

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
As on Tuesday								As on Tuesday			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.83%	▲ 0.82%	\$1,814.26	\$71.56	▲ 1.02%	▼ 0.21%	▲ 1.07%	▲ 0.85%	BUY TK 83.95	98.62	115.73	12.75
6,535.87	11,411.96	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	54,369.77	27,584.08	3,182.90	3,477.22	SELL TK 84.95	102.42	119.53	13.41

Star BUSINESS

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Savers, small borrowers pay price as banks run after high profit

Lenders cut interest rate on deposits faster than that on loans

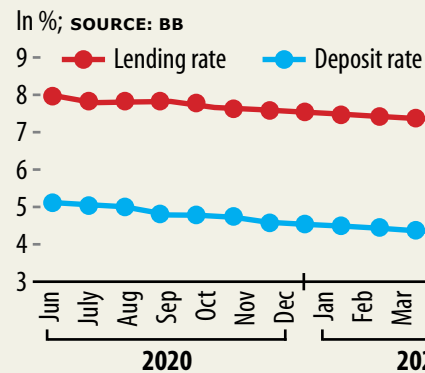
AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

With the financial sector being weighed down by huge excess liquidity, banks have cut the interest rates on deposits at a faster pace than on loans, penalising savers and, to some extent, small borrowers.

But the average spread, the difference between the lending rates and the deposit rates, widened over the last several months, meaning banks are punishing clients to ensure handsome profits and dividends for shareholders.

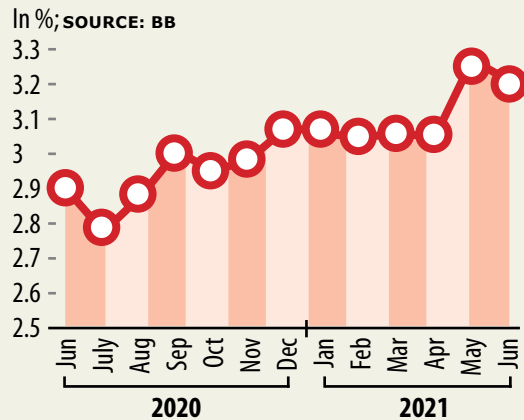
The weighted average rate on deposits stood at 4.13 per cent in June, down from 5.06 per cent a year ago, according to data from Bangladesh Bank. As a result, depositors are facing a negative return on savings given the

TRENDS OF LENDING AND DEPOSIT RATES



inflation rate of 5.64 per cent in June. The lending rate declined to

TRENDS OF INTEREST RATE SPREAD



7.33 per cent in the month from 7.95 per cent a year ago.

Against the backdrop, the spread stood at 3.20 percentage points in June in contrast to 2.89 percentage points in the same month a year ago.

"The higher spread is not desirable at all as it is depriving the depositors of a scope to get a return on their funds kept at banks," said Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank.

"If we consider the inflation rate, the real interest rate is highly

negative."

Most banks now offer an interest rate of 2 to 4 per cent on the fixed deposit receipts (FDRs), which result in a negative real interest rate of 2-3 per cent for savers.

The plight of the savers who have kept their money in the savings accounts is deeper than that of the depositors who opened FDRs as many banks provide less than 2 per cent interest rate on the former products.

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Bangladesh on cusp of industrial revolution

HSBC says in Bangladesh Market Insights 2021

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is on the cusp of an industrial revolution as incomes rise and technology plays an ever-increasing role in the economy, according to HSBC.

"Urbanisation, smaller households and more women at work are powerful consumption drivers that support high levels of growth," said Devendra Joshi, equity strategist for ASEAN and Frontier Markets at HSBC.

A lot of investors do not know that Bangladesh's economy is not only larger than that of Vietnam but also growing faster, he told a virtual discussion on "Bangladesh Market Insights 2021: Consumption Propelling Growth" yesterday.

This growth was in the face of some adversities such as a lack of infrastructure, power shortages and a banking system that has a higher rate of nonperforming loans, he said.

Although now Bangladesh is getting more and more attention, it deserves even more as it has a strong external position with low external debt, strong foreign exchange reserves and remittances, said Joshi.

He said foreign direct investment (FDI) remains low but was expected to improve as it moves up the value-added ladder fast.

"While Bangladesh is one of the cheapest places to manufacture goods in Asia, it will need to diversify away from garments. In terms of ease of doing business, Bangladesh still lags behind Vietnam but is making efforts to improve," he said.

UPSIDES

Urbanisation and growing smaller households

More women at work

Low external debt

Strong forex reserves

Robust remittance

CHALLENGES

Low FDI inflow

Weak infrastructure

Higher NPL in banks

Fifty years past its independence, Bangladesh has grown into one of Asia's fastest growing economies with a very exciting long-term demographic story, said Joshi.

"With this backdrop, the Bangladesh stock market deserves more attention as it holds opportunities for investors looking for diversification and 'hidden gems,'" he said.

He said the stock market was where it was five years ago and was well placed to start closing the gap.

Bangladesh's economic growth exceeded 7 per cent for four years in a row in the pre-pandemic period while its population grew at a fast pace to stand at around 165 million, said the official.

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Low-cost funds for women entrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The cost of funds for women entrepreneurs has declined as the Bangladesh Bank yesterday said they would be able to borrow at a 5 per cent interest rate under one of its refinance schemes.

Both male and female entrepreneurs earlier could avail loans from the refinance scheme in the enterprise sector. Now, only women-headed businesses will get financing from the facility, according to a notice of the central bank.

The volume of the fund is Tk 1,500 crore.

The central bank has already set a target to give out at least 15 per cent of the SME loans to women entrepreneurs by 2024.

As part of the move, the central bank has taken the latest initiative to allow them to borrow from the banking sector easily. Women-owned enterprises now account for a maximum of 4 per cent of the total SME loans disbursed annually.

Under the scheme, banks and non-bank financial institutions will receive funds from the BB at 0.50 per cent interest rate. The lenders can charge a 5 per cent lending rate. The central bank doubled the volume of the refinance scheme in May last year to offset the impacts of the business slowdown stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

It also lowered the lending rate to 7 per cent from 9 per cent at that time.

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Consumers are paying more for edible oil as prices have risen in the international market due to increased shipping fare and reduced supply.

Retailers say soybean oil prices in Bangladesh have gone up by up to 6 per cent, or Tk 5 to Tk 10, per litre last month.

Branded soybean oil is selling for Tk 150 per litre and non-branded oil at Tk 140 to Tk 142 a kg.

Retailers were found selling a one-litre container at Tk 150, up from Tk 145 a month ago.

The prices range from Tk 690 to Tk 700 for the five-litre container, up from Tk 675 to Tk 680 previously.

Md Hashem, the proprietor of Fultaz Super Shop in Chattogram city, said: "All the refiners have hiked oil prices and reduced supplies owing to an import crisis and rising prices in the international market."

The prices saw a similar increase in Dhaka.

Wholesalers at the Khatunganj-Chaktai market in Chattogram and

Edible oil price rises

Higher freight rate, reduced supply to blame



AT A GLANCE

- Price up by Tk 5-10 a litre in a month
- Branded oil sells for Tk 150 a litre
- Non-branded Tk 140-142 a kg
- Crude soybean price went up by \$214 a tonne in a month
- Price of crude palm oil rose by \$152 per tonne

Moulvibazar in Dhaka, two of the biggest trading hubs for edible oil in the country, said the prices went up by Tk 200 to Tk 350 per maund (37 kgs) in the last month.

Soybean oil prices rose by Tk 250 per maund to about Tk 4,500. Similarly, palm oil now costs Tk 4,280 to Tk 4,320 per maund, an increase of Tk 350-Tk 375, according to traders in Khatunganj.

"The price of these products is higher as the supply is lower than demand," said Abdur Razzak, a wholesaler.

Abul Hashem, general secretary of the Bangladesh Edible Oil Wholesalers Association, echoed the same.

"Prices are rising as the supply is low due to the countrywide lockdown," he said.

Traders hint that the price of the cooking oil may go up further in the international markets, which will ultimately affect the prices in the local markets as Bangladesh relies on overseas markets to meet 90 per cent of the demand for the key kitchen item.

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Govt to import 50,000 tonnes of rice from India

Will buy 30 oxygen generator plants

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is going to import 50,000 tonnes of rice from India at Tk 32 per kilogramme, which is 32 per cent below the wholesale prices of coarse grain in the local markets of Dhaka.

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved a proposal of the food department to purchase 50,000 tonnes of non-basmati boiled rice from Bagadia Brothers Pvt at a cost of Tk 160.22 crore.

The price per tonne is \$377, according to a post-meeting briefing. Coarse rice is going for Tk 47 per kg at wholesale in Dhaka. At retail, it was Tk 50 a kg on August 3, according to food traders.

The country's food stock stood at 15.64 lakh tonnes as of August 2, including 12 lakh tonnes of rice.

Rice prices are going up despite a bumper yield of Boro paddy in the just concluded season.

Market players said the hike was for a slow release by farmers from holdings and stocking of middlemen and millers as uncertainty over the Covid-19 crisis lingers.

Due to the uncertainty amidst the pandemic, farmers are unwilling to sell paddy right now, unless they are being compelled to do it, said several farmers.

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Abdur Razaque

Marketing biggest challenge for farm produce

Minister says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

With the advancements being made in agriculture, the biggest challenge now is marketing the produce, said Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque yesterday.

There has been a surprising success in the production of all agricultural commodities, with harvests multiplying for paddy, wheat, maize, vegetables, and fruits, he said.

"But the biggest challenge now is the marketing of these agricultural products. Farmers often cannot market the products they produce, they do not get the right price," he said.

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RAJIB RAIHAN

On the second week of July, 19 private inland container depots (ICDs) were packed with over 15,500 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export-laden containers. They usually have to deal with anywhere between 5,000 TEUs to 7,000 TEUs at any moment. The photo was taken at the ICD of Esac Brothers near the Chattogram port yesterday.

Export container backlog eases at ICDs

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

There has been a remarkable decline in the number of export-laden containers that were about to overwhelm private inland container depots (ICDs) early last month.

A good number of the export containers were shipped off from the Chattogram port in the last two weeks since Eid-ul-Azha after Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) took up several steps to clear the pile-up.

On the second week of July, the 19 private ICDs were packed with over 15,500 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export-laden containers. They usually have to deal with anywhere between 5,000 TEUs to 7,000 TEUs at any moment.

According to Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (Bicda), the figure came down to 6,500 TEUs as of yesterday morning.

The CPA opened an extra jetty to run 11 in total, prioritised berthing of Colombo-bound vessels, permitted additional feeder vessels to ply on the Chattogram-Colombo route and increased booking of empty containers by shipping lines, said stakeholders.

However, Bicda Secretary Ruhul Amin Sikder said the situation improved primarily for a decrease in export cargoes from garment factories which had remained closed due to Eid holidays and the countrywide lockdown.

He said 1,800 TEUs to 2,000 TEUs of export containers be sent on an average per day from the ICDs to the port over the past week, which eased the backlog remarkably.

As the garment factories have already opened, the flow of export cargoes will start increasing within a week or so, he said.

Echoing him, Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA) Vice President Khairul Alam Surjan

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Butterfly Marketing gets new MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Butterfly Marketing has recently witnessed the appointment of a new managing director and chief executive officer. The appointee, Mustafizur Rahman Shazid, had been serving Butterfly Group as chief operating officer. The appointment will take immediate effect, says a press release. He joined Butterfly Group in 1995 and served a number of departments in various capacities. Shazid obtained a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and a master's degree in business administration from the Institute of Business Administration at the University of Dhaka.

MTB recognised at Asian Banking and Finance Awards 2021

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) has recently been recognised at an Asian Banking and Finance Awards 2021 for contributions in "Core Banking System Initiative of the Year-Bangladesh" and "Banking for Women Initiative of the Year-Bangladesh". The Retail Banking Awards of Charlton Media Group were virtually presented for the ongoing pandemic, said a press release. Over 140 banks from 31 countries were recognised under the 2021 Wholesale Banking and Retail Banking Awards platforms for striving to grow and provide services to customers. The MTB's banking initiative for women, MTB Angona, helped create greater economic stability for women, their families and the community as a whole. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of MTB, termed the recognition as a source of great inspiration. "As the bank continues to move forward into the new normal, it has adapted to the challenges associated with the crisis with a view to providing top-tier products and services to the existing and potential customers," he said.

As China's recovery wobbles, economists expect more policy easing

REUTERS, Shanghai
China may need more monetary and fiscal easing to halt an economic slowdown in the wake of torrential rains and flooding, and authorities' tough response to outbreaks of the highly-transmissible coronavirus Delta variant, economists say. Nomura lowered its China GDP growth forecast on Wednesday to 5.1 per cent in the third quarter and 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, from 6.4 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively. It also cut its full-year growth projection to 8.2 per cent from 8.9 per cent, citing the impact of Beijing's tough stance on Covid control due to the emergence of the coronavirus Delta variant in many major cities. While calling China's zero-tolerance approach to containing the virus "increasingly costly", Lu Ting, chief economist at Nomura, said he expects Beijing to keep policy rates steady this year in favour of a mix of "targeted tightening" and universal easing.

"However, we believe these policy easing measures might be insufficient at reversing the growth downtrend," he said. Policy insiders and analysts told Reuters that China is poised to boost infrastructure spending, while the central bank may take modest easing steps. In a note, Goldman Sachs economists said they expect easing to focus on fiscal stimulus and government bond issuance, as well as a reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cut in the fourth quarter. Standard Chartered, ING, OCBC Bank and Pinpoint Asset Management have also recently suggested possible further RRR reductions after the central bank surprised markets in July with a broad cut. "Two RRR cuts in 2021 would not contradict the prudent monetary policy stance, but would help to reduce corporate borrowing costs, prevent M2 and TSF (total social financing) growth from slowing further, and pre-empt GDP growth from slipping below 5 per cent

year-on-year in Q4," said Li Wei, senior China economist at Standard Chartered. The results of a Reuters poll of 82 financial institutions this week echoed that view, with nearly a quarter of participants expecting an RRR cut in the next three months, and some forecasting cuts to the one-year loan prime rate (LPR) and medium-term lending facility (MLF) rate. Those expectations pushed China's benchmark 10-year yield to a more than one-year low of 2.7975 per cent this week, after the latest Politburo meeting revealed no change in stance, and as virus concerns and weak manufacturing data open the door to more easing. But with local governments expected to issue more bonds to underpin economic growth, the dip could be short-lived. "August could reach the peak of the government bond supply...with total net issuance of government bonds likely to hit 1 trillion yuan," said Liu Yu, an analyst at Guangfa Securities.

Euro zone business surges in July



A steel worker of Germany's industrial conglomerate ThyssenKrupp AG stands amidst sparks of raw iron emitting from a blast furnace at the Germany's largest steel factory in Duisburg.

REUTERS, London
Euro zone business activity raced ahead last month, expanding at its fastest pace in 15 years, as the lifting of more coronavirus restrictions and an accelerated vaccine drive injected life into the bloc's dominant service industry, a survey showed. But supply chain disruptions and labour shortages meant input prices surged at the fastest rate in over two decades and fears of further curbs to contain the more infectious Delta variant of Covid-19 from spreading hit optimism. IHS Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), seen as a good gauge of economic health, climbed to 60.2 last month from June's 59.5, its highest level since June 2006, well above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction, though slightly below a 60.6 "flash" estimate. "Europe's service sector is springing back into life. Easing virus restrictions and further vaccination progress are boosting demand for a wide variety of activities, especially in tourism, travel and hospitality," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit. With more of the services industry reopening, the sector's PMI index rose to 59.8 from 58.3 in June, below the preliminary estimate of 60.4 but still its

highest final reading since June 2006. Manufacturing activity continued to expand at a blistering pace last month, but widespread shortages of materials and poor transport availability pushed the factory input prices index to its highest reading since the survey began in June 1997. Inflationary pressures were also felt by services firms and the composite input price index nudged up to 69.9 from 69.8, its highest in nearly 21 years. Meanwhile, a Reuters poll last month indicated that the biggest risk to the bloc's economic outlook was new Covid-19 variants and, with the Delta strain sweeping across Europe, the services business expectations index slipped to a three-month low of 69.1 from 72.7. "Worries about the Delta variant have become more widespread, ... subduing activity in some instances and raising concerns about the possibility of virus restrictions being tightened again," Williamson said. "Hence services growth in July was slightly less marked than the earlier flash estimate and future expectations cooled, presenting a significant downside risk to the outlook and hinting that growth could begin to slow again as we head toward the autumn."



Workers are seen at a construction site in Shanghai, China on July 12.

UK private sector growth slows to weakest since March

REUTERS, London
British private-sector growth slowed sharply last month due to supply-chain bottlenecks and high worker absences prompted by Covid-19 isolation requirements, a closely watched survey indicated on Wednesday. Price pressures rose by the most since the survey began 25 years ago - a concern for the Bank of England as it finalises new inflation forecasts due on Thursday. To date, the BoE has said higher inflation will be temporary. The IHS Markit/CIPS services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) sank to 59.6 in July, its lowest reading since March, from 62.4 in June. The broader composite PMI, which includes Tuesday's manufacturing PMI data, showed a similar drop, to 59.2 from 62.2. "More businesses are experiencing growth constraints from supply shortages of labour and materials, while on the demand side we've already seen the peak phase of pent-up consumer spending," said IHS Markit's economics director, Tim Moore. July's final PMI readings were well above preliminary "flash" data, however. IHS Markit said this reflected a boost to

services businesses from the lifting of most remaining Covid-19 restrictions in England on July 19. Britain's economy is rebounding fast after suffering its biggest fall in output in more than 300 years in 2020, but most economists think the fastest growth probably came in the three months to June, when Covid rules eased most. Service businesses were hit last month by a "pingdemic" of hundreds of thousands of workers having to self-isolate for up to 10 days after being identified by a government smartphone app as a close contact of someone who had tested positive for coronavirus. The daily number of new Covid-19 cases has now fallen by more than half since a peak on July 17 - just before social-distancing rules eased in England - and the government will relax self-isolation requirements from August 16. Even so, many businesses are finding it hard to recruit staff. Employment growth in the survey slowed to its weakest in three months, while service exports continue to be hampered by Covid-related travel restrictions.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
ঠাকুরগাঁও

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-২/২০২১-২০২২

স্মারক নং-১৯৫৫/ই
তারিখঃ ২০-শ্রাবণ-১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৪-আগস্ট-২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" ও তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধনী মোতাবেক আগামী ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ঠাকুরগাঁও জেলার পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়ে নিম্নলিখিত নির্মাণ প্রকল্পসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
২	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর প্রধান	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপার, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
৪	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর জেলা/সংস্থা	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
৫	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	স্মারক নং-১৯৫৫/ই, তারিখঃ ০৪/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ
৬	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
৭	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক স্বাত	ঃ	পুলিশ বাজেট কোড নং- ১২২০২০১১০৫৯৫৪-সদর দপ্তর-বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ- ৪১১২০১-আবাসিক ভবন"
৮	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ	০৫/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রান্তির তারিখ	ঃ	০১/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
১০	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০২/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময় ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০২/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.৩০ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
১২	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৯/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময় ১৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
১৪	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	ডিআইজি, রংপুর রেঞ্জ, রংপুর এবং পুলিশ সুপার, ঠাকুরগাঁও/দিনাজপুর/পঞ্চগড়।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
১৬	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজ জমা দিতে হবে	ঃ	দরপত্র জামানত, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ (স্টেটমেন্টসহ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সংক্রান্ত হস্তাক্ষর।
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	ঃ	জনাব জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন, পুলিশ সুপার, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	পুলিশ সুপার, ঠাকুরগাঁও।

লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
১৯				
১.	পুলিশ সুপার ঠাকুরগাঁও এর চেম্বারের ইন্টেরিয়র কাজ	১০০০/-	৪৭,৩০০/-	৩০/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে।
২.	পুলিশ সুপার কার্যালয়ের কনফারেন্স রুমের ইন্টেরিয়র ডেকোরেশন কাজ	১০০০/-	৪৬,২০০/-	

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ

- ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর সীল স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাতে আবেদনপূর্বক অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সিডিউল সজ্ঞাহ করা যাবে (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
- দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী সিডিউল সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।
- পিপিআর আইন/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর বিধিমালা/২০০৮ তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধনী এবং সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- যে কোন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
- ডাকযোগে বা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস যোগে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- কোন ব্যক্তি প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে চাইলে প্রতিনিধিকে তার কর্তৃক নোটারী পাবলিকের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয়ের ক্ষমতা প্রদানকরতঃ প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের সাথে interior design এর 3D view সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

০৪/৮/২০২১
মোহাম্মদ জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন
বিপি নং-৭৪০৫১২২৫২৬
পুলিশ সুপার
ঠাকুরগাঁও
ফোনঃ ৬১৯৬০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬১৯৬৩
Email: sphakurgaon@police.gov.bd

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার,
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ এর কার্যালয়,
দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম।
ই-মেইল নং : eedoh@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.১৫৮২.৪১৪.৩৬.১২.০১.২১-১৫২০ তারিখঃ ০৩/০৮/২০২১ ইং

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে প্রতিক্ষেত্রে ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম কার্যালয় অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, দোহাজারী/পটিয়া/১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা) অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করে অথবা মানি রিসিপ্ট এর মাধ্যমে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করতঃ আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদন পত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিক ভাবে পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি-৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহ্বান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

(সুমম সিংহ)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২১৬৩
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম।

9 banks join Brac pandemic campaign

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A total of nine private banks have joined Brac to provide cash support and healthcare services across Bangladesh during the pandemic's new wave.

The nine are Brac Bank, Eastern Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Standard Bank, Dhaka Bank, Bank Asia, Mercantile Bank, United Commercial Bank and Dutch Bangla Bank, says a press release.

The lenders have committed Tk 159,193,728.

Of it, Tk 135,740,500 will be delivered as cash support to 72,160 families under a "Dakche Abar Desh" project.

The rest will be used to provide masks and other Covid-preventive services to 18 lakh (1.8 million) people and reach healthcare services to 10,000 patients with Covid symptoms under a Community Fort for Resisting Covid-19 project.

Particular focus will be on 20 districts with the highest rate of Covid spread, mostly in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Bangladesh Bank has instructed banks to launch special corporate social responsibility activities amidst a spike in Covid-19 cases last month.

Alesha Card offers 50pc discount on supplies

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Alesha Holdings is offering up to 50 per cent discount on the use of its "Alesha Card" on over 3,000 supplies.

The card can be availed with a one-time payment of Tk 7,980 and a yearly renewal fee of Tk 980, said a press release.

The card also offers a 10 per cent discount on select products on e-commerce platform Alesha Mart.

If the cardholder passes away in an accident within the Alesha Card's validity period, the family concerned will receive benefits of up to Tk 2 lakh.

India's services activity shrinks again in July

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Activity in India's dominant services industry shrank for a third consecutive month in July as restrictions to control the coronavirus pandemic hit demand, with companies turning the most pessimistic in a year, a private survey showed on Wednesday.

Restrictions imposed by local governments to curb the devastating second wave of Covid-19 were relaxed over the past few months following a drop in infection rates, but the threat of a third wave has

cast a shadow over the already weak economic outlook.

Although the Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, rose to 45.4 in July from 41.2 in June it stayed firmly below the 50-level separating growth from contraction for a third month.

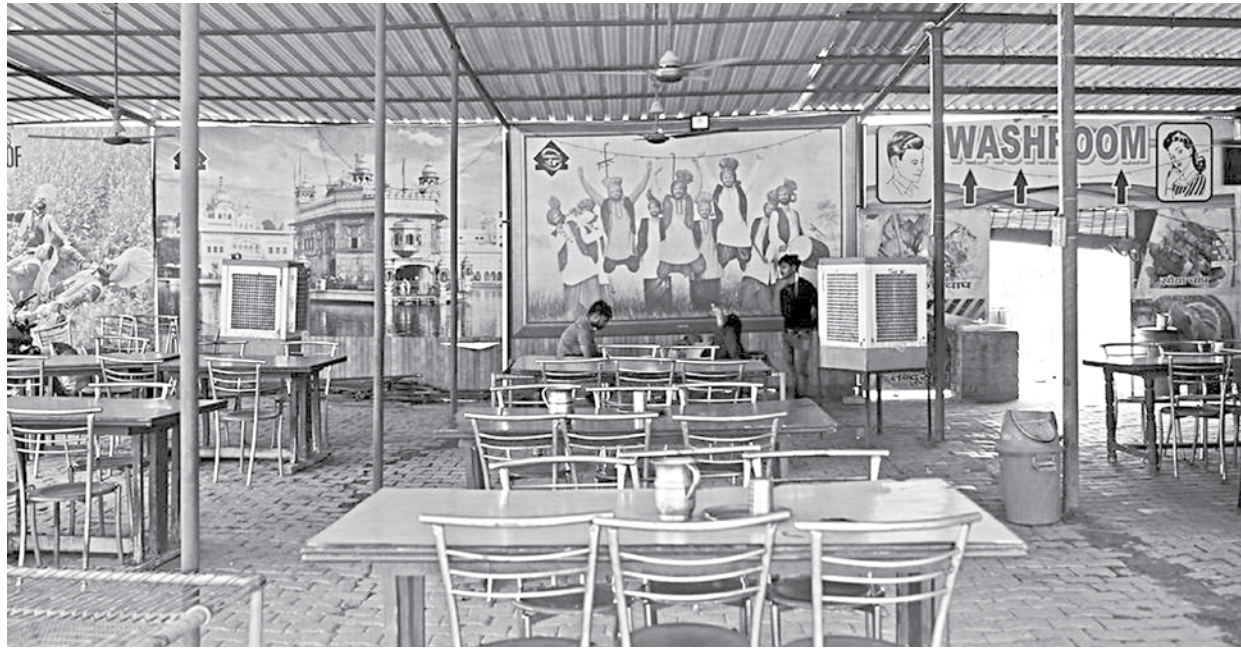
Overall demand in the sector shrank again last month, albeit at a slower pace, and overseas demand declined for a 17th month - the longest streak since the sub-index started in September 2014.

"The current COVID-19 environment continued to weigh

on the performance of the service sector that is so crucial to the Indian economy," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

"July data was somewhat disappointing, with incoming new business and output falling solidly over the month, but there was at least a slowdown in rates of contraction."

That weak demand and a dour outlook pushed services firms to cut headcounts for an eighth month, indicating it may take a long time for the labour market to reach pre-pandemic levels.



Waiters wait for customers at a dhaba, a small restaurant, along a national highway in Gharaunda, in the northern state of Haryana, India on June 17.

REUTERS/FILE

Dubai airport expects passenger surge as UAE eases travel curbs

REUTERS, Dubai

Dubai's state airport operator expects a "surge" in passenger traffic over the coming weeks and months, its chief executive said on Wednesday, after the United Arab Emirates announced an easing of travel restrictions from African and Asian countries.

The Gulf state, a major international travel hub, on Tuesday said it would scrap on Aug. 5 a transit flight ban which Emirates airline later said applied to passengers travelling from 12 countries, including major market India.

The UAE will also lift this week an entry ban on those who had visited India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Nigeria or Uganda over the past 14 days for those with valid residencies and who are certified by Emirati authorities as fully vaccinated.

Govt to import 50,000 tonnes of rice from India

FROM PAGE B1

It is also alleged that a section of seasonal traders and some millers stocked a good amount of rice and paddy this year to make a profit from the lean season.

This was why the supply of paddy at the wholesale markets has been very low.

The committee also decided to buy 30 oxygen generator plants through the direct purchase method in order to fast address shortages for rising coronavirus cases.

At a virtual press briefing following the meeting, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal raised questions about the opposition of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on the increased inflow of remittance through legal channels.

A journalist had sought his comment on a CPD remark at a programme on Tuesday that the government should enhance monitoring on the inflow of remittance of over \$5,000. "We want remittance to come in a legal way. Previously, remittance used to come in both legal and illegal ways," said the minister.

Mentioning that currently remittance inflow through legal ways has increased, he said, "I don't know why they are objecting over inflow of remittance through legal way."

It is good for the country if anyone sends money following the rules, he said.

Regarding Bangladesh Bank's proposal on increasing the incentive on anything less than \$500 sent as remittance, the minister said they have no such plan.

Export container backlog eases at ICDs

FROM PAGE B1

said the garment factories may start sending export cargoes after 8 to 10 days as most have enough orders and were now busy with production after the holidays.

He emphasised that the ICDs need to remain prepared, including having adequate space in their sheds and yards, to receive and properly handle the new export cargoes.

The BAFFA leader said the ICDs were currently facing an inflow pressure of import-laden containers which were being sent from the port to ease the ongoing acute container congestion there.

If the ICDs are forced to keep import containers in spaces designated for exports, the situation may worsen again when new export cargoes start arriving, he said.

The crisis started worsening gradually since early May as the ICDs were failing to timely send export containers to the port for shipment due to an acute global shortage of empty containers and delays in availing space in mother vessels at transhipment ports.

At the beginning of last month, most of the ICDs were overwhelmed since export cargoes were staying inside much longer than usual as freight forwarders concerned were failing to book the number of containers required.

It forced the ICDs to stop receiving additional export cargoes arriving from across the country, leading to long queues of vehicles carrying export cargoes in front of the ICDs.

No such queue was visible outside an ICD known as Esac Brothers

near the Chattogram port yesterday afternoon.

A meeting between the CPA and stakeholders on July 12 for a solution decided that the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) leaders would hold meetings with international buyers' forums.

This was to convince the latter to refrain from nominating just one or two selective shipping lines and freight forwarders to avoid monopoly and avert cargo backlogs.

The meeting also decided for the BGMEA to pursue the buyers' forums to refrain from nominating any particular ICD for handling their cargoes, which puts pressure on a few ICDs and results in the backlog.

The CPA sent a letter to the BGMEA last week to take steps in this regard.

Edible oil price rises

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh requires 20 lakh tonnes of edible oil annually.

The price of crude soybean oil stood at \$1,345 per tonne at the end of July, an increase of \$214 per tonne from June, data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh showed.

The price of crude palm oil rose by \$152 to \$1,137 per tonne.

Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs at City Group, one of the largest refiners, said: "Now, it takes more time to complete the import process. Ship fares have almost doubled in the last one month."

Export-import chains are yet to normalise due to the coronavirus situation, he said.

Problems in the global production of key oilseeds coupled with rising biodiesel use have fuelled the global vegetable oil rally, according to a Reuters article in June.

Soyoil futures have jumped more than 70 per cent this year after drought tightened the US and Brazilian soybean supplies. The US Department of Agriculture has forecast global soybean stocks will fall to a five-year low of 87.9 million tonnes by September.

Palm oil prices, the most widely consumed edible oil, also rallied 18 per cent in 2020 after Covid-19 lockdowns curbed output from plantations in Southeast Asia.

Benchmark futures in Malaysia touched \$1,007.30 a tonne in mid-March, their highest since 2008.

Bangladesh on cusp of industrial revolution

FROM PAGE B1

The country's robust economic growth has not been reflected in the capital market, said Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister.

"Whenever a country grows, it is always reflected in the capital market. Probably Bangladesh is completely an exception and growth of the economy is not reflected in the capital market," he said. "This is really puzzling for me," he added.

"Maybe I belong to a different school of thought. So, I think the foreign direct investment is very important, but not the sole mover of the economy," said Kaikaus, who has a PhD in public policy and political economy from the University of Texas. "Even if you allow all the FDI coming into the country, it might not move forward unless you have robust economic support within the country and local investment is equally important," he said.

He said although the economy had bloomed, the capital market had been stalled for a decade.

"When you talk about equity, we are falling behind. This is something we need to work on," he said.

The GDP per capita in Bangladesh is now \$2,228 and this happened within 50 years, he pointed out.

"We are now more energised to do better and for which the country needs the entrepreneurs within the country and outside," said Kaikaus.

In response to a keynote presentation, Kaikaus said, "Education is good for the nation but I can show you many

instances where the country's economy has improved without improving in education."

"So the matter is contradictory, not unequivocal that education is the prime factor of economic growth. Education is needed for the society, education is needed for a better life of the citizen but it is not the determining factor," he said.

"In its past 50 years, Bangladesh's trajectory of economic growth has been a testament of the people's insatiable desire and effort to do better," said Md Mahubur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh.

"Continued digitalisation and up-gradation of technology, consistent rise in per capita income leading to incremental consumptions and demographic dividend have been opening up a world of opportunities for Bangladesh," he said.

"Historically, our private sector has always been resilient during challenging times and HSBC will continue to play its part through unparalleled international network and connectivity," he added.

Md Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, attended as a special guest.

Sandeep Uppal, global co-head of International Subsidiary Banking, Commercial Banking, HSBC, and Kevin Green, country head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC Bangladesh, also spoke.

In attendance were key members of the business community, regulatory bodies and representatives from state-owned enterprises.

Marketing biggest challenge for farm produce

FROM PAGE B1

In addition to ensuring a fair price for the crops produced by farmers, the consumer must also be assured of being provided safe and adulteration free products at the right price, Razzaque said.

The minister said these on inaugurating a "Sadai" mobile app developed by the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) at Bangladesh Secretariat.

The app is a landmark in the sale practices of agricultural products. "If this app is successfully

implemented, it will work to ensure fair prices for farmers, reduce influence of middlemen, and assure quality of agricultural products," he said.

It will also ensure that consumers are not deceived and are able get safe and adulteration-free products, he added.

The app allows farmers and entrepreneurs to register for free and sell products without having to pay any commission.

According to the DAM, the app will develop a direct link between farmers

and consumers.

The DAM will monitor the quality and sale of agricultural products being traded on the platform, determine the prices and address complaints through a call centre.

Payments can be made through mobile banking and cash on delivery. There will be price verification opportunities and tracking facilities of ordered products. Transportation facilities are also available.

The app has separate versions for consumers and entrepreneurs.

Public administration in socio-economic dev

FROM PAGE B4

These three issues and the four features mentioned above will make "people-oriented public administration".

Bangladesh needs to move forward in terms of its role and the various aspects of public administration discussed above.

One of the features of this century is that no state can function as an isolated island. The impact of global trade, business and technology has fallen on all states. Added to this is the call for social development and poverty alleviation, the necessary institutional reform and market economy, and the need for free flow of information and the introduction of new technologies.

The current pandemic has brought stagnation to all sectors of the state, including economic, social and administrative. Everyone is busy and anxious trying to prevent the pandemic by combining life and livelihood.

Three more aspects have necessitated efficient and people-oriented administration. These are: Moving from low-middle-income to high-middle-income country; To be considered as a developing country and, later as a developed

country; Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

State public administration is very important to take Bangladesh from the current situation to a more advanced stage and build an equitable and welfare state by overcoming all the uncertainties and weaknesses.

Seven concrete steps are essential to make state public administration people-oriented.

They are: (A) Decentralisation of administration: division of responsibilities between different geographical levels and different organisations through devolution, de-concentration and delegation from the centre; (B) Strengthening local government institutions: Ensuring the effectiveness of local government institutions in meeting the various needs of human life, including administration, economic activities, education, health, social development, civic protection as per various articles of the Constitution; (C) Accountability of public administration: Two special aspects are needed -- transparency and public hearing of issues and policies; (D) Establishing liaison with concerned citizens motivated by social consciousness; Above all, to

give importance to the overall advice of the political representatives of the people in charge of policymaking.

However, it should be noted that all persons in public administration must be completely free from the influence of political parties; (E) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration: by increasing the amount of work of skilled administrators and increasing the quality of work, the public will get satisfactory public services; (F) Access to information about public administration activities. The public needs to be informed regularly and accurately by reducing confidentiality about the administration; (G) Regulation should prevail. The use of discretionary power of bureaucrats should be kept to a minimum. This will reduce corruption and opacity in the administration.

This article gives some ideas of the basic issues that have arisen in the present day. Addressing them will make public administration ready to take Bangladesh forward to establish a truly welfare state in the near future.

The author is a former governor of the central bank.

Savers, small borrowers pay price as banks run after high profit

FROM PAGE B1

"Banks in other countries are hardly following such a higher spread at this moment," Ahmed said.

"Although the main agenda of banks is to lend money, they are not doing so now. Rather, they are maintaining a lower interest rate on deposits and a higher rate on lending to make a hefty profit."

He urged banks not to adopt such a strategy in times of crisis as people's income had been hit hard because of the economic slowdown brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

Ahmed Kabir, a retired schoolteacher in Cox's Bazar, said he was highly dependent on the interest income from the FDRs he kept with three banks.

"All of my FDRs have recently matured. I am now in a difficult situation to park the money as banks have cut the interest rate on deposits."

Abul Kashem Md Shirin, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, said it was easier to cut the deposit rate than the lending rate. "Depositors are not united. But borrowers make an all-out effort in case of an increase in the lending rate," he said.

He said the spread had helped banks post a robust profit in the first half of 2021 despite the business slowdown.

"The upward trend of the excess liquidity in the banking sector has mainly created the imbalanced situation," said Ahsan H Mansur, chairman of Brac Bank.

The excess liquidity in the banking system reached an all-time high of Tk 231,462 crore in June.

The stance adopted by banks has also had an adverse impact on small borrowers as they have little bargaining power to secure loans at a lower rate than the larger ones, according to Mansur, also the executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

"The large borrowers can borrow at a relatively lower interest rate by using their influence. Lenders usually do not pay attention to smaller borrowers."

The lending rate would go down if banks gave out loans as expected, he said, adding that this would also reduce the excess liquidity subsequently.

"The depositors will also benefit if the excess liquidity declines."

But the scenario may not change until the pandemic situation improves. Although depositing money at banks now brings losses for savers, there are not enough options to invest and get an expected return.

The only safe option is savings certificates, whose interest rates can reach as high as 11.76 per cent.

As expected, the net investment in the savings tools has been on an upward curve. It stood at Tk 37,386 crore in the first 11 months of the last fiscal year, which is nearly four times higher than the same period a year ago, according to data from the Department of National Savings.

But the government lowered the

maximum investment ceilings of three types of savings certificates on December 3 to get some respite from the burden of the high-cost borrowing.

The securities are the five-year Bangladesh savings certificate, the three-month profit-bearing savings certificate, and the family savings certificate. As per the new rules, investors are allowed to purchase these savings tools of up to Tk 50 lakh under a single name and Tk 1 crore under a joint account, in contrast to Tk 1.05 crore and Tk 1.20 crore, respectively, in the past.

So, many depositors have had to go back to banks to keep their money despite the negative interest rate.

The stock market would have been one of the best options for the individual investors if there had been a strong structure, a BB official said.

"But people should stay away from the stock market as the excess liquidity has already created a bubble."

The private sector's appetite for credit was essential to boost the interest rate on deposits, said Syed Mahubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

The credit growth stood at 8.40 per cent in the last fiscal year against the central bank target of 14.80 per cent.

The existing situation might not improve this year even if the central bank mopped up a portion of the excess liquidity, said Rahman, adding that the Covid-19 situation had become the critical factor in restoring business confidence.

Rawhide traders in a bind

Fail to secure government-set rates

S DILIP ROY and MD AMINUL ISLAM

Menazul Islam, a seasonal rawhide trader from Matikata Mor area of Chilmari upazila in Kurigram, is in dire straits after taking a Tk 2 lakh loan for his business in hopes of turning a profit.

He purchased the rawhide of cattle sacrificed during Eid-ul-Azha, which accounts for more than half of the rawhide collected annually, for a very low price this year.

As such, Islam aimed to make comparatively higher profits but he is yet to find rawhide wholesalers who are willing to buy the untanned leather at prices of his expectations.

He now fears a complete loss of capital. Islam bought each piece of cowhide in the range of Tk 120 to Tk 200 while those of goats for Tk 50 to Tk 70 this year.

The cost to process each cowhide was about Tk 500 while that of goats Tk 250.

Considering his investment, Islam hoped to sell each cowhide for Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 and that of goats for around Tk 500.

"Last year, we sold cow and goat hides for Tk 600-700 and Tk 300-400," he said.

This year though, seasonal rawhide traders are struggling to secure even half of their expected prices.

"We are eagerly waiting to sell the hides but many of us could not sell our goods as the prices offered by buyers is lower than the expected rate," said Sujon Rabidas, a seasonal rawhide trader based in Purbadhala upazila of Netrakona.

Echoing him, Nikhil Rabidas, a rawhide trader from Char Nilaxia village in Mymensingh sadar upazila, said the prices being offered were around half the government-set rate.

Besides, since traders are having to wait for days to sell their rawhides, the storage costs will continue to rise, he added.

As a result, more than 200 seasonal rawhide traders in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram are facing a bleak situation as they are yet to recoup their capital from sales to wholesalers.

According to the Department of



MD AMINUL ISLAM

Seasonal rawhide traders are seen waiting for buyers at the Shambhuganj Bazar in Mymensingh. Despite having bought the hides for cheaper than usual this year, traders have been left disappointed by the low prices offered by wholesalers. The photo was taken recently.

DISTRICTS IN FOCUS

Livestock Services, 1.66 lakh cattle were sacrificed in Kurigram while 1.25 lakh in Lalmonirhat this Eid.

Zahid Hossain, a rawhide trader at Alorupa area of Lalmonirhat town, told The Daily Star that he bought and processed rawhides worth Tk 25 lakh this year.

Hossain had to borrow about Tk 15 lakh to make this purchase and despite being pleased with their low cost, he has been unable to get his desired selling prices.

"We don't have any companies nearby to sell these rawhides to and so, we depend on wholesalers," he

said.

"If I can't sell the hides in time, I will suffer a lot," Hossain added. Similarly, around 1,000 rawhide traders in Mymensingh, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Sherpur have been left disappointed by the low prices.

On July 31, traders took over 25,000 pieces of rawhide to Shambhuganj Rawhide Market in Mymensingh but only 10 per cent of it has been sold so far, according to Jahangir Alam, a leaseholder at the market.

He went on to say that the presence of wholesalers in the

market is about 80 per cent less this year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and subsequent restrictions on public movement.

Md Abdur Rahman, a representative of LIB Tannery in Dhaka, said he has so far bought 5,000 pieces of rawhide from Shambhuganj Rawhide Market. Last year, Rahman bought 20,000 rawhides from the market.

Asked about whether they have been making purchases at the government-set prices, Mohammad Amanullah, a representative of Dhaka Tannery, said if the government purchased skins at the fixed rate, he was ready to sell the 4,000 rawhides he had.

Dr Abdul Hai Sarkar, the local livestock officer of Kurigram district, told The Daily Star that the rawhide business was a national asset and should be preserved as such.

Public administration in socio-economic dev



SALEHUDDIN AHMED

The developing countries of the world started taking various activities for economic development in the sixties. After five decades, different countries have reached different stages of development.

Five decades after the independence of Bangladesh, it has reached a satisfactory stage of development. Despite facing a huge challenge with a large population in a small territory, Bangladesh has become a "model" for other developing countries by overcoming many ups and downs.

The contribution of various policies, strategies and activities of the state behind this is undeniable. The role of the country's peasants, workers, traders and above all, the general public was very important.

However, in a state system, it is not possible to manage and implement any activities without government, semi-government and private sector organisations, call it development activities or any other socio-economic activities.

Bangladesh is now at a crossroads of socio-economic development. Along with economic development, we have to make proper arrangements for social development, various aspects of people's lives, such as health, communication and civil rights.

So far, the main strategy for development has been achieving rapid economic growth. This has led to the development of various sectors of the economy. But with that came income inequality and wealth inequality. This is one of our main challenges.

Lately, Covid-19 has come up with enormous challenges. As a result of the pandemic, the income of the poor and marginalised people has decreased. A huge population has become unemployed, which means new poor people are being added to the pool of the impoverished population.

Efforts to overcome this situation require comprehensive and integrated

socio-economic development.

Satisfactory and lasting solutions can be found through four main processes: Bringing our people, especially the poor and marginalised, into the mainstream of the economy; Ensuring the rights of poor and marginalised people to the benefits of development, especially growth, so that they are not unjustly deprived; Ensuring the participation of the general public at various levels of administration and politics; Ensuring people-oriented public administration.

The main point in this article is the fourth process.

First, we need to understand the characteristics of people-oriented public administration. The four features are: First, participatory governance of the people; Second, it will be efficient administration; Third, there must be honesty, devotion and a sense of discipline; Fourth, the administrator must be altruistic and sensitive to the people.

In order to have these four characteristics, the person involved in public administration must be well-educated and trained and skilled in performance. But through education and training, "hard skills" can only be acquired. The rest of the features have to be acquired through what we call "soft skills".



OPINION

The "soft skills" and qualities are usually acquired by people through discussion, interaction, teamwork, and from examples and case studies and so on, which are continuous and usually a lot more informal. It can often be gleaned from the advice, experience and work ethic of senior officials.

In the case of Bangladesh, we see that the importance and interest in "soft skills" in public administration, especially in the public sector, is relatively low. On the other hand, education and training, which are largely institutionalised, are predominant.

The above characteristics, however, cannot be automatically instilled in people and society. It requires addressing three important issues: Institutional structure (system); The right process for everyone to participate; Active persons i.e., persons of administration, employees of the civil society organisations and persons engaged in business and trade.

READ MORE ON B3



GLOBAL BUSINESS

Southeast Asia's factory powerhouses hit by vaccination woes, Delta

REUTERS, Bangkok

Fresh outbreaks of the Delta coronavirus variant in South-east Asia have crippled its factory sector, disrupting global supplies of goods such as rubber gloves, semiconductors and sports utility vehicles and threatening the region's recovery.

A series of factory surveys this week showed business activity across most South-east Asian economies fell sharply last month, a contrast to more resilient manufacturing economies in North-east Asia and the West, where business growth has slowed but remained in expansion.

The economic disruptions in South-east Asia caused by the virus have been made worse by slow progress in vaccinations in the region of 600 million people. Governments have struggled to secure doses and have imposed costly lockdowns that have left many factories without workers.

The setbacks threaten the growth of one of the world's more resilient emerging market blocs, which has withstood various global crises in recent decades thanks to broad robust economic reforms and its proximity to China.

HSBC Bank economists warn that the low inoculation rates in Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand, as well as the uncertain efficacy of their vaccines, put their economies at risk.

"This means that populations in these countries could remain vulnerable not only to the current outbreak, but any future mutations that may develop," HSBC



REUTERS/FILE

A worker inspects newly-made gloves at Top Glove factory in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

said. "Touch-and-go restrictions are likely to continue, weighing on the near-term growth outlook."

For South-east Asia's manufacturers, which are competitive largely because of low-cost labour and access to raw materials, the impact of new outbreaks on labour supply has been a major production bottleneck.

In Thailand, Asia's fourth-largest car exporter and a production base for major global car brands, Toyota Motor Corp

suspended production at three of its plants last month due to parts shortages caused by the pandemic.

Siam Agro-Food Industry, a Thai processed fruit exporter, is heavily reliant on migrant labour and has been able to fill only 400 of 550 roles needed as workers return to their countries and are unable to return due to closed borders.

"There are 350 tonnes of fruit per day but now we can take only 250 tonnes because we do not have enough workers," said

the president of Siam Agro-Food Industry Ghanyapad Tantipitapong.

"There is strong demand from export markets, such as the United States, our main market. The problem now is with the production."

In Vietnam, which hosts facilities belonging to global companies such as Samsung, Foxconn and Nike, companies in the country's south have been forced to keep workers isolated at their production sites at night.

Industrial output in several southern cities and provinces, where strict movement curbs were imposed from last month, has fallen sharply, the government's statistics office said last week.

In Malaysia, which supplies about 67 per cent of the global rubber glove market, lockdown restrictions forced many glove makers to suspend operations in June and last month.

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NEWS In Brief

Oil prices edge higher

REUTERS, London

Oil prices edged higher on Wednesday, supported by a fall in US inventories and Mideast geopolitical tensions, but the increasing spread of the coronavirus Delta variant in top consuming countries capped gains.

Brent crude oil futures were up 33 cents, or 0.5 per cent, to \$72.74 a barrel by 0815 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 16 cents, or 0.2 per cent, to \$70.72 a barrel.

"[Oil] bulls have drawn support from US inventory dynamics, with commercial stocks falling to their lowest since January 2020 and indications that the tightening is set to continue," oil brokerage PVM said.

US crude inventories fell by 879,000 barrels for the week ended July 30, according to two market sources, citing American Petroleum Institute figures.

Gasoline inventories fell by 5.8 million barrels and distillate stocks fell by 717,000 barrels, the data showed, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Tensions in the Mideast Gulf also lent prices some support.

On Tuesday, three maritime security sources claimed Iranian-backed forces seized an oil product tanker off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, though Iran denied the reports.



A sticker reads crude oil on the side of a storage tank in the Permian Basin of Texas, US.

REUTERS/FILE

Sony posts Q1 profit jump

REUTERS, Tokyo

Sony Corp raised its earnings outlook on Wednesday after a record first-quarter operating profit helped by pandemic stay-at-home demand for PlayStation 5 consoles, TVs, music and movies.

Operating profit for the quarter ended June 30 rose to 280.1 billion yen (\$2.57 billion) from 221.7 billion yen a year earlier, topping the 207.96 billion expected by 10 analysts, Refinitiv Eikon data showed.

It raised its profit forecast for the year through March 2022 to 980 billion yen from 930 billion, bringing it closer to the 1 billion yen average estimate from 25 analysts.

Sony had expected growing pandemic demand for its devices and content to wane as coronavirus lockdowns eased, but with fresh waves of Covid-19 infections sweeping the world, restrictions are still common.

A shortage of semiconductors, however, which is also affecting the likes of Apple, means it cannot produce enough PlayStation games consoles to meet demand.

Investors call for action by steelmakers on carbon emissions

REUTERS, London

Steelmakers must take urgent action to produce less carbon in order to meet the Paris Agreement on climate change, investors with \$ 55 trillion in assets said Wednesday.

Emissions from steel production represent 9 per cent of the global total and must fall by 29 per cent by 2030 and 91 per cent by 2050 to reach the net zero scenario defined by the International Energy Agency in May, said the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change.

The IIGCC, as part of the Climate

Action 100+ initiative, said in a statement that while it was technically possible to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century, the steel industry was too slow to act.

Steel companies were to set short, medium and long term goals in accordance with the IEA report and align their capital expenditure plans to net zero, including by not investing in new production capacity relentlessly, an added the IIGCC.

They were also expected to demonstrate that emerging technology can work and produce reports by the end of 2022 on

how carbon capture and storage and hydrogen-based processes can be used.

In addition, they had to be transparent about the public policy positions they would take to accelerate their transition, for example on carbon pricing and research and development.

While nine companies responsible for around 20 per cent of global steel production have so far made firm net zero emission commitments, they are mainly located in Europe and Asia and are broadly in line with national net zero commitments. And the regulations in force.

"We cannot afford to delay action -

while emerging technologies have a role to play, the IEA report points out that existing technology can provide 85 per cent of the emissions reductions needed by 2030," said IIGCC Executive Director Stephanie Pfeifer.

ArcelorMittal the world's largest steelmaker, and its German counterpart Salzgitter announced earlier this year hydrogen-based projects to help reduce their emissions. Read more

In Japan, the country's third-largest steelmaker, Kobe Steel, has announced plans to cut emissions by 30-40 per cent by 2030 from 2013 levels.