



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Ltd, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate three sub-branches at Peku Chowmuhani and Ukhia at Cox's Bazar and Peer Bari in Brahmanbaria sadar from the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday. Abdul Aziz and Md Mustafa Khair, additional managing directors of the bank, Md Zahurul Haque and Md Masudur Rahman Shah, deputy managing directors, were present.

Asiatic Mindshare wins 27 awards at Digital Marketing Award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Asiatic Mindshare won the highest number of awards for the second time in a row at the 5th edition of the Digital Marketing Award.

They claimed a total of 27 awards, 18 of which came from their solo achievement and nine in partnership, according to a press release.

The awards comprise 5 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze. The two-day Digital Summit organised by Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) ended with the vivid award ceremony held at Le Méridien Dhaka.

Prior to the award ceremony, the summit was held virtually, where local and international marketing experts held discussions on multiple topics. The 5th Commwads awarded the best digital communication and branding works in 18 different categories.

The forum has been organising "Digital Marketing Award" to recognise and reward the best works and efforts of local creative agencies in the digital marketing industry in Bangladesh since 2017.



Rizwan re-elected DCCI president

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Rizwan Rahman, managing director of ETBL Securities & Exchange Ltd, has been re-elected as the president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) for 2022.

Arman Haque, chairman of InnStar Ltd and Arman Haque Denims Ltd, has been elected as the senior vice-president, while Monowar Hossain, proprietor of Monowar Trading, was re-elected as the vice-president, according to a press release.

The new board took over the charge at the 60th annual general meeting of the DCCI in its auditorium yesterday.

The newly elected directors are Malik Talha Ismail Bari, Md Abdul Mannan, Md Habib Ullah Tuhin, Md Junaed Ibna Ali, Sameer Sattar, and SM Golam Faruk Alamgir.

Supply chain woes strain US trucking

AFP, Summerville

It had been a challenging day on the road and Desi Wade was ready for dinner. But as he pulled into a truck stop, Wade encountered a familiar frustration in the overstressed industry.

The parking lot was jammed with other 18-wheelers, leaving just one narrow spot that the 50-year-old secured after several minutes of maneuvering.

Scant parking is only one of the sore points in US trucking, which moves more than \$12 trillion worth of freight each year and has become the latest embodiment of the supply chain problems in a holiday season overshadowed by limited product availability and rising prices.

Some trucking industry leaders cite a national shortage of drivers as causing the troubles, but Wade says drivers' top concerns are difficult working environments, inadequate pay and

logistics mismanagement.

"There's not a driver shortage, there's just no motivation to do it," said Wade, who owns a small fleet of trucks based in Atlanta. "You've really got to make the wages and job appealing and profitable." On top of scarce parking and volatile fuel prices, drivers have to contend with stressful traffic conditions and meager food options that make healthy eating impossible on the road.

The biggest issue is probably "detention time," jargon for the mostly unpaid hours truckers burn waiting around at ports and warehouses -- which they say has grown especially bad as Covid-19 convulsed supply chains.

"It's a mentally and physically challenging profession that takes you away from your family, your home for long periods of time," Wade said. "So what motivates someone to do that?"

Wade spent a recent day at a distribution center waiting for cargo to be loaded onto his

truck. He ended up leaving with only \$150 of the \$1,200 he expected, and the cargo was moved back into the warehouse.

A former Army firefighter, Wade -- who traveled with an AFP reporting team over two days through three southeastern states -- radiates positivity from his fire engine red tractor.

He is in his element coaching junior drivers, bantering with warehouse administrators and hosting fellow truckers on virtual meetings from his smartphone headset. He grins when describing trips with his kids and grandchildren aboard the 18-wheeler. This journey began inauspiciously, with Wade arriving early in the morning only to discover his truck unable to leave.

His 37,000-pound load had sunk into mud, and the resulting \$450 tow job put Wade in a financial hole and left him scrambling for a replacement cargo after a scheduled pickup time became impossible.

Cuba announces 2021 inflation over 70pc

AFP, Havana

Cuba's inflation will end 2021 at over 70 per cent -- one of the highest in the world -- economy minister Alejandro Gil said on Tuesday, insisting it was due to deliberate monetary policy.

The government increased prices by 44 per cent earlier this year as part of a new monetary system aimed at eventually increasing salaries by 450 per cent.

"We will obviously end with an inflation rate over 70 per cent," Gil told the national assembly parliament.

"That 44 per cent from January is not comparable with any other country because it is by design," said Gil.

"What inflation is this? Astronomical, but salaries also increased," he added. The minimum wage in January was 2,100 pesos (\$87) a month, and by the end of the year it was almost double that at 3,934 pesos.

Gil said the inflation also was due to external factors linked to the coronavirus pandemic, and the US economic embargo against the island nation.

Be proud of yourself and your achievements

FROM PAGE B4

Mubina Asaf: I was passionate about being a lawyer and I worked hard to be a successful one. However, I was at a crossroad when I took the decision to shift my career.

As a lawyer, I could wait for the opportunity to become a High Court judge. That could take years too and was an uncertain road. However, when I got this opportunity, to be the head of legal of BAT Bangladesh and be a part of the corporate sector, I instantly took up the opportunity because I had complete faith in my craft.

I knew I would excel in legal matters because I am a lawyer and have experience. But I would have to learn a new skillset in the corporate world as well. So, I took a leap of faith and took up the challenge.

It was certainly a great opportunity. However, shifting from an established career to a different field can be quite intimidating. I gradually overcame my challenges using my leadership skills and by enriching my knowledge about the business. After eight years in the business, I am proud to say it was one of the best decisions that I took.

TDS: Bangladesh has been a role model of women's empowerment in South Asia in the last 50 years. What are the changes you would like to see in the country that would enable greater empowerment of women?

Mubina Asaf: According to the Global Gender Gap report, Bangladesh has been the best performing country in South Asia for seven times in a row. Bangladesh is the only country where women have held the head of the government position (27 years) longer than men in the past 50 years. The political empowerment is on the rise and government policies and laws are testament to that.

There are many laws. However, what I feel is missing is the enforcement and awareness. It is necessary that women are made aware of these policies and the rights

that they have. Changes must be brought to inheritance laws.

Another very important aspect is security of women. It is necessary to ensure safety in all areas, including the workplace. We must also fight against discrimination, domestic abuse, sexual violence, early marriage, and patriarchy.

I believe empowerment starts from home. Being the eldest amongst the siblings, I was always empowered to take responsibility from a very young age. My parents never discriminated amongst the brothers and sisters. We were always enrolled to play the same sport, whether it is boxing or football. The girls and boys were always given the same options.

TDS: What role can the corporate sector play in driving such change?

Mubina Asaf: Our government has laid the foundation. Now, it is essential that we build on it and implement the policies. Corporations can come up with activities and initiatives that reach out to women in rural areas to further educate them on their rights and provide resources.

At BAT Bangladesh, we provide six months paid maternity leave and we also provide paternity leave. We provide childcare facilities so that working mothers and fathers can bring their children to the office. We also have multiple initiatives in relation to our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks to empower women across different functions.

If we work hand in hand with the government and make a collective effort, then we will become much stronger as a nation. Change will not happen overnight but the conversation needs to be triggered from now on so that we can set the standard.

Women are the backbone of a family and a society and their presence needs to be recognised more so that we can create an inclusive and sustainable future for the next generation leaders.



Salim Rahman, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd (AIBL), inaugurates the bank's 200th branch at Jamalkhan, Chattogram on Monday. Abdus Samad, chairman of the executive committee at the AIBL, Mohammad Abdus Salam, vice-chairman of the executive committee, Badiur Rahman, chairman of the risk management committee, Mahbulul Alam, independent director, Abdul Malek Mollah, Ahamedul Haque, Niaz Ahmed, Khandaker Mesbah Uddin Ahmmed, Liakat Ali Chowdhury and Md Rafiqul Islam, directors, and Farman R Chowdhury, managing director, were present.

Russians face soaring costs and tough choices in 2022

AFP, Moscow

Walking through a freezing market in Moscow earlier this month, 60-year-old Sergei Borisovich recalled that he rang in the last New Year at a table laden with festive delicacies.

This year, the factory worker, who declined to give his last name, said a spike in prices meant he would have to forego caviar and other treats so he could afford a bottle of bubbly for the countdown on Russia's biggest holiday.

People are making sacrifices across the country, with soaring inflation pushing up costs and forcing cash-strapped Russians to make difficult decisions around the holidays.

"Everything is getting more expensive but wages aren't going up," said Sergei Borisovich, who was shocked that a loaf of bread now costs 100 rubles (\$1.35).

President Vladimir Putin has described prices as a key concern and the embattled opposition is hoping to leverage the economic woes.

This month, inflation reached its highest since 2016, with rising everyday costs hitting hard a population whose average monthly income is 40,402 rubles (\$545). Adding to that, some 43 percent of Russians do not have any savings, according to a recent survey by recruitment website SuperJob.

Sergei Borisovich said the table this year would be topped only with a salad of potatoes and peas.

"I'll buy some Shampanskoye if I can," he said referring to sparkling wine popular during the Soviet Union.

Red caviar, served with bread and butter on New Year's Eve, is the most expensive it has been since monitoring began in 2000.

Ingredients for other holiday dishes like the mayonnaise-rich salad "Olivier" are expected to cost 15 per cent more than last year, Russian media has reported citing statistics agency Rosstat. "Herring Under a Fur Coat" -- a layered dish of pickled herring and beetroot -- will set Russians back 25 per cent more than last year.

Living standards in Russia have been gradually decreasing since Moscow was slapped with a slew of Western sanctions in 2014 over its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Now, the dip is accelerating, hitting even those in Moscow, the wealthiest city.

Karina Strukova, an engineer on maternity leave, says the trend forced her to stop buying groceries from the upmarket Vkusvill grocery chain in favour of the lower-cost Magnit stores.

The 30-year-old told AFP her grocery bill had grown by as much as 25 percent since last year. "We're trying to cut back on spending a bit because we don't have any other sources of income," she said.

"We're buying fewer gifts and going to cheaper shops. Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, controversially jailed earlier this year on a fraud charge, said he had even felt the pinch behind bars.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Panchagarh Pourashava
District: Panchagarh

Memo No. Panch/Poura/Engr./2021-22/506 Date: 22/12/2021

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender proposal closing (date & time)
639179	PanchPoura-01 17773-21-10006	Installation of 50 No. Shallow Tube Well under 37 DTWSP Project of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)	17-Jan-2022, 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Jakeya Khatun
Mayor
Panchagarh Pourashava

GD-2371

Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
University of Dhaka
Tender Notice

Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Dhaka, invites quotation for Purchase of Instruments from local & foreign markets. The interested suppliers, manufacturer and local/foreign agent may procure quotations G1, G2 from the Department during office hours from 20.12.2021 to 02.01.2022 with cash (non-refundable) for G1 Tk. 4,000/-, G2 Tk. 2000/- deposit Janata Bank Ltd., TSC, D.U. Br. A/C No. 36000392. The tender should be dropped by 03.01.2022 at 11:30am. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any quotation or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Professor Dr. Dipti Saha
Chairman
Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
University of Dhaka

GD-2366

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
Works Division
Parjatan Bhaban, Plot No. E-5-C/1, West Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area
Dhaka-1207
Website: www.parjatan.gov.bd

File No. 30.32.0000.060.33.003.2021 Date: 20-12-2021

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Procurement method	Closing date & time
1	634187	Construction of Bar Bhaban at Bogura, Parjatan Motel Banani, Bogura.	OTM (NCT)	09.1.2022 15:30pm

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 Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the IFT mentioned date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and at e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Mahmud Kabir
General Manager (Works)
Deputy Secretary

GD-2368