

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
0.22%	0.08%	\$1,783.30	\$69.06	0.29%	0.59%	0.41%	1.11%	83.95	97.27	114.54	12.71	
6,771.84	11,840.29	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	55,629.49	27,585.91	3,131.44	3,485.29	BUY TK	84.95	101.07	118.34	13.37
								SELL TK	84.95	101.07	118.34	13.37



BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2021, BHADRA 4, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Banks asked to raise core capital ratio

The move will beef up banks' risk resilience against unexpected losses: BB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bank yesterday asked banks to raise their core capital ratio to 3.25 per cent in 2023 after they failed to put in place enough shareholders' equity and reserves in line with international standards to absorb unexpected shocks.

In 2014, the Bangladesh Bank issued the guidelines on risk-based capital adequacy for banks in line with the Basel III Accord, the primary banking regulation that sets the minimum tier 1 capital ratio requirement for financial institutions.

The BB ordered banks to maintain at least 3 per cent tier 1 capital, also known as the leverage ratio, by 2015 to strike a balance between capital and assets.

Tier 1 capital is used to describe a bank's capital adequacy and refers to core capital that includes equity capital and disclosed reserves.

It ensures that a bank has adequate capital reserves to absorb losses, thus promoting both transparency and financial discipline among



STAR/FILE

People taking services at a branch of a bank in Dhaka. The central bank has ordered banks to maintain at least 3.25 per cent tier 1 capital, also known as the leverage ratio, in 2023 and raise it to 4 per cent in 2026.

banking institutions and protecting taxpayers from exposure to losses.

The leverage ratio is calculated by dividing the tier 1 capital by the total exposure.

Although the banking industry implemented Basel-III in 2019, the leverage ratio, alongside the risk-based capital adequacy ratio, has not increased proportionately, the BB said in a notice yesterday.

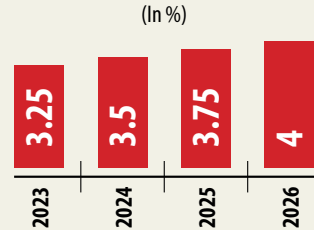
The elevation of the leverage ratio to the expected level will help banks cut their import expenditures in foreign trade, it said.

This will bring about a qualitative increase to the capital base of banks, the notice said.

"As a result, it will beef up banks' risk resilience against unexpected losses and strengthen the stability of the financial sector."

Banks will get the entire 2022

CORE CAPITAL RATIO TARGET FOR BANKS (In %)



SOURCE: BB

to prepare to lift the leverage ratio. They will raise the ratio by 25 basis points every year until 2026 to reach 4 per cent.

The current ratio is 3 per cent. Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said banks with a lower capital base would find it challenging to meet the target.

So, the owners of the weak banks would either have to inject equity or banks have to retain earnings instead of distributing them among the shareholders in the form of dividends with a view to strengthening the core capital base, he said.

He said banks with a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 15 to 16 per cent would be able to meet the core capital goal.

Banks in Bangladesh maintained a (CAR) of 11.60 per cent last year, BB data showed.

READ MORE ON B3

Anwar Hossain departs but his fame lives on

The founder of Anwar Group of Industries established 18 companies



Life of ANWAR HOSSAIN

Born on October 30, 1938
Started business at the age of 12
Factory of famous Mala sari set up in 1968
One of the founders of The City Bank Ltd
Anwar Group's annual turnover now Tk 4,500cr
Total companies 18
Employees over 14,000

REFAWET ULLAH MIRDHA and JAGARAN CHAKMA

After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, then East Pakistan was not an ideal place for local entrepreneurs to do business as non-Bangalees from West Pakistan were in complete control.

The situation started to change after some businessmen began their entrepreneurial journey, especially from Dhaka and Narayanganj. Narayanganj was the business hub in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Anwar Hossain, a businessman from Old Dhaka, was one of them.

Born in 1938 in a family with a legacy of business in Lalbagh, Hossain lost his father at the age of six. He began his journey when he was 12.

His mother gave him a small amount of money as the primary capital of the business. He started cloth trading.

"By converting some silver coins given by my mother, I started afresh in the name of Anwar Cloth Store," said Hossain in an interview published in the Commercial

History of Dhaka by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in 2008.

His focus was on creating as many jobs as possible. So, he targeted investing in heavy industries. In 1956, he set up Sunshine Cable and Rubber Industry, the first Bengali-controlled industry in Pakistan. Later he quit the business leaving it in the hands of his uncle and brothers.

In 1966, he set up a factory, Anwar Silk Mills, in Tongi to make banarasi saris.

He produced "Mala Sari" which was an instant hit. Since then, he never looked back. Mala sari created such a buzz in the markets that almost all women in the country used to wear it.

There was a time when wedding ceremonies would not be completed had not the Mala sari been given to the brides.

"People started calling him as Anwar of Mala sari to differentiate from other Anwars," said Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh and a long-time friend of Hossain.

READ MORE ON B3

Pran now will sell fried chicken

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Top food processor Pran is planning to grab a big share of the country's fast food market with a retail chain focusing on selling fried chicken defying the gloom of the pandemic.

With Fry Bucket, it wants to expand its footprint through outlets all over Bangladesh as fast food consumption has been increasing rapidly.

The company is opening its first outlet in Dhanmondi today at a time when fast food sales dropped over 40 per cent due to lockdowns and peoples' reluctance to avail dine-in services.

It will also face severe competition from other fast food retail chains who are now reeling from pandemic curbs.

"Despite the pandemic, people's appetite for fast food, especially fried chicken, has been growing," Kamruzzaman Kamal, director for marketing at Pran-RFL Group, told The Daily Star.

"So we want to cater to these customers and gradually expand our operation to all the major cities in the country," he said. Initially, it plans to establish 10 outlets in all the major locations in Dhaka by this year.

Asked how Pran will overcome challenges brought on by the pandemic, he said there would be facilities for online orders and home deliveries.

"We had plans to launch it in 2020, but it was delayed for the pandemic," he added.

READ MORE ON B3

Pandemic weighing on schoolbag makers

AHSAN HABIB

Habibur Rahman, a Chattogram-based schoolbag manufacturer, suddenly fell into deep financial peril ever since the coronavirus pandemic first reached Bangladesh in March 2020.

Rahman once led a solvent life, easily maintaining his family expenses.

However, ever since Covid-19 began its march across the country, he has been struggling to survive as his income has been practically zero for the past one-and-a-half years amid the countrywide closure of all educational institutions.

On March 14 last year, the government shuttered all educational institutions in a bid to contain the spread of the deadly pathogen.

The closure was repeatedly extended with the latest lasting till August 31, leading to the cancellation of exams and leaving academic calendars in disarray.



SK ENAMUL HUQ

School bag sales have been practically zero amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, bringing much hardship to retailers as pictured above. The photo was taken recently at Haji Nur Nabi Market in Dhaka's Badda area.

READ MORE ON B3

Popular Group units pay VAT after evasion probe

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Two entities of Popular Group have made a payment of Tk 6.36 crore against allegations of value added tax (VAT) evasion brought by a state intelligence wing probing claims of tax evasion by healthcare providers.

The VAT Audit, Intelligence & Investigation Directorate (VAID), a field office of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), said Popular Diagnostic Centre and Popular Medical College & Hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi did not pay the VAT at source on purchase of goods and services.

The NBR's field office detected the anomalies after auditing the annual reports and VAT related

READ MORE ON B3

N Mohammad Plastic plans Tk 500cr expansion

INVESTMENT PLAN

TOTAL LAND
10 acres (developed)

PROPOSED INVESTMENT
Tk 500cr

EQUITY
Tk 200cr

BANK LOAN
Tk 300cr

JOB TO BE CREATED
1,600

PRODUCTS TO BE MADE
PVC furniture, HDPE pipes & fittings, WPC & PVC doors

JAGARAN CHAKMA

N Mohammad Plastic Industry, a concern of Chattogram-based N Mohammed Group, plans to make a fresh investment of around Tk 500 crore to expand business

for increasing its market share alongside exports. Bangladesh currently manufactures over 142 plastic items and mainly exports intermediate products like film plastic, household items and garment accessories.

However it has no facility for manufacturing polyolefin, the raw material used for its chemical resistance and inertness.

According to the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, the sector's sales are growing by about 20 per cent every year on the back of spiralling demand from domestic and export markets.

According to an estimate of the association, domestic market sales hit Tk 30,000 crore in fiscal 2018-19, up from Tk 25,000 crore in the previous year.

Though there is no reliable association data on last fiscal year's growth, it is widely believed to have been negative.

N Mohammad Plastic Industry has already signed a land lease agreement with Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) to set up plastic product manufacturing factories on 10 acres of land in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar at Mirsarai of Chattogram.

READ MORE ON B3

www.primebank.com.bd

Prime Bank

CASH MANAGEMENT BANK OF THE YEAR

Inspiring us to Make a Difference



JQM Habibullah, deputy managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, and **Md Atiqul Islam**, general manager and project director of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC), exchanged signed documents of an investment distribution agreement at InterContinental Dhaka in the capital yesterday. **Md Salim Uddin**, chairman of the BHBFC, **Md Afzal Karim**, managing director, **Mohammed Monirul Moula**, managing director and CEO of Islami Bank Bangladesh, **Muhammad Qaisar Ali** and **Md Omar Faruk Khan**, additional managing directors, and **Taher Ahmed Chowdhury**, deputy managing director, were present.



Md Forkan Hossain, general manager of Bangladesh Bank, and **ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury**, managing director of Union Bank, signed an agreement on Monday over an "Automated Challan System" enabling collection of passport fees, VAT, tax and other government fees. **Ahmed Jamal**, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, **AKM Mohiuddin Azad**, executive director, and **Abdul Kader**, senior executive vice president of Union Bank, were present.

UK inflation slows but expected to rise again

AFP, London
Britain's annual inflation rate slowed sharply last month as clothing retailers slashed prices in the pandemic-hit sector, official data showed Wednesday, but economists warned it will likely rise again.



Shoppers walk down Oxford Street amid the coronavirus disease outbreak in London, Britain. REUTERS/FILE

The Consumer Prices Index stood at 2.0 per cent in July, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. The rate had soared in June to a near three-year peak of 2.5 per cent as prices had accelerated on easing coronavirus restrictions. "Inflation fell back in July across a broad range of goods and services, including clothing, which decreased with summer sales returning after the pandemic hit the sector last year," said ONS statistician Jonathan Athow.

Last month's slowdown was partly due to the clothing sector, where price growth stood at 1.7 per cent after a 3.0-per cent bounce in June. Inflation has nevertheless been propelled higher since March when the UK government began a phased lifting of coronavirus restrictions. The rate topped 2.0 per cent in May to breach the Bank of England's official target level for the first time since 2019. Despite the July slowdown, most economists predict prices will accelerate further as the global economic recovery gathers pace. The BoE had warned earlier this month that inflation would temporarily spike to 4.0 per cent in the fourth quarter. "Fall in year-on-year inflation last month masks the strength of inflationary pressures currently within the UK economy," said KPMG chief economist Yael Selfin. "We expect inflation to accelerate further during the rest of this year, rising significantly above the Bank of England's 2.0-per cent target, as supply chains remain under strain faced with a strong rebound in demand."

China's steel curbs could cripple price control efforts

REUTERS, Beijing/Singapore

China is facing a high profile test of its commitment to curbing industrial pollution after steel output surged in the first half of the year to well beyond its target of capping production at 2020's peak, sending emissions to new highs.

The country pledged to limit crude steel output this year at no higher than the 1.065 billion tonnes it made in 2020.

To meet that goal, steel producers would have to cut output by roughly 10 per cent for the rest of 2021 from their record first-half pace, according to Reuters calculations based on National Bureau of Statistics data.

Yet with steel prices already near record highs amid a stimulus-led building and manufacturing boom, any forced supply cuts could fuel further raw material inflation which has sent Chinese producer prices to multi-year highs and forced a slowdown in factory activity.

Analysts say it won't be easy for China to balance emission goals and economic targets, but it will try to ease supply shortfalls and price rises with export tariffs and higher imports.

As the world's largest polluter contributing nearly 31 per cent of global CO2 emissions, according



A woman rides a scooter past a steel plant in Anyang, Henan province, China. REUTERS/FILE

to BP, China plays a critical role in determining if worldwide emissions reduction goals can be met.

A landmark UN climate report published last week that said climate change is worsening due to heavy fossil fuel use has put the country under more scrutiny.

And the steel sector, which has a relatively bigger challenge in decarbonising due to its huge power needs, accounts for around 15% of China's total greenhouse gas discharge.

China has ambitious pollution-

lifted last year has resulted in a surge of CO2 emissions.

Among China's 31 provinces and regions, the only reported declines in output from January through June occurred in steel hub Hebei and Tianjin as long-planned capacity cuts kicked in.

The second- and third-largest producers, Jiangsu and Shandong provinces, boosted production by 13 per cent and 17 per cent.

Less well-established steel producers dialled up output even more in the first half of 2021. The southern Guangxi autonomous region raised production by 88% to nearly 20 million tonnes - around the same as Vietnam produced in all of 2020 - due to new plants.

Other provinces including Yunnan and Guangdong lifted output by double digits in the first six months, ensuring that southern China alone offset the decline in the country's core steel hubs.

Much of this relocation of steel output away from northern China was planned as part of an air-cleaning drive by Beijing.

But the more scattered nature of steel output makes it harder for authorities to track and influence far flung operations, especially in areas where local governments are keen to drive economic expansion and demand for metal is strong.

reduction plans: capping emissions by 2030, becoming carbon neutral by 2060, and shutting outdated smelting capacity - including in steel.

Its top steelmaker Baowu Group - also the world's biggest - said steel output cuts are now "a political issue with no room for bargaining".

But a bounce-back in manufacturing and construction, fired up by massive stimulus measures, cheap financing and a global consumer goods boom, since Covid-19 lockdowns were

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা
E-mail: sc@cs.dghs.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-সিএস/সেক্রেট-ঢাকা/২০২১/১০৬৪ তারিখঃ ১৭/৮/২০২১

বাৎসরিক দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (২০২১-২০২২)

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
২.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তা	বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
৩.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	সিভিল সার্জন, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
৪.	কাজের নাম	কোড নং-৩২৫২১০৫, খাত-এম,এস,আর, (ঔষধ) সামগ্রী ক্রয়।
৫.	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-সিএস/সেক্রেট-ঢাকা/২০২১-২০২২/১০৫২, তারিখঃ ১২/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ
৬.	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র এবং দাপ্তরিক প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয় উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
৭.	বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা। ১৮/০৮/২০২১ইং হইতে ০৯/০৯/২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৩/০৯/২০২১ইং দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৩/০৯/২০২১ইং দুপুর ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহার বৈধ প্রতিনিধি ঐ সময় উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবেন।
১১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন	ডাঃ মোহাম্মদ ইলিয়াছ চৌধুরী, সিভিল সার্জন, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা। ফোন-৯৫১১০৫৮।
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার স্থান	সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা। (সিভিল সার্জনের কক্ষ)
১৩.	দরপত্র দাখিলকারীর (সিডিউল ক্রয়কারীর) যোগ্যতা	সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রকৃত ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিম্নোক্ত শর্তপূর্ণ যোগ্যতাঃ ১। দরপত্রদাতাকে অবশ্যই বৈধ ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারক প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে হইবে এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের বৈধ লাইসেন্স থাকতে হইবে। ২। দরপত্রদাতাকে অবশ্যই গত (২০১৯-২০২০ এবং ২০২০-২০২১ইং) অর্থ বৎসরের সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে ঔষধ সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। ৩। দরপত্র দাখিলকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের গড় বাৎসরিক বিক্রয়ের পরিমাণ কমপক্ষে ১০০ (একশত কোটি) টাকা হইতে হইবে এবং এই মর্মে মস্ক কন্ট্রোল নিকট হইতে প্রত্যয়নপত্র থাকিতে হইবে। ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক তাদের উৎপাদিত ঔষধপত্র কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচটি) বর্গবিশেষে সরবরাহ করিয়াছেন এই মর্মে প্রত্যয়নপত্র থাকিতে হইবে।
১৪.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য অফেরতযোগ্য	(১) ঔষধপত্র-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা) দরপত্র বাবদ উল্লেখিত টাকা ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক, কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-এ জমাদানপূর্বক মূলকপি এবং সিভিল সার্জন বরাবর তাহাদের নিজস্ব প্যাডে একটি আবদনপত্রসহ সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা'র ক্যাশ শাখায় জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।
১৫.	দরপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট আর্নেস্টম্যান্ডি/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হইবে (যা ফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে যেকোনো তফসিলি ব্যাংক হইতে সিভিল সার্জন, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা'র অনুক্ষে ১,৭৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকার।

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ
ক) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী/দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে।
খ) আলোচ্য দরপত্র The Public Procurement Rules-2008 এর Open Tendering Method মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।
গ) দরপত্র কমিটি সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতার দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহে।
ঘ) দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দাখিলকারীর যোগ্যতা (সিডিউল ক্রয়কারীর যোগ্যতা) সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে।

ডাঃ মোহাম্মদ ইলিয়াছ চৌধুরী
সিভিল সার্জন
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ক্লিনিক, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ- ৯৫১১০৫৮

GD-1488

শুভ উদ্বোধনা
ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ

Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, virtually inaugurated six sub-branches -- three in Chattogram, two in Tangail and one in Feni -- to provide Shariah-based banking services. **Abdul Aziz**, additional managing director, and **Md Zahurul Haque** and **Md Masudur Rahman Shah**, deputy managing directors, were present.

FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK

Oil steadies, Delta outbreaks cloud demand prospects

REUTERS, Tokyo

Oil prices steadied on Wednesday, after four days of declines with investors still wary about prospects for stronger fuel demand as the use of rail, air and other forms of transport remained constrained amid surging Covid-19 cases worldwide.

After flitting around Tuesday's close in Asian morning trade, Brent crude LCOc1 was up 23 cents or 0.3 per cent at \$69.26 a barrel by 0512 GMT. US oil CLC1 gained 24 cents or 0.4 per cent to \$66.83 a barrel.

"In the short-term, the oil market may be volatile with frequent pull-backs as crude prices are beginning to struggle as demand in Europe and India faces headwinds," said Avtar Sandu, senior manager, commodities at Phillip Futures in Singapore.

India, the world's third-biggest crude importer, also started sales of oil to state-run refiners from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), putting in practice a new policy to commercialize federal storage by leasing out space.

A stronger dollar was also hitting commodities across the board, with metals and precious gold in particular as "equally fragile" as oil, ANZ Research said in a note.

Crude is typically priced in dollars so a stronger greenback makes oil more expensive, hitting demand.

In the United States, more supply is set to hit the market if official forecasts prove right.



3D printed oil barrels and percentage symbols are seen in front of dollar banknotes in this illustration. REUTERS/FILE

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Water Development Board

টেলিফোনঃ কার্যালয়ঃ ০৬৩১-৬৩৪৭৯
বাসাঃ ০৬৩১-৬৩৪৭৮

ই-মেইলঃ xen.faridpur@bwdb.gov.bd
xen.faridpur@gmail.com

www.bwdb.gov.bd

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
পরিচালন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ বিভাগ
বাপাউবো, ফরিদপুর

Memo No. T-1/5588 Date: 17.08.2021

e-Tender Notice No. 21/2021-2022

An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works/ supply	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing & opening date & time
01.	598808	Package: AK-02/PW/CBFM Protective work along the left bank of Arial Khan River from KM 0.400 to KM 0.600=200.00M at Charbandar Khola Fazil Madrasa area in C/W "Bank Protective Work & Dredging Project in Arial Khan River in Faridpur District" in Upazila-Sadarpur, Dist-Faridpur.	Sadarpur Faridpur	15-09-2021 10.00 Hrs	15-09-2021 17.00 Hrs

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 from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on 15-09-2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762-625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Sultan Mahmud
Executive Engineer
Faridpur O&M Division
BWDB, Faridpur
ID No. 800101003

পানি-১০০/২০২১-২০২২
৭'x৩
জিডি-১৪৯০



A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, virtually presided over an extraordinary general meeting yesterday. Chairman of the Board Executive Committee Ramee A Hossain, Chairman of the Board Audit Committee Dilwar H Choudhury, Chairman of the Board Risk Management Committee MA Baqui Khali, directors Enam Chowdhury, Romana Rouf Chowdhury, Mohammad Matur Rahman, Md Abul Quasem, Helal Ahmed Chowdhury and Tania Nusrat Zaman, President and Managing Director Md Arfan Ali, and Company Secretary SM Anisuzzaman joined the meeting.

Anwar Hossain departs but his fame lives on

FROM PAGE B1
He crossed many hurdles to be a successful entrepreneur and to establish Anwar Group of Industries, employing 1,400 people.
"I always wanted to create jobs for my countrymen. I am not happy with 14,000 workers. I want to make it 25,000," he told The Daily Star in an interview in 2012.
The conglomerate, whose trace dates back to 1834, has 18 concerns. The entities produce 36 products and services in areas ranging from textiles, jute, cement, steel, banking, insurance to automobiles, housing and furniture.
Hossain breathed his last on August 17 while undergoing treatment at Labaid Hospital in Dhaka. He was 83.
Trade bodies and associations expressed deep shock at his demise.
Hossain bought a weaving factory in Ruhitpur. By 1960, he took office in Karachi, Pakistan, to expand the business. Gradually, he became known as a businessman in Karachi, Lahore and Layalpur.
He was one of the pioneers in the cutlery business in Bangladesh when he established Manwar Cutleries.
An innovative Hossain was an inspiration for many entrepreneurs in different sectors as he played a pioneering role in setting up Independent Bangladesh.
"Anwar Hossain was a self-made businessman although he had a

family business in textile since a lot earlier," said ICCB's Rahman.
Rahman first met him when Hossain and some other businessmen were lobbying with the government to give more opportunities to the private sector in the late 1970s.
They were able to convince the government in 1978 that the country needed private banks. Hossain later set up The City Bank Ltd and City Insurance Ltd.
Hossain was director of the DCCI for several tenures, but he did not want to be the president of the platform.
"Anwar could have been the DCCI president for many tenures had he wanted it," Rahman said.
Hossain was elected a lawmaker from Dhaka-8 constituency from the Jatiya Party in the fourth parliamentary elections of 1988.
He also contributed to the introduction of the mobile phone in the country. He was able to convince military dictator HM Ershad about the advantage of mobile phones. Now the whole country is under the coverage of the mobile network.
Hossain could not pursue higher education as he was busy creating new industries and expanding them. However, his three sons are highly educated.
As he grew older, he began to bring in successors to the business and gave them management responsibilities.
One of his sons, Manwar Hossain,

leads the group as the group managing director, while Hossain Mehmood runs the textiles division as the managing director, and Hossain Khaled looks after the jute, automobiles and real estate divisions.
For the new generation, he suggested maintaining business ethics.
"That is the main key and the main capital as I watched it everywhere when travelling across the world," said Hossain in the Commercial History of Dhaka.
He did a good business and earned a lot of money until 1958 when General Ayub Khan declared martial law. Anwar made a declaration of his wealth and opened an income tax file.
He was only about 20 years old at that time, which raised eyebrows from many.
Recalling his legacy, Manwar Hossain said his father advised them to think about job creation first, not profit.
"My father gave importance to employees and took care of them. He believed that: If you take care of them, they will take care of you. Then businesses will be run smoothly," Manwar Hossain said.
Anwar Hossain won the Bangladesh Business Awards 2011, an initiative of The Daily Star and DHL Express, a global giant in logistics, for transforming a nearly 200-year-old family business into a business empire.

Global stocks fall on Delta variant gloom

AFP, London
Global stock markets were broadly lower Tuesday as investors fretted that the resurgent Delta coronavirus variant may put the brakes on the global economic recovery.
Oil prices dropped for a fourth straight session as economic strains in China impact on the demand outlook for crude and other commodities, traders said.
US stocks came off record highs at the open after data showed US retail sales fell 1.1 per cent in July.
London's FTSE 100 stocks index was a rare riser, up slightly in afternoon deals after official data revealed a dip in UK unemployment during the second quarter as its economy began to reopen from lockdown.
Separate figures confirmed that the eurozone economy rebounded 2.0 per cent in the April-June period.
On the corporate front, shares in BHP surged around seven per cent in London after the miner announced a multi-billion-dollar deal to sell its liquid fossil fuels business as it seeks to transition to cleaner energy.

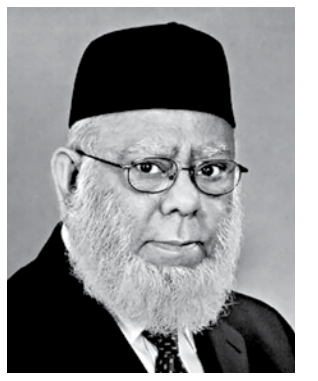
Prime Bank 'Cash Management Bank of the Year 2021'

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Prime Bank has been named "Bangladesh Domestic Cash Management Bank of the Year 2021" by Singapore-based the Asian Banking & Finance Magazine.
The media outlet recognises banks and financial institutions of the Asia Pacific region with an annual ABF Wholesale Banking Awards 2021 for their outstanding performance in innovation and excellence, said a press release.
The magazine said Prime Bank's range of products and services have been exemplary in maximising liquidity while minimising the cost of funds even in a pandemic situation in Bangladesh. "Winning (the award) will surely motivate us to do more... We'll bring in new technology-enabled solutions," said Managing Director and CEO Hassan O Rashid.

Mahbubur reappointed CIETAC arbitrator

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mahbubur Rahman, founding chairman of Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (Biac), has recently been reappointed an arbitrator for five years to the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC).
He is the first and only Bangladeshi arbitrator to be in Cietac since July 2017, said a press release.
Biac is Bangladesh's only registered alternative dispute resolution (ADR) institution facilitating mediation, providing training courses and organising awareness programmes.
The institution has signed cooperation agreements with 21 international ADR institutions, including one with Cietac on June 16, 2021.
Rahman is also president of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh and chairman of ETBL Holdings, Eastland Insurance Company, International Publications and Business Advisory Council of UN-ESCAP.
He is the vice chairman of Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute and a director of Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company.
A former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rahman is a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Business Administration of the University of Dhaka and Independent University Bangladesh.



Mahbubur Rahman

Walmart reports solid US sales growth

AFP, New York

Walmart lifted its full-year forecast Tuesday following another solid performance at its US stores in the second quarter even as e-commerce growth slowed compared with earlier in the pandemic.
Executives from the giant US retailer reported brisk demand from shoppers, noting an uptick in store traffic in the most recent three months as more consumers have been vaccinated.
But they said they were monitoring the Delta variant of Covid-19, which has led to new restrictions in some parts of the United States.
Late last month, Walmart reinstated a mask requirement for employees in areas with high infection rates.
The upbeat outlook assumes "a continued strong US economy with no new significant government stimulus for the rest of the year," Chief Financial Officer Brett Biggs said on a conference call with analysts.
Walmart revenues rose 2.4 per cent to \$141 billion in the quarter, as US stores enjoyed a 5.2 per cent jump in comparable sales, while international revenues fell following a series of divestitures. Profits

dropped 34 per cent to \$4.3 billion compared with the comparable quarter of 2020. Walmart Chief Executive Doug McMillon said the results show "our ability to serve customers in challenging environments and across multiple channels, formats and countries."
"The company saw an especially strong performance in grocery, where it grew US market share and it enjoyed solid pricing."
US e-commerce sales grew six per cent in the second quarter after nearly doubling in the year-ago period.
Walmart's status as a value store has been beneficial as US stimulus programs are phased out amid rising consumer worries over inflation.
Rising inflation "has increased price sensitivity among consumers and sent some scrambling" to cut back on spending, said Neil Saunders, an analyst at GlobalData.
"This trend has been exacerbated by the withdrawal of some enhanced benefits and stimulus payments, which have made households more budget conscious."
"Biggs acknowledged that company performance has been boosted somewhat by US government aid packages, saying, "we know we've benefited from stimulus, but the underlying business is very strong."

N Mohammad Plastic plans Tk 500cr expansion

FROM PAGE B1
The company expects this would create employment for about 1,600 people.
The new units will produce flexible or plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) furniture and doors, high-density polyethylene pipes and fittings, wood plastic composites, flexible packaging and moulds for the domestic market.
The company already manufactures 1,500 types of household items made of plastic such as composite doors, boards, pipes and fittings alongside wooden furniture.
"We will set up three factories under this project for expansion of existing plastic industries, flexible packaging, and moulds," said Managing Director Mohammad Nazrul Hoque.
He said these would enable substituting imports of packing products and moulds for local footwear industries and ensure exports as well.
"We have a plan to start construction work of the factories within six months and we will start commercial operation by June 2022," he said.
"We are about to complete the feasibility study of the project and prepared a checklist of the machinery which will be imported from Japan," he noted.
He also said a Japanese company would enter a joint venture with their mould

industry. "We already signed an agreement with the Japanese company," he added.
Of the new investment, the company will provide Tk 200 crore from its own pocket and the rest would be mobilised from banks.
Hoque said a bank had already shown interest to provide the loan.
The group has over 3,000 employees under six companies.
Hoque said their annual turnover is around Tk 600 crore but it came down to around Tk 300 crore last year due to the impacts of the pandemic.
He said they export products worth \$24 million every year to India, Japan and the Middle East.
Beza Executive Chairman Shaikh Yusuf Harun said they always welcomed this type of investment that would contribute in diversification of export products.
He also said Beza was working to facilitate industrialisation and corresponding skill development training institutes to build up skilled manpower for the industries.
He said now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar was taking shape through the swift development of physical infrastructures of factories.
Harun said rapid work was ongoing for the establishment of a central effluent treatment and desalination plants, a response centre and a training institute.

Afghan central bank's \$10b stash mostly not within reach of Taliban

REUTERS, London/Washington

The Taliban took over Afghanistan with astonishing speed, but it appears unlikely that the militants will get quick access to most of the Afghan central bank's roughly \$10 billion in assets.
The country's central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), is thought to hold foreign currency, gold and other treasures in its vaults, according to an Afghan official.
Most of the assets are held outside Afghanistan, potentially putting most of them beyond the insurgents' reach, according to Afghan officials, including the bank's acting governor, Ajmal Ahmady, who has fled Kabul.
"Given that the Taliban are still on international sanction lists, it is expected (confirmed?) that such assets will be frozen and not accessible to Taliban," Ahmady said in a Twitter thread on Wednesday.
"We can say the accessible funds to the Taliban are perhaps 0.1-0.2 per cent of Afghanistan's total international reserves. Not much," he added.
The Taliban said on Saturday that the treasury, public facilities and government offices were the property of the nation and "should be strictly guarded."
The most recent financial statement posted online shows DAB holds total assets of about \$10 billion, including \$1.3 billion-worth of gold reserves and \$362 million in foreign currency cash reserves, based on currency conversion rates on June 21, the date of the report. Ahmady estimated total reserves stood at \$9 billion last week.
Central banks, especially in developing nations, often park their assets overseas with institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY) or the Bank of England.
DAB's consolidated statement showed that the FRBNY held gold bars worth 101,770,256,000 afghanis - at the time \$1.32 billion - on behalf of the Afghan central bank in its vaults by end-2020.
The DAB's June statement also states the bank owned investments worth \$6.1 billion. The June report did not provide details of those investments, but a breakdown in the year-end report showed the majority were in the form of US Treasury bonds and bills.
Investments were made through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an arm of the World Bank, or through the FRBNY and held in New York.
Among its smaller items are shares in an investment pool by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which is based in Switzerland, as well as the Economic Cooperation Organisation Trade and Development Bank in Turkey.

Pandemic weighing on schoolbag makers

FROM PAGE B1
He then changed product lines and started to produce belts even though it is a slow moving product with a low profit margin.
Most school bag producers either closed down their factories completely or changed their product lines to belts or handbags.
Besides, the number of suppliers rose while the demand and profits remained negligible. "But still, I am trying to at least survive," said Hosen.
"Schoolbag customers are mainly school, college and university-going students needing to carry books or other educational materials but they did not need such bags in the last one-and-a-half years due to the shutdown," said Akhter

Hossain, a wholesaler of Chawkbazar.
Bangladesh has 107 private universities and about 2,254 colleges affiliated with National University. In 2020, a total of 13.6 lakh students successfully completed the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent examinations.
A minimum of 34 lakh primary students and 25 lakh secondary students are there in the country.
"Our sales of schoolbags were very low in the pandemic period so we didn't throw away the bags, rather we now display other bags," said Hossain.
"But when the school, college and universities will open, then the demand for bags will rise again," he added.

Pran now will sell fried chicken

FROM PAGE B1
"We already have the logistics and infrastructure in place and customers also can order from food delivery platforms," he said.
According to industry insiders, annual fast food sales amount to over 1,000 crore, with fried chicken's market share being 30 per cent.
There are a number of top restaurants with fried chicken in focus such as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Best Fried Chicken (BFC), Charoen Pokphand (CP) and HERFY. Transcom Foods signed a contract to become the franchisee of KFC in 2006. It has 23 outlets across five major cities in the country.
According to an official of Charoen Pokphand, a Thai brand which sells fried chicken under the CP Five Star brand, it has over 200 outlets across the country.
The homegrown BFC has 19 outlets, all located in Dhaka, according to an official of the brand.
"Chain restaurant sector has been facing

a tough time due to Covid. Now, we have to rely largely on food delivery platforms," said an official of the brand wishing anonymity.
"For this reliance, some food delivery platforms charge us a hefty commission and this is a big problem for us," he said.
An official of another chain restaurant said an existing 10 per cent supplementary duty on the top of a 15 per cent VAT was also a challenge.
Fast food sales and the establishment of chain restaurants has been growing in Bangladesh through the booming of the economy and increasing incomes.
Pran ventured into retail food chains in 2014 with Tasty Treat, a cake and pastry brand. It now has over 200 outlets. Later in 2015, it launched sweets brand Mithai. It now has over 130 outlets.
"Fast food consumption has become a part of entertainment. So, such food retail chains will grow further," added Kamal.

Banks asked to raise core capital ratio

FROM PAGE B1
This is way less than 18.6 per cent in Pakistan, 16.5 per cent in Sri Lanka, and 15.8 per cent in India.
The CAR, also known as the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio, measures a bank's financial strength by using its capital and assets.
Mansur said there were banks that did not fare well in 2020. But they still announced dividends.
"As a result, their core capital has not received any boost. If the core capital is not strengthened, banks will naturally

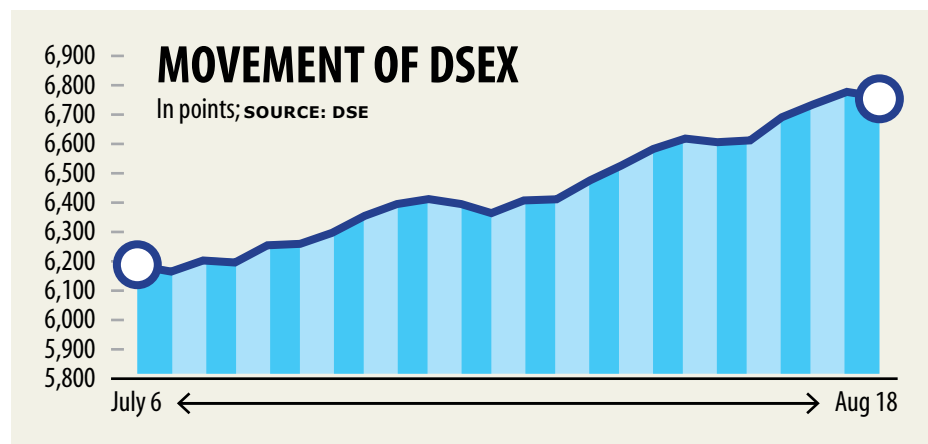
remain weak," said the former official of the International Monetary Fund.
He called on the central bank to pay heed to enforce the guideline and beef up monitoring.
Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said some banks might be expanding their assets, not in keeping with their capital. So, the central bank had moved to ensure banks' assets grew in line with their capital.
"This means you can't be overexposed, and your balance sheet should be strong."

Popular Group units pay VAT after evasion probe

FROM PAGE B1
documents during the period from July 2015 to June 30, 2020.
It found that Popular Diagnostic Centre did not pay Tk 2.42 crore in VAT at source.
In case of Popular Medical College & Hospital, the NBR identified that Tk 1.84 crore was unpaid during the period from July 2015 to June 2020.
Some 2 per cent interest is applicable on the unpaid VAT, said the VAIID in a press

release yesterday.
Moinul Khan, director general of the VAIID, said the firms did not deduct at VAT at source on purchase of goods and services.
"They paid the amount including interest instantly after detection and informed us," he said. Md Sahab Uddin, manager for VAT and taxes of Popular Diagnostics Centre, said they mistakenly deducted VAT at the rate 10 per cent and 5 per cent instead of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

Stocks drop after four-day rally



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks dropped yesterday after a four-day gaining streak due to the profit booking tendency among investors in the banking, non-bank financial institution (NBFI), and mutual fund sectors.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), fell 15 points, or 0.22 per cent, to 6,771 yesterday.

DS-30, the blue-chip stock index, rose 4 points to 2,426 on the day. The shariah index of the premier bourse, DSES, dropped 2 points to 1,466.

"Profit booking is a good sign for the market so there is nothing to worry," says a stock broker

Turnover, another important indicator of the market, fell 7 per cent to Tk 2,673 crore.

"The stock market has been in a rising trend for the last few months and after witnessing a few days of rally, investors decided to take profits," a stock broker said.

"As bank, NBFI and mutual funds rose the highest on Tuesday, the profit booking

tendency in these sectors was also higher," he added.

NBFI stocks dropped 1.69 per cent, bank stocks fell 1.58 per cent, and mutual funds decreased 1.23 per cent, according to data from UCB Stock Brokerage.

"Profit booking is a good sign for the market so there is nothing to worry," the stock broker said.

Investors need to consider a company's performance and potential before investing.

Since banks have high paid-up capital while the NBFI sector was also very strong in the market, their drop impacted the index, he added.

At the DSE, 138 stocks advanced, 216 declined and 20 remained unchanged.

Orion Infusions topped the gainers' list, rising 9.91 per cent, followed by Shahjibazar Power, Metro Spinning, HR Textiles, and South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank.

Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most, worth Tk 130 crore, followed by IFIC Bank, LankaBangla Finance, Orion Pharmaceuticals, and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh.

Jute Spinners shed the most, falling 6.12 per cent, followed by Shyampur Sugar Mills, Al-Arafah Islami Bank, AB Bank, and One bank.

The port city bourse also fell yesterday. The CASPI, the general index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange declined 21 points, or 0.10 per cent, to 19,746.

Among 328 traded stocks, 125 advanced, 172 dropped, and 31 remained unchanged.

Russia wants to import mango

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Russia has expressed interest to buy mangoes from Bangladesh, said the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday.

Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy, Russia's ambassador in Dhaka, expressed the interest during a meeting with Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque at the latter's office in Bangladesh Secretariat, according to a press release.

Mantytskiy said mangoes grown in Bangladesh were very tasty and of high quality. "There is huge potential for mango exports to Russia. Russia is interested in taking mangoes," he added.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), 25 lakh tonnes of mangoes were produced on two lakh hectares of land this season. Bangladesh is the world's seventh-largest mango-producing nation.

Last season, 24.68 lakh tonnes were grown on 1.9 lakh hectares of land in the country. Exporters shipped 791 tonnes in fiscal 2020-21.

Meanwhile, the agriculture minister said Bangladesh wants to import diammonium phosphate and potassium fertilisers from Russia on a government-to-government (G2G) basis.

"We want to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard," he added.

Razzaque said farmers were being encouraged to use diammonium phosphate fertiliser.

The present government has reduced the price of diammonium phosphate fertiliser from Tk 90 to Tk 18 per kilogramme and as a result its use was increasing day by day.

Bangladesh has been importing muriate of



Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy, Russia's ambassador in Dhaka, said mangoes grown in Bangladesh are very tasty and of high quality.

potash fertiliser from Russia on a G2G basis since 2013 under an MoU.

Besides, the agriculture minister requested Russia to reconsider and resume import of potatoes from Bangladesh.

He said the Bangladesh government has taken many steps to treat potatoes with bactericidal and maintain health safety.

Russia imposed a ban on importing potatoes from Bangladesh since 2014 due to the presence of brown rot disease.

"Many high-quality potatoes are being produced in the country now. Russia may resume potato imports," he said.

The Russian ambassador said they would take necessary steps to begin importing potatoes.

Sandhani Asset Management gets nod to launch business

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sandhani Asset Management has received a nod from stock market regulator Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to launch operations.

Asset management companies manage mutual funds. The funds pool money from investors to channel it into securities such as stocks, bonds, and other assets. Depending on profits earned, investors are then paid their share as dividends.

As of August 17, 2021, there were 31 asset management companies in the country managing Tk 14,500 crore under 105 mutual



fund schemes.

The new company sent a press release yesterday saying it was awarded a licence by the BSEC under SEC (Mutual Fund) Rules, 2001. The licence took the number of asset management companies to 51.

Sandhani Asset Management is a subsidiary of Sandhani Life Insurance Company which is

listed with the Dhaka and Chattogram stock exchanges. Its other associated firms include merchant bank Sandhani Life Finance and brokerage house Mona Financial Consultancy & Securities.

Mir Ariful Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of Sandhani Asset Management, previously served as head of research and fund management of Prime Finance Asset Management.

"We have a target to bring new funds in the stock market and pay back handsome dividends to unitholders," said Islam.

"Our main target is to ensure sustainable dividend for investors," he added.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON "5G FOR"

5G FOR ALL: ARE WE READY TO EMBRACE?

ZAKIA SAMEEN NOOR

When 4G first arrived in Bangladesh 1-2 years ago, everybody was skeptical of this phenomenon. Today, everyone is reaping its benefits. Now comes the advent of 5G. The 5G network has two components: a 5G enabled device on the user end and a 5G related network infrastructure to help ensure smartphone connectivity. The question remains, is Bangladesh ready for it? Moreover, what is 5G and why do we need it? How do we access it? These are the questions that the webinar "5G For All", jointly conducted by The Daily Star and realme, and held on 7th July attempted to answer.

Moderated by Shahriar Rahman, Editor, Toggle, The Daily Star, the panel discussion consisted of 7 distinguished personalities working in the smartphone industry, e-commerce, government, and youth sector.

Tim Shao, Managing Director, realme Bangladesh, said that 4G is 20-30 times faster than 3G which currently provides huge benefits to us for video calling, live streaming, and gaming. Now, 5G is not only important for communication technology, but is more important for innovative technology. It is unique and attractive and is 100 times faster than 4G, processing 1 GB of bandwidth within only a few seconds. This enables AR/



Participants in the webinar titled "5G For All", jointly conducted by The Daily Star and realme, discuss the policies and ecosystem of 5G technology in Bangladesh.

"Studies have shown that young people are not willing to compromise design and performance for price. They want lighter, thinner, & more appealing designs along with more functional features enabled by 5G."

VR to be easily processed and 4K live streaming too. "Despite the worldwide focus on 5G now, it appears in only a few high-range flagship devices in the country right now. realme wants to be on the forefront of bringing 5G to Bangladesh through their smartphone devices at each and every price range for all," said Tim.

Continuing Tim's enthusiastic sentiments about realme's future 5G plans, Reeves Li, Branding Director, realme said, "5G has the potential to benefit everything from entertainment, gaming, education, and public safety." He elaborated, "In other words, 5G is designed to extend the scope of mobile technology beyond the capacities of 4G. It will be transformative, fueling innovation across every industry and every aspect of our lives."

Reeves further said, "By the end of 2022, it is expected that 1 out of 2 smartphones globally will support 5G. Studies have shown that young people are not willing to compromise design

and performance for price. They want lighter, thinner, & more appealing designs along with more functional features enabled by 5G."

"We intend to further increase our 5G offerings, providing a more enhanced 5G mobile experience (which has become the standard), not only with premium products but also with more innovative designs. We also plan to expand our product portfolio to offer affordable designs without compromising on quality and premium flagship products leading to technological innovation," he added.

Echoing the sentiments of his colleagues, Md. Wasek Sazzad, Planning Manager - Branding, realme, added that to aware the youth about the technicalities of 5G, they initiated a real 5G Academy on social platforms. The purpose is to make the youth educate of the 5G benefits in simple language ie to increase their understanding so that they can spread word about it to others as well.

The latter is important for a stronger faster 5G ecosystem. "realme is also known for interacting with the youth. Hence, they would let the others know about the youth opinion soon through debates, events etc. This was important for four reasons. Firstly, the youth are the largest demographic in Bangladesh so their voice matters. Secondly, knowing the specifications and style of models preferred by the youth would enable the company to bring these models coupled with 5G to prepare a future-tech ready generation. Thirdly, since its launch in 2018, realme has been associating itself with the items the youth are mostly familiar with in each of its campaign. This is so that the users can become more familiar with realme. As a continuation of this policy, realme has globally collaborated for realme 8 5G with the 'Fast & Furious' franchise to instill the image of the extremely fast speed of 5G in an entertaining way. Lastly, over the last one year,

the realme community had grown to almost 2 lakh members with whom the realme team had arranged several events to learn about their preferences and incorporate those into their future products. This is why realme was a trendsetting brand, their USP being bringing new trendy smartphones every month," he said.

Evaly CEO & Managing Director Mohammad Rassel shared the same sentiments regarding the future of 5G, especially given the present fourth industrial revolution and the rise of digital Bangladesh. He said, "Evaly will be playing the biggest role in the rollout of Realme's 5G enabled smartphone devices for the youth who are looking for affordability and maximum net usage. Through Evaly, customers will not have to incur any additional costs while accessing these realme smartphones."

To understand how the government planned to build the 5G framework, Salman Rahman, Partner, Private

Sector Division, Inspira Advisory and Consulting Ltd responded that the government expectation in 5G policy level had started back in 2019.

"The revised timeline is now 2023 and the goal is to bring 5G to all metropolitan cities of Bangladesh by 2026. While the government is the primary stakeholder, the next biggest stakeholders are the network providers like Telco who are ready for 5G rollout and plan for FDI. However, they need government support too, including budget through the form of corporate tax etc," he said.

He further explained, "Since 5G will be used at the device level, the issue of offering different price points is important considering the general population. Devices assembled in Bangladesh will have a big edge when penetrating the local market. This explains why smartphone manufacturers like realme are focusing on building their own assembly point here. This offers an important angle for 5G."

In early 2021, a study was done on youths that showed 74% responded knew about 5G and were willing to be early adopters. However, in terms of the qualitative aspect, they knew about the speed benefits, but not the other benefits like talking to other devices on the IOT network, working in crowded areas, and doing instantaneous video streaming.

Ashikur Rahman Tushar, Tech Reviewer, ATC Android ToTo Company and youth icon, said that the youth, who always want to live in the moment, are very excited by the prospect of 5G.

"They will be able to download movies within a few minutes, do bufferless 8K video streaming, and use the internet with ease even in crowded places, unlike with 4G. The low latency of 5G will be the biggest advantage," he continued. Ashikur is hopeful of the changes in the education, healthcare, telemedicine, transportation and entertainment industry with the advent of 5G.

Shahriar gave the concluding remarks appreciating the fact that 5G will indeed change the way we think about technology consumption.

"Everyone in the ecosystem must come forward as partners and make sure that the affordability and accessibility of 5G are aligned properly. It is good news for Bangladesh that they are or are planning to," he added.