

Standard Chartered Saadiq wins Digital Banker award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Chartered Saadiq Bangladesh has won a "Best Islamic Bank for Digital CX (customer experience) - Bangladesh Award (DCX 2021)" from Digital Banker.

The award, according to a press release, was said to have been conferred based on a comprehensive audit grade evaluation.

Co-judged by PWC, Deloitte, Forrester and Capco, the Digital CX Awards 2021 (DCX 2021) is said to recognise excellence in digital customer experience across financial services assessing rapidly changing expectations.

"Islamic finance in Bangladesh is approaching an inflection point. By leveraging enhanced technology... we hope to serve the continuously evolving needs of our valued clients," said Sabbir Ahmed, head of retail banking, Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

Standard Chartered Saadiq is an international Islamic banking proposition active over 16 years in Bangladesh for both retail and corporate clients, introducing an Islamic credit card in 2007 and arranging a Sukuk transaction in 2019.

It has a network spanning across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, providing access to new markets through Sharia-compliant product offerings and facilitating business matching opportunities for local businesses in their global expansion.

It has won a host of international awards, including an Asset Triple A Islamic Finance Award, The Banker Islamic Bank of the Year and Global Finance Best Islamic Financial Institution.

Tk 54.8 lakh crore black money generated in 10yrs

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Of the outlay, Tk 16,03,716 was supposed to be generated as revenue from tax and the remaining Tk 1.35 lakh crore to stay as a budget deficit.

Of the tax revenue, 79 per cent was to come from direct tax and the rest 21 per cent indirect tax.

In the current fiscal 2020-21, the national budget's total revenue has been estimated at Tk 3,62,013 crore.

The development and operational allocation ratio of the government's current budget is 38:62 while of the BEA 69:31. Prof Barkat showed 28 new ways to increase revenue generation amidst the pandemic, including imposing tax on wealth, the super rich and excessive profits generated by business.

The BEA proposal said the highest income of Tk 443,864 lakh crore would be generated from clamping down on excess profit, untaxed money and money laundering.

It proposed allocating Tk 20,214 crore for education and information technology, Tk 137,124 crore for health sector, Tk 330,900 crore for social safety net and welfare, Tk 226,114 crore for energy and power, Tk 150,700 crore for transport and communication sector.

"In our proposal, there will be a qualitative transformation in the budget allocation structure," said Prof Barkat.

New sectors and sub-sectors have been added to the alternative budget, including a ministry for public transport and another for research and reproduction.

The 10 new divisions are a department of public health protection under the ministry of health and family welfare and a department of veterans affairs and a department for life skills development for poor, rural women under the ministry of social welfare. Prof Barkat also proposed ceasing allowing whitening of black money and recovering laundered money.

Opec, Russia seen gaining more power with Shell Dutch ruling

REUTERS, London

Climate activists who scored big against Western majors last week had some unlikely cheerleaders in the oil capitals of Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Russia.

Defeats in the courtroom and boardroom mean Royal Dutch Shell, ExxonMobil and Chevron are all under pressure to cut carbon emissions faster. That's good news for the likes of Saudi Arabia's national oil company Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Russia's Gazprom and Rosneft.

It means more business for them and the Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"Oil and gas demand is far from peaking and supplies will be needed, but international oil companies will not be allowed to invest in this environment, meaning national oil companies have to step in," said Amrita Sen from Energy Aspects consultancy.

Climate activists scored a major victory with a Dutch court ruling requiring Royal Dutch Shell to drastically cut emissions, which in effect means cutting oil and gas output. The company will appeal.

The same day, the top two US oil companies, Exxon Mobil Corp and Chevron Corp, both lost battles with shareholders who accused them of dragging their feet on climate change.

"It looks like the West will have



REUTERS/FILE

The Royal Dutch Shell logo is seen at a Shell petrol station in London.

to rely more on what it calls "hostile regimes" for its supply," joked a high-level executive from Russia's Gazprom oil and gas group, referring to energy companies around the world owned completely or mostly by the state.

Saudi Aramco, Adnoc and Gazprom all declined to comment. Oil major Rosneft, in which the Russian state has the biggest stake, also declined to comment.

A senior Saudi Aramco staffer said the court ruling would make it easier for OPEC to ramp up production.

"It is great for Aramco," the staffer said.

Western oil majors like Shell have dramatically expanded in the

last 50 years, as the West sought to cut its reliance on energy from the volatile Middle East, and from Russia. Those same Western energy majors, including BP and Total, have set out plans to sharply reduce emissions by 2050. But they face growing pressure from investors to do more to meet UN-backed targets to limit global warming.

Saudi Aramco, listed on the Saudi bourse but majority state owned, is not under the same sort of pressure to cut its carbon emissions, although the kingdom's rulers aim to sharply increase the country's use of renewables.

Gazprom expects demand for natural gas to grow in the coming decades and for it to play a bigger

role in energy consumption than renewable sources and hydrogen.

Western oil majors control around 15 per cent of global output, while OPEC and Russia have a share of around 40 per cent. That share has been relatively stable in the last decades as rising demand was met with new producers like smaller private US shale firms, which today face similar climate-related pressures.

Since 1990, global oil consumption has grown to 100 million barrels per day from 65 million bpd, with Asia providing the lion's share of growth.

Countries such as China and India have made no pledges to reduce oil consumption, which on a per capita basis is still a fraction of the levels in the West. China will rely heavily on gas to cut its huge coal consumption.

The International Energy Agency, which looks after energy policies of the West, issued a stark appeal last month to the world to essentially scrap all new oil and gas developments. But it gave no clear formula on how to reduce demand.

Despite pressure from activists, investors and banks to cut emissions, Western oil majors are also tasked with maintaining high dividends amid heavy debt. Dividends from oil companies represent significant contributions to pension funds.

"It is vital that the global oil industry aligns its production to the Paris goals.

New look Supercrete Cement bag unveiled

STAR BUSINESS DESK

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh yesterday unveiled a new Supercrete Cement bag to be available everywhere by June 10.

Supercrete is a Portland limestone cement, which, according to a press release, is said to be of consistent quality.

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh says it sources limestone, the basic raw material, from its own quarry in Meghalaya, India, helping to maintain consistent quality through the use of its Surma plant's lab facilities.

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh always emphasizes on innovation and customer satisfaction," said CEO Rajesh Surana virtually unveiling the new bag.

"As a part of this, we are unveiling the new look of our Supercrete cement bag with a new tagline 'Shera Maan Shothik Nirman' which also truly represents the Supercrete brand," he said.

Sales and Marketing Director Gazi Mahfuzur Rahaman was also present.

Tesla's vehicle price increases due to supply chain pressure, Musk says

REUTERS

The price of Tesla vehicles is increasing due to supply chain pressures across the auto industry, particularly for raw materials, Elon Musk said on Monday in response to a tweet.

"Prices increasing due to major supply chain price pressure industry-wide. Raw materials especially," Musk said in a tweet. He was responding to an unverified Twitter account called @Ryath3rner, which said, "I really don't like the direction @tesla is going raising prices of vehicles but removing features like lumbar for the Model Y..."

In May, Tesla increased its Model 3 and Model Y prices, the automaker's fifth incremental price increase for its vehicles in just a few months, the Electrek website reported. During an earnings conference call in April, Musk said Tesla had experienced "some of the most difficult supply chain challenges," citing a chip shortage.



REUTERS/FILE

A China-made Tesla Model 3 electric vehicle is seen ahead of the Guangzhou auto show in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China on November 21, 2019.

Remittance hits 10-month high

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According to data of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, 85,242 workers left for jobs abroad as of February this year.

Despite the reduction of outgoing workers, the remittance flow saw a constant rise thanks to some initiatives of the government and bank authorities.

Mohammad Shamsul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of Agrani Bank Limited, said the government has given 2 per cent incentives on remittance, which was a big factor behind this rise of the remittance inflow.

When the income of expatriates was coming down at the beginning of the pandemic, this facility encouraged them to use proper channels greatly.

Meanwhile, due to the Covid-19 situation, the hundi system has come to a halt because of the restriction on movement and at that time there was no other option to send money without banking channels, which was also a reason behind the remittance influx.

Besides, different banks have also given some facilities, including easy technical services.

"Alongside the 2 per cent incentives by the government, we have also given additional 1 per cent incentives on the remittance. I think it also worked well," he added.

Islam went on to say that migrant workers have grown accustomed to the formal channel for transferring their hard-earned money.

Budget execution rate falls

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"The main problem is that our economy is expanding, demands are rising. However, implementation capacity is in a downward trend," he added.

"If we cannot improve the capacity, the implementation rate would fall at a higher extent in the coming years," said Mujeri, who is also a former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

In that situation, if the government tries to raise the budget artificially then quality of the public service will fall further, he said.

"So, our development journey would be impacted," he warned.

Keeping these in consideration, he recommends taking proper measures immediately and urgently.

The growing gap between target and implementation of public expenditure can be attributed to both poor programming and weak implementation capacity, said Towfique Islam Khan, senior research fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Over the years, the finance ministry followed a "business as usual" approach in preparing budgetary allocations without considering ground realities, he said.

It may also be true that the shortfall in revenue collection in recent years has restrained the government in

terms of spending, he said.

"Even this year, we can recall that in this fiscal year, within just one month of approving the budget in the national parliament, the Finance Division advised that only 70 per cent of the budgetary allocation from government fund against ADP projects could be spent," he said.

"Indeed, over the years, the announced fiscal framework of the national budget has lost its credibility," he said.

"For Bangladesh, public expenditure-GDP ratio should be around 20-22 per cent. Unfortunately, we are unable to go beyond 15 per cent," Khan added.

Clinics outside major cities to get tax break

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The highly contagious disease created a health emergency and many people had to visit Dhaka and Chattogram for treatment in absence adequate medical facilities in their regions.

Even before the pandemic, healthcare seekers had to come to Dhaka as most modern treatment facilities are available in the city.

"We are planning to introduce the tax benefit so that better healthcare facilities are established," the official said.

Under the plan, investors have to

set up 250-bed hospitals in various regions except for Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj and Gazipur districts, to avail the tax exemption. In case of specialised hospitals, the number of beds should be 200.

Besides, each hospital has to have a five per cent allotment for ICU beds.

Hospitals that begin commercial operations from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2030 are likely to enjoy the tax exemption.

This is first time the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is expected to offer tax benefits to encourage the

establishment of private hospitals.

At present, the corporate tax rate for hospitals is 32.5 per cent. However, the NBR provides duty benefit to referral hospitals to import medical machinery and equipment to facilitate the fast development of the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Including 5,050 private hospitals and clinics, Bangladesh has more than 14,000 private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres, shows data by the Health Bulletin 2018 by the Directorate General of Health Services.

Nine banks incur net losses in Q1

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Md Ehsan Khasru, managing director of Padma Bank, said the net loss of the bank would lessen in the future as it had taken a plan to turn the bank profitable by 2023.

Padma Bank, which was renamed from The Farmers Bank to wipe out its legacy of corruption, incurred a net loss of Tk 151 crore last year.

Meghna Bank also faced a net loss

of Tk 23 crore. Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of the bank, said that it had set aside a good amount of provision, which had created the situation.

"The net loss will not continue for long and we will surely enjoy profits at the final quarter of this year," he said.

The banking sector, however, registered a collective net profit of Tk 1,356 crore in the first quarter as the

majority of banks performed better despite the pandemic during the period.

Standard Chartered Bank has showed the best performance in the first quarter by way of logging a net profit of Tk 188 crore.

Six other banks - Eastern, Jamuna, Bank Asia, Southeast, Brac and Prime - also registered more than Tk 100 crore net profits during the period.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র
ধলা, ত্রিশাল ময়মনসিংহ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
২. এজেন্সি	: সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা
৩. সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	: সহকারি পরিচালক, সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ
৪. সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	: ময়মনসিংহ
৫. যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	: ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য গ্রুপ-'ক' এর আওতায় খাদ্য, গ্রুপ-'খ' এর আওতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং গ্রুপ-'ভ' এর আওতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬. দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	: নং-৪১/০১.৬১৯৪.০১১.০৭.০০১.২১-১০৩, তারিখ: ০১ জুন ২০২১
৭. দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	: ০২ জুন ২০২১
৮. সংগ্রাহক পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি(ও.টি.এম)
৯. বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	: রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি
১০. দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	: ০১টি
১১. দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	: ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য গ্রুপ-'ক' এর আওতায় খাদ্য, গ্রুপ-'খ' এর আওতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং গ্রুপ-'ভ' এর আওতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	: ২১ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
১৩. দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ সময় দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
১৪. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ সময় বিকাল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা
১৫. কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা ক. মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	: সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ ও উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ এর দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হবে। (১) কক্ষ নং ৯, ২য় তলা, এলাজি শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। (২) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ২৮, কেসি রায় রোড, কলিকাতা, ময়মনসিংহ।
গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা	: জেলা প্রশাসকের সন্মেলন কক্ষ, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ
১৬. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: ১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের টেন্ডারী চালান (মূল কপি), দরপত্র দলিল অনুসারে অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতা সনদ, হালনাগাদ (ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভ্যাট প্রদান সনদ) সহ প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য দলিলসমূহ দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৭. দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য টেন্ডারী চালান-এর মাধ্যমে কোড ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-তে (অফেরৎযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।

ক্র.সং	সংক্ষেপ বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জমাটানের পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
ক.	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসঙ্গিক (অপচন্দনীল ও পচন্দনীল)	৫০০/-	২,৩০,০০০/-	--
খ.	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য	৫০০/-	৯৫,০০০/-	--
ঙ.	বিবিধ মালামাল (বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে)	৫০০/-	প্রদত্ত দরের ৩%	--

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : মোহাম্মদ রেদওয়ান হোসেন
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : সহকারি পরিচালক
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা : সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর: ০১৭২৬ ৪৫৩ ৯১৭

২২. শর্তাবলী :
(ক) পি.পি.এ. ২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর. ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ উল্লিখিত ক্রয় পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
(খ) "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
(গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(ঙ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনা : বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

০১ জুন ২০২১
(মোহাম্মদ রেদওয়ান হোসেন)
সহকারি পরিচালক
সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ।

GD- 1115