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US cotton GSP scheme could be win-win

Economist says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladesh's garment exports to the US can increase anywhere from \$400 million to \$800 million annually if the American government offers a "cotton GSP scheme", according to a study.
Adopted by the US in 1974, the generalised system of preferences (GSP) programme sought to promote economic development in beneficiary countries eliminating duties on select products of theirs.
Taking cue from this programme, the study proposed that the US waive duty on Bangladeshi apparel made from American cotton under the "cotton GSP scheme".
This will simultaneously enable the US to export cotton worth \$3 billion to Bangladesh in the next five to six years, said Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, research director of the Policy

Bangladesh has been urging the US to provide a 15.62 percent duty waiver on apparel made with American cotton

Research Institute of Bangladesh, yesterday.
He was presenting this study of his through a keynote paper at a seminar on trade and investment between Bangladesh and the US organised by Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) on its premises in Dhaka.
The GSP programme expired in December 2020 and the US congress is yet to take up a new scheme.
In recent years, the Bangladesh government and garment manufacturers have been urging the US to provide a 15.62 percent duty waiver on apparel made with American cotton.
The scheme is a "low-hanging fruit", an easy win-win for both countries, said Razzaque, also chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development.
Bangladesh also needs to ensure its "fibre security" as it currently produces less than two percent of its requirement for nine million bales of cotton, meaning that almost all of it is imported, he said.

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MAJOR FINDINGS

Despite being introduced 11 years ago, e-tendering covers only 20-35% of govt procurement

Majority of e-procurement contracts (99%) fall within Tk 1cr to Tk 25cr value range

Ten ministries and divisions account for 92% of the total number of works and nearly 97% of e-contract value

Top 5% of contractors control nearly 30% of e-contracts

The total value of single-bid contracts amounted to Tk 60,000cr in 2012-2023

There are 92 procuring entities where a significant 75% of tenders result in single bids



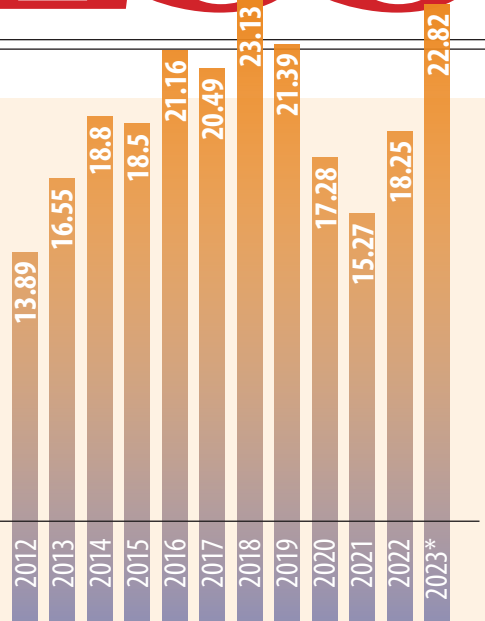
The tender process is being monopolised by collusion among government departments, politically influential groups and contractors.

Iftekhazzaman
TIB Executive Director

SINGLE BIDDING THRU E-GP

In % of total bidding; *Up to February

SOURCE: TIB



STUDY ON ELECTRONIC GOVT PROCUREMENT

Tk 60,000cr contracts awarded in 11 years based on single bids

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The electronic procurement, rolled out more than a decade ago to ensure competition and cut the scope of irregularities, still suffers from a lack of competition as public agencies awarded contracts worth Tk 60,069 crore based on single bids, a new study found.

A single bidding scenario occurs when a contract is given out through a tender process with the participation of only one bidder in a competitive market.

One out of five contracts is awarded through a single bid via e-GP and contracts involving Tk 60,069 crore were given out in such a manner, which represents 15 percent of the total e-contract values, according to the study by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

For example, there are 92 procuring entities where 75 percent of tenders resulted in a single bidding and 416 contractors had a single-bidding ratio of at least 75 percent in the last 11 years.

"It often raises concerns about potential corruption in public procurement as corrupt practices are more likely to emerge and sustain when there is only one

company participating in the bidding process," said TIB.

The TIB yesterday unveiled the findings of the study styled "Government e-procurement in Bangladesh: Monitoring the trend of competitive practices" at its office in Dhaka.

"Such a limited competition can hinder transparency and fairness in procurement, underscoring the importance

of fostering a competitive environment to mitigate corruption risks." The top 5 percent of contractors control nearly 30 percent of e-contracts and their dominance is on the rise, the study said.

"The tender process is being monopolised due to a collusion among government departments, politically influential groups and

competition has not been achieved. "In the government procurement system, capturing markets has become institutionalised." He added the TIB has exposed many procurement entities and government offices by presenting data and the Anti-Corruption Commission can work on it.

The study, which used the

data from January 2012 to February 2023 on 64 ministries and divisions, was carried out by Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, coordinator for outreach and communication at the TIB, and Rifat Rahman and KM Rafiqul Alam, both researchers.

Since 2012, around 20 to 35 percent of government procurement has been covered through e-tendering. However, nearly all high-value contracts have not been covered by it, said Tauhidul, while presenting the findings.

The value of almost 99 percent of e-procurement contracts is less than Tk 25 crore.

E-procurement has seen an overall increase in the average number of bids, but the open tendering method (OTM) receives only 3.54 bids per tender, while the limited tendering method (LTM) attracts 47.75 bids, said the TIB.

"The 10 percent price cap in the OTM promotes LTM, which requires no prior experience and distorts potential for market competition."

District wise, Feni and Noakhali accounted for half of all contracts awarded through the single bid process, while it

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Govt's electronic fund transfers to save Tk 60,000cr in five years

States finance ministry-WB publication

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Implementation of an integrated budget and account system (iBAS++) will save Bangladesh an estimated Tk 59,804 crore (\$5.4 billion) in the next five years.

The iBAS++ will enable the savings doing away with wastage and corruption involving processes to avail government services.

The iBAS++ integrated various public financial management by introducing electronic fund transfers for pay fixation, salaries, pensions and social benefits as well as an automated challan system for real-time revenue deposits.

The finance ministry implemented several of such public financial management (PFM) reform programmes with donor support.

It is presently executing a comprehensive initiative called "Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery" with financial backing from World Bank.

This information was in a handout prepared by the finance ministry and World Bank and shared at a PFM Summit '23 in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

The government is providing social safety net allowances and stipends to 3 crore beneficiaries through the automated system

Under the reforms, 8.40 lakh pensioners receive payments promptly through iBAS++, saving on bank service charges of Tk 400 crore to Tk 500 crore annually, travel costs, and non-authentic expenses, read the document.

The government is providing social safety net allowances and stipends to 3 crore beneficiaries through the automated system, it said.

Through automation of transactions of national savings schemes, the government is going to save Tk 25,000 crore by the enforcement of purchase ceilings and rationalisation of interest rates, it added.

Some 39.31 lakh national savings scheme beneficiaries are getting income automatically, said the handout.

The reforms encompass 3.71 crore beneficiaries, READ MORE ON B3

STOCKS	
DSEX ▲	CASPI ▼
0.02%	0.08%
6,282.77	18,580.27

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▼	Oil ▲
\$1,922.08	\$90.38
(per ounce)	(per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 0.02%	▲ 0.85%	▲ 0.33%	▼ 1.54%
66,025.16	32,678.62	3,215.40	3,115.61



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

A view of Chattogram port which accounts for more than 90 percent of Bangladesh's total seaborne export and import. A senior official of a leading commodity importer said that the latest BB decision on forward contract would create panic in the foreign exchange market.

BB fixes forward forex rate for first time

It will be Tk 123.91 per dollar; move creates mixed reactions

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

For the first time, the Bangladesh Bank has decided to determine the rate of foreign exchange, namely the US dollar, to be delivered in future, widely known as forward contract -- a move that has created mixed reactions among businesses.

The forward exchange rate is the rate at which a bank agrees to exchange one currency for another at a future date when it enters into a forward contract with an investor.

The development comes amidst the backdrop of the forex crisis, with banks charging different rates to firms for forward purchase of dollars.

The central bank on Sunday issued a notice, saying the forward premium would not exceed SMART plus 5 percent per annum, with declared spot rates for forward dealings with customers.

The six-month moving average rate of the treasury bill (SMART) is a new system of the central bank, which is applicable for fixing the lending rate. In September, the SMART stood at 7.14 percent.

The USD is currently trading at Tk 110.50.

As a result, if customers collect US dollars through forward purchases, they will have to pay Tk 123.91 per dollar in future.

Before fixing the rate, banks were imposing different rates for forward selling of US dollars, causing volatility in the foreign exchange market, a senior official of the central bank said.

A private banker said the additional cost of foreign currencies was a sort of insurance premium. A buyer who buys a dollar at the forward rate now will get the currency at this specified rate in future, regardless of the exchange rate that will prevail at that time.

However, a senior official of a commodity importer and processor says this may create panic in the foreign exchange market.

He said that the central bank was indirectly raising the US dollar rate.

"We were collecting the US dollars through forward purchase at different rates. Sometimes, we manage the American greenback at a lower rate depending on the relationship."

The forward trading of US dollars in Bangladesh is not new.

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Bank Asia holds Agent Business Meet-2023

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia Limited organised a daylong "Agent Business Meet 2023" at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Cumilla on Saturday.

Rume A Hossain, chairman of the board executive committee of the bank, attended the programme as chief guest and Prof MA Baqui Khaliy, chairman of board risk management committee, was present as special guest, said a press release.

Ziaul Hasan, deputy managing director, CAMLCO and head of channel banking of the bank, presided over the programme where agents from Cumilla, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur districts and field level officers and divisional heads of the bank were present.

A total of 26 agents and seven field officers were awarded for their performance.

Later, a financial campaign styled "Bank Asia-iBanking, Biswastota Seemahin" was launched.



PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Rume A Hossain, chairman of the board executive committee of Bank Asia, and Prof MA Baqui Khaliy, chairman of board risk management committee, pose for photographs with participants of the "Agent Business Meet-2023" at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Cumilla on Saturday.

NCC Bank distributes agri materials to Cumilla farmers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank has distributed agricultural materials, including seeds, fertiliser and pesticides, free of cost among 1,155 marginal farmers of Nangalkot, Cumilla sadar and Gouripur of Cumilla district on Saturday.

Md Shamsuddin Kalu, chairman of Nangalkot upazila, attended the ceremony as chief guest, said a press release.

Md Monirul Alam, senior executive vice-president of the bank, presided over the ceremony, where Md Rayhan Meheub, upazila nirbahi officer of Nangalkot, and Md Nazrul Islam, upazila agriculture officer of Nangalkot, were present.



Md Arifuzzaman, director of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, poses for photographs with the participants of a workshop on "Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism" at Alliance Finance's head office in Gulshan on Saturday.

PHOTO: ALLIANCE FINANCE

Alliance Finance organises workshop

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Alliance Finance PLC, in collaboration with Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), organised a daylong workshop on "Anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism".

Md Arifuzzaman, director of the BFIU, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest at the non-bank financial institution's head office in Gulshan on Saturday, said a press release.

This is a risk awareness building session for the enhancement of the employees' knowledge against the latest money laundering/terrorism financing risks faced by the business and their role in mitigating the risks.

Sajjad Hossain, additional director of the BFIU, and Md Anwarul Haque, joint director, conducted the sessions, where Kanti Kumar Saha, chief executive officer of Alliance Finance, and other senior officials were present.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (SEP 25, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 72	0	-3.65 ↓
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 50	0	0
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 42-Tk 45	-11.22 ↓	-17.14 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	10.26 ↑	13.16 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 155-Tk 160	0	-8.07 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 42-Tk 45	11.14 ↑	64.15 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 80	-9.09 ↓	80.72 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 48-Tk 50	-4.85 ↓	1.03 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

MONITOR AIRLINE OF THE YEAR

Emirates wins 9 awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates has been named the "Airline of the Year 2023" in Bangladesh in the "ShareTrip Monitor Airline of the Year 2023" award ceremony in recognition of its award-winning products and services.

The Dubai-based airline won a total of five gold, two silver and two bronze awards in various categories, said a press release.

Jaber Mohamed, area manager of Emirates for Bangladesh, and other officials of the airline received the awards from M Mahubb Ali, state minister for civil aviation and tourism, at the award ceremony at InterContinental Dhaka recently.

The airline has won the "Airline of the Year" award four times in a row and eight times during the 10 editions of the Monitor Airline of the Year award since 2007.

Emirates also won gold awards for "Best Business Class", "Best In-flight Entertainment", "Best Long-haul Airline" and "Best Loyalty Programme".

The airline received silver awards for "Best Economy Class" and "Best Meal in Business Class", while bronze



Jaber Mohamed, area manager for Bangladesh at Emirates, and other officials of the airline pose for photographs with gold awards won in various service categories in the "ShareTrip Monitor Airline of the Year 2023" award ceremony at InterContinental Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EMIRATES

awards were presented for "Best Inflight Meal in Economy Class" and "Cargo Airline of the Year 2023".

The Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and tourism publication of the country, organised the "Monitor Airline of the Year" awards and awarded the airlines working in Bangladesh and related organisations of the aviation and tourism sectors based on the

opinions of frequent flyers.

The opinion poll is verified, compiled and analysed by a third party as per criteria set by the organisers, and results are reviewed by a panel of judges to select the winners.

Among others, Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, was present.

German business morale weak in Sept

AFP, Frankfurt

German business sentiment fell less than expected in September but it was the fifth consecutive decline, a key survey showed Monday, as Europe's biggest economy struggles to recover from a recession.

The Ifo institute's closely watched confidence barometer, based on a survey of 9,000 companies, ticked down to 85.7 points from 85.8 the previous month.

Analysts surveyed by financial data company FactSet had expected a sharper fall, at 85 points.

"Sentiment in the German economy remains bleak," said Ifo president Clemens Fuest. "The German economy is trading water."

The survey found that companies were slightly less pessimistic than in August about the outlook for the months ahead, but more downbeat about their current business situation.

US cotton GSP scheme could be win-win

FROM PAGE B1

The US is gradually becoming a good source of the fibre, he said.

Only the sky is the limit for attracting investment from the US to different sectors in Bangladesh, but improvements must first be brought about in border and customs clearance, said Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh.

The US cotton met 11.5 percent of the country's demand, pointed out Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Bangladesh's garment manufacturers account for 9.7 percent of annual apparel imports by the US, so there is a lot of scope for further market exploration, including in the non-cotton category, he said.

He hoped for the reinstatement of Bangladesh as a GSP beneficiary, reasoning that a prerequisite 16-point Bangladesh Action Plan has been implemented.

Australia and the UK have already confirmed continuation of duty waivers even after Bangladesh makes the United Nations status graduation from a least developed country to a developing one in 2026, he said.

The Biden administration should follow the declaration of the sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong in 2005, said Mohammad Ali Khokon, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

Developed countries had agreed to waive duties on all products but the US is doing so for 97 percent of its imports, that

too excluding garments, he said.

Demand for cotton fabric will not fall even though non-cotton fabrics are increasingly being sought after, he said.

There is a scope for a duty reduction on Bangladeshi garments, said John Fay, commercial counsellor at the US embassy in Bangladesh, without elaborating.

There is a big potential for investments from the US in Bangladesh's healthcare, ICT and education sectors, he said.

However, there are some challenges, including over profit repatriation, intellectual property rights, data protection act and logistics services, he said.

He suggested Bangladesh make improvements in labour rights and laws and freedom of association for the GSP reinstatement.

Bangladesh has been suspended from the GSP programme since June 2013 in spite of a lot of reforms brought about for workplace safety, said Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, vice-president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Bangladesh is not been getting much work orders shifting from China, said Shams Mahmud, managing director of Shasha Denims Ltd.

Most of those orders are going to Cambodia, Vietnam and African countries, mainly for the utilisation of zero-duty benefits under an African Growth and Opportunity Act, he said.

The seminar was chaired by ERF President Mohammad Rofiq Ullah Mirdha and moderated by ERF General Secretary Abul Kashem.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়
শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি
গান্ধাইল, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ
E-mail: ihtsirajgani@ac.dghs.gov.bd
তারিখঃ ২৪/০৯/২০২৩ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে ১৫ (পনের) জন জনবল সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে The Public Procurement Act 2006 ও বিধিমালা ২০০৮, আইন ও বিধিমালা ২০১৯ সংশোধিত অনুসারে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলগালা নামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।			
০২	এজেন্সী	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।			
০৩	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম	শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, গান্ধাইল, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।			
০৪	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলা	সিরাজগঞ্জ।			
০৫	দরপত্রের নাম	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র।			
০৬	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে।			
০৭	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।			
০৮	কাজের বিবরণ	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে অনিয়মিত সিকিউরিটি গার্ড ও ক্লিনার এবং কুক-মশালিচি নিয়োগের দরপত্র।			
০৯	বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের জিওবি/উন্নয়ন বরাদ্দ খাত। (চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্য জনশক্তি উন্নয়ন-এর আওতায়)।			
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রার্থীর স্থান, সময়, তারিখ	অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, গান্ধাইল, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর হিসাব শাখা হইতে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর থেকে ১২/১০/২০২৩ইং তারিখ ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ট্রেজারী চালানের ছায়াপিপিসহ নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। দরপত্র জমাচারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সত্মাধিকারী সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন তবে মনোনীত প্রতিিনিধি প্রেরণ করিলে তাহার নমুনা স্বাক্ষর সত্মাধিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সত্মাধিকারী কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত/স্বাক্ষরিত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।			
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ, সময়	দরপত্র আশাম্মী ১৬/১০/২০২৩ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ-এর প্রশাসনিক শাখায় রক্ষিত ব্যাগে দাখিল করা যাবে।			
১২	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ের কার্যালয়ে ১৬/১০/২০২৩ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র প্রস্তাব উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্রদাতা প্রতিিনিধিগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।			
১৩	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	১। বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত/রেজিস্টার্ড/বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। ২। হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২০২২-২০২৩) এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। ৩। হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদের (২০২২-২০২৩) সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। ৪। হালনাগাদ মূল্য সংযোজন কর সনদ (ব্যবসার প্রকৃত Supplier (Trader) পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। ৫। আর্থিক সচ্ছলতার স্বপক্ষে জুলাই/২০২২ হতে জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র (ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট)। ৬। পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ৩ কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি। ৭। নিজস্ব/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে একই পাতায় ৩টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর। ৮। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। ৯। সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ নিম্নে উল্লেখিত অর্থের (অফেরতযোগ্য) চালান জমা দিতে হবে। ১০। জনবল সরবরাহের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র।			
১৪	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ও চালান জমার কোড	প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, গান্ধাইল, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ-এর অনুসূচী সোনালী ব্যাংক, কাজিপুর শাখা, উল্লেখিত হারে টাকা ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাপূর্বক নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে চালানের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপিসহ এক দপ্তরে হিসাব শাখা হতে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬			
১৫	দরপত্র মূল্য ও জামানতের পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের সাথে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি, কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ-এর অনুসূচী নিম্নে উল্লেখিত হারে (ফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।			
	প্যাকেজ নং	দরপত্রের নাম	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত (আর্নেস্টমানি)	কার্য সম্পাদন জামানত
	০১	Supply of outsourcing manpower	১,০০০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	চুক্তি মূল্যের উপর ১০% হারে কার্য সম্পাদন জামানত প্রদেয় হবে।
১৬	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	নিরামিত বিল পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে চুক্তি বাতিল ও উক্ত বেতনের অর্থ নিরাপত্তা জামানত হতে প্রদান করা হবে। দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউল তফসিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করা হয়েছে। পিপিআর ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ মোতাবেক দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন করা হবে। সময়ে সময়ে জারিকৃত এডনসক্রিপ্ট সরকারি নির্দেশনা অবশ্যই যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবে। নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার সকল ক্ষেত্রে আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ার সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা, ২০১৮ অনুসৃত হবে।			
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১। ক্রটিপূর্ণ, অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ২। দরপত্র কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচ্য হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা মূল্যায়ন কমিটি সংরক্ষিত করে। ৩। সফল দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। ৪। দরপত্রের সাথে দেয় শর্তাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করতে হবে, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ৫। আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে সরবরাহকৃত জনবলের বয়স ১৬-৬০ বছর হতে হবে। সরবরাহকৃত জনবলের অবশ্যই সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হতে হবে।			

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশে উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। ইহা ছাড়া বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের সহিত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

ডাঃ জুবায়দা মেহের নাম
অধ্যক্ষ
শহীদ এম মনসুর আলী ইন্সটিটিউট অব হেলথ টেকনোলজি
কাজিপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

জিডি-১৪৮০

Saif Powertec signs MoU with Kolkata port

Will facilitate movement of cargo to north-eastern Indian states

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Saif Powertec Limited, a local provider of logistics and container supply chain management services, has agreed to facilitate the transport of goods from mainland India to remote north-eastern states of the neighbouring nation.

Saif Powertec yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this end with Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, a statutory body of the Indian government responsible for operating Kolkata port.

The move comes in a bid to reduce the time and cost of transporting cargo from mainland India to north-eastern states of the country by cutting through Bangladesh mainly using Chattogram port.

In addition, the MoU aims to promote bilateral trade by providing a one-stop solution using multimodal transport via land, sea and river routes, according to a press release.

Taralder Md Ruhul Amin,

managing director of Saif Powertec, said they would deploy two ships in February next year to transport cargo from Kolkata to seaports in Bangladesh.

"We will then transport the cargo under our supervision to the north-eastern part of India," Amin added after signing the contract in Kolkata.

India is eager to begin regular cargo transits using seaports in Bangladesh as the land route between Kolkata and key cities in northeast states is more than 1,200 kilometres.

As such, using the Chattogram and Mongla ports for transiting goods will cut the distance to a great extent while also reducing costs, Amin said.

Bangladesh and India had previously signed an "Agreement on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for Movement of Goods to and from India" in 2018.

Meanwhile, a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for implementing

the agreement was later signed on October 5 the following year.

As per the SoP, goods that reach Chattogram and Mongla would be carried by four road, rail, and water routes to the Indian land ports in Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam.

So far, five trial runs for transiting Indian goods between Kolkata, Assam and Meghalaya using the Chattogram and Mongla seaports have been completed.

In April this year, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a standing order regarding the transshipment of Indian goods under the agreement.

Amin said Saif Powertec plans to set up an office in Kolkata to facilitate the transit of cargo from the supplier's door to consignee's end through ports of Kolkata, Chattogram and Mongla.

"This will save time and cost, benefiting people of India's northeast. Bangladesh will also get revenue from the multimodal transport," he added.



PHOTO: AB BANK

Talukder Abdul Khaleque, mayor of Khulna City Corporation, attends an agricultural loan distribution programme organised by AB Bank at Tiger Garden International Hotel, Khulna recently. The bank disbursed agricultural loans to over 1,500 small and marginal farmers through smart cards. Tarique Afzal, managing director of the bank, presided over the programme where SM Hasan Reza, executive director of Bangladesh Bank Khulna office, and Mohan Kumar Ghosh, additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Khulna, were present.



PHOTO: UNION BANK

Shafiuddin Ahmed, deputy managing director of Union Bank, cuts a ribbon to virtually inaugurate the Noboday sub-branch of the bank at Adabor in Dhaka from its head office in Gulshan yesterday. Md Golam Mostafa, senior executive vice-president of the bank, Alauddin Al Azad, president of Noboday Multipurpose Co-operative Samiti, and Shafiqul Islam, managing director of Momen Touch Properties, were present.

Tk 60,000cr contracts awarded

FROM PAGE B1
was one-third for Cumilla and Narayanganj.

The Chattogram City Corporation topped the list with approximately 62.70 percent of contracts being awarded through the single bid procurement, followed by Dhaka South City Corporation at 55.21 percent.

The TIB recommended that all

high-value contracts be expeditiously included in the e-tendering process.

The present practice of price caps in OTM and LTM should be abandoned to ensure transparency and optimal value for money, it said, calling for rigorous scrutiny for procuring entities with a high incidence of single bidding.

"All procuring entities as well as the Central Procurement Technical

Unit should place high priority on adopting and enforcing specific procedural measures to enhance competition."

It said the opportunity created by e-GP to promote a transparent, accountable, fair, competitive, and corruption-free procurement system should be regularly monitored and upgraded by implementing data-driven analysis for decision-making.

BB fixes forward forex rate

FROM PAGE B1
"It has been happening for a long time as banks do not have adequate US dollars," he said.

BSM Group Chairman Abul Bashar Chowdhury, however, thinks banks should impose the US dollar rate in a compliant way.

"When different banks impose different rates, there is a chance to create unhealthy competition among businesspeople, which ultimately

raises the price of products."

Fixing the forward forex rate is a good initiative because banks will not be able to impose different rates for forward forex trading, said a senior official of a business group based in Chattogram.

Industry insiders say that the central bank fixed the forward rate because almost all banks are now trading US dollars on a forward basis despite the BAFEDA and the ABB

fixing the rate of American greenback every month since last year.

On Sunday, the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association (BAFEDA) and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) decided to buy the US dollar at Tk 110 and sell them at Tk 110.50.

The new rates came into effect yesterday. But most of the banks are not following the rate due to a shortage of the currency.

Govt's electronic fund transfers to save

FROM PAGE B1
including 98 percent of the around 12.19 lakh government employees who receive salaries through electronic fund transfers, it said.

Though Bangladesh has made strides in improving its PFM systems, significant bottlenecks persist, it added.

These include misalignment between annual budget limits and long-term plans, delayed budget releases, fragmented social sector budgets, slow procurement processes and inadequate follow-up on audits, it said.

Bangladesh's economy fared better compared to others, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told the event.

The GDP and investment to GDP ratio are rising and inflation had been contained until the start of the Russia-Ukraine war. However, remittance earnings are falling although more and more peoples are going abroad every year, he said.

"We have failed to keep the momentum of remittance earnings so the expected earnings have not come," he said.

Kamal requested identifying

reforms to raise remittance earnings, saying solely this could solve the country's problems over foreign exchange and eventually other macroeconomic problems.

Strong PFM systems ensure effective and efficient service delivery and good governance, said Abdoulaye Seck, the World Bank's country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

He spoke of six dimensions needed in PFM - transparency and accountability, inclusivity, sustainability, innovation and technology, capacity building, and global partnership.

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Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron Facilities at INMP, Savar
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for International Tender Notice

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology		
2. Agency	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)		
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron Facilities at Institute of Nuclear Medical Physics (INMP), Savar - Project, BAEC		
4. Procuring Entity Code	131005700		
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6. Invitation for	Goods		
7. Invitation Ref No.	39.01.2672.278.07.042.23-1016		
8. Date	24.09.2023		

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Multiple Packages
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Development)		
11. Development Partners	None		

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project / Programme Code	224237700		
13. Project / Programme Name	Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron Facilities at INMP, Savar - Project		
14. Tender Package No.	Package 01, Package 02, Package 03		
15. Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Reagent for running cyclotron [1 Unit => O-18 (Enriched water) for Irradiation of Cyclotron (1 Unit = 20 container)] and FDG Kit (1 Unit = 100 vial); HIS, RIS & Client Server IT Technology for PET-CT image transfer and manipulation in Nuclear Medical Physics with provision of expanding into the campus and Cancer Cell Research Lab Setup (CCRL).		
16. Tender Publication Date	26.09.2023		
17. Tender Last Selling Date	07.11.2023		
18. Tender Closing Date and Time	08.11.2023, 01.00 p.m.		
19. Tender Opening Date and Time	08.11.2023, 01.30 p.m.		
20. Name & Address of the office(s)	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron Facilities at INMP, Savar, BAEC, 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.		
Selling Tender Document	Chief Accounts Officer (Project) Atomic Energy Centre, 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.		
Receiving Tender Document	Committee Room, Atomic Energy Centre, 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.		
Opening Tender Document	Committee Room, Atomic Energy Centre, 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.		
21. Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	N/A		

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22. Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) Current year trade license (ii) Up-to-date income tax clearing certificate (iii) Up-to-date IRC & ERC license (iv) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate (v) Manufacturers authorization certificate and (vi) Experience in supplying of HIS, RIS & Client Server IT Technology for PET-CT image transfer and manipulation in Nuclear Medical Physics with provision of expanding into the campus (for package 02) in Govt. hospital over the last 10 years.			
23. Brief Description of Goods	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Reagent for running cyclotron [1 Unit => O-18 (Enriched water) for Irradiation of Cyclotron (1 Unit = 20 container)] and FDG Kit (1 Unit = 100 vial); HIS, RIS & Client Server IT Technology for PET-CT image transfer and manipulation in Nuclear Medical Physics with provision of expanding into the campus and Cancer Cell Research Lab Setup (CCRL).			
24. Brief Description of Related Services	Necessary Civil and Electrical related works if required			
25. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 4000/- (Taka four thousand) only per set (Non refundable)			
26. Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Months
01	Supply and Testing of Reagent for running cyclotron [1 Unit => O-18 (Enriched water) for Irradiation of Cyclotron (1 Unit = 20 container)] and FDG Kit (1 Unit = 100 vial)	INMAS Mymensingh BAEC & INMAS Chattogram BAEC & INMP Savar BAEC	BDT 18,00,000/- (Taka eighteen lac only) or equivalent USD/EURO In the form of Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee in favor of "Project Director, Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS, Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron facilities at INMP, Savar".	06 (six) months from the date of LC opening
02	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of HIS, RIS & Client Server IT Technology for PET-CT image transfer and manipulation in Nuclear Medical Physics with provision of expanding into the campus with associate accessories at INMP, Savar.	INMP Savar BAEC	BDT 16,00,000/- (Taka sixteen lac only) or equivalent USD/EURO In the form of Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee in favor of "Project Director, Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS, Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron facilities at INMP, Savar".	06 (six) months from the date of LC opening
03	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Cancer Cell Research Lab Setup (CCRL) at INMP, Savar.	INMP Savar BAEC	BDT 28,00,000/- (Taka twenty eight lac only) or equivalent USD/EURO In the form of Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee in favor of "Project Director, Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS, Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron facilities at INMP, Savar".	06 (six) months from the date of LC opening

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. M Monjur Ahasan		
28. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director		
29. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Establishment of Cyclotron & PET-CT at INMAS Mymensingh & Chattogram and Cyclotron Facilities at INMP, Savar- Project, 4 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.		
30. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No.	Fax No.	e-mail
	88-02-223365012	88-02-58617946	monjur_ahasan@yahoo.co.uk
31. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. This tender shall be governed by "The Public Procurement Act 2006 and The Public Procurement Regulations 2008".			

Project Director



Although many visit the beachside in Kuakata to lounge and relax while taking in the picturesque view, there are numerous activities, including horses and ATVs available for rent. Around 5,000 people in the town base their livelihood on the tourism sector. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Tourism awaits a fillip from long weekend

Hotels, resorts also offering up to 66% discount for World Tourism Day

JAGARAN CHAKMA and SOHRAB HOSSAIN

In Bangladesh, the peak season for the tourism and hospitality sector begins in September and continues until March. And the upcoming long weekend is going to provide an initial boost to the sector, with operators in major holiday destinations coming up with various offers.

Thursday is a public holiday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladun Nabi and Friday and Saturday are weekly holidays.

For example, some hotels and resorts are offering up to 66 percent discount on the occasion of World Tourism Day on September 27 to promote tourism in major destinations such as the beachside cities of Cox's Bazar and Kuakata.

Marking the occasion, Royal Tulip, one of the largest upscale hotels in Cox's



Almost all hotels in Cox's Bazar, the nation's prime tourist destination, have come up with offers to attract holiday-makers

Bazar, is offering a three-night stay at the price of just one night, around a 66 percent discount on their rack rate.

All 484 of its rooms have already been booked from September 27-29, said Abdul Awal, director marketing and sales, Royal Tulip.

According to Awal, almost all hotels in Cox's Bazar, the nation's prime tourist destination, have come up with offers to attract holiday-makers.

He said there will be a three-day long tourism fair in the beachside city's Kalatali intersection, where hotels and restaurants will take part and provide

special offers.

On the other hand, despite offering no discounts, all the rooms at Seagull Hotels Ltd – the first five-star rated luxury hotel in Cox's Bazar – have been booked, said Gazi Nasir Uddin, head of marketing of the hotel.

He said they were fully booked for the long weekend beginning on September 28.

Md Emran Hossain, manager of Long Beach Hotel in Cox's Bazar, said they could not introduce any special offers for World Tourism Day as in other years since it fell on a long weekend.

Yet, almost all its rooms have been booked.

Md Shohanur Rahman Swapan, director (public relations), Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh, said the number of domestic tourists had been increasing after Covid-19 despite

economic vulnerability.

He said the sector would grow rapidly if the economy stabilises.

According to him, there are few vacancies in hotels across Cox's Bazar, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet and Kuakata.

Swapan said this sector will be an important one in contributing to the country's economy as well as creating employment opportunities.

Hotels and motels in Kuakata, one of the country's top tourist attractions, are offering a 50 percent discount for World Tourism Day.

Tourists can avail this discount within seven days of September 27, said hotel and motel owners.

The Kuakata Beach in Patuakhali is located on the southernmost tip of Bangladesh. About 5,000 people rely on the local tourism sector.

The leaders of the Kuakata Hotel Motel Owners Association said 80 percent of the hotel and motel rooms had already been booked.

Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of the association, said a big event was being organised in Dhaka on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

In Kuakata, hotel and motel owners will hold various programmes, including a colourful procession.

"We are expecting a significant number of tourists in Kuakata compared to previous years as there is a three-day public holiday. Already 80 percent of the rooms in most hotels and motels here have been booked from September 27."

Shah Alam Howladar, president of Kuakata Hotel Motel Owners Association, said tourists were more interested in visiting Kuakata after the opening of the Padma Bridge due to the smooth road connection with the capital.

Hossain Mohammad Shakib, managing director of Hotel South Bengal, said 90 percent of rooms had been booked for September 28 and 29 while 80 percent were booked for September 30.

He expects those figures to reach 100 percent in the coming days.

Tour Operators Association of Kuakata (TOAK) Secretary Zahirul Islam said 70-80 percent of Kuakata's hotels were already booked for September 28-30.

"All thanks to Padma Bridge and seamless transportation system," he said.

Md Shaheen Khan, director of Hotel Banani Palace, said: "We are getting a good response from tourists due to the public holiday and the weekend."

According to the Kuakata Hotel Motel Owners Association, Kuakata has more than 170 hotels – large and small – with a total capacity of 15,000-20,000 people.

Bangladesh starts exporting printed circuit boards

JAGARAN CHAKMA

While already established as a major player in garment and pharmaceutical exports, Bangladesh is now expanding its presence in the global market for high tech circuitry, namely printed circuit boards (PCBs).

Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited is at the forefront of the local PCB industry as the country's sole manufacturer of the electrical component recently initiated exports to Greece.

A PCB is a laminated sandwich structure that is used as a medium to send electronic signals to connected components of an electronic device, thereby facilitating its various functions.

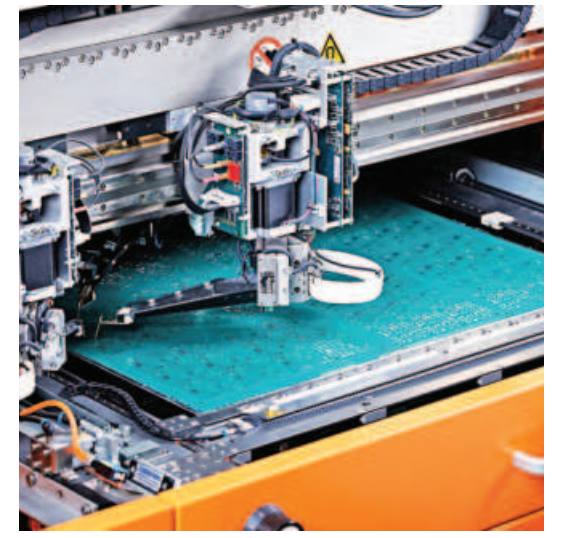
As such, PCBs are widely used in making consumer electronics, such as computers and smartphones, as well as automobiles and numerous other appliances, including industrial and military mechanisms.

Walton struck an accord with a Greek company for the sale of 3.6 lakh PCBs in January of this year.

So far, Walton has shipped 10,000 pieces of the product through the first consignment on September 20 while the remainder will be exported within the next one year, according to company officials.

SM Rezaul Alam, chairman of Walton Digi-Tech, said they made the shipment just days after commencing commercial production and marketing of their PCB products and assembly line.

"Walton is manufacturing and supplying world-class PCB products by making huge investments in the industry to meet the growing demand for IT products," he said.



"It was once unimaginable that such high-tech components could be made in Bangladesh but it is now possible thanks to the efforts and initiatives of Walton," Alam added.

He went on to say Walton will keep exporting PCBs to Greece every month at least until the initial order is fulfilled while also gradually exploring other markets.

"Walton is producing, selling and exporting different types of 'Made in Bangladesh' tagged PCBs using advanced foreign technology that make single or multi-layer products," Alam said.

"There is even the scope to order customised PCBs as per the buyers' requirement," he added.

Nasir Uddin, chief business officer of Walton's PCB products, said they decided to initiate exports after meeting domestic demand.

"We are now in the process of starting exports to other countries in Europe and America," he added, citing how this would pave the way for Bangladesh to increase its export earnings.

Liakat Ali, additional managing director of Walton Digi-Tech, set up their fully automated PCB manufacturing plant using equipment from Italy, Germany and the Netherlands.

As it stands, the company currently meets 50 percent of the country's demand for 20,000 square metres of PCB per month.

"The PCBs are mainly used to make motherboards for all types of electrical and electronic devices," he added.

Malaysia boosts exports of palm oil to China

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia will increase palm oil exports to China by 500,000 tons a year as it faces pressure from new European Union restrictions targeting deforestation, a senior minister told AFP on Monday.

The trading bloc introduced new rules this year that ban goods from land that has been deforested, throwing its muscle into the fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

Palm oil is blamed by environmentalists for fuelling the destruction of rainforests in Malaysia and Indonesia, which together produce 85 percent of global output.

But the EU rules have been highly controversial in producer countries, with both Malaysia and Indonesia protesting the move.

Malaysia's Plantation and Commodities Minister Fadillah Yusof told AFP that his country was now upping exports to China, a major importer of the commodity.

"China's import of palm oil and palm-based products from Malaysia was 3.14 million tonnes in 2022," he said.

That will grow by the end of the year or early next year with "additional uptakes of 500,000 tons of palm oil" by Beijing, he said.

The increase is the result of a deal between Malaysian-headquartered palm oil product firm Sime Darby Oils International and Chinese state-owned Guangxi Beibu Gulf International Port Group.

It will "definitely" help Malaysia counter European curbs, he added.



A labourer dries wheat grains at a wholesale market in Amritsar, India, the world's second-biggest producer and consumer of wheat, has been trying to contain food prices before the start of peak festival season next month.

PHOTO: AFP

India could sell more wheat in open market

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian government could sell more wheat in the open market to control prices that have reached their highest in nearly eight months, the country's food secretary said on Monday.

India, the world's second-biggest producer and consumer of wheat, has been trying to contain food prices before the start of peak festival season next month.

"There's no shortage of wheat in the country and all options are open for the government to control prices," Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on the sidelines of a wheat millers meeting.

Wheat prices have increased by nearly 4 percent in September as supplies dwindle in the face of strong demand for the coming festivals, traders said.