



Pubali Bank gets new CEO

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank has recently witnessed the appointment of a new managing director and CEO.

The appointee, Saful Alam Khan Chowdhury, had already been serving as additional managing director since January 1, 2016, says a press release.

He obtained his graduate and postgraduate degrees from the University of Dhaka.

United Commercial Bank launches Uclick

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank has launched Uclick, a customer onboarding app, in line with Bangladesh Bank's Electronic Know Your Customer policy.

The platform enables opening accounts anytime and anywhere, requiring just a national identity card, doing away with branch visits and allowing making an initial deposit, says a press release.

White House to discuss chip shortage in CEO summit

REUTERS, Washington

Senior White House officials will meet on Monday with top executives from nearly 20 major companies to discuss a global semiconductor shortage that has roiled the automotive industry and technology firms.

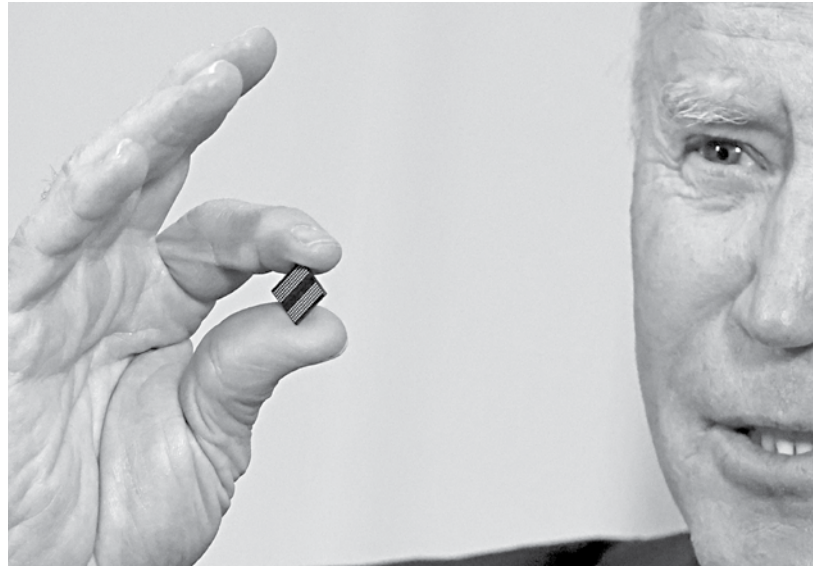
The White House meeting is billed as the "CEO Summit on Semiconductor and Supply Chain Resilience" and will include White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese.

As of midday Friday, 19 major companies had agreed to send executives, including General Motors Chief Executive Mary Barra, Ford Motor Chief Executive Jim Farley and Chrysler-parent Stellantis NV CEO Carlos Tavares.

Deese said in a statement the "summit reflects the urgent need to strengthen critical supply chains."

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo will also take part, as well as executives from GlobalFoundries, PACCAR, NXP and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, AT&T, Samsung, Google-parent Alphabet, Dell Technologies, Intel Corp, Medtronic, Northrop Grumman, HP, Cummins and Micron.

A US auto industry group this week urged the government to help and warned that a global semiconductor



REUTERS/FILE

US President Joe Biden holds a semiconductor chip as he speaks prior to signing an executive order, aimed at addressing a global semiconductor chip shortage, in the State Dining Room at the White House in Washington.

shortage could result in 1.28 million fewer vehicles built this year and disrupt production for another six months.

Over the weekend, GM canceled more truck production shifts at two US plants.

"Trying to address supply chains on a crisis-by-crisis basis creates critical national security vulnerabilities," Sullivan said in a statement.

Automakers have been hit

particularly hard by the global chip shortage after many canceled orders when auto plants were idled during the coronavirus pandemic.

When they were ready to recommence production, they found that chipmakers were busy fulfilling orders for the consumer electronics industry which has seen demand for premium devices - both for work and leisure - boom as people spent more time at home.

Alibaba shares soar as it plays down hit from record \$2.78b fine

AFP, Beijing

Shares in tech giant Alibaba climbed more than six percent Monday as the e-commerce titan reassured investors that a record \$2.78 billion antitrust fine imposed by China would have little impact on its operations.

However, concerns that officials had not finished with a crackdown on the sector weighed on big-name firms including Tencent and JD.com.

Regulators slammed the tech giant with the penalty on Saturday after a months-long probe concluded it had been abusing its dominant market position.

But in a conference call to investors on Monday, Alibaba's board put a positive spin on the regulatory blow saying it appeared to be the end of the investigation, with chairman Daniel Zhang saying the fine would not have a "negative impact" on business operations.

The sanction comes as the government cracks down on major Chinese tech

platforms -- and Alibaba in particular -- over allegations of anti-competitive behaviour and misuse of consumer data. "We had good guidance on some of the specific issues under the anti-monopoly law and I would say that we are pleased that we are able to put this matter behind us," company vice-chair Joe Tsai added.

Alibaba will introduce measures to lower entry barriers and business costs faced by merchants on its shopping platform. The firm's stock price jumped nearly nine percent to as high as HK\$237.60 in Hong Kong on Monday morning before easing back marginally to close up 6.5 per cent.

But other tech firms took a hit with Tencent down one percent, JD.com losing two percent and NetEase one percent lower. "Alibaba's stock has rallied as the fine wasn't as bad as it could have been," said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley. "However, it is the thought that counts, and investors seem concerned that Alibaba will not be the last China tech giant in the fine firing line."

Boutiques in a bind

FROM PAGE B4

"If they count losses, we have to face problems in two ways -- one for getting wages for work which they delivered already and second for receiving new orders," she added.

Around 400-500 female entrepreneurs, who sell clothing and accessories in the eight northern districts of Rangpur division, are concerned about how to sustain their operations.

Meanwhile, around 10,000 artisans -- mostly women -- are going to suffer for a lack of work orders, said Fatema Yasmin Era, Rangpur divisional president of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The government should bring these entrepreneurs and artisans under the coverage of special incentives so that the industry can survive, she added.

In reply to a question about these

incentives, Era said few entrepreneurs in Rangpur division had been brought under the stimulus package due to a lack of cooperation by the authorities concerned.

Nurel Haque, deputy director of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) office in Thakurgaon, said stimulus funds are disbursed by commercial banks, making it difficult for the small entrepreneurs to fulfil the conditions to avail loans.

This is because most small-scale entrepreneurs cannot submit the required documentation to secure loans from a stimulus package, said Haque, also member secretary of the district's Small and Medium Enterprise Loan Monitoring Committee.

Haque said Tk 80 lakh had initially been sanctioned for Thakurgaon's small entrepreneurs, who can avail a maximum of Tk 5 lakh each depending on his or her trading scale.

Disbursement to run till June

FROM PAGE B4

The inability to repay the loans created a roadblock to the usual credit flow to the tannery sector.

Banks are allowed to offer a one-time exit policy with only a 2 per cent down payment for the tannery owners, who are unable to run their business.

The tannery owners, whose bank

loans amounted to up to Tk 5 crore as of December 31 last year, will get a three-year timeframe for the exit.

Defaulters with loans of more than Tk 5 crore will have a maximum of five years to repay the loans.

The tannery owners, who are able to run their business, will enjoy a rescheduling facility by making only a 2 per cent down payment.

Banks are permitted to reschedule the loans for 10 years, which include a one-year grace period.

Banks can impose a maximum of 9 per cent interest on the rescheduled or restructured loans.

The interest amount of the loans can be rebated by banks but there is no scope to waive the principal amount.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.

Memo: 35.02.0000.016.11.001.20-77 Date: 12 April, 2021

Extension of Eol Submission Deadline For Individual Consultant-Procurement Specialist

Due to unavoidable circumstance, the submission deadline of the Eol requested vide ref no 35.02.0000.016.11.001.20-67, dated 04 April, 2021 is hereby extended as follows:

Current Deadline	Extended Deadline
21/04/2021 Up to 05:00 PM	19/05/2021 Up to 05:00 PM

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the above position can also be send through mail (aed.mt@dtca.gov.bd). All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

A. K. M. Hafizur Rahman
A K M Hafizur Rahman
Additional Executive Director (Mass Transit)
E-mail: aed.mt@dtca.gov.bd
Mobile: 01753904534

GD-749

Microsoft in discussions to buy Nuance Communications

AFP, Washington

Technology giant Microsoft is in advanced discussions to buy the US group Nuance Communications, which specializes in artificial intelligence, for \$16 billion, according to media reports Sunday.

The deal could be announced Monday, CNBC reported, citing a source close to the case.

According to the source, Microsoft made an initial offer in December and is willing to pay \$56 per share for Nuance, which represents a premium of 23 percent compared to the group's closing stock price on Friday.

If the deal goes through, this would be the second-most important acquisition for Microsoft after its \$27 billion purchase of LinkedIn in 2016. Neither Microsoft nor Nuance responded to AFP's request for comment.

Local power solution providers up their game

FROM PAGE B1

Alam said Energypac was capable of providing all power system solutions. "Our world-class products survive the toughest test before delivery."

In his view, Bangladeshi companies can meet 100 per cent of the demand of the distribution network. But the Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008 does not give protection to local companies, he said.

"For this reason, the foreign companies are getting a lion's share of the work order."

As there is no provision to provide special treatment to local manufacturers, state-run companies such as Bangladesh Power Development Board, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Dhaka Power Distribution Company, Dhaka Electric Supply Company, and Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board are awarding orders to foreign companies.

"Sometimes, foreign companies supply substandard products. As a result, the government does not get value for money," he alleged.

If the government provides policy support, local companies could offer the entire range of power distribution solutions, he said.

Alam sees a good prospect for the industry, saying exports might go up in the coming days as the quality of locally made products was improving.

Bangladeshi power equipment manufacturers have achieved European standards in terms of quality and safety, said Prof Shaikh Anwarul Fattah, a professor of electrical and electronic engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Companies such as Energypac export products to various countries. "The sector has become self-sufficient and can cater to the demand of the power sector in Bangladesh," said Prof Fattah.

Local manufacturers export products such as cables, distribution boards, transformers, switchgears, wires, insulators, fans, heat and speed control systems, magnetic contractors, switches, and irons.

Other export-oriented products include tube lights, filament bulbs, light fittings, table lamps, water heaters, torch lights, and lift equipment.

Pran-RFL Group started manufacturing transformers in 2014 through its sister concern Sylvan Technologies. Until recently, it used to make single-phase and three-phase transformers, which are employed for power distribution from main lines to homes.

"Now, we are making transformers for substations. We are supplying the equipment to public and private companies," said Kamruzzaman Kamal, director for marketing of Pran-RFL. Pran-RFL invested Tk 70 crore in establishing the associated plant and other facilities.

Prithvi Chandra Paul, general manager for sales and marketing of TS Transformer, a sister concern of SQ Group, said local companies had achieved the capacity to make high-quality products.

But the government policy was not giving special treatment to the local industry, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban
71-72, Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No: 49.04.0000.009.14.001.21(22)-102 Dated: 11.04.2021

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
559799	"Interior Decoration Work" including Civil, Sanitary, Electrical, Mechanical & Furniture Work to shift Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment at Level 19 & 20 of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban under the Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB) at 71-72 Old Elephant Road, Dhaka.	11-05-2021 5.00 PM	12-05-2021 12.00 PM
561234	"Beautification Work" Including Interior Decoration With Civil, Electrical, Mechanical & Furniture Work of Front Side of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban Under The Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) at 71-72 Old Elephant Road, Dhaka.	11-05-2021 5.00 PM	12-05-2021 12.00 PM

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 on line through any registered banks branches up to 11:59 AM on 12-05-2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Shoaib Ahmad Khan)
Joint Secretary
Director (Finance & Welfare)
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
Email: d.fw@wewb.gov.bd

GD-744

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Establishment and Infrastructure Development Including Beautification of Government Primary Schools in Dhaka City and Purbachol Project
Directorate of Primary Education
Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216
www.dpe.gov.bd

Record Number: 38.01.0000.107.14.007.2020.247 Date: 12/04/2021

Time Extension Notice

With reference to the Invitation for Tenders (IFT) No. 01/2020-2021, Date: 17/03/2021 for the "Procurement of Non Consulting Services". The tender notice was published in the daily newspapers named "The Daily Star" on 17/03/2021 & "The Bangladesh Protidin" on 20/03/2021. The 1st time extension has been made to the above tender in the following.

Description	Date & Time as per the Tender Notice	Amended Date & Time
Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 15-04-2021 Time: 01.00	Date: 05-05-2021 Time: 01.00

All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

MD. MIJANUR RAHMAN (Joint Secretary)
Project Director
Establishment and Infrastructure Development Including Beautification of Government Primary Schools in Dhaka City and Purbachol Project
Phone No: 55074613

GD-753

University of Rajshahi
Office of the Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art
Invitation for Tender (OTM)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2. Agency	University of Rajshahi.
3. Procurement entity name	Chairman, Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi.
4. Procurement entity code	Not used at present.
5. Procurement entity code	Rajshahi.
6. Invitation for	Goods.
7. Invitation Ref. No.	R-573/1719(10), Date: 22/10/2019.

KEY INFORMATION

8. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9. Budget and source of fund	GOB.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10. Tender package No.	No: R-573/16(15).
11. Tender last selling date	25-April-2021, 12:00pm
12. Tender closing date and time	26-April-2021 11:00am
13. Tender opening date and time	26-April-2021 11:30am
14. Name and address of the office(s)	Address
Selling tender documents	Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi.
Receiving tender documents	Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi.
Opening tender documents	Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15. Eligibility of Tender
Tender must meet the following qualifying & other eligibility criteria stated in tender documents:
a) Tender should have minimum 05 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related service. (years counting from the date of publishing IFT); b) The satisfactory completion of supply of similar good at least 12 lot in the one work orders last 5 years; c) The minimum amount of liquid assets (i.e. working capital or credit line(s)) net of other contractual commitment is 12 lac; d) Certificate of Incorporation; e) Product Must be ISO Certified; f) Current Trade License; g) Current Income Tax Clearance Certificate; h) VAT Registration Certificate (13 Digit BIN); i) Bank Solvency Certificate; j) Warranty Certificate; k) Spare Spools Availability Certificate; l) Bidder Must be submitted Manufacturer Authorization Letter for laptop, Desktop & UPS. For other products should be submitted distributorship certificate/Reseller Certificate; m) Original Product Catalogue/Brochure.

16. Brief description of work	As show in SL-18.
17. Special instruction	Should visit the place of work, existing structure and drawing of proposed work before quoting rate.

Name of the work	Tender security amount (in Tk)	Price of tender document (in Tk) (Non refundable)	Completion time in month
18. Supply and Installation of Computer and Computer Accessories for Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi.	Tk. 42,000.00 (in the form of BD/PO/Bank Guaranty (As per prescribed format) in favor of Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi)	Tk. 1,000.00 (Schedule Purchase place Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art, University of Rajshahi)	3 months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19. Name of official inviting tender	Professor T. M. M. Nurul Moudassar Chowdhury.
20. Designation of official inviting tender	Chairman, Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art.
21. Address of official inviting tender	Rajshahi University, Rajshahi-6205.
22. Contract details of official inviting tender	0721711302.
23. The university/authority reserve the right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	

Note: If the last date of selling and receiving the tender document fall in any holiday or the office remains closed in any unavoidable circumstances, the same shall be done on the next working days respectively.

Chairman & Convener
T.O.C
Department of Graphics Design, Crafts and History of Art
University of Rajshahi

GD-741