



Bangladesh Newsflash

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Newsflash Bangladesh is a publication by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka. The newsflash provides an update in terms of economic developments, the most important tenders and a selection of other relevant business news related to Bangladesh. This newsflash is shared with a distinctive group of Dutch businesses with special interests in Bangladesh. It is put together on the basis of publicly available information from various sources such as news articles, press releases, and third party information. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka is not responsible for the accuracy of the published information. If you do not wish to receive the Newsflash Bangladesh, or would like to add a person to the distribution list, or if you would like to

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Highlights

- The government of Bangladesh, for the first time, has awarded ten readymade garment factories the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Good Practice Award for their best practices of occupational health and safety in the factories.
- A MetLife Foundation-funded Swisscontact project was launched to ensure financial inclusion of 60,000 workers in the readymade garment sector.
- China has confirmed US\$2.67 billion in loan for Bangladesh's second-largest Padma railway link project.
- Bangladesh has received its first LNG shipment from Qatar at Moheshkhali LNG terminal.
- The state-run Bangladesh Shipping Corporation will get six new vessels by the Chinese National Machinery Import and Export Corporation.
- Technical assistance by Solidaridad Network Asia, a Dutch NGO, made the resumption of pointed gourd (a vegetable) shipment to the European Union (EU) possible.
- Samsung mobile phones will be assembled locally at an assembling plant in Narshingdi.
- Global beverage giant Coca-Cola plans to invest US\$50 million in the country over the next three years.
- Singapore-based Wilmar and India's Adani Group plan to invest US\$350 million in Bangladesh to establish an industrial park in the Mirsarai economic zone to produce agro-based foods and allied products.

- Chinese digital payment giant Alipay operated by Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial expanded its footprint to hold a major share of digital payment platform bKash, operated by Brac Bank.

Political update

- On April 23rd an Awami League delegation, led by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, met with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi, India. The three-day visit saw meetings with the Indian Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Infrastructure and Rivers. Prime Minister Modi further lauded Bangladesh for providing shelter to the Rohingya in Cox's Bazar.
- Following his election as president of Bangladesh for a second consecutive term in February of this year, Abdul Hamid was sworn in as the 20th President of Bangladesh on April 24, 2018.
- The European Union, following the biennial meeting of the Bangladesh-EU subgroup on good governance and human rights on April 24th, expressed its expectations that the Bangladesh government would ensure the conditions for credible, transparent and inclusive elections. Other concerns raised during the meeting were on the situation of human rights, reports of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in particular.

Textile and Ready Made Garments (RMG)

Noman Group ready to invest in polyester fabric manufacturing (The Financial Express) Noman Group of Industries is set to expand its business in polyester-based fabric manufacturing mainly to cater to the growing demand for the manmade fiber across the globe. They will invest an estimated Tk5.0 billion in the next three years to set up a unit initially to produce georgette and chiffon yarn and later to manufacture fabric. The proposed unit with the production capacity of 120 million tonnes a day will be set up in Valuka. They are the only supplier in the country that can meet seven-day lead-time. The group produces 12 million yards of non-denim fabrics and 5.0 million yards of denim a month.

Direct exports draw huge investments in garment accessories (Dhaka Tribune) Bangladeshi garments accessories and packaging manufacturers have



made a massive new investment to seize a larger chunk of the global export market share. According to data from the Bangladesh

Garment Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA), garments accessories and packaging manufacturers have made an investment of Tk722.5 crore, with more proposals in the pipeline. Sources in the sector said this new investment focuses on producing higher

quality garment accessories with an aim to increase exports and establish the sector as a direct export earner instead of just deemed. Since there is more capacity than is currently needed, accessories can be another big export earner, they opined. Bangladesh is almost self-sufficient in meeting local demands in the garment accessory manufacturing sector. This direct exporting will open up a new avenue for local manufacturers. According to BGAPMEA's latest data, garment accessories and packaging products earned US\$6.7 billion in the last fiscal year, of which over US\$1 billion came from direct exports. Usually, accessory products are exported with finished products and termed deemed exports. Now, they are being separately exported to several countries as direct exports.

Yarn production to rise 2.67pc: USDA (The Daily Star) Yarn production is set to expand 2.67 percent to 7.70 lakh tonnes this fiscal year on the back of rising garment exports, according to a report from the United States Department of Agriculture. But the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association says the amount of yarn produced in the country is much higher at 13.50 lakh tonnes a year. The total demand for yarn is more than 21 lakh tonnes. Of the amount, nearly 30 percent is imported, mainly from India, China, Vietnam and Pakistan. Cotton import in Bangladesh has been increasing between 20 and 25 percent over the last few years, he said. Bangladesh's 430 spinners can supply nearly 90 percent of the demand for yarn from the knitwear

sector and 35 percent from the woven sector. As a result, Bangladeshi woven garment manufacturers import fabrics worth more than US\$6 billion from countries like China, India, Vietnam and Pakistan. Raw cotton consumption is projected to increase to 6.7 million bales in fiscal 2017-18 on stronger sales of garment and other value-added products in domestic and foreign markets as well, said the USDA report.

Iraq keen to import RMG from Bangladesh (The Financial Express) Iraqi apparel traders are interested in importing garment products from Bangladesh. Though Iraq imports apparel from Turkey and China, Iraqi businesses and high officials are positive about the quality of Bangladesh-made apparel. And they are willing to buy Bangladeshi RMG products. The BGMEA will take necessary measures in creating and exploring the market in Iraq. Bangladesh's garment industry is now a role model of safe working place with seven out of 10 USGBC (United States of Green Building Council) LEED-certified environment-friendly green factories are located in the country. A total of 67 local factories got USGBC LEED certificates while 280 more are in the process to win such accolades.

Alliance looks to form capable successor organisation (The Financial Express) The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety has initiated a process to form a separate entity which will monitor safety issues in readymade garment factories after 2018, as its five-year tenure is going to end this year. The poor capacity of government-formed remediation coordination cell (RCC) has prompted the Alliance to take such a move. Alliance, a platform of 29 North America-based global garment companies, has already contacted the BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association) and the labour ministry over the issue of forming a separate monitoring authority. As part of the process, the Alliance wants to involve government and the BGMEA in its proposed 'safety monitoring organisation (SMO)' that would carry forward the Alliance's inspections, safety monitoring, training and helpline services after 2018. The SMO would be funded by brands, but the costs of inspection on fire, electrical and structural integrity in newly listed and existing factories that go for expansion would have to be borne by individual factories. The SMO will be

formed for at least two years until 2020 until the RCC becomes capable.

Project launched for RMG workers' financial inclusion (The Daily Star) A MetLife Foundation-funded Swisscontact project was launched to ensure financial inclusion of 60,000 workers in the readymade garment sector. The 30-month "Sarathi" plans to bring the practice of salary disbursement through bank accounts at 30 factories by June 2020. It also intends to improve basic financial literacy on issues such as using bank accounts and cards, benefits of saving products, gaining control and privacy over earnings, planning and paying for recurring expenses and accessing savings and credit products. Three major factories have already agreed to come on board. The pilot phase in the last two years benefitted over 1,100 workers. Partner commercial banks are to provide services through agent banking networks. Bank Asia and City Bank have signed agreements with Swisscontact recently.

Government awards ten RMG factories for workplace safety (New Age) The government, for the first time, awarded ten readymade garment factories for their best practices of occupational health and safety in the factories. State minister for labour Mujibul Haque handed over the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Good Practice Award to the representatives of the factories at a ceremony on



the occasion of National Day on Occupational Safety and Health. The factories are:

Wisdom Attires, Fakir Fashion, Knit Concern, Hop Lun Apparels, Square Fashion, Snowtex Outwear, Ecotext, Tarashimo Apparels, Vielatex and AKH Eco Apparels. This year the government introduced OSH Good Practice award for the first time to recognise business owners who have made proactive efforts to ensure the welfare of employees. Bangladesh has made significant progress in terms of workers' safety in the readymade garment sector.

Infrastructure

Bangladesh, India launch container train services (The Financial Express)

India and Bangladesh have started a container train service from Majerhat station of Kolkata. The train is scheduled to terminate at Bangabandhusetu West Station. The trial run is pursuant to the signing of an MoU between the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and Container Company of Bangladesh Limited (CCBL) for starting container services



between the two countries during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in April 2017. Transportation of

goods through container trains is expected to be a faster and cheaper option for both India and Bangladesh. While passenger and goods trains run between the two countries, this is the first time that a container service will begin. Exporters' forums had long been lobbying for container trains as they could save time and trade costs significantly apart from making trade safer and more organised.

Bangladesh to get 85.11m Euro from IDB for rural, peri-urban housing (The Financial Express)

Bangladesh will receive 85.11 million Euro in loan from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for rural and peri-urban housing. Finance Minister AMA Muhith and President of IDB Bandar MH Hajjar signed the agreement on the sidelines of the 43rd meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group in Tunis. With the financial assistance from IDB, state-owned Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) will provide low-cost home financing to low-income rural people living outside the metropolis of Dhaka and Chittagong. IDB will lend the money to Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) through the Finance Ministry. The loan would be disbursed under 'Pallima Scheme', a newly launched scheme of the corporation. The main objectives of the project are to ensure access of the rural and peri-urban people in Housing Finance and to save the agriculture lands from being eroded for housing purposes.

Padma railway link project gets life - Dhaka, Beijing sign US\$2.67b deal (The Financial Express)

China has confirmed US\$2.67 billion in loan for

Bangladesh's second-largest Padma railway link project. The confirmation came after Bangladesh and China signed an agreement in Beijing, giving new life to the struggling railway link project, which has been languishing since early 2016. The US\$4.31 billion (Tk349.88 billion) Padma Bridge railway link project is one of Bangladesh's top priority projects placed under the ten "fast-track" ones. Out of the \$4.31 billion, the Chinese EXIM bank will provide \$2.67 billion in loans while the Bangladesh government will give the remaining amount. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in early 2016 approved the Tk349.88 billion project. The Bangladesh Railway, the project executing agency, signed a commercial contract with a Chinese company, China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) in August 2016 for starting the construction work of the 172 kilometre-railway line from Dhaka to Jessore crossing through the Padma Bridge.

Oil, Gas & Energy

World Bank gives US\$515m for power, insurance projects (The Daily Star)

The World Bank has committed to providing US\$515 million through two projects, one helping to expand electricity transmission networks and another to improve insurance coverage. The two deals were signed at Economic Relations Division (ERD). Mahmuda Begum, additional secretary to the ERD, and Qimiao Fan, WB country director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, represented the two sides. The US\$450 million worth of Enhancement and Strengthening of Power Transmission Network in Eastern Region Project would improve supply and reduce load shedding in the eastern region, covering greater Comilla and Noakhali and a part of greater Chittagong. About 275,000 households and 16,000 agricultural consumers will get new electricity connections while 13 new substations will be built and an existing one rehabilitated. One 230 kV transmission line through greater Comilla and four short distance 132 kV lines in Comilla and Noakhali will also be built. The Insurance Sector Development Project of US\$65 million would help strengthen the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority's regulatory and supervisory capacity.

Rooppur Power Plant- Project to transmit electricity to national grid gets government nod (The Daily Star)

The government has taken two

auxiliary projects at a cost of Tk11,317 crore to transmit electricity from Rooppur nuclear power plant to the national grid and to transport goods by train to the plant. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved a project, transmission and infrastructure development for evacuation of electricity produced in rooppur nuclear power plant, at a cost of Tk10,981 crore. The first concrete pouring for setting the nuclear cauldron of Rooppur power plant has started. 669-kilometre line will be set up for transmitting electricity generated from the plant. Of the line, 154-km transmission line will be set up from Rooppur to Amin Bazar in Dhaka including 7-km river crossing line. Besides, 51-km transmission line will be constructed from Amin Bazar to Kaliakoir, 150-km from Rooppur to Goplaganj, 102-km from Rooppur to Bogra, 152-km from Rooppur to Dhamrai, and 60-km from Rooppur to Baghabari.

US\$55m World Bank fund for renewable energy (The Daily Star) The World Bank has approved US\$55 million to expand use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily. This additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project will install 1,000 solar irrigation pumps, 30 solar mini-grids, and about four million improved cooking stoves in rural areas. The project, including the additional financing, will enable about ten million people living in villages, shoals, and islands to access electricity and use energy efficient cooking stoves. These interventions will help the country reduce carbon emissions. It has already built ten solar mini-grids in remote areas, including islands and shoals. This additional financing will help construct another 30 solar mini-grids. These will provide about 28,000 connections to households and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

BPC set to receive US\$600m ITFC loan (The Financial Express) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is set to receive a US\$600 million loan soon from International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) to import fuel oils for the calendar year 2018. A high-powered delegation of the state-run agency signed a US\$700 million loan deal with ITFC. The standing committee on non-concessional loan approved the US\$700 million loan in December 2017. BPC will take the loan by three instalments - US\$200 million, US\$400 million and

US\$100 million - to import fuel oil. The state-run entity has requested the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) to take necessary steps in this regard. The division forwarded two letters to the finance ministry to take required action about ITFC loan.

LNG supply begins next month (The Daily Star) The ship carrying Bangladesh's first import consignment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) has anchored in the Bay of Bengal, with the help of which LNG supply to the national grid is scheduled to begin next month. The vessel - Excellence - which brought in 1.37 lakh



cubic feet of LNG from Qatar will be permanently attached with the base station or the

LNG terminal. Excellence will also work as a floating storage and re-gasification unit. Gas will be stored here for import through other vessels later. Initially, the gas would be supplied to users in Chittagong. The construction of the 91-km pipeline connecting Anwara upazila in Chittagong with the LNG terminal in the Bay is complete. A 30-km pipeline from Karnaphuli to Sitakunda is being set up to supply the imported gas to the national grid. About 500 million cubic feet of gas per day can be supplied from the country's first LNG terminal.

Water/Maritime

Feasibility study on Chittagong-African port feeder service (The Financial Express) The government has started conducting a feasibility study on introduction of direct container feeder vessel service between Chittagong and two African ports. The two ports are Port of Durban in South Africa and Port of Tanger Med in Morocco. A high-powered inter-ministerial body, led by an additional secretary of the ministry of shipping (MoS), has been formed to conduct the study. The committee comprises representatives from the ministry of commerce, chairman of Chittagong port, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Container Ship Owners Association, Bangladesh Container Shipping Agents

Association, and Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association. The committee was tasked with examining the possibility for starting of feeder vessel service and possible outcomes of introduction of direct transport service. A delegation of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of shipping visited the two ports in January last to gain experience in port operations there. The port authorities welcomed the Bangladesh delegation and suggested that a direct feeder service can be started between Chittagong port and the two African ports. They also offered Bangladesh assistance for port related technical and infrastructural development, and marine services.

Six new vessels to be added to BSC’s fleet (Dhaka Tribune)

The state-run Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is to get six new vessels including three bulk carriers and three product oil tankers for diesel transport within the next 12 months. One of the three bulk carriers, the “MV Banglar Joyjatra”, has been built by China and will be launched in Beijing. The new vessel will help in breaking the monopoly of foreign companies in Bangladesh’s shipping business. The “MV Banglar Joyjatra” has a capacity of 39,000 Deadweight tonnage (DWT) and will be delivered to Bangladesh on July 5, 2018 by the Chinese National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC). The BSC is purchasing the bulk freighters and oil tankers under a government-to-government (G2G) agreement with China as it bids to rebuild the corporation.



Agriculture/Fisheries

Pointed gourd shipment to EU resumes (The Financial Express) Shipment of pointed gourd has resumed to the European Union (EU) market after two and a half years which the sector insiders see as a big boost for diversifying the country's export basket. 14 exporters started exporting pointed gourd to the EU market after collecting the nutritious vegetable from 'contract' farmers in Jessore. In January 2016, the EU imposed a ban on import of five vegetable commodities from

Bangladesh considering those as 'critical' according to their quarantine requirement. Pointed gourd was one of the items, according to the Bangladesh Fruits Vegetable and Allied Products Exporters Association (BFVAPEA). The recent shipment of pointed gourd was possible with the technical help of Solidaridad Network Asia, a Dutch organisation. Solidaridad worked with 316 farmers in five areas in Jessore to produce pest-free and safe pointed gourds along with snake gourds, bottle gourds, papaya and other crops. Together with Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and the BVFAPEA, Solidaridad facilitated to frame the five export clusters through its Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) project.

Cabinet approves bill to streamline marketing of agriculture produce (The Financial Express)

The Cabinet approved in principle the draft of 'The Agriculture Produce Markets Regulation Bill, 2018' toughening punishment for violation of the law. The new draft bill has been proposed reorganising 'The Warehouses Ordinance, 1959' and 'The Agricultural Produce Markets Regulation Act, 1964' to make the existing law more time-befitting one. The aim of the proposed law is to give the National Agriculture Marketing Coordination Committee and three other committees working under the existing law a legal shape. According to the draft law, doing business in any notified market without having a license or handing over license of an agriculture trader to others for doing business will be considered as a punishable offence according to section 22 of the proposed law. The cabinet also gave the final approval to the draft of 'The Weight and Measurement Standard Bill, 2018' raising the amount of fine for violation of the law.

Government, WB launch climate-smart farming practices (The Financial Express)

To protect Bangladesh's remarkable progress in agriculture productivity from the threat of climate change, the government and the World Bank Group jointly launched climate-smart farming practices. Initiating Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Country Profile and Climate-Smart Investment Plan (CSIP) for Bangladesh, it will generate three types of benefit - greater productivity, enhance resilience and lowering emission - which are keys to cope with the challenges the global warming imposes. At the same time, the initiative will bring all the stakeholders

under one umbrella and integrate their plans into actions by choosing best smart investment policy for further strengthening the country's food security. This concept allows to focus simultaneously on three most important dimensions of modern agriculture development - greater productivity, enhance resilience and lower emission.

Government set to prepare draft rules of Jute Act (The Financial Express) The government is set to prepare draft rules of Jute Act 2017 incorporating some provisions, including providing license for charcoal export. Under the move, the ministry of textiles and jute (MoTJ) has directed the department of jute (DoJ) to prepare the draft rules shortly. A seven-member committee has been formed to formulate draft rules of Jute Act 2017. Section 28 of the Jute Act -2017 gives the government the authority to prepare rules for implementing it. At present, jute-related activities/trade is now being controlled under Jute Licensing and Enforcement Rules-1964. The government has enacted Jute Act-2017 through abolishing Jute Ordinance-1962.

RU prof innovates new paddy variety 'Rabi Dhan-1' (The Financial Express) Professor of Agronomy and Agricultural Extension Department of Rajshahi Department Dr. Aminul Haque innovated a new paddy variety named 'Rabi Dhan-1'. The yield of the new variety will be 1.5 times more than the traditional ones. The plant is strong and contains bacterial wall resistant gene. The National Seed Board (NSB) and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) have already been recognised this innovation. The origin of the paddy was brought from the Philippines in 2004. Due to the hard work and more research, the seed of the paddy was innovated. Farmers will face success with this variety. Rabi variety is very close to the Aman paddy variety (Bri 39 Dhan). Slim and minicate type paddy will be produced from this paddy whose market is expecting equivalent to the improved minicate paddy. The paddy of Rabi will grow 15 days before the Bri-39. It takes 145 days to grow in the cultivation of the Bri-39. But, The Rabi paddy cultivation will take 130 days to get yield.

Other news

Samsung mobile phones to be assembled in Bangladesh (New Age) Samsung mobile phones will be assembled at an assembling plant in Narshingdi. Fair Electronics Limited, the partner of Samsung Electronics, announced the inauguration of the new unit that would produce a wide range of 4G smartphones for Samsung Electronics in Bangladesh. The present capacity of the



manufacturing plant would be enough to meet the present demand inside the country and Fair Electronics was working to launch the Bangladesh-made Samsung products before the Eid-ul-Fitr. To maintain quality of Samsung, Fair Electronics, would use all the equipment that would be brought from Samsung's manufacturing plants. With Samsung's technology and knowledge, Samsung's globally standardised products would be brought in for customers in Bangladesh at an affordable price.

Coca-Cola plans to invest US\$50m more in Bangladesh (The Financial Express) Global beverage giant Coca-Cola plans to invest US\$50 million more in the country over the next three years. It will also roll out a string of new products during this period, aiming to expand its operation to tap Tk30 billion beverage market. The company invested US\$74 million in the last three years - one of the largest FDI in food and beverage sector. Their bottlers invested another US\$30 million. So in total, they invested US\$104 million in last three years in Bangladesh. The company was concentrating on developing a portfolio exclusively for the people of Bangladesh which will help meet their demands.

Record US\$5b Chinese investment coming up (The Daily Star) The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority will sign a deal with a Chinese company enabling it to invest US\$5 billion in the country. If materialises, it will be the single largest foreign investment by a company in Bangladesh's history. The investor, Zhejiang Jindun Pressure Vessel Co Ltd, will not only generate electricity by setting up a coal-fired power plant but also utilise the plant's ashes to make bricks by establishing a specialised factory. On

signing the deal on the allocation of land at the Mirsarai Economic Zone in Chittagong, Zhejiang will pay Tk315 crore to the Beza as the land rent for 50 years, he said. Bangladesh received a record US\$2.45 billion in FDI in 2016-17. Zhejiang has pledged to construct the plant within three years after striking the deal.

Wilmar-Adani to invest US\$350m in Mirsarai economic zone (The Daily Star) Singapore-based Wilmar and India's Adani Group plan to invest US\$350 million in Bangladesh to establish an industrial park in the Mirsarai economic zone under a joint venture that will produce agro-based foods and allied products. Pua Seck Guan, chief operating officer of Wilmar International, a leading agribusiness group in Asia, sought a 50-acre land at Mirsarai in Chittagong so as to make the investment during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Singapore in March this year. The investment will enhance competitiveness of local manufacturers and help consumers get quality products.

Beximco Pharma begins exporting third product to the US market (Dhaka Tribune) Beximco Pharma has begun the export of their third product Methocarbamol (500mg and 700mg) to the US market. The first consignment was delivered on April 21, 2018 and this is the third product from Beximco Pharma in the world's largest pharma market after the successful launch of Carvedilol and Sotalol in August 2016 and November 2017, respectively. Methocarbamol is generic equivalent to muscle relaxant drug Robaxin from Auxilium Pharmaceuticals. According to IQVIA market data, the US market for Methocarbamol is currently valued at US\$23.37 million. Beximco Pharma remains the only Bangladeshi pharmaceutical company to export medicine to the US market following its manufacturing site approval by the US Food and Drug Administration in June 2015.

Linde opens Tk120cr air separation unit (The Daily Star) Linde Bangladesh Ltd, a member of Linde Group's Gases Division, yesterday inaugurated an air separation unit in Rupganj. The company invested Tk120 crore for the unit. An air separation plant separates atmospheric air into its primary components, typically nitrogen and oxygen, and sometimes also argon and other rare inert gases. The Rupganj plant will produce about 100 tonnes of liquefied gases per day, making it the largest liquid-producing merchant air separation unit in

Bangladesh. The project engineering division, a subsidiary of Linde Engineering, designed, built and managed the construction of the Rupganj plant, which comprises modern energy efficient technology and promises operational reliability. It will provide liquefied gases and related solutions to Bangladesh's growing healthcare, food and beverage, fabrication, pharmaceuticals, shipbuilding and ship recycling industries. The plant will more than double Linde Bangladesh's current production capacity, strengthening Linde's position as the leading gases player in Bangladesh.

Government to set up national single window to facilitate trade (The Financial Express) National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the government has decided to establish a National Single Window (NSW) for trade



facilitation, and NBR will act as its lead agency. NBR will extend its all-out cooperation to the

businesses for expanding the country's export basket to achieve US\$50 billion export target by 2021. The NBR chief also said the government has undertaken a number of projects for implementation of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

China's Alipay joins hands with bKash (The Financial Express) Chinese digital payment giant Alipay operated by Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial expanded its footprint to hold a major share in the rapidly growing mobile banking market in Bangladesh. The Ant Financial signed an agreement to become the strategic partner of digital payment platform bKash, operated by Brac Bank. As per the agreement, the company that is serving 800 million users globally will now secure 10 percent share and another 10 percent in the next one year. As a strategic partner, it will help bKash grow its market further in a secured and diversified way with the technical capability and expertise the firm has.

Events

Bangladesh Denim Expo is going to be held on May 9-10, 2018 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The expo will provide opportunities for international firms to franchise with Indian cleaning industries or vice versa to establish networking among professionals. The event is a must for all cleaning industries, dye industries and textile and garment industries and environmentalist. For details, please visit: <https://10times.com/bangladesh-denim-expo>

Renewable Energy Show is going to be held on May 10-12, 2018 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This event will provide a platform for renewable power generation professionals to meet, network, and address the critical issues facing the power industry. Exhibitors benefit from the opportunity to meet with a range of international and regional buyers who have the authority to place real business. For details, please visit: <https://10times.com/renewable-energy-show>

Tenders

Invitation for International Tender TSP Complex Limited (an enterprise of BCIC) under the Ministry of Industries issued a tender for Procurement of 25,000 MT \pm 10% Rock phosphate (72% BPL Min). Tender issued on 2 April 2018, closing on 21 May 2018 at 11:00am BST. For details, please contact: Engr. Md. Mafizur Rahman, Managing Director, TSPCL, TSP Complex Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong. Phone: +880312500455-6, 2500545. Fax: +880312500457. Email: gcomtsp@gmail.com

Invitation for International Tender Sylhet gas Fields Limited (SGFL) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a tender for procurement of Supply of Spare Parts for Man Gas Engine Generator. Tender issued on 5 April 2018, closing on 23 May 2018 at 12:00pm BST. For details, please contact: Shorup Kanti Dewanji, Deputy General Manager (Procurement), SGFL, Sylhet gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13th floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka 1215. Phone: +8801730006946. Email: dgmpr@sgfl.org.bd

Invitation for International Tender Department of Immigration & Passports under the Security Service Division, Ministry of Home Affairs issued a tender for Procurement of 05 (five) million Machine Readable Visa Sticker and Related Services. Tender issued on 12 April 2018, closing on 23 May 2018 at 1:00pm BST. For details, please contact: Major General Md. Masud Rezwan psc., Director General, Department of Immigration & Passports, E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Phone: +88029126717, +88029123399. Email: dgdip@passport.gov.bd

Invitation for International Tender Sylhet gas Fields Limited (SGFL) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a tender for Supply of Lot- 1: Portable Octane/ Cetane Analyzer & Flash Point Test Apparatus and Lot-2: Spare Parts for IVECO FIAT Diesel Engine. Tender issued on 7 April 2018, closing on 24 May 2018 at 12:00pm BST. For details, please contact: Shorup Kanti Dewanji, Deputy General Manager (Procurement), SGFL, Sylhet gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13th floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka 1215. Phone: +8801730006946. Email: dgmpr@sgfl.org.bd

Invitation for International Tender Bangladesh Power Development Board under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a tender for procurement of 11kV, 1x300mm²XLPE copper Cable. Tender issued on 8 April 2018, closing on 24 May 2018 at 11:00am BST. For details, please contact: Sayeed

Akram Ullah, Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Phone: +88029550532. Fax: +88027126151. Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

Invitation for International Tender Bangladesh Power Development Board under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a tender for procurement of Air Pre-heater Gear Box for Chittagong Power Station, BPDB, Raozan, Chittagong. Tender issued on 4 April 2018, closing on 28 May 2018 at 11:00am BST. For details, please contact: Sayeed Akram Ullah, Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Phone: +88029550532. Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

Invitation for International Tender Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited under Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division issued a tender for procurement of different types/sizes of Turbine Gas Meter with Electronic Volume Corrector (EVC). Tender issued on 8 April 2018, closing on 28 May 2018 at 11:30am BST. For details, please contact: Deputy General Manager (Purchase), Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Phone: +88031656128. Mobile: +880177717628. Email: kgdcl.purchase@gmail.com

Invitation for International Tender Bangladesh Power Development Board under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a tender for procurement of Spare Parts of Gas Booster Compressor for Sylhet 150MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, BPDB, Sylhet, Bangladesh. Tender issued on 15 April 2018, closing on 04 June 2018 at 11:00am BST. For details, please contact: Sayeed Akram Ullah, Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Phone: +88029550532. Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

Invitation for International Tender DAP Fertilizer Company under the Ministry of Industries issued a tender for Procurement of 30,000 MT ($\pm 10\%$) Phosphoric Acid (P_2O_5 : 52-54%). Tender issued on 23 April 2018, closing on 05 June 2018 at 10:30am BST. For details, please contact: Md. Monirul Islam, MAnaging Director, Rangadia, Anowara, Chittagong 4000. Phone: +88031841210. Fax: +88031632389.

Invitation for International Tender Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) under the Ministry of Industries issued a tender for Procurement of 14.30 M³ Hydrotreating (Co-Mo) Catalyst. Tender issued on 23 April 2018, closing on 11 June 2018 at 11:00am BST. For details, please contact: Md. Shahidul Islam, General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, Purchase Division (12th floor), BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. Phone: +88029567091, 9561627. Fax: +88029552642. Email: bcicpur@dhaka.net

Please remain updated on these and future tenders at the following website:
<http://www.cptu.gov.bd/Notices.aspx>

More information

The Embassy always welcomes your comments on, and suggestions for the Newsflash. We also encourage interested Dutch and Bangladeshi companies to place an article or message in our newsflash. For more information please contact our economic department at the Embassy in Dhaka through email dha-ea@minbuza.nl, or by phone (00882) 9842715-18

