



Shoppers throng Zahur Hawkers Market in Chattogram city defying soaring temperatures in the afternoon to make purchases marking Eid-ul-Fitr. The crowds keep growing as day turns into night. The photo was taken a couple of days ago. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

14 tanners lauded for improving health, safety standards

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Fourteen tanneries inside the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate have significantly improved their health and safety management systems, according to an assessment by SGS Bangladesh Limited, the Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) and Asia Foundation.

Eight of the companies were awarded crests for showing the most improvement while the rest were given certificates through an event held at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

This assessment was conducted to improve the occupational health and safety standards at 15 of the 160 tanneries under the estate, according to the Asia Foundation.

The survey, styled "ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems", completed its one-year run-time in March earlier this year.

The goal of this assessment was to improve health and safety standards in the

workplace by eliminating or minimising risks in this regard.

The ISO 45001:2018 specifies requirements for health and safety management systems while also providing guidance on implement them, enabling organisations better prevent workplace injuries and illness.

The 14 tanners are: MS Salma Tannery, Anjuman Trading Corporation, MS RK Leather Complex, ABS Tannery, The Comilla Tannery, Samata Leather Complex, Marsons Tannery, Ayub Brothers Tannery, MS Saiful Islam Tannery, Aralat Leather Complex, MS Sadar Tannery, Khokon Tannery, Bengal Pelli Export Company and MS Salma Leather Corporation.

The eight companies that were specially recognised are: MS Salma Tannery, Anjuman Trading Corporation, MS RK Leather Complex, ABS Tannery, The Comilla Tannery, Samata Leather Complex, Marsons Tannery and Ayub Brothers Tannery.

Taherul Islam, programme manager

of the Asia Foundation, said they first checked for gaps in the health and safety management systems of these factories before working on how to improve them.

"By the year's end, these companies showed good improvement, which is a pretty good thing," he added.

The goal of this assessment was to improve health and safety standards in the workplace by eliminating or minimising risks in this regard

Islam then said that he hopes these companies will continue maintaining higher health and safety standards in the years to come now that the project is over.

Sadat S Shibli, director of the Asia Foundation, said ensuring compliance with such measures is more important than ever these days.

"There is no way to improve the country's export earnings without

maintaining international standards in the leather sector," he added.

Islam went on to say that the leather sector is the higher export earner for Bangladesh after garments.

Rehena Akhter Ruma, head of projects and programmes at the BTA, said some of the tanneries surveyed did not know much about their compliance issues and ended up learning a lot through the project.

A lack of compliance in the country's leather sector has been preventing the expansion of its foothold in the international market even though the required raw materials are easily available.

As a result, exporters are getting 30 to 40 per cent lower prices for their products compared to those of competing nations.

Besides, fair prices cannot be ensured in local markets either as Bangladesh has not gained certification from the Leather Working Group, a global body for compliance and environmental certification in the leather and leather goods sector.



Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of Pran-RFL Group, receives an award of the "National Export Trophy" on behalf of Pran Dairy Ltd from Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at an award-giving ceremony held at the InterContinental hotel in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PRAN-RFL GROUP

Pran-RFL wins 5 nat'l export trophies

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Five companies of Pran-RFL Group have won national export trophies for their outstanding contribution to exports for fiscal year 2019-20.

Of the trophies, Pran bagged three in the agro-processing sector. Pran Dairy Ltd, Pran Agro Ltd and Habiganj Agro Ltd obtained gold, silver and bronze trophies respectively, Pran-RFL Group said in a press release.

Durable Plastic Ltd and Banga Plastic International Ltd of RFL Group claimed silver and bronze trophies respectively in the plastic goods sector.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of Pran-RFL Group, received the gold trophy on behalf of Pran Dairy from Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at an award-giving ceremony held at the InterContinental hotel in Dhaka yesterday.



Inspector General of Police, Bangladesh Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, chairman of Community Bank Bangladesh, presided over the bank's annual general meeting at the police headquarters in Dhaka yesterday. On the same day, the bank held its first extra-ordinary general meeting, where the shareholders approved renaming the bank as Community Bank Bangladesh PLC, subject to the regulatory approval. Md Kamrul Ahsan, additional inspector general (AIG-admin) of Bangladesh Police, M Khurshid Hossain, director general of Rapid Action Battalion, Md Monirul Islam, AIG (special branch) of Bangladesh Police, SM Ruhul Amin, AIG (ATU), Md Mazharul Islam, AIG (L&AA), Md Atiqul Islam, AIG (crime & operations), Hasan UI Haider, AIG (APBn), Abu Hasan Muhammad Tarique, AIG (finance), Md Shahabuddin Khan, AIG (highway police), Md Mahabubor Rahman, AIG (industrial police), Habibur Rahman, AIG (tourist police), and Masihul Huq Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, were present. PHOTO: COMMUNITY BANK



AKM Ekramul Hossain Swapan, executive director of Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital, and Samia Chowdhury, chief executive officer of MTB Foundation, exchanged signed documents of an agreement for a project titled "Providing Healthcare Support to Thalassaemia Patients of Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital" at Mutual Trust Bank's head office in Gulshan recently. Syed Mahabubur Rahman, managing director of the bank, Chowdhury Akhtar Asif, additional managing director, and Rais Uddin Ahmad, deputy managing director, and MA Matin, president of Bangladesh Thalassaemia Samity, and Md Mujibur Rahman, deputy general manager of the hospital, were present. PHOTO: MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Navana Pharma posts 28% higher profit in Q3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Navana Pharmaceuticals Limited's profit rose 28.25 per cent year-on-year to Tk 11.71 crore in the January-March quarter of the current financial year.

The pharmaceuticals manufacturer made a profit of Tk 9.13 crore in the third quarter of 2021-22.

Thus, the earnings per share were Tk 1.09 in January-March of FY23 against Tk 0.85 in the identical quarter of FY22, according to the unaudited financial statements.

The EPS increased due to a rise in gross profit and a decrease in corporate tax, said Navana Pharmaceuticals in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

The profit rose to Tk 27.61 crore in the July-March of the current financial year, a rise of 7.55 per cent from Tk 25.67 crore recorded in the same nine-month period of FY22.

The EPS was Tk 2.57 in July-March of FY23. It was Tk 2.39 in the same period of FY22.

Shares of the company surged 9.94 per cent to Tk 73 on the DSE yesterday.

Peoples Insurance makes Tk 12cr profit in 2022

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Peoples Insurance Company Ltd made a Tk 12.06 crore profit in the financial year that ended on December 31.

This was up 1.17 per cent from the Tk 11.92 crore profit the insurer registered in 2021.

Peoples Insurance, thus, posted earnings per share of Tk 2.61 for 2022 against Tk 2.58 in 2021.

The net asset value per share rose to Tk 31.44 from Tk 30.08 while the net operating cash flow per share declined to Tk 3.49 from Tk 4.66 a year earlier.

The board of directors of Peoples Insurance has recommended a 10.50 per cent cash dividend for the last financial year.

Shares of the company closed unchanged at Tk 31.90 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (APR 16, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 75	0	3.85 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 50	2.08 ↑	5.38 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 60	-2.54 ↓	57.53 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 168-Tk 175	0.88 ↑	8.89 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 28-Tk 30	61.11 ↑	61.11 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 30-Tk 40	16.67 ↑	16.67 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 42-Tk 45	2.35 ↑	29.85 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

Oilseed cultivation spreading

FROM PAGE B4

However, edible oil prices recently spiked in the international market due to dry weather in Argentina and Brazil, two of the biggest exporting countries, making the key cooking ingredient costlier for local consumers.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has raised concerns of potential disruptions to the supply chain, leading to stockpiling at home and abroad.

With this backdrop, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the country to achieve self-sufficiency.

"So, we are working in Tangail under the direction of the agriculture minister to increase the cultivation of healthy oil type sunflowers and mustard," Hasan said.

Md Babul Mia, assistant

agricultural officer of Amtali upazila in Barguna, said each acre of land yields up to eight maunds (one maund equals roughly 37 kilogrammes) of sunflower.

Around 4,000 grams of edible oil can be extracted from each kilogramme of the crop, which is relatively cheap to cultivate, he added.

Mohammad Nazrul Islam, deputy director of the Patuakhali DAE, said farmers are becoming more interested in growing oilseeds thanks to increased demand in the local markets.

"Even various processing companies are contacting us. We connect them with farmers so that they can easily sell their produce and make profit," he added.

Islam went on to say that the government has taken up a roughly Tk 3,000 crore project to increase

oilseed cultivation in coastal areas.

Under the project, sunflower seeding machines, crushing machines and irrigation equipment will be provided so that farmers are more motivated to produce oilseeds.

Work on the project is expected to start this year, he said.

Shamima Akter, agriculture officer of Gopalpur upazila in Tangail, said they are providing the necessary support to farmers for increasing oilseed cultivation.

Mushfiqur Rahman, a farmer in Garabari village of the adjacent Bhuapur upazila, said he cultivated sunflowers on 10 decimals of land this year.

"Seeing my good yields, other farmers in the area have expressed interest in growing the crop," he added.