

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 1.35%	▲ 1.24%	\$1,728.67	\$63.70	▲ 1.38%	▲ 0.72%	▲ 0.44%	▼ 0.48%	BUY TK 83.95	98.80	114.44	12.58
5,258.50	9,167.52	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	48,544.06	29,751.61	3,187.90	3,396.47	SELL TK 84.95	102.60	118.24	13.23



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2021, BAISHAKH 1, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Govt decides to keep banks open after mass confusion

Business hours from 10am to 1pm

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Khaza Hasan Chisty, a small business owner, yesterday spent more than an hour around noon at the Tejgaon branch of Dutch-Bangla Bank in the capital to withdraw cash so that he does not face any liquidity shortage during the hard lockdown starting from today.

He got a serial number of 40 as there was a massive crowd at the branch after the government ordered banks to close during the lockdown period between midnight of April 14 and the morning of April 21.

Although the clients had put on a face mask to prevent themselves from the coronavirus, it was not enough to maintain the health protocol given the huge crowd, said Chisty.

"I was terrified of the crowd, but there was no scope to avoid visiting the bank as I have to keep adequate cash in my hand during the lockdown period when banks will remain close," he said.

Like Chisty, thousand of others rushed to banks as well, after both the central bank and the government on April 12 ordered banks to keep all branches close from Wednesday, as the country has tightened measures to curb the spread of the virus.

In the afternoon, the government and the central bank backtracked from the stance, saying some branches will remain open during the restriction period.

Albeit a relief, the late decision frustrated Chisty.

*Banks will have to open their main branches at every district town. Upazila-level branches will operate on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.*

"The authorities should have taken the decision two or three days ago to dispel confusion among the commoners whether banks would remain open or not."

Crowding in a small space creates risks in many folds to spread the deadly flu, he said.

As per the new decision, clients will be allowed to do banking from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Branches will have to be closed by 2:30 pm after completing regular procedures.

Authorised dealer (AD) branches that carry out international transactions, including those for exports and imports, will operate as usual.

If any AD branch is not available in a radius of two kilometres in city corporation areas, a non-AD branch, which is dedicated to operating general banking, will have to be kept open.

Banks will keep their main branch in the district town open as well.

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**If life's uncertainties had a face, this is certainly it. Lost in thought, Nur Mohammad ponders over his fate yesterday. Seven days have gone by waiting at Notun Bazar in the capital from 7:00am till noon. None has sought his manual labour, in offer for merely Tk 300 a day. With a strict lockdown imminent, there is little he can do to make ends meet.**

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Informal workers slip through the cracks again

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Workers of the urban informal sector, which has been largely ignored despite the devastating pandemic for more than a year, are facing a fresh onslaught of adversities amid a surge in coronavirus infections.

Besides, the announcement of a week-long hard lockdown from today has only exacerbated their hardship following a year of living from hand to mouth.

From CNG-powered auto-rickshaw drivers to small tea stall owners, informal earners have witnessed a drastic fall in income in the past three weeks as the

number of Covid-19 patients and deaths grew at an alarming rate from the second week of March.

"From 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, I earned only Tk 10," Srilal Babu, a cobbler in the capital's Rupnagar area, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Babu was sitting on a small wooden stool on the footpath with his eyes filled with complete hopelessness. His daily income dropped to Tk 150 to Tk 200 in the last few days, from more than Tk 700 before the pandemic.

"Life has become so tough. Over one year, I can't even afford to buy food for my kids," said Babu, who has two children.

He had to shut his business for

a few months last year due to the initial lockdown when he had to take over Tk 80,000 in loans to bear his family expenses.

"I now struggle to pay the instalment of those loans," the 55-year-old said, adding he did not get even one kilogram of rice as a donation during the pandemic, let alone the government stimulus funds.

According to experts, more than five lakh rickshaw-pullers, 25,000 CNG-powered auto-rickshaw drivers, over one lakh ride-hailing motorcycle drivers, and thousands of street vendors, van-pullers, bus drivers, cobblers, restaurant workers, and sweetmeat makers

will suffer from the fresh lockdown measures.

Rubel Miah, a CNG-powered auto-rickshaw driver, said his daily income had halved to Tk 500 since February last year.

"January and February of this year were pretty good as we were able to get frequent trips. Since March, the number of passengers dropped and after paying rent, there is virtually no income."

"And now, for these new restrictions, I don't know how I will pay my house rent this month."

Sugarcane juice seller Md Ashiq said life has become increasingly difficult due to the pandemic.

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## Govt mulls using IoT, AI in 100 villages

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government aims to use modern technology to boost agricultural and aquaculture production in 100 villages across Bangladesh, according to Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT.

"We will use the Internet of Things (IoT), drones, and artificial intelligence (AI) to this end," Palak said while distributing paddy seeds and fertilisers among marginal farmers at a function in Natore yesterday.

"The use of technology will also reduce the farmers' cost of production and turn these villages into digital villages," he added.

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## Another bitter Baishakh for sweet shops

JAGARAN CHAKMA and MD FAZLUH RAHMAN

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar, is the busiest day for sweet makers in Bangladesh as customers throng outlets to buy delicious items.

But the collapse in demand because of the year-long pandemic and new countrywide lockdown has dampened the festive mood.

Over the years, the festival has become the biggest occasion for sweetmeat makers on the back of a rising trend among corporates to send gift hampers, containing sweet items, to their clients and vendors.

Thanks to the corporate purchase, producers would sell as much as 100 tonnes of sweets worth about Tk 3 crore per day between April 9 and 17.

It is a tradition to welcome the Bangla new year, which falls on April 14, with sweets. The sales ahead of Pahela Baishakh and throughout the month are the second biggest spending season after Eid-ul-Fitr.

But shop-owners say the sales volume will not be more than a third of the average time, or Tk 1 crore per day across the country during the period.

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## Strictly follow health safety rules

Govt, trade bodies ask factory owners

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government, trade bodies and garment union leaders strongly advised factory owners to strictly follow health safety rules in operations of production units so that workers are not infected with Covid-19 during lockdowns.

The labour ministry has already asked the factory owners to follow a staggered schedule for workers so that the spread of the virus can be contained.

Begum Monnujan Sufian, state minister for labour and employment, in a statement Monday also called for ensuring that masks were worn alongside social distancing in the factories.

She said 23 committees formed earlier would monitor factories in different zones to ensure that the health safety guidelines were being followed while the factories were in operation.

Sufian also urged the factory owners to ensure timely payment of salaries and allowances to workers during the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

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## Restaurant workers demand cash support

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Restaurant workers yesterday demanded cash support and food rations from the government in order to survive the week-long "hard lockdown" beginning today.

They made this plea during a rally in front of the National Press Club, organised by the Bangladesh Hotel Restaurant Sweetmeat Workers Federation (BHRSWF).

To tame the recent surge in coronavirus infections across the country, the government has once again imposed strict restrictions on movement for a week-long period, during which all offices, hotels, and restaurants will be shuttered.

These restrictions will force restaurant workers to sit idle at home and suffer from a loss of income, the BHRSWF said.

For example, many restaurant workers became jobless when the government declared a general holiday to curb the spread of Covid-19 during the initial outbreak in March last year.

At the time, numerous workers were sacked without being paid their arrears.

They also did not receive any festival bonus during Eid-ul-Fitr or Eid-ul-Azha.

And now once again, owners have sent their workers on leave in line with the government's directive but without paying the monthly salaries, the federation said.

As a result, hotel and restaurant workers are passing hard times, it added.

Akhtaruzzaman Khan, vice-president of the BHRSWF, said that during Ramadan every year, owners usually send their workers home empty-handed.

"And as the restriction is set to begin, the same thing will occur again," he added.

Considering the situation, the BHRSWF submitted a seven-point demand, including Tk 10,000 monthly cash support and food rations, to the Prime Minister's Office after the rally.

The federation estimates that more than 30 lakh workers are employed by hotels and restaurants across the country.

## March cost more

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Consumers had to shell out more in March to purchase goods and services owing to an increase in food and non-food prices, shows data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released yesterday.

The BBS said inflation rose 15 basis points to 5.47 per cent in March from that a month ago, with people in rural area bearing the brunt of higher prices.

"Rising prices of essential has made it difficult for me to bear expenses of my family," said Delwar Hossain, who went back to his Rajshahi home on losing his job at a private company in Dhaka last year following the outbreak of coronavirus.

He now work as an assistant of a carpenter. This was the third month in a row that Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of general increase in prices of a basket of commodities, has been rising. In January, inflation was 5.02 per cent.

The BBS data showed that food inflation edged up 9 basis points to 5.51 per cent in March from that the previous month. The ratio of the spike was higher in case of non-food items.

Non-food cost soared 22 basis points to 5.39 per cent last month from 5.17 per cent in February.

Inflation in rural areas, where low and middle-income people mainly live, went up by 33 basis points to 5.55 per cent, fueled by a price hike of both food and non-food items.

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## Stocks keep gaining

Investor participation on the rise

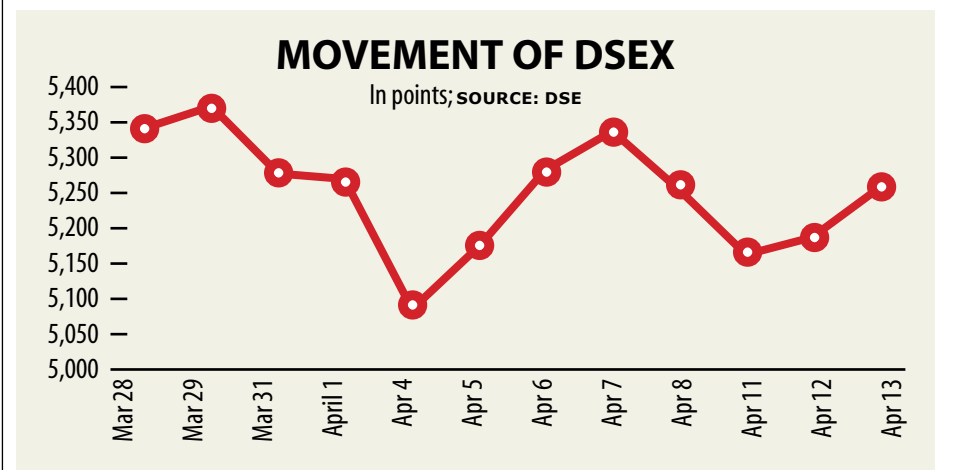
STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market continued to rise for the second consecutive day yesterday thanks to the higher participation of investors, who came in large numbers to take benefit of the low and lucrative prices of shares.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), surged by 70 points, or 1.35 per cent, to 5,258.50.

The positive start of the day gave a boost to the investors' psychology, said Mohammad Nazrul Islam, chief executive officer of MTB Securities.

READ MORE ON B2





## Another bitter Baishakh for sweet shops

FROM PAGE B1 This is the second year in row that sweetmeat stores have lower sales because of the impact of Covid-19.

One such gloomy vendor is Premium Sweets, a high-end brand and a favourite among corporates.

"This year is slightly better than the previous as outlets have remained open for certain hours of the day. But the demand is low as there is a lack of bulk orders compared to the pre-pandemic years," said Mahbubur Rahman Bakul, head of corporate affairs of Premium Sweets.

Due to low sales, the company has temporarily closed three of its outlets in the city. Mithai, a sister concern of Pran-RFL Group, had a bumper Pahela Baishakh every year since its inception in 2015.

"But the scenario is quite different this year," said Kamruzzaman Kamal, director for marketing of the group.

The company has 43 stores and offers 15 types of gift boxes and hampers weighing 1 kg to 4 kg.

Kamal said: "Due to the lockdown, we are trying to reach the doorstep of consumers through online orders or over the telephone."

"We usually plan to sell sweets of Tk 1 crore on the first day of Baishakh. But once again, we could not sell ahead of the festival this time. We did not get an order for sweets this year," said Syed Nurul Islam, CEO of Well Group, on Monday.

Jane Alam Romel, group chief marketing officer of IDLC Finance, said the company

used to send 500 packages containing sweets and other items to stakeholders on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh before the pandemic.

"We have not sent a single packet in the last two years."

Similarly, Crown Cement Group used to send 1,500 packets of sweet items on average to corporate clients, well-wishers, media and banking clients. Like the previous Baishakh, it has not sent any sweet items to such stakeholders, said an official.

A spokesperson of a food-processing company said his company would send packets to 300 stakeholders on the eve of Pahela Baishakh. "We have not been doing this for two years now."

While there is no reliable data about sweetmeat's market size in Bangladesh, manufacturers say about 10,000 tonnes of sweets worth Tk 300 crore are sold annually. The demand has halved compared to previous years.

Brands such as Muslim, Mithai, Rosh, Premium Sweets, Banoful, Meena Sweets and Khazana Mithai sell 1,000 tonnes of sweet items combined.

As per Mithai's previous analysis, the market for sweets has expanded rapidly in recent years thanks to rising purchasing power. The demand for branded sweets increased by 30 per cent and non-branded by 60 to 70 per cent from 2016 to 2019.

About 3,500 sweet shops are registered with the Bangladesh Sweets Manufacturers Association. Of them, around 250 are located in the capital.

## Strong cybersecurity to build trust in a digital world

FROM PAGE B4 Banks and business organisations should view the increase in number and severity of breaches as a wakeup call to integrate elements of their cybersecurity and fraud programmes.

Bangladesh ranks second in South Asia in the cybersecurity index that is compiled to assess a country's preparedness for basic cyberattacks and their efforts to manage cybercrimes.

According to the Bangladesh Bank Annual Report for fiscal 2019-20, it has taken measures regarding cybersecurity.

The measures include training and awareness programmes, formation of a separate Cyber Security Unit (CSU) responsible for ensuring IT security, and enhancing information and cybersecurity of Bangladesh Bank.

And now, all banks and NBFs are to get ISO 27001 certification.

Government agencies are a prime target for criminals who seek to cause disruption, spread distrust and obtain classified information.

Governments all over the world hold sensitive information which could be misused if accessed by hackers. As a result, they often come under cyberattacks but worryingly, most do not know if or how frequently they are being targeted.

Certain measures governments can take to help prevent cyber threats include training public

servants on how to remain vigilant and ensuring cooperation at all levels of government, both local and international, due to the globalised nature of the threat.

Governments could also enhance their monitoring systems, credentials, and security details. In Bangladesh, the government needs an action plan detailing cooperation with the private sector to boost cyber resilience.

While advanced countries understand the need for cybersecurity and see it as a basic right, developing nations are slow to acknowledge and invest in the sector.

To respond to network threats and create a secure information society, comprehensive prevention and enforcement measures are needed for the people, processes, and technology.

Bangladesh has successfully applied ICT in rural areas to strengthen education and reduce poverty. The government has focused its attention on reducing poverty by strengthening education through applying ICT in rural areas.

But with each new device, user or business that connects to the internet, cyber risks increase. Globalisation and the highly competitive environment that comes with it has a significant impact on production and services sectors.

Bangladesh's science and technology systems must be infused with a new energy if it is to play

a decisive and beneficial role in enhancing the lives of its citizens.

Our government has formulated some policies to protect the country from cyber threats.

The National ICT Policy, Cyber Law, and Electronic Transaction Act have already been adopted. Besides, appropriate education on computer alerts and emergency responses are underway by different agencies, including those of the government.

Post-pandemic, key industries such as garments, shipping and cement, will have adopted digitised operating models like other developing countries. However, we need research on the business risks from increased cyber exposure.

Gone are the days of simple firewalls and antivirus software being your sole security measures. Cyber criminals today have more technical prowess, motivation, and financial resources than ever before to carry out disruptive attacks on a country's critical infrastructure.

Staying one step ahead of cyber criminals is not an easy task but implementing robust, proactive security processes is the most effective way to deal with this dangerous threat.

The writer is a partner at PwC Bangladesh. Views expressed in this article are his own.

## Garlic farmers not getting fair prices

FROM PAGE B4 As for the prices, a visit to different wholesale and retail markets revealed a huge difference.

Md Sohrab Ali, a wholesale trader of Chaikola Haat, claimed increased supplies had downed the prices.

Last year each maund was selling at Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500 and that of the lower quality at Tk 1,600 to Tk 1,800, he said.

However, retail prices remain as high as that of last year. Each kilogramme of the better quality is selling at Tk 80 to Tk 90 while that of the lower quality at Tk 50 to Tk 60.

"Although the producers are selling each maund at Tk 1,600 to Tk 1,700, we are buying each maund at Tk 2,200 to Tk 2500 from the wholesale traders," said vegetable vendor Md Nannu Miah of Pabna.

"We do not go to the village markets.

Wholesale traders first collect it from farmers and then sell it to the wholesale traders of big markets. We are buying from the second set of wholesale traders," he said. Farmers say they do not have adequate space in their homes to store their harvest, for which they were selling the crop at a cheap rate and facing losses.

They demanded that the government arrange storage facilities so that they could get expected price.

"The price of garlic will increase in the next two to three months but we can't store the crop in our home. If the government takes an initiative to store garlic, farmers would not be deprived," said farmer Md Rawshon Mollah of Sonjoypur village in Atghoria upazila.

"Market monitoring is essential for the sake of farmers and buyers," he added.

## Stocks keep gaining

FROM PAGE B1 On the other hand, investors took a lesson from last year, when many of them sold-off shares, pushing the index downwards to around the 3,900 level at a time when Covid-19 was spreading in the country.

"The index bounced back after a few months. This year, they are holding shares before shutting off the trade. We can say the awareness programmes are working this time and this learning will be fruitful in the days to come," Islam said.

"I hope investors will not sell shares at a lower price anymore like they did last year due to panic and incur losses," he added.

Islam went on to say that banks are currently giving handsome dividends.

"So, investing in banking stocks is more profitable at present compared to keeping in

banks as deposits," he said.

Eastern Bank announced 17.5 per cent cash and 17.5 per cent stock dividends, Brac Bank 10 per cent cash and 5 per cent stock dividends and Mercantile Bank is going to provide 10 per cent cash and 5 per cent stock dividends.

Jamuna Bank's board also declared 17.5 per cent cash dividend.

The prices of banking shares are very low even though they are declaring high dividends, said an official of MTB Securities.

A top official of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission confirmed yesterday that the stock market will remain open if banks remain open amid the upcoming restrictions on movement.

"We can only keep the market open if banks remain open as we need to execute money transfers through them," he added.

Dhaka Insurance topped the gainers' list, rising 9.97 per cent, followed by Crystal Insurance, Express Insurance, BD Thai Aluminium and CAPM IBBL Mutual Fund.

Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most with Tk 40 crore followed by BD Finance, Robi Axiata, Central Insurance and Continental Insurance.

Premier Bank shed the most, dropping 15 per cent followed by Familytex BD, Libra Infusion, Advent Pharmaceuticals and RSRM Steel.

At the DSE, 228 stocks advanced, 63 declined and 56 remained unchanged.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also gained yesterday. The CASPI, the general index of the port city bourse, rose 185 points, or 1.23 per cent, to stand at 15,194.

Among 214 traded stocks, 124 rose, 62 fell and 28 remained unchanged, CSE data shows.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Pabna  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.7600.000.07.076.2020/1002 Date: 13.04.2021

**Corrigendum for e-Tender Notice No: 26/2020-21**

Due to unavoidable situations, the following amendments have been made to the e-Tender Notice Number 26/2020-21 vide Memo No. 46.02.7600.000.07.076.2020/758, Dated: 21/03/2021. Amendments are stated below.

Tender ID No.	Description	Existing Date & Time	To be amended Date & Time
558902 & 560399	Document last selling date & time	21/04/2021 18:00PM	02/05/2021 17:00PM
	Closing Date & Time	22/04/2021 15:00PM	03/05/2021 15:00PM
	Opening Date & Time	22/04/2021 15:00PM	03/05/2021 15:00PM
	Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	22/04/2021 14:00PM	03/05/2021 14:00PM

All other terms, conditions and materials of the tender notice no. 26/2020-21 will remain unchanged.

(Md. Mokheleaur Rahman)  
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GD-765

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**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫/২০২০-২০২১**

বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন তহবিল (রাজস্ব) এর আওতায় ২০২০-২১ইং অর্থ বৎসরের অত্র তারাকান্দা উপজেলায় নিম্নোক্ত উন্নয়ন কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য PPR-2008 এবং তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির (LTM) জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৃত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং	এজেন্সি/ প্রতিষ্ঠান	উপজেলা পরিষদ, তারাকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ।
০১	সংগ্রহকারী	উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, তারাকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ।
০২	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)
০৩	অর্থের উৎস	বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন তহবিল (রাজস্ব)
০৪	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি, অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৫	দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় পর্যন্ত।
০৬	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর সমূহ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ময়মনসিংহ/উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী/এলজিইডি, ফুলপুর, ময়মনসিংহ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।
০৭	দরপত্র দলিল দাখিলের স্থান সমূহ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ময়মনসিংহ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।
০৮	দরপত্র দলিল খোলার স্থান তারিখ ও সময়	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর ০৪-০৫-২০২১ ইং সময় ২.০০ ঘটিকায়।

প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকল্পিত মূল্য (টাকা)	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজের সময়সীমা
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০১	তারাকান্দা ইউনিয়নে (ক) ধলীরকান্দা চৌধুরী বাড়ীর কবরস্থান (সীমানা প্রাচীর) উন্নয়ন। (খ) উপজেলা পরিষদ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যানের অফিস কক্ষ সৌন্দর্য বর্ধন। (গ) উপজেলা মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যানের অফিস কক্ষ সৌন্দর্য বর্ধন। (ঘ) বালিয়া ইউনিয়নে (ঘ) পূর্ব পাঞ্চলী বায়তুল আমান নূর হাফিজিয়া মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঙ) আঃ সালাম কারী সাহেবের বাড়ী পারশ্চীতলা গুরুস্থান কেইডি মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন।	৭৫০০০০.০০	১৯০০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০২	বাঁশিহালা ইউনিয়নে (ক) নলদিঘি মারকাভুল আল ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ। (খ) মাঝিগাঙ্গী সরকার বাড়ী ঈদগাহ মাঠে গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ। (গ) মাঝিগাঙ্গী বাজার পাকা রাস্তা হইতে সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় রাস্তা উন্নয়ন। (ঘ) কাকনী ইউনিয়নে (ঘ) গোয়াতলা মদিনা নগর কওমী মাদ্রাসায় চেউ টিন সরবরাহ। (ঙ) পঙ্গুয়াই তাহফিজুল কোরআন নূরানীয়া মাদ্রাসায় চেউ টিন সরবরাহ। (চ) গোয়াতলা পাকা রাস্তা হইতে ভোফাজুল সরকারের বাড়ীর রাস্তায় সলিং করণ।	৫০০০০০.০০	১২৫০০.০০	৫০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০৩	রামপুর ইউনিয়নে (ক) ৭নং ওয়ার্ডের গোয়ালকান্দি বাজারের ভিতরের রাস্তা হেরিবন। (খ) বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা আব্দুল কাশেম সরকার সাহেবের বাড়ীর কবরস্থান উন্নয়ন। গালাপাঁও ইউনিয়নে (গ) বালিজানা (নয়াপাড়া) মিফতাহুল উলুম মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঘ) দার্জিগাতি দাখিল মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঙ) কলহরী আহাম্মদ আলী ফকিরের মাজার উন্নয়ন। (চ) হবিবপুর শ্মশান উন্নয়ন।	৪৮০০০০.০০	১২০০০.০০	৫০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০৪	গালাপাঁও ইউনিয়নে (ক) ডোহাতলী মাজহারের বাড়ীর রাস্তা এইচবিবি করণ। (খ) ডোহাতলী জামে মসজিদ উন্নয়ন। (গ) বামনীকোনা দারুল উলুম মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঘ) মাইলোরা সাইয়িদিনা হযরত উমর (রাঃ) মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঙ) চরপাড়া সালাম সরকারের বাড়ীর মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (চ) ভাতিয়া নাজিমিয়া মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (জ) মূলাবাড়ী জামে মসজিদ উন্নয়ন। (ঝ) চড়াবাকান্দা বড় জামে মসজিদ উন্নয়ন।	৫৯০০০০.০০	১৫০০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০৫	চাকুয়া ইউনিয়নে (ক) টিউকান্দা চৌরাস্তা জামে মসজিদ উন্নয়ন। (খ) আছিয়া খাতুন কওমি আবাসিক মহিলা মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। কামারগাঁও ইউনিয়ন (গ) কামারগাঁও ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কমপ্লেক্স ভবনের বারাদায় গ্রীল নির্মাণ।	৭০০০০০.০০	১৮০০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০৬	কামারগাঁও ইউনিয়নে (ক) মোজাহারদি মানিক মাস্টারের বাড়ীর সামনে তিন রাস্তার মোড় হইতে গাছতলা বাজার রাস্তায় ইট দ্বারা সলিং করণ। বিসকা ইউনিয়নের (খ) নগুয়া মডলবাড়ী গোরস্থান প্রাচীর নির্মাণ। (গ) বাতিফুড়া শাহ সুলতান কমরউদ্দিন হাফিজিয়া মাদ্রাসার সীমানা ওয়াল নির্মাণ।	৪৫০০০০.০০	১১৫০০.০০	৫০০.০০	৩০ দিন

দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত সকল প্রকার তথ্য ও শর্তাবলী সমূহ নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। দরপত্র দলিলে উদ্ধৃত দর ০৫(পাঁচ) % এর অধিক নিম্ন বা উর্দ্ধদরে হলে দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ রজবুল রহমান খান  
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জিডি-৭৫৭

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর  
উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়  
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স্মারক নংঃ ৪৬.০২.৮২৯৮.০০০.১৪.০১৩.১৮-০৫১ তারিখঃ ১১/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০২০-২০২১ইং**

২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বৎসরের এজিপি অর্থোনে গোয়াতলা উপজেলা পরিষদের নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রকল্পগুলি বাস্তবায়নের জন্য পিপিআর ২০০৮ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট (দ্বিতীয় সংস্করণ) আইন, ২০০৯ অনুযায়ী স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর রাজবাড়ী এর তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের বিবরণ	প্রাকল্পিত মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	সিডিউল মূল্য	সময়সীমা
ইউ ইপো/রাজ/ ২০২০-২০২১/০১	ক) দেবদ্বার ইউনিয়নের দেবদ্বার জিপিএস হতে মুল্লীবাড়ার ক্রিনিক পর্যন্ত রাস্তায় ইটের সোলিং দ্বারা উন্নয়ন।	৪,০০,০০০/-	১০,০০০/-	৪০০/-	০৬/০৬/২১
ইউ ইপো/রাজ/ ২০২০-২০২১/০২	ক) উজানচর ইউনিয়নের বিক্রিত্ত স্থানে নলকূপ স্থাপন।	২,০০,০০০/-	৫,০০০/-	৩০০/-	০৬/০৬/২১
ইউ ইপো/রাজ/ ২০২০-২০২১/০৩	ক) হোটেলকান্দা ইউনিয়নের বরাত স্ট্রাং হতে জাহাঙ্গীরের বাড়ী ভাড়া খানকা শরিফ রাস্তা ইটের সোলিং দ্বারা উন্নয়ন।	৪,০০,০০০/-	১০,০০০/-	৪০০/-	০৬/০৬/২১
ইউ ইপো/রাজ/ ২০২০-২০২১/০৪	ক) দৌলতদিয়া ইউনিয়নের তাহের কাজী পাড়া নূর খান বাড়ী মেইন রোড হতে দৌলতদিয়া পাড়া রাস্তা ইটের সোলিং দ্বারা উন্নয়ন। খ) চর দৌলতদিয়া তমিজ উদ্দিন মখার পাড়া মেইন রোড হতে আলীউদ্দিন হ্যামারী ওয়ার্ড নং- ০৭, রাস্তা ইটের সোলিং দ্বারা উন্নয়ন।	২,২৮,৬৬১/- ১,১১,৩৩৯/- ৪,০০,০০০/-	১০,০০০/-	৪০০/-	০৬/০৬/২১

১। অর্থের উৎস উপজেলা বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি খাত (জিওবি)।  
২। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় এবং স্থানঃ ১১/০৪/২০২১ইং বিকালঃ ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।  
(ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, এলজিইডি, রাজবাড়ী (খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী দপ্তর, রাজবাড়ী সদর এবং (গ) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।  
৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ সময় ও স্থানঃ ০৩/০৫/২০২১ইং দুপুরঃ ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, এলজিইডি, রাজবাড়ী (খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, রাজবাড়ী সদর এবং উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, গোয়াতলা, রাজবাড়ী।  
৪। দরপত্র বাস্তব হইতে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় এবং স্থানঃ ০৪/০৫/২০২১ইং বিকাল ২.০০ ঘটিকা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।  
৫। প্রাকল্পিত ব্যয়ের ৫% এর অধিক নিম্নদর বা উর্দ্ধদর দাখিল করিলে দরপত্রটি সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।  
৬। দরপত্র বাস্তব হইতে দরপত্র খোলার ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র মেয়াদ জ্ঞেয় থাকিবে।  
৭। উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, গোয়াতলা, রাজবাড়ী এর অধিকারে নির্বাহিত টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি সিডিউল ব্যকে হইতে বিডি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সচিত্র সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।  
৮। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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জিডি-৭৫৭

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর  
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[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

স্মারক নংঃ ৪৬.০২.৬১৮৮.০০১.০৭.১৪৩.২০-৩০০

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫/২০২০-২০২১**

বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন তহবিল (রাজস্ব) এর আওতায় ২০২০-২১ইং অর্থ বৎসরের অত্র তারাকান্দা উপজেলায় নিম্নোক্ত উন্নয়ন কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য PPR-2008 এবং তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির (LTM) জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৃত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং	এজেন্সি/ প্রতিষ্ঠান	উপজেলা পরিষদ, তারাকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ।
০১	সংগ্রহকারী	উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, তারাকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ।
০২	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)
০৩	অর্থের উৎস	বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন তহবিল (রাজস্ব)
০৪	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি, অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৫	দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় পর্যন্ত।
০৬	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর সমূহ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ময়মনসিংহ/উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী/এলজিইডি, ফুলপুর, ময়মনসিংহ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।
০৭	দরপত্র দলিল দাখিলের স্থান সমূহ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ময়মনসিংহ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।
০৮	দরপত্র দলিল খোলার স্থান তারিখ ও সময়	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর ০৪-০৫-২০২১ ইং সময় ২.০০ ঘটিকায়।

প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকল্পিত মূল্য (টাকা)	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজের সময়সীমা
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০১	তারাকান্দা ইউনিয়নে (ক) ধলীরকান্দা চৌধুরী বাড়ীর কবরস্থান (সীমানা প্রাচীর) উন্নয়ন। (খ) উপজেলা পরিষদ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যানের অফিস কক্ষ সৌন্দর্য বর্ধন। (গ) উপজেলা মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যানের অফিস কক্ষ সৌন্দর্য বর্ধন। (ঘ) বালিয়া ইউনিয়নে (ঘ) পূর্ব পাঞ্চলী বায়তুল আমান নূর হাফিজিয়া মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন। (ঙ) আঃ সালাম কারী সাহেবের বাড়ী পারশ্চীতলা গুরুস্থান কেইডি মাদ্রাসা উন্নয়ন।	৭৫০০০০.০০	১৯০০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৩০ দিন
তারাকান্দা/২০-২১/০২	বাঁশিহালা ইউনিয়নে (ক) নলদিঘি মারকাভুল আল ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ। (খ) মাঝিগাঙ্গী সরকার বাড়ী ঈদগাহ মাঠে গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ। (গ) মাঝিগাঙ্গী বাজার পাকা রাস্তা হইতে সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় রাস্তা উন্নয়ন। (ঘ) কাকনী ইউনিয়নে (ঘ) গোয়াতলা মদিন				





**Khondkar Morshed Millat, general manager for Sustainable Finance Department of Bangladesh Bank, and Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank, recently signed a participation agreement involving a Green Transformation Fund and Technology Development/Upgradation Fund for providing low cost financing to export-oriented businesses in Bangladesh.**



**ACI Motors Managing Director FH Ansarey and cricketer Shabbir Al Hasan virtually signed an agreement recently for the latter to be the brand ambassador of Yamaha motorcycles in Bangladesh. ACI Motors is the authorised dealer of Yamaha motorcycles in Bangladesh.**

# Informal workers slip through the cracks again

FROM PAGE B1  
"I earned just Tk 300 on Monday, and then the police beat me up for selling it in the evening," he said.  
Ashiq used to sell juice worth Tk 4,000 to Tk 4,500 per day before the pandemic. But after a pause during last year's lockdown, he started selling sugarcane juice and saw his daily sales increase to just Tk 2,000 in December.  
"After the pandemic began, profit was minimal as I have to pay the cost of sugarcane and fuel too," Ashiq said.  
People do not want to drink juice prepared in an open-air environment anymore as they think it may contain pathogens.  
"But I sell juice maintaining all the hygiene rules. The new lockdown will hit me hard again, and it will be impossible to run the family," the father of two said.  
The Daily Star spoke to more than a dozen such day-labourers yesterday, and most of them said the pandemic had wreaked havoc on incomes.  
They also claimed to be the hardest hit by the virus-induced economic fallout as many had to borrow money from loan sharks that charge high interest to run their families.  
Minu Begum was divorced more than a decade ago. Her husband not only refused to pay any alimony but also the expenses of their two children.  
She then opened a tea stall in Duaripara in Dhaka, and with the earnings, she managed to bear the educational expenditures of her daughter, who graduated from the University of Dhaka's finance department last year.  
Her son is scheduled to take part in this year's Secondary School Certificate exams.  
But after the pandemic hit the country, Begum's shop was shut for two months, forcing her to borrow money with hefty interest rates to run her family.  
"I have borrowed a lot of money, and I don't know how I will repay. This new lockdown will upend my life severely," she said.  
She borrowed Tk 5,000 from someone to pay the exam fee for the son. She has to pay Tk 500 as interest for the loan per month.  
"If there were no new lockdowns, I could have been able to repay it," Begum added.  
Poritosh Mistri was laid off by a garment factory in Mirpur four months ago.  
"After working for eight years, they suddenly told me that I am fired. I can't explain how bad I felt when I was told I did not have the job," he said.  
In order to survive, he opened a small shop in the capital's Rupnagar area to sell tea, cigarettes and snacks items.  
"Business was going slightly well, but the situation has been bad for the last 15 days. I can't even imagine how I will run my family of four from tomorrow as I am the sole breadwinner," Poritosh said.  
According to Asif Saleh, executive director of Brac, the largest non-development organisation in the world, the workers who live off daily wages will struggle immensely during the lockdown.  
These workers are the majority in Bangladesh -- particularly in urban areas.  
Individuals with a movement pass issued by the police can still go outside but it can only be availed online.  
"These initiatives are not thought through from the poor people's point of view," Saleh said, adding that if the situation prolongs, they will face starvation like last time.  
He went on to say that the government should start cash transfer scheme for urban slum dwellers.  
Since much of the stimulus funds remain untapped, the government could provide cash assistance to the poor like it did last year.  
Saleh also suggested setting up soup kitchens for cooked food distribution in various points of the city, which Brac did successfully last year.  
In the long run, a proper national database of the country's ultra-poor should be set up to support them with social security support so that quick cash transfers can happen when needed.  
In Bangladesh, the social safety net system is still extremely fragmented, with 22 ministries having different types of allowances for them. It is often misdirected, and the really needy do not get it.  
"So, a proper verification should happen once the database is ready," Saleh said.  
"NGOs could be used to identify the ultra-poor and provide support to them. The rich people of society also need to come forward to support them in times of crisis like this," he added.

# German investor confidence falls as virus curbs drag on

AFP, Berlin  
German investor sentiment fell in April for the first time since November as Europe's top economy feels the strain of a relentless third coronavirus wave, data showed Tuesday.  
The ZEW institute's monthly barometer measuring economic expectations fell 5.9 points month-on-month to a new reading of 70.7 -- well below the 80 points predicted by Factset analysts. Confidence in the eurozone fell by 7.7 points in April to 66.3 points.  
ZEW's assessment of the economic situation in Germany improved by 12.2 points compared with the previous month, but is still deep in negative territory at minus

48.8 points. "Fears of a stricter lockdown have led to a decline in expectations for private consumption," ZEW President Achim Wambach was quoted as saying in a press release.  
Businesses such as restaurants, leisure facilities and cultural venues have been closed in Germany since November, joined by non-essential shops from December.  
Case numbers began to come down after Christmas but have soared again in recent weeks, with the total number of confirmed cases passing three million this week.  
German industrial production dropped for the second month in a row in February after eight months of gains, as the economic impact of the pandemic began to bite.

# BASIC Bank launches WhatsApp banking

STAR BUSINESS REPORT  
State-owned BASIC Bank on Monday rolled out a WhatsApp-based banking service informing of account balance and last five transactions.  
Prof Dr Abul Hashem, chairman of the bank's board of directors, inaugurated the service after concluding a board meeting held virtually.  
"Availing the service requires saving +8801713257414 in the app and sending a message for activation."  
Some private commercial banks, including Dhaka Bank, City Bank and Islami Bank Bangladesh, have already launched the service.

# Govt decides to keep banks open after mass confusion

FROM PAGE B1  
The branches in upazilas will open the doors for the clients on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
The central bank had been in a fix on setting opening hours after the government declared the restrictions on movement on a limited scale on April 4.  
On the day, the banking regulator said clients could settle financial transactions from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on regular working days.  
On April 11, the BB extended the banking hours by half an hour for April 12 and 13 as clients rushed to banks to withdraw funds, apprehending that branches might remain

closed during the strict restriction.  
Suddenly, the central bank extended the banking hours to 3 pm for yesterday so that clients could withdraw funds smoothly. It created confusion among people.  
Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank, said there had been a lack of policy coordination between the central bank and the government.  
"The government should have handed over the responsibility to the central bank to decide on banks opening hours," he said.  
"The central bank should have declared a clear instruction two or three days ago to this end."

# Mitsubishi Motors to cut output in Japan, Thailand

REUTERS, Tokyo  
Mitsubishi Motors Corp will cut production by a combined 7,500 vehicles at three plants in Japan and Thailand in April, it said on Monday, citing chip shortages.  
The company is examining whether there will be more production cuts in May, a company spokeswoman added.

# Strictly follow health safety rules

FROM PAGE B1  
Amirul Haque Amin, president of National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF), said they would also stay vigilant at garment industries in densely populated areas.  
"If we find any factory not following the health safety rules properly, we will lodge complaints with the BGMEA, BKMEA and DIFE for considering the factory concerned as a risky one," he told The Daily Star over the phone.  
"If we see any factory requiring improvements in safety, we will offer advice," Amin also said.  
Both the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) have already instructed member factories to strictly follow the health safety rules.  
The BKMEA in a circular on April 11 suggested members ensure workers wear masks, frequently wash hands with soap, use hand sanitisers and get body temperatures measured.  
It also suggested having an adequate number of bins to store garbage and ensuring transportation for workers as per the health guidelines.  
Faruque Hassan, the newly elected president of BGMEA, said, "Protecting the health safety of our workers is our main priority now."  
"I have already instructed my members to strictly follow the health guidelines

prepared by the BGMEA earlier and the instructions given by the government in running the factories," he said.  
Hassan also said he formed 10 teams under two vice-presidents of the BGMEA to monitor whether member factories were following the guidelines prepared by the BGMEA in consultation with International Labour Organization, the health and labour ministries and World Health Organization.  
The government has decided to keep open garment factories where 4.2 million workers are employed, mainly to ensure timely shipment of goods, timely payment to workers and prevent work orders from being diverted to other countries during lockdowns.  
Earnings from apparel export declined to \$27.94 billion in fiscal 2019-20 from \$34.12 billion in fiscal 2018-19, because of the fallouts of the Covid-19, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.  
Moreover, the local garment suppliers have faced either work order cancellations, unusual deferral payments or hold ups of orders worth \$3.18 billion last year from their international retailers and brands.  
However, some 90 per cent of the work orders were reinstated so far by the international retailers and brands after intense negotiations with suppliers, the government, the BGMEA and BKMEA leaders. Last year many workers also lost their jobs when factory owners tried to cut back on cost of operations when Covid-19 surfaced.

# March cost more

FROM PAGE B1  
The prices of the commodities soared recently, because of the volatility in the domestic market and manipulation by a section of unscrupulous traders, ahead of the Ramadan and lockdown to curb increasing coronavirus infections.

# Govt mulls using IoT, AI in 100 villages

FROM PAGE B1  
The ICT Division will take up a project in this regard to mark the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.  
"We will try to export agricultural products all over the world by meeting the needs of 160 million people using technology in agriculture," Palak said.

Government of the people's republic of Bangladesh  
Local government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District : Bhola.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.09.00.000.14.020.21.886 Date : 13.04.21

**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**  
**IFT NO. 20 /2020-21**

The e-Tender Notice No.20/2020-21 issued by the office of the undersigned vide memo no Memo No: 46.02.09.00.000.14.020.2021.621 Date : 11/03/2021 has been Changed as follows:

Sl No.	Upazila	Package No	T-ID No.	Name of Scheme	Method	Last date of receiving
SSSWRDP						
01.	Charfassion	LGED/SSS WRDP/WD -08/20-21-Tender	556398	Part-A- Construction of WMCA office building of Abdullahpur new Sub-project under Charfassion Upazila, District-Bhola. Part-B- Office furniture for WMCA Office. Part-C- Electrification works for WMCA office.	OTM	06.05.2021 till 12:00 PM

N.B. Please check e-GP System for detail.

(Md. Abdur Razaque)  
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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন  
৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা  
[www.ccb.gov.bd](http://www.ccb.gov.bd)

**আসবাবপত্র ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

নং-২৬.১২.০০০০.১০৫.০৭.০০৩.১৭(২য়)-৩৫৯ তারিখঃ ১২-০৪-২০২১ খ্রিঃ

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	এজেন্সি/সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বার নাম/জেলা	: বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন, ঢাকা
৩.	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	: দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাদি সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশনের জন্য লট-১: আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ লট-২: কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ
৪.	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
৫.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	: নিজস্ব তহবিল
৬.	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	: ১৩/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ
৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ০৬/০৫/২০২১ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৮.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ০৯/০৫/২০২১ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ০৯/০৫/২০২১ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন), বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান/দপ্তর	: বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা।
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	: ১। বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা; এবং ২। বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, প্রথম ১২ তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন, ২য় তলা, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
১২.	প্রতি লটের দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: ৫০০/- (পাঁচ শত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১৩.	দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	: প্রতি লটের দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার 'বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন' এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৪.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি	: দরদাতাকে প্রকৃত মালিক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে হবে এবং দরপত্রের সাথে (ক) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স; (খ) VAT ও TIN সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত কপি; (গ) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট ও আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়ন পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং (ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক সক্ষমতার প্রত্যয়নপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর/যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	: সচিব, বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা, ফোন নম্বর: ০২-৫৮৩১৫৪৮৫.
১৬.	বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য	: (ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (খ) দরপত্র সিডিউলে দর অঙ্কে ও কথায় লিখিতে হইবে। কাটাকাটি ঘষামাজা ও ওভার রাইটিং হইলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। (গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্য দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে কমিশন কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।

মোঃ কবীরুল হাসান  
সচিব (যোগাযোগ)  
বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন, ঢাকা



# Garlic farmers not getting fair prices

Struggling with a lack of storage facilities



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI

Women are seen processing garlic at Sonjoypur village in Atghoria upazila. The photo was taken on April 12.

## DISTRICTS IN FOCUS

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, back from Chalan Beel

The production of garlic, one of the most essential seasonings, is increasing every year with farmers of Chalan Beel in the northern Natore and Pabna districts this year accounting for around half of that grown in the country.

However, poor wholesale rates are depriving the region's farmers from getting fair prices for their produce, said sources.

Md Bachchu Alom of Korkola village in Chatmohar upazila cultivated the herb on five bighas of land after harvesting Aman paddy.

He expected a good profit from his harvest of around 125 maunds (one maund equals around 37 kilograms) this year.

But his hopes have been marred as the prices could not meet his expectations. Now he is struggling to recover the production cost.

He had invested some Tk 28,000 to Tk 30,000 per bigha and expected to earn a minimum of Tk 50,000 from each.

"I have sold most of the garlic at Tk 1,500 to Tk 1,600 per maund at Chaikola Haat, the biggest wholesale market for garlic in Chalan Beel region, over the last couple of weeks due to a price fall in the wholesale market," said Bachchu.

Around 25 per cent of the yield is of low quality, selling for Tk 600 to Tk 700 per maund.

Some 7.24 lakh tonnes of the herb have been harvested cultivating around 86,499 hectares of land across the country this year, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension.

Around 70 to 80 per cent of the crop has been harvested, it said.

"Last year farmers cultivated 93,655 hectares of land and produced 6.69 lakh tonnes of the

crop," Dr Shamim Ahmed, additional deputy director of the DAE, told The Daily Star.

"Production increased this year all because of good weather," he said.

According to the districts' DAE offices, 25,130 hectares of land were cultivated in Natore yielding approximately 2.38 lakh tonnes of garlic. In Pabna, it was 13,430 hectares and 1.27 lakh tonnes respectively.

Chalan Beel farmers used to cultivate Aman paddy during the monsoon.

After harvesting it, they used to plant garlic in the marshy land removing the floodwater and without ploughing it and covering up the fields with straw, said DAE Deputy Director Subroto Kumar Sarkar.

When the flood water recedes, fields become fertile to have a good garlic production.

Farmers of this part of Natore mostly cultivate garlic rather than other crops, said Sarkar.

READ MORE ON B2

# Strong cybersecurity to build trust in a digital world



MAMUN RASHID



## OPINION

So, it's no surprise that this resulted in cyber threats becoming the number two concern, as cited by various chief executive officers (CEOs) in PwC's Global CEO Survey 2021.

The pandemic and health related crises topped the list of threats.

Paradoxically, despite their level of concern, CEOs are not proportionately boosting their spending on cybersecurity and data privacy.

Banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) are making it increasingly easy to open accounts or apply for loans. Besides, the addition of new digital services improves the banking experience.

Still though, the standalone digital services that many banks rely on as a key part of their growth strategy pose security challenges.

Regardless of a financial institution's overall objectives, security is inherently tied to these goals. Without security and protection of customer data, it is difficult to achieve other types of growth objectives.

Bangladesh Bank has cautioned all banks to be vigilant against cyber threats and its possible fallout.

Criminals target financial institutions since that's where the money is. However, banks are yet to take adequate measures to tackle cyber lapses and hacking.

So, the banks need to enhance their cybersecurity and fraud controls and integrate cybersecurity programmes starting with assessing cybercrime risk.

READ MORE ON B2

Among perennial issues such as geopolitical, economic, climate and health, one of the biggest challenges for countries today is cybersecurity.

As businesses and individuals become increasingly dependent on technology and digital connectivity, and with Covid-19 exacerbating our dependence, any disruption in our digital progress could be crippling.

And so, a "Digital Bangladesh" is no longer a dream, it is well and truly ubiquitous and has become the foundation of our development journey.

Rising digitisation is increasing the risks posed by cyber threats. If governments cannot ensure secure and trusted digital connectivity in a data driven world, individuals, businesses and the economy will suffer.

To that end, a "Digital Bangladesh" is sacrosanct and cannot be compromised.

However, Bangladesh's cybersecurity was compromised as recently as this week, when over 200 organisations in Bangladesh suffered cyberattacks, attributed to a few international hacker groups from East European and Asian countries.

Cyber and privacy risks are now everywhere, permeating the entire business network.



STAR/FILE

The headquarters of Bangladesh Bank in Motijheel, Dhaka. The BB has cautioned all banks to be vigilant against cyber threats and its possible fallouts.

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

# Biden's chip dreams face reality check

REUTERS, San Francisco

To understand President Joe Biden's challenge in taming a semiconductor shortage bedeviling automakers and other industries, consider a chip supplied by a US firm for Hyundai Motor Co's new electric vehicle, the IONIQ 5.

Production of the chip, a camera image sensor designed by On Semiconductor, begins at a factory in Italy, where raw silicon wafers are imprinted with complex circuitry. The wafers are then sent first to Taiwan for packaging and testing, then to Singapore for storage, then on to China for assembly into a camera unit, and finally to a Hyundai component supplier in Korea before reaching Hyundai's auto factories.

A shortage of that image sensor has led to the idling of Hyundai Motor's plant in South Korea, making it the latest automaker to suffer from global supply woes that crippled production at most automakers including General Motors Co and Ford Motors Co and Volkswagen.

And the winding journey of the image sensor shows just how complicated it will be for the chip industry to both ramp up capacity to address the current shortage and re-invigorate US chip manufacturing. For a graphic, click [tmsnr.rs/3dW8nbN](https://tmsnr.rs/3dW8nbN)

US President Joe Biden on Monday convened semiconductor industry executives in Washington to discuss solutions to the chip crisis, the latest move in a broader effort to bolster the domestic chip industry. He's also proposed \$50 billion to support chip manufacturing and research as part of his \$2 trillion infrastructure proposal, which he said would help the United States win the global competition with China.

Much of that money will likely go towards the construction of multi-billion-dollar advanced chip plants by Intel,



US President Joe Biden

Samsung and TSMC. But industry executives say addressing the broader supply chain is crucial, and the Biden administration faces complicated choices on which elements of it to subsidize.

"Trying to reconstruct an entire supply chain from upstream to downstream in a single given location just isn't a possibility," David Somo, senior vice president at ON Semiconductor, told Reuters. "It would be prohibitively expensive."

The United States now only accounts for about 12 per cent of worldwide semiconductor manufacturing capacity, down from 37 per cent in 1990.

More than 80 per cent of global chip production now happens in Asia, according to industry data. Producing a single computer chip can involve more than 1,000 steps, 70 separate border crossings and a host of specialized companies, most of them in Asia and largely unknown to the public.

The process starts with plate-size discs of raw silicon. At chip factories known as 'fabs', circuits are etched into the silicon and built up on its surface through a series of complicated chemical processes.

The next step - packaging - offers a good illustration of the supply chain challenges.

# UK economy advances despite lockdown

AFP, London

Britain's economy rebounded slightly in February despite coronavirus curbs while exports of goods to the European Union recovered a bit more, data showed Tuesday, sparking optimism over the outlook.

Gross domestic product rose by 0.4 per cent in February, after shrinking by 2.2 per cent in January, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement, noting a boost in industrial output and consumer spending.

"The economy showed some improvement in February after the large falls seen at the start of the year," an ONS spokeswoman remarked.

Activity grew despite England's latest Covid-19 lockdown, which was implemented in early January



REUTERS/FILE

A shopper walks down the street in London, Britain.

but partially eased this week on the back of a rapid vaccination drive. From Monday, pubs were allowed to serve drinks outside -- and non-essential retailers and

hairdressers reopened as well. The phased reopening, in tandem with speedy vaccinations, has sparked hopes for a rebound in economic activity in the current

second quarter or three months to June. "January was probably the low point of the year as vaccinations and the reopening of the economy will combine to trigger a rapid rebound in activity over the next few months," said Capital Economics economist Thomas Pugh. "Given there was no change in the lockdown restrictions in February, GDP was never going to shoot back up. "Pantheon Macro economist Samuel Tombs added that "the economy continued to adapt to lockdown rules in February".

The Bank of England has forecast that growth will recover strongly this year towards its pre-Covid level owing to the nation's speedy vaccine programme.

The economy had tanked by 9.8 per cent last year, Britain's biggest slump in three centuries -- and the worst G7 performance.

# Grab agrees world's biggest SPAC merger, valued at \$40b

REUTERS, Singapore

Southeast Asia's biggest ride-hailing and food delivery firm, Grab Holdings, agreed a merger on Tuesday with US-based Altimeter Growth Corp in a deal that gives Grab an initial proforma equity value of about \$39.6 billion and will lead to a public listing.

The merger, the biggest blank-check company deal ever, underscores the frenzy on Wall Street as shell firms have raised \$99 billion in the United States so far this year after a record \$83 billion in 2020.

Singapore-based Grab's agreement with a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) backed by Altimeter Capital includes a more



AFP/FILE

A 'GrabBike' motorcyclist uses his mobile phone in Jakarta.

than \$4 billion private investment in public equity by investors including BlackRock, Fidelity International, Janus Henderson Investors and Temasek Holdings.

The offering is led by \$750 million from funds managed by Altimeter Capital. The transactions will provide Grab with about \$4.5 billion in cash proceeds.

Grab said its decision to become a public company was driven by a strong financial performance in 2020, despite the pandemic. Reuters earlier reported that Grab would announce the deal on Tuesday.

The deals for Grab, which was valued at just over \$16 billion last year, will be a big win for its early backers such as SoftBank Group Corp and China's Didi Chuxing.