

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
▲ 1.02%	▲ 1.15%	\$1,826.19	\$72.61	▲ 0.48%	▲ 2.05%	▼ 0.16%	▼ 0.43%	84.25	98.99	115.80	12.80	
7,052.82	12,324.49	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	58,129.95	29,128.11	3,083.85	3,581.73	BUY TK	85.25	102.79	119.60	13.46

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2021, BHADRA 22, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Stock market climbs to new peak

Key index surged past 7,000 points

AHSAN HABIB

The Dhaka bourse scaled new heights yesterday, crossing 7,000 points as buoyant investors increased their bets in hopes that the market would maintain its upward trend in the coming days.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), surged 71 points, or 1.02 per cent, to close at 7,052. This is the highest level the index has reached since its inception in 2013.

The DS-30, the blue-chip index, rose 37 points to 2,533.

"Due to lower interest rates in the banking sector, many savers have chosen the stock market to keep their funds to ensure a sizeable profit," said a top official of a merchant bank.

The banking sector has enforced a maximum 6 per cent deposit rate and 9 per cent lending rate from April 1, 2020. As a result, savings at banks are carrying a negative return if inflation is taken into account.

The government has

also lowered the ceiling for investments in the national savings instruments, leaving the investors with only one option: the stock market.

"So, the market has been on an upward trend for the last few months," said the merchant banker, adding that investors were more confident.

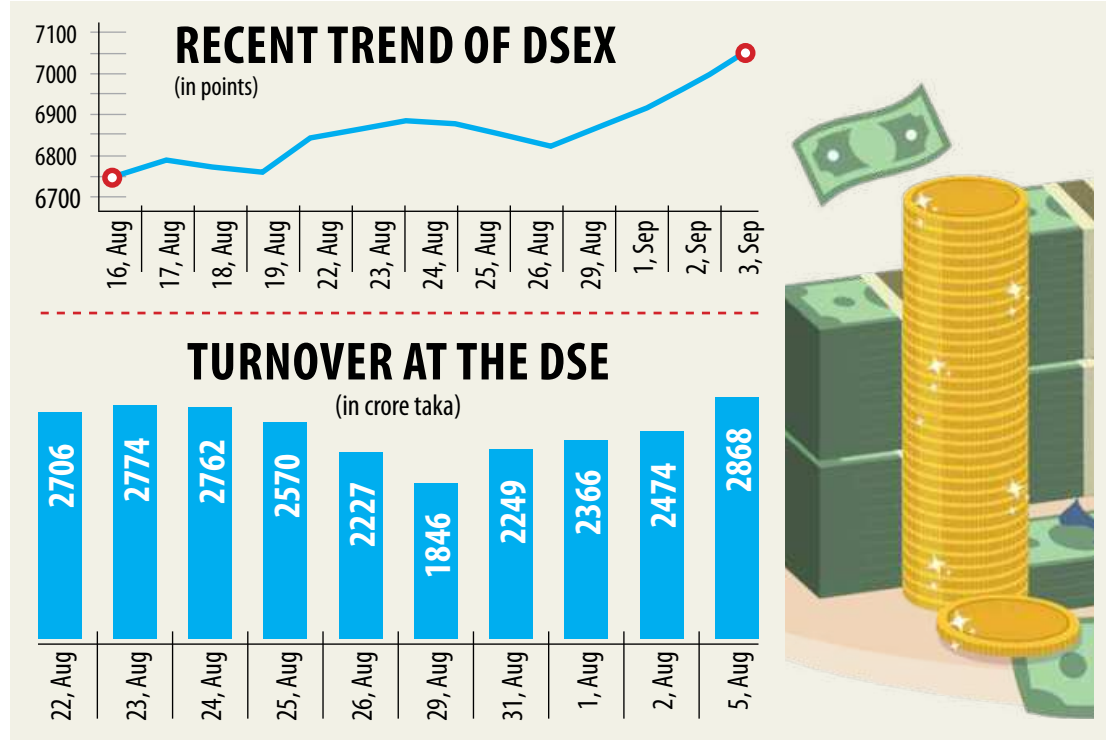
The DSEX has surged 75 per cent since the pandemic arrived on the shores of Bangladesh in March last year.

In fact, stock markets worldwide have been climbing new heights, powered by mass coronavirus vaccination and rebounding economies.

In the US, the S&P 500, the broad market index, set a new record high last week. The Nasdaq Composite traded up 0.90 per cent for its own all-time high 15,265.89, reported CNBC.

The benchmark indices in Indian markets closed at a fresh record on Friday.

Md Moniruzzaman, managing director of IDLC Investments Ltd, said the market rallied



SOURCE: DSE

thanks to the new leadership team at the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and its steps to improve governance.

Easy money at a lower interest rate in the money market, additional liquidity injection by the central bank, and the government's proactive role to support the economy through various schemes helped the market, he said.

Turnover, an important indicator of the market, reached Tk 2,868 crore from Tk 2,474 crore a day earlier, up about 16 per cent.

On the DSE, 208 stocks advanced, 130 fell, and 37 remained unchanged.

"Investors hope that the market will soar further, so they are pouring in their money," said a market analyst, adding that the key index has risen almost every

day in the last few months.

Low paid-up capital-based and low-performing companies were hot cakes in the last few months, said Sharif Anwar Hossain, president of the DSE Broker's Association.

"These stocks have become riskier. In fact, the stock market is always risky. But people make profits within such a reality. So, analysis is necessary."

READ MORE ON B3

NRB Commercial Bank fined for breaching stock investment ceiling

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank yesterday fined NRB Commercial Bank Tk 23.50 lakh for its aggressive investments in the capital market in breach of rules.

In July, the bank's stock market exposure stood at 27.33 per cent of its capital against the ceiling of 25 per cent.

The central bank asked it to pay the fine within the next three days. Missing the deadline would result in the amount being debited from the bank's current account maintained with the central bank.

As per the Banking Companies Act 1991, a bank's investment in the capital market is limited to 25 per cent of its capital, which includes paid-up capital, share premium, statutory reserve and retained earnings.

On August 25, the central bank issued a notice on NRB Commercial Bank asking it to explain why it would not take punitive measures as per the Act.

The bank confessed in a reply on August 29, saying it would not repeat the mistake in the days to come.



The bank also faces a Tk 50,000 fine per day until it adjusts its investment with the limit in line with the Act.

Contacted, Golam Awlia, managing director of NRB Commercial Bank, said the bank had unintentionally breached the rule.

"We decreased the investment in the share market soon after the central bank issued the letter," he said.

"We are a highly compliant bank and following the central bank's rules and regulations. Such a mistake will not recur."

Established in 2013, the bank raised Tk 120 crore through an initial public offering in February, becoming the first private lender to go public in 12 years.

BB officials say a good number of banks had recently breached the Act by investing a large amount of funds in the capital market. Against this backdrop, more banks will face the same penalty within a day or two.

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Evaly owes Tk 206cr to merchants

Plans to settle dues of Tk 311 crore to retail customers

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SINCE MARCH 2021

- Mar: BB inspection finds Evaly's liabilities to be Tk 407cr
- Jul 19: Commerce ministry asks Evaly to explain and submit plans to clear dues
- Aug 19: Evaly says its liabilities amount to Tk 543cr
- Aug 26: Dues to customers Tk 311cr
- Sep 2: Liabilities to merchants Tk 206cr
- Sep 2: Now seeks 5 months to clear dues to customers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

E-commerce company Evaly said it owed around Tk 206 crore to merchants.

It also said it would clear customers liability involving Tk 311 crore through regular business and drawing investments by five months.

On Thursday, the company came up with

the plan in its final reply to a commerce ministry show-cause notice.

"Evaly said the repayment would be made from the profit of the business and expected investment," said Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary of the commerce ministry, yesterday.

Asked if it was possible for the company to settle the customers' liability, he said the matter would be discussed in a meeting later.

The ministry will hold a meeting on the Evaly issues with a committee formed to check the e-commerce issues within the next one week to take necessary action.

"We may seek more information, but it depends on the committee's opinion," Rahman said.

Rahman said Evaly had wanted to meet with commerce ministry officials, but the ministry declined following advice from its lawyer.

The additional secretary said protection of the interests of all parties was vital, and it was also expected that the committee would try to guard the interests of customers and merchants.

In the reply, Evaly said it was doing business through contractual agreements with the merchants, who shared 15-20 per cent of the profits with the e-commerce platform from the sales.

READ MORE ON B2



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Consumer complaints rising

MAHMUDUL HASAN and SUKANTA HALDER

Rights violations have compounded sufferings of consumers in Bangladesh, with the number of complaints rising a staggering 61 per cent in the span of a year.

Consumers lodged 14,764 complaints with the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) in fiscal 2020-21, up from 9,195 complaints a year ago. In fiscal 2018-19, the DNCRP received 7,515 complaints from consumers on various grounds.

With the latest figure, the directorate recorded a total of 47,738 complaints since fiscal year 2013-14.

The spike in consumer complaints is mainly due to growing awareness on how the relevant authorities can address their issues, Bablu Kumar Saha, director general of the DNCRP, told The Daily Star.

"Another reason is a recent rise in online retail fraudulence," he said.

However, a majority, or 44,630 complaints, have been resolved while 6,935 entities have been penalised.

Although the directorate officials have intensified the drives they regularly conduct in markets across the country, the plight of customers continues to rise. The directorate officials also fined many entities over different consumer rights violations, including sale of goods, medicine or services at a price higher than the fixed rate.

Other breaches include sale of adulterated and counterfeit goods,

medicine and food, food processed under unhygienic conditions, tampering with weights and withholding retail prices.

"We are deprived of our rights as we face different types of problems while buying products and services," said Delwar Hossain, a resident of the capital.

COMPLAINTS AT RIGHTS PROTECTION OFFICE

- 14,764 filed in FY'21, up 61% year-on-year
- 48,000 filed so far
- Majority resolved, 6,935 entities fined Tk 4.83cr
- Consumers received Tk 1.19cr of fine

"Recently, I wanted an imported item but there was no mention of the maximum retail price on the cover. So I had to pay the price fixed by the shop owner," he said last week.

The Daily Star on August 19 witnessed one of the market monitoring drives conducted daily by Magfur Rahman, an assistant director of the directorate.

The team found some date-expired medicines at Belle Vue Pharmacy in the capital's Shahbagh.

Following further investigation, the pharmacy's owner, Zafar Iqbal, was fined Tk 40,000 under Section 51 of the Consumers' Right Protection

Act 2009. He was also issued a warning.

Iqbal told The Daily Star that he was having to get by with just a handful of employees for the pandemic.

"I am tidying up the shop on recently opening after a lockdown. I could not remove the date-expired medicines from the shelves. I will not do this again in the future and will be careful from now on," he said.

In another drive, a mobile team led by Assistant Director Abdul Jabbar Mandal went to Palash Enterprise on the second floor of Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the capital.

The shop was found selling imported olive oil whose containers had no label mentioning the price, expiration date and name of the importer.

The shop's owner, Harun Rashid, was fined Tk 5,000. He said each container was priced Tk 1,250 and that the importer was at fault for not putting any label.

"If we find any violation of the act, we fine the businesses and try our best to make the traders do business while obeying the rules," said Mandal.

The directorate's monitoring drives are now 70 times more frequent than what it was in fiscal 2010-11.

In fiscal 2020-21, there were 11,953 market drives, through which 22,996 entities were fined a total of Tk 13.36 crore.

READ MORE ON B3

No decision yet on annual tax fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has not yet taken any decision regarding holding the annual income tax fair this time around amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, said Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem yesterday.

"The government is still cautious about coronavirus. Therefore, no final decision has been taken about the income tax fair. Slowly everything is opening up. If everything returns to normalcy, the fair may be organised," he told a press conference at the NBR headquarters.

The income tax fair usually takes place in November every year to raise awareness and encourage taxpayers to comply with rules.

Last year, the NBR did not hold its annual tax fair to avoid the usual mass gatherings and curb the risk of the spread of coronavirus.

Individual taxpayers had to submit their income tax returns at tax offices last year. At yesterday's event, Muneem also talked about the ratio of tax to gross domestic product (GDP).



There is no reason to be worried about taxes even though it is low, he said, adding that the tax-GDP ratio would have been above 17 per cent if tariff and tax benefits given to facilitate industrialisation and economy had been taken into account.

Bangladesh has one of the lowest tax-GDP ratios in South Asia.

"Taxes in Bhutan, the Maldives, and Nepal come from tourism, but our taxes come from the industries. In this case, we have to consider many things," he said.

However, the NBR aims to generate the highest possible revenue in order to achieve the government's goal to become a middle-income country by 2030 and a developed country by 2041, he said.

BSEC gives nod to largest banking IPO

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market regulator yesterday gave the go-ahead to a Union Bank proposal for raising Tk 428 crore through an initial public offering (IPO), the largest amount by any bank in Bangladesh.

The lender would issue 42.80 crore ordinary shares at a face value of Tk 10, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said in a press release after approving the proposal in a meeting.

The Union Bank IPO will be the fourth largest amount after that of Robi Axiata, Grameenphone and Mobil Jamuna.

Robi raised Tk 523 crore, Grameenphone Tk 486 crore and Mobil Jamuna Tk 460 crore. With the IPO proceeds, Union Bank plans to finance small and medium enterprises, buy government securities and invest in stocks, said the BSEC.

Its weighted average earnings per share in the last five years was Tk 1.82.

Meanwhile, the regulator also approved plans of two banks and one financial institution to issue bonds.



The meeting, chaired by BSEC Chairman Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, accepted Shahjalal Islami Bank's plan to raise Tk 500 crore, Islami Bank's bid to raise Tk 800 crore and LankaBangla Finance's plan to raise Tk 265 crore.

Issuing perpetual bonds, Islami Bank would raise Tk 720 crore through private placement and rest Tk 80 crore through public offer while Shahjalal Islami Bank Tk 450 crore and Tk 50 crore through the respective modes.

Price of per unit of the two banks' bond is Tk 5,000 for general investors, said the BSEC.

The commission also approved LankaBangla Finance's non-convertible zero coupon bond bearing a discount rate of 7.25 per cent to 9 per cent.

READ MORE ON B3



MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank, inaugurated an "MTB Customer Feedback Management System" at its Gulshan corporate branch in Dhaka yesterday. Syed Rafiqul Haq, additional managing director, Rais Uddin Ahmad, deputy managing director, Shyamol Boran Das, chief digital officer, Sharmin Ahmed, head of service quality, and Azam Khan, head of communications, were present.



MERCANTILE BANK

Akram Hossain (Humayun), chairman of the executive committee at Mercantile Bank, virtually inaugurated eight sub-branches in Dhaka, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Gazipur, Gaibandha and Natore yesterday. Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, managing director and CEO, ASM Feroz Alam, vice chairman, MA Khan Belal, chairman of Mercantile Bank Securities, and M Amanullah and Mohammad Abdul Awal, directors, joined the programme.

Apple's App Store concessions fail to address top concerns

REUTERS

Critics want the company to abolish steering rules that stop developers from telling their customers how to pay developers directly for their apps.

In the space of a week, Apple Inc made two sets of changes to its App Store rules, which are the subject of lawsuits, regulatory probes and legislation around the world, but the tweaks do not address the biggest concerns raised.

Lawmakers and regulators are considering dismantling the AppStore business model, an outcome that could cost Apple about 6 per cent of its sales - an amount equal to \$16 billion in its last fiscal year - and shave up to 15 per cent off its profit, according to an estimate last year from analyst firm Cowen. Among Apple's most high-profile concessions is allowing Netflix Inc and other subscription services to provide a link to out-of-app paid signups that avoid Apple commissions. But many of the largest such companies had already quit using Apple's payment systems long ago, so the move is unlikely to affect Apple's finances.

That is a sign that any fight over Apple's rules will likely continue even if Apple wins in the threat closest to hand - a US federal judge who is due any day to announce a ruling in an antitrust case brought by "Fortnite" game maker Epic Games. "Mobile technologies have become essential to our daily lives, and now just two app stores wield incredible power over which apps consumers can access and how they access them," US Senator Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat who sponsored an app store bill, said this week. "When you see this same issue arising all over the world, it is even more obvious that we need to take action."

Some of the loudest cries are for Apple to allow app stores run by other companies on its iPhone, which would provide a path around the current payments system that gives developers little ability to avoid giving Apple a cut. Critics also want the company to abolish so-called steering rules that stop developers from telling their customers how to pay developers directly for their apps.

New Boeing 787 Dreamliners may not be delivered till late Oct: WSJ

REUTERS

Boeing Co's delivery of 787 Dreamliners will likely remain halted until at least late October as the US Federal Aviation Administration has rejected the company's recent proposal to inspect them, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

The FAA confirmed on July 12 that some undelivered Boeing 787s have a new manufacturing quality issue the company needs to fix before

shipment.

Airlines pay most of the purchase price upon delivery.

Boeing met with FAA on August 2 to persuade the agency to approve an inspection method that would speed deliveries with targeted checks rather than nose-to-tail teardowns, the newspaper said.

The regulators flagged internal company disagreements over the aircraft sample size, and repeated that Boeing's employee group that acts as

an in-house regulator needs to concur with the company's proposals, the report added.

An FAA spokesman said the agency continues to engage with Boeing and will not sign off on the inspections "until our safety experts are satisfied."

Boeing's 737 MAX and 787 have been afflicted by electrical defects and other issues since late last year, and it only resumed deliveries of the 787 in March after a five-month hiatus.

Consumer complaints rising

FROM PAGE B1

"Our job is to uphold the rights of consumers and protect their interests at the highest level. We also prioritise settlements between consumers and business owners," said Director General Saha.

He also stressed on raising awareness of consumers and urged to be wary of hefty discounts and to secure confirmation over the authenticity of businesses.

"A trader knows what kind of rules he has to follow. Despite that, why do businesspeople not follow the rules and not give a thought to their organisation's reputation?" asked Prof

Md Mizanur Rahman.

"Because there is a lack of good governance in Bangladesh," explained the chairman of the marketing department at the University of Dhaka.

"So, traders do not pay attention to following the rules of law and don't try to protect the interests of their customers," he said.

If the authority, such as the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, properly performed its tasks, there would not be so many complaints, he said.

"The problem is in the whole system of the country. The system needs to be reshuffled. Otherwise, the

suffering of consumers will increase further," he added.

According to Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, the number of complaints was very negligible compared to the actual number of acts of fraudulence perpetrated by traders.

"Consumers in our country are not aware of their rights. If a consumer gets cheated, it is taken to be fate," he said.

"However, consumers are becoming more aware now compared to what they were 10 years ago. That's the positive thing. The more consumers become aware, the more traders will refrain from misdeeds," said Rahman.

Evaly owes Tk 206cr to merchants

FROM PAGE B1

"Credit facility is a normal process in every business, and Evaly has credit facility agreements with all suppliers," it said, claiming that its liability of Tk 206 crore to merchants as of mid-July was normal and acceptable.

Merchants, however, neither filed cases against Evaly nor complained to the ministry. Merchants might have thought that if Evaly high-ups were sent to jail, they might not get their money back, Rahman said.

After a probe report of the Bangladesh Bank submitted to the commerce ministry a few months ago, the ministry, on July 19, asked Evaly to explain by August 1 how it would settle the current liabilities to customers and merchants.

The BB report said Evaly's total liability was Tk 407.18 crore against Tk 65.17 crore assets as of March 14.

On August 19, the firm said its total liability stood at Tk 543 crore as of mid-July.

It showed Tk 105 crore as tangible assets and Tk 438 crore in intangible assets, including a brand value of Tk 422 crore. It owed around Tk 311 crore to 2.8 lakh customers.

The commerce ministry also wrote to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the home ministry to investigate whether Evaly had siphoned off money.

Evaly started its business in 2018 with a controversial model, offering unprecedented discounts by taking advance payments and making deliveries months later.

Following its footsteps, many platforms have mushroomed during the pandemic.

Now platforms such as Evaly, Dhamaka and E-orange are not delivering products to thousands of customers against orders worth hundreds of crores of taka.

Two E-Orange high-ups were sent to jail as they were trying to flee from the country despite an embargo on their international travel, according to Rahman.

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No. 54.01.1543.460.07.001.21-12 Dated: 05-09-2021

Corrigendum-1

The following amendments have been carried out against "Tender Notice No. 54.01.1543.460.07.001.21-10 Date: 11/08/2021 as under.

Tender Notice Sl No.	Tender No. & date	Subject	Read	For
01	592331, 54.01.1543.460.07.047.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 14:30	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 14:30	
02	591461, 54.01.1543.460.07.037.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 10:30	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 10:30	
03	591339, 54.01.1543.460.07.022.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 16:30	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 11:00	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 11:00	
04	590891, 54.01.1543.460.07.041.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 11:30	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 11:30	
05	592105, 54.01.1543.460.07.044.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 12:00	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 12:00	
06	591905, 54.01.1543.460.07.046.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 15:00	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 15:00	
07	591512, 54.01.1543.460.07.012.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 12:30	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 12:30	
08	591328, 54.01.1543.460.07.045.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 15:30	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 15:30	
09	591327, 54.01.1543.460.07.050.21	Tender last selling date and time	12/09/2021 17:00	Existing Entry
		Tender closing date and time	13/09/2021 14:00	
		Tender opening date and time	13/09/2021 14:00	

This shall be treated as integral part of the tender notice and tender document. Details amendment shown in e-GP System. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Engr. Farid Ahmed
Director (Inventory Control)
E-mail: dtcp@railway.gov.bd
For and on behalf of the purchaser
Phone: 01711-691545

S(21)(254)
GD-1584

Syria says it welcomes Lebanon's request to import energy

REUTERS, Damascus

Syria said on Saturday that it welcomed Lebanon's request to import Egyptian gas for energy generation via its territory after Lebanese ministers made the highest level visit to Damascus in years.

Lebanon is suffering energy shortages that have forced even essential services including hospitals to shut down or scale back operations.

The crisis is the result of a wider financial meltdown that has devastated the economy since 2019.

The delegation, led by Zeina Akkar, who holds several positions in Lebanon's caretaker government including the foreign minister, aimed to pave the way for a US-backed plan to ease the power shortages in Lebanon by transmitting electricity via the Syrian grid.

Troubled German IAA auto show opens under climate, Covid cloud

AFP, Munich

Germany's revamped IAA auto show, one of the world's largest, opens in Munich on Tuesday for a celebration of all things car-related, but climate concerns and pandemic woes threaten to spoil the party.

After a disappointing edition in 2019, marred by environmental protests, poor visitor numbers and no-shows from major automakers, the biennial event has reinvented itself as a "mobility fair" with a spotlight on electric cars, scooters and even bicycles.

Historically held in Frankfurt, the IAA will for the first time take place in the Bavarian city of Munich as part of efforts to revive the event.

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
নীলফামারী
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখঃ ০৫/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ

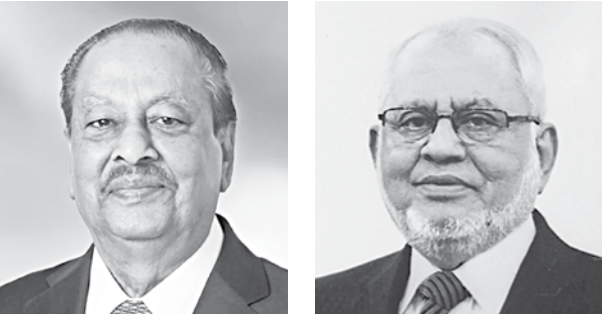
স্মারক নং-৪৭/রেশন

এতদ্বারা নীলফামারী জেলা পুলিশ রেশন স্টোরের চলতি ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর, ডিসেম্বর/২০২১খ্রিঃ) এর রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয় এবং নিলাম বিক্রয় এর নিমিত্তে দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন/২০০৬ ও বিধিমালা/২০০৮ এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী/২০১০ অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে নীলফামারী জেলা পুলিশের দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
০৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, নীলফামারী।			
০৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের কারণ	নীলফামারী জেলা পুলিশের রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয় এবং নিলাম বিক্রয়।			
০৫।	দরপত্র সূত্র নং-	৪৭/রেশন			
০৬।	তারিখঃ	০৫/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ।			
কাজের বিবরণঃ					
০৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।			
অর্থের উৎসঃ					
০৮।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত।			
তথ্যাদিঃ					
০৯।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	০২ (দুই) দিনের মধ্যে।			
১০।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৮/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালিন সময় পর্যন্ত)।			
১১।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।			
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৩০/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।			
অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ					
১৩।	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	০১। ডিআইজি, রংপুর রেঞ্জের কার্যালয়। ০২। পুলিশ সুপার, জিআরপি, সৈয়দপুর এর কার্যালয়। ০৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী।			
দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস					
০১। পুলিশ সুপার, নীলফামারী এর কার্যালয়। ০২। পুলিশ সুপার, জিআরপি, সৈয়দপুর এর কার্যালয়।					
দরপত্র খোলার স্থান					
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী।					
দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্যঃ					
১৪।	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	(১) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদ (৩) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ (৪) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ (৫) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যাচা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল (PG-2 PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে।			
মালামালের বিবরণঃ					
১৫।	ক্রমিক নং	দ্রব্যের নাম ও বিবরণ			
		পরিমাণ (মেট্রন/লিটার)			
		দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা)			
		নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)			
		কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন)			
০১।	উন্নতমানের মডার ডাল (প্যাকেটজাত)	২২ মেঃ টন (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	অক্টোবর/২১ হইতে
০২।	উন্নতমানের সয়াবিন তৈল (প্রাচিক কন্টেইনার জাতীয় ১, ২, ৩ ও ৫ লিটার)	২০,০০০ লিটার (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/-	৪০,০০০/-	ডিসেম্বর/২১ পর্যন্ত
০৩।	চাউল, গম ও চিনি ট্রাকে উঠানো/নামানোর লেবার সরবরাহ	১,৯৫০ কুইন্টাল (আনুমানিক)	৪০০/-	২,০০০/-	
০৪।	নিলাম বিক্রয়	ক। ব্যবহৃত চটের বস্তা (বড়=২,৯১৬টি খ। প্রাচিকের বস্তা =৬০৫টি	৪০০/-	১,৫০০/-	
০৫।	পোলাও চাউল (উন্নতমানের)	৯০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৪০০/-	২,০০০/-	
দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণঃ					
১৬।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোহাম্মদ মোশলেহুর রহমান, বিপিএম, পিপিএম।			
১৭।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার, নীলফামারী।			
১৮।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী।			
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	টেলিফোনঃ ০৫৫১-৬১৪১২।			
বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ					
২০।	(ক) নিদিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।				
	(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।				
	(গ) দরপত্রের উল্লিখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।				
	(ঘ) দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়ায় পিপিআর আইন/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর বিধিমালা/২০০৮ এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী/২০১০ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।				

জিডি-১৫৮২

মোহাম্মদ মোশলেহুর রহমান, বিপিএম, পিপিএম
পুলিশ সুপার, নীলফামারী



Azim Uddin Ahmed MA Kashem

Southeast Bank gets executive, risk management committee chairmen

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank has recently witnessed the appointment of two new chairmen for its executive committee and risk management committee at its 636th board of directors meeting.

Sponsor director Azim Uddin Ahmed will head the risk management committee. He is the chairman of Mutual Group, Mutual Trading Company, AD Holdings and Arla Foods Bangladesh, says a press release.

Ahmed is a partner of Mutual Agro Complex, Mutual Departmental Store and Mutual Distribution and Sionia Agencies, managing director of Mutual Food Products and a managing partner of Mutual Logistics Service.

He obtained a graduate degree from the University of Dhaka.

Meanwhile, founding chairman and director MA Kashem will head the executive committee. He is the chairman of Rose Corner.

HC asks mobile network providers to address slow internet

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the country's mobile network operators to resolve any problem regarding slow internet speeds.

The request came during a hearing on a writ petition that sought directives to ensure high quality internet and network services to subscribers.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in a notice said it had already taken remedial measures, Assistant Attorney General Golam Sarwar Payel told The Daily Star.

The HC bench then suspended the hearing for two months, saying it would pass an order if the problems regarding mobile network or internet speed were not resolved by this time.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, president of the Mobile Phone Subscribers Association, Md Mahidi Hasan Dalim, a journalist, and Md Rashidul Hasan, a Supreme Court lawyer, placed the writ petition on June 8 this year as a public interest litigation.

The secretary to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, BTRC chairman and chief executive



officers of mobile network operators Grameenphone, Robi Axiata, Banglalink and Teletalk Bangladesh have been made respondents to the petition.

The petitioners said being subscribers of different mobile network operators, they were continuing to experience slow internet as well as poor network coverage.

It is shocking and frustrating that

even after imposing high charges for data packages, network operators failed to provide quality services till date, they said.

The HC bench comprised Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah. Ishrat Hasan represented the writ petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury represented the state.

Drought squeezes Brazil's electricity supply

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazil's worst drought in almost a century is threatening electricity supply and critical crops, pushing up energy and food prices at a time the country was hoping to start recovering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

The country of 213 million people relies on hydropower for two-thirds of its electricity, but crucial dams are at near-record lows of less than a quarter full.

Last week, President Jair Bolsonaro urged Brazilians to "turn off a light at home" to conserve power, and on Tuesday the government hiked electricity prices by an average of seven per cent, partly to cover new power plants and energy imports.

"We are the limit of the limit," said Bolsonaro, who is gearing up to seek reelection in 2022 amid record low popularity ratings, widespread disapproval of his handling of the Covid-19 crisis, and now also confronting extreme climate conditions that show little sign of abating.

Brazil's water levels will likely continue to deteriorate in September, according to electric grid operator ONS.

And the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANA) has declared a "critical shortage of water resources," effective until November, for the Parana river basin at the heart of Brazil's hydroelectric capacity.

In a bid to stay ahead of demand and avoid outages, Brazil this week added one new biomass power station, three photovoltaic generators, and four wind farms to its power grid. But much of the cost has fallen on consumers already contending with high unemployment and surging inflation in the country with the world's second-highest pandemic death toll.

Investors grow wary as stocks hit new highs

REUTERS, New York

Investors are girding their portfolios for potential stock market volatility, even as equities hover near fresh highs after logging seven straight months of gains.

Utilities are the S&P 500's best-performing sector so far this quarter with a 10.2 per cent gain. They have been followed by other popular destinations for nervous investors, including real estate and healthcare.

In derivatives markets, the gap in price between the front month Choe Volatility Index futures contract and the VIX index itself is higher than it has been about 85 per cent of the time over the last five years.

This suggests some investors expect the calm in stocks to give way to more pronounced price swings in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, the Japanese yen and Swiss franc - viewed as havens during

uncertain times - have outperformed most G10 currencies this quarter. "It's been a year of positive market returns, but it's a bull market which has pretty defensive undertones," said Saira Malik, head of global equities at money manager Nuveen Investments.

The demand for downside protection illustrates a conundrum that has bedeviled investors at various times during the market's post-pandemic surge.

Ultra-low yields on fixed income have left few alternatives to equities, and betting against stocks has been a disastrous strategy in the last year-and-a-half.

Stocks demonstrated their resilience on Friday, when the S&P appeared to shrug off a big miss on August US employment data, as some market participants bet a weaker economy could undercut the case for the Federal Reserve to unwind its market-supportive easy money

policies in coming months.

The benchmark index is up nearly 21 per cent this year.

At the same time, many have grown antsy in a market that has gone 292 calendar days without a decline of 5 per cent or more, nearly three times the average since World War II, according to data from CFRA's Sam Stovall. Rising valuations, ebbing economic growth and signs of speculative excess have only added to their concerns.

"It's been a wonderful ride for US equities ... but moving forward we think it is going to be a little bit of a different picture," said David Gresek, managing director in investment strategy and research and partner at Aspiriant, which manages about \$14.5 billion.

Concerns over equity valuations have prompted Gresek to take profits in some of his equity positions and shift some money into non-US stocks, including emerging markets.

Stock market climbs to new peak

FROM PAGE B1

Still, there were many high-performing companies whose stocks were underpriced, he said. "The market is not overvalued, but some stocks are overvalued."

Bangladesh Monospool Paper and Packaging topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent, followed by ADN Telecom, Apex Spinning, Samata Leather, and Paper Processing and Packaging. SEML FBLSL Growth Fund shed the most, losing 9.84 per cent, followed by SEML Lecture Mutual Fund, SEML IBBL Shariah Fund, SEML FBLSL Islamic Life Insurance.

Stocks of Beximco Limited traded the most, worth Tk 183 crore, followed by LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, LankaBangla Finance, and Doreen Power.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also rose yesterday as the CASPI, the general index of the bourse in the port city, edged up 234 points, or 1.15 per cent, to 20,563. Among the 327 stocks traded, 198 rose, 100 fell, and 28 remained unchanged.

BSEC gives nod to largest banking IPO

FROM PAGE B1

A zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value, according to Investopedia.

The BSEC also approved Krishibid Feed's plan to raise Tk 22 crore by offloading 2.20 lakh shares at a face value of Tk 10 for investors.

It said Krishibid Feed fell under the small and medium enterprise category and would raise funds from qualitative investors through secondary trade under the SME platform.

With the qualified investor offer (QIO) proceeds, the company would construct a factory building, repay bank loans and buy machineries, a diesel generator and a delivery van, according to the press release.

NRB Commercial Bank fined for breaching stock investment ceiling

FROM PAGE B1

The central bank now scrutinizes the issue to rein in aggressive investments made by banks in the capital market. This will help protect the interest of depositors as well, they said.

The Dhaka bourse surged to a new height yesterday, with its key index crossing 7,000 points. The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, jumped 71 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 7,052 -- the highest since its inception in 2013.

US offshore oil recovery begins with ports, refineries restarting

REUTERS, Houston

The US Gulf Coast Energy Company was boosted on Saturday by the reopening of the port and the restart of the refinery closed by Hurricane Ida, but damage to key facilities continued to curb oil production.

Compared to any of the eight named storms that hit the US Gulf Coast last year, the ninth named storm in the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season cut even more US oil and gas production. After making landfall in Louisiana last Sunday, Ida rushed to the northeastern United States, causing deadly floods.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, the largest producer on the US Gulf Coast, is still assessing the damage to its West Delta-143 offshore platform, which transfers approximately 200,000 barrels of oil and natural gas from three offshore oil fields during operation.

Shell said that Shell is continuing to work on replacing heliports required for maritime transport. Damage to its original facility prevented offshore workers from returning to the platform.

Several heliports in Louisiana were damaged or out of power, and fuel was not available, which slowed the return of crews of several major oil producers.

Shell's 230,611 barrels per day (bpd) oil processing plant in Norco, Louisiana

is also still affected by the storm. The company stated that the refinery continued to suffer damage, and the assessment of its condition and the Geismar chemical plant in Louisiana continues.

The White House agreed this week to provide refiners with a total of 1.8 million barrels of oil from the National Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Exxon Mobil and Placid Refining Company produce gasoline.

Nine refineries shut down due to Ida's wind and utility power losses. Robert Campbell, head of petroleum products research at the consulting firm's energy sector, estimates that five including Exxon Mobil, Placid and Marathon Petroleum may be back online within two weeks.

Government data on Friday showed that about half of the initially evacuated offshore platforms remained unused, and 93 per cent of oil production and 89 per cent of oil production were offline.

Analysts said that some oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico may be closed for several weeks, and that oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico account for about one-fifth of US production. The Coast Guard said that the lower Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans have reopened traffic and freight operations. Reopening will allow the restoration of food, metal and energy transportation.

বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
স্বাধীনতা ভবন, ৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০১
www.bffwt.gov.bd, Fax-9562258

বিশেষজ্ঞ ফার্ম আগ্রহ প্রকাশ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ইওআই)

নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যের জন্য প্রকৃত ভবন নির্মাণ বিশেষজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সিলমোহরসহ আগ্রহ প্রকাশের আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
২	আহ্বানকারী সংস্থার নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট (বাসুকট্টা), ঢাকা।
৩	যে কার্যের জন্য আহ্বান	:	ডেভেলপার কর্তৃক শেয়ারিং ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন জমিতে নির্মিত বাণিজ্যিক ভবন চুক্তিপত্র, দরপত্র সিডিউল ও বিস্তৃত কোড অনুযায়ী নির্মিত হয়েছে কিনা যাচাই কাজ।
৪	আহ্বান স্মারক নং	:	৪৮.০১.০০০০.২০২.১৪.৩৯৩.২১.০৬ তারিখ ০৫/০৯/২০২১ খ্রি:
৫	আহ্বান পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬	বাজেট ও ফান্ডের উৎস	:	বাসুকট্টা-এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	প্রকল্প/কার্যক্রমের নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন চট্টগ্রামের আগ্রাবাদস্থ ৩৬নং প্লটের ২৪.০৯ শতক জমিতে ডেভেলপারের মাধ্যমে নির্মিত ০২টি বেইজমেন্টসহ ১৯ তলা (২বি+১৭) 'জয় বাংলা' বাণিজ্যিক ভবন। ট্রাস্টের শেয়ার অংশ ৫০%।
		:	বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের মালিকানাধীন চট্টগ্রামের আগ্রাবাদস্থ ৭১নং প্লটের ১৯.২৭ শতক জমিতে ডেভেলপারের মাধ্যমে নির্মিত ০৪টি বেইজমেন্টসহ ১৯ তলা (৪বি+২৫) টাওয়ার-৭১' বাণিজ্যিক ভবন। ট্রাস্টের শেয়ার অংশ ৫০%।
৮	আগ্রহ প্রকাশের আবেদন (কারিগরি ও আর্থিক) গ্রহণের কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা এবং তারিখ ও সময় :		
	(ক)	আগামী ২৬/০৯/২০২১ তারিখ বিকেল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (ক) পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)-এর কার্যালয়, প্রকৌশল শাখা (২য় তলা), বাসুকট্টা, ৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকায় আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।	
	(খ)	বিস্তৃত আর্থিক অফার অবশ্যই আলাদা খামে সিলমোহরসহ নাম-ঠিকানা লিপিবদ্ধ করে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
৯	আবেদনকারী ফর্মের যোগ্যতা :		
	(ক)	সকল প্যাকেজের জন্যই আবেদনকারী ফর্মের সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে বহুল ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের নকশা তৈরি ও তদারকীর কাজে ন্যূনতম ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।	
	(খ)	আবেদনকারী ফর্মের বহুল ভবনের ইলেকট্রোমেকানিক্যাল কাজ ও বিস্তৃত কোড সম্পর্কে অভিজ্ঞতা, তদারকীর কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।	
১০	আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান পেশাদার কর্মীদের ন্যূনতম প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতা:		
	(ক)	স্নাতক সিনিয়র স্থপতি ০১ (এক) জন স্থাপত্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনের) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;	
	(খ)	স্নাতক স্থপতি ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;	
	(গ)	স্নাতক সিভিল প্রকৌশলী ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং	
	(ঘ)	স্নাতক ইলেকট্রিক্যাল প্রকৌশলী ০১ (এক) জন কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং এবিসি ক্যাটাগরির বৈদ্যুতিক লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।	
১১	আবেদনকারীকে নিম্নরূপ কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে:		
	(ক)	ভবনের নকশা অনুযায়ী ও বিস্তৃত কোড অনুযায়ী নির্মাণ কাজ হয়েছে কিনা;	
	(খ)	ডেভেলপার প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে সম্পাদিত চুক্তিপত্র, দরপত্র সিডিউল/ট্রাস্টের অনুমোদন অনুযায়ী ভবনের সিভিল, প্লাসিং, সেনেটরি এবং ইলেকট্রোমেকানিক্যাল (লিফট, জেনারেটর, সাব-স্টেশন, ফায়ার ফাইটিং ইত্যাদি) কাজসহ আনুষঙ্গিক সকল কাজ সম্পন্ন হয়েছে কি না;	
	(গ)	শেয়ার অনুযায়ী ট্রাস্টের অংশ পরিমাপ করে বুঝিয়ে দেয়া।	
১২	কার্যসম্পাদনের সময় : ১৫ (পনের) দিন।		
১৩	ইওআই আহ্বানকারীর নাম	:	ড. মো. জাহেদুল হাসান
১৪	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবি	:	পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)
১৫	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	:	৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০১
১৬	ইওআই আবেদন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার বিস্তারিত যোগাযোগ	:	টেলিফোন: ৯৫৬২০৪০ ফ্যাক্স নং: ৯৫৬২২৫৮
১৭	কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে ভ্রমকারী সত্য ইওআই এর সকল বা যে কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।		

(ড. মো: জাহেদুল হাসান)
পরিচালক (শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayan Bhaban
Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000
Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.07.032.21-697
Date: 05/09/2021

Re-Invitation for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Firm)

Name of the Service: **Consultancy/Research firm for Review of Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements suggested by Ministry of Commerce in FY 2021-22 (National).**

Name of the Project: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1, Ministry of Commerce
Credit No.: 60020; Project ID No.: 154580
Reference number: BRCP/MOC/SD-27

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project.

The review of various existing bilateral and regional trade agreements with the important trading countries will provide policy feedback to the government to enhance cooperation in trade, transport and transit facilitation of Bangladesh. These will also promote policy advocacy for important issues related to export promotion, trade facilitation and opportunities and challenges of LDC graduation. Total No. of independent review/study/agreement under this assignment will be limited to approx. 20 (twenty), whereby 10 (ten) topics have been decided and the other 10 (ten) will be decided later on.

The interested consulting firm should provide evidence of the following in their applications: The Consulting firm shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract; The firm should have at least 10 years of general experience in providing consulting services out of which at least 02 years of experience in national and international trade related research or studies for public and private sector; The firm should have successfully completed at least three (03) study contract related to national and international trade/ trade facilitation/ export promotion within last 10 years for the public sector/private sector/development partners; Proven experience with Economic Modeling/ simulation/analysis for analyzing bilateral and regional trade agreements/policies will be an added advantages; The firm should have experience in working with development partner's funded projects. Necessary, Documents/evidence of work Experiences must be provided. Details of other qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Fixed-budget Base Selection (FBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available in the office of the undersigned and also at www.mincom.gov.bd and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd/>. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours). Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form 2 (two) copies (one original and one copy) in sealed envelope to the address below (in person, or by mail) by **3.00pm on 21/09/2021**.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Md. Mijanur Rahman
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Phone: +8802-55138022
E-mail: pdbrcp1mcc@gmail.com

Indian funds sit idle for slow project implementation

Govt spent 6pc of more than \$7bn in past decade

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh has utilised just 6 per cent of three Indian lines of credit (LoCs), collectively worth more than \$7 billion, in the past decade because of slow project implementation.

The government has spent \$410.76 million to complete 14 projects since 2010. Of the projects, 12 were funded by the first LoC signed in August 2020, while two others were under the second LoC inked in March 2016.

Priyanshu Tiwari, resident representative of the Exim Bank of India, the lender, shared the information during a recent view-exchange programme with reporters at the High Commission of India in Dhaka.

An LoC is a flexible loan from a financial institution that consists of a defined amount of money that one can access as needed and repay either immediately or over time.

In his presentation, Tiwari suggested following the Indian government's project preparatory facility to reduce the time it takes to formulate project details and improve the overall quality of planning.

He further suggested that Bangladesh should facilitate entry or re-entry of Indian project personnel and experts, who are currently awaiting clearance, without any objection.

He also expects quicker services and support to be extended by the Bangladesh High Commission in India.

A senior official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said they had already adopted the recommendations to expedite the implementation of the projects funded by India.

Project implementation has been stunted due to the prolonged cross-border travel restrictions



Work has accelerated on a project over widening a 51-kilometre road from the Ashuganj river port to the Akhaura land port to four lanes for smooth transhipment of Indian goods. Scheduled to be completed by 2024, the project will cost Tk 3,567.85 crore, 64 per cent of which is scheduled to come from a second Indian line of credit. The project is expected to establish better communication between Bangladesh and the northeastern part of India, which will ultimately facilitate sub-regional connectivity among South and Southeast Asian countries. The photo was taken yesterday.

aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19.

Under the LoC portfolio, \$1.72 billion has been assigned for various projects, which is 25 per cent of the total fund.

Project contracts worth \$780 million have been signed since 2019 despite the pandemic, according to the ERD official.

A total of \$852 million, or 11 per cent of the funds, has been disbursed so far. Of the sum, \$661 million came from the \$862-million first LoC, \$115 million from the \$2-billion second LoC, and \$76 million

from the third LoC, involving \$4.5 billion.

To resolve any issues related to project spending, the ERD holds regular meetings with line ministries, Indian contractors and other officials, the official said.

The agency even holds individual meetings with project personnel to identify problems and find solutions. Still, though, the pace of implementation has been slow, he added.

So far, around 43 projects have been included under the three LoCs. The 14 projects that had been completed were related to

the procurement of buses, trucks, and other vehicles. The remaining 29 projects are suffering from slow implementation.

Project implementation in Bangladesh typically faces delays at the execution level.

Besides, in each stage of a project, the Bangladesh side needs to take approval from Indian authorities.

According to the Indian procurement conditions, at least 75 per cent of the goods and services required for a project should be bought from the neighbouring nation. At most,

this may be relaxed down to 65 per cent.

Officials of the implementing agencies say such a condition is one of the major obstacles delaying project implementation.

None of the 16 projects under the third credit line has been completed.

ERD officials earlier said India would disburse \$40 million per year, but the process slowed in 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

However, they hope to raise the amount to \$150 million this fiscal year.

MASUK HRIDIOY

Soybean oil now Tk 153 a litre

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The price of every litre of edible oil was increased by Tk 4, or 2.6 per cent, yesterday, meaning a one-litre bottle of soybean oil will now cost Tk 153.

The price was decided upon at a meeting between the Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association and the commerce ministry officials. Meanwhile, retail prices of loose soybean oil and loose palm oil have been set at Tk 129 and Tk 116 per litre respectively while of five-litre bottles at Tk 728.

Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs at City Group, said the new prices came into effect yesterday.

He also said refiners would later sit with representatives of the ministry and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission to readjust the prices, considering the fact that the international market was volatile.

Earlier on May 27, refiners had increased the price of edible oil by Tk 9 per litre, taking the price of bottled soybean oil to Tk 153 per litre from Tk 144.

But in July, they reduced the price by Tk 4 per litre to Tk 149 taking into consideration the squeeze on purchasing capacity of consumers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

In a press release issued yesterday, the refiners' association said prices of the key cooking ingredient recently increased in international markets, prompting the same locally.

In the last one year, edible oil prices have increased by around 160 per cent in the international market, it said, adding that oil prices have increased by 35 per cent to 40 per cent in the local market as a result.

Bangladesh Bank widens refinance scheme

Allows more people to borrow from the Tk 500cr fund

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday increased the volume of a refinance scheme dedicated to marginal and landless farmers, low-income professionals and small businesses.

The central bank rolled out the fund worth Tk 200 crore in 2014, but it has since widened the amount to Tk 500 crore given the ongoing economic hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Earlier, underprivileged people who are allowed to open accounts with an initial deposit of Tk 10 got loans from the fund but now, Tk 50 and Tk 100 account holders can also avail the scheme.

Under the programme, clients can borrow with a 7 per cent interest rate instead of the previous 9 per cent.

In addition, banks are allowed to manage the fund from the central bank scheme by paying 1 per cent interest in contrast to the previous 4 per cent. Clients can secure loans from the scheme without any collateral.

An individual will be permitted to take a maximum of Tk 5 lakh from the scheme, which has a repayment tenure of three-and-a-half years, including a six-month grace period.

'Silent crisis' looms as US to end Covid aid for millions of jobless

AFP, Washington

Spending less on food. Drawing down on retirement savings. Dropping out of the workforce altogether. Last year, the United States massively expanded unemployment aid as Covid-19 broke out.

But in the coming days those benefits will end, forcing millions of jobless Americans -- some of whom haven't worked for the entire pandemic -- to make hard choices about how they will get by in an economy newly menaced by the Delta variant.

"I have no idea how we would survive, just on my daughter's income," said Deborah Lee, an unemployed phlebotomist

in Arizona who is recovering from a Covid outbreak that affected her daughter and two of her three granddaughters.

The government-funded programs that increased weekly payments and gave aid to the long-term unemployed and freelancers were credited with keeping the United States from an even worse economic collapse last year.

In recent months they have become controversial, with some states ending them early and arguing they encouraged people not to return to jobs that Covid-19 vaccines made safe, though studies have disputed that contention.



The expanded American unemployment safety net is ending, but some jobless people fear they won't be able to return to work.

AFP/FILE

Dollar, stocks hit as US jobs data disappoints

AFP, London

The dollar took a dive and stocks slumped after disappointing US jobs data, while Tokyo rose on stimulus hopes after Japan's prime minister signalled his exit.

The United States gained only 235,000 jobs last month, according to government data released on Friday, far below expectations and a possible harbinger that the Delta variant is harming the US economic recovery.

The payroll increase reported by the Labor Department in August was sharply lower than the upwardly revised 1.1 million positions added in July, as well as

the analyst consensus of 750,000.

The figure is likely to encourage the US Federal Reserve to hold off from beginning to wind down its stimulus to support the economy at its September meeting.

"Time will tell if this is just a speed bump for America's rapidly accelerating economy, or if job creation has genuinely veered off course," said Jay Mawji, managing director of global liquidity provider IX Prime.

"But the markets are focused on the Fed's next move. Barring any surprises over the next couple of weeks, the Fed is likely to keep rates at their current low level, sending the dollar into the weekend deep in the red," he added.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Rats, drought and labour shortages eat into global edible oil recovery

REUTERS, Perak, Malaysia/Singapore

In a sprawling oil palm plantation in the Malaysian state of Perak, watermelon seedlings are sprouting from freshly ploughed earth between palm saplings while rented cows graze in overgrown areas of the estate.

A coronavirus pandemic-induced labour crunch has forced managers of the 2,000-hectare estate in Slim River to find creative ways to upkeep their fields, even as prices of the world's most consumed edible oil are near record highs.

"It is easier to pull out your own teeth than to get new workers now," said estate manager Ravi, who gave his first name only. "I can't find the workers to maintain the fields."

Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer of palm oil, is facing a perfect storm of production headwinds that will likely drag global stocks to their lowest level in five years, reports Reuters.

The Southeast Asian country is a microcosm of the difficulties facing producers of various edible oils across several continents, from Canadian canola farmers to Ukrainian sunflower growers, as they struggle to meet strong demand.

Global food prices have scaled 10-year highs this year - the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) price index is up more than a third since last summer - due in large part to a surge in the price of vegoils that are vital for both food preparation and as fat in numerous daily staples.

The FAO's global edible oils index is up 91 per cent since last June, and is expected to climb further as economies reopen following Covid-19 lockdowns, boosting food and fuel consumption of edible oils.

But producers have been battling a range of impediments, including labour shortages, heatwaves and vermin infestation, that is driving collective stocks of the world's most consumed edible oils - palm, soybean, canola (rapeseed) and sunflowerseed - to their lowest levels in a decade.

In Malaysia, which accounts



REUTERS/FILE

Workers handle palm oil fruits at an oil palm plantation in Slim River, Malaysia on August 12.

for around 33 per cent of global palm oil exports, the average yield of palm fruit bunches in Jan-June fell to 7.15 tonnes per hectare from 7.85 a year ago.

Malaysian Palm Oil Board data shows a drop in average crude palm oil yields to 1.41 tonnes per hectare, from 1.56 tonnes over the same period last year.

Many plantations were harvesting with two-thirds or less of the required workforce, after government coronavirus restrictions cut off the usual supply of migrant workers from Indonesia and South Asia.

More than half a dozen plantation owners interviewed by Reuters said the lack of workers had forced them to extend their harvesting window from 14 days to as many as 40 days, a change that compromises the quality of the fruit and risks the loss of some parts of the fruit bunches.

"It is especially bad in Sarawak. Some companies are seeing production falling by 50 per

cent because of the shortage of harvesters," said a plantation manager, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

The Slim River estate has delayed replanting and shut its nursery for the first time in 20 years to redeploy workers for harvesting.

Another plantation manager, named Chew, said he was forced to increase wages by 10 per cent to retain workers. Less manpower to maintain the plantations also means more pests, including rats, moths and bagworms.

"It has resulted in an environment that is good for rats to nest, feed and breed and natural predators cannot catch up," said Andrew Cheng Mui Fah, a plantation official in Sarawak.

At Slim River, Ravi said around a quarter of the estate was facing a bagworm infestation that "will skeletonise the leaves and cause small (fruit) bunch formation."

He was referring to the larvae of the bagworm moth that grow and

feed on trees.

Neighbouring Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, does not have the same labour shortage issues and output is expected to rise this year as more area has been planted to palm.

However, operations at palm oil mills, where the palm fruit is converted into crude palm oil, have been impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, said Dorab Mistry, director of Indian consumer goods company and major consumer Godrej International.

"Shutting down of palm oil mills right across the length and breadth of Malaysia (and) Indonesia has been a huge dampener on the production side," he said at the annual US Soy Export Council conference on August 25.

Total 2021 output from Indonesia and Malaysia, which together account for roughly 90 per cent of world palm oil, was estimated at 66.2 million tonnes, according to Refinitiv Commodities Research published on August 4.