



Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank Ltd, inaugurates a workshop at the Netrokona Circuit House auditorium yesterday. The workshop, Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating the Finance of Terrorism, was organised by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) under the management of Pubali Bank, with 67 representatives of 20 banks in the district participating. Shahana Ferdousi, deputy general manager of the BFIU, Shyam Sundar Banik, deputy general manager of Pubali Bank, and Chowdhury Md Shofiqul Hasan, regional manager of the bank for Mymensingh, were present.



Md Omar Faruk Khan, additional managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurates the bank's 83rd branch at Bagha in Rajshahi recently. Abu Reza Md Yeahia, deputy managing director of the bank, Md Mahboob Alam, senior executive vice-president, and Md Mizanur Rahman Mizi, head of the Rajshahi zone, were present.

Four concerns of Pran-RFL Group win Green Factory Award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Four companies operated by Pran-RFL Group won the Green Factory Award-2020 in two categories yesterday. Of them, Habiganj Agro Ltd received the award in the food processing category while Banga Building Materials Ltd, Allplast Bangladesh Ltd and Durable Plastics Ltd won in the plastic sector. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually participated in the programme as chief guest. Begum Monnujan Sufian, state minister for Labour and Employment, handed over the award on behalf of the prime minister at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka. Uzma Chowdhury, director of corporate finance at Pran-RFL Group, received the award on behalf of Habiganj Agro and RN Paul, managing director, received the award on behalf of Durable Plastics. Dilip Kumar Sutradhar, executive director of Banga Building Materials, and

Sayed Hossain Chowdhury, chief operating officer of Allplast Bangladesh, also received award from the minister. "From the very beginning of the construction of the factory, we have given utmost importance to the environment in its design, infrastructure and other installations, following an eco-friendly process in every step from production to marketing," said Kamruzzaman Kamal, director of marketing at Pran-RFL Group. "We thank the government for inspiring us through such an award," he added. The award was introduced by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in a bid to increase investment in industries for the use of environment-friendly technologies, and employing more skilled workers in safe and decent working conditions. This year, the award was given in six categories. The green factory award will be given every two years from now on. Md Ehsan-E-Elahi, secretary to the labour and employment ministry, was also present.

Ford invests \$900m to modernise Thai auto plants

REUTERS, Bangkok

Ford Motor Co. is investing \$900 million to upgrade factories in Thailand that build its Ranger pickup truck and Everest SUV, its largest-ever investment in the country. The plan includes a near doubling of the number of robots at its Thai manufacturing plant and at AutoAlliance Thailand, a venture with Mazda Motor Corp, while \$400 million of the investment will go towards its supply chain network. It will also add a second shift to the Ford plant which will result in as many as 1,250 new jobs, bringing its workforce in Thailand to more than 9,000.



Iqbal Husain, chief executive officer of Bangla Trac Rental Services Ltd, and Farzana Rahman, managing director of Highspeed Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Ltd, show copies of a signed memorandum of understanding at the latter's office in Gulshan recently. The collaboration will deliver complete dredging solutions to fit customer specific usage and requirements.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Lakshmiপুর
ee_lax@eedmoe.gov.bd
e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 23/EED/LAX/Project Code: (1250301-1250301109972-4111201)/e-Tender/2021-22 Dt: 08/12/2021
Name of Project: Construction/Extension of Academic Buildings to Selected Govt. & Non Govt. Educational Institutions. e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works.

S. L No.	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	7016/SHED/2021-22-13 Construction of single-storied academic building with four-storied foundation in/c sanitary water supply and electrification works at Charbasu SESDP Model High School, Kamalnagar, Lakshmiপুর.	636085	NCT, LTM	08-Dec-2021 12:00	23-Dec-2021 12:00
2	7016/SHED/2021-22-14 Construction of single-storied academic building with four-storied foundation in/c sanitary water supply and electrification works at Ziaul Haque High School & College, Ramgonj, Lakshmiপুর.	636086	NCT, LTM	08-Dec-2021 12:00	23-Dec-2021 12:00
3	7016/SHED/2021-22-15 Construction of single-storied academic building with four-storied foundation in/c sanitary water supply and electrification works at Joytura S.R.M.S. High School & College, Ramgonj, Lakshmiপুর.	636087	NCT, LTM	08-Dec-2021 12:00	23-Dec-2021 12:00
4	7016/SHED/2021-22-16 Construction of single-storied academic building with four-storied foundation in/c sanitary water supply and electrification works at K.M United Academy, Ramgonj, Lakshmiপুর.	636088	NCT, LTM	08-Dec-2021 12:00	23-Dec-2021 12:00
5	7016/SHED/2021-22-17 Construction of single-storied academic building with four-storied foundation in/c sanitary water supply and electrification works at Eshak Nagar High School & College, Kamalnagar, Lakshmiপুর.	636089	NCT, LTM	08-Dec-2021 12:00	23-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. Murad Hossain
 Executive Engineer
 Education Engineering Department
 Lakshmiপুর

GD-2275

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University
 Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh

No: BSMRAAU/Registrar-163/2021/QCBS/2021/Part File-1/03 Date: 09/12/2021

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education (MOE) /Secondary and Higher Education Division			
Agency	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU)/University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC)			
Procuring Entity name	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU), Dhaka, Bangladesh			
Procuring Entity Code:	: -			
Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka			
Expression of interest for Selection of	: Local Qualified IT firms.			
Title of Service	: Web based INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IUMS) software and Apps (Android and IOS) Development for BSMRAAU.			
EOI Ref. No.	: BSMRAAU/Registrar-163/2021/QCBS/2021/Part File-1/03			
Date	: 09/12/2021			
KEY INFORMATION				
Procurement Sub-method:	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) of PPR 2008			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
Budget and Source of Funds	: GOB (Revenue Budget)			
Development Partners	: -			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
Project/Programme Name	: Qualified IT firms for developing and delivering of Web based INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IUMS) software and Apps for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU).			
EOI Closing Date and Time	: 23/12/2021, 03:00PM, Conference Room, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University, 2 nd Floor, Old Airport building, Dhaka-1206			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
Brief Description of Assignment	: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Registrar Office, BSMRAAU is looking competent IT firms for developing and delivery of Web based IUMS software and Apps for the university. The proposed Web based IUMS will be fully automated platform independent software management system and Apps, to control and organize the total university administration and academic activities. It will enable Web based Student Admission; conducting academic activities, Examination Control System, Result Processing, Publication and Validation; generation of academic transcript and certificate; Online Employee Management, Digital Library Management System, Hall Management System, Secured Web mail Management System, Online Fee Payment Management System and so on. The proposed IUMS will also include essential training and practice for the employees of respective Divisions/Departments/Sections/Cells of BSMRAAU regarding effective use of the IUMS. 2) The proposed web based IUMS and Apps will have to be developed by using authorized and genuine software tools and/or IDE. The university authority will prefer Platform Independent software, Original Microsoft Dot Net/Sun Microsystems Java/Oracle Developer as front-end, Original MS SQL Server/Oracle Database 12c (Minimum) as database back-end and all other authorized software including Microsoft Authorized Open Source /Oracle authorized Original Report generating software/IDE tools. 3) No copyright source code, materials, hacked or cracked software notices will be acceptable. It also has to be integrated and operated hassle free with Android and IOS apps. 4) Qualified IT firms have to sign standard End User License Agreement (EULA) with BSMRAAU authority. 5) Payment gateway will be provided and indicated by BSMRAAU authority following security policy of Bangladesh Bank. 6) Testing and acceptance process will be done to ensure that the developed software system and apps comply with the approved SRS. 7) The development, trial, test and deployment of the proposed web based IUMS and Apps will have to be done along with BSMRAAU authorized IT team and to be installed in BSMRAAU's server. 8) The selected firm will provide adequate hands-on training to the nominated personnel of BSMRAAU on the whole development process starting from the system study to software development, deployment and installation. 			
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	: IT firms must have adequate technical ability, essential expert IT personnel and resources, strong human resources management capability including pool of Programmers. Followings are defined as minimum eligibility criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Minimum 7 years experiences in ICT business, out of which minimum 4 years as integrated University Management System Development Experience as registered company/entity in Bangladesh 2) Must have BASIS Membership and ISO 2015(min.) is preferable. 3) Must have experience in design, development, successful implementation and maintenance of at least 02(Two) integrated education software in any Public or Private (UGC Approved) Universities/Institutes during last 07(Seven) years. 4) Must have at least 02(two) work order related to development of University Education Management System Development during last 05(Five) years. 5) Must have full time human resources experienced in business analysis, system analysis and design; Online and Offline Software Development and Integration. They will have working experience on MS SQL Server DBMS/C#/Oracle Developer/Oracle DBMS or associated Database Management tools. Authorized User level (Alfa-Beta Software Test) Testing Capability; Project Management and in/out Support Management System. 6) Availability, Summary of qualification and experience of key professionals and technical staffs to be provided. 7) Must have test environment ready infrastructure and skilled manpower with well-equipped devices/tools at vendor's premises. 8) Logistic capability of the prospective bidders includes well-equipped office space with necessary software development facilities and dedicated customer support system which will be checked and verified according to EOI. 9) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e., working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be BD TK 50 LACS. 10) The bidder will submit Up-to-date Trade License, TIN certificate, VAT registration and all other necessary documents. 11) Minimum 03 (three) years updated Audit Report & Bank Solvency Certificate of the firm is to be submitted. 			
Other Details (if applicable)	: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint venture is not allowed to apply and will be considered as disqualification. 2. IT firm will be selected in accordance with the PPA/2006 and PPR/2008 and public procurement procedures issued by GOB with its updated amendment. 3. Interested IT firm may obtain further information at the address below during office hour. 4. EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned. 			
Association with foreign firms is	: Not Encouraged.			
EOI Detail Information				
Ref No	Phasing of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
BSMRAAU/Registrar-163/2021/QCBS/2021/Part File-1/03	N/A	BSMRAAU Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	January 2022	December 2023
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
Name of Official Inviting EOI	: AIR COMMODORE AKM ENAYETUL KABIR			
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Registrar, BSMRAAU			
Contact Details	: Squadron Leader Md Ali Zaker Khan Deputy Registrar (Procurement) Mobile No: +8801769995061 Email: rezwan_khan_25@hotmail.com			
Address of the Office Inviting EOI	: BSMRAAU, ICT Cell, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1206.			
Email Address of Office Inviting EOI	: E-mail: sharma@ict.bsmauu.edu.bd procurement@bsmauu.edu.bd			
The procuring entity reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason.				

Registrar
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Aviation & Aerospace University

GD-2278

BGMEA POLLS

Samad named Forum Panel's president candidate

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Forum Board of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has announced its new party president and panel leader for the next election.

Party leaders made this announcement at a ceremony, styled "Hemanta Adda in the Month of Victory", at the army headquarters in Dhaka on Tuesday, according to a statement.

At the end of the programme, Anwarul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, the current president of the Forum Board, introduced Mohammad Abdus Salam, the founder of Asian Group, as the new party president.

Anisur Rahman Sinha, a former president of the board, and all its senior leaders, including Rubana Huq, former president of the BGMEA, then came on stage and announced Faisal Samad as the new panel leader. As such, he is now a presidential candidate in the next BGMEA election.

The event was organised by the Forum Board in light of Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of Independence, according to

a statement from the panel. Invitees discussed the different contexts of Bangladesh that have changed with progressive development in the garment industry.

The newly-appointed party president Salam is managing director of Asian Group. He served eight terms as director and four terms as first vice-president of the BGMEA.

He also played a significant role in various business organisations and social activities in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Samad, the panel leader of the Forum Board, is managing director of Savartex Group, and Surma Garments Ltd.

His business group extends to a variety of sections, including knit composite, hosiery, and insurance.

Samad has been associated with the BGMEA for 25 years, serving as the youngest vice-president of finance in the association's history during the time of the late Anisul Huq, former BGMEA president and mayor of Dhaka.

When Parvez was president of the BGMEA, Samad served as senior vice-president, the statement said.



AK Azad, president of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab), speaks at a meeting at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on Tuesday with the leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on the challenges the newspaper industry is currently facing. Noab members Mahfuz Anam, publisher and editor of The Daily Star, Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo, Md Jashim Uddin, president of the FBCCI, and Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, vice-president, were present.

FBCCI

Incepta wins Green Factory Award

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Local pharmaceuticals company Incepta Pharmaceuticals has won the 'Green Factory Award 2020' given by the labour and employment ministry, according to a press release.

The award will inspire Incepta to move forward, Al Mamun Mahbubul Karim, chief operating officer of the company, said after receiving the award at a programme organised by the labour ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Incepta has always believed in keeping its promise of ensuring a green and eco-friendly work environment, Karim said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the event and delivered her speech virtually as the chief guest. State Minister for Labour Begum Monnujan Sufian and Labour Secretary Ehsan-E-Elahi distributed crests and certificates among the winners.

Nagad offers 50pc discount on Chorki subscription

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nagad is offering an exclusive 50 per cent discount on subscriptions of over-the-top media platform Chorki marking 50 years of Bangladesh's independence.

Customers will have to choose a one-month, six-month or a year's subscription package to enjoy the discount. The offer will run until January 6, 2022, according to a press release.

Niaz Morshed Elite, executive director of Nagad, announced this during the release of a trailer of web series "Jago Bahe" at a city hotel on December 7.



Al Mamun Mahbubul Karim, chief operating officer of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd, receives Green Factory Award 2020 on behalf of his company from Begum Monnujan Sufian, state minister for labour and employment, and Ehsan-E-Elahi, secretary to the labour ministry, at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

INCEPTA PHARMACEUTICALS

Gig workers underpaid

FROM PAGE B1

While the "contract workers" model remains dominant in Bangladesh, one exception is Lily, a ride-sharing platform, which ensures a minimum wage to its workers through a formal employment contract.

The study found that there are incidents of net income deficit: 16 out of 103 ride-sharing workers interviewed were working for a loss due to work-related costs, high platform fees, and the cut taken by intermediaries.

These workers continue to work for various platforms to generate everyday cash flow, making the debt trap deeper. Ninety-two out of 103 gig workers interviewed feared for their safety and security while on the job.

Four platforms (Truck Lagbe, Foodpanda, Pathao, and Lily) said they were developing an insurance policy for their workers, though only two could provide evidence of ongoing efforts in practice, according to the report. Fairwork evaluates the working conditions of digital platforms and ranks

them on how well they do. It used five principles — fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management and fair representation — that digital platforms should comply with in order to be considered to be offering fair work.

At the virtual launch, the first phase of the "Fairwork Bangladesh Ratings 2021" was also unveiled. Out of 10, Food Panda, Lily, Pathao, and Pathao Food scored one, while Car Bangla, HungryNaki, Obhai, Shohoz Foods, Truck Lagbe, and Uber scored zero, according to the study.

Despite the constitutional provisions, insecurity and lack of formal recognition and rights are neither novel nor unique to the platform economy. The country is yet to define, recognise, and protect workers across the entire informal sector, it said.

"The adoption and normalisation of more robust rights, safety and protections, including recognition of platform workers under the Labour Act, will be an important starting point to make the gig economy fairer and more sustainable for everyone."

HSBC structures gender equality indexed loan

FROM PAGE B1

while commenting on the loan signing.

"We have observed marked improvement of quality control with female supervisors and now are encouraged to see global financial institutions like HSBC offering economic incentives to do more," he said.

"We look forward to partner with HSBC in building an equal and sustainable future," he added. Md Mahbub ur Rahman, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, said, "We are focused on helping our clients achieve their sustainability goals; be they environmental, social or governance-related."

Kevin Green, head of wholesale banking at HSBC Bangladesh, said, "We understand the critical role financial institutions can play in driving forward sustainable business models."

HSBC has set out a "plan for the planet" to support customers to transition to a low carbon future and more sustainable ways of doing business. The bank has an ambition to provide between \$750 billion and \$1 trillion of sustainable finance and investments by 2030 to help them achieve this, to accelerate new climate solutions and inspire our customer to invest to support positive change.

30 firms awarded for green initiatives

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh is the global leader having 152 green garment buildings, of which 44 are platinum rated, 93 gold and nine silver while four gained a "Leadership in Environmental and Energy in Design" certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

Of the top 10 green garment factories, nine are in Bangladesh. More than 500 garment factories are waiting to be certified by the USGBC for green initiatives.

The awarded garment factories are Remi Holdings, Tarashima Apparels, Plummy Fashions, Mithila Textiles Industries, Vintage Denim Studio, AR Jeans Producer, Karooni Knit Composite, Designer Fashion,

Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel (Kenpark Unit 2), Green Textile (Unit -3), Four H Dyeing and Printing, Wisdom Attires, Mahmuda Attires, Snowtex Outdoor and Auko -Tex.

The food processors are Habiganj Agro, Akij Food and Beverage and Ifad Multi Products. The tea gardens are Gazipur Tea Garden, Laskarpur Tea Garden, Jagchhara Tea Garden and Neptune Tea Garden.

The leather goods factories are Apex Footwear and Edison Footwear.

The plastic industries are Bongo Building Materials, All Plast Bangladesh and Durable Plastic. The pharmaceutical companies are Square Pharmaceuticals, Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Incepta Pharmaceuticals.

Brac Bank, Link3 Tech sign payment gateway agreement

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Brac Bank Ltd has signed an agreement with Link3 Technologies Ltd recently to deploy the bank's payment gateway in online platform of the IT solutions provider.

Zahrul Syed Bakht, chief financial officer of Link3 Technologies Ltd, and Md Mahiul Islam, head of retail banking at Brac Bank Ltd, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

The agreement will allow Link3 to accept online payment from Visa and MasterCard holders against online product sales and services by using the lender's payment gateway.

Zahrul Syed Bakht, chief financial officer of Link3 Technologies, Mohammad Mohsin Reza, general manager for finance and accounts, Md Mahiul Islam, head of retail banking at Brac Bank, Khairuddin Ahmed, head of merchant acquiring, and Md Rashedul Hasan Stalin, head of payments and partnership business, were present.

Trade deficit swells

FROM PAGE B1

"Against this backdrop, the central bank should further depreciate the taka against the US dollar as it will help discourage the import of luxurious items," Mansur said.

The interbank exchange rate of the taka stood at Tk 85.80 per dollar on December 8 in contrast to Tk 84.80 a year ago.

Although the devaluation of the taka will push inflation high a bit, the move will eventually offset the macroeconomic pressure, he added. There is room to devalue the local currency by Tk 2 to Tk 3 per dollar.

People are counting more than Tk 90 per dollar in the kerb market, an informal platform where clients purchase foreign currencies without endorsement in the passports. As a result, the exchange rate gap has widened to more than Tk 5 between the interbank and the informal market. "This will encourage remitters to send money through the hundi cartage," Mansur said, referring to the illegal cross-border financial transaction system.

Remittance has already started falling, creating a large current account deficit to the tune of \$4.76 billion in the four months to October this fiscal year.

The current account, which records a nation's transactions with the rest of the world, enjoyed a surplus of \$3.63 billion in October last year.

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the volume of imported items had not increased as much as expected, but the payments went up largely due to the price hike of commodities.

A major portion of the imported items is usually used to produce a good amount of exported items. But the price of the exported goods, particularly garments, has not increased as expected, Rahman said.

"Exporters are now managing profits by way of increasing the volume of exports."

Big push for solar, waste-based power

FROM PAGE B1

The government will buy electricity for 20 years at Tk 8.48 per unit.

The joint venture will also set up a 68-MW solar power plant in Sirajganj Sadar upazila. Each unit will cost Tk 8.16.

Cyclot Energy Pte. Ltd of Singapore will build a 50-MW solar power plant in Chuadanga's Jibannagar upazila. The government will buy electricity at Tk 8.16 per unit.

Western Renewable Energy Pvt Ltd will set up a 3MW solar-battery, diesel-based hybrid power plant in Monpura upazila of Bhola. Each unit will cost Tk 21.25.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, described the focus on renewable energy as very positive.

About waste-to-power generation, he said, "It would help waste management that is very tough to manage. Besides, electricity generated from such power plants would cut the dependency on fossil fuels."

"However, site selection should be done with utmost care so that it doesn't affect local communities. The

implications of such plants on the environment should also be taken into account."

Currently, Bangladesh's installed power generation capacity is about 24,000 MW. Of the amount, 777 MWs are generated from renewable sources, representing about 3 per cent of the total production.

Electricity generation from renewable sources is expected to rise as projects involving the capacity to produce about 2,000 MW of electricity are in the pipeline. Presently, nine solar power plants are being constructed with a combined capacity of 450 MW, and a wind power project that will produce 60 MW.

Besides, deals are set to be inked to establish 12 solar plants with a collective generation capacity of 500 MW and a few other wind and biomass plants with the capacity totaling 130 MW.

"Renewable energy in Bangladesh has made impressive strides in recent times, and the total power generation from the segment will increase significantly by the current fiscal year," said Mohammad Alauddin, chairman

of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority.

Alesha Mart now wants Tk 300cr loan

FROM PAGE B1

A number of e-commerce platforms mushroomed since the middle of last year, when the first lockdown was lifted. They were taking advance payments luring customers with as much as 70 to 80 per cent discounts.

It later surfaced that they were not delivering products or providing refunds. Alesha Mart itself claimed to still have around 7,000 pending orders worth Tk 200 crore although the actual figures are believed to be much higher.

Apart from this, owners and officials of several e-commerce companies have been arrested on various charges, including fraudulence.

The government is investigating various allegations against several companies, including Alesha Mart.

Manjurul Alam Sikder, chairman and managing director of Alesha Mart, could not be reached for comment.

Port hassles affecting business recovery

FROM PAGE B1

The imported goods are often even left unattended at the port for months because of issues regarding VAT and tax payments, he said, adding that businesses incur losses due to such delays. The businesses have to pay a big amount of port demurrage for overstaying and so, they want to escape this harassment by customs officials, Khokon said.

The BTMA chief was speaking at an event marking Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of independence at InterContinental Dhaka.

For instance, Khokon imported a container of pima cotton from the US spending \$5 lakh, but the container

ship refused to come to Chattogram because of port congestion and instead left the cotton unattended at Shanghai Port in China. Khokon was eventually able to trace his shipment to Shanghai Port before bringing it to Chattogram but he is yet to get a berth even though the goods were loaded in the US in August this year.

The shipping charge has increased abnormally from \$600 per container in the pre-pandemic era to \$6,000 per container now following a sudden rise in demand for container ships with the recovery of businesses from the Covid-19 fallout.

However, the BTMA chief said 2022 could be a new horizon for the

country's textile and garment sectors as local weaving and spinning mills are already overbooked with work orders from international retailers and brands.

The local textile industry is worth about \$8 billion but mills that make fabrics for the domestic market lost Tk 8,000 crore collectively as they missed the sales bonanza in the two Eids and Puja for the last two years amid the pandemic.

He also urged the government to amend laws of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission as local fabrics manufacturers often cannot compete with imported fabrics from India and Pakistan due to wrong assessments from the tariff commission.

“মুজিব বর্ষের আবহাৱন দক্ষ হয়ে বিদেশ যান”

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়
সিলেট মহিলা কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র
আলমপুর, সিলেট-৩১১১
ফোনঃ ০৮২১-৮৪০৫০৫
E-mail: smttc61041@gmail.com

তারিখঃ ০৮/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (খন্ডকালীন)

দেশের যুব মহিলাদের দক্ষ করার লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ সরকারের অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগ কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) প্রকল্পের আওতায় জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরোর অধীস্থ সিলেট মহিলা কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, আলমপুর, সিলেট-এ পরিচালিত স্বল্প মেয়াদী (৩৬০ ঘন্টা)/কোর্স সমূহে দৈনিক হাজিরার ভিত্তিতে নিম্নে লিখিত পদে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ীভাবে অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক ও জব প্রেসেন্ট অফিসার পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন
০১	অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক (CAD (2D & 3D))	০১(এক)	সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে বিএসসি ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অথবা ডিপ্লোমা ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এর ক্ষেত্রে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অথবা শিল্প কারখানায় দক্ষ কারিগরি জ্ঞান সম্পন্নদের ক্ষেত্রে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন।	প্রকল্পের নিয়ম অনুযায়ী প্রতি কার্য দিবসে ১২০০ (এক হাজার দুইশত) টাকা হারে মাসিক কার্য দিবস ২৩ দিন সর্বমোট=২৭,৬০০.০০ টাকা ১০% উৎস কর কর্তন করা হবে।
০২	অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক (আইটি সাপোর্ট সার্ভিস)	০১(এক)	NTVQF এর আওতায় NSC Level সনদধারীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।	
০৩	অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক (সুইং মেশিন অপারেশন)	০১(এক)		
০৪	অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক (ইলেক্ট্রিশিয়ান)	০১(এক)		
০৫	জব প্রেসেন্ট অফিসার	০১(এক)	যেকোন বিষয়ের উপর মাস্টার্স পাসসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অথবা বিএসসি ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিংসহ ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন	প্রকল্পের নিয়ম অনুযায়ী প্রতি কার্য দিবসে ১৫০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা হারে মাসিক কার্য দিবস ২৩ দিন সর্বমোট=৩৪,৫০০.০০ টাকা ১০% উৎস কর কর্তন করা হবে।

আবেদনের শর্তাবলীঃ

- প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই জন্মস্মারকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- আম্রাধী প্রার্থীদের স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত দরখাস্ত ও সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র এবং সদ্য তোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি সহ ১ম শ্রেণির কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে আগামী ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর দরখাস্ত দাখিল করতে হবে।
- লিখিত, বাবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান মোবাইল ফোনের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান ও নাতি-নাতনিদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক যৌথিত নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া সম্পূর্ণ দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে (খন্ডকালীন) এবং যে কোন কারণ দর্শনোর ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগ ও নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- বামের উপর অবশ্যই পদের নাম, নিজ জেলা এবং মোবাইল নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- কোন প্রকার তদবির প্রার্থীর আযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

০৮/১২/২০২১
প্রকৌশলী মোঃ হোসেন
অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

সিলেট মহিলা কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, সিলেট

জিডি-২২৭৯

Stocks plunge as no headway in BB-BSEC row

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shares on the Dhaka Stock Exchange plunged yesterday, ending a five-session gaining streak after shaky investors booked profit as little headway was made to resolve the dispute between the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and the central bank.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse of the country, ended at 6,952 after losing 96.85 points, or 1.37 per cent.

Turnover stood at Tk 1,152 crore, down 13.45 per cent from Tk 1,331 crore a day earlier. Of the total issues, 97 advanced, 257 declined, and 20 were unchanged.

daily market review.

At the heart of the disputes is two recent decisions from the BSEC.

Recently, the commission has ordered all the listed companies, including banks and non-bank financial institutions to deposit their undistributed dividend to the stock market stabilisation fund.

It also allowed banks and NBFIs to declare dividend from the current year's profits despite having cumulative losses. But, the central bank ordered them not to follow the BSEC order.

Last week, senior officials of the BB and the BSEC sat at a meeting at the central bank. But no progress was made.

KEY INDEX OF DHAKA BOURSE

(In points); SOURCE: DSE



Heavy sell pressure had been observed in the large market cap sectors such as financial institutions, miscellaneous, textile and banking during the session. It came despite a meeting between a number of regulators at the finance ministry on Tuesday.

Senior officials of the central bank, the BSEC, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, and the National Board of Revenue were unanimous in working to develop the stock market. But no major decisions about ending the current tussle between the BSEC and the Bangladesh Bank came.

The delay made the investors shaky in putting fresh bets in the stocks, said International Leasing Securities said in its

Fine Foods Ltd gained the most yesterday, advancing 9.87 per cent. Fu Wang Food, Shurwid Industries, FAS Finance & Investment, and Desh Garments also rose significantly.

Dulamia Cotton Spinning Mills was the worst-performing stock on the day, giving up 7.38 per cent. Other major losers include Aramit Cement, Aamra Networks, One Bank, Sena Kalyan Insurance, and Phoenix Finance & Investments.

Shares on the Chittagong Stock Exchange also fell. The CASPI, the key index, closed at 20,359, down 250.99 points, or 1.21 per cent. Of the companies, 82 won, 184 lost, and 23 were unchanged.

Indigenous foods winning hearts

Creating scope for CHT people to become entrepreneurs

LALANLIAN PANGKHUA

Growing popularity of food items native to Chittagong Hill Tracts has created an opportunity for indigenous people in the area to become entrepreneurs.

With the world gradually becoming more health conscious, the people of Dhaka and other major cities in the country are increasingly looking for chemical-free organic foods.

"The demand for fruits, vegetables and meats found in hilly areas is very high in the capital," said Subimol Chakma, who runs a shop called Hill Bazar in Dhaka's Mohammadpur.

"After I started the business in 2019, my target market was only the indigenous people living in the city but my products started getting popular among everyone," he added.

Subimol sells a variety of food items from the hilly region, including potatoes, beans, jackfruit, sugarcane, guava, sticky rice, wild spinach and sweet corn.

He also sells fish caught from Kaptai Lake, pork and other meats.

The native of Rangamati buys these items directly from traders in the hilly districts -- Rangamati and Khagrachari -- and brings them to Dhaka by bus, truck or covered van.

"Our major challenge is keeping these items fresh as any prolonged delays during transport could result in those getting spoiled," he said.

Still though, various traders say that challenges remain in running their businesses.

"Although our sales are very high, we make very little profit because of excessive transportation costs," Subimol said.

In addition, many traders of the indigenous community in Dhaka become victims of extortion by local gangs and political groups, he said.

He sought cooperation from Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board and the Rangamati district



(Clockwise from left) From papayas, bananas and bitter gourd to the stems of banana trees, all types of fruits and vegetables native to the Chittagong Hill Tracts are seen on display at a store in Dhaka's Mohammadpur. Shops like these are becoming increasingly popular due to the growing appetite for organic food among city dwellers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

council to overcome these challenges.

Subimol is also mulling over whether indigenous traders could form an association so that they could band together in Dhaka under a single platform and help each other out if necessary.

There are several other indigenous food shops in Kazipara and Senapara of Dhaka's Mirpur.

Biply Chakma, who owns Hebang Restaurant in Kazipara, said she started selling fruits and vegetables as well as cooked food items through an online portal in 2016.

After seeing how quickly these items gained popularity, she decided to launch the restaurant in 2018.

"Ensuring food diversity is our top priority. Every day, we try to serve different types of items," added Biply, who hails from Rangamati.

While talking about how she came about starting the business, Biply said that her younger sister was a student of the University of Dhaka.

"She often brought food items from the Chittagong Hill Tracts to distribute among her friends, who loved the taste. Then, an idea came to our mind to sell the food items on a commercial basis," she added.

Another trader Amit Chakma, who owns a shop called Rannye Jum Ghor in Mirpur, said they face

considerable customer pressure during the weekly holidays.

"The demand for fruits and vegetables grown in the hilly districts is so high that all of our produce are usually sold out by noon on Fridays and Saturdays," Amit added.

Ajwal Bawm, who studies at a private university in Dhaka, said people like him see a reflection of their traditions and culture in these food items.

Besides, indigenous people no longer need to go all the way back home to enjoy these foods since they are now available in the capital, he added.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

US plans to crack down on shell companies

AFP, Washington

The US Treasury is moving to combat corruption, money laundering and tax evasion by shell companies by requiring firms disclose their ownership, according to proposed rules announced Tuesday.

The crackdown comes as President Joe Biden launches a government-wide effort against graft ahead of International Anti-Corruption Day on Thursday.

The proposal would create a database to record "beneficial owners" of all companies and many trusts, meaning anyone who owns 25 per cent of a firm or can make decisions for the company, Treasury said.

"The proposed rule for beneficial ownership reporting is a major step toward addressing the gaps in our corporate transparency framework that allow corruption to flourish and illicit funds to flow into the United States," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

The rule "will help close the loopholes that undermine US national security, bolster economic fairness and protect the integrity of our financial system."

"Treasury's corruption and terrorism watchdog, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), will collect public comments on the proposed rule through February 7, but officials could not provide a timeline on when a final rule might be adopted.

The beneficial ownership information reporting provisions are required under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) that Congress approved in early January.

Amid rising concern that US state governments are making their own loopholes that allow the creation of trusts that can serve as tax havens, Treasury officials told reporters they will gather information on how different states treat those entities.

While the proposed rule will apply to some business trusts, others likely would be exempt, the documents said.

A congressional subcommittee is due to hold a hearing on Wednesday on the issue of US tax havens following up on the so-called Pandora Papers, an investigation by a global network of investigative journalists on money laundering and tax dodging.



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen wait to speak during a hearing of the House Financial Services committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on December 1.

Saudi Arabia, Oman ink deals worth \$30b

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia signed agreements with Oman potentially valued at \$30 billion, state media said Tuesday, as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman began a tour of Gulf Arab countries, including former rival Qatar.

Saudi and Omani companies "signed 13 memoranda of understanding worth \$30 billion", the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The MoUs between the two countries, which seek to diversify their economies away from oil, range from cooperation in the energy and tourism sectors to finance and technology.

Prince Mohammed, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, arrived in Muscat on Monday night, the first stop in a regional tour ahead of a Gulf Arab summit in mid-December.

He met with Sultan Haitham bin Tareq, who ascended the throne in January last year after the death of his cousin Sultan Qaboos.

From Oman, Prince Mohammed arrived later Tuesday in Abu Dhabi to start a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, the official WAM news agency reported.

He will also visit Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, according to SPA.

His trip to Doha will mark the first visit since Saudi Arabia and Qatar severed ties four years ago.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain cut all links with Qatar in June 2017, alleging it backed radical Islamist groups and was too close to Riyadh's rival Tehran -- allegations Doha denied.

They restored full relations with Qatar in January after a landmark summit.

Omicron sets back airline industry's recovery hopes

REUTERS

New travel restrictions prompted by the Omicron coronavirus variant have set back the nascent recovery in international flights, creating delays and headaches in some regions, according to airline and airport officials.

The flurry of new testing rules and border closings has raised concerns ahead of the important Christmas travel season, but some airline bosses said they hope any backward moves will be short-lived.

Global airlines have blamed a patchwork of shifting rules for depressed demand for international travel, which is critical for their return to profit following steep Covid-19 pandemic-related losses in 2020.

American Airlines incoming Chief Executive Robert Isom told Reuters the Texas-based carrier's return to profitability is contingent on a full-scale recovery in travel demand. American has the largest debt stock in the US airline industry.

"If there's anything (in the way), it just

delays recovery," he said. He said the airline's domestic business remained strong but the new travel restrictions had dampened demand in some international markets.

Airline stocks have recovered some ground following a sell-off last week. While investors are taking heart from anecdotal evidence that suggests the new variant might not be as lethal as originally feared, it could take weeks, even months to know its effect on the course of the pandemic.

UN agencies specializing in aviation and tourism pleaded on Tuesday for travel restrictions in response to new coronavirus variants to be imposed only as a last resort.

Japan has banned foreigners, the United States is requiring a Covid-19 test 24 hours before flying, and travellers to Singapore now must be tested daily for seven days after arrival.

"We were seeing accelerating openings until Omicron," Campbell Wilson, chief executive of Singapore Airlines budget offshoot Scoot, said at an event held in Sydney by market-intelligence company CAPA Centre for

Aviation. "We have seen basically a pause since then," Wilson added.

Airlines and travel agencies are hopeful that rising vaccination rates and new medicines would make a difference.

"This is not the spring of 2020," said Booking Holdings Inc's Chief Executive Glenn Fogel. "Absolutely not."

But Sue Carter, head of Asia Pacific at booking technology firm Travelport, said she has seen some searches go down week on week, adding that traveller confidence tends to be closely linked to government announcements.

A spokesperson for trade group Airports Council International (ACI) World said the global patchwork of travel rules is challenging airport operations and called for better coordination between countries.

US trade deficit shrinks as exports surge

AFP, Washington

Strong American export business caused a large drop in the US trade deficit last month, even as imports also rose, according to government data released Tuesday.

The gap between imports and exports of goods and services dropped 17.6 per cent to \$67.1 billion last month, bringing the trade deficit down from a record hit the month before, the Commerce Department reported.

Exports jumped \$16.8 billion from September to \$223.6 billion, while imports rose by a small \$2.5 billion to \$290.7 billion.

Sales of goods jumped the most with a \$15.8 billion increase led by industrial supplies and materials, while services exports rose only \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, the value of goods purchased from abroad rose \$1.8 billion, particularly of cars, parts and engines, which rose \$1.5

billion. Service imports rose \$700 million.

Mahir Rasheed of Oxford Economics called October a "historically strong month for exports," and noted that while the trade deficit remains above its level before the Covid-19 pandemic, "we expect stronger export growth and moderation in import volumes to keep the deficit stable next year after reaching multiple record highs in 2021."

"However, the Omicron variant is a key downside risk that threatens to distort trade flows by slowing the global recovery in early 2022," he added.

Among trading partners, the deficit with China dropped \$3.2 billion, with an increase in exports making up most of the change.

The deficit with the European Union fell as well, also due to export growth, though the deficit with Mexico rose by \$800 million.