

Matarbari, Banshkhali plants to end power crisis Says adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

There will be no power crisis in the country after two coal-fired power plants in Chattogram's Banshkhali and Cox's Bazar's Matarbari go into operation, said Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the prime minister, yesterday.

Power generation from the plants would take the electricity production capacity of the country to nearly 30,000 megawatts.

The adviser came up with remarks after visiting the coal-fired SS Power-1 Plant in Banshkhali.

The 1,320mw plant is a joint venture of six companies of S Alam Group, SEPCOIII Electric Power Construction Corporation of China, and HTG Development Group Co Ltd of China, according to officials of S Alam Group.

Once operational, it will be the largest coal-fired power plant in the private sector of Bangladesh.

S Alam Group Vice-chairman Abdus Samad

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MFS booming but largely confined to fund transfer

SOHEL PARVEZ

More than a decade has passed since the rollout of mobile financial service (MFS) in Bangladesh, but its use has largely been limited to fund transfers though it can become a major vehicle to turn the country into a cashless economy eliminating its over-dependence on fiat currencies.

Bangladesh Bank data showed that the ratio of money transfers – cash-in, cash-out and person-to-person transfers – using the MFS system, which was introduced in 2011, is declining albeit at a slower pace.

The share of money transfers stood at 86 per cent out of all transactions recorded at Tk 10,75,990 crore last year. Four years ago, it was 93 per cent of all transactions involving Tk 442,090 crore.

Industry operators describe the drop as a positive development as the volume of transactions has more than doubled during the period, pointing to the expansion of the overall MFS market.

But, according to industry stakeholders, a number of issues – lack of digital literacy, high cost of transactions, the reluctance of businesses to carry out transactions digitally, low

penetration of smartphones, and a lack of push from the policy-makers – are deterring the faster growth of digital transactions through MFS platforms.

In 2022, the use of MFS for merchant payments, salary disbursements, government cash transfers to persons, utility bill

“We are encouraged that the state and relevant stakeholders are actively working to address these challenges and promote digital payments.”

Still, the success of the MFS industry can't be overlooked.

In less than 12 years, MFS providers have brought millions

in 2022 in a country of 17 crore people, with many using multiple accounts.

Currently, transactions involving about Tk 3,000 crore are made through the MFS system every day, tripling from Tk 1,200 crore four years ago.

Various government and private organisations such as readymade garments, corporates, NGOs, and distribution networks are already using MFS to disburse salaries.

“It is necessary to maximise the use of MFS to become a cashless society,” said Sadique.

Salary payments through MFS platforms increased 3.4 times to Tk 2,886 crore in 2022 from four years ago. Merchant payments that were Tk 518 crore in 2019 grew six times to Tk 3,183 crore last year.

The rate of growth of cash transfers by the government to people under safety net schemes rocketed nearly six times since then. And people paid utility bills such as electricity by four and half times the amount they paid in 2019, according to BB data.

Sadique said in order to make people habituated in diversified digital payments, it is essential for relevant stakeholders to make combined efforts to build and

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IT industry needs more policy support Experts say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The IT industry needs more policy support to boost its exports and create a “smart nation”, experts said yesterday.

“The government has already given support... but if it gives some other... especially from the National Board of Revenue (NBR), then the future of the sector will brighten,” said Asif Ibrahim, chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of a four-day “BASIS SoftExpo 2023” at Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in the capital's Purbachal.

The Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Thousands of IT graduates and professionals thronged the “ICT Career Camp and Job Fair” at the BASIS SoftExpo 2023 at the Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in the capital's Purbachal yesterday.

Thousands throng IT job fair at BASIS SoftExpo

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Thousands of IT graduates and professionals yesterday visited a technology fair in the capital where firms offered on-the-spot hiring opportunities.

The “ICT Career Camp and Job Fair” was held at the BASIS SoftExpo 2023 at the Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal.

The fair, which was supported by the country's top job portal bdjobs.com, was aimed at helping information technology firms recruit IT professionals.

IT graduates and IT professionals from various universities across the country applied for jobs at the event.

Rifaz Nahiyan, a computer science and engineering graduate from the United International

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“I am a web developer and applied to 30 companies. It's really amazing to find many firms at a single venue and it's a big opportunity for me.”

NBR removes customs duty on sugar imports

Refiners say new move to cut price by Tk 5.5 per kg

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has withdrawn the import duty both on raw and refined sugar in order to enable consumers to buy the sweeter at reduced rates.

In its notification, the customs authority lifted Tk 3,000 specific duty on the import of raw and Tk 6,000 on refined sugar per tonne with immediate effect.

The NBR also reduced the regulatory duty on the import of sugar to 25 per cent from 30 per cent, according to the notification.

The customs authority also removed the tariff value to assess the duty of imported sugar.

The reduced import tax, which comes following a proposal from the commerce ministry that looks to bring down the prices of sugar from its current record level of up to Tk 120 per kilogramme, will be in place until May 30 this year.

After the reduction, the overall import cost of raw and refined sugar is expected to decline by Tk 6,500 and Tk 9,000 per tonne, respectively, according to an estimate by the NBR.

A top official of Meghna Group of Industries, a processor, said the impact of the duty cut will be about Tk 5.5 per kg at the retail level.

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MGI adds four new oceangoing vessels to fleet

STAR BUSINESS REPORT, Chattogram

Leading industrial conglomerate Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) has added four brand new ultramax bulk carriers to its fleet of oceangoing vessels.

Each of the four vessels—MV Meghna Victory, MV Meghna Prestige, MV Meghna Hope and MV Meghna Progress—has 66,000 tonnes capacity and they were delivered on November 21 in 2022.



State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurated the four vessels at a programme held today afternoon on the deck of Meghna Victory anchored at the newly built Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) of Chattogram port.

This is the second 10-metre draught vessel berthed by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) having 200-metre length in its jetties and the first such vessel in Patenga terminal.

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STOCKS	
DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
0.37%	0.31%
6,182.09	18,276.37

COMMODITIES		AS OF FRIDAY
Gold ▼	Oil ▲	
\$1,811.06 (per ounce)	\$76.38 (per barrel)	

ASIAN MARKETS				FRIDAY CLOSINGS
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
▼ 0.24%	▲ 1.29%	▲ 0.53%	▼ 0.62%	
59,463.93	27,453.48	3,282.30	3,267.16	

প্রচলিত ব্যাংকিং সেবার পাশাপাশি
সাইথইস্ট ব্যাংকের ১৩৫টি শাখা, ২২টি উপশাখা ও
৭১টি এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট থেকে
ইসলামিক ব্যাংকিং-এর সকল আধুনিক ও
প্রযুক্তিভিত্তিক সেবা গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

সাইথইস্ট
জিজনাত
ইসলামিক ব্যাংকিং

১৪২০৬
১৯-০৯-১৯২০৬

সাইথইস্ট
ব্যাংক লিমিটেড



Anwer Hussain Khan, director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, inaugurated Paniala Bazar sub-branch of the bank at Patwari Super Market, Bholakot in Ramganj upazila of Lakshmipur yesterday. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the bank, and Umme Habiba Mira, upazila nirbahi officer of Ramganj, were present.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK



Md Afzal Karim, managing director of Sonali Bank, presided over a meeting of a "Senior Management Team" at its head office in Dhaka yesterday. Niranjana Chandra Debnath, Sanchia Binte Ali, Mir Mofazzul Hossain, Subhash Chandra Das and Parsoma Alam, deputy managing directors, along with general managers and other team members were present.

PHOTO: SONALI BANK



AFM Shahinul Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, attended a "School Banking Conference 2023" organised by Padma Bank as lead bank in Bogura on Saturday. Some 46 scheduled banks took part in the conference under a financial education programme of the central bank. Md Iqbal Mohsin, additional director of the BB, Muhammad Jahangir Alam, joint director, and Faisal Ahsan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Padma Bank, were present.

PHOTO: PADMA BANK



SM Parvez Tamal, chairman of NRBC Bank, attended a "Strategic Business Meet-2023" in Gaibandha recently when the bank handed over a "Shuddhachar Award" to seven employees and named 25 as "Star Performers of the Bank". Rafikul Islam Mia Arzoo, vice-chairman, AKM Mostafizur Rahman, Abu Mohammad Saidur Rahman and Loquit Ullah, directors, Raad Mozib Lalon, independent director, and Golam Awlia, managing director, were present.

PHOTO: NRBC BANK

Islami Bank to hold raffle draw for remitters

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh will hold a raffle draw every banking day (Sunday to Thursday) from March 1 to May 14 to offer motorcycles to people sending remittance through Ria Money Transfer.

Muhammad Qaisar Ali, additional managing director, inaugurated "Islami Bank-Ria Money Transfer Remittance Fiesta" at Islami Bank Tower in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

Suhail Shamsi, business development director of South Asia of Ria Money Transfer, AKM Nazmul Hossain, country manager, and Md Omar Faruk Khan and JQM Habibullah, additional managing directors of the bank, were present.

Mohammed Shabbir, deputy managing director of the bank, presided over the event, where Md Altaf Hossain, Md Nayer Azam, Md Siddiqur Rahman, Mohammad Jamal Uddin Mazumder and Abul Faiz Muhammad Kamaluddin, deputy managing directors, also attended the programme.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (FEB 26, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 75	0	2.27 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 52	2.04 ↑	4.17 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 56-Tk 60	-1.69 ↓	65.71 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	-4.88 ↓	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 168-Tk 172	0.59 ↓	3.98 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 20-Tk 22	-22.22 ↓	20 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 30-Tk 35	0	-31.58 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 44-Tk 50	10.59 ↑	23.68 ↑
SOURCE: TCB			

Europe's energy security better than feared

FROM PAGE B4
households' bills and forcing some industries to halt production.

But the EU has replaced a large chunk of imports from Russia with alternatives and set aside enough gas to be in a strong position to prepare for next winter, although risks remain.

EU-wide gas storage is now 63 per cent full, Gas Infrastructure Europe data shows, which is more than 30 percentage points

higher than the same time last year.

Gas prices fell below 50 euros per megawatt hour this month for the first time since before Russia's invasion, having peaked last August at nearly 350 euros/MWh.

In some ways, EU countries were lucky.

Covid-19 lockdowns suppressed China's demand for liquefied natural gas, freeing up LNG that European companies snapped up.

EU countries replaced some 70 billion cubic metres (bcm) of lost Russian pipeline gas from other sources. Moscow had sent the EU around 155 bcm of gas per year before the war.

LNG imports to the EU and Britain jumped by nearly 70 per cent in 2022 from sources including the United States and Qatar, after EU leaders toured suppliers to source more fuel.

Europe did secure that

extra supply at sky-high prices - and sometimes at the expense of poorer countries. Pakistan and Bangladesh suffered power cuts last year after having to slash their LNG imports when European demand inflated prices.

Meanwhile, EU members added record amounts of renewable energy, reducing their need for imported fossil fuels.

European coal-fuelled power generation also climbed by 7 per cent

last year, potentially undermining climate goals, but the increase was smaller than many had feared.

In part, Europe avoided a crisis by simply using less gas.

The EU and member states

introduced numerous emergency measures including binding EU-wide targets to fill gas storage 80 per cent before winter, and a voluntary 15 per cent cut in winter gas use.


EU gas consumption in 2022 was 13 per cent, or 55 bcm, lower than in

2021 - the sharpest drop in outright gas use in EU history, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).


Mild weather curbed gas use for home heating, while industrial demand plunged by 25 per cent - half of it from companies curtailing

their production, the IEA said.

Analysts say it is too early to say how much of the drop was prompted by government incentives rather than end-users curbing consumption because gas was simply too expensive.



ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা
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আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন
গ্রিডলাইনকে বই উপহার দিন।



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

উন্নত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০২.১৬.০৩.৫৫৫.২০২৩-১২ তারিখঃ ১০ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন কলিকাতা-জয়কালী মন্দির (সোয়েদাবাদ সিটি) ঊপভোগ্য বাস টার্মিনাল ফি ও কুলির মঞ্জুরী আদায় কাজ বাৎসরিক ইজারা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ব্যক্তিগণের নিকট হতে সাদা কাপড়/প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মঞ্জুরী/বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	সংস্থা	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।
৪.	ইজারার মেয়াদকাল	কার্যবাহিনীর তারিখ থেকে পরবর্তী ০১ (এক) বছর।
৫.	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	(১) ব্যক্তি/প্রোগ্রাইটারের ক্ষেত্রে পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি (২) কাজিল্ল/চেসারম্যান কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সন্দপত্র (৩) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি (৪) হালনাগাদ ডিআইএন সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি (৫) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি ও (৬) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৬.	জামানত	উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ) অর্থ পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে, ২৫% (শতকরা পঁচিশ ভাগ) ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে সমন্বয় করা হবে এবং বাকী ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) অর্থ জামানত হিসেবে সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।
৭.	সিডিউলের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	সিডিউল মূল্য বাবদ নির্ধারিত অর্থ ব্যাংক চালানের মাধ্যমে মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, চলতি হিসাব নং ২০০০১৭৮৬৯ (নিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক, নগর ভবন শাখা জমাদানপূর্বক উল্লিখিত কার্যালয়ে হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
৮.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	(ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ (খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা (গ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের হিসাব বিভাগ (ঘ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ ও (ঙ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
৯.	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	(ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ (খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা (গ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ ও (ঘ) সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
১০.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০২.১৬.০৩.৫৫৫.২০২৩-১২, তারিখঃ ২৩/০২/২০২৩খ্রিঃ
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু তারিখ ও সময়	পরিকল্পিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে।
১২.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন।
১৩.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ ৯০০টা থেকে ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ সময়ঃ ০১.০০ ঘটিকার সময় মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন)-এর দপ্তরে (কক্ষ নং-৩২৪, ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা) দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে। মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন) টেলিফোন নম্বরঃ ০২২২৩৩৮৫৫৭২।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তা ও যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	(ক) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত শর্তাবলী অনুসরণ বাধ্যতামূলক। (খ) প্রতি স্টেট সিডিউল মূল্য ৮০,৬০০/- (আশি হাজার ছয়শত) টাকা মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন তহবিলে চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করে চালানের কপি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় হবে না। দরপত্র গ্রহণ করার দিন কোন কার্যবশতঃ সরকারি ছুটি ঘোষিত হলে পরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে যথানিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। (গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ ছাড়া দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।
১৬.	দরপত্রদাতার প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী (গ্রাহক যোগ্যতা)	

কাজের বিবরণঃ

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	আনুমানিক মূল্য	প্রকল্পিত দর	নিয়োগের মেয়াদ	দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য
১।	কলিকাতা-জয়কালী মন্দির (সোয়েদাবাদ সিটি) ঊপভোগ্য বাস টার্মিনাল ফি ও কুলির মঞ্জুরী আদায় কাজের ইজারাদার নিয়োগ।	উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ)	বাৎসরিক ৪,০০,০০,০০০/- (চার কোটি) টাকা।	কার্যবাহিনী প্রদানের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ১ (এক) বছর।	৮০,৬০০/- (আশি হাজার ছয়শত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)

স্বাক্ষরিত/-

মোঃ হায়দার আলী
(মুগ্ধ সচিব)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন)
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা
ফোন-০২২২৩৩৮৫৫৭২ (অফিস)

ডিএসসি/সি/পিআর/ডি/২৩/০২/২২-২০২৩
জিডি-৩৬১



Gazipur City Corporation
Zone-04, Gazipur-1700.
gcc.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Invitation for Tenders (Works) (IFT)
e-Tender Notice No-08/2022-23
Memo No. 46.19.0000.099.07.620.22.2308 Date : 26.02.2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, tender are given below.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH												
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives/Local Government Division										
2	Agency	Gazipur City Corporation.										
3	Procuring Entity Name	Head of Engineering, Gazipur City Corporation.										
4	Procuring Nature	Works.										
KEY INFORMATION												
5	Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM)										
6	Source of Funds	ADP/Own Fund										
FUNDING INFORMATION												
7	Budget and Source of Funds	ADP/Own Fund										
PARTICULAR INFORMATION												
8	Tender Package No.	GCC/Z-04/2022-23/T-01										
9	Schedule Tender Publication Date & Time	Date	Time									
		26.02.2023	14.00									
10	Tender documents last selling date & time	13.03.2023 12.00										
11	Tender closing Date & Time	13.03.2023 14.00										
12	Tender opening Date & Time	13.03.2023 14.00										
INFORMATION FOR TENDER												
13	Brief Description of Works:											
SL. NO	Sub-project No.	Tender ID No.	Identification of Works	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Completion Time in Days						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						
01	GCC/Z-04/2022-23/T-01	794367	Construction of Public Toilet Complex At Internal DC Office.	85,000.00	500.00	180						
14	Tender Validity Period: 90 days											
Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings												

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 System Portal (<http://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 until **12:00, 13 March 2023**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



Md. Lehaz Uddin
Executive Engineer, Z-04
Gazipur City Corporation, Gazipur.
Ph. 01711-582399
E-mail: lehazgcc@gmail.com

GD-360

Novoair to resume Dhaka-Barishal flight

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Novoair will resume its flights on the Dhaka-Barishal route from March 1.

One-way fare starts from Tk 2,800 on this route, a Novoair press release said yesterday.

Due to a shortage of passengers, Novoair temporarily suspended flights on the Barishal route from August 1 last year.

After resumption, the airline will operate flights on the route every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

The flights will depart from Dhaka at 10:40am and leave Barishal at 11:50am.

The airline is currently operating domestic flights from Dhaka to Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Jashore, Saidpur and Rajshahi. It operates an international flight to Kolkata.

Besides, Novoair is also operating direct flights on the Jashore-Cox's Bazar route and the Rajshahi-Cox's Bazar route every week.



Visitors are seen watching different types of birds and animals at the "Livestock Services Week and Exhibition 2023" organised by the ministry of fisheries and livestock next to the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Over Tk 1cr birds sold at livestock fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Birds worth over Tk 1 crore have been sold at a two-day livestock exhibition ending in Dhaka yesterday, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim yesterday.

"People have much interest in livestock rearing... Over Tk 1 crore birds, not animals, have been sold at the exhibition," he told the closing session as chief guest.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock organised the "Livestock Services Week and Exhibition 2023" under the theme "Smart Livestock Smart Bangladesh" next to Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon.

Campaigns focusing the week began on February 25 and will run till March 1.

Without wasting time searching for jobs on securing university degrees abroad, youths are now becoming farmers, rearing and marketing different animals and encouraging others to take up the profession, said Karim.

The government is working to form groups of livestock farmers at the most marginal levels to help them become self-sufficient and established as entrepreneurs, he said.

"Not only training, but various technical support and materials are being provided to the farmers so that they can be self-reliant and capable," he said, adding that the livestock exhibition was encouraging youths across the country to become entrepreneurs.

Farmers showcased crossbred animals having superior traits in around 300 stalls at the exhibition, drawing a large number of enthusiasts.

One of them, first grader Mustakim Rahman Arman, said, "I never see such a huge number of birds together. It's really enjoyable." His father, Md Mirazur Rahman, said there should be more of such arrangements around the year.

Md Emdadul Haque Talukdar, director general of the Department of Livestock, chaired the closing event while Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Nahid Rashid was present as the special guest.

Steer clear of IPR violations

BGMEA urges members after US warnings

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged members to remain more careful about rights ownership when making products to avoid counterfeiting goods and violating intellectual property rights (IPRs).

The apex body of garment exporters made the call in its letter to its members in response to the alleged export of counterfeit products from Bangladesh.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR), the American government's chief trade negotiating body, sent a letter to Bangladesh on February 10 alleging that the IPRs rules on export of garments, footwear and electronic goods have been violated.

The BGMEA said the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) and Paris-based Union Des Fabricants (UNIFAB) made a submission to the USTR.

It sought to include Bangladesh, China and European Union in the priority watch list of the USTR's special review on the alleged export of counterfeit goods, including clothing.

The AAFA in its submission mentioned that "counterfeits from Bangladesh are being seized at an increasing rate globally as counterfeit production is growing", said the BGMEA in its letter.

The AAFA also said "well-organised Bangladesh-run counterfeiting networks effectively exported counterfeits for sales to consumers in the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Malaysia and other countries".

The BGMEA said it has taken the matter seriously and "we are working with the government".

The commerce ministry also responded to the allegations of the USTR through a letter. It said Bangladesh would strictly abide by the IPRs once it makes the United Nations status graduation from an LDC to a developing nation in 2026. Bangladesh is getting ready to follow the IPR rules, according to the commerce ministry letter.

Bangladesh, as a least developed country (LDC), has been enjoying some benefits under the IPRs rules of World Trade Organization (WTO).

The apex body of apparel exporters said "Though Bangladesh enjoys international support measures in the form of development assistance and certain waivers, however we should not label ourselves as a source of counterfeit goods."

NBR removes customs duty

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh requires 20 lakh tonnes of sugar every year. It imports more than 98 per cent of sugar in raw form to meet the demand as domestic production is too scanty.

Private refiners import raw sugar mainly from Brazil and Argentina.

Refiners earlier blamed the inadequate supply of gas to the mills, the increased cost of the US dollar and the higher import duty for the spike in the price of the item in the local market.

Gas supply to factories across the country has been hampered in recent months after the

government stopped buying liquefied natural gas from the international spot markets to save to foreign currency reserves, which have declined about 30 per cent in the past one year owing to escalated import bills.

Similarly, a 25 per cent depreciation of the taka against the US dollar has made imports costlier for Bangladesh.

The total tax on the import of raw sugar was 61 per cent before the removal of the import duty and regulatory duty cut.

Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs of City Group,

echoed the MGI official saying that the overall price would drop by Tk 5.5 each kilogramme.

"We will sell sugar after duty assessment on new rate upon arrival of next consignment. We hope that prices will decline to some extent during Ramadan," he said.

Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission estimates the country's monthly sugar consumption at 150,000 tonnes. The amount of consumption rises to 300,000 tonnes during the month of Ramadan, which is going to start by the end of next month.

MFS booming

FROM PAGE B1

enhance the digital financial ecosystem.

Bkash has put in place innovative technologies and services and formed partnerships with various financial institutions.

"All these efforts will boost digital transactions and empower customers in their daily financial activities," Sadique said.

Muhammad Zahidul Islam, head of public communications of Nagad Ltd, said the MFS provider is working on upgrading the country's overall position when it comes to going cashless and paperless.

"We have removed the paper-based know your customer process and introduced charge-free bill payments alongside easing merchant payments. The strategy has facilitated the expansion of financial inclusion and given a push to popularise cashless payments."

Nagad, a majority of which is owned by the government's postal department, is now placing emphasis on resolving merchant and other payment issues. It is offering cashback and discounts.

"We are going to introduce some new services within a short time. We are very hopeful that cashless payments will be popular in the country and day-to-day transactions using mobile phones will be at the top," Islam said.

Abu Saeed Khan, a senior policy fellow of LIRNEasia, a think-tank based in Colombo, said transactions through MFS providers are rising, which shows that the overall pie has become larger. "This is a very

positive sign."

He said the market is still in a growing mode and there is room for growth.

Khan, however, laments that MFS is yet to become a medium for over-the-counter transactions in stores on a massive scale.

"It is a big setback. Policymakers and industry should see how this sort of transaction can be raised."

Khan also sees cost as a major issue. "Cost of transaction needs to be contained."

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, said the slow growth in the shares of digital transactions does not go with the aspiration for a digital Bangladesh.

Problems exist on both demand and supply sides.

Products and services of MFS such as salary payments have not been publicised and promoted from the supply side. And firms that can avail the benefits have not shown interest, he said. One reason, Raihan said, is the high prevalence of informal transactions.

"It may be that many firms don't want to use digital platforms to avoid recording transactions. There are firms that maintain more than one book of accounts to avoid taxes."

There is also an absence of push for digital transactions from regulators and policymakers, said the economist, calling for the formalisation of digital payments.

"India has nicely implemented digital payments and Bangladesh can learn from the neighbouring country."

Raihan, also a professor

of economics at the University of Dhaka, said increased digital transactions would ensure transparency of businesses, which will eventually bring more taxes for the state.

He cited the International Monetary Fund's condition of raising the tax-to-gross domestic product ratio.

"This is high time to promote digital payments."

Last month, the central bank launched an interoperable payment method, Bangla QR, to help customers pay bills through mobile banking applications, MFS providers and payment services.

The central bank also asked lenders to replace their proprietary QR codes within June with Bangla QR.

"There will be a boom in the cashless transactions when payments become interoperable," said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard.

"We are on the right track to becoming a cashless economy."

Md Mezbaul Haque, executive director of the BB, said the central bank monitors cash-out.

"The ratio of cash-out is falling. It will reduce further once the Bangla QR code transaction gains traction. But it is a big challenge to change people's habits. It takes time."

The BB plans to launch cashless transactions in three districts before Eid-ul-Azha, the biggest religious festival in Bangladesh.

"We are very optimistic. There are some challenges but we are working to give a boost to digital transactions," Haque said.

Matarbari, Banshkhali

FROM PAGE B1

Labu said: "The power plant will go into full swing operation by June this year."

The price of electricity will be Tk 9 per unit. If the coal price in the world market drops, the production cost will be lower as well, he said.

"We have signed agreements with companies in Indonesia and Australia to import coal for the plant."

The first unit of the Matarbari plant in Cox's Bazar is expected to go into commercial production in January 2024. The unit has a capacity of generating 1,200 MW of electricity.

Bangladesh Power Development Board Chairman Md Mahbubur Rahman, Power Grid

Company Limited Managing Director Golam Kibria, and Power Cell Director Mohammad Hossain were present during the visit of the adviser.

Chowdhury said due to the high price of the US dollar followed by the war, the cost of energy has gone up. As a result, Bangladesh, like other countries, is paying the price.

The situation will change once the war ends, he said.

The energy adviser said the government has already spent thousands of crores of taka to sell imported gas and fuel at subsidised rates.

"Due to the increased price in the global market, the government had no other option but to increase the price of power."

IT industry needs

FROM PAGE B1

(BASIS) organised the show, funded by the private sector to highlight the latest technological innovations and ICT capabilities of Bangladesh to the world.

Since Bangladesh has a limited amount of land and resources, the digital economy is very critical for Bangladesh, said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh. Because businesses in the sector are scalable in an accelerated manner, he added.

Banks and financial institutions should start adopting cloud banking, said Moynul Haque Siddiqui, founder and director of Fiber@Home.

"If we really want to be a smart country, software utilisation and adoption are

needed in every way of life," he added.

Two policy supports – back-to-back letters of credit and bonded warehouse facility – have played a key role in the success of the garment industry, said Salman F Rahman, the prime minister's private industry and investment adviser.

The private sector has proposed the policies and the government accepted them, he said.

So, for the development of the ICT sector, the ICT players must come up with suggestions on the policy support they need, he added.

The lead generation of local IT firms in the expo was of Tk 120 crore while 92,000 people came to visit, said Russell T Ahmed, CEO of the BASIS.

Thousands throng

FROM PAGE B1

University, visited the fair with the hope of getting a job at a software firm.

"I am a full-scale web developer and applied to 30 companies. It's really amazing to find many firms at a single venue and it's a big opportunity for me," he added.

AKM Fahim Mashroor, chief executive officer of bdjobs, said: "We received an incredible response from recruiters and job-seekers."

"We hold job fairs at the district level throughout the year. But this was the first time a job fair was arranged in a completely paperless way." More than 5,000 job-seekers applied for employment

opportunities using QR codes against 500 positions. Besides, over 100 IT companies organised on-the-spot tests of the candidates who took part in the process using their mobile phones.

Of the job-seekers who participated in the largest-ever tech job fair in Bangladesh, about 90 per cent were fresh graduates. At least 1,000 are expected to be hired within the next few weeks.

Prokash Roy Chowdhury, marketing director of bdjobs.com, said: "There is a lot of demand for skilled IT professionals in the growing information technology sector."

"So, we organised this fair keeping the needs of the industry in mind."

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh
www.mugmc.edu.bd
E-mail: muminunnisagovtmohilacollege@gmail.com, Phone No 029966-67247

Ref. No.-MGMC/CEDP/126/2023 Date: 25/02/2023

e-Tender Notice 05/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Tender ID No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
794493	Establishment of Campus Networking at Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College, Mymensingh.	14-Mar-2023 13:00	14-Mar-2023 14:00

This is an online 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 (<http://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 **13-Mar-2023 15:30**
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

SD/-
(Professor Md. Abu Taher)
Principal
Muminunnisa Govt. Mohila College
Mymensingh

GD-357

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Mohammadpur Mohila College
Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.
Website: www.mmc.ac.bd

Memo No. CEDP/MMC/2022-23/ad/G-8 Date: 27-Feb-2023

e-Tender Notice: 04/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	794822	Establishment of Campus Networking in Mohammadpur Mohila College	14-Mar-2023 01:00 PM	14-Mar-2023 02:00 PM

This is an online 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 (<http://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 upto 13-Mar-2023 04:00 PM.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Aminul Haque)
Principal
Mohammadpur Mohila College
Phone: 02-48122969
e-Mail: mmcchakra91@gmail.com

GD-352

DSEX slips below 6,200 for first time in 2 months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shares on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell for the fifth straight day yesterday, forcing the broader index of the premier bourse of Bangladesh to slip below the 6,200-point mark for the first time in nearly two months. The DSEX lost 23 points, or 0.37 per cent, on the day to close at 6,182, the lowest since January 2. And this was the first time since January 9 that the index fell below the 6,200-point mark.

The DSEX, the blue-chip index of the Dhaka bourse, dropped 0.29 per cent to 2,214 while the DSES, the shariah-compliant index, went down 0.37 per cent to 1,350.

The DSEX continued bleeding and dipped below the 6,200 mark as the risk-averse investors opted for liquidating their position to stop further losses on their portfolios, said International Leasing Securities Ltd in its daily market analysis.

The market opened with a downward movement and continued the falling trend till the closure as it observed heavy sales pressures throughout the day.

Stocks from all sectors experienced notable selling pressure. As a result, no sector observed price appreciation.

The IT sector was down 3.2 per cent, the travel sector gave up 2.8 per cent and the services sector slid 2.4 per cent.

Investors' activities were mainly focused on the pharmaceuticals sector, capturing 15.7 per cent of the day's total turnover, followed by the IT sector (15.2 per cent) and the travel sector (10 per cent).

Turnover, a key indicator of the market, rose 4 per cent to Tk 231 crore.

Of the securities, only three advanced, 149 declined and 131 did not show any price movement.

Al-Haj Textile Mills made the highest gain with an increase of 6.2 per cent. Sonali Life Insurance Company rose 0.49 per cent and Pragati Life Insurance added 0.38 per cent.

Emerald Oil Industries was the biggest loser on the day, shedding 10.5 per cent.

Metro Spinning lost 9.22 per cent, Orion Infusion closed down 8.25 per cent, Aamra Networks shed 7.3 per cent, and Bangladesh General Insurance Company retreated 7.04 per cent.

Shinepukur Ceramics was the most-traded stock with its issues worth Tk 17 crore transacting.

Genex Infosys, Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, and Orion Pharma registered significant turnover.

The Caspi, the all-share price index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange, declined 58 points, or 0.31 per cent, to end the day at 18,276.

Of the issues, only two rose, 52 retreated and 46 did not see any price swing. Turnover of the port city bourse plunged 35.2 per cent to Tk 6.4 crore.

South Korea sets export target of \$685b this year

ANN/ THE KOREA HERALD

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has set a target of exporting \$685 billion worth of products this year, an increase of 0.2 per cent year-on-year, vowing to mobilise all the nation's capabilities to achieve this goal at an export strategy meeting recently.

The meeting was attended by related ministers and leaders of major exporters, including CJ CheilJedang, LG Energy Solution, HMM and CJ ENM.

Despite difficult economic conditions, Yoon noted that the country had achieved record-high exports of \$683.6 billion last year. This year, experts predict a 4.5 per cent drop in exports due to the global economic slowdown and falling semiconductor prices.

However, the president emphasised the need to raise the bar from last year, as "exports are crucial to the Korean economy, which is highly dependent on foreign countries."

Yoon vowed to support the expansion of exports in 12 sectors, including nuclear power, defense, construction, agriculture, fishery products, content and biotech, emphasising that promoting exports and vitalising startups are "the only way" to overcome complex crises such as high-interest rates.

Ctg real estate fair logs Tk 108cr sales, bookings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

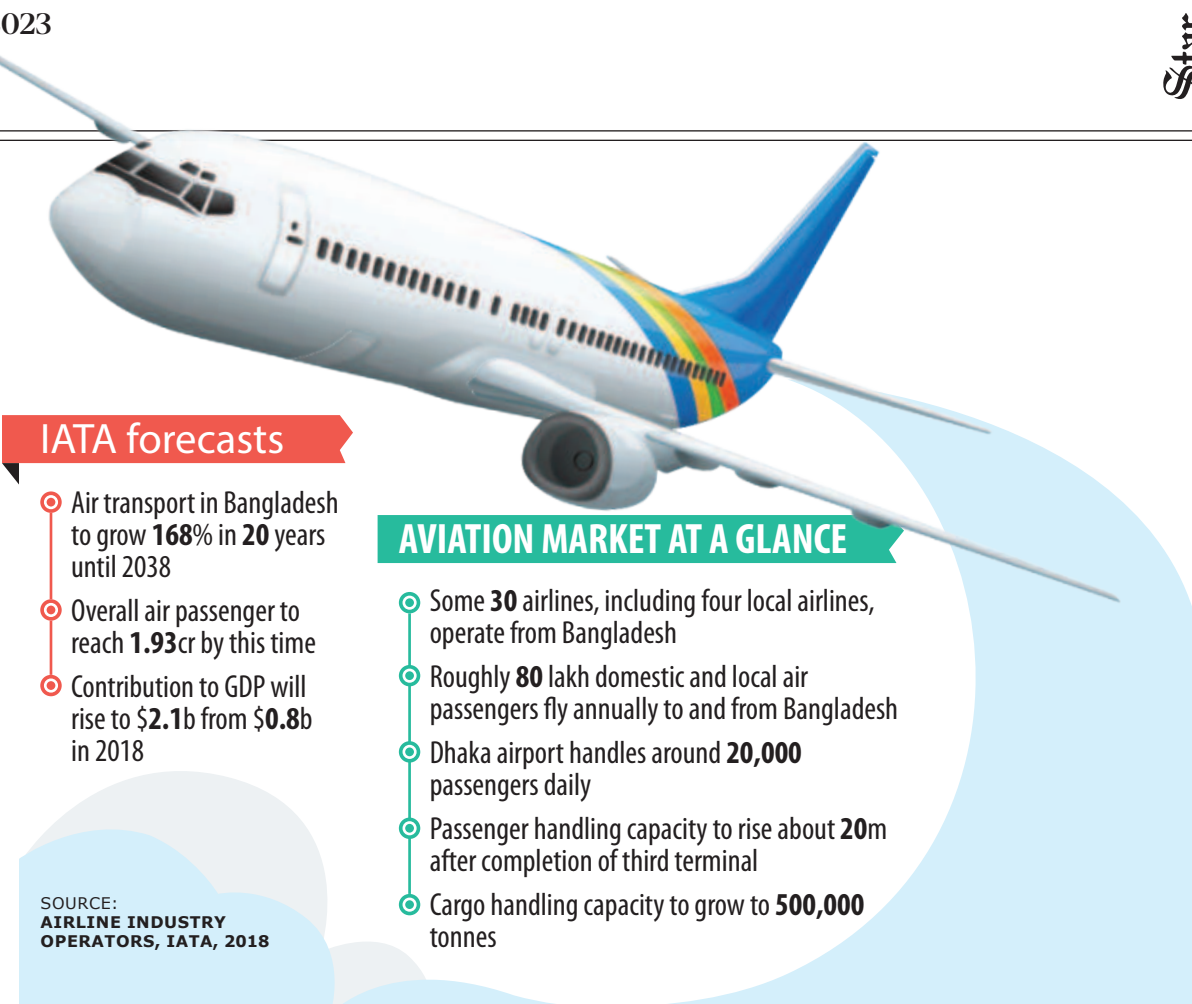
Bookings and sales worth Tk 108 crore were recorded at a four-day housing fair ending in Chattogram city yesterday, much less than the Tk 238 crore secured in its last edition, apparently indicating an effect of the ongoing economic crisis.

The Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) organised the "REHAB Chattogram Fair 2023" at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View.

Over 100 flats and commercial spaces and some 10 plots were booked, although the target was Tk 150 crore, REHAB Chattogram Regional Committee Chairman Md Abdul Kauim Chowdhury informed The Daily Star.

The country's real estate sector is passing through a crisis due to an exorbitant hike in the price of construction materials for the Russia-Ukraine war, he said.

Around 10,500 people had visited, which was unexpected amidst the ongoing economic downturn and the fair's offers will remain valid for the next seven days, he added.



IATA forecasts

- Air transport in Bangladesh to grow **168%** in **20 years** until 2038
- Overall air passenger to reach **1.93cr** by this time
- Contribution to GDP will rise to **\$2.1b** from **\$0.8b** in 2018

AVIATION MARKET AT A GLANCE

- Some **30** airlines, including four local airlines, operate from Bangladesh
- Roughly **80** lakh domestic and local air passengers fly annually to and from Bangladesh
- Dhaka airport handles around **20,000** passengers daily
- Passenger handling capacity to rise about **20m** after completion of third terminal
- Cargo handling capacity to grow to **500,000** tonnes

SOURCE: AIRLINE INDUSTRY OPERATORS, IATA, 2018

Open sky policy a must for Dhaka airport to be a regional hub

Emirates' senior official says in an interview

RASHIDUL HASAN, back from Dubai

Bangladesh should make proper investment and adopt an open sky policy to build a sophisticated airport in Dhaka and turn it into a regional aviation hub, said Ahmed Hashim Khoori, senior vice president of Emirates for West Asia and Indian Ocean.

Bangladesh will have to copy what Dubai has done to become a world-class airport, he said.

It is not possible to be a regional hub by adding restrictions on flights to different routes, he said at a media briefing at the Emirates headquarters in Dubai.

In a recent interview, Khoori shed light on the operations of the airline, its flight training academy and SkyCargo facilities.

"Bangladesh will have to have a very strong network between the east and the west and Biman Bangladesh Airline will have to be more active here," he said.

The government in Dubai has spent billions of dollars on infrastructure and Dubai has always maintained an open sky policy.

For Emirates, the Dhaka to Dubai is one of the most profitable routes, Khoori said.

The route is so popular that 90 per cent seats on the route from Dhaka to and from Dubai remain fulfilled during peak season, he said.

"In the 36 years of operations in Bangladesh, we are proud of this route, as we have never seen a loss on this route. It's all making money."

He added: "We are also

contributing to the economy of Bangladesh. We are bringing lots of tourists and business into the country. And my aim is to add more flights to Dhaka."

Emirates has relation with Bangladesh for many decades, he said, adding, "The relationship is built by our leaders both in the UAE and in Bangladesh. We have grown up with the citizens of Bangladesh."

About the airline's future



Ahmed Hashim Khoori

plan, he said Emirates is going to upgrade its flights to Dhaka and it also has a lot of plans for the Indian sub-continent, which includes Bangladesh.

Emirates has been flying to Dhaka with Boeing 777s and now the airline is planning to start flights on the route with Airbus A350s, he said.

Khoori, who is scheduled to visit Bangladesh in early March this year, said: "We have a very strong presence in Bangladesh."

The airline started flying to Bangladesh in 1986 and its business has grown by the year.

Since then, Emirates has carried 11 million passengers to Dhaka as of February 17 this year.

Emirates is now operating

21 weekly flights using wide-bodied 777 aircraft, which have the capacity to carry over 400 passengers.

About the limitations of infrastructure facilities at the Dhaka Airport, Khoori said there are constraints in the airport.

"But I think all these challenges and problems will go away once the construction of the third terminal comes to an end."

Due to space constraints and some other issues, Emirates could not establish its dedicated lounge at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, he said.

"But definitely we are planning to have our own lounge once the third terminal is completed."

About competitiveness in Dhaka, Khoori said: "The beauty in the business is competition. For Emirates, we have lots of competition in Dhaka such as Bangladesh Biman and Qatar Airways. It's good because more competition creates the urge for improving service quality."

Emirates has the most sophisticated aircraft, award-winning catering services and good inflight entertainment system to help the airliner lead in the Dhaka market, he said.

The airline carried 19 million passengers in 2021-22 to 152 destinations with a fleet of 262 aircraft.

People from 160 nationalities work with Emirates while the number of employees is 45,843.

In 2020, Emirates was the largest international airline according to IATA's World Air Transport Statistics 2021.

DHL Express introduces network flight for Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

DHL Express has started operations for the first-ever network flight to and from Bangladesh to carry the country's inbound and outbound shipments.

The flight will connect Bangladesh to more than 220 countries and territories via DHL's Bangkok hub, the world's leading international express service provider said in a press release on Friday.

The Boeing 737 freighter will be operated by Bangkok-based airline K-Mile Asia five days a week, offering a total of 180 tonnes of capacity, with an option to increase it based on customer demand.



With 36 tonnes of capacity available for each rotation, the first-ever network flight will help extend the reach and presence for customers in Bangladesh, DHL said.

"The introduction of the network flight will help ensure consistent service levels are delivered to customers, as demand for air cargo capacity increases."

In the press release, Sean Wall, executive vice-president for network operations and aviation at DHL Express Asia Pacific, said historically, trade has been a key driver for economic growth.

According to the recent DHL Trade Growth Atlas, there are now new centres of trade emerging across South Asia, with Bangladesh especially proving to be a reliable export and import market, Wall said.

"I am excited that we are playing our part in Bangladesh's economic growth story as we help boost cross-border trade activities with this new international freighter."

READ MORE ON B3

Shipping Corporation's profit grows over 12% in Q2

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) reported a 12.42 per cent year-on-year profit growth to Tk 67.57 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year.

The state-run ship operator clocked a profit of Tk 60.10 crore in the same October-December quarter of 2021-22.

Thus, the BSC reported earnings per share of Tk 4.43 in the October-December quarter of 2022-23, against Tk 3.94 in the identical three-month period of 2021-22.

The corporation posted a profit of Tk 128.28 crore in the first half of FY23, up 1.6 per cent from Tk 126.30 crore a year earlier.

The company's net operating cash flow per share was Tk 12.72 in July-December of FY23 against Tk 11.57 in the six months to December of the previous financial year.

The corporation's net asset value per share improved to Tk 79.97 on December 31 from Tk 72.52 on June 30.

Shares of BSC were down 5.59 per cent to Tk 125 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.



A visitor makes queries at a stall of the REHAB Chattogram Fair 2023 that ended yesterday. More than 100 units of flats and commercial spaces and some 10 plots were booked at the show.

PHOTO: STAR



ONE YEAR OF UKRAINE WAR

Europe's energy security better than feared

REUTERS, Brussels

Europe looks set to avert fuel shortages and end this winter in a position that, while not exactly comfortable, looks far better than was feared last autumn, after Russia curbed gas pipeline supplies dramatically.

One year on from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, here is how European Union countries are coping with tight energy supplies and soaring prices:

In the months after invading Ukraine, Moscow cut off an estimated 80 per cent of the gas it had previously piped to Europe. By the end of the year, Russian exports had fallen from around 40 per cent of EU gas supply to less than 10 per cent, the lowest level since the 1980s.

For some countries, the drop has been starker. Germany, which got half of its gas from Russian pipelines in 2021, now gets none.

The shock left countries scrambling to buy alternative fuel and pushed energy prices to record levels, inflating

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