

AK Azad, vice-president of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh, poses for a photograph with the participants at the ICC workshop on "Management of Bonded Import and Risk Mitigation in Export Financing" held at a local hotel in Dhaka recently. Anwar-UI-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), an executive board member of the chamber, Ataur Rahman, secretary-general, and Md Ahsan Ullah, a member of the ICCB banking commission, were present.

#### Japan PM seeks to boost workers' wages

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed on Monday to ensure worker wage hikes to protect the economy from rising global inflation, while strengthening the country's defences as it deals with an assertive China and unpredictable North Korea.

Kishida made the remarks on the opening day of parliament's extra session convened to debate a supplementary budget to cushion the blow from the Covid-19 pandemic as he aims to restore the economy and then tackle fiscal reform.

Wage hikes hold the key to the premier's aim of defeating deflation by reversing a cycle of tame wage growth and weak consumer spending while encouraging Japanese firms to spend their record cash piles on boosting wages.

## Standard Bank wins **Business Transformation** Award-2021

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Bank Ltd recently won the "Business Transformation Award-2021 in the sustainable business category at the "Global Sustainability Leadership Award 2021", organised by the World Marketing Congress.

The bank has been recognised for successfully transforming all of its 138 branches, along with all banking operations, into Shariah-based system from conventional ones, according to a press release.

Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, managing director of Standard Bank, received the award from RL Bhatia, founder and independent director of the World CSR Day & World Sustainability, in Mumbai, India.

Standard Bank is the only institution from Bangladesh to have won the accolade in the sustainable business category.

The World Sustainability, a non-profit organisation, awards a small number of companies around the world every year based on their business capabilities, policies, strategies and sustainability practices.

## Mega project for digital economy

Now with this project, the government wants to use ICT for good governance and service delivery, and ensure Bangladesh's equitable and adequate participation in global ICT trade.

The Planning Commission said the project would play an important role in creating a conducive environment for the local digital economy by achieving economic growth through the enhancement of digital capabilities, and creating employment opportunities through research, training and innovation.

The digital economy refers to a broad range of economic activities that use digitalised information and knowledge as key factors of production, according to Asian Development Bank. The internet, cloud computing, big data, fintech, and other new digital technologies are used to collect, store, analyse, and share information digitally, transforming social interactions in the process.

Bangladesh has already made strides toward digitisation through Bangladesh National Portal, national identity verification system, e-GP platform, and biometric SIM registration system. Various projects worth about Tk 9,000 are currently being implemented under the ICT division. The projects include Learning and Earning Development and "Connected Bangladesh", under which information technology networks will be established in remote areas.

Setting up a secure e-mail and digital literacy centre for the government, the Sheikh Kamal IT Training and Incubation Center, and Aspire to Innovate are among these

### Nahid Enterprise sued for dodging Tk 275cr VAT

The company has shown that it sold goods worth Tk 291.89 crore in the last five years, but the VAT Intelligence officials found the actual sales figure was Tk 1,540.26 crore. "Following an investigation, we found that the co

has hidden their actual sales and purchase information to evade VAT," Moinul Khan, director-general of the VAIID, told The Daily Star. The directorate also requested the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate and the Central Intelligence Cell to take further steps in this regard.

## Chinese developer misses repayment of \$179m

AFP. Beijing

Another Chinese property developer said Monday it had defaulted on a major bond repayment, citing liquidity problems amid a government crackdown on the debt-laden sector.

key growth driver in the world's second-largest economy -- has Beijing tightened home buying per cent bond. rules and launched a regulatory

The moves have

created headaches for several major developers, notably China Evergrande, the country's secondlargest by volume that is weighed down by billions of dollars in debt.

On Monday, Hong Kong-listed China's real estate industry -- a Sunshine 100 China Holdings said it had missed a Sunday deadline to make \$179 million in principal cooled in recent months after and interest payments on a 10.5

The default was due to "liquidity

issues arising from the adverse impact of a number of factors including the macroeconomic environment and the real estate industry", the company said in an exchange filing.

Sunshine 100 has repeatedly struggled to meet its debt obligations this year and also defaulted on a bond repayment in August. The company now has \$385 million of outstanding dollar notes, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

## Social dialogues key to resolving disputes

Huq was speaking at a discussion on "Social Dialogue as an Enabling Mechanism for Gender Equality on the Labour Market experiences from the RMG-sector in Bangladesh", held at The Westin, Dhaka.

The Swedish embassy in Dhaka, International Labour Órganization (ILO), and Global Deal, taking into context Team Europe's initiative styled "Decent Work", jointly organised the discussion which was moderated by Tuomo Poutiainen, country director of the ILO.

"We cannot disregard half of the world's population," said Ann Linde, minister for foreign affairs of Sweden.

government is the world's first feminist government, and as foreign minister I lead a feminist foreign policy but what does that mean in this context?" she asked.

"Well, a natural part of this National Workers Alliance, said policy is to work for gender equality, including in the labour market," she said

"In today's globalised economy, globalisation must work for all. Strengthening gender equality in the labour market is not only the right thing to do, it is also the economically smart thing to do in any society," she added.

Agreeing with the importance of social dialogues, Ziaur Rahman, regional country manager of H&M, a major international buyer of apparels, said his company sources garment items from 300 factories in Bangladesh.

All of the factories from which H&M sources locally made garments are strictly compli ant and some 10 per cent of the supervisors there are women.

In those factories, there are elected bodies, he said.

Shirin Akter, president of

social dialogues were important for the creation of decent working condition in factories.

Rahman, women's secretary to IndustriALL Bangladesh Council, a global trade union, said social dialogues were good if they go in the favour of the workers.

Many workers were sacked during the Covid-19 pandemic but very few people talk in their favour, she said. Begum Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan,

executive president of Mahila Sramik League, said healthy trade unions were also needed for social dialogues.

Bangladesh is already a global champion in green garment also indicates the globally accepted compliance practiced by these companies. Md Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, also spoke at the event.

### Loan write-offs decline as banks lose strength

vear and 135 per cent year-on-year.

In September, NPLs stood at Tk 101,150 crore, up 14 per cent from nine months earlier and 7.1 per cent year-on-year.

Loan write-offs are considered one of the best practices in the world to augment the image of banks as a higher default loan gives a negative signal about the lender, said Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said that the writing off default loans helped banks brighten their image. Besides, banks' capacity to write off loans usually gives an indication about their strength. Salehuddin Ahmed, a former central bank governor, however, said that writing off loans were not a solution to resolve the crisis in the banking sector.

"Banks have to recover the worst category of default loans by

Banks have to lodge cases before writing off a bad loan after they remain struck in the default zone for three years.

Ahmed thinks that the latest relaxed policy for the loan classification has helped banks avoid keeping a high amount of provisioning. It is difficult for lenders to keep 100 per cent cash against a bad asset at a time when the provisioning base weakens,

### Farmers trying out alternative edible oil

"Farming perilla plants is cost effective as no pesticides are required while natural rainfall is enough to meet its irrigation needs," said Bihari Chandra Roy, a farmer of Gangachara upazila in Rangpur. Tushar Kanti Roy, an agricultural extension officer of Kishoreganj

upazila who monitored the pilot cultivation project, said they are motivating farmers by arranging training programmes as 40 per cent of the seed can be processed to produce edible oil while the Habibur Rahman, agriculture officer the upazila, said perilla

cultivation has added benefits as it can be harvested in early November while conventional winter oil crops like mustard seed, sunflower, and peanuts are harvested in March-April.

This provides farmers in the country's northern regions financial support in the lean period before the aman harvesting season, he added.

"If cultivation is increased, the price will come within the reach of low-income groups, which will help ensure proper nutrition in slums and rural areas," Prof Hossain of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture

# Mobile users count losses as call drops pile up

Market leader Grameenphone provided the BTRC with data on off-net call drops for only two months—July and August—of the last fiscal year, citing technical glitches. State-run Teletalk could not provide any

data citing the lack of technical capability. The BTRC committee blamed the mobile operators' failure to connect their towers with fibre optic cables as the main reason

for the mounting call drops.

Local telecom operators use radio frequency to transfer or make calls whereas fibre optic cables are a far better medium for the purpose, experts said.

Grameenphone has so far been able to connect only 12 per cent of its base transceiver stations (BTSs) with fibre optic cable. It stands at 18 per cent for Robi and

13 per cent for Banglalink. Teletalk informed the committee that its 60 per cent towers had fibre optic connections. In a meeting on September 22, the commission decided that the subscribers should be compensated the minutes they are entitled to, and no upper limit on the compensation minutes could be set.

The talk-time has to be returned to the subscribers within 24 hours of the disrupted call, and they have to be notified through an SMS. The customers will get 30 days to use the talk time, according to the meeting.

The regulator also ordered Teletalk to attain the technological capability to collect data on call drops within three months and compensate the users for the disruption accordingly

"Despite our sincere and relentless efforts, call drops are a regular feature in the telecommunication sector due to the very nature of the wireless technology," said Robi's Chief Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Officer Shahed Alam recently.

"However, we do strictly follow the regulation on compensating our customers in relation to the call drops

According to the BTRC Quality of Service parameter, 2 per cent call drops are acceptable in wireless network, which is also in line with the standards of the International Telecommunication Union,

the United Nations body responsible for matters related to information and communication technologies.

Robi's call drops accounted for 0.7 per cent to 0.8 per cent of the total calls in the past one year, according to Alam.

Ankit Sureka, head of corporate communications and sustainability at Banglalink, said, "Being a customerobsessed company, we had introduced call drop compensation for our customers even before the regulator asked us to do so."

"We have continued the compensation system and have been reporting to the regulator since the directives were issued." Grameenphone declined to comment

on the issue.

Call drop can occur in an elevator, a tall building, while travelling or crossing a network pocket, or if the weather is bad, said SM Farhad, secretary-general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.

He says the mobile operators will use the recently purchased spectrum in their whole network within the next few months.

"Discussions are going on among the mobile network operators, the BTRC and the nationwide telecommunication transmission networks (NTTNs). We hope to see a positive result soon.

Abu Saeed Khan, a senior policy fellow at Colombo-based regulatory and policy research organisation LIRNEasia, says mobile quality of service obligations can't be enforced unless the BTRC fixes highly chaotic supply-side regulations.

The commission abruptly prohibited the mobile operators' rollout of optical fibre in 2011. Since then, the insolvent NTTNs could not satisfactorily deliver the optical fibre transmission networks either, according to Khan.

Most disturbingly, the commission allows the hoarding of spectrum although allocated frequency per million mobile subscribers in Bangladesh is the lowest in

the Asia and Pacific region, he said. "Therefore, continuously the deteriorating quality of service is the inevitable outcome of the BTRC's destructive regulations.

#### Stocks rally for fourth day amid optimism

FROM PAGE B4 Sena Kalyan Insurance topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent. The company has surged every day since its debut on the DSE and the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) in November.

CVO Petrochemical, Hakkani Pulp, Aamra Network, and Information Services Network Ltd also posted major gains yesterday. Beximco Ltd was the most traded stock with its shares worth Tk 79 crore changing hands, followed by Genex Infosys, First Security Islami Bank, Sena Kalyan Insurance, and One Bank.

Northern Insurance was the worst performer of the day, dropping 4.34 per cent. Meghna Cement, Fareast Finance, Mercantile Insurance, and ICB 3rd NRB Mutual Fund also gave up significantly.

The CSE, however, fell yesterday. The CASPI, the main index of the bourse in the port city, fell 13 points, or 0.06 per cent, to end the day at 20,402. Of the stocks 148 advanced, 93 declined and 29 were unchanged.

#### Govt aims to raise trade with Russia FROM PAGE B1

as the government is providing various facilities to attract domestic and foreign investment," he said. According to the commerce ministry, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$665.31 million to Russian markets against imports amounting to \$466.70 million in the 2020-21 financial year.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অধিনায়কের কার্যালয় ১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন উত্তরা, ঢাকা



তারিখঃ ০৬/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত ও সীমিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM/LTM)

The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Rules-2008 ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের অব ব্যাটাদিয়নের নিমুবর্ণিত কাজের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী (গ্রুপঃ খ এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য) প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে উন্মুক্ত ও সীমিত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে

০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

"বরষ্ট্রে মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ/বাংলাদেশ পূলিশ বিভাগ। সংস্থা ০৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান ০৪। কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা দরপত্র সূত্র নং তারিখ তারিখঃ ০৬-১২-২০২১খ্রি উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) ০৭। । অর্থের উৎসঃ

০৮। বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত তথ্যাদিঃ রাজস্ব খাত ১১। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সম দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকান দরপত্র ভকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস ও দরপত্র খোলার স্থান অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ আর্মভ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা'র কার্যালয় দরপত্রের যোগ্য ও PG-2/3 অনুযায়ী দরপত্র সিভিউলে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী উল্লেখ্য থাকিবে এবং গ্রুপ (খ) এর ক্ষেত্রে নির্মাণ/মেরামত কাজের কমপক্ষে ০৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে 261 বিবরণঃ গ্রুপঃ (ক) উনুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) নিরাপত্তা জামানত

২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের ৩য় কোয়াটারের বিএসটিআই কর্তৃক অনুমোনিত ভিটামিন "এ" সমৃদ্ধ কোলেস্টেরল মুক্ত সুপার রিফাইভ ভোজ্য তৈল (সয়াবিন) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ সালে ৩য় কোয়ার্টার (জানুয়ারি/২০২: হতে মার্চ/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের ৩য় কোয়ার্টারের স্বচ্ছ পলিপাতে ২০২১-২২ অর্থ সালে ৩য় কোয়ার্টার (জানুয়ারি/২০২: 19,000/ কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ০৭ কার্যদিবসের মধে প্লাস্টিকের বস্তা ৫০ কেজি গ্রুপঃ (খ) সীমিত দরপত্র (I (টাকা) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র মূল ভবনের বর্ধিতাংশ (৫ম তলা) স্টীলের সেমিপাকা শেভ ভেঙ্গে ১২ এপিবিএন, ঢাকার দক্ষিণ কেরাণীগঞ্জ পুলিশ লাইঞে সিভিউল ৩০ শে জুন/২০২২খ্রিঃ এর মধে ব্যাক্তর্কমণ ১২ আর্মন্ড পূলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ কেরাণীগঞ্জ পুলিশ লাইন্সের ফোর্সের মেমিপাকা ব্যারাক ভবন নির্মাণ কাজ সিভিউল 3,20,000/

দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকান দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগ

l) গ্রুপ (ক) এর ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন যোগ্য দরপত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবেন এবং গ্রুপ (খ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সনের জন্য যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ঠিকানার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হইয়াছে সেই প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবেন।

II) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্লাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাভে আবেদনপূর্বক অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিভিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে

া। বা) বা) বা আহচাদের বন্ধারণঝার বা কাববুজ গাতে আন্দেশগুৰুত আক্ষণ চলাকাদাশ শব্দ গণন্ত পর্যায় গোভজ গ্রহাই করা হবে।

IV) দরগেরে উদ্রেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিয়াণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তুপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।

V) The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Regulation-2008 ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোভাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে

VI) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তুপক্ষ সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক যে কোন) দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। তোফায়েল আহাম্ম

বিপি-৭১০১০০৭৯০৩ অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার) ১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয় 🖀 ०२-৫৫०৯२०११ 🖃 ०२-৫৫०৯२०१১