

The reopening of six state-owned sugar mills faces uncertainty as the authorities are yet to finalise the modernisation plan

Story on B4



Govt speeds up Adani payments

Pledges to clear dues

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Power Division has replied to Gautam Adani's letter to Prof Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, saying the government will clear its dues within the shortest possible time.

The Power Division said Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) paid \$29.5 million to Adani Power between August 8, when the interim government was sworn into office, and September 11.

Gautam Adani, the chairman of Adani Group, wrote to the chief adviser on August 27, seeking his intervention in clearing around \$800 million in overdue payments for power produced by Adani's 1,496 megawatts (MW) Godda power plant in Jharkhand, India.

The Power Division officials said the chief adviser's office forwarded the letter to the relevant authority, which sent a reply on September 15.

The Daily Star has seen a copy of the letter, signed by an additional secretary to the Power Division.

It said the payments had been in low amounts as foreign exchange reserves had dropped, an issue that is slowly easing due to measures taken by the interim government.

The letter added that there has been an improvement in payments after the interim government came to office compared to those made since June.

A Power Division source said they had paid Adani Power an additional \$30 million after September 11.

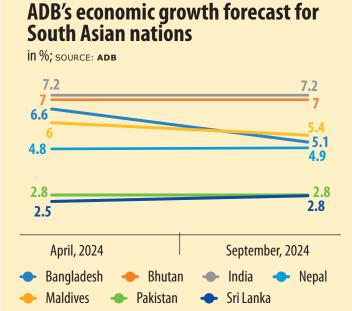
In total, the interim government has paid Adani Power around \$60 million.

"The PDB has been making periodic payments. However, from June 2024, we have been experiencing some foreign exchange constraints," the letter reads.

READ MORE ON B3

Prime Bank SAFE. STRONG. SUSTAINABLE.

Inflation to hit double digits by end of FY25: ADB



Inflation projections for South Asian **KEY CHALLENGES Supply-side disruptions** countries for FY25 due to protests and floods in %; SOURCE: ADB 10.1 Higher import costs due to currency depreciation **Political uncertainties** Lack of law and order Data gaps and integrity **Finance sector** vulnerabilities Weak external demand

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Inflation is projected to hit double digits at the end of the current fiscal year owing to supplyside disruptions and higher import costs as a result of currency depreciation, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In its latest Asian Development Outlook released yesterday, the Manila-based lender projected that inflation would increase to 10.1 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2025, which is 3.1 percentage points higher than the estimate it

The immediate past government, which was ousted on August 5 by a mass uprising, had targeted to keep inflation to 6.5 percent this fiscal year after it had hit 9.7 percent in FY24.

"Elevated food and non-food prices in the first half of the fiscal year reflect supply-side disruption and higher import costs due to currency depreciation, pushing up inflation forecasts," the ADB said.

Consumers in Bangladesh have been fighting persistent inflationary pressures over

the past two years, with inflation hovering and among banks, and refrain from lending above 9 percent since March 2023.

The interim government released the inflation data of July, which showed that the point-to-point inflation rate was 11.66 percent in July and 10.49 percent in August. However, the moving average was below 10 percent during the two months.

After the interim government released the data, economists said the sudden spike in inflation in July reflected that the data had not been manipulated.

The ADB said inflationary pressures were expected to moderate in the second half of the fiscal year as tight monetary and fiscal policies would lower domestic demand.

The central bank's monetary policy statement indicates that a tight monetary policy will continue in FY25.

In a statement presented before the political unrest, the central bank had committed to maintaining a contractionary monetary policy. It had also planned to streamline open market operations, cease currency swaps with

to finance the budget deficit.

In line with that statement, the central bank vesterday increased its repo rate by 50 basis points to 9.0 percent, the standing deposit facility rate to 7.5 percent, and the standing lending facility rate to 10.5 percent.

It will likely raise the policy rate further as needed to manage inflationary expectations, the ADB added.

Although Bangladesh has been enduring ersistent inflation for a long time, its South Asian peers appear to be in a comfort zone as they have managed inflationary pressures through policy support.

Meanwhile, the ADB lowered its forecast for Bangladesh's economic growth to 5.1 percent for the current fiscal year, primarily due to supply disruptions caused by political unrest

in July and August as well as recent floods. The Manila-based lender had earlier projected that the gross domestic product

(GDP) would grow by 6.6 percent in FY25.

Eastern Bank PLC. EBL Structured **Finance** > 20 years > 100 transactions > Tk. 25,000 Crore (FCY & LCY) Arranger Services efficient way 3 Agency Services 16230

49 firms allowed to export hilsa to India

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Ministry of Commerce vesterday issued a circular allowing 49 businesses to each export 50 tonnes of hilsa to India marking the upcoming Durga Puja scheduled to begin on

October 9. The businesses had applications submitted based on a September 21 circular, in which the ministry approved the export of 3,000 tonnes of hilsa to India this year citing a foreign ministry recommendation.

The businesses had submitted applications based on a September 21 circular, in which the ministry approved the export of 3,000 tonnes of hilsa to India this year

Usually, the decision to export hilsa is conveyed to the commerce ministry by the fisheries and livestock ministry, which initially not in favour of it this year.

In fiscal year 2023-24, Bangladesh exported 664.86 tonnes of hilsa to India at \$7.71 million, according to data from the Department of Fisheries. The exported amount was less than 1 percent of the 571,342 tonnes of hilsa caught that year.

fiscal 2022-23. 1,376.42 tonnes of hilsa were exported for \$13.68 million, with 566,593 tonnes of the fish having been caught that year.

Normalcy returning to RMG sector

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Normalcy has started to return to the garment factories as the workers have resumed avoiding further unrest after the owners have accepted all the 18 of their demands.

Most factories in key industrial hubs like Ashulia and Gazipur were operating smoothly yesterday.

However, a few factories are still planning to reopen soon, Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said over phone. The situation is expected to remain peaceful

since all the stakeholders, including the government, union leaders, and factory owners, have agreed to the workers' demands, he said. "Garment factory owners lost more than \$100

million during the recent unrest, as many were unable to maintain production. Currently, the rapid pace of production and shipping goods to clear the backlog caused by the labour unrest are the two major challenges," the BGMEA chief added.

As a result, the exporters may have to either offer discounts to international retailers and brands or resort to costly air shipments to meet the tight lead

times set by their buyers, he said. However, retailers and brands remain supportive and have assured exporters that they will wait until normal operations are restored.

international retailers and brands on Monday or Tuesday to discuss the current situation and future business strategies.

Garment factory owners agreed to all the 18 of the workers' demands vesterday, including provisions for tiffin and night allowances, to quell the ongoing unrest.

As part of the agreement, the owners will provide an additional Tk 225 as an attendance bonus and increase night and tiffin allowances by Tk 10. bringing the total to Tk 100. The outstanding wages will also be cleared soon.

Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman said at a press briefing yesterday that around 1 percent to 2 percent of the garment factories are yet to implement the new wage structure, which took effect in December last year. The factories need to comply with it as soon as

The government will also support workers in dense industrial areas through the Trading

Corporation of Bangladesh's open market sales programme, allowing them to purchase essential goods at lower prices.

Additionally, the government plans to regulate the jhoot (waste fabric) trade, as disputes over Islam plans to meet with representatives of major control of this market have been identified as a key factor behind the recent unrest.

As of 2pm yesterday, the situation was stable in most factories in Gazipur, Gazipur Industrial Police Superintendent Mohammad Sarwar Alam told The Daily Star.

Most workers have returned to their jobs and 13 closed factories in Gazipur are expected to reopen in the coming days.

However, he said not everything is fully resolved as today workers from Full Ibar BD Ltd in the Gacha area blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, demanding unpaid wages and the reopening of

Enamul Haque, an employee at Star Craft Ltd in Gazipur, told The Daily Star that the attendance bonus will be implemented in his factory and the workers are pleased to see the acceptance of the 18-point demand.

Ziaul Kabir Khokon, president of the Garment Workers Trade Union's Gazipur district branch, confirmed that several factories are providing additional attendance bonuses to workers who have no record of lateness and maintain regular

DSE downgrades 27 stocks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday decided to downgrade 27 companies to the Z or junk category for failing to properly pay dividends to shareholders in the last two years.

Out of the 27 companies, 14 failed to pay at least 80 percent of the dividends that they had announced for their shareholders and the remaining 13 failed to make any dividend payments.

According to the rules of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, a company will be listed under the Z category if it fails to pay dividends to shareholders for two years.

The same will be applicable for those failing to provide at least 80 percent of dividends or hold annual general meetings for two years or those which have kept their factories closed for six months.

The 27 include Associated Oxygen, Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals, Beach Hatchery, Desh Garments, Advent

Islami Bank's suspicious share price spike under scanner

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) ordered the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to inquire into the unusual movement of share prices of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC.

The directive comes as prices of the shares of the Shariah-based bank skyrocketed since August 7, two days after the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government by a student-led mass uprising.

Shares of Islami Bank closed at Tk 70.4 yesterday, up from Tk 32.6 on August 6 following the Bangladesh Bank's restructuring of the board of the oldest Shariahbased bank controlled mainly by Chattogram-based business house S Alam Group, which is alleged to be a beneficiary of the previous Awami League government.

Share prices of Islami Bank in the last three months 65 60 Price — 55 **50** 45 40 35 Aug 24 Sep 24 Jul 24

prices, the BSEC said it observed that the price and volume of shares of Islami Bank fluctuated significantly in recent times which

seems "unusual and suspicious". As such, it instructed the DSE Amid an upward trend in the to investigate the trading of Islami

Bank shares from August 6 to September 25 to determine whether there was market manipulation, insider trading or other market

The BSEC ordered the prime READ MORE ON B3

Healthy banks asked to help ailing lenders

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked sound banks with excess liquidity to lend to crisis-hit banks facing severe liquidity shortages, in the best interests of the country's banking sector.

The central bank's instruction came during a meeting between Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur and managing directors and CEOs of a portion of sound lenders yesterday.

Chief executives of Eastern Bank. Mutual Trust Bank, City Bank, BRAC Bank, Dhaka Bank, Pubali Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Sonali Bank and Dutch-Bangla Bank were present at the meeting.

A managing director of a private bank who attended the meeting told The Daily Star that the BB governor assured them that banks would get back their money from those crisis-hit lenders as the central bank would act as a guarantor.

"Now we will take a decision in our board of directors meeting about how much to provide to them and will inform the central bank," said the MD.

To manage liquidity for crisis-hit

banks, the central bank has already signed agreements with five lenders-First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank and National Bank.

After yesterday's meeting, Bangladesh Bank Executive Director and Spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha told reporters that the central bank met with 10 banks which agreed to support the lenders that were facing current account deficits with the central bank.

As per the agreement with the five banks, the banks will have to pay 0.25 percent of the amount as a guarantee fee to the central bank.

The guarantee covers a period of three months on a case-to-case basis, while the loans will have to be paid back with profit after maturity.

Under the agreement, once the loans are repaid, the lenders will be able to take loans for another three months, and the total tenure of this rollover will be one

In case any crisis-hit bank fails to make a repayment, the liquidity provider can

READ MORE ON B3

Rangs launches 'Mitsubishi Outlander SUV' for Bangladesh market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Rangs Limited, a distributor of Japanese Mitsubishi Motors Bangladesh, has launched its latest sport utility vehicle (SUV), the Mitsubishi Outlander Sport, for the local market.

The Outlander Sport unveiled at the Mitsubishi Motors Bangladesh showroom in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday comes with four specialised driving modes and its design is suitable for Bangladesh's weather and road conditions.

The vehicle features an 8-inch fully digital instrument cluster, according to a

The SUV boasts a 12.3-inch touchscreen infotainment system equipped with the latest technologies, including Android Auto, Apple CarPlay, and navigation.

Its safety features include six SRS airbags, anti-lock braking system, electronic brake-force distribution, active stability control, blind spot warning and ear cross traffic alert technology.

Active yaw control feature was also added for better performance on slippery roads along with a tyre pressure monitoring system, multiple charging ports with a wireless charger, an electronic parking brake, parking sensors, and a rearview camera.

The SUV has eye-catching "T"-shaped



Mohammad Hamdur Rahman Simon, chief executive officer of RANGS Limited, Shoeb Ahmed, divisional director of RANCON Auto Division-1, and Mohammad Fahim Hossain, divisional head of marketing at RANCON Auto Division-1, attend the launch of the Mitsubishi Outlander Sport at the Mitsubishi Motors Bangladesh showroom in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

headlights and rear combination lights, measuring 4,390 millimetres (mm) in length, 1,810 mm in width, and 1,635 mm in height with a ground clearance of 222

Under the hood, the Outlander Sport is

powered by a 1,499 cc, 4-cylinder, DOHC 16-valve 1.5L MIVEC engine, paired with a CVT (F-1-CWA) transmission and 18-inch machine-cut alloy wheels among other

The vehicle is available in six colours.

Shoeb Ahmed, divisional director of RANCON Auto Division-1, expressed his excitement at the launch, saying, "We are delighted to introduce the new Mitsubishi Outlander Sport in the SUV segment. We believe its performance will help customers move more freely in their dayto-day lives and strengthen their trust and confidence in Mitsubishi.'

"With a five-year warranty and three free servicing sessions, we are hopeful that this new SUV will make a significant impact in the market," said Mohammad Hamdur Rahman Simon, chief executive officer of RANGS Ltd.

The car is priced at Tk 49.50 lakh and is currently assembled in Indonesia, Simon

Mohammad Fahim Hossain, divisional head of marketing at RANCON Auto Division- 1, expressed his optimism in launching the Japanese technologyinfused vehicle to the Bangladeshi market and asked interested people to take the car out for a test drive at their flagship showrooms in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Among others, Saleh divisional head of finance of RANCON Auto Division- 1, AFM Musfiqur Rahman, general manager and head of supply chain, and Meherun Nessa Faruk Sonia, assistant general manager and deputy head of private sales, were also present.

Standard Bank organises training on investment

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Bank PLC organised a training programme on investment for selected officials from the head office and branches in a bid to enhance banking knowledge and efficiency.

Md Habibur Rahman, managing director and CEO, inaugurated the two-day programme as chief guest at the bank's Learning Centre in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

The speakers share their knowledge regarding investment operations and management with the trainees.

Among others, Masud Hasan, vice-president and head of human resources division, and Syed Monsoon Ali, vice-president and in-charge of Standard Bank Learning Centre, were also present.

Yeahia joins First Security Islami Bank as AMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Abu Reza Md Yeahia has ioined First Security Islami Bank PLC as additional managing director (AMD). Yeahia was previously

serving as additional managing director of Social Islami Bank PLC, the bank said in a press release. During his 35-year career,

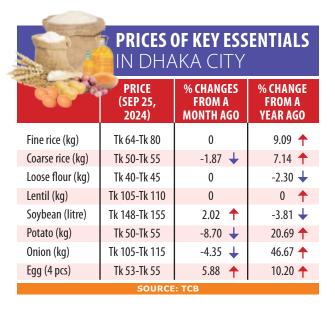
Yeahia has assumed the role of company secretary, chief anti-money laundering and compliance officer, and chief law officer.

He has also demonstrated expertise in the international banking division, development wing, retail investment wing and legal department.

He started his professional banking career with Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC as a probationary officer in 1989 and worked in different capacities before being promoted to deputy managing director.

He visited many countries, including the US, China, Singapore, KSA, Oman and the UAE to attend different seminars, symposiums and to encourage expatriate Bangladeshis to remit their income to the country through banking

Yeahia obtained his honour's and master's degrees in law from the University of Dhaka.



Standard Bank PLC. INVESTMENT OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

Md Habibur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Standard Bank PLC, poses for photographs with participants of a training programme at the bank's Learning Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Southeast Bank declares 10% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC announced a 10 percent dividend, including a 6 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2023.

the bank's 29th annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday.

Alamgir Kabir, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, the bank said in a press release.

Kabir appreciated shareholders for their co-operation and active support for the bank's sustainable growth.

He assured everyone of gradually implementing the suggestions put forward in the meeting to accelerate the operational performance of the bank.

In his welcome address, Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director, highlighted operational performance in 2023 and outlined



Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Southeast Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 29th annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday. The meeting announced a 10 percent dividend, including a 6 percent cash dividend, for 2023. PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

future plans and strategies to further augment operational efficiency and asset quality of the

The bank earned an operating profit of Tk 885 crore in 2023.

bank's total deposits amounted to Tk 38,640 crore and its total assets reached Tk 51,086. Earnings per share stood at Tk 1.66 and net asset value per share at Tk 24.92, the press release added.

Md Akikur Rahman, vicechairman of the bank, MA Kashem, founder chairman and sponsor director, Azim Uddin Ahmed, ex-chairman and sponsor director, and Duluma Ahmed and Jusna Ara Kashem, sponsor directors, joined the meeting.

Rehana Rahman, Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Md Rafigul Islam, directors, Mohammad Delwar Husain, independent director, and AKM Nazmul Haider, company secretary, also attended the

Oil dips as investors weigh whether new China stimulus will boost demand

investors reassessed whether China's latest stimulus plans will be able to boost its economy and spur fuel demand in the world's largest crude importer.

Still, declining US crude oil and fuel stockpiles, and more violence in the Middle East, provided some support for the market.

Brent crude futures were down 58 cents, or 0.77 percent, at \$74.49 a barrel Oil prices slipped on Wednesday as at 1030 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 60 cents, or 0.84 percent, at \$70.96 per barrel.

Despite a slew of monetary support measures announced by China's central bank on Tuesday, the boldest since the pandemic, analysts warned that more fiscal help was needed to boost activity in the world's second-largest economy.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project Directorate of Technical Education

F-4/B Agargaon Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Memo No: 57.03.0000.000.07.132.23-2301

Date: 24-09-2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System portal http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of following goods.

Last Selling Closing Tender Description Date & Time Date & Time ID No. 24-Oct-2024 15:00 23-Oct-2024 17:00 1009411 Supply and Operation of Brand Desktop Computers. 17-Oct-2024 15:00 16-Oct-2024 17:00 Supply and Operation of Laptop Computers.

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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528)

> Project Director (Additional Secretary) ASSET Project Phone: 02-41024953

No peak oil demand

Bangladesh Bridge Authority Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212 www.bba.gov.bd

Number: 50.01.0000.000.99.006.24.159

Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges

Date: 25/09/2024 e-Tender Notice

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 document of following Packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up

l.	to 22	/10/2024 at 01:00pm.				
l	SI	Name of the works	Tender	Publication	Last date &	Last date &
l	No.		ID	date	time of selling	time of
l					documents	submission of
l						documents
l	1.	Safety Painting on	1013417	24/09/2024	21/10/2024	22/10/2024
l		Concrete Barriers &			05:00pm	2:00pm
l		Parapet Wall and Kerb				
l		Stone of Padma Bridge				
l		Approach Road from				
		Mawa, Munshiganj to				
l		Pacchor, Madaripur				

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from

e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

GD- 545

Md. Ohiduzzaman Superintending Engineer (Maintenance) (Additional Charge)

FROM PAGE B4

The landmark agreement also called for tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030.

The deal was reached after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries urged its members to reject language that "targets" fossil fuels after an earlier draft had included the words "phase out".

"While energy ambitions remain high, the outlook expects greater scrutiny and pushback on some overly ambitious policy targets, both from policymakers and populations," Opec said in Tuesday's report.

"It is evident that energy security continues to be a paramount concern," the report said.

The report said demand growth was driven by the rising world population and growing demand from India and other non-OECD countries.

sectors, the Among strongest demand will come from petrochemicals,

road transportation and aviation.

The WOO stressed that "all energy sources" need to expand, "with the exception of coal".

While OPEC opposes a phaseout of fossil fuels, its report noted demand for renewables, mainly solar and wind power, will increase at the fastest rate, growing fivefold between 2023 and 2050.

But oil is expected to retain the largest share of the energy mix at 29.3 percent in 2050 compared to 30.9 percent last year, the WOO said.

Natural gas will overtake coal for second place, accounting for 24 percent of the mix by mid-century, slightly higher than in

The share of renewables will grow from 3.2 percent last year to 14 percent in 2050.

The report, however, said petrol vehicles "are expected to continue dominate transportation".

Gold price rises to a new high

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In the gap of just a day, the jewellers have increased gold prices once

From today, each bhori or 11.664 grammes of 22-carat gold will cost Tk 138,708, the highest ever in the history of Bangladesh.

Citing an increase in pure gold prices in the local market, the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) in a meeting of the Bajus Standing Committee on Pricing Monitoring yesterday decided to raise the prices of 22-carat gold by Tk 3,045 per bhori.

Gold prices have been rising steadily for over a year in Bangladesh and crossed the Tk 100,000 per bhori mark for the first time in July last year.

Although the country does not import significant quantities of gold, its prices remain linked with international trends.

Annual demand for gold in the country currently stands at between 20 and 40 tonnes.

At present, about 80 percent of the demand is met by smuggled gold, according to industry people.

Visiting IMF mission to seek info on NBR's revenue collection plan

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The fact-finding mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will ask the National Board of Revenue (NBR) meetings with the multilateral lender about its revenue collection plan and the assessment of fiscal year 2023-24.

mission will also inquire about the status of tax expenditure and various reform measures, including automation.

The four-member delegation, led by Mission Chief Chris Papageorgiou, is supposed to raise the issues during their scheduled closed-door meeting with NBR officials today.

Besides, it will also seek information about the tax commitments the government made as part of its tax revenue measures under the IMFsupported programme as well as plans for FY25 and FY26.

The IMF mission arrived in Dhaka on term revenue strategy and progress of the

Monday as part of a weeklong visit to assess Bangladesh's potential financial needs after the country sought an extra \$3 billion in loans during separate virtual earlier.

The Washington-based lender Besides, as per their schedule, the emphasised revenue mobilisation as the country witnessed an 11 percent drop in revenue collection in the first two months of the current fiscal year.

The NBR is still lagging behind by nearly Tk 15,000 crore compared to the revenue collection for the July-August period. The target for the entire FY25 was set at Tk 480,000 crore.

As part of the visit, the mission will hold four meetings with the NBR, including the three wings concerned with income tax, value-added tax and customs.

The IMF mission will want to know about the status of the medium- and longdigitalisation transformation process.

In the technical meeting with NBR's customs policy team, the mission will ask about the status of the FY25 budget measures related to customs and initiatives to meet the end-June 2025 tax

Besides, the mission will also ask about the follow-up on tax expenditure assessment.

In line with the IMF's conditions, the NBR published its first ever customs expenditure report last month.

In FY23, the tax administrator allowed Tk 33,729 crore in duty exemptions to various sectors as well as industries and agricultural enterprises.

Besides, the mission will ask about the progress of the IT administration reforms, including digitalisation and broadening of the tax base.

Similarly, it will also inquire about the progress on VAT administration reforms.

Use ACU mechanisms for paying members' banks: BB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed banks to refrain from traditional mechanisms of making direct payments to lenders in countries which are members of Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

Banks would have to instead adhere to the ACU mechanism of conducting transactions through central banks when making the payments, said a notice issued by the BB.

The ACU is an arrangement for settling payments for intra-regional transactions among eight countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri

Industry insiders said banks in Bangladesh were conducting transactions with lenders in India through the traditional mechanisms of making payments among themselves, which was compounding pressure on Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves.

The Foreign Exchange Transactions Guidelines 2018 outlines operational procedures to settle payments for current account transactions under ACU mechanisms with the ACU member

Inflation to hit double digits

"Additionally, fiscal monetary consumption investment the ADB said.

"These risks primarily stem from ongoing political and instability, a fragile lawand-order situation, and vulnerabilities within the

The forecast is below the figure that the World Bank had projected in June, when policies, and diversify the the latter estimated that economy," the ADB added. economy at 5.7 grow percent in FY25, driven increased consumption as inflation eased and investment rose due to large infrastructure Bangladesh recorded below

policies high due to elevated as commodity and energy prices depreciation. The current declined," the ADB said.

The organisation further evolving

Restoring maintaining

Amid persistent inflation, pressure on private accounts, private The ADB observed past two fiscal years: 5.78 category in 2026."

percent for FY25, a figure economists described "ambitious" given

political and weak external demand," the ADB said.

"In the face of these risks, the interim government has formed a committee to prepare a white paper that transparently lays out the state of the economy and recommends reforms for macroeconomic stability, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and mitigating challenges that will arise after Bangladesh graduates from the 6 percent growth in the least developed country

Manufacturing incentives

India's cash incentives to boost domestic manufacturing have attracted over \$17 billion of investment since the 2020 launch of the production-linked scheme, a government official said on Wednesday, amid efforts to reduce imports from China.

The scheme, which offers 4-6 percent cash incentives on incremental sales to manufacturers, was launched across 14 sectors including electronics,

"The PLI scheme has been successful to attract investments and boost manufacturing," said Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal

manufacturing, particularly smartphones, and is now the second-largest producer of mobile phones, he said, citing Apple's iPhone exports - exceeding \$12 billion in the 2023/24 fiscal year ending March.

one million jobs over four years, he said. After reducing mobile imports from China by attracting global players like Apple, India now plans

servers, official sources said. On Tuesday, the government extended by three months the "import management system", launched

Scenes of celebration on the streets of Bangkok on Wednesday after Thailand approved a marriage equality law.

"We have signalled to the industry that we want to cut imports particularly from China," one of the government official sources, said.

is estimated at nearly \$20 billion, with nearly \$5 billion domestic production, according to Mordor Intelligence, a consultancy.

tablets, personal computers and servers after it rolled back an earlier plan to impose a licensing regime, requiring the likes of Apple, Dell and HP to obtain licences for shipments of imported laptops and tablets.

In the first phase, the government has approved incentives for 27 IT hardware manufacturers $including Acer, Dell, HP, and Lenovo \ to \ manufacturer$ in India, expecting production of about \$42 billion over the next few years, government officials said.

are expected to remain tight, further dampening and demand. The forecast is highly uncertain as significant downside risks cloud the macroeconomic outlook,"

financial sector." ADB's

Bangladesh's

that demand remained percent in FY23 and 5.82 suppressed by elevated percent in FY24. inflation, tight global The

"Inflation has remained and currency

could rise to double digits.

macroeconomic stability will depend on accelerated reforms to increase revenue for a better fiscal balance, latest stabilise the financial sector through improved interest and exchange rate

> continued external import contraction and sluggish investment,

macroeconomic a GDP growth rate of 6.75 the ADB added.

the ongoing economic challenges. "Significant account deficit narrowed as side risks muddy the

both exports and imports macroeconomic outlook. These risks arise from predicted that inflation uncertainties, the law-andorder situation, data gaps and integrity, the challenge to achieve fiscal objectives, finance sector vulnerabilities

The government also plans to form three task forces to lay out a roadmap monetary conditions and government had targeted for banking sector reforms,

Healthy banks

FROM PAGE B1

create 90-day tenurethe borrowing banks. Against the liquidity

interest will be imposed at current accounts, it will central bank Governor an existing special liquidity recover cash by selling the Mansur hinted at providing facility (SLF) rate. The BB will be able to bonds and other securities.

deduct funds from the

be imposed on the SLF to the agreement. rate if the loans are not

bank's permanent assets, liquidity support.

agreement.

Recently, a total of seven forced loans in the name of repaid on time, as per the restructured banks applied for the BB guarantee for If the BB fails to recover around Tk 29,000 crore support, the profits or funds from the borrowers' liquidity support after new

The BB governor said The banks concerned the central bank would not current accounts of the will have to provide provide liquidity support lenders concerned if they information and required by printing money like in fail to repay the loans on documents to the central the past but would instead time, as per the agreement. bank if needed and the BB provide the scope for lenders An additional 2 percent can change the guidelines to seek support from the interest or profit will of the guarantee, according inter-bank money market.

DSE downgrades 27 stocks

FROM PAGE B1

Pharma, Khulna Power Company, Pacific Denims, Miracle Industries, GSP Power Generation, VFS Industries, Thread Dyeing, Shepherd Pharmaceuticals, Bd Thai Industries, and SK Trims Aluminium, Bay Leasing and Industries.

The others are Lubrref (Bangladesh), Libra Yarn Dyeing. Infusions, Western Marine and Investments, Olympic that all stockbrokers and

Accessories, Central

National merchant banks must Tubes, National Bank, refrain from providing margin loans for the Fortune Shoes, Energypac Finance, Far Chemical purchase of shares of companies under the Z category, let alone the 27.

After the and Investment, Atlas announced its decision Bangladesh, and Anlima to downgrade the 27 companies, their share In connection to this, prices dropped between Shipyard, Phoenix Finance the DSE highlighted 8 percent and 9.6 percent

Govt speeds up

The Power Division assured Adani that the PDB would officials, overdue amount within the shortest possible time. "Please accept the

highest consideration," the

The Daily Star tried to thereby Rezaul Karim over the million. phone for the past two days

Bangladesh's Adani Power is around \$90 million to \$100 million.

However, the PDB has renewed assurances of our been able to pay only \$20 million to \$30 million for the past 8-10 months, accumulating reach PDB Chairman Md arrears of around \$800

Since August, Adani

Power repeatedly requested According to the PDB the interim government to immediately clear the continue its efforts to average monthly bill for dues, sending letters to ensure the payment of the power purchases from the PDB, the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. Bangladesh Bank and the chief adviser.

The PDB signed a 25year power purchase agreement with Adani Power in November 2017, which can meet around 10 percent of the country's peak power demand.

progress in India REUTERS, New Delhi

pharmaceuticals, textiles and white goods.

India has emerged as a global hub for electronics

The incentives have resulted in production worth about 11 trillion rupees (\$131.6 billion) and nearly

to produce more laptops, tablets, computers and

in November 2023, which requires companies to register their laptop and tablet imports.

India's IT hardware market, including laptops,

India announced the new system for laptops,

Islami Bank's

bourse to submit an investigation report to the Surveillance Department of BSEC within 30 working days from the date of issuance of this letter.

A top official of a leading stock brokerage firm said investors are hoping that the restructured Islami Bank will bounce back strongly. On the other hand, they think that some sponsor shareholders, who already had sold off their stakes, might try to buy the shares to take the seats

In this hope, stock

shares. As the share price movement occurs fast, it faces the BSEC investigation whether there was any breach of securities rules, he said. General investors have

nothing to fear if they trade following the rules, he added.

A mid-level BSEC official said the regulator goes for an investigation when it senses at least something "not normal". If there is no breach of securities rules, the regulator will not send it to the enforcement department, he said.

Normalcy returning

FROM PAGE B1 Ashulia has significantly decreased, according to The Daily Star's Savar

correspondent. As of yesterday, all but 19 factories in the region have resumed operations.

According to Meanwhile, unrest in Industrial Police, 14 factories remained closed under the "no work, no pay" provision of the Labour Act due to financial crises and other reasons, and 5 factories for general holidays.

GD-546

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal Email: sbmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Memo No. SBMCH/Bari/2024/4561

Previous

Date: 25/09/2024

Replaced

This is an information for all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstances the downloading tender of medical & surgical requisite (MSR) circulated vide this office Memo No. SBMCH/Bari/2024/4138, Date: 31/08/2024 of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal has been changed as follows.

KEY Inf	Tender schedule last selling date	Tender schedule last selling date &
(11)	& time: 1/10/2024 at 02:30pm	time: 07/10/2024 at 02:30pm
KEY Inf (12)	Tender dropping date & time: 3/10/2024 at 08:00am to 12-00 Noon.	Tender dropping date & time 08/10/2024 up to 12:00 Noon
ITT Clause 21.1(4)	Bank solvency certificate The minimum amount of liquid asset is BDT Tk. Group No: Ka 4,60,00,000/-, Kha-6,00,00,000/-, Ga-5,50,00,000/- Gha 4,50,00,000/-, Umo-80,00,000/- The date of this document should be after the date publication of IFT in newspaper.	Bank solvency certificate The minimum amount of liquid asset is BDT Tk. Group No: K. 4,60,00,000/- Kha 6,00,00,000/- Ga-5,50,00,000/-, Gha 4,50,00,000/- Umo 80,00,000/- or working capita or credit line's from any schedules Bank of Bangladesh, net of othe contractual commitments, of the amount of specified in the TDS 15.1(a). The date of this document should be publication of IFT in newspaper.
ITT Clause 21.1 (10)	যে কোন ৩ফসিল ব্যাংক হইতে গত আর্থিক বৎসরের লেনদেনের বিবরনী যাহাতে গ্রুপ নং- ক,খ,গ ও ঘ এর ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) কোটি টাকা এবং গ্রুপ নং- ৩ এর ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ১ (এক) কোটি টাকার লেনদেন হইয়াছে (০১/০৭/২০২৩ইং হইতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪ইং)।	যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হইতে গত আর্থি বৎসরের লেনদেনের বিবরণী (০১/০৭/২০২৩ই হইতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪ইং)।
ITT Clause 21.1 (12)	যেকোন সরকারী মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, বিশেষায়িত হাসপাতাল এবং ইনিষ্টিটিউট এ বিগত ও বছরের মধ্যে (২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩-২০২৪ইং) যে কোন ২ (দুই) বছরে এম.এস.আর (৩২৫২১০৫) কোভে সরবরাহ কাজের গ্রুপ নং-(ক) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৩,৯৫,০০,০০০/- (খ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৫,২০,০০,০০০/- (গ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৫,২০,০০,০০০/- (গ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৫,২০,০০,০০০/- (গ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৬৫,০০,০০০/- (উ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ৬৫,০০,০০০/- উলার এম,এস,আর মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে, যাহা অফিস প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদেয়। অভিজ্ঞতা যাচাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে যে সকল ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ধারাবাহিকভাবে তিন বা ততধিক বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা রহিয়াছে সে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হইবে।	ক) বাংলাদেশের যেকোন সরকারী, আধা-সরকার ও সারত্বশাষিত হাসপাতালে বিগত ০৩ (তিন বছরের এমএসআর সরবরাহের সাধারণ অভিজ্ঞত্ব সনদপত্র (specified in the TDS 14.1(a))। (খ) যেকোন সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী সারত্বশাষিত হাসপাতালে বিগত ৫ বছরের মধ্যে এম,এস,আর মালামাল/সমজাতীয় প্রণ্য সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে গ্রুণ্ণ নং- (ক) এর ক্ষেত্রে ও,৯৫,০০০/- (খ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ও,৮০,০০,০০০/- (গ) এর ক্ষেত্রে ওপে,০০,০০০/- (গ) এর ক্ষেত্রে (চহন্তরে বাহা অফিস প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদে (specified in the TDS- 14.1(b)) Th date of this document should be after the date of publication of IFT in newspaper.
ITT Clause 21.1 (13)	কোন সরকারী মেডিকেল কলেজে ও হাসপাতাল, বিশেষায়িত হাসাপতাল এবং ইনিষ্টিটিউট এ এম.এস.আর (৩২৫২১০৫) কোডে সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে ৩ (তিন) বছরের ২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩- ২০২৪ইং) সনে ভ্যাট পরিশোধ করিয়াছে এই মর্মে অফিস প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদেয় সনদ।	কোন সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী ও সায়তৃশাখি হাসপাতালে সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে হালনাগাদ ভ্যা পরিশোধ সনদপত্র, যাহা অফিস প্রধান কর্তৃ প্রদেয়।
ITT Clause 21.1 (16)	"চেম্বার অব কমার্স"-এ সদস্য পদের সনদপত্র (২০২৪-২০২৫ইং) দাখিল করিতে হইবে।	"চেম্বার অব কর্মার্স"-এ সদস্য পদের হালনাগা সনদপত্র (২০২৪ইং) দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
ITT Clause 21.1 অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী (১)	শের-ই-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল ও আওতাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান বরিশালের এম.এস.আর গ্রুপ-ক ঔষধ সামগ্রী, গ্রুপ-খ সার্জিকাল যন্ত্রপাতি ক্রয়, গ্রুপ-গ গজ, ব্যাতেজ, তুলা ও লিনেন সামগ্রী, গ্রুপ-ঘ কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট ও এজ্ব-রে ফিল্ম ইত্যাদি, গ্রুপ-ঙ আসবাবপত্র ও কিচেন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের দরপত্রে ভকুমেন্টে সংযুক্ত (Section:5 Tender and Contract Forms Price Schedule for Goods (From PG3-3A) সিভিউলে দর দাখিল করিতে হইবে। জন্য কোন ফরমে দর দাখিল	শের-ই-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতার বরিশাল হতে সরবরাহকৃত এবং উহাতে সন্নিরেশিত বিবরণ অনুযায়ী এম,এস,আর গ্রুণ জিত্তিক দরপত্র সিডিউলে দর দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্র তফসীলের যে কোন ধরনে পরিবর্তন দরপত্রদাতার অযোগ্যতা হিসাবেবিবেচিত হইবে।

and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.



Director Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barishal

Phone No. 02-478864696/02-478871771

BUSINESS

BB governor seeks plans to reform **NBFIs**

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday urged the top brass of nonbank financial institutions (NBFIs) to submit reform plans.

He made the call in a meeting with the managing directors of different NBFIs at the central bank headquarters in Dhaka yesterday. Top officials of Bangladesh Bank were also present.

Some NBFIs are in dire straits due to various reasons, including mismanagement, irregularities

disbursement of loans, and defaulted loans.

The rise in defaulted loans has created a capital crunch in most financial institutions, according to industry insiders.

Against that backdrop, the central bank governor asked the top officials of NBFIs to provide a concrete plan to reform the entire sector. Initiatives will be taken according to those plans, he added.

Meanwhile, of the NBFIs urged the governor to provide various policy-related support to address the crisis.

Bangladesh Bank Executive Director and Spokesperson Husney Ara Shikha said they spoke to the governor about problems plaguing financial institutions.

Many institutions are in poor condition. Therefore, to advance this sector, they want the kind of policy support that is given to banks, she said.

According Bank data. Bangladesh defaulted loans of nonbank financial institutions increased to nearly Tk 23,208 crore at the end of 2023. The amount of disbursed loans in this sector stood at about Tk 73,560 crore, which means about 32 percent of disbursed loans turned sour.

At present, 35 NBFIs are operating in the country. Out of these, three are government-owned, 12 are domestic-foreign oint ownership and the rest are privately owned.

However, most are in liquidity crises.

The situation is such that some institutions are unable to return money to depositors, according to analysts.

At least 10 of these financial institutions are now in critical condition, they added.

No progress in upgrading six closed sugar mills as prices soar

The six mills are: The timeline Pabna Sugar Mills, Shyampur Sugar Mills, Panchagarh Sugar Mills, Setabganj Sugar Mills, Rangpur Sugar Mills and Kushtia Sugar Mills In 2019, a foreign venture signed a Tk 5,000cr Year In tonnes investment deal with Sugar FY20: 82,000 FY21: 48,000 On Dec 2, 2020, govt shut six FY22: 25,000 FY23: 21,000 On July 4, 2024, deal signed with S Alam as foreign FY24: 30,818 RETAIL PRICE irregularities, interim govt **OF SUGAR IN** cancelled S Alam agreement

JAGARAN CHAKMA

and Food Corp

sugar mills

agreement stalled

On allegation of

The fate of six state-owned sugar mills remains uncertain as there has been no upgrading progress since those were closed three and a half years ago, contributing to soaring prices of the sweetener in the local market.

DHAKA

Tk per kilogramme

Lately, the interim government cancelled a production resumption deal of the mills with the S Alam Group, citing alleged irregularities. The deal, signed in July this year, involved a feasibility study for boosting local sugar production.

For the reopening of the mills, there is now a 2019-agreement that involves a foreign joint venture.

However, the foreign investors -- Sutech Engineering Co of Thailand, Sharkara International of the UAE and Sojitz Machinery Corporation of Japan -- have had little contact with the Sugar and Food Corporation, according to its secretary Md Anowar Kabir.

"If they are truly interested in investing, they should approach the government now,

In 2019, the Sugar and Food Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with these investors to establish modern, energy-efficient sugarcane, liquor and beer industries in Bangladesh.

In 2020, Thai Sutech conducted a feasibility study and submitted its report. The companies then proposed a Tk 5,000 crore investment under a sovereign guarantee from the Bangladesh government.

However, the government decided to implement the upgrade plan through government-to-government arrangement.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the Exim Bank of Thailand were expected to finance the project.

Meanwhile, the government shut down production at the six mills -- Pabna Sugar Mills, Shyampur Sugar Mills in Rangpur, Panchagarh Sugar Mills, Setabganj Sugar

Mills in Dinajpur, Rangpur Sugar Mills, and Kushtia Sugar Mills -- in December 2020.

Therefore, the Ministry of Industries was progressing the plan to upgrade the closed mills with the Thai and Japanese investors, but influential figures within the government were keen to award the contract to the S Alam Group, according to sources at the Sugar and Food Corporation.

Accordingly, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the corporation and S Alam in July to conduct a feasibility study. However, the agreement was cancelled due to various irregularities, as per the corporation officials.

Anowar Kabir, secretary to the Sugar and Food Corporation, said Sutech's proposal was highly attractive and could make the closed sugar mills profitable.

Officials said Sutech's proposal was attractive and could make the closed sugar mills profitable, but alleged that the previous government favoured working with the S Alam Group and signed an agreement to that effect

However, corporation officials said the previous government favoured working with the S Alam Group for sugar industry development and signed an agreement to that

Kabir said since the previous government did not finalise the sovereign guarantee issue, the interim government cannot confirm a decision on the matter.

Sovereign guarantees and governmentto-government (G2G) arrangements are separate mechanisms for facilitating foreign investment. A sovereign guarantee is a government pledge to guarantee the debt or obligations of a private entity or state-owned enterprise to a foreign investor.

In contrast, a G2G agreement is a direct agreement between two governments for a loan or investment. In this case, the investing country's government provides funds directly to the recipient country's

"We are eager to invest. If the government is interested, we can resume the process," Md Emdad Hossain, a local representative of the foreign investors, told The Daily Star.

He added that there was no need to sign a new agreement; a letter from the Sugar and Food Corporation would suffice.

According to Hossain, the investor would introduce high-yield sugarcane in the catchment areas of the mills and implement modern technologies to ensure their commercial viability.

The companies will produce premium quality alcohol used in perfumes and pharmaceuticals, Hossain said, adding that the by-products of the mills would increase their revenue.

He said commercial production would take around 28 months to begin, including sugarcane, cultivation time.

Referring to the Sutech assessment, he said they would be able to produce sugar at Tk 60 per kilogramme (kg), compared to the current price of refined sugar at Tk 140 per

He added that they would be able to produce 8 lakh tonnes of brown sugar per year, while the country's demand exceeds 20

Initially, the foreign companies will reopen three sugar factories with the capacity to process 14,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day.

will introduce high-quality They sugarcanes to make extra-neutral alcohol (ENA) as a by-product for export. This colourless alcohol has a neutral smell and taste and is generally distilled from molasses.

The ENA is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages such as whiskey, vodka, gin and Liqueurs.

Personal guarantee against corporate lending: how effective is it?

AF NESARUDDIN

Providing securities and guarantees is very common in corporate lending. Securities are immovable and moveable tangible assets and might be in the forms of pledge, hypothecation or in any other form. These securities are mortgaged in some cases as well.

All these securities are elaborately defined, quantified and well identified.

In addition to these, there are corporate guarantees for comfort of the lenders. In order to bind the borrowers in a stronger manner, personal guarantees are also obtained.

Incidentally, these personal guarantees are vague and not clearly defined. They include all present and future assets and, to some extent, business, social, and personal reputations as well.

It may be summarised that the major securities include immovable assets, debtors, and inventories. Usually, in the case of long-term loans, immovable assets are secured, while for short-term loans and overdrafts, current assets—mainly inventories and book debts—are taken as prime securities. Even though collaterals and registered mortgages are

taken, the process to encash them is lengthy. However, the provisions of Aurtho Rin Adalat have

made these recovery processes easier and simplifier. In such an environment, what is the fate of personal guarantee (present & future assets) and how effective and forceful is this when it is not defined, quantified and

clearly identified and lenders have no control over it. It can be said without any hesitation that in many cases, the outcome of securing personal guarantee is not

After the August 5 episodes, it has been observed that many borrowers have huge

personal assets in the forms of cash, foreign currencies, investments in shares, land and buildings and so on.

Many of them got the opportunity to transfer it discreetly. Even the governor of central bank has advised against purchasing properties of a defaulted borrower group.

What about others when we look at the broad spectrum. This gives us a clue to review the

with further insights. Now the question is what is the way out?

At the time of sanctioning loans, a complete list of the personal assets of the borrower directors, including their family members, as declared, must be recorded with values at market price or notional value where the market

price is difficult to determine. Thereafter, these should be periodically and regularly reported to the lending agencies.

Any disposal therefrom shall be subject to clearance

from lending agencies. Similarly, any acquisition has to be

It may be contemplated that like CIB, a database of every borrower individual can be maintained centrally with periodic updates so that all the lending agencies specially banks and NBFIs can have access to it and can easily access the quantum of personal assets of the

It is also recommended that any addition to personal assets be reported to help realistically assess the creditworthiness of the borrower, apart from the assets of the borrowing enterprises or industries themselves. These measures will definitely help in the enforcement

Bangladesh is a unique country with lots of special

social, political, economic and cultural characteristics. Business ethics, transparency, and accountability are,

in many cases, far from expectations. The level of nonperforming loans is significantly higher compared to many neighbouring economies. Accordingly, we have no option but to address this

matter as circumstances demand.

The writer is the senior partner of Hoda Vasi Chowdhury

No peak oil demand 'on the horizon', phaseout a 'fantasy': Opec

Opec said Tuesday that phasing out oil was a "fantasy", as the Saudi-led cartel forecast that demand would keep growing until at least 2050, a key year in the battle against climate change.

The oil cartel's prediction runs counter to the assessment of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, which sees demand for fossil fuels peaking this decade as the world turns to renewable energy and electric

In the group's annual World Oil Outlook (WOO), Opec Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais said oil and gas make up well over half of the energy mix today "and are expected to do the same in 2050".

What the Outlook underscores is that the fantasy of phasing out oil and gas bears no relation to fact," Ghais said in the report's foreword. "A realistic view of demand growth expectations

necessitate adequate investments in oil and gas, today, tomorrow, and for many decades into the future," he Demand for oil alone is expected to reach 120.1 million

barrels per day (bpd) by 2050, up 17.5 percent from 102.2 million bpd in 2023, the report said. OPEC also raised its forecast for 2045 to 118.9 million

bpd, compared to 116 million bpd in last year's WOO, which did not look at 2050. "There is no peak oil demand on the horizon," Ghais

At the UN COP28 climate summit last year -- hosted by Opec member United Arab Emirates -- nations agreed on the goal of "transitioning away from fossil fuels" in order to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

READ MORE ON B2

Leftist Sri Lanka leader stuck with painful IMF deal: analysts

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new leftist leader has little room to renegotiate an IMF bailout that threw a lifeline to his bankrupt country but imposed punishing and unpopular austerity measures, analysts say

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, was a vocal critic of global lenders from the fringes of the island nation's politics, including in the aftermath of Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic meltdown two He won Saturday's presidential vote

in a landslide promising to reverse steep tax hikes, raise public servant salaries and renegotiate the International Monetary Fund rescue package secured by his predecessor. But after his inauguration two days

later he appealed for international support to revive Sri Lanka's economy, admitting he had no magic solution to its "There are certain red lines that the

IMF will not agree to negotiate," Murtaza Jafferiee of the Colombo-based economic think tank Advocata told AFP.

He said the Washington-based lender of last resort would be very unlikely to budge on core components of its \$2.9 billion bailout, including a ban on printing money and revenue and spending targets

agreed by the last administration. Dissanayake's party, the People's Liberation Front (JVP), sports the hammer and sickle motif of the international

communist movement on its logo. The JVP was confined to the political



People walk through the Colombo Port City Marina Park in the Sri Lankan capital. The IMF is unlikely to budge on core components of its \$2.9 billion bailout, including a ban on printing money. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

wilderness for decades after leading his party moved quickly to assure markets rebellions in the 1970s and 1980s that left more than 80,000 people dead, before the party renounced violence.

Months of food, fuel and medicine shortages that accompanied the 2022 financial crisis and foreign debt default rallied the public behind it.

Dissanayake's call to upend the island's "corrupt" politics resonated with a public infuriated by chronic economic mismanagement and graft scandals in government ranks.

and creditors that it would adhere to the broad strokes of the bailout deal. "We will not tear up the IMF

programme," JVP politburo member Bimal Ratnayake said. "It is a binding document, but there is a provision to renegotiate."

The ironic outcome of the pledge was that the same day as an avowed Marxist assumed the presidency, Colombo's stock

exchange rallied by 1.5 percent. But by committing to maintain the As the size of his victory became clear, rescue plan, Jafferjee said that any tweaks bondholders," he told AFP.

pushed by Dissanayake would necessarily

'On the fiscal side, there is not much adjustment that can be done," he said.

Dissanayake's predecessor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, was voted out of office after doubling income taxes and imposing other reviled austerity measures.

His policies ended the shortages as well as runaway inflation and returned the country to growth but left millions struggling to make ends meet. The IMF said Wickremesinghe's

administration had made a great deal of progress in repairing the nation's ruined finances after a \$46 billion foreign debt default two years ago.

But spokesperson Julie Kozack also warned ahead of the presidential poll that Sri Lanka was "not out of the woods yet".

One of Dissanayake's first acts of business will be to secure a parliamentary endorsement for a debt restructuring deal with international bondholders, negotiated by his predecessor at the eleventh hour and announced last week.

That will have to wait for the election of a new parliament, as Dissanayake sought to capitalise on his landslide win by calling snap polls on Tuesday, the day after he was sworn in.

Umesh Moramudali, an economics lecturer at the University of Colombo, warned that failing to secure the deal's passage could open Sri Lanka to legal action from its creditors.

"It would be in the best interest of the country to avoid litigation with