



Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia Ltd, and Zubair Ahmed, chief executive officer of Hishab, exchange signed documents of an agreement at the Bank Asia Tower at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka recently. Hishab, an artificial intelligence company, has provided technical support for voice banking service, which will be conducted by an AI-run telephony artificial neural network under the agreement. Mohammad Borhanuddin, Md Sazzad Hossain, SM Iqbal Hossain, and Alamgir Hossain, deputy managing directors of the bank, and Fayadan Hossain, chief operating officer of Hishab, and Mio Ahmed, chief sales officer, were present.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA



UCB

Arif Quadri, acting managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd, inaugurates the bank's 210th and 211th branches at Bhanga, Faridpur and Arpara, Magura, respectively, yesterday. N Mustafa Tarek and ATM Tahmiduzzaman, deputy managing directors, and Javed Iqbal, senior executive vice-president, were present.

Latifur, Shahnaz honoured again for exemplary tax compliance

FROM PAGE B1
This year, the NBR honoured Shahnaz as one of the largest taxpayers in the country in the women category. In 2017, the NBR honoured Latifur's family as Kar Bahadur (tax icon) along with 83 other families.

Md Kamrul Hassan, chief financial officer of Transcom Ltd, received the tax cards, crests and certificates of honour on behalf of Latifur and Shahnaz at an event at the Officers' Club Dhaka from Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, respectively.

Kamal inaugurated the event, organised by the NBR to recognise and celebrate tax compliance for the 11th consecutive year.

Besides, for the sixth consecutive year, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Prothom Alo Editor Matiuir Rahman became the top taxpayers in the journalist category. Matiuir received a tax card, crest and certificate of honour as well.

ASM Nazrul Islam, manager for corporate affairs and tax at The Daily Star, received the recognition on behalf of Mahfuz Anam.

The NBR recognised two sister concerns of Transcom Group -- Mediastar and Transcraft

Ltd, the owning companies of Prothom Alo and its printer Transcraft -- as the top taxpaying firms in the print and electronic media category.

The two companies have been receiving the accolade as the biggest taxpayers since 2015-16, when the NBR decided to broaden the list of the largest taxpayers to honour them with tax cards and encourage compliance among taxpayers.

Matiur received the tax card on behalf of Mediastar, while Kamrul Hassan accepted it on behalf of Transcraft.

Among journalists, MA Malek, editor

of Chattogram-based daily Dainik Azadi, Faridur Reza, managing director of Channel i, and Abdul Muqeed Majumdar, a director of Channel i, were recognised as the highest taxpayers for the 2020-21 income year.

Malek received the award while Shykh Seraj, a director of Channel i, received the recognition on behalf of Faridur Reza, and Abdur Rashid Majumder, chairman of Channel i, received the award on behalf of Muqeed.

Somoy Media and East West Media Group were also named as the highest taxpayers in the print and electronic media category.

Provision shortfall at banks worsens

FROM PAGE B1
"We will try to keep the provision before the deadline expires," Rahman said.

The central bank has also given permission to Dhaka Bank to meet the provision shortfall of Tk 191 crore in the four years to 2022. The bank plans to reach the target before the deadline.

"The shortfall was larger in the past than the existing figure. We have already strengthened our provision base," said Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank.

Office of the Project Director
Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project
BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Public Administration			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC)			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project			
4	Procuring entity code	N/A			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for tender	Goods			
7	Invitation ref No	05.01.2672.248.07.069.21/112			
8	Date	23/11/2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	OTM (National)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GOB)			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project / Programme code	223014500			
13	Project / Programme name	Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project			
14	Tender package No.	GD-06			
15	Tender Package Name	Supplying of wooden, steel furniture & curtain for TV room & dormitory office room at BPATC, Savar, Dhaka.			
16	Tender Publication Date	25/11/2021			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	22/12/2021			
	Date	Time			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	23/12/2021 02.00 pm			
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	23/12/2021 02.30 pm			
20	Name & Address of the office				
	Selling tender document	Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.			
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.			
	Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.			
21	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	This IFT is open for all eligible reputed contractors who have the following eligibility criteria as mentioned below: (a). Tenderer shall have a minimum of Five (05) years of general experience in the supply of wooden & steel furniture of goods and related services. (b). The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor or subcontractor or management contractor at least 01 (one) contract of similar nature of works, i.e. any wooden & steel furniture supply successfully completed within the last Five (05) years with a value of at least Tk 1.50 crore of government/semi-government/autonomous bodies /private organization in Bangladesh. (c). In case of work done any Govt./Semi-Govt organization/ Autonomous bodies certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer. (d). In case of the work done under Private Organization the certifying authority shall be woner/client/user and the same shall have to be authenticated by the Executive Engineer of PWD of the concerned area of installation. (e). The required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk 8.50 crore for within the last five (05) years. (f). The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities shall be Tk 1.70 crore document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. (g). Up-to-date valid trade license, income tax clearance certificate from the NBR with TIN & e- BIN registration certificate (h) Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderer are shown in TDS & PCC of tender documents.			
22	Brief description of goods	TV Troly, Chair, Steel Almirah, Table, Steel File Cabinet, Key-Box(Modern), Curtain etc.			
23	Brief description of related services	TV Troly, Chair, Steel Almirah, Table, Steel File Cabinet, Key-Box(Modern), Curtain etc.			
24	Price of tender document (Tk)				
	Identification of package	Location	Tender document price	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	Supplying of wooden, steel furniture & curtain for TV room & dormitory office room at BPATC, Savar, Dhaka.	BPATC, Savar, Dhaka	4,000/-	10,00,000/-	3 Month
25	Name of official inviting tender		Md. Mofazzal Hossain		
26	Designation of official inviting tender		Project Director		
27	Address of official inviting tender		Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.		
28	Contact details of official inviting tender		Telephone: 02-224446623	Email: etcbpatc@gmail.com	
29	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

(Md. Mofazzal Hossain)
Project Director
Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project

GD-2150

New Uber features to enhance safety

FROM PAGE B4
Uber has also launched a "Moto Safety" checklist, to be followed by riders and drivers before every trip.

The initiative marks the tech giant's fifth anniversary in the Bangladesh market.

Since its launch in 2016, the platform has served more than 4.7 million passengers and brought on board 2 lakh driver partners.

Uber's operation took a blow following the emergence of the pandemic when lengthy lockdowns prompted a majority of motorcycle drivers to go offline. It closed down its popular service Uber Eats in the middle of last year.

Among its rivals, Pathao also suffered heavily while Shohoz has not resumed its service since March last year.

However, Uber launched multiple new services such as Uber Connect, a package delivery service which enables customers to transport packages from the safety of their homes, and Uber Rentals, which allows riders to book affordable multi-hour, multi-stop travel options.

In August this year, it announced a partnership with bKash to provide contactless payment options to riders to help sustain physical distancing.

Uber's "Dynamic Pricing" Model

On how Uber's "dynamic pricing" model works, the official said customers find that the price was different from the cost of the same trip a few days earlier or the same day because of its "dynamic pricing" algorithm.

The "dynamic pricing" adjusts rates based on a number of variables, such as time and distance of the route, traffic and the current rider-to-driver demand.

Sometimes, this can mean a temporary increase in price during particularly busy periods.

When demand increases, Uber uses variable costs to encourage more drivers to get on the road and help deal with the number of rider requests. When it notifies passengers of an Uber fare increase, it notifies drivers as well.

"Drivers get the additional fare charged during busy hours, and our rate never crosses fares set by the government in the taxicab guideline," said an official.

No plan to raise fertiliser price: Razzaque

FROM PAGE B1
Besides, the European country will provide technical assistance to set up international standard labs, conserve onion and potato, innovate climate-tolerant crop varieties, and construct greenhouses and glasshouses.

He said the Dutch private sector will also assist in using advanced technologies in agriculture production and extend technical support for making machinery and training and higher education for developing human resources.

To this end, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be signed with Wageningen University & Research soon, the minister said.

Another MoU will be signed between the Food Standards Agency of the United Kingdom and the agriculture ministry of Bangladesh to provide technical assistance to set up international standard laboratories and inter-laboratory testing validation.

In addition, the process of connecting with British supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, Asda and Tesco through the British Bangladesh Chamber is underway.

"We want to make the agriculture sector profitable and commercial. In order to do this, it is necessary to expand the local and international market by increasing the export of agricultural products through setting up of agro-processing industries," Razzaque said.

"This will ensure fair prices for farmers."

Wig-making makes a difference for rural women

FROM PAGE B4
Lima gets her raw materials, such as rubber and human hair, from suppliers in Dhaka. The finished wigs are sent to the capital and then exported to China.

Every woman trained in the craft can make two wigs in about three days and is paid Tk 300 for each cap. Lima earns about Tk 25,000 to Tk 30,000 each month.

Nasima Begum, a worker, told The Daily Star that she worked from 8:00am to 5:00pm every day to bring home about Tk 5,000 to Tk 7,000 every month.

"We are benefiting from this opportunity to make wigs," she said.

Echoing the same, fellow wig-maker Jasmin Khatun said: "Lima trained us and gave us an opportunity to become self-reliant."

Considering the growing demand for wigs, many women from neighbouring regions now come to the workshop to receive training.

"But I don't have enough space at my factory to house them all. I am not financially strong enough to expand the factory as required," Lima said, adding that the case would be different if she gets financial assistance from the government or the private sector.

Sumon Das, upazila nirbahi officer of Phulbari, said that the upazila administration would help Lima secure public or private investment as needed.

"This is because her initiative is helping many women in the village become self-reliant."

Office of the Project Director
Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project
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Invitation for Tender

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3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project			
4	Procuring entity code	N/A			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for tender	Goods			
7	Invitation ref No	05.01.2672.248.07.069.21/111			
8	Date	23/11/2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	OTM (National)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GOB)			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project / Programme code	223014500			
13	Project / Programme name	Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project			
14	Tender package No.	GD-05			
15	Tender Package Name	Supplying of Wooden Furniture for Dormitory Building at BPATC, Savar, Dhaka.			
16	Tender Publication Date	25/11/2021			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	22/12/2021			
	Date	Time			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	23/12/2021 02.00 pm			
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	23/12/2021 02.30 pm			
20	Name & Address of the office				
	Selling tender document	Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.			
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.			
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22	Brief description of goods	Box Khat, Bed Side Table, Reading Table, Handle Type Chair, Single Seated Sofa Set, Mattress, Toshok, Pillow with cover, Bed Sheet, Blanket with cover.			
23	Brief description of related services	Box Khat, Bed Side Table, Reading Table, Handle Type Chair, Single Seated Sofa Set, Mattress, Toshok, Pillow with cover, Bed Sheet, Blanket with cover.			
24	Price of tender document (Tk)				
	Identification of package	Location	Tender document price	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	Supplying of Wooden Furniture for Dormitory Building at BPATC, Savar, Dhaka.	BPATC, Savar, Dhaka	4,000/-	41,50,000/-	4 Month
25	Name of official inviting tender		Md. Mofazzal Hossain		
26	Designation of official inviting tender		Project Director		
27	Address of official inviting tender		Office of the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC Project, BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343.		
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GD-2149