

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.31%	▲ 0.18%	\$1,790.30 (per ounce)	\$76.36 (per barrel)	▲ 0.27%	▼ 1.63%	▼ 1.44%	▼ 0.04%	BUY TK 84.85	94.64	113.43	13.06
6,795.51	11,949.82			57,260.58	28,283.92	3,120.58	3,562.70	SELL TK 85.85	98.44	117.23	13.74

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BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021, AGRAHAYAN 15, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Inflation climbs to 12-month high in October

Non-food inflation highest in 62 months

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Inflation jumped to a 12-month high in October as elevated levels of commodity costs in the international markets translated into higher consumer prices in Bangladesh, official figures showed yesterday.

The Consumer Prices Index rose 11 basis points to 5.7 per cent from September's 5.59 per cent and was up for the third consecutive month, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The increase in the general inflation was driven by non-food inflation, which surged to a 62-month high in October.

The non-food inflation rocketed to 6.48 per cent last month from 6.19 per cent a month ago. This has been the highest since August 2016 when it stood at 7 per cent, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

Rising inflation in Bangladesh is largely the victim of the record levels of commodity prices in the global markets as demand recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, an unprecedented level of shipping charges, and supply constraints pushed up the prices of essentials, mounting pressures on the import-dependent countries.

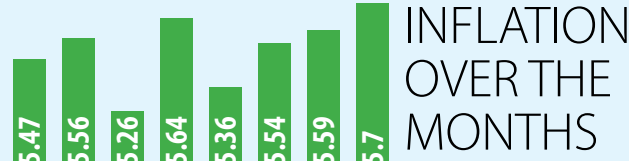
For example, the freight rate for a 40-foot container to European ports from Chattogram has reached the \$15,000 level, which was hovering around \$1,500-\$2,000

INFLATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

(In October); SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN AND BBS

6.2pc in US, highest in more than 3 decades
4.2pc in UK, highest in a decade
4.1pc in EU, a 13-year high
2.6pc in France, highest since 2008
1.5pc in China, highest in 13 months
5.7pc in Bangladesh, highest in 12 months

A Pew Research Center analysis of data from 46 nations finds that the third-quarter 2021 inflation rate was higher in most of them (39) than in the pre-pandemic third quarter of 2019



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one year back, according to an analyst.

Freight costs to the major US ports increased five-fold compared to that of last year. In case of imports, the rate has doubled in recent times.

Bangladesh is not the only country that was hit with the higher inflation rate.

For example, the annual rate of inflation in the United States rose to 6.2 per cent in October, the highest in more than three decades.

The jump in inflation to 4.2 per cent in the UK was the sharpest in a decade. Inflation in the eurozone is now 4.1 per cent, a 13-year high, according to the Guardian newspaper.

In France, October's annual inflation rate was 2.6 per cent, the highest since

2008, pushed up by a 20 per cent surge in energy prices. China's annual inflation rate rose to 1.5 per cent, the highest for 13 months.

Washington-based Pew Research Center's analysis of data from 46 nations finds that the third-quarter 2021 inflation rate was higher in most of them, or 39 countries, than in the pre-pandemic third quarter of 2019.

READ MORE ON B3

M&S plans to buy more high-end garments from Bangladesh

Says its country chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A few years ago, Marks & Spencer (M&S) could not find a single factory in Bangladesh that could produce suits in bulk quantity although the country was already one of the largest apparel exporters in the world.

But things have changed as the local suppliers have diversified products and are making high-end items alongside basic garments. This shift has turned Bangladesh into the largest suits sourcing destination for the British retail giant.

Today, Bangladesh is the largest sourcing destination for M&S for apparel items, and the company buys more than \$1.2 billion worth of garment items from the country every year.

And Shwapna Bhowmick, country manager of M&S, said she wanted to buy more garment items from Bangladesh because of the commitments of the suppliers and the diversification of products.

"We are no longer interested in basic garments," she said, suggesting suppliers produce more value-added items to receive higher prices.

She was speaking at a session on the garment industry at the two-day International Investment Summit organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden in Dhaka.

Bhowmick also suggested for branding Bangladesh and easing of doing business.

Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), called for signing free trade agreements, preferential trade agreements and other regional trade agreements with trading partners to retain the duty-free export facility after

READ MORE ON B3

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2021 BANGLADESH

KSRM

নির্মাণ নিয়ে সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের ফ্রি পরামর্শ নিতে ১৬৭৪৯

Stock turnover slips to 7-month low

BB, BSEC to sit over issues of dispute today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's stock market index yesterday broke out of a fall lasting six days but investor participation fell to a seven-month low for apprehensions over today's meeting between the central bank and the stock market regulator.

Stock investors hope for Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to reach consensus on decisions taken regarding two issues.

One is over the participation of banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) in a BSEC capital market stabilisation fund, according to a central bank invitation letter on the meeting.

The other is a BSEC order allowing dividends from profits of the recent financial year even if there are accumulated losses.

The BSEC passed a rule on the stabilisation fund in June, saying it would be formed using undistributed and unclaimed dividends of listed companies. It had ordered all listed companies to submit their unclaimed dividends.

The central bank, however, opposed the



BSEC decision.

Listed banks and non-bank financial institutions cannot comply with the stock market regulator's orders on the capital market stabilisation fund as it is inconsistent with the Bank Company Act, the BB officials said in a meeting with the BSEC last September.

In the same meeting, the central bank also opposed another BSEC direction.

READ MORE ON B3



COLLECTED

Citizens rush to submit their income tax returns yesterday, just a day before the November 30 deadline. From December 1, a 2 per cent monthly fine will be imposed on the payable amount of tax for delayed submissions. The photo was taken from Taxes Zone-4 in Dhaka.



Production was stopped at Khulna Newsprint Mills about 20 years ago for continued losses and capital shortages. Amid overgrown weeds and bushes all around, now it looks like a ghost town, with machinery rusting away and buildings losing strength. The photo was taken recently.

HABIBUR RAHMAN

KHULNA NEWSPRINT MILLS

Shut 20 years ago, yet spent Tk 33cr

No headway in using the mill, its land

DIPANKAR ROY, SUKANTA HALDER and ASIFUR RAHMAN

For many in their 30s and above, the word newsprint occupies a good part of memories of their schooldays.

Its thinness-induced fragility, the risk of damage for its high fluid absorption capacity and the need for extra care to prevent it from falling apart remain still fresh in their memories.

The only comparative advantage was the price gap with offset or printing paper, which prompted many budget-conscious, low-income parents to buy newsprint for their children.

Today, however, the availability of newsprint has become rare. The mill that had been making the paper remains shut for two decades.

Only a handful of security guards and some officials of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) look after the property of Khulna Newsprint Mills, where once 2,500 workers were employed.

"When I joined here after the Liberation War, the mill was full of labourers and staff. Production ran 24 hours a day," said Md Asaduzzaman, serving as a security guard since the '80s.

It was so busy with activities that time flew by and it was hard to deduce

whether it was day or night, he said. But now the silence was deafening, even scary at night, he added.

Asaduzzaman was right. Full of bushes all around, Khulna Newsprint Mills now initially looks like a ghost town. Giant machinery lies scattered inside the premises while buildings are losing their strengths.

Giant boilers where the raw materials were once boiled have been left out of order for a lack of maintenance.

And the bank of the Bhairab river southwest of Khulna city, where the mill is located, also does not see movement of vessels coming from the Sundarbans with raw materials.

READ MORE ON B2



Md Sirajul Hoque, deputy managing director of Social Islami Bank Ltd, cuts a ribbon in Dhaka to virtually inaugurate the bank's 98th sub-branch on the Begumganj intersection, Noakhali yesterday. Md Shamsul Hoque, deputy managing director of the bank, and Abdul Hannan Khan, company secretary, were present.



ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury, managing director of Union Bank Ltd, cuts a ribbon in Dhaka to virtually inaugurate a couple of sub-branches at the College Gate in Tongi and Chhatak in Sunamganj yesterday. Md Habibur Rahman, additional managing director of the bank, and Hasan Iqbal and Md Nazrul Islam, deputy managing directors, were present.

Shut 20 years ago, yet spent Tk 33cr

FROM PAGE B1
The crane used to unload goods from vessels is rusting away. And the walkways on the mill premises, which once was abuzz with busy workers and the sounds of their footsteps, have all gone silent.

The mill was established on 88.68 acres of land in 1957 thanks to the availability of Gewa wood and labourers in surrounding districts. It began commercial production in 1959.

At that time, the mill had an annual production capacity of 48,000 tonnes. The mill authorities said the venture had been profitable for a long time. It began to suffer losses since 1992.

In fiscal year (FY) 1995-96, many private sector businesspeople started importing paper from abroad following the withdrawal of a 75 per cent import duty on newsprint.

As a result, demand for the mill's less bright, 52 grammes per square feet newsprint decreased. In addition, the mill's losses continued to increase due to the government setting paper prices without adjusting to the cost of production, a crisis of working capital and raw materials and increase in furnace oil prices.

Between 1995 and 2002, the mill incurred a loss of Tk 284 crore, according to mill sources.

Production was stopped on November 30, 2002 due to continued losses and capital shortages, leaving about 3,000 officers and workers without a job.

However in the following 20 years or so, at least Tk 33 crore was spent for paying salaries of around 50 people, including five permanent officers and 30 security guards, who still remain employed; electricity bills, water pump and guest house maintenance and office expenses.

During a recent visit to the mill, a notice dated 2002 was seen still hanging on a bulletin board.

The production and marketing department issued the notice, mentioning that they had halted production due to problems in the marketing process.

It seems hopes were still flickering for the mill to resume operations sometime in the near future but the moment never came about.

Officials say the mill's machineries were getting damaged due to negligence and carelessness. There are also allegations that some machineries were also stolen.

A security guard said burglars on engine boats arrive at night over the

Bhairab river and grab parts and equipment.

"Guards cannot prevent them as they are well equipped with sharp weapons and guns," he added. Khokon Chandra Das, the mill's managing director, denies equipment has been stolen. "It is not true," he said.

BANK OWED TK 400CR

While the mill was in operation, a loan of Tk 57 crore was taken from the corporate branch of Sonali Bank in 1997 by mortgaging the whole piece of land the mill stood onto procure raw materials.

The debt stood at Tk 404.87 crore on June 30, 2021, including unrealised interest, after only Tk 56 crore being paid recently, according to an official of Sonali Bank's Khulna corporate branch.

The mill is the bank's "biggest defaulter", he said.

Despite the mortgage, the BCIC sold some 50 acres of the land to North-West Power Generation Company, which is constructing a power plant on it, for Tk 586 crore, according to a BCIC source.

Seeking anonymity, a senior official of Sonali Bank's Khulna corporate branch told The Daily Star, "We have not taken any action against the mill authorities because the power plant is under the priority project of the prime minister."

According to the mill authorities, the mill was listed with a privatisation commission on February 8, 2005 for denationalisation. They invited tenders for sale of the factory twice but the initiative fell through.

They said the mill's ownership was handed back to the industries ministry in August 2008.

A committee was formed the following year to reopen the mill and it conducted technical surveys.

The committee proposed to install three offset or printing paper production plants at a cost of Tk 422 crore. The proposal was not accepted by the government, officials said.

Then, in 2014, the Planning Commission sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office to set up an industrial park there. There has been no progress on this regard.

The BCIC proposed a Tk 855 crore project in FY 2016-17 to build a new factory. The bid was rejected too.

NEW FACTORY PLANS

Now the BCIC plans to set up a new factory on the premises.

It will verify the technical and financial feasibility of the plan within the next four months through a consulting firm before starting the

implementation work.

The state-run corporation has recently conducted an internal survey.

An official related to the survey said the land was suitable for setting up three types of industries – a paper or starch mill or an active pharmaceutical ingredient park.

Recently, a letter signed by Shekhar Bhattacharjee, general manager of the BCIC, asked them to prepare five types of reports, comprising digital surveys and soil and water analysis, to take up the new project.

Contacted, Khokon Chandra Das, the mill's managing director, said the factory failed at many issues including keeping pace with time.

"We declared the out-of-work machineries as scrap, and preparing to sell those. On the other hand, the plans to set up a new factory are undergoing," he said.

Dilwar Hossain, a resident of a neighbourhood adjacent to the mill, said successive governments made promises of reopening the mill with various schemes in the past.

"None came true. If the mill is commissioned, the people of the area will benefit directly and indirectly," he said.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Economist Zaid Bakht suggested exploring public-private partnerships (PPP) to make better use of the state mills. He said state mills should be permanently shut down if they have no use or bring no benefit to the state.

"We have the bitter experience regarding the PPP, but if we could follow the proper process, it is better to re-launch the mills under the PPP," he said.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the mill should first be audited by an international audit firm to determine its assets and liabilities.

He said since the place was ready and has facilities, if the government wants, they can give the place to Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority for setting up an industrial enclave.

However, it should be kept in mind that no entrepreneur will agree to set up an industry on this land again if there is a large bank debt of behind this land, added Moazzem.

If reopened through modernisation, the mill could play an important role in the country's paper industry, said Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Samannay Committee.

He demanded immediate commissioning of the mill.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Urban Development Directorate
82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka
Website: www.udd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.45.0000.000.14.051.17.117
Date: 29/11/2021

Request for Expressions of Interest (Re Advertisement)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
2	Agency	Urban Development Directorate.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, 'Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism, Urban Development Directorate.
4	Procuring entity code	1320401
5	Title of service	Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism".
6	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
7	Expression of interest for selection of	Consulting Firm Lump sum
8	EOI Ref. No.	25.45.0000.000.14.051.17.117
9	Date	29/11/2021

KEY INFORMATION

10	Procurement method	Selection under a Fixed Budget.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

11	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget	GOB
12	Development partners	N/A.	

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

13	Project code	1320401-223012800
14	Project name	Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism.
15	EOI closing date and time	Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism" on 15/12/2021 at 12:30pm.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

16 Brief description of assignment
Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan. Acquisition of Close range aerial photograph of about 15000 acre, 3D digitization, Collection of GCP, DEM, Inundation simulation Model, 3D mesh model/Ortho-photo, Close range aerial video etc.

17 Experience, resources and delivery capacity required.

Name of services	Equipment and software	Experience and logistics	Professionals
Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism"	Image Processing software, GIS, Photogrammetric, Work Station Complete set.	a) Firms/with general experience of 5 years. b) Image processing experience.	Photogrammetric expert, GIS expert.

Other resources include office space, financial and managerial strength, computer and other logistics.

18 Other details
Interested consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit EOI containing printed brochures (showing organizational identity and background), legal documents showing managerial and financial standing (according to PPA 2006 and PPR 2008), Staffing and inventory of resources and logistics confirming the firm's capabilities to provide the required services and proof of income tax return of last year and updated VAT return certificate. In case of JVCA, necessary legal documents must be provided with the EOI. The firm/JVCA will submit 1 (one) original and another true copy of EOI.
Interested consulting Firms are invited to submit EOI for Services mentioned above **Survey by acquisition of satellite Image** for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism".

19 Association with foreign firms is
Not encouraged.

Name of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism"	Amtali, Taltoli, Barguna Sadar, Pathargata, Galachipa, Rangabali, Kalapara Upazila, Barisal Regional Office and Dhaka Head Office	January, 2022	January, 2023*

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

21	Name of official inviting EOI	Sharif Mohammad Tariquzzaman.
22	Designation of official inviting EOI	Senior Planner & Project Director, "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism (PKCP)".
23	Address of official inviting EOI	Room No. 612, 5th Floor, Urban Development Directorate, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
24	Contact details of official inviting EOI	Phone No. +88-02-9556234; Fax No. +88-02-9557868
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs without assigning any reason. * As per approved DPP, project duration is up to December, 2021. The project duration will be extended subject to approval of Government.	

Sharif Mohammad Tariquzzaman
Senior Planner & Project Director
"Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism"

GD-2196

Bangladesh a favourable destination for Turkish investors

FROM PAGE B4
In FY2020-21, Bangladesh's exports to Turkey stood at \$499.79 million.

And although the transcontinental nation sourced just 0.21 per cent of its imports from Bangladesh in the current fiscal year, the country could be a key focus for trade and investment under Turkey's Asia Anew initiative, he said.

However, Hulya Gedik, chairperson of the Turkey-Bangladesh Business Council, said Bangladesh is not a well-known investment destination among Turkish people due to a lack of communication even though the council opened a Bangladesh Business Centre in Turkey this end.

Mustafa Osman Turan, Turkey's ambassador to Bangladesh, said Bangladesh wants to become a developed nation by 2041 and Turkey aims to be the world's 10th largest economy but without a sustainable partnership, neither goal can be achieved.

Bangladesh's ICT, pharmaceutical and light engineering sectors have good potential to attract foreign direct investment, he added. Kenan Kalayci, commercial counsellor of the Turkish embassy, said trade between Bangladesh and Turkey increased by about 20 per cent in the last nine months.

Considering the current growth rate, Kalayci expects bilateral trade will soon reach the \$2-billion mark.

Gedik also met Md Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), earlier in the day. "We are interested to explore trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh in areas such as cyber-security, jute, fruits and vegetables," Gedik said.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্‌ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা- ১২০৮

সংশোধনী

গত ১০/০৮/২০২১ইং তারিখে দৈনিক সমকাল এবং দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/তালিকাভুক্তি/দরপত্র/২০২১/২৮৬ তারিখ- ০৯/০৮/২০২১ইং নিম্নরূপ সংশোধন করা হলো।

দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় এবং জমা প্রদানের তারিখ ১ (এক) মাস বর্ধিত করে অর্থাৎ ৩০/১১/২০২১ইং এর পরিবর্তে ৩০/১২/২০২১ইং করা হল।

দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Government Debendra College, Manikganj
www.debendracollege.gov.bd

Memo No. GDC.2021.CEDP-1157.W-02/146
Date: 29/11/2021

e-Tender Notice 02/2021-2022

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 supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	633370	Renovation of Classrooms, Seminar, Science Laboratories and Students Common-rooms at Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj (W-02)	15-Dec-2021 13:00	15-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 14-Dec-2021 16:00.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim
Principal
Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj
Phone: 996610404
E-mail: debendracollege@gmail.com

GD-2193

Walton is a mirror of emerging Bangladesh: Momen

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Walton Group is a mirror of Bangladesh's success as an emerging nation, according to Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"This is exemplary for other countries as a Walton factory, they can practically see and feel the country's industrial progress," he said during a recent visit to Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd in Gazipur. So, Bangladesh can be proud to say that other than significant infrastructure development in the country, state-of-the-art and sophisticated industries have risen as well.

"I have seen factories in many countries such as the US and Japan but I have rarely seen such an advanced environment like that of Walton, which seems to know in advance what the future holds," Momen said.

"This is exemplary for other entrepreneurs," the foreign minister added. Golam Murshed, chief executive officer of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, said he expects the company will be partner to Bangladesh in its goal to become a developed country by 2041.

SM Shamsul Alam, vice-chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and Sabiha Jarin Orona, a director, welcomed the



SM Shamsul Alam, vice-chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd, hands over a crest to Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, during a visit at the Walton factory at Chandra, Gazipur recently.

foreign minister and other guests at the factory complex alongside Murshed.

They then enjoyed a video documentary on Walton.

They visited Walton's well-equipped product display centre and manufacturing facilities for refrigerators, air conditioners,

televisions, computers, smartphones, elevators, and so on.

Md Imdadul Haque, assistant personal secretary to the foreign minister; Humayun Kabir and Alamgir Alam Sarker, deputy managing directors of Walton Hi-Tech Industries; Liakat Ali, deputy managing

director of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd; Col (ret'd) SM Shahadat Alam, Uday Hakim, Yusuf Ali and Easir Al-Imran, senior executive directors of Walton Hi-Tech Industries; Abdullah Al-Mamun and Shahjada Salim, executive directors of the company, were also present.



Md Abul Hossain

Md Rabiul Ahsan

BJMA gets new office bearers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) got new office bearers for a two-year term yesterday.

Of them, Md Abul Hossain, managing director of DS Jute Mills Ltd, and Md Rabiul Ahsan, managing director of Jute Textile Mills Ltd, were elected chairman and vice-chairman of the BJMA respectively, according to a press release.

Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman Patwari, director of Alijan Jute Mills Ltd; SK Akram Hossain, managing director of Afil Jute Mills Ltd; Giridhari Lal Modi, managing director of Uttara Jute Fibres and Industries Ltd; Bijoy Kumar Modi, chairman of Nabarun Jute Mills Ltd; MA Raihan, director of Nowapara Jute Mills Ltd; Md Sarwar Hossain, managing director of Reliance Jute Mills Ltd; Mohammad Shahjahan, managing director of Madina Jute Industries Ltd; and Md Nazmul Huq, director of Sharif Jute Mills Ltd, were elected as members of the executive committee.

Spanish inflation soars to 29-year high

AFP, Madrid

Spanish inflation accelerated in November to its highest level in nearly three decades on the back of rising food and gas prices, official data showed Monday.

Consumer prices jumped by 5.6 per cent, up from a 5.4 per cent increase in October, according to preliminary figures from national statistics institute.

That is its fastest pace since September 1992, when the rate was 5.8 per cent.

The surge in inflation in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy was due largely to a spike in food prices, followed by higher gas prices, the statistics office said. Electricity costs, however, declined slightly after a month-long acceleration, it added.

As in other European Union nations, inflation in Spain has risen since the start of the year after consumer prices declined during most of 2020 due to the economic impact of pandemic lockdowns.

In October, eurozone inflation reached 4.1 per cent, well above the European Central Bank's target of two percent and equal to a high set in July 2008.

But the bank believes eurozone inflation will peak in November and is set to gradually slow next year as supply bottlenecks and the energy crunch ease, board member Isabel Schnabel said earlier this month.

Stock turnover slips to 7-month low

FROM PAGE B1

The commission had allowed listed companies to declare cash dividends from profits made in the just-concluded financial year even if there were accumulated losses.

This is not consistent with the bank company act, the financial institutions act and international norms, according to the central bank.

Now, the issues would be discussed in a meeting where a deputy governor of the central bank, who is responsible for looking after the off-site supervision department, would chair the session.

A stock broker said the two regulators should give directions taken in consensus after discussions on the issues because investors' confidence eroded with the news of their opposing stances.

"Now, investors are hopeful," he said. So they halted their sales which sent the index up. However, most were cautious, preferring to wait to see what is going to be said after the discussion meeting, he said.

Due to their lower participation, turnover of the Dhaka bourse dropped 15 per cent to Tk 708 crore, down from Tk 837

crore a day earlier.

It has not been this low since April 19 this year, when the turnover was Tk 697 crore.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), edged up 21 points, or 0.39 per cent, to 6,795.

At the DSE today, 238 stocks advanced, 89 declined and 45 remained unchanged.

Acme Pesticides continued to top the gainers' list, rising 9.96 per cent, followed by Sena Kalyan Insurance, Active Fine Chemicals, Familytex Bangladesh and Generation Next.

Desh Garments shed the most, dropping 4.97 per cent, followed by Emerald Oil, Beach Hatchery, Shurwid Industries and Aramit Cement.

Stocks of Beximco were traded the most, worth Tk 83 crore, followed by Genex Infosys, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Brac Bank and Delta Life Insurance.

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also rose yesterday. The CASPI, the main index of the CSE, went up 39 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 19,877.

Among 285 stocks to undergo trade, 150 rose, 111 fell and 24 remained the same.

M&S plans to buy more high-end garments from Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

the graduation of the country from a least-developed country to a developing nation in 2026.

Currently, \$25 billion worth of garment items, out of a total of \$34 billion, are shipped under the LDC category, he said. "So, retaining the trade advantage is important for Bangladesh after graduation."

An additional \$5 billion to \$7 billion worth of investment is required in the garment sector to attain the country's export targets by 2030, he said.

He expected Bangladesh's share in the global garment market to cross 7 per cent soon from 6.26 per cent last year as international retailers and brands were coming up with an increased volume of orders.

Mohammad Ali Khokon, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said after two years, Bangladesh would not need to import yarn anymore as local investors were making fresh investment and expanding their capacity in the spinning sector.

He called for more policy supports for the growth of the primary textile sector,

which includes the spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing industries.

"Many have been waiting for more than two years to get gas connections to run factories."

Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said many factories were facing a shortage of workers and called for producing skilled workforce through technical and vocational training centres.

Anwar ul Alam Chowdhury, a former president of the BGMEA, said in the post-LDC era, the garment sector would not lose businesses as the government was lobbying major trading partners to strike deals to retain the duty privilege.

Atiqul Islam, mayor of the Dhaka North City Corporation and a former president of the BGMEA, credited the people, power, port, and political stability for the amazing growth of the garment business.

He hoped that congestion in Dhaka would ease within two or three years as the government was implementing a number of mega projects, such as the metro rail and the elevated expressway projects.

Inflation climbs to 12-month high in October

FROM PAGE B1

In Bangladesh, food inflation is at a higher level for the elevated commodity prices in the international markets. It was up one basis point at 5.22 per cent in October.

This is because rice price has not gone down despite higher imports in recent months and robust domestic production. Similarly, the prices of key essentials such as cooking oil and sugar are on the rise, while vegetable prices have not cooled despite the arrival of winter crops.

Inflation in rural areas was up four basis points at 5.81 per cent last month, while urban inflation soared by 25 basis points to 5.50 per cent, BBS data showed.

Zahid Hussain, an economist, attributed the jump in the headline inflation to both rising demand and cost.

"The demand is rising with increasing normalisation of economic activity following a persistent decline in virus infection rates. This unfolding of pent-up demand is probably a temporary phenomenon."

The inflation may increase further in the coming months as the 23 per cent price hike of diesel and kerosene on November 4 has already raised the transport cost of movement, both for individuals and goods. The government adjusted the energy

costs to help state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation recover losses from the surging global energy prices.

A finance ministry official says inflation usually goes up in the first two to three months after the fuel price is hiked.

Hussain says while the international commodity prices are currently easing, the knock-on effects of diesel and gas price adjustments and the subsequent increase in the transport fares have still not passed through the rest of the economy.


"I will, therefore, not be surprised if the rise in inflation continues for a few more months."

In Bangladesh, there are many essential items such as palm oil, soybean and wheat whose prices are set by the government.

"The commerce ministry should closely monitor the movements in import prices of these items and adjust them downwards because they have been declining recently," said Hussain.

The economist also urged the government to assess whether the practice of administered prices has produced the desired results.

"Even if we want to manage prices, it is best done through a formula-based pricing that makes the basis of pricing decisions very transparent and limits the use of bureaucratic discretion."



Barishal City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Barishal
www.barishalcity.gov.bd

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Memo No. BCC/CCAUD/233/2021		Date: 29/11/2021																												
1	Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry/Local Government Division.																												
2	Agency	Barishal City Corporation.																												
3	Procuring entity/purchaser name	Barishal City Corporation/SI. No. 13.1																												
4	Procuring entity	Barishal City Corporation.																												
5	Tender invitation No. and date	BCC/CCAUD/233/2021, Date: 29.11.2021																												
KEY INFORMATION																														
6	Procurement method	OTM, National Competitive Bidding (NCB).																												
FUNDING INFORMATION																														
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Government of Bangladesh) & KfW (German Development Bank) (The Government of Bangladesh has agreed to receive financing from the KfW toward the cost of the project: CCAUD-Barisal Component- Phase 1 via BMZ ID: 2014 67 984 & 2150 10 301).																												
PARTICULAR INFORMATION																														
8	Project name (if applicable)	Climate Change Adapted Urban Development (CCAUD) Programme for Barisal Component Phase-1.																												
9	Tender publication date	29.11.2021																												
10	Tender last selling date	28.12.2021 17.00hrs																												
11	Tender closing date and time	29.12.2021 14.00hrs																												
12	Tender opening date and time	29.12.2021 15.00hrs																												
13	Name and address of the office(s)	Address: Barishal City Corporation (BCC), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Barishal and Divisional Commissioner Office, Barishal.																												
	I - Selling tender document	Barishal City Corporation (BCC), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Barishal and Divisional Commissioner Office, Barishal.																												
	II - Receiving tender document	PD Office, Barishal City Corporation (BCC), Nagar Bhaban, Barishal, Bangladesh.																												
	III - Opening tender document	PD Office, Barishal City Corporation (BCC), Nagar Bhaban, Barishal, Bangladesh.																												
14	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	13.12.2021 at 15:30hrs. Due to COVID-19, pre-bid meeting will be conducted via a video conference.																												
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER																														
15	Eligibility of tenderer and others information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law of the Government. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh; and Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure as specified in the KfW's "Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries of January 2019" (refer to www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de "Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be acquired by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address of the Purchaser below. The document will be sent by Mail or can be picked up at BCC. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Minutes of Bid Opening will be distributed to all Bidders after one (1) day of the bid opening. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT as CD/BD/PO in favour of Mayor, Barishal City Corporation. Special terms & conditions are the part of the Schedule. Other eligibility requirements are mentioned in Tender Document. 																												
16	Qualification of tenderer	Similar work experience and qualification as defined in the tender documents.																												
17	Brief description of works	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Tender Package No./Ref. No.</th> <th>Name of the work</th> <th>Price of tender document (Tk)</th> <th>Location of works</th> <th>Tender security amount (Tk)</th> <th>Completion time in days</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>BCC-CCAUD-NCB-03</td> <td>Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Packages W2-6: Drainage Network Core Area 1</td> <td>9,000/=</td> <td>Barishal City Corporation area of Bangladesh</td> <td>1,800,000/=</td> <td>360 calendar days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>BCC-CCAUD-NCB-04</td> <td>Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Package W1, W10-11: Drainage Network Core Area 1 & 2</td> <td>8,000/=</td> <td></td> <td>1,600,000/=</td> <td>360 calendar days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>BCC-CCAUD-NCB-05</td> <td>Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Package W8-9, W12-14: Drainage Network Core Area 2</td> <td>10,000/=</td> <td></td> <td>2,000,000/=</td> <td>540 calendar days</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No.	Tender Package No./Ref. No.	Name of the work	Price of tender document (Tk)	Location of works	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days	1	BCC-CCAUD-NCB-03	Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Packages W2-6: Drainage Network Core Area 1	9,000/=	Barishal City Corporation area of Bangladesh	1,800,000/=	360 calendar days	2	BCC-CCAUD-NCB-04	Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Package W1, W10-11: Drainage Network Core Area 1 & 2	8,000/=		1,600,000/=	360 calendar days	3	BCC-CCAUD-NCB-05	Project Component 1: Expansion & Improvement of Storm Water Drains. Package W8-9, W12-14: Drainage Network Core Area 2	10,000/=		2,000,000/=	540 calendar days
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PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS																														
18	Name of official inviting tender	Muhammad Anisuzzaman.																												
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.																												
20	Address of official inviting tender	PD Office, BCC, Nagar Bhaban, Barishal, Bangladesh.																												
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 880-0431-64248 E-mail: pd.ccaudp.bcc@gmail.com																												
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceeding without assigning any reason whatsoever.																													

Muhammad Anisuzzaman
Project Director
CCAUD Program
Barishal City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Barishal, Bangladesh
Phone: 880-0431-64248
Electronic mail address: pd.ccaudp.bcc@gmail.com

GD-2191

Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Head office: House-22, Road-4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213

Notification for general information of the shareholders

This is for the kind information of all our valued shareholders that the Annual Report 2020-2021 of Bangladesh Lamps Limited, in soft form, including all relevant annual audited financial statements, management's discussion and analysis, report or certificate on compliance of the Corporate Governance Code and Directors' Report along with the notice of the 60th Annual General Meeting, etc., has been transmitted to the respective shareholders of the Company through their email ID available in their beneficial owner (BO) accounts with the depository.

The said Annual Report 2020-2021 is also available in the website of Bangladesh Lamps Limited (www.bll.com.bd).

This is in compliance with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/208/Admin/ 81, dated 20 June 2018.



Mohammad Ruhan Miah
Company Secretary

Dhaka
30-11-2021

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Logistics development policy needed to improve transport system

Speakers say at int'l investment summit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A comprehensive national logistics development policy is needed to enhance the local transport system and facilitate foreign investment, according to speakers at the International Investment Summit 2021.

"Streamlining the national logistics development mechanism is mandatory for developing countries to increase private investment," said Abul Kasem Khan, chairperson of the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD).

Both local and foreign companies demand efficient logistics support to ensure improved productivity, shorter lead-time, and facilitate expansion as per market needs.

"And considering Bangladesh's



Streamlining the national logistics development mechanism is necessary for developing countries to increase private investment, says an expert.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

growth projections, a world-class logistics ecosystem is required to improve the country's overall competitiveness," he added.

Khan made these comments while delivering the keynote in a session on "Transport and Logistics: The Right Move" at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden yesterday.

The two-day International Investment Summit, organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) under the sponsorship of International Finance Corporation (IFC), began on Sunday.

"We estimate that an injection of \$300 billion is needed for infrastructure development until 2031, when investment in the sector will reach 6 or 7 per cent of

the gross domestic product (GDP) from the 3.6 per cent at present," Khan said.

The cost of connectivity in Bangladesh is high due to inefficiencies in the sector, such as extreme traffic and port congestion.

Besides, the country's consistent GDP, trade and industrial growth has overburdened its transport ecosystem, he added.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said the government has taken necessary initiatives to develop port facilities and facilitate economic growth.

"This logistics support from the government will help enhance port efficiency and meet the

growing demand for warehouses," he added.

M Shahjahan, chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority, said they have taken a number of steps to increase the seaport's container and cargo handling capacity to meet the growing demand for such services.

Besides, new ports are being established while existing facilities are being upgraded, such as the new jetty and channel dredging at Chittagong port.

"But we need to invest in equipment to ensure global standard facilities at the Matarbari and Payra ports," he added.

Wan Chee Foong, regional chief executive officer for the Middle East and South Asia at

PSA International Pte Ltd, said Bangladesh needs to establish easy global connections as its economy is growing rapidly.

"So, regulatory support is essential to develop the local logistics sector as it would help the country grow its international trade volume," he added.

Md Abul Bashar, director general of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority, said the organisation is ready to facilitate foreign investment in all sectors, including power and healthcare, under joint ventures with local companies.

Bashar went on to say that financial investment is not the only element under the PPP model as technological and expert

support is also needed.

Syed Ershad Ahmed, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, said the local logistics sector is very poor and requires special attention to handle the growing demand for import-export facilities.

Citing that the warehouse at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is not sufficient considering current needs, Ahmed suggested expanding such facilities to expedite export.

Naquib Khan, president of the Bangladesh Supply Chain Management Society, moderated the session where Mahbul Alam, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also spoke.

Bangladesh a favourable destination for Turkish investors

Says 14-member delegation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has a favourable business environment for Turkish investors thanks to its congenial policy making and regulatory regimes, according to a 14-member delegation of the Turkey-Bangladesh Business Council.

"The construction, renewable energy, automobile, healthcare, shipbuilding, healthcare and home appliance industries are just some of the areas with potential for Turkish investment," said Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

Bangladesh's trade with Turkey amounted to about \$686.4 million in fiscal 2019-20, when exports made up around \$453 million of the total against \$233.4 million in imports.

"This reflects a positive trade balance in our favour," he added.

Rahman made these comments during a meeting with the 14-member delegation yesterday, as per a press release circulated by the DCCI.

READ MORE ON B2

BIDS conference on development begins tomorrow

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will organise a three-day international conference from tomorrow, which the public multi-disciplinary organisation believes will act as a platform for disseminating national and international research on socio-economic issues.

The Annual BIDS Conference on Development will be held at Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka's Gulshan, BIDS said in a statement issued yesterday.

The conference will also engage the wider community to envisage the next phase of development for Bangladesh following 50 years of independence.

Planning Minister MA Mannan is scheduled to attend the conference's inaugural session as chief guest while Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and the Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashur Rahman will act as special guests.

Thirteen keynote speeches and 27 academic papers will be presented in 10 sessions at the event, the statement said.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Nissan unveils \$18b electrification push

REUTERS, Yokohama

Nissan Motor Co announced it will spend 2 trillion yen (\$17.59 billion) over five years to accelerate vehicle electrification to catch up with competitors in one of the fastest growth areas for car makers.

This is the first time Japan's No 3 automaker, one of the world's first mass-market electric vehicle (EV) makers with its Leaf model more than a decade ago, is unveiling a comprehensive electrification plan.

Nissan will be spending twice as much as it did in the previous decade for a share of the EV market as rivals, including Toyota Motor Corp and newer entrants such as Tesla Inc, move ahead with their electric-car plans.

Nissan said on Monday it will launch 23 electrified vehicles by 2030, including 15 electric vehicles (EVs), and wants to reduce lithium-ion battery costs by 65 per cent within eight years.

It also plans to introduce potentially game-changing all solid-state batteries by March 2029.

Those commitments, Chief Executive Makoto Uchida said, would make EVs affordable to more drivers.

"We will advance our effort to democratise electrification," he said in an online presentation.

Shares of Nissan slid 5.6 per cent on Monday, underperforming its major rivals and compared to the benchmark Japan index's 1.6 per cent drop.

Some analysts were unimpressed with Nissan's plan, noting it was already behind its rivals in electrification.

Masayuki Otani, senior analyst at Securities Japan Ltd, also said auto shares were falling on Monday because of concerns the new coronavirus variant would squeeze production.

"Nissan's long term vision comes at a time when the market is perhaps not receptive to it. It can be said that it represents a huge increase in investment, it feels cautious," he said.

Nissan's electrification plan comes as it pulls back from a pursuit of sales volume pushed by former chairman Carlos Ghosn, slashing production capacity and model types by a fifth to improve profitability.

"It's very important for Nissan to show where we are going next, and today's plan is a vision and direction which is talking about the future," Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ashwani Gupta said when asked about the share price at the gallery at its headquarters in Yokohama where it is displaying only electrified vehicles.

Although still only a small portion of vehicles on the road, global electric car registrations in 2020 grew 41 per cent even as the overall car market contracted by almost a sixth, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

At the UN climate summit in Glasgow this month, major car makers, including General Motors and Ford Motor Co, signed a declaration that committed them to phase out fossil fuel vehicles by 2040.



A man wearing a face mask works on a production line manufacturing bicycle wheel rims at a factory, as the country is hit by the novel coronavirus outbreak, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China.

REUTERS/FILE

China's Nov factory activity likely contracted at slower pace

REUTERS, Beijing

China's factory activity is likely to have shrunk at a slower pace in November, as supply snags and power cuts eased, a Reuters poll showed, but persistent softness in the manufacturing sector points to a further slowing of the economy.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is expected to rise to 49.6 in November, up from 49.2 in October, according to the median forecast of 29 economists polled by Reuters on Monday.

A reading below 50 indicates contraction from the previous month.

Analysts have attributed the shallower contraction to the post-holiday uptick in production and the easing power cuts across most parts of the nation, although factors such as high raw material prices, a slowdown in the property sector and supply shortages continue to hamper the post-Covid recovery.

"We expect the NBS manufacturing PMI to stay in contraction territory at 49.6 in November versus 49.2 previously, as evidenced by still weak heavy industry manufacturing operation rates," said Jian Chang, chief China economist at Barclays, in a note on Friday.

The world's second-largest economy, which staged an impressive rebound from last year's pandemic slump, has lost momentum since the second half as it grapples with a slowing manufacturing sector, debt problems in the property market and Covid-19 outbreaks.

Analysts expect a further slowdown in fourth quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Power cuts have eased after policymakers moved to crack down on record-high coal prices.

The State Grid Corporation said on November 7 that power rationing has ended in most parts of the nation, except for temporary curbs on high-

emission industries in some provinces.

Premier Li Keqiang last week acknowledged that China's economy faces new downward pressures but said authorities should avoid an "aggressive" one-size-fits-all approach.

China's central bank will likely move cautiously on loosening monetary policy to bolster the economy, as slowing economic growth and soaring factory inflation fuel concerns over stagflation, policy sources said.

Factory gate inflation hit a 26-year high in October, further squeezing profit margins for producers and heightening stagflation concerns.

The official PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, and its sister survey on the services sector, will be released on Tuesday.

The private Caixin manufacturing PMI will be published on Wednesday. Analysts expect the headline reading will edge down slightly to 50.5 from 50.6 the previous month.

Omicron threatens oil demand recovery

REUTERS

Asian oil refiners' margins have slumped to the lowest in nearly five months amid worries that the Omicron coronavirus variant could deal another blow to oil demand recovery, already hit by rising Covid-19 cases in Europe.

Governments worldwide imposed travel curbs on travellers from southern Africa during the weekend to limit the spread of Omicron, first detected in South Africa.

Scientists are racing to find out whether it is more transmissible or causes more severe disease than existing variants. It comes as refiners' margins in Asia and Europe had already taken a hit in recent weeks as many European countries reimposed coronavirus restrictions to contain surging Covid-19 cases.

The double-whammy risks derailing the global economic recovery and by extension oil demand, which the International Energy Agency expects to grow by 5.5 million barrels per day (bpd) to 96.3 million bpd in 2021.

"At a time when many travel lanes are reopening, this is a setback," said Howie Lee, an economist at Singapore's OCBC bank.

"We need at least two weeks to figure out what impact this new variant will have on oil demand."

Concerns about the new variant pumelled oil prices on Friday in thin post-Thanksgiving volumes.

Oil prices plunged more than 10 per cent on Friday - their largest daily drop since April 2020 - but had only recovered some of those losses by 0608 GMT on Monday, standing up more than 3 per cent on the day. Analysts said the Friday sell-off had been excessive.

BP plans large-scale green hydrogen project in UK

REUTERS

BP said on Monday it plans to set up a large-scale green hydrogen production plant in northeast England, generated with wind, water and solar energy to aid Britain's move away from fossil fuels.

The project, dubbed HyGreen Teesside, aims to produce 60 MWe (megawatt electrical input) of so-called "green" hydrogen, which is derived from renewable sources, by 2025, BP said.

Along with its previously announced "blue" hydrogen project, which is produced from natural gas, the two Teesside plants have the potential to deliver 30 per cent of Britain's 2030 target for hydrogen production, BP said.

Governments and energy companies are betting on clean hydrogen playing a leading role in efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions, but its future uses and costs are highly uncertain. The British government is targeting 5 CW (gigawatts) of low-carbon hydrogen production by 2030 to replace natural gas in powering around three million homes, as well as industry and transport.

A global coalition of industrial companies this month boosted a target for emissions-cutting green hydrogen at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow earlier this month.

The HyGreen Teesside project, to be developed in multiple stages, could deliver up to 500Mwe of hydrogen production by 2030, the London-listed company said.