

# Bank Asia celebrates Bangladesh's golden jubilee

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh in a lively event yesterday.

The programme started with the hoisting of the national flag accompanied by the national anthem at the bank's corporate office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Freedom fighters Saad Zaglul Abbas, Md Shohrab and Sheikh Md Abdur Rashid graced the programme as honoured guests.

Rume A Hossain, chairman of the bank's board executive committee, Tania Nusrat Zaman, director, Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director, were present at the programme.

Ashraf Haq Chowdhury, director of the bank, joined the event virtually.

One-minute silence was observed in honour of the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Freedom fighters shared their memories of the war while patriotic songs, recitation of poems and dance were performed by the Bank Asia Cultural Team.

Deputy managing directors, department heads along with other officials were also present.



Top officials of Bank Asia Ltd and invited guests cut a cake to celebrate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh at the bank's Karwan Bazar corporate office in Dhaka yesterday.

BANK ASIA



## Shahadat new president of ICAB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Shahadat Hossain, board director of Rajshahi Wasa and Agrani Bank Ltd, has been elected president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) for 2022.

The new office bearers of the ICAB were elected by the members of the council (new councilors) at the council meeting held on Wednesday, according to a statement.

NKA Mobin, managing director of Emerging Credit Rating Ltd, Sidharta Barua, proprietor of MA Mallik & Company Ltd, and Fouzia Haque, director of Sadharan Bima Corporation, were elected vice-presidents.

# Shortages, inflation affect US retail sales

REUTERS, Washington

US retail sales increased less than expected in November, likely payback after surging in the prior month as Americans started their holiday shopping early to avoid empty shelves.

A rotation in spending from goods back to services also appears to have held back retail sales last month, with the report from the Commerce Department on Wednesday showing a sharp drop in receipts at electronics and appliance stores.

Online retail sales were unchanged. Higher food and gasoline prices are probably curtailing discretionary spending.

The modest retail sales gain did not change views that the economy was regaining steam after a slowdown in the third quarter that was triggered by the Covid-19 Delta variant and rampant shortages.

In a nod to soaring inflation, the Federal Reserve on Wednesday said it would end its pandemic-era bond purchases in March, paving the way for three quarter-percentage-point interest rate increases by the end of 2022.

"Consumers are still doing their best to keep the economy's sails full and the recovery on track," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS in New York.

Retail sales rose 0.3 per cent last month after surging 1.8 per cent in October.

Sales have now risen for four straight months.

They increased 18.2 per cent year-on-year in November.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales rising 0.8 per cent.

Estimates ranged from as low as being unchanged to as high as a 1.5 per cent increase.

Several of the top US retailers reported in mid-November that they had noticed an earlier start to holiday shopping.

Retail sales could remain moderate in December, though higher savings and rising wages amid a tight labor market are supportive of spending.

Trillions of dollars in Covid-19 pandemic relief from governments across the globe fueled demand for goods, straining supply chains. The resulting shortages, ranging from motor vehicles to furniture and electronics, have raised goods prices.

Consumer prices increased a solid 0.8 per cent in November, with the year-on-year gain of 6.8 per cent the largest since June 1982. Inflation is likely to remain high for a while.

A separate report from the Labor Department on Wednesday showed import prices increased 0.7 per cent in November.

"Consumers have been bombarded with messages about the impact of supply shortages on the availability of holiday gifts," said David Berson, chief economist at Nationwide in Columbus, Ohio.

# Biden's \$1.75t social spending bill faces critical year-end test

REUTERS, Washington

Having averted a government shutdown and potential default this month, Democrats in the US Congress move on to the even harder task of passing President Joe Biden's \$1.75 trillion domestic investment bill.

After months of intraparty dicker, moderate Democratic Senator Joe Manchin was withholding support for the sweeping bill to expand social

programs and invest in technology to battle climate change. His stance complicates Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's goal of approving it before Christmas, 10 days away.

"It's going to be close," Biden said on Wednesday when asked if he hoped to see the legislation completed by the end of the year.

Manchin's office had no comment when asked if the senator was expected to talk to the president on Wednesday.

"The president's been speaking

with Senator Manchin and I look forward to hearing about further progress," Schumer said on Tuesday, sticking to his timetable but not guaranteeing success.

Schumer, Manchin and Senator John Tester, also a centrist, were spotted meeting in the Capitol on Wednesday. With no votes to spare in passing Biden's "Build Back Better" initiative amid solid Republican opposition, Schumer faces his biggest challenge since becoming majority leader in January. He is

feeling the heat from all sides.

His top lieutenant, Senator Dick Durbin, has been clamoring for a showdown that would force Manchin to either fall into line and vote for the BBB bill or defy Biden in a way that could severely damage his presidency and Manchin's own party. Asked whether Schumer should schedule votes on the bill without nailing down victory, Durbin said: "It's always a risk," adding: "Many people will sit on the fence as long as possible."



REUTERS/FILE

People shop for clothes at a Target retail chain in Westbury, New York on May 20.

# EU lawmakers back rules to curb Big Tech

AFP, Strasbourg

The European Parliament on Wednesday approved its proposal for major EU legislation to impose unprecedented restrictions on how tech giants do business.

Lawmakers overwhelmingly voted in favour of their version of the Digital Markets Act, aimed at slapping far-reaching rules on behemoths like Meta/Facebook, Alphabet/Google, Amazon, Apple and Microsoft.

The landmark legislation should give the EU unprecedented powers to act quickly against these tech "gatekeepers" and impose a strict list of Do's and Don'ts on their most dominant platforms.

The final law, along with the companion Digital Services Act regulating online content, will be thrashed out with EU member states in the coming months in the hope of completing negotiations on a final

law next year.

A key parliamentary committee approved its proposal for the Digital Service Act on Tuesday and it is set to be voted on by all lawmakers in January.

Big tech companies and other interests are lobbying furiously to influence the final outcome for the laws, and member states will weigh in until the end with their own national priorities.

The negotiations with MEPs will be presided by France, which has made delivering the new rules into law a major priority of its six-month EU presidency that begins on January 1.

In detail, the parliament's version strengthened the proposals put forward by the EU's executive and agreed by member states, including pushing for interoperability between different messaging services.

It also looks to beef up the powers

of national competition authorities, with key member states Germany and France eager to not leave all the power to the European Commission in Brussels.

The European Consumer Organisation said the proposal would "give consumers a greater share of the benefits of digital services" and called on member states to stick to the changes made by lawmakers.

"For example, the Parliament's amendments would give consumers more choice over which social networks and instant messaging services they use and prevent tech giants from using 'dark patterns' to distort consumers' choices," it said in a statement.

"It is crucial the EU sets the standard to the rest of world by making sure the digital economy works to the benefit of consumers rather than to the exclusive benefit of the tech giants," it said.

# Tussle over Fazli mango's origin

FROM PAGE B4

DPDT officials say the GI of products is verified and published in the journal as per rules.

A product is recognised as a GI item two months after the publication in the journal if there is no objection, said Md Abdus Sattar, registrar of the DPDT.

Nihar Ranjan Barman, examiner (patent) of the DPDT, said they would send a letter to the Chapainawabganj Krishi Association seeking arguments after getting feedbacks from the Rajshahi Fruit Research Centre.

"After getting the arguments of the Chapainawabganj Krishi Association, we will give the final decision on the right of Fazli mango," he said.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation, GI is a name or sign used on some particular products to certify that they possess certain qualities enabled by the environment, weather and culture of a country.

This, in effect, facilitates branding highlighting traditions and reputation in the global market and creates a separate demand for the product. As a result, the path to commercial production, marketing rights and legal protection is secured.

GI-tagged products fetch higher

prices compared to similar products in other countries.

**Black tiger shrimp to get GI recognition soon**

Bangladesh's black tiger shrimp is set to receive the GI certificate as none, both at home and abroad, has raised any objection.

Black tiger shrimps are grown in the southern coastal belts in the brackish water.

In May 2019, the Department of Fisheries applied for the GI recognition to promote black tiger shrimp as a specialised product of Bangladesh in the world market. The DPDT issued a gazette and published it in two international journals on October 6, 2021.

None had objected before the deadline had expired on December 6. A DPDT official said the certificate is expected to be issued this month.

Shaikh Sohel Pervez, secretary of the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, said the government should facilitate marginal farmers in various ways to increase shrimp production.

"After getting the GI certification, you have to hold it. The sales must grow. We should see how we can expand the existing market," he

added.

According to GI Journal of the DPDT, Bangladesh is one of the top 10 producers of black tiger shrimps.

The country began cultivating the coveted food item in 1950. The farming expanded to 52,000 hectares in 1983-84, and the annual production reached 2,220 tonnes during that period.

Currently, Bangladesh is farming the shrimp commercially in more than two lakh hectares of land, mostly in coastal regions. The country produced 68,306 tonnes of black tiger shrimps in the fiscal year of 2016-17.

Black tiger shrimp is one of the export items of Bangladesh, accounting for nearly 60-70 per cent of the total fish shipment.

**Nine products GI-certified**  
The DPDT certified Jamdani sari as Bangladesh's first GI product in 2016, and the second such product was Hilsa that was awarded in 2017. Chapainawabganj's Khirsapati mango received the certification a year later.

In March this year, six more products obtained GI certifications: Dhakai muslin, Rajshahi Silk, Rangpur's Shotoronji, Bijoypur's Sadamati, Dinajpur's Kataribhog, and Bangladesh's Kalijira paddy.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director

Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet

### Invitation for Tender

Memo No. SOMCH/TS/2021/1429

Date: 14/12/2021

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced manufacturer/agent/importer/supplier to supply Medical Equipments as per PPR-2008 terms and conditions are as follows:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2.	Agency	Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
3.	Procuring entity name	Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
4.	Procuring entity code	4112315
5.	Procuring entity district	Sylhet.
6.	Invitation for	Medical Equipment.
7.	Tender Ref. No.	SOMCH/TS/2021/1429/15 Date: 14/12/2021

#### KEY INFORMATION

8.	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
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#### FUNDING INFORMATION

09.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
10.	Development partners	N/A.

#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11.	Project/program code	N/A.
12.	Project/program name	Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
13.	Tender name	Procurement of Medical Equipment.
14.	Tender publication date	14/12/2021
15.	Tender last selling date	19/01/2022 up to 12.00 Noon.
16.	Tender closing date and time	20/01/2022 at 12.00 Noon.
17.	Tender opening date and time	20/01/2022 at 12.30pm.

#### 18. Name and address of the offices

a) Selling tender schedule	Office of the Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
b) Receiving tenders schedule	(1) Office of the Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet. (2) Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and (3) Superintendent of Police, Sylhet.
c) Opening tender schedule	Office of the Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.

19. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting: No pre-bid meeting.

#### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20.	Brief description of goods	Medical Equipment (Anesthesia Machine, Ventilator, O.T Table, O.T Light, syringe pump, infusion pump, Diathermy machine etc.).
21.	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.
22.	Procedure of payment of tender schedule	Through Treasury Chalan, Taka, 3,000/- (three thousand) to be paid at Bangladesh Bank/Sonali Bank against Code No. (1) (2)(7)(1)(1) (0) (0) (0) (2)(3)(6)(6). Tender schedule should be collected from SOMCH office on submitting the original challan.
23.	Tender security amounts	Taka 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lac only) Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.

#### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

24.	Name of official inviting tenders	Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
25.	Designation of official inviting tenders	Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
26.	Address of official inviting tenders	Office of the Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
27.	Contact details of official inviting tenders	Office of the Director, Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.

**Brig. Gen Brayan Bankim Halder**  
Director  
Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet  
Email: magomch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-2324