

Mohammad Abu Jafar, additional managing director of Dhaka Bank Limited, and Md Shaiful Islam, group chief financial officer of Rangs Group, recently exchanged signed documents of an agreement for providing cash management services to Streat Limited, a concern of Rangs Group. Emranul Huq, managing director of the bank, was present.



Humaira Azam, managing director of Trust Bank Limited, handed over a cheque to Brig Gen Md Ariful Hasan, chairman of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, at the bank's head office yesterday. Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, deputy managing director of the bank, was present.

# Kabul's carpet and antique dealers struggle after foreigners flee

Traders of carpets, antiques and souvenirs on Kabul's famed Chicken Street said Sunday business has completely dried up since the vast majority of foreigners left the Afghan capital as the Taliban took over.

The once-bustling hotspot, aid workers and adventurous tourists would shop for vintage tribal rugs, pottery and metalware, is almost empty of visitors looking for a bargain.

"Business has drastically changed because we don't have a lot of foreigners going here and there in Kabul," carpet seller Abdul Wahab told AFP outside his empty showroom. "So that has affected our business, like carpets, jewellery and the tribal things of Afghanistan."

Wahab said most of his customers had been expats, such as NGO staff and diplomats, but almost all of them evacuated by the end of August, after the Taliban stormed to power in the weeks before.

Vintage can thousands of dollars, which means only foreigners and the richest of Afghans are Wahab's target market. Asked how many rugs he now sells per week, the people can make carpets. dealer said: "Now, it's none."

Chicken Street was hugely among Kabul's "hippie trail" almost 30 years.

visitors, who stayed in nearby guesthouses and shopped for clothes and hashish. Tourism plummeted during and after the Soviet-Afghan war that started in 1979, but the street experienced a rebound after the US invasion

Wahab said that, despite the recent lack of custom, he remained "very optimistic" that trade would pick up in the coming months. 'Our business only depends on security. If the security is good, foreigners will come, and then they will buy carpets or other textiles that are available in Afghanistan. "Another dealer, 64-year-old Qadir Raouf -- who owns a family carpet shop across the street -- agreed.

"For the future, when there is peace, we can do good business," he said. "There are no foreigners to come. I hope the situation will be quiet and people are coming, starting business again.

"Originally from Herat in western Afghanistan, Raouf has had his carpet shop in Kabul for more than 45 years, sourcing old and new rugs from all over the

"These are our national things," he said of his carpets. "We show them to all the world: Afghan

Haji Jalil has been selling porcelain artefacts -- some of popular in the 1960s and '70s them up to 300 years old -- for

"Our business has not been handicrafts, precious and semigood for the last two years," he said in his Chicken Street shop, blaming the Covid-19 crisis for the start of the downturn.

"This street is fully dependent on the economy," he told AFP.

"If people's financial situations are good, they come and buy the decorative goods such as carpets,

precious stones. "Now businesses all over

Afghanistan are not doing well. "However, the 65-year-old said he had no plans to leave. "I want to serve the people of my country," he said.

"Our business may good outside Afghanistan and foreigners may come and buy our products.

"But I want to do my business in Afghanistan and do not think of doing it elsewhere.

"Further down Chicken Street, men sold fresh pomegranate juice, bananas and watermelons from carts as a small group of Taliban fighters watched on



Kabul's once-dustling Unicken Street, where aid workers and adventurous tourists would shop for vintage tribal rugs, pottery and metalware, is almost empty of visitors.

### Some Apple, Tesla suppliers suspend production in China

Several Apple Inc and Tesla Inc suppliers have suspended production at some Chinese factories for a number of days to comply with tighter energy consumption policies, putting supply chains at risk in the peak season for electronics goods.

Two major Taiwanese chipmakers, however, said their China facilities are operating as normal.

The development comes as tight coal supplies in China and toughening emissions standards have triggered a contraction in heavy industry in several regions, dragging on the country's economic growth rate, analysts have said. read more Apple supplier Unimicron Technology Corp late on Sunday said three of its China subsidiaries stopped production from midday on September 26 until midnight on September 30 to "comply with the local governments" electricity limiting policy".

The Taiwanese maker of printed circuit boards said it did not expect significant impact as other plants would make up production. Eson Precision Ind Co Ltd, an affiliate of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd (Foxconn), in a statement said it suspended production from Sunday until Friday at facilities in the Chinese city of Kunshan.

Concraft Holding Co Ltd, a supplier of speaker components for Apple's iPhone and which owns manufacturing plants in Suzhou city, said it would suspend production for five days until noon on Thursday and use inventory to meet demand.

Chipmakers United Microelectronics Corp (UMC) and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd, told Reuters there was no impact at their China plants.

"UMC's Hejian fab in Suzhou is currently running at full capacity utilization of 80,000 plus wafers per month," said the Taiwanese firm, whose clients include Qualcomm Inc.

Two people familiar with the matter told Reuters that facilities in Kunshan of contract manufacturer Foxconn have seen a "very small" impact on production.

Foxconn had to "adjust" a small part of its capacity there, which includes the manufacture of non-Apple notebook computers, one of the people said, adding that the company has not seen any impact at other major production hubs across China.

### Managing people through change

So, we should concern ourselves only with worker productivity and finding the right tools to motivate people.

#### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity must be pursued in each organisation, not just for diversity's sake, but with the firm belief that it drives better business decision making and outcomes. Finding like-minded individuals might

create an easier team to manage but diversity gives way to different perspectives. Consequently, employees in a company with higher workplace diversity will have

access to a variety of skills and experiences, which is important when it comes to planning and executing a business strategy. managing partner

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Bangladesh, I realised that a reason for PwC's rapid growth in the country has been the concerted focus on hiring talented women who have driven both decision making and client delivery.

Besides, they bring a set of skills and viewpoints that have proven invaluable to PwC, providing a differentiated level of service in the market.

#### RETENTION OF TALENT

Employee retention is a competitive differentiator. Organisations focus on attracting the best talent and promise major rewards for joining them but fail to retain

made in grooming and training them. The youth of Bangladesh are ambitious, driven, outspoken and expect to find purpose in the work they perform.

This is exactly where managers come in as they can provide a platform to help workers avoid everyday challenges and also let them know that help is available if needed. This can range from allowing them to relax during extended periods of stress to simply helping them out with a particular function.

PwC has an initiative called "Pens Down", which is a firm-wide day off to ensure all employees take a well-deserved break.

Far too often, organisations feel monetary compensation will be sufficient to retain talented staff. However, it is challenging, purpose-driven work in an environment geared towards growth and personal responsibility under a manager who cares enough to nurture them that is the biggest determinant.

Our managers and leaders need to equip themselves with the right skills to help lead change with the right mind-set and expectations when faced with change. Change will no longer be daunting if it is well managed and the desired outcomes for businesses can be achieved.

The author is a managing partner at PwC Bangladesh. This piece is an excerpt of a recent lecture given to the operations managers of a

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## Asian markets start week with gains but eyes on Evergrande

AFP, Hong Kong

Equity markets mostly rose in Asia on Monday following a broadly positive lead from Wall Street, while investors kept a nervous eye on developments in the crisis at troubled Chinese property giant Evergrande as it teeters on the brink.

Hong Kong was among the best performers on bargain-buying after suffering a blow-out last week, though traders were still none the wiser about whether Evergrande paid interest on an offshore bond that was due last Thursday.

While concerns about an economically disastrous collapse of the firm have abated for now, analysts warned there was a long way to go before markets were out of the woods

Reports at the weekend said Chinese authorities had ordered local housing chiefs to put the company's cash in ringfenced accounts to make sure it is used to complete construction projects. Observers said the move showed homeowners were taking priority for the

government as it tries to temper social anger. But Beijing has remained largely silent on the crisis, leaving many to guess its plans.

Hong Kong rose but Evergrande's electricvehicle unit slumped by more than 10 per cent after it scrapped a proposed listing on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and warned it was running out of cash. Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Manila, Mumbai and Bangkok were all in positive territory, though Shanghai, Wellington and Jakarta dipped. Tokyo was flat, days ahead of a leadership election in Japan's ruling party to replace Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, with optimism that the winner will push for a huge new stimulus package for the stuttering economy.

"Markets seem to be rapidly pricing in Evergrande as a fully controllable outcome that won't spill over China's borders into the wider financial universe," said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley.

But Shane Oliver, at AMP Capital, warned: "Global fears around contagion from Evergrande have receded a bit but it's too early to sound the

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all-clear. "Shares remain vulnerable to shortterm volatility. "The upbeat start to the week followed gains for the S&P 500 and Dow in New York, where dealers have taken in stride the Federal Reserve's plan to start tapering its ultraloose monetary policy.

But there is growing concern about US lawmakers' failure to lift the debt limit to pay its bills, putting in danger of a default that several people, including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, warn would cause an economic catastrophe.

The row comes as Republicans dig in against Joe Biden's multitrillion-dollar Build Back Better programme that would invest in climate change policy; lower childcare and education costs for working families; and create millions of jobs.

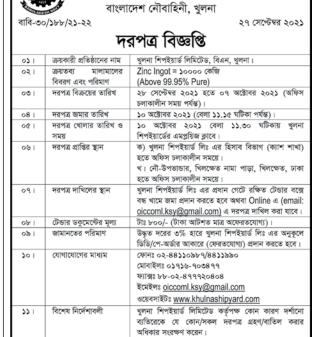
The euro barely moved against the dollar as a general election in Germany -- Europe's biggest economy -- ended with both main parties battling to form a government, putting the country in a period of uncertainty and leaving the question of who will succeed Angela Merkel wide open.

Md. Mehedi İqbal

**Education Engineering Department** 

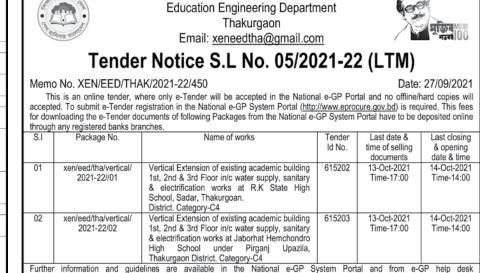
#### these individuals. It is far more important to leading private sector bank. retain the talent you have trained after efforts Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Harirampur, Manikgani উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র Web: www.lged.gov.bd শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র Memo No. 46.02.5628.000.16.157.19-560 Dated: 27/09/202 e-Tender Notice Number: 01/2021-22 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Tender ID Package No. Tender closing & opening (date & time) 27 October, 2021 No. 596096 (date & time) 26 October, 2021 EUCPW-155 Construction Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room under Harirampur 16.00pm 12.00am Upazila of Manikganj district. 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 16.00pm date: 26/10/2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP



ডিজিএম (সিএন্ডপি)

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer