



Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Eastland Insurance Company, virtually inaugurated its half-yearly conference-2021 recently. Ghulam Rahman, executive vice chairman, Arun Kumar Saha, chief executive officer, Abdul Hamid, additional managing director and chief financial officer, and Shahid-E-Monzoor Morshed, additional managing director and head of Khulna region, also joined the meeting.

## Arla Foods ranks 5th in Global Nutrition Index-2021

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Arla Foods of Denmark has risen to fifth place from 14th in a Global Nutrition Index-2021 for consistent improvement.

The Global Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI) evaluates the world's largest food and beverage manufacturers' policies and performance related to the world's most pressing nutrition challenges to prepare its index.

The entities placed in the index were assessed on their commitments, practices, and disclosure of governance and management, the production and distribution of healthy, affordable, accessible products and how they influence consumer choices and behaviour.

The key drivers identified towards

Arla's improved performance are the new labelling policy, responsible marketing policies, and an improvement in the healthiness of the product portfolio. The progress reaffirms the company's global commitment to affordable nutrition during the ongoing Covid-induced pandemic.

"Our latest score from ATNI is something we can be very proud of. It's a great testament to the strong work done in the past five years by many people across Arla led by the Global Nutrition team," said Peder Tuborgh, global CEO of Arla Foods.

"Bringing health to the world is central to our vision and contributing to healthy, affordable diets for everyone is equally as important to Arla as driving down our carbon footprint," he said.

## Pressure on risk currencies ebbs, US inflation in focus

REUTERS, Tokyo

Risk currencies hovered above their recent lows against the dollar and the yen on Monday, as fears about slowdown in the global economic recovery appeared to have subsided for now.

The outlook for US inflation and the speed of the Federal Reserve's future policy tightening are back in focus ahead of Tuesday's consumer price data and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's testimony from Wednesday.

"If we see strong data, the Fed could bring forward their projection for their first rate hike further from their current forecast of 2023. That would also mean they have to finish tapering earlier," said Shinichiro Kadota, senior FX strategist at Barclays.

The euro traded at \$1.1868, edging back from its three-month low of \$1.17815 set on Wednesday while against the yen the common currency stood at 130.73 yen, off Thursday's 2-1/2-month low of 129.63 yen.

Sterling held at \$1.3887 while the Australian dollar has bounced back from Friday's seven-month low of \$0.7410, even if it traded a little soft through the Asia

session at \$0.7472.

Risk currencies slipped earlier last week as investors curtailed their bets on them, in part as economic data from many countries fell short of the market's expectations.

Concerns about new coronavirus variants also added to the cautious mood. Although few investors thought the economic recovery would be derailed, vulnerable currencies such as the tourism-exposed Thai baht have been whacked.

The baht is above Friday's low but has lost about 5% against the dollar in a month and on Monday Thailand's central bank warned the economy may miss its projections as virus curbs hit growth.

Selling in other risk currencies has tended to subside since Friday, however, and sentiment has been helped after China cut banks' reserve requirement ratio (RRR) broadly to underpin a recovery that is starting to lose momentum.

"We think the larger-than-expected universal RRR cut is likely to reinforce market expectation that the PBoC is determined to keep liquidity stable," said Tommy Xie, head of Greater China research at OCBC Bank.

## Palm oil prices rise in India even after import duty cut

REUTERS

Palm oil prices in India have risen more than six per cent even after the government cut import tax and allowed shipments of refined palm oil as its price overseas jumped in anticipation of strong demand from the world's biggest buyer, industry officials said.

Higher palm oil prices could weigh on Indian demand and may prompt the government to refrain from cutting import taxes further as the price rise highlighted the limitation of duty reduction.

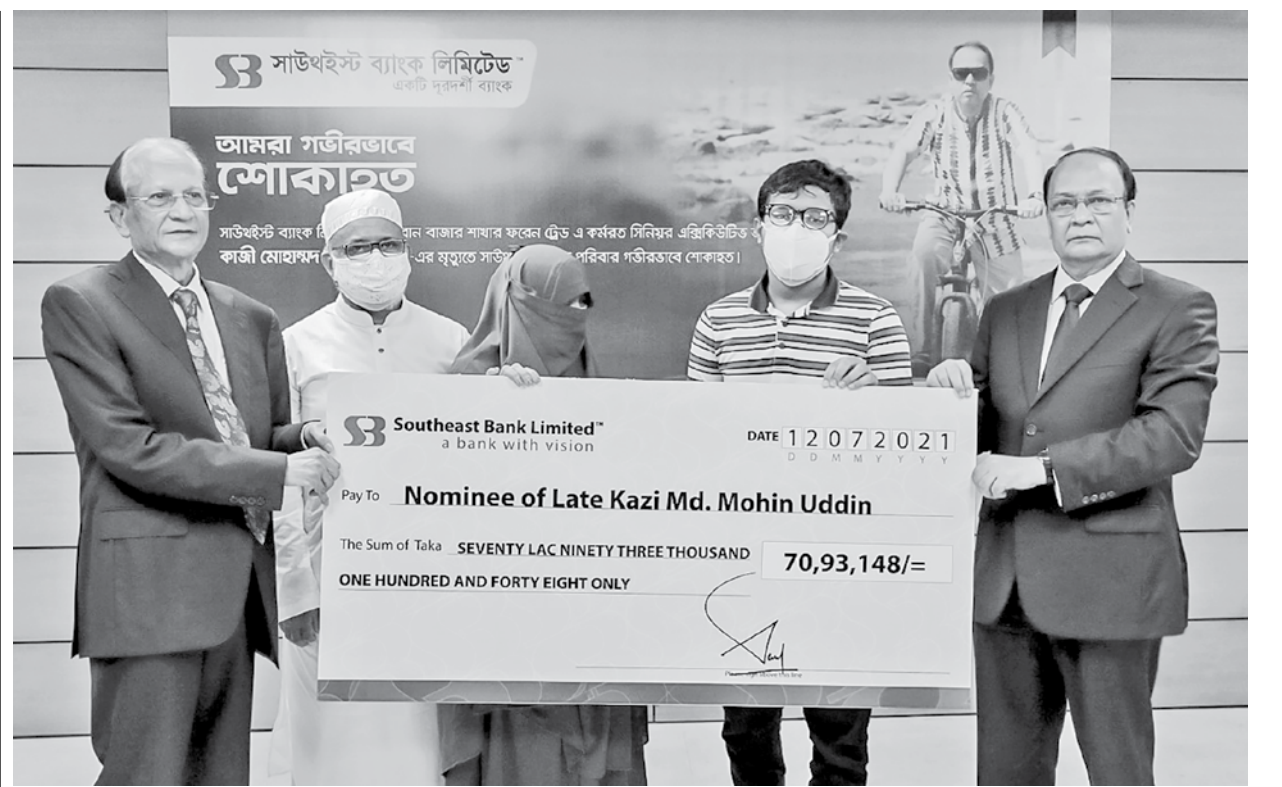
Malaysian palm oil futures, which were correcting after hitting multi-year highs, have risen nine per cent since India cut its import tax on crude palm oil (CPO) by 5 per cent for three months on June 29. India also allowed imports of refined palm oil on June 30.

"As soon as India cut the duty, international suppliers raised prices," said BV Mehta, executive director of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), a trade body of Indian vegetable oil refiners and traders.

"Every time India reduces duty, the international market goes up. Part of the duty cut benefit gets absorbed by suppliers and Indian consumers get the remainder. But this time, Indian consumers didn't get any benefit."

Landed cost of crude palm oil in India have risen to \$1,085 per tonne from \$1,020 per tonne on June 29, according to data compiled by the SEA.

During the period, prices of refined palm oil went up to \$1,055 per tonne from \$1,020 per tonne.



Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Southeast Bank, handed over a cheque worth Tk 70.93 lakh as financial assistance to the family of a recently deceased official, Kazi Mohammad Mohin Uddin, at its head office in Dhaka recently. M Kamal Hossain, managing director, was also present.

## In latest China regulatory move, common data platform planned for Greater Bay area

REUTERS, Shanghai

China's southern Guangdong province said it plans to build a common data platform for the Greater Bay Area that includes Hong Kong and Macau, and will build a data trading market in Shenzhen - part of efforts to regulate data more thoroughly.

Guangdong will also explore the establishment of a data "customs hub" to review and supervise data that crosses borders, the provincial government said on a notice on its website dated Sunday.

The government will "promote the circulation and sharing of data between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau and the use of data to benefit industrial development, social governance and services for the people," the statement said.

Authorities will also strengthen oversight of data transactions and speed up the introduction of legislation for the digital economy, the Guangdong statement said.

It was not immediately clear what types of data would be traded in Shenzhen.

Data regulation, particularly cybersecurity relating to Chinese companies listing or listed in the United States, has become a major focus for Chinese authorities this

month with a raft of new measures and initiatives announced.

That began with the Cybersecurity Administration of China's sudden announcement of a probe into ride-hailing giant Didi Global Inc just days after its listing in New York and

the subsequent order for its app to be removed from app stores.

On Saturday it said that any company with data of more than 1 million users must undergo a security review before listing its shares overseas.



A man walks past an office of the Cyberspace Administration of China in Beijing on July 8.



An employee counts US dollar bills at a money exchange in central Cairo, Egypt.

## Covid Delta upsurge keeps stock and commodity bulls in check

REUTERS, London

An upsurge in new infections caused by the Delta coronavirus variant capped equity and commodity price gains on Monday, with Wall Street tipped to open lower and bond yields holding just above multi-week lows.

Markets are also jittery at the start of an eventful week that will see the US second-quarter earnings season kick off, the release of inflation data in several countries, and testimony by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell which will be scrutinised for any talk of tapering.

MSCI's all-country equity index

closed last week in the red but rose 0.2 per cent on Monday, lifted by hefty gains across Asia where markets tracked Friday's record close on US stocks.

Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.7 per cent while Japan's Nikkei bounced 2.2 per cent. Chinese blue chips rose 1.1 per cent.

But worries over the outlook were highlighted by warning from the finance ministers of the world's 20 largest economies that recent improvements in the global economy could be derailed by fast-spreading Covid-19 variants such as Delta.

A Reuters tally Link of new

Covid-19 infections shows them rising in 69 countries, with the daily rate at 478,000.

The variant is responsible for record rises in infections in Australia where another lockdown looks imminent. South Korea has put its capital Seoul under the toughest anti-Covid curbs so far while cases continue to rise across Asia and Europe.

"There is a bit of a global coordination problem with different countries vaccinating at a different pace. The question is how well vaccinated you are and vaccinations are pretty low across much of Asia," said Colin Asher, senior economist at Mizuho in London.

Asher said however that for Western markets, with better vaccination rates, monetary policy would be the main focus. US inflation data due Tuesday will be particularly watched after the recent bond rally which sent US 10-year Treasury yields 15 basis points lower at one point.

While markets have since stabilised, yields are not far off 4-1/2 month lows at 1.35 per cent, pressured at least partly by investors' rethinking bullish sentiment.

Futures for the US Nasdaq, Dow Jones and S&P 500 were a fraction lower while a Pan-European equity index slipped 0.2 per cent.

Commodity prices too were subdued, with Brent crude futures slipping half a per cent. London-traded copper, nickel and aluminium also fell, though China's Friday move to ease policy supported Shanghai metal futures.



An investor looks at an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage house in Beijing.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক এর কার্যালয়  
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তারিখঃ ১২/০৭/২০২১

**সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, নওগাঁ কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম অত্র দপ্তর অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, নওগাঁ/পত্নীতলা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। আত্মহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (Document) সঠিকভাবে পূরণ করে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ৩১/০৭/২০২১ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য।

মোঃ সাজেদুর রহমান  
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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক  
সড়ক বিভাগ, নওগাঁ

জিডি-১৩৪১