



Md Salim Uddin, chairman of the executive committee at Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurates the bank's 384th branch at Ranirhat, Chattogram on Sunday. Mohammed Monirul Moula, managing director of the bank; JQM Habibullah, deputy managing director; Mohammed Shabbir, senior executive vice-president; Md Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan and Miftah Uddin, executive vice-presidents; Md Nayer Azam, head of Chattogram north zone; and Mohammad Yakub Ali, head of Chattogram south zone, were present.



Indo-Bangla chamber gets new office bearers

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of Nitol Motors Ltd, has been elected president of the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) for 2021 - 2023.

M Shoeb Chowdhury, chief executive officer of HSTC Ltd, and Abhisek Das, managing director of Indofin Bangladesh Industries Private Ltd, were elected vice-presidents of the 24-member board of directors, according to a press release.
Prakash Chand Saboo, country head of State Bank of India, Md Abdul Wahed, managing director of Quality Enterprise, and Dewan Sultan Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh System Technology Ltd, were elected as honorary secretary-general, honorary joint secretary-general and honorary treasurer, respectively.

Oil prices sink

AFP, London
World oil prices fell by more than five percent on Monday, as energy demand fears grew over the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant.
Brent North Sea crude tumbled 5.1 per cent to \$69.79 per barrel.

Bangladesh self-reliant in RMG accessories

FROM PAGE B1
Currently, the domestic market size of buttons is \$160 million, which was almost nil 30 years ago, industry people say. Not only button, Bangladesh is also self-reliant in many other garment and packaging accessories.
For instance, more than 30 vital accessories such as poly bags, hangers, zippers, buttons, cartons and packaging materials are needed to make a complete and exportable garment item. The sub-sector is capable of supplying almost all of the 30 items except some specialised components.
Manufacturers are also exporting accessories to other garment producing countries such as Pakistan, Vietnam, and Cambodia although the volume is low. Industry people put the figure of the direct export of accessories at nearly \$500 million.
Montrims Ltd, a local garment accessories maker and a concern of Mondol Group, is one of the exporters.
"I export a few specialised garment accessories," said Momin Mondol,

managing director of Montrims Ltd. He even shipped accessories to European countries as per buyers' requirement.
The company exports accessories worth \$60 million a year.
According to the entrepreneur, Bangladesh is a matured country in many of the garment accessories items as the industry has made an impressive stride in the last two decades.
Dekko Legacy Group is a major button producer. The total export of the group is \$300 million, of which 15 per cent is accessories, mainly labels, buttons, hand tags, price tags, and printed labels.
"We are self-sufficient in accessories. We have a lot of prospects in this sector," said Shahadat Hossain Kiron, chairman of the group.
The garment accessories business has big potential in the country as China is no longer interested in this low-cost business, said Khan of Khan Accessories.
"So, a lot of work orders are shifting to Bangladesh from China."

Tung Hai Knitting sinks in 3 years after listing

FROM PAGE B1
About the same time, the local garments industry as a whole began to suffer because of the global recession. As a result, orders were few and far between, and many orders were cancelled, it said.
"With a hostile environment within the company, directors became tired and gave up, the CEO resigned, productions stopped, and the company was grinding to a halt by September 2017. And ultimately, the factory was closed sine die."
No annual general meeting has

been held since 2017. And necessary documents and papers related to production, stock, expenses and physical inventory could not be furnished with the auditor, except bank statements.
"The condition, along with other matters, indicates that material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue," said the audit report.
Tung Hai Knitting incurred a net loss of Tk 3 crore, Tk 19.9 crore, Tk 33.2 crore, Tk 92.9 crore, and Tk 40 crore respectively in the five financial

years to 2020-21.
Incorporated in 2004, Tung Hai Knitting was a 100 per cent deemed exporter, mainly engaged in the business of dyeing and knitting and bleaching of yarn used in making export-oriented sweaters and garments.
The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has frozen the bank accounts of the company and its directors to protect the interest of general investors. It fined the directors in November 2020 for the violation of securities laws.

Census stuck in tender trap

FROM PAGE B1
It also questioned why the proposal was not submitted in two separate envelopes.
Usually, one of the envelopes contains a technical proposal while the other contains the financial proposal.
Although three years have passed since drawing up a master plan, the BBS is yet to conduct the population census almost a year after schedule.
The BBS had prepared a master plan in 2018 to carry out the census on January 2-8 this year and publish a preliminary report by July. In October 2019, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved a Tk 1,761 crore project for the Population and Housing Census.
However, the BBS could not complete the census as per the schedule due to the coronavirus pandemic and in January 2021, it pushed back the survey date to October 25-31.
Earlier, the statistical agency brought some changes to its master plan as it decided to conduct the census digitally instead of manually, saying the move would help cut project costs by 11 per cent, or Tk 186 crore.
Accordingly, the cost was revised downwards to Tk 1,575 crore, which was passed by the Ecne in June 2021. The last census was conducted in 2011, when the country's population stood at 15.17 crore. The population grows at an average rate of 1.37 per cent per annum.

bti organises mega sales event

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The Building Technology & Ideas (bti) Ltd has organised the end-of-the-year "bti Mega Sales Event 2021" at Celebration Point at Gulshan-2 in Dhaka recently.
The event showcased more than 800 apartments from 44 projects across 30 different locations in Dhaka and Chattogram respectively, according to a press release.
The event was designed such that customers can gain valuable insights and learn about a number of exciting offers from the company's home-loan partners.
A "Knowledge Session" was also conducted by renowned industry experts on tax issues, construction, and customer service excellence of bti.
Approximately 400 people attended the event, including bti's bank partners.

KSRM-BANGABANDHU NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

Final round on Dec 29-30

STAR BUSINESS DESK
The National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) of the Prime Minister's Office is organising "Bangabandhu National Skills Competition 2021" powered by KSRM.
The aim is to motivate the youth, develop human resource, and create new jobs.
The final round of the competition will be held at four venues in Dhaka on December 29 and 30, where a total of 66 winners from the divisional stage will take part, according to a press release.
The winners of the finals will have the opportunity to participate in the 46th World Skills Competition-2022 in Shanghai, China in October next year.
The disclosures were made at a press conference at the Investment Building Auditorium in Agargaon on Sunday, where the logo of the competition was unveiled.
"People need to be motivated



Organisers of Bangabandhu National Skills Competition 2021 pose for a photograph at a press conference at the Investment Building Auditorium in Agargaon on Sunday, when the logo of the competition was unveiled.
To acquire skills through awareness registration and certification of the NSDA, Md Ziauddin, member for administration and finance, and Md Ashfaqul Islam, general manager of the market research and development wing, were also present.



ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury, managing director of Union Bank Ltd, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the bank's 100th Bijoynagar branch in Dhaka yesterday. Md Habibur Rahman, additional managing director of the bank, Hasan Iqbal and Md Nazrul Islam, deputy managing directors, were present.

Leather sector gets wider benefits

FROM PAGE B1
And now, leading leather goods exporters will enjoy the same benefit.
"This will be helpful for our product development," said Md Safiul Islam, president of the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturer & Exporter's Association of Bangladesh.
"This is a business and export friendly decision by the NBR," he added.
Export proceeds rose to \$456 million in the July-November period of the current fiscal year, up 27 per cent year-on-year from \$358 million, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.
Bangladesh fetched a total of \$941 million in export earnings from the leather industry in fiscal 2020-21 with footwear and other products

accounting for a bulk of this amount.
Md Shakawat Ullah, general secretary of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said there are about 37 tanners at present who import chemicals and other raw materials used to process animal hides under the bonded warehouse benefit.
"But firms with more than one unit face difficulty to import the necessary amount of chemicals as they were only allowed to import the quantity required by one factory," he said.
Now though, the new measure will enable them to import the required amount of chemicals for production.
Tanners process between 27 lakh to 30 lakh square feet of skins and hides each year, Ullah added.

Asian markets tumble

AFP, London
Asian stocks and oil prices sank on Monday on fears about a fresh global surge in coronavirus infections and as the future of US President Joe Biden's massive social spending bill was thrown into doubt after it lost the crucial vote of a moderate Democrat.
With traders beginning to wind down ahead of the festive season, analysts said trade was thinner and markets more susceptible to swings, but the mood has become increasingly glum as central banks start paring their huge financial support to fight inflation.
At the same time, economies are taking a hit as the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant forces governments to reimpose containment measures and consumers are staying at home.

BANGLADESH FREEDOM FIGHTERS' WELFARE TRUST
Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
Swadhinata Bhaban, 88, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka- 1000.
www.bffwt.gov.bd

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.
2	Name of invitation Agency	: Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust (BFFWT), Dhaka.
3	Expression of Interest for Selection	: Consulting Firm
4	Title of Service	: Selection of Consulting Firm
5	EoI Ref. No. & Date	: 48.01.0000.202.14.385.18.144 date 19.12.2021
6	Method of invitation	: Open Tendering Method (OTM).
7	Budget and Source of Fund	: BFFWT own fund.
8	Assignment Name	: Feasibility Study of the Construction of 'Muktijuddho Bhaban' of BFFWT own land at 257 Tejgaon Industrial Area (Known as Old Tabani), Dhaka.
9	EoI Closing Date and Time	: 04 January, 2022 at 3.00 PM
10	Publication Date	: 21 December, 2021
11	Brief Description of Assignment	: The objective of this assignment is to provide consultancy service for feasibility study to Muktijuddho Bhaban for implementation of the said project. This assignment have to follow the latest format (31 st January,2021) prescribed by Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, that includes: * Feasibility study; * Market/Demand analysis; * Technical and Engineering analysis; * Environmental, Climate change and Disaster risk analysis; * Financial analysis; * Human resources and Administrative support analysis; * Institutional and Legal analysis Risk and Sensitivity analysis.
12	Required Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity:	: (1) Letter of submission; (2) Age of the firm and legal establishment of the firm; (3) VAT registration certificate (13 digit); (4) Trade license; (5) Accomplished at least 3 (Three) similar works in public sector last 3 (three) years following the prescribed format of Planning Division (with completion certificate); (6) Availability of key professionals to carry out the assignment; (7) Organizational capacity including availability of resources, support and logistic services of the firm, expertise etc.
13	Designation of Official Inviting	: Director (Industries & Commerce), BFFWT.
14	Address of official inviting	: Swadhinata Bhaban, 88 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
15	Contact details of official inviting Tender	: Telephone: 223382340
16	Other Details (if applicable):	: Interested Consulting Firms are requested to provide a complete profile/CV along with above mentioned experience, resources and delivery capacity information etc. and one copy of passport size photograph of the head of the governing body of the firm. For the details of TOR, please visit the website: www.bffwt.gov.bd 02 (two) hard copies of EoI have to be submitted by 3.00 PM on or before 04 January, 2022 in sealed envelope delivered to the above mentioned Procuring Entity. The name of Position and Assignment name shall be clearly marked on the envelope.
17.	* Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures of PPA-2006 & PPR-2008. * The procuring entity reserves the right to accept and reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason.	

GD- 2354
19.12.2021
Dr. Md. Jahedul Hasan
Director (I&C)