

star

BUSINESS

Safety fear jolts foreign investors' confidence

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A lack of safety in foreign manufacturing and industrial units in Bangladesh, stemming from the debilitating law and order situation and labour unrest, has become a cause of major concern for foreign investors, denting their confidence.

The low presence of industrial police in some areas is another reason for faltering investor sentiment. Numerous representatives of foreign companies say there is no functional authority which they can turn to for protection in some industrial zones.

Currently, many investors are negotiating with leaders of the Collective Bargaining Agents (CBAs) to resolve the crisis and resume operations, with labour demands mostly centring pay rises.

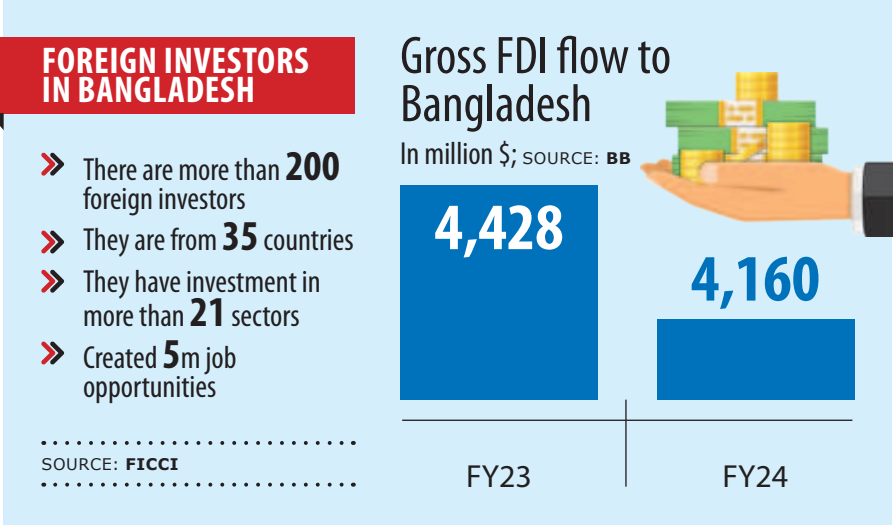
Investors also said it was unusual that workers had placed charters of demand abruptly in the middle of the year and against the backdrop of a regime change, suspecting that perhaps a section of outsiders is taking advantage of the policing vacuum.

There have not only been disruptions to production workers but, in some cases, also tried to vandalise manufacturing units. For instance, workers attacked a shoe factory operated by a foreign company in Tongi area this week.

Moreover, foreign investors fear that if labour unrest continues, it may spill over onto their units as well.

Arfanul Hoque, retail director of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh), said they negotiated with workers to bring the situation under control and also took help from police.

Production at their unit was affected but normalcy is now being gradually restored as the management has already met the workers' demand for a pay hike, Hoque said, adding that around 600 regular workers and 800 outsourced workers had placed their demands over the past week.



However, since their factory is located in a major industrial hub, industrial police were available to help, he added.

A representative of a major European garment retailer that sources apparel worth several billion US dollars each year said they had to change their plans due to the spate of labour unrest.

The company's shipments are getting delayed, which is very unusual, and that is expected to hit its sales in the upcoming Christmas season, he said.

The crisis is also affecting payment gateway companies, with the business of such companies operating in Bangladesh falling by 40 percent in July and 35 percent in August, said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager at MasterCard Bangladesh.

Lack of safety and security is a big barrier towards running industrial units for both local and multinational companies.

"Ultimately, foreign direct investment will be affected if the proper steps are not taken immediately to restore normalcy in industrial zones," he added.

Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, echoed the same.

"Lawlessness is not good for even a day. We do not know who is behind this situation. We also don't know who we can turn to for protection as the industrial police are not fully functional," said Chowdhury, also a former president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"The situation needs to be improved urgently. We have zero time."

She said their workers also demonstrated like many others, but the management sat with the CBA leaders and resolved the issues through mutual understanding.

Mohsin Ahmed, chief executive officer of New Zealand

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Three banks seek BB guarantee for Tk 6,800cr liquidity support

MD MEHEDI HASAN

National Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh and Social Islami Bank have applied to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) for its guarantee to avail a total of Tk 6,800 crore in liquidity support through the inter-bank money market for a period of three months.

The restructured National Bank seeks a central bank guarantee for the highest Tk 5,000 crore in liquidity support while Islami Bank Bangladesh requests Tk 1,100 crore and Social Islami Bank wants Tk 700 crore.

A senior official of the central bank told The Daily Star that these three banks have formally applied for a central bank guarantee, but their applications are yet to be approved.

"We will meet with these banks because the application form for the guarantee will be changed after a policy circular in this regard," the official said, requesting anonymity.

These restructured banks applied for the BB guarantee as new central bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur hinted that the banking regulator would manage liquidity for the ailing banks through the inter-bank money market, with the BB acting as their guarantor.

At a recent press conference, the BB governor said the central bank would not provide liquidity support by printing money as before, but lenders could avail such support through inter-bank money supply.

Not only these three lenders, but several other restructured banks, including Union Bank, Global Islami Bank and First Security Islami Bank, are also planning to avail BB guarantees for liquidity support, according to insiders.

After taking charge as the governor of the central bank, economist Mansur dissolved the board and restructured a new one for the troubled National Bank on August 20.

Subsequently, the bank elected Abdul Awal Mintoo, a businessman and vice-chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), as chairman of its board of directors.

National Bank has been facing a liquidity crisis for more than a year and applied to the central bank on Tuesday for a BB guarantee.

Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO

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KEY POINTS

National Bank seeks guarantee for Tk 5,000cr liquidity

Islami Bank wants Tk 1,100cr liquidity

Social Islami Bank seeks Tk 700cr liquidity

Few more banks whose boards were restructured may also want BB guarantee

BB will make a policy for providing such guarantees

Now FBCCI gets an administrator

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government yesterday appointed an administrator to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) as its president had resigned amid a section of businesspeople demanding its board's dissolution in the wake of last month's political changeover.

Mahbubul Alam, who became the president of the country's apex trade body in August last year, stepped down on September 9 as pressure was mounting following a mass uprising that ousted the Awami League government on August 5.

Alam cited illness in his resignation, according to a commerce ministry notification.

He did not respond to phone calls from

The Daily Star for comment.

However, a close associate of Alam said the businessperson from Chattogram resigned due to pressure from various quarters, including businesspeople.

The commerce ministry appointed Md Hafizur Rahman, a member of the Bangladesh Competition Commission, as the administrator to hold a fair and neutral election within 120 days and hand over the responsibilities to the elected committee.

The interim government also appointed an administrator at the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) yesterday, nearly a month after its former president Shomi Kaiser resigned.

Subsequently, the entire e-CAB executive board stepped down, leaving the organisation without a governing body

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Past govt fuelled inflation by printing Tk 60,000cr: Yunus

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

People are grappling with high inflation because of the fresh injection of Tk 60,000 crore into the market by Sheikh Hasina's government, Prof Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, said yesterday.

"One of the main goals of the interim government is to contain the unprecedented inflation," he said in a televised speech to the nation.

The chief adviser's comments came after inflation eased in August but remained at over 10 percent, reflecting that higher prices of goods and services are continuing to eat

away at the purchasing power of consumers.

The inflation rate in Bangladesh has hovered above 9 percent since March 2023.

Last month, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures changes in the prices paid by consumers over time, stood at 10.49 percent, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Yunus, who was sworn in after the Awami League government was toppled by a mass uprising on August 5, said the past 'fascist' government printed additional currency and released it into the market with the intention of 'looting'.



He added that the Bangladesh Bank had already hiked the policy rate to 9 percent to combat inflation.

"Distribution of essential commodities at fair prices through open market sales and food-friendly programmes are ongoing to cushion common people from inflation," he said.

The government has allocated Tk 5,800 crore to import rice and wheat. It has also allocated Tk 8,900 crore for domestic procurement of grains.

It also allocated Tk 7,360 crore in the current fiscal year to provide food subsidies to poor and low-income people under three programmes.

He said the central bank has made the exchange rate market-based to curb the volatility.

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BSEC to go tougher on delinquent brokers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will go tougher on brokerage houses that have a deficit in their consolidated customers account (CCA) in an effort to bring more discipline to the country's stock market.

The BSEC yesterday informed that the CCA of several brokerage houses are in a deficit, which goes against investors' interest as well as market regulations.

As such, it has already taken action against two brokers – Dhanmondi Securities and PFI Securities – for failing to comply with the related rules.

A CCA is an account held by a broker at any scheduled bank used for receiving investors' deposits for buying stocks and paying their earnings.

In its order, the BSEC said any brokerage with a deficit in its CCA will not be allowed to provide margin loans and will not be entitled to dividends from stock exchanges.

Additionally, the brokerage houses will not enjoy the quota for initial public offerings, repeat public offerings or qualified initial offerings.

Furthermore, the brokerage houses will not be allowed to renew their licenses or open any new branch, including digital booths.

The stock market regulator also informed that the stock exchanges will continue monitoring the brokers for at least two years, even after they adjust their CCA deficit to ensure compliance.

The country's bourses will check the CCAs at least twice a month, the BSEC said.

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Textile millers want immediate improvement in gas supply

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Textile millers yesterday urged the interim government to take immediate steps to improve gas and power supply to production units, as most are now running at only 30 percent capacity.

They also urged the authorities to restore law and order urgently as garment factories are facing challenges in running operations.

They demanded that yarn imports from India be stopped through all land ports as large quantities are entering without proper documentation and quality testing, deteriorating sales of the domestic primary textile sector, where \$22 billion has been invested.

The millers said yarn imports can be allowed through the Chattogram port as it contains facilities for quality testing.

They also urged to stipulate that any yarn which is sought to be imported from India needs to undergo quality tests at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

In most cases, double the quantity



mentioned in letters of credit is being imported through misdeclarations, said leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at a press conference at its office in Dhaka.

Over the last eight months, textile millers at Bhulta, Gausia, Rupganj and

Narayanganj areas have been suffering a lot because of low gas pressure in the supply lines, said BTMA Vice-President Md Saleudh Zaman Khan.

The textile mills are being run with alternative fuels such as diesel,

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Taskforce formed for banking reforms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday formed a six-member taskforce to carry out reform initiatives in the country's banking sector.

The taskforce will mainly assess the current financial condition of the banking sector and estimate the amount of distressed assets.

It will also identify major risks and review financial indicators of weak banks, according to a press release of the central bank.

Besides, it has also been tasked with assessment of the actual condition of loans, provision deficit, net capital, actual value of assets and review of liquidity situation.

The taskforce members are Lutley Siddiqi, special envoy on international affairs to the chief adviser, Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, former deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, Meheriar M Hasan, chairman of BRAC Bank, Zahid Hussain, former lead economist of World Bank Group, Dhaka office, Prof M Zubaidur Rahman, vice-chancellor of the ZNRF University of Management Sciences, and Sabbir Ahmed, partner of Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co.



Economic activities picked up in August compared to the month prior but could not recover from the trend of contraction

Story on B4

39 brands honoured for sustainability efforts

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Some 39 sustainable brand initiatives were awarded in the 2nd SDG Brand Champion Awards 2024, organised by AkijBashir Group in association with Intellier and The Daily Star, at the Le Méridien Dhaka on Tuesday.

Among the awardees, 16 initiatives received the Winner accolade and 23 received the Honourable Mentions.

Initiated by Bangladesh Innovation Conclave, this award aimed to recognise and honour private organisations and brands that have contributed outstandingly to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Water Resources, attended the ceremony as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Addressing the occasion and the awardees, Rizwana Hasan said, “What we see here today, through these awards, are not just achievements. They are examples of how collaboration, leadership, and commitment can translate into real-world impact.”

“As we work towards achieving the SDGs, we need to continue fostering these partnerships between the private and public sectors, NGOs, and communities. Together, we can tackle the challenges that lie ahead and create an inclusive and



Winners of 39 sustainable brand initiatives pose for photographs with trophies in the 2nd SDG Brand Champion Awards 2024, organised by AkijBashir Group in association with Intellier and The Daily Star, at Le Méridien Dhaka on Tuesday.

PHOTO: BACKPAGE PR

sustainable Bangladesh that we can all be proud of.”

The award gala was preceded by the inaugural edition of AkijBashir Group Presents Sustainability Summit in association with Intellier and The Daily Star.

While presenting a keynote paper, Zaved Akhtar, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh and president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry, shared insights on why sustainability is critical for Bangladeshi businesses and how they should pursue it.

Bashiruddin Ahmed, chairman of AkijBashir Group, conducted a case study on the sustainable practices.

Supported by Creative IT Institute, Bangladesh Brand Forum and Sustainable Brand Initiative organised the summit and the award gala in collaboration with International Advertising Association Bangladesh, Asia Marketing Federation and the Marketing Society of Bangladesh.

The aamra Technologies was technology partner, whereas Le Méridien Dhaka was hospitality partner and Backpage PR was PR partner in the event.

Opening the summit, Shariful Islam, founder and managing director of Bangladesh Innovation Conclave, said, “The future of Bangladesh lies in the hands of those who dare to be pioneers of positive change.

“Today, we are not just discussing sustainability as a concept, but as a practice that must be embedded into the DNA of every brand and organisation.”

“Westand at the cusp of transformation, and the decisions we make today will define the legacy we leave for future generations,” he added.



Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank, and Biplob Ghosh Rahul, director of Dotlines, pose for photographs while exchanging signed documents of an agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Prime Bank, Dotlines sign deal on payroll banking services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently signed an agreement with tech company Dotlines, aimed at enhancing banking services for the latter's employees.

Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of the bank, and Biplob Ghosh Rahul, director of the tech company, penned the deal in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Under the agreement, the bank will extend exclusive benefits to the tech company's employees and all its concerns.

Employees will be able to avail various benefits including preferential offers in accounts, credit cards, loans, and digital banking solutions.

These offerings are designed to empower employees with enhanced financial flexibility and seamless banking experiences.

Shaila Abedin, executive vice president and head of Women Banking and Affluent Segment of the bank, and Anup Kanti Das, head of payroll banking, along with other senior officials from both organisations were also present.



PHOTO: FORETHOUGHT PR

Manas Singh, chief executive officer of STS Group, and M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of Eastern Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding recently.

Universal College Bangladesh, EBL sign industry-academia collaboration deal

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Universal College Bangladesh, a pioneering international education provider in the country, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) with a vision to bridge the gap between industry and academia.

Manas Singh, chief executive officer of STS Group, and M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director, head of retail and SME banking of the bank, penned the MoU at the Universal College Bangladesh campus in Dhaka, said a press release.

Singh said, “This partnership will go a long way in securing the future for our bright students by enriching their educational experiences and exposing them to the practicality of the industry”.

Over the recent months, Universal College Bangladesh has undertaken a series of partnership initiatives with different reputed organisations where students can gain valuable exposure to practical learning after the completion of their degrees.

This collaboration is expected to enhance students' career opportunities through exclusive placement and internship opportunities at the bank.

Students will also take part in training programmes, knowledge-sharing sessions, guest lectures, career guidance, and mentoring sessions.

The partnership provides students with access to industry-leading resources and networking opportunities.

The Universal College is enabling Bangladeshi students to accelerate their global-standard higher education journeys after O/AS/A/HSC levels.

Tarek Reaz Khan made NRB Bank MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tarek Reaz Khan has been appointed as the managing director of NRB Bank PLC recently for a three-year term.

Prior to joining his new job, Khan was serving Padma Bank PLC as the managing director and chief executive officer, according to a press release.

He started his professional banking career with Standard Chartered Bangladesh as a trainee officer in 1997 and worked in different capacities, including senior management positions, particularly in the domain of retail and branch banking for 16 years.

He previously served at Premier Bank PLC, Bank Alfalah Bangladesh and Mutual Trust Bank PLC in his illustrious career of 30 years.

He had overseas attachment exposure in the UAE, India and Malaysia during his time with Standard Chartered Bank. He also had attachment exposure in Pakistan during his time with Bank Alfalah Bangladesh.

Khan has led multiple strategic organisational transformation initiatives across different banks, where he served and contributed significantly towards the fundamental improvement in the specific areas of business, risk, operations, support functions, technology and human resources, which ensured the growth of those banks.



Tarek Reaz Khan

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Companiganj, Noakhali.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.7521.000.13.001.19-816
Dated: 11-09-2024

e-Tender Notice No: 01/2024-25(NOTM)
e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below:

| SL. No. | Tender ID | Package No | Document Last Selling (Date & Time) | Closing & Opening (Date & Time) |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01 | 1012758 | e-Tender/PEDP4/NKL/COM/2024-2025/W15A.01639 | 25-09-2024 (17:00) | 26-09-2024 (12:30) |

N.B: Revised RDPP of PEDP4 is under approval process, so contract agreement cannot be signed before RDPP approval. If RDPP (2nd revision) of PEDP4 does not get approval then tender will be cancelled.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date and time mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Kazi Kamrul Islam)
Upazila Engineer, LGED
Companiganj, Noakhali.
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GD- 413

নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)
(গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
রেজিস্টার্ড অফিস: জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি কমপ্লেক্স, ই-১৩/ডি, আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
সাইট অফিস: রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা-৬৬২২।

সূত্র নং: ৩৯.১০.১৬৩৯.০০৫.০২.০০২.১১ (২য় অংশ)-৯৮
তারিখ: ০৮ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৪ খ্রি.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: এনপিসিবিএল/সাইট/ওটিএম/২০২৪-২০২৫/০৩

নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ড্রা নং শীটমাল-২০১৬, পার্শ্বিক প্রকটিকেশন আইন ২০০৬ এবং পার্শ্বিক প্রকটিকেশন বিধিমালা ২০০৮ ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সংশোধনী মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)-এর আগারগাঁও রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্পের শার্কিত কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি এসি মাইক্রোবাস পল্লির সেবা ভাড়া এবং এর লগ্নি বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত সরকারকাঠী/টিকাদারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ১ | মহাপুর | ২ | বিমান ও প্রযুক্তি মহাপুর। |
|----|---|----|---|
| ৩ | সহায় | ১ | নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)। |
| ৪ | ক্রমকর্তা | ২ | পরিচালক (সাইট), রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ৫ | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং | ৩ | NPCBL/Site/OTM/2024-25/03 |
| ৬ | দরপত্র পদ্ধতি | ৪ | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) |
| ৭ | বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত | ৫ | কোম্পানীর খাত |
| ৮ | দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ | ৬ | পরিচালক প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে |
| ৯ | দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রারম্ভ সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ৭ | ০২/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৬.০০ ঘটিকা। |
| ১০ | দরপত্র প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ৮ | ০২/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা। |
| ১১ | দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময় | ৯ | ০২/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.৫৫ ঘটিকা, দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)। |
| ১২ | দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও টিকানা | ১০ | রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ১৩ | দরপত্র প্রারম্ভ ও উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান | ১১ | রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প-এর সাইট অফিস (সিএন সিটি-০১ নং গেট), ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ১৪ | দরপত্র জমা রাখার স্থান | ১২ | (ক) রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প-এর সাইট অফিস (সিএন সিটি-০১ নং গেট); (খ) রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, (১.২ নং গেট), ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ১৫ | দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে | ১৩ | (ক) দরদাতা বা প্রকটিকেশনের হালদালাল ট্রাড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, সিডিউল কন্ট্রোল স্মার্ট ব্লকিং ও দরপত্র মালিক উল্লিখিত স্টেপডাউন। |
| ১৬ | যোগাযোগের টিকানা | ১৪ | site@rooppumpnp.gov.bd |

| ১৭ | লট নং | লট পরিচিতি (অফিস/কর্মক্ষেত্র) | সিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফিস/কর্মক্ষেত্র) | দরপত্রের সঙ্গে জামানত (টাকা) (ফেরতযোগ্য) | দরপত্র জামানত দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী |
|----|-------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| ১৮ | ০১ | ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি এসি মাইক্রোবাস | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) | ১০০,০০০/- (এক লাখ টাকা) | বাংলাদেশের যে কোন বנקসিদ্ধি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রফট আকারে 'নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড'-এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। |

১৯ বিশেষ শর্তাবলী:

ক. বাজি বা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের স্বাধীনতার সীল ও স্বাক্ষরকৃত প্যাডে আবেদনকৃত অফিস চাকরাদীন সময় (সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা) পূর্বে দরপত্র সিডিউল সফর করা যাবে।

খ. দরপত্র সফরকৃত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সফরকালে নিয়ন্ত্রণকারীর কার্যালয়ে হতে জানা যাবে।

গ. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পর সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঘ. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পর সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঙ. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কার্য দর্শনো বাস্তবীকরণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

স্বা./-
পরিচালক (সাইট)
রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।

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বাংলাদেশ সাবমেরিন ক্যাবলস পিএলসি (বিএসসিপিএলসি)
রহমান'স রেগনাম সেন্টার (৮ম ও ৯ম তলা)
১৯১/১, তেজগাঁও-গুলশান লিংক রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৮
ফোনঃ ৮৮ ০২ ২২৬৬০৩৩১৫-১৬, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮ ০২ ২২৬৬০৩৩২২
ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.bscplc.com.bd

মূল্য সংবেদনশীল তথ্য

'Regional Submarine Telecommunications Project, Bangladesh' (Installation and Establishment of Second Submarine Cable System (SMW-5) for International Telecommunications in Bangladesh) শীর্ষক উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের আওতায় বাংলাদেশ সরকার হতে ২০১৫-২০১৬ অর্থ বছরে প্রাপ্ত ১৪০ কোটি টাকা এবং ২০১৬-২০১৭ অর্থ বছরে প্রাপ্ত ২৬ কোটি টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ১৬৬ কোটি টাকা সরকারি ইকুইটিটির বিপরীতে বাংলাদেশ সাবমেরিন ক্যাবলস পিএলসি'র প্রতিটি শেয়ার ৭৫ টাকা দরে (৬৫ টাকা অধিহাসহ) ১০ টাকা অভিহিত মূল্যের সর্বমোট ২,২১,৩৩,৩৩৩টি সাধারণ শেয়ার সরকারের পক্ষে সচিব, ডাক ও টেলিযোগাযোগ বিভাগের অনুকূলে ইস্যুর বিষয়ে প্রেরিত আবেদনটি বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন (বিএসইসি) কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, অদ্যকার মূল্য সংবেদনশীল তথ্যটি উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে প্রকাশিত গত ১৫-০২-২০২৪খ্রিঃ তারিখের মূল্য সংবেদনশীল তথ্যের ধারাবাহিকতায় নির্দেশক্রমে প্রকাশ করা হলো।

তারিখঃ ১১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৪খ্রিঃ

স্বাক্ষরিত
মোহাম্মদ জাকিরুল আলম
কোম্পানি সচিব (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব), বিএসসিপিএলসি
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৬৬০৩৩১৩, মোবাইলঃ ০১৯১১৩২৮০০১
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নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)
(গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
রেজিস্টার্ড অফিস: জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি কমপ্লেক্স, ই-১৩/ডি, আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
সাইট অফিস: রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা-৬৬২০

সূত্র নং: ৩৯.১০.১৬৩৯.০০৫.০২.০০২.১১ (২য় অংশ)-(সাইট-৯৭)
তারিখ: ০৮ ই সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৪ খ্রি.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: এনপিসিবিএল/সাইট/ওটিএম/২০২৪-২০২৫/০২

নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ড্রা নং শীটমাল-২০১৬ এবং পার্শ্বিক প্রকটিকেশন আইন ২০০৬ ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সংশোধনী মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)-এর রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্পে স্টেশনারী মালদার ড্রয়/সফর নির্মিত বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত সরকারকাঠী/টিকাদারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ০১ | মহাপুর | ২ | বিমান ও প্রযুক্তি মহাপুর। |
|---|---|---|---|
| ০২ <th>সহায়</th> <td>১<td>নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)।</td></td> | সহায় | ১ <td>নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)।</td> | নিউক্লিয়ার পাওয়ার প্রাণ্ট কোম্পানী বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (এনপিসিবিএল)। |
| ০৩ <th>ক্রমকর্তার প্রধান</th> <td>২<td>পরিচালক (সাইট), রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।</td></td> | ক্রমকর্তার প্রধান | ২ <td>পরিচালক (সাইট), রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।</td> | পরিচালক (সাইট), রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ০৪ <th>ক্রমকর্তার স্থান</th> <td>৩<td>পাবনা।</td></td> | ক্রমকর্তার স্থান | ৩ <td>পাবনা।</td> | পাবনা। |
| ০৫ <th>দরপত্র নম্বর</th> <td>৪<td>NPCBL/Site/OTM/2024-2025/02</td></td> | দরপত্র নম্বর | ৪ <td>NPCBL/Site/OTM/2024-2025/02</td> | NPCBL/Site/OTM/2024-2025/02 |
| ০৬ <th>দরপত্র পদ্ধতি</th> <td>৫<td>উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)</td></td> | দরপত্র পদ্ধতি | ৫ <td>উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)</td> | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) |
| ০৭ <th>বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত</th> <td>৬<td>কোম্পানীর খাত</td></td> | বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত | ৬ <td>কোম্পানীর খাত</td> | কোম্পানীর খাত |
| ০৮ <th>দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ</th> <td>৭<td>পরিচালক প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে</td></td> | দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ | ৭ <td>পরিচালক প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে</td> | পরিচালক প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে |
| ০৯ <th>দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রারম্ভ সর্বশেষ তারিখ</th> <td>৮<td>২৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।</td></td> | দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রারম্ভ সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ৮ <td>২৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।</td> | ২৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা। |
| ১০ <th>দরপত্র প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়</th> <td>৯<td>৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।</td></td> | দরপত্র প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ৯ <td>৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।</td> | ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি., ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা। |
| ১১ <th>দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়</th> <td>১০<td>৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি. তারিখ ১৫.৫৫ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।</td></td> | দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময় | ১০ <td>৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি. তারিখ ১৫.৫৫ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।</td> | ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি. তারিখ ১৫.৫৫ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)। |
| ১২ <th>দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও টিকানা</th> <td>১১<td>রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।</td></td> | দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও টিকানা | ১১ <td>রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।</td> | রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা। |
| ১৩ <th>দরপত্র প্রারম্ভ ও উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান</th> <td>১২<td>রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা-এর সাইট অফিস (সিএন সিটি-১ নং গেট সল্লয়)।</td></td> | দরপত্র প্রারম্ভ ও উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান | ১২ <td>রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা-এর সাইট অফিস (সিএন সিটি-১ নং গেট সল্লয়)।</td> | রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা-এর সাইট অফিস (সিএন সিটি-১ নং গেট সল্লয়)। |
| ১৪ <th>দরপত্র জমা রাখার স্থান</th> <td>১৩<td>ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ।</td></td> | দরপত্র জমা রাখার স্থান | ১৩ <td>ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ।</td> | ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ। |
| ১৫ <th>দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে</th> <td>১৪<td>ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ।</td></td> | দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে | ১৪ <td>ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ।</td> | ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, হালদালাল আবেদন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ। |
| ১৬ <th>যোগাযোগের টিকানা</th> <td>১৫<td>site@rooppumpnp.gov.bd</td></td> | যোগাযোগের টিকানা | ১৫ <td>site@rooppumpnp.gov.bd</td> | site@rooppumpnp.gov.bd |
| ১৭ <th>কাজের নাম</th> <td>১৬<td>স্টেশনারী মালদার ড্রয়/সফর</td></td> | কাজের নাম | ১৬ <td>স্টেশনারী মালদার ড্রয়/সফর</td> | স্টেশনারী মালদার ড্রয়/সফর |
| ১৮ <th>দরপত্র জামানত</th> <td>১৭<td>৩৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা) Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Ltd. এর অনুকূলে</td></td> | দরপত্র জামানত | ১৭ <td>৩৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা) Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Ltd. এর অনুকূলে</td> | ৩৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা) Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Ltd. এর অনুকূলে |

১৮. বিশেষ শর্তাবলী:

ক. বাজি বা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের স্বাধীনতার সীল ও স্বাক্ষরকৃত প্যাডে আবেদনকৃত অফিস চাকরাদীন সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল সফর করা যাবে।

খ. দরপত্র সফরকৃত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সফরকালে নিয়ন্ত্রণকারীর কার্যালয়ে হতে জানা যাবে।

গ. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পর সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঘ. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পর সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঙ. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কার্য দর্শনো বাস্তবীকরণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

স্বাক্ষরিত
পরিচালক (সাইট)
রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প, রূপপুর, ঈশ্বরদী, পাবনা।

GD- 407

Stock index rises for second day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Share market indexes in Bangladesh maintained their upward trend for a second consecutive day yesterday as investors put fresh bets on lucrative issues amidst price fluctuations.

Industry people and investors are optimistic of a return of resilience and good governance as the interim government took a raft of measures for the financial sector, especially for the stock market.

As such, the DSEX, the broad index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose 11.13 points, or 0.19 percent, from that on the previous day before closing at 5,713.

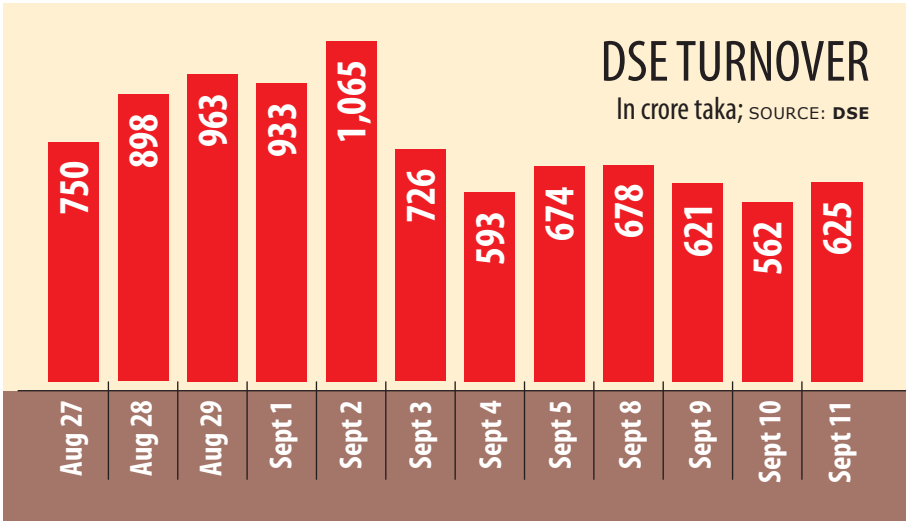
Likewise, the DSES, the index that represents the Shariah-compliant companies, went up by 5.57 points, or 0.45 percent, to 1,240.

However, the DS30 index of blue-chip firms slumped 6.93 points, or 0.33 percent, to 2,107.

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange, the CASPI, the prime index of the port city bourse, edged up by 34.57 points, or 0.21 percent, to settle at 16,161.

Turnover at the DSE, meaning the total value of shares that were traded, increased 11.10 percent to Tk 625 crore.

The banking sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 16.90 percent of the day's total turnover.



Block trades, which are high-volume transactions in securities that are privately negotiated and executed outside the open market, contributed another 5.8 percent.

Agni Systems was the most traded share with a turnover of Tk 32 crore.

Of the issues that changed hands on the trading floor of the country's premier bourse, prices of 163 went up, 172 closed lower and 62 did not witness any price movement.

Jute, ceramics and information technology (IT) were the top three sectors

to close in the positive, according to the daily market update by UCB Stock Brokerage.

Life insurance, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) and engineering were the top three sectors that closed in the negative.

Shinepukur Ceramics topped on the gainers' chart with a rise of 10 percent.

Northern Jute Manufacturing Company, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries, Premier Leasing & Finance and SK Trims & Industries made gains of

over nine percent each.

Orion Infusion, National Tea Company, Jute Spinners, ADN Telecom, Bangladesh Submarine Cables, Kohinoor Chemicals and Social Islami Bank were also on the gainers' list.

Prime Textile Spinning Mills shed the most, losing 9.32 percent.

National Life Insurance, FAS Finance & Investment, Hami Industries, Bangladesh Lamps, Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills and Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry suffered losses.

Tamijuddin Textile Mills, Libra Infusions, Shyampur Sugar Mills, Rupali Life Insurance and Bangladesh Industrial Financial Company were also on the same chart.

In its daily market update, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage said most of the sectors which account for large amounts in market capitalisation, which is the total value of a company's outstanding shares, posted a negative performance.

The NBF sector experienced the highest loss of 1.39 percent, followed by engineering (1.02 percent), food & allied (0.59 percent), fuel and power (0.47 percent) and telecommunication (0.33 percent).

However, the pharmaceuticals sector recorded a gain of 0.14 percent and the banking sector posted a gain of 0.23 percent.

Three banks seek BB guarantee Textile millers

FROM PAGE B1

of National Bank, told The Daily Star that they had applied for a guarantee to the central bank but had yet to receive approval.

"We have also applied to several banks seeking liquidity support, which have yet to approve," he added.

Islami Bank Bangladesh applied to the central bank on September 9 for a guarantee as the Shariah-based lender sought Tk1,100 crore in liquidity support from the state-run Sonali Bank.

In the application, Islami Bank Managing Director Mohammed Monirul Moula said they were facing liquidity pressure to settle customer obligations due to increased deposit withdrawal tendencies in the banking industry caused by higher inflation, rising living costs and the overall macroeconomic scenario of the country.

In the application, Islami Bank Managing Director Mohammed Monirul Moula said they were facing liquidity pressure to

settle customer obligations due to increased deposit withdrawal tendencies in the banking industry caused by higher inflation, rising living costs and the overall macroeconomic scenario of the country.

"We request you [Bangladesh Bank] to issue a bank guarantee for Tk 1,100 crore in favour of Sonali Bank PLC on our behalf to avail liquidity support for three months from the inter-bank market for the greater interest of the banking industry as well as macroeconomic stability of the country," he wrote.

The Daily Star could not reach Monirul Moula for comment.

Social Islami Bank, another restructured lender, applied to the central bank for a guarantee to avail Tk 700 crore in liquidity support.

When contacted, Mohammad Forkanullah, managing director (acting) of Social Islami Bank, told The Daily Star that they had applied to several banks for

liquidity support and that if the banking regulator approved a guarantee, it would help them obtain the necessary liquidity.

Chattagram-based S Alam Group had largely dominated the board of directors at Islami Bank and Social Islami Bank, but the central bank recently removed the group from the boards of the lenders.

BSEC to go

FROM PAGE B1

With regard to Dhanmondi Securities, the BSEC said it rejected the broker's application seeking more time to adjust its CCA.

Moreover, it will ask the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit to suspend the bank and beneficiary owner accounts of the broker's directors and its managing director.

The same action will be taken against the directors and managing director of PFI Securities as it kept a deficit in its CCA for a long time, the BSEC added.

Textile millers

FROM PAGE B1

methane-based compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, which is composed of propane, butane, propylene, butylene, and isobutane, he said. This is also increasing the cost of production.

The mills are running at only 30 percent capacity and falling behind in competition with Indian companies as the latter get adequate gas supply alongside government incentives, he added.

Moreover, gas prices in Bangladesh have been hiked by over 400 percent in the past 2-3 years, he said.

BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell said they have already written to Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, to review whether Bangladesh is truly qualified to make the United Nations country status graduation from a least developed country to a developing nation in 2026.

This is because, during

the tenure of the last government, state data miscalculations led to export figures being inflated by around \$14 billion to nearly \$48 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, he said.

He also urged banks to provide loan rescheduling facilities as businesses suffered due to political unrest over the past two months.

Moreover, the interim government should provide incentives to the primary textile sector to make the domestic industry more competitive, he added.

Russell hoped for improvements in the law and order situation, saying it was especially necessary for the smooth operation of garment factories. He and other BTMA members accused "outsiders" of recent vandalism at garment factories.

The BTMA leaders said no textile mill had been attacked so far, although hundreds of garment factories have been facing trouble for labour unrest over different demands.

Past govt fuelled inflation

FROM PAGE B1

Yunus further said his government has cancelled the unethical provision to legalise black money.

The previous government offered a unique amnesty that allowed anyone to whiten illegal gains without scrutiny by paying a 15 percent tax on assets, including cash, securities, deposits, financial schemes and instruments.

However, the interim government did not cancel the amnesty to whiten black money in case of investment in real estate

-- flats, buildings and land -- on payment of a specific amount of tax depending on the size and location of the properties.

Yunus added that the government has also sought budgetary support from various development partners in order to bolster foreign exchange reserves.

It has sought an additional \$3 billion from the International Monetary Fund, \$1 billion from the World Bank, and \$1 billion from the Japan International Cooperation

Agency.

"Discussions with Russia are ongoing regarding advance payments for the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and clearing the dues," he said.

Yunus also said his government has taken the initiative to rationally cut operating and development spending to contain pressure on state coffers.

He added that extravagant projects were taken under the 'authoritarian' Hasina government.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর

হিসাব শাখা

প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

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তারিখ: ২৭ ভাদ্র ১৪৩১

১১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪

নং-২৩.২২.০০০০.০২১.০৭.৩০২.২৪-৫০১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|
| ১ | মহাপাত্র/বিভাগ | প্রতিরক্ষা মহাপাত্র। |
| ২ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম | সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। |
| ৩ | দরপত্রের কারণ | ২০২৪-২০২৫ আর্থিক সালের জন্য "যখন প্রয়োজন তখন সরবরাহ" ভিত্তিতে প্রেশনারি ব্র্যান্ডি সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ। |
| ৪ | দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ | নং-২৩.২২.০০০০.০২১.০৭.৩০২.২৪-৫০১, তারিখ: ১১/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি. |
| ৫ | অনুলিপি উৎস | হাজির |
| ৬ | লগ্নতি | উন্নত |
| ৭ | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ | ১১/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি. |
| ৮ | দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময় | সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। ০৩/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি. ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা। |
| ৯ | দরপত্র ভুক্তমূল্য প্রাপ্তির স্থান | হিসাব শাখা, সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। |
| ১০ | দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কার্যালয়ের নাম | সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। |
| ১১ | দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলী | ১। হালদালাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন, ভ্যাট এবং ব্যাংক রজিস্ট্রারের সত্যায়িত সনদ দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। ২। স্যানিটরি আইটেম সরবরাহের ০৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৩। দরপত্রের সাথে সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাসের অধিদপ্তর দরপত্র জ্ঞানান্ত হিসাবে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে। |
| ১২ | পণ্য/কাজের নাম ও শর্তের বিবরণ | খুপ (ক) স্টেশনারী মালামাল (খ) অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি (গ) কম্পিউটার ও কন্ট্রোলিং'র স্থাপন (বিজ্ঞপ্তি সিডিউলে অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে)। |
| ১৩ | পণ্য সরবরাহের স্থান | সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। |
| ১৪ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী | মহাপরিচালক, সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস। |

দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ শর্তাবলী:

(১) শর্তাবলী সংশ্লিষ্ট সিডিউল ও মালামালের তালিকা অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ০৩/১০/২০২৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত হিসাব শাখা হতে নগদ ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মুদ্রণে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের পাত্রে আহ্বানের মাধ্যমে ক্রয় করতে হবে।

(২) দর দাখিলকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব পাত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠাতার স্বাক্ষরসহ দরপত্র প্রদান বাতিল করতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দর সুস্পষ্টভাবে অংকে ও কথায় লিখতে হবে। কোন ধরনের কাটা ছেঁড়া গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

(৩) দরদাতাকে টেন্ডার ভুক্তমূল্যের সকল পাণ্ডায় অবশ্যই স্বাক্ষরসহ পত্র অফিসে নামলীল প্রদান করতে হবে।

(৪) দরপত্রের সাথে বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন নম্বর, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অফিসের সনাক্তকরণ নম্বর (TIN), সরকারি/আইটিএন NID এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(৫) যদি কোন দরদাতা অসত্য/ভুল তথ্য বা জাল সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করেন। তবে তার দরপত্র বাতিল হবে এবং আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

(৬) সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র নামের উপরিভাগে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের নাম ও পাত্রে দরদাতাগণের পূর্ণ নাম এবং টিকানা (সীলমোহরকরণ) পরিভারতাবে লিপিবদ্ধ থাকতে হবে। সরবরাহকৃত মালামালের বিল হতে বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভ্যাট কর্তন করা হবে।

(৭) দরপত্রের কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(৮) দরপত্রের ব্যবসায়িক কংক্রিট The Public Procurement Act, 2006 এবং The Public Procurement Rules, 2008 (সংশোধিত) সহ এ সংক্রান্ত আর্যিকৃত সংশোধন শর্তাবলী নির্দেশনা অনুসারে পরিচালিত হবে।

(৯) বিল থেকে সরকার নির্ধারিত সব ধরনের ভ্যাট, ট্যাক্স এবং সরকারী আদেশ/নির্দেশ অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য কর্তব্যযোগ্য অর্থ কর্তন করা হবে।

(১০) অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও ঘোলা না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যবিবরণে দরপত্র গ্রহণ এবং ঘোলা হবে। এ সংক্রান্ত নোটিশ সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তরের নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

(১১) সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য হবে।

(১২) যে কোন ধরনের তথ্যের জন্য সামরিক ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তরের হিসাব শাখায় যোগাযোগ করতে হবে।

(শাখাঃ হিসাব শাখা)
মহাপরিচালক
ফোন: ৮৭২২৫১০
e-mail: dg@dmlc.gov.bd

GD-417

Safety fear jolts

FROM PAGE B1

Dairy, a foreign company located in Narayanganj's Ruggani, said: "We have not faced any disruptions to production. But we have already improved how engaged the management is with the workers so we do not face any problems."

New Zealand Dairy's unit, which employs around 1,000 people, is located close to the Gazi Tyre Factory, which was repeatedly attacked by vandals and set ablaze.

"Improving the mental strength of police is very important so they can help industrial units in times of crisis," Ahmed told The Daily Star over the phone.

Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said many who were contractually employed by foreign companies demanded permanent posts after the political changeover.

Amirul Haque Amin, vice-chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, echoed Nazma's sentiments.

He said it is obvious

that workers will raise their demands when the situation is favourable for them.

"However, most foreign companies have good CBAs. So, hopefully, they can handle the situation well," he added.

TIM Nurul Kabir, executive director of the FICCI, said only one foreign company, namely Bata Bangladesh, had sent a letter to the chamber regarding an attack on their factory.

Two or three factories owned by other members were also affected, but they have not lodged any complaint with the chamber yet.

He said FICCI has already held meetings with the authorities to raise concerns, adding that army personnel had been deployed in industrial areas where incidents of unrest have taken place as the industrial police are not fully active now.

The army has also provided a hotline where anyone can place emergency calls, he said.

Now FBCCI gets

FROM PAGE B1

and prompting the government to appoint the administrator.

In its order, the commerce ministry said it has appointed Md Sayed Ali, deputy secretary to the central digital cell, as the administrator.

The administrator's mandate includes overseeing the transition

and organising fair elections within 120 days, according to a ministry notification.

Earlier this week, the government appointed an administrator at the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), seven days after the president and remaining 23 directors of the CCCI executive board resigned following protests.

Arif Quadri resigns as UCB MD

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Arif Quadri, managing director and CEO of United Commercial Bank (UCB), formally resigned from his post yesterday.

He had been absent from office ever since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government was ousted by a mass uprising on August 5.

In his place, Syed Faridul Islam, additional managing director of the private commercial bank, was given the responsibility of managing director (in charge).

Officials of the bank said that Quadri is now staying in Canada. The board of directors of the bank accepted the resignation letter in a meeting yesterday (Wednesday), UCB Chairman Sharif Zahir told The Daily Star.

In December 2021, Quadri was appointed as managing director and CEO of UCB.

On August 28, the central bank dissolved the bank's 18-member board, which was heavily dominated by the family of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed. The previous board included Javed's sister Roxana Zaman Chaudhury, and relatives Anisuzzaman Chowdhury and Asifuzzaman Chowdhury.

The central bank then constituted a five-member board for the bank, comprising two shareholder directors and three independent directors.

Sharif Zahir, chairman of National Finance, was made a shareholder director. Zahir is also the managing director of Ananta Group and a former vice chairman of UCB.



Arif Quadri

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
Office of The Chief Engineer
"Krishi Bhaban"
49-51 Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
(Construction Division)

Invitation for New Enlistment & Renewal

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Agriculture |
| 2. | Agency | Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) |
| 3. | Procuring Entity Name | Chief Engineer (Construction) Construction Division, BADC, Krishi Bhaban, Dhaka |
| 4. | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka |
| 5. | Invitation for | New Enlistment & Renewal |
| 6. | Invitation Ref No | 12.06.0000.255.99.019.23 |
| 7. | Date | 11.09.24 |
| KEY INFORMATION | | |
| 8. | Procurement Method | Limited Tendering Method |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | |
| 9(a) | Application Sale Start Date & Time | From 22.09.2024 (During office hour) |
| (b) | Application Sale Closing Date & Time | Till 31.10.2024 (Up to office hour) |
| (c) | Last Application Receiving Date & Time | 07.11.2024 (Up to office hour) |
| 10. | Name & Address of the Office(s) | ADDRESS: |
| - Application Form Availability | | a) Office of The Chief Engineer (Construction) Construction Division, BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. b) Office of The Executive Engineer (Const./M/S&W), all regional offices of BADC. |
| - Receiving Application Form | | a) Office of The Chief Engineer (Construction) Construction Division, BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. b) Office of The Executive Engineer (Const./M/S&W), all regional offices of BADC. |
| INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT | | |
| 11. | Eligibility of Applicant | (i) For New Enlistment must have the following documents: a. Updated Trade License. b. Updated Tax Return submission receipt. c. VAT & BIN registration certificate. d. e-Tin Certificate. e. Bank solvency (Not more than 06 (Six) months old) and other documents as mentioned in the Application Form (SAFE). (ii) For Renewal Enlistment: a. Updated Trade License. b. Updated Tax Return Submission Receipt. c. Other information required as per application form. |
| 12. | Price of Application Form (Tk) | (i) Tk. 500/- (Non refundable) in the form of Cash for New Enlistment. (ii) Tk. 200/- (Non refundable) in the form of Cash for Renewal. |
| 13. | (a) New Enlistment Fee (Tk) (b) Renewal Fee (Tk) (For updated enlisted firms) | (a) Tk. 5000/- & VAT 15% (For New), (b) Tk. 2000/- & VAT 15% (For Renewal). Selected firms for New Enlistment / Renewal shall have to deposit the fee in the form of Pay-order in favor of "Chief Engineer (Construction), STD A/C No. 1612103000181, Sonali Bank PLC, Krishi Bhaban Branch, Dhaka" from any Branch of Sonali Bank PLC. all over Bangladesh and VAT in the form of Chalan Receipt as per Govt. rule to: (i) Assistant Accounts Officer, Construction Division, (5 th floor) BADC, Krishi Bhaban, Dhaka. (ii) Applicant's nearest Executive Engineer's office, BADC. |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | |
| 14. | Name of Official Inviting Application | Muhammad Badrul Alam |
| 15. | Designation of Official Inviting Application | Chief Engineer (Current Charge) Construction Division, BADC, Krishi Bhaban, Dhaka-1000. |
| 16. | Address of Official Inviting Application | Construction Division, 5 th floor, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. |
| 17. | Contact details of Official Inviting Application | Tel. No. 09678-721136 e-mail: ce_construction11@yahoo.com |
| 18. | The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept/reject any or all applications without assigning any reason. | |
| 19. | If it becomes not possible to receive new enlistment/renewal document on the last date & time due to any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received on the next working day. | |

বিএডিসি =৫৫(১০X৩)

11.09.2024
Muhammad Badrul Alam
Chief Engineer (Current Charge)
Construction Division, BADC, Dhaka.

GD- 412

Economy still in contraction mode

Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index shows

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economic activities picked up in August compared to the month prior but could not recover from the trend of contraction that took hold in July, when the overall business environment deteriorated in the face of deadly protests, according to the latest Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The overall PMI rose 6.6 points to 43.5 in August from 36.9 the month prior, according to a press release yesterday.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion of economic activities, the mid-point reading of 50 means 'no change', and anything below that represents contraction.

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) prepared the index, which is based on data compiled from monthly surveys of over 500 private sector enterprises.

"This latest PMI reading can be attributed to contraction readings posted by key sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services," said the statement issued by the MCCI and the PEB.

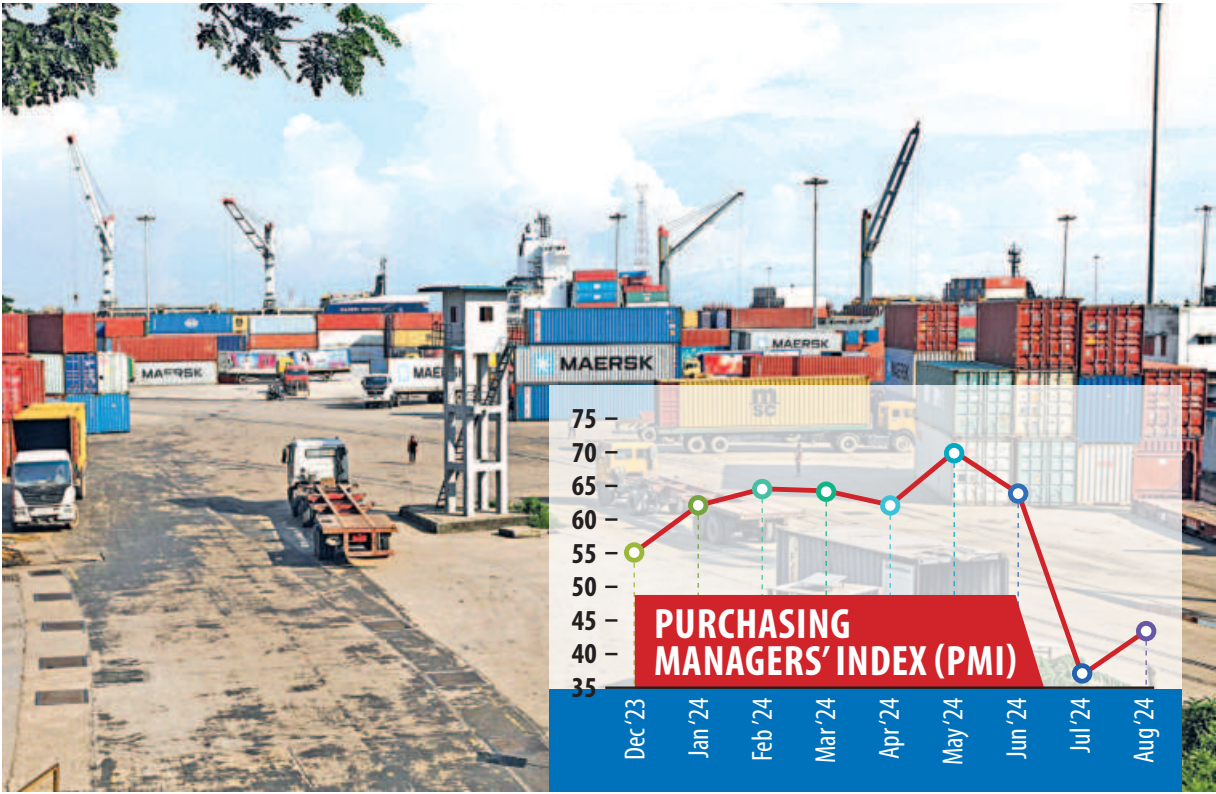
"While still in contraction mode, with a reading below 50 indicating overall slowdown, the August PMI indicates improvements in the general economy whilst the interim government works tirelessly to rebuild political stability and ensure normal business operations across sectors following the fall of the Awami League regime."

According to the latest PMI, the manufacturing sector recorded an increase of 13.6 points to reach 47.7 in August, indicating continued contraction despite general improvements

The MCCI said the index fell by 27 points in July, hitting a record low of 36.9 due to widespread unrest and extreme measures taken by the previous government before its eventual downfall.

"Still, we are in contraction mode though overall activity increased in August," said M Masrur Reaz, chairman of PEB.

According to the latest PMI, the manufacturing sector recorded an increase of 13.6 points to reach 47.7 in August, indicating continued contraction despite general improvements in new orders, new exports, imports, supplier deliveries, factory output



and order backlogs compared to the previous month.

After six months of continuous expansion before July, the agriculture sector recorded 38.7 in August, reflecting a 3.3 point improvement.

However, construction activities did not gain steam. The overall construction index fell at a faster rate, deteriorating by 5 points to 40 in August.

"The sector posted a faster contraction in the indexes of new business and construction activity. But the input cost and order backlog indices also remained on the expansion track, indicating a poor environment for construction activities," the MCCI said.

On the other hand, the services sector improved in August.

"Although all sectors posted contraction readings for two months straight, there were slight improvements in manufacturing, agriculture and service sectors," the MCCI said.

"Companies are cautiously optimistic of the economic outlook as the future business index continues to record expansion readings for all key sectors of the economy, although at a slower rate for key sectors compared to the previous month."

MCCI Secretary General and CEO Farooq Ahmed said although there were a few weeks of stability after the mass uprising that overthrew the Awami League government on August 5, business operations were hampered by various instances of unrest that led to the closure of many factories.

"Recovering completely from the economic turmoil noticed in the month of July however, will require strict restoration of law and order and political stability to keep factories running."

Reaz said manufacturing, retail and other business activities improved although there is still labour unrest in many areas.

"However, it remains to be seen whether the economy can come out of the contractionary phase," he said.

Submarine Cables to issue 2.21cr shares

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Submarine Cables PLC (BSCPLC) yesterday got approval to issue 2.21 crore ordinary shares against the government's share money deposit of Tk 166 crore, which was provided when the company set up its second submarine cable for increasing internet bandwidth.

Share money deposit refers to funds paid in exchange for shares that have yet to be acquired by the buyer.

The approval was granted at a meeting of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), which also decided that the shares of BSCPLC would be issued at Tk 75 with a face-value of Tk 10.

The listed state-run company will issue the shares to the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, according to a press release from the BSEC.

Shares of BSCPLC, around 74 percent of which are owned by the government, saw their value rise by around 8 percent to Tk 159 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday. The company currently has 16.49 crore outstanding shares.

BSCPLC received Tk 140 crore from the government in financial year 2015-16 under a project to install the country's second submarine cable. In 2016-17, the company got another Tk 26 crore for the same purpose.

The government's fund was used for the installation and establishment of the second submarine cable system under the Regional Submarine Telecommunications Project.

The Southeast Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 5 (SMW-5) is an optical fibre submarine communications cable system that carries telecommunications between Singapore and France.

BSCPLC is the only local company that connects the country with the global bandwidth network through undersea cables.

No delay allowed for Alif directors' Tk 200cr subscription

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided not to extend the subscription time for directors of Alif Industries who decided to buy shares of the company worth Tk 200 crore.

Yesterday, the stock market regulator took the decision at a board meeting.

In 2021, the company had decided to raise the capital through the issuance of new shares when the share price was Tk 48.

The garment manufacturer said it wanted to issue new shares at a 40 percent discount on the weighted average share price of the preceding six months or 180 working days.

So, it had applied to the BSEC for its permission to issue each share at Tk 22. Later, the BSEC approved the issuance of the shares. In the meantime, the share price of the company dropped.

Yesterday, share of Alif Industries traded at Tk 8. Amidst this trend of the decline in share prices, the directors sought extension of the time for the subscription.

Subsequently, the BSEC said it would not extend the time further.

FICCI urges NBR for full digitalisation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to take steps to fully digitalise its operations and enhance automation systems to optimise revenue generation.

The foreign trade body made the demand yesterday when a delegation, led by FICCI President Zaved Akhtar, met with NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan at the NBR office in the capital's Agargaon.

The FICCI also sought the NBR's support in reforming the country's tax system to make Bangladesh a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment and to bolster the national economy, according to a press release.

The delegation advocated for the establishment of a dedicated research wing within the NBR, focusing on the expansion of the tax net, collection of revenue through proper market research, and identifying the gap between market share and revenue share.

Taskforce formed for economic strategies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The planning ministry has formed a 12-member taskforce to develop strategies to give a boost to the economy and mobilise resources for equitable and sustainable development.

The taskforce is led by KAS Murshid, former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

According to a circular issued by the ministry on Tuesday, the taskforce has been asked to submit its report within three months.

The other members include Akhtar Mahmood, a former World Bank official, Selim Raihan and Rumana Huque, professors at the University of Dhaka's economics department, Abdur Razzak, former head of research at Commonwealth Secretariat, Mushfiq Mobarak, an economics professor at Yale University.

The rest of members are Shamsul Haque, a professor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Nasim Manzoor, former president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Monzur Hossain, research director at the BIDS, Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, AKM Fahim Mashrur, CEO of Bdjobs.com, and Md Kawser Ahmed, member of General Economics Division of the Planning Commission.

Of them, Kawser Ahmed will work as member secretary to the committee. The committee can add more members if it deems it necessary, as per the notification.

The interim government has undertaken the move as a part of reform initiatives for the economic sector. Earlier, it had formed a committee to prepare a white paper on the state of Bangladesh's economy.

Role of NBFIs in the current economic context

MASUD KHAN

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur has reassured that the central bank will provide liquidity support to assist struggling banks, which is a positive step.

However, a critical issue is being overlooked: the state of the non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs). A significant portion of the population depends on NBFIs for their financial needs, yet this sector has been plagued by scandals and mismanagement.

NBFIs play a crucial role in the financial ecosystem, complementing traditional banks by serving segments that are often underserved by the latter. While commercial banks globally focus on short-term financing, NBFIs specialise in long-term funding, providing essential services like SME financing and microfinance.

One of the standout features of NBFIs is their proactive approach to client engagement, often reaching out directly to customers, visiting their offices and offering quicker decision-making processes compared to banks. In contrast, banks tend to be bureaucratic, requiring clients to visit branches and go through lengthy approval procedures that involve multiple layers of management.

In fact, while banks focus more on the company, NBFIs focus more on the borrower, especially their paying habits.

NBFIs prioritise the business model of their clients over collateral, making them more accessible for smaller businesses.

Many well-established NBFIs have in-house legal and engineering teams, allowing them to handle verification and evaluation internally. This provides clients with a more seamless, hassle-free experience and quick decisions compared to traditional banks.

Unfortunately, the challenges facing NBFIs mirror those of the banking sector. While some NBFIs have flourished, others are struggling, burdened by high levels of non-performing loans (NPLs) and suffering from mismanagement. Fraudulent loans and fund embezzlement have severely weakened several institutions.

As of June 2023, the NPL ratio for NBFIs stood at 27.65 percent, but by January 2024 it had surged to a record high of 30 percent. This situation has been exacerbated by a lack of oversight from the Bangladesh Bank and complicity of top tiers in the central bank and NBFIs, which has allowed bad loans to spiral out of control and earned mistrust of the depositors, thereby hindering the progress of this important sector and the economy.

Given their importance, it is crucial for the central bank to extend the same level of oversight and support to NBFIs as it does to banks. This includes addressing governance issues by reconstituting the boards of troubled NBFIs and offering liquidity support to ensure their stability.

Protecting depositors' interests should be a top priority. By enforcing stricter regulations and providing financial assistance where needed, the central bank can help restore confidence in NBFIs, ensuring this vital sector remains healthy and capable of supporting the economy.

In summary, while the focus on assisting banks is necessary, the plight of NBFIs should not be ignored. Effective regulation, better governance and financial support are key to safeguarding the integrity of this crucial part of Bangladesh's financial system.

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Harris, Trump cross swords on China and economy in debate

AFP, Washington

US presidential hopefuls Kamala Harris and Donald Trump clashed on China and economic issues Tuesday, with the Democratic candidate saying he "sold us out" on China while the former president declared "they've destroyed the economy."

"He ended up selling American chips to China to help them improve and modernize their military," said Harris in her first debate with Trump ahead of the November 5 election.

"(He) basically sold us out when a policy about China should be in making sure the United States of America wins the competition for the 21st century," she added.

Harris's comments came as she and Trump crossed swords on various economic issues including the cost of living, inflation and her position on fracking.

"He invited trade wars," Harris said, referring to a tit-for-tat escalation of tariffs between the United States and China during Trump's 2017-2021 presidency.

With Trump proposing across-the-board tariffs of 10 percent to 20 percent on all imports if reelected, Harris likened the plans to a "sales tax" -- given concerns that costs could be passed on to consumers.

Trump is looking to impose a higher level of levies on imports from China, at 60 percent.

Harris also took aim at Trump on Tuesday for thanking Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2020 for his country's handling of Covid-19, saying this was

despite a lack of "transparency" about the virus's origins.

Republican candidate Trump, in turn, claimed that Harris "has no policy" and said that the Biden-Harris administration has kept his administration's tariffs on China in place.



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speak during a presidential debate in Philadelphia on September 10.

PHOTO: AFP