



Mriza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Jamuna Bank Ltd, and Moynul Haque Siddiqui, chairman of Felicity IDC Ltd, exchange signed documents of an agreement at the bank's Gulshan corporate head office recently. The deal will enable the bank to host its disaster recovery site and infrastructure with the IT company at its data centre. Mohammad Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury and Fazle Quayum, deputy managing directors of the bank, and Shariful Alam, chief executive officer of Felicity IDC, were present.

Brazil raises \$8.4b in 5G tender

AFP, Brasilia Brazil raised \$8.4 billion in investments and license fees in an international tender to build and operate one of the world's biggest 5G data networks. Communications Minister Fabio Faria said Friday. The final result -- 46.8 billion reais (\$8.4 billion) -- came in just shy of the \$9 billion the government had forecast. Faria heralded it as a success. The result "beat all expectations," he told a news conference at the close of the two-day auction, which drew 15 bidders. Winning bids went to companies including Telecom Italia's local subsidiary, Tim; Spanish group Telefonica's Brazilian unit; and Claro, owned by Mexican telecoms magnate Carlos Slim's America Movil.

Foodpanda launches logistics service 'pandago'

STAR BUSINESS DESK Online food and grocery delivery platform foodpanda has recently introduced a new logistics service "pandago". The on-demand service will enable businesses, including restaurants, chain stores, consumer goods companies, e-commerce platforms and home chefs or catering services to deliver packages to their customers quickly, said a press release. Customers can sign up for pandago at foodpanda's official Facebook page. They will not have to bear any commission for using the service. "Now customers don't want to wait for 2-3 days after placing their orders. For this, we would like to expand that network beyond food and groceries, and make it accessible to businesses of all sizes," said Zubair Siddiqui, co-founder and managing director of foodpanda Bangladesh. Merchants can also use the service on a pay-per-use basis. The delivery fee is calculated based on travel distance on top of a base charge of Tk 60. The fee differs from city to city. There is also a real time tracking system for which customers can track their parcel live through a link.

Imports lead medical consumables market

FROM PAGE B1 According to him, importers themselves do not have the capability to set up manufacturing plants of medical devices while consumers were sceptical of the quality of products made here. "There is huge potential for investment in this sector as local manufacturers can cater to just around Tk 700 crore of the total demand," said Md Abdur Razzak, chairman of JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Ltd. Industry insiders said local firms have so far invested around Tk 2,000 crore to manufacture medical devices, creating employment for 12,000 people. He said the sector dealt with advanced technology to ensure product quality and this necessitates big investments which some might find tough to source. He said JMI invested over Tk 1,100 crore, which includes \$80 million (around Tk 683.92 crore) from a Japanese company. He went on to say that JMI created employment for around 7,500 people who were mostly skilled. Appreciating an existing "Registration Guidelines for Medical Device, Bangladesh 2015" as a milestone for the sector, Razzak suggested upgrading it. He did not go into details.

"We need a huge investment to fulfil the gaps in this sector," he noted. Although the sector is still small, the industry could focus on import substitute products, such as helping the healthcare sector by providing auto-disable syringes which was being used to inject Covid-19 vaccines, he said. Taskin Mustafa Choudhury, consultant for investor relations and international marketing at ANC Medical Device Bd, which manufactures medical equipment under the brand name "Safe", said there was huge potential for investment in this sector as it was highly import-oriented. He said it takes around three years to go for commercial production after installation of capital machinery to ensure quality products. "Local manufacturers can cater to only 10 per cent of the total demand of medical equipment in Bangladesh," he noted. According to him, Bangladesh needs medical equipment worth around Tk 20,000 crore per year while local manufacturers can provide only Tk 2,000 crore worth. Kamruzzaman Kamal, director (marketing) of Pran-RFL Group, said local manufacturers produce only plastic related medical consumables. He said manufacturing such medical consumables was a

labour intensive process and the pharmaceutical companies were not interested in investing in this sector. However, he said, Pran-RFL Group invested in this sector with a view to contribute import substitutes. He also said the contribution of the sector was not significant in terms of the country's requirement. Hishab Uddin Ahmed, deputy general manager of Opsonin Pharma, which started producing medical devices in 1995, said local devices were being made in sufficient numbers to meet demand here. However, the list of medical devices and needed here was long and Bangladeshi manufacturers are merely at the tip of the iceberg, he said. "The main challenge for manufacturing all types of medical devices is commercial viability as the market size was not big enough for business," he noted. SM Shafuzzaman, managing director of Hudson Pharmaceuticals and secretary general of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, said it was tough for a few companies to cater to all the demand. "We need at least 100 companies to cater to the demand of the country. The number of products being manufactured here is slowly getting registered as per the government-formulated policy," he noted.

RMG faces supply chain hiccups

FROM PAGE B1 But there are no trucks and covered vans to carry the goods to the factories. "A two-day delay in the movement of goods from the port to the factories means a delay of shipment of goods of three to five days. Even export goods might have to be sent through the expensive air shipment." A lot of local apparel manufacturers have imported raw materials in bulk quantity as the demand for locally made garment items has soared as the global economy is recovering. Internally, fabrics and yarns are also not being transported for washing and dyeing. "Actually, the supply chain has been disrupted by the strike," said Azim. According to Mokbul Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Covered Vans, Trucks, Prime Movers and Panno Paribahan Malik Samity, none of the 3.5 lakh vehicles plied yesterday because of the strike. "Our production planning has been disrupted due to the sudden strike as we can't move the raw materials from one place to another," said Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association. He says almost all workers turned up as most of them live nearby. "Some were late due to the halt of the public transport movement." Monsoor Ahmed, chief executive officer of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said any prolonged transport strike would have a negative impact on the textile and apparel supply chain. Over the last two days, many millers were not able to bring in cotton from the port to their factories, he said. "The strike will hurt export earnings."

Delivery of imported goods at Chittagong port as well as container transport between the port and private inland container depots almost came to a halt on the day. A few trucks and covered vans entered the port to take away the delivery of commodities such as rice and lentil and raw materials for cement and steel industries, said Chittagong Port Authority Secretary Md Omar Faruk. But the delivery of the major portion of imported goods did not take place as vehicles were not available. The loading and unloading of containers at the jetties took place. But the activity may slow down if the strike prolongs, according to Faruk. "In such case, containers may pile up at the port." The movement of import, export and empty containers between the port and 19 private ICDS was almost suspended. Bangladesh Inland Container Depot Association Secretary Md Ruhul Amin Sikder said drivers and helpers of most of the private ICDS refrained from running vehicles. Three Colombo-bound vessels scheduled to leave the port on Sunday morning may either have to postpone their departure or leave without any export items if the boxes full of goods can't be brought in at night. Sikder said around 3,500 truck and covered vans carrying export-oriented goods from different parts of the country usually arrive at the 19 ICDS on a normal day, but their presence has dropped by 60 per cent. Faruq feared if the export containers couldn't be delivered to the port, they might miss their scheduled shipment on Sunday. The strike forced commodity processors and groups to rely on their

own vehicles to supply goods. Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs of City Group, a major commodity processor in Bangladesh, said the supply chain had been affected because of the strike. "We delivered goods using our own trucks." In Benapole land port, the delivery of the imported goods did not take place. The strike also impacted the turnout of workers as some labourers could not come to their factories on time because of the unavailability of public transports. What is more, they were forced to spend extra on transport fares in the last two days. "Every worker has a monthly budget as transport fare. The strike has affected the transport budget," said Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparel Workers Federation. The unusual price hike of the petroleum products will push the prices of the basic commodities up, which will ultimately raise the cost of living for workers, he said. Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation, echoed Rahman. "Workers are suffering on their ways to factories. They are spending at least one and a half hours on the roads compared to half an hour previously." Mokbul said raising Tk 15 per litre of diesel and kerosene price was too high for transport owners and companies. He held a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in Dhaka yesterday to demand price reduction. "We are waiting for a positive outcome of the meeting. I am hopeful that the government will listen to our demand and reduce the prices."

Domestic flights three times costlier

FROM PAGE N1 The government on Wednesday hiked the price of diesel and kerosene by 23 per cent or Tk 15 per litre. Transport associations, mainly of commercial vehicle owners, enforced the indefinite strike from Friday morning, causing untold suffering to the public and halting business operations largely. Bus owners demanded increasing passenger fares to cope with the fuel price hike while the owners of commercial vehicles have demanded cancellation of the government decision to hike prices. Several thousand holidaymakers have remained stuck in different tourist spots, especially Cox's Bazar,

Bandarban and Khagrachhari, due to the transport strike. Airfares are determined by a strategy called airline revenue management, says the CNBC. The decisions are made in real time by an algorithm that adjusts fares by using information including past bookings, remaining capacity, average demand for certain routes and the probability of selling more seats later, it says. Kamrul Islam, general manager of public relations at US-Bangla Airlines, said the matter was not like that the airlines were charging passengers extra. There is basically 10 slabs of airfare, from low to high, round the year. As

demand rises, the low airfare slabs start running out, leaving high airfare slabs for those who come later. He also said they were now operating flights on different routes at 95 per cent capacity, which was 80 per cent in the recent past. Mesbah Ul Islam, head of sales and marketing at Novoair, said demand for tickets has increased due to the transport strike. "When the tickets for low rate slabs run out, the fare for high slabs' tickets will naturally go up. It is the practice in fixing airfare," he said. He also said they were now operating flights at almost full capacity whereas it was 90 per cent in the recent past.

Most listed multinationals see profit growth in Jul-Sep

FROM PAGE B1 "Their proper business policy and corporate governance saved their day. Profits of LafargeHolcim for example grew due to their diversified products," Islam said. Some listed multinationals faced problems of high input costs due to the pandemic so their profits were impacted. Besides, home appliance seller Singer Bangladesh's profits dropped due to the closure of its shops during the nationwide shutdown in its main sales season. Profits of Singer Bangladesh dropped by around 70 per cent to Tk 12 crore. Circumstances under the Covid-19 pandemic continue to have adverse bearings on the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as the company's operations and its financial position, Singer Bangladesh said in a disclosure. With the deterioration of the pandemic situation since the end of the first quarter, the results achieved have deviated much more than expected, it read. "In addition, major refrigerator sales during Eid-ul-Azha were lost due to the countrywide restrictions when all shops and dealer points were closed," it added. Meanwhile, Berger Paints registered 33 per cent lower profits at Tk 44 crore. The company said its profits decreased significantly due to an

increase in the prices of raw material in the international market. Among all the multinationals, Grameenphone logged the highest profit of Tk 855 crore whereas it was Tk 859 crore a year earlier. Meanwhile, Bata Shoes incurred the highest loss of Tk 11.4 crore. Most multinational companies rationalised their costs to cope with the post-pandemic economic situation and enhance dependency on digitalisation, according to analysts. Rajesh K Surana, chief executive officer of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, said his company delivered another exceptional quarter backed by strong cost control and efficiency improvements. "In addition, our new product aggregate was highly successful and our customers continue to repose faith in our wide range of products and solutions," he said in a press release describing the company's quarterly performance. "Our digital business has taken off to a new league of growth and creates the potential for continued momentum," he added. Robi Axiata saw the highest growth in its profits, 126 per cent, to Tk 86 crore from Tk 38 crore the year before. Similarly, RAK Ceramics' profits grew 58 per cent to Tk 19 crore and LafargeHolcim's profit rose by 43 per cent to Tk 93 crore.

Fuel sales jumped just before price hike

FROM PAGE B1 A senior official of BPC, seeking anonymity, said that there might be two reasons for the sudden rise in sales: information of the hike might have got leaked before the announcement came. Or, some marketing officials of the corporation might have manipulated it by showing the inflated sales figure. Whatever the reasons, the government has incurred losses, he said. ABM Azad, chairman of BPC, however, ruled out any possibility of the leaking of the price hike-related information. "It is not possible that there was an information leak. The ministry had maintained the highest confidentiality. We even can't say when the price will be increased. We only place proposals to the ministry." About the higher sales, he said: "The marketing division looks after the issue. We are also working to find out the reasons." Bangladesh currently has a stock of 520,000 tonnes of diesel, 22,000 tonnes of kerosene, and 66,000 tonnes of furnace oil, sufficient to meet the domestic demand for more than a month.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয় লালপুর, নাটোর। ই-মেইল-lalpur@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd তারিখঃ ০৪/১১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ। "দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি" পিপিআর ২০০৬ ইং ও ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত ২০১০ প্রবিধান মাসা অনুসারে, উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স লালপুর, নাটোর এবং ইহার নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন ০২ টি উপ-স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রের ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের জন্য এম.এস.আর সামগ্রী সাজানের লক্ষ্যে নিম্ন বর্ণিত ছক ও তফসীল মোতাবেক প্রকৃত টিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে নিম্ন শাক্তরকারীর বরাবরে মুখবন্দ/সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্র	শ্রবণ সামগ্রী (EDCL বর্জিত)	৭৫০.০০	৩৬০০০/-	কার্যাদেশের ১০%	মন্তব্য
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়			
২.	এজেন্সি/প্রতিষ্ঠান	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর			
৩.	সম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর।			
৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি			
৫.	বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	জিওবি (অনুলম্বন/উন্নয়ন) বরাদ্দ (২০২১-২০২২ খ্রিঃ অর্থ বছর)			
৬.	কার্যের নাম	এম.এস.আর সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও সজ্জা			
৭.	মোট গ্রুপ	০৬ (ষয়) টি			
৮.	টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে।			
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর ২১/১১/২০২১ ইং তারিখ প্রতিনিয়ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) (১) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর (২) উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর (৩) অফিসার ইনচার্জ, লালপুর থানা, লালপুর, নাটোর।			
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া/বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অক্ষয় যোগ্য) সোনালী ব্যাক লিঃ লালপুর শাখা নাটোর-এ কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে ত্রৈমাসিক চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে চালানের মূল কপি, ০১কপি ছবি, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সহ নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে (১) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর (২) উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর (৩) অফিসার ইনচার্জ লালপুর, থানা লালপুর, নাটোর হইতে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। (১) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর (২) উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লালপুর, নাটোর (৩) অফিসার ইনচার্জ, লালপুর থানা, লালপুর, নাটোরের ২২/১১/২০২১ ইং তারিখ সকাল-৯ টা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১১.	যে অফিসে দরপত্র দাখিল করা হইবে তারিখ ও দাখিলের শেষ সময়	২২/১১/২০২১ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ টায় উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোরে উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।			
১২.	দরপত্র শোনার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২২/১১/২০২১ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ টায় উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসারের কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোরে উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।			
১৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা	ডাঃ এ.কে.এম শাহাব উদ্দীন, উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসার, লালপুর, নাটোর।			
১৪.	বিশেষ দিক নির্দেশনা	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত হিসেবে বিবেচিত হইবে। যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়া দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য অত্র কার্যালয়ের অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।			