

# Mercantile Bank to remain closed for 5 days

STAR BUSINESS DESK

All banking services of Mercantile Bank Limited will remain suspended from October 1 to 5 due to the upgradation of the core banking software T-24, duly approved by Bangladesh Bank.

During this period, all kinds of banking services including ATM booth, debit card services, internet banking, digital banking (MBL Rainbow), Islamic banking and agent banking will remain suspended, a press release said.

But the bank's credit and prepaid cardholders could be withdrawn cash using other banks' ATMs.

Mobile banking services (My Cash) will also remain active during the period. Md. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, apologises to the customers for the inconvenience.

"MBL will be able to ensure more secured and efficient banking services to its customers. Mercantile Bank as a third generation bank is ensuring services with 150 branches and 19 sub-branches in which 45 branches provide Islamic Banking services with different Islamic Banking Windows," he said.

In addition, Mercantile Bank operates 187 ATM booths, 20 CDMs and 126 agent banking outlets countrywide to facilitate its banking services.

# UK to offer 10,500 post-Brexit visas to counter growing worker crisis



A view of empty shelves at a Tesco supermarket in Manchester, England on September 12.

AFP, London

Britain will issue up to 10,500 temporary work visas to lorry drivers and poultry workers to ease chronic staff shortages, the government announced Saturday, in a U-turn on post-Brexit immigration policy.

The short-term visas, to run from next month until late December, come as ministers grapple with a huge shortfall in drivers and some other key workers that has hit fuel supplies and additional industries.

A tanker drivers shortage has caused large queues at petrol stations in recent days, as people ignore government pleas not to panic-buy fuel after some garages closed due to the lack of deliveries.

The decision to expand the critical worker visa scheme is a reversal by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose government had tightened post-Brexit immigration rules insisting that Britain's reliance on foreign labour must end.

It had resisted the move for months, despite an estimated shortage of around 100,000 heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers and warnings from various sectors that supplies would run short.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps nevertheless insisted he was taking action "at the earliest opportunity" and that a broader package of measures announced would ensure pre-Christmas preparations "remain on track".

"The industries must also play their part with working conditions

continuing to improve and the deserved salary increases continuing to be maintained in order for companies to retain new drivers," he added.

But one business leader dismissed the new measures as inadequate.

"This announcement is the equivalent of throwing a thimble of water on a bonfire," said Ruby McGregor-Smith, president of the British Chambers of Commerce.

The additional testing would take time to impact while new visa numbers were "insufficient" and not "enough to address the scale of the problem", she added.

The new measures will focus on rapidly expanding the number of new domestic drivers, and include deploying Ministry of Defence driving examiners to help provide thousands of extra tests over the next 12 weeks.

Meanwhile the education ministry and partner agencies will spend millions of pounds training 4,000 people to become HGV drivers, creating new so-called "skills bootcamps" to speed up the process.

Nearly 1 million letters will also be sent to all drivers who currently hold an HGV licence, asking any not currently driving to come back to work.

Johnson has been under increasing pressure to act, after the pandemic and Brexit combined to worsen the haulier shortage and other crises emerged, including escalating energy prices.

As well as threatening timely fuel supplies, the lack of lorry drivers has hit British factories, restaurants and

supermarkets in recent weeks and months.

US burger chain McDonald's ran out of milkshakes and bottled drinks last month, fast-food giant KFC was forced to remove some items from its menu, while restaurant chain Nando's temporarily shut dozens of outlets due to a lack of chicken. Supermarkets are also feeling the heat, with frozen-food group Iceland and retail king Tesco warning of Christmas product shortages.

This week it was the turn of the fuel sector, with growing lines of cars clogging the approaches to petrol stations following some closures and panic-buying, particularly in southeast England.

Drivers appeared less than reassured Saturday, as queues again formed for fuel. Mike Davey, 56, had been waiting more than half an hour to fill up at a petrol station run by the supermarket chain Tesco in Kent, southeast of London.

"I just want to get some fuel to get to work. People are just like filling up jerry cans -- it's ridiculous," he told AFP.

"Maybe they need to bring some army drivers in," Davey added. The government has so far resisted calls to deploy soldiers to help deliver petrol directly.

As part of the measures announced, taxpayers will also help pay for some adult HGV license applications in the next academic year -- which can cost thousands of pounds -- through an adult education budget fund.

# ASA targets to disburse Tk 32,000cr loan in 2021-22

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Association for Social Advancement (ASA), a non-government organisation, has set a target of disbursing loans worth Tk 32,000 crore among 6.4 million clients during the fiscal year of 2021-2022 with an aim to assist people to cope with the Covid-induced pandemic damage.

The decision was taken by ASA's 42nd annual general meeting held at ASA Tower Conference Hall in Shyamoli, Dhaka on September 25, 2021, a press release said.

The meeting also endorsed an estimate of spending Tk 35 crore for implementing corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes: primary healthcare, primary education strengthening, physiotherapy, and sanitation during the same period. Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, chairman of ASA governing body, Md Ariful Haque Choudhury, president of ASA, and Md Taufiqul Islam Chowdhury, executive vice president, were present.

The NGO has 3073 branches to operate its multiple activities all over the country, of which 511 offices are at the upazila level through whom they conducted their loan disbursement programme in the Covid-hit last year.

They will also disburse loans in the current fiscal year.

# Ninja Van adds Alibaba as investor

REUTERS, Singapore

Logistics provider Ninja Van added Alibaba Group as a new investor as it raised \$578 million in a late stage funding round, the Singapore-based firm said on Sunday.

Existing investors to participate in the round included Europe's Geopost/DPDgroup, B Capital Group and Monk's Hill Ventures. The funds will be allocated towards infrastructure and technology systems that "will support a sustainable long-term cost structure," Ninja Van, launched in 2014, said in a statement.

# Geely to set up 5,000 battery swapping stations by 2025

REUTERS, Beijing

China's Geely aims to set up 5,000 battery swapping stations for electric vehicles (EV) globally by 2025, as sales grow in the world's biggest vehicle market, the automaker said in a statement on Sunday.

A battery swapping station allows drivers to change car batteries to power the rides. Chinese automaker Nio Inc plans to have 4,000 battery swapping stations globally by 2025.

# Meghna Condensed Milk drowning in losses

FROM PAGE B1

In addition, Meghna Condensed Milk did not provide any mobile contact number of its company secretary on the DSE website even though this is compulsory.

On the issue, Mohammad Rezaul Karim, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, said the regulator has been working on low performing companies.

"And we are taking steps on a case-to-case basis," he added. Some of the low performing companies are sent to the OTC market while others go to the ATB or face board restructuring. "This company is also on our radar so we will take decisions in serial fashion," Karim said.

# Rise and fall of Elias Brothers

FROM PAGE B1

Once a highly sought-after client has now become the bane of the banking industry.

More than 20 cases were filed in the Chattogram Money Loan Court by several banks against the top management of the group.

In three of these cases, arrest warrants have been issued in the name of five top officials of the company.

Several banks and financial institutions were used to provide large sums of money as loans against nominal collaterals because of its reputation. The loans have created significant problems for the banks.

The third-generation has been trying to invest in new fields for the last few years, but no lender is ready to extend any more loans. On September 20, a Chattogram court issued arrest warrants against five owners of MEB Group in a case filed over embezzling of Tk 183 crore from the Khatunganj branch of National Bank.

They are Alam, Absar, directors Mohammad Nurul Alam, Kamrun Nahar Begum, wife of Shamsul Alam, and Tahmina Begum, wife of Absar.

On June 23, the court issued arrest warrants against the five in a case lodged by Southeast Bank.

Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury, a legal adviser to National Bank, said the private commercial bank lent Tk 102 crore in 2008, although 50 kathas of land worth Tk 1 crore were put up as collateral, thanks to its business reputation.

The company paid a few instalments. In 2014, National Bank filed a case in the Money Loan Court against the owners after it stopped paying instalments.

According to Chowdhury, the managing director and a director of MEB met with the top officials of the bank and requested them to extend the term of the loans for 15 years. But they did not agree to pay 5 per cent of the loans as down payment as per laws.

"So, it was not possible for us to reschedule the loans," Shamsul Alam and Absar could not be reached for comments.

# United Airlines fined \$1.9m for US tarmac delays

REUTERS, Washington

United Airlines was fined \$1.9 million Friday by the US Transportation Department for violating federal rules on long tarmac delays and ordered to cease future similar violations.

The department said between December 2015 and February, United allowed 25 flights to remain on the

tarmac for lengthy periods without allowing passengers to deplane.

United said Friday it remains "committed to fully meeting all DOT rules and will continue identifying and implementing improvements in how we manage difficult operating conditions."

The department said this is the largest fine of its kind ever imposed

and impacted a total of 3,218 passengers.

The Biden administration has pledged to take a tough line on airline consumer actions.

United noted "ultimately only 25 out of nearly 8 million flights operated by United" and its partners warranted "enforcement action" over more than five years.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Thakurgaon  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.9400.000.14-001-21-1769 Date: 26/09/2021

**e-Tender Notice-07/2021-22 (LTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for FY 2021-2022 the procurement of undermentioned work FY 2021-2022.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work & Package No.	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time	Completion time
1	614812	Periodic Maintenance of Moharajpur-Nagovita via Ratondighy Road from Ch. 930-1850m under Balladangi Upazila, District-Thakurgaon (Road ID-194085036) Package e-Tender/LGED/Thak/GOBM/21-22/W-07	13.10.2021 17.00pm	14.10.2021 10.30am	60 days
2	614813	Periodic Maintenance of Pirganj R&H-Fokirgonjhat Via Hajipur, Sengon UP Road from Ch. 6000m - 9150m under Pirganj Upazila, District-Thakurgaon (Road ID-194823001) Package: e-Tender/LGED/Thak/GOBM/21-22/W-08	13.10.2021 17.00pm	14.10.2021 10.30am	60 days
3	614814	Periodic Maintenance of Hajipur UP-Senuahat Via Futanilawn, Vakura PISchool Road from Ch. 6800m-7430m under Pirganj Upazila, District-Thakurgaon (Road ID-194823016) Package: e-Tender/LGED/Thak/GOBM/21-22/W-09	13.10.2021 17.00pm	14.10.2021 10.30am	60 days
4	614815	Periodic Maintenance of Bhabnaganihat-Knu Choudhury Road from Ch. 00m-980m & Ch. 1555m-1572m under Pirganj Upazila, District-Thakurgaon (Road ID-194825008) Package: e-Tender/LGED/Thak/GOBM/21-22/W-10	13.10.2021 17.00pm	14.10.2021 10.30am	60 days
5	614816	Periodic Maintenance of Dhakhin Akashil Tamatha to Bazardeha Road from Ch. 00m-1838m under Pirganj Upazila, District-Thakurgaon (Road ID-194824038) Package: e-Tender/LGED/Thak/GOBM/21-22/W-11	13.10.2021 17.00pm	14.10.2021 10.30am	60 days

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 banks branches up to 13.10.2021, 5.00pm. For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Shaharul Alam Mondol**  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Thakurgaon  
[xen.thakurgaon@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.thakurgaon@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1728

# Tesla Shanghai to make 300,000 cars in Jan-Sep despite chip shortage

REUTERS, Beijing

Tesla Inc's Shanghai factory is expected to produce 300,000 cars in the first nine months of the year, capped by a delivery rush in the end of the July-September quarter, despite a global semiconductor shortage, two sources said.

The factory makes the electric Model 3 sedans and Model Y sport-utility vehicles for domestic and international markets, including Germany and Japan. Around 240,000 vehicles were shipped from the factory in the first eight months, including many for export, according to data from the China Passenger Car Association. Tesla has not announced details on the factory's production.

The sources requested anonymity, as they were not allowed to speak to media. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In August, an official in the area where Tesla's factory is located said it is expected to produce 450,000 vehicles this year, including 66,100 for export. read more Tesla is hiring managers for legal and external relations teams in China as it faces public scrutiny in the country over data security and customer service complaints.

**এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শি/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সরকারী মালিকানাধীন ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, গোপালগঞ্জ প্রকল্পে নিম্নলিখিত পদে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে লোক নিয়োগ করা হবেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স সীমা
০১।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) সংখ্যা-০১	সরকারী পলিটেকনিক ইনস্টিটিউট হতে প্রকৌশল ডিপ্লোমা (সিভিল) কোর্সে পাশ	স্বনামধন্য কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) পদে উল্লিখিত কাজে কমপক্ষে ০৮ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩০ বছর। (অধিকতর যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০২।	ফোরমান সংখ্যা-০১	ট্রেড কোর্স পাশ	স্বনামধন্য কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে সিং ফিটার পদে উল্লিখিত কাজে ০৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩৫ বছর।
০৩।	কার্পেন্টার সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	স্বনামধন্য কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কার্পেন্টার হিসাবে ০৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৪।	কার্পেন্টার হেল্পার সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে কার্পেন্টার হেল্পার হিসাবে ০৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৫।	ম্যান (রাজমিস্ত্রী) সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	স্বনামধন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে ম্যান (রাজমিস্ত্রী, রড মিস্ত্রী এবং টাইলস্ স্থাপনের) কাজে ০৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩৫ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৬।	ম্যান (রাজমিস্ত্রী) হেল্পার সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে ম্যান (রাজমিস্ত্রী) হেল্পার হিসাবে ০৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩০ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৭।	পেইন্টার সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	স্বনামধন্য কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে পেইন্টার হিসাবে ০৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৮।	পেইন্টার হেল্পার সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	পেইন্টার হেল্পার হিসাবে ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)
০৯।	টেকনিশিয়ান (গ্রাস ক্লিনার) সংখ্যা-০২	কমপক্ষে ৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	বহুতল ভবনে ভিতর ও বাইরে গ্রাস পরিষ্কার করার কাজে কমপক্ষে ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩০ বছর।
১০।	ক্লাক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর সংখ্যা-০১	কমপক্ষে এইচএসসি পাশ	এমএস ওয়ার্ড, এমএস এক্সেল, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট এবং AutoCad সহ দাপ্তরিক কার্যক্রমে অভিজ্ঞতার পাশাপাশি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ৫০ এবং ইংরেজীতে ৬০টি অক্ষর টাইপে গতিসম্পন্ন কাজে ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়স সীমা ৩০ বছর। (অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)

অগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে ০৩ (তিন) কপি সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙ্গীন ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র সমূহের সত্যায়িত কপিসহ আগামী ১০ অক্টোবর, ২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে আবেদন করার জন্য বলা হচ্ছে।

ঔষধ শর্ট লিটেড প্রার্থীদেরকে সাক্ষাতকারের জন্য ঢাকা হবে।

মহা-বাহুবল্লভ, এডমিন এন্ড এইচআরএম  
এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

(9" x 4 col.)