

ICC Bangladesh Annual Council 2020

Sunday, 11 July 2021



International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman virtually presents the executive board report of ICC Bangladesh for 2020 in its Annual Council in Dhaka yesterday. Vice presidents Rokia A Rahman and AK Azad, and ICCB executive board members Simeen Rahman, Abdul Hai Sarker, Aftab ul Islam, Kutubuddin Ahmed, Md Fazlul Hoque and Mir Nasir Hossain were also present.

Fruits of stellar growth not shared equally

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International Chamber of Commerce in Paris is trying to persuade the G-7 countries to make vaccines available free of cost for poorer countries in Asia and Africa.

The ICCB also talked about the severe disruption caused to education worldwide due to the pandemic. Schools were closed to varying degrees across developing Asia. In a quarter of the region's economies, schools were closed for 200-300 days, and in another fifth for a year or more.

Only a handful of economies managed to keep schools open. Remote learning strategies were deployed in most economies to ensure education for students. But many students are constrained by access to resources like computers and the internet.

"This has limited their ability to learn when at home," said the ICCB.

Learning and earning losses will rise if the closure of educational institutions extends, it said.

Online cattle sales boom

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To encourage online cattle purchases amid a deteriorating Covid-19 crisis, the DSL is working with public representatives, the local administration, representatives of the Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association (BDFFA), the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), and various city corporations.

Local DSL officials are also providing assistance to farmers by connecting them with online platforms.

Similarly, a joint initiative of the Dhaka North City Corporation, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division, e-CAB and BDFFA, recently launched 'Digital Haat'.

Through digital Digital Haat, which features 32 online platforms and 10 farmers so far, sold around 200 cows and goats as of yesterday since opening sales on July 4.

"As the Covid situation is worsening, many people are inquiring about the digital qurbani services," said Md Abdul Wahed Tomal, general secretary of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB).

HungryNaki, an ecommerce and food delivery platform, is providing full qurbani service and aims to sell 600 goats this year. Last year it sold 350 goats during the Eid-ul-Adha season.

"We got a tremendous response from our customers and already 200 of them booked the full service," said Ibrahim Bin Mohiuddin, co-founder and deputy CEO of the platform.

Customers have to pay Tk 5,75 per kilogramme of the goat's bodyweight and another Tk 2,499 for Eid day delivery after processing or Tk 1,999 for delivery on the second or third day of Eid.

The country's top meat processor, Bengal Meat, is also providing the full qurbani service this year and has already received 1,000 online orders.

The company is allowing people to join a group to sacrifice a single cattle together this year.

"We introduced this facility so that many people can get our service during the pandemic as we have limited capacity," said Md Asaduzzaman Khan, head of retail at Bengal Meat.

According to bikroy.com, the largest e-commerce marketplace in Bangladesh, the number of advertisements for selling cattle on its site is increasing.

Around 7,000 ads have already been posted and over 1,200 cows have been booked using the platform, said Humyra Sharmin Alam, senior executive for marketing at bikroy.com.

Some 2,085 cows and goats were sold during last year's Eid through the platform. bKash customers can purchase sacrificial

animals from online cattle markets through 11 registered online markets. It is also providing payment services for home delivery and meat processing.

Of the 11 online markets, customers can buy cows and goats from Daraz, Othoba Priyoshop, Gorur Hut, Sadeeq Agro. However, only cows can be bought from Akerdeal and BD Gorur Hut while goats can be purchased through Jogan, HungryNaki, and Khasihaat through bKash payments.

Nagad, the mobile financial service arm of the Bangladesh Post Office, is also providing such payment services in partnership with Bengal Meat, Sadeeq Agro, Bangla Cut, Priyoshop and HungryNaki.

TruckLagbe, an online platform which provides access to trucks across the country for transporting goods and different products, is providing logistic services for transporting sacrificial animals.

Many farmers now individually sell cattle online as well.

Abdul Kader, the owner of Mrittika Dairy Farm of Pabna's Bhangura upazila, said he already sold 40 of his 170 cows online.

This was possible thanks to the Facebook pages and Youtube channels I opened to market my livestock.

However, industry insiders warned that many farmers will incur huge losses if the setting of physical makeshift haat is not allowed as many marginalized farmers have no access to digital platforms.

There are 1.19 crore cattle up for slaughtering this year, including 45.47 lakh cows and buffaloes. The rest are goats, sheep and other animals, according to the DSL.

Foster skills, non-RMG industries

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While presenting the keynote paper, DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said light engineering, jute goods, IT and ITES, pharmaceuticals, agro, and leather goods were some of the promising sectors that should be developed before the country takes on middle-income status.

He went on to say that limited access to finance, shortage of skilled human resources, high duty on raw material imports, non-tariff barriers, lengthy customs and testing processes, and lack of certification are major challenges for these sectors in the international market.

To promote these potential sectors ahead of graduation, especially during this transition period, Rahman suggested providing bonded warehouse facilities, arranging low-cost funds and rationalising land prices for the light engineering sector.

For the jute and jute goods sector, he proposed simplifying tax, VAT and port rules, investing in traceable research, replacing old

technologies and removing VAT at all stages of manufacturing and retail.

Shaikh Yusuf Harun, executive chairman (senior secretary) of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), said Bangladesh needs to be engaged with different regional trade groups to diversify its product base and market. Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), said Bangladesh needs to develop its negotiation skills as well as identify any possible adverse impacts of its graduation.

There are two types of challenges -- one is policy-induced while the other is supply-based -- and these two are interlinked, he added.

"We have to be more focused on product diversification rather than focus on market diversification," said Md Abdur Rahim Khan, joint secretary to the commerce ministry.

Andalib Elias, director general of economic affairs at the foreign ministry, suggested increasing Bangladesh's commercial wings in all 78 foreign missions.

Suez Canal annual revenue hits record \$5.84b

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt's revenue from the Suez Canal for the 2017-2018 financial year rose 11.5 per cent to a record high \$5.585 billion (4.20 billion pounds), the canal authority said in a statement on its website on Sunday. Revenue a year earlier was \$5.008 billion, it said. The financial year has not yet finished, however. Egypt's fiscal year runs from July 1 to the end of June. The canal authority did not explain why it had released figures ahead of the end of the fiscal year.

It announced on Saturday increased revenue in May, and predicted a record yearly figure, attributing this to increased international trade and improvements in the shipping industry.

Egypt under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi invested in an expansion of the Suez Canal which began in 2014, one of the former military commander's mega-projects designed to revive an ailing economy and restore the country's place as an important trade hub.

A third of young women lose jobs: survey

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The proportion of females not in education, employment, or training could increase further, it said, adding that this would have a negative impact on the economy and women's empowerment in Bangladesh.

The Covid shock may threaten to undo much of the progress made around women's empowerment unless corrective measures are taken, he said.

At the webinar, speakers emphasised on greater awareness on the importance of technical and vocational education, and training and development of other skills relevant to both local and global economies, said the press release.

DIFE, other regulators draw flak for failure

FROM PAGE B1
Weak safety in the non-RMG sector was exposed at the Hashem Foods factory fire, Prof Sobhan said.

He lamented the lack of effective unions in each factory. Had there been a union in all factories, discussions would have been possible with the workers on improving living conditions.

"The workers are going to workplaces with health risks and under pressure because of the lack of unions," he said.

For instance, before the Rana Plaza collapsed, the workers were compelled to go to their work despite the development of cracks on factory walls.

"Regular consultation and engagements of workers with factories are needed by considering them as the partners of the factories," the economist also said.

Kalpona Akter, executive director of the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, said many workers would not have died had the government's inspection had been carried out at factories.

"Moreover, the Accord and the Alliance would not have needed to

come here."

Garment factory owners have strengthened the safety under pressure from international buyers, but the safety standard was poor at the juice factory at Rugganj as there was no such pressure, she said.

Buyers purchase clothing items at low prices on an excuse of poor safety conditions, she said.

While presenting the keynote paper, Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the CPD, said 22.50 per cent of garment factories had not been inspected officially.

"Most disasters take place in the medium-scale factories," he said.

He said 93 per cent of factories had safety committees. If the committees could function, the number of industrial incidents might go down.

There are 89,974 registered factories, shops, companies and institutions and more than 4.4 lakh unregistered units in Bangladesh for the DIFE inspectors to inspect, according to Md Nasir Uddin Ahmed, inspector-general of the DIFE.

The number of approved posts at the DIFE is 993. Of them, 575 posts are for inspectors. But, the agency now

employs 314 people.

"We have sought more workforce from the government to strengthen inspection," Ahmed said.

George Faller, in charge of the International Labour Organisation in Bangladesh, said safety culture in the garment industry had improved but the safety issue needed to be seen holistically.

"Although the safety in the garment industry is world-class, the safety in some factories should be looked at."

Syed Manzur Elahi, a member of the CPD Board of Trustees, said Bangladesh was able to improve the safety standard at the industrial units in 30 years, whereas other countries took 100 years.

"You can make a profit, but not at the cost of the lives of workers," he said, indicating to owners' attitude about safety.

Mohammad Hatem, first vice-president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the garment sector had become the role model for safety after the remediation of factory buildings as per recommendations by the Accord and the Alliance, two foreign inspection agencies.

Bangladesh takes to refining gold

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"There is potential for export after meeting domestic demand," he said.

He said the commerce ministry was prioritising investment capacities and security issue when allowing setting up of refineries.

Operators and officials said the latest government move would give fresh vigour and encourage creation of a gold refining industry, which would in turn meet demand among jewellers and create the scope for exporting jewellery.

Ganga Charan Malakar, chairman of Venus Jewellers, said consumers would benefit if prices reduce through local refining.

The revised gold policy seeks to make it easy to import and export the precious metal and establish transparency doing away with shady trade as there had been no formal import of gold because of various regulatory complexities.

Regarding local demand, the gold policy puts the annual figure between 20 tonnes to 40 tonnes.

Of it, only 10 per cent is met through resale of old jewellery.

Based on this, the commerce ministry said annual demand for new gold was 18 tonnes to 36 tonnes.

A majority of it is not legally imported.

In absence of formal imports, smuggled gold has found its way to feed the demand in the local market. And seizure of the metal by the customs authority testifies to this.

Customs seized 860 kilogrammes of gold in fiscal 2018-19, up from 605 kilogrammes the previous year, showed data by the National Board of Revenue.

A portion of the gold is also brought by passengers from abroad under the baggage rules framed by the customs authority.

Following the gold policy's formulation, Bangladesh Bank issued import licences to 19 companies, including a commercial bank, since 2019 to encourage legal imports for people from all walks of life to meet their jewellery needs and enable

security for rainy days.

"We have taken the initiative to cater to the domestic and international market for gold," said Gazi Billal Hossain, head of division, secretariat of managing director of Bashundhara Group.

Bashundhara plans to establish the refinery in the city's Kuril area. Around 8,000 people will be employed through the venture, said Hossain.


"We want to make world class gold in Bangladesh and improve the country's image," he said.

Dilip Kumar Agarwala, managing director of Diamond World, said the government decision was time befitting and a demand of the country.

He believes this industry would save foreign exchange and create employment.

Also general secretary of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity, Agarwala is optimistic about getting his permission from commerce ministry.

According to him, at least Tk 3,500 crore in investment was required to set up a refinery.



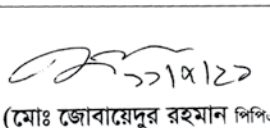
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উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (পরিবহন) এর কার্যালয়
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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
২.	এজেন্সি	ঃ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
৩.	সংক্রান্ত সত্তার নাম	ঃ	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (পরিবহন), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।
৪.	সংক্রান্ত সত্তার কোড নং	ঃ	প্রযোজ্য নয়।
৫.	সংক্রান্ত সত্তার জেলা	ঃ	ঢাকা।
৬.	কি জন্য আহ্বান	ঃ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকার অপারেশনাল কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য যানবাহন উড়ায় সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে।
৭.	দরপত্র সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	স্মারকনং-ডিএমপি/ডিসি(পরিবহন)/এইচএম/গাড়িভাড়া/৫১৫, তারিখঃ১১/০৭/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
৮.	সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৯.	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	ঃ	জিওবি
১০.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	ঃ	০১/২০২১-২০২২
১১.	দরপত্রের নাম	ঃ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকার অপারেশনাল কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য টেনার/ মাসিক চাহিদা ভিত্তিক কার, মাইক্রোবাস সার্বজনিকভাবে ভাড়া করণ।
১২.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ	১২/০৭/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
১৩.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	২৬/০৭/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৪.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৭/০৭/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৭/০৭/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৬.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী, গ্রহণ ও খোলা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (পরিবহন) এর কার্যালয়, রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
১৭.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ একাধিক কার, মাইক্রোবাস এর সত্তাধিকারী এবং নিজস্ব গাড়ী পার্কিং স্থান ও যন্ত্রপাতি থাকতে হবে।
১৮.	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজ পরামিতি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে	ঃ	(ক) সিভিল সার্ভিসের মূল রশিদ, (খ) গাড়ীর রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ট্যাক্স টোকেন, বীমা, ফিটনেস সংক্রান্ত হালনাগাদ কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, (গ) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (ঙ) দরদাতা ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদ এর সত্যায়িত কপি।
১৯.	কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী	ঃ	দরপত্র দলিলে বর্ণিত আছে।
২০.	কাজের বিবরণ	ঃ	

ক্র. নং	বিবরণ	সিভিল সার্ভিসের মূল্য (অন্যভাবে)	দরপত্রের সঙ্গে জামানত (যেহেতুযোগ্য)	কাজের সমাপ্তি
২১.	০১ মাইক্রোবাস-০৭/০৮ আসন বিশিষ্ট উড়ায় সরবরাহ	১,০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা	১,০০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা	বর্ধমান মেসারসে ৩০ জুন/২০২২ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত
	০২ মাইক্রোবাস-১২ আসন বিশিষ্ট উড়ায় সরবরাহ		১,০০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা	
	০৩ কার ভাড়ায় সরবরাহ		৮০,০০০ (আশি হাজার) টাকা	
২২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোঃ জোবায়েরুদ রহমান পিপিএম-সেবা		
২৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	উপ পুলিশ কমিশনার (পরিবহন), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা		
২৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	ফোন - ৮৩০১০৩৫, ফ্যাক্স-৮৩০১৬১২, E-mail:dcmt@dmp.gov.bd		
২৫.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন	দরপত্র দলিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ও পারিলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পারিলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুসারে করা হবে।		
২৬.	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলি	(ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সিভিল সার্ভিসে বর্ণিত আছে। (খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		



(মোঃ জোবায়েরুদ রহমান পিপিএম-সেবা)
বিপি-৬৯০১০৮১০৮৬
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