



PUBALI BANK

Abduhu Ruhul Masih, general manager of consumer credit division of Pubali Bank, and Md Sharif Hossain Bhuiyan, chief executive officer of Sheltech, signed a memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday to provide loans in easy monthly instalments at an attractive interest rate for the purchase of flat, office or commercial space from the realtor. Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank, and Tanvir Ahmed, managing director of Sheltech, were also present.



NCC BANK

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of NCC Bank, and Maruf Alam, chairman of I-Clique Solutions, signed an agreement on behalf of their companies on upgrading the payment system to help the bank's credit and debit card-holders avail services faster and in a secured way. The bank's Senior Executive Vice President Muhammad H Kafi, Deputy Managing Director Khondoker Nayeemul Kabir, and I-Clique Solutions' Managing Director and CEO Mohammad Salahuddin were also present.

Merkel hopes for G7 infrastructure plans in 2022

REUTERS, Carbis Bay, England

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday said she hoped that a new Group of Seven task force can present first infrastructure projects in developing countries in 2022.

The world's seven most advanced economies signalled during the summit a desire to build a rival to China's multitrillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative. US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders hope their plan, known as the Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative, will help narrow the \$40 trillion needed by developing nations by 2035, the White House said.

It was not immediately clear how exactly the plan would work or how much capital it would ultimately allocate. The G7 had recognised that they had to deliver support for the development of poorer countries, Merkel said at a news conference.

"For countries in need of development, only concrete projects count," she said. "I hope that we will be able to present such projects already during the next G7 summit, which will be in Germany." Germany will take over the G7 presidency from Britain next year.

On the issue of exiting the use of CO2-polluting coal, Merkel said that finding a

concrete, joint date for ending its usage had not been possible. A draft of the summit's final declaration, seen by Reuters, said there was an intention to get out of coal to most extents.

It also pledged support of \$100 billion annually for developing countries to support them in their fight against climate change, for which Germany raised its contribution promises.

On the issue of forced labour, Merkel, referring to China as an example, said the G7 had clearly stated what it considered to be deficits.

"In many international locations, democracy cannot be lived in the way that we imagine and where there is human suffering," she said.

China's Geely to press on with methanol vehicles, chairman says

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese automaker Geely will keep working on vehicles powered by methanol even though the effort may fail, chairman Li Shufu said on Sunday.

Zhejiang-based Geely, among a small number of automakers developing methanol-powered vehicles, is testing methanol taxis in some western Chinese cities as well as developing methanol-powered trucks at its commercial vehicles unit.

Li said Geely, which owns Volvo Cars and 9.7 per cent stake in Daimler AG, invested in Carbon Recycling International, an Icelandic company, to work on technologies to produce methanol with

carbon dioxide, in a way to lower overall carbon emissions.

"We will keep exploring methanol vehicle technologies. Of course it might fail in the end, but currently we are still working on it," Li told an industry conference in the western city of Chongqing, without elaborating. Methanol fuel would boost China's energy independence as the country has huge amounts of coal, which can be converted to methanol. Geely's Li has also said he expects methanol vehicles to be cleaner than gasoline models.

Li did not offer details of the technology. He has told Reuters that Geely would expand production of methanol-powered vehicles.

Budget for building Digital Bangladesh

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There should be a clear plan of how local companies can be involved in the digitalisation process of ministries, departments, and directorates.

Although the software and ITES businesses have been exempted from the corporate tax until 2024, the sector has suffered a lot in the last 15 months due to the pandemic.

More local and foreign investments are needed in this sector. To draw investors, the tax exemption period should be extended to 2030 as proposed before the budget. The sooner this announcement comes, the more investors will be interested in investing in the sector. I request the government to consider the matter very seriously.

Internet is now one of the main ingredients for all kinds of business. All types of digital activities are going on through internet. To make it easily available and affordable, it is necessary to remove VAT on internet and recognise internet service as ITES. The government must look at the bigger picture and stop taxing the medium that can propagate many new online businesses, like digital commerce, telemedicine, video-streaming, OTT (over-the-top) services, etc. These new businesses can generate more tax revenue than the government now gets from internet services.

If broadband internet services can be expanded to remote areas at an affordable rate, the young people will be able to start their own ventures using internet and start contributing to the economy. Therefore, the corporate tax exemption on internet service providers, a key stakeholder of the Digital Bangladesh Vision, will lead to infrastructural development and increased employment and economic activities.

Bangladeshi IT companies now have the experience to execute big

projects. These local companies have been successful in implementing big projects locally, such as driving licence, national identification card, vehicle registration plate, Hajj management, and data centre. It is possible to replicate these projects without much effort in other underdeveloped or developing countries.

If there is a government-to-government agreement between Bangladesh and other countries that Bangladesh will finance the implementation of these projects on the condition that the work has to be done by Bangladeshi companies, then our local companies will get international exposure and experience. As a bonus, the money will return to the local economy. This way, the image of Bangladesh in the world market will broaden, and Bangladesh will be rebranded and recognised as a country of skilled workforce.

The BASIS had proposed to set aside Tk 500 crore as a technical assistance project in the budget. I request the finance ministry to consider the matter.

During pre-budget discussions, the BASIS had also requested a special allocation of Tk 300 crore to increase the involvement of women in the ICT sector. Participation of women in the sector can be greatly accelerated if easy loans are arranged for women entrepreneurs at an interest rate of 2 per cent from this special fund.

The proposal to increase the corporate tax rate for mobile financial service (MFS) providers is quite confusing. Even though this will not affect the MFS providers immediately as none of them is making any profit, this will surely slow down the gradual decline of the commission rate of money transfer. When the government is envisioning a cashless society, and we are proposing VAT exemption

and cash back incentives on digital transactions, the proposal to raise the tax rate is frustrating. I hope the finance ministry will reconsider the matter.

Currently, large scale infrastructure projects, such as Metrorail, Rooppur Nuclear Power plant, and a new airport terminal are being constructed. These projects will need software and services worth hundreds of crores of taka. The local industry must get this business and benefit from the government's expenditure for these projects. Patronising local companies for supplying ICT products and services will help the industry grow. It will also generate employment opportunities.

In the case of foreign contracts, local value-addition has to be ensured so that knowledge and technology transfer takes place. This will prove cost-effective for future maintenance and support and create a skilled human resources pool.

The proposed budget has recommended a 10-year tax exemption on training in about 25 subjects. But surprisingly, this does not include IT training.

The government plans to increase the number of IT professionals in the ICT sector to 20 lakh by 2025 from 10 lakh now. This trained workforce is essential for the successful and speedy implementation of the Digital Bangladesh Vision. Therefore, to encourage ICT training, it is necessary to announce tax exemption for it.

For the desired development of the information and communication technology sector and building coveted Digital Bangladesh, I earnestly hope that the policymakers will consider the above issues during the ongoing budget session of the parliament.

The author is president of the Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No- RMU/ Exam/MBBS/150/2019/943 Date: 13/06/2021

INVITATION TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide experienced IT firm for MBBS, BDS, Nursing, Health Technology & Unani Medicine OMR form scanning and result processing of Rajshahi Medical University for the year of 2020-21 & 2021-22. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 Terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION	
1	Ministry/Division
2	Agency
3	Procuring Entity Name / Designation
4	Procuring Entity Code
5	Procuring Entity District
6	Invitation for
7	Tender Ref. No.
8	Tender Publication Date
9	Procurement Method
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10	Budget and Source of Funds
11	Development Partners
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12	Project/Program Name
13	Tender selling start date
14	Tender Schedule selling last Date
15	Tender Closing Date and Time
16	Tender Opening Date and Time
17	Name and address of the Office's
a) Selling Tender Documents	
b) Receiving Tenders Documents	
c) Opening Tender Documents	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
18	Tenderer Eligibility
19	Brief Description of Works
20	Brief Description of Related Services
21	Price of Tender Documents Taka
22	Location
P.O and money receipt of purchased tender Schedule/Documents Security Deposit.	
PROCURING ENTRY DETAILS	
23	Name of Official Inviting Tenders
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tenders
25	Address of Official for whom tender is invited
26	Contract person for detail about the work/activities relation to this tender and address.
27	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender

Note: * The procuring authority reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.
* Other terms & condition are mentioned in the tender Schedule. All Procurement Activities will be followed by "PPA 2006 & PPR 2008"
* Price of the deliverable activities shall be quoted in BDT:
(i) If the date of selling, received & opening of tender is disrupted under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day and time will be applicable.
(ii) The tenderer will have to accomplish the work on priority and necessity basis of the procuring authority as per approved time schedule. Authority may increase or decrease the volume of work based on its necessity. In that case payable amount will increase or decrease proportionately depending on the actual volume of work.

Dr. Md. Khaled
Registrar
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Ref: e-GP/Goods/SSC-HSC21 Foil Pack/003

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurements:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender description	Publication date and time	Closing date and time
1	586664	e-GP/Goods/SSC-HSC21 Foil Pack/003	1: Aluminium Foil Pack Three Layer & Three side sealing 1. Packet for Questions Paper Small Packet Size- 9.1 inch X 12 inch 16.50 gm- 5 Thickness- 100 microns 3 Layer Mate lamination 3 Side Sealing Port round and Printing Status- No Printing for SSC & HSC-2020 30000 Pcs. 2: Packet for Questions Paper large Packet Size- 16.05 inch X 12 inch 30 gm- 5 Thickness- 100 microns 3 Layer Mate lamination 3 Three Side Sealing Port round and Printing Status- No Printing For SSC & HSC-2020 200000 Pcs.	14-06-2021	29-06-2021

For detailed information please visit the following link.
<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>
This is online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
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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