

32 NRBs awarded

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A total of 32 non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) have been recognised for their outstanding contributions in areas like education, healthcare, industry, financial services and agriculture after returning to the country.

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin handed over the awards during an event, styled "NRB Day Award 2024", at Sheraton Dhaka in the capital city yesterday.

NRB World, a platform for all expatriate Bangladeshis, and Business Asia jointly organised the event.

Over 500 expatriates, including entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers and other professionals from diverse fields participated in the summit.

At the event, the commerce adviser congratulated the expatriates for their contributions in sending remittances during these hard times.

He also urged to increase their contributions through investment.

Echoing the same, Md Jashim Uddin, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged NRBs to take the lead in investing in various sectors, including energy.

The daylong event focusing on the role of NRBs in developing the country was inaugurated by Lutfe Siddiqui, the chief adviser's special envoy on international affairs.

In his speech, Siddiqui highlighted the summit as a golden opportunity for NRBs to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bangladesh, emphasising their vital contributions to the nation's development.

"This is a golden opportunity for all of us to move beyond the painful chapters of our history, written by the sacrifices of our youth and mass movements that define our struggles," he said.

"The role of NRBs is crucial in building a new Bangladesh, and this is your chance to contribute to its future by playing your rightful part in the country's progress," Siddiqui added.

The event featured multiple seminars covering key topics such as education, healthcare, investment, banking, agriculture, tourism, housing, and the role of Bangladeshi diaspora in national development.

Experts from these sectors, including policymakers from Bangladesh and abroad, engaged in discussions as speakers and panelists, offering valuable insights for collaboration and growth.

Stocks rise after falling for three days

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose yesterday on falling for the past three trading days, although investors were not that willing to pour money into the capital market amidst ongoing economic uncertainties.

The DSEX, the broad index of the country's premier bourse, grew by 15.12 points, or 0.29 percent from that on the previous day before closing at 5,184.

Likewise, the DSES index that represents the Shariah-based companies edged up by 7.95 points, or 0.87 percent, to 1,166.

The DS30 index for the blue-chip firms went up by 4.26 points, or 0.22 percent, to 1,927.

At Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI), the prime index of the port city bourse, saw the opposite, as the index dropped by 53.78 points, or 0.37 percent, to settle the day at 14,435.

Out of the 396 issues that were traded on the DSE trading floor, 187 saw a rise in prices, 128 closed lower and the rest did not witness any price swing.

Turnover, which is the total value of the shares traded on the country's premier bourse, stood at Tk 282 crore, an increase of 2.33 percent compared to that on the previous day's trading session.

Orion Infusion Ltd emerged as the most traded share, with a turnover



Markettturnover
(In crore taka)

SOURCE: DSE

of Tk 18 crore.

Most of the large-cap sectors, meaning those that account for large amounts in market capitalisation, which is the value of their existing stocks, posted a positive performance, according to the day's market update by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) booked the largest gain of 1.67 percent, followed by food and allied (0.86 percent), engineering (0.46 percent), fuel and power (0.41 percent), and pharmaceuticals (0.23).

However, telecommunications logged a loss of 0.06 percent, and the banking sector recorded a 0.26 percent loss.

Shares of companies like Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Al-Arafah Islami Bank, BAT Bangladesh, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Olympic Industries, Kohinoor Chemicals, BRAC Bank, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh drew investors the most, said Lanka Bangla Finicals.

But none of the companies saw a double-digit growth in share prices.

Islami Bank Bangladesh, Jamuna Oil, Square Pharmaceuticals, Renata, Eastern Bank, City Bank, Pubali Bank, Daffodil Computers, Heidelberg Materials Bangladesh and Mercantile Islami Insurance suffered losses.

BAT to invest Tk 28cr to raise production capacity

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh is planning to invest Tk 28.38 crore to enhance its production capacity to meet the growing demand for its products.

In a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday, the company said the investment would be sourced through a combination of internal resources and bank loans, aligning with its cash flow strategy.

The company took the decision in a meeting of its board of directors that was held on Tuesday.

In a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website, the company said the investment would be sourced through internal resources and bank loans

The tobacco company operates factories in Dhaka and Savar, alongside a green leaf threshing plant in Kushtia and a green leaf re-drying plant in Manikganj.

British American Tobacco Bangladesh produced 5,030 crore cigarettes and 41.6 lakh kilograms of tobacco leaf in the first nine months of this year.

In the January-September period of the year, its net revenue stood at Tk 6,937 crore while net profit was Tk 1,322 crore, according to its financial statement.

It has provided 100 percent cash dividend for the year 2023.

At the end of the third quarter of the current year, it provided a 150 percent interim cash dividend. Stocks of the multinational cigarette company rose 1 percent to Tk 354 yesterday.

Businesses face

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connection with the EC in mid-2022 as the EC's service is cheaper than Porichoy.

However, the company only received its credentials last week and is still awaiting API access.

TIMELINE

In September 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the tariff distribution for Porichoy's service fees.

On October 4, 2022, the BCC entered a bilateral agreement with the EC regarding data verification.

Subsequently, the BCC entered another agreement with Digicon Global Services Limited to provide an ID verification service – Porichoy – to both public and private entities, including global organisations.

On December 20 of this year, the EC disconnected the API provided to the BCC.

REVENUE SHARING MODEL

Of the 100 percent of the fee paid by government, semi-government and autonomous agencies for verification using Porichoy, the BCC will receive 20 percent, the data owner 20 percent and Digicon the remaining 60 percent, according to the model approved by the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase.

Data owner here refers to the government body that owns the data. For

example, the EC in this case owns the national ID card data.

For non-government entities, different service fees apply depending on the service.

From the charges paid by a private entity for basic verification or national identity verification, both the BCC and the data owner, the EC will receive 20 percent from each while 60 percent will go to Digicon.

For biometric verification charges paid by a private entity, a staggering 90 percent will go to Digicon.

Over the years, more than 450 companies have used Porichoy services through Digicon, with a total hit count of 8 crore, generating revenue of Tk 112 crore as of October this year, according to the BCC.

Of this amount, government entities received only Tk 17.88 crore, while Digicon received the remainder. Despite this, Digicon has not paid over Tk 7 crore to the government agencies out of the Tk 17.88 crore, which is stipulated in the revenue sharing model.

The Daily Star attempted to contact Digicon Managing Director Wahidur Rahman Sharif for comment but was unable to reach him.

However, Sharif previously claimed to the newspaper that Digicon provided services without direct access to NID data.

Agrani Bank's health

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he brought to the bank, such as Shanta Group, Akij and PHP, have left and the current defaulters were old customers.

"When I joined the bank, its bad loans were at 29 percent and they decreased to 12 percent when I left," he said, adding that defaulted loans have increased at the bank after his tenure.

Md Murshedul Kabir was appointed as managing director of the bank in August 2022.

However, after the

formation of the interim government in August this year, the Ministry of Finance cancelled the contractual appointments of all state-run banks, including Kabir's, in September.

Kabir yesterday told the newspaper that most customers were unable to repay loans due to the post-Covid economic stress and the Russia-Ukraine war.

He rejected Islam's allegation that lending facilities to businesses were not renewed.

For the past five years,

REHAB fair gives

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Abdul Latif, managing director of Basic Builders Ltd, appeared at the fair with small to midrange projects.

Latif, also a vice-president of REHAB, said he did have high-end flats, but the customer segment was very low, for which queries involved a personalised approach and not through events like fairs.

He was optimistic of securing a booking on the concluding day of the fair today.

Real estate company Haque Home and Builders Ltd participated in the fair.

The company's managing director, Imdadul Haque, is hoping to receive a better response today because it is the last day of the fair and a weekend.

"All things considered, I would say that this fair is successful and will help us overcome our crisis," he said.

Tropical Homes Limited, a top real estate company in Bangladesh, is showcasing an under-construction Tropical TA Tower at the fair.

Meant to be 45-storey high, Tropical TA Tower in Malibagh, which has been approved by Rajuk, could be the tallest building in Bangladesh, standing at 529 feet once erected.

Already 50 percent space of the building has been booked by high-end commercial clients, claimed Razibur Rahmann Rony, additional general manager (sales) at Tropical Homes and in-charge of the company's stall at the fair.

economist Zaid Bakht was the chairman of the bank.

After the fall of the Awami League government, Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed was appointed as the new chairman of Agrani Bank.

Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that he was working to restore the state-run bank to good health.

"Loan recovery is our first priority," he said, adding that the new board and the management team are working to improve the bank's financial health.

Vietnam may surpass Bangladesh

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This is a "fortune" for the sector amid challenges, he added.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said there was no doubt that Vietnam would surpass Bangladesh as the east Asian country's apparel industry faces no bottlenecks.

He stated that Vietnam finds it easy to increase exports of garment goods because there was no labour unrest, gas crisis, or tax issue there.

However, he continued, Bangladesh faces numerous issues that make it difficult for exports to increase.


Even though labour costs are lower than those of Vietnam, exporters of garments encounter challenges at every turn, making it impossible to take the initiative to increase production, he said.

Given that the Trump administration will impose high tariffs on Chinese goods, Hatem even mentioned the possibility of obtaining new investment from China.


He added that although there was potential to draw Chinese investment in attempts to avoid high duties in the US market, there are a number of barriers that prevent Chinese investment from coming here.

Bangladesh fetched \$36.15 billion through garment exports last fiscal year, which was 5.22 percent lower than that in the previous fiscal year.

Of the total export earnings, the knitwear sector earned \$19.28 billion while woven garments around \$17 billion.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Fostering Opportunities of Science Education in Public Colleges Project (FOSEP)
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
16, Abdul Gani Road, Shikka Bhaban, 2nd Block (7th Floor), Dhaka



Memo No. DSHE/FOSEP/Furniture/GD-40F/284/2024-2025/4449

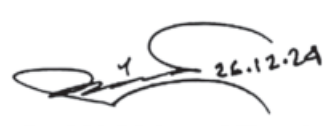
Date: 26/12/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM, NCT)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following Goods:

SI No.	Tender ID	Package	Publication date & time	Opening date & time
01	1056510	DSHE/FOSEP/GD-10D	26-Dec-2024 21.01	12-Jan-2025 13.01
02	1055986	DSHE/FOSEP/GD-40F		23-Jan-2025 13.06

These are online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted.



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Memo No.35.01.8900.470.06.409.24-1528

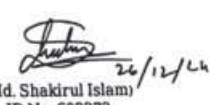
Date: 26.12.2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:


Sl. No.	Tender/ Proposal ID, Reference No.	Name of works	Publishing Date & Closing Date
01	1056299, e-GP/Rev-19/SherD/24-25	Road Marking at Different Road under Sherpur Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	26-Dec-2024 15:00 14-Jan-2025 13:00
02	1056291, e-GP/Rev-18/SherD/24-25	Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) work at Ch. 1+000Km to 5+900 Km Of Nakla-Chandrakona link Road(Z-4620) under Sherpur Road Division during the year of 2024-2025.	26-Dec-2024 14:30 14-Jan-2025 12:45
03	1056290, e-GP/Rev-17/SherD/24-25	Construction of RCC Beam Pelisiding, HBB, Guide Post and Traffic Sign work at different km of Sunamganj-Netrakona-Mymensingh-Sherpur-Jamalpur(Dhanua Kamalpur) Border Road (Z-2834) Under Sherpur Road Division During the year 2024-2025.	26-Dec-2024 14:00 14-Jan-2025 12:15

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. Further information and guide lines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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Executive Engineer(C.C), RHD
Sherpur Road Division, Sherpur.

GD-1284



Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Plot No. F-18/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয়
রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন

"জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"

Memo No. 28.14.0000.201.25.026.24.837

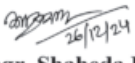
Date: 26-12-2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurements:

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work(s)	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender closing date and time	Tender opening date and time
01.	1052025	Civil Maintenance works at Khulna CGS, Jhenaidah TBS, Jashore TBS and Kushtia TBS. [28.14.0000.201.25.026.24]	12-Jan-2025 17:00	13-Jan-2025 14:30	13-Jan-2025 14:30
02.	1052055	Civil Maintenance Works of Right of Way (ROW) at Different Locations of Bheramara-Khulna and Bonpara-Rajshahi Gas Transmission Pipelines. [28.14.0000.201.24.027.24]	12-Jan-2025 17:00	13-Jan-2025 14:40	13-Jan-2025 14:40

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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 bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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