



Arif Quadri, acting managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd, receives MasterCard Excellence Award 2020-2021 from MA Mannan, minister for planning, recently. The bank has received two awards in the 'Online Acquiring Business' and 'Domestic Debit Business' categories.



ABM Abdul Fattah, chairman of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd, presides over the company's 35th annual general meeting for the fiscal year 2020-2021 at the Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka recently. The company earned Tk 263.95 crore before tax and deposited Tk 166.88 crore to the national exchequer, which was Tk 141.34 crore in the preceding year. Md Anisur Rahman, senior secretary of the energy and mineral resources division, was present.

India's salesmen face ruin as tycoon Ambani targets mom-and-pop stores

REUTERS, Sangli

For eight straight days, household goods salesman Vipresh Shah has failed to sell a single pack of Dettol soap to the storekeepers who have been buying from him ever since he took over his family business as a teenager, 14 years ago.

Shah is an official distributor for Britain's Reckitt Benckiser in Vita, near Sangli city, around 200 miles south of Mumbai. But he said once-loyal customers now point to an app - JioMart Partner - on their smartphones showing prices up to 15 per cent lower, instead of placing orders. "As Reckitt's distributor, I used to be like a prince in the market," said Shah. "Now the buyer tells me, 'See how much you've been ripping us off!'"

The 31-year-old said he lost \$2,000 of his own money as he discounted products to match prices on JioMart, the app rolled out by Reliance Industries billionaire Mukesh Ambani in his drive to revolutionise retail distribution in India.

Up and down India in places like small town Vita, the mom-and-pop stores that account for four-fifths of a near-\$900 billion retail market - more than \$700 billion - are increasingly turning to JioMart to stock up on foreign and domestic brands.

Just as Ambani, India's richest man, has disrupted the country's

telecoms industry, the tycoon is intent on shaking up retail distribution, taking on US e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart Inc, expanding fast in India.

The country has around 450,000 traditional distributors, who have legs of salespeople to service every corner of the vast nation, including 600,000 villages.

They typically earn a margin of 3-5 per cent on product prices and mostly take orders physically once a

week, making deliveries to retailers within a couple of days.

But Reliance's model throws a wrench in that supply chain: the mom-and-pop stores, known as 'kiran', can order goods on JioMart Partner with deliveries promised within 24 hours. Reliance also offers training on ordering, credit facilities and free product samples for affiliated kiran's customers.

That means hundreds of thousands of salesmen representing

consumer giants like Reckitt, Unilever and Colgate-Palmolive, face an existential threat to their business, according to interviews with salespeople, 20 distributors and a trader group with members across India.

Many of the distributors contacted by Reuters said they have slashed their workforce or vehicle fleet, seeing their sales from door-to-door agents drop 20-25% in the last year as shopkeepers partner with Reliance. In Vita, salesman Shah said he has had to lay off half of his staff of four. He fears the 50-year-old family firm might not last beyond the next six months.

The scale and speed of the disruption have triggered tensions between traditional distributors and Reliance that have boiled over into physical confrontation in some cases. In Maharashtra state in the west - home to Vita - and Tamil Nadu in south, traditional salesmen have organised blockades of some JioMart delivery vehicles.

"We will employ guerrilla tactics," said Dhairyashil Patil, president of the All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation, which represents 400,000 agents of local and foreign consumer firms. "We will continue to agitate," he told Reuters, "we want (consumer goods) companies to realise our value."



A shopkeeper selling consumer goods displays Reliance's JioMart point-of-sale machine that he uses to order supplies for his store in Sangli.

Most Asian markets drop on renewed Covid, inflation concerns

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian markets mostly fell Monday with fears about renewed containment measures to battle a surge in European Covid cases adding to growing speculation that central banks will have to tighten monetary policy quicker to tame a spike in inflation.

Oil extended losses as major consumers including the United States considered releasing some of their reserves to keep a lid on prices, which have been a key reason for the jump in inflation this year.

While the Nasdaq ended at a new record above 16,000 for the first time, the S&P 500, Dow and European markets provided a negative lead after Austria said it would reintroduce lockdowns -- and make vaccination mandatory from February -- to fight a worrying jump in new infections.

Other countries including Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Belgium were also bringing in measures.

"This of course is not just an Austrian story, Covid infections are rising at an alarming rate around Europe with other EU governments also introducing restrictions with the risk that they may also need to follow Austria's drastic measures," said National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril.

The announcements added to the downbeat mood on trading floors with

investors expecting central banks to continue winding back the ultra-loose monetary policies put in place at the start of the pandemic and which have been crucial to the global recovery.

Top Federal Reserve officials have indicated they would like to see the bank bring its vast bond-buying programme -- known as quantitative easing -- to an end quicker than earlier flagged, in order to fight inflation at a three-decade high.

"What we are likely to see this week is more Fed members socialising that idea of a more rapid QE taper," Jason Schenker, at Prestige Economics, told Bloomberg Television.

"If that idea gets out there and is repeatedly underscored, that will increase the probability that the tapering that's announced in December will be quicker than the pace that was announced early in November.

"In early trade, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta were all down, though there were gains in Seoul and Singapore.

Shanghai also rose as analysts speculate that the central People's Bank of China could unveil some easing measures to kickstart growth in the world's number two economy, despite a surge in prices in the country.

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Memo No. BMDA/XEN/Joy/GDJIP/POND/2021-22/887 Date: 22-11-2021

e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following works. These are applicable for the project of Enhancement of Irrigation Through Surface Water Augmentation in Greater Dinajpur & Joypurhat District

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Description of works	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1.	629420, 629442, 629452	Re-excavation of Khas Ponds by Excavator Machine including various leads and lift water body.	12/12/21 & 15.00	13/12/21 & 11.00

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 downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk.

Md. Razaul Islam
Executive Engineer
BMDA, Joypurhat Region
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GD-2129

Japan working on release of oil reserves after US request

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan is considering the unprecedented release of state oil reserves after a request from Washington for coordinated action to combat soaring energy prices, three government sources with knowledge of the possible plan told Reuters.

One of the sources said the government was looking into releasing from the portion exceeding the minimum amount required as a legal workaround.

Japanese law permits the release of oil reserves in cases of a shortage or natural disasters but makes no mention of doing so to counter rising prices.

"We have no choice but to come up with something" after a request from the United States, another one of the sources told Reuters.

The sources declined to be identified because the plan has not been made public.

Japan has never released oil from its state reserves, while oil companies have done so during the 1991 Gulf War and following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disasters.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said on Monday nothing had been decided, while Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Saturday the government was in the process of considering what it could do legally.

The Biden administration made the unusual request to some of the world's largest oil-consuming nations - including China and India - to consider releasing oil from their strategic reserves after members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies repeatedly rebuffed its requests to speed up their production increases.

France to work with UAE on renewable projects

REUTERS

French finance minister Bruno Le Maire said on Sunday that France will work with the United Arab Emirates on new projects in the energy sector including renewables and hydrogen fuel. "Reaching zero carbon emissions by 2050 is an important goal, and we want to work with the UAE on this fight on climate change," Le Maire told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

The minister called for economic and investment cooperation as France's economy rebounds from the coronavirus pandemic, and he mentioned investments in new supply chains as one reason for his visit to the Gulf country.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কৃষি আবহাওয়া তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর
খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা- ১২১৫।

Memo No. 12.01.0000.018.03.001.21.6219 Date: 22.11.2021

Tender Notice
Tender (Ref.: Memo No. 12.01.0000.018.03.001.21. 6219, Date: 22.11.2021) is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) for the procurement of the following goods/items:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Package Name and Description	Tender ID No.	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1.	AMISDP-GD-17	Supply, Delivery and installation of 16 Nos. Photocopier for 16 DD, DAE offices	630640	22-Nov-2021 at 12:00	05-Dec-2021 at 12:00
2.	UNI-GD-14	Supply and Installation of Air conditioner for BAU & BSMRAU	630647	22-Nov-2021 at 12:00	05-Dec-2021 at 12:00

This is an online tendering process where only e-Tenderer will be accepted in e-GP portal and no hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>).

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GD-2133

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e-Tender Notice 05/RRD/2021-2022 (OTM, NCT)
The above tenders are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact help desk contact numbers.

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender security submission date & time	Tender opening date and time
627570	05/E-GP/RRD/2021-2022	Maintenance by Base Type-II, Carpeting & Seal Coat at Ch. 0+800 to 1+600km of Totpur-Machpara Link Road (R-712) under Rajbari Road Division during the FY 2021-2022	07-Dec-2021 16:59	08-Dec-2021 10:30

Shahriar Sharif Khan
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GD-2130