



INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
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Bangladesh Innovation Award 2022

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Govt okays
LNG purchase
at lower cost

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday approved a proposal to buy 33.60 lakh Metric Million British thermal units (MMBTus) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for \$35 per unit, which is cheaper than what it cost just a week ago thanks to a downward trend in global prices.

As per the proposal approved by the cabinet committee on purchase, Petrobangla, a corporation of the energy and mineral resources division, will buy the LNG for a total of Tk 1,186.70 crore from Singapore based M/S Vitol Asia Pte Ltd.

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A programmable machine creates patterns in a garment production line of a factory at Savar in Dhaka. The local garment industry is rapidly turning to automation for greater competitiveness and strictly maintaining lead time and quality of goods.

PHOTO: REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Banking
hours cut for
Ramadan

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks in Bangladesh will remain open from 9:30am to 4:00pm every working day during the month of Ramadan, which may begin on April 3 according to the Bangladesh Islamic Foundation.

People will be allowed to conduct banking transactions from 9:30am to 2:30pm, as per a circular issued by Bangladesh Bank yesterday. The banking regulator said office and banking hours would return to their earlier timetable after Ramadan ends.

Automation gaining
ground in garment

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Automation has been substantially coming about in garment factories, with modern machinery being used to make high-end garments and increase productivity in attempts to become more competitive globally.

Almost all the regulation-compliant garment factories, especially the 157 with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, have already automated major sections of the factories, producing sophisticated apparel items, mainly outerwear, using robotics.

In the fiercely competitive garment business supply chains, lead time is very important as almost all apparel-producing

countries are competing with the same kinds of items and making strategic price offers.

So quick deliveries through the maintenance of quality is a very important factor for retaining competitiveness in the business.

It is not possible to remain competitive maintaining the manual process of garment production using a huge number of workers. As a result, automation has turned key in this competitive business.

Abdullah Hil Rakib, managing director of Team Group, which has a LEED certified garment factory, said he currently uses a semi-automated production line to bring more efficiency in productivity and time management and become competitive.

In his factory, he has had to automate some important sections to enable greater efficiency.

For instance, he said one of his machines can make six pockets at a time, which otherwise, if all the other factors were to remain constant, would have taken six workers.

So the number of workers here has been reduced but efficiency and quality has been maintained, he said.

This is a small example of how the local garment manufacturers have been automating their production.

Like Rakib, many garment manufacturers have been automating their units to be more competitive in

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Spectrum
auction today

MAHMUDUL HASAN

A crucial auction for spectrum bands that can support both fourth-generation (4G) and 5G technologies is set to take place in Dhaka today as the government looks to alleviate the sufferings of users stemming from the slower mobile internet speed.

The country's four mobile operators, including state-owned Teletalk, have already deposited earnest money with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), confirming their participation.


The auction will take place at the Hotel InterContinental.

The regulator will award 60 MHz spectrum in six blocks from 2.3 GHz (2,300-2,400 MHz) bands and 120 MHz in 12 blocks from 2.6 GHz (2,500-2,690 MHz) bands through the open auction.

The base price per MHz is \$6 million for both bands.


"It's a very crucial auction as it is suitable for both 4G and 5G. No auction for the spectrum that is supportive to for both 4G and 5G will take place in the future," Mustafa Jabbar, telecom minister, told The Daily Star.

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STOCKS

DSEX ▼	CSCX ▼
0.17%	0.14%
6,753.76	11,863.10



COMMODITIES

Gold ▲	Oil ▲
\$1,936.67	\$107.81
(per ounce)	(per barrel)



ASIAN MARKETS

MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 1.28%	▼ 0.80%	▲ 0.25%	▲ 1.96%
58,683.99	28,027.25	3,442.61	3,266.60



Bangladesh wants commercial shipping line and cruise shipping between its premier seaport Chattogram and Colombo to boost trade and tourism between the two countries.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Govt for Ctg-Colombo
direct shipping service

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has called for introducing regular commercial and cruise shipping services between Chattogram and Colombo ports to enhance trade and tourism between the two countries.

He also underscored the necessity of affordable air ticket prices with enhanced air connectivity in participation with more airlines of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, according to a press release of the foreign ministry.

The issues were discussed when Momen paid a courtesy call on Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Palace in Colombo yesterday.

The foreign minister is now visiting Sri Lanka to attend the 5th BIMSTEC Summit.

The president, meanwhile, offered greater use of the Colombo port by Bangladesh for transportation of Bangladeshi

trade goods.

Rajapaksa deeply appreciated the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the policy of collective prosperity with a special focus on counter-terrorism and violent extremism.

Momen urged the president to take joint initiatives to fully utilise the trade potential between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

He offered the government of Sri Lanka to explore the possibilities of importing pharmaceuticals and agro products, including potatoes from Bangladesh.

Both sides welcomed the progress made for the early conclusion of a bilateral preferential trade agreement for the enhancement and facilitation of bilateral trade.



They also discussed the possible new areas of cooperation, including food security, ICT, health care, and the blue economy.

Both sides also agreed to expedite and complete the negotiations and approval process of pending bilateral instruments for the greater benefit of the people of the two countries and to increase bilateral engagements.

Rajapaksa thanked Bangladesh for its continued support in various multilateral forums and both sides further agreed to closely work together in the future.

Momen reiterated his request for the continued support of Sri Lanka for the immediate repatriation of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals to their home country with safety and dignity.



ORDER OF THE RISING SUN
GOLD RAYS WITH ROSETTE



H. E. The Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Mr. ITO Naoki hands over the Patent of Decoration to Mr. Matiur Rahman

Heartiest Congratulations

We, the UGC family, offer our heartiest felicitations to Mr. Matiur Rahman, the honorable Chairman and Managing Director of the Uttara Group of Companies on being conferred the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" by the Government of Japan.

It is a matter of pride that Mr. Matiur Rahman is the first-ever Bangladeshi businessman to have been awarded this prestigious decoration for being the founding President of Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) from 2004 to 2006. His initiatives bolstered business expansion and strengthened mutual interaction between the two countries - Japan and Bangladesh which resulted in tripling the number of Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh in the last 16 years.

With immense pleasure, we again convey our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Matiur Rahman on this delightful occasion. We are blessed to have him as our guiding principal and confident that this award will enliven and motivate us all to further contribute to the growth of Bangladesh.

May Almighty Allah bless him with long-life, happiness and prosperity!

