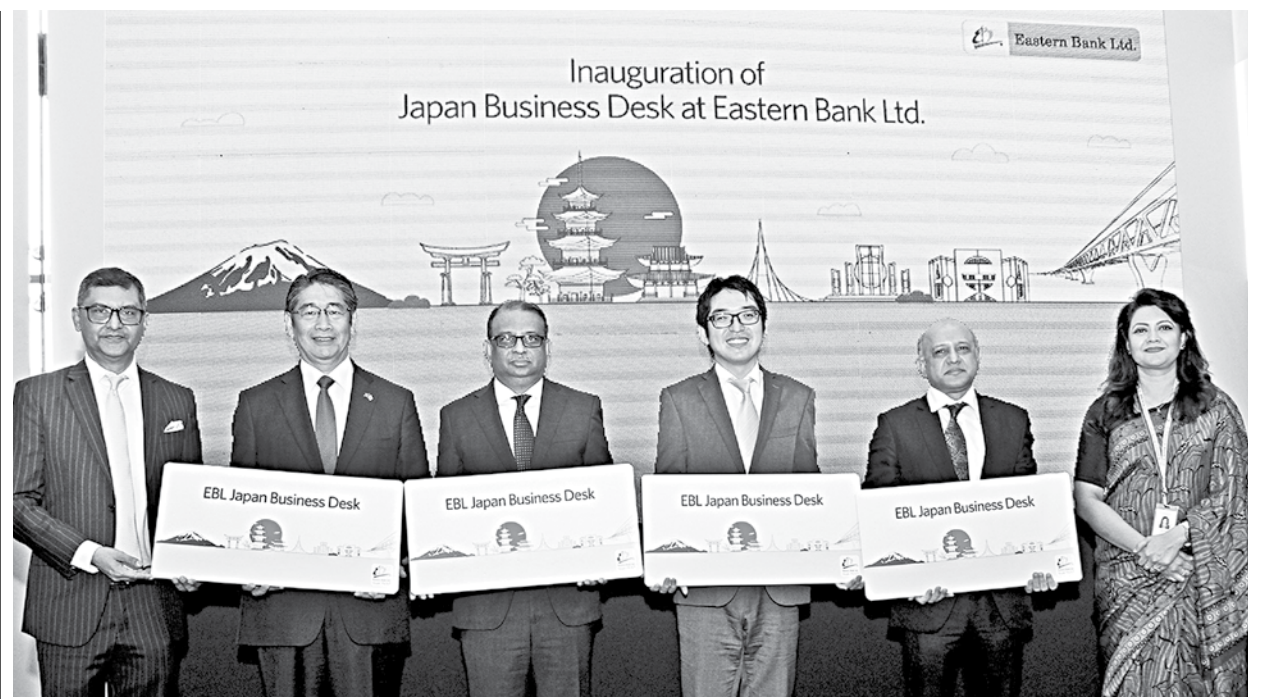




Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, minister for land, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate United Commercial Bank's 213th 'UCB Taqwa Islamic Banking' branch in Gulshan, Dhaka yesterday. Arif Quadri, acting managing director of the bank, Syed Faridul Islam, Nabil Mustafizur Rahman, and Abul Alam Ferdous, additional managing directors, N Mustafa Tarek, Mohammad Habibur Rahman, and ATM Tahmiduzzaman, deputy managing directors, were present.



Eastern Bank Ltd launched EBL Japan Business Desk at its Gulshan head office in Dhaka yesterday. ITO Naoki, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of EBL, Yuji Ando, country representative of JETRO, Ahmed Shaheen, deputy managing director of the bank, and Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs, were present.

Tax receipts keep upward trend

FROM PAGE B1
Income and travel taxes fetched Tk 29,697 crore, an increase of 14.07 per cent, driven by higher tax payment last month as November 30 was the deadline for the submission of individual tax returns.
The government has set a Tk 330,000 crore revenue target for the NBR for FY22, up 9.63 per cent on FY21.
Customs duties will have to generate Tk 96,000 crore to help the NBR hit the target, while Tk 128,000 crore will have to come from the VAT portion and Tk 100,006 crore from income and travel tax portion.
NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem disclosed the figures at a media briefing at his office in Dhaka yesterday.
"The size of the development budget is increasing day by day. More money is needed to implement the

increased budget," he said.
VAT is the largest source of revenue for the government in Bangladesh, so the field officers and employees of the VAT department are working tirelessly to attain the revenue target, he added.
The revenue administration has chalked out various programmes to observe the National VAT Day today and the National VAT Week from December 10 to 15, with the theme "Pay VAT Online, Take Part in Nation-building".
The NBR will organise seminars at its VAT offices on the occasion.
Bangladesh has one of the lowest tax to gross domestic product ratios in the world. And Muneem termed the tendency to evade VAT and tax as the main challenges facing revenue collection.
"The main challenge is to close this loophole. We are working to get rid of the legal gaps."

According to Muneem, at the current pace of revenue collection, the NBR would be very close to its revenue generation target by the end of the fiscal year.
Like previous years, the highest taxpaying individuals and firms will be recognised in the manufacturing, services, and business sectors today. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is expected to hand over the awards at a ceremony at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.
Abdul Mannan Shikder, member for VAT implementation and IT, Md Masud Sadiq, member for VAT policy, Pradyut Kumar Sarkar, member for tax survey and inspection, Shaheen Akhter, member for tax administration and human resources management, and Md Abdul Majid, member for taxes appeal and exemption, were present at the briefing.

EBL opens Japan desk to woo investors

FROM PAGE B1
Some 315 Japanese companies are now in operation in the country.
Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of EBL, said that Japan believes in improving regional connectivity through infrastructure development.
"Japan has brought in the same philosophy to help transform Bangladesh's infrastructure landscape and contribute to our growth journey," he said at the event.
Ahmed Shaheen, deputy managing director of the bank, told The Daily Star that Japanese firms would be able to open both foreign and local currency accounts easily through the desk.

The officials employed at the desk will be well-versed in Japanese language to give the businesses from the country additional comfort, he said.
"We will cater loans to Japanese investors, helping them run businesses with utmost confidence."
Shaheen went on to express hopes that FDI flow from Japan would go up significantly as an economic zone was now being built for Japanese investors at Arahazar in Narayanganj. As of June this year, FDI from Japan stood at \$412 million.
Yuji Ando, country representative of the Jetro, and senior officials of several Japanese companies also attended the programme.

5G spectrum auction in March

FROM PAGE B1
Operating on high-frequency bands, the 5G will offer a lot of capacity but cover short distances, meaning it will primarily be an urban service for densely populated areas, says the BBC.
Lower-frequency bands (600-800Mhz typically) are better over longer distances, so network operators will concentrate on improving their 4G LTE coverage in parallel with 5G roll-out, it said.

SHEIKH HASINA UNIVERSITY
NETROKONA-2400

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education			
2	Agency	Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona			
4	Procuring Entity District	Netrokona			
5	Invitation for	Tender- for Package A and Package-B			
6	Invitation Ref No	A. (005) SHU/Purchase/Tender/2021-22-03 B. (005) SHU/Purchase/Tender/2021-22-04			
7	Date	08 December, 2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
8	Procurement Method	LTM NCT			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue/GOB			
10	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
11	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A			
12	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A			
13	Tender Package No.	A. APP (2021-22)-GR- 01 B. APP (2021-22)-GR- 06			
14	Tender Package Name	A. Supply & Installation of Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus B. Supply & Installation of printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc. at Sheikh Hasina University Campus			
15	Tender Publication Date	08/12/2021			
16	Tender Last Selling Date	27/12/2022 (4.00 PM)			
17	Tender Closing Date and Time	28/12/2022 3.00 PM			
18	Tender Opening Date and Time	28/12/2022 3.30 PM			
19	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
20	Selling, Receiving & Opening Tender Document	Sheikh Hasina University, Temporary Campus, TTC Netrokona			
20	Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Not Applicable			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
21	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	A. For the Package (APP (2021-22)-GR- 01): Supply & Installation of Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus 1. Must be enlisted tenderer of Supplying Goods (Category-02) of Sheikh Hasina University. 2. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 1(One) years. 3. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (Three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 7,00,000/- (Seven Lac) 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 12,00,000/- (Twelve Lac) B. For the Package (APP (2021-22)-GR- 06): Supply & Installation of printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc. at Sheikh Hasina University Campus 1. Must be enlisted tenderer of Supplying Goods (Category-02) of Sheikh Hasina University. 2. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 1(One) years. 3. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (Three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 4,50,000/- (Four lac and Fifty Thousand) 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 7,00,000/- (Seven Lac)			
22	Brief Description of Goods	A. Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc B. printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc.			
23	Brief Description of Related Services	Installation, Warranty and after sales services			
24	Tender Document Price	A. For the Package (APP (2021-22)-GR- 01): BDT 1,000.00 (One Thousand Taka). B. For the Package (APP (2021-22)-GR- 06): BDT 1,000.00 (One Thousand Taka). *N.B. Bidder Might Purchase One or Both Tender Documents.			
25	Package	Identification of Lot			
25	Package	Location			
25	Package	Tender Security Amount (Tk)			
25	Package	Completion Time in Weeks / Months			
A.	APP (2021-22)-GR-01	Supply & Installation of Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus	Sheikh Hasina University, (Temporary Campus) TTC Netrokona	30,000.00 BDT (Thirty Thousand)	4 weeks
B.	APP (2021-22)-GR-06	Supply & Installation of printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc. at Sheikh Hasina University Campus	Sheikh Hasina University, Temporary Campus, TTC Netrokona	20,000.00 BDT (Twenty Thousand)	4 weeks
26	Name of Official Inviting Tenderer	Prof. D. Subrata Kumar Aditya			
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tenderer	Treasurer			
28	Address of Official Inviting Tenderer	Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona			
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tenderer	Tel. No. - 88029977	Fax No.	treasurer@shu.edu.bd	
**The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings					

Prof. D. Subrata Kumar Aditya
Treasurer & Registrar (Add. In Charge)
and Chairman, Purchase Committee
Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona
Contact: +88 02 997735002
Email: treasurer@shu.edu.bd

New law should rid taxpayers of harassment

FROM PAGE B1
The NBR came up with the draft law, which was posted on its website in Bangla for the first time seeking opinions from stakeholders in October, to replace the existing Income Tax Ordinance 1984.
The purpose of any law remains unfulfilled unless there is coordination among lawmakers, implementing agencies and for those it is framed, said Mashiur Rahman, the prime minister's economic affairs adviser.
Abul Kasem Khan, chairman of the BUILD, said Bangladesh was in its transition phase to become a developing country.
Graduation will bring both prospects and challenges though.
"So, we have to increase our competitiveness and the number of products in our export basket to face the challenges. At this stage, businesses should be given incentives to enable them prepare," he said.
Khan went on to say that the opinions of businesses should be taken prior to the formulation of any policy that affects them.
"But we see that the draft of the new tax law is almost finalised and businessmen do not know about it in detail," he said, adding that the NBR sought opinions from businessmen regarding the law but they needed more time to share their views.
Khan then demanded the removal of advance income tax or withholding

tax as the prevalence of the law reflects assumptions that businessmen do not want to pay tax.
"That is why tax is deducted at source," he said.
"It may be that some want to evade tax, but it would be unfair to consider all as tax dodgers."
On the issue, Md Shahidul Islam, first secretary (Tax Policy) of the NBR, said withholding tax is present in other countries and is collected to ensure funds for operating government activities throughout the year.
"If all pay tax in October or November of the year, where will the government get funds to bear its regular and development expenses?" he added.
Snehashish Barua, partner of Snehashish Mahmud & Co, said there are some good provisions in the draft income tax law.
This includes a proposal for e-tax management and incorporation of international best practices, a provision for the automated transfer of refunds to bank accounts of taxpayers, and measures to ensure transparency and accountability at the tax administration.
However, there are some provisions that will allow taxmen to exercise more arbitrary power when assessing taxes, he added.
Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also spoke at the event.

Stocks bounce back

FROM PAGE B4
At the DSE, 214 stocks advanced, 106 declined and 57 remained unchanged.
"Tamiujuddin Textile Mills topped the gainers' list, rising 10 per cent, followed by SK Trims and Industries, Saiham Textile Mills, Gemini Sea Food and Agricultural Marketing Company Limited (PRAN).
Shurwid Industries shed the most, falling 5.58 per cent, followed by Dominage Steel Building Systems, FAS Finance and Investment, Appollo Ispat Complex and Fu-Wang Ceramic Industry.
Stocks of Beximco were traded the most, worth Tk 73 crore, followed by GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh), Genex Infosys, Delta Life Insurance Company and British American Tobacco Bangladesh. The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also rose yesterday. The CASPI, the main index of the CSE, gained 102 points, or 0.50 per cent, to reach 20,462.

176 businesspeople to get CIP status

FROM PAGE B4
The foreign ministry will send letters of introduction to embassies concerned in favour of the CIPs whenever they travel abroad while the CIPs can also enjoy VIP lounges at airports.
The CIPs will also get priority in booking seats in public transport like airlines, railway, buses and water vessels, the gazette also said. Moreover, their children and wives can avail cabins in public hospitals on a priority basis.

SMEs still cry for a lifeline

FROM PAGE B1
Of the sum, 77 per cent was disbursed. The central bank has allocated another Tk 20,000 crore for the current fiscal year as the economy is yet to return to normalcy from the slowdown. Around Tk 2,800 crore was disbursed as of November 28.
Suman Chandra Saha, deputy general manager for finance and credit services at the SME Foundation, says many small and micro businesses do not have the documents required to get a loan from the government-announced incentive. As a result, they are being deprived of the credit facility. The foundation has received Tk 300 crore from the government to disburse among SMEs. Of the sum, Tk 100 crore was disbursed among 926 people, of which 33 per cent were women, in the last financial year.
Tk 150 crore has been disbursed among more than 1,500 entrepreneurs so far in the current fiscal year. The SME Foundation has targeted to lend the rest by December.
Speaking to The Daily Star at the venue of the fair, more than a dozen SME entrepreneurs said the situation has been improving after the lifting of a second lockdown in August this year.
However, like Reeta, many SMEs still cry for funds to recover from losses at a time when large businesses are seeing their turnover and profit return to pre-crisis levels. The recovery rate of the SME sector is weaker than expected because of their weak financial health compared to that of large industrial units.
Such a condition would not have happened were they able to manage sufficient finances to run businesses, which suffered massively because of the pandemic-induced economic slowdown since March last year, according to the entrepreneurs.
"Before the pandemic, there were six employees at each outlet. Now there are only two," said Asaduzzaman Majumder, director of Century's Sweets Bakery & Café.
Having started its journey in Dhaka in 2012, the company had 12 outlets in the

capital before Covid-19. Seven of these outlets have since been shut amid the crisis.
What is more, the size of the outlets had to be squeezed to a third.
"We are trying to stay afloat by reducing the number of workers and closing some outlets," Majumder said.
The firm contacted two banks but loans were not available.
"As our business is not in good shape, banks are not interested in giving loans," he said, adding that he wanted credit on easy terms.
Sanaul Haque Babul, owner of AB Fashion Maker, which sells garment items, has not given up the hope of making a turnaround.
"I could not do any business in the last four Eid festivals in the past two years. I had laid off half of my 100 employees owing to lower sales. Cost-cutting has to be done in many areas."
Recently, he has hired some workers.
Babul hopes if there are no more setbacks before the next Eid, which is five months away, he will be able to recover the business to some extent.
He has also forayed into digital printing to diversify his income.
At least 80 per cent of CMSMEs were affected by the pandemic, according to Md Ali Zaman, president of the SME Owners Association of Bangladesh.
Almost all CMSMEs were closed for at least three months between April and July in 2020. Big industrial units were not closed during the same period, he said.
Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, a think-tank, says entrepreneurs in the SME sector are trying to make a comeback.
"But the recovery is slow because they have not received assistance from the government. We've repeatedly asked the government to introduce a separate window to give them loans."
"The government should support them by using the network of microfinance institutions."

Bangladesh Lamps Limited

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NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS/ INVESTORS

[Transfer of Three years' Older Unclaimed Stock Dividend to the Capital Market Stabilization Fund]

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Letter No. SEC/SRMIC/165-2020/306 dated November 24, 2021, stock dividends, which remains unclaimed for a period of 3 (three) years, are required to be transferred by the Company to the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF).

The concerned Shareholders/Investors are requested to claim the unpaid/unclaimed stock dividend on or before 9th January 2022 with proper supporting documents at the Share Office of the Company. Pursuant to the said BSEC Rules, the details of the concerned Shareholders/Investors whose stock dividend are subject to transfer to CMSF have already been published on the Company's website: www.blil.com.bd

The Shareholders/Investors are requested to note that in case the Company does not receive any valid claim by 9th January 2022, the Company shall, with a view to comply with the requirements of the said BSEC Directive and Rules, initiate the necessary actions to transfer the said stock dividend to the CMSF within the stipulated time.

Dhaka 10-12-2021

Mohammad Ruhan Miah
Company Secretary

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