

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.31%	▲ 0.36%	\$1,731.97 (per ounce)	\$64.57 (per barrel)	▲ 1.17%	▲ 1.56%	▲ 0.52%	▲ 1.63%	BUY TK 83.95	97.98	114.87	12.61
5,343.94	9,338.93			49,008.50	29,176.70	3,157.95	3,418.33	SELL TK 84.95	101.78	118.67	13.26

ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন এবার মোবাইলে

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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 29, 2021, CHAITRA 15, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

WB now doubles GDP growth forecast



REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The World Bank has more than doubled its gross domestic product (GDP) growth prediction for Bangladesh for the current fiscal year as the economy shows signs of recovery.

The Washington-based lender expects the economy to grow 3.6 per cent in the FY2020-21, up from a projection of 1.6 per cent made in the Global Economic Prospects Update in January.

"The economy is expected to recover gradually, with real GDP growth projected at 3.6 per cent in FY21," the WB said in a document.

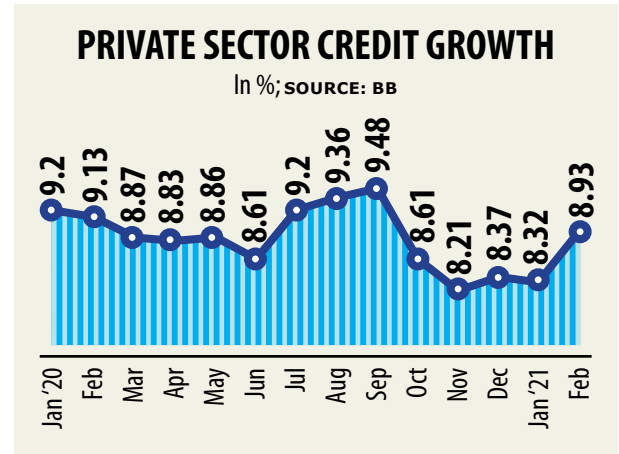
The new prediction was made in a paper of the Bangladesh Third Programmatic Jobs Development Policy Credit.

The new GDP growth prediction is still far lower than the government's estimate of 7.4 per cent for the current fiscal year.

In January, the lender said in Bangladesh growth was estimated to have decelerated to 2 per cent in the last fiscal year.

READ MORE ON B3

Credit growth rises moderately



AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Private sector credit growth went up moderately in February to keep up with the recovering trend of the economy, but bankers say the rising coronavirus infections and deepening uncertainty have dipped the growth in March.

The year-on-year credit growth stood at 8.93 per cent in February, up from 8.32 per cent a month earlier, data from the central bank showed.

The February's growth is also the highest since October last year.

Businesses commenced to expand their enterprises heavily last month riding on the slower coronavirus infection, but the momentum has faced a roadblock this month when the deadly flu started spreading in a consistent manner, said managing directors of three banks.

READ MORE ON B2

Bridge over Payra river nears completion

May open in July; tolls fixed

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The construction of a bridge on Payra river in the Lebukhali area of the Patuakhali-Dhaka highway is set to be complete by July this year.

Payra port will directly benefit with the launch of the bridge, as it will boost road connectivity with the rest of the country.

About 90 per cent of the main bridge is complete while the construction of ancillary structures, including the approach road and toll plaza, is ongoing, according to Engineer Abdul Halim, director of the Payra Bridge project.

The four-lane 1.47-kilometre long and 19.76-metre wide bridge will be connected on both sides by cable.

"Up to seven kilometres of the connecting roads on both sides will also be developed," he said, adding that the bridge is being constructed using extruded cable-stayed technology.

The project is estimated to cost around Tk 1,446 crore once complete.

With the end of construction in sight, the government recently fixed the tolls for using the bridge.

Heavy trucks will pay Tk 940 while medium-weight trucks, such as covered vans, will be charged Tk 750.

The toll is Tk 375 for smaller medium-



About 90 per cent of the main bridge is complete while the construction of ancillary structures is ongoing.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

weight trucks, Tk 340 for busses, Tk 280 for mini-trucks, Tk 225 for vehicles used in agriculture, Tk 190 for minibuses and Tk 15 for microbuses.

When it comes to private vehicles, the charge will be Tk 150 for heavy four-

wheelers, Tk 95 for sedans, Tk 40 for three-wheel motorised vehicles, Tk 20 for motorcycles, and Tk 10 for all rickshaws, pedal-vans and bicycles.

The toll gazette was signed by Fahmida Haque Khan, deputy secretary of the Road

Transport and Highways Department (toll branch), on March 18.

In 2013, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of Payra Bridge.

The project, being implemented by Chinese contractor Longjian Road and Bridge Construction, was initially set to be complete by April 2019, around 33 months after the beginning of development on July 24, 2016.

However, construction faced numerous delays and the ongoing pandemic slowed down the process further.

The project is jointly funded by the Bangladesh government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

The bridge will ensure faster transportation of various goods from the port to other parts of the country.

Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of the Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owners Association, said the increased connectivity will accelerate the development of the local tourism industry as the number of domestic and foreign travellers in Kuakata will increase.

When contacted, Azizur Rahman, assistant director of the Payra Port authority (PPA), told The Daily Star that the port's activities began on a limited scale on August 13, 2016.

READ MORE ON B2

Used flats turning heads

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Juned Ahmed, an official of a private bank, bought a 1,525 square-foot used flat in the Sector 10 of the capital's Uttara at Tk 83 lakh. Had he wanted to purchase a new one, he would have to shell out at least Tk 1.20 crore, an amount that would have been tough for him to manage.

But he is overjoyed. "The flat is almost new, and without any hassle, the owner has handed over the possession of the property."

Like Ahmed, Awry Ehsan Chowdhury bought a flat in Mohammadpur at a reasonable price. She declined to disclose the price.

Ahmed and Chowdhury are two of a growing army of buyers who are showing an increasing interest in the secondary property market in the capital city as the properties are cheaper and spacious and come with utility services, especially gas connection,

according to realtors and home loan providers.

There is no reliable data about the market size of the secondary flat segment. The demand in the segment is around 20 per cent of the total demand for the properties in Dhaka.

"The demand for the secondary flat is growing," said FR Khan, managing director at Building Technology & Ideas (bti), which sells brand new and secondary flats.

There are two reasons: they can be bought at lower prices, and they are roomy.

According to the new regulations on buildings, owners cannot use around 400sqft of a 2,000sqft flat although they have to pay the price. But, the owners of used flats can use the entire available floor space and rooms were spacious.

"If we sell 30 flats per month, five will be the used ones," Khan said.

In some cases, buyers will

INTRODUCING NEW HOTLINE NUMBER 16704

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WHY ARE THEY POPULAR?

- Cheaper with ready utility services
- Home loans available
- More spacious than new ones
- A 1,200-1,500sqft used flat may cost Tk 60-70 lakh
- Popular among middle class
- Meet 20% demand

have to renovate the flat. In some cases, they will get a flat in excellent condition, he noted.

According to a recent assessment of Bproperty, a property solutions provider, the ready flat market segment or the secondary property market have always been at the forefront of Bangladesh's real estate industry.

"This high demand for secondary properties is reflected

everywhere, all the time," according to the company.

Data on property demand in the last 14 months showed the requests for secondary properties in Dhaka averaged 76 per cent of all queries.

Even during the peak of the pandemic in April and May, when the entire real estate sector experienced a slowdown, about 65 per cent of all property demand

in Dhaka was for ready flats.

The highest percentage of query for such a category of properties was experienced in August last year when it accounted for a staggering 86 per cent of nearly 5,000 property requests.

The momentum continued in the last six months as Bproperty received more than 20,000 new requests for secondary properties.

READ MORE ON B3

Business almost unscathed by hartal

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Businesses yesterday had little been affected by Hefajat-e-Islam's countrywide hartal as almost all export, import, retail and wholesale trade and banking activities continued at the normal pace.

A number of sources confirmed that operations of the Chattogram seaport and Dhaka airport were unaffected, with most cargo reaching or being sent off from there overnight.

The sole exception was a disruption to sales in some retail shops in areas where clashes were witnessed.

Logistics operators said vehicles used for import and export mostly operate at night, for which there was roughly no effect of the hartal.

Trucks are running on highways and there is no problem, except for some delays in movement at some places, said Mohammad Tajul Islam, president of Bangladesh Inter-district Truck Drivers Association.

There had been no impact on goods transport to and from the port city of Chattogram, said Abu Bakar Siddique, executive president of Bangladesh Prime



The day was just like any other for vegetable sellers staying open at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka yesterday although customer presence had been low amidst a countrywide hartal called by Hefajat-e-Islam. The photo was taken in the afternoon.

PALASH KHAN

Movers Association.

Till now there has been no major impact, said Syed Ershad Ahmed, country manager and managing director of global logistics provider Expeditors

(Bangladesh).

Cargoes already in container freight stations moved to the seaport smoothly. The Dhaka airport situation is normal, he told The Daily Star.

Normally the cargo is sent to the airport at night, said Ahmed, also the president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh.

There was no disruption in

the delivery of goods from the Chattogram port as vehicles entered the port like any normal working day, said Omar Farook, secretary to the Chattogram port.

"Container transport between the port and 18 private inland container depots remained normal all day," he said.

The shipments of goods at the airport in Dhaka and Chattogram seaport was normal, said Kabir Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Freight Forwarders' Association.

The exporters were able to bring the goods to the port on time, he said.

Some 3,000 twenty feet equivalent units (TEUs) of containers are shipped from the Chattogram port daily and yesterday the quantity was 2,800 TEUs, said Ahmed.

Banking activities continued at the country's main commercial hub in Motijheel and other business districts, although presence of clients was a bit thin in some banks and non-bank financial institutions, said bankers.

Clients' presence in four branches of four major banks was a maximum 30 to 40 per cent.

READ MORE ON B2

IMPORT OF ESSENTIALS Banks asked to levy minimum LC margin

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bank yesterday instructed banks to keep the margin on the opening of letters of credits to import essential commodities at the lowest level to meet the increased demand of the products during Ramadan.

Keeping the LC margin at a minimum level will help retain the price of the items at a tolerable level during the fasting month, according to a central bank notice.

The central bank instructed banks to keep the LC margin at the lowest level for some products such as edible oil, gram, pulses, onion, spices, dates, fruits and sugar.

READ MORE ON B3

6pc RMG units adopting recovery models: study

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 6 per cent local garment factories have adopted new business models or innovative plans to incorporate sustainability in a post-pandemic recovery, a new study said yesterday.

Experiencing the worst of times in the Covid-19's fallout prompted them to improve efficiency, reduce cost of production and business management and attain more sustainable supply chains.

An associated survey was conducted last year in 47 factories whose owners were presented certificates for "extraordinary performance in sustainability" through a virtual programme at The Westin Dhaka making public the study.

READ MORE ON B3



Duluma Ahmed, vice chairperson of Southeast Bank, opens a relocated branch at Sector 7 of Uttara in Dhaka. Managing Director M Kamal Hossain and lawmaker Mohammad Habib Hasan were present.



Md Aminul Islam Khan, secretary to the Technical and Madrasah Education Division; Md Ahsanul Hoque Bashar, country manager at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Bangladesh, and Morad Hossain Mollah, chairman of Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), attend a workshop jointly organised by the ACCA and BTEB in Dhaka yesterday.



Subrata Ranjan Das, executive director at ACI Motors, the sole distributor of Yamaha motorcycles in Bangladesh, launches a Yamaha XSR 155 motorcycle at ACI Centre in Dhaka recently.

Credit growth rises moderately

FROM PAGE B1
The credit flow to the private sector has already decreased to a large extent as businesses have adopted a "go-slow" policy once again, they said.

Bangladesh recorded at least 3,908 new infections of Covid-19 yesterday, which is the highest since July 3 last year. Infection number in 24 hours remained above 3,500 for the sixth consecutive day yesterday.

"Businesses took a positive stance to start their businesses in the period of January and February. But, the rising infection has dealt a blow to the confidence for expansion of their businesses," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank. Funds disbursed by banks have already seen a slower trend in March than in February, he said.

Businesses moved to import capital machinery and industrial raw materials last month, but the scenario has reversed in March, he said.

In addition, a good number of letters of credit (LCs) to import commodity products were earlier opened to fulfil Ramadan demand, putting a positive impact on private sector credit growth as well, Rahman said. There is little hope to reach the credit growth at double digit this fiscal year due to the ongoing trend of the Covid-19 infection, Rahman said.

In its monetary policy statement for fiscal 2020-21, the central bank set a private sector credit growth target of 14.8 per cent by June this year. The existing business slowdown has indicated that there is little chance to achieve the target.

Rahman predicted that the credit growth might hover between 8-9 per cent in the rest of the months of this fiscal year.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said the lender had given out around Tk 900 in loans last year, which had increased its credit book by 3-4 per cent. But, the loan disbursement has declined to a large extent this month as credit appetite has nosedived due to the upward trend of the infection, he said.

"We have also observed that export orders from European countries have started declining as some of them have recently declared strict restrictions on movement in order to tackle the spread of the coronavirus," he said.

Lower exports has a spillover effect in imports, he said. The imported items of industrial raw materials largely use to produce the exported goods.

The lower imports have also brought a negative impact explicitly on the credit growth as well, Huq said.

"I do not see any ray of hope to rise in imports in the next few months given gravity of the coronavirus infection at home and abroad," he said. Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia, said commodity prices in the global market had recently escalated, which had also pushed the country's import payments up.

He, however, said there was a possibility that the credit growth might rise in March to some extent as the majority of banks normally tried to inflate their credit book in the last month of every quarter.

But, the ongoing trend will create a pressure on the credit growth in May and June, Ali said. The outstanding loans in the private sector stood at Tk 11,53,511 crore as of February in contrast to Tk 11,40,023 crore the previous month.

Bridge over Payra river nears completion

FROM PAGE B1
Now, ship-to-ship loading and unloading activities are underway in the deep sea area, he said.

As of March 24 this year, a total of 113 ships carrying various raw materials such as clinker and stone have anchored at the port, through which the government collected Tk 164 crore in revenue.

The construction of the Padma bridge and Payra bridge is required for direct connectivity between Dhaka and Payra Port. Construction of Padma bridge is at its final stage while Payra bridge will be open soon.

Mir Mohammad Kamrul Hasan, executive engineer of the Patuakhali Roads and Highways Department, said once the Payra bridge is opened, road traffic in the area will increase and subsequently, the government's revenue as well.

With the launch of Padma Bridge, people will have the opportunity to travel to the country's south-western regions by road instead of ferries.

Similarly, the opening of the Payra bridge will facilitate the growth of economic and trade activities in the South. Mohiuddin Ahmed, president of the Patuakhali Chamber of Commerce and Industry, echoed the views of Hasan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Joypurhat District, Joypurhat

Invitation for e-Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
3	Project/program name	Bangladesh Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project (30 Pourashavas).
4	e-Tender ID	559842
5	Description of work:	Construction of Drains at Panchbibi Pourashava.
6	Name, designation, & address of official inviting tender	Mst. Ummay Roman Khan Jony, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Joypurhat District.
7	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline or hard copy will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

[Size=3 column x 4 inch]

Mst. Ummay Roman Khan Jony
Executive Engineer
DPHE
Joypurhat District

GD-628

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Balaganj, Sylhet.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No:46.02.000.9108.07.012.19-690 Date: 25/03/2021.

Tender Notice
Tender Notice No:5/2020-2021
Limited Tendering Method(LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works & Goods as stated below :

SL No	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement Nature
1	SYL/BALA/ADP/08	562279	Goods
2	UE/BALA/ADP/W-05	562272	Works
3	UE/BALA/ADP/W-08	562269	Works
4	UE/BALA/ADP/W-07	562266	Works
5	UE/BALA/ADP/W-04	562265	Works
6	UE/BALA/ADP/07	562259	Works
7	SYL/BALA/ADP/06	562257	Works
8	SYL/BALA/ADP/05	562256	Works
9	UE/BALA/ADP/W-06	562252	Works
10	UE/BALA/ADP/W-02	562250	Works
11	UE/BALA/ADP/W-01	562248	Works
12	UE/BALA/ADP/W-09	560616	Goods
13	UE/BALA/ADP/W-03	560615	Works

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank upto **15/04/2021 14:00**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The NOA will be given as per availability of fund.

Kibria
(S.R.M.G Kibria)
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Balaganj, Sylhet
Phone: 02996644972
e-mail: ue.balaganj@lged.gov.bd
Date: 25.03.2021

GD-631

Business almost unscathed by hartal

FROM PAGE B1
This was confirmed by officials of the Sonali Bank principal branch, BASIC Bank's Motijheel branch and Southeast Bank's Dhanmondi branch.

"I came to know that there were very few buyers coming to the shops," said Mohammad Helal Uddin, president of Shop Owners Association.

On Saturday he instructed shop owners to decide on staying open based on the hartal situation.

Helal, however, claimed that the profit margin on the day's sales fell significantly by 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

On whether any shop was attacked by Hefajat-e-Islam activists, he said, "No, I have not received any such news so far."

"There is a fear among the people. Compared to other days, there are very few buyers in the market today. Almost there is no sale," said Liaquat Hossain Sabuj, head of Arosh, a clothing store in the capital's Bashundhara City Shopping Complex.

The hartal had no significant impact in the Khatunganj market, one of the country's largest wholesale markets for consumer goods, said Sager Ahmed, general secretary of Khatunganj Traders Association.

The Suez Canal blockage along with a day's inaction added by hartal definitely has a negative impact on the sector, said Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

She did not elaborate.

বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নগর ভবন, বরিশাল
পানি সরবরাহ বিভাগ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখঃ ২৫/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	দরপত্রের তফসিলের মূল্য (টাকা)	কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা (দিন)
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় মন্ত্রণালয়।		
০২	সংস্থার নাম	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।		
০৩	দরপত্র আহবানকারী	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।		
০৪	সংজ্ঞা পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।		
০৫	তহবিল ও খাত	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের রাজস্ব ও বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন সহায়তা তহবিল (খোক বরাদ্দ)।		
০৬	দরপত্র আহবান নং তারিখ	বিসিসি/পাস/৬২২/২০২১ তারিখঃ ২৫/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ।		
০৭	দরপত্র যোগ্যতা	পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৮ ও তদন্বীন প্রণীত বিধিমালা অনুসারে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের জন্য প্রণীত দলিলের বর্ণনা ও শর্তাবলী, মালামাল সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী।		
০৮	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রির স্থান	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী - এলজিইডি, বরিশাল এবং বিভাগীয় কমিশনার এর দপ্তর (১০ লক্ষ টাকার উর্ধ্বের কাজের জন্য) বরিশাল।		
০৯	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।		
১০	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।		
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২১/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।		
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২২/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বেলা ২:০০টা		
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২২/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বেলা ৩.০০টা		
১৪	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ			
১	পানি সরবরাহ বিভাগের ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজের ও আনুষঙ্গিক মালামাল সরবরাহকরণ কাজ।	১,০০,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	৩৬৪ দিন
২	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন ২৯নং ওয়ার্ডের কাশিপুর হাইস্কুল এন্ড কলেজ এর সংলগ্ন ১৫০ মি.মি X ৩৫০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন এবং পাম্প হাউজ মেরামতকরণ কাজ।	৯৫,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৩	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন ২৮নং ওয়ার্ডের কাশিপুর নবজাগরণী সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় এর সংলগ্ন ১৫০ মি.মি X ৩৫০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন এবং নতুন পাম্প হাউজ নির্মাণ কাজ।	১,১০,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৪	০৩নং ওয়ার্ডে শেরে-ই-বাংলা স্কুল কাউন্সিল হাউজিং সংলগ্ন ১৫০ মি.মি X ৩৫০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন এবং নতুন পাম্প হাউজ নির্মাণ কাজ।	১,১০,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৫	০৫নং ওয়ার্ডে পলাশপুর পুরাতন পাম্প সংলগ্ন ১৫০ মি.মি X ৩৫০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন, পাম্প হাউজ মেরামত এবং আন্তঃ সংযোগ কাজ।	৯৫,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৬	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের বিভিন্ন স্থানে ১০০ মি.মি: এবং ১৫০ মি.মি: ব্যাসের পাইপ লাইন স্থাপন ও আন্তঃ সংযোগ কাজ।	২,৫০,০০০/-	২,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৭	২৬নং ওয়ার্ডে বোর্ড অফিস সংলগ্ন পাম্পের ট্রান্সফরমার মেরামত, এইচ.টি বিদ্যুৎ লাইন মেরামত, আন্তঃ সংযোগ কাজ, কলাম পাইপ ও পাম্প স্থাপন কাজ।	৩৫,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৮	২১নং ওয়ার্ডে গোরস্থান রোড পাম্প সংলগ্ন ১৫০ মি.মি X ৩৫০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন, পাম্প হাউজ মেরামত এবং আন্তঃ সংযোগ কাজ।	১,০০,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
৯	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের বিভিন্ন এলাকায় ৩৮ মি.মিঃ ব্যাসের ২০টি গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন, ৪' হাউজিংসহ ০.৭৫ হর্স পাওয়ার সাবমারিসিবল পাম্প স্থাপন, ২০০০ লিটার পি.ভি.সি ওভার হেড ওয়াটার ট্যাংক এবং ১০টি গভীর নলকূপ এর ৪' হাউজিংকরণ, ২০০০ লিটার পি.ভি.সি ওভার হেড ওয়াটার ট্যাংক এবং ০১ হর্স পাওয়ার সাবমারিসিবল পাম্প স্থাপন কাজ।	১,২০,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
১০	পানি সরবরাহ বিভাগে ১০ (দশ) সেট ২০/২৫/৩০ যোড়া সাবমারিসিবল পাম্প মটর ও প্যান্ডেল বোর্ড সরবরাহকরণ কাজ।	১,৫০,০০০/-	২,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন
১১	০৯নং ওয়ার্ডে নগর ভবন সংলগ্ন ১০০ মি.মি X ২০০ মি.মি ডায়া ইউ.পিভিসি গভীর উৎপাদক নলকূপ স্থাপন কাজ।	৬৫,০০০/-	১,০০০/-	১৮০ দিন

শর্তাবলীঃ
ক) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৮ ও তদন্বীন প্রণীত বিধিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
খ) দরপত্রের তফসিলের নির্ধারিত মূল্য সিডি/বিডি/পিও মেয়র বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূল জমা দিয়ে নির্ধারিত অফিস থেকে ক্রয় করতে হবে।
গ) টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
ঘ) দরপত্র খোলার সময় দরদাতা/প্রতিদ্বিগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
ঙ) নির্বাচিত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বীকে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হওয়ার পূর্বেই যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক থেকে (অগ্রত্যাহারযোগ্য চুক্তিবদ্ধ কাজ সমাধ না হওয়া পর্যন্ত) Performance Guarantee হিসাবে উদ্ধৃত দরের ০৫(পাঁচ) ভাগ হারে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে জমা দিতে হবে।
চ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
ছ) তহবিল প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে।

আবদুল মোতালেব
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (চঙ্গাঃ)
বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন
বরিশাল

জিডি-৬৩০



Rumee A Hossain, chairman of board executive committee of Bank Asia, inaugurates a phone call-based banking service "Voice Banking" in Dhaka on March 26 marking the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence. Directors Romana Rouf Chowdhury and Helal Ahmed Chowdhury and Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director, were present.



Satya Prasad Majumder, vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Pro-Vice Chancellor Abdul Jabbar Khan and Abul Kashem Md Shirin, CEO of Dutch-Bangla Bank, open its branchless banking facility Fast Track on the university premises in Dhaka on March 24.

ERD add secy to be also IIFC MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Abdul Baki, additional secretary (World Bank Wing) to Economic Relations Division, has recently been appointed to an additional role of managing director of Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Company (IIFC) with effect from March 24.



Abdul Baki

Baki joined Bangladesh Civil Service in 1993. He attained his master's degree in economics from Jahangirnagar University and attained another in governance and development from Brac University, according to a press release.

Omera marks Bangladesh's independence

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Omera Petroleum has recently used 2,310 Omera LPG cylinders to spell out "Ponchash a Bangladesh" in Bangla on its Mongla premises marking the 50th Independence Day of Bangladesh.

"We have done this to show our love and respect for our country, this is one of kind in the country and we are very proud to be a part of it," according to a statement.

6pc RMG units adopting recovery models: study

FROM PAGE B1

The study was conducted by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Report Initiative (GRI).

Some 42 per cent said to aim to reduce energy, waste and resource consumption in the next three years by 2 to 15 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption every year by 5 to 25 per cent.

Some 34 per cent have either a "reuse" or "recycle" practice for waste.

Some 98 per cent said to have an environmental grievance mechanism system in place, 6 per cent of which said to have taken immediate action on receiving complaints about disposal of solid waste in local waters.

Some 15 per cent said to have used recycled water in production or sanitation facilities and 23 per cent practised rainwater harvesting for gardening, car washing or sanitation facilities.

A majority or 91 per cent use borewell water while 32 per cent sourcing it from

municipality infrastructure.

The factories claim to discharge water from effluent treatment plants on testing parameters as per the ZDHC guidelines including hydrogen levels, chemical and biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended and dissolved solids, temperature and colour.

The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) programme has been taken up by a group of apparel and footwear brands and retailers to lead the industry towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.

Some 9 per cent claimed to discharge treated water in rivers and the rest into sewer lines.

The data claims all participants had an environment management system and reduced plastic consumption by an average of 30 per cent in the past three years.

BGMEA President Rubana Huq presented the certificates and Zuena Aziz, principal coordinator (SDG affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office, and Sudipto Mukerjee, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, also spoke.

Banks asked to levy minimum LC margin

FROM PAGE B1

The order came into effect immediately and would remain in force until May 15 this year.

The central bank does not set any margin on the import of commodities, and it is usually determined based on the bank-client relationship. Banks can even decide to impose no margins.

Despite that, the central bank has given the instruction on the occasion of Ramadan, which starts in the middle of next month, as a section of unscrupulous businesses usually try to cash in on the higher demand and increase the price of the commodities.

"The central bank notice will help commodity importers bring in the products smoothly," a central banker said.

WB now doubles GDP growth forecast

FROM PAGE B1

It is now projecting a growth of 2.4 per cent for FY20, according to the document, which was prepared in February.

The government's provisional estimate showed the GDP had grown by 5.24 per cent in the last fiscal year.

Private consumption growth will accelerate as pandemic-related disruptions wane in the second half of the fiscal year, supported by remittance inflows, the development lender said.

"Export performance is expected to recover through FY21 gradually, as improving economic conditions in developed markets support demand for RMG exports."

In the medium term, continued recovery of overall growth will be supported by increased export demand, rising private consumption, and higher public capital expenditure, the document said.

The fiscal deficit is projected to reach 6 per cent of GDP in FY21 and to moderate in the medium term.

While downside risks are significant, Bangladesh has a record of sustained macroeconomic stability over the past three decades through various global crises, internal political instability and natural calamities, providing additional assurance of its capacity to handle the emerging macroeconomic risks in the near and medium-term, the WB said.

"Bangladesh's low debt to GDP ratio provides a significant buffer, and despite the increase in spending to deal with the pandemic, the country continues to be at low risk of debt distress."



Nurun Newaz, chairman of the Electro Mart and Trade International Industries, and Md Nurul Amin, managing director, attend an "Annual Partner's Conference-2021" at BCDM Rajendrapur in Gazipur on March 27.



Social Islami Bank CEO Quazi Osman Ali opens a fund transfer facility connecting its SIBL NOW app to Nagad at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Plastic goods makers get new top brass

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shamim Ahmed, managing director at Sun Flower Melamine Industries, has been elected president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association for 2021-2022.

Giasuddin Ahmed, chairman of Thai Poly Shaon BD, was elected senior vice president. The association also elected KM Iqbal Hossain, chairman of Thai Delux Plastic Industry, and Quazi Anwarul Haque, chairman of Yeakin Polymer, as vice presidents.

Used flats turning heads

FROM PAGE B1

A significant portion of people contacting the firm for secondary market properties looks for houses in Mirpur, Uttara, Dhanmondi and Bashundhara residential area.

Mahzabin Chowdhury, head of marketing of bproperties.com, said the demand for secondary properties was solid.

Every month, 4,000 to 5,000 real estate hopefuls reach out to Bproperty in search of such properties.

More and more people are showing interest in Mohammadpur, Badda, Banasree and Dakshin.

Even though there hasn't been an adequate supply of secondary properties compared to demand, popular areas such as Mirpur, Uttara and Mohammadpur have plenty of ready flats available, according to bproperty.com.

Among the secondary properties currently available on the website, about 21 per cent of all the units are located in Mirpur, 9.7 per cent in Uttara and 6.4 per cent in Mohammadpur.

One of the major reasons people search for homes in Mirpur, Badda or Dakshin Khan is affordability, Mahzabin Chowdhury said.

"Even, some parts of Uttara can be great locations to find affordable secondary properties," she noted.

The average price of ready flats in Mirpur in the last six months was Tk 4,921 per square feet, with certain places such as Pirerbag and Section 11 offering flats at Tk 3,100 per square feet, Chowdhury said.

As for Uttara, the average price of ready flats in the last six months was Tk 6,503 per square feet, though the inner sectors are more affordable than the outer ones.

Dhanmondi can be complex in terms of the price of ready flats. The average price of recently added properties can be Tk 10,000 per square feet. Properties in West Dhanmondi and Shankar were, on average, are sold at Tk 6,500 per square feet.

Sirajus Salekin, head of mortgage at IPDC Finance, said secondary flats were comparatively cheaper than the new ones, so the middle-income groups that couldn't spend a big amount purchased used properties.

The non-bank financial institution provides home loans against secondary flat, and the segment's share in the loan portfolio is more than 20 per cent.

The number of loan files for secondary flats is increasing gradually, Salekin said.

"People like to purchase suitable secondary flats due to availability of gas connection, while there is no guarantee that new flats will have the connection."

According to the loan assessment of IPDC Finance, the price of a 1,200sqft to 1,500sqft flat is Tk 60 lakh to Tk 70 lakh, depending on the location.

Kamal Mahmud, vice-president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh, and managing director of Skiro Builders, said the demand for secondary flats was good, but products were not available.

He said the REHAB had urged the National Board of Revenue to reduce the registration cost for secondary flats to help expand the segment of the housing market.

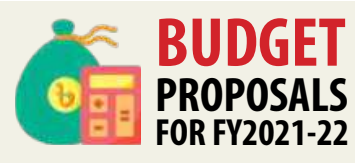
Table with 2 columns: S.N. and Details. Title: Chittagong Dry Dock Limited Bangladesh Navy. Includes financial data and company information.

Microcredit Regulatory Authority advertisement for 'মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি' regarding a fund transfer facility.

Dhaka South City Corporation advertisement for 'e-Tender Notice' regarding Pandal Installation works.

Stock turnover down to 8-month low

Poultry breeders, feed millers demand tax breaks



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Poultry industry operators, including breeders and feed millers, yesterday urged the government for a 10-year tax break to facilitate their recovery from Covid-induced losses.

In a separate proposal, agro-processors demanded a similar tax treatment for poultry and fish feed makers.

The Breeders Association of Bangladesh (BAB), Feed Industries Association of Bangladesh (FIAB) and Bangladesh Agro-Processors Association (BAPA) placed these recommendations for the fiscal 2021-22 budget to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

"We need the tax break so that existing operators can sustain themselves and new entrepreneurs can come to the poultry industry," said BAB President Md Rakibur Rahman.



STAR/FILE

Breeders suffered losses of around Tk 2,900 crore after farming nosedived in the wake of slumping demand for chicken amid the pandemic.

"We also aim to begin export by 2025," he added.

Breeders suffered losses of around Tk 2,900 crore after farming nosedived in the wake of slumping demand for chicken amid coronavirus concerns after the outbreak began in March 2020.

As the demand for restocking fell, breeders had to sell day-old chicken (DOC) for Tk 2-5 each against production costs of Tk 35-40 each.

The fall in prices continued until May as many farmers were even unwilling to get DOCs for free.

As many breeders even had to destroy their livestock due to an acute shortage of buyers, the BAB said in its appeal for a tax exemption until 2030.

People engaged in poultry

farming enjoy reduced tax benefits. As per NBR guidelines, no tax is applicable for incomes of up to Tk 20 lakh.

About 10 per cent tax is payable on incomes of over Tk 30 lakh from poultry farming whereas the highest rate of tax for an individual is 25 per cent.

Weekly production of broiler DOCs, which was 1.70 crore before the pandemic, now stands at 1.35 crore.

Overall the poultry industry incurred nearly Tk 7,000 crore in losses, it added.

The BAB also demanded tax-free imports of certain machinery used by the poultry industry as well as exemption of tariff and tax on imports of feed making materials.

FIAB said feed production

dropped because of reduced farming.

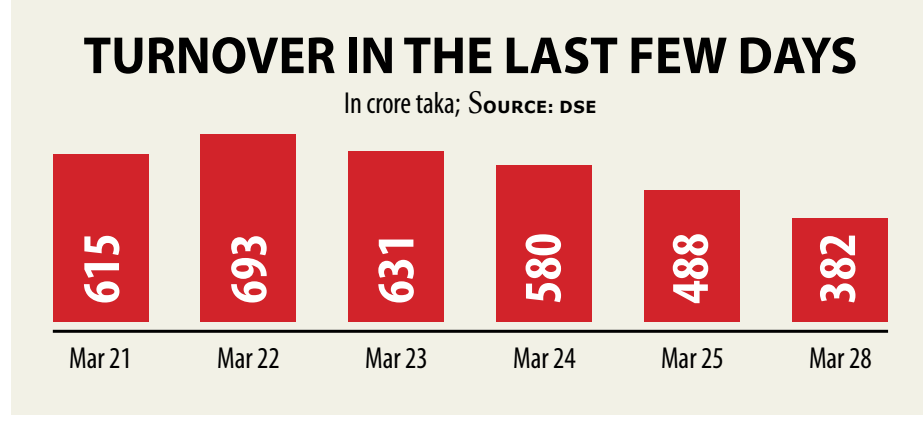
Citing the spiralling prices of feed making materials worldwide as well as increased container and freight charge, feed millers called for a 10-year tax holiday.

FIAB sought a reduction of advance income tax on the import of these materials from 5 per cent.

It also wanted a withdrawal of tax at source on the purchase of feed ingredients from the domestic market.

Similarly, BAPA recommended the elimination of 2 per cent tax at source on procurement of agricultural products.

It also pleaded for the removal of advance income tax on raw materials used by agro-processing factories.



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Trade of stocks dropped to an eight-month low yesterday amidst a fast increase in Covid-19 infections.

Turnover, an important indicator of the stock market, fell 21 per cent to Tk 382 crore.

It was last in that range on July 27, 2020, when it had stood at Tk 371 crore.

Yesterday the market had started to rise since the early hours of trade despite an ongoing dawn-to-dusk hartal called by Hefajat-e-Islam.

The upward trend was witnessed till the end of the day, though turnover had fallen.

Investors are on the sidelines as they apprehend that the fast increase of Covid-19 infections may lead to a deterioration of the pandemic, said stock investor Taufik Ali.

Thirty-five people died in 24 hours, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

At least 3,908 new infections were recorded.

Infection numbers in 24 hours has remained above 3,500 for the sixth consecutive day.

"So investors are in the wait-and-see position," said Ali.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose

16 points, or 0.31 per cent, to 5,343.94 yesterday.

A bounceback or bear run in the upcoming weeks depends on whether the spread of the pathogen can be contained, said Ali.

The spread of the virus will have an impact on the economy and earnings of the listed companies, he clarified.

Already the readymade garments sector is getting a lower number of orders from abroad due to the pandemic.

Local garment suppliers said they were receiving 20 per cent fewer work orders for the next season beginning from June.

First Finance topped the gainers' list rising 9.37 per cent followed by Prime Insurance Company, Nitol Insurance, Rahima Food Corporation and Purabi General Insurance Company.

Beximco topped the turnover list with trade worth Tk 31 crore followed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Premier Bank, Robi Axiata and LankaBangla Finance.

Aman Cotton Fibrous shed most followed by Meghna PET Industries, Asian Tiger Sandhani Life Growth Fund, Padma Islami Life Insurance and Union Capital.

The port city bourse also rose yesterday. The CASPI, the general index of the Chattogram Stock Exchange, was up 53 points, or 0.34 per cent, to stand at 15,478.

"We need the tax break so that existing operators can survive and new entrepreneurs can come to the poultry industry," said Md Rakibur Rahman, president of Breeders Association of Bangladesh.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Pandemic upsurge hits Europe recovery hopes

AFP, Paris

An upsurge in new coronavirus cases is forcing governments across Europe into new, damaging lockdowns that threaten to delay a much hoped-for return to growth, economists say.

The plan was that mass vaccination programmes would turn the tide on the pandemic, allowing locked-down consumers free rein after months penned up at home. Instead the virus has embarked on a third wave which is proving more difficult to bring under control.

French President Emmanuel Macron warned Thursday that the European Union would have to do more and beef up its already massive 750 billion euro (\$885 billion) virus recovery fund as a result.

The EU had made a major effort after the first wave last year, Macron said, but "following the second and third waves... we will no doubt have to add to our response".

In September, as the economy picked up sharply after a rapid reverse in the first wave, expectations were high that by the middle of this year it would be solidly back on track, thanks especially to the vaccine rollout.

Just a couple of weeks ago, European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde was even talking



REUTERS/FILE

The European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde addresses a news conference on the outcome of the meeting of the Governing Council, in Frankfurt, Germany.

about a "firm rebound in activity in the second half of the year".

Now the EU's strongest economies -- Germany, France and Italy -- have reimposed restrictions and the vaccine programme in Europe is mired in a blame game over supplies.

Credit insurer Euler Hermes estimates that the EU is now seven weeks adrift of its target to have 70 percent of the population vaccinated by the end of the summer, compared with five weeks

in February.

It estimates the delay will cost the bloc's 27 member states some 123 billion euros this year. "If you compare us with the US, where the outlook is so much more positive, we are falling further behind on the recovery because of this third wave," said Charlotte de Montpellier, economist with Dutch bank ING.

ING now expects eurozone growth of 3.0 percent this year, down more than half a percentage

point from its previous estimate.

Most of the growth will also come from the third quarter, slightly later too, ING added. Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics, said he does not expect the bloc to return to pre-pandemic activity levels before the second half of 2022, a year behind the US. "We are revising down our forecast for eurozone GDP growth due to the resurgence of virus cases, slow pace of vaccination and extension of lockdowns," Kenningham said. "The outlook has deteriorated," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at IHS Markit.

The key Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) compiled by IHS Markit for March showed Germany, Europe's strongest economy, doing better than France and the northern countries generally doing better than their southern partners -- Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal -- which risk seeing their key tourist industries shackled for yet another year.

Standard and Poor's however has decided to keep its eurozone growth forecast unchanged at 4.2 percent for 2021, citing the positive factor of cheap credit.

At the same time, the economy and Europe's people have adapted to the restrictions, lessening the impact, said Sylvain Broyer, chief S&P economist for Europe.

US accuses China of 'state-led' social media campaign against companies over Xinjiang

REUTERS, Washington

The United States on Friday condemned what it called a "state-led" social media campaign in China against US and other international companies for deciding not to use cotton from China's Xinjiang region over forced labor concerns.

State Department spokeswoman Jalina Porter said the social media campaign and consumer boycotts had targeted American, European and Japanese businesses.

"We commend and stand with companies that adhere to US laws and ensure that products we are consuming are not made with forced labor," she told a regular news briefing.

"We support and encourage businesses to respect human rights in line with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights and the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises," she added.

China rejects allegations of abuses in Xinjiang, which is one of the world leading producers of cotton, and describes the camps it has set up there as vocational training centers for Uighur Muslims that help combat religious extremism.

Earlier, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki called on the international community to "oppose China's weaponizing of private

companies' dependence on its markets to stifle free expression and inhibit ethical business practices."

A number of overseas retailers have faced a public backlash from Chinese consumers who have circulated statements from the brands on social media announcing they will cease sourcing from Xinjiang.

Chinese celebrity endorsers have abandoned several foreign retail labels, including six US brands such as Nike, as Western concerns over labor conditions in Xinjiang spark a patriotic backlash from consumers.

New Balance, Under Armour, Tommy Hilfger and Converse, owned by Nike, are among companies that have come under fire in China for statements that they would not use cotton produced in the far-western Chinese region due to suspected forced labor.

The United States and other Western countries have imposed sanctions on Chinese officials for human rights abuses in Xinjiang, which the United States has said have amounted to genocide.

In January, Washington announced an import ban on all cotton and tomato products from the region over allegations that they are made with forced labor from detained Uighur Muslims.

China tightens scrutiny over credit rating industry

REUTERS, Beijing

China moved to tighten scrutiny over its credit rating business on Sunday, issuing draft rules aimed at bolstering an industry long blamed for inflating ratings in the country's \$4.4 trillion corporate bond market.

China's credit rating agencies are urged to improve their credit rating models, strengthen corporate governance and bolster information disclosure, according to rules jointly published by five government agencies including the central bank and the finance ministry.

The rules are also designed to create a better eco-system in which bond issuers don't interfere with credit rating decisions, investors rely on multiple sources of rating, and regulators lower

the bar of credit rating required for some type of bond investors, said the People's Bank of China in a statement on its website.

The rules will shift more burden on rating agencies, and "guide them to see reputation as the basis of their very existence", according to the statement.

China has stepped up opening its giant bond market to foreign investors. Beijing has also deregulated the country's credit rating market to global players such as S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings.

But bond credit rating in China has long been a source of complaint for investors.

Late last year, China's bond regulator flagged the risk of inflated credit ratings and widespread rating industry shortcomings, after defaults by

highly rated state-owned enterprises triggered market panic.

Rules published on Sunday urge rating agencies to boost consistency, accuracy, and timeliness of credit rating, and build a quality inspection system using default ratio at the core.

Rating agencies are also encouraged to install independent directors, and urged to take measures to avoid conflict of interest and strengthen internal control.

Government bodies that jointly published the rules also include the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC).



REUTERS/FILE

Chinese and US flags flutter outside the building of an American company in Beijing, China.