



Asaduzzaman Noor, chairman of Asiatic 3sixty, Alihussain Akberali, chairman of Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd (BSRM), and Aameir Alihussain, managing director, cut a cake in BSRM's Chattogram office recently to mark the 10th anniversary of their partnership. Morshed Alam, managing director of GroupM, was present.



Mohammed Haider Ali Miah, managing director of Exim Bank Ltd, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the bank's 136th branch in Shibbari, Khulna recently. Lal Mohammad, regional manager for Rajshahi of the bank, Sharif Atiquzzaman, principal of Government Brajalal College, Gazi Mizanur Rahman, managing director of Gazi Medical College and Hospital Ltd, and Sanjib Chatterjee, vice-president of the lender, were present.

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US asks Japan, China, others to consider tapping oil reserves

REUTERS, Washington

The Biden administration has asked some of the world's largest oil consuming nations - including China, India and Japan - to consider releasing crude stockpiles in a coordinated effort to lower global energy prices, according to several people familiar with the matter.

The unusual request comes as US President Joe Biden fends off political pressure over rising pump prices and other consumer costs driven by a rebound in economic activity from lows plumbed early in the coronavirus pandemic.

It also reflects US frustration with members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies who have rebuffed repeated requests from Washington to speed up their production increases.

"We're talking about the symbolism of the largest consumers of the world sending a message to OPEC that 'you've got to change your behavior,'" one of the sources said. Oil prices eased on the news after settling further below seven-year highs struck in early October.

Biden and top aides have discussed the possibility of a coordinated release of stockpiled oil with close allies including

Japan, South Korea and India, as well as with China, over the past several weeks, the sources said.

Tokyo responded positively to initial outreach, according to one of the sources.

It was not immediately clear how others had responded.

The US share of any potential release of reserves would need to be more than 20 million to 30 million barrels to affect

markets, according to a US source who participated in the discussions.

Such a release could be in the form of a sale or a loan from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve - or both.

The SPR was set up in the 1970s after the Arab Oil Embargo to ensure the United States has adequate supply to weather an emergency.

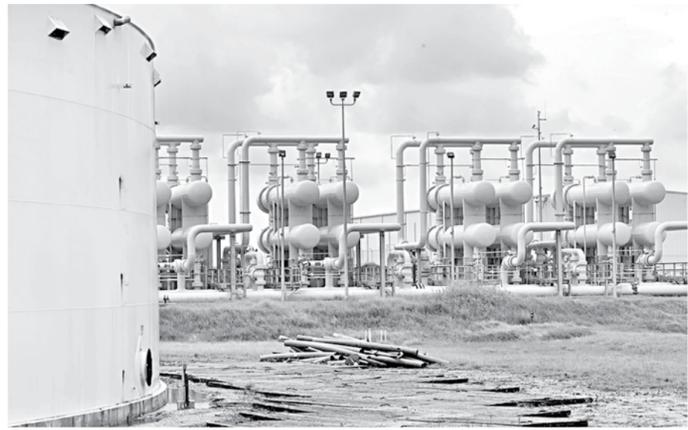
Several people familiar with the matter cautioned that negotiations over a coordinated supply release have not been finalized nor has any final decision been made about whether to pursue any specific course of action on oil prices.

The White House declined to comment on the detailed content of conversations with other countries.

"No decisions have been made," said a spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council.

For weeks, the White House has said it is "talking with other energy consumers to ensure global energy supply and prices do not imperil the global economic recovery," the spokesperson added.

After Reuters reported on the White House discussions, US crude futures were trading at \$78.18, down from a close of \$78.36 a barrel, while Brent fell to \$80.21 after ending at \$80.28 a barrel.



REUTERS/FILE

An oil storage tank and crude oil pipeline equipment are seen during a tour by the Department of Energy at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Freeport, Texas.

India's biggest-ever IPO Paytm slumps on market debut

AFP, Mumbai

Indian mobile payments giant Paytm lost a quarter of its value on its market debut Thursday, after raising \$2.5 billion in the country's biggest-ever IPO, as traders questioned whether the loss-making firm would ever turn a profit.

Asia's third-largest economy has been in a grip of an initial public offering frenzy, with start-ups attracting billions of dollars in investment in a bright spot in the Covid-battered economy.

But while Paytm has established a leading position in the fast-growing marketplace for mobile payments it has lost money in each of the past three years and its market debut showed the limits of investor appetite.

Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, once named as India's youngest billionaire, wiped away tears from his eyes when the national anthem was played at the opening ceremony before trading began on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Referring to the phrase "Bharat bhagya vidhata" -- "the one who will define the fortune of this country" -- he said Paytm has "actually done that".

But the company's shares tanked more than 25 per cent from their IPO price of 2,150 rupees within minutes of the open, before recovering slightly.

"There is a lot of euphoria for the digital space and that seems to now be subsiding," said SMC Global Securities analyst Saurabh Jain. "These companies are coming out with IPOs at scorching valuations and it's anybody's guess what valuations are correct," he told AFP.

"It is very difficult for a company like Paytm to turn profitable. They have the scalability but they are not able to make money through their business model."

Following the debut, Paytm's market capitalisation fell from an IPO valuation of \$20 billion to under \$14 billion when shares dropped as low as 1,586 rupees.

Realtors hope for good response

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purchasing property has fuelled the demand for housing solutions.

In addition, long stays at home amid recurring nationwide lockdowns aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 influenced many affluent individuals to purchase their own apartments, they said. However, realtors have expressed concerns over the increasing price of various construction materials, such as iron rods, as it may soon have a negative impact on the industry.

The fair, styled "REHAB Chattogram Fair 2021", was organised by the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View.

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, inaugurated the event with REHAB President Shamsul Alam Kajal in the chair. Rejaul Karim Chowdhury, mayor of Chattogram City Corporation, attended the opening ceremony as a special guest.

A total of 46 firms from Dhaka and Chattogram, including eight firms dealing in construction materials and six financial institutions, set up 71 stalls in the fair. The 29 participating real estate firms are displaying a number of their ongoing projects, with a total of around 800 residential apartments on offer, said the REHAB officials.

A total of 83 Chattogram-based real estate firms are REHAB members.

Realtors said the demand for ready apartments in the port city has increased ever since economic activities in the country bounced back.

Seeing the increase in demand, many firms which do not have apartments ready for sale have taken on new projects. Md Abdul Kauim Chowdhury, chairman of the REHAB's Chattogram Regional Committee, said the domestic real estate sector was gradually coming out from a bad phase thanks to some policy support.

He informed that the government recently reduced the registration cost in the industry by 2 per cent while the central bank last month issued a notification to provide home loans of up to a maximum of Tk 2 crore for the purchase of flats against the earlier limit of Tk 1.20 crore.

"These steps are obviously positive for the sector," Chowdhury added.

The CPDL, a leading local real estate and construction company, has completed 34 projects in Chattogram so far while another 22 are ongoing.

Iftakhar Hosen, president of the CPDL, told The Daily Star that the firm's sales increased by 50 per cent this year compared to that in 2020.

The firm already sold around 90

residential and commercial properties as of October. "Comparatively cheaper apartments ranging from Tk 60 lakh to Tk 70 lakh have the most demand but renowned realtors cannot satisfy such requirements considering the high cost of land and increasing price of construction materials," he said.

Hosen went on to say that the demand for large apartments that come with facilities such as gyms, playgrounds and community halls is rising while stay-at-home measures to prevent Covid-19 made people realise the benefits of these amenities.

As such, many affluent people who already own 1,800 square feet or 2,000 square feet apartments are showing interest to trade off their homes for more spacious flats ranging from 2,500 square feet to 3,000 square feet.

Accordingly, many firms have started constructing condominiums.

After completing two condominiums in Chattogram, the CPDL has now started another project called Sultana Gardenia in the port city's Devpaha area targeting upper middle-class families.

Equity Properties Management recently started its second condominium project near Agrabad commercial area on a 45-katha plot, offering 148 apartments. Equity is offering a 10 per cent discount on its flats at the fair.

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Website: www.govssc.edu.bd

Memo No. gssc/bog/idgsp/cedp/2021/215 Date: 17/11/2021

e-Tender Notice 01/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	598041	Procurement of Air Conditioner	06 Dec 2021, 11.30	06 Dec 2021, 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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 06 Dec 2021, 11.30am.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP held desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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29/11/2021
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GD-2101

Russian economy keeps up Covid rebound in third quarter

AFP, Moscow

Russia's economy rebounded in the third quarter as the country continues to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, official figures showed Wednesday.

Gross domestic product grew by 4.3 per cent compared to July-September last year, with strong gains in passenger transport, retail trade and mining, according to the federal statistics agency.

It was the second consecutive quarter of growth, after the economy rebounded by 10.3 per cent in the second quarter with strong gains in the same industries.

The economy had contracted in the first three months of the year.

শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ

আশুগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
ISO 9001:2015, ISO: 14001:2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Certified Management System.

Memo No:02/APSC/Co.Aff./Recruitment/2021/847 Date: 18/11/2021

"Career Opportunity in Power Sector"

Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited (APSC) is an enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board looking for energetic and promising person for immediate appointment to the post of **Executive Director (Planning & Development)** and invites applications from Bangladeshi Nationals who are interested to serve the company and ready to accept the challenging job.

Duties and Responsibilities

The **Executive Director (Planning & Development)** is one of members of the management of the Company who reports through the Managing Director to the Board of Directors. He is responsible for technical studies, planning, development of project, policies and strategies, engineering, construction, supervision of all the running and upcoming projects of the company. He is also responsible for providing proper assistance to the Managing Director for ensuring timely completion of the project, financing and compliance issues of the project

Educational qualification & Experience

- At least graduate in Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineering from any recognized university.
- No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and a CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0.
- At least 20 years of work experience in the relevant fields as assistant engineer or above position of which at least 5 years in senior management position (SE/DGM/equivalent or above).
- At least 5 years' experience in relevant field like generation/ transmission/ distribution utilities.
- Able to demonstrate skill in the analysis & preparation of DPP, PPP and Projects Management.
- Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability.
- Knowledge in TPM, TQM, Preventive maintenance, Corporate Governance etc.
- Must have strong communication skill in Bengali & English (written & oral) including working experience using computer.

Age Limit: Maximum age limit will be 60 years on the last date of submission of the application.

Remuneration Package: Including Basic Pay as per company's payscale, Medical Support, Power Station allowance, Residential accommodation at site, Full-time transport with driver, Group Insurance and other allowances & fringe benefits as per Company's Rules/Policies/Provisions.

Terms of Appointment

- The **Executive Director (Planning & Development)** will be appointed on a contractual basis initially for a period of 01 (one) year which is renewable subject to satisfactory performance upto 62 years of age.
- Persons serving in Government, semi-government or autonomous organizations should apply through proper channel.
- APSC reserves the right to cancel any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- Only short-listed candidate(s) will be called for interview.

How to Apply

Candidates should apply in **prescribed application form** which is available in APSC website: www.apscl.gov.bd and should attach necessary documents as described in the form. Application **must be reached on or before 09/12/2021 within office time latest by 5.00 pm** to the below address:

Mohammad Abul Mansur FCMA, ACS
Company Secretary
Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited
Navana Rahim Ardent (Level-8),
185, Shahid Sayed Nazrul Islam Sarani,
Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000.