokti (turning grief into strength) in collaboration with Obhijatri, a youth group that promotes adventure, travel and Liberation War Museum.

The SCB has also taken an initiative to recognise former staff who were freedom

In addition, the lender has taken measures to bring foreign direct investment to the country under a programme, namely "Showcase Bangladesh: throughout the year of the 50th year of independence".

Liberation War Museum Trustee and Member-Secretary Sara Zaker, Nazrul Sangeet artist Sadia Afrin Mallik, pop singers Shafin Ahmed and Naquib Khan, mountaineer Nishat Majumder, musician Ibrar Tipu and SCB Head of Retail Banking Sabbir Ahmed addressed the event, among

Booming orders bolster e-commerce logistics

"So, with the expertise of Ecom, we are now working on expanding our operations in the country," said Rahath Ahmed, co-founder and chief marketing officer at Paperfly.

Ecom Express, entering Bangladesh marks its maiden venture outside India.

According to Ahmed, the main challenge for the growth of e-commerce in Bangladesh, and subsequently, logistics, lies in creating a broad range of sellers

"In Bangladesh, when it comes to getting delivery orders from e-commerce platforms, we find most of the sellers are located in the capital. E-commerce logistics will get a shot in the arm if we can create millions of sellers outside Dhaka.

Before the pandemic, Paperfly made more than 9,000 deliveries per day. The number fell to 10 per cent in the beginning of the nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 last year.

The scenario started to change for the better after the government eased restrictions at the beginning of June.

Now, Paperfly makes around 15,000 deliveries across all 64 districts, with 90 per cent of the shipments bound for destinations outside Dhaka.

The company has set its foot in almost every union in Bangladesh and made 48 lakh deliveries since its inception in February 2016.

"Bangladesh is not a big country, so bringing down the delivery time to 24 hours anywhere in Bangladesh is our

According to experts, faster delivery is the key to success for most logistics

and e-commerce aggregators. Pathao, well-known for its ridesharing business, was initially launched

as an e-courier platform back in 2015. "In the last few years, logistics services have boomed," said Hussain M Elius, CEO of Pathao, which delivers products to almost all districts but is concentrated mainly in Dhaka,

Chattogram and Sylhet. According to him, there are two significant challenges to expanding the platform's operations: the first is the cash-on-delivery option, and the second is lower orders in some areas.

"In some cases, customers who order products with the cash-ondelivery mechanism refuse to accept the product. For that, logistics companies suffer losses.

After expanding its operations, the company found that it received minimal orders from certain areas, which is not financially viable.

"So, digitalisation in every step, from placing orders to making payments, is essential for an effective logistics service," Elius added.

Pathao also has a food delivery arm that operates in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet, with 9,000 registered

For local logistics companies, there is a need to enhance automation and

efficiency, said Biplob Ghosh Rahul, CEO of eCourier, a logistics provider.

The pandemic has been a boon for the Dhaka-centric company as the number of daily deliveries soared to 8,000 in June last year, up from 5,000 in the pre-pandemic era.

eCourier now makes over 3 lakh delivery per month, around 90 per cent of which inside Dhaka. The company has completed 46 lakh deliveries since it was launched in 2014.

The firm recently launched a few new services, including air parcel, line haul, corporate delivery, merchant person-to-person delivery, delivery, and warehouse services.

These services offer customers endto-end tracking facilities, enabling corporations, merchants and general consumers to fulfil their delivery needs under a single umbrella.

"Customers now can make online parcel delivery orders from home, and our people will collect the parcel from their doorsteps and deliver it to the receivers," Rahul said.

Uber rolled out a similar service called Uber Connect in June last year.

The development came just weeks after the San Francisco-based tech giant announced that it would shut down its popular food delivery arm, Uber Eats, as the pandemic forced almost all restaurants to close down at the time.

Uber Connect enables Dhaka residents to send and receive parcels and also order items from shops within city limits. Redx, a logistics courier service provider, delivers e-commerce next goal," Paperfly said in a statement. and f-commerce products door to The company currently takes three door, covering all eight divisions in to five days to complete delivery in the country. It charges Tk 70 for parcels weighing one kilogramme inside Dhaka and Tk 150 if bound for outside Dhaka division, which is lower than some of its competitors.

Industry insiders believe that the charges for logistics facilities are much higher in Bangladesh compared to other countries, which is detrimental to the growth of the country's e-commerce industry.

"If a customer outside Dhaka orders a Tk 300 shirt, he often has to spend Tk 140-150 on logistics. So, it will have to be reduced a lot more," said AjkerDeal's Mashroor, a pioneer in the local tech-based start-up scene and has deep knowledge about the industry.

He emphasised building privatepublic partnerships in this regard.

"There are more than 9,000 post offices in the country. If they have an agreement with logistics platforms, then logistics services can be provided across the country for a far lower cost,'

The global trend is that customers spend only 5 per cent of a product's value on logistics, whereas it is about 20 per cent in Bangladesh.

Foodpanda, the market leader in terms of food delivery with a presence in all 64 districts, launched a grocery delivery arm by partnering with stores such as Shwapno, Bengal Meat, Unimart, and Lazz Pharma in April last year amid lockdowns

As the pandemic has turbocharged the number of home deliveries for daily necessities, Foodpanda now delivers groceries, medicine and other essentials.

A subsidiary of the Berlin-based Delivery Hero, Foodpanda has Pandamart, a cloud store that delivers a wide array of products, ranging from household essentials to fresh fruits.

Similarly, e-commerce platform Evaly launched E-logistics in April last year. It now makes 15,000 deliveries of grocery, pharmaceutical items and food items, said Md Gahidul Islam, head of e-logistics and senior manager at Evaly.

Meanwhile, Delivery Tiger added new dimension to the country's e-commerce logistics market as it provides wholesale logistics services for logistics platforms that provide retail and last-mile deliveries.

Personal delivery mechanisms Building its own delivery mechanism for e-commerce platforms has become a global trend. For example, Amazon, an American multinational technology

company, handles its own deliveries. In Bangladesh, Chaldal, launched in 2013 as the pioneer online retail platform, makes over 5,000 deliveries per day all over Dhaka and its adjacent areas, including Narayanganj, with its own delivery mechanism.

Chaldal added 560 new jobs to take its total number of employees to 1,400

Domino's Pizza also makes home deliveries with its own fleet of riders, said Ahmed Rajeeb Samdani, managing director of Golden Harvest Group, which runs Domino's chain in Bangladesh.

Daraz, the country's e-commerce market leader, is expanding its logistics footprint as well.

As a part of its vision to create a better e-commerce ecosystem and build a countrywide logistics infrastructure Daraz announced its plans in June last year to invest Tk 500 crore by 2021 to set up logistics infrastructure that would help expand its reach to all

A big chunk of that investment has already been utilised for different purposes, including the purchase of more than 100 vehicles, facilitating the shipment of products across the country through its own conveyances.

"Now we are equipped with the logistic infrastructure that Alibaba uses," said Syed Mostahidal Hoq, managing director of Daraz Bangladesh, which is owned by China's e-commerce behemoth Alibaba.

Daraz still outsources some deliveries to independent logistics providers as it makes more than 60,000 orders per day. Many f-commerce providers also make deliveries by themselves or with the help of family members.

Kaniz Fatema, who sells homemade food through f-commerce, had to make a few deliveries herself during the pandemic as there was no proper logistics support, which is a major impediment for the women who make a foray into the business.

Banks' online transactions

present, interbank processing automated teller machines (ATM), point of sales (POS), and internet banking fund transfer (IBFT) transactions. More than 90 per cent of interbank ATM transactions are settled through NPSB.

The central bank said it will try its best to ensure that such electricity failure does not happen in the days ahead in order to ensure the financial settlement through the digital means round the clock.

March 26.

Curbing graft would make economy stronger Lincoln in 1863 and the 'I have a

> King Jr in 1963. He said both speeches aimed to end discrimination against black people of America but that dream is yet to be achieved while Bangabandhu's first dream of geographic freedom was achieved within nine months of his

dream' speech by Martin Luther

Besides, the other goal to attain economic emancipation is about to be materialised through the country's spoke at the event.

graduation from a least developed

He also urged Janata Bank to focus on its capital adequacy ratio and nonperforming loans.

Ashadul Islam, senior secretary of the Financial Institutions Division; Md Abdus Salam Azad, managing director and CEO of Janata Bank; and SM Mahfuzur Rahman, vice chancellor of the BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, also

Emphasising on the components of

the fourth industrial revolution, such

as robotics, nanotechnology and

biotechnology, Kamal said Bangladesh

needs to exploit areas of the economy

Fazle Kabir termed Bangabandhu's

7th March Speech in 1971 as the

greatest ever compared to two

famous speeches, including the

Gettysburg Address by Abraham

Bangladesh Bank Governor

that are yet to be harnessed.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয় ১৬ আর্মড পলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন



উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-এপিবি(১৬)/প্রশাঃ-২০২১/১৩০২ তারিখঃ ২১/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ১৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, কল্পবাজার ফোর্সের নিম্লোক্ত লট ভিত্তিক কাজের জন্য 'দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮' এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী অনুসারে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ঠিকাদারণণের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত থামে 'উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র' আহবান করা যাচেছ

۱ ده	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
०२ ।	সংস্থা	वाश्लाप्तमं পूलिमं ।			
०७।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি), ১৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, কক্সবাজার।			
08 ∣	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে লট নং-১, ২, ৩, ৪ ও ৫-এ বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে।			
1 30	সংগ্রাহক সন্তার জেলা	কল্পবাজার।			
०७।	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র নম্বর	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং-এপিবি(১৬)/প্রশাঃ-২০২১/১৩০২			
०१।	তারিখ	২১ মার্চ/২০২১প্রিঃ।			
কাজের বিব	বরণঃ				
ob 1	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
অর্থের উৎস	নঃ				
চ ।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট খাতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।			
বিশেষ তথ	্যাবলীঃ				
201	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	o@/২০২o-২০২১			
77	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	২১ মার্চ/২০২১খ্রিঃ।			
751	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২২ এপ্রিল/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
२०।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫ এপ্রিল/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
184	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫ এপ্রিল/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা।			
অফিসের ন	নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ				
	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	(ক) ডিআইজি, এপিবিএন, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা।			
76.1		(খ) কমাভিং অফিসার (এসপি), ১৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, কক্সবাজার।			
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३७ ।	প্রি-টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	১৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, কক্সবাজার। তারিখঃ ২২/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।			
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সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র (ঙ) বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক/জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র (চ) এফিডেভিড মূলে ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা ঘোষণাপত্র (ছ) প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে প্রতিনিধির স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়নসহ ক্ষমতা অর্পণ দিতে হবে (জ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সকল দলিলপত্রাদিসহ ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় করা হবে এবং দরপত্ তফসিল ক্রয়ের সময় ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব সীল সঙ্গে আনিতে হবে (ঝ) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যাহা টেভার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। মালামালের বিবরণঃ সময়সীমা **াই/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে** /২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)

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		কুলি সরবরাহ কাজ।				
	8	২০২১-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারের বিএসটিএসআই কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত		₽ @0/-	80,000/-	
		ভিটামিন 'এ' সমৃদ্ধ উন্নতমানের ভোজ্যতেল (সয়াবিন) সরবরাহ কাজ। ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারের উন্নতমানের ছোটদানা মন্তর ডাল				(জুলাই/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে
	æ			9&o/-	3 0,000/-	ডিসেম্বর/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
		(দেশী) সরবরাহ কাজ।				
রপত্র সম্প	দনকারী	র বিবরণঃ			•	
۱ وړ	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম		মোঃ তারিকুল ইসলাম।			
२० ।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী		কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি)।			
२১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা		১৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, কক্সবাজার।			
<u> </u>	দরপ	<u>র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের</u>	মোবাইলঃ ০১৩২০-১৯৫৫০০			

So, the state can also continue মাধ্যম বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ Bangladesh খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত আইটেমের পরিমাণ বন্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে ঘ) দরপত্র দাখিল সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র গ্রহণকালে অফিস হতে এবং দরপত্র তফসিলে পাওয়া যাবে Degamukh area for setting up a ঙ) দরপত্র পিপিআর/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

চ) দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক খামে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি CPTU এর ওয়েবসাইটে (<u>www.cptu.gov.bd</u>) পাওয়া যাবে। (শুধুমাত্র লট-১ এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য) মোঃ তারিকুল ইসলাম

বিপি-৭৯০৬১১৭৯৮১ কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি) ১৬ এপিবিএন, কক্সবাজার মোবাঃ ০১৩২০-১৯৫৫০০ ই-মেইলঃ co16am@police.gov.bd

Stocks fall as second-wave fear grips investors

A top official of an asset management company said, however, the business of the listed companies would not be impacted as people of Bangladesh did not seem to bother much about the

Some speculators are using the situation, causing the market to fall so that they can buy shares at a lucrative price, he said.

"I don't believe that the market is falling for Covid-19. Investors need to be cautious and hold the shares of wellperforming companies.

the market, fell 10 per cent to Tk 615 crore yesterday at the DSE. Janata Insurance topped the gainers'

Turnover, an important indicator of

list as it rose 9.67 per cent, followed by Republic Insurance, ICB Islamic Bank, Asia Pacific Insurance, and Paramount Insurance.

Beximco Ltd was the most-traded stock, with its shares worth Tk 84 crore changing hands, followed by Robi, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, LankaBangla Finance, and LafargeHolcim.

Anlima Yarn took gave up the most as it fell 10 per cent, followed by Aziz Pipes, Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Emerald Oil, and Savar Refractories

The port city bourse also dropped yesterday. The CSCX, the general index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange, fell 157 points, or 1.66 per cent, to close at 9,342. At the CSE, 17 issues rose, 166 fell and

48 remained unchanged.

Mizoram wants to use Ctg port FROM PAGE B1

Mizoram continued business with Myanmar by taking an independent decision as the Indian central government authorised this power in an agreement with the Mizoram provincial government in 1986.

with business independently, Munshi added. Lalthangliana demanded joint inspection of the

border haat.

centre," he said. Bangladesh is an extremely important trading partner for Mizoram and this is why increasing trade is extremely important, Lalthangliana added.

"We will have to start a trade