



**Nagina Afzal Sinha, chairman of Acme Laboratories Ltd, a concern of Acme Group, virtually presides over the company's 45th annual general meeting on Sunday. The shareholders approved 25 per cent cash dividend for the financial year 2020-2021. Mizanur Rahman Sinha, managing director of the company, Jahanara Mizan Sinha, deputy managing director, Md Abul Hossain, nominee director, Das Deba Prashad, Ehsan UI Fattah and Evana Hoque, independent directors, Tasneem Sinha, Tanveer Sinha, Sabrina Juned, and Fahim Sinha, directors, Md Hasibur Rahman, additional deputy managing director, Kazi Mohammed Badruddin, executive director, and Md Arshadul Kabir, acting company secretary, were present.**



**Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman of Agricultural Marketing Company, a concern of Pran-RFL Group, virtually presides over the company's 36th annual general meeting on Sunday. The meeting approved 32 per cent dividend for its shareholders for the year 2020-2021. Eleash Mridha, managing director, Sabiha Amjad, Uzma Chowdhury, Choudhury Atiur Rasul and Chowdhury Kamruzzaman, directors, Md Abdus Salam, independent director, Mohammad Yeamini, chief financial officer, and Kazi Abdur Rahman, company secretary, attended the meeting.**

## Gold flat as weaker US yields balance firmer dollar

Gold held steady on Monday above the key level of \$1,800 per ounce, as its enhanced appeal due to slightly weaker US Treasury yields was countered by an uptick in the dollar, making bullion more expensive for holders of other currencies.

Spot gold was flat at \$1,807.90 per ounce by 0815 GMT, staying mostly ahead of \$1,800 since closing above that level last week.

US gold futures were down 0.1 per cent at \$1,809.40.

Benchmark US Treasury yields edged down from the previous session's more than one-week high, reducing the opportunity cost of holding

bullion, which pays no interest.

The dollar index inched up from its weakest level in nearly a week, making greenback-priced gold less attractive for holders of non-U.S. currencies. "Gold faces resistance just above \$1,815 and if the recent past is any indication, gold will continue to struggle to hold onto gains at these levels unless the US dollar moves sharply lower this week," said Jeffrey Halley, a senior market analyst at OANDA.

Asian stock markets were generally weaker with US crude in holiday-thinned trading, as uncertainty over the economic impact of the Omicron variant weighed on investor sentiment.

"What's happening with inflation and the US Federal Reserve's response to it is really the main

catalyst that makes for a challenge to finding directional momentum," said DailyFX currency strategist Ilya Spivak.

However, although quiet overall this week, "the low liquidity makes headline sensitivity more pronounced, as the thin markets are likely to make for more jittery price action if something were to happen," Spivak added.

Japanese shares fell on Monday, as concerns over the Omicron Covid-19 variant's impact offset gains in heavyweight technology stocks.

Spot silver dropped 0.8 per cent to \$22.75 an ounce, and platinum fell 1.9 per cent to \$956.11.

Palladium was down 0.4 per cent at \$1,941.38 an ounce, after hitting its highest since November 23 at \$1,962.50 earlier in the session.

## UAE plans to scrap monopolies of some big merchant families

The United Arab Emirates government has told some of its biggest business families that it plans to remove their monopolies on the sale of imported goods, the Financial Times reported on Sunday.

The government did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment but state news agency WAM quoted a Ministry of Economy statement saying a draft law on commercial agencies was still in its legislative cycle and "it is still too early to give details".

The cabinet referred the draft to the Federal National Council for discussion and possibly more amendments, it added.

The FT report said the proposed legislation would end the automatic renewal of existing commercial agency

agreements in the Gulf state, giving foreign firms the opportunity to distribute their own goods or change their local agents.

"It no longer makes sense for individual families to have such power and preferential access to easy wealth," the report quoted an Emirati official as saying. "We have to modernise our economy."

The proposed law must be approved by the Emirati leadership and the timing for that remains uncertain, the report added.

Over the past year the UAE, a growing economic rival of Saudi Arabia, has taken measures to make its economy more attractive to foreign investors and talent.

Earlier this year, UAE said foreigners opening a company will no longer need an Emirati shareholder or agent, after it made changes to UAE company law.

## Multiplexes grow bigger as investment surges

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The company counted losses in the initial years as people were not showing up as expected, recalled Ruhel.

"The first two years were very difficult. We were on the verge of bankruptcy. But we didn't lose hopes."

It turned around with two movies: Gladiator of Hollywood and Molla Barir Bou of Bangladesh. Now the company releases movies on the same day as in the Hollywood.

On average, it releases two movies each month, Ruhel added.

"We started the business in the country by bringing in the latest technology at that time. We reaped the benefit of technological advancement."

**SINGLE SCREEN CINEMA HALLS CLOSING**

There were as many as 1,235 cinema halls in the country in 1998. The number has nosedived significantly in the last two decades.

Currently, about 60 halls are in operational. The number doubles to 120 during Eid festivals, according to the Bangladesh Film Exhibitors Association, a platform of theatre owners.

"We could not keep pace with changing times, so we have lost money," said Mia Alauddin, senior vice-president of the Cinema Hall Owners and Exhibitors Association.

"In most areas, the owners have built multiplex shopping malls demolishing theatres."

There are many districts and even divisional cities that have no single cinema hall at the present, he said, adding that 80 per cent of the workers involved in this sector have quit their jobs in the last 10 years.

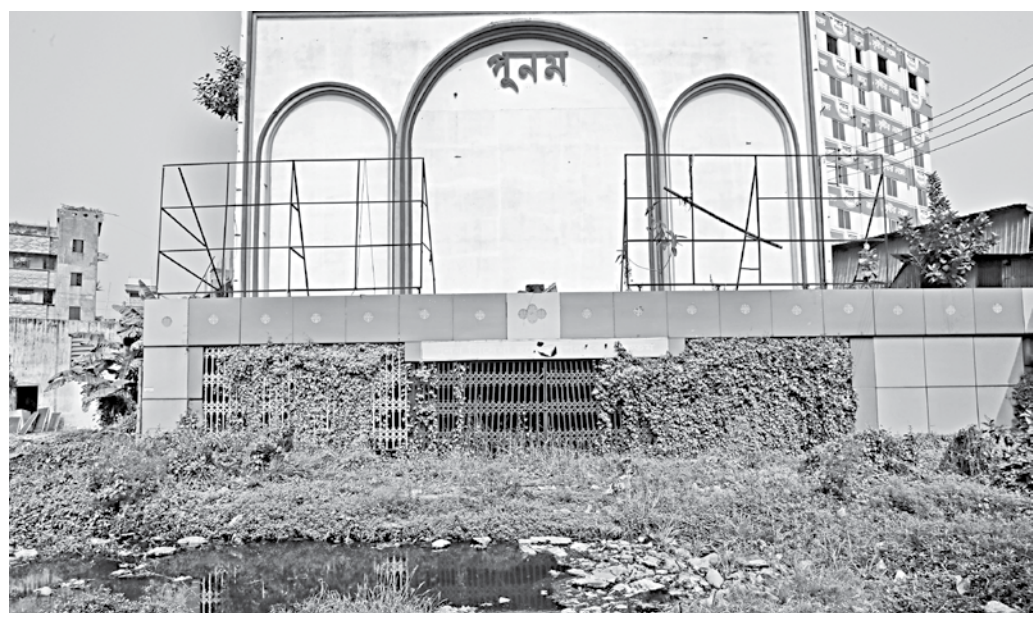
Although the number of foreign movies released in the country has remained almost unchanged, the number of domestic movies released has decreased over the years.

According to the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, 328 foreign films received censor certificates from 2015 to 2020 against 321 local movies.

"Our single screen owners have not been able to adapt to technological advances. That's why they are in a sorry state," Ruhel said.

Producers and directors in Bangladesh need to understand the kind of films viewers like to watch, he says.

"The restrictions on screening movies from



**Cinema hall Poonam lies in a desolate state in the capital's Kadamtali having stayed closed for the past two years. A lack of investment and quality films alongside the pandemic has led to the shuttering of many such places of entertainment. The photo was taken recently.**

the subcontinent should be lifted. We are losing because viewers are watching Tamil and Telugu movies in one way or another. Ultimately, we are being deprived of revenue."

**OPERATORS EYE EXPANSION**

Silver Screen, a multiplex operator, started its journey in August 2018 in Chattogram, setting up the first such movie complex in the port city.

"We have plans to build another multiplex," said Faruk Ahmed, one of the partners of Silver Screen. He says the government has provided some facilities to attract investment in this sector. But planning has been disrupted because of the pandemic.

The cost of building a 100-seat multiplex has gone up to Tk 5-8 crore, from Tk 3-4 crore, previously as prices have risen for the construction materials for the building as well equipment needed to run cinemas.

Jamuna Group's Blockbuster Cinemas, which started its journey in 2013 at the Jamuna Future Park in the capital, plans to invest.

It has seven cinema halls, with 1,680 seats, employing about 75 people, according to Zahid Hossain Chowdhury, head of operations of Blockbuster Cinemas.

Star Cineplex plans to set up 100 digital screens across Bangladesh.

It is going to launch a new multiplex at Bali Arcade Shopping Complex on the Nawab Sirajuddaula Road in Chattogram's Chawk Bazar next year. It will be fully furnished and modernised cinema halls with a capacity for around 400 viewers.

The investment will be Tk 15-20 crore, Ruhel said. He and Aftab Alam, chairman of The Casablanca Limited, signed an agreement to the effect recently.

Star Cineplex also inked a deal with the Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust on October 3 to open a theatre at the Police Plaza at the Satmatha intersection on Nawab Bari Road in Bogura.

Talks are also underway with potential partners to open a new multiplex in Rajshahi.

## Akij enters tableware market

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Trishal in Mymensingh and created direct employment for around 2,000 people there.

According to him, it has been 12 years since this sector saw such a big investment. Protik Ceramics made the last investment in 2009.

He said European machinery have been set up at the plant to ensure quality and attract foreign buyers.

Alam said the plant has a capacity to manufacture 55,000 pieces of products per day and within one year the capacity would increase to 1.25 lakh pieces.

Akij Group realised that the tableware market has been expanding steadily for the last couple of years with the upgradation

in the lifestyles of people and the middle class increasingly growing a liking towards ceramics products, he said.

According to the BCMEA, there are currently 20 companies manufacturing 26.19 crore pieces of tableware per year, enabling direct employment of 19,003 people and having made investments worth Tk 2,175 crore.

The BCMEA sources also said foreign tableware still dominate about 27 per cent of the annual domestic market sales.

The tableware sector earned Tk 491 crore through exports in financial year 2018-19 and Tk 421 crore in 2019-20.

On the other hand, Bangladesh imported tableware worth Tk 174 crore in 2018-19 and Tk 173.35 crore in 2019-20.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
উপ-প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপকের (অধ্যক্ষ) কার্যালয়  
কলেজ এডুকেশন ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট (সিইডিপি)  
সরকারি সৈয়দ হাতেম আলী কলেজ (বরিশাল)  
কলেজ কোড: ১১১০ (জাঃ বিঃ), ০২৩৪ (মাউশি), ১৮২৫ (বোর্ড) ই.আই.নং: ১০০৮৭৬, ফোন: ০৪৩১-৬৪৯০৮  
Website: www.gshac.gov.bd E-mail: hatemalicollegebarisal@yahoo.com  
তারিখ: ২৭-১২-২০২১

**e-Tender Notice 01/2021-22**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following packages:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of package	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
01	642111	Procurement of Furniture & Fixture for Classrooms, Laboratories & General Purpose at Govt. Syed Hatem Ali College, Barishal.	13-Jan-2022 2:00PM (14:00)	13-Jan-2022 3:00PM (15:00)
02	642045	Renovation and Refurbishment of classrooms, Laboratories etc at Govt. Syed Hatem Ali College, Barishal	13-Jan-2022 1:00PM (13:00)	13-Jan-2022 2:00PM (14:00)

This is an on line tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 12-Jan-2022.  
Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Prof. Md. Mostofa Kamal  
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GD-2398

## Farmers opting out of sunflower cultivation

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Abu Bakkar Siddique, deputy director of Nilphamari DAE, said sunflower farmers were given seed and fertiliser as incentives last year under a government drive to boost oil crop cultivation.

"Allegations of non-cooperation among sunflower farmers is not true though as we brought a good part of some farmers' seeds to Dhaka by trucks to sell at Tk 2,000 per maund," he said.

"As a newly introduced crop, it's stable market is developing fast as sunflowers have immense potential and at the same time, farmers want tools to crush the oil crops themselves," he added.

## BB relaxes rules for foreigners to remit money

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In addition, the amount will be calculated after deduction of the payable taxes.

A BB official said the central bank had taken the initiative as a part of its efforts to liberalise the country's foreign exchange regime. This will help foreigners perform their jobs more smoothly.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nawabganj  
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Email: [eenaw@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eenaw@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No: 35.01.7000.454.07.001.21.2710(18) Date: 27/12/2021

**E-Tender Notice**  
e-Tenders is invited in e-GP System (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj for procurement of following works.

Tender ID	Name of work	Publishing date and time	Closing date and time
642140 e-Gp/Naw/LTM/2021-22/35	Construction of RCC U-Drain at 12 <sup>th</sup> (p), 16 <sup>th</sup> (p), 17 <sup>th</sup> (p) Km Rohonpur-Bholahat-BDR Camp (Z-6805) Road under RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj, During the year 2021-2022.	27-Dec-2021 15:00	16-Jan-2022 13:30
642142 e-Gp/Naw/LTM/2021-22/37	Construction of UPVC Cross Pipe Drain at 5 <sup>th</sup> (p) Km of Boalia-Chowdala Road (Z-6819) & 11 <sup>th</sup> (p), 12 <sup>th</sup> (p), 16 <sup>th</sup> (p) and 17 <sup>th</sup> (p) Km Rohonpur-Bholahat-BDR Camp (Z-6805) Road under RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj, During the year-2021-2022.	27-Dec-2021 15:00	12-Jan-2022 13:30
642141 e-Gp/Naw/LTM/2021-22/39	Work of Sign signal at Ch: 204+000 to 220+000 of Kashinathpur-Dashuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabganj-Kansat-Sonamasjid-Baliadighi Border (N-06) Road under RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj, During the year-2021-2022.	27-Dec-2021 15:00	12-Jan-2022 13:30
642137 e-Gp/Naw/LTM/2021-22/40	Work of Sign signal at Ch: 220+000 to 232+224 of Kashinathpur-Dashuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabganj-Kansat-Sonamasjid-Baliadighi Border(N-06) Road under RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj, During the year-2021-2022	27-Dec-2021 15:00	12-Jan-2022 13:30

**Sanjida Afrin Jhinuk**  
ID No-602251  
Executive Engineer (c.c), RHD  
Road Division, Nawabganj.

GD-2404