



**Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque virtually inaugurated the distribution of Yanmar combine harvesters at 14 places across the country recently. The photo was taken at Singair upazila in Manikganj.**

ACI MOTORS



**Kyser Hamid, managing director and CEO of the Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company (BD Finance), and Lerry Knox, co-founder and CEO of Sovereign Infrastructure Group, recently signed a memorandum of understanding in Washington DC to draw US capital market investors towards Bangladesh's infrastructure projects.**

BD FINANCE

## Covid curbs put brakes on India buying

REUTERS

Physical gold demand in India stalled this week after local prices rebounded from a one-year trough and coronavirus restrictions were imposed, while buyers in other major Asian hubs were also put off by an uptick in prices.

"This week gold prices rose in the international market and rupee also fell. That led to a big jump in local prices, which consumers are struggling to digest," said Mukesh Kothari, director at Mumbai bullion dealer RiddiSiddhi Bullions.

On Friday, local gold futures were trading at around 46,600 rupees (\$623.99) per 10 grams after falling to 43,320 rupees last week, the lowest level since April 2020.

Dealers were charging a premium of up to \$3 an ounce over official domestic prices, inclusive of 10.75 per cent import and 3 per cent sales levies, down from the last week's \$4.

Jewellers curtailed buying as state governments have started imposing restrictions to arrest the spread of COVID-19, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a bullion importing bank.

India's richest state, Maharashtra, imposed stringent COVID-19 restrictions from Monday, after a rapid rise in infections. Meanwhile, India's gold imports in March surged 471 per cent from a year earlier to a record 160 tonnes, as a reduction in import taxes and a correction in prices from record highs drew retail buyers and jewellers.

In Singapore, premiums of \$1.5-\$2 an ounce were charged over benchmark spot gold prices, compared with \$1-\$2 an ounce premiums last week.

"Demand is rather muted because of higher gold prices, compared to last week when prices were lower and investors who wanted to take positions have already taken it," said Brian Lan, managing director at dealer GoldSilver Central.

## Spain trims 2021 GDP forecast as Covid, snow hit economy

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish government lowered its growth forecast for 2021 on Friday after fresh pandemic restrictions led to a weaker-than-expected first quarter.

It now expects the Spanish economy, the eurozone's fourth largest, to grow by 6.5 per cent this year, down from the 7.2 per cent forecast in October. "The recovery ... slowed in the first quarter and was lower than what we expected," Economy Minister Nadia Calvino told a news conference. "We expect growth to speed up in the second half of 2021," she added. Spain suffered a third wave of Covid-19 infections during the first two months of the year which led to tighter curbs on social life.

And in early January much of the centre of the country including Madrid were hit by a massive snowstorm which paralysed the economy for days.

The downward revision puts the government's forecasts more in line with those of other bodies. The Bank of Spain last month lowered its 2021 growth forecast to 6.0 per cent from 6.8 per cent while the International Monetary Fund expects a 6.4 per cent expansion.

The government expects the economy will expand by 7.0 per cent in 2022. Spain's economy contracted sharply by 10.8 per cent in 2020, one of the worst performers in the eurozone, with its key tourism sector battered by the pandemic travel restrictions.

## S Korean battery makers agree \$1.8b settlement, aiding Biden's EV push

REUTERS, Washington/Seoul

South Korean battery makers LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation Co agreed on Sunday to settle disputes over trade secrets dispute, avoiding a potential setback for US electric-vehicle (EV) ambitions.

The settlement by affiliates of two of South Korea's biggest conglomerates comes hours before a Sunday deadline for the administration of President Joe Biden to decide whether to take the rare step of reversing a US International Trade Commission decision (ITC).

The core dispute had threatened the EV plans of Ford Motor Co and Volkswagen AG, as well as a Georgia plant that is key to the growing industry.

The resolution is a win for Biden, who has made boosting EVs and US battery production a top priority. The global auto industry is racing to develop EVs, and Biden has proposed spending \$174 billion to hike their sales and expand charging infrastructure.

SK Innovation agreed to pay LG Energy Solution, a wholly owned subsidiary of LG Chem Ltd, 2 trillion won (\$1.8 billion) - 500 billion won each this year and next, and royalties for at least six years.

The companies agreed to drop all litigation in the United States and South Korea and not raise further lawsuits against each other for 10 years.

"The two companies now can coexist in the global market and

compete in good faith," LG Energy Solution said in a statement. SK said it would invest actively both in South Korea and abroad now that uncertainties for its EV battery business in the United States have been dissolved.

Biden's Office of US Trade Representative faced a Sunday night deadline on whether to take the rare step of reversing a US International Trade Commission decision unless the companies had agreed a deal.

The administration, Volkswagen and Ford had been pushing the Korean companies to settle, sources briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Trade Representative Katherine Tai was personally involved in the settlement discussions, urging the companies to come to a resolution, the sources said. Her office declined to comment before the agreement was announced in the Asia day. Ford and Volkswagen were not immediately available for comment outside of business hours.

In the bitter two-year dispute, LG lost to SK in a bid for VW orders, then accused SK of stealing trade secrets by poaching nearly 80 of its employees. LG filed a complaint against SK in 2019, and both sides hired numerous lawyers and consultants to make their case to the Biden administration.

The ITC in February sided with LG after the company accused SK of misappropriating trade secrets related to EV battery technology. It issued a 10-year-import ban but allowed SK to import components for batteries for Ford's EV F-150 program for four years, and VW's North American EVs for two years.



REUTERS/FILE

The logo of LG Chem is seen at its office building in Seoul, South Korea.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP)  
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka-1207  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.0000.794.07.028.19.406 Dated: 11/04/2021

**Corrigendum of Invitation for Bids (IFB) for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) IFB No. ICB/2020-21/01**

A bid has been invited vide memo No. 46.02.0000.794.07.028.19.258 dated: 02/03/2021 for procurement of 01 Nos. Landfill Compactor (Backhoe Loader) of Contract Package Number. MGSP/PMU/G97 under Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP) of Local Government Engineering Department mentioning to deliver the bid at or before 15.00 hours (GMT+6 hours) on 20 April, 2021. Now the date to deliver the bid has been shifted at or before 15.00 hours (GMT+6 hours) on 24 May, 2021 due to unavoidable circumstances. Other terms and conditions of this bid remain unchanged.

**Shaikh Muzakka Zaher**  
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GD-730

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Manikganj

**e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)**

Memo No.-EED-Manikganj-Revenue-Furniture-TMED/2020-21/20 Date: 11-04-2021

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Last date and time of selling documents	Tender Closing Date/Time	Tender Opening Date/Time
01	567611	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Kaliakoir Islamia Dakhil madrasa under Singair Upazilla Manikganj District.	28-April-2021 15:00 PM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM
02	567612	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Manikganj Islamia Kamil madrasa under Sadar Upazilla Manikganj District.	28-April-2021 15:00 PM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM
03	567613	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Sarupai Alhaj Abdul Halim Dakhil madrasa under Sadar Upazilla Manikganj District.	28-April-2021 15:00 PM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM
04	567614	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Banparil Dakhil madrasa under Sadar Upazilla Manikganj District.	28-April-2021 15:00 PM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM	29-April-2021 11:00 AM

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 System 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 online through any registered banks branches up to 15.00 PM on 28-April-2021.** Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**(M. Mustafizur Rahman)**  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Manikganj.

GD-738

**Election Commission Secretariat**  
Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)  
Nirbachan Commission Bhaban (9th Floor)  
Agargaon, Dhaka

**Invitation for Tender (OTM/NCT, Non-Consulting Services)**

1. Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Election Commission
2. Agency	Election Commission Secretariat
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5. Invitation for	Transport Services with Driver (11 Vehicle & 11 Driver)
6. Invitation for Tenders Ref: & Date	ECS/IDEA(2nd Phase)/NCS-14/2021/36 Dated: 11 April 2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
7. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
8. Budget & Source of Fund	GoB
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
9. Project/Program Code	224331200
10. Tender Package No.	NCS-14
11. Tender Package Name	Transport Services with Driver (11 Vehicle & 11 Driver)
12. Tender Publication Date	12 April 2021
13. Tender Selling Last Date	03 May 2021 14:00 hrs
14. Tender Closing Date & Time	04 May 2021 11:00 hrs
15. Tender Opening date & Time	04 May 2021 11:30 hrs
16. Name of Address of the Office	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase), Election Commission Bhaban (9th Floor), (Room No-814) Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
17. Selling Tender Documents (Other)	
18. Receiving Tender Documents	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase), Election Commission Bhaban (7th Floor), (Room No-721) Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
19. Opening Tender Documents	Election Commission Bhaban (7th Floor), (Room No-721) 22 Apr 2021, 11:00 hrs
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
21. Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Tenderer shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. 2. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh. 3. Tenderers shall have to fulfil its obligation/obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. 4. Detail information has been provided in the tender document.
22. Brief Description of Services	11 in Nos. Vehicle (Microbus) with 11 Driver Provide through Hiring Basis.
23. Price of Tender Documents (BDT)	Tk. 2000.00 (Two Thousand Only) Non-refundable.
24. Pkg No	Identification of Package Tender Security Completion Time in Weeks/Months
NCS-14	11 in Nos. Vehicle (Microbus) with 11 Driver Provide through Hiring Basis. Tk. 9,50,000/00 (Nine Lac Fifty Thousand) 04 (Four) Weeks After Contract
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
25. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Abul Kashem Md Fazlul Kader
26. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director, IDEA Project (2nd Phase), Election Commission Bhaban (8th Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
27. Address of Inviting Tender	Phone -55007490,01716-287641
28. Contact Details of Official Inviting	
29. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings	

**Brigadier General Abul Kashem Md Fazlul Kader**  
Project Director  
IDEA Project (2nd Phase)

GD-739