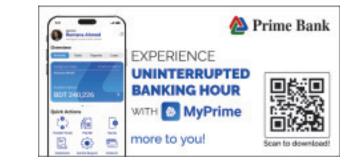
#### DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2023, ASHAR 1, 1430 BS 9 starbusiness@thedailystar.net

# **SUNINES**



# **BB** frames rules for setting up digital banks

#### SOHEL PARVEZ

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday approved the guideline on digital banks, paving the way for establishing branchless banking operations, a development that is expected to accelerate cashless transactions and digital transformation.

"We are moving towards digital transformation of banking. We will issue the guideline soon for public and call for applications from investors who want to set up digital banks," said Md Abul Bashar, a spokesperson of the central bank.

As per the guideline, investors willing to set up a digital bank will have to have a minimum paid-up capital of Tk 125 crore and the capital will have to come from sponsors.

The minimum paid-up capital that a sponsor will have to contribute has been set at Tk 50 lakh.

The decision comes within two weeks after Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, in his budget speech, said a central bank committee was working to draw up strategies to broaden financial inclusion.

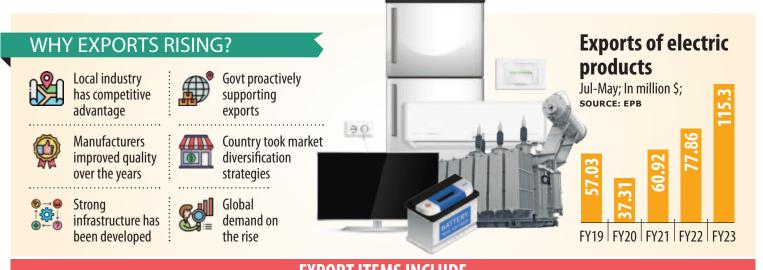
The committee's work on formulating the outline for setting up digital banks has now completed. In 2023–24, we hope to be able to launch a digital bank," said Kamal on June 1.

At the same time, the government is developing a machine learning and artificial intelligence-based credit rating system.

"With these, it will be much easier to spot fake and anonymous borrowers. At the same time, it will be considerably simpler for genuine borrowers to obtain loans," said Kamal.

Currently, the central bank is developing a portal to receive applications from interested investors online. READ MORE ON B3





**EXPORT ITEMS INCLUDE** 

Power transformers | Refrigerators | Air conditioners | Televisions | Switches and sockets | Plugs | Circuit breakers Extension cords Connectors Cables and wires Car batteries

# Electrical, electronic goods export surges

#### JAGARAN CHAKMA

The shipment of electrical and electronics goods from Bangladesh displayed an impressive growth of 48 per cent in July-May of the outgoing financial year on the back of improving product quality and government support, official figures showed.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh earned \$115.30 million by selling electrical and electronics items in the overseas markets in the first 11 months of 2022-23, which was \$77.86 million during the identical period a year earlier.

\$105 million export target set for the entire FY23, which ends on June 30, as well as the actual receipts of \$100.10 million recorded in the previous financial year.

The stellar performance comes at a time when Bangladesh's overall export earnings

and higher inflation. The shipment grew 7.11 per cent year-on-year in July-May.

Bangladesh exports electronic home appliances such as refrigerators, airconditioners and televisions as well as electrical goods like power transformers, fans, cables, switches, sockets, circuit breakers and batteries.

"The rising export of electrical and electronics products gives a signal that Bangladesh is advancing in technologies," said Rabiul Alam, chief executive officer of Energypac Engineering Ltd.

Energypac Engineering exports a number of This means the segment has surpassed the electrical products to more than 20 countries, including India, Nepal and Malaysia.

According to Alam, the export of electrical products such as transformers is growing significantly thanks to higher quality and competitive prices.

tax returns compulsory by government-

recognised private funds such as provident

provident funds will reduce earnings of the

beneficiaries while exempting government

provident funds from taxes is discriminatory,"

included in the bill to impose tax on interest

on foreign loans, which was not desirable at a

time when Bangladesh needs foreign currency

"This will lead to a decline in foreign

currency inflow. And because of tax on

interest, cost of fund will go up and consumers

will be affected. This is absolutely detrimental

entire expenses of a company if it fails to

provide proof of submission of tax return by

third party vendors. It should be omitted, it

urged for relaxing the rule on limiting cash

transactions to Tk 36 lakh for companies to

enjoy a reduction in corporate tax.

The foreign investors' chamber said it

READ MORE ON B3

The FICCI opposed the plan to disallow

to business and economy," said Naser.

to tackle the current economic challenges.

The trade body said a provision has been

"Taxing government-recognised private

funds and gratuity funds.

said the FICCI.

said.

Energypac Engineering is already

have slowed owing to the global slowdown exporting transformers to Adani Electricity Mumbai.

Alam said Energypac has obtained certification from Italy about the quality of its transformers. "This has opened up the opportunities to tap export potentials in Europe and other countries."

Didarul Alam Khan, chief marketing officer at Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, said the company is producing electrical products of international standards.

"Bangladesh is now capable of producing quality consumer electronics goods at competitive prices because the country has skilled workers.'

Walton is exporting consumer electronic refrigerators, including goods. air conditioners and televisions, to more than 40 countries, and is working to expand its footprint in Europe and America.

READ MORE ON B3



Cut customs barriers for more Japanese investment Says envoy

## Advanced income tax should be abolished Says Mannan

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The advanced income tax (AIT) should be abolished as the National Board Revenue's overall of capacity to realise taxes has expanded, according to Planning Minister MA Mannan.

The cancellation of AIT is necessary because the overall capacity of the NBR has widened, the number of its workforce has increased, it has deployed equipment, and its use of computers has increased, he said.

"The AIT should not be deducted."

He said the refund does not take place later even if the tax paid in advance exceeds the tax liability, and many companies unsuccessfully try to get the refunds before surrendering it.

"This situation should not have been created at all. I think there is no need to keep it now," he said.

The minister made the remarks at a post-budget discussion, organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accounts of Bangladesh (ICMAB), in the capital on Tuesday.

The business community has long opposed AIT.

Mannan said the economy is standing on three pillars: remittance, export and agriculture. READ MORE ON B3

Tax return for credit card to bar financial inclusion Says Mastercard country manager STAR BUSINESS REPORT Mational BUDGEI The tax on digital FY2023-24 payments tools should reduced be and incentives should be given to encourage electronic payments in a bid to transform the country into a cashless society, said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard. Syed Mohammad Kamal "Urgent action is suggested to introduce fiscal measures that simplify obtaining digital payments tools and incentivise digital payments, aligning with the vision of a Smart Bangladesh," said Kamal while sharing his reactions about the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. According to the government's vision of "Smart Bangladesh" by 2041, the country would become a technology-driven smart nation, a strategic roadmap building on the existing "Digital Bangladesh" Vision. With four fundamental pillars – Smart Citizen, Smart Economy, Smart Society, and Smart Government – the vision outlines an inclusive society and an aspiration to become a fully cashless economy. However, amidst discussions of building a Smart Bangladesh and a cashless economy, Kamal said, one critical pillar remains unaddressed in the recent budget: incentivising digital payments. The digital payments industry, including different top chambers, had long anticipated the READ MORE ON B3

Workers are seen spreading boro paddy for drying, earning them around Tk 1,000 per week. Sun-drying paddy is a traditional method for reducing the moisture content in rice. The picture was taken at Shachibunia village in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Foreign investors worried over income tax law provisions

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Foreign investors in Bangladesh yesterday expressed concern over some provisions of a proposed income tax law alongside measures, including one on increasing the minimum tax on carbonated beverage makers.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) wants to slap a 5 per cent tax on gross receipts or turnover of carbonated beverage makers from next fiscal year. It is currently 0.6 per cent.

The increase is prohibitive and detrimental to business, said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), at a press conference in Sheraton Dhaka.

"It is not logical to hike the tax rate suddenly," he said at the event organised by the FICCI to share its views on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-24 and on an Income Tax Bill-2023 placed in parliament last week.

The apex chamber of more than 200 multinational companies and foreign investors welcomed the bill but added that some provisions would have implications for the businesses and employees in Bangladesh.



Naser Ezaz Bijoy, president of FICCI

The FICCI said the increase in minimum tax would increase the effective tax on companies and possibly have implications on employee earnings.

Besides, as per the bill, individuals could no longer enjoy exemptions on income from Workers Profit Participation Fund, mutual fund and dividend to certain limits.

Under the proposed law, the NBR wants to tax provident funds. This will substantially reduce the net income of individuals, the FICCI said.

The new law also seeks to make submission

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh needs to improve on cumbersome government approval procedures. customs clearance delays, restrictions through customs duty and processes for receiving remittance to attract more Japanese investment, said Iwama Kiminori, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh, yesterday.

"In particular, delays in LC payments are often encountered in Bangladesh, which increases the financial and time burden on companies, and thus require immediate action," he said.

"I hope these remaining problems would be continuously addressed in the course of the next round of meetings so that we can find improvements in the situation in the near future," he said.

Kiminori was addressing a seminar on the national budget for 2023-24 titled "Investment Prospects and Key Proposals Highlights with Business Impacts" at Sheraton Dhaka.

The Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) in collaboration with Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) organised the seminar which was attended by diplomats, businesspeople of Bangladesh and Japan, economists, exporters and importers.

Discussions on the overall tax reform. especially reducing reliance on custom duties for generating revenue, is extremely essential not only for the formulation of a sound budget but also for decreasing the burden of the business community, said Kiminori.





alle Mile	COMMODITIES		
	Gold 🔺	Oil 🔺	
	<b>\$1,947</b> (per ounce)	<b>\$70.30</b> (per barrel)	

ASIAN MARKETS				
MUMBAI	ТОКҮО	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
0.14% 63,228.51	1.47% 33,502.42	<b>0.9% 3,218.14</b>	• 0.14% 3,228.99	

READ MORE ON B3



# BUSINESS



M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director of Eastern Bank Limited, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a subbranch of the bank at Mughda in Dhaka yesterday. Wahidul Hasan Milton, ex-acting mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, Farzana Ali, branch area head for Dhaka of the bank, Rasheedul Huque, senior manager-admin, Mohammad Zakiur Rahman and Shaidul Islam Prince, managers, and Rashid Harun, acting manager of Mughda sub-branch, were present.



Aziz Al Kaiser, chairman of City Bank, presides over an extraordinary general meeting of the bank virtually held yesterday. Among others, Hossain Khaled, vice-chairman, Tabassum Kaiser, Savera H Mahmood, Hossain Mehmood, Rajibul Huq Chowdhury, Syeda Shaireen Aziz and Rebecca Brosnan, directors, Matiul Islam Nowshad, independent director, and Mashrur Arefin, managing director, attended the meeting. PHOTO: CITY BANK



R1-24.02.0000.002.23.362.25-666

### ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ প্রধান কার্যালয়

সংস্থাপন শাখা

টিসিবি ভবন, ১, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।

www.tcb.gov.bd



তারিষঃ ১৪-০৬-২০২৩দিঃ।

ছ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মসনলের সত্যায়িত অনুগিপি; এবং

- জ, অনলাইনে পূরণকৃত্র আবেদনপত্রের কপি (Applicant's copy) ।
- ১০, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত কোন তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজ পত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুছে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যে কোন প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ ও ব্রটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১২, নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ও নিবন্ধন সংক্রায় যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণা হবে।

#### ১০। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পুরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলী:

- ক) Online এ আবেদনপত্র পুরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: ১৮ জুন ২০২৩ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ টা।
- খ) Online এ আবেদনপত্র পুরদের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৫:০০ টা।
- গ) উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ কর্তৃক Online এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ ঘটার মধ্যে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-paid Mobile নম্বর হতে SMS এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন ফি জমা দিতে হবে।
- থ) Online আবেদনপরে প্রার্থী তার রজীন ছবি (৩০০×৩০০ Pixel) ও আক্ষর (৩০০×৮০ Pixel) জ্ঞান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০ KB ও অঞ্চরের সাইজ ৬০ KB এর মধ্যে হতে ছবে।

৪) Online আবেদনপরে পূরণকৃত তথাই থেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু অনলাইনে আবেদনপর submit করার প্রেই প্রগকত সকল তথ্যের সম্লিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

চ) গ্রাধী Online এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিটকপি সহায়ক ডকুমেন্ট হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌথিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।

২) SMS প্রেরপের নিয়ামাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) বর্ষাযথজাবে পুরণ করে নির্দেশনামতে ছবি ও আক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। যনি Aplicant's copy তে কোন তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অম্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/সাদা/যোগা) বা ছবি/আকর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে আবেদন ফি জমা না দিয়ে থাকলে পুনরান্ত (ওয়েবে) আবেদন করতে পারবেন। উল্লেখ যে, আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পর আর কোন



পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/পরিবর্ধন গ্রহণযোগা নয়। এক্ষেব্রে আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পূর্বে প্রাধী অবশাই উক্ত Aplicant's copy তে তার সাম্প্রতিক তোলা রশ্জিন হবি নির্ভুল তথা ও আকর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি PDF copy ডাউনলোড পূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে রভিন প্রিণ্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Aplicant's copy তে একটি User ID দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID ব্যবহার করে প্রাধী নিম্বর্ণিত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-paid Mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২টি এসএমএস করে আবেদন ফি ব্যবহা ১-৬ নং রহিন হার্দিত পদের জনা ২০০/-(দুইশত) টাকা এবং ৭ নং রুমিকের জন্য ১০০/-(একশত) টাকা ও Teletalk এর <u>মার্জিস চার্জ বাবদ ১-৬</u> নং রুমিকের জনা ২০০/-(দুইশত) টাকা এবং ৭ নং রুমিকের জন্য ১০০/-(একশত) টাকা ও Teletalk এর <u>মার্জিস চার্জ বাবদ ১-৬</u> লিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, Online আবেদনপত্রের সকল জংশ পুরণ করে submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ন Online এ পুরণকৃত আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই পুইাত ছবে না।

#### প্রথম SMS: TCB < Space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 লগরে। Example: TCB ABCDEF & send to 16222.

Reply Applicant's Name, TK.112/- or TK.223/-/ will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To Pay Fee Type TCB Yes PIN and send to 16222. খিতীয় SMS: TCB < Space> Yes <Space> PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 লগরে।

Example: TCB Yes 12345678 & send to 16222.

Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, Payment completed successfully for TCB, Application for xxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxxx) জ) প্ৰবেশপত্ৰ প্ৰাপ্তিত বিষয়টি http://tcb.teletalk.com.bd. ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্ৰাৰ্থীত মোৰাইল ফোনে SMS এই মাধ্যসে

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ট্রেটিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি) এর নিয়বনিত স্থায়ী পুনা পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত পদের পার্থে উল্লিখিত শিক্ষাগক যোখাতা এবং নিয়বিখিত শর্কে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (<u>http://tcb.teletalk.com.bd</u> ওয়োবসাইটে) নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র আয়ান করা যাছে। **অনলাইন (Online) ব্যক্তি অনা কোন মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না** 

দ্রুমিক সং	পদের নাস, প্রেড ও বেতন ফেল	পুন্য পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীর আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই
21	কশ্পিউটার অপারেটর (হেচে-১৩) বেষ্টন জেল: ১১,০০০-২৬,৫৯০/-	(বাঁচ) হ০	(ক) কোন জঁকুত্ব বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে রাতক (সন্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী; (খ) কম্পিউটান মুদ্রাকরে প্রতি মিনিটো বাংলায় ২৫ শন ও ইংরেজিতে ৬০ শন্দের গতিসহ সংগ্রিষ্ট বিষয়ে Standard Aptitude Test এ টেরীর্ণ হতে হবে;	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীশশ আবেদ করতে পার্বেন।
21	গটনুরাক্ষরিক-কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটন (গ্রেড-১৪) বেষ্ঠন কেল: ২০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	o∻ (गुइँ)	(ক) উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সাটিফিকেট পরীক্ষা পাস; (খ) সাঁটলিপি নোট প্রতিলিপিকরণ ও কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরের গতি প্রতি নিনিটে যথাক্রমে বাংলায় ৪৫ ও ২৫ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৭০ ও ৩০ শব্দ সম্পন্ন হতে হবে; সরকারি শিল্প বা বাণিন্দিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে যাবের এলুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তাপের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	ঢাকা, নারায়গণাগ্ধ, জিজাইক, কিশোনগঞ্জ, জয়পুরহাট, মাগৃর গাইবাছা, বরিশল, ময়মনসিংচ, পেরপুর ও জামালপুর। তবে, সকল জেলার এতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী প্রাধীগণ প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা থাকা সালেকে
01	কোষাধাক্ষ (ক্যাশিয়ান) (শ্রেক-১৪) (বন্তন ডেন্দ: ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	০২ (দুই)	বাণিজা স্নাতক ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। সমকারী শিগ্ন বা অনিজিকে প্রতিষ্ঠানে যাথের ২ (পুই) কংসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তাদেরকে অগ্রাধিকান পেগ্রয় হবে।	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীশন আবেদ করতে পারবেন।
81	টেলিফোন অপারেটর (হোড-১৬) বেঙ্কন জেল: ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-	ሳን (ብቅ)	কমপকে উচ্চ মাধামিক সাটিডিকেট পরীক্ষা পাস হতে হবে। তবে বিশেষ যোগাতা সম্পদ্ধ প্রার্থীয় ক্ষেত্রে উহা শিধিল করা যেতে পারে।	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ অবেদ করতে পারবেন।
¢1	টেলেক্স অপারেটন (শ্রেড-১৬) বেস্তন ক্ষেল: ৯,৩০০-২৬,৪৯০/-	৩১ (গুৰু)	কমপকে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সাটিফিকেট পরীক্ষা পাস হজে হবে। তবে নিপেষ যোগাতা সম্পদ্র প্রাহীর ক্ষেত্রে টহা শিশ্বিল করা যেতে পারে।	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ জবেদ করতে পারবেদ।
90	গাড়ী চালক (চ্লাইডার) (গ্রেড-১৬) (বন্তন ছেল: ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-	(বাঁগ) ৫০	মাধ্যমিক কুল সাটফিকেটসহ প্রাহীর হালকা/ডারী যানবাহন চালাবার লাইদেপসহ ০৩(জিন) বংসরের অভিজতা থাকতে হবে।	মানারীপুর, নেয়াখালী একং চীপাইননাবগঞ্জ। তবে, সকল জেলার এতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী প্রাধীখণ প্রয়োজনীয় যোগাতা থাকা সাপেকে আবেহন করতে পারবেন।
11	অভিস সহায়ক (শ্রেজ-২০) বেতন জেল: ৮,২৫০-২০,০১০/-	২২ (বাইশ)	প্রার্থীকে কমপক্ষে অষ্টম প্রেদী পাশ হলে হবে।	টান্সাইল, কিশোরগস্ত, মুন্সিগ্য রাজবাড়ী ও চট্টগ্রাম। তবে, সকল জেলার এতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী প্রাধীগণ প্রয়েজনীয় যেখাতা থাকা সাপেকে জবেদন করতে পারবেন।

#### আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবে:

- ১. ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৩ তারিখে সাধারণ প্রাধী, ক্ষুদ্র নৃংশান্ধির এবং ধীর মুক্তিযোগ্ধ/পহীদ মুক্তিযোগ্ধালের পুত্র-কন্যাবে পুত্র-কন্যার (নাতি-নাতনি) ফেত্রে ব্যাসসীমা ১৮-৩০ বছর। তবে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২২ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৭.২০-১৪৯ নম্বর ম্যারকে আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৫.০৩.২০২০খি, তারিখ সর্বোচ্চ বহুসসীমার ৩০ বংসর থাকলে উক্ত প্রাধী আবেদন করার যোগ্য হবেন। ধীর মুক্তিযোগ্ধ/শহিদ মুক্তিযোগ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং শারিরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ফেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ১৮-৫২ বছর। বয়সের ফেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ২, সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ব্রশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রাধীদের অবশাই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিদ্রুমে আবেদন করতে হবে। সকল চাকুরিরত প্রাধীকে মৌথিক পরীক্ষা অংশগ্রহণের পূর্বেই সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট থেকে অনাপণ্ডিপন্ত গ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং উদ্ধ অনাপণ্ডি পত্রের মূলকণি মৌথিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণকালে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। এক্ষেব্রে কোন অগ্রিম কণি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ৩, সকল পদের জন্য লিখিত ও মৌথিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে। তবে, ২, ২, ৩, ৪, ৫ ৫ ৬ নম্বর দ্রুমিকে বর্ণিত পদের জন্য লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং ৭ নদর দ্রুমিকে বর্ণিত পদের লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রাধীরাই মৌথিক পরীক্ষার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন। প্রাধীদের পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ৪. আবেদনকারী বীর মুক্তিযোগ্ধ/শহিদ বীর মুক্তিযোগ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা ও পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা (নাডি-নাতনি) হলে উক্ত বক্তব্যের স্বপক্ষে আবেদনকারীকে বীর মুক্তিযোগ্ধা সম্পর্কিত সমন্বিত তালিকা নম্বর উল্লেখপূর্বক (www.molwa.gov.bd) সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউপিলর অথবা পৌরসচার মেয়র/কাউপিলর কন্তৃক প্রদণ্ড প্রমাণপত্র উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- ৫. যদি কোন প্রার্থী বাংগাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংগাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোন ব্যক্তিকে বিয়ে করেন বা করার জনা প্রতিশ্রুতিবন্ধ হন কিংবা কোন ফৌজদারি আদালত কর্তৃক নৈতিকন্দ্রলনজনিত অভিযোগে দন্তিত হন তবে তিনি আবেধন করার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ৬. সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী কোটা সংরক্ষন করা হবে সরকার কোটা বিষয়ে যেরূপ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করবেন নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া সেতাবে সম্পন্ন হবে।
- ৭. বিজ্ঞস্থি প্রকাশকালীন সময় থেকে চুড়ান্ত নিয়োগের আগ পর্যন্থ যদি পদ শূন্যের কারণে পদসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাহ অথবা যদি কোন কারণে পদসংখ্যা হাস পান্ধ সেক্ষেত্রে বিজ্ঞন্তিতে উল্লেখিত পদ সংখ্যা হাস বা বৃদ্ধি পেতে পারে। এ বিজ্ঞন্তি অংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ সংশোধন/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংগ্রহ্মণ করে।
- ৮, উপরে উল্লেখ করা হয়নি কিন্তু প্রযোজাতা রয়েছে এমন ক্ষেত্রে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারিকৃত বিধি বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- ৯. মৌথিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত (ক্রমিক নং-ক হতে জ পর্যন্ত) কাগজপদ্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিটির ০১টি করে প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার দ্বারা সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে:
  - ক. প্রার্থীর সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগাতার সনদপত্র (প্রযোজ্ঞা ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্রসহ);
  - খ, প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভা/ওয়ার্ড এর বাসিন্দা যে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার নেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকবের সনম্পন্ত:
  - শ. শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী, এতিম, ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-শোষ্ঠী এবং আনসার ও ডিভিপি প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সাটিফিকেট।
  - থ, বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার আবেধনকারী প্রাধীদের কেন্দ্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযারী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রগত বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহিদ নীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পিতা-মাতার/পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র কন্যাগণের পিতার পিতা-মাতা/মাতার পিতা-মাতার নীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সম্পর্কিত সমন্বিত তালিকা (www.molwa.gov.bd)।
  - ৬. আবেদনকারী বীর মুক্তিযোষ্কা/শহিদ বীর মুক্তিযোষ্কার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং বীর মুক্তিযোষ্কা/শহিদ বীর মুক্তিযোষ্কাদের পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র কন্যা হলে বীর মুক্তিযোষ্কা এবং আবেদনকারীর সম্পর্ক উল্লেখপূর্বক সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউখিলর অথবা শৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউখিলর কর্তৃক প্রত্যয়নগন্ত;
  - চ, প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র;

(শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রাথীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রাথী প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রায় যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নখরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাথ নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাছনীয়।

ৰ) SMS-এ প্ৰেৱিক User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীকে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও কেন্যুর নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রন্দিন প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

ঞ) শুধুমাত্র Teletalk Pre-paid Mobile নম্বর থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

#### i. User ID জানা থাকলে:

TCB < Space> Help<Space> User< Space> User ID & send to 16222 Example: TCB Help User ABCDEF send to 16222

#### ii. User ID না জানা থাকলে :

TCB < Space> Help<Space> PIN< Space> PIN & send to 16222 Example: TCB Help Pin 12345678 & send to 16222

ট) নিয়োগ বিজয়িটি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও টিসিবি'র ওয়েবসাইটে (<u>www.tcb.gov.bd</u>) পাওয়া যাবে। জথবা QR Code জ্ঞান এর সাধাসে বাংলাদেশের একসার রাষ্ট্রীয় সোবাইল অপারেটর টেনিটকের জবপোর্টান <u>https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd</u> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজয়িটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও জন্যানা তথা (<u>http://tcb.teletalk.com.bd</u>) ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

ঠ) জনসাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নম্বর অথবা যে কোন নম্বর থেকে ০১৫০০১২১১২১ নম্বর অথবা alljobs.guery@teletalk.com.bd বা (tcbsecretary@tcb.gov.bd) ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail এর subject-4 Organization Name: TCB, Post Name :-----, Aplicant's User ID ও Contact Number অবশাই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ত) জনলাইনে আবেদন এবং টাকা জমার কাজটি প্রার্থী নিজে করবে। এক্ষেত্রে জন্য কোন মাধ্যম থেকে উক্ত কাজটি সম্পন্ন করে প্রার্থী প্রবারিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না

- ১৪। অনলাইনে পুরবকৃত বীর মুক্তিযোগ/কুন্ত নৃ-গোষ্ঠী/এতিম ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী/আনসার ও ডিডিপি কোটায় প্রাধীতা দাবি না করলে পরবর্তীতে নতুন করে কোনো কোটার প্রাধীতা দাবি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ১৫। কোন প্রার্থী যদি ফৌজনারি আদালত কর্তৃক নৈতিক স্বলনজনিত অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত হন কিংবা কোন সরকারি বা স্বায়গ্রশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে বা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরী থেকে বরখান্ত হয়ে থাকেন এবং উক্তরূপ বরখান্তের পর দুই বছর অতিক্রান্ত না হয়ে থাকলে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বলে বিবেছিত হবেন না।
- ১৬। আবদনপত্র নাম, জন্ম তারিখ ও অন্য কোনোরূপ Substantive বুটি থাকালে পরবর্তী সময়ে সংশোধনের কোনো সুযোগ থাকবে না। Substantive বুটির কারণে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল হবে।
- ১৭। আবেদনপত্র জন্মাদানের পর সঞ্চাক কারণে প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানার পরিবর্তন হলেও আবেদনে স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় উল্লিখিত জেলার ভিরিতেই প্রার্থীর ফলাফল নির্থারিত হবে।
- ১৮। লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী বিগ্রমইটি'র ওয়েবসাইটে (<u>www.tcb.gov.bd</u>) প্রকাশ করা হবে এবং SMS এর মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে।

#### ১৯। ডিক্লারেশন:

প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী রুষ্ঠুক আবেদনপত্রে প্রদন্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সতা। প্রদন্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিজ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোনো অযোগ্যতা ধরা পরলে বা কোনো প্রতারশা বা দুর্নীতির আপ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পত্রে এমনকি নিয়োগের পত্রে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীতা ব্যতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগড ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

২০, নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার বিষয়, পরীক্ষার নম্বর বন্টন ও সময় সংক্রাস্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য টিসিবি'র ওয়েবসাইট (www.tcb.gov.bd) এ প্রকাশ করা হবে।

> মো, মনজুর আলম প্রধান অতিরিস্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) ফোনাঃ ০২-৮১৮০০৬০

GD-1018

# BUSINESS

# **Tech entrepreneurs should** lead digital banking

Experts say at BASIS seminar

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tech entrepreneurs have expressed strong dissatisfaction and concern over the lack of consultation with them in formulating the digital banking guidelines.

This is because they feel excluded from the decision-making process, which could impact innovation and hinder the growth of digital banking services.

"Who will control digital banking? Will there only be people of traditional mentality? Who will be the owner?" said Russell T Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

He was speaking a seminar titled "Digital bank: prospect and way forward" organised by the BASIS standing committee on fintech and digital payment.

After the event, Ahmed told The Daily Star that digital banking is a disruptive idea and its policy formulation requires knowledge and consultation of the tech industry.

"BASIS was a part of the digital Bangladesh taskforce and smart Bangladesh taskforce. Our members implemented most of the digital projects. So, why are we not part of the policy?" he added.

said that Ahmed then traditionally, only people with huge amounts of money become the owners of a bank, but tech entrepreneurs should be in the leading role of digital banking.

He went on to say that digital banks will ensure more transparency in the financial sector.

"The need for introducing digital banking is immense. As traditional banks so far could deliver the huge demand of microcredit and SME finance, digital banks would play an import role in these areas," he said.

However, it is not possible to set up proper digital banks without tech entrepreneurs, Ahmed added while stating that tech entrepreneurs should get at least 20 per cent of the ownership of digital banks.



AKM Fahim Mashroor, CEO of Bdjobs.com and AjkerDeal, emphasised that involving tech entrepreneurs in the digital banking sector is essential for fostering innovation and ensuring its success.

founders fintech Globally, typically fall within the 30 to 40 age bracket.

"Therefore, if the guidelines mandate extensive banking sector experience as a prerequisite for key roles in digital banks, it will impede innovation within the digital banking industry," he said.

Ahmed then said BASIS has the capacity to contribute to the digital banking policy framework while its members have the capacity to be a part of the digital banking ecosystem.

Some of the BASIS members could acquire licenses to this end while others can be part of the licensing process.

"Banking experience should not be mandatory to become the CEO of a digital bank, Ahmed said.

As technology entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, without experience, have successfully used technology to bring new innovations in the field of mobile financial services, digital banks should also be created under the leadership of technology entrepreneurs.

"Of course, they will work with bankers as per their requirement. In this case, the government should take necessary initiatives to ensure that the new digital bank license is not limited to only large corporate groups," he added.

Shahadat Khan, founder and CEO of TallyKhata and SureCash, said technology companies have priority in getting digital banking licenses across the world.

Digitalbankingisacomprehensive financial solution that encompasses mobile financial services, credit and deposit services. It operates without a cash-in or cash-out limit and includes insurance and investment management features.

Bangladesh Bank yesterday approved a digital banking guideline to promote financial inclusion through various means, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, and so on.

A digital bank is a financial institution that offers banking services such as checking and savings accounts, loans, payments and transfers by primarily operating online through a website or mobile

It does not have physical branches or ATMs, relying on technology, automation and artificial intelligence to streamline their operations and reduce costs, he added.

# StanChart teams up with brands for Eid offers

#### STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Chartered has partnered with leading retail, travel and dining brands so the bank can offer its customers a wide range of special privileges catering to their every need to make the lead-up to Eid-ul-Azha more jovous.

To help customers to make the most of the festive season, Standard Chartered Bangladesh is making cattle purchasing simpler and more affordable with special offers, said a press release. An array of offers on gadgets, home

appliances, furniture, and personal care items will also be available to add even more colour to the festivities.

Customers will be able to plan their Eid getaway with great deals, including reduced prices on resorts, hotels, airlines, and travel agency services. To top it all off, Standard Chartered will continue to power online shopping with even better discounts, as a part of its cashless journey.

The bank's customers will enjoy up to 50 per cent discount on Eid ul-Azha offers. Just like past offers, these deals and discounts will be curated in partnership with exclusive fashion houses and popular brands.

# UNDP, H&M join hands to tackle climate change

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Swedish retail giant H&M has signed a deal with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bangladesh to work together to tackle effect of climate change and help the country achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

"This alliance between UNDP and H&M will play a pivotal role in initiating policy dialogues focused on reducing CO2 emissions, developing climate-responsive power policies, establishing Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), and identifying climate-smart investment opportunities," the UNDP said in a press release.

The collaboration will provide crucial support for promoting the circularity of post-industrial textile waste and implementing measures to conserve, reuse, and recycle water within the industry, it said.

Leyla Erthur, head of sustainability at H&M, and Van Nguyan, deputy resident representative at UNDP Bangladesh, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard on behalf of their respective organisation at the UNDP Dhaka office.

Ziaur Rahman, regional country manager at H&M, was also present among others.

Expressing her excitement about the partnership, Van Nguyan said, "I believe our partnership with H&M will set an example for all relevant actors in the apparel industry of Bangladesh to drive climate action by adopting a whole-of-society engagement approach."



Morshed Alam, chairman of Mercantile Bank, presided over the bank's 24th annual general meeting held virtually yesterday. ASM Feroz Alam and Md Abdul Hannan, vice-chairmen, Akram Hossain (Humayun) and Mosharref Hossain, directors, Md Anwarul Haq, chairman of executive committee, M Amanullah, chairman of risk management committee, Gazi Mohammad Hasan Jamil, chairman of audit committee, Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, managing director, and Mati UI Hasan, additional managing director, attended the meeting. PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

can't be less than the paid-up capital amount. The rule bars loan-defaulting

companies, persons and their family

# Electrical, electronic

#### FROM PAGE B1

Munawar Misbah Moin, managing director of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd, said the shipment of battery has increased as the sector has recovered from the impacts of

# Cut customs barriers

FROM PAGE BI "Going back to our common target and aspiration to induce more investment to Bangladesh from Japan, we need emphasise the need to improve further to lure even more Japanese investors," he said.

A 5th Japan-Bangladesh Public Private Joint Economic Dialogue was held last April, shortly before a meeting between Sheikh Hasina and Kishida Fumio, prime ministers of the two countries, in Tokyo, he said. It was "to summarise the discussion for identifying the issues that we could reach improvement on and those issues which we should continue to find solutions jointly", Kiminori also said. "Taking this opportunity, I would like to commend the efforts of stakeholders from both sides who have actively engaged in the process," he said. Bangladesh should sign an economic partnership agreement (EPA) with Japan before 2026 so that it can enjoy duty-free benefits on making the United Nations status graduation from a least developed to a developing country that year, said the Japanese envoy. Customs rules removing trade barrier need to be included in the EPA through consultations between the two sides, said Yuji Ando, JETRO country representative in Bangladesh. Investing in doing business in the Seven Sisters, the northeastern Indian states, might not be viable as the size of the population is low, said Md Humayun Kabir, former president of the Institute of Chartered

Rather Japanese companies should be drawn to invest in the special economic zone in Araihazar, Narayanganj because of the availability trained workers and better infrastructures and road connectivity, he said.

The exchange rate of the taka with the US dollar reached its current state at a high price, said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling. When other countries devalued their currencies from time to time to adjust with the US dollar, Bangladesh did not do so. As a result, the exchange rate may rise further, he said. The central bank does not have the luxury to sell the US dollar in the market anymore as the country's reserve may fall below \$30 billion, he said. It will be difficult to attract foreign direct investment for some options incorporated in the proposed budget, said Maria Howlader, chief executive officer of the Howlader Maria & Co. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year should have been more business-friendly, she said. Myungho Lee, president of the JBCCI, Muhammad Abdul Mazid, former chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Zahid Hossain, former principal economist of the Asian Development Bank, GM Khurshid Alam, former private sector specialist of the World Bank, Aminur Rahman, former member of the NBR, and Md Anwar Shahid, secretary general of the JBCCI, also spoke. Syed Samiul Huq, a director of the JBCCI, moderated the discussion.

### BB frames rules for setting up raised through initial public offerings

FROM PAGE B1 Applicants will have to pay a nonrefundable application fee of Tk 500,000 for digital banks, sources said.

members from becoming sponsor As per the guideline, an AI-based dispute resolution system will always be active.

shareholders of digital banks. No sponsor shareholder will be able Digital banks will not be allowed to to transfer shares without the prior rovide any service to clients directly approval of the BB within five years of operation. The guideline has kept the number of members from the same family who will be given permission to sit on the board in line with the Bank Company Law. Currently, four members from a family can become directors of a bank. The BB said the chief executive officer of a digital bank must have bank. The amount of capital to be a five-year experience of working in services to people from tomorrow."

more financially inclusive population.

industry, it is crucial to review and

potentially revise the regulation

mandating compulsory tax returns for

He suggested the government

consider enforcing such mandatory

tax returns for new credit card-holders

limit, while anyone below this limit

should be allowed to get a credit card

By introducing flexibility to this

requirement, more individuals can

access the benefits of credit cards,

industry growth. However, the recent

budget missed opportunities for digital

fostering greater adoption and

by submitting the TIN certificate.

eligible for Tk 500,000 or higher credit

issuing credit cards."

"In order to benefit the payments

technology-based banking, and must have a banking career spanning at least 15 years.

In Bangladesh, a number of companies have expressed their willingness to launch digital banks to serve a significant number of clients who are already accustomed to some form of digital financial services thanks

to the fast-expanding mobile financial

managing director of Nagad, said,

products and services to establish a

bank today, it will begin to provide

Nagad is well-equipped with necessary

"If Nagad gets a licence for a digital

Tanvir A Mishuk, founder and

services. One of them is Nagad.

digital bank.

Covid-19.

Bangladesh mainly exports batteries to East Asian, African and South Asian countries.

Moin said his company can supply eco-friendly and quality batteries at competitive prices. "So, the demand for our batteries is rising."

Rahimafrooz's batteries are used in cars, so the orders for the products have gone up following the massive improvement in the pandemic scenario.

The government's 15 per cent cash incentive for the battery sector is helping local manufacturers explore business opportunities in the global markets.

The battery segment is not without setbacks.

For example, manufacturers are unable to ensure a timely supply of products as they can't open letters of credit on time due to a lack of US dollars to import raw materials needed to make batteries.

### Advanced income

FROM PAGE B1

"We have already advanced in the agricultural sector and will advance in the two other fields as well," said Mannan, calling for increasing Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). investments in rural areas.

Selim Raihan, a professor at economics department in the the University of Dhaka, said the government should focus on FROM PAGE B4 ensuring macro-economic stability and reforms.

"For proper management and earning more revenue, infrastructure development should be ensured. At this challenging period, we should not go for ambitious growth."

He urged the government to tackle inflation and manage the domestic market prudently.

Ranjan Kumar Bhowmik, a former member of the NBR, Md Musfiqur Rahman, a professor of the accounting and information systems department at the University of Dhaka, and Md Mashiur Rahaman. a joint commissioner of the revenue board, presented papers at the event.

Md Abdur Rahman Khan, president of the ICMAB, and Arif of democracy, inspiring innovation

## The story of the dollar

Widely debated, the subprime mortgage scheme was another setback for the US dollar. The scheme originally aimed at increasing homeownership for low-credit holders. Bankers, mortgage brokers, property assessors and borrowers alike misused the scheme leading to a financial crisis in 2007.

A former US executive director at the IMF, Meg Lundsager, summarised the paradoxical position of the US dollar in the following words: "When there is a big international role for your currency, you lose control over it."

From a global perspective, the lack of a gold standard was largely compensated by America by safeguarding the free movement of capital, upholding the liberal values Khan, a former president, also spoke. and protecting the patent rights of

products. They ushered globalisation by freeing their borders for technology and resource sharing.

However, American leadership became overconfident and bullish. The nation is unique given that it can both borrow and pay back in its own currency. This advantage was widely misused by the financing of overseas wars and continuous deficit budgeting.

On the flip side, the potential new world order set by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) is yet to be open up to embrace norms and processes set by Americans. Thus, it is a passing story of the world reserve currency. Time will tell the rest.

The author is an independent director and chairman of the audit committee of Bank Asia Limited. He can be reached at dhc707@gmail.com

through physical counters and can't issue any physical instruments.

Likewise, digital banks would not be permitted to give out loans to carry out foreign trade and term loans to medium and large industries.

The guideline says a digital bank must go public within five years after getting the licence from the central

## Tax return for credit card

#### FROM PAGE B1

introduction of a 5 per cent incentive on digital payments, of which, users would receive a 3 per cent incentive for conducting digital transactions, while merchants would benefit from the remaining 2 per cent for accepting digital payments.

"This crucial initiative was not implemented in FY2023-24. We believe the government will look into this to fast-track digital payments in Bangladesh," said Kamal.

Recognising the importance of digital payments for convenience and financial inclusion, it is highly likely that the government will soon take the necessary steps to seize the opportunity to unlock the full potential of "Smart Bangladesh".

He said there is a requirement of mandatory tax return submission

## Foreign investors worried

FROM PAGE B1

Limiting cash transactions for corporates and organisations will put a cap on development as the population of the country is yet to wholly adopt cashless transactions, it said.

Instead of setting a definite number, the government should allow companies themselves to decide on the percentage of transactions they will achieve in the cashless mode and set a target to achieve the 100 per cent cashless goal in the next five years, said the FICCI.

The FICCI also raised concerns over a proposal to increase land transfer tax, saying this would prompt people to refrain from disclosing actual property prices in formal documents. Instead, they will use officially fixed land prices, it said.

'This will incentivise tax evasion," said Naser, adding that foreign investors who want to do business by

for 39 services, including getting a transformation in this particular credit card by a new customer. This is payment method, he said. creating a huge roadblock to ensure a Kamal recommends implementing

reduced tax rates for two particular areas with a view to supporting the growth of the cashless payments industry. First, a reduced tax rate for the import of plastic cards, a majority of which is still imported and has a tax rate of 76 per cent. The high tax rate on procurement increases costs and hinders the industry's ability to provide cost-effective cashless payment solutions

Second, a substantial reduction in the tax for point of sale (PoS) machines may be considered, he said. Presently, the tax rate is 37 per cent leading to a high cost of PoS machines. This discourages the wider adoption among the merchants and makes it difficult for banks to invest in PoS procurement.

complying with the rules would also and Regulatory Affairs Committee, face difficulties because of the spike in the land transfer tax rate.

"Which is why instead of increasing the transaction cost, property tax should be brought down substantially and mouza value must be periodically updated to reflect the market price," he said

Sazzad Rahim Chowdhury, coordinator of the FICCI's Tariff, Taxation and Regulatory Affairs Committee, said provident funds have been taxed under the proposed law. It will reduce benefits for employees, he added.

Citing the plan to impose tax on the interest of foreign loans, Sazzad, chief financial officer of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, said it would not be favourable for businesses and the economy

Debabrata Roy Chowdhury, a member the FICCI's Tariff, Taxation also spoke at the event.

said a retrospective effect has been allowed to changes made in the income tax law during the passage of the next fiscal year's budget.

"This affects businesses planning. We request the authority to give progressive effect to the new law," he said

Citing the hike in minimum tax on carbonated beverage makers, Snehasish Barua, consultant of the FICCI's Tariff. Taxation and Regulatory Affairs Committee, said carbonated beverage makers would see a 830 per cent increase in tax.

They will need to make 17 per cent profit to bear tax, he said, adding that this would be tough.

Deepal Abeywickrema, managing director of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd and chairman of the FICCI's Tariff, Taxation and Regulatory Affairs Committee,



# **BUSINESS**

# Duty hike to destabilise elevator, escalator market

Importers say on the proposal to raise import duty

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Elevator Escalators and Lift Importers Association (BEELIA) yesterday demanded the withdrawal of the proposed duty on imports of elevators and escalators in the national budget for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24.

Currently, operators in the domestic elevator and escalator industry face 15.75 per cent duty on imports of such products.

However, a proposal to increase the charge to 25.75 per cent has been included in the draft budget for next fiscal year to promote local manufacturing.

If the government executes the new duty, elevator and escalator prices could rise by as much as 20 per cent at the consumer level, the association said.

With this backdrop, BEELIA urged for lowering the duty to 11 per cent, as was the case in FY 2021-22.

The association also demanded including lifts and escalators in the category of essential machineries rather than commercial products.

BEELIA made these demands at a press briefing, held at the BUET Graduates Club in Banani yesterday.

The lift and escalator industry has been suffering losses for years now due to the Covid-19 pandemic and following global crises, such as persisting inflation and currency devaluation the world over.

"Increasing the duty amid higher US dollar prices will force the industry into a corner," said Emdadur Rahman, president of BEELIA.

"So, such a change will not only hurt the industry, but also victimise existing building owners," he added.

And while it is a good thing that the government intends to protect the domestic industry, such initiatives will only heap pressure onto consumers.

"If the government facilitates development for domestic industries at the cost of imposing an additional burden on import-oriented ones, then it will destabilise the market," Rahman said.

"It will also create an unequal competition that victimises consumers," he added

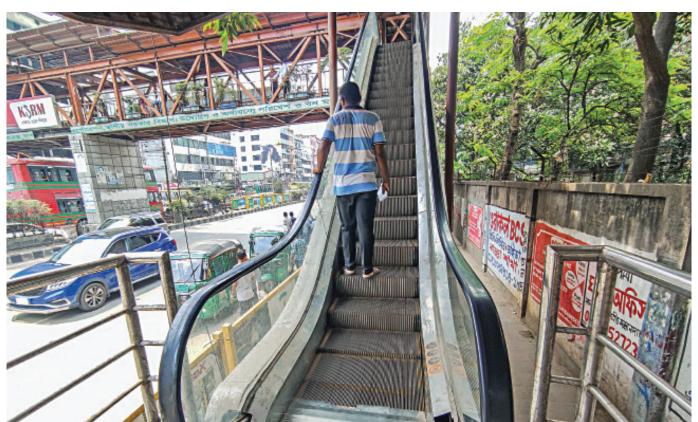


PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A man is seen riding an escalator to the top of a walkover bridge in Banani, Dhaka yesterday. Elevator and escalator prices may be significantly higher next fiscal year as the government plans to increase the import duty on such products to 25.75 per cent.

At present, Bangladesh needs around fiscal year, when lift and escalator 4,000 units of lifts and escalators worth a total of between Tk 2,500 crore and Tk 4,000 crore each year. Of these units, more than 90 per cent come from abroad through roughly 500 local importers, BEELIA data shows.

Rahman went on to say that the government considers people like him as commercial importers when in actuality, they work for the service sector.

"Our work does not end with simply importing the machines as we also take the responsibility of maintenance. As such, the industry has created a huge number of employment opportunities," he said.

Md Shafiul Alam Uzzwal, general secretary of BEELIA, said the import duty was increased 5 per cent for the outgoing

companies faced huge losses amid the Covid-19 fallout.

Besides, the fact that there is no specific policy on the exchange rate for US dollars or euros means that importers are having to open letters of credit at unrestricted prices and 100 per cent margins.

As such, the extra duty in the proposed budget will only deepen the crisis, he added.

Uzzwal then said commercial importers like him pay value-added tax (VAT) on sales while domestic manufactures have been given VAT exemption till 2025.

So, if the government adds 10 per cent duty on imports, then the price of imported lifts and escalators will be some 37 per cent higher than that of locally

manufactured units.

Thisisbecausedomestic manufacturers only pay 1 per cent duty for importing the required parts and machinery while also getting benefits on freight rates.

Therefore, considering their import duty and VAT facilities, domestic manufacturers can sell products at 25 per cent lower prices.

Aktar Jamil Bhuiyan, a vice president of BEELIA, said the government should form a regulatory body in accordance with international standards as local products could lack quality in absence of proper monitoring.

Bangladesh mostly imports lifts and escalators from India, China, Turkey, Spain, Italy and Switzerland, with about 15 lakh workers employed by the sector.

# The story of the dollar

#### DH CHOUDHURY

The fascinating story of the dollar has taken a new turn that is widely known as de-dollarisation. Countries are cutting their reliance on the US dollar as the reserve currency, the primary medium of exchange and the unit of account. Therefore, de-dollarisation represents a changing preference.

Instabilities of the US dollar occurred several times in the past, influenced by financial and geopolitical forces that were beyond America's control.

The end of World War II prompted the need for a currency of reserve and international trade. Thus, in July 1944, some 44 countries with over 700 delegates assembled at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire of the US and

chose the US dollar for this role. The resolution is referred to as "The Bretton Woods Agreement". Through the agreement, the underlying value of the dollar was to be backed by gold with an ounce of gold valued at \$35.

With time, nations grew uncomfortable with the dollar's dominance and began redeeming gold for the

dollar. At one stage, France sent a warship to carry back all gold bullion by redemption of the country's entire dollar reserve. In response to this untenable position, President Nixon in 1971, put a temporary embargo on the conversion of the dollar to gold. Overnight the dollar became a fiat currency, which is something that has no tangible asset backing i.e., bullion or commodity. This was the first event of undermining the mighty US dollar.

In 1962, the USSR (now Russia) stealthily installed nuclear-capable missiles in Cuban coastlines, aiming at the US. Anticipating a retaliation, the USSR overnight transferred all of its dollar deposits to European banks. The decision gave rise to the so-called "Eurodollar", a dollar deposit in banks outside of the US. This event further weakened the US jurisdictional control over the dollar.

With a sudden surge in oil prices in the 1970s, OPEC countries had a windfall revenue, coined as the "Petrodollar". The dollar stream ended as deposits in international banks and was recycled to Latin American countries as sovereign loans. Soon the countries defaulted, triggering write-offs.

READ MORE ON B3



# "For the Planet, For the Future"

"For the Planet, For the Future"- A School-based Tree Plantation and Climate Change Workshops was held on the eve of World Environment Day 2023 by Multifabs Umited. Under this initiative, Multifabs planted trees in Rashimmur High School and Fulki Child Care The Multifulas team and management members joined hands with teachers in primary schools to teach children to love. nature and plant trees around them. Md. Abdul Guddus, Executive Director, Multifabs Limited, spearheaded the opening of the program. After the plantation program, Rifst a student of Class-7 of Kashimour High School said. "Today I learned that trees are our friends, and they get hurt when we pick their leaves and cut them down. We promised to never let anyone hurt our friend trees again". The main objective of this tree planting program of Multifabs Limited is to encourage students who are our future generation to plant and nurture trees with the aim



Farmers get into a pool of water to wash the dirt off the roots of freshly plucked stem amaranth in Shannyash Gachha village at Jashore's Keshobpur upazila. Each kilogramme sells for around Tk 15. Some 86,479 tonnes were produced around the country on 27,397 acres of land in fiscal year 2020-21, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Mushroom production trebles in 12 years

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mushroom production in the country has increased almost three times in the last 12 years thanks to technological innovation and reductions in production costs, according to the agriculture ministry documents.

The country produced 14,500 tonnes of mushrooms in fiscal year 2010-11 which rose to 41,000 tonnes in fiscal vear 2021-22, which is worth about Tk 800 crore, it said.

Recently, the country's scientists have developed low-cost machinery and simple technology suitable for mushroom cultivation, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said at a workshop.

"But these devices and technologies are yet to become familiar to the public. So, we have to utilise those innovations to get the maximum benefit," he said.

The workshop, styled "Improve Nutrition and Reduce Poverty through Mushroom Cultivation", was organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) at the Bangladesh Research Agricultural Council auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

"Mushroom is a promising crop which is very nutritious with about 22 per cent protein whereas rice contains 8 per cent protein and wheat has about 12 per cent protein," said Razzaque.

"If the different ways in which mushroom can be consumed can be widely publicised among people, the number of consumers will increase and its market will also expand," he said.

"If we can do so, it can play a big role in Bangladesh's economy," the minister said, adding that there was an opportunity to export mushrooms from Bangladesh to many countries.

Akter Jahan Kakon, director of a project on improving nutrition and reducing poverty through mushroom cultivation, informed that the DAE undertook the Tk 96 crore project to expand mushroom cultivation and popularise it as a food between 2023 and 2027.

Nipu Tripura, a mushroom farmer of Khagrachhari district, said she sold mushrooms and "substrates" worth Tk 24 lakh in 2022 to earn a profit of about Tk 9 lakh.

### Mercantile Bank okays 12% dividends

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank shareholders approved 10 per cent cash and 2 per cent bonus dividends for 2022.

The bank has also reported consolidated earnings per share of Tk 2.17 and net operating cash flow per share of Tk 4.73.

The information was revealed at the bank's 24th annual general meeting (AGM) held virtually yesterday, said a press release.

Morshed Alam. chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, which was also attended by ASM Feroz Alam and Md Abdul Hannan, vicechairmen, Md Quamrul Chowdhury, Islam managing director and CEO, and directors and other senior officials.

of increasing the greenery of Bangladesh. Multifabs Limited Honorable Managing Director announced that those who will plant trees at home during the Eld-Ul-Adha holiday, Multifabs Limited will pay the price of the trees.



#### FOR THE PLANET FOR THE FUTURE

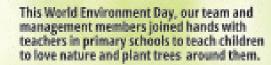
School-based Tree Plantation and **Climate Change Workshops by** Multifabs Limited

Today I learned that trees are our friends,

anyone hurt our friend trees again

and they get hurt when we pick their leaves

and cut them down. We promised to never let





MULTINARS UNITED

Md. Abdul Quddus, Executive Director, Multifabs limited, spearheaded the opening of the program in two schools on the occasion of World Environment Day.



MULTIFADS LIMITED

(T) MULTIFARS LIMITED