favourite brands with Prime Bank Cards

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2021, AGRAHAYAN 21, 1428 BS starbusiness@thedailystar.net

STARTUP, SME LOANS

Govt moves to ease collateral requirements

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHMUDUL HASAN

The government is set to introduce an innovative financing model under a new law to enable small businesses and startups to show their moveable assets as collateral with a view to nurturing entrepreneurs and helping them secure

A draft law for the collateral protection for movable assets has already been formulated, according to a finance ministry official. The ministry will submit it to the cabinet by June 30 next year for approval.

The law is expected to provide local technology start-ups a shot in the arm as they always find it difficult to borrow from local banks and non-bank financial institutions due to a dearth of collaterals considering the nature of their

AKM Fahim Mashroor, founder and chief executive officer of bdjobs.com and AjkerDeal, welcomed the

"Startups have no lands, fixed-deposits, or other assets to keep them as collateral in order to get loans from banks. So, they are always deprived of the badly needed financing that is essential for growth and to move to next levels.

READ MORE ON B3



Banks: good at granting loan waiver, bad at recovering

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Banks in Bangladesh have been generous in waiving loans throughout the pandemic despite their poor record in recouping funds from defaulters.

They waived funds to the tune of Tk 2,383 crore between January last year and September this year, a development that will bring no good for the financial health of banks as it directly hits their income book.

Influential and delinquent borrowers chiefly manage the facility, creating a moral hazard for good clients. Waiving such a higher amount of money amid business slowdown has widened the woes of banks, economists say.

Banks waived loans amounting to Tk 2,293 crore in 2019 and Tk 1,194 crore in 2018, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

Salehuddin Ahmed, a former central bank governor, said that there was an unholy nexus between the owners of banks and the delinquent borrowers.

A few individuals, who hold positions in the board of director of banks, are also the owners of industries. And the directors are mainly availing the waiver by colluding with each other, he said.

"Business people holding directorship in a bank's board is rare across the world. But the practice is completely different in Bangladesh. Eventually, this weakens the corporate governance of local banks," Ahmed said.

The waiver came as the recovery from default loans has failed to keep pace with escalating delinquent assets.

Between January and September, banks retrieved Tk 4.195 crore from their non-

LOANS WAIVED BY BANKS Jan-Sep 2021: Tk **805**cr 2020: Tk **1,578**cr 2019: Tk **2,293**cr

ECONOMISTS' OBSERVATIONS ON LOAN WAIVER

Influential borrowers chiefly manage the opportunity

Such practice encourages others not to repay loans Income of banks to decline

CASH RECOVERY FROM NPL

"There has been an unholy nexus between owners of banks and top borrowers. This helps the delinquent borrowers to manage waiver from lenders."

Salehuddin Ahmed former BB governor

performing loans, which was Tk 3,751 crore of banks." during the same period a year ago.

Banks recouped Tk 5,802 crore from their combined NPLs in 2020 in contrast to Tk 15,466 crore the year before.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, says the banking sector is in a terrible situation given the upward trend of default loans.

"So, providing the waiver to the vested quarter will deteriorate the financial health

"The income of banks will decline due to the waiver. And this will even discourage good borrowers from repaying loans on

Khatun emphasised that the moral hazard would push the NPLs higher. As of September, the NPLs stood at Tk

101,150 crore in the banking industry, an increase of 14 per cent from nine months earlier and 7.1 per cent year-on-year.

Jan-Sep 2021: Tk **4,195**cr

2019:

i Tk **5,802**cr i Tk **15,466**cr

2020:

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, says banks extend the waiver to clients when they face default loans and shortage of cash flow.

"If such clients apply to lenders for a waiver following the repayment of a major portion of the loan, we usually consider the issue carefully," he said, urging banks to refrain from giving such treatment to other

READ MORE ON B3

CPD confce on 50 years of Bangladesh begins today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A four-day international conference is set to start today to reflect Bangladesh's 50-year journey in economy, politics, society and culture since gaining independence

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is organising the event, to be held virtually, where local and international scholars alongside researchers in various fields will share their findings and perspectives on

Bangladesh's growth. The event, styled "Fifty Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Prospect", is being co-sponsored by the South Asia Programme of Cornell University, an Ivy League university based in Ithaca, New York.

SMEs need special policy

FBCCI chief says as fair kicks off in Dhaka



Some 60 per cent of the entrepreneurs who are taking part in the 9th National SME Product Fair 2021 in Dhaka are women. The eight-day exposition, which began yesterday at the Bangabandhu International $_{READ\;MORE\;ON\;B3}$ \mid Conference Centre, is open to visitors from 10:00am to 8:00pm.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sustaining small and medium enterprises (SME) requires special policy support as a lack of close ties with banks is depriving these of the government's stimulus packages, said FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin yesterday.

The focus is due because the SME sector is considered to be the economy's backbone and forms the backward linkage of the export industry, one of the sources of the country's foreign currency earnings, he said.

This also means that the sector has been one of the worst hit by the pandemic since March 2020, he told the inauguration of a 9th National SME Product Fair 2021 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

The fair comprises 325 stalls wholly showcasing local products, highly prioritising agriculture, food processing and agro machinery manufacturers, ICT, software, leather and leather products, light engineering, jute and jute products,

READ MORE ON B3

Tk 8,500cr dev projects ongoing along Teesta river

Says Tipu Munshi

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has been spending more than Tk 8,500 crore to implement various development projects on both sides of Teesta river in a bid to ramp up economic activates in the region,

according to Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi. For example, installation of gas pipelines in Rangpur will end soon,

Munshi said during an event at the Economic Reporters' Forum in Dhaka yesterday. Besides, the government has been developing some Special Economic Zones across Rangpur to facilitate

economic development in the region, he added. As such, river ports have been developed in Rangpur to

carry goods from north-eastern Bangladesh to India. Also, a bill has already been passed in parliament to set up a university in Kurigram district.

In addition, works are underway to develop Saidpur Airport as a regional airport as Bhutan and Nepal will be allowed to use it, the commerce minister said.

READ MORE ON B3

Speed up project implementation

WB official says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The World Bank has stressed the need for bringing more dynamism to designing projects, processing, approval, and every stage of implementation in Bangladesh.

World Bank Vice-president for South Asia Hartwig Schafer proposed for taking initiatives, in coordination among the Economic Relations Division (ERD), project implementing ministries and divisions, and the World Bank, to implement the projects on time.

He came up with the recommendation during a meeting with a team of the finance ministry at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, said a press release issued by the ministry yesterday.

Schafer led the WB delegation, while Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal led the host side.

After the meeting, Schafer said in a Tweeter message that they discussed green, resilient, and inclusive recovery of Bangladesh from the pandemic.

They also talked about key development priorities and the WB's support through its upcoming partnership framework that will guide its engagement in Bangladesh, he said.

In the meeting, the finance minister said as per conventional rule, a loan is usually given against a project.

But it is often seen that the project may not be ready, and it takes a lot of time to prepare the project. As a result, the process slows.

READ MORE ON B3

Trade thru Hili land port at a standstill

Indian truckers protest allegations of weight tampering in export

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Cross-border trade through Hili land port in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur has been suspended indefinitely as Indian truckers are protesting allegations of weight tampering in export shipments, according to local businesspeople.

Bangladeshi importers recently alleged that indian trucks carrying their goods weighed less ipon entry than the amount stated on papers provided by the neighbouring nation. Customs officials measure each inbound truck

on the port's weigh bridge, which is certified by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, said Md Rabiul Islam, secretary for port affairs of the Hili Land Port Importers-Exporters Group. After finding these disparities, Bangladeshi

importers informed their Indian suppliers on the matter. Several hundred Indian truckers then began an indefinite strike at around 11:00am yesterday and later staged a demonstration at Zero Point in protest. A recent investigation into the issue found

that the weight disparity is between the amount stated when weighed by the Indian side and the weight measured when entering Bangladesh.



An Indian truck is seen with a banner which states shipments from the neighbouring nation are being deliberately underweighed. The picture was taken on the Indian side of the Hili land port in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur.

raise Tk 87cr STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Envoy Textiles to

Envoy Textiles is all set to raise Tk 87 crore by issuing preferred stocks, which are shares in a company owned by people who receive a part of the company's profits before ordinary shareholders are paid.

Envoy will issue 8.7 crore preference shares through private placement at a face value of Tk 10

The funds raised will be used to finance the company's upcoming expansion project for the production of blended yarn, and to pre-pay a portion of high-cost borrowing, Envoy Textiles said in a disclosure posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website.

The company's paid up capital was Tk 167 crore while its earnings per share rose to Tk 0.21 in the July-September period of the current financial year, up from Tk 0.13 previously.

READ MORE ON B3

Duranta to mark Victory Day with new bicycles

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Duranta, a bicycle brand of Pran-RFL Group, recently launched four two-wheelers in red and green colour combinations marking the upcoming Victory Day on December

Priced between Tk 6,650 and Tk 9,270, the bicycles will be available at a 16 per cent discount at Othoba.com and Duranta Gallery and Duranta exclusive showrooms throughout December.

RN Paul, the group's managing director, launched the bicycles at Pran-RFL Group's Badda head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Mohammad Abdul Quayyum, general manager for sales, Md Shariful Islam, head of marketing, Robin Khan, operation incharge, and Auvik Jamil, brand manager, were also present



RN Paul, managing director of Pran-RFL Group, speaks at the launching programme of Duranto brand red-green bicycles at the group's Badda head office in Dhaka recently.



City Bank Ltd officially launched Shariah-based banking service, 'City Islamic' recently. Aziz Al Kaiser, chairman of City Bank, inaugurated the service at The Westin Dhaka. Hossain Khaled, vice-chairman of the bank, Md Anwar Hosain Molla, chairman of the Shariah Supervisory Committee, Mashrur Arefin, managing director, and Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, additional managing director, were also present.

China to encourage listing of leading futures firms

REUTERS, Beijing

China will help leading futures companies to speed up their development and encourage qualified firms to be listed, the China Futures Association said in a statement, citing an official from the securities regulator.

Authorities would support futures companies to widen and diversify their financing channels and allow them to compete with overseas players, Fang Xinghai, vice chairman of the China

Securities Regulatory Commission, told an industry conference on Sunday, according to the statement.

Leading futures firms should "make due contributions" to ensure China's energy and mineral security, Fang said. China's commodities market had been volatile this year amid the uneven global economic recovery, easing liquidity and speculation. Metal and coal futures, for example, surged to historical highs before

plunging after government interventions. The regulator will further support the development of futures risk management companies and to steadily expand traders groups, according to the association. Fang said China is expected to release its first futures law in 2022 after considering it for years, which will help further regulate the derivatives market. He also reiterated that China will allow more foreign traders to participate in domestic markets while deepening price influence of existing products such as crude oil, iron ore and PTA, the association's statement said.



Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Group of Industries, inaugurates Bengal Commercial Bank's fourth branch at the Morshed Alam Complex, Chowmuhani in Noakhali recently. Md Mamunur Rashid Kiron, a lawmaker, Md Jashim Uddin, chairman of the bank, Tarik Morshed, managing director, Md Shahabuddin, chairman of the executive committee, and Shahnaz Begum, chairman of Begumganj Upazila Parishad, were present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



GD-2250

Office of the Chief Commercial Manager (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice No. 54.01.1500.107.07.017.21, Date: 18/11/2021 invited by the Office of the Chief Commercial Manager is hereby corrected as below:

,						
SI	Tender	As in the tender notice	Corrigendum			
No.	ld No.					
01	626955	Last selling date & time- 08/12/2021 at 11:00	Last selling date & time-12/12/2021 at 10:00			
		Opening date & time-08/12/2021 at 12:00	Opening date & time-12/12/2021 at 12:00			
02	627518	Last selling date & time- 08/12/2021 at 10:00 Opening date & time- 08/12/2021	Last selling date & time-12/12/2021 at 9:00 Opening date & time-12/12/2021 at			
		at 11:00	11:00			
03	627544	Last selling date & time- 08/12/2021 at 12:00	Last selling date & time-12/12/2021 at 12:00			
		Opening date & time- 08/12/2021 at 13:00	Opening date & time-12/12/2021 at 13:00			

Mohammed Nazmul Islam

Chief Commercial Manager (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram TnT: 0312863191 E-mail: ccme@railway.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Faridpur ☎/Fax: 0631-63256/66367



E-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, 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).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD. Road Division. Faridour for the procurement of

RHD, Road Division, Faridpur for the procurement of:						
SI	Tender ID	Name of works	Last date and	Tender		
No.	No./Package No.		time for tender	closing date		
			security	& time		
			submission			
1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Tender ID: 634164,	Beautification of Tiles works at EE's	27/12/2021	27/12/2021		
	Package No. 24/e-	Office front side for Bangabandhu	11:00am	11:15am		
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	Jonmo Soto Barshiki purpose at				
		Kamlapur under Road Division,				
		Faridpur during the year 2021-2022.				
2.	Tender ID: 634165,	Detail Topographical Survey at Ch.	27/12/2021	27/12/2021		
	Package No. 25/e-	45+100m to Ch. 64+697m and Sub-	11:00am	11:30am		
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	soil investigation at Ch: 43+296 &				
		Ch: 46+408 of Goalonda – Faridpur-				
		Tarail Road (Z-7108) under Road				
		Division, Faridpur during the year				
	T	2021-2022.	07/40/0004	07/40/0004		
3.	Tender ID: 634166,	Renovation work of EE's Office at	27/12/2021	27/12/2021		
	Package No. 26/e-	Kamlapur outer side Paint work	11:00am	11:45am		
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	under Road Division, Faridpur during				
4.	Tandar ID: 624467	the year 2021-2022.	27/12/2021	27/12/2021		
4.	Tender ID: 634167, Package No. 27/e-	Construction of Garage Shed for	11:00am			
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	different types of inspection vehicle at Faridpur Road Division office	11.00am	12:00pm		
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	compound under Faridpur Road				
5.	Tender ID: 634168,	Division during the year 2021-2022. Provide Schedule Book for tender	27/12/2021	27/12/2021		
5.	Package No. 28/e-	enlistment purpose, Book Binding	11:00am	12:15pm		
	GP/FRD/2021-2022	work under Road Division, Faridpur	11.00a111	12.15pm		
	GF/FND/2021-2022	during the year 2021-2022.				
during the year 2021-2022.						

e-Tender details can be downloaded from 06/12/2021 time: 9:00 to 26/12/2021 time: 17:00 of e-GP System Portal http://www.eprocure.gov.bd for pursue.

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list, accepted tenders will be opened online

GD-2246

immediately as stated in above list.

Md. Imran Farhan Sumel ID No. 602280 Executive Engineer (c.c.), RHD Road Division, Faridpur

Guangdong summons Evergrande boss after repayment warning

China's Guangdong province on Friday, December 3, summoned the chairman of China Evergrande Group after the real estate developer said there was "no guarantee" it would have enough funds to meet debt repayments, while regulators sought to reassure markets.

Evergrande, once China's top-selling developer, is grappling with more than \$300 billion in liabilities, fueling fears of a potential collapse that could send shockwaves through the country's property sector and beyond.

On Friday, the company said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange it had received a demand from creditors to pay about \$260 million. It is already late paying \$82.5 million in coupons due on November 6. "In light of the current liquidity status...there is no

guarantee that the group will have sufficient funds to continue to perform its financial obligations," Evergrande said, adding that creditors may demand accelerated repayment if it does not.

That prompted the government of Guangdong, where the company is based, to summon Evergrande chairman

Agarwood perfume industry yet to offset pandemic shocks

Majid went on to say that Bangladeshi traders in the Middle East have been unable to set up their shops this year as businesses in the region are yet to fully reopen.

"And if the demand from outside Bangladesh does not increase, our recession will not end," he said. Rubel Ahmed, a small agarwood trader, alleged that he

has been facing a lot of difficulties in transporting the raw material from different upazilas. "Lawmen ask for permits from land, agriculture and forest officials which are impossible to show for truck

drivers and labourers," he said. "Besides, small traders like me are already in bad shape due to Covid-19 and if this situation continues, we will become destitute," Ahmed added.

Ruhul Amin, a worker at a perfume factory in Sujanagar, said thousands of workers in the area have become unemployed and were passing days in hardship due to the lack of orders.

A factory used to employ around 250 people every day but now there is a quiet silence throughout the facilities.

Most traders said they were trying to export some products now after the withdrawal of the latest lockdown but the complex process of obtaining a certification based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was hindering their efforts.

Ansarul Haque, president of the Bangladesh Agar and Attar Manufacturers and Exporters Association, told this correspondent at least 30,000 people are directly associated with the business.

An estimated 7,000 litres of perfume and 10,000 kilogrammes of agarwood are exported each year.

Around 350 registered and unregistered factories in Sylhet exported agarwood perfume worth about Tk 100 crore last year. This year though, outgoing shipments have not exceeded 10 per cent to 15 per cent of that amount.

Haque believes this is a temporary issue though as the product still has good export potential.

Stocks rise for 3rd consecutive day

Most importantly, many investors were reluctant to sell shares.

"So, turnover fell," he added.

At the DSE, the rise of some big paid-up capital-based companies was main influence behind the DSEX's upward

Walton, Grameenphone, British American Tobacco, and Robi Axiata contributed 20 points to the DSEX, according to data from amarstock.com.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also rose on the day. The CASPI, the main index of the CSE, rose 161 points, or 0.79 per cent, to 20,415.

Among 295 traded stocks, 192 increased, 77 fell and 26 were unchanged.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় বাংলাদেশ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ট্রাস্ট পুরাতন বন ভবন, ১০১, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ www.bcct.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-২২.০৬.০০০০.১২৪.১৪.৩৬.২০২০-১৪১

তারিখঃ ২৮/১১/২০২১খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়ধীন বাংলাদেশ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ট্রাষ্টের আওতায় বাস্তবায়নাধীন "পরিত্যক্ত পলিথিন ও অন্যান্য পলিমারজাত দ্রব্য সামগ্রী প্রচলিত বিটুমিনের সাথে পুনঃ ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে টেকসই সড়ক উন্নয়নঃ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবেলায় একটি প্রায়োগিক গবেষণা" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পে নিমুবর্ণিত শূন্য পদ পূরণের নিমিত্ত সাকুল্য বেতনে শুধুমাত্র প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ত্ৰঃ নং	পদের নাম ও সাকুল্য বেতন	পদের	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
	(জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেল-২০১৫) ও	সংখ্যা	
	বয়স		
021	রিসার্চ অফিসার (কারিগরি)	ी ८०	ক) পুরকৌশল বিষয়ে ট্রান্সপোর্টেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
	৩৫,৬০০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)		মেজরসহ স্লাতক ডিগ্রী।
	১৫-৩৫ বছর		খ) গবেষণা কাজে কমপক্ষে ২ (দুই) বছরের
			অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। তবে পলিমার
			মোডিফাইড বিটুমিন এর উপর গবেষণা কাজে
			কমপক্ষে ১ (এক) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন
			প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।
०२ ।	ফিল্ড রিসার্চ অফিসার (সোশ্যাল)	০১টি	ক) সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী।
०२ ।		0310	
	৩৫,৬০০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)		খ) টেকসই সড়ক উন্নয়ন/সড়ক নিরাপত্তার উপর
	১৮-৪০ বছর		গবেষণা কাজে কমপক্ষে ৩ (তিন) বছরের
			অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। তবে পলিমার
			মোডিফাইড বিটুমিন এর উপর গবেষণা কাজে
			বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার
			প্রদান করা হবে।
०७।	ফিল্ড রিসার্চ এসিস্ট্যান্ট (কারিগরি)	০১টি	ক) পুরকৌশল বিষয়ে ট্রান্সপোর্টেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
	২১,৭০০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)		মেজরসহ স্নাতক ডিগ্রী।
	১৮-৩২ বছর		খ) গবেষণা কাজে কমপক্ষে ১ (এক) বছরের
			মাঠ পর্যায়ের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। তবে
			পলিমার মোডিফাইড বিটুমিন এর উপর গবেষণা
			কাজে কমপক্ষে ৬ (ছয়) মাসের বাস্তব
			অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা
			হবে।
o8 I	ফিল্ড রিসার্চ এসিস্ট্যান্ট (সোশ্যাল)	ग्री&	ক) সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে স্নাতক ডিগ্ৰী।
	২১,৭০০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)		খ) টেকসই সড়ক উন্নয়ন/সড়ক নিরাপত্তার উপর
	১৮-৩৫ বছর		গবেষণা কাজে কমপক্ষে ২ (দুই) বছরের
			অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। তবে পলিমার
			মোডিফাইড বিটুমিন এর উপর গবেষণা কাজে
			বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার
			প্রদান করা হবে।
061	ল্যাবরেটরি এসিস্ট্যান্ট	০১টি	ক) কমপক্ষে এইচএসসি বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী।
- 4.	১৬,২২০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)	3,1	খ) বিটুমিন সংক্রান্ত ল্যাবরেটরি কাজে বাস্তব
	১৮-৩০ বছর		অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা
			रत।
০৬।	পিএমবি মেসিন অপারেটর	তঃটি	ক) কমপক্ষে এইচএসসি বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী।
	১৬,২২০/- (সর্বসাকুল্যে)	5,1	খ) বিটুমিন সংক্রান্ত ল্যাবরেটরি যন্ত্রপাতি
	১৮-৩০ বছর		পরিচালনার বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের
	12.1		অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।
শর্তাবলীঃ	<u> </u>		1701100 7011 101 7011

জিডি-২২৪৯

- 🕽। আবেদনপত্র "প্রকল্প পরিচালক, পরিত্যক্ত পলিথিন ও অন্যান্য পলিমারজাত দ্রব্যসামগ্রী প্রচলিত বিটুমিনের সাথে পুনঃ ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে টেকসই সড়ক উন্নয়নঃ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবেলায় একটি প্রায়োগিক গবেষণা প্রকল্প". পুরাতন বন ভবন (৭ম তলা), ১০১, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ ঠিকানায় আগামী ৩১/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখিত তথ্য প্রমাণের জন্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার মূল সনদপত্র এবং অন্যান্য রেকর্ডপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৩। যে সকল পদে বয়সসীমা ১৮-৩০ বছর উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে, যে সকল পদে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান ও প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ (বত্রিশ) বছর এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার নাতি/নাতনিদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর হবে এবং সকল প্রার্থীর বয়স আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ দিনে গণনা করতে হবে।
- ৪। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারি নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা
- ৫। অসম্পূর্ণ/ভূল তথ্য সম্বলিত দরখাস্ত কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ৬। প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার



সচিব (উপসচিব)



Selim to lead **Brac Bank for** 5 more years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Selim RF Hussain, current managing director and chief executive officer of Brac Bank, has had his contract extended by around five more years till March 2026.

Approved by Bangladesh Bank, Hussain's reappointment comes into effect from November 2021, according to a press release.

He joined the private lender in November 2015 and has since served two three-year terms.

He previously served in various roles at ANZ Grindlays Bank and Standard Chartered Bank for 24 years before joining IDLC Finance in 2010.

Hussain obtained a BBA degree in accounting at the University of Dhaka and an MBA in finance from the university's Institute of Business Administration.

bKash sets up sanitary napkin vending machines at five garment factories

STAR BUSINESS DESI

bKash has set up vending machines in five garment factories across the country to help female workers purchase sanitary napkins whenever needed.

The mobile financial service provider installed the vending machines at Ananta Garments and Newage Apparels in Ashulia, Mega Denim and Hams Garments in Gazipur, and Independent Apparels in Chattogram with the technical support of Vertical Innovations.

bKash will expand this service to more factories in the future, according to a press release.

By scanning a QR code from the bKash app or dialling *247#, workers can easily buy sanitary napkins from vending machines at a lower price than the market value through bKash payment.

"From these vending machines located in factories, female workers can easily buy napkins at a lower price. bKash will take this initiative to a larger scale in the future," said Ali Ahmmed, chief commercial officer of bKash.

Besides, bKash has been working to build a seamless, secure and affordable digital payroll and a sustainable financial ecosystem for garment workers, he added.

Inamul Haq Khan and M Sajedul Karim, managing director and deputy managing director of Ananta Garments respectively; Mahmud Hossain, executive director of Newage Apparels; and Rezwan Ahamed Noor, chief executive officer of Vertical Innovations, were present.

Banks: good at granting loan waiver, bad at recovering

Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Jamuna Bank, says that banks only waive the interest amount of the loans of the borrowers whose businesses were about to close due to various reasons.

"We don't extend the facility to the borrowers who are currently running businesses.

A central banker says that some influential clients have earlier had a large amount of their loans waived while rescheduling bad assets.

India's services activity grows robustly in Nov

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Activity in India's dominant services sector continued to grow at a robust pace last month supported by a strong recovery in domestic demand, a private survey showed, but elevated price pressures remained a major concern.

Asia's third-largest economy expanded at the fastest pace among major economies second-best in over a decade and well last quarter, boosted by coronavirus above the 50-mark separating growth from vaccinations and stronger government contraction for a fourth straight month.

spending. The economy grew 8.4 per cent annually during the July-September quarter. That positive momentum seems to have been largely sustained in the first two months of this quarter.

The Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, eased to 58.1 in November from 58.4 in October, but last month's rate of growth was the

Trade thru Hili land port at a standstill

Sujan Ghosh, president of the Indian Hili Truckers Association, told local journalists that Indian port authorities take weight readings of every truck before sending them to Bangladesh.

"So, the allegations against them are false and fabricated," he said, adding that the weight reading by Bangladeshi authorities is not acceptable.

Harun Ur Rashid, president of the Importers- Exporters Group, said Bangladeshi traders are being considerably short-changed in terms of weight, which is

"There must be an end to such problems in any way possible," he added.

Mahmudul Hasan, revenue officer for customs at Hili land port, said no truck has entered Bangladesh through the port since the strike began.

However, Kamrul Hasan, deputy commissioner of customs at Hili land port, said the issue is not between the two countries, but rather the importers and

Businesses of both the sides are trying to find a solution to the problem, Hasan said.

Speed up project implementation

To overcome the slow execution, the minister requested the WB to provide project loans in the form of budget support.

If the lender does so, the government would be able to release funds on a priority basis for the projects that are ready, and the pace of the project would be accelerated, Kamal said.

In the meeting, Bangladesh requested the WB to take necessary steps for quick

release of \$500 million as the budgetary support in the current fiscal year under its Programmatic Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Credit project.

The project aims at keeping the country's labour market, financial and social sectors, affected by the pandemic, active.

Finance Division Senior Secretary Abdur Rouf Talukder, ERD Secretary Fatima Yasmin, and WB Country Director Mercy Tembon were present.



Neil Coupland

Naser Ezaz Bijoy FICCI gets new committee

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) yesterday announced Naser Ezaz Bijoy as president-elect for the period of 2022-2023.

The announcement was made at FICCI'S 58th Annual General Meeting, where Neil Coupland was declared as vice-president-elect of the newly appointed executive committee for the next two years.

Naser is a career banker who has been working with Standard Chartered Bank for 29 years in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. He is currently serving as chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

"As we celebrate 50 years of independence, we are standing at a juncture where we have the opportunity to make our own history and write the next chapter," Naser said. Coupland is managing director of the United Dhaka Tobacco Company Ltd.

Other elected members of the board are: Abdur Rashid, country head of SGS Bangladesh Ltd, Ala Uddin Ahmad, general manager of MetLife Bangladesh, Anirban Asit Kumar Ghosh, MD of Bata Shoe Co (Bangladesh) Ltd, Ashish Goupal, MD of Marico Bangladesh, Deepal Abeywickrema, MD of Nestle Bangladesh, Jahangir Saadat, MD of Youngone (CEPZ) Ltd, Mahbubur Rahman, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, N Rajashekaran, country officer of Citibank NA, Riad Mamun Prodhani, country president of Novartis Bangladesh Ltd, Shwapna Bhowmick, country head of Marks & Spencer Plc, Wu Li Chuan, MD of LSI Industries Ltd, Yasir Azman, CEO of Grameenphone, and Zaved Akhtar, MD of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.

CPD confce on 50 years of Bangladesh begins today

"What we see today is that discussions regarding Bangladesh's progress becomes economic development centric but we have seen changes in politics, society and culture after it began its journey," said Prof Rounaq Jahan, a distinguished fellow of the CPD, at a media briefing held yesterday. Through the conference, we will

highlight Bangladesh's achievement as well as deficits in order to correct them," she said. "We want to look back on 50 years of Bangladesh and look forward to next 50 years," Jahan added. Some 20 papers related to Bangladesh's

social transitions, culture, contemporary art, and architecture will be presented at the conference. Around 18 experts and intellectuals

economy, politics, poverty and inequality,

event, the CPD said.

The independent think-tank believes the golden jubilee is an occasion not only for celebration but also for retrospection.

The story of Bangladesh's progress is

generally being told from quantitative and economic perspectives, which do not adequately capture the depth of the changes that have taken place in peoples' lives.

Hence, qualitative dimensions development needs to be explored, it added. The CPD also informed that the conference will begin with a keynote by CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan followed by a session on "State, Society,

The second day will include sessions on "Bangladesh's Economic Transformation" and "Towards a Just Society". The third day will include sessions on "Social Transitions"

The fourth and last day will have sessions titled "Costs and Challenges of Development" and "Bangladesh in a Changing World Order".

minister; Prof Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD; Fahmida Khatun, executive director; and Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director, were present at the briefing.

SMEs need special policy

plastics, handicrafts and imitation jewellery. The event is open for all everyday from 10:00am to 8:00pm till December 12.

The entrepreneurs also face problems in obtaining bank loans for a lack of collateral alongside in traversing the complexities of loan applications, said the chief of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The sector lacks product diversification and quality, adequate research and development, reliable statistics, attractive packaging, capital and knowledge of related information technology while being slapped with high customs duties and harassment in complex customs procedures,

Coupled with these are limited raw material supplies and non-tariff constraints, he said, urging to lay emphasis on insurance coverage for the sector to counter any future disaster.

He said economic progress could accelerated by addressing these issues in a coordinated manner utilising public-private partnerships with the FBCCI, SME Foundation, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and the Export Promotion Bureau.

All concerned should ensure that products meet global standards to expand the country's export basket, urged the event's chief guest, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, joining virtually from her official Gono Bhaban residence, reports She emphasised using local raw materials and

promoting agriculture and industrialisation, which would be beneficial for the country. "This will help create entrepreneurs as well as improve the competitive edge," she said. The government is giving importance to agriculture and food-processing industries as

their demand is constantly rising across the world, she added. Many underdeveloped countries became developed in a short period of time in the last century prioritising advancement of the SME

sector, said SME Foundation Chairperson M Masudur Rahman. While many have reopened for business vercoming adversity, others are still going

through difficult times, he said. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud National SME Entrepreneur Award-2021 to four

successful entrepreneurs for their contributions to the economy and society. The awardees are Humaira Mustafa,

Nazmul Islam, Mohammad Shoyeb Hasan and Mohammad Azizul Huq. State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed

Mojumder and Secretary to the ministry Zakia Sultana also spoke.

Tk 8,500cr dev projects ongoing along Teesta river

Some 15 to 16 flights have been operating each day from Saidpur Airport, indicating that the local economy is growing.

"Once the people of Rangpur were underestimated but now the situation has improved a lot," Munshi added.

At the event, Munshi handed over stipends Humayun, on behalf of the prime minister, to the children of deceased members of the presented crests, certificates and cheques of a Rangpur Divisional Journalists Association

Date: 30/11/2021

Govt moves to ease collateral requirements

The entrepreneur, however, thinks that banks will not provide the loans despite the law unless the central bank sets a mandatory minimum disbursement target.

He called for setting a Tk 100 crore disbursement target for the local

The proposed law is in keeping with the conditions set by the global development partners when they extended budgetary support to the government to help the country recover from the shocks triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

The government is framing the law as it wants to facilitate loans for at least 1,000 cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) and startup units by 2024.

It will also put in place a more conducive regulatory environment and introduce innovative financing modalities to overcome CMSMEs' collateral issue and enhance financial

intermediation. The government will help adopt an alternative credit scoring model by using digital transaction data, mainstreaming cluster and value chain financing, and promoting bank lending based on non-traditional collateral such as trade receivables and warehouse receipts.

Under the proposed law, raw materials, gold and other precious metals, patents, copyrights, work furniture, tree, vehicles, agriculture and processed foods and fishery will be considered as collateral.

Policies for cluster and value chain financing, and adoption of alternative credit scoring models to offer digital loans will be introduced.

Among the initiatives, the digital credit scheme will commence in December 2022, the cluster financing scheme in September 2022, and the value chain financing in June 2023. Limited access to affordable finance

bank loans. Banks are reluctant to lend

to CMSMEs because of higher administrative costs and insufficient fixed assets as collateral, according to a government paper. Cottage and micro-enterprises in

the rural areas lack access to formal bank credit. As a result, they are compelled to borrow at higher costs from microfinance institutions or informal non-banking channels. coronavirus Meanwhile, the

pandemic has pushed many CMSMEs on the verge of bankruptcy and precipitated the breakdown of upstream and downstream production

Although the government has announced many stimulus packages to strengthen the credit flows to the under-served CMSMEs hit by the pandemic, lenders were reluctant to extend the credit.

The CMSMEs, particularly owned by women and the micro-businesses in animal farming, trading, and services, are comparatively more affected because of their informal nature, the owners' weak financial literacy, and the lack of sufficient assets to cover the loans.

More than 70 per cent of the CMSMEs are located in rural areas. They account for more than 80 per cent of non-farm employment and contribute to rural development and poverty reduction.

Although local startup-ups receive almost nothing in the form of financing from banks and NBFIs in Bangladesh, global financiers are investing in them.

Bangladeshi start-ups have received \$130 million so far this year, according to Dhaka-based consultancy firm LightCastle Partners. Of the sum, \$126 million came from international

is one of the most critical constraints sources as venture capitalists and faced by CMSMEs in Bangladesh: angel investors see Bangladesh as Only 28 per cent of the CMSMEs have an untapped market and with huge potential for the startups to expand.

Abul Kashem Md Shirin, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, also welcomed the proposed law.

He says bankers don't usually feel comfortable in accepting moveable assets as collateral as it does not give them control over the assets. There is no guarantee that the assets would not be removed a day after the collateral is

accepted. In such a scenario, the proposed law will provide comfort, he said.

Shirin says startup firms usually don't have assets, but many of them have business potential. "If we can have moveable assets, copyrights and patents as collateral, the comfort level of banks will go up.

"If we don't lend them, these startups will not flourish Bangladesh." The financing for the startups will

come from a fund set up using net profits of banks, said Shirin. Rahman, Mahbubur Sved managing director of Mutual Trust

should prefer equity, not debt. "If they take on debt, how will they pay the interest? What will happen if they default?"

Bank Ltd, however, said startups

Envoy Textiles to raise Tk 87cr

At the Dhaka bourse, stocks of Envoy Textiles dropped 3.04 per cent to Tk

Earlier in July this year, Envoy Textiles announced that it would spend Tk 176 crore to expand the production capacity of its spinning unit. Envoy Textiles declared 10 per cent cash dividend for shareholders in the 2020-21 financial year.

Office of the Mayor

Benapole Paurashava Benapole, Jashore

Memo No. Bena/Pauro/admin/2021-242

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Selection of Private Company for Regular Emptying, Transportation and

Treatment of Faecal Sludge from Toilet Pit and Septic Tank in Benapole Paurashava

Benapole Paurashava (BP) intends to enter into an exclusive long-term Contract with a private company for providing citywide faecal sludge management (FSM) services. The overall objective is to provide safe and affordable FSM services to the city dwellers in Benapole. The specific objectives are to:

provide safe emptying, transportation and treatment of FS in Benapole;

provide Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of all facilities including vacutugs and Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant

increase awareness along with BP regarding implementing of scheduled desludging model through sanitation tax;

The company will expect to implement city-wide FSM services in Benapole with collaboration from BP by developing an effective scheduled desludging plan with three years interval, meaning all toilet pits and septic tanks will be emptied within this interval. This is intended to create a city wide, self-sustaining sludge management system. The successful company shall provide qualified and experienced personnel for its operation, maintenance, monitoring and promotion to ensure the services. Interested companies in providing the said services are requested to visit: http://benapolepaurashava.com or may contact the address below during office hours i.e., 09:00-17:00 hrs. for further information and RFP details. The interested companies are also welcome to attend the pre-bid meeting along with visit the treatment plant site on 20 December 2021 at 11:00am local time for better understanding of the RFP.

The awarded Company will get long term contract initially for 5 years with possibility of extension of another 5 years depending on operational needs, satisfactory performance of the Company and the conditions laid down by BP. The contract will be awarded to the Company, who can demonstrate, through a written proposal having significant level of experience, ability and competence. BP Authority reserves full right at its sole discretion to change the level of service requirements, whether in total or in part, depending on mission and operational requirements over the Contract duration.

The interested Companies are invited to submit One (01) Original and Two (02) Copies of Proposals (Technical and Financial) in the sealed envelope and must reach to below mentioned address no later than 06 January 2022 at 2:00pm. The Companies are also requested to submit the full proposal (Technical and Financial) electronically to the email address: mayor.benapole@yahoo.com. Under the full proposal the Company have to split all the goods and services for technical description and cost separately as per the indication of Section-3 (Preparation of Proposal) in the RFP. The BP Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the companies proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.



GD-2245

#BUSINESS

Stocks rise for 3rd consecutive day

Turnover slumps in the meantime

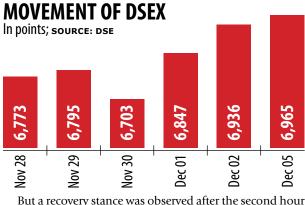
STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The domestic stock market rose for a third consecutive day even though turnover of the Dhaka bourse dropped.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), gained 29 points, or 0.42 per cent, to hit 6,965 yesterday.

In the last three days, the index soared by a total of 262 points, or around 4 per cent.

The market had opened on a high note but after the first hour of trade, the prime index fell due to large selloffs in sectors with considerable market caps, International Leasing Securities said in its daily market review.



of trade due to the active participation of some investors, which helped the market stay in the green.

The top ten traders captured 38.9 per cent of the total trade, of which Beximco Ltd alone captured 13.1 per cent,

Turnover, an important indicator of the stock market, fell 28 per cent, to Tk 894 crore, down from Tk 1,245 crore

Asia Insurance topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent, followed by Paper Processing and Packaging, Stylecraft,

Sena Kalyan Insurance, and Prime Insurance. Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most, worth Tk 117 crore, followed by One Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Delta Life Insurance, and Power Grid Company of

Vanguard AML BD Finance Mutual Fund One shed the most, dropping 7.87 per cent, followed by Shahjibazar Power, Dulamia Cotton, Newline Clothing, and Bangladesh

Submarine Cable Company. At the DSE, 245 stocks advanced, 79 fell and 49

"Investors are optimistic about the stock market so some of them were in a buying mood," a stock broker said.

READ MORE ON B2

Agarwood perfume industry yet to offset pandemic shocks



Bangladesh's agarwood-based perfume industry is struggling to bounce back from the Covid-19 fallouts as traders from the Middle East are yet to resume making purchases in full swing, leaving perfumers and raw material suppliers in the lurch.

Farmers in the country's north-east have kept busy managing forestries of the Aquilaria malaccensis tree and extracting oil from the aromatic resin, which the tree secretes in response to a fungal infection and which coagulates over time to create

But their efforts seem to be going to waste amidst a lack of buyers, according to Abdul Batin, a local trader in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar.

The agarwood oil, which is used in a blend of fragrances, scented water, incense and creams, is being commercially produced in numerous areas of Sylhet and

However, Barlekha upazila is home to the industry's pioneers while Sujanagar union is well known both at home and abroad for the manufacture of the products.

As such, thousands of families in Sujanagar earn a living by processing agarwood either at home or local factories, Batin told The Daily Star.

Bangladeshis own several agarwood perfume factories in Middle Eastern countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Dubai while Thailand and Malaysia also use raw materials sourced from Bangladesh.

"I could not sell that much of agarwood perfume for a few months now...sales have not reached around Tk 10 lakh yet," he said. Processing 30 kilogrammes to 35 kilogrammes of agarwood for 10 days yields about nine ounces of oil.

"I need 15 workers per day...but I have not been able to employ as many due to low sales," Batin added.

Rubel Ahmed Pavel of Uttar Sujanagar village has been cultivating the trees and processing agarwood for a couple of decades.



these trees to make various scented products, such as perfumes and creams, that are exported mainly to countries in the Middle East. The

photos were taken recently.

During a 12-year stay in Dubai, Pavel understood that there was high demand for alcohol-free fragrance oils in the Middle

So, he returned to Bangladesh and started the business with his brother.

They collect agarwood oil from their trees and send it to the United Arab Emirates, where another brother sells the rare and precious raw material to local

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

perfumers.

During a recent visit to Sujanagar, this correspondent found many farmers processing agarwood, as November to June is the peak season for extracting the oil.

"So, everyone should be enjoying good business at the moment but at least 80 processing factories have been shut down this year due to low demand amid the ongoing pandemic," said Adib Majid,

director of Amena and Fatema Agarwood and Perfume.

The shuttered factories were completely export-oriented and highly

"I usually send 40 litres of agarwood oil to the Middle East by this time every year but this year I have sent just 15 litres so far,'

its Prelude floating LNG site and Chevron

Corp shut one of three processing units at its

Gorgon LNG plant, both off northwestern

outage on Thursday after smoke was

detected in an electrical utility area, and

the facility is operating on back-up diesel

generators, while Chevron shut Train 3 at

its 15.6 million tonne a year Gorgon LNG

plant on Wednesday. Neither company

shut a production train at its Sabine Pass

plant in the United States following dense

Cheniere Energy may have temporarily

gave a timeframe for restoring output.

Shell said Prelude was hit by a power

Australia, the companies said.

READ MORE ON B2



GLOBAL BUSINESS



An employee of Mumbai Educational Trust, which runs educational institutes, adjusts plastic bottles in an installation made of approximately 40,000 plastic bottles to protest the use of plastic in Mumbai.

UN plans to drastically expand plastic waste management in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

The United Nations Development Programme aims to almost triple its plastic waste management to 100 cities in India by 2024, A UNDP executive said, to combat the damaging effects of plastic pollution.

Across India's many towns and cities, which are often ranked among the world's most polluted, the absence of an organized management of plastic waste leads to widespread littering and

The UNDP programme, which began in 2018, has so far collected 83,000 metric tonne of tonnes of plastic waste annually, according to

official estimates. "In India although about 60 per cent of plastic is recycled, we are still seeing the

damage that plastic pollution is causing," Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, said in an interview at the Reuters Next conference broadcast on Friday.

The UNDP is working with federal think tank, NITI Aayog and have jointly developed a 'handbook' model for local municipalities as well as the private sector

"In a country like India with nearly fifth of the world's population, a key challenge is how do we make these models scalable," Rasheed said in an interview recorded on November 22.

The government needs stricter enforcement on controls around dumping of plastic waste plastic waste. India generates about 3.4 million and has a "long way to go" to raise awareness among households, Rasheed said, adding there was a need for investment into research for

The programme suffered a setback after the

Covid-19 pandemic led to widespread increase in waste, including medical plastic waste, and hit livelihoods of collectors, who often work in hazardous conditions.

"There was a real need to expand waste collection efforts and that was coming at the same time as lot of (Covid-19 related) restrictions were disrupting the normal waste collection," Rasheed said.

Plastic pollution is set to triple by 2040, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has predicted, adding 23-37 million metric tons of waste into the world's oceans each year.

India, also the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, has set 2070 as a target to reach net-zero carbon emissions, much later than those set by others and twenty years after the UN's global

Asian LNG prices fall as import demand from China muted

REUTERS, Singapore

sia liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices fell this week as spot demand from China remained muted despite the start of winter and as natural gas supplies from Russia continued to flow steadily to Germany.

But the drop in prices was kept in check by outages in Australia which curbed cargo loadings, trade sources said.

The average LNG price for January delivery into Northeast Asia fell to \$34.60 per metric million British thermal units (mmBtu), down \$1.50, they said.

Chinese LNG buyers are pulling back on spot purchases of the super-chilled fuel as prices remain high and inventories are ample, several trade sources said.

Another source added that the government's tolerance of additional coal burning has also dampened appetite for more expensive LNG.

Beijing Gas entered the market to purchase LNG cargoes, but they are for delivery in the middle of next year.

Bitcoin briefly

loses \$10,000 in

nervous market

The bitcoin dropped sharply

overnight, losing \$10,000 in

before recouping some of its

often volatile cryptocurrency

took a sudden sharp drop to \$42,296, losing nearly 20

percent of its value.

the virtual currency had

regained some ground,

percent from Friday.

Covid-19.

trading at \$48,210, down 10

The leading Wall Street

red Friday amid weakness in

tech shares and fears about

the new Omicron variant of

"Digital assets got pushed

around by the broader risk of

conditions related to Omicron

and expectations of a more

properly sell off until Friday,

on contagion from equities,

said Martha Reyes, research

director at the Bequant digital

asset brokerage and exchange.

aggressive Fed, but didn't

indicators all ended in the

At one point late Friday, the

But by 1600 GMT Saturday,

value in a nervous market

losses Saturday morning.

Royal Dutch Shell shut production at on Friday.

fog, one source said, though details were not immediately available or confirmed. South Korea's Korea Midland Power

Co (KOMIPO) bought a cargo for delivery in mid-January at around \$34 to \$36 per mmBtu, an industry source said. Russian natural gas supplies to Germany

through the Yamal-Europe pipeline have been stable for the past 24 hours, data from German network operator Gascade showed

Opec will continue with

supply adjustments REUTERS, Milan

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will continue with its supply adjustments for the oil market, the OPEC Secretary General said on Saturday.

We will continue to do what we know best to ensure we attain stability in the oil market on a sustainable basis," Mohammad Barkindo said in a webinar organised by Italian think-tank ISPI.

Oil prices fell on Thursday after OPEC and its allies stuck to their existing policy of monthly oil output increases despite fears a release from US crude reserves and the new Omicron coronavirus variant would put renewed pressure on prices.

Barkindo said in terms of oil demand the estimate at the moment was for a growth of 5.7 million barrels per day. "In 2022 we expect another 4.2 million," he said.

He said the uncertainty and volatility on the markets was also due to extraneous factors such as the ongoing Covid pandemic and not necessarily the fundamentals of oil and gas. "Now we are on course of returning the level of consumption in 2022 to pre-Covid levels," he said.

Barkindo said that the forecast was for oil and gas to account for more than 50 per cent of the global energy mix in 2045 or even to mid-century.

"In all the pronouncements we had from Glasgow we have not yet seen any concrete road map or plans of how to replace this 50 per cent ... without creating unprecedented turmoil in the energy markets," he said, referring to the Glasgow climate conference. "Oil and gas will be needed for the foreseeable future.