



**Kamruzzaman Kamal, marketing director of PRAN-RFL Group, hands over safety equipment and drinking water to Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of a Covid-19 hospital at Dhaka North City Corporation's Mohakhali market, yesterday.**

## India to waive import duty on Covid-19 vaccines: govt source

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will waive its 10 per cent customs duty on imported Covid-19 vaccines, a senior government official told Reuters on Monday, as it tries to boost supplies to counter a dramatic surge in coronavirus cases.

Imports of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine are due to arrive soon and the government has also urged Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson to sell their products to India.

The official, who declined to be named, also said the government was considering allowing private entities to import approved vaccines for sale on the open market without government intervention. They could also be given the freedom to set pricing, he added.

The Indian government currently regulates the sale and purchase of all Covid-19 shots in the country.

A finance ministry spokesman did not

immediately respond to an email seeking comment outside business hours.

Other South Asian countries, including Nepal and Pakistan, as well as Latin American nations such as Argentina and Brazil levy vaccine import tariffs ranging between 10 per cent and 20 per cent.

New Covid-19 infections and deaths in India have jumped by record numbers for days, with hospitals running short of beds, oxygen and key medicines.



**Health workers attach a notice on the shortage of Covid-19 vaccine supplies at a vaccination centre in Mumbai, India.**



## Premier Bank reappoints CEO

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Premier Bank recently witnessed the reappointment of its managing director and CEO, M Reazul Karim, for the next three years.

Karim has been in office since April 23, 2018, says a press release.

He started his banking career with National Bank in 1984. Before joining Premier Bank as an additional managing director, he served Prime Bank for 17 years.

Karim obtained his honours and master's degrees in accounting from the University of Dhaka.

He is a fellow of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh.

# Major banks commit to carbon neutrality by 2050

AFP, Paris

A group of 43 international banks including sector heavyweights have joined a UN-convened pact to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, the world body said Wednesday.

Bringing together household names like Barclays, HSBC, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank and BNP Paribas, the "Net Zero Banking Alliance" members vowed to make greenhouse gas emissions from their lending and investment portfolios "align with pathways to net-zero by 2050 or sooner" with regularly updated intermediate goals.

"All targets will be regularly reviewed to ensure consistency with the latest science," the United Nations' finance for the environment initiative UNEP FI said in a statement.

HSBC boss Noel Quinn said

it was "essential" for banks to finance the green transition, adding that "we have to establish a robust and transparent framework for monitoring progress... and we want to set that standard for the banking industry."

"The group will also be a founding member of a sector-wide initiative -- the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) -- from former Bank of England governor Mark Carney, the UN special envoy for climate action and finance. "GFANZ will work to mobilise the trillions of dollars necessary to build a global zero emissions economy and deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement" signed by the world's governments in 2015, UNEP FI said.

Carney himself called the alliance "the breakthrough in mainstreaming climate finance



**A view of HSBC headquarters in Milan, Italy.**

the world economy needs" and "the gold standard for net zero commitments". GFANZ's naming for Glasgow refers to the COP26 climate change conference scheduled to be held in Scotland's

biggest city in November.

As well as banks, UNEP FI said major global insurers and reinsurers were working on a similar project dubbed the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance.

## Instagram launches feature to tackle hate speech, abuse

REUTERS

Facebook Inc's Instagram is rolling out a feature to prevent users from viewing possibly abusive messages by filtering offensive words, phrases and emojis on the photo-sharing app.

The company said on Wednesday that along with the filter option for abusive direct messages, it will also make it harder for people blocked by users to circumvent and contact them through new accounts.

Instagram has been pushing on its efforts to tackle hate speech and online abuse on its platform, which is more popular than Facebook's main app among teens and young adults.

The filter, which can be activated on Instagram in privacy settings, can be customized by users to include words, phrases and emojis that they wish to block or avoid receiving in their message requests.

Users can use their discretion to report, delete or open messages, which will be sorted into a hidden requests folder, Instagram said.

The feature, which is only applicable to direct message requests and not the inbox itself, will roll out in some countries in the coming weeks, said Instagram.

Starting in a few weeks, all users will also have the extended option to entirely block out people from contacting them on Instagram, after blocking their account.

## OPPO offers 30pc discount on repairs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Consumer electronics company OPPO is offering a 30 per cent discount on smartphone maintenance and repairs and a 5 per cent discount on all IoT devices and accessories from April 22 to May 22.

In case of a lockdown extension, only registered customers can avail the service in the subsequent month from the day restrictions are lifted, says a press release. Customers will also get a transparent back cover, screen protector and wipe cloth for free from the service centres.

The company says to have managed to solve 96 per cent of customer's problem within one hour. It asks to avail information through call centre executives, email, its Facebook page and other social media platforms.

# Pandemic slips down list of market risks, Norway wealth fund says

REUTERS

The pandemic is becoming less dominant in the markets and other risks, such as inflation and a stock market correction, are rising, as vaccines fuel optimism and recovery, a top official at Norway's \$1.3t wealth fund said on Wednesday.

On the basis of strong stock markets, driven by the finance and energy sectors, the world's largest wealth fund on Wednesday reported earnings of \$46 billion between January and March, a 4.0 per cent return on investment that beat its own benchmark index.

"I would still put it (the pandemic) as one of the top three risks, absolutely, at this stage. We are seeing a slightly more balanced risk picture because there is more optimism now for growth and inflation," CEO Trond Grande told Reuters after the first-quarter results.

While stocks earned a return of 6.6 per cent for the fund, the fixed income portfolio had a rare loss of 3.2 per cent, as interest rates rose substantially after a prolonged slide.

"What you are seeing are some signs of some build-up of some inflation here and there, at least on the materials and raw materials side," he said.

"If that translates into inflation more broadly, I think you could see interest rates rising further," he said adding that he had been a "little surprised" by the strength of the equity markets



**A general view of the Norwegian central bank, where Norway's sovereign wealth fund is situated, in Oslo, Norway.**

over the past year.

"There will be at some point a correction. We just need to be prepared for it," he said, declining to say when he expected it.

The fund invests the Norwegian state's revenues from oil and gas production into 9,100

companies worldwide, owning 1.4 per cent of all listed shares globally. It also invests in bonds, property and, since this month, it has invested in green infrastructure. Its investment comprises 73.1 per cent in equities, 2.5 per cent in unlisted real estate and 24.5 per cent in fixed income.

**Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation**  
Kaptai Lake Fisheries Development & Marketing Center  
Rangamati Hill District, Phone: 0351-62236

**দরপত্র সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র কার্যালয়ের গত ০৬/০৪/২০২১ইং তারিখে ৩৩.০৩.৮৪৮৭.০০৫.০০২.২১-২২নং স্মারক প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি কোভিড-১৯ প্রাদুর্ভাব রোধকল্পে লক-ডাউন জনিত কারণে ইতোমধ্যে টেন্ডার ড্রপিং ও টেন্ডার ওপেনিং এর তারিখ ১৯/০৪/২০২১ইং এর স্থলে সময় বৃদ্ধি করে ২৫/০৪/২০২১ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দাখিল এবং "উন্মুক্তকরণ" নির্ধারণ করা হয়। বর্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে পুনরায় লক-ডাউন সময়সীমা বৃদ্ধির বিষয়টি বিবেচনা করে যথাক্রমে টেন্ডার উন্মুক্তকরণ সেলিং এর সময় ২৯/০৪/২০২১ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে, টেন্ডার ড্রপিং এর সময় ০২/০৫/২০২১ইং সকাল ১১.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে এবং টেন্ডার ওপেনিং এর সময় ০২/০৫/২০২১ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় নির্ধারণ করা হলো। এছাড়া ক্রমিক নং-১৭-এ বর্ণিত বিগত ০৩ বছরের মধ্যে একক কার্যাদেশে কমপক্ষে ৭০ (সত্তর) লক্ষ টাকার পরিবর্তে বিগত ০৫ বছরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৩৮ (আটত্রিশ) লক্ষ টাকার সিভিল-কন্সট্রাকশন কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ এই সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি পরিবর্তন, পরিবর্তন বা সংশোধনের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

**Md. Touhidul Islam**  
Lt. Commander (TAS), BN  
Manager  
BFDC, Rangamati

জিডি-৮০০

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় আনসার ও ভিডিপি হাসপাতাল  
সফিপুর, গাজীপুর

স্মারক নং-৪৪.০৩.০০০০.৩০১.৪০.০১০.২০২১-২৪২, তারিখঃ ০৮ বৈশাখ ১৪২৮  
২১ এপ্রিল ২০২১

**সংশোধিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র দপ্তরের স্মারক নং-৪৪.০৩.০০০০.৩০১.৪০.০১০.২০২১-২০৮, তারিখঃ ০৭/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ মূলে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ, দরপত্রের বাস্তব বন্ধ ও খোলার তারিখ এবং সময় অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ সংশোধন করা হলো। সংশোধিত তারিখ ও সময় নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রঃ নং	প্যাকেজ নং	বিষয়	প্রকাশিত তারিখ ও সময়	সংশোধিত তারিখ ও সময়
১।	যন্ত্রপাতি-০২ (ক-গ)	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৫-০৪-২০২১ (অফিস চলাকালীন)	২৮-০৪-২০২১ (অফিস চলাকালীন)
		দরপত্রের বাস্তব বন্ধের তারিখ	২৬-০৪-২০২১, ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা	২৯-০৪-২০২১, ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা
		দরপত্রের বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ	২৬-০৪-২০২১, ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা	২৯-০৪-২০২১, ১১.৩৫ ঘটিকা

ডাঃ মোঃ আরিফ আনওয়ার  
জুনিয়র কনসালটেন্ট (অর্থো সার্জারী)  
ও  
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক (অঃ দাঃ)  
আনসার ও ভিডিপি হাসপাতাল

জিডি-৮০২

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Pirojpur  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7900.000.07.001.2021-553 Date: 21-04-2021

**Corrigendum Notice-02**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 16/2020-2021**

This is for information to all concern that to some unavoidable circumstance the date of deadline of closing & opening of e-Tender ID No. 559647, 559649, 559650, 559651, 559652, 559653 will be 26.04.2021 (13.00pm) instead of 04.05.2021 (13.00pm).  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-801

**Amazon to let Whole Foods shoppers pay with a swipe of palm**

REUTERS

Amazon said it is rolling out biometric technology at its Whole Foods stores around Seattle starting on Wednesday, letting shoppers pay for items with a scan of their palm.

The move shows how Amazon is bringing some of the technology already in use at its namesake brick-and-mortar Go and Books stores to the grocery chain it acquired in 2017.

The system, called Amazon One, lets customers associate a credit card with their palm print. It offers a contact-less alternative to cash and card payments, Amazon said.