



Walton has awarded its International Business Unit (IBU) officials for "outstanding success" in growth in the global market at a programme titled "Walton Export Achievement Ceremony". Humayun Kabir, deputy managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and Edward Kim, president of the IBU, handed over crests to awardees at the Walton corporate office in Dhaka recently. Walton Hi-Tech Industries Chairman SM Nurul Alam Rezvi and directors SM Mahbul Alam and Nishat Tasnim Shuchi virtually attended the programme.

China to restrict mobile app news notifications in internet clampdown

REUTERS

China's internet watchdog said on Saturday that it will ban some mobile app notifications and tighten regulations as the government ramps up a campaign to rein in the growing influence of internet companies over its citizens' daily lives.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) will strengthen guidance and control of mobile app information sources, and restrict notification volumes as part of what it terms a "people's war" aimed at bringing order to the online environment, Mr Xie Dengke, a CAC spokesman told a State Council press conference.

The CAC will ban media-related mobile applications from sending notifications from independent social media accounts operating in violation of regulations, and will filter what it sees as harmful and undesirable information, Mr Xie said. He did not name specific mobile applications or social media accounts affected by the new rules.

Energypac opens Tk 380cr industrial park

FROM PAGE B1

A plant in the park will manufacture chassis and different parts of buses teaming up with Anka, a Chinese automobile company.

Energypac has plans for manufacturing nuts and bolts, wear testing machines and profile sheets, and marketing those as well, with an aim to contribute to the infrastructural development of the country along with contributions in the power and

transport sector.

The listed company soon plans to establish storage facilities along with mezzanine floors and innovative technologies to maximise production.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said Energypac is a renowned organisation and has taken various initiatives in different sectors, including energy and transportation, to expedite the country's economic development.

"I have personally visited various activities of Energypac and witnessed the development. It is manufacturing and exporting generators and other electrical equipment, gaining advantages against the world's best competitors, which creates employment opportunities nationwide," he added.

Stocks of Energypac Power Generation increased 6.95 per cent to Tk 43.10 on Thursday.

Stimulating private investment in times of pandemic

FROM PAGE B4

The government should address several long-standing policy-induced issues, with greater importance, to boost private investment. In this context, trade policy reform and strategic and dynamic industrial policies, aimed at economic growth and diversification through large-scale domestic and foreign investments, would be the priority.

Bangladesh's banking sector crisis is not conducive to private sector investment. Banking scams and the escalation of non-performing loans reveal the financial sector's main structural flaws. Simply lowering the interest rate is not enough to expand private sector credit as a slew of other issues must be addressed as part of the broader reform agenda.

The disbursement of the stimulus packages through the banking channels is also encountering problems due to the inherent institutional weaknesses of the sector.

Therefore, it is necessary to undertake concrete and immediate remedial measures in the banking sector to gain the business confidence of the private sector.

Furthermore, the tax system in Bangladesh is still a revenue-seeking tax system, not development-oriented and private investment-friendly. Therefore, it requires a substantial overhauling.

A variety of supply-side constraints, such as a lack of infrastructure and a high cost of doing business, must be addressed quickly. Bangladesh must resolve vital infrastructure and a weak

business environment to draw both domestic and FDI. According to most of the global indices of the business environment, Bangladesh is at the bottom of the rankings in most cases.

However, it is not just the size but also the quality of the infrastructure that is equally important. Due to institutional deficiencies, infrastructure projects suffer from massive cost and time overruns. Overly expensive infrastructure projects, and uncertainty in the timely delivery of such projects, may reduce the rate of return of private investment.

Furthermore, although many supply-side constraints related to poor infrastructure limit future private investment in new and emerging sectors, some of these constraints are 'universal' in nature when others are critically sector-specific. Interconnection and complementarities between universal and sector-specific infrastructures are critical for improving service quality, introducing new technology and encouraging private investment in those sectors.

As there is a general trend in Bangladesh, like in many developing countries, to focus excessively on large-scale infrastructures, such as increased power supply, improved highways, and improved port facilities, vital sector-specific infrastructural development remain unaddressed. Developing large-scale infrastructure is relatively attractive to the policymakers as solving the challenges of sector-specific infrastructure necessitates prioritisation in the policy-making process and consideration of several political economy factors, institutional

deficiencies and vested interests.

However, failure to address sector-specific infrastructure issues in Bangladesh leads to a situation where many potential growth-enhancing sectors fail to enjoy the benefits of improved large-scale infrastructures. This situation deters private investment in those sectors.

The country's current level and efficiency of human resources also discourage domestic and foreign private investment in high-value and diverse industries. Bangladesh has some of the lowest public expenditures on education and health, as proportions of GDP, in the world. There is a need to prioritise increased public spending on education, skill development, and health facilities.

During the pandemic, the added challenge is how to recover the losses in the education and health sectors and place them in the higher development trajectories.

In sum, we need successful implementation of stimulus packages; critical reforms in macro, trade and investment policies; institutional reforms in the banking sector; investment-friendly taxation regime; efficient public investment in social and physical infrastructure; faster and quality implementation of some special economic zones to attract FDI; and improvement in the overall governance of the macroeconomic policy environment.

The author is executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling.

Dismal sales frustrate Tangail sari traders

FROM PAGE B4

Many of the poor weavers could not survive amid the losses and eventually left their ancestral profession.

Several veteran weavers said that once upon a time, there were around three lakh weavers operating on around one lakh handlooms in the district, particularly in the Sadar, Kalihati, Delduar, Basail and Sakhipur upazilas.

The number of handlooms fell to around 20,000 within a few decades while the number of workers was dwindled to less than one lakh.

This happened mainly due to increasing raw material costs and a drastic fall in the demand for saris.

Many of the skilled workers also left the job in search of better paying professions.

As a result, the once famous local weaving industry has lost its lustre.

"Although the government appointed Bangladesh Tant Board (BTB) to develop the industry and welfare of the weavers, it could not help," local weavers said.

So if the government wants this industry to survive, it will have to pay more attention, they added.

The weavers went on to say that the Tant Board will have to conduct research on how

to revive the industry in the face of falling demand for saris.

The board will also have to invite big business houses to work on saving the traditional industry, they added.

Contacted, Rabiul Islam, liaison officer of the BTB's Bajitpur Basic Center in Tangail, said the district's traditional weaving industry has long been struggling due to various problems.

Most recently, it was the pandemic and devastating prolonged flooding that left local weavers in a tight corner.

The BTB mainly provides loans to weavers and also arranges training for them.

Considering the situation, the government is arranging an online platform for local weavers to retail their products.

There are also plans to provide 'weaver cards' to producers so that they can purchase raw materials from the government at the right prices.

"These days, it is reality that women in the country are not wearing saris like they did before. However, it is not so hard to bring innovation and diversification to the local products," Islam said.

"But research and sincere effort is a must for it," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Jashore.
6	Invitation for	AC for Computer Lab and Departments (Package No.: G-09).
7	Invitation Ref. No.	JGCC/CEDP/IDG/2020-21/08
8	Date	09/05/2021.

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project code	224017200
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).
14	Tender package No.	G-09
15	Tender package name	AC for Computer Lab and Departments (Package No.: G-09).
16	Tender publication date	09/05/2021.
17	Tender last selling date	24/05/2021, 04.00pm
18	Tender closing date and time	25/05/2021, 02.00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	25/05/2021, 02.30pm
20	Name & address of the office	Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Will not be held.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of 03 years overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. The minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of similar goods of at least 01 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 05 years, each with a value of at least Tk 1,000,000 (ten lac). The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 1,000,000 (ten lac).		
23	Brief description of works	Supply and Installation of AC for Computer Lab and Departments.		
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section-4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specification of the tender document.		
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred only).		
26	Tender name	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
	AC for Computer Lab and Departments (Package No.: G-09)	Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore area	25,000/-	30 days
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Md. Ashraf-ud-daulla, Principal, Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal, Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Jashore Govt. City College, Narail Road, Jashore.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 0421-65763	Fax:	E-mail: govtcitycollegejessore@gmail.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Professor Md. Ashraf-ud-daulla
Principal
Jashore Govt. City College, Jashore

GD-926

Mutual funds failing to generate confidence

FROM PAGE B1

The BSEC leadership was also not up to the mark in the last few years. However, the present commission is doing good, he said.

His comments came yesterday in a press conference that was organised by LR Global Bangladesh at the auditorium of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham).

The LR Global CEO lauded the present commission for its steps for easing IPO processes, developing the bond market, forming a capital market stabilisation fund, reforming junk stocks, mandating a dividend distribution policy and others.

Syed Ershad Ahmed, president of the AmCham, addressed the event through videoconferencing. Monowar Hossain, head of legal and compliances of LR Global, and Ronald Micky, chief financial officer of LR Global, were present.

About the country's stock market, Islam said the market does not match the scenario of economic development.

"Our market remains sluggish despite a big fall in 2010 which is not common in the world market. But it is showing some stability in the last one year," he said.

Average yearly return of the market was over 34 per cent in the last one year which was 1.32 per cent in the negative on an average a year ago. Average daily turnover also rose 30 per cent to stand at Tk 808 crore from Tk 631 crore in the past, the LR Global CEO said.

"Volatility of the market has also reduced," he said.

These indicate material changes and are indicative of increased confidence in the market, he said.

LR Global funds returned over 44 per cent cash dividend on par over the last 10 years despite the market being bearish.

Responding to a question, he acknowledged that the previous commission's tenure extension decision for closed-end mutual funds was not a good one. LR Global manages six closed-end funds amounting to Tk 1,054 crore as of last Thursday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Bauphal, Patuakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7838.000.14.001.21-390

e-Tender Notice No. 07/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited under the below mentioned Tendering Methods (LTM/OTM) in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following works which details are given below.

Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time	Method
1	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W1-01158	557106	Construction of Additional Class Room Vangra V.D.C GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
2	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W1-01159	558984	Construction of Additional Class Room West Bamnikathi GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
3	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W1-01160	558990	Construction of Additional Class Room Nimdi GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
4	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02520	559088	Construction of Additional Class Room Paschim Bhari Pasha GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
5	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02521	559091	Construction of Additional Class Room Jamal Kati GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
6	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02522	559094	Construction of Additional Class Room Uttar Purba Daspara Amena Khatun GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
7	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02523	559097	Construction of Additional Class Room Taltoi Bhanipasha GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
8	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02893	559288	Construction of Additional Class Room Dakhin Dhandi GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
9	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W1-01413	559298	Construction of Additional Class Room Paschim Bauphal Nuria GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
10	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02894	559303	Construction of Additional Class Room Sultanabad Uttar Nazirpur GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
11	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02895	559307	Construction of Additional Class Room South Ponahura GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
12	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02896	559310	Construction of Additional Class Room Char Algi GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
13	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02897	559312	Construction of Additional Class Room Uttar Mominpur A.H GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
14	e-Tender/PEDP-4/PAT/BAU/2020-2021/W2-02898	559314	Construction of Additional Class Room Kayna Paschim Gosinga GPS	30/05/2021 17.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	31/05/2021 13.00pm	OTM
15	e-Tender/NBIDNNGPS-1 PAT/BAU/2020-21/W2-00033	561120	Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Ali Akber Adarsho GPS	19/05/2021 17.00pm	20/05/2021 13.00pm	20/05/2021 13.00pm	LTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks. 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-930