



Walton announced the launch of the Digital Campaign Season-12 at the company's corporate office in Dhaka recently. The company announced some special benefits on the occasion of the new season, such as cash-back offer amounting to crores of taka on the purchase of fridge, television, air conditioner, washing machine, gas stove, rice cooker and electric fan. Nazrul Islam Sarker, deputy managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd, and Mohammad Rayhan, CEO of Walton Plaza Trade, were present.



Najith Meewanage, chief executive officer of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC in Bangladesh, inaugurates the upgraded ePassbook mobile app, with many new attractive features, at the bank's head office recently.

Premium prices still elusive for green garment factories

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However, international clothing retailers and brands are not putting any extra value to this investment in production aimed at better protecting the environment and saving energy.
"The green garment factories are on the priority list of buyers seeking to place orders for their strict compliance to regulations, not for the extra effort on green initiatives," said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Group.
The green initiatives save energy and water anywhere from 20 per cent to 30 per cent compared to that consumed by regular factory buildings, which is good, he said.
"Envoy Group is always on the buyers' priority list because of the green initiatives. The advantage is that we get the orders, not higher prices."
Echoing him, Sajjadur Rahman Mridha, group chairman of ABA Group, says green initiatives enable a competitive edge as these factories are compliant to a lot of regulations.
"Buyers do not pay higher prices, but we are on the priority lists when buyers seek to place orders," said Mridha, who has five LEED-certified garment factories.
KM Rezaul Hasanat, chairman and chief executive officer of Viyellatex Group, said buyers do not pay anything extra for garment factories turning green.
Bangladesh garment exporters have also implemented the recommendations of the Accord and the Alliance to strengthen workplace safety, but that too does not prompt buyers to pay extra, said Hasanat, who has two green garment factories.
Sharif Zahir, managing director of Ananta Group, says the buyers never even bring up the issue of green initiatives when negotiating

prices. But they want 75 per cent of the water used in washing the fabrics for denim jeans to be recycled.
He, however, says the return on the investment towards going green comes in four years as buyers regularly place orders.
Architect Nazli Hussain, a USGBC faculty member, said the indirect benefit was significant for owners of green factories.
For instance, the government has fixed the corporate tax for green garment factories at 10 per cent, which is 12 per cent for non-green factories. Moreover, green garment factory owners get loan facilities on easy terms, she said.
Moreover, green factories consume 30 per cent lower energy and water, the market value of which can be pretty significant at the end of the year, she added.
Only 5 to 6 per cent more needs to be spent to construct a green factory building, she said.
Hussain said a lot of work orders were coming to Bangladesh from China and Vietnam, thanks to the higher number of green garment factories.
"This indicates factories are more compliant and have strong workplace safety measures in place."
Santanu Dutta Gupta, head of regional market development for Eastern India, Bangladesh and Vietnam of the USGBC, said garment sector leaders and the USGBC recently discussed Bangladesh's green initiatives and the price issue in international forums.
"Buyers are also thinking about it," he said.
On the indirect benefits of green initiatives, he cited the instance of Disney dropping Bangladesh from its list of sourcing destinations in 2012 but relisting it again for the substantial improvements in workplace safety and for the green garment factories.

"A lot of work orders have recently been diverted from Vietnam to Bangladesh for the green garment factories."
Mohiuddin Rubel, a director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said creating a green garment factory translated as a commitment to saving the environment, although buyers do not pay anything extra for it.
Initially, the costs incurred for adopting a green garment factory may seem a bit high, but in the long run, the benefits outweigh them as a competitive edge is gained in price negotiations, he said.
Local garment suppliers complain that international clothing retailers always put pressure on being compliant but provide no premium price, he said.
Although Bangladesh strengthened workplace safety measures, international retailers and brands could not implement the Life and Building Safety (LABS) initiative in other countries despite it being taken up a lot earlier, he said.
"Green or non-green is not our priority as we did not ask them to turn the garment factories green," said a buyer from Europe, asking not to be named.
"Making green garment factories is not one of our conditions to supply apparel items. This is why it is also irrelevant to pay premium prices for sourcing from such garment factories."
"Although the buyers do not pay premium prices for the green initiatives, the manufacturers can save a lot thanks to lower consumption of energy and water."
The European buyer calls the garment sector's shift to green factories a good sign.
"At the end of the day, a peaceful and good earth matters to all."

Strong US services sector, private payrolls boost economy

REUTERS, Washington
A measure of US services industry activity surged to a record high in October likely as declining Covid-19 cases boosted demand, but businesses remained burdened by snarled supply chains and the resulting exorbitant prices.
The significantly improved public health picture appears to be lifting the labor market, with other data on Wednesday showing an acceleration in private payrolls

growth last month.
The reports suggested the economy was regaining momentum early in the fourth quarter after being restrained by the Delta variant of the coronavirus and shortages last quarter.
"The recovery is continuing in the fourth quarter, but supply-chain disruptions and hiring difficulties will continue to constrain growth," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Govt to form 5,500 farmer groups to boost livestock

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"Producer groups present a key opportunity to drive transformation in Bangladesh's livestock sector," said Robert D Simpson, the FAO representative to Bangladesh. Producer groups are also of great benefit to women and youths who make highly valuable contributions to the groups they belong to and lead.
"With the right training and investment opportunities, producer groups can fulfil their potential, generate more wealth and produce more nutritious food while reducing their carbon footprint," Simpson added.
In both developed and developing countries, livestock contributes anywhere from between 20 and 40 per cent of an economy's total agriculture sector, supporting 1.3 billion people worldwide.

Around 34 per cent of the global food protein supply comes from livestock, the FAO said in the statement.
The FAO's Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP), funded by the World Bank, is working with the Department of Livestock Services to establish and mobilise farmer groups which will receive technical and financial support.
The LDDP is also working to create a national management strategy for the livestock sector, supporting livestock farmer field schools and assisting in drafting national policy.
SM Rezaul Karim, fisheries and livestock minister, and Monjur Mohammad Shahjada, director general of the Department of Livestock Services, also attended the workshop.

Select a nominee judiciously

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"So, bankers cautiously handle the matter so that none can open an account without a nominee," he said.
If the bank finds an old account without a nominee, or the nominee is minor or aged below 18, it has to approach courts. Then, the money is split in line with the succession certificate issued by the court.
An official of a private commercial bank says that they usually encourage depositors to select a nominee aged more than 18 years.
For the nominee aged below the threshold, the main account-holder will have to declare that the nominee

will inherit the assets if he or she passes away, and the details of the guardian of the nominee will have to be specified in the nomination form.
If both nominee and depositor expire, the successors of a depositor will get the fund. And the prospective beneficiaries will have to show the succession certificate. If depositors, nominees and other persons don't claim the fund for 10 years, banks will deposit the money to the national exchequer.
ABM Imdadul Haque Khan, a lawyer of the Supreme Court with vast experience of working with banks, touts the nominee as paperwork, saying there is no value of a nominee

during the account-holder's lifetime.
It becomes important when the account-holder dies.
The lawyer cited an example.
An advocate, who used to work as a panel lawyer for a non-government organisation, opened an account with a bank without naming anyone as the nominee.
After the panel lawyer's death, his wife sought to receive the money from the account as she had children. But the siblings of the deceased demanded the money, claiming that their brother had kept their money in the account.
"As a lawyer, we regularly come across such a situation," Khan said.

Import of refined fuel oil to surge 32pc next year

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These fuels will be imported from eight listed companies of Kuwait, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and India.
According to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), 2020 witnessed the lowest amount of refined fuel oil being imported in the last six years.
Demand for fuel oil has been

negatively affected this year due to the long-term shutdown of traffic movement and industrial activities across the country.
The BPC data said 39.96 lakh tonnes of refined fuel oil was imported in 2020 and 42.27 lakh tonnes in 2019.
About 25 lakh million tonnes of refined fuel oil have been imported

from January to July in 2021. The BPC plans to import a total of 44 lakh tonnes of refined fuel oil this year.
The meeting approved another proposal of the same entity to buy 16 lakh tonnes of crude oil from Saudia ARAMCO of Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company of the United Arab Emirates in 2022.

Stock turnover dips to 7-month low

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even though most investors exhibited a profit booking attitude and abstained from making purchases amid the lack of a clear market direction, according to International Leasing Securities.
"Notable price correction in recent periods has lured some investors to take positions in a few scripts at lucrative price levels," the stock brokerage said in its daily market review.
Price appreciation in the miscellaneous, cement and ceramic sectors helped spur the market indices even though participation dropped as investors remain watchful, it added.
Aamra Networks topped the gainers' list, rising 9.28 per cent, followed by Alltex Industry, NRB Commercial Bank, Salvo Chemical

Industry and Shinepukur Ceramics.
Stocks of Beximco were traded the most, worth Tk 99 crore, followed by NRB Commercial Bank, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh and Orion Pharma.
Quasem Industries shed the most, dropping 6.83 per cent, followed by Prime Textile Spinning Mills, Zaheen Spinning, First Finance and Bangladesh Monospool Paper Manufacturing Company.
The Chattogram bourse also rose yesterday as the CASPI, the main index of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), grew by 10 points, or 0.05 per cent, to 20,197.
Among 274 stocks to undergo trade, 95 rose, 147 fell and 32 remained unchanged.

Banks post higher profits in Jan-Sep

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Export earnings went up by 22.62 per cent to \$15.74 billion in July to October, according to the Export Promotion Bureau.
Iftekhar said the fixing of the fixed deposit rate at not less than the inflation rate might affect the profits of the banking sector negatively in the fourth quarter of 2021.
In August, the Bangladesh Bank asked banks not to set interest rates on fixed-term deposits below the inflation rate as it yields negative returns for savers.
The weighted average interest rate on deposits stood at 4.13 per cent in June, while the average inflation rate was 5.56 per cent.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sadar, Lalmonirhat
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.5255.14.001.21-673

e-GP Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the work listed below:

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Name of work | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time | Tender opening date & time | Tendering method |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 622532 | e-Tender/NBIDNNGPS/LAL/SAD/2020-2021/W2-00059 | Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Kurul Kalibari Nigmananda Primary School, under Sadar Upazila, District: Lalmonirhat. | 21/11/21 17:00 | 22/11/21 15:00 | 22/11/21 15:00 | LTM |

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 and registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shah Md. Obaidur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
E-mail: ue.lalmonirhat-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-1996

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.251

Date: 04/11/2021

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Brief Description of Tender | Publication Date | Last Selling Date & Time | Opening Date |
|---------|-----------|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 616448 | Supply of Lifting Equipment. | 25-Oct-2021 | 23-Nov-2021 15:00 PM | 25-Nov-2021 |
| 2 | 623961 | Supply of General Tools, Equipment & Consumable Items for Switchgear System. | 01-Nov-2021 | 05-Dec-2021 15:30 PM | 06-Dec-2021 |

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shafiqul Islam
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-2002