

Here's hoping

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"I still believe it should have been held in February when things were looking a bit more stable. This is really frustrating," said Monirul, also the executive director of Academic and Creative Publishers' Association of Bangladesh.

Another thing this year's fair dearly missed is the writers' presence. The fair is usually a place for writers to meet with their readers, a place for exchanging views with each other. But this was difficult due to social distancing requirements. Moreover, many writers living abroad couldn't come home to be there for their book's publication.

Poet Piash Mazid said, "I could only get very little interaction with the readers. The congregation of writers and readers that we are used to were sorely missed this year."

Mithun Raksham, writer and publisher of Thokbirim, said, "Every year, indigenous researchers and literary enthusiasts come here all the

way from Rangamati and Mymensingh to buy from my stall. But due to the lockdown, almost none of them could come this year."

Most visitors were also frustrated. From the delayed start to the frequent timing changes, they had a lot to complain about when this correspondent spoke to them.

"This year's fair felt underwhelming. It was short, and there was no festive feel to it," said regular Boi Mela visitor Suraiya Jasmine. "Besides, the timing was odd -- noon is no time to visit a book fair in summer."

However, some also praised the initiative.

Shahadat Apurbo, a private job holder, said, "Despite everything, the book fair was held with safety protocols in place. We were able to visit the fair, buy some books and spend time with family and friends. Hopefully, things will change for the better and the next year's Boi Mela will be bigger, better and free of Covid-19."

Contacted, Bangla Academy

Director General Habibullah Siraji said, "Everything is different due to the pandemic. But through all the constraints, we did manage to organise the fair."

"There were expectations from many sides, and we tried our best to address them. We gave it our 100 percent," he said.

This year, 834 units of space were allocated to 540 publishing houses and organisations to set up their stalls and pavilions.

The authorities allotted 154 units on Bangla Academy premises to 107 organisations, and 680 units in Suhrawardy Udyan to 433 organisations.

Considering the Covid-19 social-distancing requirements, the land earmarked for this year's fair was expanded to 1,500,000 square feet from the usual 900,000 square feet.

A total of 2,640 new titles hit the fair this year with 64 of them on the last day, according to Bangla Academy.



Of all the patients that our photojournalist saw coming in to the Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday between 11:30am and 12:40pm, nearly half were children. Failing to avail services at other hospitals, many rushed to the hospital from different parts of the division to seek treatment, oxygen support or ICU facility.

Take lessons

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according to the infection rate of a particular area.

In order to curb transmission, Zillur said it is of paramount importance to halt inter-district public transportation services for a limited period, impose strong time restrictions on marketplaces, and ban recreational public gatherings.

He stressed on work from home practices for both public and private offices, and operating factories with residential workers.

"In all cases, strict enforcement of health protocols needs to be ensured."

Pointing out that movement restriction will take its toll on the poor, Zillur said last year, initiatives were taken to provide emergency assistance to the poor, but there were leakages in distribution.

"It's important to keep that experience in mind while taking new initiatives. Besides, disbursement of existing safety-net support cannot be held up and needs to be expedited," he added.

Raising the question of accountability, he said the health ministry needs to overcome the crisis of credibility and trust for combating

the second wave effectively.

Healthy Bangladesh proposed establishing a high-powered national public-private monitoring body to monitor the outcomes of policy measures on health and economy.

The body will give suggestion on remedial measures.

Healthy Bangladesh called for urgent expansion of Covid-19 hospital services and gave emphasis on civic responsibility.

"It is impossible to combat Covid-19 without social awareness and responsible behaviour of every citizen," he said.

TCB trucks

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had failed to get his groceries for two consecutive days. But he'd still rather buy from here, simply because of the relatively lower pricing.

But he lamented the shortage of stocks and number of trucks. "How it is possible for 10 trucks to provide for 1.7 million people?" asked Tohidul.

Atia Begum, standing next in line to him, said, "We have to stand in line for an hour or so. But once we reach the end, we end up getting fewer goods at higher prices."

"What makes it even harder is that the goods come in a package. If you don't buy onion, it doesn't give oil. But I don't need big onions like the ones sold here, I need cooking oil," she said with frustration.

Customers also alleged that the trucks are not going to places where they are needed most.

As an example, they cited how only one truck goes to Khalishpur, one of the lowest-income areas, whereas Shibbari Mor, a more affluent area, also gets one truck. They said this misallocation does not help the people of the city.

According to TCB sources, lentils are being sold at Tk 55 per kg, sugar at Tk 55, gram flour at Tk 55, onion (Turkey) at Tk 20 per kg, and soybean oil at Tk 100 per litre.

In comparison, at a kitchen market in the city's Moylapota area, sugar was being sold at Tk 70 per kg, lentils at Tk 80 to 85 per kg, local lentils at Tk 120, gram flour at Tk 80, local onions at Tk 40, and soybean oil at Tk 140 per litre.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman, head of TCB's Khulna regional office, told The Daily Star that they were conducting operations according to instructions from Dhaka's TCB headquarters. "I have informed the higher ups of the people's demands. Maybe they are considering increasing the supply of goods," he said.

409 pedestrians

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of the pedestrians.

Of the deceased, 33.72 percent died in Dhaka division, 15.29 percent died in the Rajshahi division, 14.90 percent died in Chattogram division, 9.80 percent in Khulna division, 6.27 in Barisal division, 4.70 percent in Sylhet division, 6.66 percent in Rangpur division, and 8.62 percent died in Mymensingh division.

Review not

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"Founding Father of the Nation", but the court committed an error in its observations by using "Founding Fathers". The error is liable to be reviewed or expunged, it adds.

Article 96 deals with formation and functions of SJC. The article was scrapped when the 16th amendment was introduced.

In the full text of the verdict that upheld the scrapping of the amendment, the Supreme Court said the provision of SJC was reinstated in the constitution.

It also said the independence of the judiciary was undermined and curtailed by making the judiciary "vulnerable to a process of removal of the judges by parliament".

The procedure entailed in the SJC is more in consonance with the spirit of the constitutional scheme, the SC observed in the full verdict. The provision of SJC was not only for the interest of justice, but also for the independence of the judiciary, the court said.

The scrapping of the 16th constitutional amendment was widely discussed among ruling party politicians as the SC, in its full verdict, made observations critical of the then prevailing political culture.

14 virtual

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courts of the capital.

Magistrates of the 14 courts are Md Tofazzal Hossain, Md Ashek Imam, Md Shahinur Rahman, Debdash Chandra Adhikary, Md Mainul Islam, Satyabrata Sikder, Debabrata Biswas, Morshed Al Mamun Bhuiyan, Md Atiqul Islam, Mehedi Pavel Sweet, Begum Rejmin Sultana, Ferdous Wahid, Joynab Begum, and Wasim Sheikh.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain on April 11 directed all criminal courts across the country to run their functions through video conferencing from yesterday, as part of the efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19.

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh, Phone-8901600-14, 8901680-94, Fax-88-02-8901558, www.biman-airlines.com

Project & Works

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (WORKS)

Ref: 30.34.0000.023.03.740.2021 Date: 12th April 2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP system portal for different works of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. vide Tender ID # 56820, 568101, 565841. To submit e-Tenders, relevant information are available in <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>. For further information and guidelines, advised to go through www.biman-airlines.com or contact e-GP help desk helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd

(Tarek Alamgir)
Manager Civil

GD-747

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

Govt. BL College, Khulna

Memo No: BLC/CEDP/541 Dated: 12 April, 2021

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No. and Description	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
567449	CEDP/2020/G-9 Procurement of Books and Journals	25-Apr-2021 16:00	26-Apr-2021 14:00
568730	CEDP/2020-21/G-6 Procurement of Closed Circuit Camera and Access Control Terminal and Establishment of Wi-Fi Zone	26-Apr-2021 16:00	27-Apr-2021 14:00

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 document from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any branch of any registered banks within the date mentioned in the tender notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the national e-GP System portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Prof. Sharif Atiquzzaman
Principal (in charge)
Govt. BL College, Khulna

GD-746

Government of the People's of Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo no-1700 Date: 12/04/2021

e-Tender Notice-e-GP Tender (OTM)

e-Tender invited in the e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Name Work	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time
1	563706 Office of the ACE Memo No. 1393 dt: 07/03/2021	Establishment of 40 (Forty) Technical Training Centers (TTC) at Upazila Level one at Singair Upazila in the District of Manikganj (Sub-Head: Construction of vertical extension of Academic building, New Sub-Station Building, New Underground Water Reservoir, Construction of Compound Drain, Remaining Boundary wall and Guard Shed etc), during the year-2020-21.	11-May-2021 17:00	12-May-2021 11:30

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 System portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered bank's branches within due time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (email: ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd) and call to 02-7710401. Interested person can communicate with understanding during office hours.

Md. Abu Zafar
Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
E-mail: ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd

GD-752

Disappointed

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every district headquarter hospital. We have also advised the government to take necessary measures to ensure oxygen facilities. But the government has not taken any initiative to develop the medical system to save the lives of the common people," GM Quader also said.

The Jatiya Party chairman hoped that the government would quickly improve the country's medical system and ensure medical services for all.

It's not

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"The prime minister-pledged money did not reach the distressed due to red tape and bureaucratic failure. They show accounts that exist only on papers," the statement added.

The party proposed that people's representatives should play a vital role during the pandemic.

It proposed for giving responsibilities to people's representatives to make the "lockdown effective" and allocation of Tk 3,000 crore more for workers and poor people besides the unspent money allocated earlier.

The party also proposed to ensure accountabilities of the organisation that is failing to provide Covid-19 vaccines in due time and explore an alternative source of vaccine and lower the vaccination age to 18 years.

The government should take responsibilities of treatment and health services of people, it further added.

Patuakhali Science and Technology University

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Phone: 04427-56056
Email: deandm@pstu.ac.bd

Memo No: PSTU/ESDM/Lab.E/Tender/20/39/572 Date: 11/04/2021

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Invitation Reference No.	Name of Works	Tender security (Amount in BDT)	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	565995	PSTU/Lib/LC-29/P-67/2020-2021/234	Supply of Books for Central Library at PSTU for 2020-2021FY	Tk. 30000	26-Apr-2021 11:00
2	567533	PSTU/ESDM/Lab.E/Tender/20/39/568	Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipment (Scientific Equipment) of Faculty of Agriculture, ESDM, LMA, NFS and Central Laboratory for FY2020-2021 at PSTU.	Tk. 350000	26-Apr-2021 11:30
3	567532	PSTU/ESDM/Lab.E/Tender/20/39/569	Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipment (Computer and Accessories) of Faculty of Agriculture, ESDM, LMA, NFS and Central Laboratory for FY2020-2021 at PSTU.	Tk. 15000	26-Apr-2021 12:00
4	567531	PSTU/ESDM/Lab.E/Tender/20/39/570	Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipment (Electronics) of Faculty of Agriculture, ESDM, LMA, NFS and Central Laboratory for FY2020-2021 at PSTU	Tk. 30000	26-Apr-2021 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Member Secretary
Tender Invitation Committee

GD-748

PUBALI BANK LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE

26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 1281st Board Meeting (physical/virtual) held on Monday, April 12, 2021 considered and approved the Audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2020 at 2.30 PM and unanimously decided to declare and recommended the following decisions in respect of 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of the Bank:

i)	Recommended Dividend for the year ended 31 December 2020:	12.50 % Cash Dividend
ii)	Date:	3rd June 2021 (Thursday)
	Time:	10.30 AM
ii)	Venue:	Virtually by using digital platform in pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's order No. SEC/SRMIC/94-231/91 dated 31 March 2021.
	Digital Platform	Pubali Bank Auditorium, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka
iii)	Record Date	9th May 2021 (Sunday)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

Particulars	2020		2019	
	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated
iv) Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Taka)	3.57	3.60	2.08	2.10
v) Net Asset Value (NAV) (Taka in Crore)	3,880.80	3,869.47	* 3,227.17	* 3,212.11
vi) NAV Per Share (Taka)	37.74	37.63	*31.38	*31.24
vii) Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) (Taka)	3.68	4.02	(0.42)	(0.32)

* Restated

Notes:

- The Members' (Shareholders') names appearing in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date (Sunday, 9 May 2021), will be entitled to Dividend and to attend the Annual General Meeting.
- The Members are requested to update the particulars of their Bank Account (Bank & Branch Name, Account Number, Branch Routing Number), Name, signature and Mailing Address including mobile/land phone number, e-mail address etc. through Depository Participant (DP) before the 'Record Date' i.e. 9 May 2021.
- The Members are requested to update their BO Accounts with 12 (Twelve) digit Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) through their respective Depository Participant (DP) before the 'Record Date'. If anyone fails to update his/her BO Accounts with 12 (Twelve) digit Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) before the 'Record Date', disbursement of any cash dividend will be made (other than a company) after deduction of Advance Income Tax (AIT) @15% (Fifteen percent) instead of 10% (Ten percent) as per section 54 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 (Ordinance No. XXXVI of 1984) as amended by Finance Act, 2015.
- Merchant Banks and Depository Participants (DPs) are requested to provide the Company a statement with details (Shareholder Name, BO ID, Client-wise shareholding position and applicable tax rate) of their margin loan holders who held shares of the Company as on 'Record Date' along with the Bank Account Name & number, routing number etc. of the Merchant Banks & DPs within 27 May 2021 including name of the contact person otherwise dividend to be credited to the bank account of the respective shareholders.

By order of the Board of Directors
sd/-
Zahid Ahsan
General Manager & Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka
April 12, 2021