

# Diversify tea products to earn more foreign currencies: PM

BSS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked all concerned to add value to tea instead of only selling tea leaves in bulk as the demand for diversified tea products is increasing globally.

"People's taste has now changed. Different kinds of tea are now available. Produce aroma tea. The demand for teas having various flavours is now very high globally. Special attention is required to this end alongside producing tea," she said.

The premier was inaugurating a tea festival as chief guest marking the celebration of a 4th National Tea Day 2024 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

She also conferred the National Tea Award 2024 to different persons, organisations and companies in eight categories.

The prime minister asked the tea garden owners and tea traders to add value to tea.

"If you add value to tea, you will get more money compared to [only] the sale of tea leaves abundantly as the demand for aroma tea is increasing globally day by day," she said.

Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for research to ensure multifaceted use of tea, its production and marketing.

"We have to make sure to use multifaceted tea such as aroma tea. We can earn foreign currencies by exporting value added teas," she added.

The premier also said research is being conducted to produce tea from jute leaves as experts believe that jute tea can help reduce blood sugar as its leaves taste bitter.

Additionally, she suggested using Kanakchapa flavour in tea through research as tulshi tea, jasmine tea, herbal tea and massala tea are available in markets.

She asked the tea traders to produce



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina samples tea on inaugurating the 4th National Tea Day 2024 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

ginger, lemon, bay leaf, cardamom, cinnamon and clove flavoured tea as well.

As the prime minister reached the venue, she was received by children who performed a Monipuri dance.

She later took part in a group photo session with the award winners.

Presided over by State Minister for Commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu, the function was also addressed by the ministry's Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman Tipu Munshi, Commerce Ministry Secretary Md Selim Uddin, and Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board Maj Gen Md Ashrafur Islam, among others.

A documentary on the development of Bangladesh's tea industry, prepared by Bangladesh Tea Board, was screened on the occasion.

June 4 has been declared "The National

Tea Day" to commemorate Bangabandhu's contribution to the tea industry, as he had joined the tea board as chairman on this very day.

Bangabandhu had played a significant role in the sustainable development of the tea industry during his tenure at the tea board from June 4, 1957 to October 23, 1958.

Sheikh Hasina asked the tea garden owners and businesspeople to take care of the tea workers properly to increase production.

"Take care of the tea workers. Help them elevate their living standards by providing necessary healthcare and financial assistance. Ensure education of their children as the education up to primary level is free," she said.

The prime minister said tea workers will no longer remain floating as her

government is giving houses and land to the landless and homeless people marking the 100th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said her government has given flats to 300 slum dwellers.

"Not only the rich people, but also slum dwellers will stay in the flats," she added.

The government will do its part, the premier said, adding that she has an emotional attachment with the tea industry as her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was the first Bangladeshi chairman of the tea board and provided citizenship to the tea workers.

The prime minister thanked the tea workers as they always supported the Bangladesh Awami League by giving their votes to her party time and again to show their respect to the Father of the Nation.

She welcomed a proposal for setting up solar panels in tea gardens across the country to meet the local demand of electricity, with the additional electricity to be added to the national grid.

She said her government has attached topmost priorities on ensuring uninterrupted electricity to the industries that included the tea industry to ensure increased production.

She also said her government took various steps for tea production when the tea export came down as its demand went up in the domestic market.

As a result, a record 102.92 million kilograms of tea were produced in 2023.

The premier said when the Awami League government came to power in 1996, it took initiative to expand tea cultivation in the North Bengal region of the country.

So, tea cultivation has expanded to Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Rangpur, she added.

## Mustafa appointed MD of IFIC Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Syed Mansur Mustafa has been appointed as the managing director of IFIC Bank.

Mustafa was concurrently serving the bank as deputy managing director and head of international division, chief credit officer, chief risk officer and chief anti money laundering compliance officer.

He joined IFIC Bank as a senior executive vice-president on April 6 of 2015, the bank said in a press release.

He started his professional banking career at AB Bank as a probationary officer in 1996.

Mustafa previously worked for Trust Bank, where he worked in different capacities.

With a career spanning 28 years, he brings extensive experience in branch management, credit risk management, foreign trade and treasury operations.



Syed Mansur Mustafa

STOCKS	
DSEX ▲	CASPI ▼
0.22%	0.19%
5,247.52	15,000.39

  

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▼	Oil ▼
\$2,333.29	\$72.53
(per ounce)	(per barrel)

  

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▼ 5.74%	▼ 0.22%	▼ 0.03%	▲ 0.41%
72,079.05	38,837.46	3,338.94	3,091.20



Azharul Islam, chairman of Uttara Bank, presides over the bank's 41st annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday. The meeting announced 30 percent dividend for 2023.

PHOTO: UTTARA BANK

## Uttara Bank declares 30% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Uttara Bank yesterday announced a 30 percent dividend, including a 17.50 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2023.

The announcement came at the bank's 41st annual general meeting, which was held virtually, the bank said in a press release.

Azharul Islam, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, where the bank's annual report for 2023 along with profit and loss accounts were approved by shareholders.

## Cost of kidney dialysis

FROM PAGE B1

Additionally, there are plans to facilitate the import of raw materials needed for manufacturing cancer drugs to reduce the cost of cancer treatment.

It was also proposed to include three new products for the production of bio-hygienic equipment in the medical sector.

However, the reduction of two existing facilities in the healthcare sector has also been recommended.

One of these is to increase the import duty on medical equipment and materials by referral hospitals

from 1 percent to 10 percent.

Additionally, the import facility for ambulances will also be reduced due to misuse.

Currently, both Toyota Noah and Toyota Hiace cars can be imported as ambulances. But in the upcoming budget, only Hiace cars will be allowed.

To prevent misuse, it was proposed to set the minimum length of the passenger cabin of the ambulance at nine feet. Since the Noah vehicle does not meet that requirement, it can no longer be imported as an ambulance under the clause.

## AnonTex allowed to sell

FROM PAGE B1

It also stipulated that a payment was to be made of Tk 4,819 crore of the principal amount, which has now increased to Tk 4,960 crore.

The board of directors of the bank on February 20 this year decided to maintain the interest waiver, set the recoverable liability at Tk 4,960 crore and gave the group till 2025 to repay the loan.

This correspondent called Janata Bank Managing Director Md Abdul Jabbar over the phone for comments, but he did not take the calls by the time this report was filed.

## NRB Bank inks deal to sell Sena Kalyan Insurance's products

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRB Bank yesterday signed a bancassurance agreement with Sena Kalyan Insurance Company.

Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director and CEO (current charge) of the bank, and Brig Gen (ret'd) Shafique Shamim, managing director and CEO of the non-life insurer, penned the deal at the bank's corporate head office in Gulshan, according to a press release.

Md Shaheen Howlader, deputy managing director of the bank, Oli Ahad Chowdhury, head of retail banking division and chief bancassurance officer, Sujana Barua, chief financial officer, Md Johir Uddin Shahrir Kabir, head of operations, AFM Zakaria Huque, head of facility management,



Brig Gen (ret'd) Shafique Shamim, managing director and CEO of Sena Kalyan Insurance Company, and Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director and CEO (current charge) of NRB Bank, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at the bank's corporate head office in Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: NRB BANK

Md Arifuzzaman, bancassurance manager, and Md Rezaul Karim, company secretary (current charge), were present.

Col (ret'd) Md Abue Masud, head

of corporate affairs of the insurer, and MM Sajedul Islam, company secretary, alongside other officials from both organisations were also present.

## Dollar edges up

REUTERS, London/Tokyo

The dollar ticked up on Tuesday after falling to its lowest against the euro, sterling and Swiss franc since mid-March overnight as signs of a softening US economy boosted the case for earlier Federal Reserve interest rate cuts.

Investors were looking towards US job openings data later in the day, which will provide an insight into the state of the labour market and could push the US currency lower.

The euro rose as high as \$1.0916 for the first time since March 21 in the Asian trading session, but gave up some ground to stand 0.2 percent lower at \$1.0886.

Sterling hit its highest since

mid-March too at \$1.2818 but was also last down 0.2 percent.

As the US currency found a footing, the dollar index was up 0.12 percent at 104.16, having fallen to its lowest since mid-April overnight at 103.99.

Data on Monday showed a second straight month of slowdown in manufacturing activity and an unexpected decline in construction spending, causing the dollar index to fall around 0.6 percent.

"The dollar is starting to show signs of weakness," said Chris Turner, global head of markets at lender ING. "Today's US JOLTS job openings data could determine whether recent dollar losses are... the start of an important new trend."

## Offshore banking

FROM PAGE B1

Bankers said depositors can enjoy tax free profits of up to 8.40 percent on fixed deposits in US dollars or euros for terms ranging from three months to five years. Savers can also transfer funds internationally without any restriction along with profit.

Currently, banks deduct excise duty if the debit or credit balance of an account exceeds Tk 1 lakh at any time in a year.

For the next fiscal year, the National Board of Revenue may increase the excise duty in case a bank account's credit or debit balance crosses Tk 50 lakh at any time during the year, officials said.

Officials said the excise duty on bank balances below Tk 50 lakh is expected to remain unchanged.

However, excise duty on debit or credit balances between Tk 1 crore and Tk 2 crore in bank accounts may be reduced.

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, গোপালগঞ্জ

ফোনঃ ০২-৬৬৮৫০৭৭/ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬৬৮১২৭১

ইমেইলঃ eegopal@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নংঃ ৩৫.০১.৩৫০০.৪২৮.১৮.০০১.২৪-১৫১৬

তারিখঃ ০৪/০৬/২০২৪

### জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গোপালগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন গৌরনদী-আগেলঝরা-পয়সারহাট-কোটালীপাড়া-গোপালগঞ্জ (আর-৮৫২) আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়ক চেইনেজ ২৬+৬৫৩ কিলোমিটারে অবস্থিত ঘাঘর সেতুর জরুরী মেরামত কাজ চলছে। উক্ত সেতুর মেরামত কাজ যথাযথভাবে সম্পাদনের জন্য আগামী ০৭/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ শ্রুক্রবার সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ০৮/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ শনিবার সকাল ০৬:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ১২ (বার) ঘণ্টা সময়ের জন্য সেতুর উপর দিয়ে সকল প্রকার যানবাহন চলাচল বন্ধ রাখা হবে। সরকারী কাজের স্বার্থে এ বিষয়ে সকলকে সহযোগিতার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উক্ত সময়ের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত বিকল্প সড়ক পথ ব্যবহার করা যাবেঃ

- গোপালগঞ্জ-বরিশাল যাতায়াতকারী সকল যানবাহনের জন্যঃ গোপালগঞ্জ-সাতপাড়া-জলিরপাড়া-টেকেরহাট সড়ক ও গোপালগঞ্জ-ঘোনাপাড়া-টুঙ্গিপাড়া-পিরোজপুর সড়ক।
- কোটালীপাড়া-ঢাকা যাতায়াতকারী সকল যানবাহনের জন্যঃ কোটালীপাড়া-রাজৈর সড়ক।

জনস্বার্থে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হলো। সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

4.6.24

মোঃ আজহারুল ইসলাম

পরিচিতি নংঃ ৬০২০০৬

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.), সওজ

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