

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.68%	▲ 0.78%	\$1,768.59	\$66.76	▼ 1.98%	▼ 0.83%	▼ 0.1%	▼ 0.81%	83.95	99.84	115.07	12.74
5,518.01	9,634.73	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	48,782.36	28,812.63	3,218.27	3,446.86	BUY TK	103.64	118.87	13.39
								SELL TK			



Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 3, 2021, BAISHAKH 20, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Exports fetch \$3.13b in April

Receipts up six times year-on-year as shipment fell to historic low last year

REFAJET ULLAH MIRDHA

Earnings from merchandise exports surged as much as six times year-on-year to \$3.13 billion in April thanks to a rebound in apparel shipment buoyed by the reopening of the economies in the US and Europe.

Export receipts rose abnormally in April compared to the level in the same month last year, when overseas sales stood at a meagre \$0.52 billion, the lowest in the history of Bangladesh, as a strict lockdown and the closure of factories in Bangladesh due to Covid-19 battered the economy.

Overall exports grew 8.74 per cent year-on-year to \$32.07 billion between July and April, data from the Export Promotion Bureau showed.

In April last year, the earnings from the garment sector, which contributes about 84 per cent to the national exports, was only \$0.37 billion.

Despite the abnormal rise in the shipment in April this year, the earnings were 6.44 per cent below the monthly target of \$3.35 billion.

Between July and April, the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, the receipts from the garment shipment were up 6.24 per cent year-on-year to \$26 billion, showing the resilience of the industry amid the fallouts of Covid-19.

Of the sum, \$13.99 billion came from the shipment of knitwear items, which registered 15.34 per cent year-on-year growth. Earnings



STAR/FILE

In April last year, earnings from the garment sector, which contributes 84 per cent to national export in a year, were only 0.37 billion because of lockdown and shutdown of factories.

from the woven shipment fell 2.71 per cent to \$12 billion.

The shipment of knitwear items is increasing as people are spending more time indoors. Because of the pandemic, the demand for woven garment such as formal shirts and trousers has fallen.

Woven exports declined by more than 10 per cent during most of the months in the last one year. April saw the lowest decline during the period, in an indication that the segment is rebounding thanks to gradual reopening of stores and offices.

Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association, said: "We have not returned to normalcy yet and the rebound of garments items has just begun. We hope the export of apparels to the European markets will get a boost by September."

The export to the US market was performing strongly, he said.

The global consumption of apparels has declined by more than 10 per cent over the last year because of the drastic fall in income of the people because of Covid-19, he said.

"This has affected the prices of garment items significantly although the cost of production has increased because of the higher prices of the raw materials and freight charges."

READ MORE ON B3

Remittances past \$20b in 10 months

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Remittance inflow surpassed the \$20-billion mark in the first 10 months of this fiscal year riding on the relentless efforts of migrant workers to send their hard-earned money home through banking channels.

Between July and April, the Bangladeshi diaspora sent \$20.66 billion, up 39 per cent year-on-year, according to data from the central bank.

For the first time in the country's history, remittance inflow crossed the \$20 billion mark in a single fiscal year, a development that has given a breathing space to the government to absorb the economic shocks deriving from the coronavirus pandemic.

Remittance inflow also increased 89 per cent year-on-year to \$2.06 billion in April as the migrant workers sent a whopping amount of funds ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The inflow usually skyrockets before Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, the two biggest religious festivals for Muslims, as migrant workers send a hefty amount to their near and dear ones during these periods. The monthly remittance exceeded the \$2-billion mark after four months. The

expats sent \$2.05 billion in December.

The stagnation of hundi, an illegal cross-boundary financial transaction, has largely pushed the country's remittances up in recent months, experts said.

A good number of countries have adopted strict restrictions on movement since the Covid-19 outbreak last year, putting an adverse impact on the operation of the global hundi cartel.

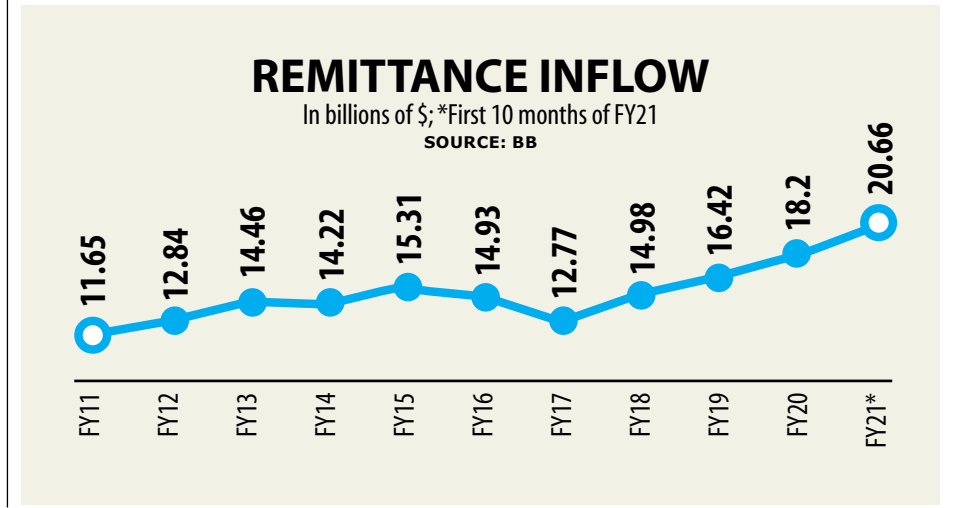
Travelling for different purposes, including medical and education, has almost come to a halt since the last year, dealing a fatal blow to the hundi cartel, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

Remittance may decline once again when the hundi cartel recommence their activities in a full-fledged manner, he said.

In addition, money laundering through imports has been almost brought to an end in recent months, a high official of a commercial bank said, wishing not to be named.

A vested quarter usually dodges taxes by way of under-invoicing while settling imports, he said.

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Beximco profits Tk 77 from each vaccine dose

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Vaccine imports from India contributed to 40 per cent higher profits for Beximco Pharmaceuticals in the past nine months.

The listed drug makers' profits surged by Tk 107 crore, or 40 per cent, year-on-year to Tk 369 crore in the July 2020 to March 2021 period.

Beximco logged a profit of Tk 38 crore against its supply of 50 lakh doses of vaccine to the government, according to the financial report.

So, the drug maker booked profits of around Tk 76.74 from each dose of the vaccine.

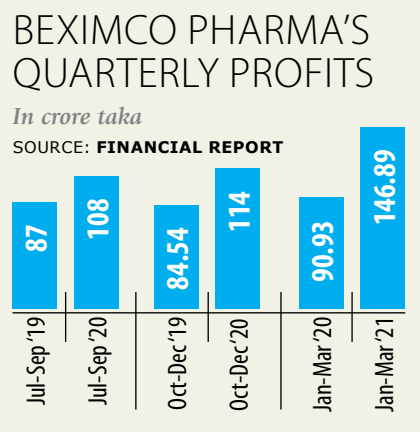
This led to the local drug makers' stock to more than double since its agreement with the government and Serum Institute of India.

On November 5, the trio signed a memorandum of understanding for three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

When the vaccine was approved for human application a couple of weeks after the agreement, Beximco's stocks started to surge.

Yesterday, stocks of Beximco Pharmaceuticals traded at Tk 192.50, which was Tk 80 in August last year.

As per agreement, the company is to receive fees for the import, storage and delivery of the vaccine to government warehouses across the country, the



company said in the financial report.

A net amount of Tk 38.33 crore after deduction of related expenses from the fees, has been reported as income from vaccine distribution, it said.

This is a non-recurring one off contract and any future earning from this source is dependent on the delivery of the committed quantity of vaccine under the agreement.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals' consolidated revenue rose to Tk 2,176 crore in the three quarters, which was Tk 1,910 crore in the same period of the previous year. Its earnings per share stood at Tk 8.23, which was Tk 5.84.

Business confidence hits rock bottom: survey

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

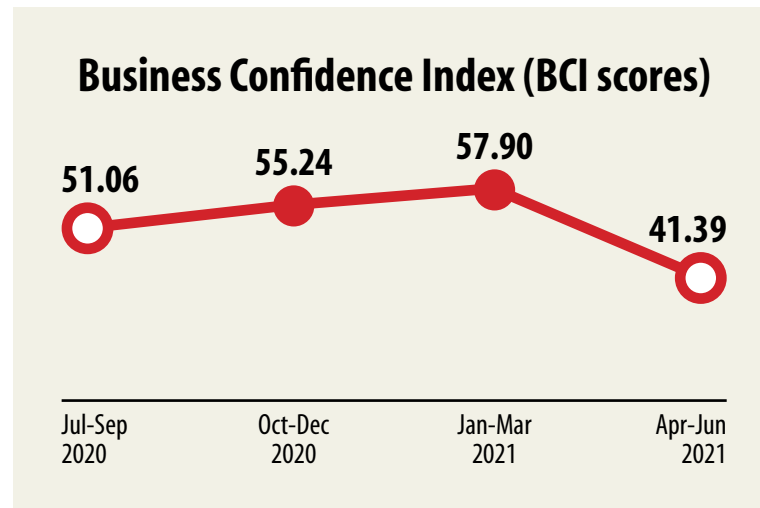
Business confidence in Bangladesh plunged to 41.39 points for the April to June quarter, the lowest level in a year, as an alarming surge in coronavirus infections has deepened uncertainty and threatened the economic recovery, according to a new survey.

A confidence level below 50 reflects a deterioration in the outlook, while a reading above 50 indicates an improvement.

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) has been publishing the quarterly Business Confidence Index (BCI) since July last year after surveying firms on profitability, investment, employment, wage, business cost, and sales/exports.

The fourth round of the telephone survey was conducted among 503 firms from April 5 to April 18.

It showed that business confidence declined sharply to 41.39 points on a scale of 100 for the April-June quarter, from 57.90 in the last quarter. This was the first time the reading has fallen below



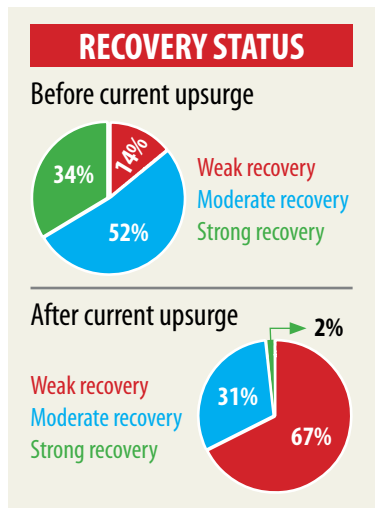
50 since the think-tank began following the business confidence a year ago.

"This round of the survey provides an opportunity for a better understanding of the pulse of the economy and the sustainability of the recovery path as the coronavirus situation has deteriorated," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the Sanem, at a webinar.

According to the survey, 34 per

cent of businesses had expected a strong recovery, 52 per cent moderate recovery, and only 14 per cent weak recovery before the current spike in coronavirus caseloads and deaths from the deadly pathogen.

The firms that had thought there might be a strong recovery fell to only 2 per cent after the situation worsened. Thirty-one per cent of the respondents believe that there



would be a moderate recovery, and a staggering 67 per cent say the recovery would be weak.

"The deterioration is visible in all of the subcomponents of the BCI. This deterioration poses a threat to the future businesses," said Prof Raihan.

Managers or executives of 253 manufacturing firms and 250 service sector firms were interviewed.

READ MORE ON B3

Stock turnover hits 3-month high

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Investors are pouring money into stocks pinning hopes on the higher profit declarations by the listed companies for the latest quarter.

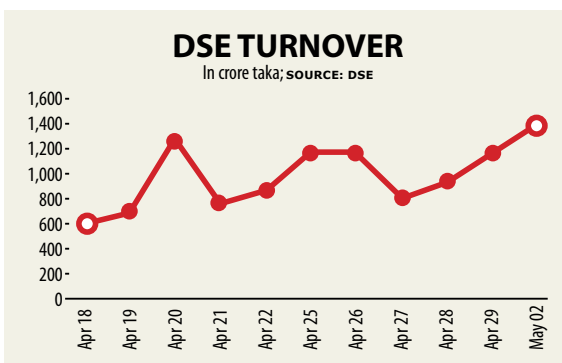
As a result, index and turnover both are rising.

Turnover at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) crossed Tk 1,400 crore yesterday for the first time in the last three months.

The important indicator of the stock market rose 19 per cent from the previous day's Tk 1,172 crore.

DSEX, benchmark index of the DSE, increased 37 points or 0.68 per cent to end the day at 5,517.01.

Investors are hopeful of making higher



profits at the end of 2020-21 as the listed companies are announcing their quarterly reports and most of them booked higher profits, said Sharif Anwar Hossain, president of DSE Brokers' Association.

READ MORE ON B2

Nialco stock subscriptions May 16-20

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stock subscriptions for the country's first-ever small and medium enterprise (SME) to enter the stock market would run between May 16 and 20.

Nialco Alloys has got the market regulator's nod to raise funds from qualified investors.

The subscriptions for shares will start at 10:00am on May 16 and continue till 5:30pm of May 20, the Dhaka Stock Exchange said in a disclosure yesterday.

Eligible investors can use an electronic subscription system under the fixed price method.

READ MORE ON B2

WE MOURN

One of the finest and most dedicated members of our Dhaka Bank Family

Syed Akhlaque Hossain
Executive Vice President (EVP)
& Manager of our Gulshan Circle 2 Branch, has breathed his last and started his journey towards eternity on Friday, April 30, 2021.

He was a pious, hardworking person and above all, a good human being. We pray to The Almighty Allah that He gives strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss and his departed soul be rested in the highest place in Jannah, Ameen.

DHAKA BANK
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING



Unilever Consumer Care Chairman Masud Khan virtually presided over its 48th annual general meeting in Dhaka yesterday. The company announced 440 per cent cash dividend. Managing Director KSM Minhaj and Finance Director Hasnain Thoufiq Ahmed attended the meeting.



Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner ANM Faizul Haque, South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank Chairman SM Amzad Hossain and Fakirhat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Tanvir Rahman handed over a sewing machine to a woman under the bank's corporate social responsibility programme at Fakirhat Upazila Prishad Auditorium in Bagerhat yesterday.



LankaBangla Finance Chairman Mohammad A Moyeen virtually presided over its 24th annual general meeting recently. The company announced 12 per cent cash dividend. CEO and Managing Director Khwaja Shahriar attended the meeting.

7UP now in Ramadan packaging

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Carbonated soft drink brand 7UP® will be available in a new limited-edition green and golden packaging celebrating Ramadan.

Developed by the PepsiCo Design and Innovation team, the packaging takes inspiration from the various elements that define the spirit of Ramadan, says a press release.

"The occasion of Ramadan is one of extreme significance, a time where people get together & spend time with family and friends during Iftar," said Naseeb Puri, PepsiCo marketing director for Bangladesh.

"We wanted to make these moments more special...provide a visual delight that helps add freshness to Iftar tables around the country," he said.

"The new green and gold packaging, inspired by the local culture and motif of the occasion, will establish an instant connect with consumers and also enable 7UP® to truly stand out on retail shelves, which will attract the consumers," said Sharfuddin Bhuiyan Shamol, head of marketing, Transcom Beverages.

The new design will be used across packaging for 600 ml, 1 litre and 2.25 litre packs of 7UP®, as well as across the brand's various out of home touchpoints.

Progress in business climate laudable, but further improvement needed

FROM PAGE B4

As a future initiative, we hope to initiate the discussion for a free trade agreement (FTA) between Japan and Bangladesh to facilitate more business opportunities after the LDC graduation in collaboration with the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We believe riding on the FTA, both countries can go to the next level of economic relationship.

DS: Are you happy with the current investment climate in Bangladesh? Which are the areas Bangladesh needs to improve further for making the investment climate more investor-friendly?

YA: I would appreciate the government for taking the initiatives to improve the business environment even amid the Covid-19 pandemic. But we think that there are a lot of challenges in doing business and drastic improvement is needed.

The first challenge is foreign exchange policy. We are facing challenges when we do business here. Trade transaction is limited in LC (letters of credit) settlement, but terms and conditions for opening LC are quite complicated in comparison to other countries. Businesses are requested to submit unique documents by banks which are not requested in other countries. LC opening should be simplified. Moreover, telegraphic transfer (TT) is the

standard way of transaction in other ASEAN countries, but in Bangladesh, TT is not available for imports. Very ironically, in South Asia, Bangladesh and Pakistan are the only countries that cannot transfer remittance.

I think that Bangladesh should enter the supply chain in Asean or South Asia regions to have more manufacturing industries. In this connection, the transaction system should be internationalised by introducing a TT settlement facility.

The procurement of fund in Bangladesh is another challenge. Foreign companies face difficulties in procuring fund in Bangladesh, and the only way is to inject capital from the parent company. Under the circumstances, business expansion is hard to make. In this connection, working capital loan from the parent company should be more relaxed.

The second aspect is tax policies. We do not see consistency in tax policy and transparency in the tax administration. Especially, we would expect further policies to promote domestic industries and differentiate from trading.

As the last point, we would request the government to digitalise the administrative procedures to ensure transparency and predictability in paperwork. We need this digitalisation in custom clearance because we have a lot of hassles at the import stage.

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-4, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka

e-Tender Notice

“শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি”

e-Tender are invited in e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-4 Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages, which will be available at e-GP website from date: 02/05/2021, 18:00.

SL No.	Tender ID, Ref No. & Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time
1.	573474 46.207.014.24.09.34. 2020-2021 z4MP-D7	Development works of Debidas Ghat Lane, Sowarighat (Holding No. 1 Debidas Ghat to 30 Debidas Ghat) and adjacent bylane of 25 No. Borokatra Chan Sorder Bhaban to Sowari Ghat Mor with drain at Ward No. 30.	19-May-2021 17:00	20-May-2021 12:00
2.	573478 46.207.014.24.09.35. 2020-2021 z4MP-D5	Development works of Pater Bagh Road 4 No. Goli (Nur Mohammad Bari to Haque Saheb's Bari to Islambagh Road) and Islambagh Mir Hossain Miru Road (Sirajul Ulum Kourmi Madrasa & Atim Khana to Tuser's House) with RCC drain at Ward No. 60 under Parliamentary seat Dhaka-5.	19-May-2021 17:00	20-May-2021 12:00
3.	573480 46.207.014.24.09.36. 2020-2021 z10W-Canal	Construction work of Boundary Fence on both side of existing canals at Zone-10 under Dhaka South City Corporation.	19-May-2021 17:00	20-May-2021 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Harunur Rashid
Executive Engineer
Zone-4 (Nagar Bhaban)
Dhaka South City Corporation
Ph: 9567666

ডিএসসি/পিআইডি/১৭৭/২০২০-২০২১
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Stock turnover hits 3-month high

FROM PAGE B1

The companies' higher profits are a good sign for the market, he said.

Reckitt Benckiser announced 1,400 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on December 31 of 2020 when its earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 156, which was Tk 131 the previous year. The multinational company's EPS rose to Tk 29.39 during the January to March period of the current year, up from Tk 24.04 in the same period previous year.

The EPS of Eastern Lubricants surged to Tk 37.69 in the nine months of the current fiscal year, up from Tk 6.09 a year earlier.

Institutional investors are also active now as the rate of infection and demise from the Covid-19 has reduced, Hossain said, adding that: "Investors will not be loser if they invest in well-performing companies and then hold those."

Patience is the key to success in the stock market, he added. At the DSE, 180 stocks advanced, 104 declined and 77 remained unchanged.

Padma Life Insurance topped the gainers' list with a 23 per cent rise followed by Khulna Power, Maksons Spinning, Generation Next, and Matin Spinning.

Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most

with shares worth Tk 277 crore changing hands followed by Provat Insurance, National Feed Mills, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh.

Associated Oxygen Ltd shed the most that dropped 7 per cent followed by Rupali Insurance, Paramount Insurance, Midas Financing and Northern Insurance.

The Chattogram Stock Exchange also rose yesterday. The CASPI, the general index of the port city bourse, surged 128 points, or 0.80 per cent, to stand at 15,973.

Among 267 traded stocks, 145 rose, 82 dropped and 40 remained unchanged.

Nialco stock subscriptions May 16-20

FROM PAGE B1

Being a qualified investor requires maintaining a minimum investment of Tk 1 crore only at market price in matured listed securities as on May 04, 2021.

The shares will be traded at the SME platform of the bourses where general investors are not permitted to trade.

The small-cap board, called the DSE SME, was rolled out on April 30 with a view to facilitating small and medium-sized enterprises in raising funds. Previously they could not avail the process for their lower turnovers.

US oil giants return to profitability in Q1

AFP, New York

After a string of losses, ExxonMobil and Chevron on Friday both reported a return to profitability in the first quarter, bolstered by a significant jump in oil prices.

The results, which come amid a similar round of profits by Royal Dutch Shell, Total and other European petroleum giants, point to a much-improved demand outlook compared with last year, when oil prices tumbled midway through the first quarter as the coronavirus crisis shuttered large parts of the economy.

"Earnings strengthened primarily due to higher oil prices as the economy recovers," said Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth.

Yet larger petroleum companies still face major challenges, including campaigns from activist shareholders at annual meetings next month over their response to climate change.

লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা কার্যালয়

লালমনিরহাট

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

তারিখ: ২৯/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ

২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের জন্য লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভার কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল, পথ জবাইখানা, গণ-শৌচাগার এবং খোঁয়াড় সমূহের ইজারা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৩/২০২০-২০২১

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র পৌরসভার কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল (খণ্ড ও দুর্ পাল্লার) টেল আদায় এবং পথ জবাইখানা, গণ-শৌচাগার ও খোঁয়াড় সমূহের ইজারা প্রদানের নিমিত্তে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে ১লা জুলাই ২০২১ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২২ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (এক বছর মেয়াদে) সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে ইজারা প্রদান করা হবে। ইজারা গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধিগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত বাসে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র ফর্ম/সিডিউল নিম্নোক্ত সমন্বিত অস্থায়ী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সরকারি চুক্তির দিন ব্যতীত) ক্রমিক নং-০১ এর জন্ম (১) লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা কার্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট (২) উপ-পরিচালক, স্থানীয় সরকার, লালমনিরহাট ও (৩) পুলিশ সুপার, লালমনিরহাট-এর কার্যালয় হতে নির্বাচিত মুদ্রে (অফিসের/স্বাক্ষর) ক্রয় করা যাবে এবং দরপত্রসমূহ নির্বাচিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে উপলব্ধিকৃত কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে দাখিল করতে পারবেন। ক্রমিক নং-০২, ০৩, ০৪ এর জন্ম উল্লেখিত মহলা সমূহের দরপত্র ফর্ম/সিডিউল শুধুমাত্র লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা কার্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে এবং দরপত্রসমূহ উপলব্ধি নির্বাচনী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, সদর উপজেলা, লালমনিরহাট এবং লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা কার্যালয়ে দাখিল করা যাবে। প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ ঐ দিনই বেলা ৩-০০ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের সাথে মেসের, লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভার অনুকূলে উদ্ধৃত দরের অতিরিক্ত অর্থ যেকোন তফসিলি ব্যাঙ্কের ব্যাল্ট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে জমা করতে হবে। এছাড়াও উদ্ধৃত দরের অতিরিক্ত ৫% পরিষ্কার-পরিষ্কারের জামানত, ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং ৫% আয়করের সমন্বয় অর্থ আলাদা আদায় একটি ব্যাল্ট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে যেকোন তফসিলি ব্যাঙ্ক হতে মেসের, লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। ইজারা সংক্রান্ত যেকোন তথ্য পৌরসভা কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করে জানা যাবে।

কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল খণ্ড ও দুর্ পাল্লার তালিকা-

ক্রমিক নং	ইজারা মহালার নাম	প্রতিটি গাড়ির টেল ফি	কাজিত সরকারি মূল্য	বাসায়ের টাকা (প্রস্তাবিত মূল্যের)	১৫% ভ্যাট, ৫% আয়কর ও ৫% জামানত	দরপত্র ফর্মের মূল্য (টাকা)
০১	কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল	৫০/-	৭,২০,৫০০/-	১০০%	১০০%	২,০০০/- টাকা

জবাইখানা, গণ-শৌচাগার ও খোঁয়াড় সমূহের তালিকা-

ক্রমিক নং	ইজারা মহালার নাম	কাজিত সরকারি মূল্য	সিডিউল মূল্য	উদ্ধৃত দর ও ভ্যাট এর সমন্বয় টাকার ১০০% ব্যাল্ট ড্রাফট আকারে জমা দিতে হবে এবং নিম্নরূপভাবে টেল আদায় করা যাবে
০২	পথ জবাইখানা	১,৪০,৬০০/-	৬০০/-	(ক) ছাগল বা ভেড়া প্রতিটি ৫০/- টাকা। (খ) গরু প্রতিটি ১০০/- টাকা। (গ) মহিষ প্রতিটি ১৫০/- টাকা।
০৩	(ক) পুরাতন বাসভাড়া গণ-শৌচাগার। (খ) কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল গণ-শৌচাগার। (গ) নবাবের হাট-বাজার গণ-শৌচাগার।	৯,৮০০/- ৭,৪০০/- ১০,০০০/-	৩০০/- ৩০০/- ৩০০/-	(ক) পৃথক পৃথক সিডিউল ক্রয় করে দরপত্র জমা করতে হবে। (খ) প্রতিবার প্রস্তাব করার জন্য ১/- টাকা এবং প্রতিবার পায়খানা করার জন্য ২/- টাকা এবং প্রতিবার পোস্টালের জন্য ৩/- টাকা হারে ব্যবহারকারীদের নিকট হতে গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
০৪	(ক) উত্তর সাপটানা খোঁয়াড় (খ) তালুক চুটামারা খোঁয়াড়	৫,১০০/- ৩,৫০০/-	৩০০/- ৩০০/-	(ক) খোঁয়াড় ব্যবস্থাপনা ইজারাদানের শীঘ্র ব্যয়ে এবং নিজ দায়িত্বে করতে হবে। (খ) পৃথক পৃথক সিডিউল ক্রয় করে দরপত্র জমা করতে হবে। (গ) গরু, মহিষ, খোঁয়াড়, গরুর প্রতিটি ১০০/- টাকা (২৪ ঘণ্টার জন্য) (ঘ) ছাগল ভেড়া প্রতিটি ৪০/- টাকা (২৪ ঘণ্টার জন্য) (ঙ) হাঁস মুরগি প্রতিটি ২০/- টাকা (২৪ ঘণ্টার জন্য) হারে আদায় করতে হবে।

দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও খোলার সমন্বিত তালিকা-

পর্যায়	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১ম পর্যায়	২৪/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা	২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা
২য় পর্যায়	০৯/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	১০/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা	১০/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা

এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি সন্নিবেহ, ইজারা সংক্রান্ত যেকোন তথ্য পৌরসভা কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করে জানা যাবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা
লালমনিরহাট
০২৭২৮-৭৭৪৮৪৮

জিডি-৮৭১

Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd

Bangladesh Navy
Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj
Phone: 880-02-7661480, Fax: 02-7661027
E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd

Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.21.1787 Date: 02 May 2021

Invitation for International Re-Tender

01	Procuring entity name	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, BN, Narayanganj.
02	Invitation for	Spares parts of Jhon deere power tech 6068AFM85 OEM marine engine.
03	Procuring method	Open Tender.
04	Budget & source of funds	Own finance.
05	Tender last selling date time	30 May 2021 Time: 16:00pm.
06	Tender closing date and time	31 May 2021 Time: 12:15pm.
07	Tender opening date and time	31 May 2021 Time: 12:30pm.
08	Name & address of the office: a. Selling tender document b. Receiving tender document c. Opening tender document	Cash Section, Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj or Account Name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bank name: Trust Bank Ltd, Account No. 00350320000056, Branch: Narayanganj, deposit slip submitted by tender document. (If tender schedule document download from website) Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Dockyard & Engineering, Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
09	Price of tender document	Tk 1,000.00 (Take one thousand only) (non-refundable).
10	Contact details official	Mobile: 01769-719887, Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd
11	Eligibility of tenderer	1. Tenderer must be OEM/distributor/local agent. 2. Experience of supply, supply of goods as mentioned. 3. Document required: a. Trade licence. b. TIN certificate. c. VAT registration. d. Bank statement.
12	Earnest money	1% (one) of the total quoted CFR/CPT value either in Bangladesh currency or equivalent USS/EURO/GBP etc. favouring Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee (Not applicable for DEW enlisted supplier).
13	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

For Managing Director



A Rouf Chowdhury reelected Bank Asia chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK
A Rouf Chowdhury has recently been reelected chairman of Bank Asia at the 453rd meeting of its Board of Directors. Chowdhury is the bank's main sponsor. He is the chairman of Rangs Group and Sea Resources Group and one of the directors of Mediaworld which owns The Daily Star. His business entities are engaged in transport, medicine, real estate, IT, banking and deep sea fishing, says a press release.

Warren Buffett says US economy's unexpected strength benefits Berkshire

REUTERS

Warren Buffett said on Saturday that Berkshire Hathaway Inc is being lifted by a US economy faring far better than he predicted early in the coronavirus pandemic, though investor euphoria is making it hard to deploy cash.

Speaking at Berkshire's annual meeting, Buffett said the economy has been "resurrected in an extraordinarily effective way" by monetary stimulus from the Federal Reserve and fiscal stimulus from the US Congress.

"It did the job," Buffett said. "This economy, right now, 85 per cent of it is running in super high gear."

Buffett lamented how an influx of so-called special purpose acquisition companies and inexperienced investors hoping for quick riches have made markets feel like a casino, making it hard for Berkshire to deploy more of its \$145.4b cash hoard.

But the 90-year-old retained his optimism for the future of the company he has run since 1965, including after he's gone.

"We've seen some strange things happen in the world in the last year, 15 months," Buffett said. "It has reinforced our desire to figure out everything possible to make sure that Berkshire is, 50 or 100 years from now, every bit the organization and then some that it is now."

The annual meeting was held in Los Angeles,



Berkshire Hathaway's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Warren Buffett and Vice-chairman Charlie Munger speak at Berkshire's annual meeting, held virtually for a second year, in Los Angeles, California, US on May 1 in this screen grab taken from a live-stream video.

where Buffett joined Berkshire's 97-year-old vice chairman Charlie Munger, to answer more than three hours of shareholder questions.

Greg Abel and Ajit Jain, Berkshire's other vice chairmen and potentially successors to Buffett as chief executive, also fielded several questions.

Asked about their rapport, Jain said that they

don't interact as much as Munger and Buffett, but they talk every quarter about businesses they oversee.

Berkshire scrapped for a second year its annual shareholder weekend in its Omaha, Nebraska, hometown, an extravaganza that normally attracts around 40,000 shareholders.

Stimulus boosts US consumer spending; inflation warming up

REUTERS

US consumer spending rebounded in March amid a surge in income as households received additional Covid-19 pandemic relief money from the government, building a strong foundation for a further acceleration in consumption in the second quarter.

Other data on Friday showed labor costs jumped by the most in 14 years in the first quarter, driven by a pick-up in wage growth as companies competed for workers to boost production.

The White House's massive \$1.9t fiscal stimulus and rapidly improving public health are unleashing pent-up demand.

"While we aren't completely out of the woods yet, today's report shows the beginning of an economic rebound," said Brendan Coughlin, head of consumer banking at Citizens in Boston.

"Assuming no setback in the continued rollout of the vaccines, US consumers are well-positioned in the second half of the year to stimulate strong economic growth across the country."

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, increased 4.2 per cent last month after falling 1.0 per cent in February, the Commerce Department said.

The increase was broadly in line with economists' expectations.

The data was included in Thursday's gross domestic product report for the first quarter, which showed growth shooting up at a 6.4 per cent annualized rate in the first three months of the year after rising at a 4.3 per cent pace in the fourth quarter. Consumer spending powered ahead at a 10.7 per cent rate last quarter.

Most Americans in the middle- and low-income brackets received one-time \$1,400 stimulus checks last month which were part of the pandemic rescue package approved in March.

That boosted personal income 21.1 per cent after a drop of 7.0 per cent in February.

A chunk of the cash was stashed away, with the saving rate soaring to 27.6 per cent from 13.9 per cent in February.

Households have amassed at least \$2.2t in excess savings, which could provide a powerful tailwind for consumer spending this year and beyond.

The government's generosity and expansion of the Covid-19 vaccination program to include all American adults is lifting consumer spirits, with a measure of household sentiment rising to a 13-month high in April.

Wages are also increasing, which should help to underpin spending when stimulus boost fades.

In a separate report on Friday, the Labor Department said its Employment Cost Index, the broadest measure of labor costs, jumped 0.9 per cent in the first quarter. That was the largest rise since the second quarter of 2007.

The ECI is widely viewed by policymakers and economists as one of the better measures of labor market slack and a predictor of core inflation as it adjusts for composition and job quality changes. Last quarter's increase was driven by a 1.0 per cent rise in wages, also the biggest gain in 14 years.

Wages in the accommodation and food services industry, hardest hit by the pandemic, soared 1.7 per cent.

Profit-taking hits US stocks, recession hobbles Europe

AFP, New York

US markets were hit by a bout of profit-taking on Friday, while in Europe data confirming the eurozone is back in recession dampened investor enthusiasm.

Weaker-than-expected Chinese economic data also hit sentiment, with Asia's main equity indices closing out the week lower.

Wall Street had powered to fresh highs on Thursday following news that US growth accelerated more than six per cent in the first quarter and jobless claims continued to fall to new pandemic-era lows.

US indices have also been benefitting from outsized earnings reported this week by tech heavyweights Apple, Facebook and Google.

But investors are starting to worry that the rally has run out of steam, leaving stocks vulnerable to profit-taking. Friday's lackluster

session may suggest that "a lot of the good news is already priced in," said Shawn Cruz of TD Ameritrade, adding warnings from companies of higher supply chain costs are "a real big risk to the outlook for the rest of the year."

"The broad-based S&P 500 ended down 0.7 per cent, retreating from Thursday's record but eking out a gain for the week."

Both the Dow and Nasdaq finished modestly lower for the week.



Growth in China's manufacturing activity slowed last month, with officials pointing to a global shortage of shipping containers, among other problems.

European stocks ended the day mostly lower following data showing that the eurozone economy fell into its second recession in less than a year in the first quarter, as slow vaccinations and pandemic lockdowns stopped a rebound.

Germany was the major drag on growth in the January to March period, with exports unable to overcome a steep drop in demand by confined consumers, analysts said. "The economic recovery was always likely to be uneven in nature, and this morning's growth figures highlighted exactly that," said IG analyst Josh Mahony, noting that Covid restrictions pushed Germany into a contraction while France grew modestly.

"However, the story of a lagging EU could soon start to shift, with the region expecting to ramp up their vaccinations to fully cover

70 per cent of the population by mid-July," he added.

Adding to the selling pressure was a report showing slowing growth in China's factory activity, owing to a global shortage of shipping containers, supply chain problems and rising freight rates.

Observers nevertheless remain upbeat about the outlook, as vast sums of government and central bank cash swirl around the world economy.

"All evidence still points to continued support from both fiscal and monetary policy against a backdrop of accelerating corporate earnings," Mark Haefele of UBS Global Wealth Management said.

"This reinforces our view that markets can advance further, with cyclical parts of the market -- such as financials, energy, and value stocks -- likely to benefit most from the global upswing."

Business confidence hits rock bottom: survey

FROM PAGE B1

Over the past year, there had been some visible recovery of business activities. The improvement is visible in most of the sub-components of the Present Business Status Index (PBSI). But still, the overall PBSI is low.

The firms, on average, have been able to recover 57 per cent of the damages that occurred from March 2020 to March 2021. The financial industry has been able to recoup 73 per cent of the losses, followed by pharmaceuticals and chemicals (72 per cent), readymade garment (67 per cent), and textiles (66 per cent).

It showed that the firms had not returned to the pre-pandemic level. Although the business cost indicator improved slightly in the fourth round of the survey, the overall score is still less than 50 points.

Sectors that need attention on a priority basis are light engineering, transport, retail, and leather and tannery as their recovery is slow, the survey said.

About 68 per cent of the surveyed firms are yet to receive any stimulus package. Like in the previous three

rounds of the survey, the major areas of challenges include a lack of stimulus package, lengthy procedure and difficulty in bank-related services. No major improvements were observed in these indicators.

"Our econometric exercises suggest that stimulus packages are having positive and significant association with firms' recovery," said Raihan.

SMEs in all sectors should be a priority in channelling the loans and stimulus packages. Effective implementation of the stimulus package is critically important, he said.

He called for assessing the stimulus packages that had been implemented so far and that needed to be redesigned and expanded.

According to the survey, remittances, export of goods and services, bank's credit to the private sector, and vaccination programmes were among the major factors that were contributing to the overall economic recovery.

There was a little improvement to the Enabling Business-Environment Index from January to March of 2021. However, corruption, poor trade logistics, unfavourable tax system,

access to finance, and management of the crisis remained the major challenges.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, said the ups and downs in the infection rate would stay for around two more years. So, business confidence could pose as a double-edged sword.

"If you are too much confident that your business would perform better in future, you will expand your business through investing and hiring more. When everyone starts doing it, mobility will increase, and there will be frequent public gatherings. Thus, the prevention of the virus spread will be compromised," he said.

"Overconfidence could be devastating now. Not only businesses, nobody should be overconfident now as experts have unequivocally stated that overconfidence played a major role in the deterioration of the coronavirus situation in India," Hussain said.

Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, country representative of the Asia Foundation, and Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, also spoke.

Exports fetch \$3.13b in April

FROM PAGE B1

The overall prices of garment items may go up to some extent in the next few months because of higher prices of fabrics, Hassan said. "But it will not cover the increase in the costs of production."

The shipment of jute and jute goods and leather and leather goods rose.

Jute and jute goods exports surged 30.88 per cent year-on-year to \$1.03 billion during the 10-month period. The earnings from jute and jute goods shipment crossed \$1-billion mark for the first time in nearly seven years,

riding on increased shipment to Middle Eastern countries.

"The buoyancy in exports earnings in jute yarn and twine is the result of the higher prices of jute this year. Last year, the prices of jute were low. As the prices surged in the current fiscal year, the export receipts went up in terms of value," said Shahidul Karim, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association.

Earnings from leather and leather goods shipment rose 8.56 per cent year-on-year to \$760.92 million between July and April.

Md Saiful Islam, president of

the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh, said the leather sector's export grew mainly because of the payment of arrears by the international retailers and brands.

Moreover, the export had been performing well since last November and December, he said.

Exports of agricultural products grew 9.1 per cent to \$824.59 million.

The shipment of pharmaceuticals, rubber goods, bicycle, plastic goods, carpets and footwear rose, while that of ceramics, ships and furniture fell.

money, he said.

This will play a positive role in increasing remittance in the days to come, he said.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said a large number of people were now facing a shortage of cash due to stagnation of a large portion of economic activities amid restrictions on movement.

"This also forced the migrant workers to send a robust amount of money to their relatives last month," he said, adding that the upcoming Eid also had a positive impact on the inflow.

Remittances past \$20b in 10 months

FROM PAGE B1

Imports have nosedived in recent months as businesses have adopted a go-slow policy in setting up new industrial units or expanding existing ones.

Mansur also said the country's workforce export had nosedived since last year due to the business slowdown in most countries, which may bring a negative impact for remittance in the days ahead as well.

Between January and February this year, 85,242 Bangladeshi citizens went abroad, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Some 217,669 Bangladeshi people went abroad last year in contrast to 700,159 the year before.

On average, the country sends 7 to 8 lakh people abroad as workforce per year. The government will have to lay great emphasis on exporting manpower abroad in order to keep remittance inflow stable in the years ahead. Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said the significant rise in remittance last month was a good indication.

The pandemic has helped a large number of migrant workers get accustomed to the formal channel for the transfer of their hard-earned

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue
Rajasha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka
www.nbr.gov.bd

Corrigendum

Tender Name: Supply, Installation and Commissioning and Testing of 10 (ten) X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 (one) MW Human Body Scanners.
Tender Number: File-08.01.0000.067.42.012.20
Corrigendum No. File-08.01.0000.067.42.012.20
Date: 03/05/2021

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Tender Invitation Notice published for "Supply, Installation and Commissioning and Testing of 10 (ten) X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 (one) MW Human Body Scanners" has been changed as follows:

Serial number as per invitation notice	Description of the content	As per tender schedule content	Amended content
16	Tender last selling date	30/05/2021, Time: 3.00pm	21/06/2021, Time: 3.00pm
17	Tender closing date & time	31/05/2021, Time: 3.00pm	22/06/2021, Time: 3.00pm
18	Tender opening time	31/05/2021, Time: 3.40pm	22/06/2021, Time: 3.40pm
20	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Conference Room, VAT Online Project, 7th Floor, 160/A, IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Date: 06/05/2021, Time: 11.00am. Queries will be taken in written within 02/05/2021 before 3.30pm.	Conference Room, VAT Online Project, 7th Floor, 160/A, IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Date: 30/05/2021, Time: 11.00am. Queries will be taken in written within 23/05/2021 before 3.30pm.
Tender schedule	Description of the content	Existing content	Amended content
Tender Data Sheet, Page No. 28	ITT 10.1	The pre-tender meeting shall be chaired and held: Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), Conference Room, VAT Online Project, 7th Floor, 160/A, IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. City: Dhaka, Country: Bangladesh, Time: at 11.00am, Date: 06-05-2021	The pre-tender meeting shall be chaired and held: Commissioner (Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka), Conference Room, Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka. 342/1, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. City: Dhaka, Country: Bangladesh, Time: at 11.00am, Date: 30-05-2021
Tender Data Sheet, Page No. 30	ITT 38.1	The deadline for submission of tenders is: Time & date: 30/05/2021 at 3.00pm	The deadline for submission of tenders is: Time & date: 22/06/2021 at 3.00pm
Tender Data Sheet, Page No. 31	ITT 44.1	The tender opening shall take place at: Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), National Board of Revenue, Rajasha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000	The tender opening shall take place at: Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade), National Board of Revenue, Rajasha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. The deadline for opening of tenders is: Time & date: 22/06/2021 at 3.40pm

02. All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged.

Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman
Member (Customs: Audit, Modernization and International Trade)
National Board of Revenue
Rajasha Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka
Phone: 8392360

GD-877

Progress in business climate laudable, but further improvement needed

Yuji Ando, country representative of Japan External Trade Organisation, says in an interview

REEYET ULLAH MIRDHA
The relationship between Japan and Bangladesh is a trusted and time-tested one. Bangladesh became Japan's biggest recipient of the Official Development Assistance in 2020. Since the Covid-19 pandemic started more than a year ago, there has been a lot of talks and anticipation about Japanese businesses moving base to Bangladesh. In a series of high-profile interviews, The Daily Star tries to understand the increasing interest of Japanese investors in Bangladesh, its growth prospects, barriers to growth, ground realities, and on how to attract more Japanese investment. As part of a series, today, we are running the interview of Yuji Ando, country representative of the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) in Bangladesh.

DS: Japan is one of the largest and most developed economies in the world. What can Bangladesh learn from Japan's growth trajectory?

Yuji Ando (YA): Japan has realised economic growth by developing industrial sectors through diversifying and upgrading industrial structures. We had started from textile sectors when we started industrialisation in Meiji Era more than 100 years ago.

After World War II, the Japanese government had a policy to industrialise by starting from light engineering sectors to two-wheelers sectors and backward linkage industries. I think Bangladesh is coming to the same way steadily.

Japanese companies have led this industrialisation, and they always focus on improving the operation in the field.

The government is also trying to listen to the private sector to support the industries. Improvement of the business environment, regulatory reform and support schemes (including subsidies) are continuously taken by the government. An interactive discussion and actual initiatives bring the appropriate environment for economic growth.

Nobody denies that Bangladesh has huge potential for growth, and many companies are showing interests in this country. The next five years are really important for Bangladesh, and the government should prepare for graduation from the grouping of the least-developed country (LDC) by introducing digitalisation and a better investment climate.

DS: How would you assess Japan's role in developing our economy?

YA: Japan is the best development partner for Bangladesh. We can collaborate to develop infrastructure, including through the public private partnership (PPP) initiative. Also, I believe Japanese companies can contribute to the improvement of the life of Bangladeshi people by providing the best consumer goods made by Japanese companies.

If the market volume of the two-wheelers reaches a good number, like 10 lakh per year, from five lakh per year, component suppliers may come to this country. This will help develop the backward linkage industry in this country. It is also essential to create huge employment and educate high-skilled human resources in Bangladesh through investment. I believe that Japanese companies will be able to take important roles in developing the country's economy.

DS: Many Japanese companies are shifting from China to other countries, especially to Vietnam. Is there any possibility that they will shift to Bangladesh?

YA: I don't think Japanese companies are shifting from China, but they are trying to diversify the supply chain to other countries.

According to a Jetro survey of 876 respondents in 2020, some 36.6 per cent of the Japanese companies in China are going to expand their business in the next one to two years. Some 55.6 per cent of the companies said that they would keep the current business operation. On the other hand, 6.7 per cent will reduce the



Yuji Ando

business scales, and only 1 per cent said they might relocate to another country or withdraw from China.

China has huge markets, and many Japanese companies will tend to expand business operation for domestic markets. But, the labour-intensive sector (the number of respondents was 28), like RMG, has a lower ratio of expansion (14.3 per cent), and 25 per cent said they might reduce the operation volume or relocate to a third country.

I think that Bangladesh has competitive labour resource and the possibility to receive new orders or investment shifting from China. However, we could have seen this trend before the Covid-19 pandemic because of the wage hike in China.

DS: What are the steps Japan or Jetro is taking to motivate Japanese investors to come to Bangladesh with their investment?

YA: As an official trade and investment promotion agency of the Japanese government, we facilitate Japanese investment through various supports. As a first contact point for Japanese companies, we provide

their business activities smoothly.

DS: What are the potential sectors that can draw Japanese investment?

YA: For Japanese investors, there are many potential sectors in Bangladesh.

Infrastructure development and the energy sector (including public-private partnership projects and energy-saving projects) are areas of interest because this country is going to graduate from the LDC group, and society is stepping to the next level.

For the huge population, consumer goods industries and the two-wheelers industry are potential sectors. Especially, the backward industry of automobile has huge potential in this country if the market size reaches enough number, like the Asean countries. We believe two-wheeler and their components' industries will be the key to diversifying and upgrading industries in Bangladesh.

The ICT sector is spotlighted by Japanese companies. In Japan, Bangladesh is becoming one of the major countries for IT outsourcing and good human resources. For the higher cost of outsourcing in other countries, like China and Vietnam, Bangladesh is very competitive as an off-shore development destination.

DS: As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Independence, how significant has the contribution of Japanese companies been in this journey?

YA: We have been one of the closest friends of each other, and Japanese companies have contributed to the development of this country even from the East Pakistan period. Chattogram is the first place for Japanese companies to start businesses, and it has been an important place for us. As everyone knows, we are developing Matabari port, and it will bring drastic changes to this country in terms of both infrastructure and connectivity.

Japanese companies have always been with Bangladesh, and we have seen a lot of growth together. We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relationship the next year, and we believe we can deepen our economic relationship by welcoming more investment from Japan.

DS: How has Jetro facilitated investment and trade relations among Bangladeshi and Japanese entrepreneurs?

YA: Since our inception in 1973, we have contributed to the development of the business relationship between the two friendly countries. It is coincident that we have started our operation just after Bangabandhu's visit to Japan.

Through the historic visit to Japan by the Father of the Nation, we have deepened an excellent economic relationship.

The Jetro has always tried to bridge both countries through investment facilitation. We have arranged business delegation programmes from Japan to see the business opportunities and environment in Bangladesh.

Through the delegation programmes, several Japanese companies have decided to invest in the EPZs and other areas. We have invited Bangladeshi business leaders to Japan to make business-matching events. We are confident that many Bangladeshi companies have started businesses thanks to our invitation programme.

READ MORE ON B2

"Nobody denies that Bangladesh has huge potential for growth, and many companies are showing interests in this country. The next five years are really important for Bangladesh, and the government should prepare for graduation from the grouping of the least-developed country (LDC) by introducing digitalisation and a better investment climate."

ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড | UCB

এই রমজানে কেবাকাটা হোক ইউসিবি কার্ডের সাথে

১২% ক্যাশব্যাক-সুপারস্টোরে কেবাকাটায়

২০% ক্যাশব্যাক-লাইফস্টাইলে কেবাকাটায়

শর্তাবলি

অংশগ্রহণকারী সুপারস্টোর মার্চেন্টগুলোতে কেবাকাটার উপর ফ্ল্যাট ১২% ক্যাশব্যাক অংশগ্রহণকারী লাইফস্টাইল মার্চেন্ট-এ কেবাকাটার উপর ফ্ল্যাট ২০% ক্যাশব্যাক অফারটি মে ৯ই, ২০২১ সাল পর্যন্ত প্রযোজ্য

ক্যাশব্যাক পাওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে ইউসিবি POS-এ লেনদেন করা বাধ্যতামূলক এই অফারটি সকল ইউসিবি ক্রেডিট কার্ডের জন্য প্রযোজ্য অফারটি অনলাইন কেবাকাটার জন্যও প্রযোজ্য

বিস্তারিত স্বক অনুসারে কম্পেমেন্টের সময়সীমা শেষ হওয়ার পর থেকে ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে ক্রেডিট কার্ডগুলোতে ক্যাশব্যাকের টাকা দিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।

ক্যাম্পেইন চলাকালীন সময়ে সর্বোচ্চ ক্যাশব্যাক (টাকায়)	৩০০০
একক লেনদেনের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ক্যাশব্যাক (টাকায়)	২০০ (সুপারস্টোর ক্যাটাগরি) ৩০০ (লাইফস্টাইল ক্যাটাগরি)

16419

Lockdown clears way for roadside paddy threshing



Due to a lack of free space in the region, local roads and highways are the first choice among farmers to dry and thresh their paddy.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

MINTU DESHWARA

There are a total of 424 haor areas in Sylhet where boro paddy is cultivated. Due to a lack of free space in the region, local roads and highways are the first choice among farmers to dry and thresh their stock.

In the past, vehicular movement had always been a hindrance but now, amid a nationwide lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19, farmers are carrying out such activities without any hassle.

"Many of us use roads and highways to thresh and dry our paddy after harvesting," said Mizanur Rahman, a farmer of Sreemangal upazila in Moulvibazar.

"In the past we usually tried to complete the task early in the morning, when vehicular movement is low, but the roads are free all day now due to the lockdown," he added.

During a recent visit to some villages in the region, this correspondent found that many local farmers are using the Juri-Kulaura-Barlekha upazila regional highway under Hakaluki Haor for this purpose.

"We have been using the highway for paddy processing as many farmers, especially the marginal ones, have hardly any space to do so," said Sharif Uddin, a farmer of Khagteka village in Juri upazila.

Commercial drivers in the region previously complained about roadside paddy processing as it hampered their activities.

"I found it difficult to travel on a number of highways in the area as farmers were processing paddy on them," said Motin Mia, a driver from Bhua area under Juri upazila.

"As a result, we had to drive super carefully to avoid accidents," he added.

Mustafizur Rahman, a driver of Kulaura upazila, echoed the same.

"I had to frequently lower the speed when faced with paddy on the roads and highways," he said.

The mindless use of public roads for paddy processing disturbs vehicular movement but at least this is not the case this year amid the ongoing lockdown, Rahman added.

ATM Farhad Chowdhury, the upazila nirbahi officer of Kulaura,

said that they are strictly maintaining lockdown procedures in the area for which farmers can thresh and dry their paddy on the roads with ease.

In normal times, around 2,000 vehicles including busses and trucks move along various roads in the region, especially the Moulvibazar-Barlekha and Moulvibazar-Sreemangal-Kamalganj highways.

The use of these roads for paddy processing caused serious problems for vehicular movement in the past but this is not the case this year due to the lockdown, Chowdhury said.

Dilip Kumar Adhikary, additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) office in Sylhet, said most farmers in haor areas thresh and dry their paddy on roads.

Adhikary went on to say that farmers cultivated boro paddy on 483,705 hectares of land this year with a production target of 1,937,978 tonnes from the 424 haors under four districts of Sylhet.

The DAE has provided all the necessary cooperation and advice to farmers since the beginning of this season, he added.