



Mohammed Haider Ali Miah, managing director and chief executive officer of EXIM Bank, virtually inaugurated a Shikaripara sub-branch at Nawabganj, Dhaka from its head office yesterday. Additional Managing Director Md Feroz Hossain and Deputy Managing Director Md Humayun Kabir were also present.



Agran Bank celebrated its deposits reaching Tk 1 lakh crore at its head office in Dhaka recently. Officials led by Chairman Zaid Bakht congratulated Managing Director and CEO Mohammad Shams-ul-Islam with a bouquet.

Tax holiday to boost local manufacturing of automobiles

FROM PAGE B1
"I believe this initiative will attract more investment and is a really appreciable step of the government," he added.
Side by side, the government should give benefits to component makers to develop the industry, he said, adding that the automobile sector cannot be developed without the development of component makers.
Ahmad went on to say that the government should take initiatives to encourage component makers by providing tax holidays and duty-free import of raw materials.
According to him, the backward linkage and component manufacturing industries are the main factor behind the automobile industry as over a thousand types of components are required.
Mohammed Mohsin, vice chairman of the PHP Family, one of whose concerns is PHP Automobiles, which assembles four models of the Proton

brand in Chattogram, also said the tax holiday would attract investment.
He said it would help the sector develop and create employment.
He thanked the government for the special privilege, saying it would help develop the backward linkage industry.
According to him, around 3,000 light engineering companies will benefit from this initiative and provide a good scope to improve the quality of products.
Now, most components for assembling cars have to be imported from Malaysia due to a lack of component manufacturers in Bangladesh, he said, adding, "We need component manufacturers in Bangladesh."
This decision will also be helpful in bringing competitive prices to the car market, he said.
Mir Masud Kabir, managing director of Bangladesh Auto Industries, which is establishing the country's first

factory for electric vehicles, expressed satisfaction over the government policy support.
He also appreciated an associated condition of the policy that the investment must be of at least Tk 100 crore, reasoning that it would do away with the scope to abuse the policy.
According to him, the development of any sector depends on government policies and this policy would help consumers afford the products at competitive prices.
Taskeen Ahmed, managing director of Ifad Autos, said they were really optimistic about the sector for the investment and business-friendly initiative of the government.
He believes it would help attract foreign investors and create a good market in line with economic growth.
"We, the investors, spend millions of dollars on importing vehicles and automobile components every year. For this reason we need local manufacturing plants," he said.

Northern districts, the dark horse of local tea industry

FROM PAGE B4
Tea plantation has expanded to 8,642 acres in Panchagarh, 1,293 acres in Thakurgaon, 112.96 acres in Lalmonirhat, 71.09 acres in Nilphamari, and 61.50 acres in Dinajpur.
Cultivation in the northern parts of Bangladesh grew at an average of 15 per cent per annum over the past five years.
Apart from 26 large gardens in the region, there are 7,310 small farmers who produce tea on their own.
Large gardens and small growers in the five districts aim to produce 12 million kilograms (kg) of tea worth Tk 180 crore in the current season.
In 2020, tea was cultivated on 8,060 acres of land in the districts with a target to produce 9.5 million kgs.
Even despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, last year's target was exceeded as 18 factories produced 10.3 million kgs of tea from 50.12 million kgs of raw leaves. The northern region accounted for about 12 per cent of the national tea production in 2020.
"As the land in the northern

districts are more fertile compared to Chattogram and Sylhet, growers can pluck leaves after a year of planting saplings," said Mohammad Shamim Al Mamun, senior scientific officer of the Bangladesh Tea Board's office in Panchagarh.
During a visit to different areas in the district, this correspondent spoke with several small growers on how they become self-reliant through tea cultivation. Ishag Ali Mandal, one of the few growers in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh who planted tea in the industry's early days, said he cultivated tea on 30 acres of land this season, up from 2.5 acres in 2000.
On average, he earns Tk 50 lakh per year from his tea garden.
Similarly, Abul Hossain, of Pedigach village in the same upazila, cultivated tea on 20 acres this season.
According to the farmer, the land was left unutilised before tea cultivation began in the region.
"But now, small growers who cultivated tea on their own land have

become solvent," he said.
Several tea growers mentioned that they suffer losses when processing factory owners stop purchasing green tea leaves during the peak of plucking season.
However, Asma Jahan, Monira Begum and several others who were seen plucking tea leaves from a field in Shalbahan of Tetulia upazila said they work at the garden year-round and are not concerned about having to find other jobs.
Amirul Haque Khokon, president of Bangladesh Small Tea Growers Association, told this correspondent that the tea sector was flourishing in the northern region, especially in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon.
"The industry will expand even faster if the government takes the initiative to set up a state-owned tea factory and third auction centre in Panchagarh to ensure fair prices," he said.
Khokon also urged the government to provide irrigation facilities, training and assistance for mechanisation.

<p>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) "Patuakhali & Jashore EPZ" Project BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road #06 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. (www.bepza.gov.bd)</p>		<p>18 Other Details</p>																																																																		
<p>Memo No- 03.06.2616.325.07.002.21-958 Dated:- 02 June, 2021</p> <p>Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) to achieve Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) For Selection of Environmental Consulting Services Firm to achieve Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from Department of Environment (DoE) for proposed Patuakhali & Jashore EPZ at Patuakhali & Jashore District.</p>		<p>01. The consultant firm shall be selected using the QCBS Method in accordance with Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Public Procurement Procedures by the GoB. 02. The firm(s) may form Joint-Venture, Consortium or Association (JVCA) to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the Association is in the form of a "Joint-Venture". In the case of joint-venture, all firms/entities shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire consultant's obligations under the contract. 03. Incomplete/ partial EOIs will be rejected and Interested firm(s) must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services. Separate envelope must be submitted for each EOI. The Proposals in two sets (1 original + 1 duplicates) shall be submitted in sealed envelope & delivered to the address of the under signed up to 12.00 PM by 27 June, 2021 & clearly marked as "Request for Expression of Interest" for the "Consultancy Service for obtaining ECC from DoE".</p>																																																																		
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By this way in 08 (eight) Export Processing Zones (EPZs) now there have total 588 industrial enterprises where 472 are in operation. The Cumulative investment in these EPZs in US\$ 5370.92 million and almost 4.38 lac Bangladeshi people are employed in the EPZ enterprise. The last year export form the EPZs was US\$ 6489.12 million which contributes to 19.27% of the national export earnings. Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh has taken decision to establish Patuakhali & Jashore Export Processing Zones at Patuakhali and Jashore District respectively. As part of the procedure Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) form Department of Environment (DoE) is required for the said project. BEPZA hereby intends to appoint a reputed National Environmental Consulting Services Firm for achieving Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) form Department of Environment (DoE) for the proposed Jashore & Patuakhali EPZ. 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