

Eggs and broiler chickens are not being sold anywhere in Dhaka at rates set by the government on Sunday this week

Story on B4



Hoe Yun Jeong

ADB appoints new country director for Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Hoe Yun Jeong as its new country director for Bangladesh.

Jeong will now lead the ADB's operations in Bangladesh, including policy dialogues with the interim government, the country's development partners and other stakeholders, according to a press release.

"I look forward to working closely with the interim government and people of Bangladesh to restore the country's economic and fiscal stability and implement broad reforms critical for economic diversification and sustainable growth," he said.

Jeong has 25 years of professional experience, including roughly 15 years at the ADB.

Before joining the multilateral development bank headquartered in Manila, he held senior positions in the ministry of strategy and finance of the Republic of Korea.

He joined the ADB in

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PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

Gazi Tyres, a concern of Gazi Group, saw its production unit in Narayanganj looted, vandalised, and set ablaze in phases since early August, reducing it to a pile of ashes and rubble. As a result, over 2,000 people have been left without jobs and are now staring at uncertainty.

Gazi Tyres workers face the fallout of mindless destruction

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

Standing outside the charred ruins of the Gazi Tyres factory in Rupsi, Rugganj on September 9, Billal Hossain was staring at a bleak future.

A middle-aged man from Cumilla, Billal had worked as a caretaker in the factory's administration for 17 years, witnessing its growth into Bangladesh's largest local tyre manufacturer.

Now, along with hundreds of his colleagues, he finds himself searching for a new job after the factory was forced to close following repeated fires and looting in the wake of the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

"I earned Tk 22,000 and lived in the factory quarters. But since losing my job, I have had to rent a house," Billal said. "I applied for four jobs, but none

offered me more than Tk 10,000. They treat me like I'm new to the industry."

Billal's story is shared by at least 2,000 other employees of Gazi Tyres who were laid off after the incidents.

The once-thriving factory was looted and torched between August 5 and August 8, in what many locals described as an eruption of frustration over years of misrule by the

Awami League government.

Gazi's alleged local misconduct, including accusations of building the factory on disputed land, also fuelled the unrest.

Golam Dastagir Gazi, a former member of parliament and the factory owner, was arrested on August 25. That same day, another fire broke out, engulfing a six-story building.

Many workers feared their relatives were trapped inside as fire crews battled the blaze. "The fire was finally extinguished after five days, but by then, the damage was done," said one resident.

More workers were laid off with fires and looting continuing while those who remained, including security guards, feared for their jobs.

Insufficient security in turn exacerbated the problem as thieves stripped the factory of machine parts and materials.

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IsDB to give \$4-5b in three years

BSS, Dhaka

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) will likely provide an overall support of around \$4 billion to \$5 billion to various sectors in Bangladesh within the next three years under its "Member Country Partnership Strategy" (MCPS).

Muhammad Nassiss Sulaiman, head of the IsDB regional hub in Dhaka, informed journalists about this development while replying to their queries after meeting with Salehuddin Ahmed, finance and commerce adviser to the interim government.

The meeting was held at Ahmed's office at Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

"As a part of the MCPS, the plan for the next three years is to give support of \$4-5 billion," Sulaiman said.

Asked whether there had been any discussion about International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) increasing its lending limit to Bangladesh for fuel oil purchases, he said it was included in their overall talks with the interim government.

The ITFC is a trade financing arm of IsDB Group.

The IsDB's MCPS needs to be framed in detail for the next couple of years to fix their support, including the ITFC's support to Bangladesh, said Sulaiman.

"So, we really look forward to providing support in infrastructural development

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S Alam seeks govt support to recover from business losses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chattogram-based business conglomerate S Alam Group has requested that the government provide financial, social and legal support for recovering the business it lost due to the freezing of its different bank accounts.

The business conglomerate made the request through a letter sent to the governor of Bangladesh Bank and the head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) on September 12.

A copy of the letter, signed by Mohammed Delwar Hossain, general manager for accounts and finance at the S Alam Group, was also reportedly sent to the adviser to the finance ministry.

In the letter, the business conglomerate said different companies under the S Alam Group, owned by Mohammed Saiful Alam, have been maintaining accounts with banks and had sufficient funds to ensure business operations.

The group alleged that Islami Bank Bangladesh initially stopped providing services to the group's companies on August 8.

Gradually, other banks, including First Security Islami Bank PLC, Global Islami Bank PLC and Union Bank

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BB forms management board for Nagad

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has formed a management board for mobile financial services provider Nagad, shows a central bank document.

KAS Murshid, former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, has been appointed as the head of the board.

The board will help Nagad formulate its action plans and set strategic management direction. It will also provide essential guidance to the Nagad administrator and his team, according to the BB letter sent to the postal department.

Other board members include Khondokar Shakhawat Ali, visiting research fellow at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, and Dr Bazlul Haque Khondker, research director at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

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Bangladesh to clear all overdue LCs within six months

BB governor assures correspondent banks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh will clear all overdue payments relating to letters of credit (LCs) within the next five to six months, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur assured correspondent banks yesterday.

The central bank governor made the commitment during a virtual meeting between the Bangladesh Bank and the correspondent banks.

A correspondent bank is a third-party financial institution that acts as the intermediary between domestic and international banks during foreign trade.

Bangladesh's state-run and private commercial banks have hefty overdue payments against LCs, which must be paid to correspondent banks.

Correspondent banks wanted to know how state-run banks and the government would cover the overdue payments

After the meeting, Husne Ara Shikha, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank, told journalists that correspondent banks wanted to know how state-run banks and the government would cover the overdue payments.

Bangladesh had already cleared dues equivalent to \$800 million to the correspondent banks, she quoted Mansur as saying in response to the query.


"Now Bangladesh Bank is collecting foreign currencies from the interbank market and providing it to state-run banks. Those state-run banks are then clearing LC payments for priority sectors like power, energy and fertiliser," Shikha said.


Bangladesh had not defaulted on any payments in the past and would not default in the future, she quoted Mansur as saying.


Although Shikha did not provide any data on the volume of overdue payments against LCs, BB officials said it was likely to be around \$12 billion or \$13 billion.

Bangladesh Bank data showed that Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation had the highest amount of overdue payment relating to LCs.

It was followed by Bangladesh Oil Gas and Mineral Corporation, Directorate General of Health Services, Directorate General of Defence Purchase, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Bangladesh Power Development Board, and Bangladesh Coast Guard.

	STOCKS	
	DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
	0.52% 5,681.60	0.25% 16,077.06

	COMMODITIES	
	Gold ▼	Oil ▼
	\$2,570.99 (per ounce)	\$69.94 (per barrel)

	ASIAN MARKETS			
	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
	▲ 0.11% 83,079.66	▼ 1.03% 36,203.22	▲ 0.64% 3,593.42	▼ 0.48% 2,704.09

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