

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 1.00%	▲ 0.99%	\$1,772.60	\$74.59	▲ 1.56%	▲ 1.89%	▲ 0.59%	▲ 0.16%	BUY TK 84.85	94.73	112.98	13.09
7,048.99	12,387.35	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	57,633.65	28,455.60	3,134.66	3,595.09	SELL TK 85.85	98.53	116.78	13.76

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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2021, AGRAHAYAN 23, 1428 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Weak institutions barrier to development

Experts say at CPD-Cornell University virtual conference

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Despite impressive economic growth and development performance over the past few decades, Bangladesh has failed to build its institutional capacities – a failure that may prevent it from making the LDC graduation smooth and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, said economists yesterday.

“There are concerns that the weak institutional capacity of the country may work as a binding constraint as the country eyes to meet the stiff targets of the SDGs and aspires to become an upper-middle-income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041,” said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asia Network for Economic Model.

He was speaking at a panel discussion at the virtual international conference -- Fifty Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Prospect -- organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the South Asia Program of the Cornell University.

Raihan, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, said the improvements in economic and social outcomes had not been accompanied by institutional development. Bangladesh's institutions had remained weak, with some ranking among the lowest in the world.

“It will be very challenging for Bangladesh to attain its development goals if institutional weakness continues.”

He blamed ineffective regulations for the swelling non-performing loans and

CHALLENGES

- Economic improvements have not been accompanied by institutional development
- Weak institutions to make sustainable development journey daunting
- Ineffective regulations are to be blamed
- Bureaucratic quality has not improved
- Ineffectiveness and reported grafts at regulatory agencies are setbacks
- Public debt and debt servicing liabilities expected to rise fast

BANGLADESH MUST

- Take advantage of LDC status over next five years
- Strive to secure new set of international support measures
- Take adequate preparation towards sustainable graduation
- Learn from global experiences to avoid middle income trap



scandals in the banking sector.

“It is partly due to an overlapping supervision by the central bank and the finance ministry and the lack of autonomy of the central bank in regulating public banks.”

Other setbacks facing the country include the ineffectiveness of the Anti-Corruption Commission as it can't investigate civil servants without the permission of the government; the corruption reported at the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General; and grafts at the regulatory agencies related to transports and health.

Prof Raihan said there were four generic

institutional features in Bangladesh: the supremacy of the ‘deals environment’ over coordinated industrial policy; the supremacy of ‘pockets’ of functional informal institutions over weak formal institutions; the challenges of effective regulation; and the challenges of state capacity.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the score card for Bangladesh was not good.

“Bangladesh's performance is very poor in all indicators.

Bureaucratic quality has not improved.”

The implications of the graduation to the middle-income country would be higher interest rate, lower maturity and grace period, more stringent credit terms, and the likelihood of a rise in public debt and debt-servicing liability, said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD.

As of now, Bangladesh's outstanding public debt and debt servicing liabilities are not significant compared to many other countries. However, both are expected to rise fast.

READ MORE ON B3

Noab seeks FBCCI help in fighting Covid fallout

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday sought cooperation from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) to resolve the industry's many challenges stemming from the pandemic's severe fallout.

This was the first-ever meeting between Noab and the FBCCI. Its focus was on the “role of newspapers in advancement of the country, challenges and opportunities of newspaper industry”.

During the meet at the Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka, Noab members informed of different problems that they were facing every day and sought solutions from the FBCCI leaders.

The FBCCI asked Noab members to provide better coverage on issues regarding the country's economic development and business community.

After the meeting, FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin gave a briefing.

He said the newspaper industry needs to be included in the government stimulus package coverage as many newspapers have been going through a tough time from the severe fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Almost all sectors have already received funds from the government-sponsored stimulus packages, except for the newspaper industry which is now struggling to survive.

Even the refrigerator industry received VAT waivers but the newspaper industry still needed to pay VAT despite it being a very vital service industry, he added.

READ MORE ON B2

FOR INQUIRIES CALL US AT 16704

dbi CERAMICS

Ecneec approves 10 projects

Five of them okayed after time and cost revisions

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPIYAN BARUA

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved 10 development projects, half of which were revisions.

The cost and deadline of some of them have been extended twice or thrice despite repeated directives from government high ups for not allowing unusual delays.

Planning Minister MA Mannan at a press briefing following the Ecneec meeting opined that repeated revision of projects has become a national problem.

Five of the project proposals were for time and cost revisions. One was taken up in 2015 involving Tk 87.67 crore to establish two regional training centres of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan in Chattogram and Rajshahi, to be implemented by 2017.

The project's third revision proposal has now been approved, raising the cost to Tk 162.46 crore while the deadline till June 2023.

Another small project involving Tk 45.81 crore on the development of ICT infrastructure, human resources and technology skills of Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat was first approved in July 2017 for completion by June 2020.

The first revision pushed the deadline to June 2021 and the second raised the cost to Tk 56.76 crore.

Yesterday a third revision was approved, increasing the cost to Tk 70.60 crore and pushing the deadline to June 2023.

READ MORE ON B3

Govt readies rules to pave way for electric vehicles

JAGARAN CHAKMA and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is set to remove all complexities for the registration and operation of electric vehicles in Bangladesh as the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry has prepared a guideline in this regard.

The draft “Electric Motor Vehicle Registration and Movement Guideline 2021” emphasises ensuring safety standards and an adequate economic lifetime for electric vehicles.

After preparing the guideline, the Road Transport and Highways Division published the draft on its website on November 24, seeking public opinions within a month. Besides, the division has already sent copies of the draft to the ministries concerned, according to various sources.

After getting opinions from individuals and ministries, the division will hold an inter-ministerial meeting before finalising the draft. Necessary procedures would then be followed before making the guideline functional, said an official preferring anonymity.

The development comes three years after a draft guideline was submitted to the division in November 2018. The division



TYPES OF VEHICLE LIFETIME

Motorcycles	Three-wheelers	Light vehicles	Medium vehicles	Heavy vehicles
12 years	10 years	20 years	20 years	20 years

EVS' ECONOMIC LIFESPAN AS PER NEW POLICY

SOURCE: BRTA

then sent a four-member delegation to India to gain experience. After a two-year pause, the move gained momentum in January this year. The registration and movement

related guidelines for electric vehicles are being formulated as per clause-124 of the Road Transport Act 2018.

As such, electric vehicles will be

registered just like conventional ones and the same rule is applicable for battery-run three wheelers.

READ MORE ON B3

Pubali Bank's Tk 500cr bond gets nod

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday gave the go-ahead to Pubali Bank's perpetual bond worth Tk 500 crore.

The approval came in a commission meeting at the securities commission building.

The bond would be unsecured, contingent-convertible, non-cumulative and Basel III compliant.

Of the Tk 500 crore, Tk 450 crore would be issued through private placement and the rest Tk 50 crore through public offer.

Face value of each bond is Tk 5,000. Its coupon rate ranges from 6 per cent to 10 per cent.

It would be issued to financial institutions, mutual funds, insurance companies, listed banks, and eligible investors.

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Winners of the IDLC-Prothom Alo SME Award 2021 pose with Planning Minister MA Mannan, IDLC Finance Managing Director M Jamal Uddin and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

COLLECTED

IDLC, Prothom Alo honour SME entrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

IDLC Finance Ltd and the Prothom Alo yesterday awarded six SME entrepreneurs for their outstanding contribution to the economy through tireless work and dedication.

Planning Minister MA Mannan handed over the IDLC-Prothom Alo SME Award 2021 at a programme at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. IDLC Finance Ltd Managing Director M Jamal Uddin and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman were present.

Out of 1,100 nominations, the jury panel named the six best entrepreneurs in six categories: education, agriculture, health, manufacturing, best women entrepreneur and a special award.

Khondkar Siddique-e-Rabbani, founder and president of Bi-Beat Ltd, received the award in the health category. He was awarded for leading efforts in innovating technologies that are being used in the healthcare sector.

One of the equipment is the negative pressure isolation canopy, which is preventing doctors and healthcare workers from getting infected by the coronavirus in hospitals, according to a booklet published by the award organisers.

Bi-Beat has also produced a positive pressure isolation canopy, the first of its kind in the world. It is used in keeping patients in the burn unit safe from outside infections.

Md Monir Hosen, founder and CEO of Creative IT Institute, received the award in the education category. Set up in 2008, it has developed the skills of more than 50,000 youths.

READ MORE ON B3



Mohammed Khurshed Alam Khan, deputy commissioner of Noakhali, and Md Tajul Islam, additional managing director of Social Islami Bank Ltd, distribute agricultural finance with a 4 per cent profit rate among about 300 soybean and chili cultivators at Subornochar, Noakhali recently. Chaiti Sarbabidya, upazila nirbahi officer of Subornochar, Md Sirajul Hoque, deputy managing director of Social Islami Bank, and Sadat Ahmad Khan, senior vice-president, were present.



Beanus Hussain, deputy managing director of Rangs Electronics Ltd, inaugurates the company's 95th showroom at Hazipara in Dhaka's Malibagh yesterday. Mohammad Zane Alam, head of marketing, sales and distribution of Rangs Electronics, and KM Musaddeque Ullah, deputy general manager, head of retail sales, were present.

China pledges housing support after latest default

AFP, Beijing
China on Monday announced a reserve ratio cut and renewed support for the housing market as another Chinese property developer said it had defaulted on a major bond repayment.
The central bank said it would cut the reserve requirement ratio by 0.5 percentage points for most banks, effective December 15.
The move reduces the amount of cash the banks must hold in reserve, which will allow 1.2 trillion yuan (\$188 billion) to be injected into the economy over the long term, the central bank said in a statement.
The announcement came after another Chinese developer, Sunshine 100 China Holdings, said it missed a debt repayment deadline, adding to deep concerns over the property market that have been stoked by massive debt at Evergrande Group.
Sunshine 100 said it had missed a Sunday deadline to make \$179 million in principal and interest payments on a 10.5 per cent bond.
The Hong Kong-listed firm said in an exchange filing that 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".
Repeat defaulter Sunshine 100 now has \$385 million of outstanding dollar notes, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Noab seeks FBCCI help in fighting Covid fallout

FROM PAGE B1
Regarding the high tax rate, Uddin said the garment sector's corporate tax ranged between 10 per cent and 12 per cent but the newspaper industry has been paying 37.5 per cent.
A standing committee on the newspaper industry will be formed with the FBCCI soon so that the challenges can be resolved through discussions, he added.
The FBCCI president sought cooperation from the media, especially newspapers, to overcome the challenges of the country's status graduation to a developing nation from a least developed country in 2026.
Some sectors like that of transport, restaurants, tourism and small and medium enterprises have been severely affected while others, such as food and e-commerce, grew during the pandemic.
"Newspaper as an industry is also a general member of the FBCCI. It is our moral duty to protect the interests of our general members," Uddin said.
"Newspapers are facing a lot of tax, VAT and digital security act challenges. We have discussed all those issues in the meeting," he added.
The FBCCI chief lauded the contribution of newspapers in the country's development alongside independence. Noab President AK Azad said the newspaper industry had fallen sick in the pre-pandemic period because of a price hike of the basic raw materials it used.
The severe fallout has been aggravating the ailments as the sale of newspapers has fallen anywhere from 24 per cent to 25 per cent during the pandemic. This is because many readers now

do not opt for physical copies of newspapers, instead they prefer digital editions on electronic devices, he said.
And although many industries need not pay import tax, the newspaper industry has been paying 24 per cent in total as import tax despite being a service industry.
This includes a 5 per cent duty and 15 per cent VAT and advanced income tax (AIT), he added.
Azad, also a former FBCCI president, said newspaper offices can retain Tk 6 or Tk 6.50 after deducting hawkers' commission from selling each newspaper for Tk 10.
However, much of that amount remains unrealised as people do not want to pay the money. Moreover, the inflow of advertisements declined sharply due to the Covid-19 fallout and as a result, many newspapers could not pay their employees in a timely fashion during the pandemic, Azad said. The newspaper industry has fallen victim to discrimination as Bangladesh Bank has provided stimulus packages for other sectors but not the newspaper industry.
If the government does not provide a stimulus package to the industry, many may lose their jobs and many newspapers may face partial shutdowns, he added.
Azad said such apprehensions has prompted the newspaper industry to seek stimulus funds from the government.
Noab members Mahfuz Anam, publisher and editor of The Daily Star; Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo; Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor of Bonik Barta; and Shah Husain Imam, editor of The Financial Express, were also present at the meeting.

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার

"বেশী বেশী চা পাল করুন
স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।"

"বেশী বেশী লিকার চা পানো
ক্যাফার, হৃদরোগ হার মানে।"

১টি টি ব্যাগ প্যাকেজিং মেশিন ও প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।		
২	এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড।		
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক/সংস্থের নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট।		
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক/সংস্থের অবস্থান	বিটিআরআই, থানা ও উপজেলা-শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার।		
৫	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	(ক) ১টি টি ব্যাগ প্যাকেজিং মেশিন ক্রয়। (খ) প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয়।		
৬	সম্প্রদায়িক/সংস্থের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)		
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিআরআই/২/দরপত্র/চ-৮/১২৭৪, তারিখ ০৭/১২/২০২১ইং		
৮	অর্থের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব খাত হতে।		
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	০৯/১২/২০২১ইং হতে ২২/১২/২০২১ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।		
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৩/১২/২০২১ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।		
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৩/১২/২০২১ইং দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।		
১২	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ডাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদপত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদসহ দরপত্র দলিল মোতাবেক অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।		
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	লট-০১ঃ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা প্রতিটি ও লট-০২ঃ ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা প্রতিটি।		
১৪	পত্রের পরিচিতি	সরবরাহের স্থান	টেন্ডার সিডিউল	সরবরাহের সময়
লট নং-০১ঃ ১টি টি ব্যাগ প্যাকেজিং মেশিন ক্রয়	বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল	৪০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা	২১ (একুশ) দিন	
লট নং-০২ঃ প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয়	বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল	১৫,০০০/- (পনেরো হাজার) টাকা	২১ (একুশ) দিন	
১৫	টেন্ডার সিডিউলটির অর্থ	ফেরতযোগ্য হিসেবে সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন তর্পাল ব্যাংক হতে পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট অনুকূলে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।		
১৬	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), ফোনঃ ০৮৬৬৬-৭১২২৫, Email: director@bri.gov.bd , web: www.bri.gov.bd		
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ডাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদপত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদসহ দরপত্র দলিল মোতাবেক অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে। খ) একই প্রতিষ্ঠান দুটি লট এ অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ব ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

জিডি-২২৬৭

ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী
পরিচালক

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Cumilla
www.lged.gov.bd

Date: 06/12/2021

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.002.2021-5316

e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No: 22/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
1.	CCB/C/VR/W-12	(a) Improvement of Ramkrishnapur-Chanderchar road to Paratali village Road at Ch. 00-870m (Road ID. 419545002) (b) Construction of 272m Protective Work on the same road under Homna Upazila, District: Cumilla.	634125	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
2.	CCB/C/VR/W-13	(a) Improvement of Uziara Village Road at Ch. 00-500m (Road ID. 419365078) (b) Construction of 157m Protective Work on the same road under Daudkandi Upazila, District: Cumilla.	634126	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
3.	CCB/C/UNR/W-14	(a) Improvement of Daudkandi Matlab RHD (Kairapur) - Kalirbaraz via Padua UP office Road at Ch. 370-1600m (Road ID. 419363024) (b) Construction of 325m Protective Work on the same road under Daudkandi Upazila, District: Cumilla.	634127	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
4.	CCB/C/VR/W-15	(a) Improvement of Paul Para Gombi Embankment - Ali Mia Delar Bari Via Mozunder Bari Road at Ch. 00-1062m (Road ID. 419675251) (b) Construction of 94m Protective Work on the same road (c) Construction of 07 Nos 0.600mX0.600m Culvert at Ch. 108m, 176m, 262m, 435m, 616m, 652m & 685m under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla.	634128	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
5.	GSIDP/COM/SDW-534	Improvement of Arifpur Village Graveyard Union Khosbash Uttar at Barura Upazila. Latitude 23.41212 Longitude 91.03322	634624	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
6.	e-Tender/LGED/Cum/GOBM/21-22/W-113	Emergency Maintenance of Earth Filling and Protective Work of Mohammad Pur Sheak Rasel Club (Upazila road to Lakshimpur road from Ch.00m-912m Road ID. 419725056 under Laksham Upazila, District: Cumilla.	635677	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	LTM
7.	RIDP/CBC/C-BW34b	Remaining work of construction of 52.06 m long RCC Girder Bridge over Kalakandi up office bhitikandi up office (dashkandi) road at ch 1680 m under Titas upazila Dist. Cumilla Road id no 419893009	635913	29-12-2021 17:00 pm	30-12-2021 12:10 pm	OTM
8.	CCB/C/UNR/W-11	(a) Improvement of Laksham Purba UP Office (Norpali Bazar) - Sakra bazar via Satrani RHD Road at Ch. 00-2382m (Road ID. 419723020) (b) Construction of 602m Protective Work on the same road (c) Construction of 0.75mX0.75m 05 Nos Culvert at Ch. 89m, 210m, 379m, 965m & 2060m on the same road under Laksham Upazila, District: Cumilla. (Salvage Materials cost. Tk. 2,10,747/-).	634124	10-01-2022 17:00 pm	11-01-2022 12:10 pm	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off-line/Hard copies 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 Portal have to be deposited through online at any Branches of registered Bank.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd.

(Mirza Md. Iftekhar Afi)
Executive Engineer
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E-mail: xen.cumilla@lged.gov.bd

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়,
২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
ওয়েব : www.health.nao.gov.bd

স্মারক নং তত্ত্বাবধায়ক/নওগাঁ/২০২১-২২/২১/২৮/ ১৩৭৭

তারিখঃ ০৭/১২/২০২১ ইং।

" দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি "

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ।
২	সংস্থা	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।
৩	ক্রয় / সংগ্রহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর দপ্তরের নাম	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
৪	ক্রয় / সংগ্রহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা	নওগাঁ।
৫	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	ডাঃ জাহিদ নজরুল চৌধুরী।
৬	দরপত্র ও সরবরাহকারীর ধরণ	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ'র পথ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ ও কাপড় খোলাই। প্রকৃত যোগ্য ঠিকাদার / ব্যবসায়ী / সরবরাহকারী / প্রকৃত যোগ্য।
৭	সংগৃহীতব্য পত্রের সংখ্যিক বিবরণ	ভর্তিকৃত রোগীর পথ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ এবং মাল্য কাপড় খোলাই কাজ।
৮	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ও ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া	উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতিতে প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা টেন্ডারী চালানের মাধ্যমে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ'র অনুকূলে সরকারী কোম্পানি কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ বাতে সোনালী ব্যাংক, নওগাঁয় জমা দিয়া চালানের মূল কপি এবং অনলাইনে চালান যাচাই করি বা সি.টি.আর গ্রহণ পূর্বক স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব স্বাক্ষরিত পত্র তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ'র বরাবরে আবেদন পূর্বক শর্তে উন্মুক্তভাবে কাপড় পত্র প্রদান অর্থাৎ দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়/সমগ্র্য করতে হবে।
৯	ক্রয় / সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান পদ্ধতি (Open Tender Method)।
১০	বাজেট/ অর্থের উৎস	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহামালা, টাকা এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় (অনুদান / রাজস্ব ও উন্নয়ন)।
১১	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারীর তারিখ	০৭/১২/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ।
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ১৪/১২/২০২১ ইং হইতে ০৪/০১/২০২২ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সরকারী ছুটির দিন বাতিল) সময়ঃ সকাল ৯.০০ঘটিকা হইতে বৈকাল ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/০১/২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়ঃ সকাল ৯:০০ মি: থেকে বিকাল ২:০০ মি:।
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০১/২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়ঃ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হইতে দুপুর ১২.০০ টা।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০১/২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১:০০ মি:।
১৬	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ক) তত্ত্বাবধায়কের দপ্তর, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নওগাঁ।
১৭	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ক) তত্ত্বাবধায়কের দপ্তর, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নওগাঁ।
১৮	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ক) তত্ত্বাবধায়কের দপ্তর, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর সংস্থা যোগাযোগ	টেলিফোনঃ ০৭৪১-৬২০২০ (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
২০	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	যে কোন তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হইতে পয়াদির জন্য ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) এবং কাপড় খোলাইয়ের জন্য =১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ'র অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট / পে অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হবে।
২১	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	পিপিএ- ২০০৬, সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ এবং পি পিআর ২০০৮ সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ অনুসরণ যোগ্য। পরবর্তীতে যে কোন জরীকৃত সরকারী আদেশ গ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হইবে। সমগ্র্যকৃত সত্য কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র প্রত্যাখ্যানের যে কোন ধাপে আবেদন বা সম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। বিবর্তিত তথ্য জানার জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়ে নওগাঁ যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

(ডাঃ জাহিদ নজরুল চৌধুরী)
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক

২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
ই-মেইল : naogaon@hospi.dghs.gov.bd



Ghulam Rahman **Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan**

Consumers Association re-elects top brass

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ghulam Rahman, former chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan have been re-elected as president and general secretary of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (Cab).

M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser of the Cab, has been elected as senior vice-president, while SM Nazer Hossain, executive director of ISDE Bangladesh, as vice president; and Md Shahnewaz Chowdhury as joint secretary, the association said in a press release.

Md Munjur-e-Khoda Tarafdar, acting vice-chancellor of Fareast International University, and Syed Mizanur Rahman Raju, professor of Daffodil International University, have been elected as treasurer and organising secretary respectively.

Muhammad Sajedul Islam, a lecturer of Daffodil International University, has been elected as publicity secretary, while SMG Saqlain Russell, associate professor of Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute, Munira Alam and Ijazur Rahman have been elected as members.

The members of the Cab elected their new executive committee for the next two years in an election held online yesterday. Harun-ur-Rashid was the chief election commissioner and Mushtaq Ahmed Bhuiyan and Main Uddin Ahmed were election commissioners in the poll.

The annual general meeting of the Cab was also held on the same day with its president Ghulam Rahman in the chair, according to the press release.

"The newly elected executive committee will be more active in the future in safeguarding the interests of 18 crore consumers in the country and will continue to work to meet their expectations," Ghulam Rahman said while addressing the new committee.



MIDLAND BANK

Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury, group adviser of SSLCOMMERZ, and Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director of Midland Bank Ltd, cut a cake to launch 'Bangla QR' payment service through 'Midland Online' app at the latter's head office in Dhaka recently. Bangla QR is a new form of payment technology that is contactless and cashless, developed by SSLCOMMERZ under the guidelines of Bangladesh Bank's national QR code standard for retail payments specifications. The bank's customers will be able to pay to all the retail shops and businesses through the service.



COLLECTED

Yasir Azman, chief executive officer of Grameenphone, and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, launch co-branded Visa Signature and Platinum credit cards for GP Star customers at a city hotel recently. The co-branded cardholders will enjoy exclusive benefits. Syed Rafiqul Haq, additional managing director of the bank, Goutam Prosdas Das, Tarek Reaz Khan, deputy managing directors, Mohammad Sajjad Hasib, chief marketing officer of the mobile phone operator, and Nafees Anwar Chowdhury, head of marketing, were present.

Ecneec approves 10 projects

FROM PAGE B1

A much-talked-about project on construction of 560 model mosques alongside Islamic cultural centres at district and upazila levels had a second revision approved yesterday with the time extended by three years.

The Ecneec on April 25, 2017 approved the project at an initial estimated cost of Tk 9,062.41 crore for implementation by December 2019.

The project, being implemented by Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, will now cost Tk 9,435 crore and end in June 2024.

Two other projects, including one on development of navigability of river route from the Mongla port to a nuclear power plant and the other on rural infrastructural development of greater Noakhali district got approval of their first revision.

The cost of the navigability development project has been increased to Tk 1,290 crore from its original estimate of Tk 956 crore while that of the rural infrastructural development project to Tk 1,465 crore from Tk 1,152 crore.

According to planning commission

documents presented yesterday, the changes were for increase in construction costs due to changes in rate schedules, delays in land acquisition, inclusion of new components and for ensuring proper completion.

Asked about the repeated revisions, Planning Minister MA Mannan, at a press briefing afterwards, said it was a recurring problem and people as well as the government were concerned about it. He, however, said project implementing delays also occur in developed countries like Switzerland and England.

"There are some realistic problems in implementing projects, such as Covid, nobody knew it will happen," said the minister.

Rate schedules also change in some cases. Projects are taken based on a particular rate schedule but for delays in starting the works, prices of construction materials increase due to devaluation of the taka, Mannan said.

He went on saying that in some cases land acquisition was another major problem and many people were unwilling to give up their land due to a scarcity of it. The minister said they

were trying hard to reduce the delays.

State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the planning commission to explain the reasons behind the revisions.

She also emphasised on getting the youth engaged in Islamic cultures through the mosque project to keep them from falling victim to extremism, Alam informed.

On the Noakhali rural infrastructural project, she directed the secretary to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives to monitor proper use of allocated funds and to ensure quality of work.

Among the five new projects, the Ecneec approved one on the establishment of burn and plastic surgery units at five medical college hospitals in Sylhet, Barishal, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Faridpur for Tk 456.09 crore and for completion by June 2024.

Another was on "Enhancing Digital Government and Economy", to be implemented by the Information and Communication Technology Division for Tk 2541.65 crore between January 2022 and December 2026.

S Africa economy shrinks for first time in a year

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's economy shrank for the first time in a year in the third quarter as the country was hit by riots and tighter Covid restrictions, official statistics showed Tuesday.

After four consecutive quarters of growth, the economy of Africa's most industrialised country contracted by 1.5 per cent between July and September compared to the previous three-month period, the Stats SA agency said. The contraction eroded "some of the economic gains the country has made since the severe impact of Covid-19 in the second quarter of 2020," Stats SA said in a statement.

The economy underperformed "under the twin pressures of tighter Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and a spate of civil disorder in July, as well as several other headwinds", the agency said. A spree of arson and looting rocked parts of South Africa in July following the jailing of ex-president Jacob Zuma for contempt after he refused to appear before graft investigators.

Govt readies rules to pave way for electric vehicles

FROM PAGE B1

According to the policy, electric vehicles are run by electric motors powered by rechargeable batteries. However, battery-run rickshaws and bicycles do not fall in this bracket.

In addition, a vehicle's chassis must be engraved with certain details, such as its international vehicle identification number.

The policy also said that the speed capacity of electric vehicles in loaded conditions would have to be set at levels like that of conventional vehicles as per law.

Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of Nitol-Niloy Group and former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the initiative is great news for electric vehicle manufacturers as it would help develop the industry.

"Car importers could not even import these vehicles due to the lack of a registration policy," he added.

Regarding the commercial lifetime of such vehicles, Ahmad said the government should reduce the expected tenure for all vehicle categories.

Local automobile companies such as Bangladesh Auto Industries Ltd and Nitol Motors, a concern of Nitol-Niloy Group, have been working since 2019 to set up electric vehicle plants in the country.

Under the automobile policy, the government introduced more attractive tax exemptions and tax holidays for investments in energy-efficient vehicle assembly even if the plant is located outside an economic zone.

It also introduced import duties and reduced VAT for promoting local assembly.

Besides, manufacturers can get a 10-year tax holiday if 30 per cent of the components used are locally sourced and another 10 years if it is 40 per cent.

"If the government legalised easy bikes in line with electric vehicles, huge investment would come to Bangladesh as it has a big market," said Syed Samiul Huq, director of Japan SolarTech (Bangladesh), which locally manufactures products of Yuasa, Japan's leading automobile battery brand.

Around 12 lakh to 20 lakh unregistered easy bikes and battery-operated three-wheelers are currently plying the roads in Bangladesh.

However, only substandard easy bike batteries imported from China or assembled in Bangladesh are available in the country.

However, Japan SolarTech did not invest in manufacturing easy bike batteries due to the lack of a legal framework and support in this regard, Huq said.

After the proposed policy is introduced though, people will invest in the manufacturing of lithium batteries in Bangladesh, he added.

Pubali Bank's Tk 500cr bond gets nod

FROM PAGE B1

With the bond proceeds, the lender will strengthen its capital base of additional tier 1.

The trustee of the bond will be Green Delta Capital while the arranger, issue manager and underwriter will be City Bank Capital Resources and UCB Investments jointly.

IDLC, Prothom Alo honour SME entrepreneurs

FROM PAGE B1

Over 5 lakh youths have received IT-related career guidelines.

Razia Sultana, managing director of Raiyan Agro Link, got the award in the agriculture category for her success in setting up farms in Ashulia, Manikganj and Haluaghat in Mymensingh that sell vegetables and flowers in the capital.

She has also set up a Facebook group where potential entrepreneurs can receive training. Thanks to the platform, which has more than 5 lakh members, people can buy quality saplings, pesticides and fertilizer.

Kamrunnaha Khanam, managing director of Nababi Footwear Ltd, became the Best Woman Entrepreneur in recognition of her work to produce specialised fashion shoes, slippers and sandals from jute and jute-made fabric.

She set up a factory at the BSCIC Industrial park in Netrokona in January 2018 and began producing footwear

products from jute. When she faced with the shortage of skilled workers, she started training them. Now, 66 workers are employed at her factory.

The factory also makes bags, ornaments, covers, mats and floor mats. The products are exported to France and Spain.

Md Ole Ullah, owner of Janata Engineering, was awarded in the manufacturing category. The company makes about 40 types of farm machinery such as tractors, power tillers, seeders, bed planters, and combined harvesters and they are used across the country. His three factories currently employ at least 60 people.

Inspired and trained by Ole Ullah, at least 86 people from Chuadanga, Cumilla, Chattogram, Faridpur, and Jhenaidaha are manufacturing farm machinery. The entrepreneur employs 10 to 12 people.

Rehana Akter, owner of Clay Image,

received a special award for her work to produce kitchen-ware from clay and other ceramic materials. Her products are exported to 30 countries and she employs 70 workers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Planning Minister MA Mannan congratulated the winners. He said that SMEs had played an important role behind the country's development success.

He said: "There was a time when I used to hear only stories about failures of Bangladesh. Now it is fairly said that Bangladesh has turned around. Wherever I go, I can only hear the success stories."

M Jamal Uddin said small and medium enterprises are the backbone of the economy.

"We have been working with entrepreneurs in this sector for a long time. If we can encourage the entrepreneurs to do better, they will be able to play a greater role in the development of the country."

MFS helping Bangladesh become digital economy

FROM PAGE B4

The MFS sector plays a key role in supporting the government's policy to transfer benefits digitally instead of cash payments. One of the most significant applications is taking place in case of the Primary Education Stipend Programme. Some 13 million primary-level students get government stipends amounting a total of Tk 4,000 crore through MFS.

During the pandemic, the use of MFS has increased in the education sector, from paying college admission and tuition fees to disbursement of salaries. This is directly contributing to transforming digital education.

Over the last four years, inward remittance through MFS increased by 3,569 per cent. Recently, Bangladesh has recorded its first block chain-based instant cross-border remittance service. The feat was made possible thanks to a partnership between Standard Chartered Bank, bKash of Bangladesh, and Valyou of Malaysia.

Digital bill payments through MFS

are becoming popular. In August, bills paid totaled Tk 1,323 crore, which was Tk 225.49 crore in September 2016.

Merchant payment rose three times to Tk 3,465 crore in August, which was Tk 1,062 crore in the same month last year, and salary disbursement through the MFS system almost doubled to Tk 1,903 crore from Tk 1,063 crore in August last year.

In Bangladesh, people are often compelled to take loans from informal sources due to complex terms and conditions along with longer lead time to meet their emergency needs. Recently, City Bank and bKash rolled out digital lending on a pilot basis.

Now, loan-seekers no longer need to go through a completely physical process to secure a loan. This will bring transformative change to the life of marginalised people, micro-entrepreneurs, and students to meet their emergency personal or business needs.

Also, some financial organisations are collecting loans and deposit pension scheme instalments through

MFS. Insurance companies are also shifting their focus to digital system to accelerate collection and improve customer payment journey.

The government's recent initiative to allow micro-businesses to receive payment through digital means is indeed a very positive move for our digital economy.

Industry experts believe that cashless society is an indispensable part to achieve further economic growth, and having access to digital financial services and enhancement of digital financial inclusion will help drive economic development.

The government and corporations have already started taking steps towards digital financial inclusion and digital finance, and such initiatives are giving hope for a better future. This will directly contribute to achieving our next two targets: an upper-middle-income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041.

The author is the head of supply chain and procurement at bKash.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Barishal
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e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 143/EED/BARI/Project Code: (1250301-1250301109972-4111201 & 1250301-120001601-3258108) e-Tender/2021-22 Date: 06/12/2021

Name of Project: Construction/Extension of Academic Buildings to Selected Govt. & Non Govt. Educational Institutions. & Repair/Renovation of Govt. Educational Institutions.

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works.

S. L	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	REV-01: Repair And Renovation Works of 1. Main Building at Office of the Executive Engineer, EED, Sadar, Barishal. 2. Boundary wall and Gate at Office of the Executive Engineer, EED, Sadar, Barishal.	629873	NCT, OTM	28-Dec-2021 15:00	29-Dec-2021 12:00
02	Pile-01: Construction of Pre-cast Pile Works at Memania Secondary School, Hizla, Barishal.	631562	NCT, OTM	28-Dec-2021 15:00	29-Dec-2021 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Jahangir Alam
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Barishal

GD-2269

Stocks keep soaring, cross 7,000 points again

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

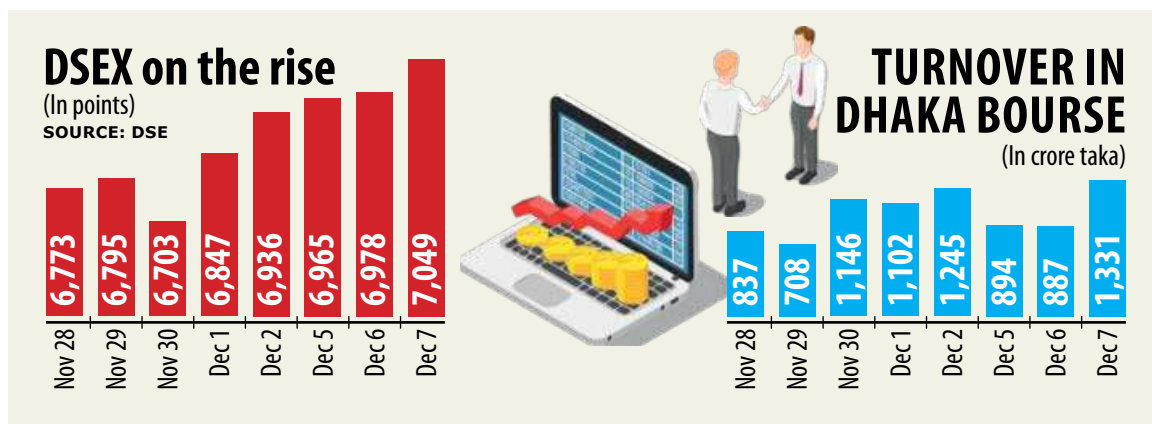
The domestic stock market maintained its gaining streak for a fifth consecutive day yesterday thanks to higher investor participation.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose 70 points, or 1 per cent, to 7,048.

With this, the index has crossed 7,000 points after nine trading days. In the last four days, it soared 345 points, or 5 per cent.

At the same time, the DSE's turnover rose 49 per cent to Tk 1,330 crore, up from Tk 887 crore on the previous day.

The benchmark index of the Dhaka bourse crossed the 7,000-mark by adding 70 points as investors were putting fresh bets on sector specific stocks in hopes of getting positive results in the coordinating meeting, International Leasing Securities said in its daily market review.



Investors are optimistic that a meeting between the finance ministry and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission will remove all disputes among the two regulators and accelerate overall economic development, it said.

At the country's premier bourse, 274 stocks advanced, 69 declined and 32 remained the same. Meghna Condensed Milk topped

the gainers list, rising 10 per cent, followed by Meghna Pet Industries, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag, Tamijuddin Textile, and Sena Kalyan Insurance.

Aman Feed shed the most, dropping 3.57 per cent, followed by Asia Insurance, GBB Power, Index Agro Industries and Fortune Shoes.

Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most with Tk 130 crore worth

of shares changing hands, followed by One Bank, GSP Finance, Power Grid, and First Security Islami Bank.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also rose yesterday. The CASPI, the main index of the CSE, gained 204 points, or 1 per cent, to hit 20,606.

Among the 291 traded stocks, 210 rose, 61 fell and 20 remained unchanged.

MFS helping Bangladesh become digital economy



MOHAMMAD RASHEDUL ALAM

Vision 2021, commonly known as Digital Bangladesh, one of the long-term socioeconomic development goals of the country, was unveiled more than a decade ago, and initiatives were taken accordingly by the government.

As part of the efforts, the Bangladesh Bank issued licences for mobile financial service (MFS). It aimed to bring the unbanked people into the formal financial sector and lead to greater financial intermediation and contribute to growth.

MFS is revolutionising the traditional money transaction process and within a very short period of time, it was widely accepted thanks to affordability and the secure medium of transaction. Tech-savvy population, mobile connection, and internet penetration have played an active role for the bullish growth of the MFS sector since its inception.

In July 2021, the number of registered MFS users reached 10.27 crore. It grew 159 per cent in the last four years. The number of monthly MFS transactions was 32.64 crore in July.

In recent years, Bangladesh has witnessed a rapid growth of digitalisation, which is slowly changing the shape of the country's socioeconomic parameters and pushing it towards the digital age. MFS operators are contributing to transforming Bangladesh into a digital economy.

Over the last couple of years, Bangladesh has remarkable progress in enhancing financial inclusion. And as a key driver, MFS has played an active role. In 2013, the financial inclusion rate was 20 per cent. It rose to 55 per cent in 2019.

In parallel with the growth of digital payment, the e-commerce sector's

expansion has exceeded all expectations.

From January 2020, retail e-commerce has been growing at 72 per cent a month on an average, and is projected to cross Tk 25,500 crore by 2023, powered by easy digital payment gateway through MFS platform and internet penetration.

Going cashless has multiple micro- and macro-level advantages. It not only eases one's life, it also helps reduce paper currency production cost.

Digital payments have been growing steadily in Bangladesh for the last several years, thus helping the country boost revenue collection.

As per Bangladesh Bank statistics, monthly transaction volume grew more than 50 per cent year-on-year to Tk 62,230 crore in August 2021, which was Tk 41,403 crore in the same month last year.

In 2017, the Economist published a widely referenced article claiming that oil had been replaced as the world's most valuable resource by data. Data is the raw product for a digital economy. In Bangladesh, one of the biggest sources of financial information is MFS.



OPINION

Decision-makers, both in public and private sectors, rely on data to make decisions. Using artificial intelligence and machine learning technology, the 10.27 crore customers' transaction trend and numbers can be a potential source of information for effective disaster and pandemic relief management and running government safety nets, social welfare and other development programmes.

The government's decision to distribute the fund under its social safety net programmes through MFS will ensure faster execution and transparency and bring more unbanked people under the formal financial system.

Currently, Bangladesh runs more than 125 social protection programmes through 20 ministries and divisions. The government has allocated Tk 95,570 crore for social protection purposes in the current fiscal year.

READ MORE ON B3

25 firms face BSEC ultimatum on holding minimum shares

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has again taken strict stance, giving a 30-day ultimatum to 25 listed company directors to maintain the regulation for holding the minimum number of shares.

Earlier, the BSEC ordered all the listed companies directors to hold at least 2 per cent shares individually and 30 per cent jointly.

However up until October 31, the BSEC found that 25 companies

had failed to hold the minimum shares. This prompted the commission on Monday to send letters to the managing directors of the companies.

The directors of all the listed companies were ordered to hold at least 30 per cent shares, according to the BSEC directives.

If the companies failed to hold the shares, they will be punished as per the BSEC order, the regulator said in its letter.

Among the companies are Aziz Pipes, Fu-Wang Foods, Fas



Finance and Investment, Active Fine Chemicals, Salvo Chemicals, Delta Spinners, Central Pharmaceutical, Apollo Ispat, Information Services Network, Generation Next Fashion and RSRM Steel.

The remaining ones are Alhaj Textile, Olympic Accessories, Shurwid Industries, Fareast Islami Insurance, Pharma Aids, Kattali Textile, Fu-Wang Ceramic, Mithun Knitting, C&A Textile, Familytex, Prime Insurance, Fine Foods, Agni System and Advent Pharmaceuticals.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Biden vows to fix US money laundering loopholes

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden's administration will announce an anti-corruption strategy meant to tackle two major vehicles for money laundering in the United States -- real estate transactions and shell companies.

"We'll be releasing the first ever US government strategy on countering corruption," a senior administration official said on a conference call ahead of the announcement on Monday.

The administration intends to tighten regulations on real estate transactions to prevent them from being used to launder money earned through trafficking, embezzlement or bribes.

It also aims to increase financial transparency by better identifying who is behind front companies.

"With the United States being the world's largest economy, we understand that we bear particular responsibility to address our own regulatory deficiencies," the official said.

This, the official added, includes better identification of beneficial owners, which refers to the real owners of financial assets placed in shell companies.

Congress passed a law in January requiring US companies to declare their beneficial owners to the federal government. This marked a breakthrough in the United States, where laws on the matter are extremely flexible -- for example in places such as Delaware, Biden's home state.

The White House wants to better regulate real estate transactions, particularly when made in cash.

"The US real estate market continues to be used as a vehicle for money laundering," the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

In a report published in August, the Washington think tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimated that in the last five years, at least \$2.3 billion in dirty money had been laundered through real estate transactions in the United States.

"Yet the US remains the only G7 country that does not require real estate professionals to comply with anti-money laundering (AML) laws and regulations," it said.

China's export growth loses steam in Nov

AFP, Beijing

Export growth in China lost some steam in November as holiday demand from abroad faded, official data showed Tuesday, but demand for overseas fuel pushed up imports to spike above expectations.

Strong exports have helped to boost growth in the world's second-largest economy since mid-2020, with China containing domestic outbreaks through tough lockdowns and mass testing -- after the coronavirus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan.

Despite recent power outages caused by emissions-reduction targets, the surging price of coal, and supply shortages, factories kept the goods flowing and the power crisis has been winding down.

But experts have warned that the export boom is likely to fade as the world gradually returns to normalcy.

In November, exports rose 22 per cent on-year, better than analysts expected but below the 27.1 per cent growth clocked in October, according to the latest customs data.

A recent report by ING said Chinese exports likely slowed "given that most orders for western holiday demand have been fulfilled".

Imports, however, rose an unexpected 31.7 per cent -- well above the 21.5 per cent increase tipped by a Bloomberg consensus poll.

"The surprisingly high number comes from contributions of coal, natural gas and crude oil imports... it's basically to meet the domestic demand for energy," said Zhaopeng Xing, senior China strategist at ANZ Research.



Chinese workers checking on the giant container crane at the port in Lianyungang, China's Jiangsu province.

Samsung to merge mobile, consumer electronics units

REUTERS, Seoul

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd will merge its mobile and consumer electronics divisions, the firm said on Tuesday, naming new co-chief executives in the biggest reshuffle since 2017 to simplify its structure and focus on the logic chip business.

Two co-chief executives, instead of three, will lead the South Korean firm as it pivots on the two business pillars of chips and consumer devices, including smartphones, to help lead the next phase of growth and boost competitiveness.

Samsung, whose Galaxy flagship brand helped it become the world's biggest smartphone maker by volume, is seeking to revive slowing mobile growth, whose profit contribution shrank to 21 per cent last quarter from nearly 70 per cent at its peak in early 2010s.

Instead, its component business, led by chips, has become the most profitable, helped by a boom in data storage and a recent shortage of global semiconductor supplies.

The business generated nearly three-quarters of Samsung's 15.8 trillion won (\$13.4 billion) operating profit last quarter.

Samsung said Han Jong-hee, the head of visual display business, will become a co-CEO, leading the newly merged division spanning mobile and consumer electronics as well as continuing to lead the television business.

Han has risen through the ranks in Samsung's visual display business, without experience in mobile. It is not immediately clear what changes or divisions of labour were expected under Han, but analysts said the reshuffle could help Samsung tackle challenges such as offering seamlessly connected services between its smartphones and home appliances.

"In the long term, the biggest challenge is forming a platform of Samsung's own," said Lee Jae-yun, an analyst at Yuanta Securities Korea.

"Those businesses have to keep increasing connectivity between devices, but so far it hasn't been able to create a lasting platform with presence."

More immediate problems are a shortage of chip supplies, rising raw material prices, logistics difficulties, and competition from Apple Inc and Chinese rivals amid concerns about a slowing mobile market, analysts said.

Kyung Kye-hyun, chief executive of component affiliate Samsung Electro-Mechanics and a former head of the flash memory chip and technology team, was named co-CEO to lead the chip and components division.

Other high-profile promotions included naming as vice chairman Chung Hyun-ho, the head of a "task force" that analysts said co-ordinates decision-making in Samsung Electronics and affiliates, and which media have said works closely with Lee.

The re-organisation is the latest sign of centralised change at Samsung after Vice Chairman Jay Y Lee was paroled in August after a bribery conviction.

IMF sees China's growth 'slowing notably'

AFP, Washington

China has an important part to play in the global economy as it recovers from Covid-19, but its growth is slowing, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said Monday.

The head of the Washington-based crisis lender held a virtual meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and discussed topics ranging from inflation to the recovery from the pandemic, according to a statement released by the IMF.

"China achieved a truly remarkable

recovery, but its growth momentum has been slowing notably. As China is a vital engine for global growth, taking strong actions to support high-quality growth will help not only China, but the world," Georgieva said.

In October, the IMF lowered its forecasts for China's growth due to an accelerating pullback in public spending, predicting an eight per cent expansion this year and 5.6 per cent growth in 2022.

While the 2021 figure is Beijing's strongest rate of growth since 2011, analysts warn China is facing a painful

fallout from real estate weakness and shocks from surging coal prices and shortages.

Georgieva added that Beijing had made "important contributions" to expanding vaccine access so the world can achieve the IMF's goal of inoculating 40 per cent of the population of each country against Covid-19 by the end of this year and 70 per cent by the middle of next.

With China embroiled in an ongoing spat with the United States, Georgieva said countries need "to cooperate to reduce trade tensions and strengthen the

multilateral trading system, which is a key engine for growth and jobs.

"The IMF is pushing the G20 group of the world's richest countries, including China, to extend and improve their debt relief initiative, warning last week that many countries face a dire crisis without the help."

The group's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) expires at the end of the year, and Georgieva said she "welcome continued engagement with China on" the G20's Common Framework that continues some of the relief.