



An 'Apon Bazar' was inaugurated on the Beximco Industrial Park premises in Gazipur on Sunday by Beximco, bKash and Apon Wellbeing, enabling around 40,000 workers of the park receiving salaries through bKash to purchase daily necessities at a price cheaper than that in shops outside. KM Akram Hossain, senior general manager (finance and accounts), and Khalid Shahriar, head of human resources and compliance of Beximco Industrial Park, ATM Mahbub Alam, head of payroll business of bKash, and Saif Rashid, managing director of AponTech, were present.

PHOTO: BKASH



Md Nazrul Islam, deputy managing director of Union Bank, and Md Abdul Hai, secretary to Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), exchanged signed documents of an agreement on banking services at the latter's head office at Nikunja-2, Khilkhet in Dhaka recently. Dipankar Biswas, member (finance) of the BREB, Md Hossain Patwary, controller for finance and accounts, and Md Shahriar Rauf, in-charge of corporate affairs and branding division of the bank, were present.

PHOTO: UNION BANK



Emranul Huq, managing director and chief executive officer of Dhaka Bank, signed an agreement with Md Nazrul Islam, director of Financial Inclusion Department of Bangladesh Bank, at the BB office in Dhaka on Sunday for availing a Tk 100 crore "Refinance Scheme for Digital Nano Loan" of Bangladesh Bank. Other senior officials from both the sides were present.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK



Piyush Gupta, chief executive officer of DBS Bank of Singapore, held a discussion with Brac Bank officials, including Selim RF Hussain, managing director and CEO, reaffirming cooperation in various areas during a visit to the latter's head office in Dhaka last month. The DBS CEO was accompanied by Tan Su Shan, group head of institutional banking, Tahsina Banu, Dhaka chief representative, Surojit Shome, India CEO, Tien-Ann Lim, head of international centres, and Sriram Muthukrishnan, group head of product management, global transaction services.

PHOTO: BRAC BANK



Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and chief executive officer of Eastern Bank, and Md Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), pose at the launch of a co-branded credit card by Eastern Bank, the FBCCI and Visa to mark the apex business body's golden jubilee during the FBCCI Business Excellence Award 2023 and Gala Night at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka on Monday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK



Mohammad Rayhan, chief executive officer of Walton Plaza, Humayun Kabir, deputy managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, and Amin Khan, senior executive director, handed over 101 free products to Md Nazrul Islam, a businessperson of Morrelganj municipality in Bagerhat, at a function in Morrelganj Walton Plaza on Monday. Islam won the products on purchasing a Walton refrigerator under an ongoing "Digital Campaign Season-17".

PHOTO: WALTON HI TECH INDUSTRIES PLC

Stocks fall after a day's gain

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell yesterday on making gains the day before.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the top bourse in Bangladesh, lost 11 points, or 0.18 per cent, to reach 6,231.

The DS30, the blue-chip index, decreased 0.26 per cent to reach 2,217 points while the DSES, the Shariah-compliant index, went down 0.34 per cent to 1,355 points.

However, turnover, a key indicator of the market, rose 24 per cent from that on the previous day to reach Tk 563 crore.

Of the securities, 31 advanced, 102 declined and 201 did not show any price movement.

Union Capital Limited made the biggest gain with an increase of 10 per cent.

Rupali Life Insurance Company Limited, aamra networks limited, Rangpur Dairy & Food Products Limited and National Feed Mill Limited were among the top gainers.

Monno Agro & General Machinery Limited lost the most, shedding 4.4 per cent.

Renwick, Jaineswar & Co. (BD) Ltd, Beacon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Metro Spinning Limited and Legacy Footwear Limited were also in the list of those suffering significant losses.

Rupali Life Insurance Company Limited was the most-traded stock, with issues worth Tk 36 crore changing hands.

The Sea Pearl Cox's Bazar Beach Resort & Spa, aamra networks limited, ADN Telecom Limited and Genex Infosys Limited also accounted for significant turnovers.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (MAR 14, 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 46-Tk 50	-4 ↓	3.23
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 58-Tk 60	3.51 ↑	57.33 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	0	4.88
Soybean (litre)	Tk 168-Tk 172	0	0
Potato (kg)	Tk 18-Tk 22	-11.11 ↓	5.26 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 25-Tk 35	11.76 ↓	-36.84 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 42-Tk 45	-7.45 ↓	17.57 ↑
SOURCE: TCB			

Sugar price keeps rising

FROM PAGE B4
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh showed yesterday.

Packaged sugar is not available in the market, according to traders.

On February 1, the government fixed the prices of loose and packaged sugar at Tk 107 and Tk 112 per kg.

Ziaul Haque, a wholesaler in the Khatunganj Chaktai wholesale market, said dealers were meeting only 10 to 20 per cent of the demand of wholesalers for sugar.

"The price of sugar has been on the rise for a week because of the supply shortage."

A hike in transport costs is also being added to the product cost as trucks have to wait two to four days at

the mail gates due to the delay in the delivery of the product, according to Haque.

He claimed sugar price is being increased by creating an artificial crisis in the market.

Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs at City Group, one of the largest processors in Bangladesh, said: "It will take more time to reap the benefits of the duty cut since the sugar that has already been imported and is awaiting release will not be covered by the duty reduction facility."

He said that the government had cut the duty to control the price of the product during Ramadan, but it was too late. "Had the decision been

taken a month earlier, the benefits would have been visible before Ramadan."

Ramadan might begin on March 24.

Saha described the supply situation as normal and said there was no scope for creating an artificial crisis.

Globally, sugar prices rose to \$0.45 per kg in February from \$0.42 in January, according to data from the World Bank.

Businesses in Bangladesh imported 3.28 lakh tonnes of raw sugar and 139.25 tonnes of refined sugar in January and February. In the same months last year, about 4.88 lakh tonnes of raw sugar and 8,770 tonnes of refined sugar were imported, data from the NBR showed.

Sea Pearl to buy

FROM PAGE B4
Chattoogram, among notable projects.

It is one of the three companies that are implementing the Dhaka Bypass Expressway Project, a public-private partnership initiative, he said. "After completion of the project, we will collect tolls for 22 years."

Mamun said SEPL's annual turnover stands at Tk 200 crore to Tk 250 crore. It carries out the repair and maintenance of many large bridges and collects tolls from them.

Sea Pearl shares closed 0.29 per cent higher at Tk 312.50 on the DSE yesterday.

US consumer prices increase solidly in February

REUTERS, Washington

US consumer prices increased in February amid sticky rental housing costs, but economists are divided on whether rising inflation will be enough to push the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates again next week after the failure of two regional banks.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.4 per cent last month after accelerating 0.5 per cent in January, the Labor Department said on Tuesday. That lowered the year-on-year increase in the CPI to 6.0 per cent in February, the smallest annual gain since September 2021. The CPI rose 6.4 per cent in the 12 months through January.

The annual CPI peaked at 9.1 per cent in June, which was the biggest increase since November 1981.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI increased 0.5 per cent after rising 0.4 per cent in January. In the 12 months through February, the so-called core CPI gained 5.5 per cent after advancing 5.6 per cent in January.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast both the CPI and core CPI climbing 0.4 per cent on a monthly basis. Monthly inflation is rising at double the rate that economists say is needed to bring inflation back to the Fed's 2 per cent target.

The inflation report was published amid financial market turmoil triggered by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in California and Signature Bank in New York, which forced regulators to take emergency measures to shore up confidence in the banking system.

It was also released before the Fed's policy meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday, and followed a report last Friday showing a still-tight labor market, but cooling wage inflation. Economists said Tuesday's report remained important for policymakers despite the angst in financial markets.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell told lawmakers last week that the U.S. central bank would likely need to raise rates more than expected, leading financial markets to expect that a half-percentage-point rate increase was on the table next week.

But those expectations were dialed back to 25 basis points after the employment report.

While financial markets on Tuesday still expected a quarter-percentage point hike, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool, fear of contagion from the banking crisis prompted some economists, including those at Goldman Sachs, to expect the Fed next week to pause its fastest monetary policy tightening cycle since the 1980s.

UK unemployment at historic low

AFP, London

British unemployment remains near its historical low but wages are still falling in real terms, official data showed Tuesday on the eve of a budget.

The unemployment rate was stable at 3.7 per cent in the three months to the end of January compared

with the three months to the end of December, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

Wages excluding bonuses rose 6.5 per cent — but dived 3.5 per cent when inflation is taken into account.

"Although the inflation rate has come

down a little, it's still outstripping earnings growth, meaning real pay continues to fall," said ONS economic statistics director Darren Morgan on Tuesday.

Britain remains plagued by strikes as workers protest over pay failing to keep pace with consumer prices.

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Memo No. CEDP/SGMC/EGP/G-15/2022-23 Date: 14/03/2023

e-Tender Notice OTM G-15/2022-2023

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

S.I No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1	800688	Establishment of Campus Networking at Sherpur Govt. Mohila College, Sherpur.	30/03/2023 13.00	30/03/2023 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 bank's branches up to 4:00pm 29/03/2023.

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

28/02/23 26/03/23

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GD-469

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক এর কার্যালয়
দোহাজারী সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম
E-mail: eedoh@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1582.414.36.01.07.23-424 Date: 14/03/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dohazari, Chattogram for procurement of the following works/goods:

Sl No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Description of works/goods	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01	802379 e-GP/EE/DRD/40/2022-2023	Protective work by Constructing RCC Retaining wall at Ch: 07+720 Km. to Ch: 07+770 Km of Hashimpur Railway Station-Bagicharhat-Boroma Road (Z-1036) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2022-2023.		29/03/2023 14.00 hr
02	802380 e-GP/EE/DRD/41/2022-2023	Supplying and Installation of Reflective Road Stud, Chevron Sign, Traffic Sign, Sign Post, Guide Post Branding at Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Moinamoti)-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highways (N-1) (Ch: 250+445 to Ch: 256+809) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2022-2023.		29/03/2023 14.00 hr
03	802381 e-GP/EE/DRD/42/2022-2023	Road Marking work from chainage 00+000m to 1+250m & chainage 01+910m to 07+300m of Moiztertek-Boalkhali-Kanungopara-Uderbanna Road (Z-1065) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2022-2023.		29/03/2023 14.05 hr
04	802382 e-GP/EE/DRD/43/2022-2023	(a) Sub-Soil investigation for the construction of proposed RCC/PC Girder Bridge at (i) Ch: 04+840m of Kalurghat-Monosartek Road (N-107); (ii) Ch: 04-650m of Paliya-Boalkhali (Kanongopara) Road (Z-1059); (iii) Ch: 03+375m of Paliya-Annodadutto-Haidgaon-Rangunia Road (Z-1057); (iv) Ch: 14+797m, Ch: 14+948m & Ch: 16+190m of Beer Muktiyodda Shohid Muridul Alam Road (Z-1040) and (v) Ch: 07+655m, Ch: 08+255m, Ch: 08+700m & Ch: 09+060m of Chatori (Chowmohoni)-CUFL-Kamaphuli Dry Dock (Marine Academy)-Fakirhat National Highway. (b) Detail Digital topographic & physical feature survey of (i) Beer Muktiyodda Shohid Muridul Alam Road (Z-1040) and (ii) Chatori (Chowmohoni)-CUFL-Kamaphuli Dry Dock (Marine Academy)-Fakirhat National Highway under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2022-2023.	29/03/2023 up to 11:00 hr.	29/03/2023 14.05 hr
05	802383 e-GP/EE/DRD/44/2022-2023	Supplying and Installation of Reflective Road Stud, Chevron, Traffic Sign and Sign Post at Chainage: 256+809m (Badamtol) to Chainage: 267+130m (Komol Munsirhat) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Moinamoti)-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highway (N-1) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2022-2023.		29/03/2023 14.10 hr

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited in online through any member of schedule banks up to 11:00 hr. on 29-03-2023.

To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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

Suman Singha
ID No. 602163
Executive Engineer, RHD
Dohazari Road Division
Dohazari, Chattogram

GD-479