



Kazi Ziaul Islam

## Mashreq Bangladesh gets chief country representative

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Financial institution Mashreq of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has named Kazi Ziaul Islam as its chief country representative of Mashreq Bangladesh.

Kazi will look after the overall business operation with a focus on origination, cross sell, and regulatory matters, says a press release.

He earlier served at Standard Chartered Bank and HSBC Bank Bangladesh.

Kazi obtained an MBA degree in finance from the Institute of Business Administration, the University of Dhaka.



SM Momtazul Islam

## Golden Harvest Group appoints new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Golden Harvest Group has recently witnessed the appointment of its new deputy managing director (DMD).

The appointee, SM Momtazul Islam, was previously serving Golden Harvest Ice Cream and Golden Harvest Agro Industries as chief executive officer, says a press release.

His 30 years' professional career included posts in Coca-Cola, Igloo Ice Cream and Milk, Polar Ice Cream, Bengal Meat, Bellissimo Ice Cream, Deshi Meat and Lovello Ice Cream.

## Keep travel simple to reopen economy: Heathrow CEO

REUTERS, London

The boss of London's Heathrow Airport told Britain on Monday to rebuild confidence in travel by making it easier to go abroad, as speculation grew that the government was poised to slap yet more new rules on arrivals.

Britain reopened its borders to large parts of the world on Monday, scrapping quarantine for fully vaccinated arrivals from the European Union and the United States, in a boost for airlines and travel companies brought to their knees by the pandemic.

But just as families and business travellers arrived at airports like London Heathrow, the industry faced a new headache over potential Covid-19 warnings against holidays to Spain.

Heathrow's chief executive called on the government not to throw new barriers in the way of travel just as it finds its feet again.

"Let's just make it easier now for people to travel," he told Reuters in the arrivals hall.

"I think we just need to keep things simple. We need to build confidence in travel."

Heathrow, like many airports and airlines across the world, is forecasting that it will be two to three years before travel returns to pre-pandemic levels.

# Brac Bank contributes Tk 4.54cr in Covid support

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Brac Bank has initiated a special CSR programme to stand by the families affected with Covid-19 on August 1.

The bank has recently signed an agreement with Brac, the world's largest NGO, to implement the project, said a press release.

Bangladesh Bank requested all the scheduled banks to allocate a special CSR fund equivalent to one per cent of the banks' 2020 profits.

The fund is necessitated to support with essential food or equivalent support in cash, or health and hygiene materials, or medicare of suspected Covid patients, or financial support to those who have lost their livelihood and are affected by Covid-19.

Brac Bank, accordingly, has allocated a fund of Tk 4.54 crore to support the Covid-affected families across the country.

Brac will be transferring the fund, on behalf of the bank, through mobile wallet bKash. About 30,267 families all over the country will receive emergency food support.

Each family will receive Tk 1,500 which

will enable them to buy essential food and other emergency necessities for two weeks.

Some 10 districts exposed to high risk of Covid transmission and under strict lockdown will be prioritised in this initiative. The districts are Khulna, Satkhira, Bogura, Magura, Dinajpur, Natore, Joypurhat, Bagerhat, Chuadanga, and Chattogram.

"We greatly appreciate this timely support from Brac Bank. It will contribute to our initiative, Dakhe Abar Desh, to bring food to the vulnerable households for whom the lockdown continues to prove particularly harsh," said Asif Saleh, executive director of Brac.

"We are thankful to Bangladesh Bank for their thoughts and guidance on supporting the Covid-affected families. We would also thank Brac for helping us in executing this enormous task, following the regulatory guidelines, to reaching out to the actual needy families," Managing Director and CEO Selim RF Hussain said.

In addition, Brac Bank employees contributed Tk 1.73 crore from their August salary as emergency food support to Brac's "Dakhe Amar Desh" initiative last year.



SOUTH BANGLA AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE BANK

Zahidur Rahman, representing Thakurgaon 3 constituency in parliament, inaugurated a Pirganj sub-branch of the South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank in Thakurgaon yesterday. Moseleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO, and Shafiuddin Ahmed, deputy managing director, virtually attended the programme.

# Oil prices hit by concern over Chinese economy

REUTERS, London

Oil prices fell on Monday as worries over China's economy resurfaced after a survey showing growth in factory activity slipped sharply in the world's second-largest oil consumer, with concerns compounded by higher crude output from OPEC producers.

Brent crude oil futures slid by 87 cents, or 1.15 per cent, to \$74.54 a barrel by 1145 GMT after touching a low of \$74.10. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped \$1, or 1.4 per cent, to \$72.95 after slipping to a session low of \$72.77.

"China has been leading economic recovery in Asia and if the pullback deepens, concerns will grow that the global outlook will see a significant decline," said Edward Moya, senior analyst at OANDA.

China's factory activity growth slipped sharply in July as demand contracted for the first time in more than a year, a survey showed on Monday.



REUTERS/FILE

A petrol station attendant prepares to refuel a car in Rome, Italy.

The weaker results in the private survey, mostly covering export-oriented and small manufacturers, broadly aligned with those in an official survey released on Saturday. Also weighing on prices, a Reuters survey found that oil output from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose in July to its highest since April 2020.

# UK factories lose a bit more pace in July

REUTERS, London

Britain's factories reported a further slowing of growth in July - although it was still one of the fastest paces on record - as they struggled with staff shortages and supply chain problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, a survey showed on Monday.

The IHS Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dipped to 60.4 from June's 63.9. The July reading was unchanged from a preliminary "flash" figure.

The index peaked at an all-time high of 65.6 in May as the sector - which accounts for about 10 per cent of British economic output - rode a wave of demand the coronavirus lockdowns were lifted.

Growth in output and new work eased

to four-month lows in July and some firms reported clients brought forward purchases to guard against supply-chain issues.

Seventy-two percent of manufacturers reported higher costs for a wide range of inputs such as chemicals, commodities, cardboard, electronics, foodstuffs, metals, packaging and timber, with Brexit causing problems alongside the pandemic. In response, factories increased their prices by almost as much as June's record jump.

"Amid growing indications that many supply chain disruptions and raw material shortages are unlikely to be fully resolved until 2022, the outlook remains one of constrained growth combined with high inflation for the foreseeable future," Rob Dobson, a director at IHS Markit, said.

# New Zealand housing crisis sparks human rights inquiry

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand's housing crisis is having a "punishing impact" on marginalised communities and leaving many people homeless, the human rights commission said on Monday as it launched an inquiry into the country's red-hot property market.

A raft of cooling measures enforced by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern earlier this year has had no impact on runaway house prices in New Zealand, as investors cashed in on historically low interest rates and cheap access to capital under the government's pandemic-inspired stimulus spending.

Property prices in New Zealand have soared by the most among OECD nations, rising about 30 per cent in just the past 12 months.

"The housing crisis in Aotearoa is also a human rights crisis

encompassing homeownership, market renting, state housing and homelessness," New Zealand's Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt said in a statement using the country's indigenous Maori name.

"It is having a punishing impact especially on the most marginalised in our communities," he said.

New Zealand's pandemic-inspired policies have translated into cheaper mortgages, allowing affluent "kiwis" to upsize their homes and build up portfolios of rental investment properties, fuelling a further surge in house prices. The nearly 30 per cent year-on-year increase, on top of a 90 per cent rise in the preceding decade, has locked out first home buyers and low income earners.

"The right to a decent home, although binding on New Zealand in

international law, is almost invisible and unknown in Aotearoa," he said.

The median house price in the biggest city Auckland has increased by 25 per cent to NZ\$1,150,000 (\$801,320) in June this year from NZ\$920,000 last year.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Leilani Farha, said in her report in June that consecutive governments have failed to ensure that the housing market meets the needs of the people.

Soaring prices and rents have forced families into emergency housing like motels, with about 23,000 individuals and families waiting for public housing. Under pressure Ardern launched a raft of measures this year to tax investors and discourage speculators, but these have had only a marginal impact.

The rising inequality inflamed by the housing crisis is arguably the biggest political challenge facing Ardern's centre-left Labour-led government. The 41-year-old's popularity soared with her response to the pandemic that kept nationwide cases to barely 2,500 and led to an emphatic election win last year.

But her support has been slipping with the latest Newshub-Reid Research Poll on Sunday showing Labour's support fell to 43 per cent, down almost 10 points since the last poll in May, while the main opposition National Party's support inched up to almost 29 per cent.

Ardern defended her government's record on housing saying it was pulling every lever to ensure everyone gets a warm, dry home.

"When I look at the record of what we've done, 8,000 houses to date, 18,000 on the cards. We are scaling up as quickly as we can," Ardern told state broadcaster TVNZ in an interview after the inquiry was announced.



REUTERS/FILE

A view of personal items of a homeless person living on the sides of busy streets in Wellington, New Zealand on April 15.

# Cattle farming a new hope for haor people

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Islam went on to say that amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, farmers have also been deprived access to the government's stimulus funds. Many people, including Shamsul Mia and Helal Mia of Rajnagar upazila, said seasonal farms have become a good business in the area over several years.

In this case, this business would have become more popular if it had received financial benefits from the government or banks.

Abdul Hannan, general secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Samity of Kulaura upazila unit under Hakaluki Haor, told this correspondent that local marginal farmers can no longer rely on paddy cultivation due to various

difficulties in the last few years. "So, they do cattle farming as well despite not getting any government benefits," he added.

Chameli Rani Dev, manager of the Janata Bank branch in Rajnagar, said loans were being disbursed as per the rules and that only those without collateral face issues.

Dr Md Abdus Samad, the district livestock officer in Moulvibazar, said he would send a letter to the Prime Minister's Office to cooperate with small farmers.

He assured providing cooperation to the farmers with treatment and advice.

Dr Md Rustam Ali, director (additional duty) of the Department of Livestock Services in Sylhet, said

the livestock department in Sylhet was operating with only 37 per cent of its full manpower.

"This is why those who are interested in farming have to come to the office to discuss their problems. Then at least some of the problems can be solved," he said.

On the other hand, a project called "Integrated Livestock Development Project" has been taken up for haor farmers. "If it starts, some problems will be solved," he added.

Dilip Kumar Adhikary, additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Sylhet, told this correspondent that cattle farming has given new hopes to save paddy farmers in haors areas from different disasters and natural calamities.

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Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.14.051.21-696 Dated: 02 August, 2021

**e-Tender Notice**

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank branches.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Last date & time of submission documents	Tender/proposal opening date & time
1.	Construction of Open Yard including Land Development at Benapole Land Port, Jashore.	595927	06.09.2021 13:30pm	06.09.2021 14:30pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Mostafa Kamal Majumder**  
Member (Admin & Finance)  
&  
Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
'Construction of Cargo Vehicle Terminal at Benapole Land Port Project  
Phone: 02-55013955

GD-1406

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Barind Multipurpose Development Authority  
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Memo No. PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/2021-2022/65 Date: 02/08/2021

**e-Tender Notice**

1	Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).	
2	Agency	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA).	
3	Budget and source of funds	Development	
Description of work	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Tender closing & opening date
Supply of uPVC Pipes & Moulded Fittings	PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/uPVC pipe/01/2021-2022 Date- 02/08/2021	595705	26-Aug-2021 12:00
Supply of Centrifugal Pump-Motor Set for LLP	PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/Electic LLP/02/2021-2022 Date-02/08/2021	595809	26-Aug-2021 12:15
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 15 HP Solar Pumping System with Necessary Accessories Including Related Civil Works	PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/Solar LLP/03/2021-2022 Date-02/08/2021	595810	26-Aug-2021 12:30
Supply of 150mm Internal Dia Suction Hose Pipe	PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/Hose Pipe/04/2021-2022 Date-02/08/2021	595811	26-Aug-2021 12:45
Supply Installation and Commissioning of 30 Meter Head and 5 liter/second discharge of Solar Irrigation AC Submersible Pump with Solar Panels Including Necessary Accessories & Related Works on Turnkey Basis	PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/Solar Dugwell/05/2021-2022 Date-02/08/2021	595820	26-Aug-2021 13:00
5	Name, designation & address of PE	Engr. Md Habibur Rahman Khan, Project Director, EIRP & Superintending Engineer (In Charge), BMDA, Rangpur Circle, Rangpur.	
6	This is online tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested person/farms can see details in the website: <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>		
7	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.		
8	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).		

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