

US trade deficit hits a record high amid pent-up demand

REUTERS, Washington

The US trade deficit jumped to a record high in March amid roaring domestic demand, which is drawing in imports, and the gap could widen further as the nation's economic activity rebounds faster than its global rivals.

The White House's \$1.9t pandemic relief package and the expansion of the Covid-19 vaccination program to all adult Americans have led to a boom in demand, which is pushing against supply constraints.

Economic activity is also being boosted by the Federal Reserve's ultra-easy monetary

policy stance.

Manufacturers lack the capacity to satisfy the surge in demand and inventories are very lean, forcing businesses to import more goods.

Demand during the pandemic also shifted to goods from services, with Americans cooped up at home.

The trade deficit increased 5.6 per cent to an all-time high of \$74.4b in March, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday. The trade gap was in line with economists' expectations.

Imports soared 6.3 per cent to record high \$274.5b in March.

Japanese firms want to expand despite pandemic: survey

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pandemic's effects, 31.3 per cent expect to return to normalcy in the first half of 2021 and 34.3 per cent in the second half.

The report said a change in the trading environments in Vietnam, Bangladesh and India had a positive impact on business performance.

Many investors stated that the shift of production to Vietnam and Bangladesh, caused by the US-China trade friction, had a positive impact.

Jetro said further improvement of the business environment in Bangladesh was needed for more competitiveness and future investment.

Some 66.7 per cent of Japanese companies stated that their major challenges were in local procurement of raw materials and components while 56.1 per cent in customs procedures.

The report found that 48.9 per cent expected to generate an operating profit in 2020, down 16.7 percentage points from 65.6 per cent in 2019.

In contrast, 32.4 per cent expect to incur an operating loss, up 14.7 percentage points from 17.7 per cent in 2019.

With respect to operating profit forecast, Bangladesh stands in the lowest position while South Korea the highest with 71.8 per cent, exceeding 60 per cent in Taiwan, Australia, and China.

For 2020, 16 per cent expect an increase in operating profit over 2019, down 17.1 percentage points from 33.1 per cent in 2019. The proportion of companies expecting a decrease in operating profit was 65.6 per cent, up 26.8 percentage points from 29.8 per cent in 2019.

A total of 52.8 per cent expect an increase in operating profit in 2021, up 10.7

percentage points from the 2020 forecast (42.1 per cent) in 2019. Bangladesh will expect an increase by 38.3 per cent in 2021.

Yuji Ando, country representative of Jetro, said Bangladesh has the potential to develop businesses but needs to improve environment bottlenecks.

He said investors face different hassles like time consuming customs procedures, difficulty in local procurement of raw materials and components, power shortages and wage hikes.

According to him, in recent years the wages of workers and employees have increased in Bangladesh.

Besides, Japanese companies have no opportunity to borrow from local banks in Bangladesh, for which they sometimes have to face a shortage of working capital.

The survey took comments of 13,399 Japanese firms engaged in manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors in 20 Asia and Oceania countries between August and September last year.

The report said business confidence had fallen to its lowest level due to the Covid-19 pandemic whereas the deterioration was mild in China.

Even the intentions towards business expansions in the next one or two years hit a new record low.

The impact of changes in trading environments such as the US-China conflict and a decline in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic have had a negative impact on the companies' motivation to expand their business.

Even under such a harsh environment, 50.9 per cent of the companies in India and 53.5 per cent in Pakistan are still motivated towards expanding business in the next one to two years.

Early gains wane in Europe as tech, auto stocks weigh

REUTERS

European shares inched lower on Tuesday as an early boost from commodity, bank and travel stocks was offset by losses in highly valued technology companies and automakers.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index inched down 0.1 per cent, with the German DAX falling 0.6 per cent and UK's FTSE 100 rising 0.5 per cent after a long weekend.

Miners and oil and gas stocks rose more than 1 per cent each, reflecting a rally in commodity prices, as investors bet on a strong global rebound on the back of massive vaccination drives in developed countries and unprecedented stimulus.

"Notably the UK seems to be moving through the gears on reigniting the engine of the economy without hitting a road bump of rapidly rising infections or hospitalisations," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

Travel and leisure sector rose 0.2 per cent, benefiting from Britain's expected announcement of a green list for countries that people can travel to on holidays.

Tech stocks, however, slumped 1.2 per cent after their Wall Street peers came under pressure on Monday.

Chipmaker Infineon fell 4.5 per cent after CEO Reinhard Ploss said he was expecting supply constraints in the automotive segment to only ease in the second half of this year, with lost volumes likely to be made up in 2022.

Europe's automakers fell 0.5 per cent.

German meal-kit delivery company HelloFresh fell 4.5 per cent as worries about consumer behaviour, amid easing lockdowns, overshadowed a surge in first-quarter customer base.

Software company Teamviewer, another stay-at-home beneficiary, dropped 7.6 per cent despite reporting quarterly orders and core profit ahead of expectations.

More than half of the STOXX 600 companies have reported so far in what has largely been a positive earnings season, with 73 per cent of them topping profit expectations, as per Refinitiv IBES data.

Jewellery maker Pandora jumped 4.8 per cent on reporting quarterly operating profit above estimates, fuelled by strong online sales and plans to push for sales growth in the United States and China.

Dassault Aviation jumped 7.9 per cent after Egypt's defence ministry said it had signed a contract with France to buy 30 Rafale fighter jets.

BB clips National Bank's wings

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The move from the BB came after the allegations of worsening governance at the bank surrounding approval and sanction of loans and appointment of top executives.

The financial health of the bank started worsening in 2009 when Sikder Group took over the control of the board.

The board was restructured after its chairman, Zainul Haque Sikder, passed away on February 10. His wife Monowara Sikder was elected chairman on February 24. NBL did not hold any board meeting between December 27 last year and April 11 this year, but it allegedly disbursed large loans without approval from the board.

The BB has imposed an annual credit growth ceiling of 10 per cent on the bank as part of its efforts to tackle aggressive lending.

NBL has been asked to take permission from the central bank before appointing any consultant, adviser, and additional and deputy managing directors.

As per the Banking Companies Act 1991, banks must secure approval from the BB to hire the managing director.

The board of NBL had earlier appointed Additional Managing Director ASM Bulbul as the acting MD.

His tenure ended on March 31, but Bulbul tried to continue holding the post with backing from a portion of the directors in a breach of regulations.

This prompted the central bank to order the NBL chairman on April 6 to remove Bulbul from the post.

The bank, which commenced its banking operation in 1983, appointed Shah Syed Abdul Bari as the managing director for three months.

The central bank could not rely on the board of NBL anymore, so it has imposed the conditions on the appointment of senior employees, the BB officials said.

The central bank instructed the lender not to take over loans from other banks or non-bank financial institutions.

NBL also will have to comply with various rules on the disbursement of loans once it is allowed to start lending after bringing down the ADR to the stipulated

level.

For instance, it will be permitted to give out a maximum of 5 per cent in large loans against its capital amounting to Tk 3,066 crore.

In addition, the bank will not be allowed to lend more than 10 per cent of the capital to a single borrower, compared to 35 per cent applicable for other banks.

This means NBL can give a maximum of Tk 307 crore to a single party under the single borrower exposure limit.

Md Serajul Islam, spokesperson and an executive director of the central bank, said that the BB had recently unearthed gross irregularities committed by some of the directors of NBL.

"The latest instructions will help the bank restore the corporate governance," he said.

NBL has also been asked to submit a statement every month on the recovery trend of loans from the top 20 defaulters.

Last month, the central bank instructed the bank to send detailed information of the loans given to four companies – Rongdhanu Builders, Desh TV, Rupayan, and Shanta Enterprise.

The bank had disbursed a large amount of loans among the directors of other banks.

A good number of banks give such loans under mutual understanding among the directors, a practice that has created concern over corporate governance in the banking industry.

NBL disbursed Tk 7,216 crore among the directors of other banks, which is 18 per cent of the total outstanding credit as of December last year, showed data from the central bank.

Defaulted loans stood at Tk 2,085 crore as of December in contrast to Tk 388 crore in 2009. The non-performing loans would have been much higher had the bank had not written off Tk 2,154 crore last year.

NBL faced a provision shortfall of Tk 435 crore last year due to weak financial health. Forty of its 214 branches are incurring losses.

Shah Syed Abdul Bari did not respond to a request for comments.

5 economic zones to get modern telecom network

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The Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) will implement the telecommunication network project at the Srihatta Economic Zone in Moulvibazar, the Jamalpur Economic Zone, two tourism parks at Sabrang and Naf in Teknaf, and the Sonadia Tourism Park in Moheshkhali.

The project tenure runs from January 2021 to June 2023.

The project activities include setting up high-power dense wavelength division multiplexing optical fibre transmission link, establishing telecom exchange with 6,000 connection capacity, installing routers with high-speed internet back up, and constructing a telecom building in each of the zones.

The prime minister emphasised that state-owned companies like BTCL implement such

projects on their own fund, the planning minister told a virtual media briefing.

"The prime minister stressed that state-owned entities established for doing business should try to be independent so that they do not have to rely on government grants," the minister said.

The Ecne approved a proposal seeking the extension of one and a half years and an additional Tk 195 crore for a project to set up a super-specialised hospital with modern healthcare facilities at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The estimated project cost was earlier fixed at Tk 1,366.34 crore. As per the approved proposal, the cost has gone up by 14.3 per cent to Tk 1,561.18 crore.

Initially, the project tenure was from January 2016 to December 2019, and it was earlier

extended to December 2020. The new deadline is June 2022.

The prime minister expressed concern over the delay in implementing the super-specialised hospital project and ordered to complete it fast, Mannan said.

Moshammam Nasima Begum, a member of the socio-economic infrastructure department of the planning commission, said the implementation was delayed last year due to the coronavirus pandemic as Korean consultants went back.

A South Korean consulting firm conducted the feasibility study of the project in 2014, she said.

Another project that received the nod was Tk 1,452.33 crore Rehabilitation and Expansion of Command area of the Teesta Irrigation Project. The implementation period is January 2021 to June 2024.



ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

সম্পত্তি বিভাগ

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন



উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০০.১৩.০২.৯৩৩.২০২১

বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস/ব্লক ভাড়া প্রদানের নিমিত্ত টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ।		
২. সংস্থার নাম	ঃ ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।		
৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বিভাগ	ঃ সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।		
৪. ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (PG-৩) সংযুক্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে এবং সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।		
৫. ভাড়া চুক্তির মেয়াদকাল	ঃ ভাড়া চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বছর। ভাড়া প্রদানের জন্য চুক্তিপত্রের প্রথম বছরের টাকা জমা প্রদানের পর পরবর্তী দ্বিতীয় বছরের ভাড়া প্রথম বছরের চেয়েদ শেখ হওয়ার পূর্ব মাসে এবং তৃতীয় বছরের ভাড়া দ্বিতীয় বছরের চেয়েদ শেখ হওয়ার পূর্ব মাসে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।		
৬. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও শর্ত	ঃ ক) প্রস্তাবিত দরদার ০১ (এক) বৎসরের মোট ভাড়ার উপর ৩০% জামানতের অর্থ ঢাকাস্থ যেকোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুমোদন ইয়াকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে, যা ভাড়াচুক্তি মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার পর ফেরত হানাদ করা হবে। খ) বিধি মোতাবেক প্রতি মাসের ভাড়ার উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৫% আয়কর পৃথক পৃথক চালানের মাধ্যমে পরবর্তী কোষাধ্যায় জমা প্রদানপূর্বক চালানের কপি সম্পত্তি বিভাগে দাখিল করতে হবে। গ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও টিআইএন সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট। ঘ) সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি। ঙ) কাউন্সিলর/মেয়াদমান কর্তৃক জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি। চ) বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা সম্বলিত স্থানীয় ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/১ম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক গৃহীত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। হ) সিডিউল ৩য়ের তালিকা কপি।		
৭. সিডিউলের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	ঃ মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, চলতি হিসাব নং-২০০০১৭৮৩৬ (বিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমি, নগর ভবন শাখা।		
৮. দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান ও সময়	ঃ বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়; ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, কেন্দ্রীয় হিসাব বিভাগ ও সরল আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়।		
৯. দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	ঃ বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়; ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, কেন্দ্রীয় হিসাব বিভাগ ও সরল আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়।		
১০. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ৪র্থ তলা, রুম নং-৩২৫, ডিএসসি।		
১১. সিডিউল ৩য়ের তারিখ, দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও খোলার সময় নিম্নরূপঃ			
দরপত্র আহ্বানের পর্দায়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেখ তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বাস্তব ও খাম খোলার তারিখ ও সময় (দরদাতা বা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা উপস্থিতিতে যদি থাকে)
১ম পর্দায়	২০/০৫/২০২১	২৪/০৫/২০২১ সকাল ৯.০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত	২৪/০৫/২০২১ দুপুর ২.৩০টা
২য় পর্দায়	০৬/০৬/২০২১	০৭/০৬/২০২১ সকাল ৯.০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত	০৭/০৬/২০২১ দুপুর ২.৩০টা
৩য় পর্দায়	২০/০৬/২০২১	২১/০৬/২০২১ সকাল ৯.০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত	২১/০৬/২০২১ দুপুর ২.৩০টা

১২। কাজের বিবরণঃ

বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস/ব্লকের অবস্থান	দরপত্র আহ্বানকৃত ফ্লোর	ব্লক পরিচিতি	ব্লকের আয়তন	প্রতি বর্গফুটের মাসিক ভাড়া (সরকারি মূল্য)	প্রতি ব্লকের বাৎসরিক মোট ভাড়া	সিডিউল মূল্য	মন্তব্য
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন অতিথিগৃহ সিটি সেন্টার ভবন	৭ম ফ্লোর	ব্লক-এ	৩৩৭৪.৮২	৫০ টাকা	২০,২৪,৮৯২/-	৪,৮০০/-	এ যাবতীয় তথ্য সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, নগর ভবন হতে অবিসংলার্কালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।
		ব্লক-বি	৩৩৭৪.৮২	৫০ টাকা	২০,২৪,৮৯২/-	৪,৮০০/-	
		ব্লক-সি	৩৩৭৪.৮২	৫০ টাকা	২০,২৪,৮৯২/-	৪,৮০০/-	
	৮ম ফ্লোর	ব্লক-ডি	৩৩৭৪.৮২	৫০ টাকা	২০,২৪,৮৯২/-	৪,৮০০/-	
		ব্লক-সি	৩২৫০.৫০	৫০ টাকা	১৯,৫০,০০০/-	৪,৮০০/-	
	৯ম ফ্লোর	ব্লক-সি-১	২৬৫৬.০০	৫০ টাকা	১৫,৯৩,৬০০/-	৩,৮০০/-	

১৩। বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ সরকারি জমি/অনিবার্য কোনবংশজ নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে ও একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ কাগজ দখলীনা ব্যতিরেকেই আনোচা দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার স্বমত সাংরক্ষণ করেন। টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্য টেন্ডার সিডিউলে বর্ণিত থাকবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েবসাইট (www.dscc.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

মোঃ রাসেল সাবরিন
প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৫৯৮৬
E-mail: cesito@dscc.gov.bd

ডিএসসি/পিআর/ডি/১৮৪/২০২০-২০২১
GD-898

Bring social protection to the fore

FROM PAGE B1

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said other than increasing the allocation for healthcare, ensuring effective and efficient spending is crucial.

Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said they lost \$6 billion worth of business over the last year due to the ongoing pandemic. "And so, recovery will take much longer than expected," he said while seeking the continuation of government support for the sector.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, said Tk 15,000 crore should be allocated for the health sector in the upcoming national budget.

He also urged the government to ensure vaccination for everyone in the country as soon as possible.

Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, demanded that corporate tax be reduced by 2.5 per cent annually for the next three years to make it 25 per cent overall.

"Although it is very necessary, it is also quite difficult to understand whether the tax net has increased or not over the past few years," said Rupali Chowdhury, president of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mashiur Rahman, the prime minister's adviser on economic affairs, said non-governmental organisations should play a vital role in healthcare issues.

ICAB President Mhamudul Hasan Khusrul, ERF President Sharmeen Rinvy and General Secretary Rashedul Islam also spoke at the event, moderated by Md Humayun Kabir, chairman of TCLC and a former ICAB president.

DCCI President Rizwan Rahman suggested reduction of corporate tax rate progressively by 2.5 per cent in the next three years to bring down the rate to 25 per cent to facilitate businesses.

Coming down heavily on the scope for whitening undisclosed money, he said that the business community would not accept such provision for whitening the money coming from 'burglary'.

"Otherwise, the honest businesses will not feel encourage to pay tax from the next year," he added.

LafargeHolcim to pay Tk 90.25cr

FROM PAGE B4

The dispute shall be adjudicated before the arbitration tribunal under the UNCITRAL, LafargeHolcim said in the disclosure.

The arbitration proceedings are presently continuing, it said. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh ordered LafargeHolcim to make the payments in instalments.

The court instructed it to pay as per the BERC rate going forward, which is approximately Tk 4.20 crore per month. The order came after LafargeHolcim appealed to the higher court seeking interim protection so that the gas supply is not stopped during the arbitration proceeding.

The dispute will be determined by the arbitration tribunal, and the court's order will have no impact on the merits of the dispute that will be adjudicated by the tribunal, LafargeHolcim said.

If the arbitration tribunal passes an award in favour of LafargeHolcim, it will be entitled to recover the entire disputed amount paid to Jalalabad Gas. Accordingly, the payment to Jalalabad Gas would be treated as advance or deposit paid pending disposal of the arbitration, it said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayn Bhaban
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Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.11.003.18-382 Dated: 02/05/2021

WTO Cell, the Ministry of Commerce is implementing the Technical Assistance Part of IDA financed Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1 (BRCP-1). The BRCP-1, MoC intends to apply a part of the IDA Credit for procuring services of individual consultants for one position. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. Details of the qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in Terms Of Reference (TOR):

Position	Education	Experiences	Major Responsibilities
BRCP/MOC/SD:04 Procurement Specialist (13 man-months)	A Bachelor's degree in Engineering /Masters in Procurement, Supply Chain Management, Law, Commerce, Finance, or Business Administration.	Minimum 7 years procurement experience with a Government/Public Enterprise/NGO/Consulting /Project Advisory/National or International Bank or Financial Institution/UN agencies, World Bank, ADB or have had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area.	Details- as mentioned in the TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's *Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016* ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures for recruiting Individual Consultants set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July, 2016. A copy of the terms of reference (TOR) and necessary forms of the assignment may be obtained from the address below during 09:00 to 17:00 hours or downloaded from the Ministry of Commerce website at: www.mincom.gov.bd & Project website at: www.brcp-1.gov.bd. EOI shall be submitted on or before **20/05/2021 at 3:00pm** in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Procurement Specialist. **Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications and experience & skills shall have to be submitted for Individual Consultants.**

Md. Mijanur Rahman
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
Email: pdbrcp1moc@gmail.com
Phone: 55138022

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