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THE MEGA PROJECTS THAT WILL CHANGE THE FACE OF FOREVER





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THE MEGA PROJECTS THAT WILL CHANGE THE FACE OF BANGLADESH FOREVER

R&D Desk

Mega projects are not the panacea for all infrastructural deficiencies, but they are one of the best available options for addressing Bangladesh's particular infrastructure deficiencies, transport crises and power shortages in a sustainable manner.

History shows that mega projects often become landmarks for a country by having a transformational impact on the lives of its people. Infrastructural mega projects are material drivers that accelerate the economic growth of developing countries. As Bangladesh has begun to cast off the long lasted tag of **"Least-Developed Country"**, the country has simultaneously begun to adopt a **"mega project culture"** – the move to combine multiple projects into one mega project. Although Bangladesh's success story, especially in managing funds for **"big-ticket mega projects"**, has been applauded worldwide, it faces criticism regarding the prudence of those investment decisions.

By prioritising mega-infrastructure projects, Bangladesh is planting the seeds for a sustainable future. These widely-discussed projects are the Padma Bridge and Rail Link, the Metro Rail project, the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Link, the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the Coal-Fired Power Plant of Matarbari and Rampal, and the Payra Sea Port.

To make the Vision 2041 of becoming a developed country a concrete realisation, Bangladesh has emphasized the timely implementation of its **"flagship projects"** since these projects are expected to raise the country's GDP by 4% when completed. Despite the economic fall-out triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, the construction of those mega projects has continued uninterrupted. The projects are expected to extend the country's economic margin by upgrading existing physical infrastructure and creating an conducive business environment.

01 Padma Multipurpose Bridge

A self-funded project of Bangladesh Government worth US\$3.65bn, the 6.1 km double-deck bridge is expected to be open for traffic by June 2022 connecting southern part of Bangladesh with the capital city as well as eastern part of the country. It will connect 21 southern districts with the capital, ensuring the cheap and regular supply of raw materials needed for industrialization. The bridge will have road and rail linkages in two separate decks. China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd. has been selected to construct the long aspired bridge on the mighty river Padma. It is expected that the construction of the bridge will comprehensively transform the pace of economy specially in the southern region improving lives of millions people on the both sides of the river.



02 Matarbari Deep Sea Port



Bangladesh exports goods worth nearly US\$40bn and imports goods worth nearly US\$60bn majority of which carried through seaways. Presently, the country's two seaports Chittagong and Mongla have up to 9.5-metre draft where vessels holding up to 2,000 TEU containers can anchor. Bangladesh planned to develop its first deep-sea port as part of a public-private partnership with Japan. Matarbari deep seaport will have a 16-metre water draft and will be able to accommodate 8,000 TEU post-Panamax vessels, lessening Bangladesh's dependence on the feeder vessels to ferry export-import goods from the hub ports in Singapore, Colombo and Port

Klang. Matarbari deep sea port will be made functional by 2025.

03 Payra Deep Sea Port

The construction work of Payra Deep Sea Port has been going rapidly since 2016. Payra will have rail, road, and waterway links with the capital of Dhaka, around which most of the country's garment industry is based and which by extension is the primary destination for imports and origin point for exports. The total cost of the port is estimated to be US\$11- 15bn. Once deep-sea port is built, the neighbouring India, Nepal and Bhutan can make use of this port while it facilitates the domestic economy with faster export and import activities. The port will be fully operational by 2023.



04 Dhaka Metrorail Project



It is a part of the 20 year long Strategic Transport Plan (STP) outlined by the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), a governmental agency. With an aim to provide a safe, fast, affordable and modern means of transportation for the city dweller, the project will have total 8 lanes connecting different parts of Dhaka City. Presently, 20.1 kilometres long Line 6, costing US\$2.8bn is under construction. Each train will hold up to 1,800 passengers. With 56 trains to be in service by 2022, Dhaka Metro is projected to serve more than 60,000 passengers per hour by 2022, with wait times of approximately 4 minutes. The entire route will be able to be travelled in less than 40 minutes at a speed of 100 km/h (62 mph). The

project is expected to be completed by 2022.

05 Dhaka Elevated Expressway

Dhaka Elevated Expressway is Bangladesh's first Elevated Expressway project. It is one of the largest infrastructure projects taken up by the incumbent Government to ease traffic congestion in the capital. It will be 46.73 km long including the connecting roads and will cost around US\$1.4bn. The Italian-Thai Development Corporation Limited has entered a US\$1.062bn contract with China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) for building the Dhaka Elevated Expressway. It is expected that the project might be completed by 2022.



06 Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant



The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant will be a 2.4 GW nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. It will be the country's first nuclear power plant and the commissioning of Unit-1 is planned in 2022 while the commissioning of Unit-2 is planned in 2023. The VVER- 1200/523 Nuclear reactor and critical infrastructure are being built by the Russian Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation. The project will provide low-cost electricity and create new jobs in Bangladesh. The power production in Bangladesh currently exceeds 4 GW a year. The new plant will increase the country's power production and enable her to achieve energy independence.

07 Karnaphuli Underwater Tunnel

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation of Karnaphuli Underwater Tunnel worth US\$2.49bn in 2016. The boring work beneath the tunnel has been inaugurated by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in February 2019. The 3.5 km-long four-lane tunnel, the first of its kind in Bangladesh and southern region, will be built to make the port city of Chittagong "One City Two Towns" based on a model of East and West Shanghai in China. The construction of the Karnaphuli Tunnel is expected to bolster industrial development, enhance tourism, and expand trade and commerce near the project area, creating employment for thousands of people and boosting exports. There will be a very positive impact on the total economy of the country.



Other Prospective Mega Projects

Dhaka-Chittagong Express Way (rail or road), Circular Road around Dhaka City, Construction of an International Airport in the centre of Bangladesh, Dhaka Underground Train/ Tube Rail and Construction of second bridge on river Padma are a few of the other prospective mega projects that are in the offing in Bangladesh and for which opportunities exist for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The outlay of a big chunk of its resources on these projects has resulted in the biggest investment boom in Bangladesh's development history, showcasing its economic rise and development. They are expected to transform the economic face of the country by creating new businesses and acting as an economic development catalyst. These "multi-billion-dollar projects" are expected to generate sustainable returns. The government's effort to mobilise investors and donors to ensure investment sources created a big financial space for hard infrastructure development. The country is trying to utilize those projects as an inducement for further investment destinations by offering tangible benefits such as logistics support and non-tangible benefits such as a competitive environment.



Tentative Timeline of Ongoing Mega Projects in Bangladesh

2022	June (8)*	July (1)	August (1)	December (6)	
	Khulna Railway Bridge Bekutia Bridge Mirpur to Kalshi Flyover Kalna Bridge 3rd Shitalakshya Bridge Dhaka to Tangail 4 Lanes Banani to Airport Expressway Bhanga Mawa Rail	Lohalia Bridge	Goma Bridge	Narail to Khulna Bridge Chittagong to Cox's Bazar Rail Kulaura to Shahbazpur Railway Bangabandhu Hi Tech Park (Sylhet, Rajshahi) Khulna to Mongla Railway Joydebpur to Dhaka Double Rail Line	
2023	January (1)	March (1)	April (1)	June (1)	December (1)
	BRT Line-3	Purbachal Expressway	Rampal Power	Jamuna Rail Bridge	Dhaka to Mawa Rail
2024	January (3)	June (2)		December (5)	
	Dhaka to Rangpur 4 Lanes Jessore to Jhenaidah 4 Lanes Kamalapur to Agargaon Metrorail	Payra Port Dredging Mongla Port Dredging		Rooppur Atomic 2 Aminbazar 8 Lane Bridge Rangpur to Lalmonirhat 4 Lanes Bhanga to Jessore Rail Cox's Bazar Airport	
2025	June (11)	2026	June (19)		2028
	Dhaka to East West Elevated Expressway Bangabandhu Satellite 2 Dhaka Bypass Magura Faridpur Rail Rangpur Panchagarh 4 Lanes Patenga Bay Terminal Bangabandhu Industrial Area Kutubkhali to Banani Expressway Panguchi Bridge Dhaka Aricha 4 Lanes 3rd Meghna Bridge		Payra to Bhanga 4 Lanes Benapole to Bhanga 4 Lanes Nalua to Baherchar Bridge Sheikh Hasina Stadium Dhaka to Ashulia Elevated Expressway Chandpur Shariatpur Tunnel Chittagong Metrorail Chandpur to Shariatpur Bridge Bhola to Barisal Bridge Dhaka Sylhet 4 Lanes Teesta Barrage Chittagong to Dhaka Bullet Train Bhanga to Payra Rail Dhaka Subway Rail (1,2,3,4) Bangabandhu Tri Tower Sheikh Hasina Submarine Base Sabrang Tourism Park Naf Tourism Park Sonadia Tourism Park		
					Jamuna Tunnel

*No. of Projects to be Delivered in Particular Month

Investing in mega projects to stimulate economic development has been one of the most popular policy instruments since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Even the United Nations' **"Sustainable Development Goals Framework"** emphasised spending about US\$57 trillion on infrastructure by 2030 to ensure desired global GDP growth. Bangladesh envisaged implementing large-infrastructure mega projects, even before **"Agenda 2030"** was adopted, to make the country the **"investment hotspot"** of South Asia. The East Asian Tiger economies, during their early development, invested heavily in ground-breaking mega projects to deliver economic and social goods to the masses. To accelerate its economy and hasten national progress, Bangladesh is following in the footsteps of **"The Asian Story of Grand Success"**. Bangladesh may also profit from the lessons learned in the construction of the Gyeongbu Expressway in South Korea on how to generate maximum output from mega projects.

In the end, mega projects are not the panacea for all infrastructural deficiencies, but one of the best available options. It is the responsibility of the Government to confirm that the tendencies for cost underestimation and benefit overestimation are avoided right from the planning stage. These initiatives by the Government of Bangladesh are just the beginning of a journey towards greater national prosperity.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF STIMULUS PACKAGES THROUGH BANKING CHANNEL

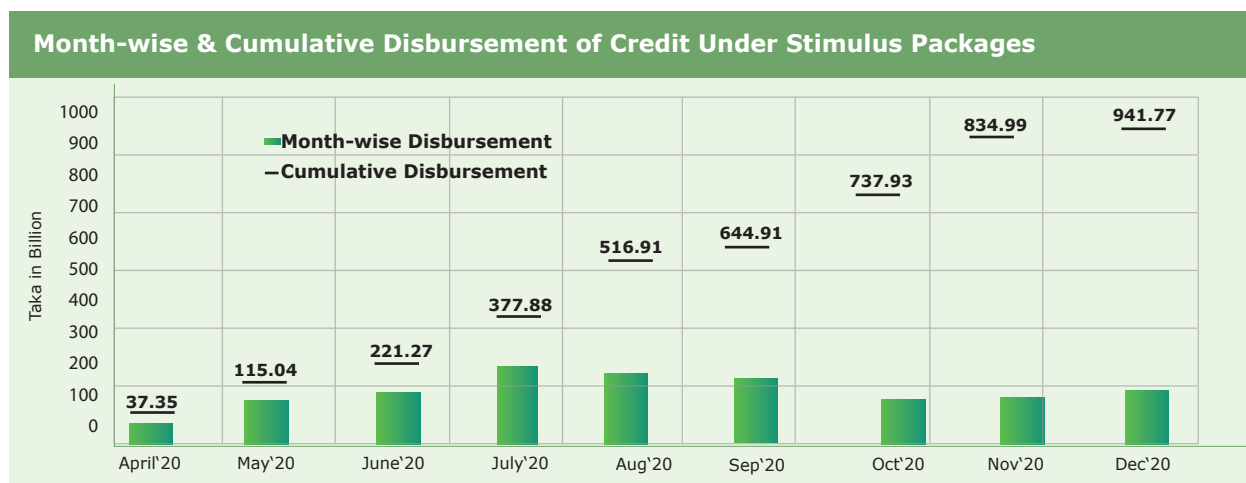


R&D Desk

COVID-19 has brought up unpredictable challenges to both Global and Local economy. The economy of Bangladesh was overwhelmed by many domestic and external challenges stemmed from this pandemic. It has affected both demand and supply-side of the real sector of Bangladesh economy considerably, which was partly reflected in slow growth of GDP in FY'20. External sector has been impacted immediately after the outbreak in China and later in India, the two largest import partners of the country. While pandemic's severe impact on USA and Europe dampened the country's exports as many export orders had been cancelled and demand was slashing due to continuous spread of the virus in advanced economies.

In order to contain the deadly effects of the pandemic and to revive the economy, both Government and Bangladesh Bank (BB) came up with various stimulus packages for affected Cottage, Micro, Small, Medium and Large industries and Services sectors. Packages were also targeted for export sector, farmers and low-income professionals. The declared amount of these packages stood at Tk. 1,814.4 billion as on July 2021, or 6.48% of GDP. The packages that are being implemented by banks amount to Tk. 907.5 billion at the end of Dec'20 while banks disbursed Tk. 941.5 billion including the amount disbursed through EDF on a revolving basis from the stimulus packages at reduced interest rates. Apart from these, Bangladesh Bank released Tk. 1.30 billion provided by the Government as subsidy against blocked interest/profit on loan/investment for the month of April and May'20. The latest status of these stimulus packages has been furnished below:

Month-wise Disbursement

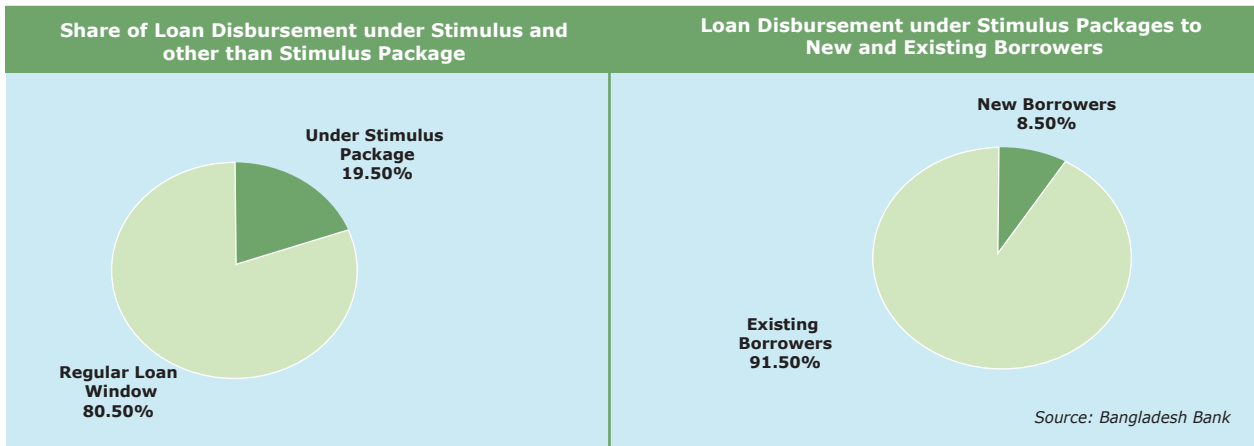


Source: Bangladesh Bank

At the inception, disbursement from stimulus packages was slow but it steadily increased over the period. Various factors such as slow demand for goods and services due to households and corporates' income shocks, constraints of production due to lack of sufficient raw materials, disruption in local and international supply chain, sluggish demand for exports due to spread of Coronavirus in export destination countries, providing credit from banks' own sources, among others, might have caused slow disbursement of credit during Apr'20. Observing this situation, BB responded quickly by taking a number of measures. BB introduced various refinance schemes to resolve liquidity constraint. Furthermore, BB rationalized various conditions of the stimulus packages, which helped smooth disbursement of credit from the packages. From the demand side, due to easier terms, lower interest rates and other benefits, borrowers got interested in those packages. As a result, disbursement under stimulus packages gradually speeded up and reached the highest level in Jul'20. From Apr-Dec'20, a considerable amount (Tk. 941.50 billion) was disbursed under various stimulus packages, which is 19.5% of the overall disbursement during the same period.

Share of Loan under Stimulus Package

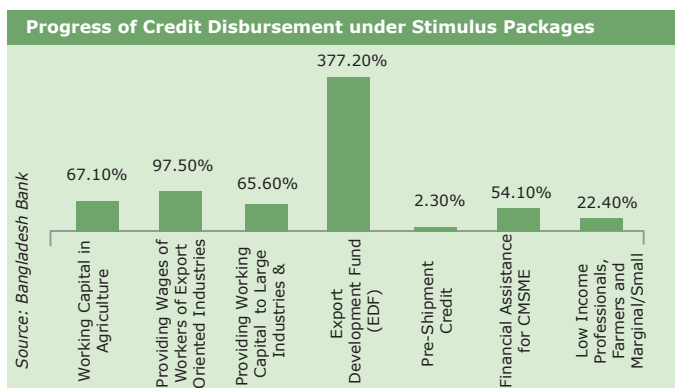
Banks responded moderately in disbursement of credit under stimulus packages. They disbursed 19.5% of their loan portfolio under this package while about four-fifth of loan portfolio was disbursed under the regular loan window. Banks' easier access to low-cost fund from central bank's various refinance and other schemes accompanied by customer-end lower-level interest rate provided huge incentives to the call of stimulus packages.



Who are the Beneficiaries?

Considering the data available from Apr-Sep'20 it appears that a small part of loans (8.5%) under stimulus packages was disbursed to new customers. Furthermore, most of the loans from agricultural and CMSME sector went to new borrowers, as the average loan size is small, and the number of existing borrowers is not sufficient to disburse all the allocated amount. For disbursing large amounts, banks preferred existing borrowers with good reputation and good repayment capabilities. For this reason, major part of the loan amount under stimulus packages went to existing borrowers.

The responses of stimulus packages were not uniform. The stimulus package of Tk. 50 billion to provide wages of the export-oriented industries and Export Development Fund (EDF) got maximum response. A total of Tk. 48.74 billion was disbursed for providing wages of the export-oriented industries between Apr-Jun'20. The size of EDF was enhanced from US\$3.5 billion to US\$5 billion for supporting the exporters badly hit by the pandemic. US\$5.67 billion was refinanced from the fund during Apr-Dec'20. As the fund is revolving in nature, total disbursement exceeds more than 372.2% of the base amount. Stimulus package to finance working capital for the affected large enterprises in industry and service sectors got considerable response as 65.6% of the sizeable stimulus package has already been disbursed by Dec'20. It is mentioned earlier that agriculture sector has been relatively less affected and it has also seasonal demand for loan. Considering these facts, 67.1% disbursement of working capital finance for agriculture sectors seems to be reasonable. Despite substantial exposure to COVID-19 shock, CMSME sector did not considerably respond to stimulus packages at the initial periods. It might be due to the fact that a significant part of CMSME sector buyers faced income shock



due to various measures taken to contain the spread of the virus. However, the sector responded gradually as the economic activities have begun to move towards normalcy. As of Dec'20, credit disbursement under stimulus package reached about 54.1% of target fixed for this sector. Bangladesh Bank continuously remains vigilant to achieve the targets through various guidelines and policy amendments.

Sizeable stimulus package supported by Central Bank's refinance schemes, prudent monetary policy and other proactive policy measures give positive signals to the market and facilitate the economy to turnaround. Up to Dec'20, significant part of the stated stimulus package has been disbursed and

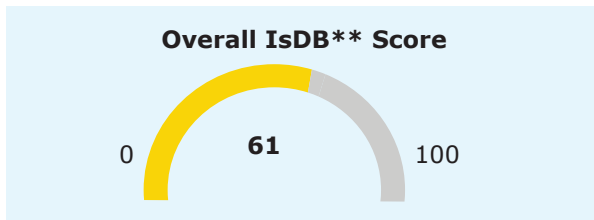
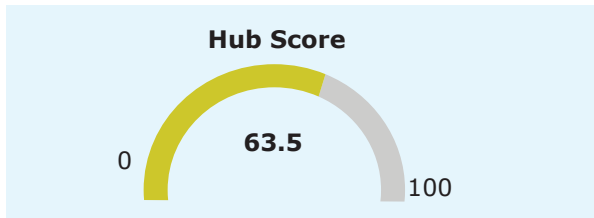
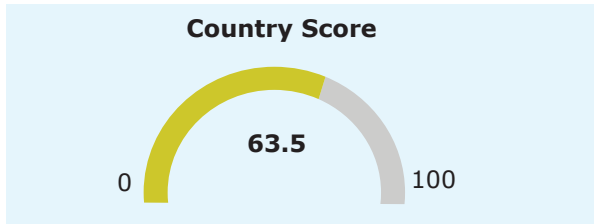
implementation of the rest seems to give further impetus to the economy. However quality of the credits has to be ensured, agricultural and CMSME sector should be given proper focus during implementation of rest of the stimulus package. Projections of banking sector indicate that the current manageable situation may not persist as weaknesses may prevail in some specific areas of banking like non-performing loans might be higher once the regulatory relaxation is phased out unless credit management and recovery practice are tightened. As such, the Government and Bangladesh Bank need to keep focusing on real sector's progress to ensure the economic and financial stability, by smooth implementation of the declared stimulus package while furnishing other policy and supervisory supports.

REACHING THE SDGS - PROGRESS OF BANGLADESH



R&D Desk

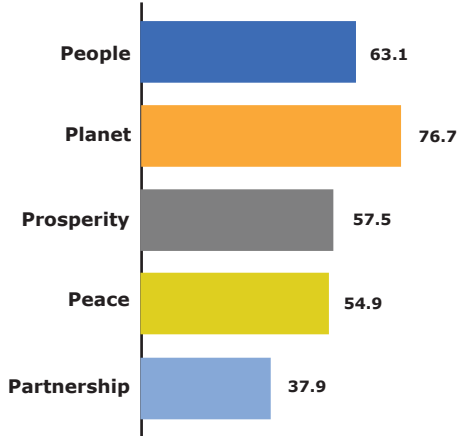
Ranked 25 out of 54 IsDB MCs*



Goal Level Achievements








Achievement by "5Ps"



Country Trends Goal

1 No Poverty	2 Zero Hunger	3 Good Health & Well-being	4 Quality Education	5 Gender Equality	6 Clean Water & Sanitation
7 Affordable & Clean Energy	8 Decent Work & Economic Growth	9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	10 Reduced Inequality	11 Sustainable Cities & Communities	12 Responsible Consumption & Production
13 Climate Action	14 Life Below Water	15 Life on Land	16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	17 Partnerships for the Goals	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 Decreasing
  Stagnating
  Moderately Improving
 On track or maintaining SDG achievement
 Information unavailable

* Islamic Development Bank's Member Countries ** Islamic Development Bank

Most Challenging Goals



Internet use and mobile broadband subscriptions are still at low levels. Logistics performance index (Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure) is below average, 2.4 on 1-5 scale.



Government Health and Education spending as % of GDP is Low, 2.0% and decreasing, while tax revenue is 10.2% of GDP and also decreasing.



Ratio of female-to-male labor participation rate is 44.5 and moderately increasing while seats held by women in national parliament is 20.9% and stagnating.

THE 10 RICHEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD IN 2021



R&D Desk

The best way to understand whether the people of a country are rich or poor is to determine their purchasing power. It essentially indicates what they can buy with the money they earn. However, the price of any product of one country will not match with another country. This is why the size of GDP is calculated on the basis of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to compare the economies of different countries. It is a money conversion rate used to express the Purchasing Powers of different currencies in common units. This rate expresses the ratio between the quantity of monetary units required in different countries to purchase the same **"basket"** of goods and services. Nominal GDP is converted to GDP in PPP dollars to compare the living standards of the people of a country. Let's say you can buy a bunch of goods and services in Bangladesh for Tk. 100, which would cost US\$1.17 in the United States. As such, the exchange rate of taka with US dollar will be 85.65 Taka. In other words, US\$1 in PPP is equal to Tk. 85.65. Now we will see which are the richest countries in the world in GDP (PPP) on the basis of International Monetary Fund's (IMF) April data this year?

01 Luxembourg



The country ranked third last year as the richest country. This time the country's position is at the top as a result of increasing Per Capita Income in GDP (PPP) compared to last year. This year's income is US\$118K, which was US\$112K last year. Luxembourg is one of the tax haven in Europe. In 2015, the country's Per Capita Income exceeded one million dollars. Since then they did not have to look back. Despite there was pressure from the global financial crisis and declining banking privacy from the EU and OECD, it had little effect on its economy. Although many businesses were shut down due to COVID-19 pandemic, many people had lost their jobs, but their income has not decreased much.

02 Singapore

The country was in fourth place last year. The position is second until May this year. The per capita income in GDP (PPP) is US\$97,057. Income is lower than last year, but position improved in this year. Last year, the per capita income in PPP GDP was US\$105.70K. This country is one of the tax havens in Asia. The source of the money is not questioned and the tax is very low. When the country became independent in 1965, it did not have much. But thanks to hard work, smart policies and determined leadership, Singapore is now one of the richest countries. Zhang Young is Singapore's richest restaurant businessman with a net worth of US\$2.3 billion.



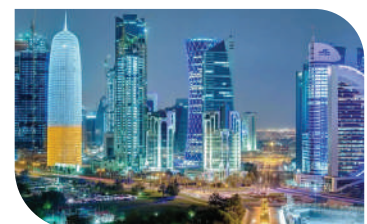
03 Ireland



GDP (PPP) Per Capita income of this country is US\$94.39K. Last year, the Per Capita GDP in PPP was US\$87K. Before Covid-19, when Europe was plagued by problems including BREXIT, trade wars, refugees, Ireland was still above everything. In 2019, when the Eurozone grew by only 1.2%, Ireland grew by 5.9%. Although the growth slowed down in 2020, it is expected that the economy will see good growth again this year.

04 Qatar

Qatar topped the list last year. For 20 years they held the position of the richest country. However, this time the country's position has come to the fourth. Its population is only 2.6 million of which 12% are local. The sharp fall in oil prices last year has had an impact on the country's economy. GDP (PPP) Per Capita Income is US\$93.51K which was US\$138.90K last year. However, skyrocketing oil and LNG prices could reinstate its position at the top again.



05 Switzerland



The Per Capita Income of GDP (PPP) this country is US\$72.88K. Last year, the country's GDP Per Capita was US\$67.60K in PPP. Switzerland is not just about watches, white chocolate, swiss knives or natural beauty. Besides the tourism, the country is also famous for heavy industry. The financial services of Switzerland have world-wide reputation. The country is also above all countries in terms of density of millionaires. Out of every 100K adults, 9,426 are millionaires. However, the Covid has hit production hard. In 2020, the production has decreased by 2.9%.

06 Norway

The Per Capita Income in PPP of Norway is US\$65.60K. Oil was discovered here in 1970. As long as oil prices were rising, the country's prosperity would only increase. However, in 2020, the price of oil fell sharply along with the other impacts of Covid-19 pandemic. In all, Norway's economy shrank 2.5% last year which is the highest since World War II. Last year, the Per Capita Income in GDP (PPP) was US\$79.60K. However, continuously increasing oil prices is expected to recover its economy faster than majority of rest of the countries in this list.



07 United States



The United States advanced in the list of richest countries in 2020, despite a difficult time due to the Corona. Per Capita Income in GDP (PPP) is US\$63.42K. According to the Institute for Policy Studies, between March 2020 and April 2021, the combined wealth of 619 billionaires in the United States was US\$1.62 trillion which increased by about 55%.

08 Brunei Darussalam

The Per Capita Income in GDP (PPP) is US\$62.37K. 1,006 rooms, 256 bathrooms, a hall with a capacity of 5,000 guests, an air-conditioned stable for 200 horses to play polo - these are just a few details of the palace of Sultan Hassan-al-Bolkiah in the country. The country has huge natural resources including oil. Income inequality and malnutrition are also evident. In a country of 4.5 million people, more than 40% of the population lives on earnings less than US\$ 1K a year. Despite the loss of Covid-19, the economy of the country is now recovering.



09 Hong Kong



It is a former British colony, a special administrative region in China, the gateway to the Asia's top financial center. GDP (PPP) Per Capita Income is US\$59.52K. Low taxes, no inheritance duty, and no tariffs on imports or exports are the features of Hong Kong's economy.

09 Denmark

The Per Capita Income in GDP (PPP) is US\$58.39K, which was US\$62.37K last year. Denmark's biggest ranking is that Denmark is at the top of the Happiest Countries in the world.



E-CHEQUE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PAPER CHEQUE





Tonmoy Mazumder, Associate RM, MTB Wholesale Banking Division


e-Cheque is a digital version of a paper cheque. People also call it in a few other names which include electronic check, online check, internet check, and direct debit. e-Cheque uses the Automated Clearing House (hereinafter termed as ACH) to debit directly from a customer's transaction account (which could be current, savings, or short notice deposit account) into a Merchant's Business Bank Account, with the help of a payment processor.


Paper cheques are becoming outdated in the near future as it is increasingly popular in the advanced world. So, it would not be unrealistic to assume that the cheque you may receive after a few years is going to be digital. And compared to other electronic payment systems, which use multiparty communication protocols, e-Cheque can be optimized to use only two parties, legally referred to as Payee and Payer.


Among many benefits compared to Paper Cheque & other forms of e-Payments, e-Cheque delivers facilities like:


- 


e-Cheque is time-efficient and saves manual effort to a great extent as a deposit at a Bank Branch like Paper Cheque is not required;
- 

Paper cheque requires longer processing and holding times than e-Cheques;
- 

e-Cheque settlement take place digitally, which makes the entire process real-time;
- 

Save the Bank from huge cost of Cheque Book printing;
- 

Risk of Cheque Book lost from safe custody could be eliminated;
- 

Reduce usage of Paper would promote Green Banking practices;
- 

e-Cheque could reduce the financial burden from the Client's shoulder because they need not pay Paper Cheque then;

More than anything else, the necessity of e-Cheque was acutely felt during the COVID-19 led pandemic time. Though there was a huge demand from the Client's end for a new Cheque book, it was not possible to fulfill the requisitions, due to extended country-wide mobility restrictions. If there were e-Cheque facilities available, Banks could easily issue those to the Client as required. Besides, this can save the Bank from incurring significant expenses for Cheque book printing.

Difference between e-Cheque, Other Forms of EFT & Card Payment

EFT stands for Electronic Fund Transfer. It's an overarching term that covers several types of electronic payments, including e-Cheque, ACH transfer, Wire Transfer, Direct Deposit, Local Bank Transfers, and e-Wallets. In a nutshell, e-Cheque and ACH transactions are of EFT type, but not all EFT transactions are e-Cheque or ACH. Wire transfers move money from one Bank Account to another. Unlike ACH transfers (which take place in batches) Wire Transfers happen manually, one transaction at a time.

Wire transfers move money from one Bank Account to another. Unlike ACH transfers (which take place in batches) Wire Transfers happen manually, one transaction at a time. Because of this, Wire Transfers Because of this, Wire Transfers cost more than ACH. Another distinct difference is that, unlike ACH, Wire Transfers cannot be reversed once initiated, and are thus considered less secure than ACH.

e-Cheque processing works a bit differently than Credit Card processing. The biggest difference is that e-Cheque uses ACH to transfer funds instead of the Card networks. So processing fee per transaction is lower as there is no Credit Card interchange fee for e-Cheque acceptance. This can make a big difference to businesses that accept large or recurring payments.

Parties Involved in e-Cheque Settlement

In order to accept e-Cheque payments, a business must first obtain the customer's information including their Bank Routing and Transaction Account Numbers. This information can be obtained online, by phone, or in-person via a paper form. Most businesses today have websites and can provide a secure form page for this customer information. Using this information, the Merchant's Bank can communicate directly with a Customer's Bank. Once the authentication credentials are verified, the Direct Debit happens via ACH through a secured channel.

Following are the parties involved in ACH electronic cheque payment processing:



An Originator: The originator is the Merchant, drawing the e-Cheque. The originator initiates the Direct Deposit process by obtaining the necessary information from the Customer.



The Originator's Bank: The Bank referred to as the Originator's Bank, is termed as the Originating Depository Financial institution (ODFI). The Bank places the ACH entry at the Originator's behest, aggregates payments from a variety of Customers, and sends the payments in batches to an ACH operator.



An ACH Operator: The ACH operator sorts the fund request and settles the funds into the Originator's Bank Account.



The Customer's Bank: A Receiving Depository Financial Institution (RDFI) receives the request, verifies that the funds are available, debits the Customer's account, and credits the Originator's Account.

e-Cheque Payment Process

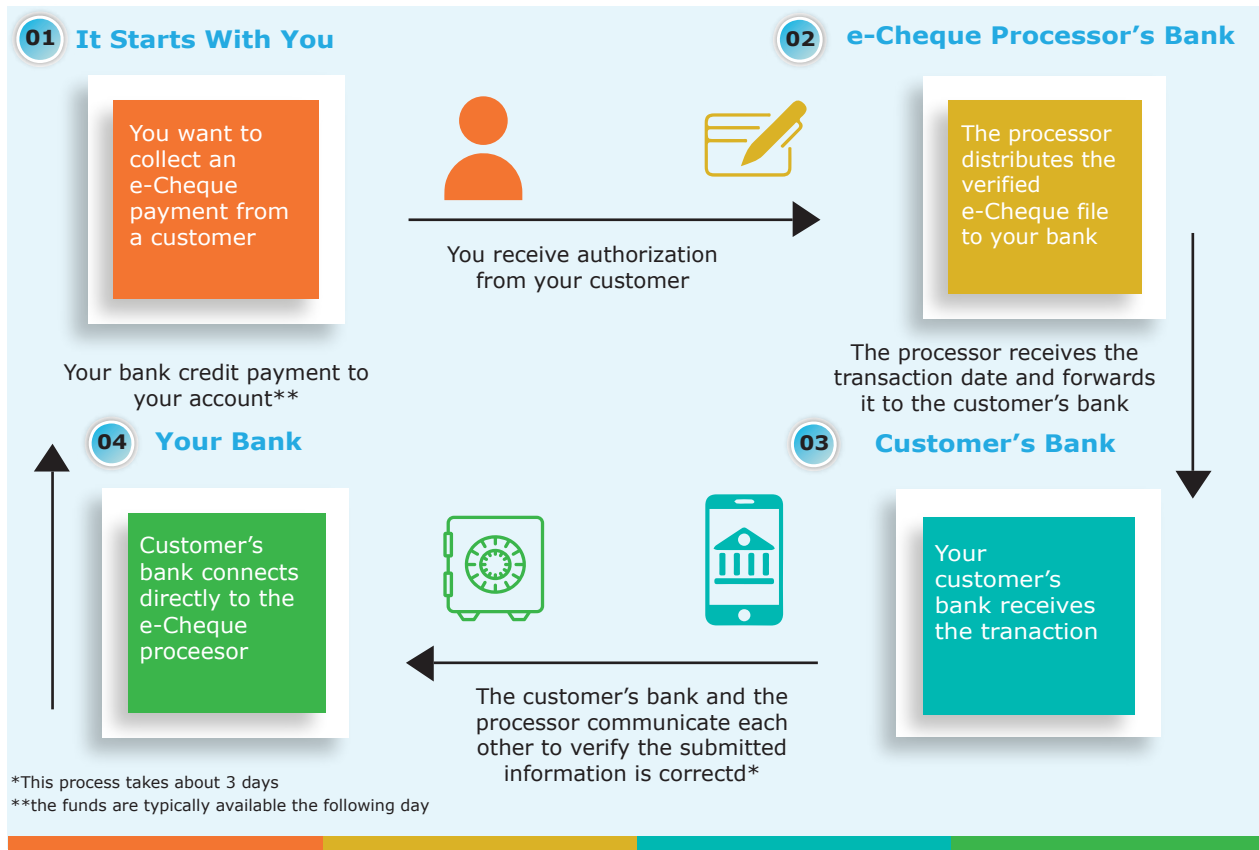
In order to send electronic payment through e-Cheque, at first one needs to verify that the business or person you are sending money to, has an ACH Merchant Account. This Merchant Account allows them to use the ACH network to accept payments via electronic fund transfer. Once ACH availability is confirmed, this is how to pay with an e-Cheque:

01

The Payee sends an online payment form. The Payer will fill in Transaction Bank Account and Routing number, as well as the Payment Amount. By clicking 'Submit', the Payer authorizes the payee to withdraw the payment amount from the Transaction Account.

02

e-Cheque payments can also take place over the phone. The Payee will ask for Payer's Transaction Account and Routing numbers by recorded phone call. They input these numbers, as well as the payment amount, into an online payment terminal. Upon clicking 'Process', the requested amount will be deducted from the Payer's bank account and deposited into the payee's.



What Kind of Security is Used with e-Cheque Payment?

e-Cheques are inherently more secure than paper cheques. They are also subject to additional consumer protections. Following are five major security components for e-Cheque transactions:

- 01 Authentication:** This is the process whereby the payment provider verifies the individual, submitting the account information. Authentication ensures that fraudulent payment information is not submitted to the merchant.
- 02 Encryption:** This is the process of 'masking' sensitive data, rendering it non-sensitive and thus useless if it is hacked. Encryption is required for all ACH transactions including E-cheque that occurs over unsecured electronic networks.
- 03 Public Key Cryptography:** This is part of the encryption process and is used in ciphering the data, to protect it in transit.
- 04 Digital Signature:** A digital signature with timestamps is another encryption process, which is used to ensure that e-Cheque transactions cannot be fraudulently duplicated.
- 05 Certificate Authorities:** Certificate Authorities issue Digital Certificates like the SSL Certificate to protect the information, encrypt transactions, and enable secure communication.
- 06 Duplicate Detection:** This is a fraud detection strategy that monitors duplicate e-Cheque transactions and suspicious activity.

Though unavailable in Bangladesh, e-Cheque is widely available and accepted in all the developed countries of the world. Besides, all the Global Banks provide this service in the markets where there is less demand for paper cheques. With the Government's vision to complete digitalization all the services, the introduction of e-Cheque in our banking system will give further impetus to the vision of Digital Bangladesh.

Reference:

- 1) Dr. Sandeep Srivastava, Er. Meera Goyal and Shalu Porwal (2012), "The E-Cheque Protocols", SBPD publications, page: 95.
- 2) Image Credit: Payscale.com



বৃষ্টিস্নাত একদিনে শ্রীমঙ্গলের আনারস টিলায়

খালেদ আহমদ, কাস্টমার সার্ভিস অফিসার, এমটিবি ফিলেট শাখা

ভোর রাত থেকে একটানা বৃষ্টি ঝরেই পড়েছে। মাঝে মাঝে অব্যবহার্য ধারায় কিছুটা শিথিলতা এলেও একে ঠিক থামা বলা যায় না। প্রবল রোদনের ফাঁকে একটু জিরিয়ে নেয়া আর কি! কপালে চিন্তার ভাঁজ। গত সপ্তাহের ছুটির দিনও এমন বৃষ্টিতে ভেঙে গিয়েছিল। কথা দিয়েও তাই বের হতে পারিনি। আনারস বাগানের মালিক মোসাহিদ আজও সেই সাত-সকালেই ফোন করেছেন, কখন বের হচ্ছি। উৎকণ্ঠা বুঝতে পেরে প্রকৃতিও কিছুটা সদয় হল। ততক্ষণে দুপুর গড়িয়ে গেছে। তবুও ছাতা মাথায় বের হয়ে গেলাম। পথিমধ্যে দুই ভ্রমণসঙ্গীকে ফোন করি। বৃষ্টিস্নাত ঝকঝকে পরিচ্ছন্ন ঢাকা-মৌলভীবাজার মহাসড়ক ধরে আমাদের ব্যাটারীচালিত ত্রিচক্রযান ছুটেছে শ্রীমঙ্গলের পানে। গন্তব্য মাজদাহীর আনারস বাগান। যেতে যেতে বৃষ্টি ভেজা সবুজ মাঠ, পাতার ওপর জমাট জল নিয়ে পথের ধারে কচুর বুনাট, সিঁজ সতেজ সেগুনের বন পিছনে রেখে আমরা ছুটে চলেছি গন্তব্যের উদ্দেশ্যে। এক সময় সামনে পড়ে ভৈরববাজার। গন্তব্যের পথ এবার মহাসড়ক ছেড়ে বায়ে বাঁক খায়। চিকন মসৃণ পথের নাম মিতিঙ্গা রোড।

যেতে যেতে চোখে পড়ে দুইপাশে টিলা পাহাড়ের সমারোহ। একপাশে নিবিড় ঘন রাবার বনের আচ্ছাদন। অন্যপাশে চা গাছে শোভিত টিলা পিছনে রেখে আমাদের বাহন ছুটে চলেছে। পথের পাশে চায়ের চারা গাছের ছাউনি পেরিয়েই চালককে থামতে বলি। ত্রিচক্রযানের গন্তব্য এ পর্যন্তই। আমাদের এখন দুটো টিলা পেরোতে হবে পায়ে হেঁটে। তারপরই আনারস বাগানটির অবস্থান। পাদদেশ থেকে টিলার ওপর এক চিলতে পথ ধরে উঠতে শুরু করি। চা গাছের ফাঁকফোকর বেয়ে পেছন পেছন ভ্রমণসঙ্গী সহকর্মী নাহিয়ান ও সাগর। এখানে চা গাছের বুনাট ততোটা ঘন নয়। টিলার নিচে পাহাড়ী ছড়ায় সদ্য বৃষ্টির পানিতে টাইটুম্বর শ্রোত বয়ে যাওয়ার কলকল শব্দ। ইতোমধ্যেই খবর পেয়ে বাগান মালিক মোসাহিদ এগিয়ে নিতে চলে এসেছেন। পরের টিলাটি বেশ বড় ও উঁচু। খাড়া পথ বেশ পিচ্ছিল। সাবধানে উঠতে গিয়ে চোখে পড়ে টিলা জুড়ে ফুটে থাকা অসংখ্য দাঁতরাস্তা ফুল। বেগুনী ফুলগুচ্ছ নুয়ে আছে পাঁপড়িতে বৃষ্টির ফোঁটা মেখে। টিলার চূড়ায় ঘাসবনের মাঝ দিয়ে ফিতার মত এক চিলতে পায়ে হাঁটা সরু পথ। সে পথ ধরে চলার সময় দূর হতে ভেসে আসা প্রবল বর্ষণের শব্দে থেমে পড়ি। মনে হচ্ছিল ধারেকাছে কোথাও ঝর্ণার পানি পতনের শব্দ। তবে মোসাহিদ নিশ্চিত করেন, এখানে ওরকম কোন ঝর্ণা নেই। ওটা বৃষ্টির শব্দ। প্রবল বেগে বৃষ্টি ধেয়ে আসছে। মাথায় ছাতা থাকলেও পা চালাই দ্রুতলয়ে। বৃষ্টি তবুও ধরে ফেলে আমাদের। ঝু-উ-ম শব্দে নেমে আসা অব্যবহার্য ধারার বৃষ্টিতে ঝাপসা হয়ে গেছে দূরের পাহাড়সারি। টিলার ঢাল বেয়ে ক্রমশ ওপরে উঠে যাওয়া ঘাসবনের সীমানা ছাড়িয়ে দূর আকাশে ঘোট পাকাচ্ছে কালো মেঘের দঙ্গল। চড়াই-উৎরাই পেরিয়ে আনারস বাগানের টিলায় পা রাখলাম যখন, বৃষ্টি থেমে এসেছে। আচমকা শুরু হওয়ার মতই তার অকস্মাৎ থেমে যাওয়া। যদিও এই বিশ্রাম কতক্ষণের, সেটা সময় গড়ালে বুঝা যাবে।

টিলার চূড়ার অংশটা মোটামুটি সমতল। চূড়ার মাথা থেকে ঢালু হয়ে নেমে যাওয়া টিলার পুরো গা জুড়ে আনারস বাগান। সারি বেঁধে আনারস গাছেরা ওপর থেকে নেমে গেছে টিলার একদম পাদদেশে। আনারস বাগানের এমন দৃষ্টিনন্দন সৌন্দর্য্য দেখতে থাকি দুচোখ ভরে। কাঁটাময় চিকন লম্বাটে পাতার বুনাটের ফাঁকে উঁকি দিচ্ছে রসালো আনারস। হলদেটে সোনালী রং। কোনটায় আবার কাঁচা সবুজ রং। আছে ফুল থেকে সবে শারিরীক অবয়ব পাওয়া একদম কচি আনারসও। দুইজন শ্রমিক এরই মধ্যে পাকা আনারস তুলতে ব্যস্ত হয়ে পড়েছে। কান্ড ভেঙ্গে তুলে ভরছে বুড়িতে। সাথী ফসল হিসেবে কমলা, মাশটা, পেয়ারা, তেজপাতার গাছ বাগান জুড়ে। ঘুরেফিরে বাগান দেখার ফাঁকে মোসাহিদ বলে গেলেন, তার এই বাগান আয়তনে প্রায় এগারো বিঘা। আনারস বাগানটির হাতেখড়ি বছর চারেক আগে।

তরুণ এ উদ্যোক্তা আমাদের ব্যাংকের একজন গ্রাহক। ব্যাংকেই পরিচয়। আনারস বাগানের গল্প তার মুখে শুনে নিজ থেকেই সাধলাম, দেখতে যেতে চাই একদিন। এরপর থেকে উনার যেন তর সহিচ্ছিল না, কবে যে নিয়ে গিয়ে দেখাবেন! বলে গেলেন, বাগান শুরু করার আগে কয়েক বছর আমিরাতে প্রবাসী ছিলেন। অনেকটা থামিয়ে দিয়ে জিজ্ঞেস করি, তা বাগান করার দিকে ঝোঁকোর কারণ? স্মিত হেসে উত্তর দেন, ছোটবেলা থেকেই মনের ভেতর স্বপ্ন ছিল একটা ফল বাগান করার। বাগানবাড়ির মত সে বাগানে বন্ধুবান্ধব নিয়ে ঘুরবেন, সময় কাটাবেন। প্রথমবার ছুটিতে এসে সে শখ বাস্তবায়নের চিন্তা মাথায় চেপে বসে। চেষ্টা তদবির করে এই টিলা লিজ নিয়ে বাগান শুরু করেন।

সীমিত পরিসরে চাষ শুরুর পর প্রবাসে ফিরে যান। তবে বাগান এভাবে ফিরে কাজকর্মে মন বসছিল না। আর তাই



সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়ে বসেন, প্রবাস ফেলে দেশে এসে বাণিজ্যিকভাবে আনারস চাষে মনোযোগী হওয়ার বিষয়ে। বর্তমানে এগারো বিঘার আনারস বাগানের সাথে আছে বিশ বিঘা আয়তনের কাসাভা আলুর ক্ষেত। কাসাভা আলু চাষের জন্য দেশীয় অন্যতম বৃহৎ প্রতিষ্ঠান গ্রাণ-এর সাথে রয়েছে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী চুক্তি। বাগানে দু'জন স্থায়ী সহ চারজন কর্মচারি কাজ করেন। গল্পের মাঝে এরই মধ্যে চলে এলো প্লেটভার্ভি টসটসে রসালো আনারস। গাছপাকা সুমিষ্ট হানিকুইন জাতের আনারস টুকরো মুখে পুরে মনে হল যেন অমৃত! পুরো বাগানেই একমাত্র জাত এই হানিকুইন। শ্রীমঙ্গলের সর্বত্র বাগান সমূহ জুড়ে মূলত এ জাতের আনারসের একক আধিপত্য। মাজদাহী ছাড়াও সাতগাঁও, বিষামনী, মোহাজেরাবাদ, বালিশিরা, ফয়েজাবাদসহ নানা জায়গার টিলা পাহাড় জুড়ে রয়েছে আনারসের এমন চোখজুড়ানো ক্ষেত। যাটের দশকে

শ্রীমঙ্গলে আনারসের বাণিজ্যিক চাষ শুরু হওয়ার কথা জানা যায়। কাঁটায়ুক্ত হানিকুইন জাতের আনারসের আরেক নাম জলচুপি। সিলেটের বিয়ানীবাজার উপজেলার লালমাটির টিলাঞ্চল জলচুপ গ্রাম এই আনারসের আদিভূমি।

বৃহত্তর জলচুপের টিলাঞ্চল আমার জন্মস্থান বলে ব্যাপারটা আমার কাছে আলাদা অনুভূতির। এককালে জলচুপ মহকুমার খ্যাতি ছিল নানা জাতের ফলফসলের প্রাচুর্য্যতার জন্য। কমলা গোত্রের কুড়িরও অধিক ফল ও আনারস যার মধ্যে অন্যতম। পূর্বপুরুষদের কাছ থেকে শুনে আসা জলচুপি বা হানিকুইন আনারস স্থানীয়ভাবে পরিচিত 'বিরতুঙ্গ' নামে। একটা সময় বাড়িতে বাড়িতে প্রাচুর্য্য থাকলেও বর্তমানে জন্মস্থানে তেমন জৌলুস আর নেই বিরতুঙ্গয়ের। কৈশোরকালে টিলার বনবাদাড়ে হাঁটতে গিয়ে বনের ভেতর প্রাকৃতিকভাবে লোকচক্ষুর আড়ালে আনারস গাছ বেড়ে ওঠা দেখেছি কতশত! সিলেট অঞ্চল ছাড়াও বর্তমানে হানিকুইন আনারস ব্যাপক ভাবে চাষ হচ্ছে নরসিংদী ও রাঙামাটিতে। জেনে ভাল লেগেছে, রাঙামাটির নানিয়ারচরে ইতোমধ্যে আনারস প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণের মাধ্যমে চিপস তৈরীর কারখানা গড়ে তোলা হয়েছে। যার ফলে সারা বছরই ভিন্ন স্বাদে মিলবে আনারস।

বাগানটির টিলার পাদদেশে, দুই পাহাড়ের মধ্যবর্তী অংশে ঘন পাহাড়ী কাঁশের ঝোপ। দৃষ্টি নিবন্ধ হয়ে ছিল সেদিকে। গলায় এতোক্ষণ দলা পাকিয়ে থাকা প্রহ্লাটা তাই না করে পারলাম না। জিজ্ঞেস করি, এখানে কোনো বন্যপ্রাণী আসে কি না? এই প্রশ্নে মোসাহিদ কিছুটা সময় নিয়ে স্মৃতিশক্তি ঝালাই করে নেন! জানান, কালেভদ্রে একটা দু'টা বানর আসে। তবে বাগান করার একদম শুরু দিকে নিচের কাশবনে ধূসর রংয়ের লম্বা কানওয়াল একজোড়া খরগোশ এক পলক দেখেছিলেন একবারই। বর্ণনায় বুঝলাম, সম্ভবত শশক ছিল ওগুলো। গল্পে গল্পে ইতোমধ্যে বেলা গড়িয়েছে বহুদূর। সূর্যের আলোর বিদায়কে তরাস্থিত করেছে মেঘের ঘনঘটা। এবার যে উঠতে হয়। মোসাহিদকে সে কথা বলতে স্মিত হেসে আবার আসতে নিমন্ত্রণ করে এগিয়ে দিতে সাথে চললেন। তবে এরই মধ্যে ব্যাগ ভরে আনারস পাঠিয়ে দিয়েছেন গাড়িতে। টিলা থেকে ফেরার পথে নামতে নামতে চোখ গেল দূরের পাহাড় সারিতে। সন্ধ্যার ছাইরংয়ে ডুবতে থাকা রাবার বাগানের ওপর ঘোট পাকাচ্ছে কালো মেঘ। আসন্ন বৃষ্টির আশংকায় আমরা দ্রুত পায়ে হাঁটা শুরু করলাম। পিছনে পড়ে থাকলো আমার দুরন্ত শৈশব, কৈশোরের সুখময় সব স্মৃতি। মোসাহিদকে ধন্যবাদ দিয়ে ফিরে চললাম পুরানো সেই চেনা ডেরায়।

SECOND BizQuiz WINNERS



Md. Shafiu Rashed
Integrated & Centralized MITS
Operations



Asma -Ul- Hosna
Card Division



Tasmima Kashem
MTB CBS Transformation (MCT)
Project



Tanusree Shaha
Agent Banking Department



Anayet Al Mamun
Retail Banking Division



Zakaria Eunus
Wholesale Banking Division



Mohammad Ahsanul Hakim
Treasury Mid-Office




S.M. Abdul Mukit
Rajshahi Branch



Kashfia Nehereen
System, Policies, Procedure,
Process Department



Md. Mominur Rahman Bhuiya
Monohardi Branch

BizQuiz is a pan-bank 'Fun & Learn' real-time knowledge contest which takes place immediately after the release of each MTB issue. Fastest 10 highest scoring MTBians are awarded with Cash incentives and Certificate of Excellence signed by MD & CEO. Besides, participating MTBians also receive Certificate of Participation endorsed by MD & CEO on securing the pass mark. To encourage MTBians, an Honour Board is also circulated in the Bank's intra-net  and succeeding **MTBiz** Issue.



FEATURES THAT ARE IMPORTANT IN SUCCESSFUL BANKING APPS

Sk. Razibul Islam, Manager, MTB NRB Banking Division

We live in a digital world where mobility is not an optional but fundamental part of a business. Mobile banking apps allow customers to do nearly all transactions online anytime and anywhere. Clients don't need to stand in line, bother with documents, or search for ATMs anymore. A modern bank can hold a leading position on the market only with a well-designed mobile application which is smart, easy-to-operate, and follows minimalistic design. This approach has a lot of benefits not only for customers but also for banks.

Bank of America reported in February that 70% (i.e. 31 million) of its customers actively use its mobile app are now seeking banking services digitally. According to Insider Intelligence research, mobile banking is used by 89% of people, appealing not only to millennials (97%) but also to generation X (91%) and baby boomers (79%). According to statistics, via mobile apps, users view their balances (90%), track recent transactions (79%), pay bills (59%), transfer funds (57%), and contact client support (20%).

Recent research indicates that consumers are using digital and mobile banking tools for their safety and convenience, but issues still remain that leave customers with less-than-satisfactory banking experiences. One of the main areas of frustration is with the frictions caused by mobile banking app authentication. This article describes customers' safety and convenience preference from an online banking app and some industry-used cases that can be added to make the app even more appealing and engaging.

Simple yet Secure Sign-in

97%

Share of banking customers who want control over their mobile banking apps' authentication processes

PYMNTS research reveals that more than 97% of banking customers want secure but faster authentication technology. Multi-factor authentication is a secured but time-consuming technology that in most cases irritates users, especially compared with biometric authentication. Nearly 21% of consumers who use biometric-based authentication methods like fingerprint scans and facial recognition are highly satisfied with their experiences.

80% of consumers who are satisfied by facial recognition find it easy to use, and 77% who are satisfied with fingerprint-based authentication feel the same way. Nearly three-quarters of consumers that are satisfied by facial recognition and fingerprint scanning find them convenient as well.

80%

Portion of consumers satisfied with facial recognition technology who find it easy to use

For instance, Wells Fargo has launched an eye-scanning verification feature in its mobile app for corporate customers. To be recognized, a user has to look at the camera. The program doesn't scan the iris instead it focuses on the pattern of blood vessels in the eye, which is also unique for every person.

85%

Share of consumers who would feel safer if they had control over their authentication methods

Security is crucial for consumers who find it important to have control over how they are authenticated, as 85% reported they would feel safer if they had control over their authentication methods. Only 36% of consumers who do not want control over their authentication think that their FIs know best how to protect them.

Other basic features of traditional banking apps should include bank account management, chatbot for customer support, ATM locator, QR code payments, alerts, and notifications.

Non-traditional Features to Make an Appealing App



Banks can only grab the attention of a larger audience when they offer something unique and very helpful. That is why the following additional features can make the banking app innovative, appealing, and interesting not only for existing customers but for non-customers too.

Tracking Spending Habits



Customers can get more control over their finances and reach their saving goals by using mobile budgeting apps and spending trackers. Some of the possible features can be:

- 01 Set a timeline for fulfilling personal goal
- 02 Customized reports tracking progress towards the goal set
- 03 Budgets to see how much money is spent and how much is left
- 04 Notifications about upcoming payments.

Scheduled Bills and Payments



Make sure that customers can schedule bill payments to individuals or businesses and choose the frequency of money transactions, for instance, weekly, monthly or yearly.

Cashback



The Cashback mobile banking application feature can become part of a loyalty program, offering customers a higher cashback percentage when they spend more or make more transactions.

Apps for Wearables



Paying for goods, getting notifications and alerts, and managing money from the wrist could be a very attractive value proposition. One of the first banks to launch a smartwatch banking app was the Australian Bank of Melbourne.

Non-traditional Services



Bank Zachodni WBK in Poland has attracted a lot of new customers by offering non-traditional services like paying for public transport, shopping, and ordering taxis in its mobile application.

Shared Finance Features



As Visa suggests to attract Millennial banks need to focus on budgeting tools. Mobile banking app from Emirates NBD can be an example. The app offers a simple yet convenient feature to split bills among friends. All a user has to do is input a sum and indicate the number of people they want to split the bill with. This app allows users to send money requests via several social channels.



LIFI POWERS INTERNET AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT

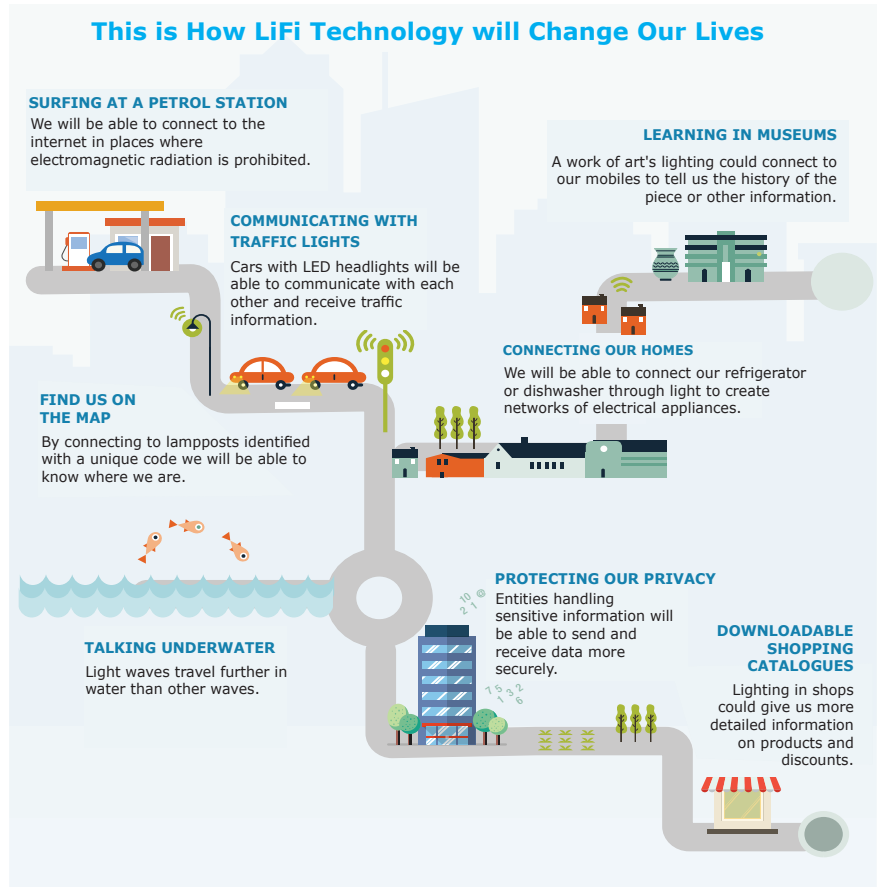
R&D Desk

The days of the huge popularity of WiFi are coming to an end. But there is no reason to be afraid, even easier and more advanced wireless technology is in commercialization phase. That being said, it only takes a few seconds to download a movie with 4 GB of storage under an electric lamp! It's hard to believe, but such a technology is coming. With this technology, large storage games, movies will all be downloaded in the blink of an eye.

LiFi (Light Fidelity) is a bi-directional wireless system invented by the German physicist Harald Haas, a professor and director of the LiFi Research and Development Centre at the University of Edinburgh. It was first unveiled in 2011 and, unlike wifi, which uses radio frequency, LiFi technology only needs a light source with a chip to transmit an internet signal through light waves. LiFi multiplies the speed and bandwidth of wifi, 3G and 4G. The latter have a limited capacity and become saturated when the number of users surfing increases, causing them to crash, reducing speeds and even interrupting the connection.

Since the speed of light is very fast, the speed of information exchange in this system is also very fast. It is currently being tested with LED luminaires in offices around the world and the aeronautical industry is already working on solutions to integrate it into commercial aircraft. This technology can be used to exchange information from street lights to automated vehicles through headlights. It can be a groundbreaking technology for home internet use as well. As can be seen in the future, LED lights used in homes are simultaneously illuminating the house and contributing to the creation of local network inside the house. Even every electric light in the house can be used as a router for LiFi technology.

It is estimated that the global market of LiFi will reach a value of nearly US\$36 billion in 2028, and that over the next 10 years the CAGR will rise to 71.2%. The Asia-Pacific region will lead the global growth in LiFi technology up to 2028, overtaking Europe, which remained at the forefront in 2017.



With the emergence and development of LiFi technology, many foreshadow the obsolescence of WiFi and other Wireless networks. However, we will have to wait a few more years to see if streetlights, in addition to illuminating our streets, will connect us to the internet at the speed of light.

আদর্শ কর্ম পরিবেশ গঠনে কর্মীদের করণীয় ও বর্জনীয়



এস. এম. শরীফুল্লাহমান (শরীফ), শাখা ব্যবস্থাপক, এমটিবি রাজশাহী শাখা

মানুষের ব্যবহার তার ব্যক্তিত্বের পরিচায়ক। একজন মানুষের প্রকৃত পরিচয় বা ব্যক্তিত্বের প্রকাশ পায় তার আচার-আচরণ, চাল-চলন ও ব্যবহারে। কেননা মানুষের বাহ্যিক রূপ বা পরিচয় যতই সুন্দর হোক না কেন, আপন সত্তা যদি মার্জিত না হয় তাহলে সে অন্যের কাছে কখনোই গ্রহণযোগ্য ব্যক্তিত্ব হয় না। মেজাজি/বদরাগী ক্ষমতাবান ব্যক্তিকে সাধারণত মানুষ সম্মান করে না, ভয় পায়। ভয়ে সামনা সামনি মান্য করার ভান করলেও, মন থেকে শ্রদ্ধার অভাব থাকে। কিন্তু সুন্দর আচার ব্যবহারের অধিকারী ব্যক্তিগণকে মানুষ ভয় না পেয়ে ভালবাসে, মন থেকে সম্মান করে। অনেকেই সামাজিক অবস্থা, পদমর্যাদা ইত্যাদি বিবেচনায় রেখে মানুষের সাথে ভিন্ন আচরণ করে থাকেন। আমাদের সমাজে এমন অনেকেই আছেন, যারা নিজের চেয়ে পজিশনে সিনিয়র, আর্থিক ভাবে সচ্ছল মানুষের সাথে এক ধরনের ব্যবহার করেন, আবার পজিশনে একটু জুনিয়র বা আর্থিক ভাবে অসচ্ছল মানুষের সাথে আরেক ধরনের ব্যবহার করেন। এ ধরনের মানুষ নিজেকে অন্যের তুলনায় বুদ্ধিমান ভাবেন। মনে করেন, তাদের এই আচরণগত বৈচিত্র্য আশেপাশের মানুষগুলো বুঝতে পারে না। এটা খুবই দুঃখজনক। আসলে বাস্তবতা অনেকটাই ভিন্ন। কেননা আশেপাশের সবাই তাদের লক্ষ্য করেন এবং আড়ালে তাদের নিয়ে কথাও বলেন।

নিজের ও অন্যদের ভালো থাকার জন্য সুন্দর আচরণ ও বিনয়ের কোন বিকল্প নেই। আমরা একটু সচেতন হয়ে আশেপাশের মানুষগুলোর সাথে ভালো ব্যবহার করে, হাসিমুখে সুন্দর করে কথা বলে, সহানুভূতি ও সহমর্মিতা প্রকাশ করে, সম্মান ও শ্রদ্ধা প্রদর্শন করে হয়ে যেতে পারি, এমন একজন যাকে, মানুষ ভয় পাবে না বরং ভালবাসবে, শ্রদ্ধা করবে, মনে রাখবে আজীবন। এই সম্পর্কিত কিছু করণীয় ও বর্জনীয় নিম্নে তুলে ধরলাম।

সুন্দর আচরণঃ



কখনোই কারো সাথে খারাপ ব্যবহার করা বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। মানুষের একটি ভালো কথা যেমন একজনের মন জয় করে নিতে পারে, তেমনি একটু অশোভন আচরণ মানুষের মনে আঘাত দিয়ে থাকে। সুন্দর ব্যবহারের কারণে যে মুখটি প্রিয় হয়, বিপরীতভাবে অসুন্দর ব্যবহার করায় একই মুখটি অপ্রিয় হয়ে যায়। শুধু তাই নয়, পেশাগত প্রয়োজনেও সুন্দর আচরণ প্রয়োজন। অভ্যন্তরীণ এবং বহিরাগত গ্রাহকদের সাথে হাসিমুখে কথা না বললে এবং ভদ্র ব্যবহার না করলে তারা আমাদের কাছে গ্রাহক সেবার জন্য আসবেন না। তাই নিজের পেশাগত উৎকর্ষতার জন্যে হলেও মানুষের সাথে ভালো আচরণ করা উচিত।

কাজের মূল্যায়ন বা প্রতিক্রিয়াঃ



কাজের ক্ষেত্রে সহকর্মীর সব কাজ ভালো নাও লাগতে পারে, কাজে ভুলও হতে পারে। পেশাগত উন্নয়নের জন্য সহকর্মীকে তার কাজের মূল্যায়ন করতেই হবে। কিন্তু সেই মূল্যায়ন জানানো যেন না হয় আপত্তিকর বা মাত্রাতিরিক্ত। আমরা সবাই জানি “**Praise in Public and Criticize in Private**” তবুও এখনো আমরা অনেকেই **Morning Huddle** এ সবার সামনে সহকর্মীকে আপত্তিকর ভাবে কাজের মূল্যায়ন করি। এটা গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। সহকর্মীকে কাজের মূল্যায়ন জানাতে মিটিং অথবা ইমেইল করা যেতে পারে। এছাড়া বার্ষিক **Performance Appraisal** প্রক্রিয়ার মাধ্যমে ফিডব্যাক দেবার সুযোগতো আছেই।

বৈষম্য নয়ঃ



সকল সহকর্মীকে একইভাবে সম্মান দেয়া উচিত। মহিলা সহকর্মীকে মহিলা হিসাবে নয় একজন সহকর্মী হিসাবে সম্মান করা উচিত। সহকর্মীদের সাথে কোন অগ্রহণযোগ্য মন্তব্য বা অশালীন কথা নয়। সর্বদা মনে রাখা উচিত, “**ভাবিয়া করিও কাজ, করিয়া ভাবিও না**”। সময়ের কাজ সময়ে শেষ করতে পারাই পারদর্শিতা। অফিস সময়ের পর অতিরিক্ত সময় অফিসে থাকা কোন কৃতিত্বের নয়। কথায় আছে, “**সময়ের এক ফোঁড়, অসময়ের দশ ফোঁড়**”। সুখম কর্ম বণ্টনের মাধ্যমে, সবাই মিলে চেষ্টা করুন কর্মঘন্টার মারোই কাজ শেষ করতে।

অযাচিত কাজ করা থেকে বিরত থাকাঃ



অফিসে বিভিন্ন ধরনের মানুষ থাকে। মানুষভেদে রুচি ও আচরণ ভিন্ন হয়। অনেক সময় নিজের অজান্তে আমরা অনেক অযাচিত কাজ করে ফেলি। সহকর্মীর আঞ্চলিকতা নিয়ে মজা করা উচিত নয়। হয়তো যেটা আমাদের কাছে মজা মনে হবে, সেটাই আমাদের সহকর্মীর মনঃকষ্টের কারণ হতে পারে। অহেতুক রাজনৈতিক আলাপ/পরচর্চা/পরনিন্দা করা হতে বিরত থাকুন। এতে অফিসের কাজের কর্মঘন্টা নষ্ট হয়। সহকর্মীর দিকে অযাচিত, অস্বস্তিকর, বিব্রতকর চাহনি বা মন্তব্য কুরুচির পরিচয় দেয়। অপ্রয়োজনে কোন সহকর্মীকে ডেকে নিয়ে বিব্রতকর গল্প করা, ফোন বা এসএমএস করা মানুষের নেতিবাচক ব্যক্তিত্বের পরিচয় দেয়। এসবের মাধ্যমে অন্য সহকর্মীদের কাছে নিজের মর্যাদা ক্ষুণ্ণ হয়। এইসব বর্জনীয় কর্মকাণ্ড হতে বিরত থাকাই উত্তম।

কর্মক্ষেত্রে দেরিঃ



কর্মক্ষেত্রে নিয়মানুবর্তিতা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। আমরা যদি প্রতিদিন কাজে যোগদান করতে দেরি করি তাহলে তা অবশ্যই কর্মক্ষেত্রে আমাদের ভাবমূর্তি নষ্ট করবে। পথে জ্যাম ছিল কিংবা অন্য কোনো ব্যক্তিগত অজুহাত এক্ষেত্রে গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। আমাদের অফিসের প্রবেশদ্বারে সকাল ১০ টার পর লক্ষ্য করলে দেখা যায় কিছু নিয়মিত মুখ প্রায়ই ১০ টার বেশ পরে অফিসে আসছেন। অফিস উপস্থিতি রেকর্ড লক্ষ্য করলেও দেখা যায় আমাদের অনেক সহকর্মীই যথাসময়ে কাজে আসছেন না। এক্ষেত্রে বলে রাখা ভালো অভ্যাসগতভাবে দেরীতে অফিসে আসা একটি শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। আমাদের সকলের উচিত সঠিক সময় অফিসে আসা নিশ্চিত করা যাতে করে আমাদের বিব্রত হতে না হয়।

অপ্রয়োজনেই অসুস্থতার ঘোষণাঃ



কর্মক্ষেত্রে ছুটির প্রয়োজন হলে সেজন্য নির্ধারিত নিয়মকানুন রয়েছে। মাঝে মাঝেই দেখা যায় আমাদের অনেক সহকর্মীরা অসুস্থ না হয়েও অসুস্থতার জন্য ছুটির আবেদন করেন। অনেক বেশি **Sandwich/Bridge** ছুটি (দুটি ছুটির দিনের মধ্যবর্তী কর্মদিবসে) বা বৃহস্পতিবার - রবিবার ছুটি নেবার প্রবণতা লক্ষ্য করা যায়। এ ধরনের অনৈতিক কাজ কর্মস্থানে নিজের ভাবমূর্তি নষ্ট করে এবং অন্যদের বিরক্তির কারণ হয়।

আলসেমি ও অপ্রয়োজনীয় প্রশ্ন করাঃ



কর্মক্ষেত্রে আমরা যদি কাজগুলো ঠিক করে না করি, আলসেমি করি তাহলে তা অন্যদের বিরক্তির কারণ হবে। অনুরূপভাবে অফিসের ডেস্ক আলসেমির কারণে অগোছালো রাখা কিংবা ফাইলপত্র অগোছালো রাখাও বাধনীয় নয়। কর্মক্ষেত্রে অলস ও অগোছালো মানুষ নয়, চটপটে ও চৌকস মানুষ প্রয়োজন। তদ্রূপ কোনো একটি অ্যাসাইনমেন্ট বা কাজের শুরুতে অসংখ্য প্রশ্ন করা বুদ্ধিমত্তার পরিচায়ক নয়। যেসব বিষয় আমরা জানি কিংবা একটু চেষ্টা করলেই জেনে নিতে পারি সেসব বিষয় নিয়ে প্রশ্ন নিজের ভাবমূর্তি নষ্ট করতে পারে।

অতিরিক্ত অভিযোগঃ



প্রয়োজনীয় কোনো বিষয় নিয়ে অভিযোগ করতে হতেই পারে, কিন্তু অপ্রয়োজনে অভিযোগ করে কর্মক্ষেত্রে অনেক সময় ভাবমূর্তি নষ্ট হতে পারে। তাই অভিযোগ করার আগে বিষয়টি সত্যিই অভিযোগযোগ্য কিনা, আরেকবার ভেবে নেই।

টেবিলেই সাজসজ্জাঃ



কর্মক্ষেত্রে কাজ ছাড়া রূপচর্চা বা অন্যান্য কাজে সময় নষ্ট করা শোভনীয় নয়। তাই প্রয়োজনীয় সাজসজ্জার জন্য ডেস্ক নয় প্রসাধনী কক্ষ ব্যবহার করা উচিত।

বন্ধুসুলভ ব্যবহারঃ



প্রতিষ্ঠানে যোগ দেওয়া নতুন কর্মী হয়তো শুরুতেই প্রত্যাশা পূরণ করতে পারছে না। নতুন পরিবেশে তাকে মানিয়ে নিতে কিছুটা সময় দেয়া উচিত। নতুন একজন আমাদের প্রতিষ্ঠানে এসে আমাদের কাছে সহযোগিতাপূর্ণ সম্পর্কই আশা করে। বিরূপ আচরণ করে তার মনোবলে ব্যঘাত সৃষ্টি না করে প্রতিষ্ঠানের পুরানো কর্মী হিসাবে তার প্রতি সহযোগিতার/সহমর্মিতার হাত বাড়িয়ে দেয়া উচিত। এরই মাধ্যমে টিমওয়ার্ক/গোষ্ঠীবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার মনোভাব গড়ে উঠবে। মনে রাখবেন **“Team Work is Dream Work”**.

পরিশেষে বলতে পারি, MTB ম্যানেজমেন্ট সবসময় সহকর্মীদের প্রতি আন্তরিক ও বৈষম্যহীন আচরণের প্রতি গুরুত্ব দিয়ে থাকেন। MTB তে সকল পজিশনের কর্মীদেরই সমান মর্যাদা। আর তাই আমাদের সিনিয়র ম্যানেজমেন্ট সকলের সাথে তথা সহকর্মী ও গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাথে ভালো আচরণ করার জন্য আমাদেরকে সব সময় পরামর্শ দিয়ে থাকেন। আমরা MTBian-রাও পারস্পরিক শ্রদ্ধাবোধ ও সহমর্মিতা বজায় রেখে সুষ্ঠু ও বন্ধুসুলভ কর্ম পরিবেশ বজায় রাখতে সচেষ্ট থাকি।

ব্যাংকিং জিজ্ঞাসা



সাধারণতঃ গ্রাহক, আমানতকারী বা ঋণগ্রহীতা, মারা গেলে এবং তা ব্যাংকের গোচরে আসা মাত্র ব্যাংক উক্ত হিসাব ‘ডিসেসড এ্যাকাউন্ট’ বা ‘মৃত ব্যক্তির হিসাব’ নামে মার্ক করে থাকে। পরবর্তীতে মনোনীত নমিনী/ নমিনীগণকে উক্ত হিসাবের গচ্ছিত টাকা নমিনীর বিষয়টি নিশ্চিত হয়ে, ব্যাংক মৃত আমানতকারীর টাকা প্রদান করবে যদি আদালতের কোন নিষেধাজ্ঞা, আপত্তি বা চূড়ান্ত কোন সিদ্ধান্ত না থাকে। গচ্ছিত আমানতের উপর সুদ প্রদান অথবা ঋণ হিসাবের সাথে সুদারোপ প্রসঙ্গে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর বিসিডি সার্কুলার নং-১৮, তারিখ ২৭ মে, ১৯৮৪ এ বিষয়ে সুস্পষ্ট নীতিমালা প্রদান করেছে। মৃত ব্যক্তির হিসাবের সুদ সংক্রান্ত এই নীতিমালা আজ অবধি অপরিবর্তিত আছে। সুদ সংক্রান্ত বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর উক্ত বিসিডি সার্কুলারের বিস্তারিত নিম্নে তুলে ধরা হলোঃ

- ০১ **সঞ্চয়ী আমানত হিসাবঃ** হিসাবধারী যেদিনই মারা যান না কেন, যতদিন পর্যন্ত ওই হিসাবের টাকা উত্তোলন করা না হচ্ছে বা হিসাব বন্ধ না হচ্ছে, ততদিন পর্যন্ত সুদ দিতে হবে।
- ০২ **মেয়াদী আমানত হিসাবঃ** হিসাবধারী যেদিনই মারা যান না কেন, যদি মেয়াদী আমানত মেয়াদ পূর্ণ হওয়া পর্যন্ত রাখা হয়, তাহলে মেয়াদ পূর্তি পর্যন্ত মেয়াদী আমানত এর রেটে সুদ দিতে হবে। যদি মেয়াদ পূর্তির পরে ভাঙ্গানো হয়, তাহলে পূর্ণ মেয়াদের জন্য মেয়াদী আমানত এর রেটে এবং অবশিষ্ট ভাঙতি সময়ের জন্য সেভিংস একাউন্ট/ সঞ্চয়ী আমানত হিসাব এর রেটে সুদ দিতে হবে।
- ০৩ **ঋণ হিসাবঃ** অনুরূপভাবে ঋণ হিসাবেও সমন্বয় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত ব্যাংক চাইলে সুদ আরোপ করতে পারবে। তবে মৃত ব্যক্তির উত্তরাধিকারীদের বুঝিয়ে যথাসম্ভব তাদের দিয়ে ঋণ হিসাব দ্রুত সমন্বয়ের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

বিআরপিডি সার্কুলার নং-১১ তারিখঃ ০৬ আগস্ট, ২০১৭ অনুযায়ী মৃত আমানতকারী হিসাবে রক্ষিত আমানত প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে বিআরপিডি সার্কুলার নং-০৬/২০১৭ এর নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করতে হবে, মর্মে উল্লেখ আছে। এতদ্ব্যতীত, উক্ত সার্কুলারের অন্যান্য নির্দেশনা অপরিবর্তিত রয়েছে। অর্থাৎ ১৯৮৪ সালের বিসিডি সার্কুলার নং-১৮ এর ৩ নম্বর ধারা এ পরিষ্কারভাবে উল্লেখ আছে, ঋণ হিসাবের আসলসহ সুদ মৃত ব্যক্তির উত্তরাধিকারীদের কাছ থেকে আদায় করতে হবে। কিন্তু আমানত হিসাবের টাকা পাবেন নমিনী। এখানে উত্তরাধিকারের কোনো সম্পর্ক নাই। অর্থাৎ নমিনী উত্তরাধিকারী না হলেও টাকা পাবেন যদি আদালতের চূড়ান্ত কোন সিদ্ধান্ত না থাকে।

পরিশেষে বলা যায় গ্রাহক (আমানতকারী বা ঋণগ্রহীতা, যেই হোন না কেন) মারা গেলে উক্ত হিসাবে সুদ আরোপিত হবে।



KEY MANAGEMENT CHANGE

Name	Placement	Designation	Current Organization
Md. Abul Bashar	Board of Directors	Chairman	NCC Bank Limited
Alhajj Salim Rahman	Board of Directors	Chairman	Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited
Abdul Kadir Molla	Board of Directors	Chairman	SBAC Bank Limited
Alamgir Kabir, FCA	Board of Directors	Chairman	Southeast Bank Limited
Abdul Hai Sarker	Board of Directors	Chairman	Dhaka Bank Limited
A.S.M. Shahidullah Khan	Board of Directors	Chairman	One Bank Limited
Shirin Akhter	Management	MD	Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Md. Abdul Mannan	Management	MD	Karmasangsthan Bank
Khondoker Ataur Rahman	Management	MD	Palli Sanchay Bank
Najith Meewanage	Management	CEO	Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Kazi Ziaul Islam	Management	CCR	Mashreq Bank, Bangladesh
Mohammed Mosharaf Hossain	Management	MD & CEO	First Finance Limited
Farman R Chowdhury	Management	MD & CEO	Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited
M. Shamsul Arefin	Management	AMD	SBAC Bank Limited
Syed Abdul Momen	Management	DMD	BRAC Bank Limited
Md. Nazimuddoula	Management	DMD	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited
Kazi Ahsan Khalil	Management	DMD	Premier Bank Limited

*MD - Managing Director, CEO - Chief Executive Officer, CCR - Chief Country Representative
AMD - Additional Managing Director, DMD - Deputy Managing Director

FUN & LEARN



How many **Country** can you identify from this picture? Count and List them all.



BRIGHT FACES MADE US PROUD

Mostafiz among World’s Most Influential Leader in Denim

Mostafiz Uddin, Managing Director of Denim Expert and founder of the Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE), has been named in the Rivet 50, an annual index of the most influential leaders in Denim for being the first contributor from Bangladesh to the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Foundation in whole Denim production process.

Rivet 50 is considered as a barometer for the Denim industry. Rivet, the global media authority, published the annual index for 2021, which includes the most influential leaders in advancing the worldwide business of making and marketing Denim. This year, Rivet 50 was compiled by nominations and votes submitted by around 16,000 peers across the Denim industry.

Prior to this recognition, in 2018, Sourcing Journal had named Mostafiz as an agent of change in Denim. In March this year, he had been recognised as the Sustainable Fashion Champion at the Drapers Sustainable Fashion Awards 2021. In November last year, Uddin’s firm Denim Expert was also recognized in the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) New Champion Awards.



R&D Desk

Moriom’s Passion for Social Work Earns Internal Recognition



Masuma Moriom, a master's student in the Department of Disaster Management, University of Dhaka received the Kalam Youth Leadership Award 2021 for her phenomenal contribution in social work. Khwab Foundation of India presented the award, in memory of former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam. Among the 22 recipients of the Kalam Youth Leadership Award, Moriom was the only Bangladeshi this year.

Ms. Moriom founded Shwapno Youth Development Organization, a non-profit initiative in 2015 expanded their activities all over Bangladesh. Her organization hosts various training programmes and workshops every month to raise awareness about mental health among young people. Their notable programmes include 'How Are You, Really?' and 'Psychological First Aid Training'. Moriom has also launched 'Right to Fight against Harassment', a campaign to prevent violence against women.

Earlier she received the National Youth Icon Award 2019, and was shortlisted for World Young Person of the Year 2019. She was honoured as the Best Speaker at the Kalam Youth Leadership Conference in 2020.

Bangladeshi Rakib Wins Outstanding Young Leader of Asia award

Rakib Al Hasan has won the Outstanding Young Leader of Asia 2021 award for his leading role in promoting the health and rights of children in the post-Covid world, as well as for ensuring children's and women's rights, education, health, democracy and peace internationally. The Asian Youth Council, an influential youth organization in Asia, presents this award. Mr. Hun Many, the president of the Asian Youth Council is the son of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. Praiseworthy to mention that Rakib is the only Bangladeshi to have received the award from the Asian Youth Council, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Rakib is a well-known and influential young diplomat in the international arena, an author, activist and youth leader, is currently studying medicine. He has already published seven books and made headlines on and covers of various international newspapers and magazines. He has been working on youth leadership for several years.

Previously Rakib won the Global Youth Leadership Award in 2019. He earlier represented Bangladesh at the 70th anniversary of Chinese independence in 2019, and the International Volunteer Forum of Islamic Countries in Azerbaijan in 2020.





MTB ON MEDIA

AWARD AND RECOGNITION



MTB Awarded Prestigious the Asian Banking & Finance Banking Awards 2021



MTB has been awarded the prestigious Asian Banking & Finance Awards 2021 under two categories, namely 'Core Banking System Initiative of the Year - Bangladesh' and 'Banking for Women Initiative of the Year - Bangladesh' by Charlton Media Group. The award was presented on digital platform due to prevailing Covid-19 situation. In this year, over 140 Banks from 31 different countries have received this award for continuously striving to grow and provide services to the wholesale and retail customers.

On this joyous state of the art occasion, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank referred this recognition as a source of great inspiration. He also said that, as the Bank continues to move forward into the PANDEXIT era, it has adapted to the challenges arose from with the crisis with a view to provide top-tier products and services to the existing and potential customers.



PRODUCT & SERVICE INNOVATION

MTB, Mastercard and SSLCOMMERZ Launch 'Bangla QR' for Cashless Payment



MTB in collaboration with Mastercard and payment gateway aggregator SSLCOMMERZ, have launched the first White Label Quick Response (QR) acquiring platform to provide mass level 'BanglaQR' in Bangladesh. It is an interoperable code-based 'Scan to Pay' payment acceptance solution that will bring more micro merchants under the BanglaQR network, advancing the nation's progress towards becoming a 'Less Cash Society'. In 2019, Mastercard and MTB pioneered BanglaQR through MTB's Mobile Banking Apps. With this launch, QR-based payments will be more flexible and convenient for users as they will be able to carry out real-time contactless transactions using Mastercard issued by any Bank.

Sayeeul Islam, MD, SSLCOMMERZ, Syed Mohammad Kamal, Country Manager, Mastercard Bangladesh and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO, MTB along with other senior officials from the respective Organizations were present at this event. Syed Mahbubur Rahman was is thrilled to collaborate with Mastercard and SSLCOMMERZ on this revolutionary initiative. He said that in pursuit of realizing the Digital Bangladesh vision of GoB, the Bank believes, this endeavor will facilitate transaction convenience for valued customer across the country.

MTB Smart Banking App Brought Out 'Digital Gifting' Service



MTB in partnership with XTRA, has recently launched 'Digital Gifting Service' for its Smart banking Apps users. It is an automated service that allows companies and individuals to send gift cards to their selected persons from the XTRA's merchant list. The 'Digital Gift' service is available under 'Payments' option on MTB Smart Banking Apps. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank announces the launch of this new digital service at a simple ceremony held at its Corporate Head Office. Monjurul Alam Mamun, Founder of XTRA along with Md. Zakir Hossain, GM of XTRA and Syed Rafiqul Haq, AMD & CBO, Goutam Prosad Das, DMD & HoGIC&C, Md. Khalid Mahmood Khan, DMD & HoC&CB, Shyamol Boran Das,

CI&DO of MTB were also present at the launching ceremony.

MTB Unveils 'MTB NOVOAIR Co-Branded UnionPay Platinum Credit Card'



MTB has recently launched 'MTB NOVOAIR Co-Branded UnionPay Platinum Credit Card' under NOVOAIR's Frequent Flyers program 'SMILES' at the Bank's Corporate Head Office. The event was attended by Mofizur Rahman, MD of NOVOAIR Limited and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank. The users of this Co-branded Credit Card will enjoy exclusive benefits like discounted fares at all Domestic and International routes operated by NOVOAIR, Bonus SMILES Miles, free access to MTB Air Lounges across the country along with many other attractive facilities.

MTB Launches Customer Feedback Management System



To ensure excellent customer service across the Bank for uplifting the customer delights, MTB has recently introduced an automated feedback solution at its branches to collect customers' feedback on the service(s) they received. MTB is a strong believer of the "Customer First" philosophy. Consequently the Bank embraces every feedback that represents the direct VOICE of customers and tries to resolve those at the soonest to retain customers' loyalty. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank has inaugurated this service at a simple ceremony held at the Bank's Corporate Head Office.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE



MTB Offers Concessional Loans at 4% Rate to MSME



MTB has recently signed an agreement with SME Foundation to disburse loan under stimulus package arranged by Government of Bangladesh (GoB). MTB is among the 15 (fifteen) Banks which are participating in this programme for financing Micro, Small and Medium enterprises. Under this financing agreement, loans will be disbursed to Rural and Marginal MSMEs at 4% p.a. interest rate to elevate their living standard and help them to recover fast from the losses taxed by COVID-19 pandemic. M. A. Mannan, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, GoB attended the event as the Chief Guest, Professor Dr. Md. Masudur Rahman, Chairperson, SME Foundation presided over the event. Dr. Md Mafizur Rahman,

MD of SME Foundation and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank signed the agreement on behalf of their respective Organizations.

MTB Signs with Bangladesh Bank on Automated Challan System (ACS)



MTB has recently signed an agreement with BB to collect Treasury Challan through Automated Challan System (ACS). Under this agreement, all the Branches of MTB will collect Passport fees, Value Added Tax (VAT), Corporate and Personal Income Tax and other Government fees in real-time without any customer inconvenience. Md. Forkan Hossain, GM of BB and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations in the presence of Ahmed Jamal, DG of BB. Among other dignitaries, Nurun Nahar, ED of BB and Md. Bakhteyar Hossain, Head of Transaction Banking Division along with other senior officials from both the Organizations were also present at the ceremony.

MTB Signs Agreement with BEPZA


MTB has recently signed an agreement with BEPZA for the installation of an ATM Booth at Cumilla EPZ and a Sub-branch at Mirsarai EPZ at a simple ceremony held at BEPZA Complex. Mohammad Faruque Alam, Member (Engineering), BEPZA, PMO and Md. Khalid Mahmood Khan, DMD & HoC&CB of the Bank signed the agreement on behalf of their respective Organizations in the presence of Major General Md Nazrul Islam, EC of BEPZA and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank.

MTB Signs Cash Management Service Agreement with Trust Islami Life Insurance Limited


MTB has recently signed Cash Management Services agreement with Trust Islami Life Insurance Limited (TILIL) held at the its Corporate Head Office. Mohammad Gias Uddin, MD & CEO, TILIL and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank signed the agreement on behalf of their respective Organizations. Among others, Md. Alauddin Mia, DMD, TILIL and Syed Rafiqul Haq, AMD & CBO along with other senior officials from both the Organizations were also present at the ceremony.

MTB Signs Agreement with ESTE Medical Bangladesh Limited

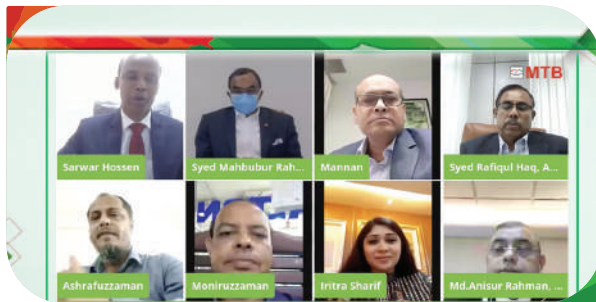

MTB has recently signed an agreement with the globally renowned Medical and Aesthetic Care, Este Medical Bangladesh Ltd. at a simple ceremony held at the Bank's Corporate Head Office in the presence of the senior management from both the Organizations. This agreement will facilitate both the MTB Debit and Credit Card holders to avail worldclass healthcare services with discounted price.

MTB Signs MoU with JCX Developments Limited


MTB has recently signed a MoU with JCX Developments Limited at a simple ceremony held at JCX Business Center, Japan Street, Block-I, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka. Under this MoU, the clients of JCX Developments Limited will avail Home Loans at a discounted processing fee and special interest rate from the Bank. While the customers of the Bank will enjoy preferential rate to buy apartments from JCX Developments Limited. Mohammad Delwar Hossain, ED, JCX Developments Limited and Towfiqul Alam Chowdhury, Head of Business, Retail Banking Division (RBD), MTB signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Organizations.

CHANNEL EXPANSION & RE-ORGANIZATION

MTB Sonargaon Branch at New Location



MTB recently relocated MTB Sonargaon Branch at Hazi Jalal Tower, Thana Road, Mograpara, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. Atiqul Islam, UNO, Sonargaon, Narayanganj inaugurated the newly relocated Branch as the Chief Guest on a virtual ceremony while Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank was also present during the event. Among others, Syed Rafiqul Haq, AMD & CBO along with dignitaries and leaders of local business associations, representatives from different strata and other senior officials of the Bank attended the virtual ceremony.

MTB Arshinagar Sub-Branch at Shakta, Keraniganj, Dhaka Starts Operation on September 2021



MTB has recently opened Arshinagar Sub-Branch at Shakta, Keraniganj, Dhaka. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank inaugurated the Sub-branch as the Chief Guest on a virtual inauguration ceremony. Among others, Haji Md. Jashim Uddin, Community Leader, Syed Rafiqul Haq, AMD & CBO, Chowdhury Akhtar Asif, AMD & GCRO, Goutam Prosad Das, DMD & HoGIC&CB, Tarek Reaz Khan, DMD & COO, Md. Khalid Mahmood Khan, DMD & HoC&CB along with other senior officials of the Bank participated the virtual ceremony.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MTB Joins Hand with BRAC to Roll Out Special Covid-19 CSR Program



MTB has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRAC at a simple ceremony held at the its Corporate Head Office. Under BRAC's 'Community Fort' project, the Bank will support the people of Rajshahi and Chapainawabaganj districts hit-hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. This special CSR project supported 77 million people of 35 districts with masks, healthcare support and vaccination assistance. This programme has been designed in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Bank. The MoU has been signed by Tushar Bhowmik, CFO, BRAC and Syed Rafiqul Haq, AMD & CBO, MTB in the presence of Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD & CEO of the Bank.

MTB Supports 'Happy Home' Project of ActionAid



MTB and ActionAid International Bangladesh (AAIB) signed a MoU to bear the expenses for education of 86 vulnerable and underprivileged girls residing in the "Happy Home" hostel supervised by AAIB. Since 2006, the project has helped 17,000 distressed girls with safe and secure living who might have ended up living on the streets. Farah Kabir, ED, AAIB and Azam Khan, HoMCD of the Bank signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Organizations at a simple ceremony held at the Head Office of AAIB. Noteworthy to mention that the education sector of the country has always been a priority in Banks CSR activities. As part of the MoU, MTB will be engaging in Participatory Development and Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh through Quality Education.



HR CORNER

New Executive Joining



A.S.M. Ziaul Hider
Senior Manager
Agent Banking Department
DoJ: 13/09/2021

New Assignment at Executive Level



Mohammad Abbas Uddin
In Charge
Privilege Banking, RBD
Effective Date: 28/09/2021



Md. Akram Uddin
Center Manager
Gulshan Privilege Centre
Effective Date: 28/09/2021



Mohammad Ruhul Neeyamur Rashid, SRM
Payroll Banking, RBD
Effective Date: 28/09/2021



Mahin Rahman
Center Manager
Panthapath Privilege Centre
Effective Date: 13/09/2021



Mohammad Abdus Salam
Unit Head
Group Human Resources Division
Effective Date: 29/08/2021



Md. Mosaddak Hosain
Branch Manager
Bogura Branch
Effective Date: 27/08/2021



Md. Mahbubur Rahman
Branch Manager
Madaripur Branch
Effective Date: 24/08/2021



Khalid Munir Kanak
Branch Manager
Gournadi Branch
Effective Date: 22/08/2021



Md. Nayeemul Ahsan
Senior Manager
ICC Department
Effective Date: 19/08/2021



Alimun Arif
Branch Operations Manager
Dholaikhal Branch
Effective Date: 19/08/2021



Rashid Ahmed Bin Wali
Head of Payroll Banking (Acting)
Retail Banking Division
Effective Date: 18/08/2021



Muhammad Ruhul Amin
Branch Manager
Barishal Branch
Effective Date: 15/08/2021



Md. Zakir Hossain
Branch Manager
Jubilee Road Branch
Effective Date: 12/08/2021



Mohammed Asaduzzaman
Branch Manager
Elephant Road Branch
Effective Date: 10/08/2021



Mohammed Ahad Ullah
Branch Manager
Aganagar Branch
Effective Date: 08/08/2021



MTBiz



Md. Monirul Islam

Branch Manager
Pabna Branch

Effective Date: 04/08/2021



Md. Ehsanul Kabir

Branch Manager
Rangpur Branch

Effective Date: 03/08/2021



Ahasanul Bakki Khairuzzaman

Branch Manager
Savar Branch

Effective Date: 02/08/2021

Farewell



Azad Shamsi

Last Designation: Divisional Head
Left MTB: 15/09/2021



Md. Ariful Islam

Last Designation: Senior Manager
Left MTB: 31/08/2021



Mohammad Aminul Haque

Last Designation: GCFO
Left MTB: 12/08/2021

Academic Achievement



Md. Asraful Alam, AFA, MIPA

Manager

Credit monitoring Department



Mohammad Zonaeed Emran, CDCS

Associate Relationship Manager

MNC Banking Department



Md. Monir Hossain, CAMS

Head of Department

Centralized Remittance and FC Accounts



Farzan Ahmed Hossain, O'Level

MTBian: Md. Monir Hossain

Head of Department
Centralized Remittance and FC Accounts

*MIPA= Member of Institute of Public Accountants, *AFA = Associate of Institute of Financial Accountants

*CDCS=Certified Documentary Credit Specialist, *CAMS= Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist

We Mourn



**Anwar Khalid Mohammad Salahuddin
(1978-2021)**

Anwar Khalid Mohammad Salahuddin, Senior Manager, Internal Control & Compliance Department, joined MTB on September 06, 2006. In more than 14 years of career at MTB, he played versatile roles both at Branches and Head Office. Sylhet Branch was his first posting, later he worked in Special Asset Management Division and again at Sylhet Branch for a short stint. For a short spill he was posted at Internal Control & Compliance Department when he breathed last. He experienced a severe cardiac arrest on September 18, 2021, after fighting hard, he breathed last on September 20, 2021.



**Murshida Afroze
(1985-2021)**

Murshida Afroze, Customer Service Officer started his Banking career at MTB on May 15, 2006. In her prolific journey, she worked at Elephant Road and Panthapath Branch. Her last posting was at Mirpur-2 Branch. Then came a short, sudden illness caused by the COVID-19 virus and she passed away on July 17, 2021.

We, MTB Family are deeply saddened by the loss of these young colleagues. This untimely death is very difficult to bear. They were not just a colleague but also loyal and humble co-workers to all of us. Their memories will never be forgotten. We pray that Almighty Allah grants the bereaved families the strength to bear this irreparable loss. Our thought and prayers are always with them and their families. Ameen.



Arrived on Earth



Md. Irfan Rahman Yaqeen
MTBian: Md. Shameem Rahman
 Relationship Officer
 Progati Sarani Branch
 Breath First: 16/09/2021



Anaiza Ahmed
MTBian: Aklima Sultana Patwary
 Customer Service Officer
 Fulbaria Branch
 Breath First: 20/08/2021



Manha Anaya
MTBian: Muhammad Mushiur Rahman
 Associate Manager
 Group Internal Control & Compliance Department
 Breath First: 22/07/2021



Shayma Islam
MTBian: Md. Sagar Khan
 Customer Service Officer
 Mongla EPZ Sub-Branch
 Breath First: 24/06/2021



Md. Fardeen Rahman Zayan
MTBian: Md. Sazzadur Rahman
 Customer Service Officer
 Homna Branch
 Breath First: 18/06/2021



Aalap Aaradhya Dey
MTBian: Ashis Kumer Dey
 Relationship Officer
 Barishal Branch
 Breath First: 11/06/2021

একগুচ্ছ কবিতা



ট্রাফিক জ্যাম

আবদুল মাননান
 ডিভিশনাল হেড, এমটিবি ব্রাঞ্চ ব্যাংকিং-১

দিন রাত চার ঘন্টা করে
 বেকার গাড়িতে বসে,
 সাড়ে তিন বছর জীবন থেকে চলে যায় রাস্তায়
 অফিসে যাওয়া আসার পথে গাড়িতে সন্তায়!

আট ঘন্টা করে ঘুম ও অফিস, চার ঘন্টা গাড়িতে,
 চার ঘন্টা নানা কাজে,
 শুক্রবার শনিবার বাদে দিনকাল চলছে
 এভাবে ট্রাফিক জ্যামে।

হিসাব কোষলে দিনে চার ঘন্টা জ্যামে,
 মাসে বাইশ দিন ধরে, আটাশি ঘন্টা
 অর্থাৎ প্রায় সাড়ে তিন দিন
 কেটে যায় রাস্তায় বসে।

ত্রিশ বছর চাকরি করলে বিয়াল্লিশ দিন বছরে,
 মোট সাড়ে তিন বছর চলে যায় রাস্তায় বসে।
 জীবন থেকে এতো গুলো সময় খুইয়ে,
 নিজের অজান্তে বসে গাড়িতে ঢাকা শহরে!

জীবনের একটা বড় সময় বেকার থাকায়
 কতো শ্রমঘণ্টা নষ্ট হচ্ছে বসে রাস্তায়?
 এ থেকে উত্তরণ হলে বেড়ে যাবে জীবনমান,
 জিডিপির হিসাব ও সম্মান।

এ ছাড়া জ্যামে বসে তেল পুড়ে
 কষ্টার্জিত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বছরে,
 কতো খরচ হয় কে জানে, এই শহরে !



Anupom Sarkar Jony , Associate, MTB Communications Department

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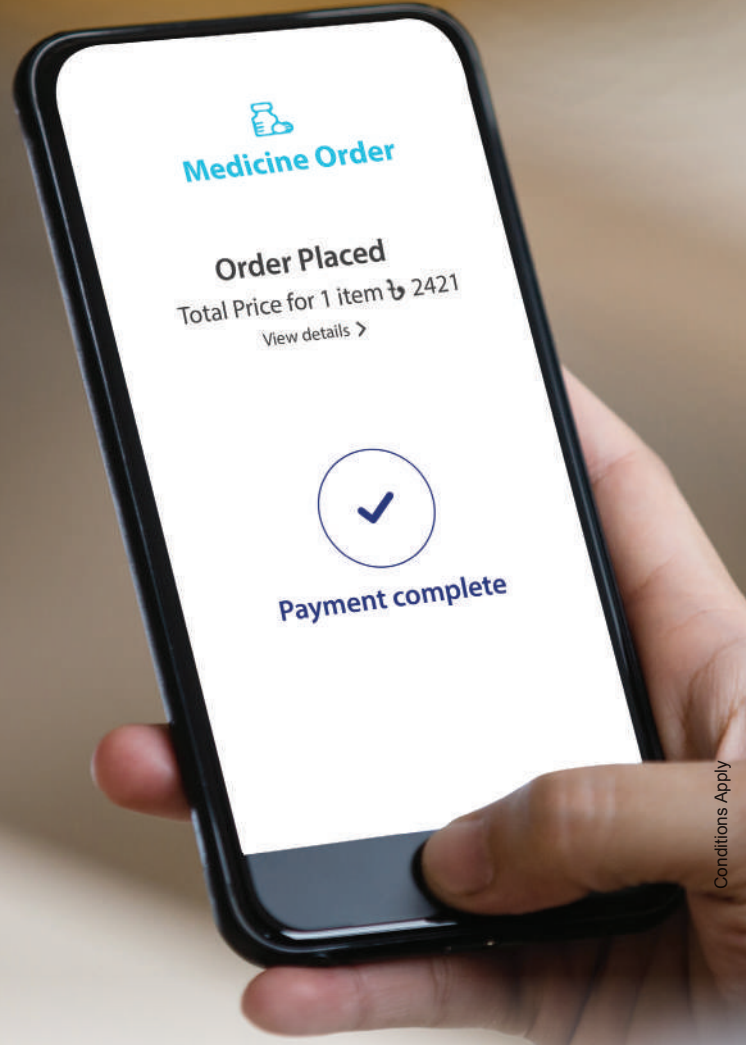
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